

# Croatia

The Mediterranean as it once was.





**Croatia**

**T**his is a story about a land of a thousand islands, her magical nature and rich heritage, her great Men whose great deeds have forever etched the name of Croatia in large letters on the map of the world. This is a story about a land whose beauties have been celebrated since ancient times. From Cassiodorus, who wrote of the divine life led by Patricians on her shores, to Dante, who wrote his immortal verses, enthralled by the epic scenes of the blue expanse, and all the way to George Bernard Shaw, who found his paradise on Earth right here. Croatia has always been a place of true inspiration.

Through pictures of unforgettable scenes and incredible stories, we have endeavoured to bring all the special qualities of this wonderful land that is our beautiful country as close to you as possible. Indeed, in nine fairytale-like chapters we have managed to lay before you the pearls of her diversity. Do not hesitate; descend the thousand-year-old stairs of a rich, turbulent and glorious history and discover destinations in which experiences of the warm, blue Mediterranean are enhanced by the charm of the tranquil and picturesque green mountains in the north and the fertile golden plains in the easternmost part of the land. All that you have dreamt of is now within reach. Browsing through the pages of this catalogue you are surely bound to find a place for your perfect holiday.

Welcome to Croatia!

## Land of diversity.

## Croatia.

**ISTRIA. | 16-21**

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■ 04

Choose your destination in Croatia and explore true diversity.

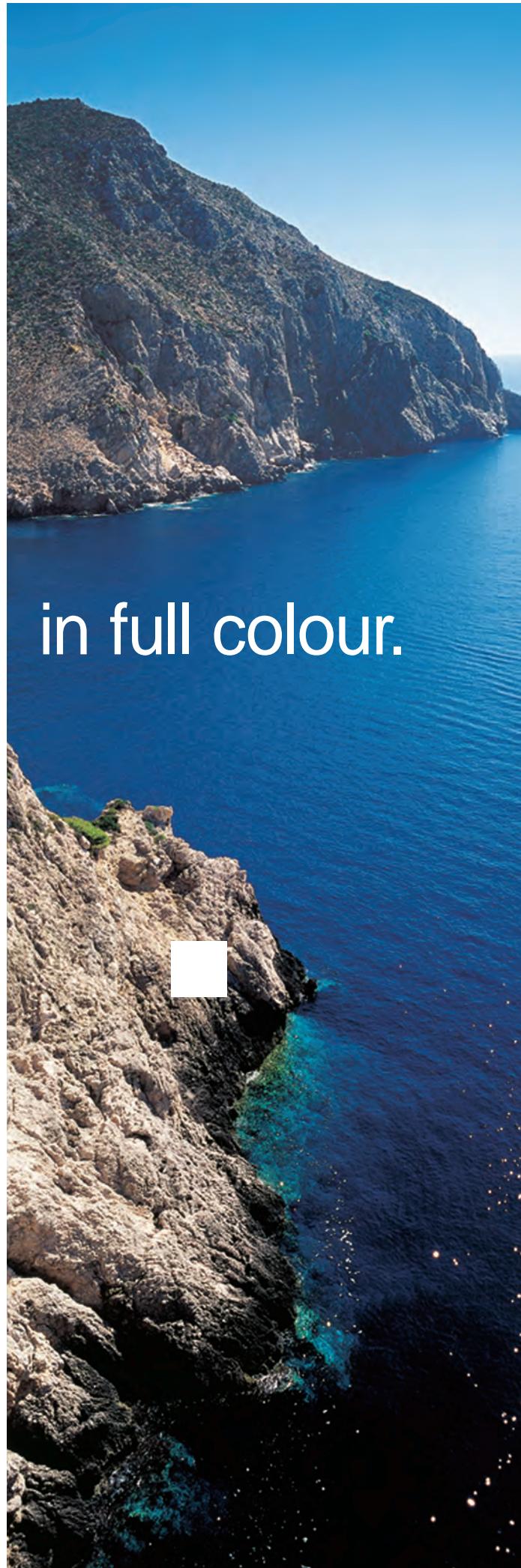


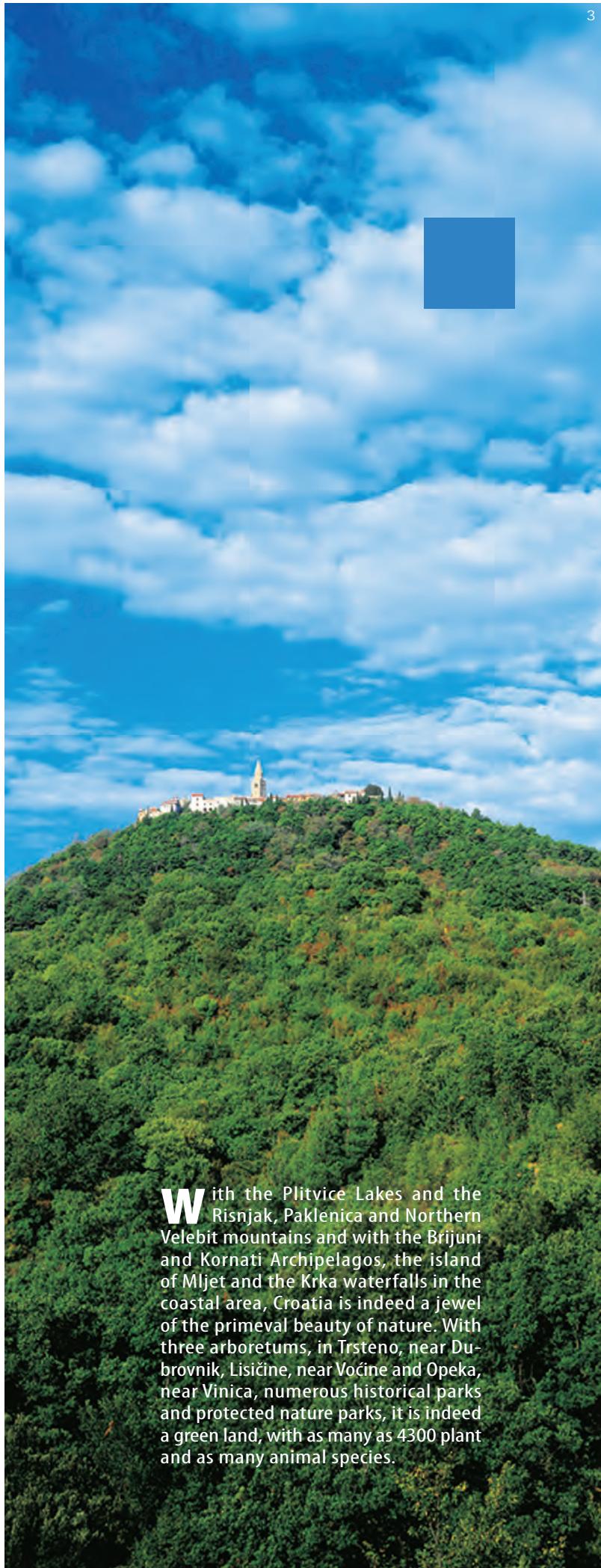
- 1. **ISTRIA.**
- 2. **KVARNER.**
- 3. **DALMATIA.** ZADAR.
- 4. **DALMATIA.** ŠIBENIK.
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- 8. **CENTRAL CROATIA.**
- 9. **CITY OF ZAGREB.**
- 10. **SLAVONIA.**

Croatia is one of the ecologically best preserved parts of Europe. It is a land where the hues of the sunny and warm Mediterranean happily blend with the tranquility and freshness of mountains and the gentle sway of the golden plains of Pannonia. It is a land of truly divine inspiration that has delighted many of the World's prominent Men of letters. Although a small country, Croatia has a rare European landscape which boasts as many as eight national parks!

06

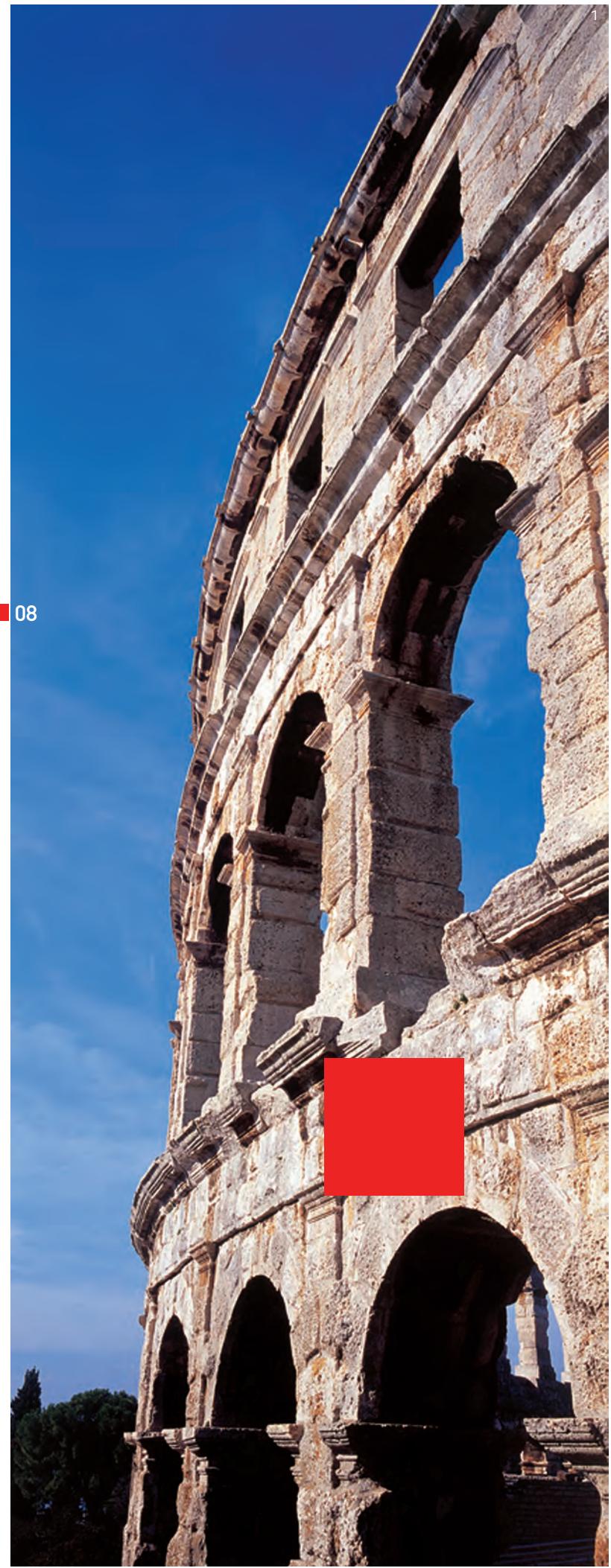
## Nature





**W**ith the Plitvice Lakes and the Risnjak, Paklenica and Northern Velebit mountains and with the Brijuni and Kornati Archipelagos, the island of Mljet and the Krka waterfalls in the coastal area, Croatia is indeed a jewel of the primeval beauty of nature. With three arboreta, in Trsteno, near Dubrovnik, Lisičine, near Voćine and Opeka, near Vinica, numerous historical parks and protected nature parks, it is indeed a green land, with as many as 4300 plant and as many animal species.





■ 08

Welcome to Croatia! A land whose rich cultural heritage is discovered not only from within the walls of numerous museums, galleries and churches, many of which today, as zero category monuments are included in a part of the UNESCO World Heritage List, but also in that magical place on the Mediterranean, where even the shortest stroll becomes a journey down a staircase thousands of years old, which takes one through a history that is at the same time turbulent, exciting and glorious. Whether walking the intricate grid of narrow white stone streets and alleys, or revelling in the teeming life of the port towns of Istria, Kvarner or Dalmatia, climbing the green serpentines of Central Croatia to the fairytale-like fortresses and castles, each step is an ever fresh experience, made special by the fact that on her territory, as many as four cultural circles meet, intertwine and complement one another - west, east, Central European and the southern spirit of the Mediterranean. Croatia is a land of urban culture which numbers more cities than any other part of the Mediterranean. With as many as nine cultural phenomena - The Festivity of Saint Blaise, lace-making in Lepoglava, Hvar and Pag, the bell ringers from the Kastav region, the Hvar Procession "Za Križen", ('following the Cross'), two-part singing of narrow intervals in Istria and Hrvatsko Primorje, the spring procession of 'Ljelje', the traditional manufacture of wooden toys in the Hrvatsko zagorje region, the Sinjska alka and gingerbread craft from northern Croatia, Croatia is among the countries with the most protected intangible assets in the world, inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Ojkanje singing features on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

# Treasure trove of impressive history.



If you are interested in the days of antiquity, you should start from the Roman amphitheatre in Pula, through Zadar and its Forum - the largest excavated forum on the eastern shores of the Adriatic - and then head to the magnificent palace of Emperor Diocletian in Split. Walk through time, from the pre-Romanesque Church of St. Domnius in Zadar, dating from the 9th century, to the world of the Romanesque that is the magical monument city of Trogir, or the islands of Krk and Rab. Follow the Gothic period in Zagreb, Pazin, or, for instance, the town of Ston on the Pelješac peninsula. Discover the Renaissance in Osor on the island of Cres, the Šibenik cathedral, the islands of Hvar and Korčula, and finally, the one and only Dubrovnik. The towns of Varaždin, Bjelovar and Vukovar glow with the splendour of the Baroque, while the heritage of the 19th century is at its best in Rijeka, Osijek and, of course, in downtown Zagreb.

However, if you are more keen on monuments with lesser exposure, one of those who loves to wander and discover the beauty of places that simply live their quiet life, and through it tell the stories of their long histories in an unobtrusive way, then come into the world of hundreds of tiny medieval churches with striking frescoes and fascinating intertwined ornamental three-strand patterned reliefs. From the renowned medieval philosopher, Istrian-born Hermann Dalmatin, the world traveller and explorer, Marco Polo, who was born on Korčula, to Julije Klović, the miniaturist known as the Croatian Michelangelo, Ruđer Bošković, the Dubrovnik-born and greatest physicist, mathematician and astronomer of his time, and all the way to Nikola Tesla, one of the most brilliant inventors the world has ever seen and who was born in Lika, this is a land which rightly enjoys the reputation of being not only a place of great history but also of a great people.



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## The wonder of vivid diversities.

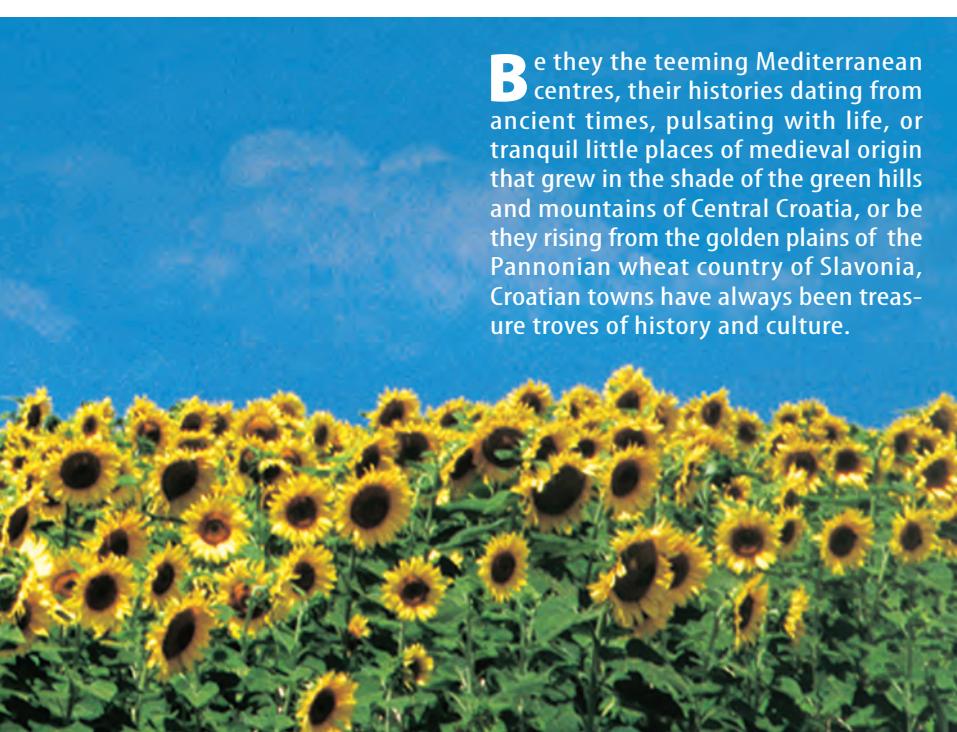


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[ 1.Rovinj 2.Đakovo 3.Dubrovnik 4.Završje 5.Osijek ]



3



**B**e they the teeming Mediterranean centres, their histories dating from ancient times, pulsating with life, or tranquil little places of medieval origin that grew in the shade of the green hills and mountains of Central Croatia, or be they rising from the golden plains of the Pannonian wheat country of Slavonia, Croatian towns have always been treasure troves of history and culture.



**T**heir creation based on a flawless vision of better life, nourished by landscapes of vineyards, olive groves and wheat fields, they seem to have descended straight from a painting. Just like people, they experienced happy and less happy periods; some have been preserved and take pride in their continuity over a few thousand years, and have in their prime grown into true metropolises, while others were swept away by the maelstrom of history and transformed into romantic stage sets in which the sensitive souls of today read the records of times gone by.

If you really want to get to know the towns of this country in the full glory of their diversity, start with those on the coast, passionately dedicated to the joys of living, and then turn your attention toward the more sedate and peaceful centres in the hinterland. Whether you start with Dubrovnik, or Diocletian's Split, or Krešimir's Šibenik, Zadar, Rijeka or Pula - the mythical sanctuary of the Argonauts - or indeed the capital Zagreb, the Baroque beauty of Varaždin, Osijek and proud Vukovar in the easternmost part of the country, an ordinary walk through their streets will turn into a magical journey through fascinating periods of history.





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**W**ashed by the precious salt waters of the Adriatic, roused by the intoxicating fragrances of pines, lavender and sage, caressed by the sun and gentle breezes, Croatia's shores are the real hidden garden of Mediterranean beauty. Adorned by a string of over a thousand heavenly islands and islets which enhance the noble feature of her sea, these shores are the cleanest, most gentle beaches in the Mediterranean. If you sail the Adriatic, enjoying the lovely vistas from the open sea, or if you are immersed in the crystal clear waters of some romantic cove and warm rocks, or if you are resting your eyes on the contours of the islands merged into the blue expanse, you will discover why these shores seem to be a supreme divine creation.

