



# Newsletter

## 04|2011



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

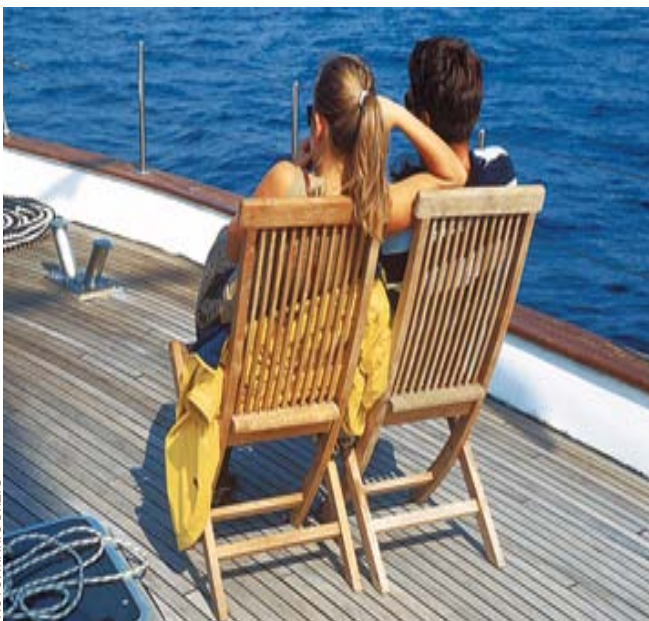


PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

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## ■ News

# Croatia Airlines Adds New Flights

Croatia Airlines, the Croatian national air carrier, has recently officially confirmed that it has introduced many new direct flights in their summer timetable.

New seasonal flights are being added from Zadar airport to Munich and Zurich. The first regular flight from Zadar to the Bavarian metropolis is scheduled for 3 May whilst from 29 September airplanes on that line will fly twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Direct connection between Zadar and Zurich will start on 20 May and last until 30 September. This line will also operate twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays.

In the summer timetable Croatia Airlines will connect Zagreb with Istanbul on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Up until now Croatia Airlines had only been leasing seats on the flights of Turkish Airlines for this connection.

Return flights between Dubrovnik and Venice will also be established twice a week, on Thursdays and Sundays, from 19 May to 23 October this year. The aircraft which will connect these two pearls of the Adriatic is Dash 8-Q400, with the capacity of 76 seats. New flights will also be introduced from Dubrovnik to Athens (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays) and from Dubrovnik to Belgrade (Mondays and Wednesdays). There will also be flights from Split to Hamburg (Tuesdays and Saturdays), and once again, the line between Rijeka and London has been established, with flights on Wednesdays.

Another novelty is that Croatia Airlines, in cooperation with SAS, will fly via Copenhagen to New York and Washington, starting from this summer.

Italian airline Air One, owned by Alitalia, will from 25 September this year introduce a direct line from Milano Malpensa to Zagreb. It will fly three times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC



PHOTO: MARIO HLACA

Croatia Airlines

[www.croatiaairlines.com](http://www.croatiaairlines.com)

Air One

[www.flyairone.it](http://www.flyairone.it)

# New Hotels Along the Adriatic

Croatia will meet the new tourist season with three new large and one smaller hotel with a total of more than 700 rooms. Maistra is opening a five star hotel 'Lone' in Rovinj, while another smaller five star hotel 'Amabilis' will open in the village of Selce on the Crikvenica Riviera in Kvarner, on the site of the old hotel 'Jadranka'. As part of the project Punta Skala Zadar region will get a new hotel 'Iadera' of the same category and Dubrovnik region, a four star hotel 'Lafodia'. The first hotel which will open its doors at the beginning of the season will be the reconstructed 'Lafodia', on the island of Lopud. The investment value is around 40 million Euros, and the reconstruction lasted for almost three years. According to the announcement, the second to open will be the 'Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Iadera' in Petrčani near Zadar, as an investment of the Austrian Falkensteiner Michalaer group. After a family hotel 'Diadora', which opened in 2009, 'Iadera' is the second of three predicted hotels in Punta Skala project. The current investment of the group, together with the construction of 'Iadera' is around 160 million Euros, and the opening of 'Iadera' is scheduled for early July this year.

The smaller hotel 'Amabilis', with 60 beds and facilities for health tourism, should be completed by mid-June in Selce. This is an investment worth seven million Euros and the investor is a Croatian company MGL.

Following this should be the opening of Maistra's hotel 'Lone' in September, which will along with its 248 accommodation units offer numerous attractions such as fine dining restaurants and bars, a jazz club, conference facilities, wellness and sports centers. 45 million Euros have been invested in the construction of the hotel, making it one of the largest Greenfield investments in Croatian tourism in the last few years.



PHOTO: MILAN BABIC

The Tourist Board of Istria County

[www.istra.hr](http://www.istra.hr)

[www.istra.com](http://www.istra.com)

The Tourist Board of Primorsko - Goranska County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

[www.zadar.hr](http://www.zadar.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)



## ■ Events

# Hvar - Procession of 'The Cross'

For five centuries the locals in Hvar have been celebrating Easter in a special way – with the procession of 'The Cross' (Za Križen). This is a unique expression of worship and religious and cultural identity of the local population which is listed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage of the world. The ritual evolved from the procession that was held as a sign of repentance following a miracle when a small cross in the town of Hvar miraculously wept tears of blood in the midst of social turmoil on the island in 1510.

Processions start on the night from Holy Thursday to Good Friday simultaneously from six parish churches of Jelsa, Pitve, Vrisnik, Svirče, Vrbanj and Vrboska, in a clockwise direction so that during the eight hour procession the crosses never meet, which would, according to a folk belief, be a sign of major misfortune. The eight-hour procession, during which 22 kilometers are passed, is led by selected cross-bearers who, sometimes barefoot, wear a cross that can weigh up to 18 kilograms. Procession of 'The Cross' brings together a multitude of pilgrims from all over the island, but also from year to year, more and more visitors and tourists who spend Easter on this, longest and sunniest Croatian island. This year the procession will be held on 21 April.

