



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

CROATIA



THE GUIDES THAT SHOW YOU
WHAT OTHERS ONLY TELL YOU





EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

CROATIA







EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

CROATIA





LONDON, NEW YORK,
MELBOURNE, MUNICH AND DELHI
www.dk.com

PRODUCED BY Fabio Ratti Editoria Srl, Milan, Italy
PROJECT EDITOR Donatella Ceriani
ART EDITOR Oriana Bianchetti
EDITORS Sara Cattel, Emanuela Damiani, Alessandra Lombardi
Giovanna Morselli, Federica Romagnoli
MAIN CONTRIBUTORS Leandro Zoppé, Gian Enrico Venturini
PHOTOGRAPHER Lucio Rossi
CARTOGRAPHERS Grafema Cartografia Srl, Novara
LS International Cartography snc, Milano
ILLUSTRATORS Modi Artistici
ENGLISH TRANSLATION Susan Andrews
Dorling Kindersley Limited
EDITORS Hugh Thompson, Fiona Wild
CONSULTANT Jane Foster
SENIOR DTP DESIGNER Jason Little
PRODUCTION Melanie Dowland

Reproduced by Fabio Ratti Editoria Srl, Milan
and in Singapore by Colourscan
Printed and bound in China by Leo Paper Products Ltd
First American Edition 2003
11 12 13 14 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published in the United States by DK Publishing,
375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014

Reprinted with revisions 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011

Copyright © 2003, 2011 Dorling Kindersley Limited, London
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. WITHOUT LIMITING THE RIGHTS UNDER COPYRIGHT
RESERVED ABOVE, NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED, STORED IN
OR INTRODUCED INTO A RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, OR TRANSMITTED, IN ANY FORM, OR
BY ANY MEANS (ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR
OTHERWISE), WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF BOTH THE COPYRIGHT
OWNER AND THE ABOVE PUBLISHER OF THIS BOOK.

Published in Great Britain by Dorling Kindersley Limited
A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.
ISSN 1542-1554

ISBN 978-0-7566-7021-4

FLOORS ARE REFERRED TO THROUGHOUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EUROPEAN
USAGE; IE THE "FIRST FLOOR" IS THE FLOOR ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

Front cover main image: View of the coast and harbour
from Trsteno, Dalmatia



**The information in this DK Eyewitness
Travel Guide is checked regularly.**

Every effort has been made to ensure that this book is as up-to-date as possible at the time of going to press. Some details, however, such as telephone numbers, opening hours, prices, gallery hanging arrangements and travel information are liable to change. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of this book, nor for any material on third party websites, and cannot guarantee that any website address in this book will be a suitable source of travel information. We value the views and suggestions of our readers very highly. Please write to: Publisher, DK Eyewitness Travel Guides, Dorling Kindersley, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, Great Britain, or email: travelguides@dk.com.



A lovely bay on the island of Mljet

CONTENTS

HOW TO USE
THIS GUIDE **6**

INTRODUCING
CROATIA

DISCOVERING
CROATIA **10**

PUTTING CROATIA
ON THE MAP **12**

A PORTRAIT
OF CROATIA **14**

CROATIA THROUGH
THE YEAR **24**

THE HISTORY
OF CROATIA **28**



Woodcutters by Mijo Kovačić, Croatian National Museum of Naive Art



CROATIA AREA BY AREA

CROATIA AT A GLANCE
46

ISTRIA AND THE
KVARNER AREA
48

DALMATIA **88**

ZAGREB **148**

CENTRAL
CROATIA **166**

SLAVONIA
AND BARANJA **180**

THE NORTHERN
COUNTIES
198



The Roman amphitheatre in Pula

TRAVELLERS' NEEDS

WHERE TO STAY
218

WHERE TO EAT
234



Buzara, a typical Dalmatian dish,
shellfish in tomato sauce

SHOPPING
IN CROATIA
250

ENTERTAINMENT IN
CROATIA **254**

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
258

SURVIVAL GUIDE

PRACTICAL
INFORMATION
264

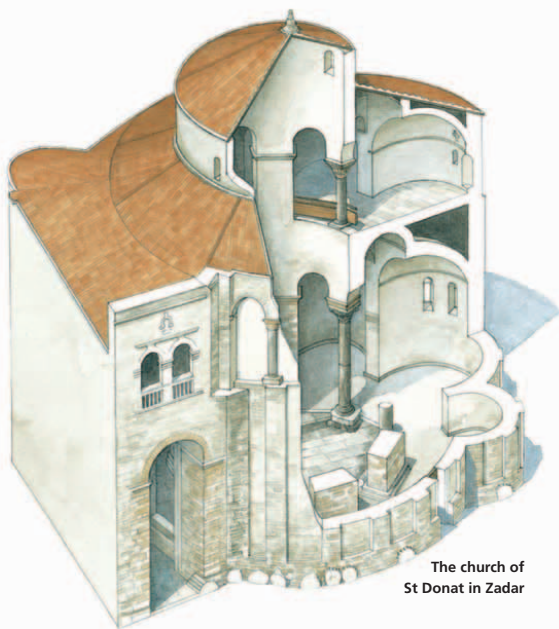
TRAVEL INFORMATION
274

GENERAL INDEX **282**

PHRASE BOOK **295**



The bustling harbour of Makarska



The church of
St Donat in Zadar

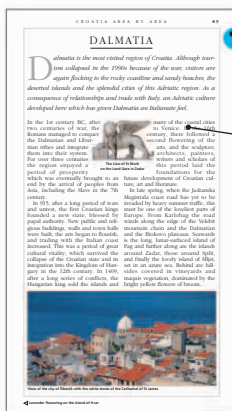
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The detailed information and tips given in this guide will help you to get the most out of your visit to Croatia. *Introducing Croatia* maps the country and sets it in its historical and cultural context. The six sections, one dedicated to Zagreb, describe the main sights using maps, photographs and illustrations. In Istria, Kvarner and part of Dalmatia, two languages are spoken (Croatian and Italian) and two

place names may refer to the same town. Where both names are officially recognized, the Croatian name is given first, then the Italian in brackets. Restaurant and hotel recommendations can be found in the section *Travellers' Needs*, together with information about shopping and entertainment. The *Survival Guide* has tips on everything from transport to making a phone call, as well as other practical matters.

CROATIA AREA BY AREA

Croatia has been divided into six main areas, each one identified by its own colour code. On the inside front cover is a general map of the country showing these six areas. All the most interesting places to visit are located on the *Regional Map* in each chapter.