■ 12



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# Charm of the true Mediterranean.



**D**o you like an active holiday? Do you love sailing and diving and prefer cycling to sightseeing tours? Do you love climbing mountains and reaching their peaks and are no stranger to casting off from those peaks on the wings of a paraglider? In that case, Croatia is the place for you.

The incredible coastal landscape, lovely indented coastline, coves, beaches sheltered by pine woods, and small and

perfect coastal towns and villages scattered along the mainland coast and on hundreds of islands and isles, captivate with their singular character. Whether you are sailing along those shores, or diving in the blue waters lapping against them, the world before you will include a wealth of flora and fauna, traces of centuries gone by - from ancient amphorae to sunken galleys, and ships that met their end in the whirlwind of two World Wars. You will discover that the Croatian coast is a paradise for yachtmen and divers. The preserved natural environment is just as ideal a destination for those who love walking, hiking, mountaineering and camping. In short, it is the

place for those who seek a holiday where they can truly become one with nature. There is cycling, riding and numerous trails and tours which will take you in different directions in a rhythm that suits you. Finally, for adrenalin addicts, rafting, parachuting, or paragliding on the rapids and rivers from Central Croatia to Dalmatia and the mountains from the heights of Biokovo mountain on the mainland, to Vidova Gora on the island of Brač will provide you with unparalleled excitement and challenges.

## Natural stress relief.



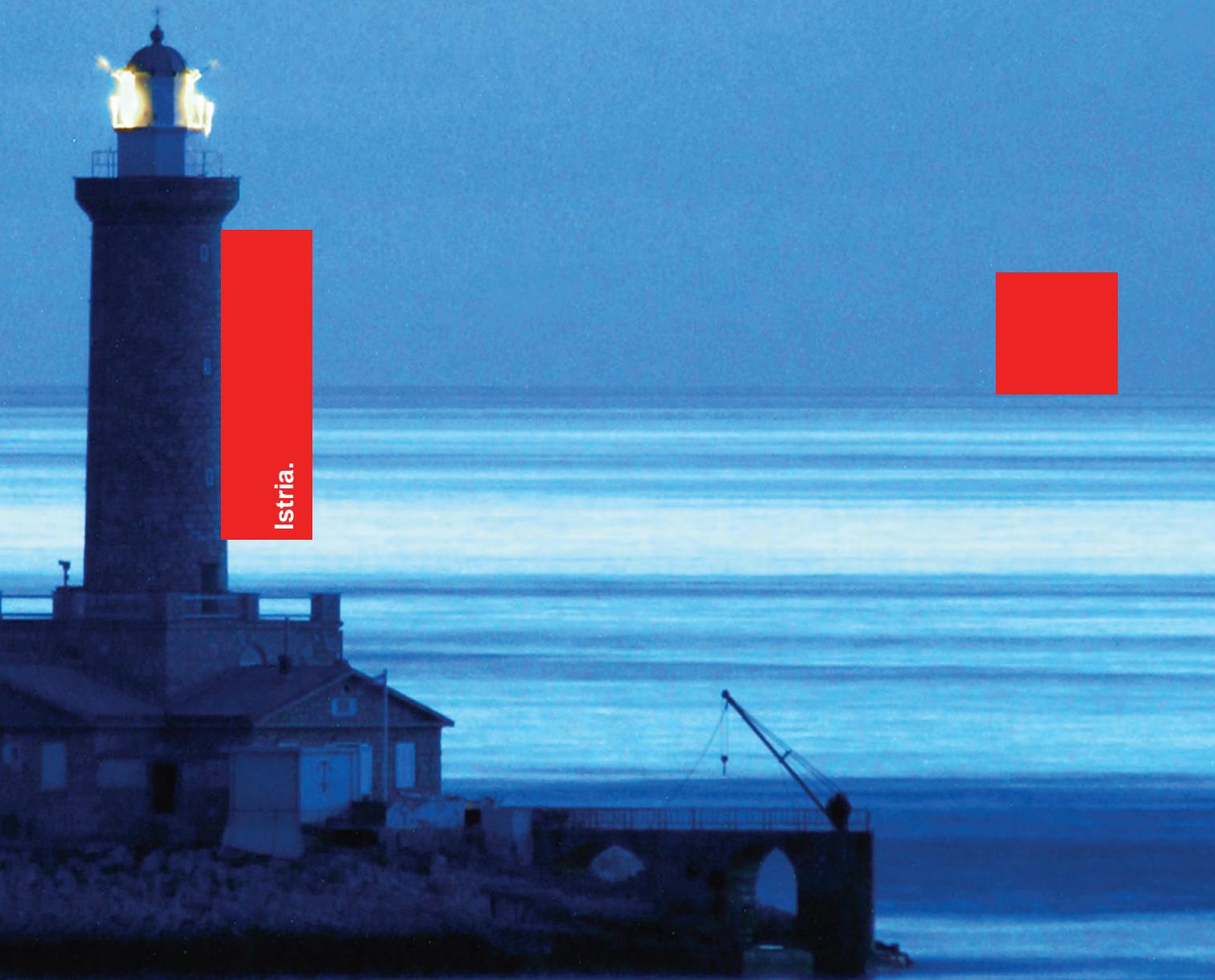
[ 1.3.Pula 2.River Cetina 4.Istra ]





Where dreams come true.

■ 16



# Istria.

The heart-shaped peninsula reaching deep into the clear blue waters of the Adriatic Sea is a hidden garden of beauty which opens the door to the sunny and warm Mediterranean. Come and travel through it without hesitation, and the holiday of your dreams will become reality.

Multicultural and hospitable, this is an area where wide-ranging diversities have come together to form a happy union. Istria's crystal clear sea, clean shores and ports, its lively fishing boats and teeming narrow stone streets exude the true charm of the Mediterranean. Small, picturesque medieval towns perched on the peaks of its hills emanate the peace and gentleness of landscapes that irresistibly evoke the most beautiful parts of Tuscany or Provence.

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# Explore a land of true contrasts, where the blue and the green will inspire your soul

**W**hereas the coastlines of Pula, Rovinj, Vrsar, Poreč, Novigrad or Umag bring to mind heritage and antiquity and conjure up images of Venice, in the central part of Istria the spirit of Central Europe is instantly discernible. In other words, Istria offers more than just the sea, sunbathed shores, romantic coves and tiny ports! She beckons you to follow the fairyland paths leading to the small medieval towns crowning her hilly landscape. Climb up to any one of them. Be it Motovun, Grožnjan, Završje, Oprtalj or, indeed, the smallest town in the world, Hum. A walk through Hum's narrow, stone-paved streets will become a magical journey through a history that is quite unique. Follow that path, from the massive town gate to a bench on the town loggia, and then on to the church on the main square and the bell tower, a view from which Istria will, for a brief

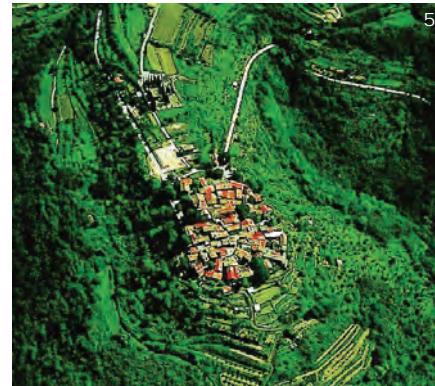
moment, shine forth from a different panorama. Although they seem to be very similar, each of these tiny medieval towns is a quite individual entity. So, be curious. Peek into doorways, discover the coats of arms, and houses - grand and not so grand; enter churches and find rest in the cool and quietude of the chapels. Here, you will come to understand the popular legends about diligent fairies who spend the nights building and rebuilding the walls, and also about "štrigas" - bad witches who are always stirring up trouble. If you should meet anybody in your wanderings, feel free to stop and ask them whatever you wish. The people here are kindly and hospitable, and they will gladly tell you the story of Istria, a land in which even the greatest diversities live in peace and harmony, taking pride in their openness.



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Istria.

[ 1.2.Rovinj 3.6.Motovun 4.Novigrad 5.Grožnjan 7.Labin ]

ISTRIA. | 19



## TO EXPLORE

**GROŽNJAN, MOTOVUN** - architecture, galleries, film and music events in the small, fairy tale-like towns of Istria  
**LABIN** - medieval town the streets of which provide a stage for a variety of events

Wine Roads and Olive Oil Roads

Cycling trails - over 80 organized trails with an overall length of over 3,200 km



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## TOURISM PLUS

**AGROTOURISM** - the more than 250 households engaged in agrotourism offer an unforgettable atmosphere of a traditional way of life

**VILLAS** - over 100 luxury villas available for a dream holiday, both in the unspoilt nature of Central Istria and on the coast



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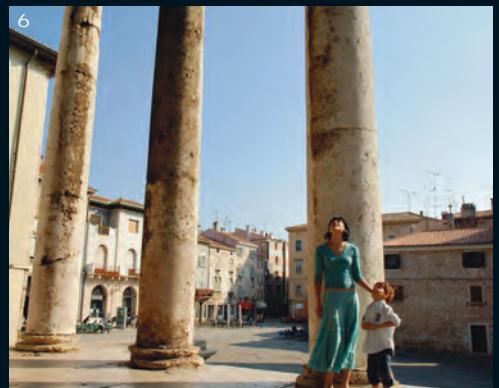
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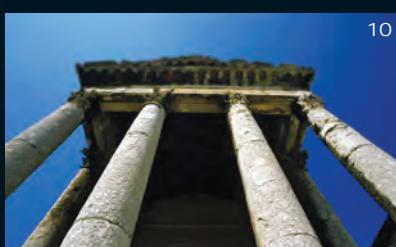
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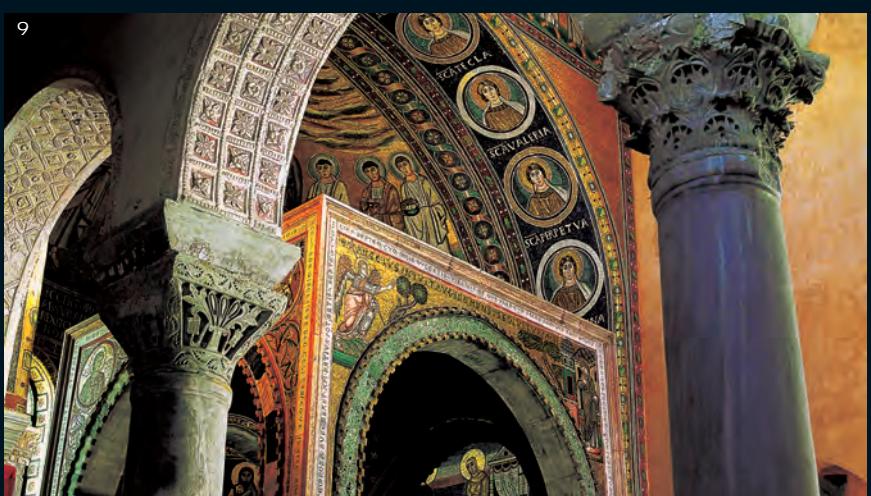


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## NATIONAL PARKS

**BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK** – an exceptionally rich cultural and historical heritage on this 14 isle archipelago. A former residence of President Tito, it offers beautiful beaches, remains from Antiquity, a Zoo Safari park, golf course and superb gastronomic selection and quality



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## NATURE

**GORNJI (UPPER) KAMENJAK AND THE MEDULIN ARCHIPELAGO** – notable landscape

**DONJI (LOWER) KAMENJAK** – notable landscape

**PALUD** – special ornithological reserve

**THE BAY OF LIM** – special nature reserve – maritime nature reserve

**THE MOTOVUN WOODS** – special forest vegetation nature reserve

**THE VEGETATION OF ISTRIA** – notable landscape



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# Discover hidden treasures of breath-taking history and unspoiled nature

Istria truly is “terra magica”; blessed with unspoiled nature, the crown jewel of which are the Brijuni islands, one of the most beautiful archipelagos in the Mediterranean. This is a land whose long and rich history can be read literally from dinosaur footprints. Fortified by the northerly bora and invigorated by the mistral, fragrance imbued with Spanish broom, sage and lavender, drowsy from stone pines, thyme and immortelle, with a climate that makes for a five month long swimming season, Istria is indeed the ideal tourist destination.



**ISTRIA | 21**

Of course, without forgetting the famous Istrian cuisine! From delicacies of the sea to delectable truffles, the liquid gold of the domestic Malmsey, the aromatic Muscat of Momjan, or the ruby-red Teran that once fortified Casanova himself, your palate will combine these divine pleasures into a fusion of unforgettable Istrian experiences. So, rather than dreaming of the holiday of your life - wake up in Istria!



Istria.

**S**tep into this vibrant hub of civilisations whose cultural arboretum has been jealously nurtured since the times of the Histri, the Celts and the Romans, through the Slavonic peoples and the Venetians, all the way to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and you will soon learn why Istria is so special. Remember the Legend of the Argonauts; In vain pursuit of Jason and the stolen Golden Fleece, having arrived to the shores of Istria, the people of Colchis decided not to return to their home. There is something in her magic, pos-

sessed by no other place in the Mediterranean. Here, you will find a town which, just like Rome, lies on seven hills and boasts a famous amphitheatre. On one of those hills, a weary Hungarian king felt the desire to exchange his resplendent robes for the modest robe of a monk, and die in a state of sanctity. The immortal Dante, inspired by the view from a certain belvedere, wrote the verses of his La Divina Commedia. The name of this town is Pula, Istria's largest urban centre. It is the beating heart of the peninsula, with 3000 years

of history behind it and a unique place in the Mediterranean. Pula boasts a diverse, impressive cultural heritage. Just like the peninsula upon which it rose, it is not without reason that it carries a feminine name. Modest but fascinating, Pula and Istria have long been known as enchantresses with a hundred faces, faces that have been seducing visitors for thousands of years. Whoever strays once into their invisible web, and experiences but a morsel of the joy they can give, always wishes to return again, and again!

[ 1.8.11.16.Rovinj 2.Savudrija 3.Umag 4.Vrsar 5.6.7.10.Pula 9.Poreč 12.13.Brijuni 14.Rt Kamenjak 15.Lim 17.Beram ]

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**AMPHITHEATRE** (Pula) – magnificent monument of Antiquity dating from the 1st century, once the arena where gladiators and lions fought, today a unique stage for festivals and concerts

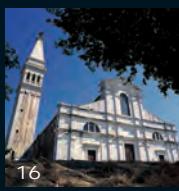
**BASILICA OF ST. EUPHRASIUS** (Poreč) – complex of early Byzantine architecture and art dating from the 6th century, included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage

**CHURCH OF ST. EUPHEMIA** (Rovinj) – an imposing creation of Baroque architecture and art with a rich collection of works of art and the sarcophagus of the patron saint of the city

**DANCE MACABRE** (Beram) – a small church with unique frescoes dating from the 14th century

**DVIGRAD** – remains of a medieval town

**TWO-PART SINGING IN THE ISTRIAN SCALE** – UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

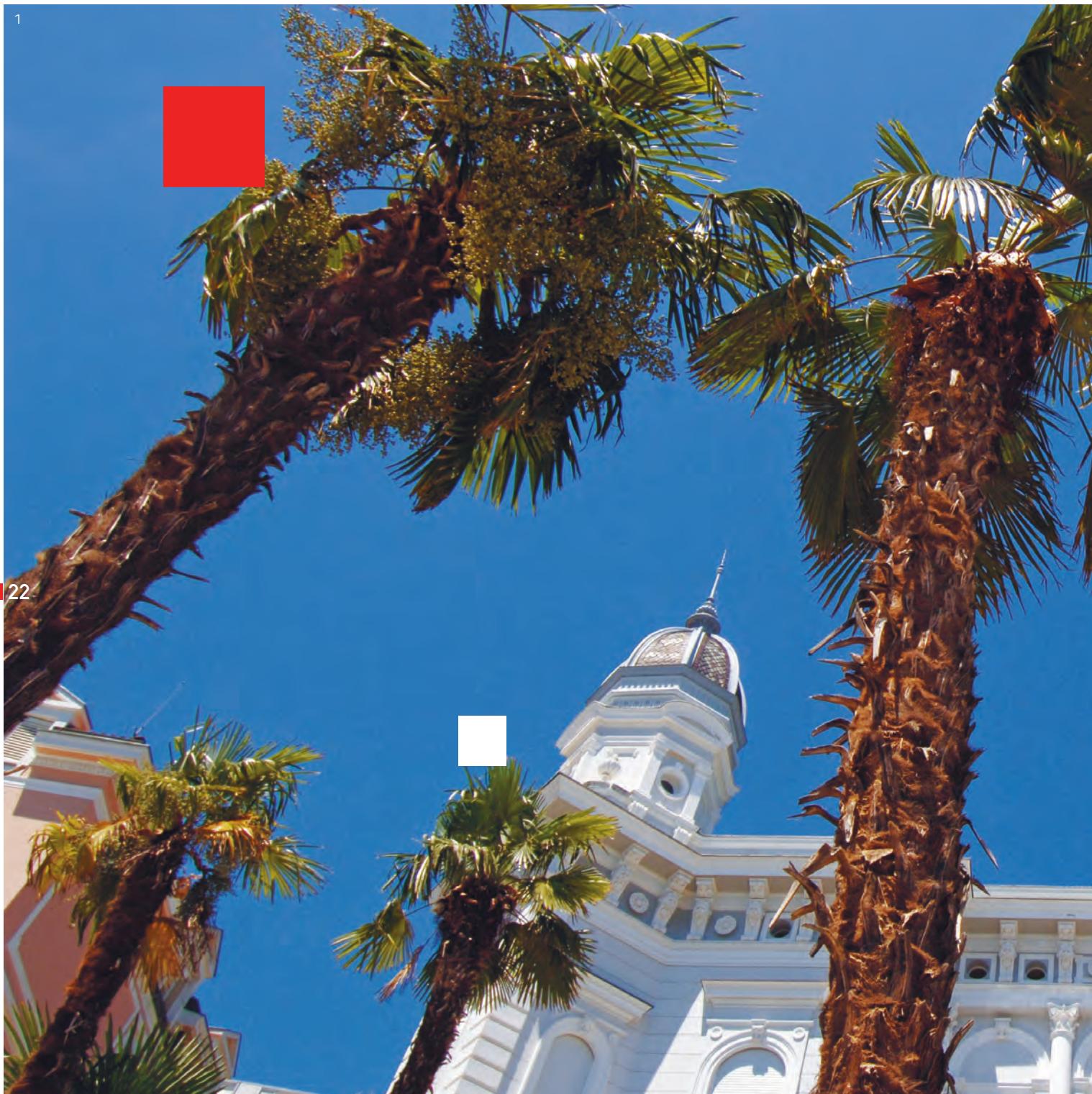


## GASTRONOMY

Truffles, Istrian prosciutto, olive oil, fish and frutti di mare specialties, meat and fish dishes prepared under a “peka”, omelette with asparagus, “fuži” (home-made pasta) with game goulash, “biska” brandy, Istrian soup, indigenous wines Teran, Refošk, Istrian and Malmsey



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[ 1.Opatija 2.Lovran 3.Oranj ]

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**Kvarner.**



Where true diversities  
come together.

