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“Autumn in Lika” is the name of the most important economic, cultural-tourism and ethnic manifestation of the Lika-Senj County, in which the identity of the Lika region and its people, who live in conjunction with nature, is presented every October. The first exhibition of traditional and agricultural products under that name took place twelve years ago. The aim of the exhibition is to introduce potential products of small farms and producers of local agricultural products as well as foods and decorative products that preserve the tradition of the Lika region. The exhibition also offers numerous workshops, so those interested can learn firsthand how to produce things such as clay bowls, bukaras and tamburas, how to spin wool, weave baskets, make brooms from twigs and similar crafts.

The exhibition took on an international character in 2004, when exhibitors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia also took part. This year, the exhibition will be held on 2 - 3 October and it will be complemented by a rich cultural and artistic program, such as performances of the many ‘keepers’ of original folk songs and dances. Like every year, it will take place in Gospić, the largest city in Lika and the administrative center of this historic region in southwest Croatia, a connector of the continental and coastal areas, often referred to as the ‘spine of Croatia’. Lika, according to folk etymology, got its name from the word ‘lik’, which in a Croatian dialect spoken in the area of Lika means a cure or medicine. According to another interpretation, its name comes from the Greek word ‘likos’, which means wolf. Gospić is located on the western edge of Ličko Polje, one of the largest karst fields in Croatia, at the foot of the highest Croatian mountain Velebit, on the banks of three rivers - Lika, Novčica and Bogdanica.

The name Gospić was first recorded in historical documents in 1604. Significant development of Gospić began in the second half of the 18th century, when Gospić established itself as a military-administrative center of the Lika regiment as well as the center of trade and commerce.

Two Turkish towers and an old bridge represent the foundation of today’s city on which, at the time of the Vojna Krajina (Military frontier), developed the core of the city as the administrative, military and cultural center. Vojna Krajina was the name of the border region of the Habsburg Monarchy, which was initially organized as a defensive zone against the Ottomans, and then grew into a vast Habsburg war province. Gospić is an oasis surrounded by nature, and as a tourist destination offers numerous possibilities for active holidays such as trekking, paintball, canoeing and jeep safaris, horseback riding, archery, hiking, carriage rides, Velebit adventure trips, boating on the canyon of Lika and Lake Kruščica as well as caving adventures. Fans of hunting, fishing and hiking will certainly experience true pleasure in this area because it is extremely rich in well-preserved flora and fauna.

The wondrous beauty of nature, a unique phenomenon of preserved flora and fauna on the steep peaks, gentle slopes, tame valleys, pastures and clear streams, where the green ancient forests with barren rocks prevail, are the kingdom of silence and hidden secrets of nature that surround the town of Gospić.
Zaprešić – Days of Jelačić

Lovers of history, especially the 19th century, will be intrigued by a visit to Zaprešić in October. Zaprešić is a city in northwestern Croatia, located 18 kilometers from Zagreb, which celebrates the character and the work of Josip Jelačić, the Croatian Ban (Duke), whose name symbolizes the aspiration of the Croatian people for autonomy and independence from imperial conquerors. After a turbulent life spent in the struggle for Croatian national interests, Jelačić was buried in the chapel of Sv. Josip (St. Joseph) in Zaprešić. In 1991 his remains were moved to the family tomb containing the remains of another 13 members of this noble family.

During the event ‘Days of Jelačić’ which celebrates the birth of Ban Jelačić (16 October 1801), a ball is held as well as a hurdle riding tournament and a business fair. Visitors to the event can visit the New Jelačić Palace, a valuable example of the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, and other numerous attractions and sights are offered in the vicinity of the city.

Some of the most beautiful parts of the Croatian cultural, historical and artistic heritage are preserved in the area of Zaprešić. This especially applies to the 18th and 19th century castles which speak of the European Baroque taste of their owners. In the wider area of Zaprešić there are six preserved castles. Two belong to the highest category of listed buildings - a baroque castle Oršić in Gornja Bistra and Januševec in the area of Brdovec, which has a reputation of being the most beautiful monument of classicist architecture in Croatia. There are also the baroque castle Lužnica in Šibice, Laduč (in Brdovec) and Novi Dvori in Zaprešić. Apart from the castles, there are old manors, churches and old traditional Zagorje houses.

Josip Jelačić was Croatian, Slavonian and Dalmatian ban from 1848 until his death in 1859. In history he is remembered as a ban that, in 1848, abolished serfdom in Croatia. Since he got the majority of Croatian territory back after many centuries, he became a symbol of Croatian defense of state and national interests. This year, in his honor, the ‘Days of Jelačić’ will be held 3-17 October.
Gourd, pumpkin or squash is a plant that originates from Mexico and was brought over to Europe by the Spaniards who probably never dreamed that it would become a symbol of Halloween, but also that a small town in Croatia would devote a whole day each year to this plant. ‘Bučijada’ is the name of the manifestation held in October for the sixth year in a row in Ivanić Grad, a town located in Moslavina along the River Lonja.

A fair is held in honor of the pumpkin where pumpkins, various pumpkin products and other eco-ethno products are introduced by exhibitors from Croatia, Austria, Slovenia and Serbia.

The tourist excursion train ‘Bučko Express’ (Pumpkin Express) also rides on this occasion. Various entertainment is organized for visitors of all ages - a carriage ride, a pony ride, old-timer motorcycles, eco-yard, playgrounds and pumpkin workshops for children as well as theatrical performances and exhibitions.

During ‘Bučijada’, local restaurants offer various pumpkin dishes along with their traditional gastronomic menus. Shop windows, yards and gardens are decorated with pumpkins. A competition is held for the biggest, smallest and most original pumpkin, best decorated stand, best savory and sweet pumpkin strudel and other pumpkin dishes.

