

Croatia

Information

Geographical position:

Croatia extends from the furthest eastern edges of the Alps in the north-west to the Pannonian lowlands and the banks of the Danube in the east; its central region is covered by the Dinaric mountain range, and its southern parts extend to the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Surface:

the mainland covers 56,594 km²; surface area of territorial waters totals 31,067 km².

Population:

4,437,460 inhabitants; composition of population: the majority of the population are Croats; national minorities are Serbs, Slovenes, Hungarians, Bosnians, Italians, Czechs and others.

System of government:

Multi-party parliamentary republic.

Capital:

Zagreb (779,145 inhabitants), the economic, traffic, cultural and academic centre of the country.

Coastline:

5,835.3 km, of which 4,058 km comprise the coastlines of islands, solitary rocks and reefs. Number of islands, solitary rocks and reefs: 1,185; the largest islands are Cres and Krk; there are 47 inhabited islands.

Highest peak:

Dinara: 1,831 m above sea level.

Climate:

Croatia has three climate zones; the prevailing climate in the country's interior is moderately rainy; on the highest peaks, a forest climate with snow falls, while the areas along the Adriatic coast have a pleasantly mild Mediterranean climate with a large number of sunny days; summers are dry and hot, winters mild and wet with significant precipitations. Average temperatures in the interior: January -2 to 0o C, somewhat lower at the highest altitudes; August - about 20 oC and about 12 oC on the highest peaks. Average temperature in the littoral: January - 5 to 9 oC, August - 22 to 25 oC; sea temperature in winter: 12 oC; in summer, about 25 oC

Currency:

kuna (1 kuna = 100 lipa). Foreign currency can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices, post offices, travel agencies, hotels, camps, marinas; cheques can be cashed in banks. 1 Euro= 7.35 kunas

Currency:

Kuna (1 Kuna = 100 Lipa). There are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 Lipa coins, 1, 2, 5 and 25 Kuna coins and 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 Kuna banknotes.

Foreign currencies:

can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices, post offices, travel agencies, hotels, camps, marinas; cheques can be cashed in banks.

Power supply: 220 V, 50 Hz

Our UK guests should note that power outlets in Croatia are the Continental two-pin type and that a socket adapter is therefore required.

Water:

Tap water is potable in all parts of Croatia.

The telephone code for Croatia is +385.

Time zone:

GMT plus one hour in winter and GMT plus two in summer.

Travel documentation:

A valid passport or some other identification document recognised by international agreement; for certain countries a personal identity card is sufficient (i.e. a document which testifies to the identity and citizenship of the bearer).

For more information:

Diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia abroad or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia. Tel: +385 1 4569 964; E-mail: stranci@mvpei.hr; www.mvpei.hr

Customs regulations:

Customs regulations of the Republic of Croatia are harmonised with the standards of E.U. member states, but the value of objects of non-commercial character for personal use allowed to be brought into the country without tax duty or PDV (VAT) is limited to 300 HRK.

The permitted amount of meat and milk products which can be brought in without special veterinary inspection, as well as honey, is limited to 1 kg, while the amount of wine is limited to 5 liters. Foreign and local currency may be freely taken in and out of the country; local currency up to an amount of 15,000 HRK, but any amount brought in or taken out of the country (whether foreign currency or HRK) in an amount exceeding a value of 40,000 HRK, must be declared to the customs officers. More valuable professional and technical equipment must be declared at the border. A non-resident can freely bring in and take out cheques in HRK.

Refund of tax when leaving the country is made to foreign nationals for individual goods purchased in Croatia for amounts in excess of 500 HRK, on presentation of a "Tax-cheque" form. This form is provided on request by a sales assistant, when items are purchased.

Pets:

Pets which are being imported, or which are travelling through for non-commercial purposes, in the company of their owner (up to 5 animals: dogs, cats, African polecat, all types of birds, rodents and domesticated rabbits, invertebrates. (with exception of bees and crabs), ornamental tropical fish,

amphibians and others will be allowed to enter Republic of Croatia only if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- they have a valid international passport or health certificate (veterinary certificate) in which a licensed veterinary surgeon in the exporter's country certifies that the animal (s) in question are healthy and show no symptoms of infectious diseases which must be reported, and that they do not come from an area in which infectious diseases are present and which that particular type of animal can transfer.

