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Full of life

Don't fill your life with days, fill your days with life.



CROATIA





Croatia

Discover your story

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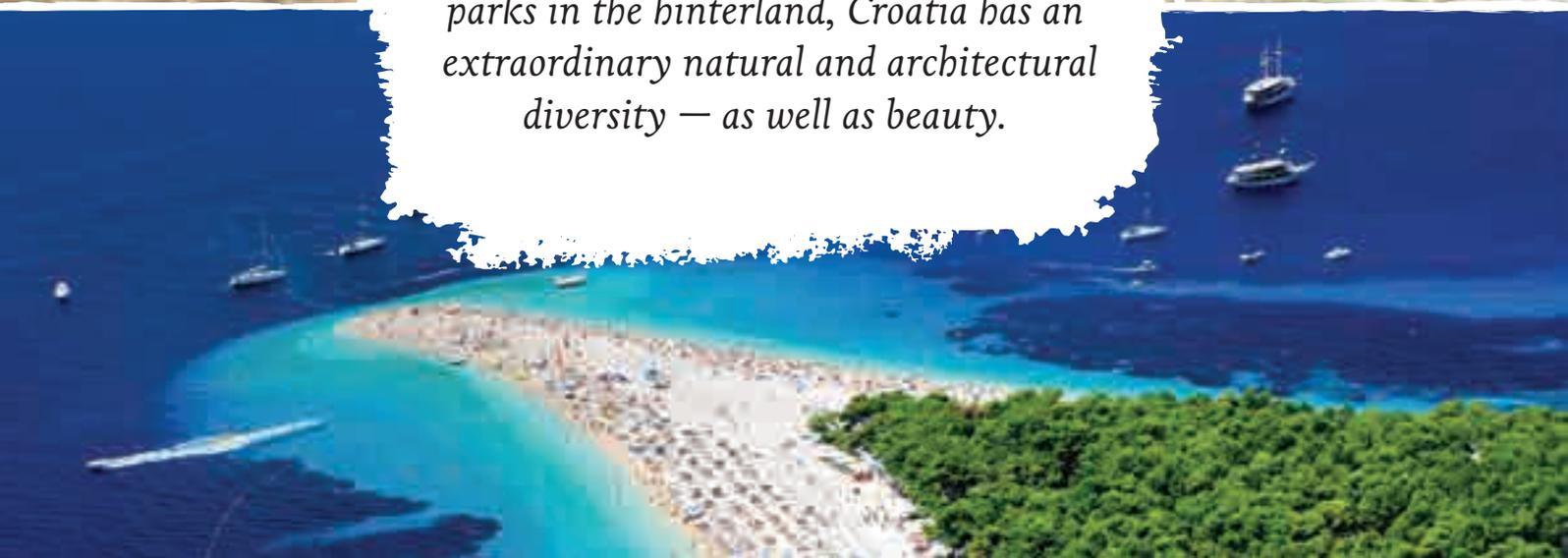
Choose your destination
in Croatia and explore
true diversity.





Full of life

From the stunning, unspoilt Adriatic coast to the amazing natural parks in the hinterland, Croatia has an extraordinary natural and architectural diversity — as well as beauty.



Whether you prefer hopping from one pristine island to another, exploring ancient sites, trying the best local food and drink or practising some sport, Croatia has plenty to offer both in the summer months and throughout the rest of the year.

Croatia is the perfect mix of the vibrant energy you would expect from a young country and the friendly, relaxed and hospitable ways of the traditional Mediterranean.

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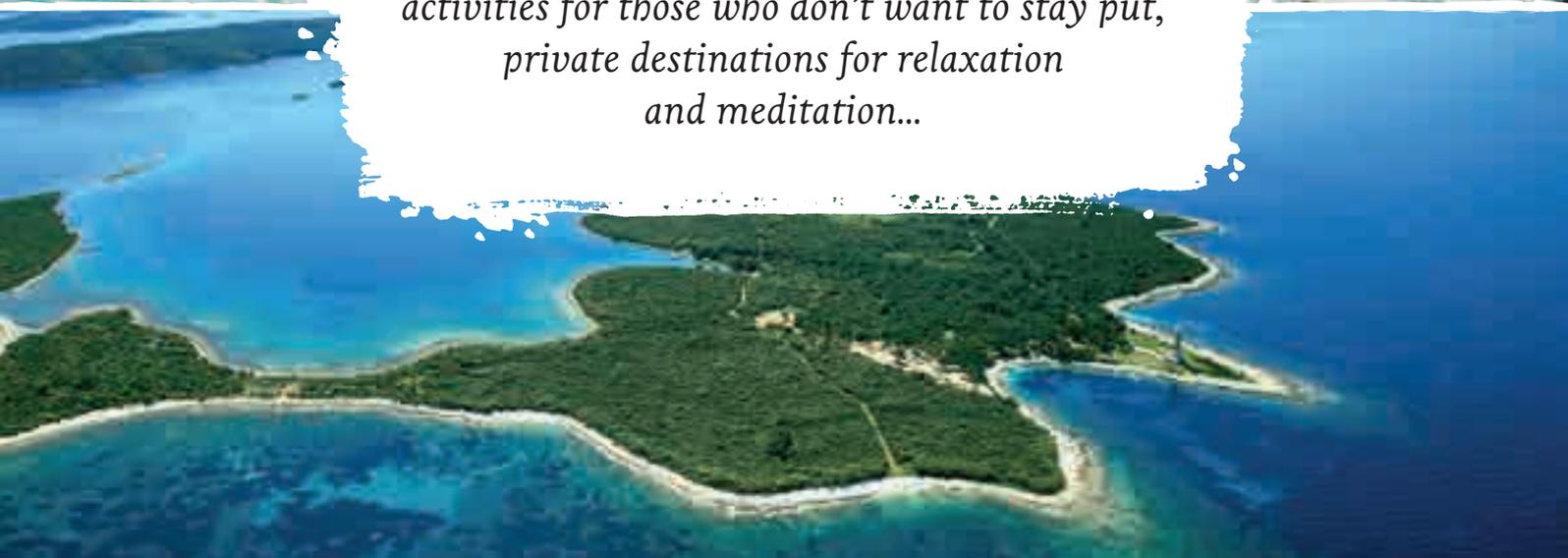
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Full of Sun

A paradise of beaches for families, remote locations for the bold and adventurous, seaside activities for those who don't want to stay put, private destinations for relaxation and meditation...



With 1,244 islands, Croatia has the most intricately indented coastline on the Mediterranean, with the right type of beach to fit the demands of each guest.

A PARADISE OF BEACHES

Sandy beaches and shallow waters with plenty of fun activities for the kids and the grown-ups are the most popular destinations for sunbathing, swimming and relaxing with family and friends. Paradise Beach on the island of Rab, Bačvice Beach in Split, Saharun Beach on Dugi otok, Lumbarda on Korčula, and Kukljica on the island of Ugljan are some of the most popular sandy beaches in Croatia. If you're looking for more seclusion but still want to feel the sand between your toes, go to Spiaza Beach on the remote island of Susak.

PEBBLE BEACHES

The vast majority of beaches in Croatia are pebble beaches with crystal clear water and plenty of beach and sea activities – such as diving, jet-skiing, volleyball, or the popular local sport called picigin. The iconic Zlatni Rat Beach on the island of Brač is surely the most famous beach in Croatia, but it's in close competition with Punta Rata Beach in Brela, Baška Beach on the island of Krk, and Banje Beach in Dubrovnik.

REMOTE BEACHES

If your ideal sunbathing spot is a secluded one far away from civilization, it won't be too difficult for you to find your own piece of heaven. Stiniva Cove on the island of Vis is by far the most famous secluded Croatian beach. It is very difficult to reach by land, but sailors often come here to enjoy the silence and the calm sea. Cape Kamenjak in the south of Istria has many hidden coves and islets with sandy and stone beaches, while one of the most beautiful beaches in Croatia, Lubenice Beach, is situated in a hidden cove and surrounded by the steep cliffs of the island of Cres.

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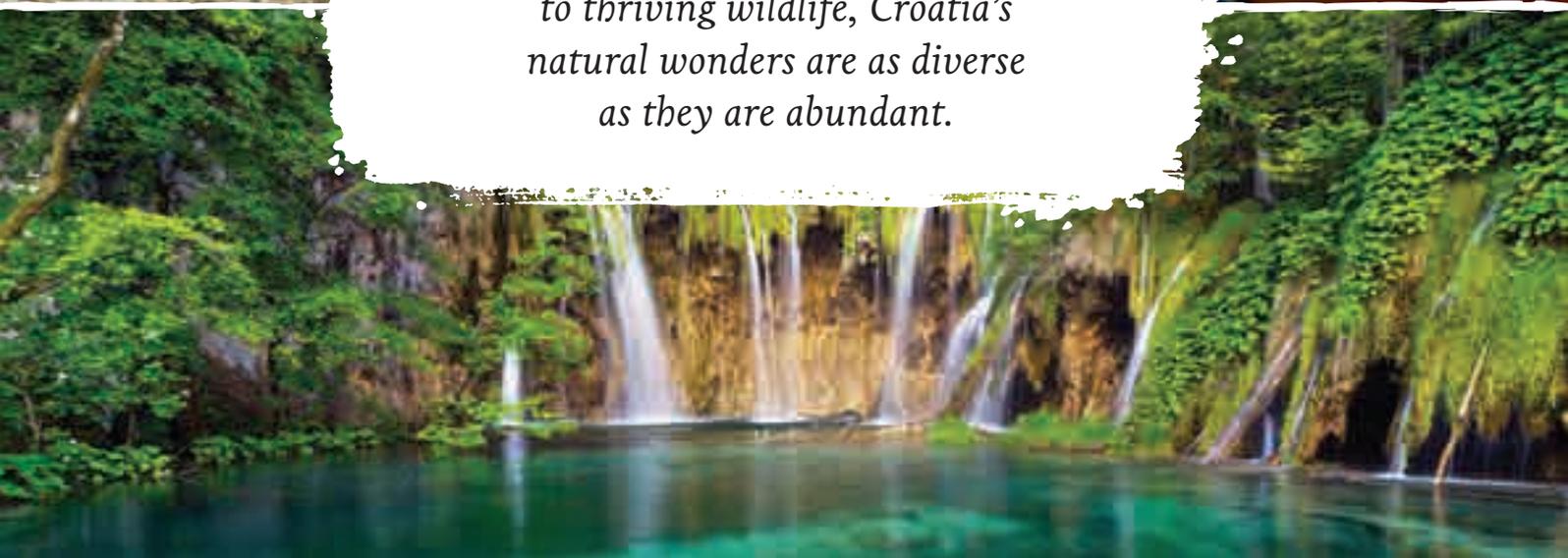
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Full of nature

From the pristine blue sea to mystical mountains, spectacular national parks to thriving wildlife, Croatia's natural wonders are as diverse as they are abundant.



Protected areas in Croatia include eight national parks, eleven nature parks, two strict reserves and seventy seven special reserves.

BRIJUNI
| *Istria*

National Park Brijuni is a collection of two large and twelve smaller islands on the western coast of Istria. The Brijuni are renowned for their endemic nature as well as the well-preserved Mediterranean vegetation, but the islands also boast invaluable cultural heritage dating from the Roman and Byzantine times. The Brijuni are not inhabited, but there are numerous tourist attractions all year round.

KORNATI
| *Dalmatia*

The Kornati archipelago has the densest collection of islands in the Mediterranean and eighty-nine of them were declared a national park in 1980. The extraordinary landscape and beautiful natural bays will leave you breathless. Famous for their high cliffs, unusual shapes and sparse vegetation, they provide a maze of stone and sea, perfect for yachting, sailing and so-called 'Robinson Crusoe' style tourism.

KRKA
| *Dalmatia*

Krka National Park, located northeast of the town of Šibenik, is a natural karst phenomenon, extremely rich in endemic species. The main attractions of Krka National Park are its seven waterfalls, the most famous of them being Skradinski buk, one of the most beautiful calcium carbonate waterfalls in Europe.

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PAKLENICA

| *Dalmatia*

Paklenica National Park is located near the city of Zadar, on the southern slopes of Velebit Mountain, the largest mountain range in Croatia. The park abounds with peculiar karstic forms and caves, and its most striking features are the two forbidding gorges: Velika and Mala Paklenica. Due to its climatic conditions, a lush variety of flora and fauna has been preserved.

RISNJAK

| *Gorski kotar*

Risnjak National Park near Delnice is a forested mountain area north of Rijeka, which in addition to being the habitat for numerous wild species, also serves as a natural hydrological monument as the source of the river Kupa. Most visitors are nature lovers, especially mountaineers, who find the highest peak of the massif a very rewarding challenge.

