



Croatia Holiday Handbook

Discover Croatia's most popular summer destinations



HOLIDAYS MADE SIMPLE

Croatia: Intro

Croatia is a small but diverse country, stretching between the Mediterranean and continental regions of Southeastern Europe. This mini guide takes you to the most popular summer destinations in Croatia, including Dubrovnik, Split, Hvar Island and Pula. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, and the currency is Croatian Kuna. Croatia entered the European Union in 2013.



Dubrovnik – “pearl of the Adriatic”

“NON BENE PRO TOTO LIBERTAS VENDITUR AURO” – Freedom is not sold for all gold in the world

This Latin inscription can be found above the entrance into the Lovrijenac Fort in Dubrovnik. Freedom was and still is, the leitmotif of the city of Dubrovnik and its inhabitants.



Located right at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik was an important transit point between the East and the West, especially in the Medieval times when the New World had not been discovered yet. The Mediterranean was, therefore, where all important and rich harbours flourished, transferring goods from East to the West.

Merchants from the Medieval Republic of Dubrovnik travelled freely wherever they wanted and the city developed a respectable fleet that travelled all over the world. While travelling, Dubrovnik merchants weren't interested in conquering lands they'd been to, but were sailing under a white flag and were only interested in trading. The white flag contained a word in Latin: “Libertas”, which means freedom.



The walls of Dubrovnik are the most recognisable symbol of the city, making tiny Croatia well-known all over the world. The walls are 1940 meters long, up to 6 meters wide and 25 meters high. Today a wonderful open-air museum, the walls were originally built to defend the city and the harbour from foreign threat. Tourists enjoy fantastic views over the Adriatic from five different fortresses and sixteen towers and bastions. One of the fortresses, the St Lovrijenac Fort, is often called „Gibraltar of Dubrovnik”.

What to do in Dubrovnik?

- Explore the Medieval Old Town
- Walk the Dubrovnik city walls
- Discover the Game of Thrones filming locations
- Stroll the buzzing Stradun Promenade
- Visit the neighbouring Lokrum Island
- Take a cable car up to Srđ Mountain
- Embark on a sea kayaking tour around Dubrovnik walls
- Enjoy the wine tour of Konavle region

Where to stay in Dubrovnik?

- Hotel Rixos Libertas*****
- Hotel Royal Princess*****
- Hotel Neptun****
- Hotel Stari Grad****
- Hotel Grand Villa Argentina*****



Korčula – Marco Polo's birthplace



Korčula is an island situated just off the Dalmatian coast, about a 90-minute catamaran ride away from Dubrovnik. With Pržina Beach and Banje Beach Korčula holds the title of town with one of the most beautiful beaches in Croatia.

When in Korčula, attend *moreška*, the traditional sword dance and visit the Korčula Town museum.

Don't forget to visit the house of Marco Polo, the famous Medieval merchant and traveller.

What to do in Korčula?

- Visit the house of Marco Polo
- Visit the Vela Spila cave
- Soak up the sun on one of the most beautiful beaches in Croatia– Vela Pržina Beach and the Banje Beach
- Attend the traditional sword dance
- Visit the Korčula Town Museum

Where to stay in Korčula?

- Hotel Liburna****
- Hotel Korsal****
- Hotel Korčula****
- Hotel Fabris***
- Villa Tea***



Split – home to the Diocletian’s Palace



Split is the second largest city in Croatia and one of the oldest settlements in the Adriatic. The Ancient Palace in its centre, built by the Roman Emperor Diocletian, is a real masterpiece of Ancient architecture and a top place to visit. Relatively easy to get around, Split makes a perfect destination for your city break or a family holiday.

From Split it is easy to visit neighbouring towns such as Solin and Trogir, or islands of Hvar, Brač and Vis.

Although a buzzing urban centre, Split boasts many great beaches, the most popular among them being the Bačvice Beach.





The wonderful Diocletian's Palace in Split was built around 300 AD near Salona, a capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia. The Emperor built it as his retirement home.



Diocletian's Palace is one of the best preserved monuments of Roman architecture in the world and was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1979. The Palace was a combination of a luxury villa – summer house and a Roman military camp (castrum), divided into four parts with two main streets. Over time, inhabitants of Split modified parts of the palace but the outlines of the Emperor's original palace are still very visible.



What to do in Split?

