



Kvarner

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bistro Bukarica (p159)
- ➔ Kukuriku (p143)
- ➔ Konoba Valle Losca (p146)
- ➔ Bora Bar (p157)
- ➔ Mlinar (p140)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Mare Mare Suites (p154)
- ➔ Hotel Miramar (p144)
- ➔ Carnevale (p139)
- ➔ Hostel Dharma (p139)
- ➔ Hotel Manora (p154)

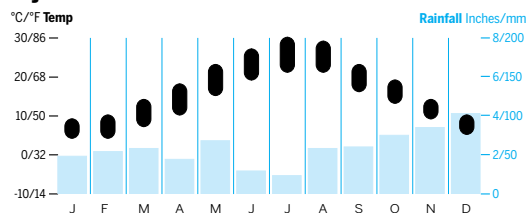
Why Go?

Sheltered by soaring mountains, the Kvarner Gulf has long been loved by visitors attracted by the mild climate and cobalt waters, and those in search of more than just beach appeal. In the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the wealthy built holiday homes here, bestowing places like Rijeka and Opatija with a rich legacy of stately Habsburg-era architecture. From both of these neighbouring towns you can easily connect to hiking trails inside the protected forests of Učka Nature Park and Risnjak National Park.

The islands of Cres, Lošinj, Krk and Rab all have highly atmospheric old port towns and stretches of unspoiled coastline dotted with remote coves for superb swimming. Wildlife puts in an appearance too: Cres has an important griffon vulture population and Lošinj has a marine centre devoted to preserving the Adriatic's dolphins and turtles.

When to Go

Rijeka



Jan–Mar Rijeka becomes 'Rio in Europe' during two weeks of carnival action.

May–Jun Dolphins are regularly spotted off the coast of Lošinj.

Jul–Aug Open-air performances and medieval fairs galore.



Kvarner Highlights

- 1** Adopting a Habsburg swagger as you stroll along the promenade in **Opatija** (p142).
- 2** Wandering the cobbled, church-lined streets of ancient **Rab Town** (p164).
- 3** Looking isolation in the eye at **Lubnice** and wondering at its harsh beauty (p151).
- 4** Sampling Croatian specialities in **Volosko** (p144), a diner's delight.
- 5** Taking in the panoramic views from **Trsat Castle** (p137) in Rijeka.
- 6** Heading to the hills for a memorable meal in **Kastav** (p143).
- 7** Lazing on sandy beaches in the remote reaches of the **Lopar Peninsula** (p168).
- 8** Enjoying summer on the **Mali Lošinj** (p152) waterfront.
- 9** Losing yourself in history in the streets of **Krk Town** (p159).
- 10** Exploring the tiny walled town of **Osor** (p151).