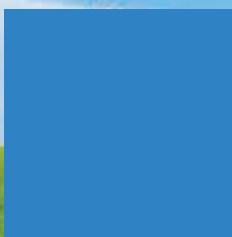


Croatia

The Mediterranean as it once was.





Croatia

This is a story about a land of a thousand islands, her magical nature and rich heritage, her great men whose great deeds have forever etched the name of Croatia in large letters on the map of the world. This is a story about a land whose beauties have been celebrated since ancient times. From Cassiodorus who wrote of the divine life led by patricians on her shores, to Dante, who wrote his Divina Commedia. Enthralled by the epic scenes of the blue expanse, and all the way to George Bernard Shaw, who found his paradise on earth right here, Croatia has always been a place of true inspiration. Through the presentation of images of unforgettable scenes and incredible stories we have endeavoured to bring all the special qualities of this wonderful land that is our country as close to you as possible. Indeed, in but nine fairytale-like chapters we have managed to lay before you only the pearls of her diversity. Do not hesitate; descend the thousand-year-old stairs of a rich, turbulent and glorious history and discover destinations in which experiences of the warm, blue Mediterranean are enhanced by the charm of the tranquil and picturesque green mountains in the north and the fertile golden plains in the easternmost part of the land. All that you have dreamt of is now within reach. Browsing through the pages of this catalogue you are surely bound to find a place for your perfect holiday. Welcome to Croatia!



Land of diversity.

Croatia.

ISTRIA. | 16-21

DALMATIA. **ZADAR.** | 30-33

SLAVONIA AND BARANJA. | 48-53

KVARNER AND
THE HIGHLANDS. | 22-27

DALMATIA. **ŠIBENIK.** | 34-37

CENTRAL CROATIA. | 54-59

DALMATIA. **SPLIT.** | 38-41

ZAGREB. | 60-65

DALMATIA. **DUBROVNIK.** | 42-47

Choose your
destination
in Croatia and
explore
true diversity.



1. ISTRIA.
2. KVARNER AND THE HIGHLANDS.
3. DALMATIA. **ZADAR.**
4. DALMATIA. **ŠIBENIK.**
5. DALMATIA. **SPLIT.**
6. DALMATIA. **DUBROVNIK.**
7. SLAVONIA AND BARANJA.
8. CENTRAL CROATIA.
9. ZAGREB.

Croatia is one of the ecologically best preserved parts of Europe. It is a land where the hues of the sunny and warm Mediterranean happily blend with the tranquillity and freshness of mountains and the gentle sway of the golden plains of Pannonia. A land of truly divine inspiration that has delighted many of the world's prominent men of letters. A rare European landscape which boasts as many as eight national parks in so small an area!

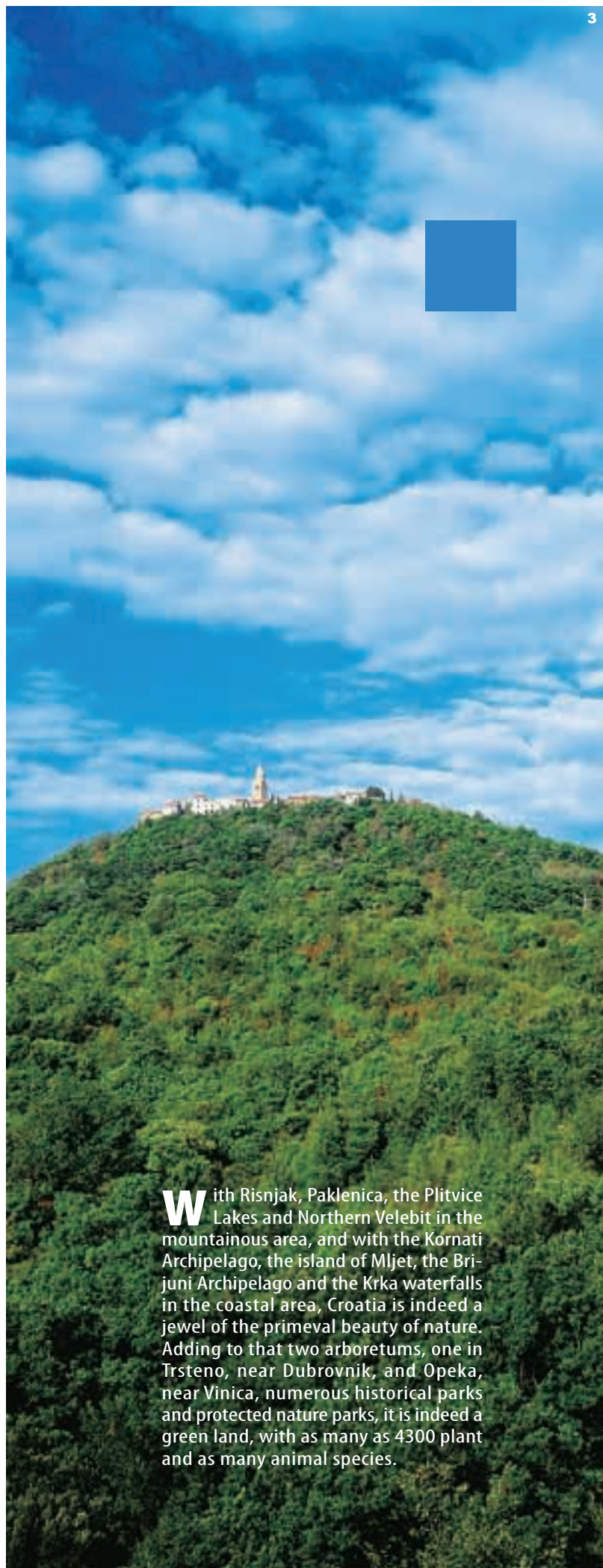


06

Nature

in full colour.

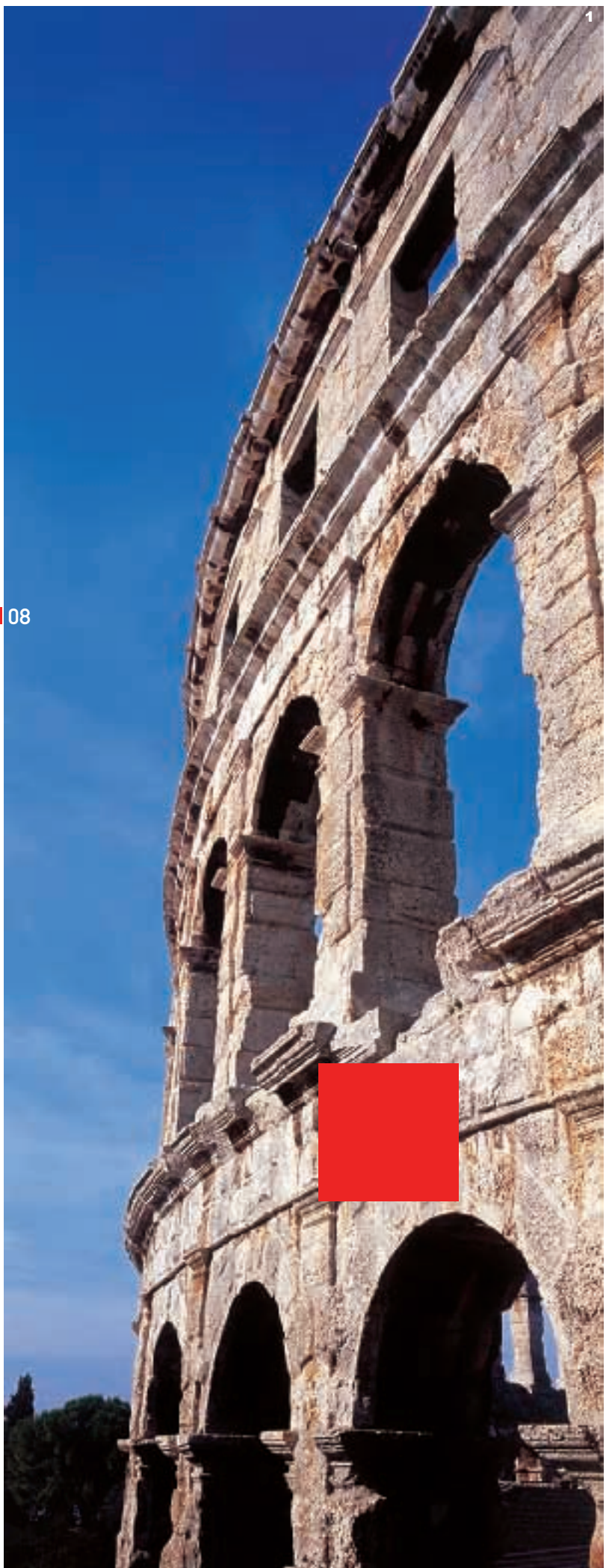




With Risnjak, Paklenica, the Plitvice Lakes and Northern Velebit in the mountainous area, and with the Kornati Archipelago, the island of Mljet, the Brioni Archipelago and the Krka waterfalls in the coastal area, Croatia is indeed a jewel of the primeval beauty of nature. Adding to that two arboretums, one in Trsteno, near Dubrovnik, and Opeka, near Vinica, numerous historical parks and protected nature parks, it is indeed a green land, with as many as 4300 plant and as many animal species.

Do not delay: sail the azure blue waters of the Adriatic and discover the island which is one of the last habitats of the griffon vulture in Europe. For dedicated nature lovers in Croatia you can put to sea with an adopted dolphin or, if you are particularly lucky, encounter the mysterious and rare Mediterranean monk seal. Whatever you decide to do, you will find that this is a place where the colours of nature are at their warmest and fullest.





Welcome to Croatia! A land whose rich cultural heritage is not discovered only from within the walls of numerous museums, galleries and churches, many of which today, as zero category monuments, are included in a part of the UNESCO World Heritage List, but much more in that magical place on the Mediterranean, where even the shortest stroll becomes a journey down a staircase thousands of years old which takes one through a history that is at the same time turbulent, exciting and glorious. Whether walking the intricate grid of narrow white stone streets and alleys, or revelling in the teeming life of the port towns of Istria, Kvarner or Dalmatia, or climbing the green serpentine of Central Croatia to the fairy-like fortresses and castles, each step is an ever fresh experience, made special by the fact that on her territory as many as four cultural circles meet, intertwine and complement one another - west, east, Central European and the southern spirit of the Mediterranean. Croatia is a land of urban culture which numbers more cities than any other part of the Mediterranean.

Treasure trove of impressive history.



If you are interested in the days of antiquity, you should start from the Roman amphitheatre in Pula, through Zadar and its forum - the largest excavated forum on the eastern shores of the Adriatic - and then to the magnificent palace of Emperor Diocletian in Split. Walk through time, from the pre-Romanesque Church of St. Domnius in Zadar dating from the 9th century, to the world of the Romanesque that is the magical monument city of Trogir, or the islands of Krk and Rab. Follow the Gothic period in Zagreb, Pazin, or, for instance, the town of Ston on the Pelješac peninsula. Discover the Renaissance in Osor on the island of Cres, Šibenik cathedral, the islands of Hvar and Korčula, and finally, the one and only Dubrovnik. The towns of Varaždin, Bjelovar and Vukovar glow with the splendour of the Baroque, while the heritage of the 19th century is at its best in Rijeka, Osijek and, of course, in downtown Zagreb.

However, if you are more keen on monuments with lesser exposure, one of those who loves to wander and discover the beauty of places that simply live their quiet life, and through it tell the stories of their long histories in an unobtrusive way, then come into the world of hundreds of tiny medieval churches with striking frescoes and fascinating intertwined ornamental three-strand patterned reliefs. From the renowned medieval philosopher, Istrian-born Hermann Dalmatin; the world traveller and explorer, Marco Polo, who was born on Korčula; Julije Klović, the miniaturist known as the Croatian Michelangelo; Ruđer Bošković, Dubrovnik-born and greatest physicist, mathematician and astronomer of his time, and all the way to Nikola Tesla, one of the most brilliant inventors the world has ever seen and who was born in Lika, this is a land which rightly enjoys the reputation of being not only a place of great history but also of a great people.



The wonder of vivid diversities.



[1.Rovinj 2.Đakovo 3.Dubrovnik 4.Završje 5.Osijek]





Be they the teeming Mediterranean centres, their histories dating from ancient times, pulsating with life or tranquil little places of medieval origin that grew in the shade of the green hills and mountains of Central Croatia, or be they rising from the golden plains of Pannonian wheat country of Slavonia, Croatian towns have always been treasure troves of history and culture.



Their creation based on a flawless vision of better life, nourished by landscapes of vineyards, olive groves and wheat fields, they seem to have descended straight from some painting. Just like people, they experience happy and less happy periods; some have been preserved and take pride in their continuity over a few thousand years, and have in their prime grown into true metropolises, while others were swept away by the maelstrom of history and transformed into romantic stage sets in which the sensitive souls of today read the records of times gone by.

If you really want to get to know the towns of this country in the full glory of their diversity, start with those on the coast, passionately dedicated to the joys of living, and then turn your attention toward the more sedate and peaceful centres in the hinterland. But whether you start with Dubrovnik, or Diocletian's Split, or Krešimir's Šibenik, or Zadar or Rijeka, or Pula - the mythical sanctuary of the Argonauts - or indeed the capital Zagreb, the Baroque beauty of Varaždin, Osijek and proud Vukovar in the easternmost part of the country, an ordinary walk through their streets will turn into a magical journey through fascinating periods of history.