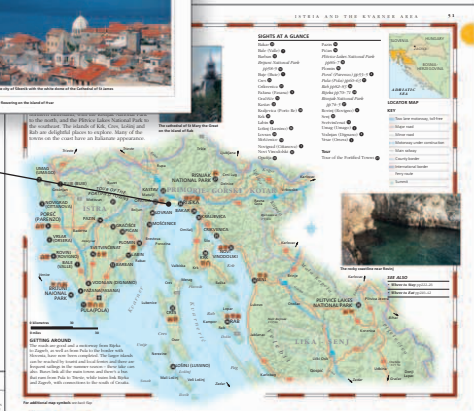
Each area can be easily identified by its colour-coded thumb tab.

1 Introduction

This section describes the character and history of each area, highlighting its development over the centuries and what it has to offer the visitor today.

2 Regional Map

This shows the road network and provides an illustrated overview of the whole region. The most interesting places to visit are numbered, and there are useful tips on getting around the region by car and public transport.



3 Detailed Information

All the important towns and other places to visit are described individually. They are listed in order and follow the numbering shown on the *Regional Map*. Detailed information is given about the most important sights.





INTRODUCING CROATIA



- DISCOVERING CROATIA 10-11
PUTTING CROATIA ON THE MAP 12-13
A PORTRAIT OF CROATIA 14-23
CROATIA THROUGH THE YEAR 24-27
THE HISTORY OF CROATIA 28-43

DISCOVERING CROATIA

With over 4,800 km (3,000 miles) of Mediterranean coastline and 1,185 islands, Croatia is one of Europe's leading holiday playgrounds. Close to the beaches there are picturesque ancient ports and excellent restaurants with sea views.



Mosaic of Christ from Poreč

But there is more to Croatia than just the coast. Inland lie the cultural hot spots of Zagreb and Varaždin, as well as a varied countryside dotted with castles, spa-towns and nature parks. These pages pinpoint Croatia's main attractions and highlights.

ISTRIA AND THE KVARNER AREA

- Beautiful old port towns
- Imperial Opatija
- Plitvice Lakes National Park
- The Island of Rab

Istrian port towns are notable for their stout walls, church towers, and medieval houses tumbling down steep, cobbled alleys to picturesque harbours. Prettiest is **Rovinj** (see p56), but **Poreč** (see pp53–5) with its 6th-century **Basilica of Euphrasius** and **Pula** (see pp60–3) with its 1st-century **Roman Amphitheatre** have the star attractions. The best way to enjoy **Opatija** (see p67) is by checking into one of the grand 19th-century seafront promenade hotels – originally built as holiday villas for the Austrian imperial elite; the crystal chandeliers, grand halls of stuccoed columns, elegant parks and formal gardens, contrast sharply



The picturesque old Roman port of Rovinj, Istria



Holidaymakers on the white sand beach at Makarska, Dalmatia

with the more Italianate Istria. Arguably the greatest natural wonder in Croatia is the **Plitvice Lakes National Park** (see pp86–7). A whole day of lakes, cliffs, forests and falls will leave you both awe-struck and coolly refreshed. Serious bathers should seek out the secluded, sandy beach of Lopar on the island of **Rab** (see pp82–3), one of the most exquisite islands in Kvarner Bay.

DALMATIA

- Carefree island hopping
- Great seafood restaurants
- Beaches aplenty
- Coastal capitals of antiquity

Frequent ferry services make Dalmatia's archipelago of islands easily accessible to visitors: see lavender-scented **Hvar** (see pp126–7); medieval **Korčula** (see pp132–5) prettily fortified by the Venetians; and unspoilt, pine-covered **Mljet** (see pp136–7), with its quiet coves and picturesque lakeside monastery. The most

expensive region of Croatia, Dalmatia offers one of its finest treats – dining al fresco on a terrace looking over the sea. Swimming in the cool, clean water is also a delight, and you soon learn the art of finding a flat, warm rock to lie on and how to cross a stretch of sharp pebbles. The walk round the walls at **Dubrovnik** (see pp140–7) above the mosaic of orange-tiled roofs is amazing, as is **Diocletian's Palace** in **Split** (see pp118–123), a repository brimful of Roman, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Quaint **Trogir**, (see pp112–5) an historic town on an island, also cannot fail to charm.

ZAGREB

- Sophisticated nightlife
- Enchanting Upper Town
- Cathedrals and churches
- Galleries and museums

Having emerged from the historical shadow of Belgrade, Croatia's capital city, Zagreb now resounds again with all

its old self-confidence. At night the city comes out to play in Croatia's classiest choice of bars, clubs, casinos, restaurants, theatres and concert venues. The **Upper Town** (see pp151–7), with its cosy medieval alleyways, churches, funicular railway and fine views, is clearly the loveliest part of Zagreb. At the city's heart stands the **Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (see p150) with its Neo-Gothic spires. Enjoy too the array of galleries and museums, especially the **Gallery of Old Masters** (see pp162–3), and the **Meštrović Gallery** (see pp153–5) devoted to the most renowned Croatian artist.



The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Zagreb

CENTRAL CROATIA

- **Fairytale Samobor**
- **Country houses and castles**
- **Lonjsko Polje Nature Park**

The least visited part of the country, Central Croatia nonetheless holds several gems. Just west of Zagreb, up in forested hills typical of the region, lies **Samobor** (see p170). With trim, pastel houses, wooden bridges and a pretty trout stream, this showcase village also offers 13th-century ruins, great walks and family-run restaurants with local specialities. Try local sausages with smoked mustard followed by *kremšnita* custard pastries. Near Zagreb, the **country houses** (see pp172–3)



Black Stork, Lonjsko Polje Nature Park



The imposing Veliki Tabor castle in the Northern Counties

of the Croatian aristocracy dot the landscape, while further away in **Sisak**, **Ogulin** and **Hrvatska Kostajnica** (see pp174–5), great castles bear witness to the area's turbulent history. For nature, head south-east to **Lonjsko Polje Nature Park** (see p176), home to Posavina horses, Turropolje spotted pigs and black storks; and smoke-house cottages.

