



# Croatia

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Vinodol, Zagreb (p271)
- » Vodnjanka, Pula (p274)
- » Kod Fife, Split (p277)
- » Konoba Menego, Hvar (p278)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hobo Bear Hostel, Zagreb (p270)
- » Silver Central Hostel, Split (p276)
- » Luka's Lodge, Hvar (p278)
- » Fresh Sheets, Dubrovnik (p282)

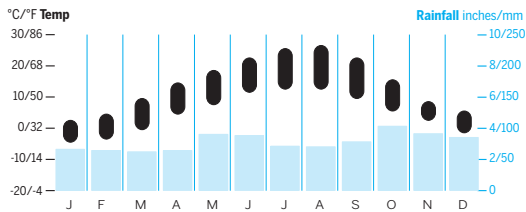
## Why Go?

Touted as the 'new this' and the 'new that' for years since its re-emergence on the tourism scene, Croatia has become a unique destination that holds its own and then some: this is a country with a glorious 1778km-long coast and a staggering 1244 islands. The Adriatic coast is a knockout: its sapphire waters draw visitors to remote islands, hidden coves and traditional fishing villages, all while touting a glitzy beach and yacht scene. Istria captivates with its gastronomic delights and wines; the bars, clubs and festivals of Zagreb and Split remain little-explored gems. Eight national parks showcase primeval beauty with their forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and waterfalls.

Punctuate all this with dazzling Dubrovnik in the south – just the right finale. Best of all, Croatia hasn't given in to mass tourism: there are pockets of authentic culture and plenty to discover off the grid.

## When to Go

### Zagreb



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

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

**May & Sep** Reliable weather, lack of tourists, full events calendar, wonderful for hiking.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Kuna (KN)
- » **Language** Croatian
- » **Money** ATMs widely available; credit cards accepted in most hotels and larger restaurants
- » **Visas** Generally not required for stays of up to 90 days; see p287

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 56,538 sq km
- » **Capital** Zagreb
- » **Country code** ☎385
- » **Emergency** Ambulance ☎194; Police ☎192

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	KN5.55
Canada	C\$1	KN5.39
Euro Zone	€1	KN7.44
Japan	¥100	KN6.43
New Zealand	NZ\$1	KN4.20
UK	UK£1	KN8.60
USA	US\$1	KN5.28

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** up to 350KN
- » **Two-course evening meal** 150KN
- » **Museum entrance** 10KN to 40KN
- » **Beer (glass)** 15KN
- » **City transport ticket** 10KN

## Resources

- » **Croatian National Tourist Board** ([www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr))
- » **Adriatica.net** ([www.adriatica.net](http://www.adriatica.net))

## Connections

Croatia is a convenient transport hub for southeastern Europe and the Adriatic. Zagreb is connected by train and/or bus to Venice, Budapest, Belgrade, Ljubljana and Sarajevo. Down south there are easy bus connections from Dubrovnik to Mostar and Sarajevo, and to Kotor. There are a number of ferries linking Croatia with Italy, including from Dubrovnik to Bari, and Split to Ancona.

## ITINERARIES

### One Week

After a day in dynamic Zagreb, delving into its simmering nightlife, fine restaurants and choice museums, head down to Split for a day and night at Diocletian's Palace, a living part of this exuberant seafront city. Then hop over to chic Hvar for its beaches and nightlife. Next take it easy down the winding coastal road to magnificent Dubrovnik, for the final two days.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Ćevapčići** Small spicy sausages of minced beef, lamb or pork
- » **Pljeskavica** An ex-Yugo version of a hamburger
- » **Ražnjići** Small chunks of pork grilled on a skewer
- » **Burek** Pastry stuffed with ground meat, spinach or cheese
- » **Rakija** Strong Croatian brandy comes in different flavours, from plum to honey
- » **Beer** Two top types of Croatian *pivo* (beer) are Zagreb's Ožujsko and Karlovačko from Karlovac