The town in which on 17 October all of this will take place was first mentioned in the 13th century, in 1246. Ivanić Grad acquired the status of a town on the 8 June 1871 thanks to the Emperor Franz Joseph. This day is celebrated as the day of the city.

Besides ‘Bučijada’, Ivanić Grad is also known for Naftalan, a world renowned spa with rare natural resources. The spa is named after a specific type of rare medicinal oil. Specifically, Ivanić Grad is the second such site in the world and the only one in Europe. Salty thermal waters and healing oils with a modern fully equipped physical therapy premises are an excellent basis for the treatment of skin and rheumatic diseases, which has for years been identified by a large number of patients from all over the world.

In the Ivanić Grad area, in the village Šumećani, lies the Kezele family farm, one of the most popular destinations of rural tourism in continental Croatia. This farm is located on edge of a hilly and tame forest, surrounded by meadows, fields, orchards and vineyards. The hosts at the restaurant offer many homemade dishes, brandies, liqueurs and wines from the vineyards located on the hillside of Moslavacka Gora, which was recognized by the Romans as highly suitable for growing grapes. There are two old houses that offer accommodation and there is a house in which the Kezele family products are exhibited as well as a souvenir shop and an ethno collection of memorabilia from Moslavina villages, which is situated in an old barn. Also located on the property is a large old barn for breeding horses, goats, sheep, pigs, ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens and rabbits.
It is hard to imagine the Adriatic Sea without recalling the scent of olives and the flavor olive oil. Olives are greatly appreciated in the Mediterranean cuisine, and it is therefore not surprising that each year in October an event called ‘Olive Days’ is held in Punat on the island of Krk where guests are presented with all the lavishness of this healing fruit. This is a unique opportunity for interested guests to participate in the olive harvest and get the feel of everyday life on the island. While harvesting, the hosts serve farmer’s brunch accompanied with the sounds of ‘sopile’ (a traditional woodwind instrument). In the evening there is a sumptuous feast – a gastronomic promenade through Punat’s restaurants where guests can taste all kinds of delicacies made from olives.

Olive Days, held 1-10 October, is an event at which the people of Punat promote olive growing and olive oil as an indigenous product that is highly attractive to tourists. The people of Punat have in the past two decades, restored numerous abandoned and decades-old olive groves. They have also raised many new ones. Today, this olive oil is well known outside the Croatian borders and is regarded as extremely high in quality. The fact that almost every family in Punat is working in this branch of agriculture shows exactly how developed the olive growing business is, in this village on the eastern coast of Punat Bay, located on the southern coast of the island of Krk.

Punat is located 8 kilometers from the town of Krk and has a mild Mediterranean climate, coastal atmosphere of narrow streets and taverns, natural beaches, vineyards and olive groves.

Rich cultural heritage is felt every step of the way: in the parish church with a Baroque altar, in the medieval chapel of Sv. Juraj (St. George), in the Pre Romanesque church of Sv. Dunat (St. Dunat), on the promenade overlooking the sculptures of the Way of the Cross, and on Košljun, an islet in the middle of the bay known for its Franciscan monastery, where a unique harmony of natural beauty, rich culture and history has been created. The Franciscan monastery holds ethnographic and religious items as well as a valuable old library.

Boaters can use one of the largest and best equipped Croatian marinas in a sheltered natural bay of the Adriatic.

Punat is first mentioned in written documents in 1377 under the name Villa di Ponte.

Punat is well known for its beautiful sandy beaches that are located near the center. Some hidden, secluded, quiet beaches can be reached only by sea, so tourists are offered a taxi boat service.

On the island of Košljun there is a museum with an ethnographic collection containing numerous items belonging to Krk’s fishermen and farmers as well as folk costumes from across the island. The monastery also has a rich zoological collection consisting of a large collection of seashells and unique specimens of animals and a rich library with about 30,000 books. Among them is the Ptolemy atlas printed in Venice in 1511, which is one of three preserved copies in the world. It takes about two hours to tour the island and there are no catering facilities.

The Island of Krk is the closest island to Central and Western Europe. It is connected to land with a bridge, and has an airport that can accommodate international flights of high-capacity aircrafts.

The Tourist Board of the Primorsko-Goranska County
www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Punat
www.tzpunat.hr
Lovran - Marunada

Chestnuts from Lovran stand for one of the best kind of chestnut in the world. This variety is endemic to the Kvarner region, because they are the product of hybridization between native species of chestnut trees and those from the Far East brought back by Lovran sailors from their travels. The people of Lovran are very proud of their chestnuts and hold an event called Marunada in the month of October. Indeed Marunada has been held for almost four decades in mid-October in Lovran and the nearby villages of Liganj and Dobroč. At Marunada visitors are offered products made of chestnuts from roasted chestnuts and traditional dishes prepared with them to various desserts, cakes and pastries. It is a real treat for the connoisseurs. The first Marunada was organized back in 1973 and in time, this popular celebration associated with picking chestnuts that abound in the Lovran forests of Opatija Riviera, has developed into a real tourist attraction. Besides the entertainment and culinary program in Lovran at Trg Slobode (Freedom Square) and the parking lot Brajdice near the old town, a rich gastronomical offer is organized in many restaurants and cafes of the hotels Excelsior and Lovran, but also the cafes in nearby Opatija which are all marked by chestnuts at this time. Marunada also contains a sporting part which consists of sports that promote Učka Nature Park: an adventure race Učka Mountain Trek, then the Učka mountain walk and mountain bike rides from Lovran to Lovranska Draga, Liganj and Dobroč. In addition, a bowling tournament and a meeting of old-timers are also held. This year’s thirty-seventh Marunada will be held 15 - 31 October.

