



Northern Dalmatia

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Why Go?

Serving that classic Dalmatian cocktail of historic towns, jewel-like waters, rugged limestone mountains, sun-kissed islands, gorgeous climate and Mediterranean cuisine, this region is a holidaymaker's paradise. Yet it's the cities and islands further south that hog all the limelight, leaving Northern Dalmatia, if not quite undiscovered, then certainly less overrun. Yachties can sail between unpopulated islands without a shred of development, lost in dreams of the Mediterranean of old, while hikers can wander lonely trails where bears and wolves still dwell, and explore three of Croatia's most impressive national parks, which shelter in the hinterland.

By contrast, Zadar is a cultured city rich with museums, Roman ruins, restaurants and hip bars. Meanwhile summertime clubbers gravitate to Zrće Beach and Tisno, which together form the nucleus of Croatia's premier clubbing scene.

Best Places to Eat

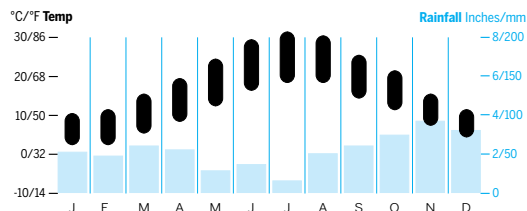
- ➔ Pelegrini (p197)
- ➔ Mediteran (p198)
- ➔ Kaštel (p186)
- ➔ Pet Bunara (p186)
- ➔ Konoba Figurica (p181)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Art Hotel Kalebarga (p185)
- ➔ Boškinac (p180)
- ➔ House Župan (p175)
- ➔ Drunken Monkey (p185)
- ➔ Indigo (p196)

When to Go

Zadar



Apr–Jun Take advantage of the warming weather and cheaper prices.

Jul & Aug The peak party time in Zrće and Tisno.

Sep & Oct Watch the colours change in Plitvice Lakes and Krka National Parks.



Northern Dalmatia Highlights

1 Plitvice Lakes National Park (p173) Marvelling at the otherworldly turquoise lakes and dramatic waterfalls.

2 Krka National Park (p192) Strolling alongside gurgling crystalline streams, swimming in a waterfall-fed lake and exploring historic monasteries.

3 Zadar (p181) Exploring Roman ruins, intriguing museums, local eateries and hip bars within the marbled streets of the old town.

4 Šibenik (p193) Stopping to admire the celebrated architecture of St James' Cathedral while wandering the medieval streets.

5 Pag Island (p178) Enjoying the sensory delights of sun-scorched scenery, fine wine, rustic cooking, pungent cheese and partying in the sun.

6 Kornati National Park (p190) Seeing the Mediterranean as it looked to the ancients while boating between its unpopulated islands.