Dogs, cats and animals of the marten family must be:

- marked with a clearly legible tattoo or fitted with a microchip;
- have a passport issued by a licensed veterinary surgeon proving they have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated against rabies. For additional information please contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Veterinary administration (Tel. +385 1 610 6703 and + 385 1 610 6669; www.mps.hr)

[Download PDF](#) about non-commercial movement of pets into the republic of Croatia.

Health services

There are hospitals and clinics located in all the larger towns and cities, while smaller centres have dispensaries and chemist's.

Foreign visitors are not obliged to pay for medical services if a convention on Social Security has been signed between Croatia and visitors' country of origin, i.e. if they have in their possession a certificate stipulated by such a convention confirming their right to health care. Health care (including transport) is used for emergency cases in the manner and according to regulations valid for Croatian citizens covered by Social Security, with the costs of health care being participated in, in the same way (participation and administrative duty). Persons coming from countries with which no such convention has been signed bear the costs of health services rendered personally.

Public holidays:

1 January - New Year's Day; 6 January – Epiphany; Easter Sunday & Easter Monday; 1 May - Labour Day; Corpus Christi; 22 June - Anti-Fascist Resistance Day; 25 June - Statehood Day; 5 August - Victory Day and National Thanksgiving Day; 15 August - Assumption Day; 8 October - Independence Day; 1 November - All Saints' Day; 25-26 December - Christmas Holidays

Working hours:

Most shops are open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on weekdays and until 2 or 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Some shops work a split-shift system: from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and again from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Many shops stay open until 10 p.m., even on Sundays, especially in summer, while certain shops in the larger cities are open for business 24 hours a day. Public services and business offices work from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.,

Mondays to Fridays.

Post and Telecommunications:

Post offices are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, in smaller centres from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.; some offices work a split shift. In most towns and tourist centres, on-duty post offices are open on Saturdays and Sundays until 9 p.m. Postage stamps may also be purchased from newspaper and tobacco kiosks. Phone cards are used in all public telephones and may be purchased from post offices and from newspaper and tobacco kiosks. International calls may be made directly from public telephones.
www.posta.hr

Environmental protection:

Protection of biodiversity complies with valid E.U. regulations. As regards bathing, the sea at the Croatian Adriatic is of high quality, again according to E.U. criteria. In the event of extraordinary environmental pollution on land, please advise Centre 112.

Fire prevention

Check that you have undertaken all the necessary measures to prevent fire!

Do not throw burning objects or inflammable objects into the environment!

If you notice a fire, please alert other persons in your surroundings; immediately inform the fire service on telephone number 93 or 112; attempt to extinguish the fire before the arrival of the fire brigade, but do not place yourself or others in danger!

Observe the signs forbidding the lighting of fires!

Take care that your parked vehicles do not obstruct fire-fighting approaches and access roads.

Call 112 in the following cases:

- if you need urgent or vital medical assistance;
- for assistance of fire fighting services;
- for assistance of mountain rescue services;
- for urgent or vital veterinary assistance;

If you notice:

- fire
- leakage of hazardous material, pollution of drinking water, springs, streams, rivers or sea

Search and rescue

In the event of accident on land or at sea, call 112 (number for all emergency situations), and in the event of accident at sea call 112 or 9155 (National Centre for search and rescue at sea).

Important telephone numbers:

International country code for Croatia: +385

Police: 92

Fire Brigade: 93

Ambulance: 94

Roadside vehicle assistance: 987

(when calling from abroad or by mobile phone, call +385 1 987)

National Search and Rescue Centre: 9155.

A single countrywide number for all emergency situations: 112

General information: 981

Information local and intercity numbers: 988

Information international numbers: 902

Weather forecast and road conditions: 060 520 520

Croatian Automobile Club (HAK): +385 1 46 40 800,

Internet: www.hak.hr; E-mail: info@hak.hr

Radio news in foreign languages during the tourist season

Croatian Radio broadcasts on several frequencies programmes in foreign languages designed for tourists in Croatia. A daily programme is broadcast at 20.05h on channel one, in English in a duration of up to 10 min. On channel two of Croatian Radio, along with regular news, HAK provides reports on road conditions in English, German and Italian and, several times each day, information for sailors.

In the summer season, on channel two of Croatian Radio (98.5 Mhz), in addition to the regular news in the Croatian language there will also be a broadcast on road conditions in the English, German and Italian languages by HAK (from 18 June to 9 September 2007).