Lovran is a town with a long and rich history. The village was first mentioned in the seventh century under the name Lauriana. It was named after the plant laurel (Laurus nobilis) which grows abundantly in the evergreen groves in the village and surrounding areas. Lovran has preserved its historic urban center since the Middle Ages. The old city was surrounded by defensive walls and bastions which, over time, became the foundations on which houses were built. The mild climate, Mediterranean vegetation and a favorable geographical position enabled the strong development of tourism in the late 19th and early 20th century. Lovran has from this time, together with Opatija, been the most important place on the famous Riviera. Several villas built at that time are regarded as part of the world’s architectural heritage.

Lovran is situated on the eastern coast of Istria in the Kvarner Bay. It lies at the foot of Učka, the mountain greenest and richest in flora found on the Adriatic, and its sea side faces the islands of Krk and Cres. It is located 19 km from the biggest Croatian port – Rijeka.
Zagreb – A Festival of Moving Pictures

The Croatian capital is from 17 - 23 October the host of the 8th Zagreb Film Festival, whose program includes films that are not necessarily commercial, but tend to be artistic creations. However, the films presented at the Zagreb Film Festival regularly become hits among serious film audiences. As these are the artistic creations that are not included in regular distribution, the festival serves as a unique opportunity for audiences that wish to view them. Film screenings are accompanied by excellent concerts, so with its exquisite film program the festival also guarantees great entertainment.

Best films in several categories (feature film, documentary, short film) are awarded the so called ‘Zlatna Kolica’ (‘golden carriage’).

The festival is held in the Europa Cinema, which is regarded as the oldest and most beautiful cinema hall in Zagreb.

The cinema was built in 1924 by Zagreb’s Muller family and its hall which boasts elaborate covings and cornices as well as the Post Secession Classicist details is considered one of the city’s most beautiful venues. It has served as a traditional cinema for the past 70 years and was known under the name of Balkan until the early nineties. In those seven turbulent decades, the names of surrounding streets had altered, political and economic orders had changed but the cinema has held its original function - film lovers and passers-by come here to relax, escape from reality and enjoy a good movie. The importance and cultural significance of this cinema was recognized by the citizens of Zagreb, as well as the Croatian Film Association and Zagreb Film Festival in 2007 when they appealed to the city authorities, with a hearty and noisy action, to buy the cinema hall and preserve it for film viewing purposes. In 2008 after the joint success of the public and the institutions, the management of the cinema was entrusted to the organizers of the Zagreb Film Festival.

Under a cap of ZFF the cinema has remained a cult place with an even greater emphasis on the promotion and expansion of the seventh art. Presented on the screen of the cinema today are independent films from all over the world, the winners of the world’s leading festivals as well as lesser known titles which would never find their way to the big screens in the framework of the standard multiplex offer.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb
www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

Zagreb Film Festival
www.zagrebfilmfestival.com

Cinema Europa
www.kinoeuropa.hr
Biograd – Boat and Sea Lovers’ Fair

The Biograd Autumn Boat Show is the largest autumn fair of its kind in the region, and this year for the twelfth time it will bring together all segments of the boating industry in Croatia and the region - marinas, charter companies, shipbuilders and shipping companies. This international festival of boats, associated equipment and services, will traditionally be held from 21 - 24 October in the marina Kornati in Biograd. This is one of the three largest marinas in the Adriatic with more than 800 berths, visited by about 50,000 sailors each year and with more than 30 regattas and events held throughout the year which makes it unique on the Adriatic. The fair is well known for its unique and warm atmosphere of the coastal city in which the sunset of every day during the fair marks the end of the exhibition and the start of the evening program, which goes on until the late hours of the evening offering great hospitality and entertainment. During the fair there will be several races, including an open regatta and a regatta with radio-controlled model sailboats.

The host of the fair Biograd, once the coronation city of Croatian kings, is today a well known tourist destination in northern Dalmatia. The town, situated about thirty kilometers from Zadar, lies on a peninsula surrounded by modern marinas and a promenade that offers a spectacular view of the Pašman Canal and the islands scattered in it. Swimming in extremely clear waters is possible only about hundred meters away from the town center, where the gravel beaches with many amenities stretch in the shadow of ancient pine forests while those who prefer seclusion can enjoy one of the forested islands in the canal.

Its location in the middle of the Croatian coast, surrounded by three national parks (Kornati, Paklenica, Krka) and two nature parks (Telašćica, Vrana), a long tradition in tourism, sports facilities and restaurants are just some of the reasons for choosing Biograd as a destination for an interesting and dynamic vacation.
Klanjec – A Thank You to Autumn

A ‘Thank You to Autumn’ is a traditional autumn event in Klanjec, which with its diverse cultural and tourist programs represents a part of the heritage of the Croatian Zagorje region, with emphasis on the revival of traditional crafts, costumes, music, folk customs and culinary offerings of the past century. The variety of presentations at this three-day event (8 - 10 October) offers a number of exhibitions, concerts, performances of associations of knights who recreate medieval traditions, presentations of old crafts and skills, and a traditional products fair with a rich gastronomic offer.

Klanjec is located in the western part of the Croatian Zagorje, on a hill along the valley of the river Sutla, through which once a Roman road passed. It is believed that Klanjec developed from a settlement below the fort Cesargrad, which was first noted in 1399.

Klanjec itself first appeared in historical documents in 1463 and the settlement was named according to the position of its physical location - the entrance to the gorge (klanac) Zelenjak. At the heart of the old town is the Franciscan monastery with a baroque church from the 17th century. Precious and valuable pewter sarcophagi of the Erdödy family are exhibited in the reconstruction of the crypt situated in the monastery.

