

Newsletter

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PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

Contents

News

| | |
|--|---|
| Mali Lošinj - Campsite Čikat opens a family fun park | 2 |
| Lopud - The refurbished Lafodia opens its doors | 3 |
| Vukovar receives FIJET's award | 4 |
| Zagreb - Tourism Marketing Film Awards | 4 |

Events

| | |
|---|----|
| Dubrovnik, Pula, Motovun - The art of film under a starry sky | 5 |
| Umag - A town of tennis and tourism | 6 |
| Dubrovnik - Summer Festival | 7 |
| Slavonski Brod - Fišijada | 8 |
| Senj - The days of the Uskok knights | 9 |
| Koprivnica - Motifs of Podravina | 10 |
| Zadar - Arrival of the world's best pilots | 11 |
| Novi Vinodolski, Pag i Makarska - Summer under masks | 12 |

Projects

| | |
|--|----|
| Varaždin - Back yards as a tourist attraction | 14 |
| Pula - Former shelters become a tourist attraction | 15 |

Investments

| | |
|--|----|
| Zadar - The construction of the hotels Maraska and Hilton begins | 16 |
| Biokovo - The Dalmatian hinterland calls for tourists | 16 |

Croatia in the world

| | |
|---|----|
| Petrčane - The music festival near Zadar among the 10 best in the world | 17 |
| Rab - The birthplace of nudism | 18 |
| TripAdvisor: Dubrovnik among the best European destinations | 19 |
| After Vis, the Guardian reports on Velebit | 20 |
| Croatia on National Geographic's list of top cruise destinations | 21 |
| Croatian »sobes« praised in the LA Times | 22 |
| Rijeka - Peek&Poke among the top 50 exquisite European destinations | 23 |
| Rabac - Hotel Valamar Bellevue among the 100 best in the world | 24 |
| Rovinj - Valalta among the best nudist beaches | 25 |

Introducing

| | |
|--|----|
| Opatija - A one hundred year old walkway | 26 |
|--|----|

■ News

Mali Lošinj - Campsite Čikat opens a family fun park



PHOTO: DAMIL KALOGJERA

Family fun park Pepé was recently opened within the family campsite Čikat, on the island of Lošinj. This is the first children's fun park in a Croatian campsite and one of the first of its kind in Europe. The park stretches over 500 square metres, of which 200 metres is indoor space and 300 metres is in the open air, including a go-cart track. The interior of the fun park is equipped by the highest child safety standards. The floors are covered with special anti trauma base, so children cannot be hurt should they experience a fall, while the venue also has the most modern ventilation and air conditioning system, which lessens the danger of any kind of allergies.

The family park is equipped with four themed facilities for children up to 12 years of age. The Baby area, for example, is designed for the youngest visitors from one to four years of age. All the facilities in this area stimulate the socialisation and psycho-motor skills of children.

There will be various sports competitions organised in the sports arena, different performances, a mini disco, a karaoke show, fancy dress parties, art workshops, film projections, various games for stimulating motor skills and other activities. Next to the family fun park there is a restaurant offering children's menus. Here, visitors will also be able to organise birthday parties for their guests. The park is run by qualified staff, who also offer childcare services.

Campsite Čikat has profiled itself as a family campsite in which up until now there were numerous animation programs for children, with sports and recreation facilities, for which it has won the title of a child friendly camp and with the opening of the fun park it offers its youngest guests even more entertainment.

Campsite Čikat is the largest on the island of Lošinj and can accommodate 2500 persons. It is located along the rocky, one thousand metre long beach, while the two small bays are ideal for children to swim in. In the vicinity of the camp are two diving, surfing and sailing schools, tennis courts and a mini golf court. The campsite is rich in indigenous plants and beautifully fragranced gardens can be found within it.

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj

www.tz-malilosinj.hr

Campsite Čikat

www.camp-cres-losinj.com/cikat/hrv

Lopud - The refurbished Lafodia opens its doors



PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIĆ

After an almost three year long refurbishment process and 40 million invested euros, the Lafodia Hotel & Resort on Lopud has opened its doors. The four star hotel has 182 rooms and a string of additional facilities: bars, restaurants, pools, a tennis court and a congress hall with a hundred and fifty seats. Far from the bustle of the city, surrounded by the sea and palm trees, the hotel offers ideal accommodation for guests looking for an intimate place to relax. Located along the sea itself, the hotel is surrounded by a beautiful forest and quiet landscape because there are no motorised vehicles on Lopud. It is located a half an hours walk from the well known sandy beach Šunj, while Dubrovnik, which is nine miles away, can be reached in less than 50 minutes sailing. As part of the Elafit Islands, Lopud is a small jewel in the blueness of the Adriatic Sea. Its name comes from the Greek Dalafot, which was later Romanised into Lafod. Second in size among the Elafit Islands, Lopud is located northwest of Dubrovnik, between the islands Koločep and Šipan and throughout history it was often referred to as the middle island (Insula Media). The surface of the island is 4.63 square km, with a population of around 220. Lopud has 11.5 km of coast and a beautiful 1.2 km long sandy beach. Thanks to the mild climate with around 2600 sunny hours per annum, the island is covered with dense Mediterranean vegetation. Lopud used to be the island of captains – its inhabitants were the ones who mostly contributed to the maritime affairs of Dubrovnik Republic.