**Kvarner.**

**P**erhaps you imagine an ideal holiday, one where you can set off from the shore towards sunny islands, and then sail back to seek the peace and quiet of a mountain peak. In the process you dream of a sun-bathed Riviera that can, should you so wish, be replaced within a span of 10 km by ascetic peace and fresh mountain air where you are in the company of eagles, wolves and bears, and where your lungs are filled with forest scented air. If that is indeed the case, then you are looking for Kvarner and Gorski kotar - separate parts of this small country that differ significantly one from the other.

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# Set off from the Opatija Riviera...

To begin with, walk the wonderful Opatija Riviera and enjoy its 12 km long promenade by the sea. Here, the foundations of tourism were laid way back in 1844, when a wheat merchant with vision decided to build the first hotel in Opatija; the famous Villa Angiolina. It was not long before the town became one of the most elite summer resorts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; one that attracted many famous names – from members of the imperial family, to artists, scientists and politicians. Then, allow the elegant villas and hotels, lush

gardens and parks to lead you towards Rijeka, the metropolis of the littoral and today the largest trading and maritime centre of the northern Adriatic. Sitting under the watchful eye of the magnificent fortification of Trsat, with the oldest Marian sanctuary in Croatia, together with a Franciscan monastery, St. Vitus' Cathedral and the famous votive chapel, Rijeka is a fascinating city, not just as a maritime centre but also one of enviable cultural and artistic life, and home to the greatest carnival event in Croatia.



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## TO EXPLORE

**OPATIJA RIVIERA** - a 12 km long promenade along the edge of the sea

**ISLAND OF KOŠLJUN** - spiritual and vegetational paradise - Park Wood

**LUBENICE** (island of Cres) - stone-built settlement, 378 metres ASL

**OSOR** - town with a turbulent history, and, nowadays, lovely musical evenings

**DOLPHIN WATCHING**: Cres-Lošinj aquatorium

**ADVENTURE SPORTS**: windsurfing, paragliding, car racing, wake-boarding, rafting, kayaking, cycling, diving, sailing

Cycling trail, hiking trails, mountaineering routes

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF TRSAT** - the oldest Marian sanctuary in Croatia, with a Franciscan monastery

**TOWN OF RAB** - medieval churches and aristocratic palaces

**THE BAŠKA PLAQUE** (Bašćanska ploča, island of Krk) - the largest Croatian written monument in old Glagolitic script, dating from the 12th century

**ZRINSKI CASTLE** (Čabar)

**IVAN GORAN KOVACIĆ MUSEUM**, and the amphitheatre (Lukovdol)

**VRBOVSKO** - traditional architecture

**TWO-PART SINGING IN HRVATSKO PRIMORJE** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**ANNUAL CARNIVAL BELL RINGERS' PAGEANT FROM THE KASTAV AREA** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage



8



[ 1.7.9.11.13. Krk 2.Cres 3.Osor 4.5.12. Rab 6.Baška(Krk) 8.Brseč 10.Lošinj 14.Gorski kotar 15.Crikvenica ]

## Epic images amid the blue of the sea

If you are yearning for the silence of the wide blue expanse and the charm of the islands, then set off into the Kvarner Bay, ringed by the mythical Absyrtian islands from the legend of the Argonauts: Rab, Krk, Cres and Lošinj. Apart from enjoying the epic sights of bora-bleached cliffs, coves and inlets reaching deep into the sea, small sunbathed towns with stone-built houses, abandon yourself to the intoxicating fragrances of lavender, sage, myrtle and

umbrella pines, and the 2700 species of amazing flora. These islands will also reveal themselves as the habitat of an enviable number of animal species. Strolling through the towns of Lošinj, Osor on the island of Cres, or Vrbnik on Krk, will open up their nooks and crannies, revealing numerous remains of a rich heritage, like the famous Baška Plaque - a carved stone monument of the Croatian language dating from the year 1100. A climb to the peaks of cliffs will

allow you to observe the habitat of rare griffons, and in the waters beneath them enjoy the magical play of dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals. All those seeking clean air with special medicinal properties should continue their journey in the direction of the Crikvenica-Vinodol Riviera which, in 1906, was officially declared a climatic health resort, and where the Therapia Hotel - one of the most beautiful hotel buildings along the entire Croatian coast - was built in 1895.

### NATURE

**UČKA** - nature park

**VELA DRAGA** - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

**ANGIOLINA PARK AND ST. JACOB'S**

(Opatija) - park architecture monument

**LOPAR** (island of Rab) - notable landscape, stunning 1,500 m long sandy beach

**DUNDO** (island of Rab) - special forest

vegetation nature reserve

**FOJIŠKA-PODPREDOŠĆICA** (island of Cres) - special ornithological nature reserve

SOURCE OF THE KUPA RIVER (Čabar) - natural phenomenon

**FUŽINE** - mountain lakes and caves

**ZELENI VIR** - special geomorphologic reserve

**JAPLENŠKI VRH** - special geomorphologic reserve

**BIJELE STIJENE** (white rocks) and **SAMAR-SKE STIJENE** (samar rocks) (Mrkopalj) - strict nature reserve Velebit - Nature Park

### NATIONAL PARKS

**RISNJAK** - Rich and diverse animal and plant world, karstic phenomena





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KVARNER. | 27

## Oases of peace and silence by the sea

A quite special experience awaits you on the steep hills of the Učka Mountain, overshadowing Istria and the western part of Kvarner, especially in its nature parks. Lovely green landscapes of exceptional ecological value with a high concentration of protected species, rising only about a dozen metres from the sea are true oases of peace and tranquillity which are becoming

an increasingly popular destination of Croatian winter tourism. If you start travelling northward, you will get to the Risnjak National Park near Delnice and numerous reserves of diverse and rich indigenous flora and endangered animal species, spread across the green mountains. All are idyllic holiday locations for those seeking to truly become one with nature.



15

### GASTRONOMY

Kvarner prawn, "šurlice": homemade pasta (island of Krk), Cres lamb, specialties made from cherries, asparagus and sweet chestnuts (Lovran), indigenous wines: Vrbnička žlahtina (Krk) and Trojišćina (island of Susak), Island of Rab cake, game, frogs, mushrooms, freshwater fish, mountain liqueurs, plum and pear brandies



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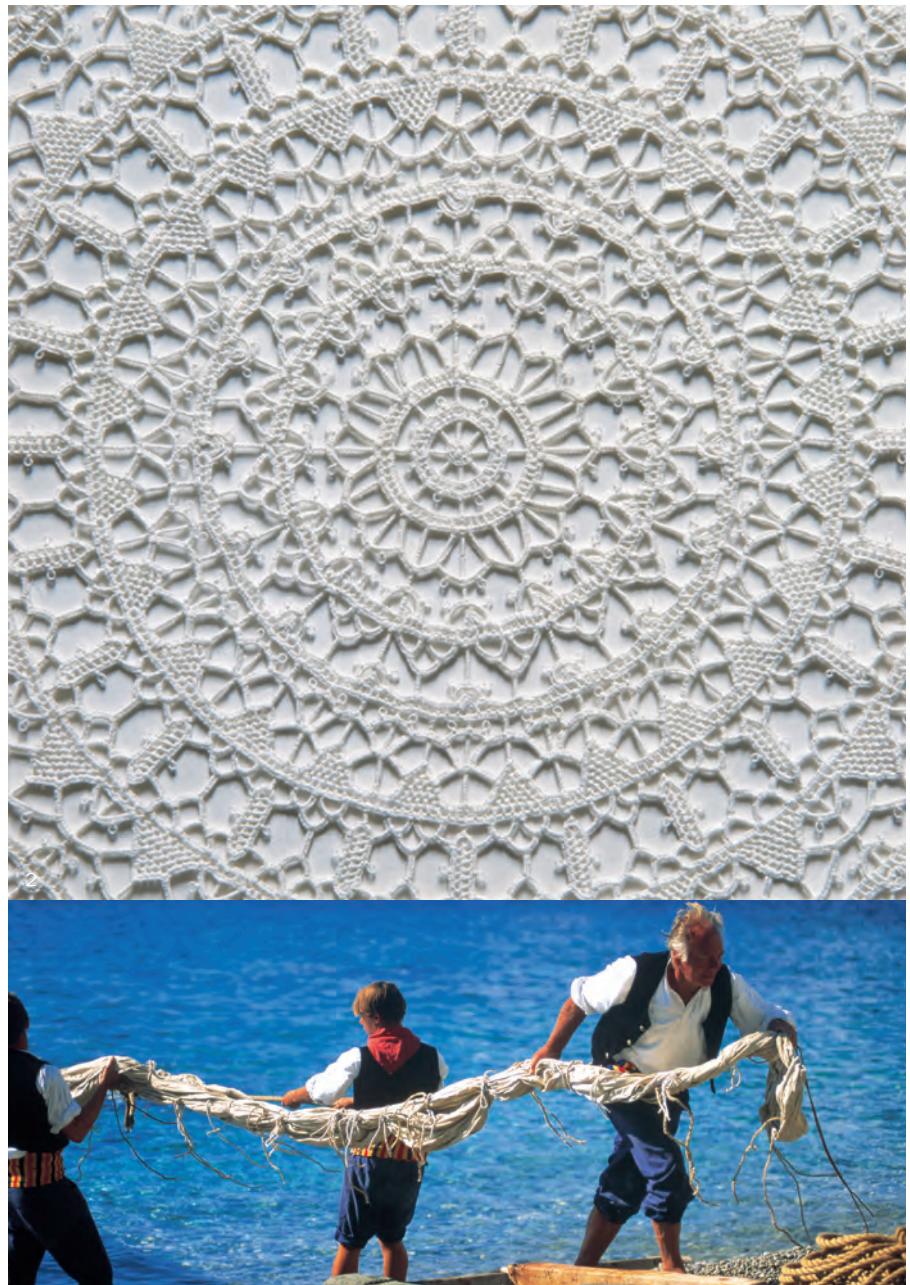
### TOURISM PLUS

Health tourism: Opatija, Crikvenica (talassotherapy), Lovran (treatment of bone diseases), Wellness, Congress Tourism  
Skiing: Croatian Olympic Centre, Bjelolasica, Platak Hunting, fishing, rafting, canoeing, paragliding, riding



Where Croatian **culture** begins.

Dalmatia.Zadar.



## Dalmatia. Zadar.

Dalmatia's centre is 3000-year-old Zadar, a city with the largest researched Roman forum on the Croatian side of the Adriatic and unforgettable Romanesque churches like St. Donatus, St. Anastasia and St. Chrisogonus. Nearby Nin (the oldest Croatian royal city) boasts the smallest cathedral in the world (the Church of the Holy Cross measures but 36 paces!). The region of Zadar tells the story of the sources of Croatian cultural heritage better than any book.



## Discover the 3000 years of Zadar's fascinating history

**A**s the centuries-long centre of the Illyrian tribe of Liburni, and the capital of Dalmatia for millennia, Zadar is a place whose rich spiritual and material culture is best testified to by its walls and numerous sacral monuments, crowned by the symbol of the city: the 9th century Church of St. Donatus, the most monumental Croatian building of the early Middle Ages. Enjoying the protection of as many as four patron saints – Zoilus, Simon, Chrisogonus and Anastasia – Zadar takes pride not

only in its abundant archaeological and monumental treasures, jealously guarded down the centuries, but also in the fact that the foundations of the oldest university in the Land were laid here in 1396. Replete with rich archives, libraries and outstanding treasures of sacral music, Zadar is also the city in which the first Croatian novel was written, and where the first newspapers in the Croatian language were printed.

### NATIONAL PARKS

**PAKLENICA NATIONAL PARK** – unique complex of canyons and a wealth of flora and fauna

### NATURE

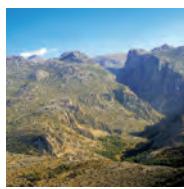
**SALJSKO POLJE** (Dugi otok) – notable landscape

**RIVER ZRMANJA CANYON** – notable landscape

**TELAŠĆICA** – Nature Park, with the safest, most beautiful and largest natural port on the Adriatic

**VRANSKO JEZERO** (Lake Vrana) – nature park

**VELEBIT** – nature park



### CULTURAL HERITAGE

**ST. DONATUS CHURCH** (Zadar) – symbol of the city of Zadar

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS** (Nin) – the smallest cathedral in the world

**LACEMAKING ON PAG** – UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage



6

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8



## A land that inspired the gods

**A**lthough it may seem pretentious to describe the Zadar region as an area of divine inspiration, it is indeed a land of singular natural beauty. This claim is best borne out by its numerous national parks. With its mountains, lakes and waterfalls, its canyons, caves, karstic holes and the blue expanse of the open sea embraced by a string of lovely islands full of small welcoming ports and romantic beaches, it is easier to paint this part of the world by the brush than

by words. Without forgetting the sound of the sea organ - the architectural wonder of the Zadar waterfront from which, as Alfred Hitchcock once said, one can watch the most beautiful sunset in the world. With a slice of Pag cheese and a glass of the famous Maraschino, a local liqueur made from the native Maraska sour cherry, in your hand, you can enjoy all the blessings of this area and the fruits of this land of matchless, divine inspiration.

Dalmatia.Zadar.



[ 1.3.Zadar 2.4-5.Pag 6.Nin 7.8.9.Ugljan 10.Dugi otok ]



### TO EXPLORE

PAG – architecture of the town, production of

Pag Lace

ISLANDS OF UGLJAN AND PAŠMAN – architecture of stone-built houses

### GASTRONOMY

Pag cheese, salt from Pag and Nin, prosciutto from Posedarje, "Ninski šokol", Maraschino liqueur, Rosé of Benkovac

### TOURISMPLUS

Cycling trails, hunting, riding





# Where pearls are easy to find.

1

## Dalmatia. Šibenik.

[ 1.Kornati 2.Šibenik ]

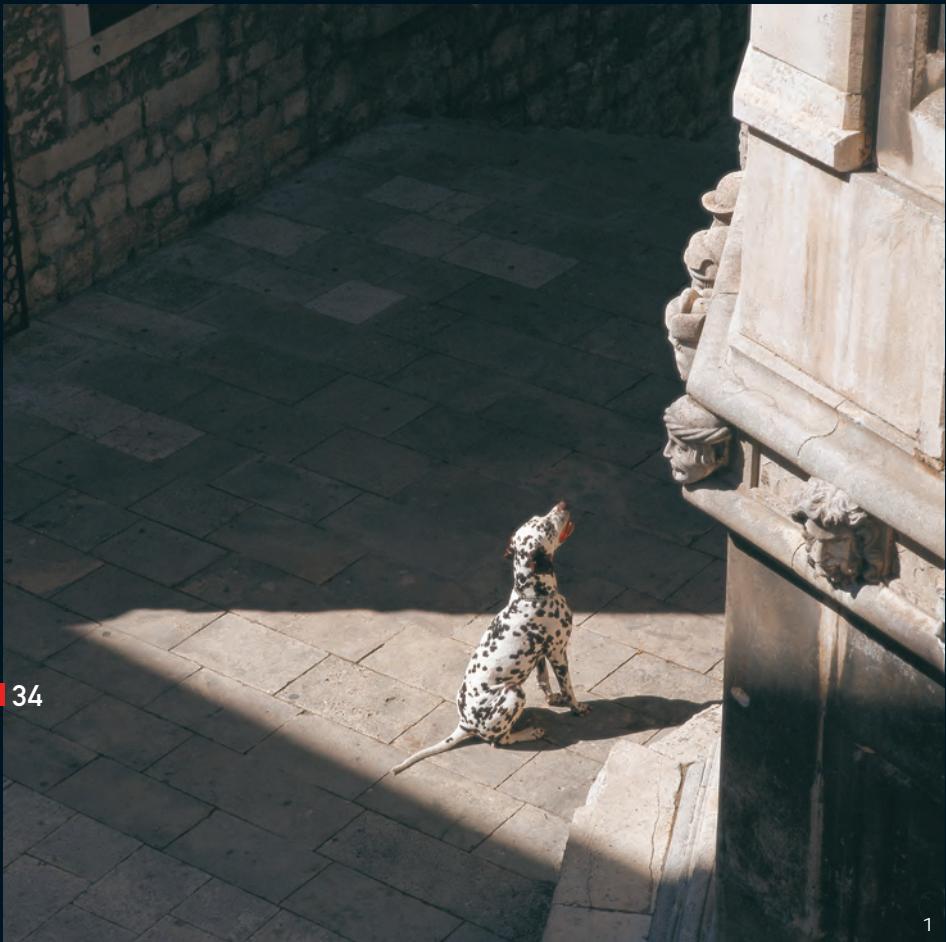
**S**et amid the wild beauty of white karstic rock and the azure sea, the Šibenik aquatorium is a yachting paradise, boasting as many as 240 isles and reefs, each of which holds an interesting feature or two. If you want to meet the best known coral hunters in the Adriatic, set sail for Zlarin. If you wish to see the centre of sea sponge harvesting, then Krpanj is your destination. On the other hand, if you seek an experience like no other, then venture into the open sea and discover the Kornati Archipelago.



Dalmatia.Šibenik.



**T**he gods wanted to set a crown upon their work, so on the last day, out of tears, stars and the breath of the sea, they created the Kornati." So wrote George Bernard Shaw when reminiscing about this breathtakingly beautiful archipelago. Talking about this incomparable creation of nature, the largest group of islands in the Mediterranean, it suffices to say that the number of these stellar tears petrified in the sea equals the number of days in a year. Here, the saying "an island for each day of the year" really does apply, and of the 365 strikingly beautiful isles, 150 form a quite special entity: the Kornati National Park. The sight of the lace-like pattern of island cliffs, bleached by the noble salt of the Adriatic and lashed by the fragrance saturated bora, plummeting into the sea, is one that has no equal anywhere else in the world. At the same time, the mellow, tiny ports and hidden beaches are a true paradise for modern day Robinsons seeking unspoiled nature.