The Tourist Board of the Krapina-Zagorje County
www.tz-zagorje.hr

The Town of Klanjec
www.klanjec.hr
The British Guardian has in its online edition recently included Dubrovnik in the top ten destinations for holidays in September, i.e. in the early days of the post-season, and placed it in high, fourth place. In front of it are Sardinia in Italy, Andalucia in Spain and Cyprus and it is followed by the Canary Islands, the Egyptian town Dahab, Kas in Turkey, Saint Tropez, Rodos and Ile de Re in France. Journalist Nicola Iseard emphasizes that the best time to visit Dubrovnik is in the autumn to avoid summer heat and large crowds which make it difficult to find affordable accommodation. She states that the sea and air temperature is very pleasant in September and that a relaxed atmosphere is felt in the city. She recommends a trip to the nearby island of Lopud without a car and going to local beaches, among which she especially highlights Sunj. ‘Autumn brings out the best in Dubrovnik: prices drop, there are no crowds, and it is still warm enough for swimming’, says the journalist.
Biševo – Beach Porat Included on the List of the World’s Seven most Beautiful Beaches

The renowned Irish magazine The Irish Times recently published a centerfold report in which it included the sandy beach in the bay Porat on Biševo among the seven most beautiful beaches in the world, along with two Spanish beaches Playa de las Arenas on the Canary Island of La Gomera and Las Islas Cies; then Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia; the Thai Railay Beach on Krabi Island; White Bay in the British Virgin Islands and Urban Beach on the Cote d’Azur near Nice in France.

Among other things the text in The Irish Times quotes: “The sandy beach Porat is a hidden gem, sheltered from strong winds, it has a bar and a seafood restaurant where you can enjoy the food and famous local ‘plavac’ wine. There is private accommodation offered by the residents of Bisevo.”

The Tourist Board of the Split-Dalmatia County
www.dalmatia.hr

The Irish Times
www.irishtimes.com
Plitvice – Plitvice Lakes Among the Ten Most Beautiful in the World

Plitvice lakes are found on the list of the top ten most beautiful lakes in the world, according to Budget Travel magazine which believes that the 16 blue-green lakes, linked by hundreds of waterfalls with dense vegetation could serve as the location for shooting the next part of the Hollywood blockbuster Jurassic Park.

Budget recommends Plitvice Lakes to adventurers but also to tourists who want to enjoy the beautiful and unusual landscape. It is best to start the tour of the lower lakes and then move upwards, and one must see the highest waterfall in the region, the breathtaking 78 meter Veliki Slap. Besides these water creations, visitors of the park can sometimes see some of the wildlife that lives in this region.

Besides the Plitvice lakes, other lakes on the list include the US Crater Lake, the Canadian Peyto Lake, Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, Loch Lomond in Scotland, Garda in Italy, Annecy in France, Lake Nakuru in Kenya, Matheson in New Zealand and Lake Bled in the neighboring Slovenia. Plitvice Lakes consists of 16 lakes separated by travertine barriers and represents a particular geological and hydrogeological karst phenomenon. It was declared a national park in 1949 and since 1979 it has been on the UNESCO list of world’s natural and cultural heritage.

According to a legend, the Plitvice lakes were formed after a major drought, when people, animals and plants were longing for water. The Black Queen appeared in the valley, took pity on the people and the dry land and sent hard rain that fell until the water levels had grown high enough to create the world famous lakes.
Bol (Zlatni rat) and Rovinj Among the most Beautiful Beaches and Coastal Cities

The internet magazine Wild Junket recently published a list of the top eight most beautiful European beaches and six most beautiful coastal cities. The list includes the beach Zlatni Rat in Bol, on the island of Brač and the Istrian town of Rovinj.

Zlatni Rat was placed in the third place on the list, and Wild Junket writes that this interestingly shaped sandy beach changes its shape depending on the winds. After enjoying the sea and the beach, a cool shade can be found among the pine trees in Zlatni Rat.

Listed in front of the beach in Bol are Navagio on the Greek island of Zakynthos and the Papagayo Beach in the Spanish Canary Island of Lanzarote. The beach Cala Tarida in Spanish Ibiza is in the fourth place, followed by the Portuguese beach Sagres, Spanish Las Islas Cies in Galicia and Turkish Patara. The list finishes with the Italian beach Sabbie Nere in Silicon.

According to Wild Junket, the town of Rovinj is placed sixth on the list of the seven most beautiful coastal cities in Europe, and the author of the article emphasizes the beauty of the old historic town center. Other towns topping the list along with Rovinj are Roquebrune and Antibes (France), Oia (Santorini, Greece), Ohrid (Macedonia), Mdina (Malta) and Positano (Italy).

The Tourist Board of the Split-Dalmatia County
www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Istria
www.istra.hr

Wild Junket
www.wildjunket.com
Croatian Campsites Tailored to Italian Guests

Croatian campsites have regularly been getting awards from Italy, more closely from the main Italian Camping Association ‘Confederazione Italiana Campeggiatori’ (Confedercampeggio). Six Croatian campsites have recently been awarded by this non-profit organization, the oldest and most widespread camping organization in Italy. The award for ecology and quality has been awarded to the following campsites: Alan (Paklenica), Stobreć (Split), Zablaće (Baška on the island of Krk), Kovačine (Cres), Soline (Biograd on Sea) and Poljana (Mali Lošinj). The awards have been assigned according to the votes of the members of the association.

Special awards for quality were given to campsites Zaton Nin and Park Umag outside of the competition because they had received the Confedercampeggio award several times in the past years. This year’s prizes will be awarded in Vicenza on 9 October.