Thanks to the mild climate, warm winters and pleasant summers, the luxurious Mediterranean vegetation, rich cultural and historical traditions, unique gastronomy, beautiful beaches, coves and crystal clear waters, the central Dalmatian island of Hvar has been listed in some international travel magazines among the ten most beautiful islands in the world.

Night life and architecture of the town of Hvar, boat trips to Paklinski Islands, the sandy beaches near Jelsa, a combination of ancient and modern in the old city, heavenly beaches under the pine forests of Zavala, exotic southern slopes of the island in the towns of Ivan Dolac, Sveta Nedjelja and Milna, the ambience of "Little Venice" in Vrboski, a ride through lavender fields near Gdinja, Zastrazišće and Bogomolje and quiet hidden coves around Sućuraj, are only a fraction of the experience offered by Hvar.



PHOTO: BORIS KRAGIC



PHOTO: BORIS KRAGIC

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Hvar

[www.tzhvar.hr](http://www.tzhvar.hr)

The City of Hvar

[www.hvar.hr](http://www.hvar.hr)

The Tourist Board of Jelsa Borough

[www.tzjelsa.hr](http://www.tzjelsa.hr)

# Zagreb - Spring in the Croatian Capital

Zagreb offers many events and activities to tourists throughout the year, but in the spring that offer additionally “blooms” due to the traditional festival of St. Mark and the Zagreb Time Machine manifestation.

During the Festival of St. Mark many museums, churches and squares of Zagreb’s old town core in the Upper Town and also the Lower Town become a stage to musical artists. This year’s 13th festival will once again host numerous national and international soloists and ensembles.

The festival originated from the idea that performances by top musicians would revive “dormant” spaces, primarily in the Upper Town. Each year the festival starts on 25 April, on the feast of St. Mark after whom it was named. Eight hundred years ago this date was chosen as the date of the city fair, an annual event central for commercial and social life. Top artists, the diversity of the program and the beauty of the venues in which these concerts take place, put the Festival of St. Mark alongside important musical events on the European festival scene.

Late April marks the beginning of the Zagreb Time Machine, an event during which every Saturday until late September or early October, numerous musical and theatrical performances that remind us of the history of Zagreb take place on the streets and squares of the city. During this period, various folklore groups hold performances in the central square and there are promenade concerts in park Zrinjevac, so passers by can enjoy the sounds of waltzes, marches, songs from operettas and popular evergreens. The Upper Town is reserved for street musicians and traditional Zagreb songs.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

[www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr](http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr)

The Festival of St. Mark

[www.festivalsvmarka.hr](http://www.festivalsvmarka.hr)

# Lokve - In Honour of the Frogs

Lokve is a small village in Gorski Kotar, located in the wet marshlands, whose residents have humorously been named Žabari (FROGS). And while in past times the residents of Lokve protested against this amusing name, eventually they have not only learned to joke at their own expense but have turned it into their trademark. So, each spring, they have started organizing a celebration called Frog Nights which celebrates not only frogs, but also all the people from the Lokve area.

The 35th Frog Nights will take place in late April this year. This traditional event culminates in a frog jumping contest. Frog owners arrive with their pets and, to the spectators' delight, urge them along to ensure the longest jump. It is important to emphasize that at the end of the competition all the frogs are released back into their natural habitat.

In honor of frogs - the Frog Museum opened in Lokve, where visitors can learn all about frogs, the history of frogs in Lokve and Frog Nights, as well as frog 'hunting'. The museum exhibits a collection of over a thousand species of frogs from around the world. The museum program is supplemented by documentary films and audio and video recordings related to the frog world, while the gift shop is filled with interesting souvenirs. To round off this unforgettable experience of visiting a unique museum, the visitors are in the end offered the opportunity to try a unique forest fruit liqueur called Frog Blood.

Apart from Frog Nights, Lokve, located in the heart of Gorski Kotar, at the foot of Risnjak's peaks, in the beautiful natural surroundings and mountain climate, provides countless opportunities for recreation, relaxation and refreshment. Lovers of sports and recreational activities can enjoy the Omladinsko Lake as well as Lokvarka Cave – the largest cave in Croatia, which has been adapted for tourists - where visitors are simply captivated by its underground riches. There is also the forest park Golubinjak with maintained and marked hiking trails.



PHOTO: MILAN BABIĆ

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-Goranska County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Lokve Borough

[www.tz-lokve.hr](http://www.tz-lokve.hr)



# Mali Lošinj - Days of Apoxyomenos and Antiquity

There are only seven surviving statues of the ancient Greek athlete Apoxyomenos in the world, one of which was found right here in Croatia. More than two thousand years old ancient bronze statue of an unknown author was found in 1999 in the sea near the island of Lošinj, wedged between two rocks at a depth of 45 meters. Over two thousand year old athlete was lifted from the depths of the sea and after almost seven years of restoration returned to its former glory. The statue represents an athlete, a young sportsman at the moment of cleaning oil, dust and sweat from his body with a scraping tool, after a competition. During the restoration, which lasted almost seven years, while researching the material and style of workmanship, it was determined that the statue dates from 2nd-1st century BC, while the prototype which it was based on is considerably older, from the middle of the 4th century BC.

From the eight known variations of the Apoxyomenos prototype, the Lošinj statue is the most complete and best preserved. The author of the statue is unknown, but the classic beauty and quality of workmanship testify to a master craftsman.

The statue of Apoxyomenos, which was extracted from Lošinj's seabed on 27 April 1999 will be permanently exhibited in Mali Lošinj, at the Kvarner Palace from the end of 2013. Once again this year the locals of Lošinj will take you back to the days of Apoxyomenos and Antiquity from 22 to 29 April, when you will be able to enjoy archaeological diving, antique jewelry and presentations of ancient hairstyles. There will be Roman baths and massages available for hotel guests. In Lošinj's museum lectures and presentations will be held on the theme of the Croatian Apoxyomenos and a scientific conference on 'Underwater Archaeology and finding the bronze statue of Apoxyomenos' will be held on the 10 May.