SLAVONIA AND BARANJA

- **Kopački Rit Nature Park**
- **Beautiful Osijek**
- **The rural charm of Topolje**

The flat, fertile plains of Slavonia contain **Kopački Rit Nature Park** (see pp194–5), a wetland extravaganza of animal, fish and bird species that is best explored by boat. Stroll along the Drava at **Osijek** (see pp190–3) or enjoy a summer's evening swim in the river, hot from admiring the Baroque architecture of the city's 18th-century centre, the **Tvrđa** (see pp191–3). See the Hungarian influenced farmhouses in the charming countryside around **Topolje** (see p189), many garlanded with drying chilli peppers. In much of the area the painful consequences of war are all too obvious, but as the rebuilding shows, the astonishing resilience of the human spirit is also much in evidence.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES

- **Baroque Varaždin**
- **Dramatic castles**
- **Historic spa-towns**

Linked by winding country roads through green rolling hills, the Northern Counties are best visited by hire-car from **Varaždin** (see pp202–3). Once the capital of Croatia, 12th-century Varaždin may have a medieval castle and town hall but the atmospheric charm of its cobbles, pretty churches, and outdoor cafés is pure Austrian Baroque. The 14th-century castle **Veliki Tabor** (see p210) looks good from the outside, but the century older **Trakošćan** (see pp206–7), overlooking a lake, is more impressive. Nestled in a lush green forest, **Varaždinske Toplice** (see p213) is a Roman spa-town that should not be missed.



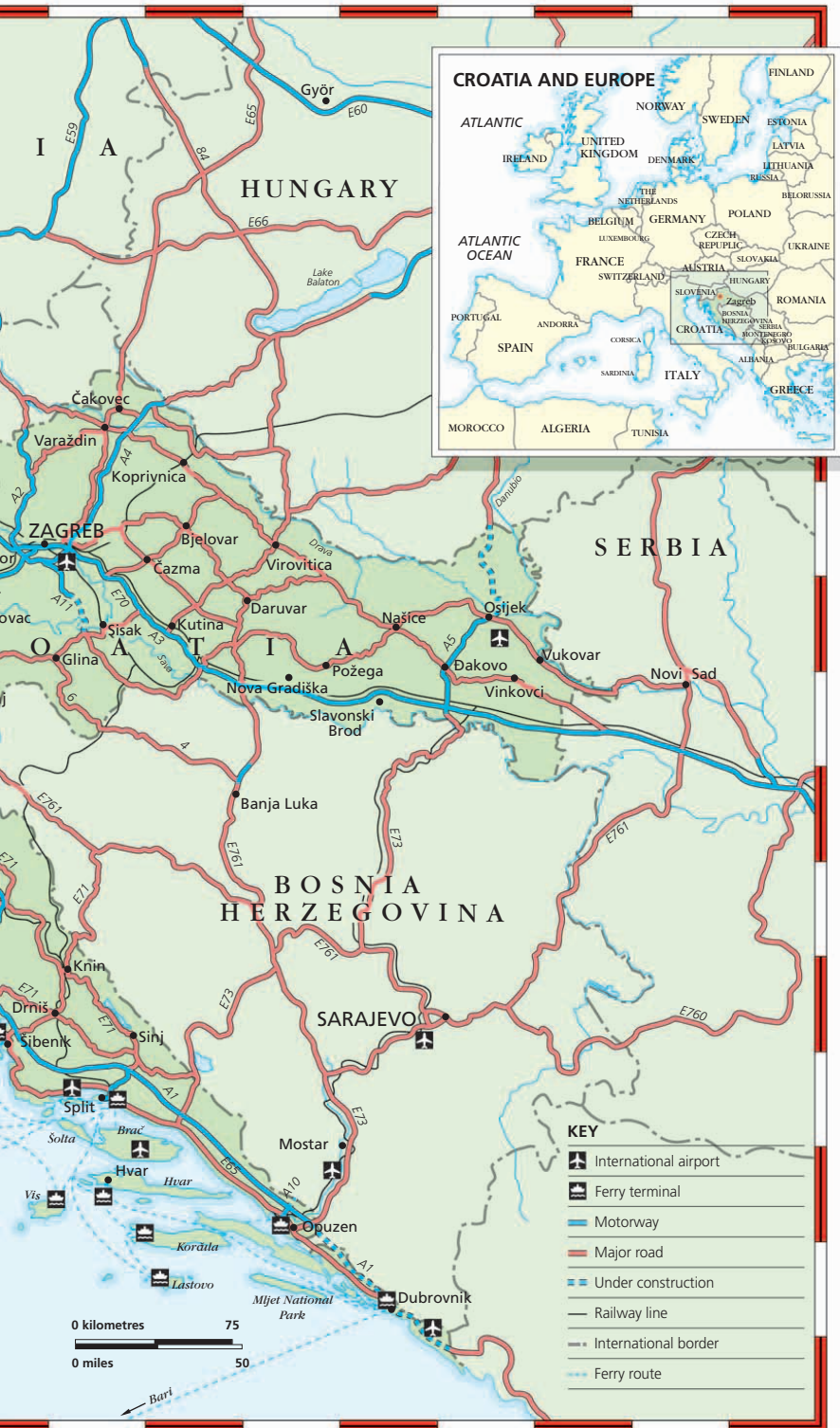
Chilli peppers drying in the sun in Topolje, Baranja

Putting Croatia on the Map

Covering an area of 56,542 sq km (21,825 sq miles), Croatia has a population of around 4,437,460 with an average of 78 inhabitants per square kilometre. Since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, and Croatian independence, the country has been bordered by Slovenia, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the two now independent republics of Serbia, and Montenegro. It is not a large country, but it has a wide variety of natural and man-made environments. From a topographical point of view the country is made up of three types of terrain. Much is mountainous, with peaks up to 2,000 m (6,560 ft) high, mostly covered with forest and pasture. The vast Pannonian Plain lies between the rivers Drava, Sava and the Danube. Coastal Croatia is nearly 600 km (372 miles) long, but over 2,000 km (1,242 miles) long when the indented coastline is taken into account, and twice that when the hundreds of islands are included.



Satellite view of Croatia





CONTIENS ULLA

CD SHOP
New York

ZELJEZARNA
VASCO

URAR
CASO

CAMEL

URAR
CASO

A PORTRAIT OF CROATIA

Croatia forms a meeting point between the Mediterranean and central Europe, and between the Alps and the Pannonian Plain. Its relatively small territory is made up of a wide variety of landscapes. A stunningly beautiful country, it has re-emerged from the difficult years of conflict and regained its role as a popular holiday destination.

Croatia seceded from the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia in 1990, following the first free elections since World War II. However, the brutal conflict that quickly followed had disastrous effects on the economy and led to the damage and destruction of many historic monuments and treasures. The United Nations administered disputed territories until 1995, and the last region, Eastern Slavonia, was returned to Croatian administration only in January 1998.