According to Dubrovnik's historian Razzi, Lopud of the 16th century had 30 churches, numerous summer houses, a few convents and a lot more inhabitants than today. Ruins of early mediaeval churches, summer houses and forts can still be seen on Lopud.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

Hotel Lafodia

www.lafodiahotel.com

www.lafodiaphoto.com

Vukovar receives FIJET's award



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Vukovar was recently awarded the 'Zlatna jabuka' (Golden Apple), an award from the World Association of Journalists and Writers in tourism (FIJET), for research of Vučedol Culture and its promotion in Croatia and the world. After Dubrovnik in 1996 and Split in 2002, Vukovar is the third Croatian city which has won this prestigious award. 'Zlatna jabuka' was handed over to Tijana Hadad, by the president of FIJET, who pointed out that Vučedol Culture does not only belong to Vukovar and Croatia but also to the whole world. FIJET's 'Zlatna jabuka' award is incorporated into a special sculpture – inside a glass Vučedol dove which is fixed onto a piece of 5800 year old wood. In the future, the sculpture will be permanently exhibited at the Vučedol museum which is being constructed at the moment.

FIJET was founded in 1954 in Paris and today has 35 member countries. The 'Zlatna jabuka' award was established by FIJET in 1970 and is awarded for the preservation and upgrading of historical and cultural heritage in the function of tourism development. Croatian towns Rovinj and Opatija have been nominated for this award in 2014. The archaeological site Vučedol is located along the coast of Danube, five kilometres downstream from Vukovar and is one of the most significant sites of the Neolithic. In its full glory the Vučedol Culture stretched across a large area, seven hundred kilometres wide, including ten European countries of today: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania.

The Tourist Board of Vukovar-Srijem County

www.tzvsz.hr

The Tourist Board of Vukovar

www.turizamvukovar.hr

Zagreb - Tourism Marketing Film Awards



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The marketing films of the Tourist Board of Zagreb, 'Zagreb, Zagreb' and 'Moonlight Sonata Zagreb', have recently won the Grand Prix Italia award for the best tourism videos at the international festival of tourism films, the Tourfilm Festival in the town of Lecce. Participating in the festival were 14 films from Croatia, competing with tourism films from 60 countries from around the world, in ten categories. The film Zagreb, Zagreb won the Arara de Bronze award in the «People, Cultures and Traditions» category at the international Tourfilm festival in Brazil 2011.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

■ Events

Dubrovnik, Pula, Motovun - The art of film under a starry sky

Croatia is the promised land in July, for all lovers of the seventh art form because it offers as many as three interesting film festivals. Chronologically speaking, the first is Libertas Film Festival, one of the many cultural events in Dubrovnik. The seventh edition of this festival will be held from 2-6 July, and the organisers have again this year thought up a rich and high quality program. It is a festival which brings to Dubrovnik audiences some of the most interesting film accomplishments of independent productions. Presented within the program there are: feature films, documentaries and short films, while the ambience certainly adds to the uniqueness of the festival. Every film projection is shown in the open air among the ancient walls of Dubrovnik. After Dubrovnik, film lovers' attention will be drawn by the 58th Feature Film Festival in Pula, which is one of the oldest film festivals in Europe. A few years ago the London Guardian proclaimed the Pula Film Festival one of the three best and most spectacular European open air festivals. This year, from 9-23 July, the audience will be able to enjoy a varied program with international and domestic film novelties.



PHOTO: DAMIL KALOGERA

Only two days after the festival in Pula, in the nearby Istrian town of Motovun, held from the 25-29 July, for the 13th time running, will be the Motovun Film Festival. But the organisers have decided to hold the festival under the number – 14!

In the past few years a new rule has emerged – every true film lover must visit Motovun at the end of July, because at that time this Istrian town turns itself into a Croatian film Mecca. This picturesque town on the top of a steep hill makes an ideal ambience for the festival, which stubbornly



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO



PHOTO: DAMIR FABLIJANIC

neglects the commercial character of cinematography and supports independent film making. Films of the newest world production can be seen in Motovun, regardless of their genre. This five day film marathon with all day projections can satisfy the biggest of appetites. The festival offers top quality entertainment even at times when visitors' attention is not drawn to the movie screen.

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istra.com

The Tourist Board of Pula

www.istria-pula.com

Pula Film Festival

www.pulafilmfestival.hr

The Tourist Board of Motovun Borough

www.tz-motovun.hr

Motovun film festival

www.istra-motovun.com

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

Libertas film festival

www.libertasfilmfestival.com

Umag - A town of tennis and tourism

PHOTO: ATP CROATIA OPEN



This summer, Umag will once again become the unavoidable centre of tennis, beauty, entertainment, and experiences of flavours and fragrances of Istria. Held from 21-31 July is the ATP Studena Croatia Open Umag, the oldest and most renowned tennis tournament in Croatia and the region, with a tradition of more than two decades. In the calendar, the ATP in Umag stands out as a place of top tennis with a rich accompanying program that includes tourist, gastro and entertainment events. All of these events, in the unique location of the ATP stadium in the vicinity of the sea and 'the most beautiful small stadium in the world' give this tennis tournament a special charm and it is visited time and time again by sports people and visitors.

This year, visitors can expect 11 days of top quality tennis, lots of fun but also - gastro novelties. Held as part of the tournament will be the Istria Gourmet Festival, a gastro manifestation, whose aim is to gather all the best that Istria has to offer in the area of gourmet, wine and olive oil, as to present this indigenous, rich offer to its guests.

Umag, a picturesque Mediterranean harbour town, is the first tourist destination that one comes across when entering the northern part of the Croatian coast.