Lošinj is a Kvarner island with a long tradition in tourism. It is covered with hiking trails along the coast which pass through numerous bays and old pine forests. Along with the many churches on the island, there is also a tower, erected in the 15th century for defense from pirate attacks from the sea. Also situated on the island is Rovenska, a small fishing port with beautiful beaches, a pier and a fishing tradition atmosphere, as well as the Park Forest and the famous climate health resort 'Podjavori'. Due to the Mediterranean climate, clean air, preserved nature and environment, Lošinj was recognized as the island ideal for resting and health treatments in as early as the 19th century and was therefore named the island of vitality.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-Goranska County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj

[www.tz-malilošinj.hr](http://www.tz-malilošinj.hr)

# Split - Croatia Boat Show

The city of Diocletian will from 12 to 17 April be the host of the nautical fair 'Croatia Boat Show' (CBS) for the 13th time, an unavoidable event for all those who value boats as their favorite means of travel and cruising as their passion. From year to year, CBS attracts more and more domestic and foreign companies and ship builders. From an exhibition of a local character, CBS has grown into the largest boat show in South East Europe and climbed to the seventh place on the scale of the world nautical fairs which gather round the world's largest manufacturers of boats. Here you can find boats of all types and sizes and the equipment needed for staying at sea. Visitors can learn all about the packages and offers of nautical - tourist character.

The sight of a hundred boats at berth in front of the fascinating Diocletian's Palace is certainly another good reason for visiting Split, a city rich in historical and cultural heritage that has celebrated 1700 years of its existence.



PHOTO: ROBERT MATIĆ

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Split

[www.visitsplit.com](http://www.visitsplit.com)

Croatia Boat Show

[www.croatiaboatshow.com](http://www.croatiaboatshow.com)



# Starigrad - On the «Trails of Winnetou»

“Trails of Winnetou” is the name of a cultural- tourist event, which will be held from 16 to the 24 April in the areas of the national parks Paklenica, Krka and Plitvice Lakes, Velebit Nature Park and the Canyon of the River Zrmanja, where more than 40 years ago, according to the adventure novels of the German writer Karl May, films were shot about the Indian chief Winnetou. These beautiful locations are completely preserved even today, enabling many worshippers of Karl May to embark on an adventure and pass across the trails of Winnetou.

During the ‘Trails of Winnetou’ event visitors can visit places where Winnetou films were shot from 1962 to 1968 accompanied by an expert guide. Also organized are Winnetou film screenings, meetings with individual crew members and literary evenings. Visitors can enjoy horseback riding and archery, a ‘country and Western style’ entertainment program, and dinner in the open air with a campfire and country music, as well as the introduction of the participants to Croatian cultural heritage.

From a total of 10 films shot in Croatia and based on Karl May’s novels, half were filmed in the area of national parks Paklenica, Krka and Plitvice Lakes, Velebit Nature Park and River Zrmanja. During this time, members of the film crew stayed in the old motel ‘Alan’ in Starigrad, which makes the hotel of the same name a must for the lovers of Winnetou today. The hotel has been completely renovated and offers high quality services, and in one part of the hotel, visitors can see the exhibition of the original props used in Winnetou films.

The legendary Indian chief was played by Pierre Brice, who decided to travel to Paklenica Riviera in June 2007 and revisit the places where he starred in the role of his life in the 1960s.

Starigrad, which was built on the foundations of the ancient city of Argyruntum, is situated near the stunning canyon of Velika Paklenica and at the foot of the largest Croatian mountain Velebit which UNESCO included in the World Biosphere Reserves. Today, Starigrad is the seat of the Paklenica Riviera that offers crystal-clear sea, natural sandy beaches, mountain peaks, river rafting and preserved traces of past times as well as adventure tours, trekking, mountaineering, rafting, canoeing, bird watching, wellness, off-road driving, rich natural and cultural heritage, and plenty of fun.



Riviera Paklenica is located in the far northwestern part of the Zadar region and geographically belongs to northern Dalmatia. It stretches along some 20 miles of the Adriatic coast and is entirely located in a protected natural environment because Velebit, together with the coast has the status of a protected nature park. Canyons of Velika and Mala Paklenica, with surrounding forests have enjoyed an even greater protection status and were declared a national park in 1949.

Located nearby are five of the eight Croatian national parks (Paklenica, Kornati, Krka, Plitvice Lakes and Northern Velebit) and three nature parks (Velebit, Telaščica and Vransko Lake).

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

[www.zadar.hr](http://www.zadar.hr)

The Tourist Board of Starigrad Borough

[www.rivijera-paklenica.hr](http://www.rivijera-paklenica.hr)

# Zrmanja - Rafters' Delight

Zrmanja, one of the cleanest rivers in Europe, will in late April once again be a host to rafting enthusiasts in its unique canyon. A traditional regatta, which has made this karst river famous even outside the Croatian borders, will be held. The race lasts for two days, and the rafting descent trail takes 2-3 hours. The two-day event ends with a charity dinner and the traditional Miss Zrmanja beauty pageant. Also, apart from the race and other entertainment, organizers are preparing a series of interesting lectures on karst, hydrology of Zrmanja, ecology of karst, caves, flora and fauna of the river and its tributaries, and sustainable development of the canyon of Zrmanja.

River Zrmanja is located in northern Dalmatia, at the foot of Velebit Mountain. It originally springs from under the mountain Poštak in the southern part of Lika and flows into the Novigrad Sea 12 kilometers from Obrovac. It is 69 kilometers long, and because of the proximity of the sea it is suitable for rafting all year round.

Zrmanja will capture you with its beauty and is regarded by many as the most beautiful river in Croatia because of its canyons and waterfalls. Its crystal clear waters meander through some two hundred meters deep canyon. In it, the river has created numerous travertine waterfalls from which the 11 meters high waterfall Veliki Buk particularly stands out. Zrmanja is, due to its location and hard access, also called the "hidden beauty", and lovers of rafting have given her the name "Beauty and the Beast" because when it overflows, it offers one of the best rafting experiences in this part of Europe, and when its calm it lightly carries one through landscapes that do not leave anyone indifferent.