The resolution of the conflict recreated a country which had lost its autonomy long ago in 1102, when Croatian nobles handed the vacant crown to King Koloman. Under Koloman, Croatia became part of Hungary and remained so



The national flag of Croatia

for 900 years, until 1918. At the end of World War I, Croatia declared independence but, under pressure from greater powers, agreed to become part of the kingdom of Yugoslavia. From the ruins of the Habsburg empire emerged Yugoslavia: a new state of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Few people live in the steep mountainous areas and as a result the forests of this region, among the most beautiful in southern Europe, are unspoilt. The coast and larger islands are more densely populated and the income from tourism is important to many. The political upheavals of the last decade of the 20th century have caused a shifting of the population and many Serbs have moved away.



Fruit seller on a boat in the port of Mali Lošinj



Fisherman mending his nets in the port of Fažana

POPULATION

According to a census carried out in 2001, Croatia has a population of 4,437,460, of which 4,399,364 are resident. Compared with the census of 1991 there has been a 5.2 per cent fall in the population and a 7 per cent decrease in those resident. These figures, a reflection of the upheavals of the 1990s, reduce the numbers to the population levels of 1968. Two different factors were responsible for these changes. Firstly, the departure of about 400,000 Serbians (partially offset by the return of Croatians resident in other parts of former Yugoslavia), and secondly, the emigration of many young people in search of work in other countries in Europe, America or Australia.

The tragic events of the 1990s have also altered the distribution of the population, emptying villages and concentrating populations in large urban centres. Changes to the size of many towns and cities, the result of enlarging their territorial boundaries, make detailed analysis difficult, particularly with regard to Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Osijek and Zadar.

ECONOMY

Manufacturing industries are concentrated in the larger cities and employ

20 per cent of the population. The service industry is being overhauled and provides employment for an increasing number of workers, mainly in the tourist sector, which has recovered after a decade of recession and neglect: 7 per cent of the population is employed in this area.

Demand for fresh fish to supply the tourist resorts

means that the fishing industry has revived and mussel farming has also expanded, in particular along the Limski Channel and around Ston. The privatization of much agricultural land, and the introduction of modern machinery and the rationalization of crops, have reduced the number of farm workers. However, the production of fruit and wine grapes has recovered, and overall quality is improving significantly.

The urgent need to rebuild public and privately-owned buildings damaged during the conflict in the 1990s and the ever-increasing demand for tourist facilities keeps the numbers employed in the building trade high: 7 per cent of the workforce is involved in the construction industry. However, in spite of an improved standard of living for most of the population, unemployment is still high. Croatia hopes to resolve most of its employment problems by joining the European

Union, and by providing land, energy and labour at competitive costs. The building of a modern road network with the construction of new motorways, the modernization of the railways and plans to improve the ports will also help to alleviate high unemployment levels.



Woman in the typical costume of Konavle

TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

Since the rebirth of the Croatian state, all kinds of traditional festivals have reappeared. These festivals, ceremonies or games commemorate historical, religious and military events. Some festivals are expressions of primitive or ancient faith, and mix Christianity with ancient pagan rites, others are linked to the religious calendar. Traditional costumes and jewellery, carefully preserved by the older generation, are worn on these occasions. The materials may sometimes be new but the designs stay faithfully traditional.

Other expressions of popular culture are the rites linked to the rhythms of farming: harvesting, bringing flocks down from the mountains, felling trees. The Feast of St Blaise, the patron saint of Dubrovnik, is magnificent. People from local and surrounding parishes gather, dressed in splendid costumes and displaying ancient banners in honour of the saint. Even the communists were unable to suppress this tradition. Another spectacular festivity is the Olympics of Ancient Sports in Brođanci, when young people parade in gold-embroidered costumes, followed by groups of musicians. Other important events are the Festival of the Bumbari in Vodnjan with its donkey race, the



One of many religious events in Split

Folk Festival in Đakovo and the Moreška and Kumpanija festivals in Korčula, commemorating battles against the Ottoman Turks.

LANGUAGE

The attempt to fuse the Croatian and Serbian languages lasted more than a century, but in 1991 the official language of Croatia became Croatian, and this is now part of the constitution. The language has always been a fundamental part of Croatian identity, even under foreign domination. The people continue to use three basic dialects, štokavski in southern and eastern Croatia, čakavski in Istria and parts of Dalmatia, and kajkavski in Zagreb and the north. A dialect similar to Venetian is spoken along the coast.

RELIGION

Religious feeling has always been important to Croatians. Religion was relegated to a secondary role during the communist period but the great sanctuaries are once again centres of spirituality. In the 2001 census, over 90 per cent declared they were Christian (88 per cent Catholic, 4 per cent Orthodox), with a Muslim minority, mostly Bosnians, and a Protestant minority, mostly Hungarians. The Orthodox community has shrunk due to the fall in the number of Serbians.



The lively centre of Split, a popular meeting place

The Landscape and Wildlife of Croatia

A wide variety of landscapes can be found in Croatia, from wild uninhabited craggy gorges to steep river valleys and a stunningly beautiful indented coastline stretching into the lower Adriatic, dotted with hundreds of islands. A plateau stretches from the Istrian peninsula towards Gorski Kotar and ends in the hilly vine-growing region of Zagorje. The geological formations produced by the porous limestone terrain called karst are found in Gorski Kotar and continue to nearby Istria and the Velebit mountains, where the combination of wind, rain and rock has created strange shapes called *kukovi*. Nicknames and legends have been created by folklore for these rock formations, and for the thousands of rocky islands off the coast, remnants of an ancient mountain chain.



Seagull perched on a rocky outcrop near the island of Pag



MOUNTAINS

Mountains form 40 per cent of Croatia and rise to nearly 2,000 m (6,560 ft) high. The higher land is given over to sheep farming and the breeding of livestock. The forests are mixed, with pine, fir, chestnut and beech, depending on altitude and microclimate. The wildlife includes bears, wolves, wild boar, lynxes, badgers, foxes, roebucks and chamois. Forestry management aims to control deforestation.



THE PLAIN

The plain is bordered by wide rivers which also define Croatia's borders for much of their length. The vast Pannonian Plain is the breadbasket of Croatia. Maize, wheat, soya and tobacco are grown here and at the fringes are vine-covered hills. At one time there were forests here, dominated by the Slavonian oak, much sought-after in Europe for the quality of its wood. A few isolated remnants of these forests can still be seen.



The forests are a precious resource in Croatia. Thick vegetation covers more than 30 per cent of the country.



The chamois was thought to have disappeared from Croatia but there are now a dozen or so animals originating from Slovenia.



The oak of Slavonia, famous since ancient times, was used to build most of the ships in the Venetian and Dubrovnik fleets, because of its extraordinary strength.

The Croatian plain is one of the most fertile areas in Europe. Some agricultural produce is exported.