It is located in an attractive bay which harbours one of the most prestigious marinas in the Adriatic. Natural beauties, history and tradition of the old town of Umag and the

surrounding area of Istria, the warm Mediterranean climate with plenty of sun during most of the year and top quality hotels, campsites, apartment resorts and bungalows, make Umag an ideal place for a family holiday. It is also attractive for its all year round various wellness and sports offers, extremely respected gastronomy, wine and olive roads.

Umag has an especially interesting history. A long time ago it was discovered by Roman noblemen who decided to make it their summer residence. The glitz and glamour of these times are reflected even today in the old town core of Umag, which is full of Venetian houses. There are preserved parts of walls and towers, Renaissance and Baroque buildings and churches, among which the most famous are the parish churches of St. Marija and St. Pelegrin.

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istra.com

The Tourist Board of Umag-Novigrad cluster

www.coloursofistria.com

ATP Studena Croatia Open Umag

www.croatiaopen.hr

Dubrovnik - Summer Festival



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

Dubrovnik Summer Festival is the oldest and most prestigious Croatian festival. Ever since 1956, the festival has been building its charisma and with the help of the prestigious association of European festivals has become a part of European integrations. Every year visitors of the festival can enjoy the most beautiful pieces of classical music and top theatre performances, comfortably located among ancient city walls during the summer nights. Classic plays and ballet performances are shown on streets and squares of this proud Renaissance-Baroque city.

The Dubrovnik summer festival has from year to year accommodated world famous composers, soloists and orchestras. Once again this year, the program of the 62nd festival will be filled with names of famous artists. From 10-25 August, the amazing beauty of Dubrovnik's streets, squares, green surfaces, palaces and mediaeval forts will once again become witness to the greatest artists of the world.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik- Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr

Slavonski Brod - Fišijada (Fish soup festival)

‘Fiš’ (pronounced fish), a spicy fish soup, is one of the trademarks of Slavonian gastronomy and one of the dishes which simply must be tasted when visiting Slavonia. Held every year in Slavonski Brod at the beginning of July is a competition in which more than a hundred lovers of ‘fiš’ demonstrate their culinary skills in an attempt to win the title of the best ‘fiš’ master and prove that it is their unique recipe that is unbeatable. The culinary challenge is usually accompanied by a good drop of Slavonian wine, merry songs and tambura band music.

The traditional competition is held on the small city public bathing ground, which was in the past a gathering area for only about 20 lovers of ‘fiš’, while today fishermen from the whole of Europe come to Slavonski Brod to attend ‘Fišijada’. This year the competition will be held on the first day of July.

Apart from the rich gastronomy offer, the town on the River Sava and its surroundings offer numerous cultural and historical sites, among which are the fort in Brod and the Franciscan monastery. The Austrian Empire built the Fort in the period between 1715 and 1780. Together with the fortified Slavonian Baroque cities Osijek and Stara Gradiška, it belonged to the large defence system on the border towards the Turkish Empire. The star shaped fort was predicted to accommodate 4000 troops and 150 cannons. Even though it was a military fort on the border, it almost never got the opportunity to prove its battle power. Numerous preserved fortified objects remind of the past times of military life that went on there. Today many organised manifestations are held in the Fort, which was proclaimed a monument of the highest category. The hosts regularly hold ‘living history’ programs with participants dressed up as horsemen from the second half of the 18th century, as well as other characters from the history of the Fort, such as commanders, clerks, guards and craftsmen.

Along with the historical heritage, the Slavonia-Brod area is especially interesting to hunters and fishermen as this is an extremely rich hunting area in which there are some of the largest fish ponds in this part of Europe. There are also numerous places to visit and protected landscape areas which make this area more and more interesting to tourists.



PHOTO: DAMIR RAJLE



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAZEN STOJČIĆ

The Tourist Board of Brod-Posavina County

www.tzbpz.hr

The Tourist Board of Slavonski Brod

www.tzgsb.hr

Senj - The days of the Uskok knights

The glorious history of Senj, a maritime town at the foot of the slopes of north Velebit, is marked by the courage of the Uskok knights. The people of Senj remember this most famous period in their history during the days of the Uskok knights. This is a three day event at which knight tournaments and military reviews are held, while the whole city is under siege day and night. Visitors can seek refreshments in knight camps, where they can try mediaeval dishes or be entertained by mediaeval comedians and Renaissance music players.

During these days Senj goes back into the Middle Ages, more precisely, into the time when Fort Nehaj – the most famous monument of the town - was built. This year`s event will be held on 9-10 July. The organisers are also preparing a fair of traditional crafts and a demonstration of life in mediaeval Senj. The Uskok knights from Senj and other guest knight groups will demonstrate knightly duels, daily and knightly sieges of Fort Nehaj and knightly tournaments. Fort Nehaj was built to serve in the defence of the town in 1558. It was constructed by materials from torn down churches, monasteries and houses, primarily located outside the city walls. This is where the knights of Senj resided. They fought bravely against a much stronger enemy and so became a legend, with traditional songs written about them. The fort is open for visitors and many cultural and musical events, science conventions and other events are held within it. From the top of the fort stretches a beautiful view of the Croatian coastal area and the islands of Rab, Goli, Prvić, Cres, Krk and also the mountains Of Gorski Kotar, Učka and Velebit. Exhibited in the fort is a collection named `The knights of Senj and the coastal captaincy`, as well as `Senj`s churches throughout history` and `The city`s noble coat of arms`.