PHOTO: JOSIP MANDRACEVIC

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

[www.zadar.hr](http://www.zadar.hr)

The Town of Obrovac

[www.obrovac.hr](http://www.obrovac.hr)

## ■ Introducing

# Slavonski Brod - A prison as a Tourist Attraction

As part of the revitalization program, a replica of the largest Austro-Hungarian prison, located in Brno (Czech Republic) has been opened in Brod Fortress. There were not many interventions in the arrangement of the prison space. Everything was done authentically and reclaimed bricks were used without plastering. The construction involved only the partition walls for solitary confinement, the prison guard and the torture chamber. The replica of the Austro-Hungarian prison is one in a series of the living history program that has been conceived and realized by the Tourist Board of Slavonski Brod. Besides the prison, in the fortress there is an authentic apothecary, a blacksmith's shop, traditional kitchen, a bar and a gallery with the first permanent exhibition of contemporary Croatian art from the second half of the 20th century. More than 400 artworks can be seen in the gallery, including a scale model of the fortress which evokes a soldier's life on the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 18th and early 19th century. The Fortress in Brod was built by the Austrians, in the period between 1715 and 1780, and in the town which was one of the most important strategic and traffic centers that controlled the border crossing with Turkey and connected the main trade routes. This royal Slavonian frontier fortress on Sava River, together with the fortified Slavonian baroque towns of Osijek and Stara Gradiška belonged to the great defense system on the border towards the Turkish Empire. The fort was designed to accommodate 4000 soldiers and 150 cannons.

Although this was a frontier fortress it almost never had the opportunity to prove and demonstrate its combat power, and the bygone times of everyday military life that took place there are shown by many preserved fort objects.

In the center of the square there is a baroque church of St. Ana. Tourists are offered historical programs at the square, involving individuals dressed in uniforms of the 12th Slavonian Hussar Regiment from the second half of the 18th century.

The Brod Fortress is a unique and monumental example of military architecture from the 18th century Slavonia and also a monument of the highest category. In the part of the building which held the former Officer Pavilion, and today holds the City Council of Slavonski Brod, visitors can see the costumed dolls of border troops in actual size. Slavonski Brod, the sixth largest city in Croatia, is located in central Slavonia, near the Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.



PHOTO: DAMIR RAJLE



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Brod-Posavina County

[www.tzbpz.hr](http://www.tzbpz.hr)

The Tourist Board of Slavonski Brod

[www.tzgsb.hr](http://www.tzgsb.hr)



# Rijeka - Story of About a Torpedo

The Museum of the City of Rijeka has recently set up an exhibition on the first 100 years of Rijeka torpedoes – a superb and complex accomplishment of Rijeka’s inventors, technicians, and industrialists. The exhibition, which will be opened until mid-September this year, is the first step towards the museum collection – the ‘Museum of Industrial Heritage, Economy and Transport.

The story of the torpedo begins in the 1860s when Rijeka was rapidly evolving industrially and became a modern European city.

The inventor of the torpedo was Giovanni Luppis, born in Rijeka and from a family of wealthy ship-owners. Before his retirement as the captain of the Austrian frigate he was thinking about a new weapon called the “savior of the coast”. It was an elongated vessel filled with explosives with inconspicuous glass sails that could be operated from the shore.

Luppis presented the project to the Technical Committee of the Austrian Navy in 1861. The reaction was not positive, but Luppis did not give up and returned to Rijeka, where he contacted the industrialist Giovanni Ciotte, who later became the mayor of Rijeka, in the era of its greatest rise. Three years later Ciotte connects Luppis with the Director of Rijeka’s Technical Institute, Robert Whitehead, with whom he negotiates cooperation in perfecting Luppis’ model. But at one point Whitehead departs from Luppis’ approach and decides that the vessel should be immersed under water to reduce its visibility and impact on the course it takes.

In December 1866 he unveiled his prototype. For the trial launch in 1868, he installed his invention (the launcher) on the gunboat Gemsa. Completed in the shipyard of the brothers Schiavon in Rijeka, Gemsa became the first torpedo boat in the world.

In 1875 Whitehead opened a torpedo factory with an annual production of 800 models.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Torpedos from Rijeka were ordered by the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Argentina, Russia and other countries. The factory established plants abroad, and in time allowed licensed manufacturing around the world. Production of the torpedo in Rijeka lasted until 1966. Along the former factory halls, there is still a construction of a launcher from the 1930s. According to available sources, there were 20 323 torpedoes, 1053 launching tubes and 1368 high-pressure compressors produced in Rijeka from 1866 to August 1943. The production of torpedoes in the Rijeka factory stopped in 1966.

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-Goranska County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Rijeka

[www.tz-rijeka.hr](http://www.tz-rijeka.hr)

# A private museum and Zoo in Dalmatian Zagora

Grabovac, a little village in Central Dalmatia offers tourists a hunting museum and a zoo. The idea to enrich the tourist offer in this unusual way was thought of by Ante Dundić who in his hunting museum holds more than 650 exhibits. As part of the family estate he also opened a zoo with more than 260 animals, from several species of horses, deer, fallow deer, mouflon, chamois, Vietnamese pigs, wild boars and bears to various species of poultry and birds. Entrance to the museum is free. On the farm, visitors can see and try out different types of antique tools, carts and chariots, with horse riding and carriage rides also in the offer. The news of this unique museum and zoo in Grabovac reached the pages of 24 foreign magazines.

The village of Grabovac is located in the Borough of Šestanovac. It is an area with a number of excursion paths, ideal for recreational tourism, leading to a variety of attractive sites which provide a view of the beautiful and idyllic Dalmatian- Mediterranean hinterland. Nature Park Biokovo, with its numerous endemic species of Mediterranean flora, stands out with its natural beauty. The canyon of the largest Dalmatian river Cetina stretches to the south. The cliffs that rise above the river are suitable for free climbing, and there are locations for bungee jumping and paragliding. Situated along the canyon are old mills where the local population used to grind their grain decades ago. They fit perfectly into the landscape, creating a unique atmosphere.



