



Croatia

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Kantinon (p260)
- ➔ Konoba Menego (p267)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Studio Kairos (p256)
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Why Go?

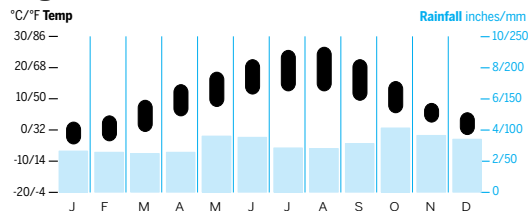
If your Mediterranean fantasies feature balmy days by sapphire waters in the shade of ancient walled towns, Croatia is the place to turn them into reality.

The extraordinary Adriatic coastline, speckled with 1244 islands and strewn with historic towns, is Croatia's main attraction. The standout is Dubrovnik, its remarkable Old Town ringed by mighty defensive walls. Coastal Split showcases Diocletian's Palace, one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments, where dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thrive amid the old walls. In the heart-shaped peninsula of Istria, Rovinj is a charm-packed fishing port with narrow cobbled streets. The Adriatic isles hold much varied appeal, from glitzy Hvar Town on its namesake island to the secluded naturist coves of the Pakleni Islands just offshore.

Away from the coast, Zagreb, Croatia's lovely capital, has a booming cafe culture and art scene, while Plitvice Lakes National Park offers a verdant maze of turquoise lakes and cascading waterfalls.

When to Go

Zagreb



May & Sep Good weather, less tourists, full events calendar, great for hiking.

Jun Best time to visit: beautiful weather, fewer people, lower prices, the festival season kicks off.

Jul & Aug Lots of sunshine, warm sea and summer festivals; many tourists and highest prices.

Croatia Highlights

- 1 Gape at the Old Town wall of **Dubrovnik** (p268), which surrounds luminous marble streets and finely ornamented buildings.
- 2 Admire the Venetian architecture and experience the vibrant nightlife of **Hvar Town** (p267).
- 3 Indulge in the lively and historic delights of Diocletian's Palace in **Split** (p261).
- 4 Take in the remains of failed romances at the **Museum of Broken Relationships** (p252) in Zagreb.
- 5 Roam the steep cobbled streets and piazzas of **Rovinj** (p259), Istria's showpiece coastal town.