PLITVICE

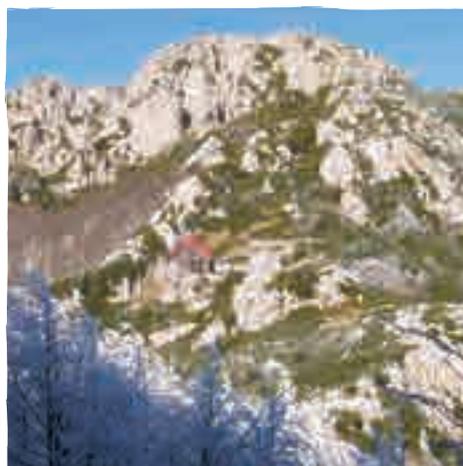
| *Lika*

The Plitvice Lakes National Park is Croatia's best-known national park, and the only one listed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage sites. This world-famous park is renowned for its cascade lakes: sixteen small lakes are interconnected by waterfalls created by the sedimentation of travertine, a special type of limestone. The park is a beautiful and popular excursion destination all year round.

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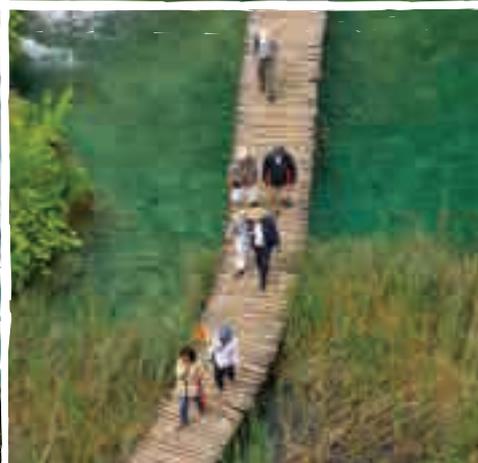
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NORTHERN VELEBIT| *Velebit*

Northern Velebit National Park is located in the northern section of the Velebit Mountain, the largest mountain in Croatia, and is crisscrossed with numerous mountaineering trails. The park is famous for two karstic formations known as Hajdučki kukovi and Rožanski kukovi, as well as for the Lukina jama pothole - the eighth deepest pothole in the world.

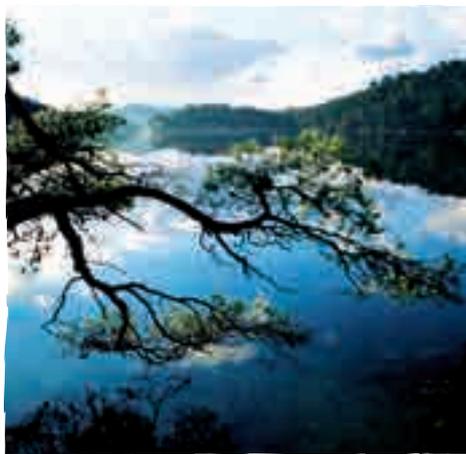
MLJET| *Dalmatia*

Situated on the island of the same name, Mljet National Park is the most important protected area of south Dalmatia. It includes the western wooded part of the island of Mljet, which is significant for its extremely rich Mediterranean vegetation and cultural heritage. The park is famous for two deep bays which, due to their extremely narrow links with the sea, are regarded as and indeed named as such: the Great Lake and the Small Lake.

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| 12. |



A close-up photograph of a man and a woman on a boat. The man, with a beard and long hair, is smiling and looking towards the woman. The woman is also smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows the sea and a clear sky.

Full of islands to discover

*Its mild climate makes the
Adriatic very pleasant for
sailing all year round.*



Hundreds of charming islands and islets with sparse traffic, fascinating beauty and natural phenomena are a guarantee for a completely different vacation experience on the Mediterranean.

With a spectacular coastline extending 5,835 kilometres from Istria to Dubrovnik, with nearly sixty marinas and extraordinary clear waters, the Croatian Adriatic is an ideal place for your sailing adventure.

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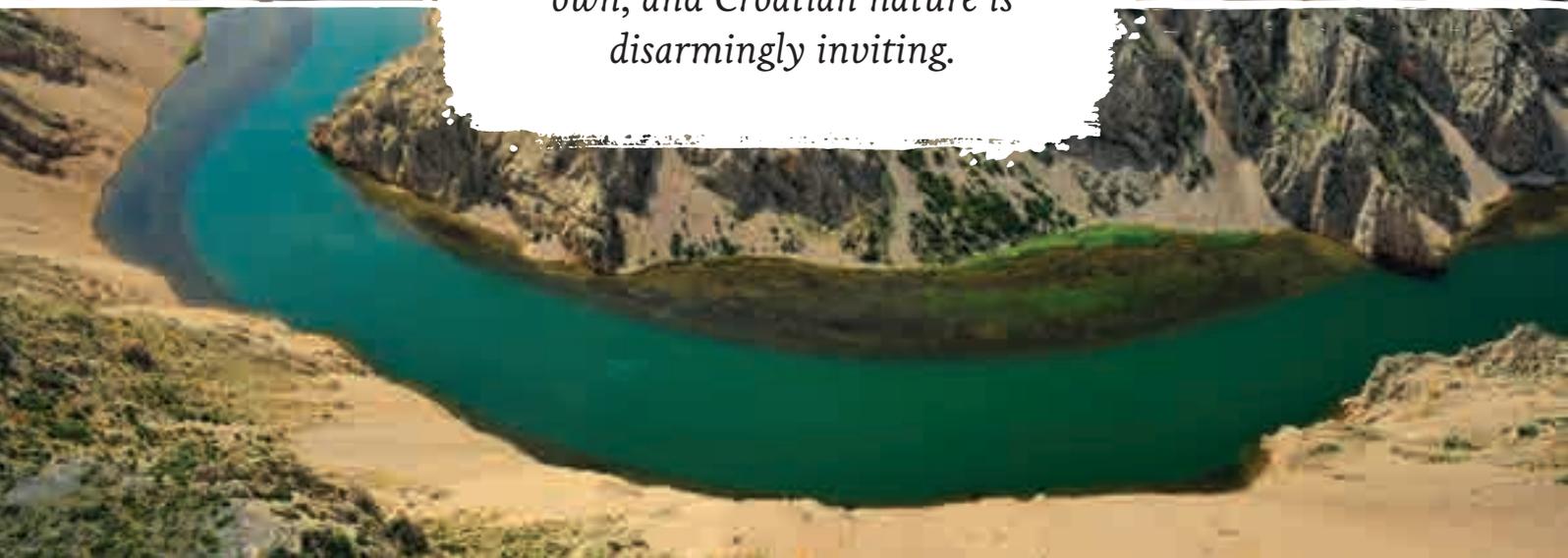


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Full of adventures

Nature is an adventure of its own, and Croatian nature is disarmingly inviting.



The modest Continental and mild Mediterranean climates offer many opportunities for various activities throughout the year. Bike or hike, dive or skydive, surf the waves or climb the mountain peaks - let your curiosity be your guide. Wherever you go, the memories will follow.

Thanks to the diverse, preserved natural resources, Croatia is building a position as an adventure and sports destination with a significant potential for growth. Current efforts have placed Croatia in a leading position as a diving destination in the Mediterranean, and as one of the top five sea kayaking destinations. Adventure races in Croatia run all year long and vary in levels of intensity and

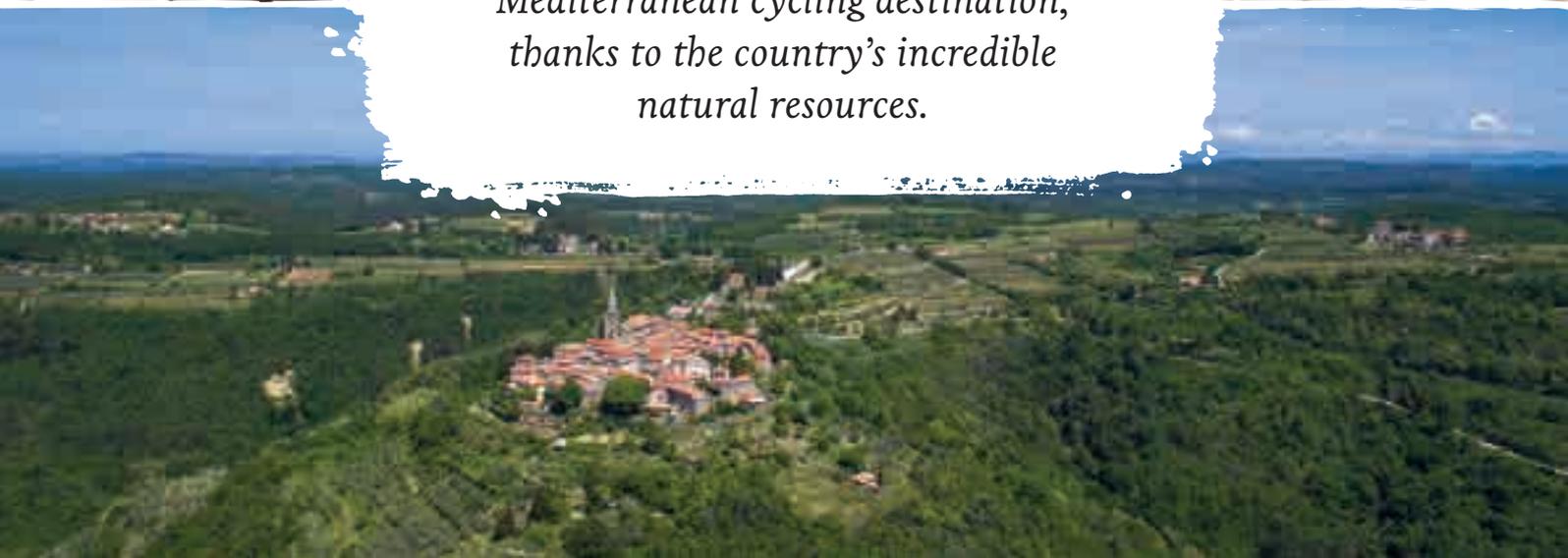
difficulty - from easy and short competitions, to very difficult and long ones. Competitors and amateurs extreme sport lovers can discover the beauty and wilderness of the mountain and forest areas, islands and the sea. The richness of the terrain therefore offers the organisers endless possibilities in planning adventure trails and bringing new adventurers to our area.





Full of bike routes

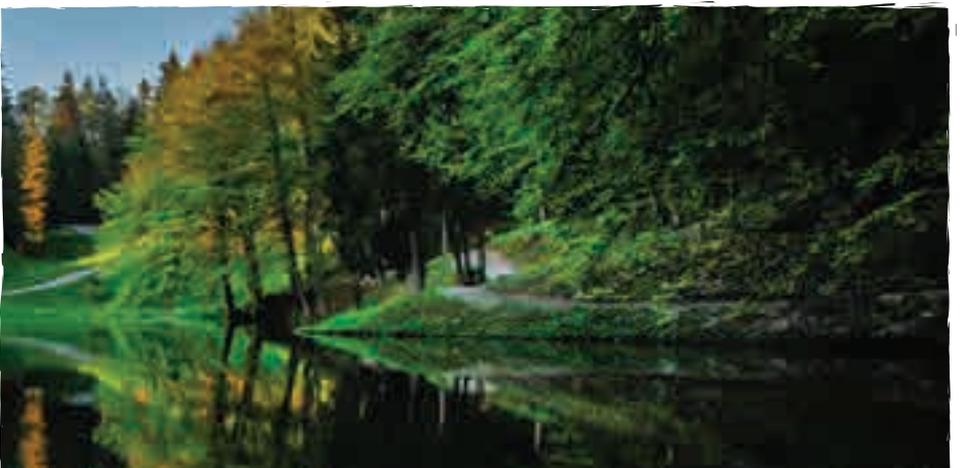
Croatia has been successfully building its reputation as a leading Mediterranean cycling destination, thanks to the country's incredible natural resources.



Two-wheel enthusiasts can enjoy the beautiful surroundings and smell the flowers and feel the freshness of the waterfalls, enjoy the birdsongs or taste freshwater directly from springs. Rural roads, forest paths, vineyards and field cycling paths all reward cyclists with visits that are off the beaten track. Cycling paths are clearly marked in the

national parks: Plitvice Lakes has one of the most beautiful cycling paths in Europe. Cycling is welcome in all areas - with little effort, you are rewarded with an incredibly diverse scenery - valleys and hills of sunny Istria, pathways through mountainous Gorski kotar, the green hills of the Zagorje region, the plains in Slavonia and Tu-

ropolje. Bicycles are welcome on the islands as well and although they are less green in the summer, the islands are still surrounded by the magical blue sea. The construction of new and the modernisation of the existing cycling paths are absolute priorities, especially in larger tourist destinations.



1. Grožnjan / I. Biočina | 2. Karlovac County / V. Metelko | 3. Varaždin / D. Vurušić | 4. Trakošćan / D. Vurušić

A group of people are dining outdoors at sunset. The scene is warm and inviting, with golden light from the setting sun illuminating the scene. In the foreground, a wooden table is set with various dishes, including a large platter of seafood, a bowl of olives, and a plate of fish. The background shows a stone wall and a building, suggesting a coastal or Mediterranean setting. The overall atmosphere is one of relaxed enjoyment and social dining.