During the same period there will also be broadcasts every hour on the hour; news and reports on the condition of the roads are broadcast directly from the studios of: the Third Programme of Austrian Radio, RAI Uno, British Virgin Radio, Radio Prague and the International programme of Croatian Radio – Voice of Croatia.

Once each day during the summer Radio Prague reporters inform their colleagues via regional radio stations: Radio Split, Radio Dubrovnik and Radio Rijeka.

Facts and figures

Welcome to Zagreb

Welcome to Zagreb, the capital city of the Republic of Croatia. Zagreb is an old Central European city. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now of commerce and industry as well. It lies on the intersection of important routes between the Adriatic coast and Central Europe.

When the Croatian people achieved their independence in 1991, Zagreb became a capital - a political and administrative centre for the Republic of Croatia. Zagreb is also the hub of the business, academic, cultural, artistic and sporting worlds in Croatia. Many famed scientists, artists and athletes come from the city, or work in it. Zagreb can offer its visitors the Baroque atmosphere of the Upper Town, picturesque open-air markets, diverse shopping facilities, an abundant selection of crafts and a choice vernacular cuisine. Zagreb is a city of green parks and walks, with many places to visit in the beautiful surroundings. The city will enter into the third millennium with a population of one million. In spite of the rapid development of the economy and transportation, it has retained its charm, and a relaxed feeling that makes it a genuinely human city.

Facts and Figures

Location:

northern Croatia, on the Sava River, 170 km from the Adriatic Sea

45° 10' N, 15° 30' E

situated 122 m above sea level

Time:

Central-european time (GMT+1)

Climate and Weather:

continental climate

average summer temperature: 20° C

average winter temperature: 1° C

[current forecast](#)

Population:

779,145 (2001)

Surface area:

650 sq. km.

Institutions:

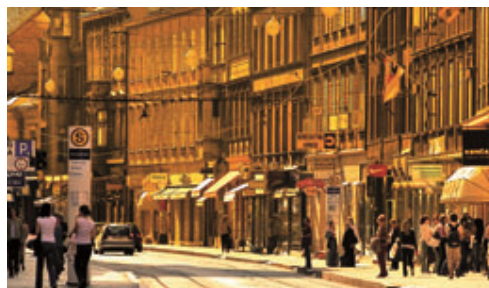
[The University](#)

10 theatres

21 museums

14 galleries

12 art collections



By Air

[Zagreb Airport](#) is located 17 km from the centre of the city, or 20-25 minutes by bus. Information on flights can be obtained by calling 6265-222.

The Zagreb Airport bus terminal (bus stop) is at the Central Bus Station on Marin Drzic Avenue. For more information on bus schedule visit www.plesoprijevoz.hr



By Train

The Main Railway Station is located in the centre of the City (at Kralj Tomislav Square 12, a ten minutes walk from the central city square). Information on arrivals and departures can be obtained by dialing 060-333-444. Information on arrivals and departures can also be obtained at the travel agency "Croatia Express", tel: 4573-253.

By Road

Main international roads are:
 Trieste-Ljubljana-Zagreb
 Graz-Maribor-Zagreb
 Klagenfurt-Ljubljana-Zagreb
 Budapest-Varazdin-Zagreb

The Central Bus Station is located on Marin Drzic Avenue, a few minutes by tram (line number 6) from the central city square. Information can be obtained by calling 060-340-340. Information on arrivals and departures: 060-313-333. Bookings for domestic lines can be made by calling 060-313-333. For international lines bookings can be made by calling 6008-631. Traffic office telephone number: 6008-645.



Zagreb Throughout Centuries

A Brief History of Zagreb

Today's Zagreb has grown out of two medieval settlements that for centuries developed on neighbouring hills. The first written mention of the city dates from 1094, when a diocese was founded on Kaptol, while in 1242, neighbouring Gradec was proclaimed a free and royal city. Both the settlements were surrounded by high walls and towers, remains of which are still preserved.

During the Turkish onslaughts on Europe, between the 14th and 18th centuries, Zagreb was an important border fortress. The Baroque reconstruction of the city in the 17th and 18th centuries changed the appearance of the city. The old wooden houses were demolished, opulent palaces, monasteries and churches were built. The many trade fairs, the revenues from landed estates and the offerings of the many craft workshops greatly contributed to the wealth of the city. Affluent aristocratic families, royal officials, church dignitaries and rich traders from the whole of Europe moved into the city. Schools and hospitals were opened, and the manners of European capitals were adopted. The city outgrew its medieval borders and spread to the lowlands. The first parks and country houses were built. Zagreb confirmed its position as the administrative, cultural and economic centre of Croatia.