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

The Tourist Board of Lika-Senj County

www.lickosenjska.com

The Tourist Board of Senj

www.tz-senj.hr

Koprivnica - Motifs of Podravina

PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO



Naïve painting is an original Croatian style which portrays motifs from life in villages in harmony with nature and all its beauty. This is the life of Podravina villages, spacious fields, forests and arable land. So during the first weekend in the month of July, Koprivnica turns itself into a large exhibition space dedicated exclusively to naïve art.

On the central town square, under a bright Podravina sky, about a hundred painters create works during three days, celebrating the richness and artistic accomplishments of the Hlebinska School of naïve painting on glass and wooden sculptures.

Podravina is the `birth place` of Croatian naïve art, which started at the beginning of the 1930`s, under the watchful eye of Academic painter Krsto Hegedušić, who recognized the authentic creative voice in the paintings of two young local men – Generalić and Mraz. With the encouragement of critics and the public, these artists spread their experience further, so gradually, a large number of painters and sculptors became active in Hlebina and Podravina. Today, in the area of this small region there are more than 300 naïve artists. With a symbolic handing over of the keys of the city, naïve painters and sculptors will `rule` Koprivnica from 1-3 July and so turn the city into a large gallery of naïve art, by which they will attract a large number of visitors, buyers, gallery owners and art lovers. The fair under the name `Motifs of Podravina` will also be held in Hlebina – the birth place of naïve art and the most famous naïve art painter, Ivan Generalić. Along with the rich gastronomy offer, interested visitors will be able to spend a day or more in this tame Podravina village and enjoy the interesting, dynamic village lifestyle or simply rest in Podravina`s untouched nature which has been a constant inspiration for local artists.

Koprivnica, the central town in Podravina, was proclaimed a free royal town in 1356. It was named after the small river Koprivnica, and the settlement is first mentioned in 1272.

The Tourist Board of Koprivnica-Križevci County

www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr

The Tourist Board of Koprivnica

www.koprivnicatourism.com

Zadar - Arrival of the world`s best pilots

On the 20th of July, Zadar will be the host to the aces of the sky – airplane pilots who will participate in the Adria Air Race Zadar 2011. This is an air show and an airplane race which will be attended by the best acrobatic pilots from various parts of the world. The race itself will take place above Zadar`s seafront, while the number of competition categories that participants will be competing in is what makes this competition stand out from the others.

The first discipline will be an acrobatic race between pylons and to make the race more exciting for visitors of the air show, the organisers decided to include different types of aircraft. In the second discipline, the first four from the first discipline will compete with each other. The third discipline is freestyle in which pilots can show off their skills in the time frame of five minutes. The winner of this discipline will be chosen by the audience and the judges.



PHOTO: AERoclub AIRSPORTS CROATIA

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

www.zadar.hr

The Tourist Board of Zadar

www.tzzadar.hr

Novi Vinodolski, Pag i Makarska - Summer under masks

Summer is a time for vacations, enjoying the sun and the sea, getting to know new destinations and people, but during all of this, room should be left for fun and entertainment and this is exactly what is offered by Novi Vinodolski, Pag and Makarska, which have kept the tradition of summer carnivals.

This year, lively masked parades will take over Novi Vinodolski on the 1st and 2nd of July. Traditionally during these days, there is no room for serious faces and frowns because smiles and laughter spread across the town like a disease. The locals prepare an unforgettable event and invite guests to hide their faces under masks, leave their worries behind and have a good time.

Novi Vinodolski is a tourist town which has developed from the old fort Novigrad in the central part of the north Croatian coastal area. Thanks to the evergreen vegetation and mild weather conditions of this part of the Mediterranean, the clean sea and air, it was included in the line of tourism pioneers of the coastal area right after Opatija, in 1878. The town is characterized by coastal architecture of white fronts and red rooftops, which rise in the old town core from the sea level to the church and the tower on the hill. The hospitality of the locals, the crystal clear sea, the town and its surroundings, without industrial pollution, the mountain air from the high forests of the hinterland, which are suitable for hunting tourism, are all the things that make Novi Vinodolski so special.

Contrary to the carnival in Novi Vinodolski, the carnival in Pag is held at the end of July (29th and 30th). It is the oldest carnival in the Adriatic, which is in itself a guarantee that visitors will experience something far from the ordinary. On the first day of the carnival there is a festive procession, while on the second day valuable prizes are given out to the best masks. The very end of the carnival is also its most attractive part because of the burning of the effigy called 'mesopust' at the town square, with which, according to local beliefs, evil forces are pushed away for the whole of the following year.

The town of Pag is located on the island of the same name, which is one of the largest Adriatic islands full of bays, capes and beaches. The largest of them, Pag bay, is surrounded by 20 km of pebbled beach. Pag offers unusual shapes, wild, exotic nature, tame oasis, mountain trails and shallow bays, and it would take up a few days for you to visit them all.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The town of Pag was built in the 15th century and is famous for its salt-pan where the production of salt by an old method of drying in small clay pools filled with sea water can still be seen today. The town is also famous for its handy crafts – the famous Pag lace which has been nurtured throughout the centuries. This slow and hard hand work can still be found today on the streets of the old town of Pag. Makarska will also be the host to lovers of carnivals at the beginning of August. It is famous for its beautiful, 2 km long sand and pebble beach and its crystal blue sea. The carnival in Makarska also has a long tradition and because of its ambience and rich cultural and entertainment program it offers, its participants return every year as to participate in this event.