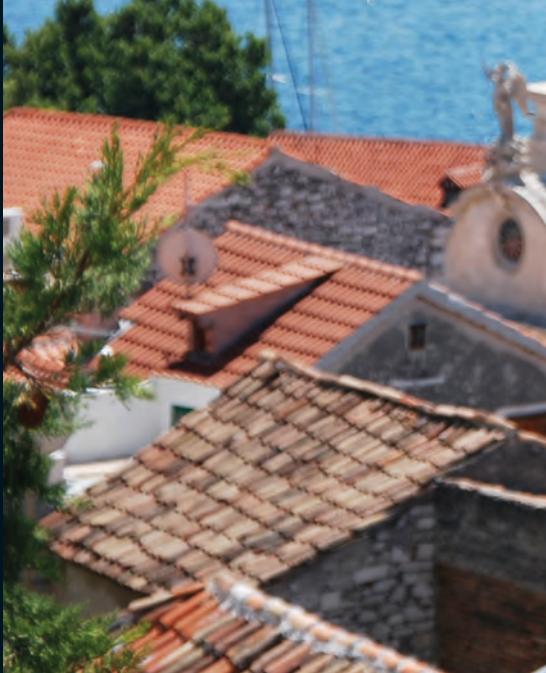
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2



3



## From the spectacular falls of the River Krka to Šibenik, Krešimir's city

If you follow the fairy tale-like paths of the karstic empire of the Krka River to the sea, you are on the path to opening the door to the most protected natural harbour in the central Adriatic and to the proud city of King Krešimir: Šibenik. Along this green route, abounding with the remains of medieval settlements, a wonderful place which provides a habitat for over 222 species of bird and which boasts the only falconry centre in Croatia, beautiful Krka spills her cool waters over seven waterfalls. Between the two most

beautiful, Roški slap and Skradinski buk, human hands have enhanced nature with two famous buildings: the Orthodox Christian monastery of The Holy Archangel, and Visovac monastery. Like the mythical Avalon, unparalleled in its location on a tiny isle set in the middle of the emerald green lake formed by the River Krka, Visovac Franciscan monastery houses a valuable library, works of art and numerous precious items, among which is the sword that once belonged to a famous warrior.



5

### NATIONAL PARKS

**KORNATI NATIONAL PARK** - the most intricately indented archipelago in the Mediterranean

**KRKA NATIONAL PARK** - natural and karstic phenomena



6

### NATURE

**ISLAND OF KRAPANJ** - the lowest island in Croatia

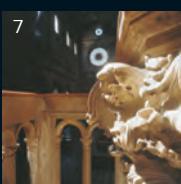
### CULTURAL HERITAGE

**ST. JACOB'S CATHEDRAL** (Šibenik) - Renaissance cathedral dating from the 15th and 16th centuries (included in the UNESCO World Heritage List)

**BIBIRSKA GLAVICA ARCHAEOLOGICAL LOCALITY** - dating from the 16th and 17th centuries

**FORTRESS ON SPAS MOUNTAIN** (Knin) - military fortification dating from the 9th century

**OJKANJE SINGING** - List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding



7

# Amazing cultural heritage of a millenia old city

**F**irst mentioned in 1066 in documents issued by King Petar Krešimir (hence its name: Krešimir's town), Šibenik was founded over 1000 years ago. Take a stroll through its streets, alleyways and squares and some of the most precious works of art in Dalmatia will appear right before you. Incidentally, if you are there at the right time in summer, those same streets, alleyways and squares become stages for

the only International Children's Festival in the world, for the Evening of Dalmatian Chanson, and for the colourful (Šibenik) Medieval Fair.

Standing proud with its fortifications and towers, Šibenik, the birthplace of Faust Vrančić (inventor of the parachute) is best known for its largest and most precious sacral monument, the Gothic-Renaissance cathedral of St. Jacob (15th and 16th century) whose dome of white stone dominates the city. Its construction took more than a century. It is constructed solely of stone from the islands of Brač and Korčula. The original method of its construction: using large blocks and slabs of stone, has earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage

List. Raise your eyes to this audacious edifice, unique in the history of European architecture. While admiring the innovations of the local master builder, Georgius Dalmaticus, try to imagine this: it is the 15th century, there is no sophisticated technology, let alone modern day cranes and hoists. What you are standing beneath is a monumental barrel-vault and a dome that contains no wood or brick, only clean blocks of stone, each weighing several tons, fitted into grooves carved in stone ribs! Impressive, you must admit. If you also take time to wander around the sacristy, which lies like a crypt beneath the cathedral, and view the elegant three-leaved facade and the famous frieze of 88 heads encircling the outer



Dalmatia.Šibenik.

walls of the cathedral apse, you will then understand why St. Jacob's cathedral is so special. It rightfully carries the appellation of the most beautiful cathedral in Dalmatia and is the most striking sacral building in Croatia.

**DALMATIA. ŠIBENIK. | 35**

## Discover and savour the magic of Dalmatian cuisine

**I**t would certainly be remiss of you to miss the opportunity of savouring the food of this area, particularly the famous mussels harvested where the River Krka meets the Adriatic Sea. Washed down with a sip or two of Babić from the nearby vineyards of Primosten, they make an unforgettable meal. As for those vineyards of Primosten - ah, the beauty of them! Their unusual geographical location, the sparse soil in which they grow (despite the best efforts of the bora) have made them a monument to the dedication, skill and hard work of the diligent hands of the people of this area. The image of those vineyards displayed in the vestibule of the United Nations building tells its story in a hundred languages.

### TO EXPLORE

**ŠIBENIK** - St. Michael, St. John, Šubićevac and St. Nicholas Fortresses

**ISLAND OF VISOVAC** - Franciscan Monastery

### TOURISM PLUS

**RAFTING** (River Krka), **BUNGIE JUMPING** (Šibenik bridge), fishing, sailing

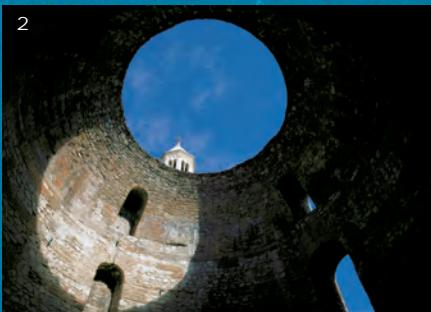
### GASTRONOMY

Drniš prosciutto, Babić red wine (Primosten), Skradin cake



# Where beauty is nature's second nature.

■ 36



## Dalmatia. Split.

**W**hen, in the year 305, the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruled the entire world at that time, decided to build his leisure time abode - in which he intended to spend the rest of his life - he had no doubt as to exactly where build to it. In the very heart of Dalmatia, in the bay of Aspalathos (Split), well protected from the sea by the islands of the Split archipelago, and defended on its landward side by high mountains, Diocletian created a special point on the map of the Adriatic: the future city of Split.





[ 1.Bol(Brač) 2.3.4.Split 5.Dubovica(Hvar) 6.Sinj ]

**A** mere 6 km from cosmopolitan Salona, then the centre of the province of Dalmatia which boasted up to 60,000 inhabitants, Split was protected by strong walls and numerous fortresses, with many temples, palaces and thermal spas, which today make up the greatest complex of monuments in Croatia dating from Antiquity. The residence Diocletian built for himself was beyond comparison in his time. Although the Palace has lost many of its original features over the past 17 centuries, it has been enriched by subsequent architec-

## A Roman Emperor's magnificent city

ture and artistic interventions. Among them, somewhat ironically, a Catholic cathedral, or rather that part of it which rose out of the magnificent mausoleum of the last pagan Roman emperor. The cathedral is dedicated to St. Domnus, a Christian martyred by the very same Diocletian. The most striking feature of the cathedral is its famous walnut door frame constructed in 1214, and carved by Master Carver Andrija Buvina. Successfully withstanding time's thievish progress, deeply embedded into the tex-

ture of the city at its densely populated historical heart, full of enchanting stone palaces, Diocletian's residence today is a place of cellars that ring with song. One can feast here on local specialties, from delicacies of the sea to lamb and the "arambašići" of Sinj, washed down with the finest of red wines. Concealed within its embrace is what locals like to call the smallest street in the world, which carries a rather curious name: Let me pass. Altogether, this enchanting, unique heart of Split has rightly been declared a monument of zero category and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



38



## True charm of the southern Mediterranean

**A**wash in the warm charm of the Mediterranean, Split is a city with rich history, not only within the walls of its museums, palaces and churches, but in the city itself. Its heritage speaks loudest and has done so since the times of Antiquity, on the Peristyle and from its stone houses; while the true Mediterranean spirit lives in the vibrant cellars, in the murmur at street corners, in the squares and alleyways and in the beauty of the waterfront. If you follow the weave of these white, stone-paved streets to the edge of the sea which gen-

tly rocks the moored boats, you will discover a city in which the famous Roman emperor left the imperial mark of his presence on every corner, together with the saint he decided to execute. Another special aspect of this city are the songs, and the successes achieved by its athletes - including a Wimbledon winner - numerous Olympic champions and NBA stars and, they say, the most beautiful women in the world. If you harbour any doubts as to the latter, just take a stroll along the Split waterfront some time . . .

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

**DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE** (Split) - included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage

**OLD CITY NUCLEUS** (Trogir) - included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage

**ANCIENT CITY OF SALONA** (Solin) - capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia

**RENAISSANCE NUCLEUS OF THE TOWN OF HVAR** - St. Stephen's Cathedral, town loggia with a tower and arsenal with a theatre dating from 1612.

**SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF SINJ** - the largest Marianic sanctuary in Dalmatia

**THE STARI GRAD** plain on Hvar (UNESCO World heritage List)

**PROCESSION ZA KRIZEN** ('following the cross') on the island of Hvar - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**LACEMAKING ON HVAR** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**SINJSKA ALKA** - UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

**OJKANJE SINGING** - List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

### TOURISM PLUS

Wine Roads, cycling trails, riding, rafting, paragliding, hunting, fishing



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# Discover the artistic treasure trove of a museum-city

**A**lthough its central part measures but 750 paces - as a certain earnest historian measured and recorded a few hundred years ago - Trogir is a superbly balanced small city built of stone, its history rich far beyond its size. Its significance is recognised by the inclusion of its historical core in the UNESCO World Herit-

age List. It is not without reason that it is called a museum-city, bearing in mind the sites it holds: the famous portal of Trogir cathedral, a work by Master Radovan dating from 1240; the Renaissance city loggia; the 1000-year-old monastery of St. Nicholas that houses a relief of Kairos - ancient god of the lucky moment,

dating from the 4th century BC. In short, Trogir is a veritable treasure trove of art, as well as being a stage for young tenors from all over the world who come here every year to engage in competition.



4



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## The blue expanse and nature in complete harmony

**M**other Nature has indeed been generous to Central Dalmatia, bequeathing to it a coastline and long pebble beaches shaded by fragrant pine trees and adorning its sea with the beauty of a string of islands of exquisite beauty. Immediately above the beaches of the famous Makarska Riviera is the Biokovo massif, still the habitat of the chamois. Here you can enjoy the rising of the summer sun, with a view that extends all the way to the outermost islands in the open waters of the Adriatic. The largest of the islands of the Split archipelago is Brač, known worldwide as the island of stone and wind. Island of stone, because the finest quality stone has been quarried here for centuries by the highly skilled and hard working local stone masons. It has been used to

build not only the local cathedrals and other grand edifices, but also a number of other prestigious buildings. Brač is also known as the island of wind. Nowhere else in the Adriatic, surfers tell us, does such a magnificent landward breeze blow as in the channel between Brač and Hvar, particularly at the beach known as Zlatni rat, whose shape actually changes depending on the direction of the wind and waves. Having been recently placed on the list of the ten most beautiful islands, sunny Hvar is, without competition, numbered among the most seductive of Dalmatian islands. Boasting the largest island town square on both sides of the Adriatic, one of the first communal theatres in Europe, built in long gone 1612, the Arsenal, the famous "Tvrdalj" Palace of Petar Hektorović,



and stone-paved, narrow streets, worn smooth and glistening in the sun, it is difficult to decide whether Hvar captivates more with the harmony of its history and art, or with the beauty of its nature, enhanced with the intoxicating fragrance of lavender.

### NATURE

**CETINA RIVER** - notable landscape, the 105 km long watercourse and the canyon (Omiš) will delight fans of rafting and canoeing.

**BIOKOVO NATURE PARK** - the highest mountain along the Croatian coast, with rich flora and fauna

**ZLATNI RAT** - notable landscape

**ISLANDS OF RAVNIK, DONJA BRELA, PAKLENI OTOCI** (island of Hvar) - notable landscapes

**MODRA ŠPILJA AND MEDVIDINA ŠPILJA** - caves on the island of Biševo - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

**VRANJACA CAVE** (Mountain of Mosor) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

**CRVENO JEZERO (RED LAKE) AND MODRO JEZERO (BLUE LAKE)** (Imotski) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

### GASTRONOMY

Dalmatian "paštićada", "lukanige" sausages, "arambašići" - beef in cabbage (Sinj), flat-bread of Vis, pepper cookies from Hvar, "smutica" - wine with milk (island of Brač), Vugava and Plančić wines (island of Hvar)



9



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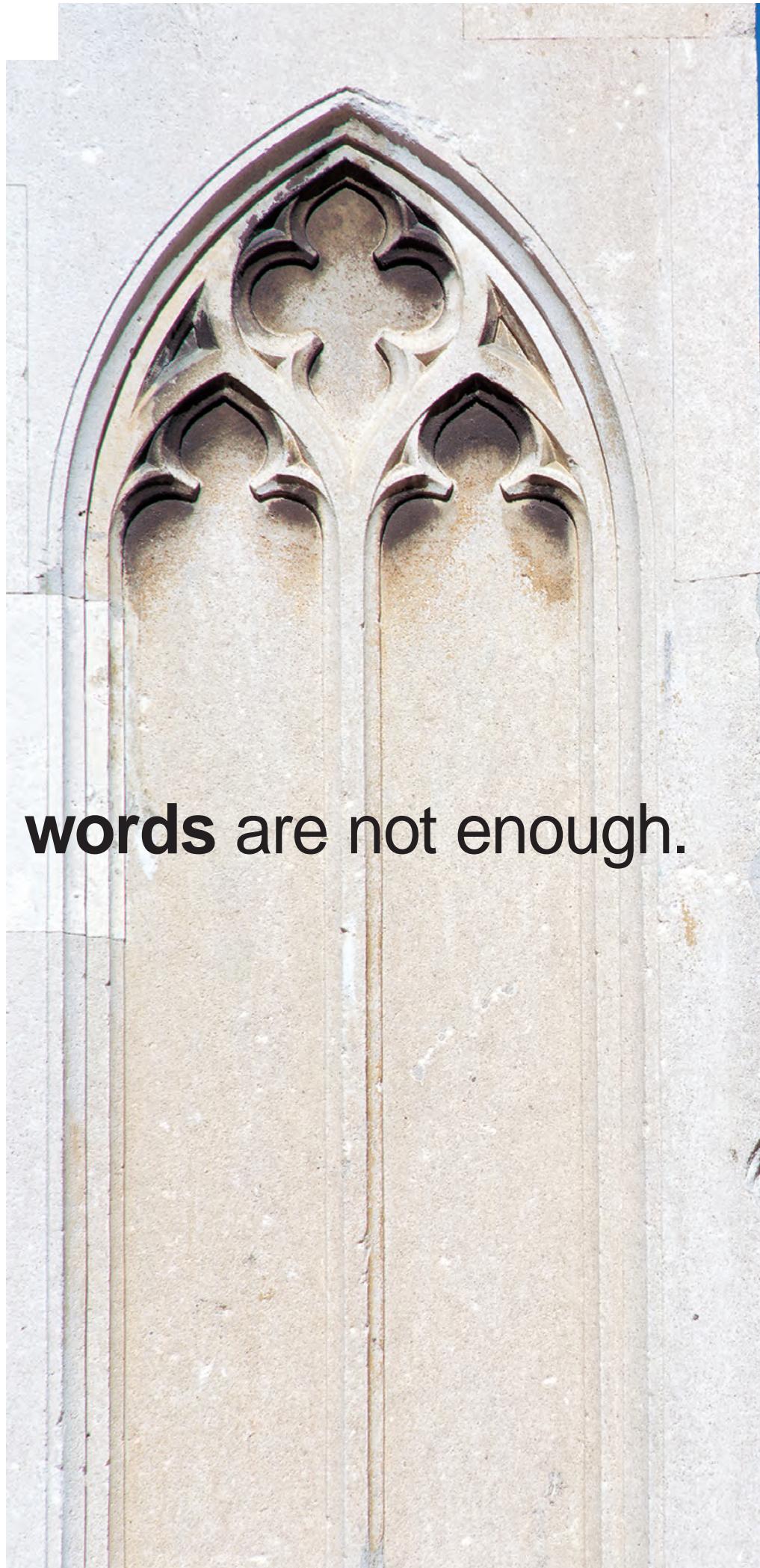
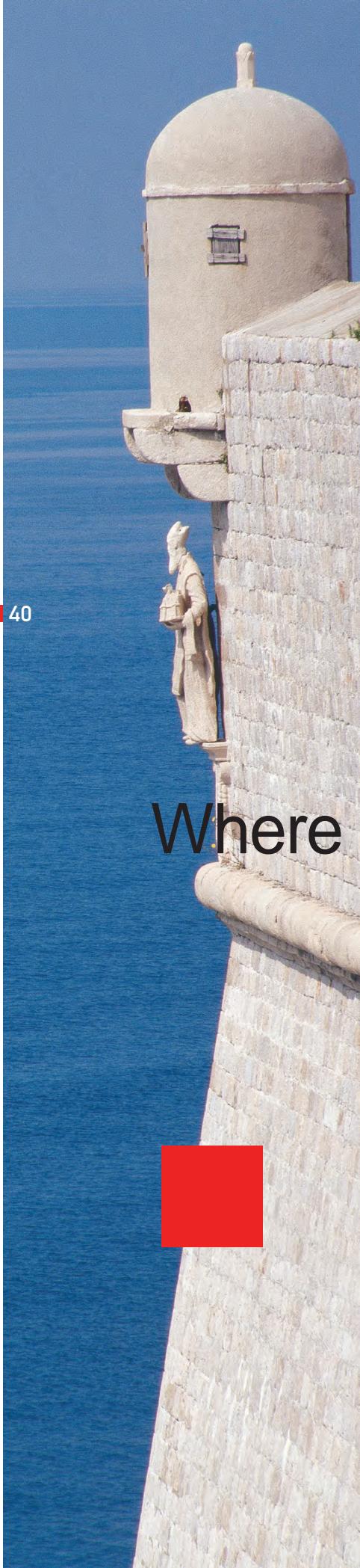


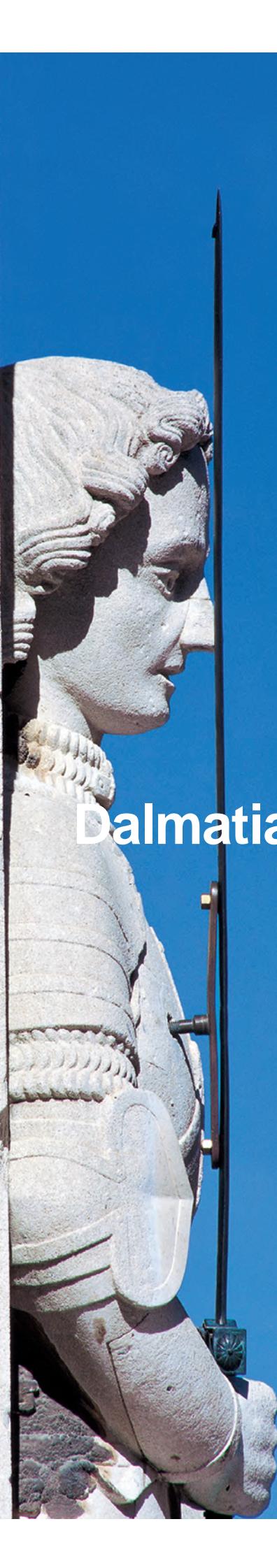
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10

Where **words** are not enough.