This main association of Italian campers was founded in 1950 and today brings together 189 clubs, 18 regional federations and more than 21,000 families. They have been publishing a journal ‘Il Campeggio Italiano’ which has been printed in 30,000 copies since 1957 and, in cooperation with 2538 Italian campground owners, two campsite guides called ‘Guida Camping d’Italia’ and ‘Aree di Sosta e Agricamper’. It has also organized a camp circuit called ‘Ciao Campeggio’ which combines camps from Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal.

Confedercampeggio cooperate with the Croatian Camping Union (KUH) and the Top Camping Association of Croatia with which it signed an agreement under which members of Confedercampeggio can enjoy the benefits of these associations in the campsites.

Confedercampeggio celebrated its 60th anniversary in cooperation with the Top Camping Association in the camp Pila, on the island of Krk. It organizes the ‘Rally dell’Amicizia’ (Friendship Rally) as a chance to experience the best campsites in Europe. The first rally took place in Croatia. In 1967 it started presenting open-air tourism exhibitions in Italy. For a number of years it has also organized a camping exhibition called “Ciao Campeggio Show”.

www.federcampeggio.it
Split has recently opened another attractive resort which will greatly improve the accommodation capacity of the city. The Radisson Blu Split Resort has opened its doors to its first guests. This is a four star hotel created during an extensive three and a half year reconstruction and renovation of the former legendary hotel Split which had boasted 50 years in the tourist industry. The new hotel is located in the southern part of Split, right next to the seafront and has 240 rooms, including two luxury presidential suites on the top, seventh floor, each of which covers an area of about 260 square meters. Almost all rooms have a sea view. The hotel has two restaurants, a large convention center, indoor and outdoor pool, casino, ball room, hotel beach, a particularly outstanding spa and wellness center with three saunas, a gym and a room for relaxing. A large terrace with, among other things, an outdoor pool, offers fabulous views of the surrounding area giving this hotel a special charm. One must mention the Radisson Blu Super Breakfast, with about a hundred different dishes as well as Grab & Run Breakfast, tailored for those who must leave before the ‘official’ breakfast time. Alongside the hotel is a large covered parking lot on three floors. The hotel is managed by Rezidor Hotel Group.
Luxe, a new four-star boutique hotel, recently opened in Split at the location of an old factory – a hundred year old industrial building which was completely destroyed by a fire thirty years ago. The hotel has 27 modern rooms and three suites with a total of 56 beds, a restaurant, a lobby bar and a cigar lounge, and will soon open a wellness center. It is located in Split’s 1700 year old city center, rich in historical and cultural monuments, which was under UNESCO’s protection added to World Heritage list. The ideal position of the hotel ensures easy access to all major parts of the city. In the immediate vicinity is the world famous Diocletian’s Palace, bus and railway stations and ferry port. It is also close to the popular sandy beach Bačvice with crystal clear sea, as well as the hill Marjan, the park-forest and the ‘green soul’ of Split which can be reached quickly at a slow walking pace.
Dubrovnik – Villa Dubrovnik Gets a New Glow

The exclusive Hotel Villa Dubrovnik has recently opened its doors after a three-year renovation and expansion. This five-star hotel, built nearly sixty years ago on a protruding rock above sea level, now has 48 rooms, 6 suites and a luxurious villa. Villa Dubrovnik boasts architecture that is seamlessly incorporated into the environment, a beautiful view of the city walls and the island Lokrum, as well as a sandy beach called romantic escape or honeymoon beach. Cut into the rocks below the hotel and hidden from view, the villa can be rented or guests can have a table set for lunch in the sea, to avoid losing a single moment of their piece of paradise.

Guests will certainly appreciate the attention given to original details, for example, when they return to their room at night, hand-made sweets from figs and oranges, a bunch of fragrant lavender for a good night's sleep and suggestions for a perfect next day will be waiting on their pillow.

The unique feature of Villa Dubrovnik is certainly the sky bar at the top of the hotel which offers a memorable view of the city. The Villa now has an indoor pool with sliding glass walls giving it the atmosphere of an outdoor pool, a spa center, two restaurants and one of the most beautiful terraces on the Adriatic coast that has been transformed into a top culinary-enological destination.

Villa Dubrovnik is a member of the association of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, which brings together some five hundred individual small hotels in the world.

The Tourist Board of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County
www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik
www.tzdubrovnik.hr

Villa Dubrovnik
www.villa-dubrovnik.hr
Otočac – Park Hotel Accommodates its First Guests

The four-star Park Hotel recently opened in the centre of Otočac, with about four thousand square meters of ground floor area and four floors with thirty-six rooms, four suites, a restaurant with three hundred seats, a conference hall, a cafe with a terrace and a small restaurant, while in the basement there are comfortable wellness facilities, a swimming pool, a sauna and a gym. The space is air conditioned, and the rooms equipped with televisions, satellite channels, internet connections and luxurious furniture. The hotel restaurant is called Avendo and the congress hall Arupium names taken from the famous archaeological sites of Gacka from 8th century BC.

The hotel is located in Otočac, the centre of the Gacka area. The town Otočac was first mentioned at the end of the eleventh century. It owes its name to a river island due to which it survived as a city. In fact, until the 18th century Otočac was located on a natural island in the middle of the river Gacka. The island was fortified by walls and towers, and it could be approached only by boat across the water. That made it invincible and in its long history Otočac was never conquered.

The Gacka area is located in the central part between the famous National Park Plitvice Lakes, Velebit Nature Park, and Northern Velebit National Park, and the tourist attraction is completed by the Gacka River, one of the most famous trout waters in the world. According to some research, the water of Gacka is the second best drinking water in the world. This peaceful river is a habitat for twenty five types of plants and several species of river fish, including the well-known species of trout, which is highly prized among anglers in the world. The source of the Gacka River is in the karst underground underneath the residential areas of Sinac and Lešeč near the town of Otočac, which still preserve the features of traditional culture and life. On Gacka you can still see flour mills and stamping mills for washing and processing wool, as well as ‘baskets’ for the processing of plants and blankets.

