



ZADAR
TOURIST
BOARD

Meet.
Feel.
Explore.

Zadar



ZADAR REGION



The Greeting to the Sun



Feel Zadar

Savour it with all your senses. Walk past the monumental reminders of its ancient past and the remnants of time, and absorb its day to night pulse in the narrow streets and spacious squares.



There is nothing more relaxing than just chilling out in the colourful cafés, while absorbing the rhythm of the Mediterranean and a Dalmatian afternoon rest, locally known as *fjaka*.

Of course, Zadar is much more than that.

The impeccable crystal clear sea, a vital and inexhaustible source of life-energy, gently embraces the entire coastline of the city, including the peninsula with its ancient fortifications, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- 1 Forum Aerial Photograph
- 2 Five Wells Square
- 3 Federico Grisogono Street



Mild summer afternoons are filled with the north-westerly breeze *maestral*, aromatic and refreshing like pine trees. That is when the Sea Organ, a widely-known urban installation comprising of steps incorporated into the city waterfront, is playing the best tunes of its perpetual music in the rhythm of alternating waves and sea currents. At sunset, the neighbouring astronomical and calendrical installation *Greeting to the Sun* begins its play of lights and shapes, while greeting the travellers who are observing this unique sight in awe.

Zadar is a city whose past goes back 3,000 years.

The first stone was laid down, according to a poet, by the legendary Jason accompanied by his Argonauts. From that moment on, even the sirens have been singing about the city by the sea, bearing that very sea's name.



1 Kalelarga (Wide Street)

2 St Francis' Church and Monastery Atrium

Sea Gate

One of the iconic city gates in Zadar, also known as St Chrysogonus' Gate, this archway that faces the port was built in 1573 and sports the Venetian lion and part of a Roman triumphal arch. The inscription is a memorial to the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, where the Ottoman fleet was defeated off the western coast of Greece.







Over the past few years, Zadar has received numerous prestigious travel awards and outstanding recommendations.

In 2016, Zadar was chosen as the *Best European Destination*.

This unique prize was awarded by a Belgian website that specializes in tourism and travel of the same name.

Lonely Planet, the leading world travel and tourism authority, recommended Zadar as one of ten **Best in Travel destinations** for 2019, and the prominent newspaper, **The New York Times**, placed Zadar on top of the **Places to Go** list for that same year.

- 1 Old Town Aerial Photograph
- 2 Katedrala and the People's Square

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Gifts from the Past

Zadar is the
pearl of the
Adriatic, whose
glory never
fades away.





Here on display, you will find some of the most beautiful monuments of architecture and cultural heritage of the eastern Adriatic coast.

Zadar is both, an atmospheric time machine and an open air museum.

Its city walls are the ancient guardians of this still vibrant historic museum in the open, and they were rightly added to *UNESCO's World Heritage List*.

Forum

At the time of its prime, the original Ancient Roman Forum was surrounded by a magnificent porch on three sides. It is the symbol and pride of the city.

- 1 St Anastasia's Cathedral
- 2 The Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art
- 3 St Mary's Church and Monastery

St Donat's Church

This monumental Early Medieval monument, built on the rubble of the Ancient Forum, was initially dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and later named after the Zadar bishop Donat who had it built.

The Gold and Silver of Zadar

The Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art is on display in the Benedictine Convent of Saint Mary. The exhibition places Zadar among the great cultural capitals due to its most valuable collection of exquisite religious works of art, that are all in one place.





City Walls

The defence system of Zadar is included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. For the most part, the city walls were built in the 12th and 13th centuries, and reinforced in the 16th century.

St Anastasia's Cathedral

This Romanesque building is the biggest church in Dalmatia. Built on the base of an earlier basilica, it was dedicated to the late Ancient martyr, Saint Anastasia.



Museums

Zadar's museums are vivid proof of the millennia; its hidden secrets, secret fragments of time, stories untold and those that are about to be told.



- 1 The Archaeological Museum
- 2 Zadar's Seafront Riva with Spiro Brusina Statue and the University of Zadar
- 3 St Simeon's Casket
- 4 The Museum of Ancient Glass

Foša and the Land Gate

This historic little fishing harbour called Foša was built in the 16th century. Its mystical and ancient atmosphere is still present today. From the historical Land Gate to the building of the University of Zadar, Foša provides a promenade for locals and visitors not to be missed, and is one of the most recognizable symbols of the city.



The Rhythm of Life

Zadar's ancient heritage
is uniquely intertwined
with the modern
hustling and bustling of
its urban life.