# Dalmatia. Dubrovnik.

[ Dubrovnik ]

Dalmatia.Dubrovnik.

**T**hose who seek paradise on Earth must come to Dubrovnik", So wrote George Bernard Shaw, smitten by the beauty of the city whose untouched, 1940 m long defensive walls - today under the protection of UNESCO - girdle in a city which carries the appellation of the Pearl of the Adriatic. Sitting at the southernmost part of Croatia, harbouring centuries of heritage created by the noble skills of the finest builders and artists, Dubrovnik basks in a warm Mediterranean climate with groves of lemon, orange and tangerine trees, sumptuous palms and agaves, adorned by Renaissance parks and the flowering gardens of medieval stone palaces and unobtrusive monasteries.



# A city that leaves nobody unmoved

Once upon a time, Dubrovnik was one of the smallest but most important merchant states in the Mediterranean. It had consular offices in more than 80 cities. Its fleet of almost 700 merchant ships rivaled that of Venice. Under the heavenly patronage of St. Blasius and crowned by the famous Libertas banner flying from a high stone pillar guarded by its legendary knight Orlando, Dubrovnik is a city whose story is best told by the city itself. Walk along its main street, Stradun, whose stone pavement has been polished smooth by feet that have walked it for hundreds of years. The city's glorious walls, fortresses and bas-

tions offer a view of the magical Elaphite islands - Šipan, Lopud and Koločep, scattered like pearls in the azure of the sea. Named Elaphite islands after the Latin word Elaphos for deer, this archipelago, which used to be the habitat of this noble wild game, concentrates all the qualities of the untouched Mediterranean, featuring subtropical vegetation, expansive pine tree forests and olive groves, all surrounded by amazing sandy beaches. From the Onofrio Fountain to the City bell tower, the filigree-like Gothic and Renaissance facades of the Sponza Palace and the Ducal Palace, the Baroque church of St. Blasius, the Cathedral of the

Assumption of Our Lady, or St. Ignatius and the Jesuit College, every step in this town will be an experience par excellence. Incidentally, should you happen to be here in summer, when Dubrovnik shines with a special glow and when the traditional Summer Festival turns the entire old town into an enchanting setting for this quite unique stage in the world, you will be able to listen to the immortal monologue of the unfortunate Danish prince ringing from the nearby Lovrijenac Fortress perched atop a 37 metre high cliff. Spoken from that venue, Hamlet's immortal words "To be or not to be..." ring particularly loud.

42



## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**THE OLD NUCLEUS OF DUBROVNIK** - a unique city under UNESCO protection, and one of the most attractive and best known towns in the Mediterranean

**NARONA** - ancient city locality now in the village of Vid, near Metković

**CITY WALLS** (Ston) - 14th century fortification system, outstanding for its length of 5.5 km

**KORČULA - MARCO POLO'S CITY** - one of the best preserved medieval cities in the Mediterranean



**CAVTAT, THE OLD NUCLEUS** - touristic and cultural centre of Konavle: Račić family mausoleum, birth house of the painter Vlaho Bukovac, Ducal Palace, Sokol Fortress

**THE FESTIVITY OF SAINT BLAISE** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage





DALMATIA. DUBROVNIK. | 43



Dalmatia.Dubrovnik.



[ Dubrovnik ]



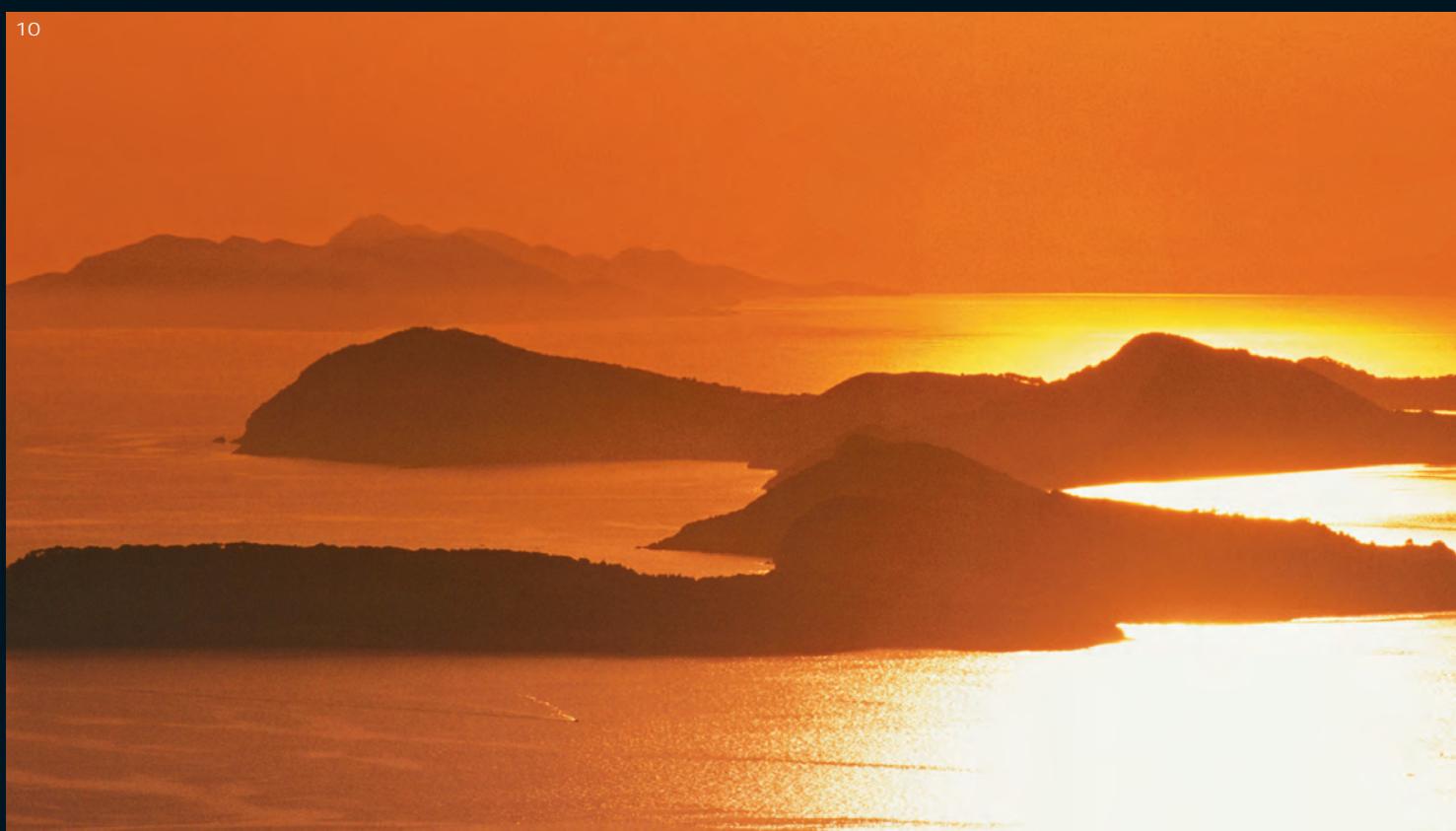
## TO EXPLORE

Minčeta Tower, Lovrijenac Tower, the Sponza Palace (Dubrovnik)

Gothic and Gothic-Renaissance summer residences (from Pelješac to Konavle)

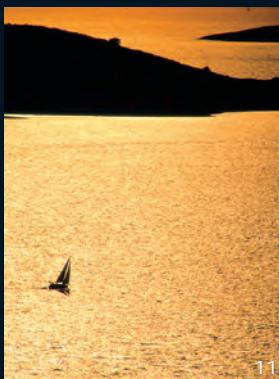
Franciscan Monastery (Orebić)  
Ducal Palace (Luka Šipanska)  
Franciscan Monastery (Rožat)





## NATIONAL PARKS

**MLJET NATIONAL PARK** - rich in Mediterranean vegetation and cultural heritage (12th century Benedictine monastery on the islet in Veliko Jezero (Great Lake))



## TOURISM PLUS

Wine Roads, hiking tracks, cycling trails, wellness

## NATURE

**THE TRSTENO ARBORETUM** - park architecture monument

**THE NERETVE DELTA** - special ichthyological - ornithological nature reserve

**THE BAY OF MALI STON** - special nature reserve - maritime nature reserve

**THE ISLET OF LOKRUM** - special forest vegetation nature reserve

**VELA SPILJA** (the great cave) (Vela Luka) - geomorphologic natural phenomenon

**KOČJE** (the village of Žrnovo on the island of Korčula) - special forest vegetation nature reserve

**KONAVOSKI DVORI** (the courts of Konavle) (Konavle) - significant landscape

**LASTOVO ARCHIPELAGO** - nature park



# Explore the fascinating history of the islands

**A**bout the time that Marco Polo set sail for terra incognita, his hometown began to develop into a kind of urban sculpture built of stone with regular lines. That sculpture remains well preserved to this day. The streets of Korčula were carefully laid out by a local builder who was also an ingenious town planner. The streets are based on a fishbone pattern and are a true blessing in the summer. Although they bask in the golden glow of the sun both morning and afternoon, the heat of the midday sun is directed around them. If you want to experience the atmosphere of Korčula, may the good winds bring you here in July, when the city



DALMATIA. DUBROVNIK. | 45



plays host to the International Festival of Song and Wine, celebrating the famous traveller, the Festival of Chivalry and the traditional sword dances performed in original costumes dating from the 16th century. The dances depict the struggle between the white king and the black king.

**O**nce a part of the Dubrovnik Republic, the Pelješac peninsula and the small town of Ston, boasting 5.5 km long defensive walls, was a strategic point defending the approach to the famous republic. Nourished by the graces of warm southern Aeolus, Pelješac is well known to wine lovers as the kingdom of Dingač, the most highly regarded Croatian wine. The town of Orebić - renowned centre of maritime affairs in the 18th century - is a popular site for visiting art historians. Full of beautiful stone palaces and villas, whose facades reflect the wealth and life of luxury led by the families of seafar-

ing men, and particularly striking for its magnificent gardens containing the most exotic plants that mariners brought from all corners of the world, Orebić is indeed a place that will remain etched in your memory.

**I**f you have ever been inspired by the legend of Odysseus, held captive on an island by the nymph Calypso and have wondered what the famous Ogygia looked like, then the island of Mljet is the place for you. Located in the southernmost part of Croatia, the island has scenery that appears only in picture books of the world's most beautiful fairy tales. Before your eyes you will see a lake in the middle of the island, and in the centre of that, another small island with a monastery dating from the 12th century. Although Calypso herself may not be nearby, the scene will capture your heart forever and you may never want to leave.

[ 1.Ston 2.8.11.Mljet 3.4.6.7.Korčula 5.Pelješac 9.Plat 10.Elaviti 12.Lopud ]

## GASTRONOMY

Lamb and veal done under „peka“, eel or frog brodetto (The Neretva valley), salt, oysters and mussels of Ston, „kontonjata“, „mantala“ and „arancina“ cakes (Konavle), tangerines and lemons, Dingač and Postup red wines (Pelješac, Posip and Grk white wines (Korčula, Malmsey of Dubrovnik (Konavle))





■ 46

1

[ 1.2.Plitvice ]

## Lika - Karlovac.



Welcome to the landscape of dreams. Before you, beautiful green expanses are laid out, only around 10 km above the sea, in the hinterlands known for their exceptional ecological value and high concentration of protected nature parks, representing true oases of peace and tranquility; a Croatian tourist region attracting an ever increasing number of visitors.



2



## A romantic union with nature.

### Waterfalls of the past and present

**W**hile in ancient times this was the land of the Illyrians (Yapodes), today the green and undisturbed, almost mythical nature of Lika offers sanctuary to endangered rare bird species, bears and wolves as well as endemic plant species such as the Degenia velebitica. The epic nature of Lika is also the birthplace of one of the greatest inventors the world has ever seen: Nikola Tesla, whose museum was opened in Smiljan, his birthplace, on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

This is also the magical part of the country where the most famous, oldest and most visited of the eight national parks is situated – the Plitvice Lakes. Most known for its travertine waterfalls and 16 cascading lakes, the image of which is breathtaking, the Plitvice lakes offer other attractions as well, such as various interesting geomorphologic forms, habitat forests and grasslands, flora and fauna and a host of interesting tourist programs. The lakes are also the only natural monument in Croatia to be put on the UNESCO World Heritage list, back in 1979, among the first ones in the entire world (!). The Plitvice lakes are truly an unmatched masterpiece of nature.

If you would like to find out more about the legendary outlaws ("hajduci"), take a tour of the city of Senj and the Nehaj fortress, the Renaissance 16th century fortress, today a unique museum devoted to the Senj pirates. Also, do not miss the opportunity to get to know the island of Pag, with the famous holiday destination Novalja and the popular party beach Zrće on its northern shore, which belong to the Lika-Senj County (as opposed to the southern part of the island which belongs to the Zadar County). Often hailed as the island of stone and salt, Pag is a destination that, with its 20 km pebble stone beaches, represents the crown of this region of pronounced contrasts.



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[ 1.Velika Kapela 2.River Dobra 3.River Kupa 4.Senj 5.Zrće 6.Pag 7.Karlovac 8.Velebit ]

## NATURE

**THE FORESTS OF DRAGANIĆI** (of Klek and Modruš) and of Velika Kapela and Mala Kapela

**JASIKOVAC FOREST PARK** (Gospic)

**CEROVAC CAVES** (Gračac), a geomorphologic nature monument

**BARAĆ CAVES** in Rakovica

**VRLOVKA CAVE** in Kamanj

**RASTOKE** in Slunj, a miller settlement situated where the blue-green waters of the river Slunjčica flow into the river Korana. Most of the buildings were built at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century

**KLEK MOUNTAIN** - the most significant landscape

**ŠTIROVĀČA** - a reserve of forest vegetation with the most beautiful and preserved juniper forests

**CAVE PARK GRABOVAČA** near Perušić

**THE RIVER LIKA CANYON**

**LUN** - the oldest olive groves of this region

## NATIONAL PARKS

**PLITVICE LAKES** - do not miss the opportunity to visit the national park that is on the UNESCO World Heritage List

**NORTHERN VELEBIT**, proclaimed a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**THE SANCTUARY OF MARY OF KRASNO**, the biggest Marian sanctuary in Lička

**THE SANCTUARY OF MARY OF MIRACLES** in Oštarijamači

**THE TOWN OF STARI DREŽNIK** near Rakov

**THE PAULINE MONASTERY** Kamensko

**ETHNO GALLERY** in Rečica, near Karlovac

**THE BIRTHPLACE OF NIKOLA TESLA** (Smiljan), a contemporary museum built in honour of one of the world's most famous inventors

**THE TURKISH TOWER** in Perušić, the last remaining Turkish tower in Lika from the 15th century

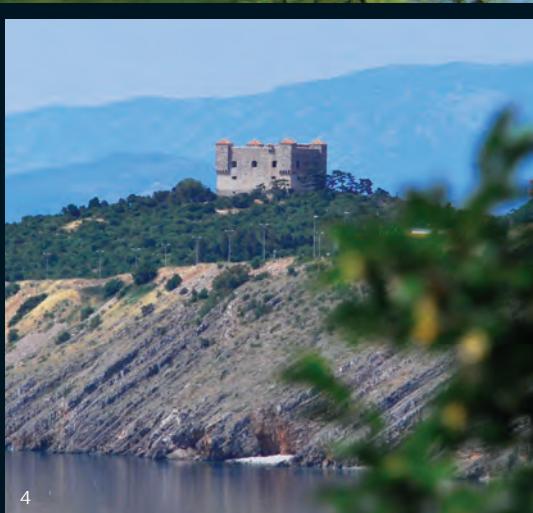
**TOWNS AND CASTLES** like Dubovac, Ozalj, Bosiljevo, and Franciscan, Pauline and Dominican monasteries sprung in the greenery of the region's landscape

**THE NEHAJ FORTRESS** in Senj, a Renaissance fortress built in the 16th century, today a unique museum devoted to the Senj pirates

**THE FRANKOPAN CASTLE**

**THE ANCIENT KARLOVAC CITY CORE** in the shape of a six-pointed star

**LACEMAKING ON PAG** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage



# The Renaissance Ideal City of Karlovac

**B**uilt after the concept of a true renaissance ideal city, in the form of a six-pointed star, Karlovac is known as the bulwark city, resisting the attacks of the ancient Turks. With a rich historical heritage, the waters of four rivers and the forested hills of Velika kapela and Mala ka-

pela, the city of Karlovac and its surroundings are an ideal destination for fresh water swimming, rowing, fishing, rafting, canoeing, quad riding along the beautiful forest paths, cycling along the 11 county routes and horseback-riding.

characters from Mažuranić's "Tales of Long Ago". Walking from the Klek cave and the fairy waters, the Đulin abyss to the Ogulin castle, try and find the legendary Klek witches and mythical beings who reside here.