PHOTO: DRAZEN BOTA

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Borough of Šestanovac

[www.opcina-sestanovac.hr](http://www.opcina-sestanovac.hr)

## ■ Croatia in the world

# CNN and Corriere della Sera - Dubrovnik Among the Most Romantic Destinations

“Dubrovnik is the new Saint Tropez”, was published recently in the most circulated Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, which recommended the tourist centre in southern Croatia as a romantic getaway for Valentine’s Day. A visit to Rome, Monsummano in Tuscany, and Dubrovnik was recommended in the printed edition, which has a daily circulation of about 700 000 copies and on the website, which is visited every day by more than a million readers, in an article entitled “Valentine’s Day: 72 hours of love”. “A jump to the other side of the Adriatic and we arrive in Dubrovnik, or Ragusa, if you prefer. Dubrovnik, which is considered to be the new Saint Tropez, is lively and modern and even in mid-February has a pleasant climate. Dubrovnik in winter offers historic charm, but without the tourist crowds that occur during the season, and a pleasant relaxing 2km long walk along its ancient city walls”, wrote the travel journalist Corrado Ruggeri.

The author recommends drinking coffee on the terrace of the City Café, enjoying Ston’s oysters or any other dish at the restaurant Nautica in which the Pope John Paul II also ate, and accommodation at the Hotel Excelsior, which he says is the best hotel in Croatia and a favorite residence of Roger Moore, the actor who portrayed the world’s most famous secret agent James Bond.

CNN has recently put Dubrovnik’s Hotel Excelsior at eighth place among the most desirable destinations for Valentine’s Day. Excelsior is also the only hotel in this part of Europe that has found itself on this prestigious list.

“Richard Burton kissed Elizabeth Taylor in an apartment of this cult hotel in Dubrovnik. It is a hotel where kings and queens, princesses and heads of states were entertained. Now it can be a place where you can seal your own love”, published CNN, describing Excelsior as spectacular.

In its long, 98-year old history, the hotel has witnessed many loves and events in which the world’s numerous social and political elite had participated.

Tiffany Lam, the author of the article recommends a romantic tour of the old town of Dubrovnik which is under the world protection of UNESCO, the Renaissance and Baroque churches, palaces and fountains and the island of lovers - Lokrum.

First place on CNN’s list of the most romantic locations went to England and its North Lees Hall, the second to the Great Wall of China and the third to the “pink city” of Jaipur in India. Next came the fairy-tale Irish castle of Lismore, the Indian hotel ‘360 ° Leti’, the Maldives, Shiraz in Iran and, following Dubrovnik’s “Excelsior”, New Zealand with the island of Otago, and finally the exotic city of Petra in Jordan.



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

CNN and Corriere della Sera are not the only ones who noticed the attraction of Dubrovnik. The British Guardian last year declared it the second most desirable destination for Valentine’s Day among 20 selected cities from around the world.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

[www.tzdubrovnik.hr](http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr)



# Split - CNN Proclaims the City of Diocletian «Craziest in the World»



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

The celebration of the 100th birthday of the football club Hajduk from Split was recorded by numerous international media, and on many Internet portals there were videos published of the recent impressive fireworks over Split, and also around the walls of Dubrovnik. Many readers expressed admiration for the spectacle that was staged in the sky. While describing the celebration in the city the American CNN used the phrase “Split confirmed its status of the craziest city in the world”, along with video footage from the burning Split, recalling the glorious history of the club for which the city lives.

“The spectacle was organized by Torcida, the oldest group of soccer supporters in Europe, which has acted for over 50 years. Enjoy the view of the craziest city in the world, Split really justifies this epithet”, CNN reported.

The respected French sports daily L'Equipe also reported on Hajduk's centennial anniversary, noting that Hajduk played Champions League quarter-finals three times in its history. During the celebration of the centennial of the club, Hajduk fans remembered a group of students who, on their return from Prague, brought the idea of founding a football club which was subsequently founded on the 13 February 1911. The two umbrella soccer organizations from Europe and the World, also covered Hajduk's celebration. FIFA reported on its official website that the celebrations began with “a spectacular fireworks display over the stadium on Poljud”.

On the cover of the UEFA website there was a headline: “Hajduk celebrated its centenary in style”.

The portal ‘Yahoo Sports’ paid great attention to the spectacular fireworks and torches, attaching two pictures and a video from Dubrovnik, on whose walls Hajduk supporters set fire to hundreds of torches.

“Hajduk supporters - known as Torcida, the oldest group of supporters in Europe, gave their all to make Split and several neighboring cities visible from space with thousands of torches” wrote Yahoo Sports, jokingly concluding that “it was clearly not just a great day for Hajduk and its supporters, but for anyone who sells torches in Croatia”.

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Split

[www.visitsplit.com](http://www.visitsplit.com)

# Croatia Desirable for Nudists

The website HotelsCombined, which among other things shows ratings of worldwide hotels, ranked Croatia in the ninth position on the scale of the most desirable places for tourists because of the program which was organized in Croatia by the British agency eWaterways. This agency, specializing in cruises, offers nudists a seven-day trip along the Croatian coast called “the naked cruise”. The cruise is planned for August this year, and nudists will be able to spend the whole time naked, except at dinner time. The cruise includes a visit to the islands of Rab, Molat, Olib, Mali Lošinj and Zadar.

Also found on the HotelsCombined list were Japan, Indonesia, Austria, Germany, Florida and Nevada. They were all there for celebrating nudism through nudist cycling races, “nudists’ spring showering” and the body painting festival. One of the most interesting places is certainly the “Naked City” in Cap d’Agde in France, where people perform their everyday tasks in the nude.