The Tourist Board of the Lika-Senj County
www.lickosenjska.com

The Tourist Board of Otočac
www.tz-otocac.hr
The Croatian Museum of Tourism has recently put on an interesting and extensive exhibition entitled ‘From Mud Baths to Wellness’ in the oldest villa in Opatija, Villa Angiolini. It is an attempt to consolidate the overall development of health tourism in coastal and continental Croatia since its beginnings in the mid-19th century when tourism in Croatia was mainly related to health and medical tourism and to portray to the public its intensive development.

Spa tourism is based on the traditional mineral resources that have been known since the ancient times, while the newer health and seaside resorts on the Adriatic coast are created on the basis of beneficial effects of the sea, sun, air, sand and wild plants. The organized arrival of the first guests to the Adriatic coast began in the late 19th century with the development of transport infrastructure, which has enabled a better connection between the major cities. As the systematic investment in health tourism began, the first hotel built to accommodate patients on the east coast of the Adriatic was Kvarner, built in 1884 in Opatija. As soon as 1889 Opatija was declared a climatic sea-health resort. This was followed by the development of other health spas on the coast: Lovran, Rovinj, Crikvenica, Brijuni, Lošinj and Hvar.

In the continental part of Croatia, mineral water sources were already converted into spas during the 18th century when healing springs were used and balenological therapeutic methods were applied in many towns. Health buildings, baths and hotels were built in the area of Varaždin, Krapina, Tuhelj, Stubica, Sutinski, Topusko, Daruvar and Lipik.

Thermomineral sources are also located on the coastal area, in Split and Mokošica close to Dubrovnik and in the Istrian Spa on the Istrian peninsula. All other spas on the coast are climatic health resorts, while on the continent such spas are in Topusko and Lipik. Particularly interesting is the history of Topusko, a unique spa in Croatia and one of a few of its kind in Europe. Healing mud and its application had been discovered by the Romans, who, in the 1st century AD, established an urban settlement Ad Fines near the thermal springs, which were highly regarded at that time.

At the exhibition ‘From Mud Baths to Wellness’, visitors can view many interesting exhibits that were used throughout the history of medical tourism in Croatia, such as deckchairs, old swimsuits and goggles which are displayed in the ambiental part at the beginning of the exhibition. Visitors will be impressed by old postcards that had advertised the old spas.

The special parts of the exhibition are the portrayals of the two spas, which were turned into elite tourist destinations by Austrian industrialists in the early 20th century - Brijuni and Rovinj. At the beginning of the century Brijuni transformed from an island with a few inhabitants into a favorite destination of the wealthy. The trader and industrialist Johann Georg von Hütterott was responsible for the development of the spas in Rovinj. During the time of the development of railways he managed to turn Rovinj into an elite tourist destination.
The tourist offer of the center of the Lika-Senj county has recently been enriched by eight bicycle trails, totaling 397 kilometers. The paths were named 'Paths of Velebit and the Croatian Greats' because they connect the birth towns and villages of eminent Croatians, for example, the Croatian politician and patriot Ante Starčević and the world-renowned scientific genius Nikola Tesla, and pass through numerous villages in the vicinity of Gospić, across fields, through woods, to the mountain trails that stretch along Velebit.

Gospić is located on the western edge of one of the largest karst fields in Croatia, Ličko polje, beneath the highest and most beautiful Croatian mountain Velebit, on the crossroads from the north to the south and along the banks of three rivers, Lika, Novčica and Bogdanica. The name Gospić was first recorded in historical documents in 1604. The city is surrounded by an oasis of nature which as a tourist destination, apart from cycling, offers many opportunities for an active vacation: abseiling, trekking, paintball, jeep safaris, horseback riding, archery, horse-drawn carriage rides, hiking, adventure travels through Velebit, canoe safaris, boat rides through the canyon of Lika and the lake Kruščica, and caving adventures. Fans of hunting, fishing and hiking will in this area certainly experience the true pleasure represented in the preservation of flora and fauna.
Šibenik – Soon to Welcome the Megayachts

The Nautical Centre ‘Prigrin’ (NCP) in Mandalina near Šibenik has begun the construction of the first mega-yacht marina on the Adriatic. The marina, worth seventeen million euros, with 79 modern berths for mega yachts of up to one hundred meters in length, should be completed by June next year and fully ready for the reception of sailors in the next tourist season. It will be the first marina in this part of the Mediterranean that will be able to service megayachts owned, for example, by Roman Abramović, Bill Gates and other world class jet set who will then be able to visit Šibenik more often.

The investor in this mega marina project is the Turkish Dogus Group, which along with the NCP on Mandalina, plans to build a nautical resort worth at least one hundred million Euros. The plan is to build several five-star hotels, twenty luxury villas with swimming pools, marinas and other nautical activities.