Makarska is one of the most famous tourist destinations of the Croatian coast. It is attractive because of its natural and climate characteristics, varied tourist offer and friendly locals. It is located at the foot of the mountain massive Biokovo, which protects it from the hazards of continental climate so it has mild winters and long, warm summers with refreshing summer wind. The town developed around a natural harbour which is protected by the picturesque peninsula Sveti Petar and cape Osejava. It used to be a safe shelter and sanctuary during the bad weather conditions for seamen, pirates and merchants and today it harbours tourist yachts, sailors and cruise boats. The history of the town can best be experienced in the Franciscan monastery which has celebrated 500 years of existence.

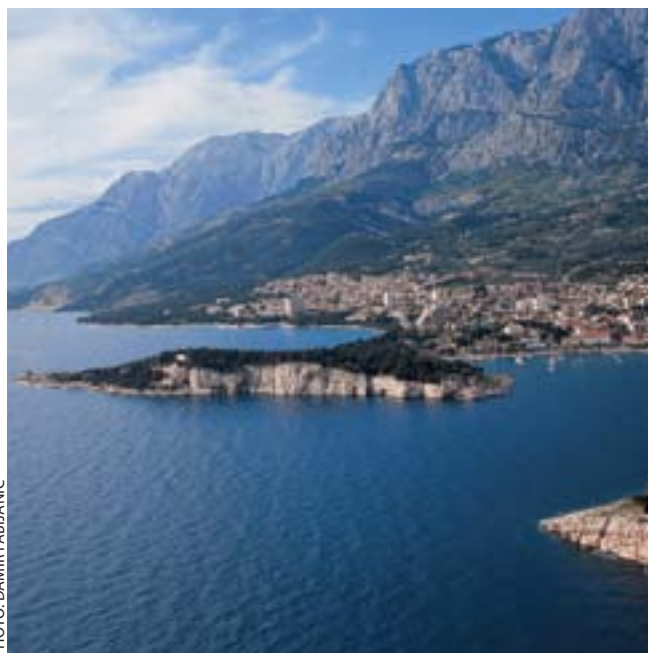


PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIĆ

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Novi Vinodolski

www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr

The Tourist Board of Lika-Senj County

www.lickosenjska.com

The Tourist Board of Pag

www.pag-tourism.hr

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Makarska

www.makarska-info.hr

■ Projects

Varaždin - Back yards as a tourist attraction

'Stories of Varaždin's back yards' is a new program that is aimed at attracting more tourists throughout the year by Varaždin locals as to introduce them to the culture, architecture and the way of life in this city. Varaždin's historical town core is abundant in very attractive yards that tell stories of former and current tenants. The tourist offer should be enriched with this program and the protection, refurbishment and value of the cultural heritage should also be upgraded. The first such yard was Dvorart, which opened its gates last year for the famous Varaždin event 'Špincirfest' – the festival of good emotions. In this yard tourists can have a rest in the pleasant ambience, right next to a garden full of various plants. The yard is planned to be widened and additionally decorated by the beginning of this year's Špincirfest in August, as to be ready for groups of around 20 tourists. Various workshops should be organised for them, for example, souvenir making and tasting of original local dishes.

Last year, Varaždin was put in first place, as a destination to be seen in Croatia, by the tourist guide Lonely Planet, which described it as a town of carefully preserved Baroque architecture.

In the historical necklace of central European cities, Varaždin is today described as a rare urban pearl, a town-museum of a kind, which shows its specific identity through the beauty of its Baroque architecture and warmth of its lovely squares, streets and parks as well as the value of its rich and preserved museum collections. Numerous culturally-historical sites are witness to the history of the town, more than eight centuries old, where many Croatian noblemen, craftsmen and artists lived, especially at the end of the XVIII century, when Varaždin flourished as the capital city of Croatia.



PHOTO: JOSIP MADRÁČEVIĆ

The Tourist Board of Varaždin County

www.turizam-vzz.hr

The Tourist Board of Varaždin

www.tourism-varazdin.hr

Pula - Former shelters become a tourist attraction

Underground tunnels in Pula, which were formerly used as shelters during air raids, are becoming a new tourist attraction of this Istrian city, famous before all, for its Roman amphitheatre Arena. Recently opened for the public was the old Austro-Hungarian underground tunnel close to Dvojna Vrata in the town centre. For now, tourists can tour about 400 of the 900 metre tunnel as well as the central hall from which two more tunnels branch off. In the tunnel, which is governed by the History Museum of Istria, depending on the season, the temperature varies from 14 degrees to a comfortable 18 or 19 degrees Celsius during summer days. The corridors are three to six meters wide and around two and a half metres high. Pula has a network of about 50 km of underground tunnels built in the time when this city was the main war harbour of the former monarchy.



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOZIC

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istra.com

The Tourist Board of Pula

www.istra-pula.com

■ Investments

Zadar - The construction of the hotels Maraska and Hilton begins



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The beginning of construction works on two large city hotels, Maraska and Hilton is soon expected in Zadar. The Zadar company Tenos plans to build a five star hotel in the location of the former Maraska factory. The front of the Maraska factory will be preserved and will remain as it is, while the other part of the building will be torn down and a modern hotel with additional facilities will be built in its place.

The Zadar company Centar Project, a Hilton investor, plans to build a congress type four star facility which should satisfy the standards expected by the Hilton chain.