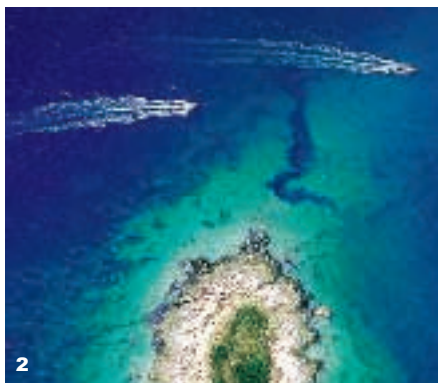




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Washed by the precious salt waters of the Adriatic, roused by the intoxicating fragrances of pines, lavender and sage, caressed by the sun and the gentle breezes, Croatia's shores are the real hidden garden of Mediterranean beauty. Adorned by a string of over a thousand heavenly islands, isles which enhance the noble feature of her face, these shores are the cleanest, gentlest beaches in the Mediterranean. If you sail the Adriatic, enjoying the lovely vistas from the open sea, or if you are immersed in the crystal clear waters of some romantic cove and warm rocks, or if you are resting your eyes on the contours of the islands merged into the blue expanse, you will discover why these shores seem to be a supreme divine creation.

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2



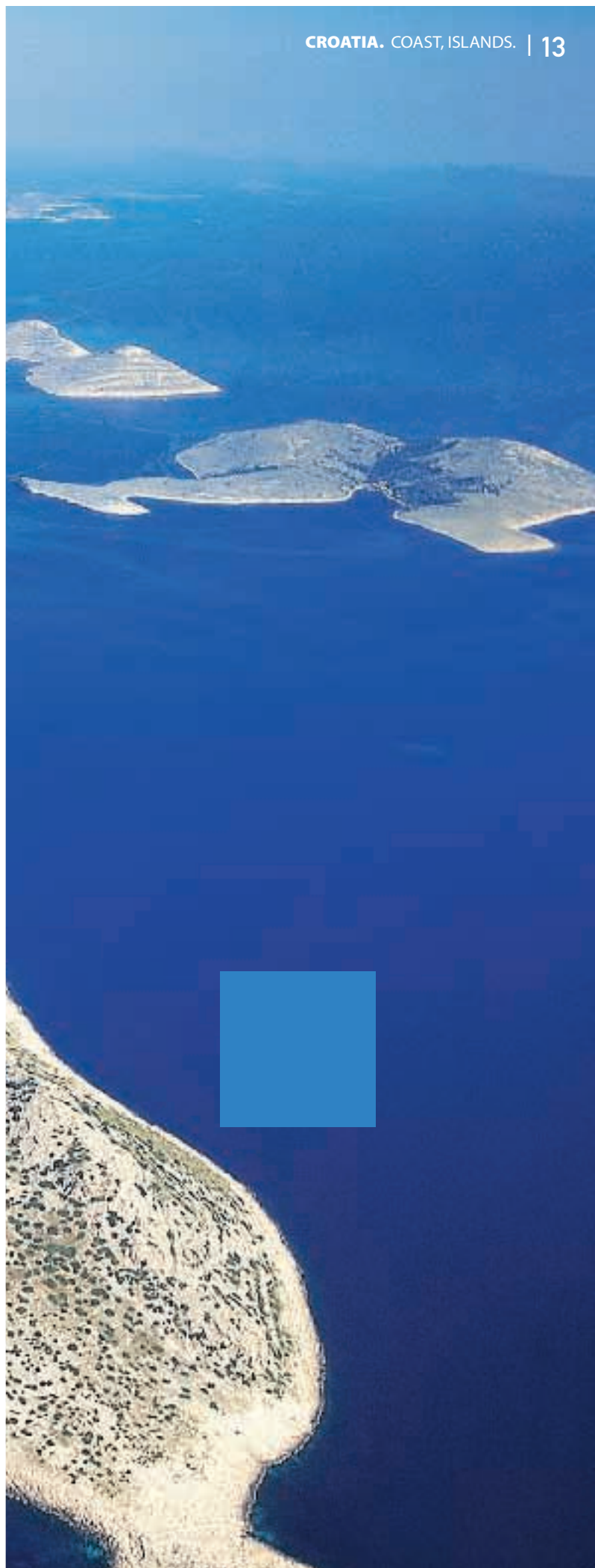
3



From the Arcadian greenery of the Brijuni archipelago in the north, the epic of the Kvarner Bay, with fragrant Cres and Lošinj, the golden island of Krk, magical Rab, the small sandy island of Susak, bora-whipped Pag and pearl-like Kornati, through the beauty of the islands of Brač, Hvar, Vis, and Korčula, all of which defy description, to the island of Mljet and the Elafiti Archipelago near Dubrovnik in the very south, go sail the calm waters of the Adriatic and get to know the unique Croatian coast. Welcome to the endless beauty of the Mediterranean as it once was.

Charm of the true Mediterranean.

4



You like an active holiday? You love sailing and diving, and you prefer cycling to site-seeing tours? You love climbing mountains and reaching their peaks and you are no stranger to casting off from those peaks on the wings of a paraglider? In that case, Croatia is the place for you.

The incredible coastal landscape, lovely indented coastline, coves, beaches sheltered by pine woods, and small and

perfect coastal towns and villages scattered along the mainland coast and on hundreds of islands and isles, captivate with their singular character. Whether you are sailing along those shores, or diving in the blue waters lapping against them, the world before you will include a wealth of flora and fauna, traces of centuries gone by – from ancient amphorae to sunken galleys, and ships that met their end in the whirlwind of two World Wars. You will discover that the Croatian coast is a paradise for yachtsmen and divers. And the preserved natural environment is just as ideal a destination for those who love walking, hiking, mountaineering and camping. In short, it is

the place for those who seek a holiday where they can truly become one with nature. And then, there is cycling, riding, numerous trails and tours which will take you in different directions in the rhythm that suits you. Finally, if you are an adrenalin addict, if the activities you are looking for include rafting, parachuting, or paragliding, then the rapids and rivers from Central Croatia to Dalmatia, and the mountains from the heights of Biokovo mountain on the mainland to Vidova Gora in the island of Brač will provide you with unparalleled excitement and challenges.

14

Natural stress relief.





3



4



Where **dreams** come true.

16

[Porer (Pula)]

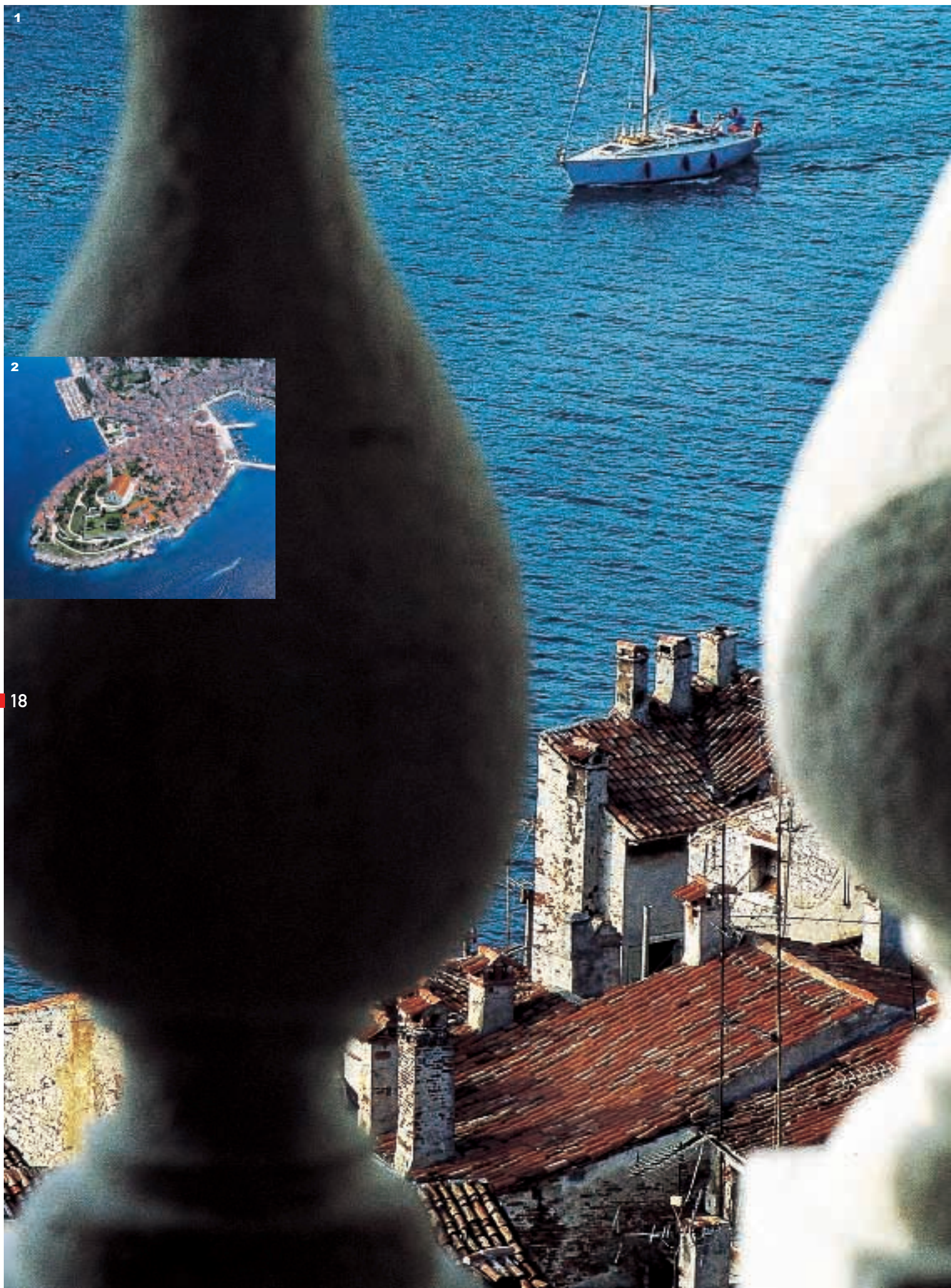
Istria.

Istria.

The heart-shaped peninsula reaching deep into the clear blue waters of the Adriatic Sea is a hidden garden of beauty which opens the door to the sunny and warm Mediterranean. Come and travel through it without hesitation, and the holiday of your dreams will become reality.

Multicultural and hospitable, this is an area where wide-ranging diversities have come together to form a happy union. Its crystal clear sea, clean shores and ports, its lively fishing boats and teeming narrow stone streets exude the true charm of the Mediterranean. Small, picturesque, medieval towns perched on the peaks of its hills emanate the peace and gentleness of landscapes that irresistibly evoke the most beautiful parts of Tuscany or Provence.

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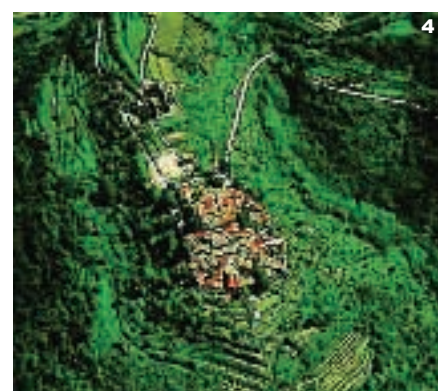


18

Explore the land of true differences, where the blue and the green will inspire your soul

Whereas the coastlines of Pula, Rovinj, Vrsar, Poreč, Novigrad or Umag bring to mind heritage, antiquity and Venice, in the central part of Istria the spirit of Central Europe is instantly discernible. In other words, Istria offers more than just the sea, sun-bathed shores, romantic coves and tiny ports! She beckons you to follow the fairyland paths leading to the small medieval towns crowning her hilly landscape. Climb up to any one of them. Be it Motovun, Grožnjan, Završje, Opatlj or, indeed, the smallest town in the world, Hum. A walk through Hum's narrow, stone-paved streets will become a magical journey through a history that is quite unique. Follow that path, from the massive town gate to a bench on the town loggia, and then on to the church on the main square and the bell tower, a view from which Istria will, for a brief

moment, shine forth from a different panorama. Although they seem to be very similar, each of these tiny medieval towns is a quite individual entity. So, be curious. Peek into doorways, check the coats of arms, and houses - grand and not so grand; enter churches and find rest in the cool and quietude of the chapels. Here, you will come to understand the popular legends about diligent fairies who spend the nights building and rebuilding the walls, and also about "štrigas" - bad witches who are always stirring up trouble. And if you should meet anybody in your wanderings, feel free to stop and ask them whatever you wish. The people here are kindly and hospitable, and they will gladly tell you the story of Istria, a land in which even the greatest diversities live in peace and harmony, taking pride in their openness.



Istria.

