

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

Welcome to Croatia	2
Map	4
17 Top Experiences	6
Need to Know	14
What's New	16
If You Like	17
Month by Month	19
Itineraries	22
Travel with Children	30
Regions at a Glance	33



©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

UNDERSTAND CROATIA

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

Croatia Today	276
History	279
Culture & People	294
The Cuisine	299
Architecture in Croatia	305
The Natural Environment	308
The Arts	311



ISBN 978-1-74220-302-7



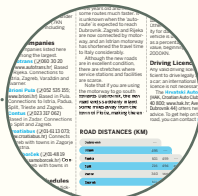
5 2 5 9 9



9 17817421203027



Directory A–Z	318
Transport	326
Language	332
Index	340
Map Legend	351



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Anja Mutić and Vesna Maric

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

ZAGREB.....38

AROUND ZAGREB 65

Medvednica Nature Park ...65

Samobor 66

ZAGORJE.....68

Varaždin 69

Varaždinske Toplice75

Trakošćan Castle76

Krapina.....77

Veliki Tabor Castle79

Kumrovec 80

Klanjec 80

Marija Bistrica 80

SLAVONIA.....81

Osijek 84

Baranja..... 90

Vukovar92

Ilok93

ISTRIA.....95

THE ISTRIAN COAST 97

Pula..... 98

Brijuni Islands.....105

Rovinj106

Around Rovinj.....112

Poreč113

THE ISTRIAN INTERIOR .. 118

Labin.....118

Vodnjan121

Svetvinčenat122

Pazin.....123

Gračiče.....125

Buzet125

On the Road

Around Buzet	127
Motovun.....	128
Istarske Toplice.....	129
Grožnjan.....	130

KVARNER..... 131

KVARNER COAST.....	133
Rijeka	133
Opatija	139
Volosko.....	142

KRK ISLAND	143
Krk Town	145
Punat	147
Vrbnik.....	147
Baška	148

CRES & LOŠINJ ISLANDS

Cres Island	149
Lošinj Island	155

RAB ISLAND	160
Rab Town	161
Lopar	166

NORTHERN DALMATIA..... 167

ZADAR REGION	169
Zadar	169
Ugljan.....	176

Plitvice Lakes National Park	177
------------------------------------	-----

Paklenica National Park	179
Starigrad	180
DUGI OTOK	181
Sali	182

Telašćica Bay	183
Božava	183
PAG ISLAND	184
Pag Town	184
Novalja	186

ŠIBENIK-KNIN REGION	187
Šibenik	187
Krka National Park.....	193
Kornati Islands	194

SPLIT & CENTRAL DALMATIA..... 196

SPLIT	197
AROUND SPLIT.....	215
Šolta	215
Solin (Salona).....	216
TROGIR & AROUND.....	216
Trogir	216
Around Trogir	220

MAKARSKA RIVIERA.....	221
Makarska	221
Brela	224

BRAČ ISLAND.....	224
Supetar	226
Bol.....	227

HVAR ISLAND.....	230
Hvar Town	230
Stari Grad	235
Jelsa	236

VIS ISLAND.....	237
Vis Town.....	237
Komiža.....	240
Biševo.....	241

DUBROVNIK & SOUTHERN DALMATIA..... 242

DUBROVNIK	244
AROUND DUBROVNIK.....	260
Lokrum Island.....	260
Elafiti Islands	260
Mljet Island	261
Cavtat.....	263
Trsteno Gardens.....	264

KORČULA ISLAND	264
Korčula Town.....	265
Lumbarda	270
Vela Luka	271

PELJEŠAC PENINSULA.....	272
Orebić.....	272
Ston & Mali Ston	273

Croatia



Top Experiences ›





OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London, Oakland and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Anja Mutić

Coordinating Author, Zagreb, Zagorje, Slavonia, Istria, Split & Central Dalmatia

It's been more than two decades since Anja left her native Croatia. The journey took her to several countries before she made New York City her base 13 years ago. But the roots are a'calling. She's been returning to Croatia frequently for work and play, intent on discovering a new place on every visit, be it a nature park, an offbeat town or a remote island. She's happy that Croatia's beauties are appreciated worldwide, but secretly longs for the time when you could head to Hvar and hear the sound of crickets instead of blasting music. Anja also wrote the Welcome to Croatia, 17 Top Experiences, Need to Know, What's New, If You Like, Month by Month, Itineraries, Regions at a Glance, Croatia Today, Culture & People and The Cuisine chapters.