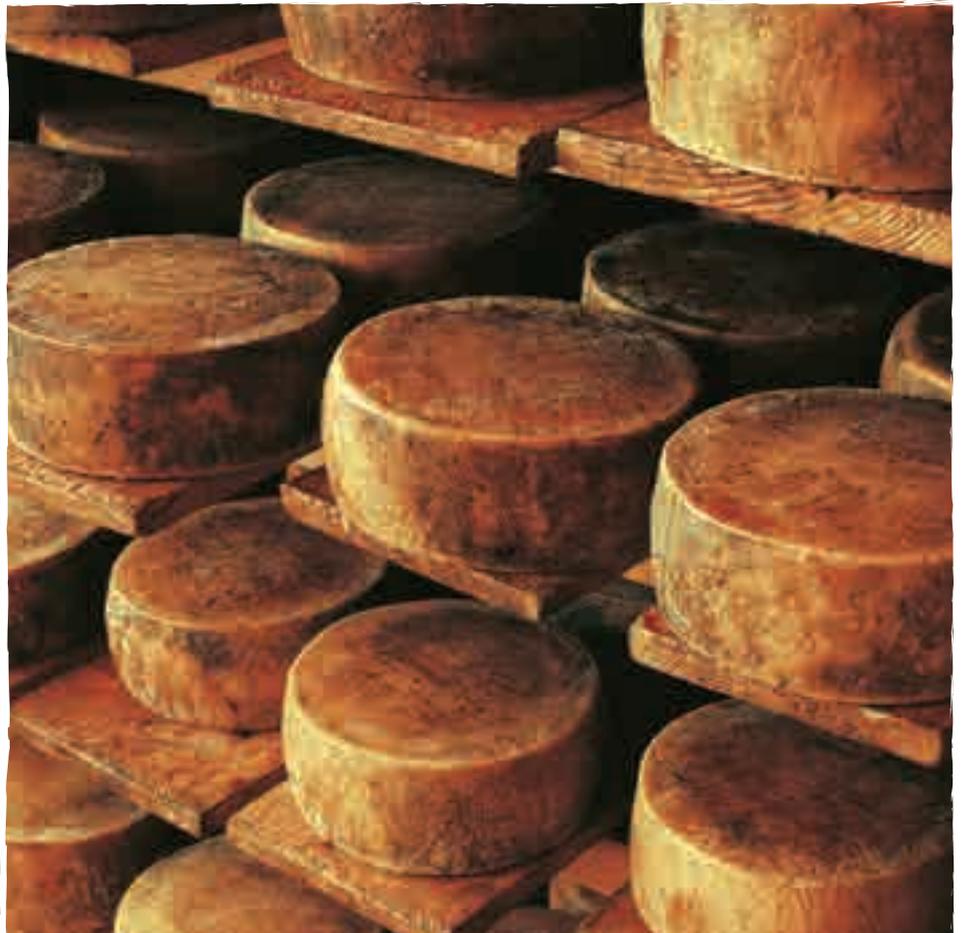
Full of Flavours

When sun-soaked fresh ingredients meet in a melting pot of amazingly diverse culinary influences, you can't help but crave another bite. Go ahead, there's always room for more.

Croatian cuisine is diverse and known as a cuisine of different regions. Its modern form originates from proto-Slavic and ancient times. The differences in the selection of ingredients and preparation methods are the most obvious if we compare the continental and coastal regions.

The continental cuisine is typical for its early proto-Slavic roots and more recent contacts with established schools of gastronomy - Hungarian, Viennese, and Turkish. Meat products, freshwater fish and vegetables dominate. The coastal region is characterised by the influences of the Greeks, Romans, Illyrians and later Mediterranean cui-

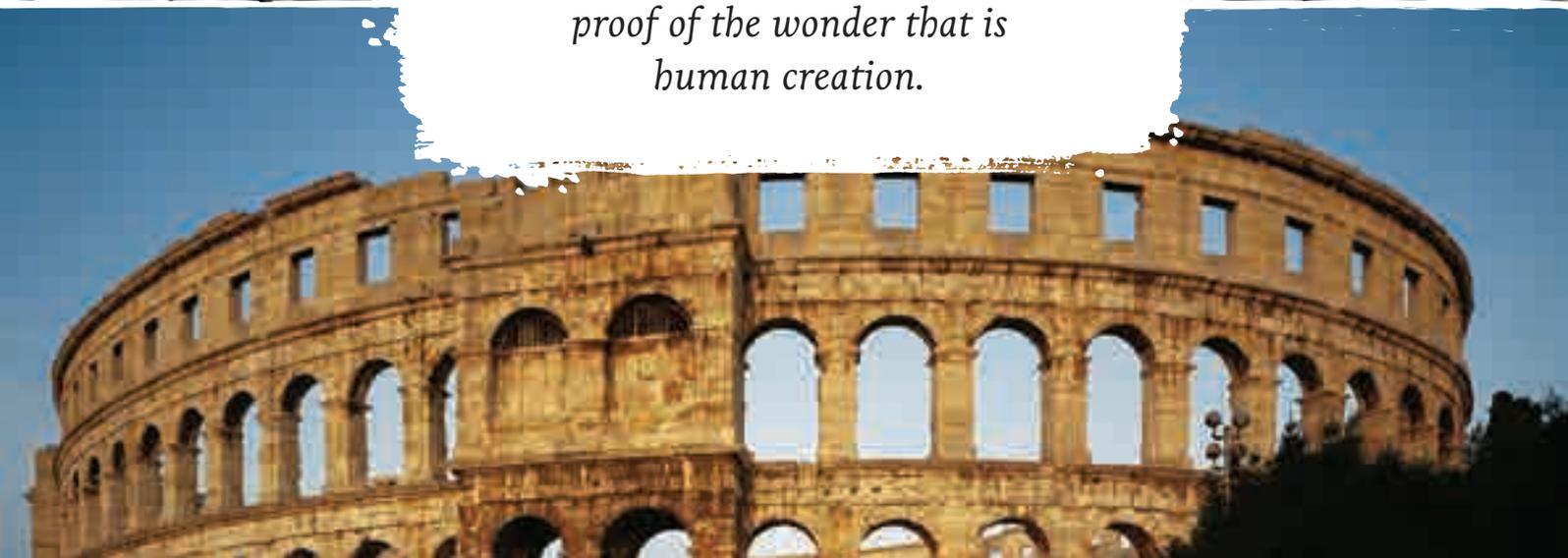
sines — Italian and French. It features many seafood specialties (squid, cuttlefish, octopus, shrimp, lobster...) prepared in various ways, alongside olive oil, prosciutto, various vegetables, plus Croatian wines such as Malvasia, Dingač and Vrbnik Žlahtina, and various liqueurs like the famous Maraschino.





Full of history & culture

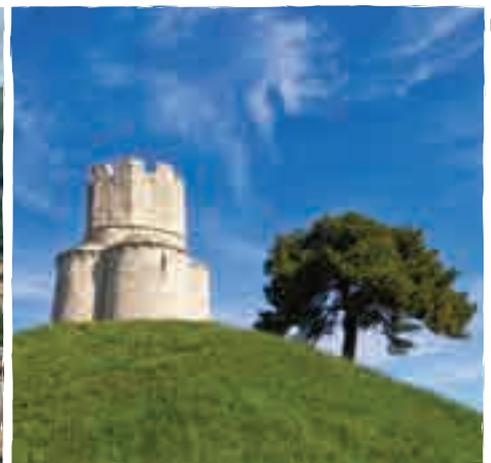
*Since the dawn of time, Croatia
has been blessed with stunning
proof of the wonder that is
human creation.*

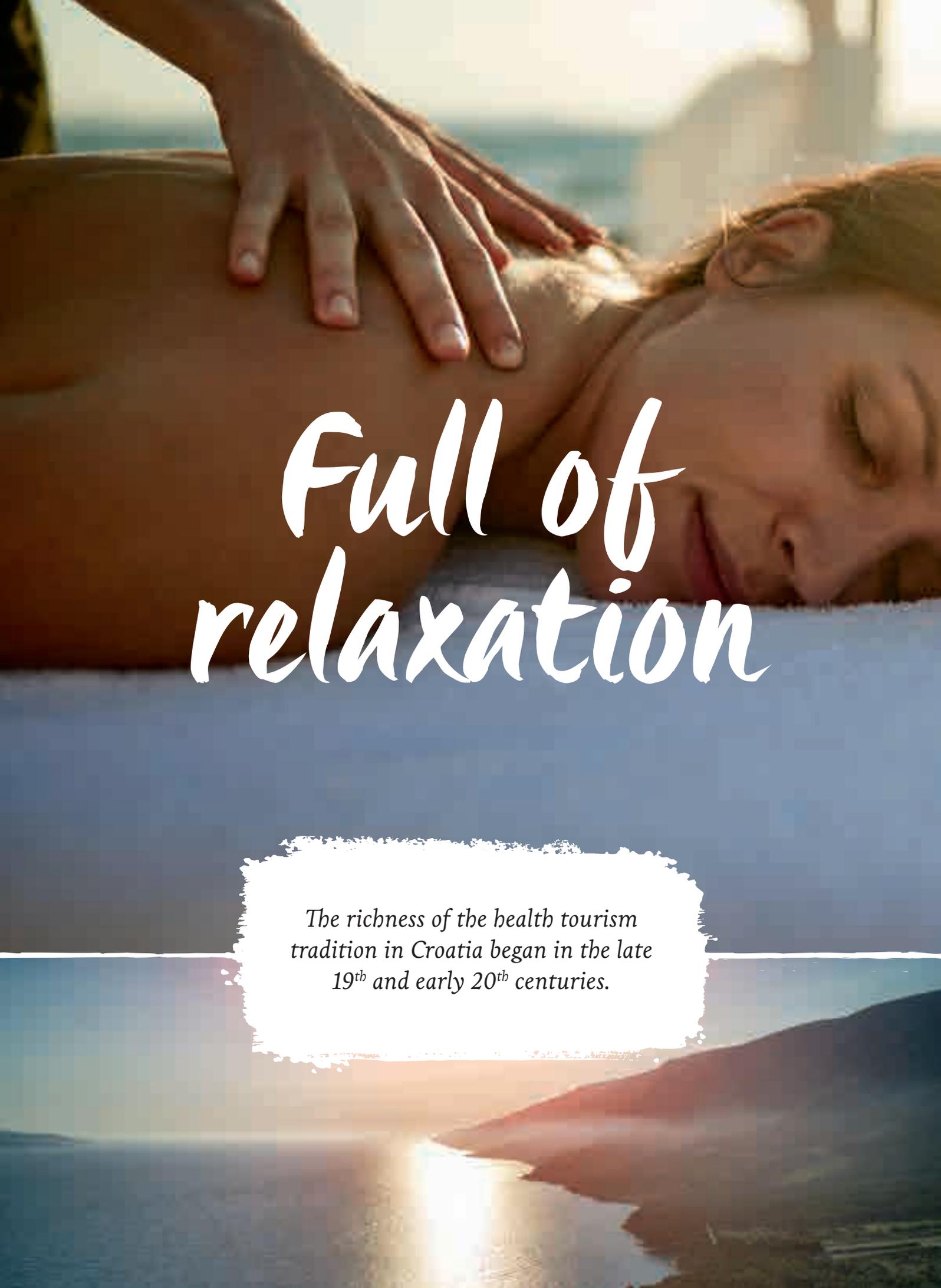


Explore the great array of historical and cultural sites, and celebrate the humanity that unites us.

Croatia is a land whose rich cultural heritage can be discovered in endless ways. Walk 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. Immerse yourself in this magical place on the Mediterranean, where even the shortest stroll becomes a journey down a staircase old thousands of years that will take you 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, or climbing the green serpentine of Central Croatia to the fairytale fortresses and castles, each step is

an ever fresh experience, made special by the fact that on its territory as many as four cultural circles meet, intertwine and complement one another - west, east, Central European and the southern spirit of the Mediterranean.





Full of relaxation

*The richness of the health tourism
tradition in Croatia began in the late
19th and early 20th centuries.*

The first locations to offer health tourism were locations with healing spas and baths, and seaside areas with mild climates. These were particularly places such as Opatija, Lošinj, Crikvenica, Lipik and Varaždin Spa, all of which had a

busy social life as well. Today, Croatia offers many high quality packages and treatments that include highly-trained staff. The prices for health and medical services are significantly lower in Croatia than in its neighbouring countries.

The mild climate provides ideal conditions for a healthy way of life, whilst the geolocation of the country and traffic infrastructure provide additional benefits in the area of health and medical tourism.





Full of opportunities

This is a branch of tourism that is equally important and represented both in the continental part of the country as well as the coastal areas.