- Guided Tour of Diocletian's Palace
- Game of Thrones Tour of Split
- Day Trip to Trogir with its Medieval Old Town
- Day Trip to Solin, a home to Ancient Roman Amphitheatre
- Rafting on the Cetina River
- Sea kayaking & snorkeling
- Ziplining above the Cetina River
- Biking around Split
- Visit the Archaeological Museum
- Day Trip to Hvar Island
- Day Trip to Bol on Brač Island

Where to stay in Split?

- Hotel Marmont****
- Hotel Luxe****
- Hotel Marul****
- Hotel Park*****
- Hotel Dioklecijan****



Hvar – the sunniest place in Croatia



Hvar is one of the most popular summer destinations in Croatia. This chic island boasts narrow cobblestoned streets, magnificent St Stephen's Cathedral and one of the biggest public squares in the Adriatic. Hvar Town is also a home to the oldest public theatre in Europe, built in the 17th century.

The island is reputed to be the sunniest place in Croatia, counting the highest number of sunny hours a year. Boasting wonderful luxury hotels and fine restaurants, Hvar is a must-see place for every visitor to Dalmatia.

What to do in Hvar?

- Explore the Medieval Old Town
- Climb the historic fort above Hvar
- Enjoy the sea kayaking tour around the Pakleni islands
- Wine tour of Hvar
- Day trip to Brač Island
- Jeep safari Hvar
- Relax on sunny beaches

Where to stay in Hvar?

- Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort****
- Hotel Adriana****
- Hotel Podstine****
- Hotel Fortuna****
- Villa Nora***



Bol on Brač – home to the Zlatni rat beach



Bol is a real tourist oasis and the oldest town on Brač Island.

Bol is famous for the most beautiful beach in the Adriatic – the wonderful Zlatni rat (Golden Horn) beach.

You will certainly enjoy walking down the long coastal promenade and sipping wine at Bol restaurants and wine cellars.

Open the doors of history by visiting the Blaca Glagolitic Hermitage and a small chapel of St. Ivan and St. Tudor.

What to do in Bol?

- Relax on the pebbly Zlatni Rat beach
- Take a walk down the long coastal promenade
- Visit a small chapel of St. Ivan and St. Tudor
- Climb Vidova Gora, the highest top of the Adriatic islands
- Peek into the Dragon's cave (Zmajeva Špilja)
- Wine tasting at Bol wine cellars

Where to stay in Bol?

- Hotel Bluesun Elaphusa****
- Hotel Bol****
- Belado Residence Bol****
- Bretanide Sport & Wellness Resort***
- Villa Jadranka***



Zadar – buzzing coastal city on a peninsula



The city of Zadar is situated on the Adriatic coast, counting 75 000 inhabitants, which makes it the 5th largest city in Croatia.

Zadar boasts the unique sea organ, wonderful blue sea, clean beaches and stunning architecture.

The city's rich history can be found on every corner: from early cultures of Illyrians and Ancient Romans through the Middle Ages, when Zadar was subject to different rulers including Republic of Venice and Croatia-Hungarian Kingdom and in the later centuries the Habsburg Empire.

What to do in Zadar?

- Explore the Medieval Old Town
- Visit the Zadar Archaeological Museum
- Visit the St Donat's Church
- Day Trip to Plitvice Lakes
- Day Trip to Krka National Park
- Day Trip to Kornati National Park
- Wine & cheese tours of the region
- Sea kayaking Paklenica
- Biking the Paklenica National Park
- Visit the Modrič Cave



The Zadar sea organs are a unique example of modern architecture. The project was finished in 2005 and is one of this city's most famous attractions. The organs are the work of the Croatian architect Nikola Bašić and consist of several stairs that descend into the sea, with pipes underneath the stairs producing the sound.

Where to stay in Zadar?

- Hotel Niko****
- Hotel Bastion****
- Tinel Residence****
- Hotel Kolovare****
- Hotel Mediteran***



Šibenik – the Croatian royal city



With the wonderful UNESCO-protected St James' Church in its very centre and the charming old town, Šibenik is the must-visit destination in the Central Dalmatia.

Very close to the beautiful Krka Waterfalls National Park and not far from Split, Šibenik is a city of rich, royal history and excellent tourist offer.

Šibenik was founded by Croats and was a seat of Croatian King Petar Krešimir in the 11th century. It is therefore widely known as Krešimir's city.

What to do in Šibenik?