ZADAR VIBES





Three thousand years ago the bases were set and the adventure started. Zadar is a city of many wonderful seasonal events, music and food festivals, concerts, sport and outdoor events.

Tuna, Sushi & Wine Festival

The festival is dedicated to Bluefin Tuna, a top-notch ingredient and one of the main promoters of Croatian gastronomy. Its quality ranks it as one of the most sought after meat varieties, often astronomical in price in well-known world fish markets. The festival takes place in May.

- 1 The Sea Organ
- 2 The City Market
- 3 Tuna, Sushi & Wine Festival at the Arsenal
- 4 Old Town



DM Millennium Jump

The event is organized around simultaneous jumps of more than 3,000 participants into the sea from Zadar's waterfront, which is known as *Riva*. It takes place every year at the end of July, and it is dedicated to fun, ecology, sustainability, and overall health. People of all ages absolutely love it, especially children, teens and assorted visitors.

The Full Moon Festival

The Full Moon Festival is dedicated to local gastronomy, tradition, customs and the culture of Zadar's hinterland and the islands. The street lighting on the waterfront is turned off, and one can enjoy the evening in the light of the full moon, fused with local music, wine and gastronomy.

- 1 The Historic District of Varoš
- 2 The Rector's Palace
- 3 The City Bridge
- 4 The Full Moon Festival
- 5 DM Millennium Jump







Musical Evenings in St Donat's Church

The most prestigious cultural event in Zadar, which brings together Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music, takes place throughout July and August.

Wings for Life World Run

The run for those who cannot! Around 10,000 runners from all over the world are participating in this global event. Zadar has been chosen as one of the destinations, where this humanitarian and health campaign takes place every May in a live broadcast.

- 1 Zadar Nightlife
- 2 Meat Me Festival
- 3 Wings For Life World Run
- 4 Concert at the Forum

Meat Me Festival

The October festival offers local meat and culinary specialties, and their roots go back thousands of years.





Zadar Footballers' Homecoming Celebration after 2018 World Cup in Russia



A Passion Crowned with Gold

Zadar is a city
of sport and
extraordinary
athletes.

THE CITY OF SPORT



Its citizens are passionately in love with basketball, but they also sail, row, swim, run, play tennis, dive, ride bicycles, play football and chess...

A real abundance of activities in the open or indoors make up the fabric of hundreds of sports clubs, from which some of the greatest and world renowned Croatian athletes have arisen. Today, Zadar prides itself on having the Višnjik Sports Centre, which offers facilities such as indoor swimming pools, a contemporary sports hall, a tennis centre, indoor football pitches with artificial grass, volleyball and basketball courts, an outdoor football pitch with an athletics track, as well as an indoor ice rink during winter. Uskok Sailing Club at Vitrenjak is a popular meeting point for recreationists and sailing enthusiasts. Zadar world medallists in rowing and sailing are the true legends of the city.

Luka Modrić

Zadar's own Luka Modrić is the true engine and heart of Real Madrid, and is also the captain of the Croatian national football team. In 2018 he was named The Best FIFA Men's Player at The Best FIFA Football Awards.

Šime Fantela

Šime Fantela is an Olympic medallist, a European and World champion in sailing class 470. With his brother Mihovil, he won gold at the 2018 Sailing World Championship in the 49er class.

Zoran Primorac

Zoran Primorac is the proud winner of 36 medals in Mediterranean, European, World and Olympic competitions in table tennis. He used to play for La Villette Charleroi, the most successful European club ever.

Krešimir Ćosić

Krešimir Ćosić is unarguably the best European basketball player of all time and the first to lay the foundations between Europe and the USA, thus opening the gates for many future European players. The late Zadar basketball superstar was a multiple Olympic medallist, World and European champion, who became only the third international player ever to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, which is located in Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of basketball.

1 Zadar Caravel Regatta

2 Luka Modrić

3 Krešimir Ćosić Hall at Višnjik Sports Centre



Zadar has been inhabited since Prehistoric times, as was the entire Zadar region with its hinterland and archipelago. Greater and smaller settlements first came to life 3,000 years ago, thus forming its specific cultural identity through the centuries.

Dalmatian Metropolis

THE CENTRE OF THE ADRIATIC





The city today represents a major urban, economic and cultural centre, as well as an important transport hub.