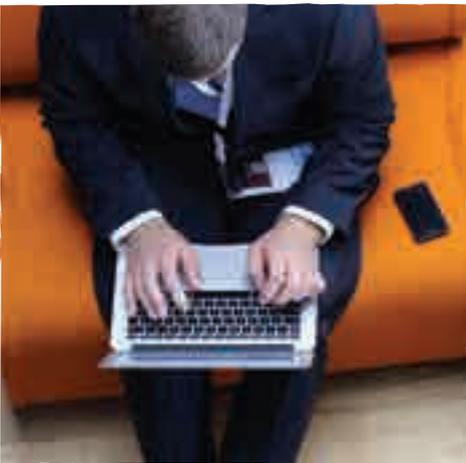


The construction of infrastructure and multi-functioning congress centres as well as the improvement of the existing congress hotel capacities, enable Croatia to step onto the congress tour-

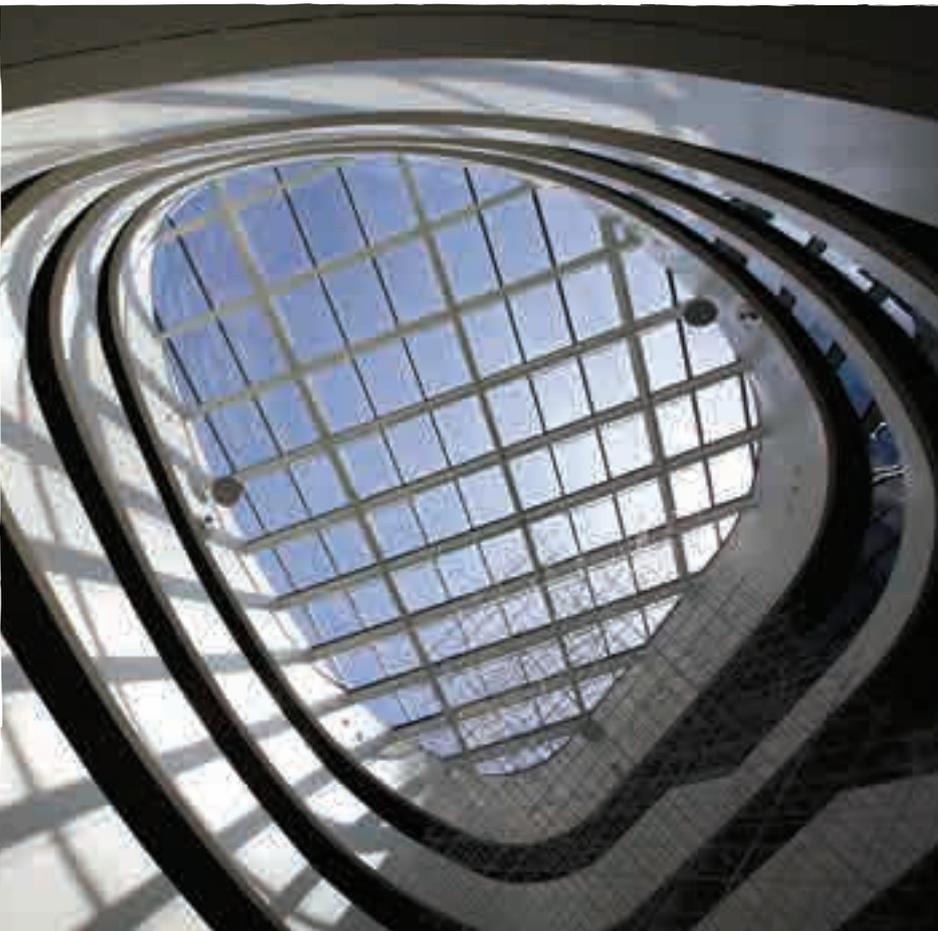
ism market and be a valid competitor for large corporations and conferences. Croatia is also confidently entering the incentive and team building markets, where it is increasingly being

recognised not only as a country with a diverse tourism offer but also for its interesting content, and creative and high-quality programmes.

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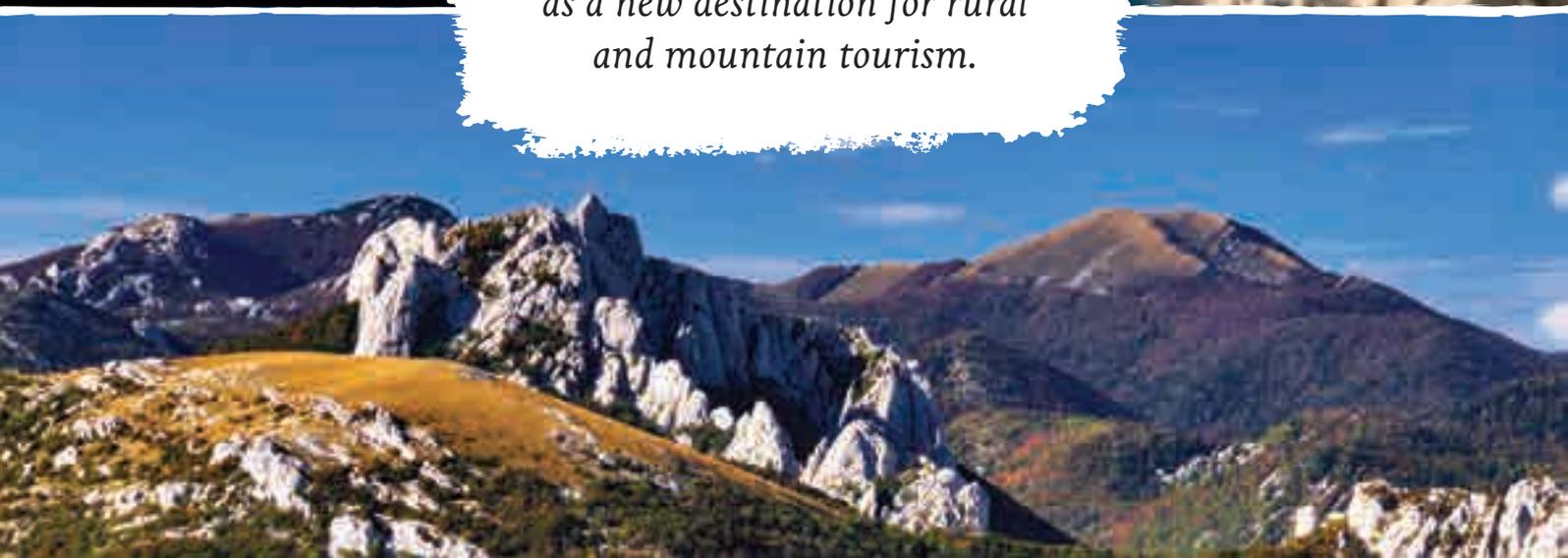
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Full of trails

*Croatia is regularly positioned
as a new destination for rural
and mountain tourism.*



The scenic diversity of the country and the quality of its authentic food and wine offer can be experienced in several mountain centres that are internationally recognisable rural and tourist clusters with a growing number of preserved traditional rural communities. Local wine and food, the preservation of wildlife and the abundance of fresh-

water are all additional benefits. The education and cooperation of young entrepreneurs provides a more organised, richer and greater tourism offer. Local farms are being encouraged to showcase their healthy food and environment offering by developing into rural tourist destinations. The different climatic conditions, scenery and historical arte-

facts are only some of the specific qualities that are offered by rural tourism centres in Slavonija, Baranja, Srijem, Hrvatsko zagorje, Prigorje, Međimurje, Podravina, Posavina, Pokuplje, Moslavina, Gorski kotar, Žumberak, Lika and Kordun, Istra and Hrvatsko primorje and Dalmatia.

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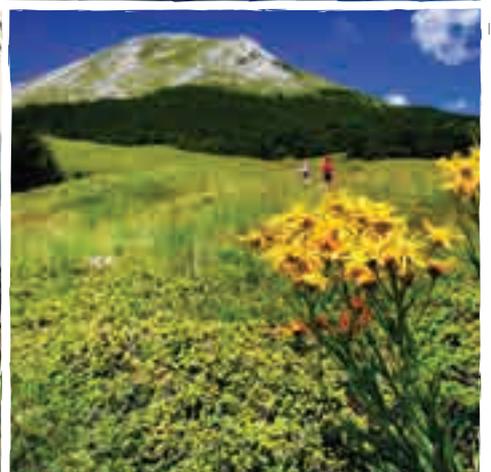
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Istria

Where dreams come true.





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.

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

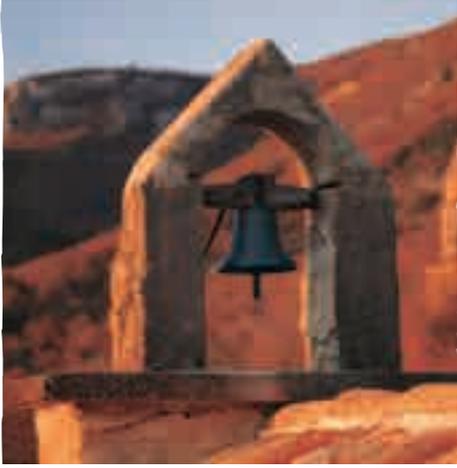
Whereas the coastlines of Pula, Rovinj, Vrsar, Poreč, Novigrad or Umag bring to mind heritage and antiquity and conjure up images of Venice, in the central part of Istria the spirit of Central Europe is instantly discernible. In

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 their narrow, stone-paved streets will become a magical journey through a history that is quite unique. Follow that special 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, 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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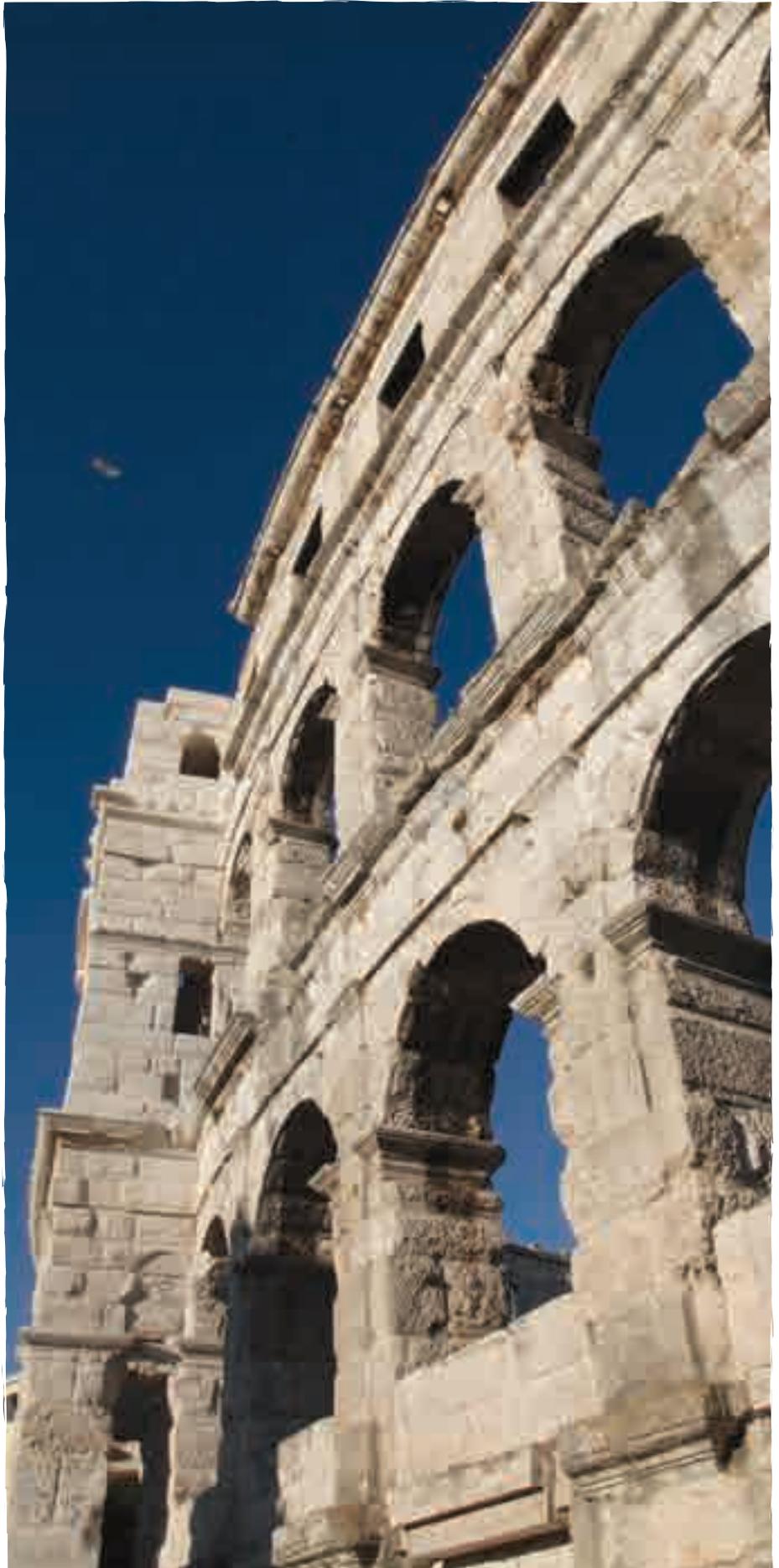
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Discover hidden treasures of breath-taking history and unspoiled nature

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 with rare plant and animal species. 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. Of course, don't forget to taste Istria! From delicacies of the sea to delectable truffles, the liquid gold of the local Malvasia, 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! Step 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. To begin, 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, like in 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, while the immortal Dante, inspired by the view from a panoramic viewpoint, wrote the verses of his masterpiece, The Divine Comedy. The name of this town is Pula, Istria's largest urban centre. It is the beating heart of the peninsula,

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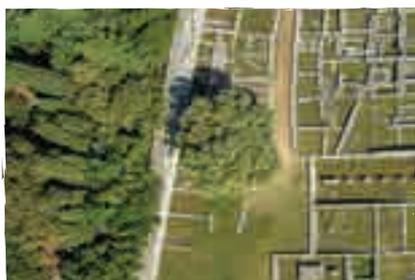
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with 3000 years of history behind it and a unique place in the Mediterranean. Pula boasts a diverse, impressive cultural heritage. Just like the peninsula upon which it rose, it is not without reason that it carries a feminine name. Modest but fascinating, Istria has long been known as enchantresses with a hundred faces that has been seducing visitors for thousands of years. Whoever strays once into its invisible web, and experiences but a morsel of the joy it can give, always wishes to return again, and again!