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

Hotels Combined

[www.hotelscombined.com](http://www.hotelscombined.com)

# Šolta - One of the Six Most Beautiful European Islands



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The British newspaper Telegraph has included the island of Šolta among the six most beautiful lesser-known European islands that are worth a visit. Journalist Francesca Syz, who has for years been dealing exclusively with travel and travel features, wrote that Šolta should be visited as well as a small Swedish town of Marstrand, the Greek town of Monemvasia, Isola La Maddalena in Sardinia, Ile de Porquerolles, near the world famous St. Tropez, and Sylt, one of the largest German islands which is located in the North Sea.

The British journalist wrote that partly due to karst, and partly because of the proximity of Split, tourists often choose better-known and more remote islands, unfairly neglecting Šolta which has, in the middle of the Dalmatian archipelago, remained “beautifully untouched, but still the home to a lively fishing community and functional vineyards and olive groves”.

The article says that the people of Split often flee to the island of Šolta in the summer, and gives as an example the Roman emperor Diocletian, “whose palace from the 4th century, in the heart of Split, is one of the most important historic buildings in the city “and who often went fishing in the bay Nečujam on the island of Šolta, where he also built a spa. As the most beautiful place on the island, the journalist singled out Maslinica, located in “one of the most protected bays on the Adriatic coast”.

Šolta is ideal for all those looking for a touch of simple island life, concluded the British Telegraph reporter.

Šolta belongs to the group of central Dalmatian islands. It is located between Brač in the east, Hvar in the southeast and the mainland in the northeast. It is an island measuring approximately 52 square kilometers, rich in flora and fauna. It has been inhabited since prehistoric times, and was first mentioned in the fourth century BC under the name Olyntha. The island is full of remains of buildings from the ancient and early Christian times, but aside from the rich historical and cultural heritage, Šolta offers tourists a lot more. The island is an ideal destination for lovers of long walks and bike rides through beautiful, unspoiled nature. Seafood lovers are recommended a visit to the bays Šešule and Maslinici, where they can enjoy the most beautiful of sunsets. Good wine and olive oil can be found along the entire island, the best accommodation is offered in Nečujam, and tennis courts in Stomorska.

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Šolta

[www.solta.hr](http://www.solta.hr)

The Telegraph

[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)



# Zagreb - Le Figaro Praises the Capital of Croatia



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

“The Croatian capital is an excellent weekend destination”, was recently published in the French daily newspaper Le Figaro.

Zagreb with its double identity - a unique blend of Slavic and Mediterranean culture of life presents a unique picture that should definitely be discovered. Its traditional appearance, the history of the city and its unique flavor, according to the newspaper Le Figaro, have in recent years been enriched by an important novelty - a magnificent building of the Museum of Contemporary Art, because of which Zagreb should be taken seriously as the new art center of the whole region.

“The Museum of Arts and Crafts has just opened a fascinating exhibition dedicated to Art Deco between 1925 and 1939 in central Europe”, writes Le Figaro and among the exhibits mentions the sculptures of “the great Meštrović”.

In the article, the French daily praises the “enchanting beauty” of the Upper Town and refers to the Lower Town as a “manifesto of historicism”, where the Strossmayer gallery with the old masters in the neo- Renaissance palace is worth a visit.

Le Figaro recommends some of Zagreb’s restaurants and bars and cheese and sour cream on the markets, while among Zagreb hotels it mentions the Regent Esplanade as “the most beautiful hotel in Zagreb”, which is also party dedicated to Art Deco.

Zagreb, stated further in the article, seems perfectly preserved in the “green horseshoe” of gardens and parks that surround the historic center. In addition to the well known observations in which the author expresses her impressions of her stroll through the Upper Town or the Dolac market, she mentions that life on the streets, especially during the warm months, is extremely lively.

In culinary terms, as the introductory spot for exploring local wines, she pointed out the winery ‘Bornstein’, ‘Balthazar’ restaurant and bistro ‘Amphora’ under the arcades of Dolac, where during the day, the older locals from Zagreb tend to gather.

For shopping, she lists two unavoidable addresses, the flea market on Sunday morning on Britanski Trg, and the store Sheriff & Cherry, where you can buy original Croatian ‘Startas’ sneakers.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb  
[www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr](http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr)

Le Figaro  
[www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr)

# Dubrovnik - Bond Girl is Delighted With the «Pearl of the Adriatic»

Recently published in the printed and online edition of the British Guardian was a big travel feature on the beauties of Croatia by actress Gemma Arterton. In an article entitled “I was a Bond girl, but this was the biggest Bond moment of my life”, the actress transmits impressions from her last year’s holiday in Hvar and Dubrovnik, which she characterized as one of the most romantic places in the world.

The British actress became famous with her role in the 22nd James Bond film entitled ‘Quantum of Solace’ and roles in American blockbusters “Prince of Persia: Sands of Time”, “Clash of the Titans” and “Tamara Drewe”. Whilst in Dubrovnik, she stayed with a friend at Hotel Excelsior, where her photograph was taken for the “Wall of Fame”, a gallery of celebrities who stayed there in the last century. The actress was delighted with the beauty and views of the city and announced that she will return with her husband for a romantic holiday, which Dubrovnik is perfect for. Most of all she was thrilled she could freely enjoy her holiday away from camera flashes. Apart from the romantic and glamorous holiday in Dubrovnik, Gemma Arterton recommended to readers the beauty of the island of Hvar and its hidden bays.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

[www.tzdubrovnik.hr](http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr)

The Guardian

[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

# Gadling - Croatia Among the Top Destinations for Adventurists



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

Gadling Travel Blog recently listed Croatia among the ten most desirable destinations for lovers of adventure travels. The blog explains how Eastern Europe was a closely guarded secret during the last decade but has now turned into the most popular destination for those desiring to learn about unique cultures and magnificent history and art, and singles out Croatia as a leading destination for lovers of adrenaline. For those who love the sea, the blog recommends a cruise along the Adriatic or scuba diving at locations with ship wrecks; lovers of rowing will encounter crystal clear rivers and beautiful landscapes and mountains, especially in the nature park Učka and its view of the Kvarner Bay, which leaves one breathless.