The Tourist Board of the Šibenik-Knin County
www.sibenikregion.com

The Tourist Board of Šibenik
www.sibenik-tourism.hr

Nautical Center Prigrin
www.ncp.hr
Ližnjan – The Construction of a Golf Resort Has Begun

The construction of golf courses and resorts has begun on Marlera near Ližnjan, and it is expected that the entire resort will be completed in two years. The project was started by a famous former Croatian football player Dražen Ladić. Marlera will, following the golf course at Crveni Vrh near Savudrija which is a part of Adriatic Kempinski Hotel, become the second professional golf course in Istria. Marlera will be a genuine golf resort with an elite hotel-apartment complex. According to the project plans, a five-star hotel as well as 80 apartments and 27 villas will be built on 16 acres, while the green areas will spread across 14 acres. This is a project worth 150 million Euros and is being built in a fishing-agricultural village in the far southeast of Istria that overlooks the bay of Kvarner and the islands of Cres and Lošinj. This hidden corner of the blue sea and the coastline which plunges its rocks and gravel beaches into it will enable each visitor to discover the beauty of some 30 kilometers long, uninhabited coast. The picturesque port tells the story of the place that has always lived from the benefits of the sea. In addition to golf, Ližnjan offers to lovers of active holidays a center for horseback riding ‘Libora’ and for those with a passion for hunting there is a large hunting ground that in its dense oak forests hides wild rabbits, partridges, pheasants, deer and boars. Ližnjan and its seas are drawn on the maps of many windsurfers and divers who consider it one of the best and most beautiful locations for their passion. Other unique destinations are the coastal cycling routes through landscapes of exceptional beauty. 7000 year old archeological sites are witness to the fascinating history of Ližnjan, which was first mentioned in 1149 as Lisianum. There are the remains of Roman villas, pieces of amphoras and old sunken ships which are still found underwater, the old lighthouses, which still show the way to sea travelers, ancient churches and the typical Mediterranean charm of densely packed houses in village centers.

An undiscovered jewel is the island Levan, located in front of Ližnjan’s coastline with a beautiful sandy beach and two restaurants, which is ideal for those looking for adventure and an alternative seaside experience.
The villas Poli of St. Anton in Gračišće in Istria, have this summer received their first guests. It is a complex of three villas - Villa Melkior, Villa Gašpar and Villa Baltazar where guests are offered top quality accommodation, accompanied with the warmth of an old Istrian fireplace in the atmosphere of rural Istria. These restored traditional Istrian houses surrounded by stone walls offer four star accommodation and are located in the old town Gračišće near the chapel which bears the name of the above mentioned saint. The reconstruction of the old abandoned 18th century houses took two years. The villas have been renovated with a unique blend of traditional and modern. They are furnished with renovated authentic furniture, and as the owners intend to offer the facilities throughout the year, each room is equipped with under-floor heating, while the rooms are air conditioned.

Each villa has satellite television and guests are offered the use of washing machine and a shared outdoor barbecue. In due time, the complex should get an outdoor pool with sun lounges and an outdoor shower and a gallery. Guests can also use bikes and equipment for table tennis. There is a rustic wine cellar which can accommodate 25 to 30 people. The tavern is located at the ground floor of Villa Baltazar, the largest among the three two-storey villas, whose total floor area is 200 square meters and which can accommodate 8 persons. Villa Melkior has a capacity for 4 to 6 people, and Vila Gašpar is the smallest with a capacity for 2 to 4 people. The complex is suitable for team building and welcomes pets. Gračišće is fairytale-like medieval town rich in architectural and historical heritage located in the heart of Istria. It is also the town with the highest altitude in Istria and therefore has an extremely pleasant climate and unbelievable views. In the past, it was a favorite summer residence of the bishops, and more recently it has been increasingly in demand as a tourist destination. The beauty and uniqueness of the monuments of cultural and historical heritage preserved in the landscape are the greatest value of Gračišće, which is visited every day by more and more curious enthusiast who are energized in this ancient city by the tranquility that is reflected on the streets bordered by ancient buildings which all lead towards the tall bell tower from the 18th century and the parish church from the same period. One of the striking particularities of Gračišće is its urban structure; the city, once surrounded by walls, is divided into quarters each of which has its own square with a church.
Introducing

Pelješac – Shells and Red Wine Lovers’ Paradise

Pelješac is, after Istria, the second largest peninsula on the Adriatic coast. It is situated in the very south of Dalmatia, and is a home to several large and interesting villages and towns which are worth visiting: Ston, Brijest, Trpanj, Viganj and Orebić. This is a famous tourist destination, especially during the summer. Much of the tourist offer of this peninsula is found in a rich historical and cultural heritage that can be seen in many churches, villas and other sights. Pelješac, the famous center of sailors and seamen, is today a tourist destination known for its superior gastroenologic offer. Gourmets have long known of the wide range of shells from Malostonski Zaljev (Malostonski Bay), primarily of the well-known and recognized oysters, and of the excellent wines Dingač and Postup. For lovers of active holidays, especially hiking, there are mountains Sv. Ivan and Sv. Ilija; for pedestrians and cyclists - routes in the western part of the peninsula; for surfers - Viganj, on which the western mistral wind blows several times faster than it usually does elsewhere on the Adriatic, and has made it for years an ideal destination for professional and recreational surfers.

Orebić

Orebić was named in 1584 by a noble family from Bakar, of which generations served as navy captains and whose members have played an important role in the history of the city. The name of Orebić was originally Trstenica. The town is located in the southwest of the peninsula beneath mount Sv. Ilija and is located on the Pelješac canal opposite the island of Korčula. This picturesque town was the cradle of sea captains and sailors, whose rich tradition is kept at the Maritime Museum. Displayed in the museum are paintings of sailboats from Pelješac portraying the fighting with pirates from the 17th to the end of the 19th century as well as other items like marine tools, weapons, atlases, nautical and school books, health and travel documents, the ship’s pharmacy, medals and pictures of the sailors, and various documents related to sailing. The unique feature of Orebić is the Captain’s cemetery, which is a part of the local Franciscan monastery. The naval tradition had caused the creation of the cemetery where the ship-owner families made their lavish tombs. Orebić offers guests clean, untouched nature of ancient pines and cypresses, olives, almonds, agave and flowers. There are long sandy beaches and numerous bays with crystal clear sea. The sports marina with 200 berths offers a safe environment for ships and boats.
Ston

The history of the area on which the monumental complex of Mali and Veliki Ston and their walls is located is one of the richest in the entire area of Dubrovnik. Today’s Ston was founded in 1333 when the people of Dubrovnik came into possession of Pelješac. It is surrounded by a 980 meter long wall with towers that are definitely deserve a visit. This monumental defensive system was the largest fortification venture in Europe at that time. The building of the longest defensive wall in Europe took 30 years and spread from one side of the peninsula to the other, and then, according to a unique planning project, two fortified towns were created: Ston in the south and Mali Ston in the north.