NATIONAL PARKS

Croatia began protecting wildlife areas of particular importance in 1949 by setting up the Plitvice Lakes National Park on the Lika plateau. A few years later, the Risnjak National Park was founded north of Rijeka, then in 1985 the Krka National Park north of Šibenik. The Paklenica National Park, at the heart of the Velebit mountain chain, dates from 1949. In 1978 it was declared a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO and later included on the list of World Heritage Sites. It is home to over 2,400 species of plant. There are four national parks in the Adriatic: the Mljet National Park, founded in 1960, the Kornati National Park (1980), the Brijuni National Park (1983) and the North Velebit National Park (1999). There are also nature reserves, oases, biotopes (environments characterized by particular conditions) and two marshes: Kopački Rit and Lonjsko Polje. In 2008, Stari Grad Plain on the island of Hvar was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Risnjak National Park with its thick forests of fir and beech



THE COAST

The coast's appearance is determined by the extent of its exposure to the fierce, northeast bora wind. Mediterranean flora flourishes on the sheltered side, with olives, lemon trees and vines. Low-growing vines are cultivated along the central part of the coast and on some of the islands, sheltered from the wind by stone walls. Two common plants along the coast and on the islands are lavender, particularly on Hvar, and broom.



The marine life is extraordinarily varied, with a wide range of species including sea-horses.

Broom is a common sight in Croatia. In spring, it bears bright yellow flowers.



LAKES AND RIVERS

The lakes of Croatia are not large, but some are truly spectacular, as for example those of Plitvice and those formed by the River Krka. The rivers are another of Croatia's valuable resources. The Danube, Drava, Sava and Kupa are all navigable and form international transport routes (although traffic is currently partly interrupted). The rivers abound with a variety of fish and are a big attraction for fishing enthusiasts.



Waterlilies are in flower in late spring, particularly in Lonjsko Polje and Kopački Rit.

Storks live near the rivers as well as in protected nature reserves in Croatia. The wetlands make an ideal habitat for the rare black stork.



Art and Artists in Croatia

For centuries Croatian art has combined elements from eastern and western Europe. The coast was ruled by Venice for 400 years, and between the Middle Ages and the 17th century, Croatia was in regular contact with the other side of the Adriatic. Italian artists came to the islands to work, and the Dalmatians crossed the sea and brought Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance styles back to their country. After the expulsion of the Turks at the end of the 17th century, many churches were rebuilt in the Baroque style, and acquired rich ornamentation. The 20th century saw the advent of Naive painting, an important artistic trend, and sculptor Ivan Meštrović was confirmed as Croatia's most famous contemporary artist (see p157).



Maria Banac, sculpture by Ivan Meštrović

SCULPTURE

The art of sculpture in Croatia has ancient origins and may have been inspired by the local stone, used to construct some of the most important Roman monuments in Pula and Split, which became models for future generations of Adriatic sculptors.

Sculpture and stone carving reached the height of expression with the Romanesque style. Dating from this time are the cathedral doors of Trogir and Split, the rose windows of Zadar and Rab, the capitals in the cloisters in Dubrovnik and Zadar, and much church statuary. The technical skills of the Renaissance period are documented in Šibenik cathedral, with masterpieces by Juraj Dalmatinac, Nikola Firentinac and Andrija Alešić.

The stonemasons should also be remembered, particularly those of Korčula. Decades of skilled work went into Korčula cathedral and the masons' work can be seen in hundreds of other towns and cities in Croatia.

Sculpture again reached a peak in the 20th century with Ivan Meštrović, the chief figure in a group of great artists which included Antun Augustinčić.

ANDRIJA BUVINA

All that is known of this sculptor is that he was born



Wooden panel by Andrija Buvina in Split cathedral

in Split and lived in the 13th century. The great door of the cathedral of his native city is testament to his skill. This masterpiece from 1214 consists of 28 wooden panels depicting the life of Christ, and uses simple lines allied to a wealth of detail.

MASTER RADOVAN

The sculptor Master Radovan was of Dalmatian origin and lived in the 13th century. His name appears on the door of



The door of the cathedral of Trogir by Master Radovan

the cathedral in Trogir, which he started in about 1240 and which was later completed by other artists. This complex masterpiece has columns, arches, sculpted relief figures and rich decoration. It is possible to discern scenes from the life of Christ such as the Annunciation, the Flight to Egypt, and the Martyrdom on Golgotha, while other sculptures represent the months of the year. The artist's expressive skill is revealed in the figures of Adam and Eve in particular.

JURAJ DALMATINAC

Juraj Dalmatinac, also known as Giorgio Orsini, was an ambassador for Dalmatian art, which was greatly influenced by Venice. The artist was born in Zadar in about 1400 and died in 1475. He was active in Dalmatia and in Italy as a sculptor and an architect.

The cathedral of St James in Šibenik (see pp108–9), to which he contributed, is regarded as one of the masterpieces of the Croatian Renaissance. Dalmatinac sculpted the faces on the upper part of the base of the apses and also the statues of Adam and Eve at either side of the Door of Lions.



Face by Dalmatinac in the cathedral of Šibenik

ARTISTS

Painting in Croatia cannot boast a history equal to that of sculpture since it was only after contact with the Venetian school at the end of the 16th century that Croatian painting emerged in Istria and Dalmatia. The monasteries and cathedrals commissioned Venetian masters to make altarpieces and in emulating these models the great artists of Dubrovnik developed.

In the late 17th–18th centuries, the Baroque style predominated in inland Croatia in architecture as well as art. Baroque originated in German-speaking areas and inspired local artists; the Austrian artist Ivan Ranger (see p206) was a key figure. Interest in religious paintings then dwindled, and in the 19th century, young artists were inspired by pan-European culture. In the 1930s and 40s Naive Art developed.



Dance of Death by Vincent od Kastva



Polyptych by Lovro Dobričević in the church of St Mary of Danče

VINCENT OD KASTVA

One of the most expressive cycles of frescoes in Istria bears the signature of this Istrian painter, Vincent od Kastva (Vincenzo da Castua), who lived in the 15th century. The frescoes are hidden away in the small church of St Mary (Sv. Marija na Škriljinah) in Beram. The brightly coloured frescoes, on the side walls and the inside façade, were painted in about 1471 with assistants and have a primitive but vigorous style. The *Life of Christ and the Virgin* has figures of saints; the best-known work is the *Dance of Death*, where Death, holding a scythe, punishes sinners, here represented by all the most powerful

people on earth (from the pope to lords of the manor).