- Visit UNESCO-protected St James' Church
- Climb one of the best viewpoints in Šibenik – Šubićevac Fortress
- Enjoy sunbathing whilst sipping coffee on Šibenik Riviera
- Explore the attractive and peaceful Mediterranean garden at St. Lawrence's Monastery
- Take a day trip to Krka Waterfalls



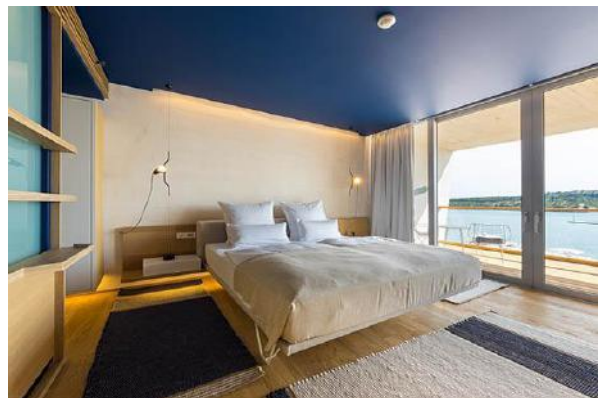
Remarkable for tufa limestone and beautiful waterfalls, the **Krka National Park** was founded in the 1980s and is one of the most beautiful natural attractions in Croatia.

The longest waterfall is the Skradinski buk waterfall, located at the end of the water flow of Krka river. It is 800 meters long, consisting of seventeen barriers. This is the most visited waterfall in the national park. Apart from Skradinski buk, tourists enjoy a visit to Roški waterfall, Krka monastery and Burnum archaeological site.

Don't forget to take a boat trip to the small island of Visovac, situated in the lower flow of Krka river. You can reach Visovac from Skradinski buk Waterfall, joining a group tour and accompanied by a guide.

Where to stay in Šibenik?

- D-Resort Šibenik*****
- Heritage Hotel Life Palace****
- Amadria Park Jure****
- Solaris Beach Hotel Jakov***
- Hotel Panorama***



Murter Island - the peaceful oasis



Murter had been known for its high-quality olive oil production throughout history. In the beginning of the 20th century, the olive oil produced on Murter was awarded a Gold Medal at the international oil exhibition in France.

Murter island is very close to the magical Kornati national park, the densest archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea, stretching over the sea area of 320 square kilometers. One of the most beautiful beaches on Murter island is the Slanica beach. Enjoy swimming, snorkelling or just relax and soak up the sun.

What to do in Murter?

- Visit the Slanica Beach - the most beautiful beach of the whole Šibenik Riviera
- Enjoy swimming or snorkelling
- Attend the international Big Game Fishing event, held at Jezera
- Taste the famous award-winning olive oil
- Taste seafood dishes or the Kornati lamb

Where to stay in Murter?

- Hotel Tisno****
- Hotel Murter***
- Hotel Colentum***
- Hotel Borovnik***



Krk Island - Croatia's largest island



Located in the northern part of the Croatian coast, the Island of Krk is Croatia's largest island (sharing the title with Cres Island!).

A paradise for those looking to stay active while on holiday, Krk is popular for extreme water sports such as parasailing and wakeboarding.

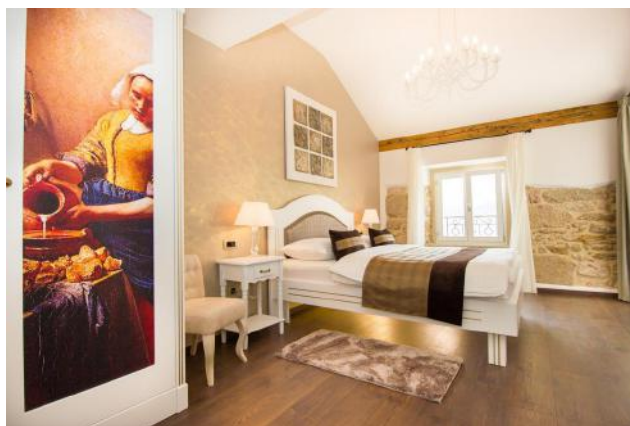
The island has Mediterranean climate, which means pleasant, mild winters and warm summer. This is why many travelers choose to return to Krk in autumn and winter months for a wellness & spa retreat, followed by lots and lots of delicious food and wine.

What to do in Krk?

- Explore the historic old town
- Try water sports - parasailing and wakeboarding
- Explore the Biserujka Cave
- Visit the Klimno Cove known for the medicinal mud in its purest form
- Enjoy a visit to Aquarium-Terrarium in Krk Town

Where to stay in Krk?