This beautiful pearl of the continent, developed from a medieval fortress intended for the defence of central Europe from the attacks of the Turks, today is one of the biggest Croatian transport nodes, which, in spite of its transit position is becoming an increasingly popular destination for visitors searching for various forms of recreation.

Sprung in the valley of the rivers Zagorska Mrežnica and Dobra, crowned with the Frankopan castle above the Đulin abyss and the giant Klek mountain, Ogulin is certainly a true city of fairy tales. The mountain Klek is known as the cradle of Croatian mountain climbing and a true reservoir of curiosities, so do not miss the chance to take a walk along the fairy tale route and get to know the



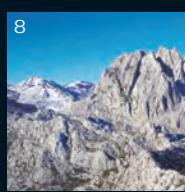
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## TOEXPLORE

Adventure sports: rafting, kayaking, cycling, mountain climbing, photography, hunting, skiing, horseback-riding  
Skiing, Croatian Olympic Centre Bjelolasica  
Tourist Centre Petrova gora, Muljava hunting lodge near Vojnići

## GASTRONOMY

Lika baked potatoes and lamb, Ogulin sour cabbage and turnip, Ogulin cheese "škripavac", plum and pear brandy



# Central Croatia.

H ave you always longed for a holiday away from the summer heat and the vibrant atmosphere of the Mediterranean in an idyllic, green and hilly environment with ancient woodlands, vineyards and rivers? Do you favour the tranquil and soothing atmosphere of the mainland, where romantic medieval towns, summer homes and manors dot the countryside? where thermal springs, health spas and places of pilgrimage beckon? In that case, you should set out to the north of Zagreb and enjoy the blessings offered by Central Croatia.

[ 1.Žumberak 2.Varaždin ]

■ 50



Where the colour of romance



Central Croatia.



is green.



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## Enjoy idyllic moments in the towns of Central Croatia

**B**egin with the area known as Hrvatsko zagorje, a wonderful undulating landscape crisscrossed by hills and rivers and within it the town of Krapina, the famous archaeological site of Homo Krapiniensis. Located in an area that has always been known for its thermal springs, spas like Tuhelj Spa (Tuheljske toplice) and Stubica Spa (Stubičke toplice), Krapina was made famous by Prof. Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger in 1899

when he discovered the remains of a diluvial man in the area of the Hušnjakovo hill, known by scientists as *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*. In Hrvatsko zagorje, which boasts the largest concentration of castles and manor houses after the valley of the River Loire in France, discover picturesque towns and beautiful Baroque castles. While feasting your eyes, do not forget to feast your palate on the delectable local gastronomy and, of course,

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

**TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE** - the most romantic and, according to many, the most beautiful castle in Croatia

**CITY OF VARAŽDIN** - a city of culture that delights with its sumptuous churches, palaces and manor houses, and its famous cemetery

**ZRINSKI CASTLE** (Čakovec) - located within the Old Town of the Zrinski family, a cultural and zero category historical monument; its palace houses the Međimurje Museum

**OLD TOWN** (Kraljevac) - magnificent remains of the medieval town



7

**OLD TOWN** (Đurđevac) - precious cultural monument with a medieval fortress

**COUNT JANKOVIĆ CASTLE** (Daruvar) - Baroque castle built between 1771 and 1777

**FORTRESS** (Sisak) - well preserved medieval fortress

**TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURE OF WOODEN TOYS IN THE HRVATSKO ZAGORJE REGION** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**LACEMAKING IN LEPOGLAVA** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**GINGERBREAD CRAFT** - UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



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the superb wines produced in the area. Marija Bistrica is your destination if you are interested in religious tourism or seeking spiritual reinvigoration. It is the greatest Marianic sanctuary in Croatia and has been a place of pilgrimage for over 300 years. More than 800,000 of the faithful have visited Marija Bistrica, including Pope John Paul II in 1991.

## CENTRAL CROATIA. | 53

[ 1.Hrvatska Kostajnica 2.Sisak 3.4.Veliki Tabor 5.6.Marija Bistrica 7.Varaždin 8.Daruvar 9.Čakovec 10.Ludbreg ]

### NATURE

**KALNIK** - outstanding landscape  
**LONJSKO POLJE (RANGE) NATURE PARK** - rare combination of preserved nature and traditional architectural heritage  
**ČRET DUBRAVICA** (Dubravica) - special botanical reserve  
**VINDIJA CAVE** (Varaždin) - monument of nature  
**RIVER MURA** - notable landscape  
**VELIKI PAŽUT** (Legrad) - special zoological nature reserve  
**RAKITA** (Sisak) - ornithological reserve  
**THE ĐURĐEVAC SANDS** - special botanical nature reserve

**LIPIK, BJELOVAR AND DARUVAR** - monuments of park architecture

**KLEK** - notable landscape

**CRNA MLAKA** - special ornithological reserve

**ŽUMBERAK - HILLS OF SAMOBOR** - nature park

**SLUŠNICA NEAR SLUNJ** - notable landscape

**THE OPEKA ARBORETUM** (Vinica) - park architecture monument



10



[ 1.2.Varaždin 3.Trakošćan 4.Samobor 5.Kumrovec 6.Krapina 7.Stubica 8.Marija Bistrica ]

The town of Varaždin, the most Baroque of all towns in Croatia, is a very green place. Its finely maintained parks and its famous monument of garden architecture - the town cemetery, characteristic for its Thujas shaped into screens and arcades modelled on Versailles - offer a wonderful backdrop to the sounds of music for which Varaždin is famous. The city is also known for arts, crafts and trade, as well as for two prominent festivals which take place in September: The Varaždin Baroque Evenings and the Španscifest, a wonderfully entertaining and varied festival of street strollers. In addition to its cultural scene and 354 registered cultural monuments, the Varaždin region also boasts the Trakošćan Park-wood, with an enchanting castle that has been turned into a museum, and three geological and palaeontological monuments of nature, with three caves bearing testimony to the continuous presence of man in this region for thousands of years.

Located not far from Varaždin is Ludbreg, a eucharistic place of pilgrimage of the Sacred Blood of Christ. It is the only such place of pilgrimage in Croatia and one of only a few in the world that have been recognised by a written document from the Pope approving public veneration of Holy Relics. This occurred following the miraculous appearance of the Sacred Blood of Christ in the chapel of Bethany Castle in 1512. Lepoglava is a small town whose history has been most deeply marked by the Pauline Order, which built the church and a monastery. It is also the origin of the famous lace that earned the Gold Medal at the 1937 World Exhibition in Paris.



## TO EXPLORE

**OLD VILLAGE MUSEUM** (Kumrovec) - a singular museum in the open air containing preserved, original rural houses dating from the turn of the 19th century



**KRAPINA NEANDERTHAL MUSEUM** - one of the most modern museums in Croatia



**KRAPINA NEANDERTHAL DISCOVERY SITE** - one of the world's richest finds of the Neanderthal man.



**MUSEUM OF TUROPOLJE** (Velika Gorica) - exhibits range from the prehistoric period down to our times (mammoth tusk from the period 10,000 BC; preserved wooden chapels and curias of the nobility)

If you want to try your hand at panning for gold in a river, or enjoy all the benefits offered by the St. Martin Spa, or take a carefree ride along the cycling trails and savour excellent wines, then turn north toward the area where Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia share a border. Get to know the region of Međimurje and its capital, Čakovec. On the other hand, if you have an artistic nature and enjoy naïve art, tradition, folklore, old arts and crafts, if you are interested in old customs, then head toward Podravina, particularly in June, when three major events take place in Koprivnica, Đurđevac and Križevci. Ringed by the River Drava and by the mountain systems of Bilogora and Kalnik, Podravina abounds in fish and game as well as organised cycling trails passing through beautiful landscapes, past Šoderica Lake and the cradle of naive art: Hlebine.



3



CENTRAL CROATIA. | 55



4

## GASTRONOMY

The piquant relish "Samobor Mustard", Samobor salami, Samobor custard slice, "Bermet" - a Samobor liqueur; roast turkey with "mlinci" (special type of homemade pasta), buckwheat gruel, "prga" - cow's milk cheese; pumpkin seed oil, cakes: "Zagorski štrukli" (pastry, cottage cheese, smetana, eggs, salt or sugar; cooked or baked), "kukuruzna zlevka" (corn meal, smetana, eggs, sugar; baked), "Vrbovočka pera", rolls: "Varaždinski klipići"; Šenpjén champagne, dairy products, specialties prepared with freshwater fish and game, Graševina wines and white Pinot, mead, fruit wines



## TOURISM PLUS

Hunting, fishing, paragliding, cycling, hiking and mountaineering tracks and trails, speedway, wine roads

**HEALTH RESORTS:** many famous health centres with thermal springs (Stubičke Toplice)

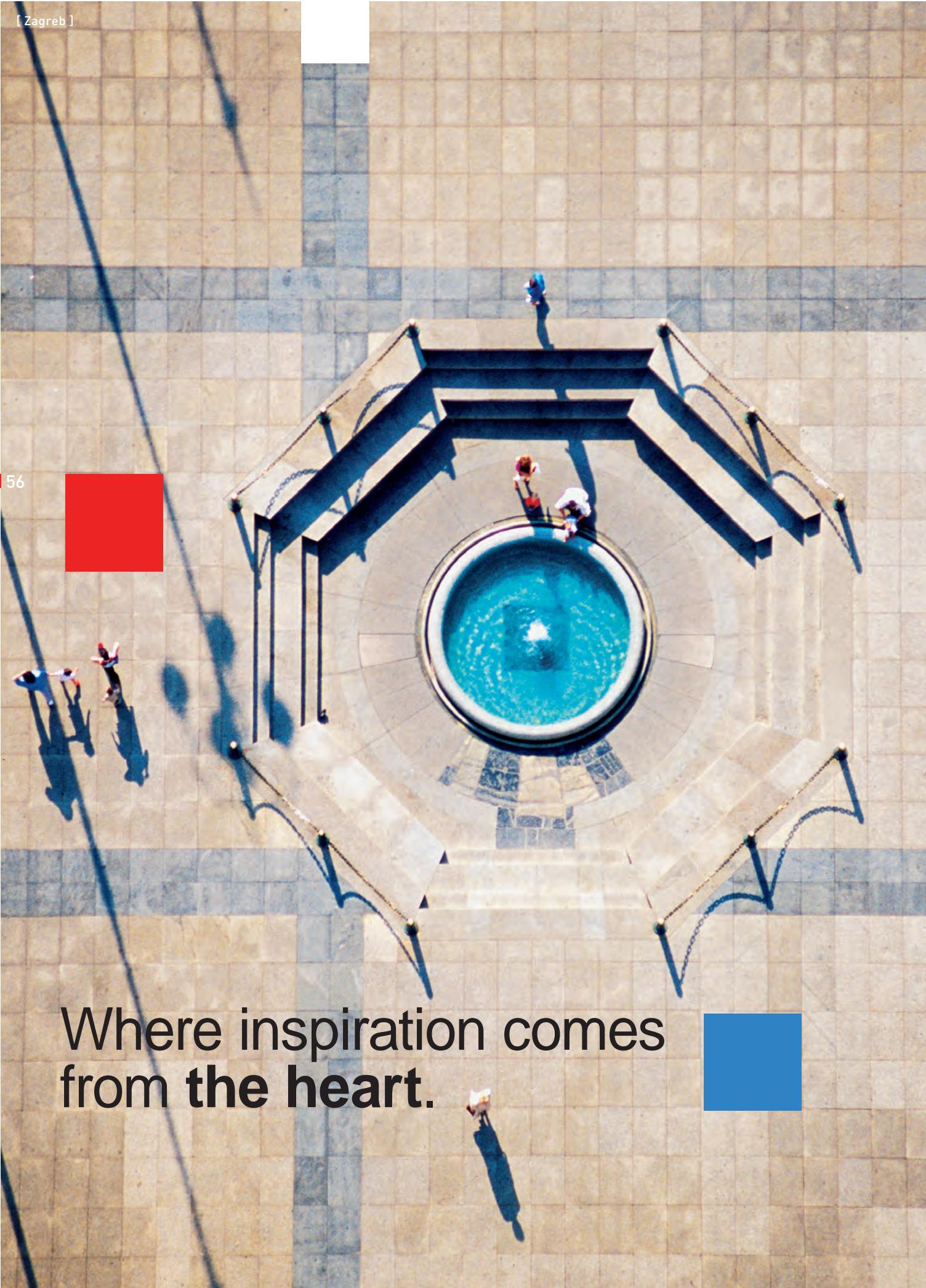


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[ Zagreb ]

56



An aerial photograph of a large, circular fountain situated in a public square. The fountain has a central blue pool surrounded by a tiered, light-colored stone or tile base. A curved, light-colored stone or tile walkway leads from the base of the fountain towards the left side of the frame. Several people are walking along this walkway. The background consists of a large, light-colored tiled wall with a horizontal band of blue tiles near the top. The overall scene is bright and sunny, casting long shadows of the people and structures onto the ground.

Where inspiration comes  
from the heart.

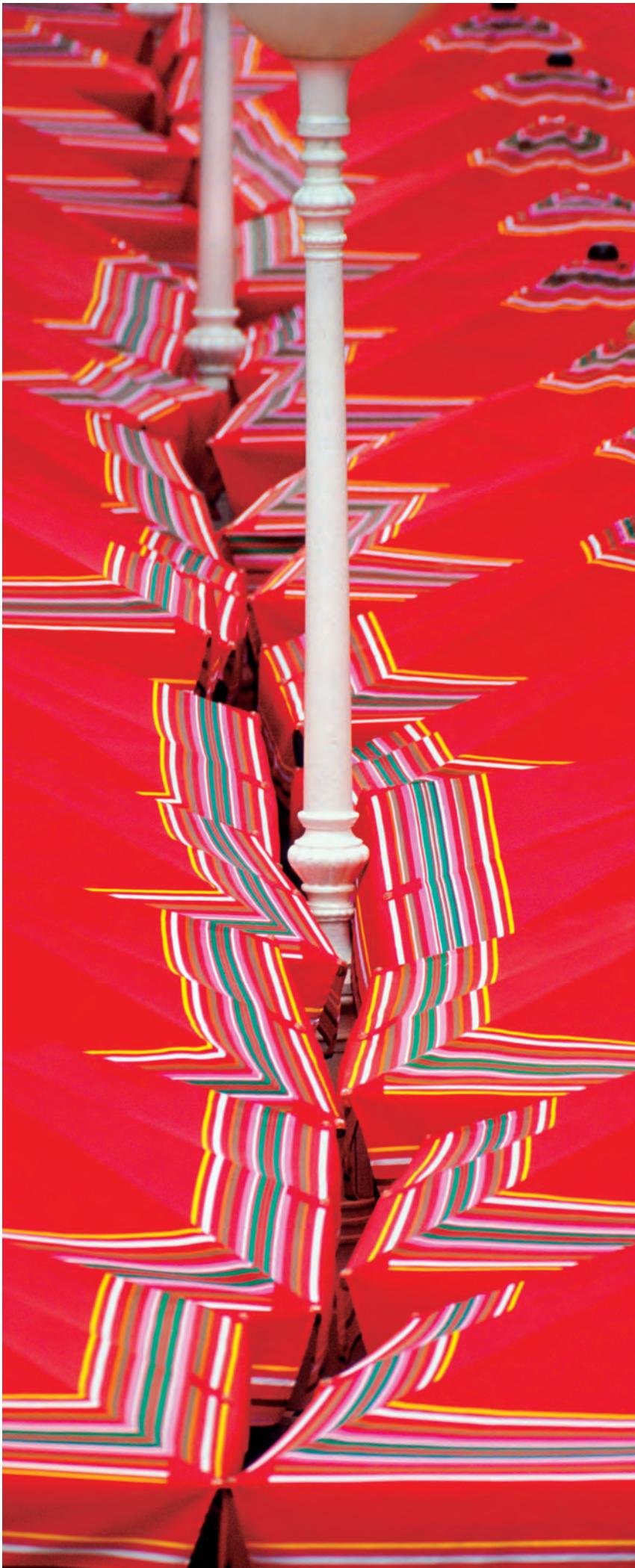


# City of Zagreb.

City of Zagreb.

Meet the charming heart of Croatia

Zagreb, Croatia's capital and the largest city in the country, is a typical Central European town. It grew out of two medieval settlements that flourished for centuries on neighbouring hills. Zagreb's written history dates to the year 1094, when a diocese was established there. The classicist and secessionist facades of its historical nucleus exude the lofty spirit of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but here and there one can also discern the contours of the panoramas of Prague. Almost all of the main sites of the city and cultural venues are located in the very centre, which teems with charming coffee houses, fine restaurants, garden restaurants, and lovingly tended parks like, for instance, Ribnjak, which lies beneath the walls of Kaptol. The pivotal point of the city is the magnificent Gothic cathedral with its filigree spires. Zrinjevac, a park located only a few steps away from the main square, also forms part of the Lenuci green horseshoe that encompasses some of the most beautiful buildings in town. Zagreb, indeed, is a city tailored to the human scale.



## Stroll the streets of the metropolis and walk through history

The best way to explore the city is the slow way, gently uncovering the layers of its rich history. Behind the main square (named after Viceroy - or Ban - Jelačić), is Dolac, one of the most colourful open-air markets in this part of Europe. From there you can walk on Opatovina to Kaptol, or perhaps via Radićeva Street to the Stone Gate and on to St. Mark's Square. In the centre of the square stands the eponymous church with its famous coloured roof. The Ban's Palace is on one side of the square, the Croatian Parliament (Sabor) is on the other. Zagreb can also be explored using its blue trams. Routed in all directions and pulsating day and night like a heart in the living tissue of the city, through their windows these modern day chariots provide the most original frames for scenes to remember Zagreb. With around 30 museums, 14 galleries and 12 art collections, a great zoo and almost a million inhabitants, Zagreb is a real Croatian metropolis, one which attracts guests of all profiles.