LOVRO DOBRIČEVIĆ

Little is known of Lovro Marinov Dobričević (Lorenzo De Boninis), pupil of Paolo Veneziano, who lived in the 15th century and is regarded as one of the most significant exponents of the Dubrovnik school. Two of his great works are in Dubrovnik: the *Baptism of Christ* (c.1448) is in the Dominican Museum and the polyptych *Virgin, Christ and the Saints Julian and Nicholas* (1465) is in the church of St Mary of Danče (Sv. Marije na Dančama).

JULIJE KLOVIĆ

Julije Klović (Giulio Clovio) was one of the most famous Renaissance miniaturists. A native of Croatia (he was born in Grižane in 1498), his most significant works are found outside the country. The painter developed his craft in Venice, and was then summoned to work in Rome, Mantua, Perugia and numerous monasteries. He died in Rome in 1578.



Miniature by Klović

THE HLEBINE SCHOOL

Krsto Hegedušić (1901–75), Expressionist painter and later a Naive artist, founded a group of artists called Zemlja ("Earth"). He encouraged the work of two amateur painters from the village of Hlebine, near Koprivnica: Ivan Generalić and Franjo Mraz, who depicted their local world on glass and canvas in fresh, vivid style. Together with Mirko Virius they founded the Hlebine school which flourished from 1930 to the beginning of World War



Woodcutters by Generalić, Museum of Naive Art, Zagreb

II. Many other painters, including Ivan Večenaj, Dragan Gaži, Franjo Filipović and Josip Generalić, followed their ideas, concentrating on depicting the lives of outcasts, the poor, and working folk. The Hlebine school became a world-wide phenomenon with the 1952 Venice Biennale and exhibitions in Brazil and Brussels. Naive works are on show at the Hlebine Gallery in Koprivnica and the Museum of Naive Art in Zagreb.

Architecture in Croatia

Croatian architecture, like its art, has also been influenced by Croatia's position in Europe. Secular and religious buildings display a fusion of elements from nearby Italy and Germany and other forms originating in the Byzantine or Slavic worlds. This blending of influences was first noticeable in the time of the Romans and still continues today. Some styles became particularly important: for example the impressive cathedrals of the Adriatic coast, the legacy of many centuries of Venetian rule. In inland Croatia Baroque architecture prevails, characterized by exuberant decoration and expansive forms.



The Byzantine basilica of Euphrasius in Poreč

PRE-ROMANESQUE AND ROMANESQUE

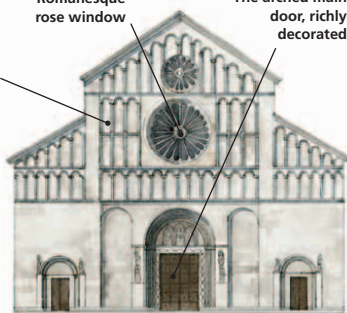
True Croatian architecture begins with pre-Romanesque and dates back to the time of Duke Branimir (879–92), who created the first state of Croatia. Contact with the Byzantine world influenced the look of religious buildings in Istria and Dalmatia but some decorative elements reveal the first signs of Romanesque: small churches with irregular ground-plans appear in areas inhabited by Croatian tribes. The founding of Šibenik (1066) saw the first Romanesque buildings, introduced by the Cistercians. The style spread and remained popular until the end of the 16th century, and three-aisle cathedrals with apses were built as well as monasteries with cloisters, public buildings, town halls and loggias.

The façade consists of vertical and horizontal lines: the upper order is decorated with blind arcades and rose windows.

The cathedral of St Anastasia in Zadar (see p94), founded in the 9th century but rebuilt in the 12th–13th, shows the links between Croatian and Italian Romanesque, particularly in the façade, similar to churches found in Pisa and Lucca in Italy.

Romanesque rose window

The arched main door, richly decorated



The church of the Holy Cross in Nin (see p100), one of the most interesting examples of the pre-Romanesque, known as the world's smallest cathedral, was built in the 9th century. It has a Greek cross ground-plan with three apses. It is positioned to ensure that the sun's rays fall in pre-planned positions on the floor and act as a clock.

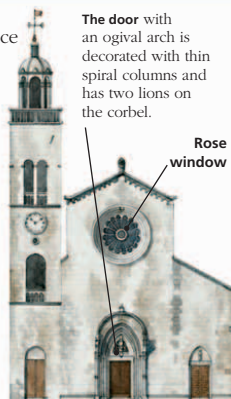
GOthic

The Gothic style, more than any other in Croatia, is lasting evidence of the long rule of the Venetians along the Istrian and Dalmatian coasts. It developed following the Venetian conquest of the Adriatic coast (1420) and is a fundamental expression of the close contact that was established. Venetian Gothic not only influenced the design of Dalmatian and Istrian churches but also mansions in Pula, Rab, Pag, Zadar, Šibenik and Split.



Facade of the Town Hall in Split

The cathedral of St Mark in Korčula (see p132) is of Romanesque origins – the bell tower is evidence of this. The façade shows similarities with churches in Puglia in southern Italy. Gothic elements include the pointed arches over the entrance door, which was the work of Bonino of Milan.



The door with an ogival arch is decorated with thin spiral columns and has two lions on the corbel.

Rose window

RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance style was only able to develop in those parts of the country which did not fall under Turkish rule. The most important architects and artists of the time were Juraj Dalmatinac (see p20), Nikola Firentinac and Andrija Aleši, who worked mainly along the Adriatic coast. They were all involved in the construction of churches and public buildings. The cathedral of St James in Šibenik (see pp108–9) became a model for the churches of St Stephen in Hvar, St Mary in Zadar and St Saviour in Dubrovnik. Renaissance buildings also appeared in the north of Croatia, both in the form of private residences (Varaždin and Čakovec) and castles (Trakošćan and Veliki Tabor).



The second storey, with windows and a statue of the city's patron saint, St Blaise, in the centre, was a later addition.

The windows in Venetian Gothic symbolize the ties between Dubrovnik and Venice.

Sponza Palace in Dubrovnik (see p144) has both Gothic and Renaissance elements, a reflection of the time it took to build. It was begun in 1312 (the beautiful Gothic windows on the first floor date from this period) and remodelled in 1516–22, when the Renaissance arcaded loggia on the ground floor was added.



BAROQUE

This was the style that characterized the legitimization of Christian worship in Croatia after the expulsion of the Turks at the end of the 17th century. The signs of Ottoman rule were eradicated and architects, mainly of German extraction, constructed public and private buildings, enriching them with ornate decorations equal to those of the churches, castles and sanctuaries. The most notable examples of the Baroque style can be found in Varaždin, Požega, Osijek, Križevci, Ludbreg and Krapina.