Together with Croatia, the Gadling list includes: the United States, Ethiopia, Argentina, New Zealand, India, Guyana, Botswana, Turkey and the North Pole.

Gadling

[www.gadling.com](http://www.gadling.com)



## ■ Research

# Croatia Instead of Egypt and Tunisia

Riots and political turmoil in North Africa affected the change in plans of tourists from Germany so as an alternative to Egypt and Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, and especially Bulgaria and Croatia have imposed themselves, according to the research conducted by the agency “GfK Travel Insights”.

The study is based on reservations data collected from 1200 travel agencies in Germany. GfK said that the turmoil in North Africa for a majority of German tourists meant the postponement of trips to Egypt and Tunisia planned for the pre-summer period, as well as the fall in demand for summer vacation in these countries. After Spain and Turkey, Egypt is the third most popular package- tour destination among Germans, and nearly a third of the total annual Egypt holiday package sales are carried out in Germany in January, says the report.

The Germans, it adds, now considerably use the opportunity of free rebooking or choosing alternative vacation destinations offered by travel agencies. Turkey and Spain have especially great advantages of these options, with a rise in bookings between 35 and 45 percent in the first few weeks of this year. Other alternative routes are Italy and Cyprus, and especially Bulgaria and Croatia, the report said. The Germans are very important for Croatian tourism because they have the highest number of arrivals and overnight stays among foreign tourists in Croatia. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, last year generated more than 1.5 million tourist arrivals from Germany to Croatia, and 11.5 million overnight stays, which is a share of 22.5 percent of total foreign tourist nights in Croatia in 2010.

GfK - Centar for market research

[www.gfk.hr](http://www.gfk.hr)



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

## ■ Investments

# Zagreb - Hotel Dubrovnik Gets a Makeover



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Zagreb's four-star Hotel Dubrovnik, has recently renovated its rooms and suites, adapting them to the guests' needs. Modern and luxurious rooms and suites are equipped with the finest decorative fabrics, LCD TVs, anti-allergy bedding, luxurious bed linen, high anatomic beds with leather headboards and comfortable armchairs. Also converted was the conference - banquet hall.

In the final phase of reconstruction during the summer of the current year, refurbishment of the roof, facade and construction of a new large entrance to the hotel, with a new reception and lounge bar and lobby are also expected. Hotel Dubrovnik was built in 1929. It is located in the heart of the city and from its 237 rooms and eight suites there is a magnificent view of the old town core, the Upper Town and Kaptol, the hills of Medvednica and the pedestrian zone also known as the Zagreb "peak hour". Located a few steps from the hotel are some of the most important cultural landmarks, government and economic institutions, shopping zones, open markets, parks and walkways.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

[www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr](http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr)

Hotel Dubrovnik

[www.hotel-dubrovnik.hr](http://www.hotel-dubrovnik.hr)

# Stubičke Toplice - A New Health Tourism Resort



PHOTO: DAMIR FAJLIJANIC

The construction of a new health and tourist resort should soon begin in Stubičke Toplice (Stubičke Spa), and the investment value is estimated at 105 million Euros. The complex will be spread across about 125,000 square meters where three hotels will be built, one five and two four-star hotels, as well as a complex of thermal spas, wellness zones and a large aqua park. A convention centre as well as a trade-business and polyclinic-medical centres will also be built. The larger Grand hotel will have 450 beds, while the other two, Stubaki and Maximilian will hold 250 beds each. Also planned is the building of eco-villas and ethno villages with a mill as it once existed, and the Special Hospital for sports injuries with around 50 beds.

Stubičke Toplice is located 40 kilometers north of Zagreb, and 80 percent of the municipality is located in the Nature Park Medvednica, a valuable area with rarely preserved and almost untouched nature. It is a tame area with plenty of green hills, from which the hill Kamenjak stands out, just above the bathing grounds with medicinal thermal waters. Stubičke Toplice was first mentioned in 1567, and it is assumed that the old Romans had used it. The first pool was built in 1776 and subsequently Stubičke Toplice became a thermal bathing ground and spa in the 19th century, while in the early 20th century it was known throughout Central Europe as a fashionable spa.

The carriers of the tourism offer, recreation, health and conference tourism with a longest tradition, are hotel "Matija Gubec" and Special Hospital for Medical Rehabilitation.

The hotel has 220 beds and closed and semi-closed pools with thermal curative water. Pleasant climate, richness of nature and thermal waters provide opportunities for visits to the open bathing grounds with eight pools, from spring to autumn.

The Special hospital for medical rehabilitation is known as a tourist health center in Croatia. In addition to the core business of healing and rehabilitation, the hospital has developed the following programs: medical program for active holidays, a program for pensioners, an anti-stress program, a program for managers, weight loss and remedial programs.

The thermal water of Stubičke Toplice is characterized by high temperatures of 43-63 degrees centigrades, and it matches the quality of the famous thermal waters in Karlovy Vary.

The Tourist Board of Krapina-Zagorje County

[www.tz-zagorje.hr](http://www.tz-zagorje.hr)

Stubičke Toplice

[www.stubicketoplice.hr](http://www.stubicketoplice.hr)



# Umag - The Apartment Resort Stella Maris has Enriched its Offer

The apartment complex Stella Maris in Umag should welcome guests at Easter in a new edition in which it plans to invest around 26 million Kuna. The project envisions reconstruction of 134 apartments and associated facilities, like the pool, sun deck and the children's sports field. The resort, which is aimed primarily at families, will hold four stars.

Stella Maris has for many years been famous for the tennis tournament ATP Croatia Open Umag. The resort has 207 modern apartments, numerous catering facilities, a small port with 80 berths, an outdoor seawater pool and a children's pool. The resort offers a large selection for fans of sport, and is widely known for its tennis center with fourteen clay and one concrete court.