[1.2.Rovinj 3.Novigrad 4. Grožnjan 5.Motovun 6.Labin] ISTRIA. | 19

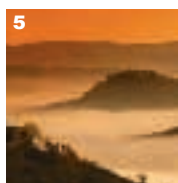
TO EXPLORE

GROŽNJAN, MOTOVUN - architecture, galleries, film and music events in the small, fairy-tale-like towns of Istria

LABIN - medieval town the streets of which provide a stage for a variety of events

Wine Roads and Olive Oil Roads

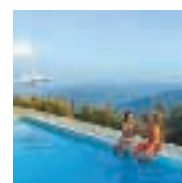
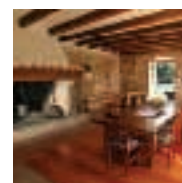
Cycling trails - over 80 organized trails with an overall length of over 3,200 km

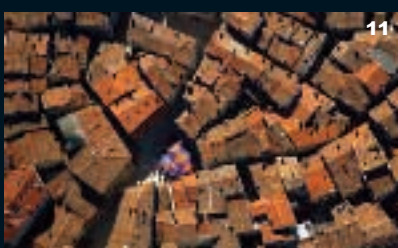
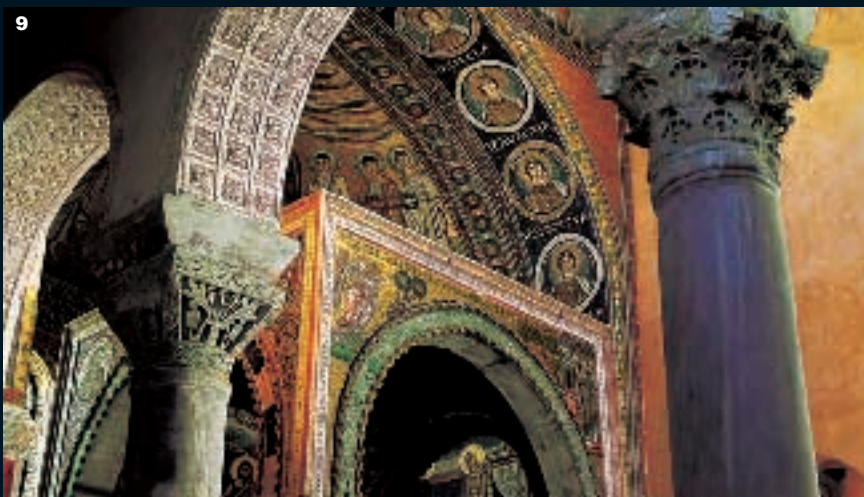


TOURISM PLUS

AGROTOURISM - the more than 250 households engaged in agrotourism offer an unforgettable atmosphere of a traditional way of life

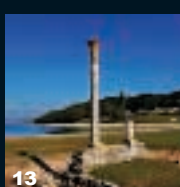
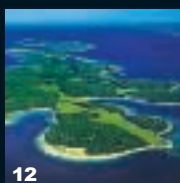
VILLAS - over 100 luxury villas available for a dream holiday, both in the unspoiled nature of Central Istria and on the coast





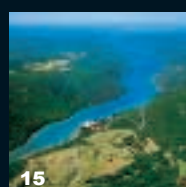
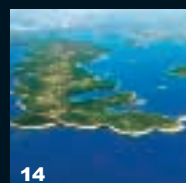
NATIONAL PARKS

BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK - an exceptionally rich cultural and historical heritage on this 14-isle archipelago. A former residence of President Tito, it offers beautiful beaches, remains from Antiquity, Zoo Safari park, golf course and superb gastronomic selection and quality



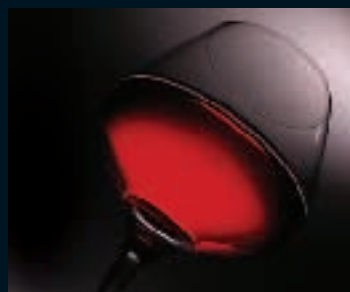
NATURE

GORNJI (UPPER) KAMENJAK AND THE MEDULIN ARCHIPELAGO - notable landscape
DONJI (LOWER) KAMENJAK - notable landscape
PALUD - special ornithological reserve
THE BAY OF LIM - special nature reserve – maritime nature reserve
THE MOTOVUN WOODS - special forest vegetation nature reserve
THE VEGETATION OF ISTRIA - notable landscape



Discover hidden treasures of breath-taking history and unspoiled nature

Istria truly is "terra magica". Blessed with unspoiled nature, the crown jewel of which are the Brijuni islands, one of the most beautiful archipelagos in the Mediterranean. This is a land whose long and rich history can be read literally from dinosaur footprints. Fortified by the northerly bora and invigorated by the mistral, fragrance imbued with Spanish broom, sage and lavender, drowsy from stone pines, thyme and immortelle, with a climate that makes for a five-month-long swimming season, Istria is indeed the ideal tourist destination.



And please, do not forget to taste Istria! From delicacies of the sea to delectable truffles, the liquid gold of the domestic Malmsey, the aromatic Muscat of Momjan, or the ruby-red Teran that once fortified Casanova himself, your palate will combine these divine pleasures into a synthesis of unforgettable Istrian experiences. So, rather than dreaming of the holiday of your life - wake up in Istria!

ISTRIA. | 21



Istria.

Step into this the vibrant hub of civilizations whose cultural arboretum has been jealously nurtured since the times of the Histri, the Celts and the Romans, through the Slavonic peoples and the Venetians, all the way to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and you will soon learn why Istria is so special. Remember the Legend of the Argonauts. In vain pursuit of Jason and the stolen Golden Fleece, and having arrived to the shores of Istria, the people of Colchis decided not to return to their home. There is something in her magic pos-

sessed by no other place in the Mediterranean. Here, you will find a town which, just like Rome, lies on seven hills and boasts a famous amphitheatre. On one of those hills a weary Hungarian king felt the desire to exchange his resplendent robes for the modest habit of a monk, and to die in a state of sanctity. The immortal Dante, inspired by the view from a certain belvedere, wrote the verses of his La Divina Commedia. The name of this town is Pula, Istria's largest urban centre. It is the beating heart of the peninsula, with 3000 years

of history behind it and a unique place in the Mediterranean. It can boast a diverse, impressive cultural heritage. And just like the peninsula upon which it rose, it is not without reason that it carries a feminine name. Modest but fascinating, Pula and Istria have long been known as enchantresses with a hundred faces, faces that have been seducing visitors for thousands of years. Whoever strays once into their invisible web, and experiences but a morsel of the joy they can give, always wishes to return again, and again!

[1.8.11.16.Rovinj 2.Savudrija 3.Umag 4.Vrsar 5.6.7.10.Pula 9.Poreč 12.13.Brijuni 14.Rt Kamenjak 15.Lim 17.Beram]

CULTURAL HERITAGE

AMPHITHEATRE (Pula) - magnificent monument of Antiquity dating from the 1st century, once the arena where gladiators and lions fought, today a unique stage for festivals and concerts

BASILICA OF ST. EUPHRASIUS (Poreč) - complex of early Byzantine architecture and art dating from the 6th century, included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage

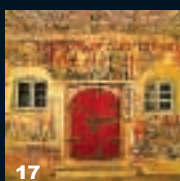
CHURCH OF ST. EUPHEMIA (Rovinj) - an imposing creation of Baroque architecture and art with a rich collection of works of art and the sarcophagus of the patron saint of the city

DANCE MACABRE (Beram) - a small church with unique frescoes dating from the 14th century

DVIGRAD - remains of a medieval town



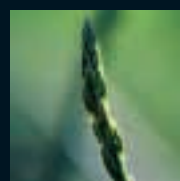
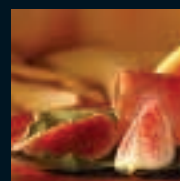
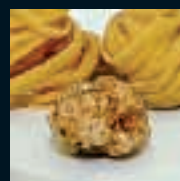
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17

GASTRONOMY

Truffles, Istrian prosciutto, olive oil, fish and frutti di mare specialties, meat and fish dishes prepared under a "peka", omelette with asparagus, "fuži" (home-made pasta) with game goulash, "biska" brandy, Istrian soup, indigenous wines Teran, Refošk, Istrian Malmsey





[1.Opatija 2.Velebit 3.Lovran 4.Oraj]





Kvarner and the highlands.

Where
true diversities
come together.

Kvarner and the highlands.

Perhaps you imagine an ideal holiday, one where you can set off from the shore towards sunny islands, and then sail back to seek the peace and quiet of a mountain peak. In the process you dream of a sun-bathed riviera that can, should you so wish, be replaced within a span of 10 km by ascetic peace and fresh mountain air where you are in the company of eagles, wolves and bears, and where your lungs are filled with forest scented air. If that is indeed the case, then you are looking for Kvarner, Gorski kotar and Lika - three separate parts of this small country that differ significantly one from the other.



Set from the Opatija Riviera...

To begin with, walk the wonderful Opatija Riviera and enjoy its 12 km-long promenade by the sea. Here, the foundations of tourism were laid way back in 1844, when a wheat merchant with vision decided to build the first hotel in Opatija. Today, it is famous Villa Angiolina. It was not long before the town became one of the most elite summer resorts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; one that attracted many famous names - from members of the imperial family, to artists, scientists and politicians. Then, allow the elegant villas and

hotels, lush gardens and parks to lead you towards Rijeka, the metropolis of the littoral and today the largest trading and maritime centre of the northern Adriatic. Sitting under the watchful eye of the magnificent fortification of Trsat, with the oldest Marian sanctuary in Croatia, together with a Franciscan monastery, St. Vitus' Cathedral and the famous votive chapel, Rijeka is a fascinating city, not just as a maritime centre but also one of enviable cultural and artistic life, and home to the greatest carnival event in Croatia.



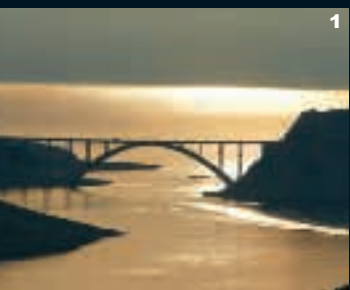
TO EXPLORE

OPATIJA RIVIERA - a 12 km-long promenade along the edge of the sea
ISLAND OF KOŠLJUN - spiritual and vegetational paradise - Park Wood
LUBENICE (island of Cres) - stone-built settlement, 378 metres ASL
OSOR - town with a turbulent history, and, nowadays, lovely musical evenings
DOLPHIN WATCHING: Cres-Lošinj aquarium
ADVENTURE SPORTS: windsurfing, parachuting, paragliding, car racing, wakeboarding, rafting, kayaking, cycling, diving, sailing

CULTURAL HERITAGE

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF TRSAT - the oldest Marian sanctuary in Croatia, with a Franciscan monastery
TOWN OF RAB - medieval churches and aristocratic palaces
THE BAŠKA PLAQUE (Bašćanska ploča, island of Krk) - the largest Croatian written monument in old Glagolitic script, dating from the 12th century





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26

Epic images amid the blue of the sea

If you are yearning for the silence of the wide blue expanse and the charm of the islands, then set off into the Kvarner Bay, ringed by the mythical Absythian islands from the legend of the Argonauts: Rab, Krk, Cres and Lošinj. Apart from enjoying the epic sights of bor-bleached cliffs, coves and inlets reaching deep into the sea, the sun-bathed small towns with stone-built houses, abandon yourself to the intoxicating fragrances of lavender, sage, myrtle and umbrella

pinus, and the 2.700 species of amazing flora. These islands will also reveal themselves as the habitat of an enviable number of animal species. Stroll through the towns of Lošinj, Osor on the island of Cres, or Vrbnik on Krk, will open up their nooks and crannies revealing numerous remains of a rich heritage, like the famous Baška Plaque - a carved stone monument of the Croatian language dating from the year 1.100. A climb to the peaks of cliffs will allow you to observe

NATURE

- UČKA** - nature park
- VELA DRAGA** - geomorphologic natural phenomenon
- ANGIOLINA PARK AND ST. JACOB'S** (Opatija) - park architecture monument
- LOPAR** (island of Rab) - notable landscape, stunning 1,500 m long sandy beach
- DUNDO** (island of Rab) - special forest vegetation nature reserve
- FOJIŠKA-PODPREDOŠĆICA** (island of Cres) - special ornithological nature reserve



14





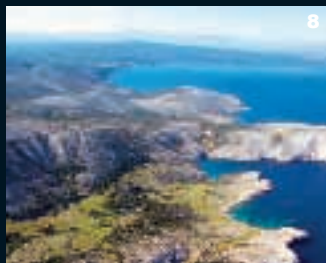
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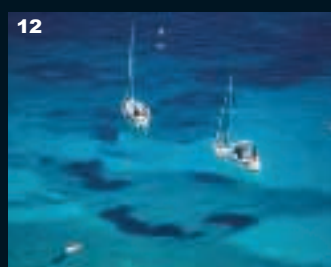
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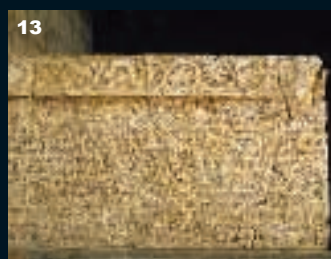
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the habitat of rare griffons, and in the waters beneath them enjoy the magical play of dolphins and Mediterranean monk seal. All those seeking clean air with special medicinal properties should continue their journey in the direction of the Crikvenica-Vinodol Riviera which, in 1906 was officially declared a climatic health resort, and where the Therapia Hotel - one of the most beautiful hotel buildings along the entire Croatian coast - was built in 1895.

[1.8.10.11.13.Krk 2.6.7.Cres 3.Osor 4.7.14.Rab 5.Baška(Krk) 9.Brseč 15.Lošinj 16.Crikvenica]

KVARNER AND THE HIGHLANDS. | 27

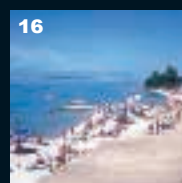


GASTRONOMY

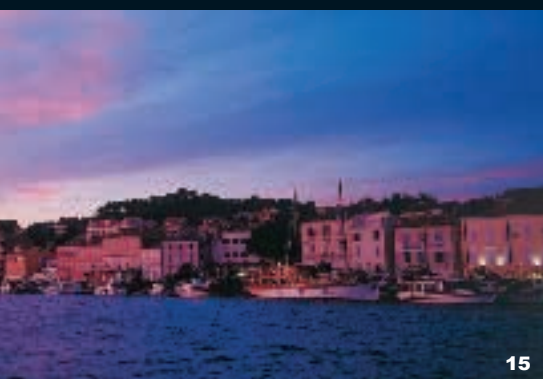
Kvarner prawn, "šurlice": home-made pasta (island of Krk), Cres lamb, specialties made from cherries, asparagus and sweet chestnuts (Lovran), indigenous wines: Vrbnička žlahtina (Krk) and Trojiščina (island of Susak), Island of Rab cake

TOURISM PLUS

Health tourism: Opatija, Crikvenica (talasotherapy), Lovran (treatment of bone diseases) Wellness, Congress Tourism



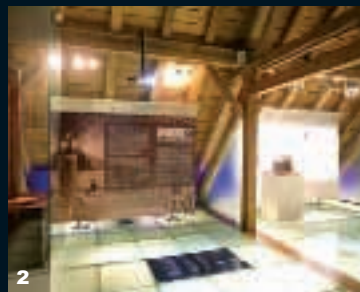
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9

NATURE

SOURCE OF THE KUPA RIVER (Čabar)

- natural phenomenon

FUŽINE - mountain lakes and caves

ZELENI VIR - special geomorphological reserve

JAPLEŠKI VRH - special geomorphological reserve

BIJELE STIJENE (WHITE ROCKS) AND SAMARKE STIJENE (SAMAR ROCKS) (Mrkopalj) - strict nature reserve

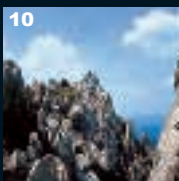
VELEBIT - Nature Park

ROŽANSKI KUK (CREST) AND HAJDUČKI KUK (CREST) - strict nature reserve

JASIKOVAC (Gospić) - Park Wood

CEROVEČKE PEĆINE (Cerovec Caves) - geomorphological nature park

10



NATIONAL PARKS

PLITVICE LAKES - do not miss out on a visit to the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which is on the UNESCO List of World Natural Heritage

RISNJAK - Rich and diverse animal and plant world, karstic phenomena

NORTHERN VELEBIT - Declared a World Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Charter

TO EXPLORE

Turkish tower in Perušić - the only remaining Turkish tower (15th century) in Lika
Cycling trail, hiking trails, mountaineering routes

11





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4



Kvarner and the highlands.