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

www.zadar.hr

The Tourist Board of Zadar

www.tzzadar.hr

Biokovo - The Dalmatian hinterland calls for tourists



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ I DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

In the valley Biokovo, two kilometres from the tunnel Bast-Zagvozd, which should be opened for traffic next year, the construction of an eco-ethno tourist resort with bungalows and a 40 bed motel is being planned. Up until now, a stone house with four apartments has been built as well as a stone tavern, a restaurant, a barbecue and a clay oven house, while everything is ready for the make-over of the two mock grass tennis courts. A large swimming pool and bowling alley are also planned and guests are already offered the possibility of horseback riding. The resort is located 20 minutes from the sea, near the village Rastovac. Biokovo is a mountain which dives out from the sea and offers unforgettable views of the Makarska Riviera and the back of the mountain from its tops. Apart from its position, Biokovo is unique for its geomorphological and biological diversity, because of which it was proclaimed a nature park in 1981.

Nature Park Biokovo

www.biokovo.com

■ Croatia in the world

Petrčane - The music festival near Zadar among the 10 best in the world

The music festival Soundwave in Petrčane, near Zadar, is the third on the list of the ten most attractive international festivals, according to the Cheapflights, an online travel advisor, as was recently reported by Reuters.

The Soundwave festival is a three day long party in July, attended by young people from all over Europe. The party however, does not start at the festival in Croatia, but already on the way there. The festival has clearly specified routes across Europe, with recommended stopovers, so fellow Soundwavers are able to meet up. This year`s Soundwave will be held from 22-24 July, where more than 50 artists among, whom are Roots Manuva, Mr Scruff, Bonobo and the Swedish pop group Little Dragon, will be performing on three stages and a party boat.

The festival is held in a fishing village located between Zadar (12km away) and Nin, both old Croatian towns. Petrčane is a tourist resort with a beautiful pebble and rocky 2 km long beach, which is surrounded by pine woods. Because of its exquisite geographical position, it is a starting point for trips to the islands of the Zadar archipelago and for tours of the National parks Kornati and Paklenica. Surrounding Petrčane are a few campsites, and there are mostly apartments and rooms on offer in private accommodation.

Petrčane has been inhabited from the 10th century and that is where the estates of the Zadar monasteries St. Krševan and Platon were located during the Middle Ages. In the nearby Nin, there is a pre Romanic church of the Cross, which was proclaimed the smallest cathedral in the world, with a cross shaped floor plan and a dome.

First on the list of Cheapflights is the three day Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio in California, which starts off the festival season in the middle of April. The Danish festival on the island Zealand - in the ancient Viking town Roskilde is one of the largest European festivals, which was founded in 1971 by two high school friends - came in the second place.



PHOTO: ANDRIJA CARLI

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

www.zadar.hr

The Tourist Board of Zadar

www.tzzadar.hr

Soundwave

www.soundwavecroatia.com

Rab - The birthplace of nudism

The global television network CNN has recently included the Croatian island of Rab among the top ten world islands which should be visited by tourists with alternative preferences. CNN recommends Rab to tourists and calls it the birthplace of skinny dipping. Nudism was 'introduced' thanks to an episode with English King Edward VIII and his beloved Wallis Simpson, who were allowed to swim and sunbathe in the nude by the Rab authorities in 1936, in the area of Kandarola.

From then on, the tradition of nudism has flourished in Rab, and the island has become a famous destination among nudists across the world. But written records confirm that naturism on Rab began even before the arrival of the English king, when a naturist beach was officially open in Rab at the turn of the 20th century.

To potential nudist visitors of Rab, CNN recommends good locations such as Lopar and its three beaches – Sahara, Stolac and Ciganka. After a swim, a visit to the old town of Rab is recommended.

Rab is an island with a 120 year old tradition of organised tourism. The town of the same name was once a Roman settlement which was given the status of a city by the Emperor Octavian Augustus, who proclaimed it a municipality in 10 BC. Here, each building remembers dozens of generations, and above the Renaissance and Gothic portals stand the coats of arms of Rab's noble families, whose descendants are today friendly hosts to tourists from all over the world. During the summer season, Rab offers numerous music and theatre events.

The island is most famous for its sandy, pebble and rocky beaches, whose beauty has been recognized a long time ago. The Austrian natural historian Camilo Morgan, wrote upon his three visits to Rab at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century: 'A dozen beautiful bays on the west side of the island have a special colour of the sea which somewhere passes into a shade of emerald. If the coasts of Italy and France deserve to be named Cote d'Azur, these should certainly be named cote smargdine.' Alongside Rab, only Ibiza and Sicily were recommended to party people and gourmets, by the CNN list of top European destinations, Musha Cay on the Bahamas was recommended to the wealthier tourists, the Lizard Island in Australia was recommended to the couples, the Island of Sar was recommended to lovers of exceptional nature, Ogasawara in Japan to loners, Oaha in Hawaii to families, Hong Kong to shopping addicts, and St. Bartz was recommended to those searching for celebrities.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Rab

www.tzg-rab.hr

TripAdvisor: Dubrovnik among the best European destinations



PHOTO: MILAN BABIC

TripAdvisor, the world's largest network organisation of travellers, has recently published the names of the winners of the Travelers' Choice Destination Awards for 2011. Awarded all together were 337 exceptional destinations from across the world. The winners were chosen on the basis of a million comments and reviews by the users, their favourite destinations as well as the overall popularity on the TripAdvisor.com website.