Read more about Anja at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/anjamutic



Vesna Maric

Kvarner, Northern Dalmatia, Dubrovnik & Southern Dalmatia

Vesna was born in Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina, but has always cherished the Adriatic coast above all other places. Getting a chance to revisit her beloved Dubrovnik and Zadar, and discover the Kvarner coast and islands, has made her fall in love with Croatia all over again, despite the numerous sea urchins determined to make their way into her heels. For this edition, she particularly loved wandering the tiny streets of Rab Town, swimming off quiet coves on the islands of Lošinj and Cres, and tasting sushi in Dubrovnik, all with her two-year-old in tow. Vesna also wrote the Travel with Children, History, The Natural Environment, The Arts, Directory A–Z and Transport chapters.

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

7th edition – April 2013

ISBN 978 1 74220 302 7

© Lonely Planet 2013 Photographs © as indicated 2013

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

Itineraries

Essential Croatia

Two Weeks

Take in the heavyweights of Croatia in this two-week journey from the continent to the coast, including the capital city, a pair of national parks and the gems of the Dalmatian coast.



IAN SHIVE / GETTY IMAGES ©

» Start in the capital, **Zagreb** (p38), and take a long weekend to delve into its simmering nightlife, fine restaurants and choice museums.

» Head south to the World-Heritage-listed **Plitvice Lakes National Park** (p177) and spend the day exploring its verdant maze of turquoise lakes and cascading waterfalls.

» Go down to **Zadar** (p169), one of Croatia's most underrated cities. It's a real find: historic, modern, active and packed with attractions.

» Take a day trip to **Pag Island** (p184) and try some of that famous cheese. If it's the height of summer, go partying on one of its beaches.

» Swim under the stupendous falls at **Krka National Park** (p193) or chill out at the gorgeous **Kornati Islands** (p194).

» Stroll through the pretty streets of post-card-perfect **Trogir** (p216).

» Meander around the Roman ruins of **Solin** (p216).

» Prepare yourself for one of the region's best sights: Diocletian's Palace in **Split** (p197) is a living part of this exuberant seafront city.

» Next, take it easy down the winding coastal road to **Dubrovnik** (p242), a magnificent city whose beauty is bound to blow you away.

Clockwise from top left

1 Dalmatian architecture, Trogir (p216) **2** Church of St Donat, Zadar (p169) **3** Skradinski Buk, Krka National Park (p193)



Cream of the Coast

Two Weeks

Discover the stunners of Croatia's coast in two weeks – from Istria's favourite getaways to the jewels of Kvarner and all the way south to Dalmatia's greatest hits, both on the mainland and the islands.



CECAR LUCAŠ ABEU / GETTY IMAGES ©



RUTH EASTHAM & MAX PAUL / GETTY IMAGES ©

- » Start your journey in the town of **Poreč** (p113), admiring the World-Heritage-listed Euphrasian Basilica.
- » Head south for the Venetian-inspired architecture and cobblestone streets of **Rovinj** (p106).
- » Move on to **Pula** (p98) to tour the evocative Roman ruins and amphitheatre, and enjoy some beachside R&R.
- » Go north, making a pit stop in the old Austrian resort of **Opatija** (p139) for a stroll along the seaside promenade and killer views of the Kvarner coast.
- » From nearby **Rijeka** (p133), Kvarner's capital, you can take a catamaran to pretty **Rab Town** (p161) on Rab Island. After wan-

dering the ancient town, relax on the aptly named Paradise Beach at **Lopar** (p166).

- » Next, visit historic **Zadar** (p169) for its wealth of museums, churches, cafes and bars.

- » Travel south to **Split** (p197), a buzzing city and a great base to explore the beaches of **Brela** (p224) and the nearby islands.

- » On Brač, visit pretty **Bol** (p227).

- » Hop over to chic **Hvar Island** (p230) and the **Pakleni Islands** (p232) for some clothing-optional sunbathing.

- » For a few days of real rest, great food and plenty of diving, **Vis** (p237) is your island.

- » From Split, drive down to **Dubrovnik** (p242) to explore the city's gleaming marble streets, vibrant street life and fine architecture.

