
PRATICAL INFORMATION

In general

Croatia is a country with an area of approximately 56.600,00km². Its population is approximately 4 million people. The population density is approximately 75 inhabitants per km². The main religion is Christian Catholic. The main minorities are Christian Orthodox and Muslim. Croatia is part of the European Union since 2013.

The currency is "kuna", Croatian word for "marten". The cents are called "lipa" Croatian word for "linden", historically the sacred tree of Croats before the Christianization.

For parity, you need ~7.5 kuna for 1 euro.

We recommend changing your currency in kuna upon your arrival in Croatia but avoid the main entrance points (such as airports, seaports, ...).

The currency in Montenegro is Euro and in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Convertible Mark (~2 KM = 1 euro).



The telephone country code is 385. Remember to remove the "0" from local phone numbers, which in Europe is the internal country number.

The hygiene standards are high. You can drink tap water (unless otherwise indicated, especially at a natural spring).

There are no security issues. There is some petty crime, you must take care of your belongings, but the overall level of security on the streets is very good.

How to get to Croatia

Croatia is accessible by road and has a modern, high-quality road network with motorways along with the state roads. It takes around 9 hours by road between Lyon and Umag (city in the northwest of Croatia near the Slovenian border) or around 7h45 between Nice and Umag.

There are also ferry lines from Zadar and Split to Ancona in Italy and between Dubrovnik and Bari. The ferry-ships have cabins and restaurants, allowing to travel during night-time.

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There is an increasing number of flights from European smaller city airports to Croatia. The flights are approximately 2 hours long. Direct flights are most frequent in the tourist season between May and September. The rest of the year, the flight stopover is in Zagreb airport.

Landscape and climates. When to come to Croatia?

Croatia is a modestly sized country but with a wide variety of landscapes grouped in 3 large entities:

- **The long Mediterranean coast** with one of the highest island's density in the world. The most renowned islands are Korčula, Hvar, Brač and Krk. The historical heritage of the coast dates back to ancient times, the most prominent examples are cities of Split, Trogir, Pula and Dubrovnik.



- **The Dinaric mountain range** with natural pearls such as the national parks of Plitvice lakes, Krka or Velebit



- **The Pannonian plains** east of the capital Zagreb with continental landscapes and an ancient lordly tradition, reflected in its numerous castles and old wooden villages.

The coast is marked by a long dry summer beginning in late May and ending in late September. Winters are mild, some rain and wind but with beautiful periods of nice weather. The average winter temperature is 8°C. Spring and fall are quite short with mixed weather. If you wish to hike or visit, we recommend the periods from the beginning of April to June and from September to November. July and August, as in any Mediterranean tourist destination, are marked by a large influx of travellers. A little patience is required on the roads and in major tourist sites. During these months we can experience heat waves but temperature rarely exceeds 38°C and is often diminished by sea winds.



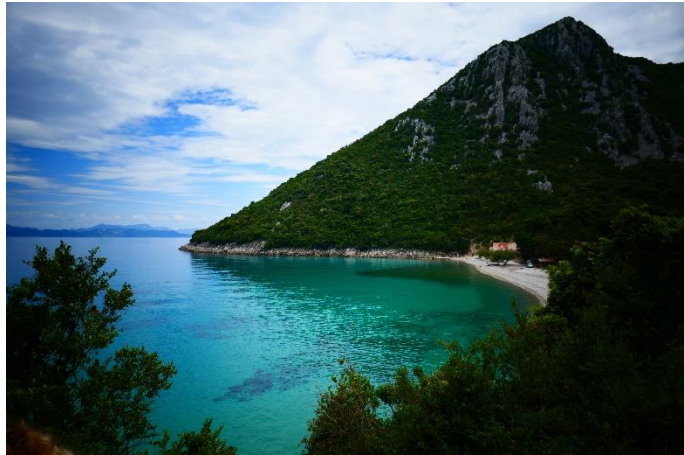
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The best swimming period goes from beginning of June to beginning of October. Croatia has a rocky coast, split by coves with beaches. We don't often find fine sand, more often beaches are made of gravel or pebbles. Bathing shoes will be of good use. The beaches on the mainland and the most renowned beaches on the islands can be quite crowded in July and August. However, there are less known but equally attractive beaches on the islands, perfect for a relaxing seaside holiday.



Croatia lacks hotel capacity due to the increasing demand, so from the beginning of May to the end of September many hotels fill up well in advance. Therefore, last-minute requests are often difficult to manage, especially for tailor-made programs where itineraries are adapted to traveller's wishes implying the final program is still to be defined. Due to these constraints, during the high season Sveta Ana cannot always respond to requests arriving two weeks or less prior to the departure date.



The coastline is subject to seasonality implying many accommodation structures close from November to April. However, winter is ideal for short city tours or for special events such as the Festivity of Saint Blaise in Dubrovnik in the beginning of February or the Rijeka Carnival. The lower number of visitors during this period grants an authentic experience of often crowded main sites of the country.

The **Dinaric mountains** are marked by heavy snowfall from December to April. On the highest peaks, the first snowflakes can appear already in October and last until beginning of May. This applies in particular for Velebit National Park. Hiking trips in these areas should take place ideally between May and October. The renowned Plitvice lakes national park can be visited during winter. As well as the coast, some national parks are very crowded in July and August so they should be visited in the morning as soon as they open, generally at 8:00 a.m.



The **continent** has 4 well marled seasons. There is a long tradition of hydrotherapy. The most renowned sites are located in the same region as the capital Zagreb, known for exceptional quality of water. Zagreb and other northern cities also present a colourful display of Christmas market traditions for the Advent period, a growing traveller's attraction in the last several years. Spring is the perfect hiking season, with nature in bloom and landscapes that inspired Croatian naive painters.

Communication

Almost all Croats speak or have at least basic knowledge of English. Other widely used languages are Italian and German.

Here below are some useful words used in everyday life:

Good day, Hello = **dobar dan**

Goodbye = **doviđenja**

Thank you = **hvala**

Restaurant = **restoran**

Wine = **vino**

Beer = **pivo**

Water = **voda**

Caffe = **kava**

Car = **automobil**

Road = **cesta**

Town = **grad**, old town = **stari grad**

Centre = **centar**

Parking = **parking**

Street = **ulica** (short: Ul.)

Square = **trg**

Port = **luka**

Airport = **zračna luka**

Ferry = **trajekt**

Island = **otok**

Identity documents

An identity card is required for the EU nationals and countries which passed special agreements with Croatia. Nationals of other countries must have a passport or a visa. Please check with the Croatian embassy if a visa is required to enter Croatia.

It is also important to check expiry dates on your travel documents. Police and customs officers will not accept identity documents with expired dates of validity.



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