The most significant award for the best world destination went to Cape Town in South Africa, because of its beaches and to the Cape Good Hope on the very south of the African continent. Second place went to Sidney and third to Machu Picchu, fourth to Paris and fifth to Rio de Janeiro. Dubrovnik came in the 15th place on the list of 25 best European destinations. Located between the Adriatic Sea and the Dinarid mountains, this quiet town has recovered from the torments of the Homeland war. TripAdvisor describes it as a very accessible place for a city break for numerous European travellers, and especially its charming Old Town, which is reserved only for pedestrians. The TripAdvisor website gathers millions of travel lovers who continue to write in their impressions of towns, beaches, hotels and restaurants.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

TripAdvisor.com

www.tripadvisor.com

After Vis, the Guardian reports on Velebit

After The Guardian recently included the Croatian island of Vis on its website list of ten ideal summer destinations for solo travellers, the same British paper published a video report about the beautiful and powerful mountain Velebit. The interesting report brings a story of a meteorologist from Zavižan, who has made Velebit his home for the past 37 years. It also highlights the fact that there are more than 2000 plant species growing on Velebit, from which 50 are indigenous, while in the whole of the United Kingdom there are only about 1180. On Velebit one can still come across bears, wolves, foxes, martens, lynxes. The famous mountain winters are also mentioned as well as the beautiful views that stretch from its numerous high tops.

PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽENSTOJČIĆ



Nature Park Velebit

www.pp-velebit.hr

National Park North Velebit

www.np-sjeverni-velebit.hr

Croatia on National Geographic`s list of top cruise destinations

National Geographic`s Traveler magazine has included Croatia on its list of top cruise destinations and life travels for 2011. More precisely, it is a cruise on wooden sailboats, which is considered by the Traveler`s reporter Margaret Loftus to be `so retro and so Mediterranean`. Each year the Traveler publishes a list of the top 50 trips one should take at least once in their lifetime. Chosen among thousands of trips are the ones that offer tourists foreign cultures and experiences that will change them. The author of the list pointed out that she was in search of an adventure tour, family trips and small boat cruises which are designed to create an experience, are ecologically sustainable and encourage the making of cultural bonds.

Croatia found itself among the top 50 destinations thanks to the ancient sailing boat cruises, which were once the main providers of groceries for inhabitants of the Adriatic islands, along the 1100 km of the Adriatic coast. Today, they can accommodate 20 to 40 passengers and they sail the Adriatic at a somewhat more relaxed pace, states the author. She also recommends a visit to the harbours of the mediaeval fortified towns, fishing villages with orange rooftops, vineyards and white beaches or simply enjoying the views from the boat. The author points out the good value for money as far as quality is concerned, stating how this was by far the most affordable cruise among the offered European tours.



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

National Geographic

www.travel.nationalgeographic.com

Croatian »sobes« praised in the LA Times

PHOTO: ANTE VERZOTTI



Recently published in the LA Times was an article in which the author praises the beauty of Croatia, the hospitality of the locals and the uniqueness of the private accommodation on offer. The author Kayleigh Kulp, has travelled along a good part of the Croatian coast and wrote a detailed report with a special accent on private accommodation, small family hotels and, as she calls them - «sobes» (transl. rooms). The meaning of this foreign term for Americans, was explained by her in this way; `Sobes (pronounced so-beys) or family hotel rooms are for rent in private homes and are common across Croatia, especially along the Adriatic coast.`

This charming term was immediately recognized by the readers of the LA Times, who made comments and wrote about their own impressions from holidays in Croatian `sobes`.

`The offer of private `sobes` is huge, and this is maybe the best accommodation during a visit to this region`, stated the author in the introduction.

With a lot of excitement, she recommended them as simple, clean and significantly cheaper than hotel accommodation and came to a conclusion that the best way to get to know the `breathtaking beauty of Croatia` is through them, because you get to live the life of your hosts, who in return try their best to make your stay as pleasurable as possible. The author praises the comfort and décor of private rooms and apartments as well as small family hotels. She also described the local way of advertising `sobes` in coastal towns; the locals wave their cardboard signs with `sobe` or `do you need a room` written on them, and show tourists photographs of their houses. She was not bothered, she states, when they were surrounded in Dubrovnik by the many local trying to rent out their rooms.

Contrary to regular rooms, `sobes` have more space, including a kitchen and bathroom. Unlike in a hostel, you do not share `sobes` with other unknown guests. The comfort is different from house to house, from luxury ones with a kitchen and private bathroom to simple rooms.

The advantage in renting `sobes` is more privacy, states the author, because when you come out of your room you do not encounter any other members of the household and you have absolute freedom of movement. The hosts are also known to surprise their guests with a morning cup of coffee and cakes, which they do not charge for.

LA Times

www.latimes.com

Rijeka - Peek&Poke among the top 50 exquisite European destinations

The Rijeka museum of old computers Peek&Poke has found itself in the respected company of top attractions of European capitals such as Barcelona, Milan, Rome, Berlin and London, the beaches of Ibiza and the Venetian lagoons. Peek&Poke was included among the 50 best European destinations in the recently published 50th edition of the low budget airline Ryanair magazine, coming in at number 19. Under the title «Geek it up in Rijeka», the lifestyle-magazine of Ryanair reports how in Peek&Poke, a museum dedicated to computers, children can investigate old machines which were once used by their parents.

Ryanairmag points out that there are more than a thousand old computers and machines exhibited – from the oldest models of calculators to the IBMs and Sinclairs from the time Wham was topping the world charts, and they invite the readers to check out the retro souvenirs that are available in the museum.