NATIONAL PARK

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 ancient times, a Zoo Safari park, golf course and top-quality gastronomic offer



| 15. |

NATURE

Donji (lower) Kamenjak and the **Medulin Archipelago** — significant landscape / **Gornji (upper) Kamenjak** — significant 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** — significant landscape



| 16. |

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. / **Euphrasian Basilica (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. / **Istrian Frescoes** — there is a large number of preserved frescoes in Istria, located mostly in picturesque churches throughout the peninsula / **Dvigrad** — remains of a medieval town. / **Two-part singing in the Istrian scale** — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. / **Ecomuseum Batana** — The museum is based on the principles of community dialogue and care of local cultural expressions. It includes an interpretation centre, a city harbour, boats, a small shipyard and a traditional canteen, providing guests with an insight into the everyday life of a small fishing village. It is the only Croatian representative in the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices for the intangible cultural heritage of the world.

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EXPLORE

Grožnjan, Motovun — architecture, galleries, film and music events in 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 100 organized trails with an overall length of over 3,200 km



| 19. |

TOURISM PLUS

Green Istria — enjoy the beauty of untouched nature and experience traditional country life in Istrian agritourisms, rural guesthouses or family run hotels and luxury villas



| 20. |

GASTRONOMY

Truffles, Istrian prosciutto ham, olive oil, fish and seafood specialties, meat and fish dishes prepared under the bell ('peka'), omelette with asparagus, home made 'fuži' pasta with game goulash, 'biska' brandy, Istrian soup, local wines Teran, Refošk, Istrian Malvasia



| 21. |



COVER PHOTO : **Grožnjan** / I. Biočina | 1. **Lupoglav** / D. Fabijanić | 2. **Umag** / I. Pervan | 3. **Novigrad** / M. Hlača | 4. **Kažun** / Z. Jelača | 5. **Pula** / I. Tomljenović | 6. **Rovinj** / I. Biočina | 7. **Gaz Island** / R. Kosinožić | 8. **Fažana** / I. Tomljenović | 9. **Poreč** / B. Kačan | 10. **Pula** / I. Šeler | 11. **Motovun** / I. Biočina | 12. **Višnjan Observatory** / Z. Tanocki | 13. **Two-Part Singing in the Istrian Scale** / I. Pervan | 14. **Porer** / M. Ščerbe | 15. **Brijuni National Park** / I. Biočina | 16. **The Bay of Lim** / I. Šeler | 17. **Poreč** / I. Pervan | 18. **Grožnjan** | 19. **Hum** / I. Biočina | 20. **Vineyard** / I. Šeler | 21. **Truffles** / D. Fabijanić | 22. **Rovinj** / B. Kačan



| 22. |

Kvarner

Where true diversities come together.





Perhaps 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. Discover Kvarner and Gorski Kotar - areas that are so different, but so close.

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.

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 sun-bathed towns with stone-built houses, abandon yourself to the intoxicating fragrances of lavender, sage, myrtle and umbrella pines, and the 2,700 unique plant species. 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



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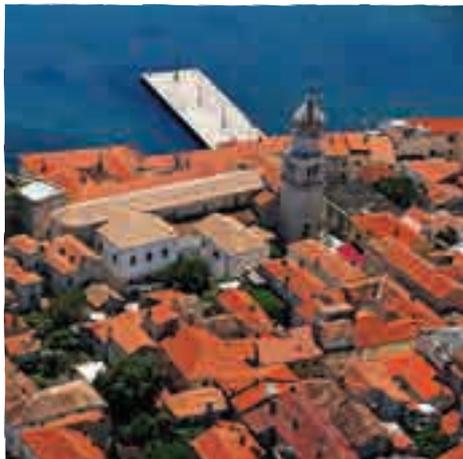
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the year 1100. A climb to the peaks of cliffs will allow you to observe the habitat of rare griffons, and in the waters beneath them enjoy the magical play of dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals. All those seeking clean air with special medicinal 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.

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.

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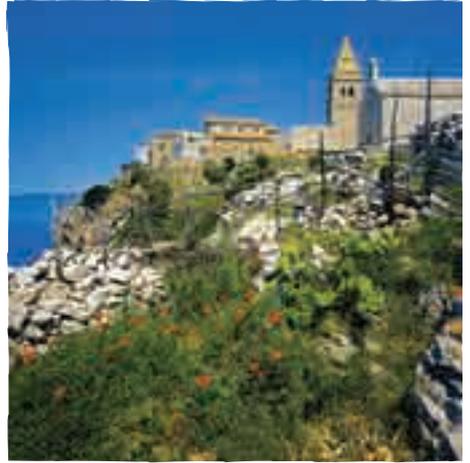


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NATIONAL PARK

Risnjak — Rich and diverse animal and plant world, karstic phenomena



| 17. |

NATURE

Učka — Nature Park / **Vela draga** — geomorphological natural phenomenon / **Angiolina park and St. Jacob** (Opatija) — park architecture monuments / **Lopar** (island of Rab) — significant 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 **Samarske stijene** (samar rocks) (Mrkopalj) — strict nature reserve / **Velebit** — Nature Park



| 18. |

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 Kovačić 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



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EXPLORE

Opatija Riviera — a 12 km long promenade along the sea / **Island of Košljun** — spiritual and vegetation paradise - park wood / **Lubnice** (island of Cres) — stone-built settlement, 378 metres ASL / **Osor** — town with a turbulent history and lovely musical evening / **Health tourism** — Opatija, Crikvenica (Thalassotherapy), Lovran (orthopaedic clinic), wellness, congress tourism / **Dolphin watching** — Cres-Lošinj aquatorium / **Bird watching** — in the Učka Nature Park, ornithological reserve Kruna and Podokladi (island of Cres)



| 21. |

TOURISM PLUS

Skiing — Platak / Hunting, fishing, canoeing, paragliding, riding, windsurfing, parachuting, paragliding, motorsport, wake-boarding, rafting, kayaking, cycling, diving, sailing / Walking trails



| 22. |

GASTRONOMY

Kvarner shrimps, 'šurlice': homemade pasta (island of Krk), Cres lamb, specialties made from cherries, aspara-gus and sweet chestnuts (Lovran), indigenous wines: Vrbnička žlaltina (Krk) and Trojišćina (island of Susak), Island of Rab cake, game, frogs, mushrooms, freshwater fish, mountain liqueurs, plum and pear brandies



| 23. |



COVER PHOTO : **Mali Lošinj** / D. Kalogjera | 1. **White and Samarske Rocks** / G. Šafarek | 2. **Vrbnik** / D. Mance | 3. **Opatija** / P. Trinajstić | 4. **Rijeka** / I. Biočina | 5. **Kastav** / I. Pervan | 6. **Mrkopalj** / D. Rostuhar | 7. **Rab Cake** / D. Fabijanić | 8. **Island of Krk** / R. Kosinožić | 9. **Cres** / R. Kosinožić | 10. **Opatija** / S. Gulić | 11. **Mali Lošinj** / I. Biočina | 12. **Island of Rab** / M. Ščerbe | 13. **Lubnice, Cres** / D. Fabijanić | 14. **Trsat** | 15. **Opatija** / I. Biočina | 16. **Učka** / L. Tambača | 17. **Risnjak** | 18. **White and Samarske Rocks** / G. Šafarek | 19. **The Baška Plaque** / S. Gobbo | 20. **Lubnice, Cres** / M. Ščerbe | 21. **Dolphins** / M. Jelavić | 22. **Gorski kotar** | 23. **Shrimps** / B. Prezelj | 24. **Dobrinj** / R. Kosinožić

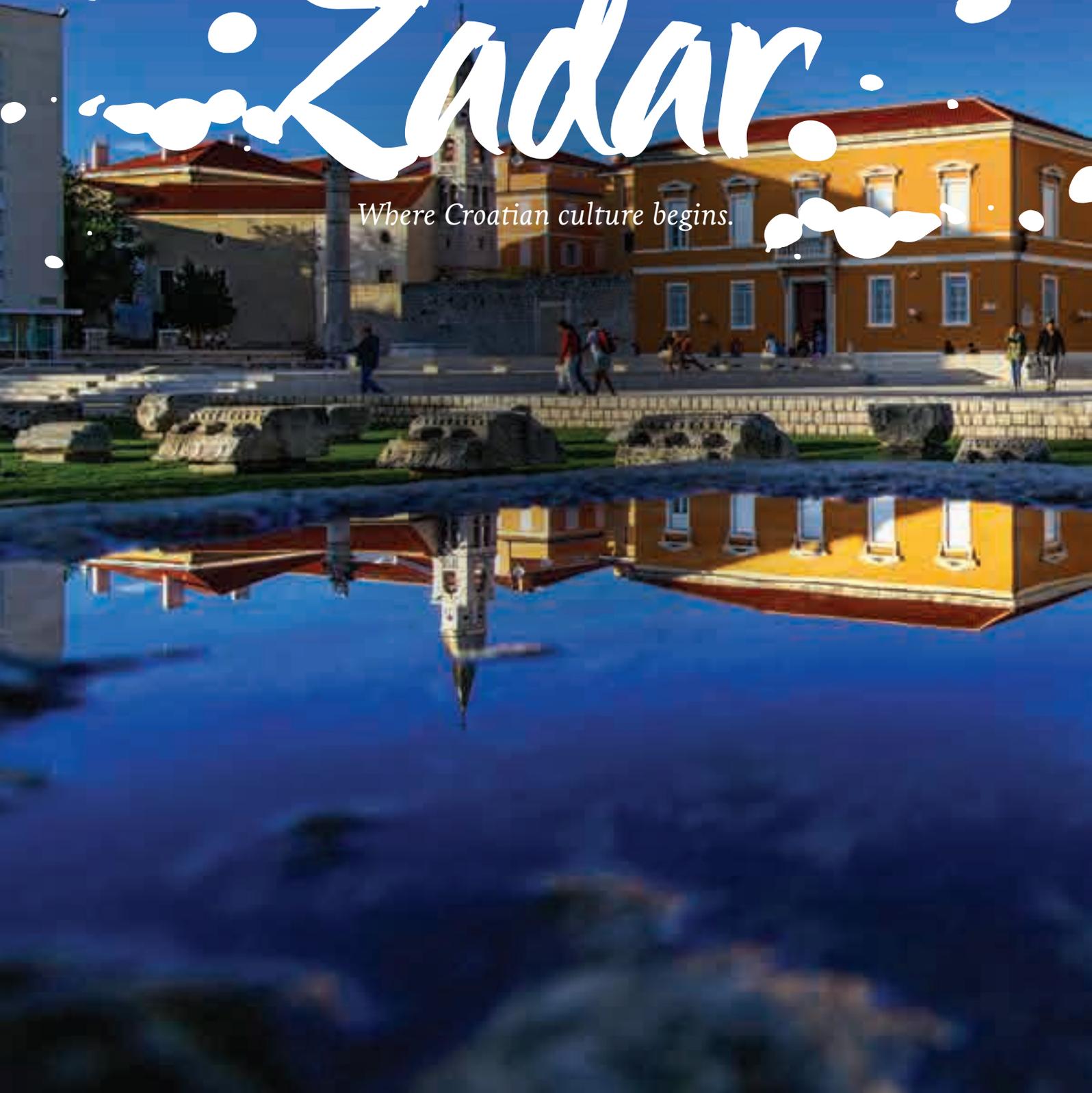


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DALMATIA

Zadar

Where Croatian culture begins.





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

As 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

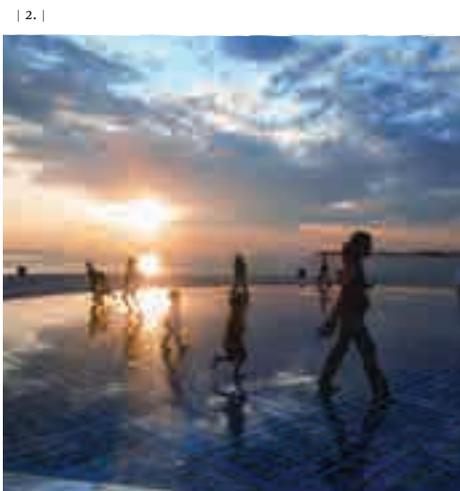
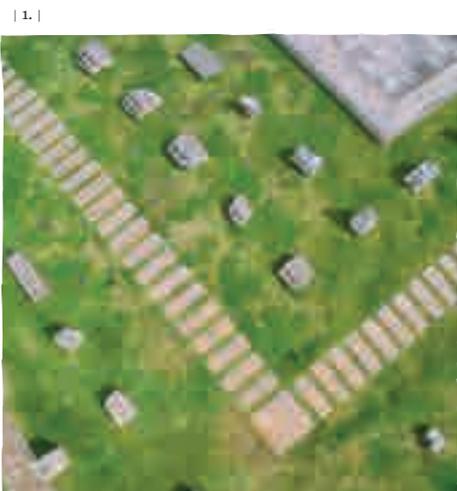
protection of as many as four patron saints — Zoilus, Simon, Chrisogonus and Anastasia - Zadar takes pride not only in its abundant archaeological and monumental treasures, jealously guarded down the centuries, but also in the fact that the foundations of the oldest university in the Land were laid here 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.