Stella Maris is situated two kilometers from the center of Umag, a town on the northwestern coast of Istria, a well-known sporting and tourist destination. It was discovered by Roman noblemen and used as their summer residence. The magnificence and splendor of those times is reflected today in the Venetian houses in the old part of Umag. The hinterland of Umag hides previously little-known tourist attractions, such as climbing, caving and other activities for adventure enthusiasts.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of Istria County

[www.istra.hr](http://www.istra.hr)

Istraturist

[www.istraturist.com](http://www.istraturist.com)

## ■ Projects

# Ston - A Museum of Viticulture and Enology

The first Croatian Museum of Viticulture and Enology will soon open in Putniković, which is located 20 km from Mali Ston. The museum will not only show exhibits, but also arrange visits to vineyards and wine tastings, and the wine there will be archived in a kind of wine bank. The museum, covering an area of 750 square meters, will present and sell wines and souvenirs related to viticulture and winemaking. Also planned is the opening of an agricultural pharmacy and a wine Academy for education of sommeliers and all those involved in viticulture and enology. Exhibited in the museum will be an archaeological collection, tools and props for the cultivation of vineyards and wine production, an ethnographic collection and a collection of wine labels and bottles.

The museum will be opened in the heart of the Pelješac wine-growing region, renowned for the production of premium red wines from which the most valuable ones are from Dingač and Postup sites.

Mali Ston was founded in the 14th century by the people of Dubrovnik, who had built rectangular walls around the settlement's land and sea sides. The construction of a fortress with five towers called Koruna, began on the south side, in the 14th century. Stretching from the fortress is the Great Wall which branches out to the fortress Podzvizd, which was built for defensive purposes in the 14th century. The wall is 5,5 km long and reinforced with 40 towers and seven watch towers. Due to its impressive length, it is called the "European Wall of China". Mali Ston is widely known for its oyster shells. It is an ideal place to relax with an abundance of beautiful bays and beaches for swimming. For fishing fans, Mali Ston is the right destination, while those who want quality and fresh fish dishes can visit its famous taverns and restaurants.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Ston

[www.ston.hr](http://www.ston.hr)

# Novi Vinodolski - The Islet San Marino Enriches its Offer

The well known tourist destination of Kvarner, Novi Vinodolski, will enter the season with another attractive tourist offer this year. The plan is to give the island of San Marino a makeover. The island is located only 200 meters from the central town beach of Novi Vinodolski. It is an island which is, due to its attractive appearance, a very common theme of tourism promotional material. The island had so far lacked in content and has mainly served as a motif for photographers and used by sun bathers but the project entitled 'The eight winds of the island of St. Marin' envisages the reconstruction of the existing small Gothic church, dedicated to St. Marin, after whom the island was named as well as the fishermen's huts which are currently in ruins. Also planned is the construction of two moors for smaller boats, access paths and walkways, eight benches placed in the direction of the eight winds and an area for events.

Novi Vinodolski has evolved from the old Frankopan fort Novigrad. Thanks to the evergreen vegetation and mild Mediterranean climate, clean water and air, it became a pioneer of seaside tourism in 1878, following Opatija. The physiognomy of the town is characterized by coastal architecture of white facades and red roofs, which rise in the old town core from the sea level up to the church and tower on the hill. The soul of the city are the remains of cultural heritage: the walls of a Roman fort "Lopsica", the remains of the Paulist friars' monastery, the Frankopan castle with a tower, the cathedral, the church of Holy Trinity and the mentioned church of St. Marin on the island of the same name, the Museum and Gallery, the core of the old city, as well as the authentic folklore of this city.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-Goranska County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Novi Vinodolski

[www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr](http://www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr)



# 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](mailto:kroatien-tourismus@t-online.de)

## Kroatische Zentrale für Tourismus

Hochstr., 43, 60311 FRANKFURT, DEUTSCHLAND  
tel: +49 69 238 5350  
fax: +49 69 2385 3520

e-mail: [info@visitkroatien.de](mailto:info@visitkroatien.de)

## 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](mailto: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: [officeroma@enteturismocroato.it](mailto:officeroma@enteturismocroato.it)

## Chorvatské turistické sdružení

Krakovská 25, 110 00 PRAHA 1, ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA  
tel: +420 2 2221 1812  
fax: +420 2 2221 0793

e-mail: [info@htz.cz](mailto:info@htz.cz); [infohtz@iol.cz](mailto:infohtz@iol.cz)

## 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: [infos.croatie@wanadoo.fr](mailto:infos.croatie@wanadoo.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-croatia@scarlet.be](mailto:info-croatia@scarlet.be)

## Oficina de Turismo de Croacia

Calle Claudio Coello 22, esc. B, 1ºC,  
28001 MADRID, ESPAÑA  
tel.: +34 91 781 5514  
fax.: +34 91 431 8443

e-mail: [info@visitacroacia.es](mailto:info@visitacroacia.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](mailto: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@kroatien.at](mailto:office@kroatien.at)

## Chorvátske turistické združenie

Trenčianska 5, 821 09 BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA  
tel: +421 2 55 562 054  
fax: +421 2 55 422 619

e-mail: [infohtz@chello.sk](mailto:infohtz@chello.sk)

## 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: [cntony@earthlink.net](mailto:cntony@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](mailto: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](mailto:info@chorwacja.home.pl)

## Kroatiska Turistbyrån

Kungsgatan 24, 11135 STOCKHOLM, SVERIGE  
tel: +46 853 482 080  
fax: +46 820 24 60

e-mail: [croinfo@telia.com](mailto:croinfo@telia.com)

## Kroatisch Nationaal Bureau Voor Toerisme

Nijenburg 2F, 1081 GG AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
tel: +31 20 661 64 22  
fax: +31 20 661 64 27

e-mail: [kroatie-info@planet.nl](mailto:kroatie-info@planet.nl)

## Хорватское туристическое сообщество

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](mailto:htz@wtt.ru)

## Hrvaška turistična skupnost

Gospodstvska 2, 1000 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIJA  
tel: +386 1 23 07 400  
fax: +386 1 230 74 04

e-mail: [hrinfo@siol.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@visitcroatia.jp)

Editor: Croatian National Tourist Board  
[www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)