Vojković-Oršić-Rauch Palace, now home of the Croatian Historical Museum (see p158), is one of many fine Baroque buildings in Zagreb. The façade and interior have the sumptuous decorations of the time with elegant columns, scalloped windows and a decorated tympanum.

MODERNISM

By the 19th century Zagreb had become the centre of political and cultural life in Croatia, which gave it a prominent role as leader in the architectural field. Much experimentation took place in the following century in the capital, inspired first by the Viennese Secession style and later by Modernism. The church of St Blaise and Villa Krauss are interesting examples of the latter style.



The Neo-Renaissance Mimara Museum in Zagreb



This typically elegant building is functional and symmetrical

The decorations in Secession style are stylized and not figurative.

On the façade are sculptures and bas reliefs by the Croatian artists Robert Frangeš-Mihanović and Rudolf Valdec.

The former National and University Library in the centre of Marulić Square in Zagreb was designed by a local architect, Rudolf Lubinsky. It is regarded as the most significant work in the Secession style in Croatia.

CROATIA THROUGH THE YEAR

The upheavals of the decade from 1991–2000 inevitably affected the calendar of events which characterizes the cultural life of Croatia. However, concerts, theatre seasons and sporting events have now largely been resumed along with religious festivals and events linked to local traditions. The different stages in the agricultural year, such as the grape



Typical costume of Pag

harvest, the threshing, fishing or hunting seasons, are also marked. In addition, every town celebrates its patron saint's day and the "town's day", which is linked to episodes in the town's history. Zagreb offers a rich calendar of cultural events all through the year, while the festivals in the towns and villages along the coast are generally held during the summer season.

SPRING

The arrival of spring in Croatia coincides with a series of important dates in the religious calendar. Spring brings warmer weather and also sees the beginning of a series of festivals and events which continue throughout the summer. Catholic churches are especially busy around Easter time, with its associated rituals.



Procession during Holy Week on the island of Korčula

MARCH

Holy Week (Easter). On Korčula Easter is celebrated with processions of brotherhoods performing mystery plays and singing.

APRIL

Musical Biennial of Zagreb (Apr). Annual festival of modern music.

St George's Day, Senj (23 Apr).

St Vincenca's Day, Korčula (28 Apr). The Kumpanjija dance which commemorates an ancient battle between enemy armies is performed. At the finale local girls in costume dance in a circle.

MAY

Croatian Wine Exhibition, Kutjevo (May). Displays of Croatian wines plus a folklore and music programme.

Days of Hvar Theatre, Hvar (May). Annual celebration of Croatian literature and theatre, as well as scientific themes and presentations by scientists from other countries.

Regatta Rovinj-Pesaro-Rovinj, Rovinj.

Meeting of Puppet Theatres, Osijek (early May). Performances of professional and amateur puppet theatre companies.

Tournament of Rab (9 May). Parade of costumed riders with crossbows.

Festival of the Small Theatre, Rijeka (first half of May). Groups from all over Europe participate.

Josip Štolcer Slavenski Memorial, Čakovec (first half of May). Musical festival dedicated to the great 20th-century Croatian composer.

Festival of Croatian Tambour Music, Osijek (mid-May). Festival of ancient music with period instruments, including the tambour.

Festival of Amateur Film and Video, Požega (end May). Screenings of short amateur films and videos.

SUMMER

As this is the season when most tourists visit Croatia, particularly Istria and Dalmatia, this is also the period when the calendar of events is busiest. There are festivals dedicated to music, theatre and dance, as well as many traditional festivals. The folk festivals held throughout the summer are particularly colourful events.

JUNE

Dance Week, Zagreb (May/June). International festival of dance, movement and mime, organized in collaboration with European associations.

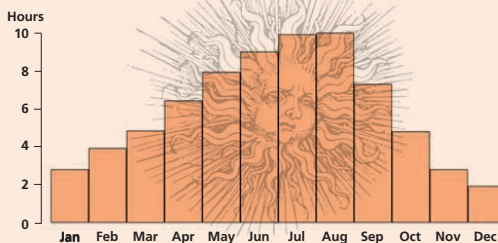
Music events, Pula (all summer). Various events in the Roman amphitheatre.

Festival of Satire, Zagreb (June). International festival celebrating the satirical.



The festival of Brodsko Kolo, Slavenski Brod

AVERAGE DAILY HOURS OF SUNSHINE



Sunshine

The Dalmatian coast is one of the sunniest parts of Europe, and the island of Hvar holds the record with its 2,700 hours of sun a year. The summers along the coast are hot and dry, while the inland areas have a continental climate with hot summers and cold winters.



Dakovački Vezovi, a folklore and embroidery festival in Dakovo

Brodsko Kolo, Slavonski Brod (*mid-Jun*). Displays of folk dancing in costume, shows and exhibitions of regional produce.

Summer of Margherita, Bakar (*last week of Jun*). Concerts and performances in the čakavski dialect.

International Children's Festival, Šibenik (*end Jun–beginning Jul*). Festival dedicated to the creativity of the very young. Music, dance, theatre and film.

Summer Festival, Hvar (*Jun–Sep*). A fun festival of music, theatre, folklore and dancing.

JULY

Festival klapa, Omiš (*Jul*). Celebration of traditional Dalmatian songs performed by groups of five to ten men.

Rapska fjera, Rab (*Jul*). For three days the town of Rab is returned to medieval times, with craft displays, preparation of traditional dishes and an archery tournament.

Dakovački Vezovi, Đakovo

(*first week of Jul*). Folklore displays and exhibition of local embroidery.

St Theodore's Day, Korčula (*29 Jul*). The Moreška, a dance re-enacting a battle between Christians and Muslims.

International Tennis Tournament, Umag (*end Jul*).

International Folklore Festival, Zagreb (*end Jul*). Croatian music and dance with international guests.

Pag Carnival, Pag (*end Jul*). Traditional dancing, kolo, and various shows with the local people in traditional costumes.

International Jazz Festival, Grožnjan (*Jul–Aug*). International jazz artists participate in this festival in the picturesque Istrian town of Grožnjan.

Labin Art Republic, Labin (*Jul–Aug*). Classical concerts, folk music.

Music Festival, Zadar (*beginning Jul–beginning Aug*). Church, theatre and instrumental music.

Osor Music Festival, Osor

(*mid-Jul–mid-Aug*).

Chamber music.

Split Summer (*mid-Jul–mid-Aug*). A programme of opera, concerts, dance, theatre and performances of the first plays written in the Croatian language.

International Festival of Theatre, Pula (*mid-Jul–mid-Aug*). Multimedia festival with the participation of other European groups.