Oases of peace and silence by the sea

A quite special experience awaits you in Gorski kotar and Lika. Lovely green landscapes of exceptional ecological value and home to a number of nature parks, rising only about a dozen metres from the sea, are true oases of peace and tranquillity which are becoming an increasingly popular destination in Croatian tourism. The matchless combination of the Risnjak National

Park near Delnice, the Učka Nature Park, numerous reserves of diverse and rich indigenous flora and endangered animal species, spread across the green mountains, and the most magical, majestic string of the 16 cascading lakes of Plitvice National Park, creates an idyllic holiday location for those seeking to truly become one with nature. While in ancient times this was the land of

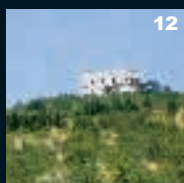
the Illyrians (Yapodes), today the green and undisturbed forests of Lika offer sanctuary to endangered bears and wolves. This harsh and magnificent piece of land of hard working folk also produced one of the greatest inventors the world has ever seen: Nikola Tesla, whose museum was opened in Smiljan, his birthplace, on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

KVARNER AND THE HIGHLANDS. | 29

[1.Rijeka Gacka 2.Smiljan 3.Velika Kapela 4.Bjelolasica 5.Učka 6.Gorski Kotar 7.8.9.Plitvice 10.Velika Kapela 11.Risnjak 12.Senj]

CULTURAL HERITAGE

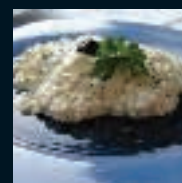
ZRINSKI CASTLE (Čabar)
IVAN GORAN KOVAČIĆ MUSEUM, AND THE AMPHITHEATRE (Lukovdol)
VRBOVSKO - traditional architecture
NEHAJ FORTRESS (Senj) - Renaissance fortress built in the 16th century - today, a unique museum dedicated to pirates (Senjski uskoci)
SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF KRASNO (Krasno) - the largest Marianic sanctuary in Lika
BIRTH PLACE OF NIKOLA TESLA (Smiljan) - Modern museum honouring one of the world's greatest inventors.



12

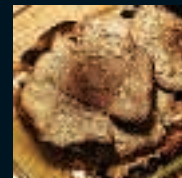
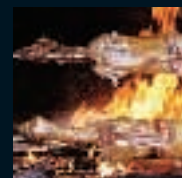
GASTRONOMY

Game, frogs, mushrooms, freshwater fish, mountain liqueurs, Lika potato and lamb, plum and pear brandies, Velebit honeys



TOURISM PLUS

Skiing: Croatian Olympic Centre, Bjelolasica, Platak
 Hunting, fishing, rafting, canoeing, paragliding, riding





Where Croatian culture begins.



Dalmatia.**Zadar.**



Dalmatia. **Zadar.**

Its centre is 3000-year-old Zadar, a city with the largest researched Roman forum on the Croatian side of the Adriatic and unforgettable Romanesque churches like St. Donatus, St. Anastasia, and St. Chrisogonus. Nearby Nin (the oldest Croatian royal city) boasts the smallest cathedral in the world (the Church of the Holy Cross measures but 36 paces!). The region of Zadar tells the story of the sources of Croatian cultural heritage better than any book.



Discover the 3000 years of Zadar's fascinating history

As the centuries-long centre of the Illyrian tribe of Liburni, and the capital of Dalmatia for millennia, Zadar is a place whose rich spiritual and material culture is best testified to by its walls and numerous sacral monuments, crowned by the symbol of the city: the 9th-century Church of St. Donatus, the most monumental Croatian building of the early Middle Ages. Enjoying the protection of as many as four patron saints – Zoilus, Simon, Chrisogonus and Anastasia – Zadar takes pride not

only in its abundant archaeological and monumental treasures, jealously guarded down the centuries, but also in the fact that the foundations of the oldest university among the Croats were laid here in 1396. Replete with rich archives, libraries and outstanding treasures of sacral music, Zadar is also the city in which the first Croatian novel was written, and where the first newspapers in the Croatian language were printed.

NATIONAL PARKS

PAKLENICA NATIONAL PARK - unique complex of canyons and a wealth of flora and fauna

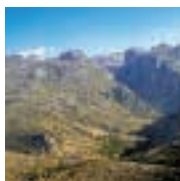
NATURE

SALJSKO POLJE (Dugi otok) - notable landscape

RIVER ZRMANJA CANYON - notable landscape

TELAŠĆICA - Nature Park, with the safest, most beautiful and largest natural port on the Adriatic

VRANSKO JEZERO (Lake Vrana) - nature park



CULTURAL HERITAGE

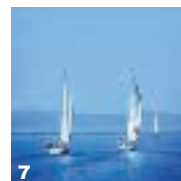
ST. DONATUS CHURCH (Zadar) - symbol of the city of Zadar
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS (Nin) - the smallest cathedral in the world

TO EXPLORE

PAG - architecture of the town, production of Pag Lace
ISLANDS OF UGLJAN AND PAŠMAN - architecture of stone-built houses



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Land that inspired the gods

Although it may seem pretentious to describe the Zadar region as an area of divine inspiration, it is indeed a land of singular natural beauty. This claim is best borne out by its numerous national parks. With its mountains, lakes and waterfalls, its canyons, caves and holes, and the blue expanse of the open sea embraced by a string of lovely islands full of small welcoming ports and romantic beaches, it is easier to paint this part of the world by the brush than



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Dalmatia. Zadar.

by words. To the sound of the sea organ – the architectural wonder of the Zadar waterfront from which, as Alfred Hitchcock once said, one can watch the most beautiful sunset in the world – and with a slice of Pag cheese and a glass of the famous Maraschino, a local liqueur made from the native Maraska sour cherry, in your hand, you can enjoy all the blessings of this area and the fruits of this land of matchless, divine inspiration.

DALMATIA. **ZADAR.** | 33



9



10

GASTRONOMY

Pag cheese, salt from Pag and Nin, prosciutto from Posedarje, "Ninski šokol", Maraschino liqueur, Rosé of Benkovac



TOURISM PLUS

Cycling trails, hunting, riding





Where pearls are easy to find.

Dalmatia. Šibenik.

[1.Kornati 2.Šibenik]

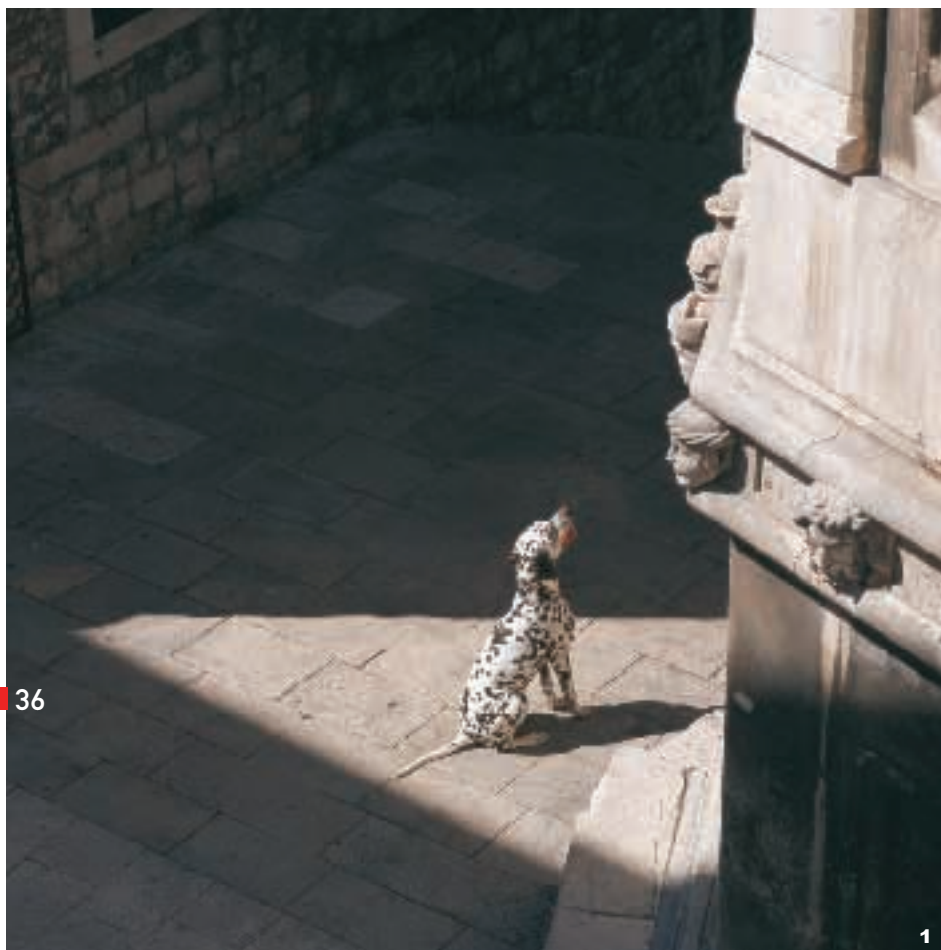
Set amid the wild beauty of white karstic rock and the azure sea, the Šibenik aquatorium is a yachting paradise, boasting as many as 240 isles and reefs, each of which holds an interesting feature or two. If you want to meet the best known coral hunters in the Adriatic, set sail for Zlarin. If you wish to see the centre of sea sponge harvesting, then Krpanj is your destination. On the other hand, if you seek an experience like no other, then venture into the open sea and discover the Kornati Archipelago.



Dalmatia. Šibenik.



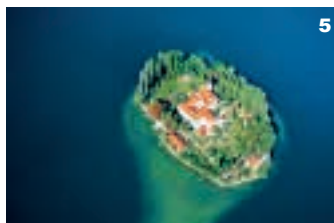
“The gods wanted to set a crown upon their work, so on the last day, out of tears, stars and the breath of the sea, they created the Kornati.” So wrote George Bernard Shaw when reminiscing about this breathtakingly beautiful archipelago. Talking about this incomparable creation of nature, the largest group of islands in the Mediterranean, suffice it to say that the number of these stellar tears petrified in the sea equals the number of days in a year. Here, the saying “an island for each day of the year” really does apply, and of the 365 strikingly beautiful isles, 150 form a quite special entity: the Kornati National Park. The sight of the lace-like pattern of island cliffs, bleached by the noble salt of the Adriatic and lashed by the fragrance-saturated bora, plummeting into the sea, is one that has no equal anywhere. At the same time the mellow, tiny ports and hidden beaches are a true paradise for modern-day Robinsons seeking unspoiled nature.



From the spectacular falls of the River Krka to Šibenik, Krešimir's city

If you follow the fairy-tale-like paths of the karstic empire of the Krka River to the sea, you are on the track to open the door to the most protected natural harbour in the central Adriatic and the proud city of King Krešimir: Šibenik. Along this green route, abounding with the remains of medieval settlements, a wonderful place which provides a habitat for over 222 species of bird, and which boasts the only falconry centre in Croatia, Krka the beautiful spills her cool waters over seven waterfalls. Between the two most beautiful, Roški

slap and Skradinski buk, human hands have enhanced nature with two famous buildings: the Orthodox Christian monastery of The Holy Archangel, and Visovac monastery. Like the mythical Avalon, unparalleled in its location on a tiny isle set in the middle of the emerald green lake formed by the River Krka, Visovac Franciscan monastery houses a valuable library, works of art and numerous precious items, among which is the sword that once belonged to a famous warrior.



NATIONAL PARKS

KORNATI NATIONAL PARK - the most intricately indented archipelago in the Mediterranean

KRKA NATIONAL PARK - natural and karstic phenomena

NATURE

ISLAND OF KRAPANJ - the lowest island in Croatia

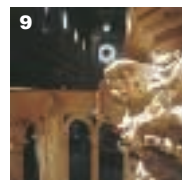
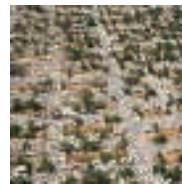


CULTURAL HERITAGE

ST. JACOB'S CATHEDRAL (Šibenik) - Renaissance cathedral dating from the 15th and 16th centuries (included in the UNESCO World Heritage List)

BRIBIRSKA GLAVICA ARCHEOLOGICAL LOCALITY - dating from the 16th and 17th centuries

FORTRESS ON SPAS MOUNTAIN (Knin) - military fortification dating from the 9th century



Amazing cultural heritage of a millennia-old city

First mentioned in 1066 in documents issued by King Petar Krešimir (hence its name: Krešimir's town), Šibenik was founded over 1000 years ago. Take a stroll through its streets, alleyways and squares and some of the most precious works of art in Dalmatia will appear right before you. Incidentally, if you are there at the right time in summer, those same streets, alleyways and squares become stages for

the only International Children's Festival in the world, for the Evening of Dalmatian Chanson, and for the colourful (Šibenik) Medieval Fair.