When Kaptol, Gradec and the surrounding settlements were administratively combined into the integrated city of Zagreb in 1850, the development accelerated still more. The disastrous earthquake of 1880 sparked off the reconstruction and modernization of many shabby neighbourhoods and buildings. Prestigious public buildings were erected, parks and fountains were made, and transportation and other infrastructures were organized. In the 19th century the population increased tenfold. The twentieth century brought the Secession style to Zagreb. The city lived in the plenty of a civil society, with firm links with all the central European centres. With an increase in wealth and industry from the 1960s on, the city spread out over the wide plains alongside the Sava River, where a new, contemporary business city has developed, ready for the challenges of the third millennium.



Overview of Important Historical Events

ca 600 Decline of the ancient Roman settlement of Scitarjevo (Andautonia). Arrival of the Croats. The

AD earliest evidence of their existence in this area are the graves on Visoki Brijeg in Velika Gorica.

879. Decline of the ancient Roman settlement of Scitarjevo (Andautonia). Arrival of the Croats. The earliest evidence of their existence in this area are the graves on Visoki Brijeg in Velika Gorica.

1094. The Hungarian King Ladislav establishes the Zagreb Diocese.

1134. Issue of Felicianus' Charter mentioning the founder of the Diocese, King Ladislav, the first bishop of, Zagreb Bishop Duh, and the other clergy.

1217. Finishing and consecration of the principal church cathedral, largely destroyed in 1242 by the Tatars.

1242. The Croatian-Hungarian King Bela IV grants the Golden Bull to Gradec, as a token of appreciation for the citizens who provided him shelter during the Tatarian invasion.

1355. Mention of the first pharmacy in Zagreb.

1557. Another threat to the city - Turkish invasions. The first mention of Zagreb as the capital of Croatia.

1607. Foundation of the Jesuit gymnasium with six forums.

1624. A great fire caused by a thunderbolt catches the wooden roof of the principal church. Great fires were quite frequent before the use of bricks as building material.

1664. Foundation of the first printing house by the Jesuits.

1669. The Croatian-Hungarian King Leopold I grants the right to the Royal Academy to be transformed into a university.

1767. The Royal Council designates Varaždin as its temporary seat.

1771. The first weekly in Latin published in Zagreb - Ephemerides Zagrebienses.

1776. The government seat relocated from Varazdin to Zagreb.

1834. The first permanent theatre in Zagreb opens on the southern side of St. Mark's Square.

1850. Zagreb becomes a single administrative unit. The first major of the city is Josip Kamauf, former magistrate of Gradec.

1862. Opening of the first railway line, Zidani Most-Zagreb-Sisak.

1880. A severe earthquake strikes the area of Zagreb.

1891. The first horse-drawn tram in the streets of Zagreb. First electric driven tram was in service in 1905.

1896. The first film projection in Zagreb.

1901. The first automobile on the streets of Zagreb.

1909. The first trade exhibition - Economic Convention ("Gospodarski zbor").

1926. The first radio station starts broadcasting (also the first in this part of Europe).

1956. The first broadcast of Zagreb television.

1957. Construction of new housing blocks starts on the southern bank of the Sava river.

1964. A raging flood strikes Zagreb in the night between October 24 and 25. In the most difficult flood ever, several thousand homes are badly damaged.

1979. Tram lines cross the Sava river.

1987. The University Games take place in Zagreb.

1990. The first session of the Croatian Parliament (Sabor) after the first free, democratic, multi-party elections take place on May 30.

Useful web sites:

<http://www.croatia.hr/English/default.aspx>

<http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr/?id=140&l=e>

<http://www.tzzz.hr/?show=3580&lang=en>

<http://www.croatia-travel.org/>

<http://www.zagreb.hr/default.aspx?id=1979>

<http://www.izaberi.hr/?&lang=en>

<http://www.vlada.hr/en>

<http://www.predsjednik.hr/IvoJosipovic-ENGLISH>

<http://www.sabor.hr/Default.aspx?sec=361>

<http://www.croatia.hr/English/Lokacije/LokacijaPretrazivanjeRezultati.aspx?idDestination=470&idLocationType=Hotel&properties=>