### CULTURAL HERITAGE

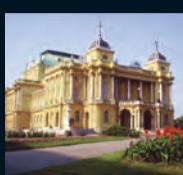
**CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY** (on the site where a church has stood since the 11th century) - neo-Gothic cathedral dating from the end of the 19th century (radically reconstructed after the 1880 earthquake)



**ST. MARK'S CHURCH** - 14-15th century church with Romanesque and Gothic characteristics

**STONE GATE AND LOTRŠČAK TOWER** - part of the 13th century city walls

**CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE** - neo-Baroque building dating from 1895, designed by the architects Fellner and Helmer



### TO EXPLORE

**ELECTRIC-POWERED FUNICULAR RAILWAY** - links Down Town with Upper Town (old part of town)  
**MIMARA MUSEUM** - named after the collector, Ante Topić Mimara, who donated a vast collection of works of art to Croatia

**MEDVEDNICA NATURE PARK** - mountaineering trails and Sljeme Ski Centre, attractive gorges, caves, waterfalls and karstic phenomena

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**, Zagreb - an exciting story of contemporary art without a beginning or an end, staged in a dynamic exhibition space where the exhibits accentuate movement, change, transience, uncertainty...



CITY OF ZAGREB. | 59

[ Zagreb ]



City of Zagreb.





Its location at the foot of the Medvednica Nature Park, whose highest peak, Sljeme, has hosted the FIS Snow Queen Trophy skiing competitions since 2005, its large sports and recreation complex around the Jarun Lake (and within it, fully appointed regatta facilities for various types of competition) on its other side, and its now well established Zagreb Indoor Tennis Tournament, make Zagreb not only a city of rich cultural heritage, of opera, ballet, theatres and concerts, but also a city whose name is

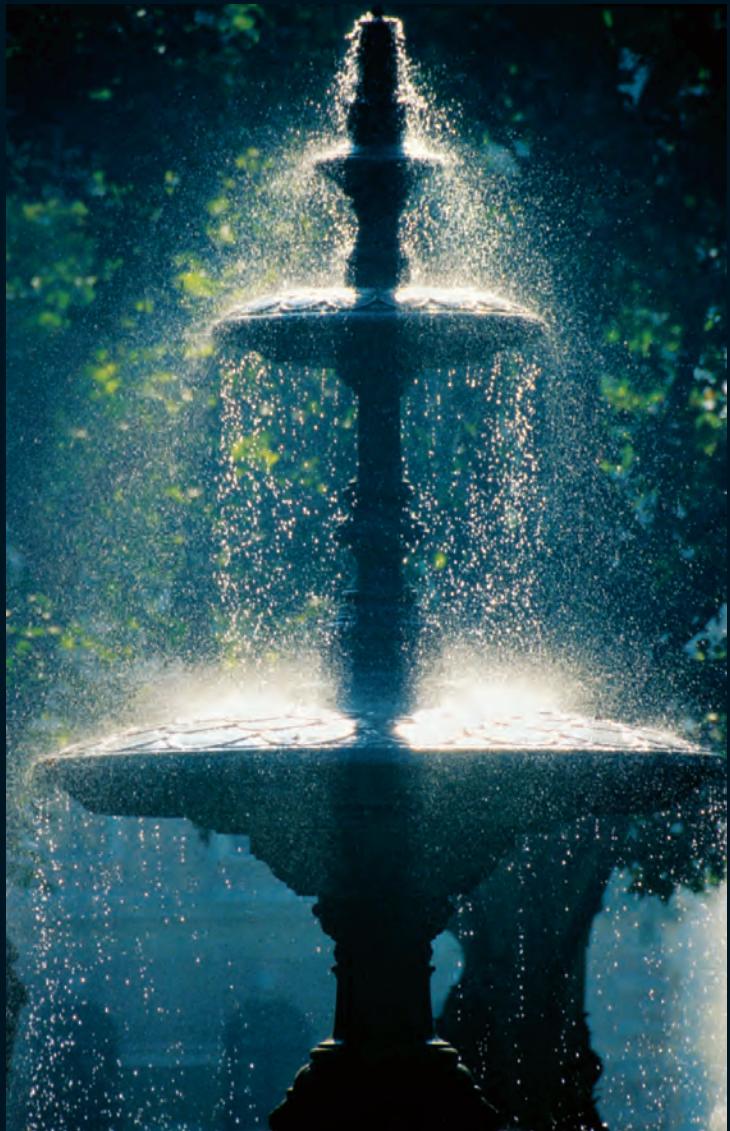
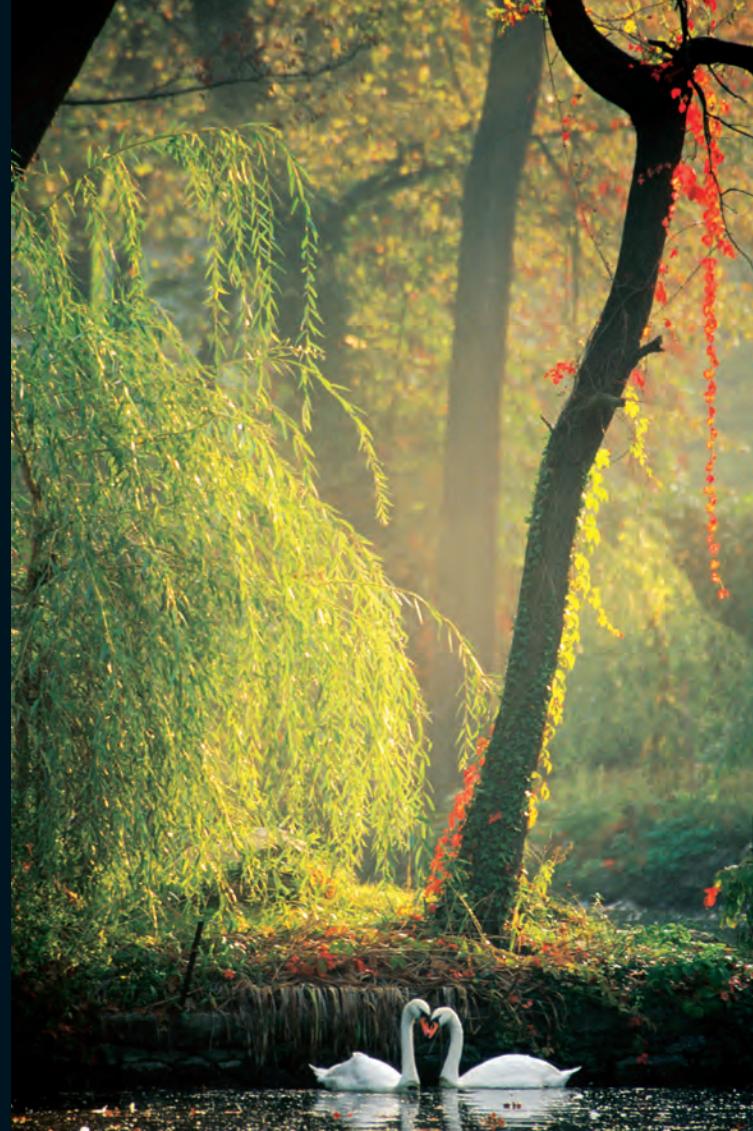
ever more frequently entered onto the map of world sports events. Finally, if you are one of those who enjoy writing postcards with your fountain pen, or noting down impressions of your journeys in your notebook, remember that it is from this very town that the first fountain pen, and indeed the technical pencil - the famous Penkala - set out into the world of writing postcards, and that their inventor, Slavoljub Penkala, found inspiration in his long walks through the streets of Zagreb.



City of Zagreb.

[ Zagreb ]

CITY OF ZAGREB. | 61



#### TOURISM PLUS

Skiing, hiking, mountaineering, congress tourism



#### GASTRONOMY

Roast turkey with "mlinci", "štrukli", "špek fileki" (bacon-tripe stew), home made pasta with cabbage, fresh cottage cheese with sметана, doughnuts

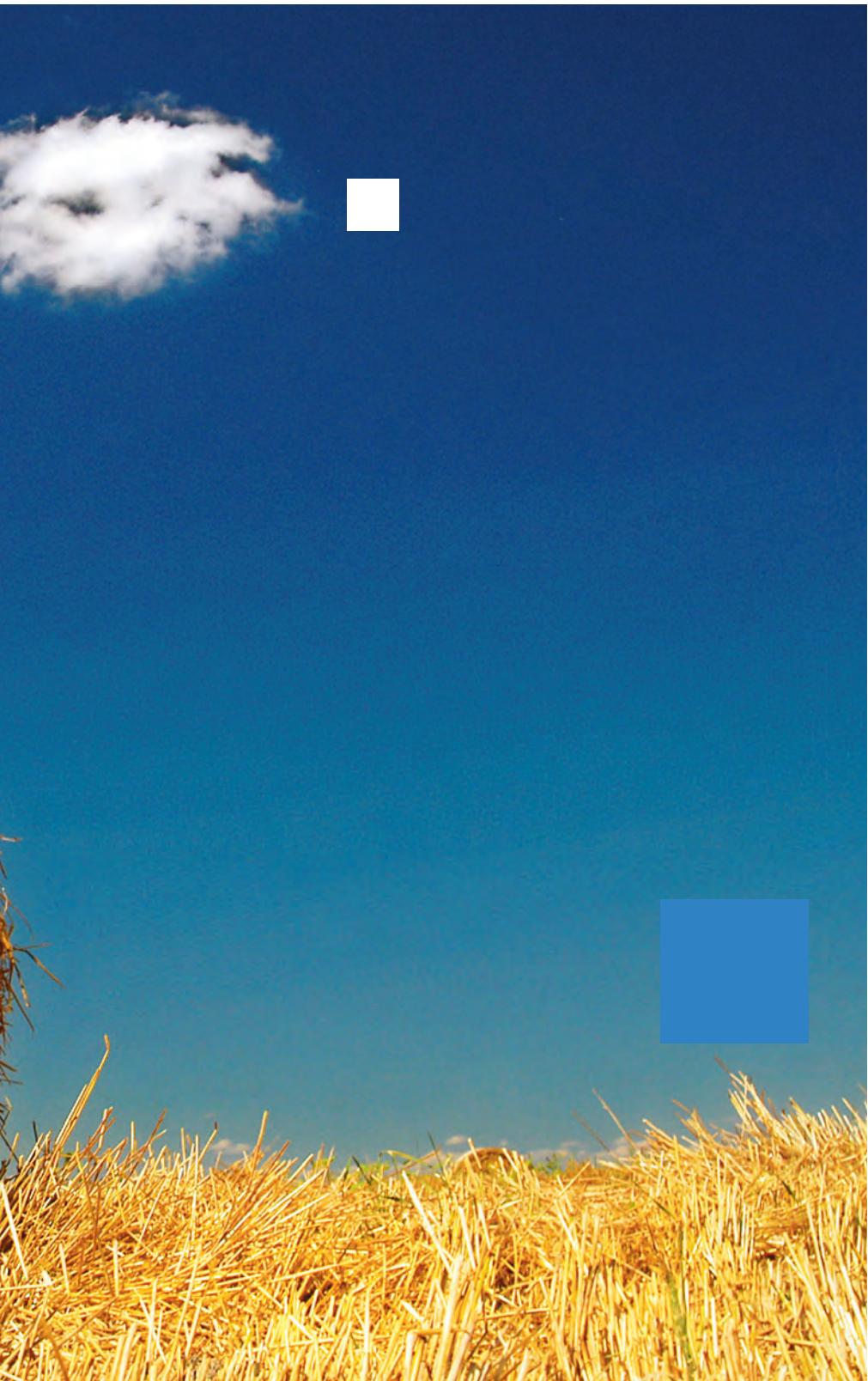


# Where the horizon is always golden.

■ 62

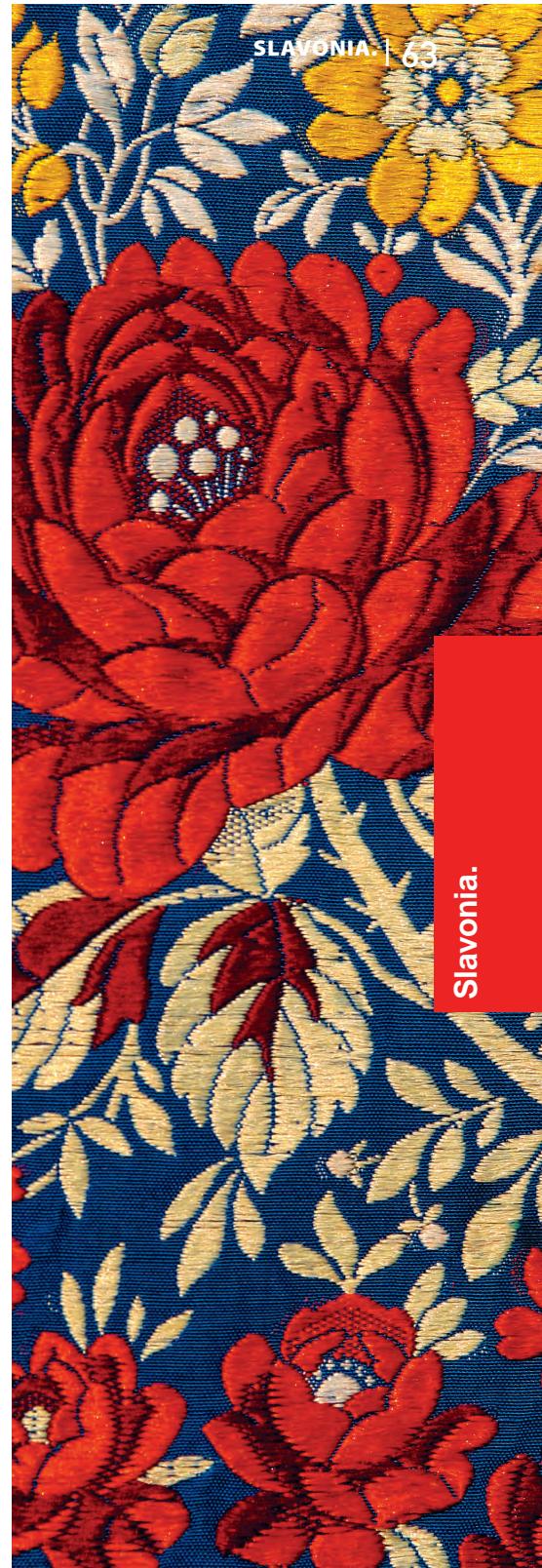


## Slavonia.



**S**haped by the force of the mighty rivers Drava, Danube, Sava and Ilova, Slavonia is a mythical region that for centuries has guarded its treasures. It is characterised by the wide, endless expanse of the golden Pannonia plains, and by rivers that gave birth to the flood areas, which, in turn, provide an ideal habitat for the now centuries-old forests

of common oak (*Quercus robur*) as well as for more than 2000 biological species. The soil of Slavonia has been tilled by human hand for over 8000 years. Ever since this part of the continent rose from the Pannonian Sea some 370 million years ago - the geological history of which is best told through the eruptive rocks of the bulky Papuk mountain that sits like



a crown upon this noble land - the fertile Slavonian plains have been a promised land.



## The Golden Valley celebrated through history

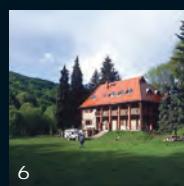
**H**aving become a part of the Roman Empire in the first centuries AD, boasting two major roads - one leading from Osijek to the eastern provinces and the other linking the Aque Balissae (today known as Daruvar) with the fertile agricultural and winegrowing country around today's Požega, Đakovo and Vinkovci, Slavonia gave two Roman emperors - the eminently capable and courageous Valentinian and his brother

Valens. Treasuring the area as both wheat growing and winegrowing country (the Kutjevo winegrowing district is home to one of the oldest wine cellars in Europe) the Romans named it Vallis Aurea (Golden Valley). If it is peace you seek in the matchless primeval dawns when the earth awakens from darkness shrouded in the haze hovering above the wide river valleys, then come and discover the land of Slavonia.

[ 1.2.3.5.7.Kopački rit 4.Osijek 6.Papuk 8.Đakovo 9.Vukovar ]

### NATURE

**PAPUK NATURE PARK** - a park of autochthonous biological, geological and culturological authenticity  
**KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK** - unique wetland reserve, home to famous prize stags and other game, ornithological reserve, fish spawning ground  
**GAJNA** (Slavonski Brod) - notable landscape  
**RADIŠEVO** (Županja) - special forest vegetation nature reserve  
**ERDUT** - notable landscape  
**BIJELA TOPOLA** (white poplar/aspen poplar, Valpovo) - monument of nature  
**VIROVITICA** - monuments of park architecture  
**SPAČVA** - notable landscape



### TO EXPLORE

**NATIONAL LIPIZZANER STABLES** (Đakovo) - founded as long ago as the 13th century, today a stud farm of exceptionally valuable genetic material  
**VUKOVAR** - Franciscan Monastery of the Baroque period, church of SS. Philip and Jacob, Eltz Castle  
**ĐAKOVO** - Baroque cathedral and Bishop's Palace  
**VALPOVO, DONJI MIHOLJAC** - Prandau Mailath and Prandau Normann Baroque Castles  
**POŽEGA** - 14th century church of St. Lawrence





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## Moments to treasure in the towns of Slavonia and Baranja

**T**his is a place where people have a deep respect for Mother Earth and whose faces reflect the pride they take in their Slavonian origins. Waste no time; set off down roads that will take you past mighty medieval fortifications, monasteries, Baroque castles and the manor houses of Osijek, Vinkovci, Požega, Slavonski Brod, all the way to Vukovar and Ilok; to Đakovo, where the indigenous Li-

pizzaner horses proudly strut their stuff; to places where rare birds nest and flock and where wild geese rise from the famous Kopački rit Nature Park. Come and discover the monastery of Ilok, where the Franciscan St. John of Capistrano is buried; the Baroque fortifications of Slavonski Brod and Osijek - that urban and cultural Pannonian metropolis whose university and scientific environment has produced

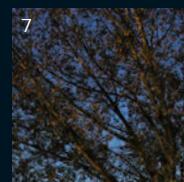
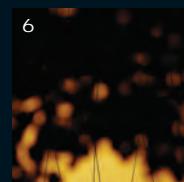
### CULTURAL HERITAGE

**BROD FORTIFICATION AND MONASTERY** (Slavonski Brod) – an 18th century fortification which ranks among the largest of such structures in Croatia; Franciscan Monastery from the Baroque period

**OSIJEK "TVRĐA"** – romantic old nucleus of the city

**ODESHALCHI CASTLE AND MEDIEVAL DEFENSIVE WALLS** (Ilok) – Renaissance park architecture, church and monastery of St. John of Capestrano

**PEJAČEVIĆ CASTLE** (Našice) – castle in Baroque-Classical style dating from 1804, with a park which is a protected monument of nature



**THE SPRING PROCESSION OF LJELJE/KRALJICE (QUEENS)** from Gorjani – UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

### TOURISM PLUS

Hunting, fishing, wine roads, hiking trails, cycling trails, riding



two Croatian Nobel Prize winners. Last, but by no means least, stroll along the wide lanes of a Slavonian village where clothing is adorned with especially sumptuous traditional weave and gold thread embroidery, while mouth-watering aromas of delectable home cured hams and heavenly kulen waft from tables, and the famous fish-paprikash gently bubbles in the pots. Welcome to Slavonia!