- » Don't miss a hop to the gorgeous island of **Mljet** (p261), where the verdancy, salt lakes and tranquillity heal the soul.

Clockwise from top left

- 1 Old Town, Split (p197) 2 Diving at Vis Island (p238)
- 3 Opatija (p139) 4 Euphrasian Basilica (p114), Poreč



2

FRANCO BIANI / GETTY IMAGES ©



3

STUART BLACK / GETTY IMAGES ©

City & Country: Zagreb & Around

One Week

Soak up the delights of the pocket-size capital of Zagreb and then head off for green pastures, old towns and fairy-tale castles.



JOHN ELK / GETTY IMAGES ©



JOHN ELK / GETTY IMAGES ©

» Start off in Croatia's dynamic capital, **Zagreb** (p38), to enjoy its museums, art and nightlife.

» Head to charming little **Samobor** (p66) for top-class cakes and countryside treks.

» Go forth and explore where not many tourists have gone before in **Zagorje** (p68), a bucolic landscape of forests, pastures and farms. Start with **Klanjec** (p80) and discover the art of Antun Augustinčić in the town museum.

» Don't miss the birthplace of Croatia's most famous son – Josip Broz Tito – at **Kumrovec** (p80). It's not a communist site but a fascinating examination of traditional village life.

» To get acquainted with your Neanderthal ancestors, visit the swanky Museum of the Krapina Neanderthal in **Krapina** (p77).

» If you have a thing for the mystery of times past, you'll revel in **Trakošćan Castle** (p76) and its verdant grounds.

» For more history, head to the beautifully restored castle-fortress at **Varaždin** (p69). Immerse yourself in the town's baroque architecture for an afternoon.

» On the way south, stop at the pilgrimage site of **Marija Bistrica** (p80) for heady views of the surrounding region.

Clockwise from top left

1 Samobor (p66) 2 Zagorje (p68) 3 Dining in Zagreb (p55) 4 Trakošćan Castle (p76)



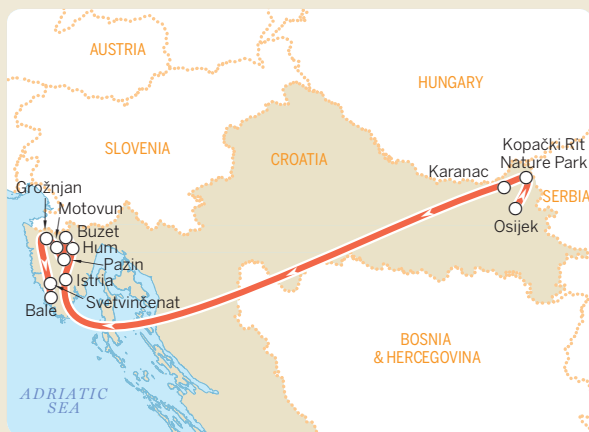
East to West: Slavonia & Istria

10 Days

Explore the bucolic region of Slavonia in Croatia's east, then head southwest to the Istrian peninsula for hilltop medieval towns, top food and rural hotels.



ADAM JONES / GETTY IMAGES ©



MARTIN CHILD / GETTY IMAGES ©

» Start your trip in Slavonia, on the eastern edge of Croatia. Explore the Hungarian-influenced town of **Osijek** (p84) on the Drava River.

» Move on to **Kopački Rit Nature Park** (p90), with its profusion of birdlife and lush waterways.

» Next, spend a day in the ethno-village of **Karanac** (p91), enjoying local food specialties and traditions.

» Head southwest towards **Istria** (p95). The Istrian peninsula carries the foodie crown for its delicate truffles, air-dried ham, yummy olives and excellent wines. Stop for a meal and a wander around the world's smallest town, **Hum** (p127).

» Explore the truffle epicentre of **Buzet** (p125) and its scenic surroundings.

» Head towards **Pazin** (p123) to walk through its famous chasm, which inspired Jules Verne.

» Drive on to the gorgeous hilltop settlements of **Motovun** (p128) and **Grožnjan** (p130).

» On the way south, stroll through scenic **Svetvinčenat** (p122), which has a Renaissance-era main square with a castle.

» Unwind in captivating **Bale** (p113).

Clockwise from top left

1 Bale (p113) **2** Motovun (p128) **3** Croatian olive oil and preserves



© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'