Around 170,000 inhabitants of the immediate region gravitate towards the city as its natural centre. It is a true historical Dalmatian metropolis and the bloodstream of the region, with a wealthy, fertile hinterland and numerous inhabited islands in the archipelago. It is connected by land, sea and air to Europe and the world, which makes it one of the most reachable destinations on the Eastern coast of the Adriatic. Zadar is located in the centre of the Adriatic itself, at a distance of only 280 kilometres from the Croatian capital Zagreb, or 160 kilometres from Split to the south. One can easily reach Zadar from Budapest, Milan, Prague, Vienna and other Central European metropolises by road, as well as by car ferry from Ancona on the coast of central Italy.

Zadar Airport

One can travel directly to most European airports from a small, but modern airport in Zadar. It handles around 800,000 passengers per year.

- 1 Gaženica Cruise Port
- 2 Zadar Airport



Gaženica Cruise Port

The modern port and passenger terminal Gaženica is a contemporary building, and in 2019 it was officially announced as the Port of the Year at the most prestigious award ceremony for cruise ports, the Seatrade Cruise Awards 2019, held in Hamburg, Germany. Zadar cruise port is the *crème de la crème* of the cruise business in Croatia with 200,000 passengers per year.



A1 Motorway

It only takes approximately 15 minutes to join the longest and most modern Croatian A1 motorway from the city centre. The A1 motorway is well-connected to other European road networks.



- 1 Gaženica Cruise Port
- 2 Zadar City Port
- 3 Modern Hotels in Zadar





Marinas

Marinas, in and around the city, make an excellent choice for boaters from all over the world as it is an ideal starting point for a nautical adventure in the Zadar archipelago, with well over 300 islands, islets and rocks.

Modernity

LIFE KEEPS MOVING ON

During its three-thousand-year-old history, Zadar has **been richly endowed with monuments, architecture and cultural heritage.**





Life has never stopped moving on in this Dalmatian metropolis.

There where it mourned its bygone times, the modernity and the spirit of contemporary inhabitants resumed. The new and modern monuments of the city and the city's future heritage, have already conquered the world.

The Sea Organ

This modern installation is an experiment in architecture and sound, which creates lovely chimed tunes by using the continual power of the sea's waves, and was designed by the renowned architect Nikola Bašić. Witness the most beautiful sunsets in the world, while listening to the syncopated and ever-changing rhythm of the waves.

The Greeting to the Sun

A contemporary installation made of 300 multi-layered glass panels in the shape of a circle of a 22 metre diameter. The Greeting to the Sun represents an astrological and calendric dedication to Zadar, and has brought Zadar to the front pages of all of the global media.

- 1 Sunset
- 2 The Sea Organ
- 3 The Greeting to the Sun



An aerial photograph of a stunning coastal landscape. In the foreground, a deep blue sea meets a rugged, rocky coastline. The land is covered in lush green vegetation, with a winding path visible on a hillside. Several small, rocky islands and peninsulas are scattered throughout the scene, some with small buildings or structures. In the distance, more hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

In the Infinite Beauty

EXCURSION CENTRE

The entire Zadar region is rich with some of the most exquisite scenery one could hope to find, with no less than five National Parks and three Nature Parks in the immediate vicinity.



The mythical Velebit Mountain extends in the northern part of the region, while in the south, Zadar is decorated with islands like pearls, whose bays are an endless inspiration for travellers.

Paklenica National Park, with its canyons inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, is located nearby, as well as the Kornati archipelago, embraced by the eternal beauty of the Adriatic Sea. It is easy to reach the popular Krka River from Zadar, with its cascades and waterfalls, and in turn just as easy to pay a visit to the worldwide phenomenon of the Plitvice Lakes. This necklace of natural splendours is perfectly encircled by the Northern Velebit National Park, the home of numerous endemic species.

Paklenica National Park

Part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Paklenica consists of mountain peaks, forests, canyons, lakes and rivers. It is ideal for climbers, adventurers and romantic daydreamers.

Telašćica Nature Park

This area of the park is in distinct contrast with quiet and peaceful beaches on one side, and wild and rough cliffs on the other. The park is protected because of its exceptionally valuable plant and animal life, geological and geomorphologic phenomena, and fascinating archaeological heritage.

Vrana Lake Nature Park

Vrana Lake is the biggest natural lake in Croatia and a habitat for numerous wetland plant species. Vrana is an ornithological reserve, so it is not only enjoyed by excursionists, but by ornithologists as well.

1





Northern Velebit National Park

The protected biodiversity and wilderness are vital parts of the Northern Velebit experience. It is a speleologists' heaven.