Ston is famous for its salt production and the cultivation of oysters. The coastline of the town along the canal and the bay Prapratna are suitable for swimming, fishing and spear fishing. The well-preserved pre-Romanesque church of Sv. Mihajlo from the 9th century on the hill of the same name is one of the oldest and most valuable monuments of Ston. Mali Ston lies in a small, indented bay. It is famous for its production of shells. Surrounded by a wall in the shape of a square, it has the Harbour Gate on its sea facing side. All the streets in the town intersect at a right angle. The building of a sturdy fort (with five towers facing the sea), later named Koruna began in 1347 on the elevation on the south side. From it, towards Ston stretches the Great Wall.

The port of Mali Ston was completed in 1490 and was modeled on the town port of Dubrovnik.
Contact

Kroatische Zentrale für Tourismus
Rumfordstr. 7, 80469 MÜNCHEN, DEUTSCHLAND
tel: +49 89 22 33 44
fax: +49 89 22 33 77
e-mail: kroatien-tourismus@t-online.de

Kroatische Zentrale für Tourismus
Hochstr. 43, 60311 FRANKFURT, DEUTSCHLAND
tel: +49 69 238 5350
fax: +49 69 238 5320
e-mail: info@kroatien.info

Ente Nazionale Croato per il Turismo
Piazzetta Pattari 1/3, 20122 MILANO, ITALIA
tel: +39 02 86 45 44 97
fax: +39 02 86 45 45 74
e-mail: info@enteturismocroato.it

Ente Nazionale Croato per il Turismo
Via Dell’oca 48, 00186 ROMA, ITALIA
tel: +39 06 32 11 0396
fax: +39 06 32 11 1462
e-mail: info@enteturismocroato.it

Office National Croate de Tourisme
48, Avenue Victor Hugo, 75116 PARIS, FRANCE
tel: +33 1 45 00 99 55
fax: +33 1 45 00 99 56
e-mail: info@officecroatawanadoo.fr

Office National Croate du Tourisme
Vieille Halle aux Bles 38, 1000 BRUXELLES, BELGIUM
tel: +32 255 018 88
fax: +32 251 381 60
e-mail: info@officecroatawanadoo.fr

Oficina de Turismo de Croacia
Calle Claudio Coello 22, esc. B, rºC, 28001 MADRID, ESPAÑA
tel.: +34 91 781 3514
fax: +34 91 431 8443
e-mail: info@visitcroatia.es

Horvát Idegenforgalmi Közösség
Magyar u. 36, 1053 BUDAPEST, MAGYARORSZÁG
tel/fax: +36 1 266 65 05; +36 1 266 65 33
e-mail: info@htz.hu

Kroatische Zentrale für Tourismus
Am Hof 13, 1010 WIEN, ÖSTERREICH
tel: +43 1 585 38 84
fax: +43 1 585 38 84 20
e-mail: office@kroatiens.at

Chorvatske turistické združenie
Trenčianska 5, 821 09 BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA
tel: +421 2 56 562 054
fax: +421 2 55 422 609
e-mail: infohtz@chello.sk

Contact

Croatian National Tourist Office
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4003, NEW YORK 10118, U.S.A.
tel: +1 212 279 8672
fax: +1 212 279 8683
e-mail: cntonny@earthlink.net

Croatian National Tourist Office
2 Lanchesters, 162-164 Fulham Palace Road
LONDON W6 9ER, UNITED KINGDOM
tel: +44 208 563 79 79
fax: +44 208 563 26 16
e-mail: info@croatia-london.co.uk

Narodowy Ośrodek Informacji Turystycznej
Republiki Chorwacji
IPC Business Center, ul. Koszykowa 54,
00-675 WARSZAWA, POLSKA
tel: +48 22 828 51 93
fax: +48 22 828 51 90
e-mail: info@chorwacja.home.pl

Kroatiska Turistbyrå
Kungsplan 24, 113 35 STOCKHOLM, SVERIGE
tel: +46 833 482 080
fax: +46 820 24 60
E-mail: croinfo@telia.com

Kroatisch Nationaal Bureau Voor Toerisme
Nijenburger Z, 1081 GG AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
tel: +31 20 661 64 22
fax: +31 20 661 64 27
E-mail: croinfo@planet.nl

Хорвaтcкoe туристическое соoвщество
Краснопресненская наб. 12, подъезд 6, офис 1502 123610
МОСКВА, РОССИЯ
ТЕЛ: +7 495 258 15 07
ФАКС: +7 495 258 15 08
E-mail: htz@wtt.ru

Hrvaška turistična skupnost
Gospovskevska 2, 1000 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIJA
tel: +386 1 23 07 400
fax: +386 1 230 74 04
E-mail: hrinfo@siol.net

Kroatische Zentrale für Tourismus
Badenerstrasse 332, 8004 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND
tel: +41 43 336 20 30
fax: +41 43 336 20 39
E-mail: info@kroatien-tourismus.ch

Croatian National Tourist Board Japan
Ark Hills Executive Tower N613
Akasaka 1-14-5, Minato-ku
Tokyo 107-0052
Tel: 0081 03 6234 0711
Fax: 0081 03 6234 0712
E-mail: info@visitcroatia.jp

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www.croatia.hr

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