A land that inspired the gods

Although 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





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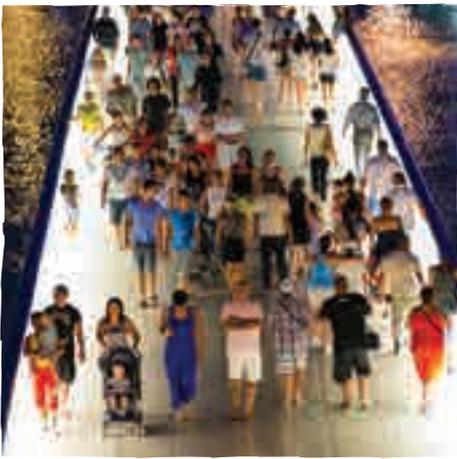
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this part of the world by the brush than by words. Without forgetting the sound of the sea organ - the architectural wonder of the Zadar waterfront from which, as Alfred Hitchcock once said, one can watch the most beautiful sunset in the world. With 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.

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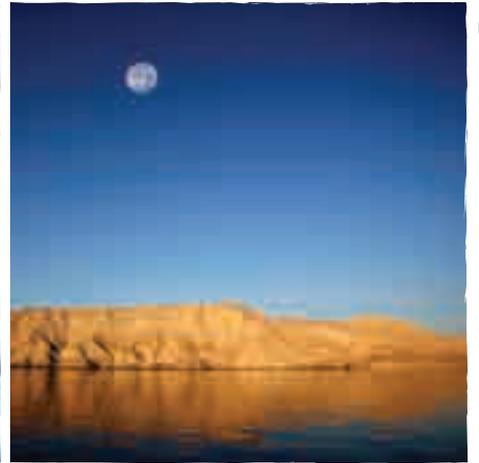
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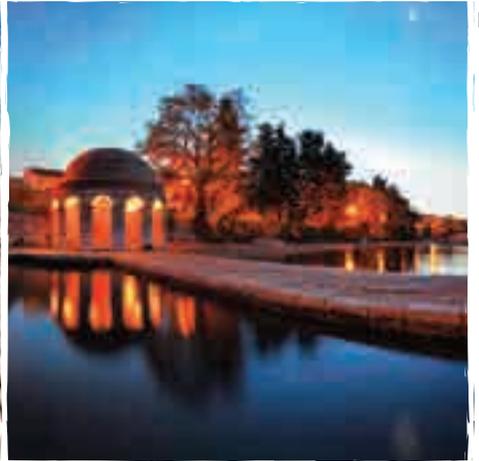
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NATIONAL PARK

Paklenica National Park — unique complex of canyons and a wealth of flora and fauna



| 22. |

NATURE

Saljsko polje (Island of Dugi otok) — significant landscape / **River Zrmanja Canyon** — significant 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



| 23. |

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 / **Nijemo Kolo**, silent circle dance of the Dalmatian hinterland — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage / **Klapa multipart singing of Dalmatia** — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. / **Zadar's Defense System** — The city walls with a series of strong bastions, the external fortress Forte, and the monumental landmark city gates, a masterpiece of 16th century Renaissance architecture, have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. / **Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests** — **Paklenica NP** — The exceptional nature of these natural wonders is based on their authenticity, geographic location, age, particularity and size, and together with the primeval and ancient beech forests in the Northern Velebit National Park, they have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which is a confirmation that Croatia is a European country rich in biodiversity and natural wonders.

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EXPLORE

Pag — architecture of the town, production of Pag Lace / **Islands of Ugljan and Pašman** — architecture of stone-built houses



| 26. |

TOURISM PLUS

Cycling trails, hunting, riding, fishing, rafting, bungee jumping, off road Velebit, surfing, kitesurfing, hang gliding



| 27. |

GASTRONOMY

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



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COVER PHOTO : **Zadar** / A. Gospić | 1. **Zadar** / I. Biočina | 2. **Greeting the Sun** / S. Gobbo | 3. **Nin** / S. Gobbo | 4. **Zadar** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 5. **Island of Dugi otok** / A. Gospić | 6. **Island of Dugi otok** / I. Pervan | 7. **Paklenica National Park** / A. Gospić | 8. **Novigrad near Zadar** / I. Čorić | 9. **Molat** / I. Pervan | 10. 11. **Zadar** / I. Čorić | 12. **Zadar** / L. Esenko | 13. **Island of Dugi otok** / A. Gospić | 14. **Zadar** / A. Gospić | 15. **Galešnjak** / I. Pervan | 16. **Pag Island** / S. Četković | 17. **Zadar** / B. Kačan | 18. **Zadar** / I. Biočina | 19. **Island of Dugi otok** / A. Gospić | 20. **Zadar** / B. Prezelj | 21. **Zadar** / I. Biočina | 22. **Paklenica National Park** / L. Tambača | 23. **Lake Vrana** / D. Peroš | 24. **Silent Circle Dance, Dalmatian Hinterland** / I. Pervan | 25. **Island of Dugi otok** / B. Kačan | 26. **Lacemaking** / Z. Ramničar | 27. **Island of Pašman** / A. Gospić | 28. **Pag Cheese** / S. Surać | 29. **Pag Island** / I. Pervan



| 29. |

DALMATIA

Šibenik

Where pearls are easy to find.





Set 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 Krapanj 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. 'The 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.

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 settle-



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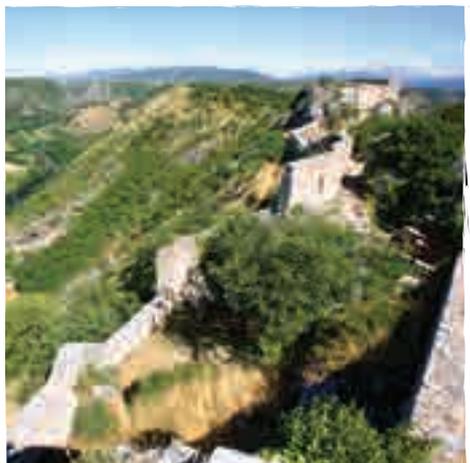
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ments, a wonderful place which provides a habitat for over 222 species of bird and which boasts the only falconry centre in Croatia, beautiful Krka spills her cool waters over seven waterfalls. Between the two most beautiful, Roški slap and Skradinski 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.

Amazing cultural heritage of a millennia old city

First 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

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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 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.

Discover and savour the magic of Dalmatian cuisine

At the end, taste the Šibenik area cuisine, 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 Primošten. Their beauty, unusual geographical location, the sparse soil in which they grow, despite the best efforts of the bora, have made them a monument to the 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.



NATIONAL PARKS

Kornati National Park — the most intricately indented archipelago in the Mediterranean / **Krka National Park** — natural and karstic phenomena



| 14. |

NATURE

Island of Krapanj — the lowest island in Croatia



| 15. |

CULTURAL HERITAGE

St. Jacob's Cathedral (Šibenik) — Renaissance cathedral dating from the 15th and 16th centuries (included in the UNESCO World Heritage List) / **Bri-birska 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 / **Nijemo Kolo, silent circle dance of the Dalmatian hinterland** — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage / **Klapa multipart singing of Dalmatia** — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. / **St. Nicholas Fortress** — An isolated bastion fort was built on three levels, in the form of a triangle, on the rocky cliff at the very entrance to the Šibenik channel, for the defence of the city from the Ottoman fleet, in the mid-16th century. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



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EXPLORE

Šibenik — St. Michael, St. John, Šubićevac and St. Nicholas Fortresses / **Island of Visovac** — Franciscan Monastery



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TOURISM PLUS

Rafting (River Krka), bungee jumping (Šibenik bridge), fishing, sailing, bike trails, hunting, horse riding, safari, surfing, kayaking, trekking, biking



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GASTRONOMY

Drniš prosciutto ham, Babić red wine (Primošten), Skradin cake



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COVER PHOTO : Kornati National Park / S. Surać | 1. Island of Visovac / Z. Tanocki | 2. Šibenik / I. Pervan | 3. Šibenik / B. Prezelj | 4. Tribunj / I. Pervan | 5. Primošten / M. Hlača | 6. Kornati National Park / I. Biočina | 7. Šibenik / D. Fabijanić | 8. Purara Island / B. Kačan | 9. Knin / S. Gobbo | 10. Šibenik / D. Fabijanić | 11. Krka National Park / I. Biočina | 12. Šibenik / D. Fabijanić | 13. Island of Zlarin / Z. Sunko | 14. Kornati National Park / I. Biočina | 15. Island of Krapanj / S. Gobbo | 16. Island of Zlarin / I. Pervan | 17. Krka National Park / I. Biočina | 18. Island of Visovac / I. Biočina | 19. Boat / S. Surać | 20. Drniš / D. Fabijanić | 21. Šibenik / I. Pervan

| 21. |



DALMATIA

Split.

*Where
kingdom is not only the word
for nature.*





When, 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.

A Roman Emperor's magnificent city

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 centu-

ries, it has been enriched by subsequent architectural 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. Domnius, 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 texture 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 'arambašiči' 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.



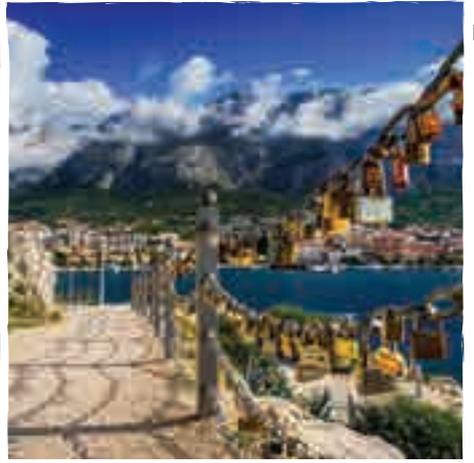
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True charm of the southern Mediterranean

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 gently 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...

Discover the artistic treasure trove of a museum-city

Although 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 Heritage 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. 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.

The blue expanse and nature in complete harmony

Mother 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.



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| 18. |



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 Križen" ('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* / **Sinjka Alka** — *UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity* / **Ojkanje singing** — *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding* / **Nijemo Kolo, silent circle dance of the Dalmatian hinterland** — *UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage* / **Klapa multipart singing of Dalmatia** — *UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage* / **The Mediterranean diet on the Croatian coast of the Mediterranean** — *UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage* / **'Stećci'** — medieval tombstones — *UNESCO World Heritage List*.



| 19. |

NATURE

Cetina River — significant 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** — significant landscape / **Islands of Ravnik, Donja Brela, Pakleni otoci** (island of Hvar) — significant landscapes / **Modra špilja and Medvidina špilja** — caves on the island of Biševo — geomorphological natural phenomenon / **Vranjača Cave (Mountain of Mosor)** — geomorphological natural phenomenon / **Crveno jezero (Red Lake) and Modro jezero (Blue Lake) (Imotski)** — geomorphological natural phenomenon



| 20. |

TOURISM PLUS

Wine Roads, cycling trails, riding, rafting, paragliding, hunting, fishing, windsurfing, free climbing, canoe safari, kayaking and sailing, zipline, canyoning, trekking



| 21. |



| 21. |



COVER PHOTO: Split / I. Čorić | 1. Island of Brač / M. Hlača | 2. Island of Vis / I. Pervan | 3. Makarska / A. Gospić | 4. Split / A. Verzotti | 5. Split / I. Biočina | 6. Sinj / I. Pervan | 7. Komiža / D. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 8. Trogir | 9. Olives / M. Hlača | 10. Split / I. Biočina | 11. Island of Hvar / I. Biočina | 12. Pustinja Blaca / T. Rastićervan | 13. Pakleni Islands / I. Pervan | 14. Omiš / B. Kragić | 15. Lavender / I. Biočina | 16. Island of Hvar / I. Biočina | 17. Čipkarstvo / I. Pervan | 18. Island of Vis / A. Gospić | 19. Klapa / D. Rostuhar | 20. Blue Cave / I. Pervan | 21. Cetina River / D. Peroš | 22. Island of Hvar / I. Biočina | 23. Pepper Cookies / D. Fabijanić | 24. Zlatni Rat / I. Biočina | 25. Split / I. Čorić

GASTRONOMY

Dalmatian 'pašticada', 'luganige' sausages, 'aram-bašiči' — 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)



| 23. |



| 24. |

| 24. |



DALMATIA

Dubrovnik

Where words are not enough.





‘Those who seek paradise on Earth must come to Dubrovnik’

So wrote George Bernard Shaw, smitten by the beauty of the city whose untouched, 1,940 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 bastions 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.