Standing proud with its fortifications and towers, Šibenik, the birth place of Faust Vrančić (inventor of the parachute) is best known for its largest and most precious sacral monument, the Gothic-Renaissance cathedral of St. Jacob (15th century) whose dome of white stone dominates the city. Its construction took more than a century. It is constructed solely of stone from the islands of Brač and Korčula. Because of the original method of its construction: using large blocks and slabs of stone, it has earned a place on the UNESCO World Heritage

List. Raise your eyes to this audacious edifice, unique in the history of European architecture. While admiring the innovations of the local master builder, Georgius Dalmaticus, try to imagine this: it is the 15th century, there is no sophisticated technology, let alone modern-day cranes and hoists. What you are standing beneath is a monumental barrel-vault and a dome that contains no wood or brick, only clean blocks of stone, each weighing several tons, fitted into grooves carved in stone ribs! Impressive, you must admit. If you also take time to wander around the sacristy, which lies like a crypt beneath the cathedral, and view the elegant three-leaved facade, and the famous frieze of 84 heads encircling the outer



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Dalmatia. Šibenik.



walls of the cathedral apse, you will then understand why St. Jacob's cathedral is so special. It rightfully carries the appellation of the most beautiful cathedral in Dalmatia and is the most striking sacral building in Croatia.

DALMATIA. ŠIBENIK. | 37

Discover and savour the magic of Dalmatian cuisine

It would certainly be remiss of you to miss the opportunity of savouring the food of this area, particularly the famous mussels harvested where the River Krka meets the Adriatic Sea. Washed down with a sip or two of Babić from the nearby vineyards of Primošten, they make an unforgettable meal. As for those vineyards of Primošten — ah, the beauty of them! Their unusual geographical location, the sparse soil in which they grow (despite the best efforts of the bora) have made them a monument to the dedication, skill and hard work of the diligent hands of the people of this area. The image of those vineyards displayed in the vestibule of the United Nations building tells its story in a hundred languages.

TO EXPLORE

ŠIBENIK - St. Michael, St. John, Šubičevac and St. Nicholas Fortresses

ISLAND OF VISOVAC - Franciscan Monastery

TOURISM PLUS

RAFTING (River Krka), BUNGIE JUMPING (Šibenik bridge), fishing, sailing

GASTRONOMY

Drniš prosciutto, Babić red wine (Primošten), Skradin cake



10

An aerial photograph of a stunning coastline. A long, narrow, crescent-shaped sandy beach curves along the edge of crystal-clear turquoise water. The water transitions from a light, shallow turquoise near the shore to a deeper blue further out. A thick, lush green forest covers the land behind the beach. Several small white buildings are visible within the forest. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

Where
beauty is
nature's
second nature.

When, in the year 305, the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruled the entire world at that time, decided to build his leisure-time abode - in which he intended to spend the rest of his life - he had no doubt as to exactly where build to it. In the very heart of Dalmatia, in the bay of Aspalathos (Split), well protected from the sea by the islands of the Split archipelago, and defended on its landward side by high mountains, Diocletian created a special point on the map of the Adriatic: the future city of Split.



Dalmatia. Split.

A mere 6 km from cosmopolitan Salona, then the centre of the province of Dalmatia which boasted up to 60,000 inhabitants, Split was protected by strong walls and numerous fortresses, with many temples, palaces, thermae, and which today is the greatest complex of monuments in Croatia dating from Antiquity. The residence Diocletian built for himself was beyond comparison in his time. Although the Palace has lost many of its original features over the past 17 centuries it has been enriched by subsequent architectural and artistic in-

A Roman Emperor's magnificent city

nificent mausoleum of the last pagan Roman emperor. The cathedral is dedicated to St. Domnius, a Christian martyred by that very same Diocletian. The most striking feature of the cathedral is its famous walnut door frame constructed in 1214, and carved by Master Carver Andrija Buvina. Successfully withstanding time's thievish progress, deeply embedded into the texture of

terventions. Among them, somewhat ironically, a Catholic cathedral, or rather that part of it which rose out of the mag-

the city at its densely populated historical heart, full of enchanting stone palaces, Diocletian's residence today is a place of cellars that ring with song. One can feast here on local specialties, from delicacies of the sea to lamb and the "arambašići" of Sinj, washed down with the finest of red wines. Concealed within its embrace is what locals like to call the smallest street in the world, which carries a rather curious name: Let me pass. Altogether, this enchanting, unique heart of Split has rightly been declared a monument of zero category and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



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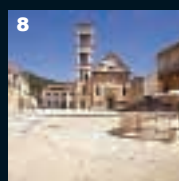
True charm of the southern Mediterranean

A wash in the warm charm of the Mediterranean, Split is a city with rich history, not only within the walls of its museums, palaces and churches, but in the city itself. Its heritage speaks loudest and has done so since the times of antiquity, on the Peristyle and from its stone houses; while the true Mediterranean spirit lives in the vibrant cellars, in the murmur at street corners, in squares and alleyways, in the beauty of the waterfront. If you follow the weave of these white, stone-paved streets to the edge of the sea which gen-

tly rocks the moored boats, you will discover a city in which the famous Roman emperor left the imperial mark of his presence on every corner, together with the saint he decided to execute. Another special aspect of this city are the songs, and the successes achieved by its athletes - including a Wimbledon winner - numerous Olympic champions and NBA stars, and, they say, the most beautiful women in the world. If you harbour any doubts as to the latter, just take stroll along the Split waterfront some time...

CULTURAL HERITAGE

DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE (Split) - included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage
OLD CITY NUCLEUS (Trogir) - included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage
ANCIENT CITY OF SALONA (Solín) - capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia
RENAISSANCE NUCLEUS OF THE TOWN OF HVAR - St. Stephen's Cathedral, town loggia with a tower and arsenal with a theatre dating from 1612.
SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF SINJ - the largest Marianic sanctuary in Dalmatia



TOURISM PLUS

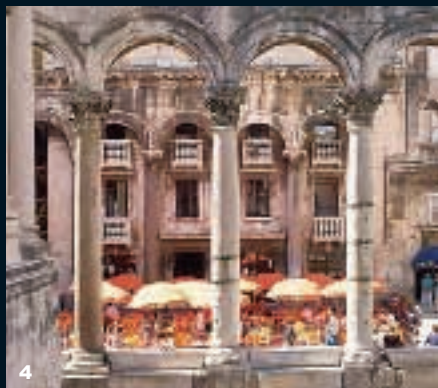
Wine Roads, cycling trails, riding, rafting, paragliding, hunting, fishing

Discover the artistic treasure trove of a museum-city

Although its central part measures but 750 paces - as a certain earnest historian measured and recorded a few hundred years ago - Trogir is a superbly balanced small city built of stone, its history rich far beyond its size. Its significance is recognized by the inclusion of its historical core in the UNESCO World Herit-

age List. It is not without reason that it is called a museum-city, bearing in mind the site it holds: the famous portal of Trogir cathedral, a work by Master Radovan dating from 1240; the Renaissance city loggia; the 1000-year-old monastery of St. Nicholas that houses a relief of Kairos - ancient god of the lucky moment, dating

from the 4th century BC. In short, Trogir is a veritable treasure trove of art, as well as being a stage for young tenors from all over the world who come here every year to engage in competition.



Dalmatia. Split.

The blue expanse and nature in complete harmony

DALMATIA. SPLIT. | 41

Mother Nature has indeed been generous to Central Dalmatia, bequeathing to it a coastline and long pebble beaches shaded by fragrant pine trees and adorning its sea with the beauty of a string of islands of exquisite beauty. Immediately above the beaches of the famous Makarska Riviera is the Biokovo massif, still the habitat of the chamois. Here you can enjoy the rising of the summer sun, with a view that extends all the way to the outermost islands in the open waters of the Adriatic. The largest of the islands of the Split archipelago is Brač, known worldwide as the island of stone and wind. Island of stone, because the finest quality stone has been quarried here for centuries by the highly skilled and hard working local stone masons. It has been used to build not only the local

cathedrals and other grand edifices, but also the White House in Washington, the New Court and Parliaments in Vienna and Budapest, as well as a number of other prestigious buildings. And the island of wind. Nowhere else in the Adriatic, surfers tell us, does such a magnificent landward breeze blow as in the channel between Brač and Hvar, particularly at the beach known as Zlatni rat, whose shape actually changes depending on the direction of wind and waves. Having been recently placed on the list of the ten most beautiful islands, sunny Hvar is, without competition, numbered among the most seductive of Dalmatian islands. Boasting the largest island town square on both sides of the Adriatic, one of the first communal theatres in Europe, built in long-gone 1612, the Arsenal,



the famous "Tvrdalj" Palace of Petar Hektorović, and stone-paved, narrow streets, worn smooth and glistening in the sun, it is difficult to decide whether Hvar captivates more with the harmony of its history and art, or with the beauty of its nature, enhanced with the intoxicating fragrance of lavender.

NATURE

CETINA RIVER - notable landscape, the 105 km long watercourse and the canyon (Omiš) will delight fans of rafting and canoeing

BIOKOVO NATURE PARK - the highest mountain along the Croatian coast, with rich flora and fauna

ZLATNI RAT - notable landscape

ISLANDS OF RAVNIK, DONJA BRELA, PAKLENI OTOCI (island of Hvar) - notable landscapes

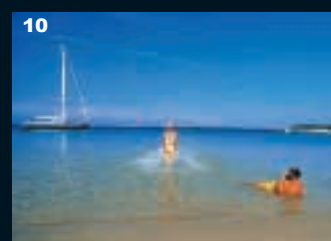
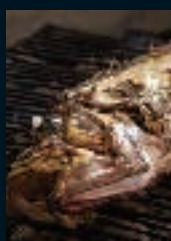
MODRA ŠPILJA AND MEDVIDINA ŠPILJA - caves on the island of Biševo - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

VRANJAČA CAVE (Mountain of Mosor) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

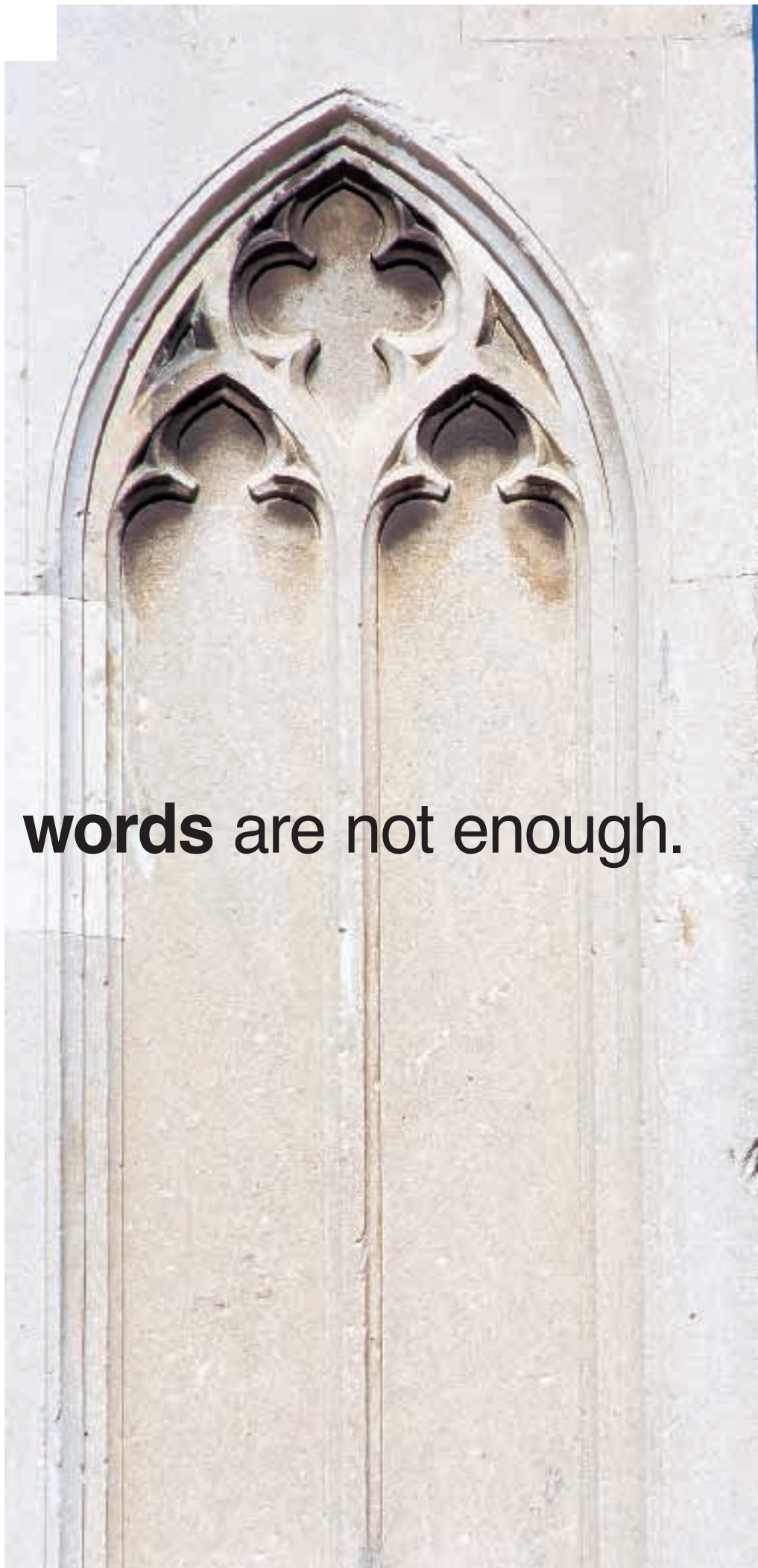
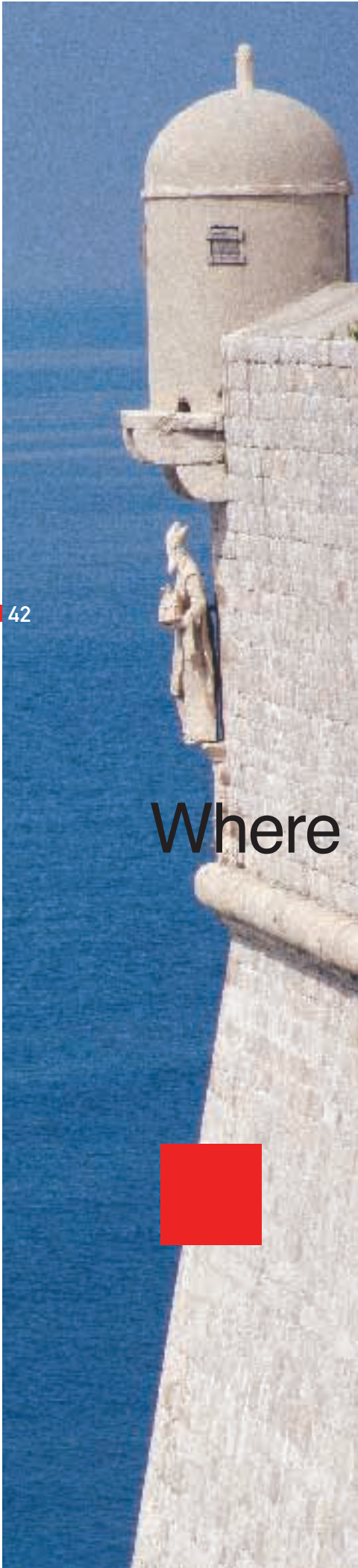
CRVENO JEZERO (RED LAKE) AND MODRO JEZERO (BLUE LAKE) (Imotski) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