Peek&Poke was voluntarily started by a group of computer enthusiasts, led by Svetozar Nilović-Toz, and the museum has been visited up until now by more than ten thousand visitors from every continent.

Along Rijeka`s Peek&Poke, the magazine recommends Brijuni islands and Zadar`s `The Garden` club.

Apart from the exhibited models of the legendary Commodore 64 and Amiga, which function to this day and the Nintendo and Atari playing consoles, but also numerous other exhibits from the world`s and Croatian IT history, the team from Peek&Poke has through the years tried to attract guests with a string of programs which bring the museum to life.

The museum of old computers and information technology was opened in the centre of Rijeka in September of 2007. In the space of three hundred square metres there are over a thousand exhibits of Croatian and the world`s computer history which can also be tried out there.

The museum also has a modern NetKoner, decorated as a living room, and a reading room where you can find and read all of Croatia`s technical literature.

The idea of the founders, the Association of lovers of the Calculus computer, was to create a favourite gathering place for computer enthusiasts for education and fun.



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

Peek&Poke

www.peekpoke.hr

Rabac - Hotel Valamar Bellevue among the 100 best in the world

Valamar Bellevue Hotel & Residence in the ownership of Rabac d.d., which is a part of Valamar, the largest tourism group in Croatia, is this year's laureate of TUI Holly 2011, the most prestigious award given out by TUI, one of the world's largest tour operators. With this award Valamar hotel has been included among the top 100 hotels in the world, visited by TUI guests.

Valamar Bellevue is the second Valamar hotel which has won this prestigious award. In 2010 the TUI Holly went to the Poreč hotel Valamar Club Tamaris and Valamar Tamaris Residence.

Located above beautiful pebble beaches with a wonderful view of the crystal clear sea and sunny islands of the Kvarner bay, Valamar Bellevue Hotel & Residence represents a perfect location for relaxation and a family holiday as well as for business meetings, events, weddings and various banquets.

The Hotel Valamar Bellevue has modern rooms and 20 suites. The major part of the offer is made up of a modern, well equipped air-conditioned conference hall, with a capacity to hold up to 150 persons, a catering offer, banquet organisation, lunches and weddings, while in the additional offer there are wine presentations and themed evenings for guests.

TUI established this award in 1994 and has been handing it out exclusively on the basis of customer satisfaction within a period of one year. The award used to be handed out at winning destinations, but this year all the winners were invited to attend the official ceremony which will be held from 9-11 September in Dusseldorf in Germany.



PHOTO: VALAMAR BELLEVUE HOTEL & RESIDENCE

The Tourist Board of Istrian County

www.istria.com

The Tourist Board of Labin

www.istria-rabac.com

Valamar

www.valamar.com

Rovinj - Valalta among the best nudist beaches

Valalta beach in Rovinj - which is a part of the naturist campsite of the same name - has recently been found on the two lists of the best nudist beaches in the world.

On the website totallytop10.com there is a composed list of the world's best nudist beaches for 2011. The beach in Rovinj found itself in seventh place, while the Spanish Vera Playa came in first.

According to the website TripAdvisor and its users, the Valalta beach came in as the ninth best nudist beach in the world.

The beach is a part of a naturist campsite founded at the end of the 1960s, on the tame slopes along the northern part of Rovinj coast. During the past four decades the Valalta camp has been a synonym for top quality because of the service and the natural Mediterranean surroundings above all.

Adding to Valalta's special value is also its surrounding, which hides indigenous gastronomic surprises and an amazing natural attraction – the rocky bay Limaska Draga. During four decades, the naturist resort Valalta, with its perfect infrastructure, various accommodation and service possibilities, sports, recreation and entertainment contents for all generations and unique natural surroundings, has grown into an oasis of pleasure and trust, which is proven every year by the numerous naturist guests from across the world.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of the Istria County

www.istria.com

Naturist camp Valalta

www.valalta.hr

Totally Top 10

www.totallytop10.com

TripAdvisor

www.tripadvisor.com

■ Introducing

Opatija - A one hundred year old walkway

A 12 km long coastal walkway which connects the places Volosko, Opatija, Ičići, Ika and Lovran on Opatija Riviera, celebrates its one hundredth birthday this year. The construction of Opatija's coastal promenade ('Lungomare') began at the time of the opening of Opatija's first hotels, Kvarner in 1884 and Imperial in 1885. Works on the walkway officially began in 1885 and ended in 1889, when Opatija was proclaimed a climate health resort. The walkway was later extended all the way to Lovran, and was officially opened in 1911. In the past one hundred years a large number of tourists have walked along this path, a symbol of this famous tourist resort and the Opatija Riviera.

Anyone who visits Opatija, will not miss the chance to walk along this monumental path along the seafront. It can be visited at any time of the year and offers a chance for recreation, with a unique view of the sea and the beautiful Kvarner bay, but at the same time therapy by the sea air and particles of sea water, which are created by breaking of the waves onto the rocks.

Beautiful in its own way at any time of the year, it offers a stunning views of Opatija's parks, hotels - including the hotels of the same age, Kvarner and Imperial - the mountain Učka and other sites of this area. A short rest on one of the benches, a glance towards the sea or a stop for a coffee, ice-cream or a tasty meal on a terrace on the waterfront, are images which cannot be easily forgotten. The one hundred year old walkway is one of the most beautiful symbols of Opatija.



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOVIC

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Opatija

www.opatija-tourism.hr

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