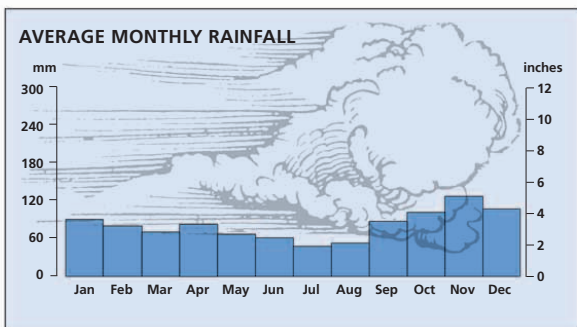
Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Dubrovnik (*mid-Jul–end Aug*). The oldest international festival in Croatia: music, theatre, folklore, ballet, with performers from many countries.

Krk Summer Festival, Krk (*mid-Jul–end Aug*). Music and prose, concerts, ballet, performances by young artists and folklore.

Concerts in the Basilica of Euphrasius, Poreč (*Jul–mid Sep*). Performances of church and secular music given by Croatian and European musicians.



The Moreška dance, St Theodore's Day, Korčula



Rainfall

Rain is sparse along the coast, particularly in summer, when there is often the threat of drought. However, in the mountains, rain and snow are plentiful. In northeastern parts of the country there may be summer thunderstorms. Winter brings snow.



Costumed jousters on horseback during the folk festival, Sinj

AUGUST

Summer Carnival, Novi Vinodolski (*Aug.*)

Festival of the Bumbari, Vodnjan (*2nd Sat in Aug.*). "Bumbari" is what the local people call themselves. A folk festival in costume with an unusual donkey race and the preparation of *crostoli*, cakes of Venetian origin.

Baljanska Noć, Bale (*first Sun in Aug.*)

Festival of the city.

Trka na prstenac, Barban (*first Sun in Aug.*)

Jousting tournament, dating back as far as 1696.

Sinjska Alka, Sinj (*beginning Aug.*). Folklore festival commemorating victory over the Turks, with jousting competitions for horse riders. Parades, dancing, folk music and displays of regional produce.

St Roch's Day, Žrnovo and Postrana (on Korčula) (*16*

Aug.). Events include the Mostra, a traditional sword dance. At one time the festivities ended with the sacrifice of an ox.

Olympics of Ancient Sports, Brodanci (*last Sun in Aug.*). Folk festival with traditional costumes and musicians playing in the streets.

Mediterranean Sculptors' Symposium, Labin (*Aug–Sep.*). A meeting place for sculptors from all over the world since the 1960s.



Festival of Vinkovačke Jeseni, Vinkovci

AUTUMN

Visiting Croatia in this season means there are fewer crowds, even along the busy Adriatic coast. However this season also offers an unexpectedly rich and varied calendar of events. Many of the events are cultural but there are also several festivals celebrating wine and food – offering an ideal opportunity to discover some of the local produce of this country.

SEPTEMBER

Festival of the Golden Strings of Slavonia, Požega (*Sep.*)

Festival of folk and modern music using the traditional Slavonian instrument the *tamburica*.

Lace Exhibition, Lepoglava (*Sep.*). Exhibition of traditional hand-made lace, still made according to ancient methods.

Week of Kajkavian Culture, Krapina (*Sep.*). Festival of Kajkavian poetry, folk music and painting.

International Doll Festival, Zagreb (*beginning Sep.*)

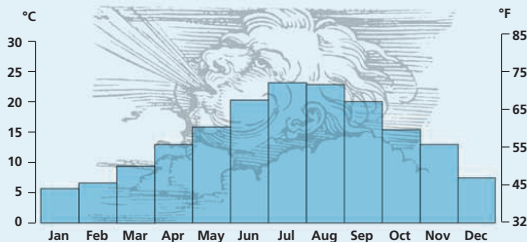
Grape Festival, Buje (*3rd weekend in Sep.*)

Vinkovačke Jeseni, Vinkovci (*Sep–Oct.*)

Festival of music and folk traditions. Parades in costume.

Baroque Evenings in Varaždin, Varaždin cathedral (*second half of Sep–first half of Oct.*). Festival of

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE



Temperature

The climate in Croatia is typically Mediterranean along the coast, with mild winters and hot, dry summers. Inland the climate is continental with hot summers and cold winters. The mountainous areas have an alpine climate.

Baroque music with the participation of top Croatian and European musicians.

OCTOBER

Dora Pejačević Memorial, Našice (*Oct*). Music festival commemorating this composer, with concerts, performances by artists and competitions.

Bela Nedeja, Kastav (*first Sun in Oct*). Wine festival.

Marunada, Lovran (*mid-Oct*). Chestnut festival.

Triennial of Ceramics, Zagreb (*mid-Oct–mid-Nov*). Ceramics festival.

NOVEMBER

St Martin's Day, Dugo Selo, Samobor, Sv. Ivan Zelina, Velika Gorica, Zagreb County (*Nov*). A traditional wine festival that celebrates the period when the must is turned into wine.

The Town's Day, Lipik (*4 Nov*). Traditional festival celebrating the town.

WINTER

The cold makes itself felt throughout Croatia, with the temperatures in Zagreb and Slavonia dropping well below freezing point and the cold bora wind sweeping across Istria and Dalmatia. But Croats still love to go out and enjoy themselves and attend cultural events.

DECEMBER

The Town's Day, Osijek (*2 Dec*). Celebration of Osijek's main feast day with music and dancing.

JANUARY

International Competition for Young Pianists, Osijek (*second half of Jan*). For young musicians under 21.

Feast of St Blaise, Dubrovnik (*end Jan or early Feb*). Processions celebrating town's saint.

FEBRUARY

Shrovetide Sezona,

Kraljevica. Traditional masked ball.

Carnival of Rijeka, Rijeka. Colourful parade in elaborate costumes.

Carnival of the Riviera, Opatija.

International Violin Competition (Vaclav Huml), Zagreb (*first half of Feb*).

For violinists under 30.

Carnival, Lastovo.



Costume at the Carnival of Lastovo



A Baroque music ensemble playing in the cathedral, Varaždin

CROATIAN HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day 1 Jan

Epiphany 6 Jan

Easter Sunday and

Monday Mar or Apr

Labour Day 1 May

Corpus Christi May or Jun

Anti-Fascist Victory

Day 22 Jun

Statehood Day 25 Jun

Victory and National

Thanksgiving Day

5 Aug

Assumption Day 15 Aug

Independence Day 8 Oct

All Saints' Day 1 Nov

Christmas 25 Dec

Boxing Day 26 Dec