- Blue Waves Resort****
- Heritage Hotel Forza
- Hotel Vila Rova***
- Corinthia Baška Hotel***



Opatija – Old Lady of the Adriatic



The beautiful Opatija is the oldest tourist destination in Croatia, at least when it comes to organised tourism. It is an elegant and charming coastal retreat for those looking to relax by the sea and enjoy wonderful sceneries, food and wine.

Opatija can be your weekend getaway but also a great summer holiday. With pure air and a beautiful sea, Opatija can offer everything you need. From history, architecture and summer events to wellness and spa.

What to do in Opatija?

- Stroll the historic Lungomare Promenade
- Take a picture next to the *Maiden with the Seagull* Statue
- Walk down the *Walk of Fame*
- Attend an event at Opatija's Open Air Theatre
- Admire exotic plants that had been brought from Australia and South America to Park Angiolina.

Where to stay in Opatija?

- Hotel Milenij*****
- Remisens Premium Hotel Ambasador*****
- Hotel Royal****
- Hotel Villa Kapetanović****
- Hotel Miramar****



Rijeka – a gate to Croatian islands



The city of Rijeka is Croatia's third largest city and its biggest seaport as well as the industrial, university and cultural centre.

Rijeka was chosen to be European Capital of Culture in 2020, thus being a part of the project promoting the international dialogue among the European nations and their countries.

Rijeka's International Carnival takes place each year between late January and early March, with many interesting events. One of them is the Carnival charity ball which takes place in the Governor's Palace in Rijeka.

What to do in Rijeka?

- Take a day trip to Trsat Castle
- Don't miss a visit to a 17th-century baroque Catholic cathedral - Rijeka Cathedral
- Stroll the Korzo Promenade
- Attend Rijeka's International Carnival
- Stop by to visit Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian coast

Where to stay in Rijeka?

- Hotel Jadran****
- Grand Hotel Bonavia****
- Hotel Continental***
- Hotel Neboder***



Lošinj Island – a colourful getaway



Dubbed “the island of vitality” by the Croatian tourist board, the beautiful Lošinj island is often overlooked by travellers in their visits to Croatia. With a health tourism tradition for over 100 years, mild Mediterranean climate, over 250 kilometres of interesting walking trails and the exciting Lošinj Jazz Festivals, there is no reason why Lošinj shouldn’t be on your travel list.

Easily accessed from Rijeka or Zagreb Airport, Lošinj is well-connected with Croatia’s mainland and other islands. It is also well connected with Italy, with a direct ferry line from the town of Mali Lošinj to Venice.

What to do in Lošinj?

- Visit the museum of Croatian Apoxyomenos
- For a great view get to the Observation deck – Vidikovac Providenca
- Explore the Parish Church
- Taste the delicious local food

Where to stay in Lošinj?

- Wellness Hotel Aurora****
- Mare Mare Suites****
- Vitality Hotel Punta****
- Family Hotel Vespera****



Pula - a home to the Ancient Roman Arena

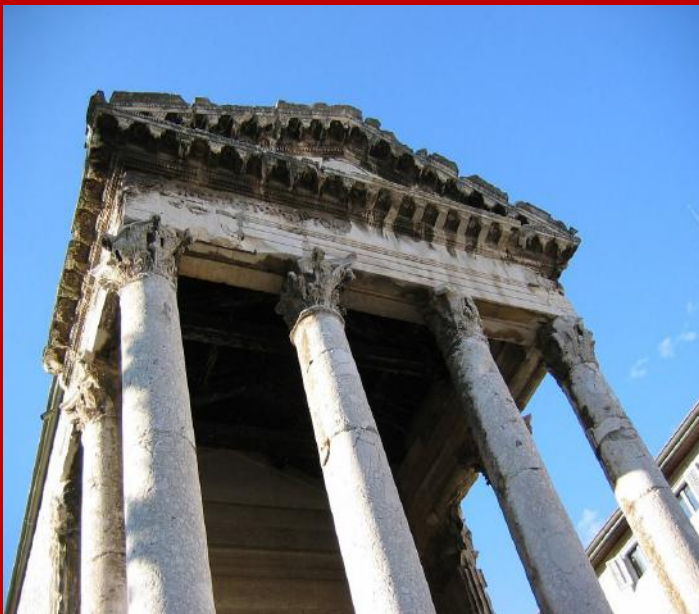


Pula is situated in the south of Istrian Peninsula and is the largest city in Istria County. With a long history going back to Roman times, Pula is Istria's administrative centre.