GASTRONOMY

Dalmatian "pašticada", "luganige" sausages, "arambašići" - beef in cabbage (Sinj), flat-bread of Vis, pepper cookies from Hvar, "smutica" - wine with milk (island of Brač), Vugava and Plančić wines (island of Hvar)



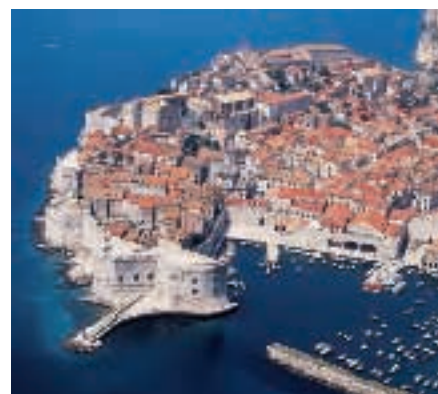
Where **words** are not enough.





Dalmatia. Dubrovnik.

“Those who seek paradise on Earth must come to Dubrovnik”, So wrote George Bernard Shaw, smitten by the beauty of the city whose untouched, 1940 m-long defensive walls - today under the protection of UNESCO - girdle in a city which carries the appellation of the Pearl of the Adriatic. Sitting at the southernmost part of Croatia, harbouring centuries of heritage created by the noble skills of the finest builders and artists, Dubrovnik basks in a warm Mediterranean climate with groves of lemon, orange and tangerine trees, sumptuous palms and agaves, and adorned by Renaissance parks and the flowering gardens of medieval stone palaces and unobtrusive monasteries.



A city that leaves nobody unmoved

Once upon a time, Dubrovnik was one of the smallest but most important merchant states in the Mediterranean. It had consular offices in more than 80 cities. Its fleet of almost 700 merchant ships rivaled that of Venice. Under the heavenly patronage of St. Blasius and crowned by the famous *Libertas* banner flying from a high stone pillar guarded by its legendary knight Orlando, Dubrovnik is a city whose story is best told by the city itself. Walk along its main street, Stradun, whose stone pavement

has been polished smooth by feet that have walked it for hundreds of years. Its glorious walls, fortresses and bastions offer a view of the magical Elafiti islands - Šipan, Lopud and Koločep. From the Onofrio Fountain to the City belltower, the filigree-like Gothic and Renaissance facades of the Sponza Palace and the Ducal Palace, the Baroque church of St. Blasius, the Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady, or St. Ignatius and the Jesuit College, every step in this town will be an experience *par excellence*. And

incidentally, should you happen to be here in summer, when Dubrovnik shines with a special glow, and when the traditional Summer Festival turns the entire old town into an enchanting setting for this quite unique stage in the world, you will be able to listen to the immortal monologue of the unfortunate Danish prince ringing from the nearby Lovrijenac Fortress perched atop a 37 metre-high cliff. Spoken from that venue, Hamlet's immortal words "To be or not to be..." ring particularly loud.

44



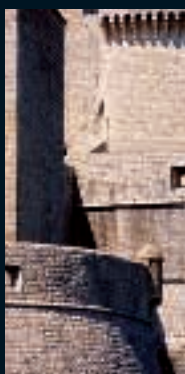
CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE OLD NUCLEUS OF DUBROVNIK - a unique city under UNESCO protection, and one of the most attractive and best known towns in the Mediterranean

NARONA - ancient city locality now in the village of Vid, near Metković

CITY WALLS (Ston) - 14th-century fortification system, outstanding for its length of 5.5 km

KORČULA - MARCO POLO'S CITY - one of the best preserved medieval cities in the Mediterranean



CAVTAT, THE OLD NUCLEUS - touristic and cultural centre of Konavle: Račić family mausoleum, birth house of the painter Vlaho Bukovac, Ducal Palace, Sokol Fortress





Dalmatia. Dubrovnik.



[Dubrovnik]

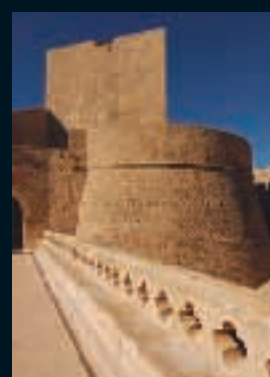


TO EXPLORE

Minčeta Tower, Lovrijenac Tower, the Sponza Palace (Dubrovnik)

Gothic and Gothic-Renaissance summer residences (from Pelješac to Konavle)

Franciscan Monastery (Orebić)
Ducal Palace (Luka Šipanska)
Franciscan Monastery (Rožat)





1



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3



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46

10



NATIONAL PARKS

MLJET NATIONAL PARK - rich in Mediterranean vegetation and cultural heritage (12th -century Benedictine monastery on the islet in Veliko Jezero (Great Lake))

TOURISM PLUS

Wine Roads, hiking tracks, cycling trails, wellness



11



12

NATURE

THE TRSTENO ARBORETUM - park architecture monument

THE NERETVE DELTA - special ichthyological – ornithological nature reserve

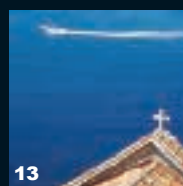
THE BAY OF MALI STON - special nature reserve – maritime nature reserve

THE ISLET OF LOKRUM - special forest vegetation nature reserve
VELA SPILJA (THE GREAT CAVE) (Vela Luka) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

KOČJE (the village of Žrnovo on the island of Korčula) - special forest vegetation nature reserve

KONAVOSKI DVORI (THE COURTS OF KONAVLE) (Konavle) - significant landscape

LASTOVO ARCHIPELAGO - nature park



13

Explore the fascinating history of the islands

About the time that Marco Polo set sail for terra incognita, his hometown, began to develop into a kind of urban sculpture built of stone with regular lines. That sculpture remains well preserved to this day. The streets of Korčula were carefully laid out by a local builder who was also an ingenious town planner. The streets are based on a fishbone pattern and are a true blessing in the summer. Although they bask in the golden glow of the sun both morning and afternoon, the heat of the midday sun is directed around them. If you want to experience the atmosphere of Korčula, may the good winds bring you here in July, when the city plays



DALMATIA. **DUBROVNIK.** | 47



host to the International Festival of Song and Wine, celebrating the famous traveler, the Festival of Chivalry and the traditional sword dances performed in original costumes dating from the 16th century. The dances depict the struggle between the white king and the black king.

Once a part of the Dubrovnik Republic, the Pelješac peninsula and the small town of Ston, boasting 5.5 km-long defensive walls, was a strategic point defending the approach to the famous republic. Nourished by the graces of warm southern Aeolus, Pelješac is well known to wine lovers as the kingdom of Dingač, the most highly regarded Croatian wine. The town of Orebić - renowned centre of maritime affairs in the 18th century - is a popular site for visiting art historians. Full of beautiful stone palaces and villas, whose facades reflect the wealth and life of luxury led by the families of seafar-

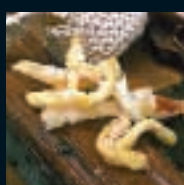
ing men, and particularly striking for its magnificent gardens containing the most exotic plants that mariners brought from all corners of the world, Orebić is indeed a place that will remain etched in your memory.

If you have ever been inspired by the legend of Odysseus held captive on an island by the nymph Calypso and have wondered what the famous Ogygia looked like, then the island of Mljet is the place for you. Located in the southernmost part of Croatia, the island has scenery that appears only in picture books of the world's most beautiful fairy tales. Before your eyes you will see a lake in the middle of the island, and in the centre of that, another small island with a monastery dating from the 12th century. Although Calypso herself may not be nearby, the scene will capture your heart forever and you may never want to leave.

[1.Ston 2.11.12.Mljet 3.4.5.6.7.Korčula 8.Lastovo 9.Plat 10.Elafiti 13.Lopud]

GASTRONOMY

Lamb and veal done under „peka“, eel or frog brodetto (The Neretva valley), salt, oysters and mussels of Ston, „kontonjata“, „mantala“ and „arancina“ cakes (Konavle), tangerines and lemons, Dingač and Postup red wines (Pelješac, Posip and Grk white wines (Korčula, Malmsey of Dubrovnik (Konavle))

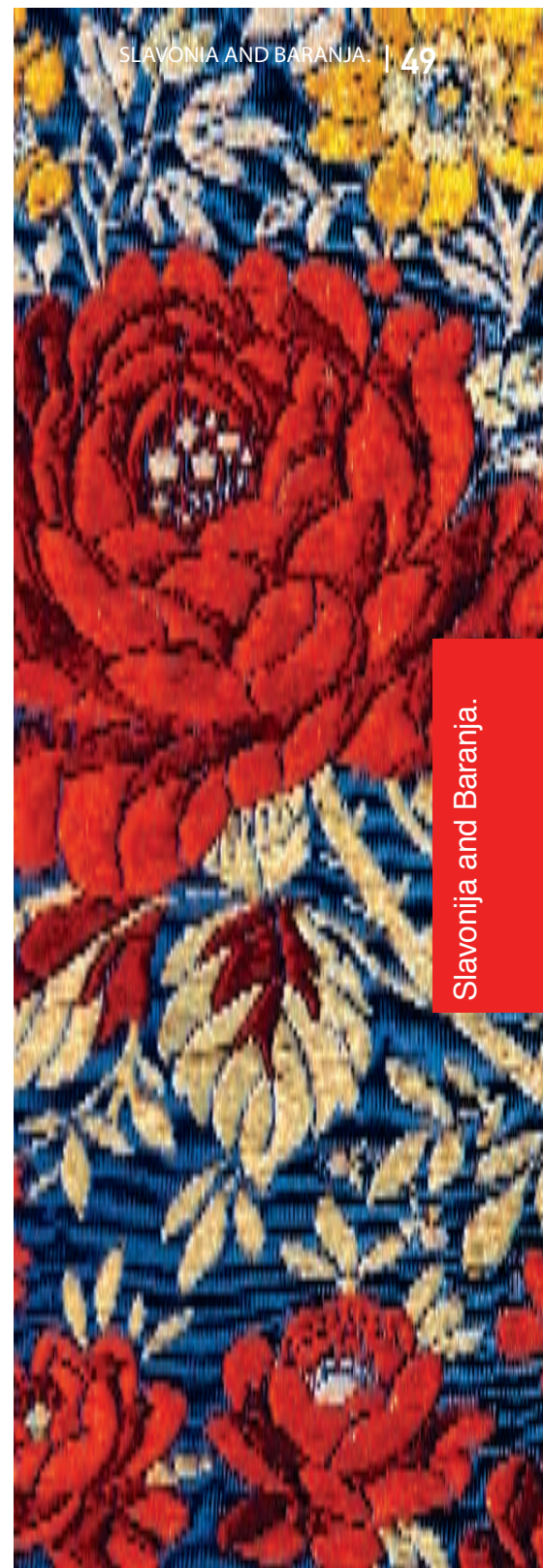


Where the horizon is always **golden**.

48



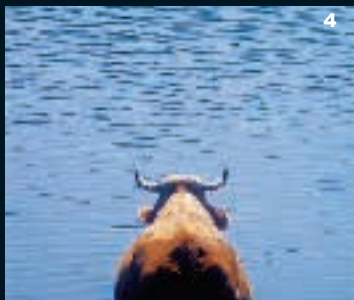
Slavonia and Baranja.



Shaped by the force of the mighty rivers Drava, Danube, Sava and Ilova, Slavonia is a mythical region that for centuries has guarded its treasures. It is characterised by the wide, endless expanse of the golden Pannonia plains, and by rivers that gave birth to the flood areas, which, in turn, provide an ideal habitat for the now centuries-old forests

of common oak (*Quercus robur*) as well as for more than 2000 biological species. The soil of Slavonia has been tilled by human hand for over 8000 years. Ever since this part of the continent rose from the Pannonian Sea some 370 million years ago - the geological history of which is best told through the eruptive rocks of the bulky Papuk mountain that sits like

a crown upon this noble land - the fertile Slavonian plains have been a promised land.



The Golden Valley celebrated through history

Having become a part of the Roman Empire in the first centuries AD, boasting two major roads – one leading from Osijek to the eastern provinces and the other linking the Aque Balisae (today known as Daruvar) with the fertile agricultural and winegrowing country around today's Požega, Đakovo and Vinkovci, Slavonia gave two Roman emperors – the eminently capable and courageous Valentinian and his brother

Valens. Treasuring the area as both wheat growing and winegrowing country (the Kutjevo winegrowing district is home to one of the oldest wine cellars in Europe) the Romans named it Vallis Aurea (Golden Valley). If it is peace you seek in the matchless primeval dawns when the earth awakens from darkness shrouded in the haze hovering above the wide river valleys, then come and discover the land of Slavonia.



