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## About Croatia

IT  
IS GOOD TO KNOW ABOUT CROATIA

Croatia  
spreads from the foothills of Julian Alps in the North East and the Pannonian Valley in the East, over the mountain range of Dinara in the central part, to the Adriatic Sea in the South.

Surface:  
56  
542 km<sup>2</sup>

Surface  
of the territorial waters: 31  
067 km<sup>2</sup>

Length  
of the seashore: 5  
835 km, out of which 4 058 km belongs to the coasts of islands,  
cliffs and reefs

Number  
of islands, cliffs and reefs: 1  
185 &ndash; out of that, 67 are inhabited islands, and the largest are  
Krk, Cres and Braè.

Highest  
mountain: Dinara  
&ndash; 1 831 m/above sea level

Number  
of inhabitants: 4  
437 460. Croats make the majority of population. National minorities  
are Serbs, Bosnians, Italians, Hungarians, Albanians, Slovenians,  
Czech, Slovaks and others.

Capital  
city: Zagreb,  
779 145

Political  
system: Croatia  
is a parliamentary republic with many parties.

Religion:  
Roman Catholics (76.5% of the total population), Orthodox (11%),  
small percentage of Protestants, Jews and Muslims.

Official  
language: Croatian,  
written in the Latin alphabet.

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## CLIMATE

Croatia's coast is located in an area of a mild Mediterranean climate. In the summertime the temperatures reach up to 38 °C and the sea temperatures can reach up to 26°C. Winter on the coast is mild and usually without snow, and the temperatures range from 6°C to 12°C.

Our biggest tourist season is in June, July and August, with abundance of sun, warm seas with plenty of fun, while April and May, as well as September and October also offer much sun, enjoyable seas, and the accommodations are less expensive!

## VISAS

If you are planning to stay in Croatia for a period not longer than 90 days, all you need is a valid passport - you will not need a visa if you are traveling from Europe, USA or Japan.

## Children

must have their own passports or must be signed in, in one of their parent's passport. Pets must have verification or document for regularly taken vaccines.

## ARRIVAL BY CAR

If you are arriving to Croatia by car, all you need is a valid driver's licence and an insurance card. Gasoline is much cheaper in Croatia than in other western European countries. You can find unleaded gasoline in all of our gas stations.

## RENT-A-CAR IN CROATIA

If you decide to rent a vehicle during your stay in Croatia, the driver will have to be older than 23 years of age and possess a valid driver's licence.

In case you need a car, our travel agency can make the necessary arrangements for you.

Just  
contact us:

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Phone/fax:  
+385 21 394449

Mobile: +385 91 5240218

E-mail:

\n info@gajeta.info

This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it

## CUSTOMS

Customs regulations are in accordance with the EU standards. Foreign currency is allowed to enter and exit the country with one exception - the amount of local currency (KN) upon exit cannot exceed 2000,00 KN. Value added tax rate in Croatia is 22%. For any purchases over 500,00 KN you can fill out a tax refund form.

## BANKS

The  
largest banks in Croatia are:

Zagrebaèka banka, Privredna banka,  
Croatia banka, Splitska banka, Varaždinska banka, Karlovaèka banka  
and Istarska banka.

Usual working hours are:

Monday - Friday  
from 8 to 19 h,

Saturday from 8 to 13 h, closed on Sundays.

ATM  
machines can be found in most cities and touristic places.

## EXCHANGE OFFICES

Exchange  
offices are located in all major cities and most of the smaller towns. Almost every hotel has its own exchange office, but these might be charging a bigger commision than the exchange offices in the cities.

Exchange rates are published in daily newspapers and they are can be seen in visible places in thr exchange offices, post offices and local bank branches.

## SHOPPING

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The best possible souvenirs that you can buy are traditional handmade objects, clothes and other ornaments made from silver filigree jewellery or sea shells and corals, along with interesting handmade objects of wood and ceramics, that can be found along the coast.

If you go shopping for shoes or clothes, the prices in shops won't pleasantly surprise you. If you aren't interested in designers' clothing we recommend searching for small boutiques and local markets. The prices might be higher during the summer season, but the selection is rather wide.