Kornati National Park

The National Park covers an amazing 220 square kilometres of untouched natural world, immersed in the sky blue of the Adriatic Sea. Diving in the Kornati National Park is absolutely spectacular.



Velebit Nature Park

Velebit is the mythical giant of Zadar, a mountain where karst valleys, abysses and mountain ridges meet. It is absolutely adored by hikers and excursionists alike.

Plitvice Lakes National Park

The oldest, largest and most visited national park in Croatia. The Plitvice Lakes are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Krka National Park

Magnificent cascades, exuberant nature and cultural heritage all embrace the Krka River. This natural karst phenomenon features watermills made of stone from 19th century, and an ethnic village.

- 1 Paklenica National Park
- 2 The River Zrmanja
- 3 Krka National Park
- 4 Kornati National Park




Hidden Treasures & Beaches

Bathed in the blue gleam of the crystal clear sea, Zadar's entire city coastline is one continuous beach, widely enjoyed by its citizens and guests.

THE BLUE GLEAM OF THE
CRYSTAL CLEAR SEA



A full-page photograph of a man and a woman playing in the water. The man, on the left, is shirtless and wearing black swim trunks, holding a colorful beach ball. The woman, on the right, is wearing a pink floral off-the-shoulder top and purple bikini bottoms. They are both smiling and splashing in the clear, turquoise water. In the background, a white sailboat and a motorboat are visible on the horizon under a clear blue sky. Other people are seen swimming further out in the water.

Countless sequences of
tame coves, lovely bays and
sandy beaches are located
on the islands of the Zadar
archipelago. Each island, out
of the hundreds surrounding
Zadar, has its own story and
the cleanest sea imaginable.

Far away from big crowds, the islands offer the possibility of solitary enjoyment in untainted nature.

- 1 Olib Island
- 2 Molat Island
- 3 Punta Bajlo Beach in Zadar
- 4 The Iž King Festival
- 5 Zadar Beach Bar

Zadar Archipelago is a unique phenomenon in the Adriatic with its indentation and numerous islands.

The islands are connected to the city with regular boat and car ferry lines, so commuting in both directions takes place on a daily basis.





Savour the Good Things in Life

GASTRONOMY

Food is a part of
Zadar's DNA, and
a big part of the
Dalmatian people's
identity.





Peka

Probably the oldest way of preparing food in the Adriatic, or even the Mediterranean itself. Food is placed under a metal bell-shaped lid and buried under hot coals to cook slowly for hours and hours. According to some archaeological research, the remains of peka were found in the times of the Bronze Age.

At the fun-filled and colourful green and fish markets, life is being savoured on a daily basis thanks to the generous abundance of nature.

- 1 The Historic District of Varoš
- 2 Maraschino Liqueur

Chefs from local restaurants know how to exploit this, as they skilfully set sail on culinary adventures; a traditional palette of all colours, flavours and aromas in a modern interpretation.

Zadar restaurants are recognised with a JRE badge by the association of chefs from Europe and Australia (*Jeunes restaurateurs d'Europe*), in addition to the prestigious Michelin Plate. In Zadar, diners can look forward to exceptional food and divine drinks in picturesque settings.

Maraschino

Maraschino is an authentic Zadar liqueur that has conquered the world.

Perigord Black Truffle

This most revered black truffle can only be found in the Zadar region.

Zadar Orange Cake

This chocolate dessert is a gastronomic time traveller.

Maraška

An autochthonous cherry variety with a strong and distinctive aroma.

Crljenak

The famous **Zinfandel** grape variety arrived in America from Dalmatia. In Zadar they call it *crljenak* (*crveno* meaning red or reddish).



Kornati Islands

Dugi Otok Island

Ošljak Island

Kali

The Ferry Port of Preko

Kolovare Beach

The Museum of Ancient Glass

St Simeon's Church

The Rector's Palace


Tourist Info Centre

The People's Square

Varoš





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Preko

Školjić
Island

Ugljan
Island

Poljana

Sutomišćica

The
Permanent
Exhibition of
Religious Art

St Donat's
Church
Forum

St Francis'
Church and
Monastery

The Sea Organ
Greeting to
the Sun

A woman in a striped dress is running across a highly reflective glass floor. The floor is composed of large square panels with a grid pattern. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm, golden glow and long, clear reflections of the people and the sky on the glass surface. Other people are visible in the background, some standing and some sitting, all enjoying the sunset view.

Zadar, Feel Alive!

www.zadar.travel


CROATIA
Full of life