[1.2.3.4.7.Kopački rit 5.Osijek 6.Papuk 8.Đakovo 9.Vukovar]

NATURE

PAPUK NATURE PARK – a park of autochthonous biological, geological and culturological authenticity

KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK – unique wetland reserve, home to famous prize stags and other game, ornithological reserve, fish spawning ground

GAJNA (Slavonski Brod) – notable landscape

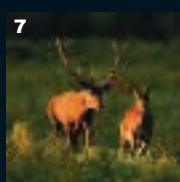
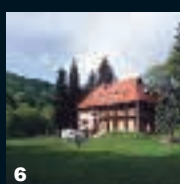
RADIŠEVO (Županja) – special forest vegetation nature reserve

ERDUT – notable landscape

BIJELA TOPOLA (white poplar/aspen poplar, Valpovo) – monument of nature

VIROVITICA – monuments of park architecture

SPAČVA – notable landscape



TO EXPLORE

NATIONAL LIPIZZANER STABLES

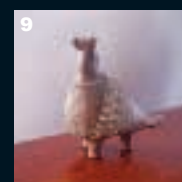
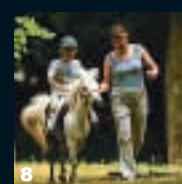
(Đakovo) – founded as long ago as the 13th century, today a stud-farm of exceptionally valuable genetic material

VUKOVAR – Franciscan Monastery of the Baroque period, church of SS. Philip and Jacob, Eltz Castle

ĐAKOVO – Baroque cathedral and Bishop's Palace

VALPOVO, DONJI MIHOLJAC – Prandau Mailath and Prandau Normann Baroque Castles

POŽEGA – 14th-century church of St. Lawrence





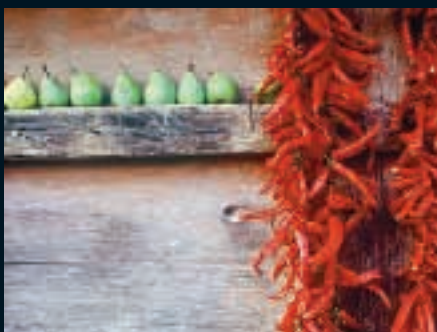
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Slavonija and Baranja.



3

SLAVONIA AND BARANJA. | 51





1



2



Moments to treasure in the towns of Slavonia and Baranja

This is a place where people have a deep respect for Mother Earth and whose faces reflect the pride they take in their Slavonian origins. Waste no time; set off down roads that will take you past mighty medieval fortifications, monasteries, Baroque castles and the manor houses of Osijek, Vinkovci, Požega, Slavonski Brod, all the way to Vukovar and Ilok; to Đakovo, where the indigenous Lipizzaner horses

proudly strut their stuff; to places where rare birds nest and flock, where wild geese rise from the famous Kopački rit Nature Park. Come and discover the monastery of Ilok, where the Franciscan St. John of Capistrano is buried; the Baroque fortifications of Slavonski Brod and Osijek - that urban and cultural Pannonian metropolis whose university and scientific environment has produced two Croatian Nobel

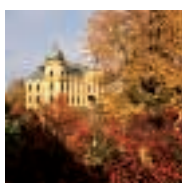
CULTURAL HERITAGE

BROD FORTIFICATION AND MONASTERY (Slavonski Brod) - an 18th-century fortification which ranks among the largest of such structures in Croatia; Franciscan Monastery from the Baroque period

OSIJEK "TVRĐA" - romantic old nucleus of the city

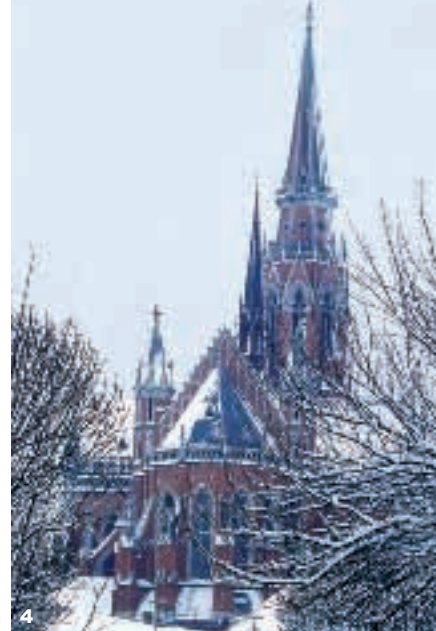
ODESHALCHI CASTLE AND MEDIEVAL DEFENSIVE WALLS (Ilok) - Renaissance park architecture, church and monastery of St. John of Capistrano

PEJAČEVIĆ CASTLE (Našice) - castle in Baroque-Classical style dating from 1804, with a park which is a protected monument of nature



TOURISM PLUS

Hunting, fishing, wine roads, hiking trails, cycling trails, riding



Prize winners. Last, but by no means least, stroll along the wide lanes of a Slavonian village where clothing is adorned with especially sumptuous traditional weave and gold thread embroidery, while mouth-watering aromas of delectable home-cured hams and heavenly kulen waft from tables, and the famous fish-paprikash gently bubbles in the pots. Welcome to Slavonia!

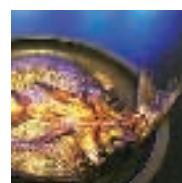
SLAVONIA AND BARANJA. | 53

[1.3.5.Đakovo 2.Kutjevo 4. Osijek]



GASTRONOMY

“Čobanac” - thick, rich and utterly delicious stew, fish paprikash, Slavonian “kulen” and “kulenova seka” - locally-produced salamis, “Iločki Traminac” - white wine, plum brandy

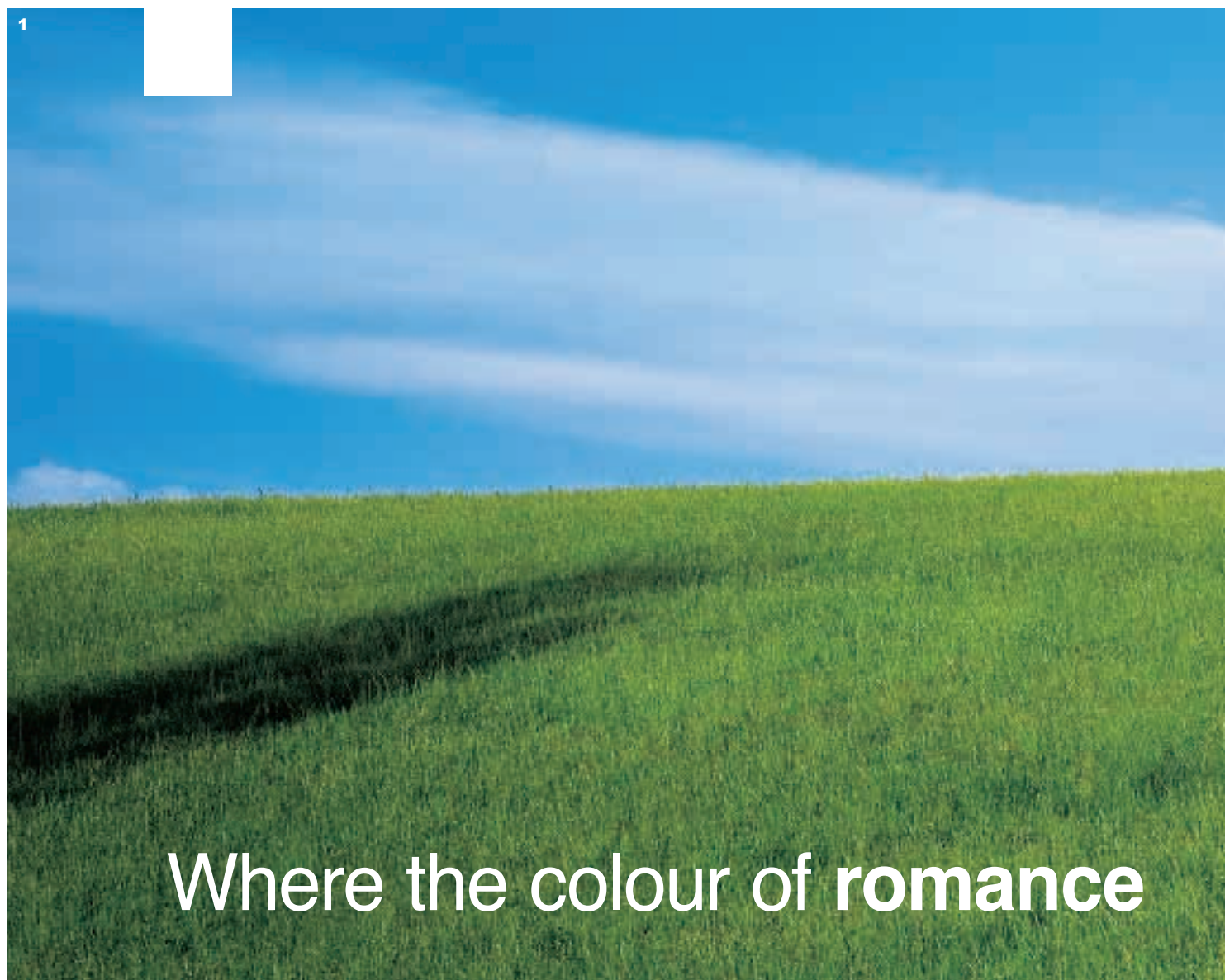


Slavonija and Baranja.

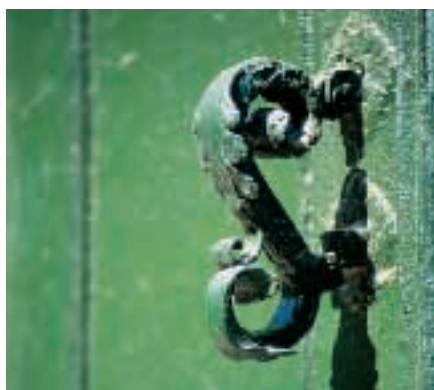
Have you always longed for a holiday away from the summer heat and the vibrant atmosphere of the Mediterranean in an idyllic, green and hilly environment with ancient woodlands, vineyards and rivers? Do you favour the tranquil and soothing atmosphere of the mainland, where romantic medieval towns, summer homes and curias dot the countryside; where thermal springs, health spas and places of pilgrimage beckon? In that case, you should set out to the north of Zagreb and enjoy the blessings offered by Central Croatia. Begin with the area known as Hrvatsko zagorje, a wonderful undulating landscape crisscrossed by hills and rivers, and within it the town

of Krapina, the famous archaeological site of Homo Krapiniensis. Located in an area that has always been known for its thermal springs, spas like Tuhelj Spa (Tuheljske toplice) and Stubica Spa (Stubičke toplice), Krapina made famous by Prof. Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger in 1899, when he discovered the remains of a diluvial man in the area of Hušnjakovo brdo. In Hrvatsko zagorje, which boasts the largest concentration of castles and manor houses after the valley of the River Loire in France, dis-

cover picturesque towns and beautiful Baroque castles. While feasting your eyes, do not forget to feast your palate on the delectable local gastronomy and, of course, the superb wines produced in the area. Marija Bistrica is your destination if you interested in religious tourism or seeking spiritual reinvigoration. It is the greatest Marianic sanctuary in Croatia and has been a place of pilgrimage for over 300 years. More than half a million of the faithful have visited Marija Bistrica, including Pope John Paul II in 1991.



Where the colour of romance



Central Croatia.

Central Croatia.



is green.



56

Enjoy idyllic moments in the towns of Central Croatia

Karlovac is located southwest of Zagreb, on what is known as a transit location. Its construction is based on the concept of an ideal Renaissance town – a six-pointed star. The famous fortress fiercely resisted Turkish onslaughts. With its four rivers and the forested mountains of Velika and Mala Kapela, Karlovac and its region offer the perfect conditions for an invigorating holiday. The clean cool waters of its rivers are ideal for

swimming, rowing, rafting, fishing and canoeing. The woods, stretching from Draganić to the mountain of Klek, and the historical settlement of Modruš are worth a visit, while the slopes of Bjelasića are simply made for skiing. Klek has always been an inspiration to the popular imagination. You will certainly hear about the famous witches of Klek who come from all over the world to gather on this mountain for their coven around

CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE STAR OF KARLOVAC (Karlovac) – Renaissance nucleus of the town in the shape of a six-pointed star

TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE – the most romantic and, according to many, the most beautiful castle in Croatia

CITY OF VARAŽDIN – a city of culture that delights with its sumptuous churches, palaces and manor houses, and its famous cemetery

ZRINSKI CASTLE (Čakovec) – located within the Old Town of the Zrinski family, a cultural and zero category historical monument; its palace houses the Međimurje Museum



OLD TOWN (Kalnik) – magnificent remains of the medieval town

OLD TOWN (Đurđevac) – precious cultural monument with a medieval fortress

COUNT JANKOVIĆ CASTLE (Daruvar) – Baroque castle built between 1771 and 1777

FORTRESS (Sisak) – well preserved medieval fortress





midnight. Their shrieks can be heard all the way to the town of Ogulin, on the River Dobra.

Travelling further south, towards the low-lying courses of seven rivers, one comes to the town of Sisak. Renowned for its timber-built houses, the region of Sisak is also home to a breed of horse indigenous to Posavina, the Topusko thermal spa, and the famous Lonjsko polje Nature Park polje (Lonja River Range). If you are a nature lover, do not miss this amazing area that has 506 km² of marshes and oak forests and

which provides a habitat for numerous protected species of plants and animals: from storks, egrets and white-tailed eagles to otters, beavers and wild cats.