**SLAVONIA. | 67**

[ 1.3.5.Đakovo 2.Kutjevo 4.6.7.Osijek ]



### GASTRONOMY

“Čobanac” - thick, rich and utterly delicious stew, fish paprikash, Slavonian “kulen” and “kulenova seka” - locally produced salamis, “Iločki Traminac” - white wine, plum brandy



Slavonia.

**D**id you know that even in the times when travelling to the Adriatic was still considered a real adventure, and when it took almost 24 hours to journey from Western Europe to our shores, islands and sea, campers have always somehow been drawn to Croatia? Indeed, their numbers have increased year by year. You may be curious why Croatia has the longest naturist tradition in Europe, and why it has become a unique desti-

## Return to nature



nation for real campers. Here are a few reasons why. Within Croatia's unspoiled natural environment are eight national parks; numerous protected areas, landscapes and reserves; the most indented shores of the Mediterranean, teeming with islands, islets, cliffs, reefs, sheltered beaches and coves. All of these are ideal places for a true bonding with nature, on the Croatian side of the Adriatic. Moreover, from the Cape of Savudrija in the north of Istria to Prevlaka in the south, there are 526 camping sites.





Croatia is a land with a mild Mediterranean climate along its coastline. Its continental regions, however, offer fuller variety and wealth: enchanting green hills; lofty, bulky mountains; river rapids, lakes and the golden plains of Slavonia. All of these are unique creations of nature and tailor made for the true camper. If to the above list we add the seven localities included in the

UNESCO World Heritage List of cultural and natural heritage, numerous preserved monuments dating from ancient times, museums and collections and on top of all that, the gastronomic range of

local dishes - from sea food bathed in the symphony of the best and most precious drops of olive oil, heavenly wines produced from native varieties of grape, to the more substantial but no less delicious cuisine of the continental parts of the country, you will have an endless list of reasons for coming.



## Story of the Big Blue

**D**eeply embedded in the European mainland and flanked by the long coastlines of Italy and Croatia, the Adriatic Sea is a real paradise for all water and underwater sports. In the summer, the average surface

temperatures is between 21 and 26 degrees Celsius. During the rest of the year, the temperature almost always hovers between 16 and 17.

The Adriatic is made for underwater safaris. It shelters a wide range of

intriguing archaeological sites - from the remains of ancient colonies to shipwrecks, walls, reefs, caves, and even airplanes. The Adriatic is unique because its wealth and attractions are concentrated in a relatively small area

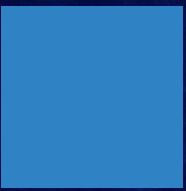


[ Odysseus' cave (Mljet) ]

A large, atmospheric photograph of a diver in the water. The diver is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, facing right, with arms extended forward. A thick metal chain is attached to their waist and extends towards the bottom left. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the background is blurred, showing rocky or coral structures at the surface.

Long considered as the shortest sea route between the central Mediterranean and the central and northern parts of Europe, the Adriatic hides beneath its surface fascinating traces of many periods of European and other civilisations just waiting to be discov-

ered. So, do not hesitate. Dive into this azure blue expanse of Poseidon's empire and savour the silence of a world rarely seen.



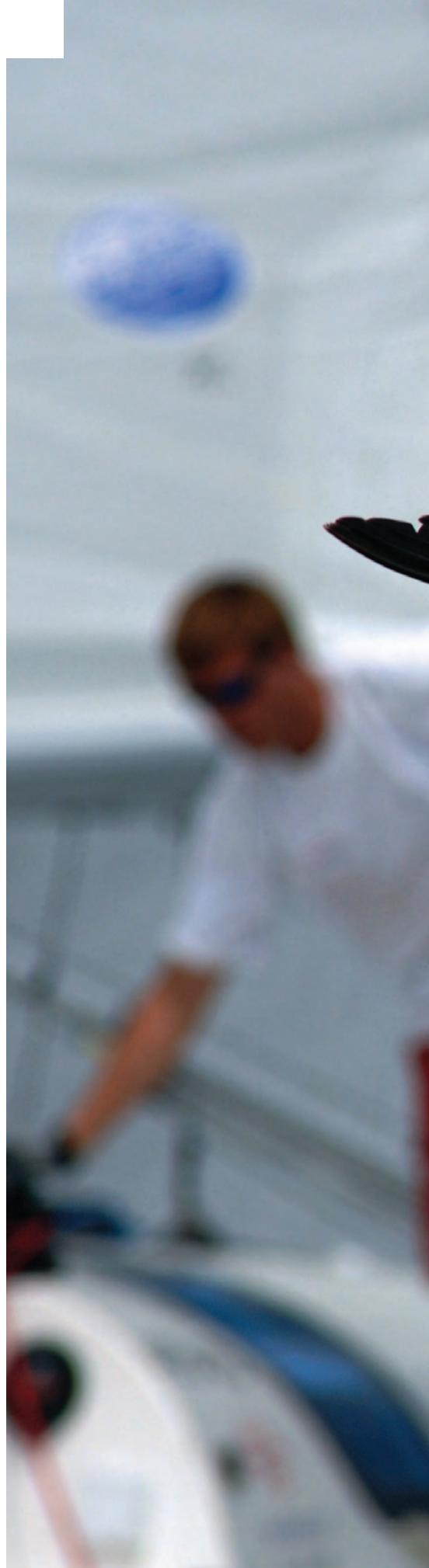
# Land of the modern day Odysseus

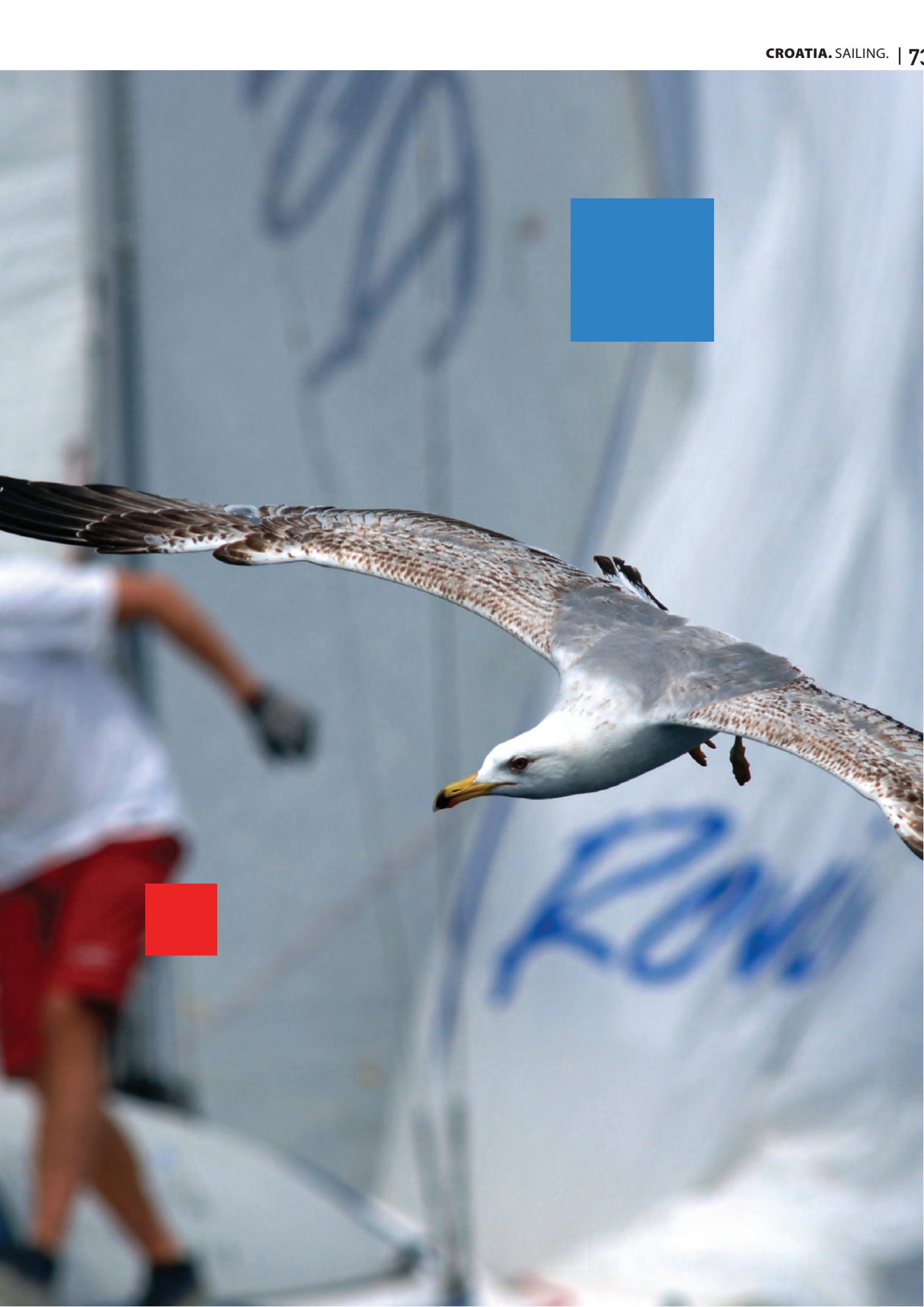
Sprinkled like pearl drops across the crystal clear blue of the sea, the 1,244 islands, isles, cliffs, reefs and rocks that comprise the Croatian Adriatic provide 1,244 unique reasons to dream of a sailing adventure. Almost ideally distributed, with distances between them not exceeding 10 nm, along a coastline extending 6,278 km, from Istria to Dubrovnik, Croatia's islands offer a real challenge to every modern-day Odysseus. With over 1500 coves, bays and ports on islands and the mainland

where one can find a berth, drop anchor or stay overnight, the Croatian Adriatic is the very place for sailing under full sail, for a motorboat cruise, or simply for enjoying the sea by boat for recreational fishing. With fifty quality marinas designed for permanent and transit commercial berthing as well as a total of 16,848 berths in the sea and 5,209 berths on dry land, Croatian marinas are situated in exceptionally well protected locations, from larger towns to small coves on islands. In addition to service and regular maintenance, marinas offer other services, including restaurants and cellars where one can enjoy excellent drinks and local and international cuisine and where all other required services are provided. For those who prefer the charm of little ports in the very heart of the small coastal towns, they have at their disposal quaysides all along the Adriatic - from Cavtat, and Gruž in Dubrovnik, Vela Luka on Korčula, Hvar and Vis, and all the way to Lošinj and Istria.

Even in olden times the Adriatic Sea was one of the most crucial sailing routes for ancient cultures. It is one of the calmer seas, without large waves or very strong currents its greatest depth is 1330 metres - found at its southernmost part. With its attractive coastal area covering 138,595 km<sup>2</sup>, the extraordinary clarity of its waters with visibility to the fascinating depth of 50 metres, and an average water temperature of 16 to 21°C, the Croatian Adriatic is indeed an ideal place for your dream sailing adventure.

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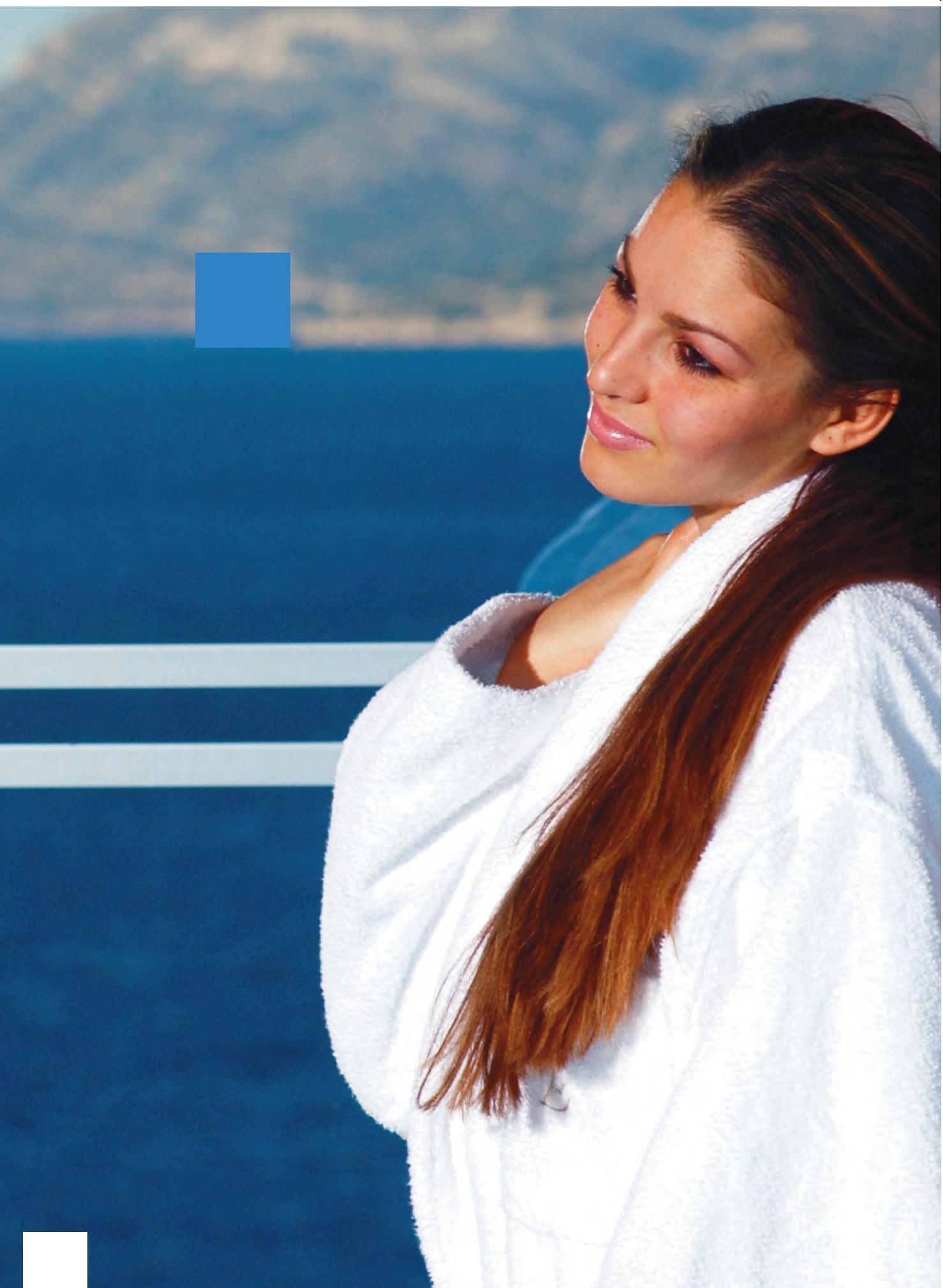
In search of the perfect vacation, do not miss the chance to indulge yourself in at least one of the many wellness treatments, with which you will not only attend to your body, since the scents of aromatic plants will inspire all of your senses and invigorate your spirit. Croatia is a country with a host of top wellness centres all over the country. From the magical Adriatic coast and its meditative hinterlands, the tranquillity and shade of the highlands, to the golden Slavonian plains, the best testimony to the Croatian natural wealth and long tradition of spas is the fact that, since Ancient times, springs and bathhouses have been built here to attend to the ideal of a balance between body and spirit.



Conceptualised around the idea of authenticity, using only natural resources and cosmetics based on original Mediterranean plants such as lavender, laurel, sage and myrtle, which Croatia is abundant in, and featuring all programs, from pools, saunas, solariums, various massages to beauty and spa programs, in line with

the highest world standards, wellness treatments are an unmissable chapter of any true vacation. Moreover, in exceptionally pleasant surroundings, wellness teams comprising top professionals, like physical therapists, aroma-therapists and cosmeticians, have created programs that you can choose from in accordance with your own affinities. From aromatherapy with the scents of the Mediterranean, such as olive oil mixed with the essential oils of lavender or pine, to honey, chocolate or even gold massage treatments, individual and unique treatments will be designed for you. Therefore, yours is only the choice of treatment, and the pleasure of relaxing and enjoying. Croatia is an ideal destination for all wellness enthusiasts.

## Life without stress





Searching for a dream holiday

**F**rom the beginning of the development of tourism, Croatia has drawn the highest echelons of European and world elite. In the 19th century it was recognised as a land of exceptional tourism potential. Its mild climate also defined it as an ideal recuperation and health resort destination for European aristocracy. Through the vision of Paul Kupelweiser, the Brijuni archipelago became an elite destination. The first hotels and luxury villas were built in Opatija and Lovran, where trendy aristocrats of the Austro-Hungarian Empire came for their holidays. The list also includes a summer residence in Dubrovnik and the sheltered sanctuaries on the Dalmatian islands, on one of which the love of King Edward



VIII reached the point that resulted in his abdication from the British throne. Many illustrious pages have been written in Croatia's history. The sheltered gardens of Dubrovnik's luxurious hotels and the lovely Villa Scheherezade are waiting for you. Once you visit them, they will not leave you untouched.

The Brijuni sports complex has been advertised since the 1930s as the best place for Europe's elite to enjoy golf, tennis and polo year-round. The grounds, which are also shared by strutting peacocks and deer, have remained the symbol of elite sports tourism in the Mediterranean. Their concept and design was perfected by top English and American golf course architects. The recent restoration was modelled on those original designs and the complex has once again become a venue where the world's elite meet. Today, Croatia is the place where famous names come in search of a special holiday.



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