Explore the fascinating history of the islands

About 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



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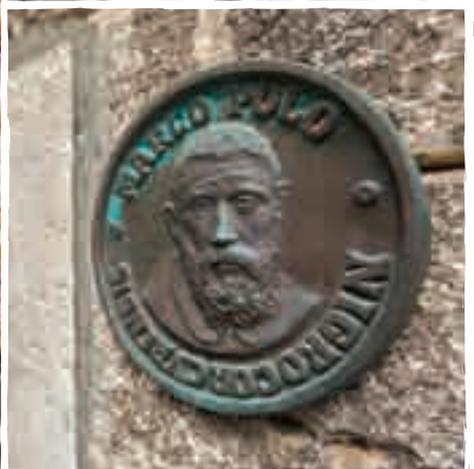
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here in July, when the city plays host to the International Festival of Song and Wine, celebrating the famous traveller, the Festival of Chivalry and the traditional sword dances performed in original costumes dating from the 16th century. The dances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



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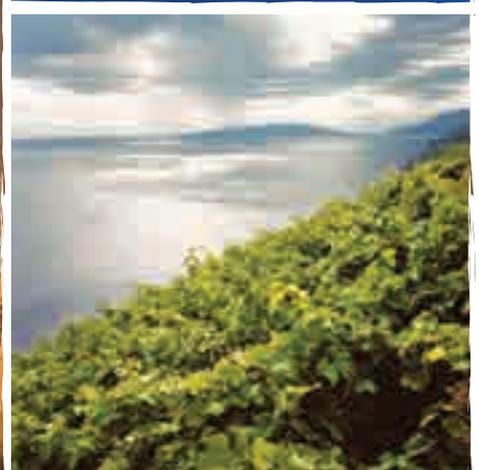
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NATIONAL PARK

Mljet National Park — rich in Mediterranean vegetation and cultural heritage (12th century Benedictine monastery on the islet in Veliko Jezero (Great Lake))



| 15. |

NATURE

The Trsteno arboretum — park architecture monument / **The Neretva 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 / **Koče** (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



| 16. |

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 / **'Stećci'** — medieval tombstones — UNESCO World Heritage List.



| 17. |

| 18. |



EXPLORE

Minčeta Tower, Lovrijenac Tower, the Sponza Palace (Dubrovnik) / **Gothic and Gothic-Renaissance summer residences** (from Pelješac to Konavle) / **Franciscan Monastery** (Orebić) / **Rector's Palace** (Port of Šipan) / **Franciscan Monastery** (Rožat) / **Health Resort** — Vela Luka



| 19. |

TOURISM PLUS

Wine Roads, hiking tracks, cycling trails, horse riding, free climbing, adrenaline parks in Konavle



GASTRONOMY

Lamb and veal done under the bell 'peka', eel or frog brodetto stew (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, Malvasia of Dubrovnik (Konavle)



| 20. |

COVER PHOTO : **Dubrovnik** / I. Pervan | 1. **Cavtat** / H. Serdar | 2. **Korčula** / S. Gobbo | 3. **Dubrovnik** / I. Biočina | 4. **Dubrovnik** / I. Biočina | 5. **Lindo** / H. Serdar | 6. **Marco Polo** / I. Biočina | 7. **Lastovo Island** / D. Fabijanić | 8. **Elaphite Islands** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 9. **Moreška – Knights' Game** / D. Rostuhar | 10. **Veliki and Mali Ston** / I. Pervan | 11. **Dubrovnik** / Brotherside | 12. **Dubrovnik** / I. Biočina | 13. **Dubrovnik** / B. Prezelj | 14. **Vineyard** / D. Fabijanić | 15. **Mljet National Park** / D. Fabijanić | 16. **Lastovo Island** / S. Gobbo | 17. **St. Blaise** / I. Pervan | 18. **Mljet National Park** / A. Gospić | 19. **Minčeta Tower** | 20. **Dingač** / M. Hlača | 21. **Korčula** / I. Biočina



| 21. |



Lika — Karlovac

A romantic union with nature.



Welcome to the landscape of dreams.

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

Waterfalls of the past and present

While 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 velebica*. 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.

The Renaissance Ideal City of Karlovac

Built 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 Kapela, 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. 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 popu-

lar destination for visitors searching for various forms of recreation. Apart from being a well-known hunting destination in the woods from Draganić to Klek and Modruš, and a destination for winter sports lovers on the slopes of Bjelolasica, the Karlovac Region has a handful of unpretentious cultural heritage monuments, from charming ancient towns and castles, like Dubovac, Ozalj, Ogulin, Bosiljevo, to Franciscan, Pauline and Dominican monasteries emerging from the greenness of the countryside. Ogulin is certainly a true city of fairy tales, 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, known as the cradle of Croatian mountain climbing. The treasury of tales, the Klek witches, the name of the Đulin abyss, Klek and the Klek cave, fairy water – proves



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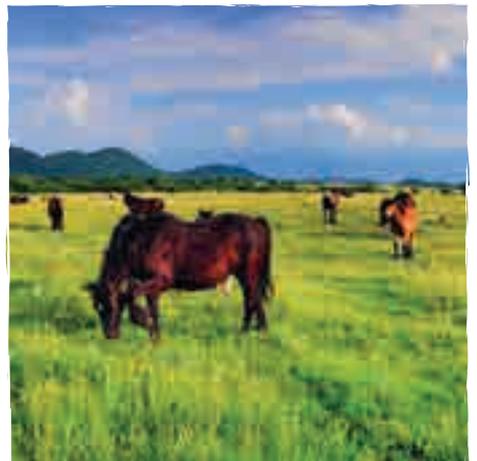
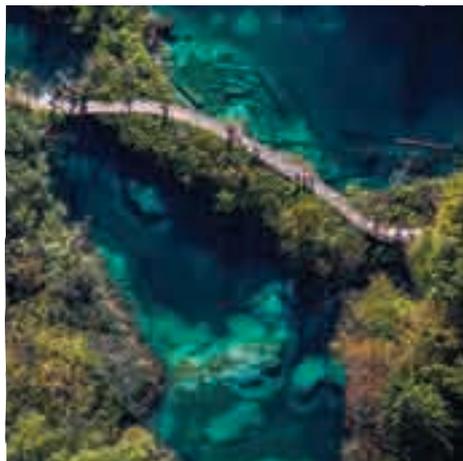
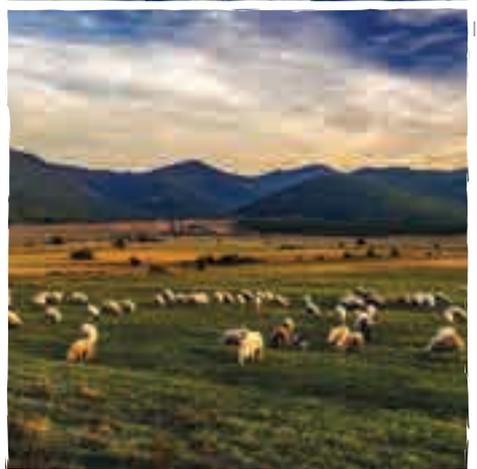
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the strong impact of their native land on the inhabitants, and on Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić, the famous Ogulin-born, and the most translated writer of Croatian children's literature. You can feel the fairy tales on the fairytale route that unifies the beauty of the nature, rich history, and fairy tales. Feelings are stronger if you are in the company of the characters from Mažuranić's 'Tales of Long Ago'.

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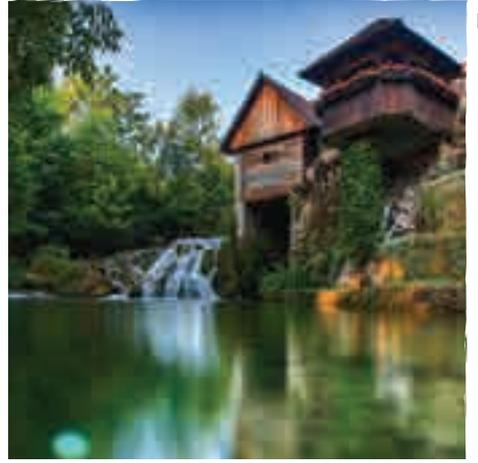
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NATIONAL PARK

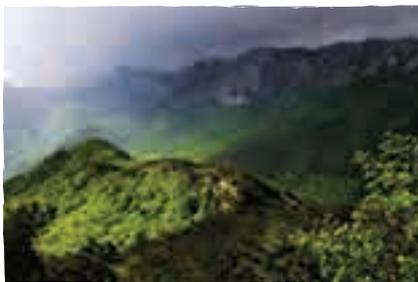
Plitvice lakes — do not miss the opportunity to visit the national park that is on the UNESCO World Heritage List / **Northern Velebit** — proclaimed a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO



| 16. |

NATURE

The forests of Draganić (Klek and Modruš), **Velika Kapela and Mala Kapela / Jasikovac forest park** (Gospić) / **Cerovac caves** (Gračac) — a geomorphological 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 Slunjičica 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** — significant landscape / **Štirovača** — 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



| 17. |

EXPLORE

Tourist Centre Petrova gora / Muljava hunting lodge — near Vojnići



| 18. |

| 19. |



CULTURAL HERITAGE

The sanctuary of Mary of Krasno — the biggest Marian sanctuary in Lika / **The sanctuary of Mary of Miracles** in Oštarije / **The town of Stari Drežnik** near Rakovice / **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 Nebaj fortress** in Senj — a Renaissance fortress built in the 16th century, today a unique museum devoted to the Senj pirates, 'Uskoci' / **The Frankopan castle** in Ogulin / **The ancient Karlovac city** core in the shape of a six-pointed star / **Lacemaking on Pag** - UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage / **Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests** — Northern Velebit NP - The exceptional nature of these natural wonders is based on their authenticity, geographic location, age, particularity and size, and together with the primeval and ancient beech forests in the Paklenica National Park, they have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which is a confirmation that Croatia is a European country rich in biodiversity and natural wonders.

TOURISM PLUS

Rafting, kayaking, cycling, hiking, mountain climbing, photo hunting, hunting, horse riding, walk-ing trails and trails for Nordic walking, fishing, speleology



| 20. |

GASTRONOMY

Lika baked potatoes and lamb under the bell 'peka', Ogulin sour cabbage and turnip, Ogulin cheese 'škripavac', plum and pear brandy



| 21. |



COVER PHOTO : **Plitvice Lakes** / A. Gospić | 1. **Senj** / G. Sekula | 2. **Karlovac** / S. Gobbo | 3. **Gospić** / A. Gospić | 4. **Krasno** / A. Gospić | 5. **Novigrad on the river Dobra** / M. Hlača | 6. **Plitvice Lakes** / D. Rostuhar | 7. **Horses** / A. Gospić | 8. **Mrežnica river** / D. Kalogjera | 9. **Rastoke** / V. Metelko | 10. **Rastoke** / I. Biočina | 11. **Velika Kapela** / I. Pervan | 12. **Rastoke** / I. Biočina | 13. **Dubovac** / Z. Tanočki | 14. **Smiljan Memorial Centre** / G. Sekula | 15. **Lika** / A. Gospić | 16. **Plitvice Lakes** / S. Surać | 17. **Čorkova Uvala Virgin Forest** / A. Gospić | 18. **Northern Velebit** / A. Gospić | 19. **Senj** / A. Gospić | 20. **Ozalj** / M. Hlača | 21. **Gastronomy** / G. Sekula | 22. **Kupa river** / D. Rostuhar



| 22. |

A scenic landscape of rolling green hills and a golden field under a blue sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. The middle ground shows lush green trees and rolling hills. In the background, there are more hills and a distant cityscape under a clear blue sky. The text 'Central Croatia' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the center of the image, surrounded by white decorative dots.

Central Croatia

Where the colour of romance is green.



Have 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, leading from romantic medieval towns, summer homes and manors to thermal springs, health spas and places of pilgrimage? Set out to the north of Zagreb and enjoy the blessings offered by Central Croatia.

Enjoy idyllic moments in the towns of Central Croatia

Begin 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 re-

mains 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, 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 1998.

The town of Varaždin, the most Baroque of all towns in Croatia, is a true 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



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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 Špancirfest, 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.

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 east of Zagreb toward Podravina, particularly in June, when three major ethno-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 naïve art: Hlebine.