NATURE

KALNIK - outstanding landscape
LONGJSKO POLJE (RANGE) NATURE PARK - rare combination of preserved nature and traditional architectural heritage
ČRET DUBRAVICA (Dubravica) - special botanical reserve
VINDIJA CAVE (Varaždin) - monument of nature
RIVER MURA - notable landscape
VELIKI PAŽUT (Legrad) - special zoological nature reserve
RAKITA (Sisak) - ornithological reserve
THE ĐURĐEVAC SANDS - special botanical nature reserve

LIPIK, BJELOVAR AND DARUVAR - monuments of park architecture
KLEK - notable landscape
CRNA MLAKA - special ornithological reserve
ŽUMBERAK - HILLS OF SAMOBOR - nature park
SLUŠNICA NEAR SLUNJ - notable landscape
THE OPEKA ARBORETUM (Vinica) - park architecture monument





[1.2.Varaždin 3.Požega 4.Trakošćan 5.Samobor 6.Kumrovec 7.Krapina 8.Stubica 9.Marija Bistrica]

The town of Varaždin, the most Baroque of all towns in Croatia, is a very green place. Its finely maintained parks and its famous monument of garden architecture - the town cemetery characteristic by its thujas shaped into paravans and arcades modelled on Versailles - offer a wonderful backdrop to the sounds of music for which Varaždin is famous. But the city is also known for arts, crafts and trade, as well as for two prominent festivals which take place in September: The Varaždin Baroque Evenings and the Spanzierung Festival, a wonderfully entertaining and varied festival of street strollers. In addition to its cultural scene and 354 registered cultural monuments, the Varaždin region also boasts the Trakošćan Park-wood, with an enchanting castle that has been turned into a museum, and three geological and palaeontological monuments of nature, with three caves bearing testimony to the continuous presence of man in this region for thousands of years.

Located not far from Varaždin is Ludbreg, a eucharistic place of pilgrimage of the Sacred Blood of Christ. It is the only such place of pilgrimage in Croatia and one of only a few in the world that have been recognized by a written document from the Pope approving public veneration of Holy Relics. This occurred following the miraculous appearance of the Sacred Blood of Christ in the chapel of Bethany Castle in 1512. Lepoglava is a small town whose history has been most deeply marked by the Pauline Order, which built the church and a monastery. It is also the origin of the famous lace that earned the Gold Medal at the 1937 World Exhibition in Paris.



TO EXPLORE

OLD VILLAGE MUSEUM (Kumrovec) - a singular museum in the open air containing preserved, original rural houses dating from the turn of the 19th century

HUŠNJAKOVO MUSEUM OF EVOLUTION (near Krapina) - Museum of Homo Krapiniensis, with geological, paleontological and archaeological collections

MUSEUM OF TUROPOLJE (Velika Gorica) - exhibits range from the prehistoric period down to our times (mammoth tusk from the period 10,000 BC; preserved wooden chapels and curios of the nobility)





If you want to try your hand at panning for gold in a river, or enjoy all the benefits offered by the St. Martin Spa, or take a carefree ride along the cycling trails and savour excellent wines, then turn north, toward the area where Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia share a border. Get to know the region of Međimurje and its capital, Čakovec.

On the other hand, if you have an artistic nature and enjoy naive art, tradition, folklore, old arts and crafts, if you are interested in old customs, then head toward Podravina, particularly in June, when three major events take place: in Koprivnica, Đurđevac and Križevci. Ringed by the River Drava and by the mountain systems of Bilogora and Kalnik, Podravina abounds in fish and game, and organized cycling trails passing through

beautiful landscapes, past Šoderica Lake and the cradle of naive art: Hlebine.



CENTRAL CROATIA. | 59



GASTRONOMY

The piquant relish "Samobor Mustard", Samobor salami, Samobor custard slice, "Bermet" - a Samobor liqueur; roast turkey with "mlinci" (special type of home-made pasta), buckwheat gruel, "prga" - cow's milk cheese; pumpkin seed oil, cakes: "Zagorski štrukli" (pastry, cottage cheese, smetana, eggs, salt or sugar; cooked or baked), "kukuruzna zlevka" (corn meal, smetana, eggs, sugar; baked), "Vrbovečka pera", rolls: "Varaždinski klipici"; Šenpijen champagne, dairy products, specialties prepared with freshwater fish and game, Graševina wines and white Pinot, mead, fruit wines



TOURISM PLUS

Hunting, fishing, paragliding, cycling, hiking and mountaineering tracks and trails, speedway, wine roads

HEALTH RESORTS: many famous health centers with thermal springs (Stubičke Toplice)



[Zagreb]

60

Where inspiration comes
from **the heart.**

Zagreb.

Zagreb.

Meet the charming heart of Croatia

Zagreb, Croatia's capital and the largest city in the country, is a typical Central European town. It grew out of two medieval settlements that flourished for centuries on neighbouring hills. Zagreb's written history dates to the year 1094, when a diocese was established. The classicist and secessionist facades of its historical nucleus exude the lofty spirit of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but here and there one can also discern the contours of the panoramas of Prague. Almost all of the main sites of the city and cultural venues are located in the very centre, which teems with charming coffee houses, fine restaurants, garden restaurants, and lovingly tended parks like, for instance, Ribnjak, which lies beneath the walls of Kaptol. The pivotal point of the city is the magnificent Gothic cathedral with its filigree spires. Zrinjevac, a park located only a few steps away from the main square, also forms part of the Lenuci green horseshoe that encompasses some of the most beautiful buildings in town. Zagreb, indeed, is a city tailored to the human scale.

Stroll the streets of the metropolis and walk through history

The best way to explore the city is the slow way, gently uncovering the layers of its rich history. Behind the main square (named after Viceroy - or *Ban* - Jelačić), is Dolac, one of the most colourful open-air markets in this part of Europe. From there you can walk on Opatovina to Kaptol, or perhaps via Radićeva Street to the Stone Gate and on to St. Mark's Square. In the center of the square stands the eponymous church with its famous coloured roof. The Ban's Palace is on one side of the square, the Croatian Parliament (*Sabor*) is on the other. Zagreb can also be explored using its blue trams. Routed in all directions and pulsating day and night like a heart in the living tissue of the city, through their windows these modern-day chariots provide the most original frames for scenes to remember. Zagreb is a real Croatian metropolis, one which attracts guests of all profiles like filings to a magnet.



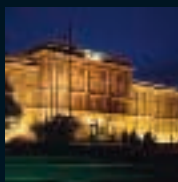
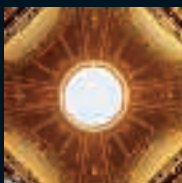
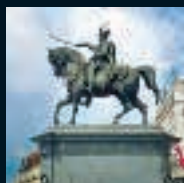
CULTURAL HERITAGE

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY (on the site where a church has stood since the 11th century) - neo-Gothic cathedral dating from the end of the 19th century (radically reconstructed after the 1880 earthquake)

ST. MARK'S CHURCH - 14-15th century church with Romanesque and Gothic characteristics

STONE GATE AND LOTRŠĆAN TOWER - part of the 13th-century city walls

CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE - neo-Baroque building dating from 1895, designed by the architects Fellner and Helmer

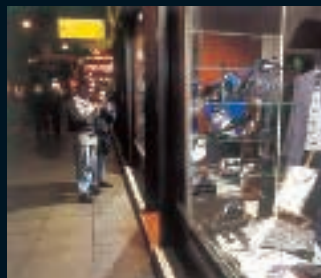


TO EXPLORE

ELECTRIC-POWERED FUNICULAR RAILWAY - links Down Town with Upper Town (old part of town)

MIMARA MUSEUM - named after the collector, Ante Topić Mimara, who donated a vast collection of works of art to Croatia

MEDVEDNICA NATURE PARK - mountaineering trails and Sljeme Ski Centre, attractive gorges, caves, waterfalls and karstic phenomena



[Zagreb]

ZAGREB. | 63



Zagreb.



Its location at the foot of the Medvednica Nature Park, whose highest peak, Sljeme, has hosted the FIS Snow Queen Trophy skiing competitions since 2005, its large sports and recreation complex around the Jarun Lake (and within it, fully appointed regatta facilities for various types of competition) on its other side, and its now well established Zagreb Indoor Tennis Tournament, make Zagreb not only a city of rich cultural heritage, of opera, ballet, theatres and concerts, but also a city whose name is

ever more frequently entered onto the map of world sports events. And finally, if you are one of those who enjoy writing postcards with your fountain pen, or noting down impressions of your journeys in your notebook, remember that it is from this very town that the first fountain pen, and indeed the technical pencil - the famous Penkala - set out into the world of writing postcards, and that their inventor, Slavoljub Penkala, found inspiration in his long walks through the streets of Zagreb.



Zagreb.

[Zagreb]

ZAGREB. | 65

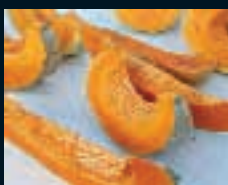


TOURISM PLUS

Skiing, hiking, mountaineering, congress tourism

GASTRONOMY

Roast turkey with "mlinci", "štrukli", "špek fileki" (bacon-tripe stew), home made pasta with cabbage, fresh cottage cheese with smetana, doughnuts



Did you know that even in the times when traveling to the Adriatic was still considered a real adventure, and when it took almost 24 hours to journey from Western Europe to our shores, islands and sea, campers have always somehow been drawn to Croatia? Indeed, their numbers have increased year by year. You may be curious why Croatia has the longest naturist tradition in Europe, and why it has become a unique desti-

Return to nature



nation for real campers. Here are a few reasons why. Within Croatia's unspoiled natural environment are eight national parks; numerous protected areas, landscapes and reserves; the most indented shores of the Mediterranean, teeming with islands, islets, cliffs, reefs, sheltered beaches and coves. All of these are ideal places for a true bonding with nature, on the Croatian side of the Adriatic. Moreover, from the Cape of Savudrija in the north of Istria to Prevlaka in the South there are 526 camping sites.





Croatia is a land with a mild Mediterranean climate along its coastline. Its continental regions, however, offer fuller variety and wealth: enchanting green hills; lofty, bulky mountains; river rapids, lakes and the golden plains of Slavonia. All of these are unique creations of nature and tailor-made for the true camper. If to the above list we add the six localities included in the UNESCO

World Heritage List, numerous preserved monuments dating from ancient times, museums and collections, and on top of all that the gastronomic range of local dishes - from sea food bathed in the

symphony of the best and most precious drops of olive oil, and heavenly wines produced from indigenous varieties of grape, to the more substantial but no less delicious cuisine of the continental parts of the country, you will have an endless list of reasons for coming.

Deeply embedded in the European mainland, and flanked by the long coastlines of Italy and Croatia, the Adriatic Sea is a real paradise for all water and underwater sports. In the summer the average surface

temperatures is between 21 and 26 degrees Celsius. During the rest of the year, the temperature almost always hovers between 16 and 17. The Adriatic is made for underwater safaris. It shelters a wide range of

intriguing archaeological sites - from the remains of ancient colonies to shipwrecks, walls, reefs, caves, and even airplanes. The Adriatic is unique because its wealth and attractions are concentrated in a relatively small area



Story of the Big Blue

Long considered as the shortest sea route between the central Mediterranean and the central and northern parts of Europe, the Adriatic hides beneath its surface fascinating traces of many periods of European and other civilizations just waiting to be discovered. So, do not hesitate. Dive into this

azure blue expanse of Poseidon's empire and savour the silence of a world rarely seen



Land of the modern-day Odysseus

Sprinkled like pearl drops across the crystal clear blue of the sea, the 1,185 islands, isles, cliffs, reefs and rocks that comprise the Croatian Adriatic provide 1,185 unique reasons to dream of sailing adventure. Almost ideally distributed, with distances between them not exceeding 10 nm, along a coastline extending 5,835 km, from Istria to Dubrovnik, Croatia's islands offer a real challenge to every modern-day Odysseus. With over 1500 coves, bays and ports on islands and the mainland where

one can find a berth, drop anchor or stay overnight, the Croatian Adriatic is the very place for sailing under full sail, for a motorboat cruise, or for simply enjoying the sea by boat for recreational fishing. With fifty quality marinas designed for permanent and transit commercial berthing, and a total of 15,058 berths in the sea and 5,065 berths on dry land, Croatian marinas are situated in exceptionally well protected locations, from larger towns to small coves on islands. In addition to service and regular main-

tenance, marinas offer other services, including restaurants and cellars where one can enjoy excellent drinks and local and international cuisine and where all other required services are provided. For those who prefer the charm of little ports in the very heart of the small coastal towns, they have at their disposal quaysides all along the Adriatic - from Cavtat, and Gruž in Dubrovnik, Vela Luka on Korčula, Hvar and Vis, and all the way to Lošinj and Istria.





Even in olden times the Adriatic Sea was one of the most crucial sailing routes for ancient cultures. Being one of the calmer seas, without large waves or very strong currents, its greatest depth is 1330 metres - and that at its southernmost part - the Croatian Adriatic. With its attractive coastal area covering 138,595 km², the extraordinary clarity of its waters with visibility to the fascinating depth of 50 metres, and an average water temperature of 16 to 21°C, the Croatian Adriatic is indeed an ideal place for your dream sailing adventure.



Searching for a dream holiday

From the beginning of touristic development, Croatia has drawn the highest echelons of European and world elite. In the 19th century it was recognized as a land of exceptional tourism potential. Its mild climate also defined it as an ideal recuperation and health resort destination for European aristocracy. Through the vision of Paul Kupelweiser the Brijuni archipelago became an elite destination. The first hotels and luxury villas were built in Opatija and Lovran, where trendy aristocrats of the Austro-Hungarian Empire came for their holidays. But the list also includes the summer residence in Dubrovnik and the sheltered sanctuaries on the Dalmatian islands, on one of which the love of King Edward VIII reached the point that resulted in his abdication from the British throne. Many illustrious pages have been written in Croatia's history. The sheltered gardens of Dubrovnik's luxurious hotels and the lovely Villa Scheherezade are waiting for you. Once you came, they will not leave you untouched.

The Brijuni sports complex has been advertised since the 1930s as the best place for Europe's elite to enjoy golf, tennis and polo year-round. The grounds, which are also shared by strutting peacocks and deer, have remained the symbol of elite sports tourism in the Mediterranean. Their concept and design was perfected by top English and American golf course architects. The recent restoration was modeled on those original designs and the complex has once again become a venue where the world's elite meet. The prestigious Brijuni Polo Cup has become a special attraction. Today, Croatia is the place where famous names come in search of a special holiday.





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