## CREDIT CARDS AND OTHER METHODS OF PAYMENT

Standard Credit Cards &ndash; Eurocard/Mastercard, Diners, American Express and Visa are among the usual methods of payment in Croatia. Stores, restaurants, agencies, hotels and other service providers accept credit cards which are usually indicated by a visibly placed label with the logo of the credit card accepted.

You can use ATM machines to withdraw cash from your credit cards, using Mastercard and Diners you can withdraw money at regular post offices.

Travellers cheques and personal cheques issued by foreign banks can be cashed in in most of the banks and exchange offices &ndash; with a commission of around 2% of the amount. Eurocheque and other cheques by foreign banks can be cashed in in all exchange offices or banks.

## TIPS OR GRATUITY

Neither tips nor gratuity are included in the price of meals or drinks. If you decide to tip please do so at your own discretion. Average tip amounts to the 10% of the price indicated on the bill.

## DRINKING WATER

Tap water is very clean so we do recommend using it for drinking purposes; as locals do. If you decide to purchase still water you can do so at any local store/ market.

## NUDISM AND TOPLESS SUNBATHING

Topless sunbathing is acceptable on all Adriatic beaches, but nudism is only allowed on designated beaches, which are clearly

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marked.

#### MEDICAL SERVICE:

There are hospitals and clinics in all larger cities, and first aid clinics and pharmacies can be found in all smaller places. Foreign tourists do not pay for medical services if the Health Care Convention was signed between Croatia and the country they come from. Expenses of health services provided to persons coming from the countries without the signed Health Care Convention, are charged directly to users according to the price list. For patients whose lives are in danger, there is an emergency transport by air (helicopter) or sea (speedboat).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Protection of the biological diversity is in concordance with the EU regulations currently in force. The water quality of the Croatian Adriatic Sea is of high quality for swimming and is in concordance with the EU criteria. In case of an accident or contamination of the sea, please contact the National Centre for Sea Search and Rescue on the number 9155 (free telephone), which is a part of international institutions of the same rank. In case of accidental environmental contamination on land, report it to the National Information Centre on the number 01/4814 911.

#### POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Post offices in Croatia are easily spotted as they are marked with a yellow sign with

the lettering

HP (standing for Hrvatske Pošte). Their services include pay phones, telegram, fax service and money exchange.

Post offices working hours are from 7 am until 7 pm, and in smaller towns from 7 am until 2 pm, sometimes reopening after a long lunch break at around 4 pm.

During the summer season post offices in bigger cities and tourist areas are open even on Saturday and Sunday, and as late as until 10 pm.

Postage stamps are sold in post offices and at newsstands.

Post boxes are yellow with HP sign and they can always be found in front of post offices and elsewhere around the cities and tourist areas.

Public telephones can be used only with phone cards that can be purchased in post offices and at the newsstands. You can dial directly abroad from any public pay phone.

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RADIO  
NEWS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DURING THE TOURIST SEASON:

On  
Program 2 of Croatian radio, along with the regular news in Croatian,  
the Croatian Auto Club (HAK) will give traffic reports in English,  
German and Italian along with nautical news a number of times  
throughout the day.

Other than on Program 2 of Croatian radio,  
alternating news and traffic reports will be emitted every full hour  
from the following studios: Program 3 of Bavarian radio, Program 3 of  
Austrian radio, RAI Uno, British Virgin radio and Czech radio.  
Throughout the day nautical news will be emitted in English and  
Croatian.

IMPORTANT  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

International number for Croatia: +385

Police: 92

Firefighters: 93

Ambulance: 94

Road  
aid: (+385 1) 987

Weather and road conditions: +385 1 46 40 800

Traffic conditions: +385 1 46 40 800

Croatian autoclub (HAK):  
+385 1 66 11 999

Information of local and longdistance phone  
numbers: 988

Information for international phone numbers: 902

General information: 981

Croatian angels - tourist  
information available in Croatian, English, German and Italian

from  
the 23.03.-15.10. on number: 062 999 999 (+385 62 999 999)