Boasting rich history and architecture, traditional dishes like Istrian truffles, pasta and prosciutto, Pula is a must-visit holiday destination. For those who prefer to stay active whilst on holiday, there are many interesting hiking trails around Pula, some of them passing through the famous Kaiserwald or Imperial Forest.

What to do in Pula?

- Visit the famous Pula Arena – the Ancient Roman Amphitheatre
- Walk under the sea in Pula Aquarium
- Visit the Temple of Augustus
- Take a photo in front of the triumphal arch
- Visit the Pula street market
- Enjoy traditional dishes – truffles, *pršut* and cheese, famous Istrian pasta dishes



Pula is famous for the magnificent Roman Amphitheatre, also known as the Pula Arena. It was built in the 1st century AD and is among the six largest Roman amphitheatres in the world. The amphitheatre was used for gladiator combats in the Roman times. Today, it is a place where many interesting events take place during warm summer nights: concerts, festivals, film screenings and so on. Other attractions in Pula include the Temple of Augustus, the Pula Aquarium and the Underwater Park Verudela, where the visitors can walk under the sea and explore the wonderful surroundings.

Where to stay in Pula?

- Oasi - Boutique Hotel & Restaurant****
- Adrion Aparthotel****
- Hotel Pula***
- Hotel Galija***
- Amfiteatar Hotel***



Poreč - the Ancient town of Parentium



Poreč is situated on the western coast of Istria. The main tourist attraction of this charming coastal city is the 6th-century UNESCO-protected Euphrasian Basilica, one of the best examples of Byzantine architecture in the world.

It is a lively coastal city attracting foreign and domestic tourists to its hotels and sunny beaches. One of the main summer events is Poreč Open Air Festival, featuring exciting streets performances, theatre and cinema events as well as music evenings.

What to do in Poreč?

- Visit the UNESCO-protected Euphrasian Basilica
- Attend Poreč Open Air Festival
- Explore cycling trails
- Enjoy wine tasting
- Visit and have fun in Aquacolors waterpark
- Don't miss the exciting Baredine Cave

Where to stay in Poreč?

- Valamar Riviera Hotel & Residence****
- Laguna Molindrio Hotel
- Hotel Poreč
- Grand Hotel Palazzo
- Hotel Laguna Parentium



Rovinj - the cutest town in Croatia



Rovinj is probably one of the most charming little towns you'll ever visit. Situated on a small peninsula in the west of Istria, Rovinj has a circular, egg-like shape with the tall church tower rising from its centre. The town is bilingual, with Italian and Croatian as official languages.

Tourists enjoy climbing the church tower to enjoy the wonderful view over Rovinj, strolling the romantic narrow streets of Rovinj Old Town and relaxing by the sea.

What to do in Rovinj?

- Visit the historic Church of St. Euphemia
- Enjoy walking or swimming in Zlatni Rat park-forest
- Explore Rovinj Aquarium
- Visit Batana Eco-Museum
- Taste some of the best Istrian dishes and wines

Where to stay in Rovinj?

- Hotel Lone*****
- Hotel Adriatic****
- Hotel Eden****
- Family Hotel Amarin****
- Villa Tuttorotto****



What's for Dinner? – Croatian food info

Croatian food is a result of the country's unique historical development. Traces of regional culinary influences can be seen (and tasted) in the modern Croatian kitchen, and they vary from region to region – for example, you'll find significantly different food on the Croatian islands than in Slavonia.

In Dalmatia the most popular food is – guess what – fish! Dalmatian cuisine is heavily influenced by Italian and generally Mediterranean cuisine. The fresh fish from the Adriatic Sea is usually served with swiss chard and potatoes.



- **Paštica** is the traditional Dalmatian meat dish, usually served with a side of home-made gnocchi or pasta. It is a stewed beef dish cooked with prunes, nutmeg, bacon, wine and other ingredients for up to 6 hours
- **Roasted lamb under the bell** (bell is usually called peka) is very popular in mountainous and coastal parts of Croatia. The meat and potatoes are placed in a baking pan, covered with large clay or metal bell. The dish is then placed in the oven and covered with lots of hot coals, so that it can slowly cook in its own juices.
- **Rožata** is a delicious custard dessert from Dubrovnik region, similar to crème brûlée. It was named after the special type of rose liqueur, which gives the cake its special aroma.





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