



Zagorje

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Grešna Gorica (p82)
- ➔ Majsecov Mlin (p80)
- ➔ Mala Hiža (p79)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Vuglec Breg (p80)
- ➔ Villa Magdalena (p82)
- ➔ Spa & Sport Resort Sveti Martin (p79)
- ➔ Hiže na Bregu (p80)

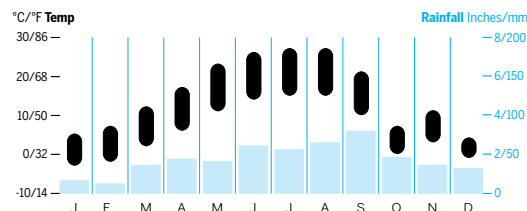
Why Go?

Despite its proximity to Zagreb, the bucolic northern region of Zagorje receives few tourists, even at the height of summer – especially surprising given the delightful villages, medieval castles, endless vineyards and thermal springs that speckle its rolling hills. These leafy landscapes, with Austrian-influenced food and architecture (and the same prices year-round), present a nice alternative to the busy Mediterranean south and a good escape from the summer heat. You'll find it blissfully crowd-free, although slightly less so on weekends, when day-tripping families from Zagreb storm the area.

The Zagorje region begins north of Mt Medvednica (1035m), near Zagreb, and extends west to the Slovenian border, and as far north as Varaždin, a showcase of baroque architecture. Whether you want to feast on hearty cuisine at rustic restaurants, dip into the hot springs, get a taste of village life or tour ancient castles, with Zagorje you're in for an offbeat treat.

When to Go

Varaždin



Jun Summer weather kicks in, perfect for touring the hills, castles and thermal spas.

Aug Špancirfest in Varaždin has world music, theatre and other fun performances.

Sep Enjoy folklore and traditional food at Krapina's Festival of Kajkavian Songs.

Zagorje Highlights

- 1 Admiring the immaculately preserved baroque architecture of **Varaždin** (p74).
- 2 Experiencing the life of Croatian nobility at **Trakošćan Castle** (p79).
- 3 Getting an insight into traditional village life at **Staro Selo Museum** (p83) in Kumrovec.
- 4 Sampling Croatian culinary specialties at **Vuglec Breg** (p80), near Krapinske Toplice.
- 5 Learning about our Neanderthal ancestors at the **Museum of the Krapina Neanderthal** (p81) in Krapina.
- 6 Catching **Špancirfest** (p76), an event that rocks the streets of Varaždin.
- 7 Touring the wine roads of the **Međimurje region** (p79), which stretches northeast of Varaždin.