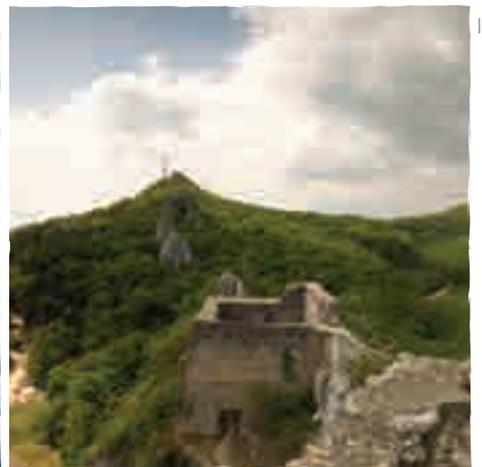
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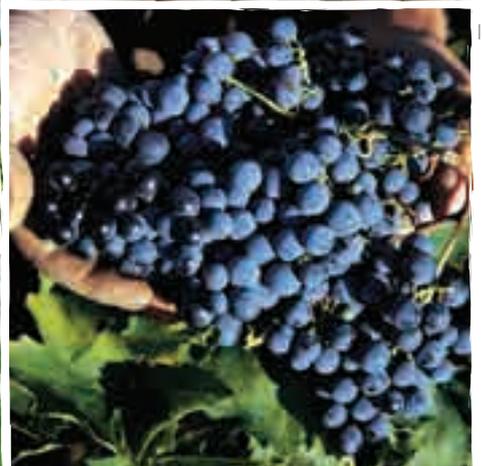
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NATURE

Kalnik — significant 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** - significant 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** — significant landscape / **Crna Mlaka** — special ornithological reserve / **Žumberak** — Hills of Samobor - nature park / **Slušnica** near Slunj — significant landscape / **The Opeka Arboretum** (Vinica) — park architecture monument

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** (Kalnik) — magnificent remains of the medieval town / **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

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) / **Health Resorts** — numerous health resorts with thermal springs (Stubičke toplice, Krapinske toplice, Varaždinske toplice, Sveti Martin na Muri)



| 16. |

| 17. |



TOURISM PLUS

Hunting, fishing, paragliding, cycling, hiking and mountaineering tracks and trails, speedway, wine roads, thematic roads, horse riding, skiing

GASTRONOMY

The piquant relish 'Samobor Mustard', Samobor samlari, 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', 'kukuruzna zlevka', 'Vrbovečka pera', rolls: 'Varaždinski klipiči', Šenpjen sparkling wine, dairy products, specialties prepared with freshwater fish and game, Graševina and Pinot Blanc wines, mead, fruit wines



| 18. |



| 19. |



COVER PHOTO : Žumberak / R. Ibršević | 1. Croatian Zagorje / I. Pervan | 2. Marija Bistrica / S. Gobbo | 3. Drava river / D. Mance | 4. Veliki Tabor / Z. Jelača | 5. Bjelovar / D. Fabijanić | 6. Varaždin / D. Sever | 7. Samobor / I. Pervan | 8. Varaždin / I. Biočina | 9. Bjelovar / D. Fabijanić | 10. Čakovec / D. Mance | 11. Medimurje / M. Hlača | 12. Sisak / S. Gobbo | 13. Kalnik / D. Mance | 14. Sava river / S. Gobbo | 15. Grapes / D. Fabijanić | 16. Krapina Neanderthal Museum / S. Gobbo | 17. Varaždin / Z. Jelača | 18. Deer / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 19. Cep / D. Sever | 20. Trakošćan / D. Vurušić

| 20. |



A night photograph of the Cathedral of the Holy Heart of Mary in Zagreb, Croatia. The cathedral is illuminated with warm yellow lights, highlighting its Gothic architecture, including the two tall spires and the central rose window. The sky is dark, and the scene is decorated with numerous white and red light trails, resembling falling confetti or fireworks, scattered across the frame. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of buildings and rooftops.

CITY OF

Zagreb.

Where inspiration comes from the heart.



Grew out of two medieval settlements that flourished for centuries on neighbouring hills.

Meet the charming heart of Croatia

With written history dating to the year 1094 when the diocese was established, Zagreb, the capital and the biggest city in Croatia, is a typical Central European town. 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 with its filigree spires of the neo-Gothic cathedral, or the Lenuci green horseshoe with Zrinjevac, Zagreb, indeed, is a city tailored to man.

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 from the streets that from the main Jelačić square, and the Dolac market, one of the most colourful open-air markets in this part of Europe, from Opatovina to Kaptol, or perhaps via Radićeva Street to the

Stone Gate and on to Banski dvori and the colourful roof of St. Mark's church. 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 approximately 20 theatres, 30 museums, 45 galleries and 13 art collections, a great zoo and almost a million inhabitants, Zagreb is a real Croatian metropolis, one which attracts guests of all profiles.

Located at the foot of the Medvednica Nature Park, whose highest peak, Sljeme, has hosted the FIS Snow Queen Trophy skiing competitions since 2005, with its large sports and recreation complex around the Jarun Lake with fully appointed regatta facilities for various types of competitions, and its now well established Zagreb Indoor Tennis Tournament, Zagreb is 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 set out into the world, and that its inventor, Slavoljub Penkala, might have

found inspiration in his long walks through the streets of Zagreb.



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[2.]



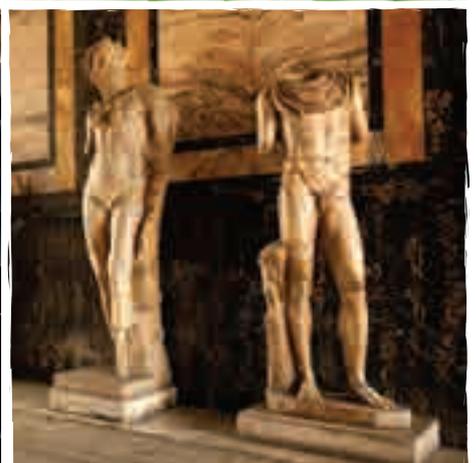
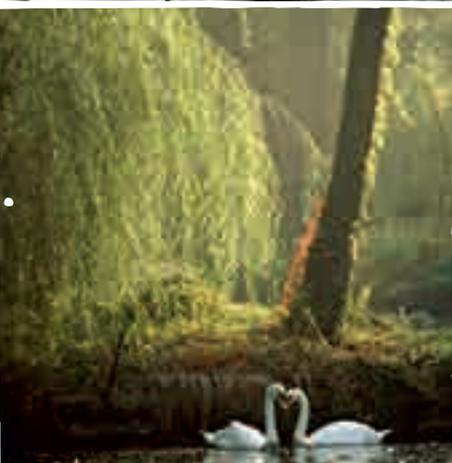
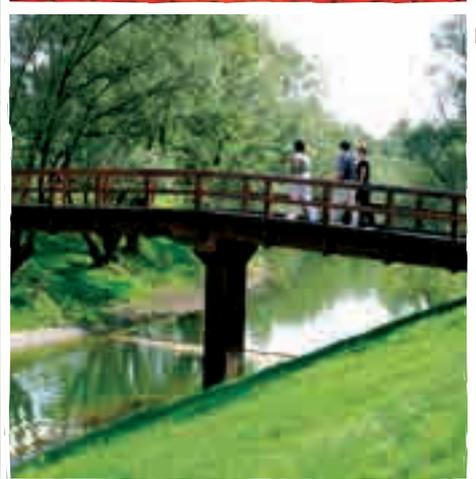
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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cathedral of the Assumption of St. Mary — Gothic 11th century cathedral / **St. Mark's Church** — 14th - 15th century / **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

EXPLORE

Electric-powered funicular railway — links Down Town with Upper Town / **Mimara Museum** — named after the collector, Ante Topić Mimara, who donated a vast collection of works of art to Croatia / **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...

TOURISM PLUS

Skiing, biking, mountaineering, congress tourism / **Medvednica Nature Park** - hiking trails and the skiing centre Sljeme, attractive gorges, caves, waterfalls, and karst phenomena



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| 12. |



GASTRONOMY

Roast turkey with 'mlinci', 'strukli', 'špek fileki' (bacon-tripe stew), home made pasta with cabbage, fresh cottage cheese with cream, doughnuts

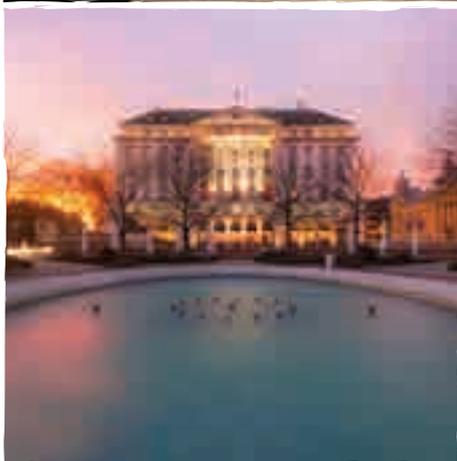


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COVER PHOTO : Zagreb / M. Špelić | 1. Upper Town / M. Vrdoljak | 2. Medvedgrad / I. Pervan | 3. Croatian National Theatre / B. Kačan
 | 4. Croatian National Theatre / M. Vrdoljak | 5. Bundek / S. Gobbo | 6. Maksimir Park / I. Pervan | 7. Upper Town / D. Rostuhar | 8.
 Archaeological Museum / M. Vrdoljak | 9. Zagreb / S. Gobbo | 10. Funicular / M. Vrdoljak | 11. Sljeme / V. Metelko | 12. St. Mark's
 Church / J. Duval | 13. Dolac / R. Rajtić | 14. King Tomislav Square / Z. Tanocki | 15. A.G. Matoš Monument / M. Vrdoljak | 16. Zagreb /
 M. Špelić | 17. Jarun / M. Vrdoljak | 18. Manduševac / I. Pervan | 19. Zagreb / D. Rostuhar



An aerial photograph of a vast, golden-brown agricultural field during harvest. A red tractor is pulling a harrow, followed by a combine harvester and a trailer. Long shadows are cast across the field, indicating a low sun position. The text 'Slavonia' is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font, with the tagline 'Where the horizon is always golden.' below it. The entire image is decorated with white, paint-splatter-like spots.

Slavonia

Where the horizon is always golden.



Shaped by the force of the mighty rivers Drava, Danube, Sava and Ilova, Slavonia is a mythical region that for centuries has guarded its treasures.

With its wide, endless expanse of the golden Pannonia plains, strong river flows, areas that provide an ideal habitat for the now centuries-old forests of common oak (*Quercus robur*), as well as for more than 2000 biological species, Slavonia is a fertile land tilled by human hand for over 8,000 years. Ever since this part of the continent rose from the Pannonian Sea in the Pleistocene, once island, Papuk became mountain that discovers the oldest rocks of this part of Europe – granite and metamorphic rocks from the Paleozoic era – full of witnesses, that today tell the geological history of Earth. The fertile Slavonian plains have emerged from the Panonian sea after have been sea bottom for more that 10 million years, and have been since a promised land.

The Golden Valley celebrated through history

Having 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 Požega, Đakovo and Vinkovci, Slavonia gave two Roman emperors - the eminently capable and courageous Valentinian I and his brother Valens. Treasuring the area as both wheat growing and winegrowing country. with the Kutjevo winegrowing district. home to one of the oldest wine cellars in Europe, the Romans named it Vallis Aurea (the 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.

Moments to treasure in the towns of Slavonia and Baranja

This 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, where the indigenous Lipizzaner horses proudly strut their stuff,

where rare birds nest and flock, and wild geese rise from the famous Kopački rit Nature Park. Come and discover the monastery of Ilok, where the Italian Franciscan St. John of Capistrano is buried, the Baroque fortifications of Slavonski Brod and Osijek, true urban and cultural Pannonian metropolis whose university and scientific environment has produced 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!



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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) — significant landscape / **Radiševo** (Županja) — special forest vegetation nature reserve / **Erđut** — notable landscape / **Bijela topola** (white poplar/aspens poplar, Valpovo) — monument of nature / **Virovitica** - monuments of park architecture / **Spačva** — significant landscape / **Lisičine** (Voćin) — arboretum

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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 'Trvrda'** — romantic old nucleus of the city / **Odeshalchi Castle and medieval defensive walls** (Ilok) — Renaissance park architecture, church and monastery of St. John of Capistrano / **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 / **Bečarac singing from Slavonia, Baranja, and Srijem** — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage



| 13. |

EXPLORE

National Lipizzaner Stables (Đakovo) — founded as long ago as the 16th 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 Miboljac** — Prandau Mailath and Prandau Normann Baroque Castles / **Požega** — 14th century church of St. Lawrence / **Health Resort** — Bizovac, Lipik thermal baths



| 14. |

TOURISM PLUS

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



| 15. |

GASTRONOMY

‘Ćobanac’ — thick, rich and utterly delicious stew / **Fish-paprikash, Slavonian ‘kulen’ and ‘kulenova seka’** — locally produced salamis / **Traminer** of Ilok, plum brandy



| 16. |



COVER PHOTO : **Slavonia** / D. Rostuhar | 1. **Našice** / M. Topić | 2. **Ilok** / I. Biočina | 3. **Sunflowers** / H. Serdar | 4. **Bečarac, Singing from Slavonia, Baranja, and Srijem** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 5. **Slavonia** / D. Rajle | 6. **Ilok** / I. Biočina | 7. **Zmajevci, Baranja** / B. Prezelj | 8. **Đakovo** / I. Biočina | 9. **Papuk Nature Park** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 10. **Wine Cellar** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 11. **Kopački rit Nature Park** / G. Šafarek | 12. **Ilok** / I. Biočina | 13. **Đakovo** / M. Romulić & D. Stojčić | 14. **Đakovo** / S. Gobbo | 15. **Rowing** / D. Rajle | 16. **Sarma** / M. D. Pečanić | 17. **Osijek** / G. Šafarek | 18. **Osijek** / D. Mance

| 17. |



| 18. |



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