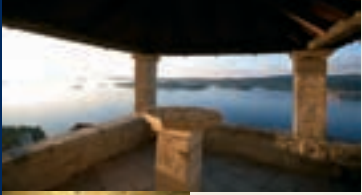
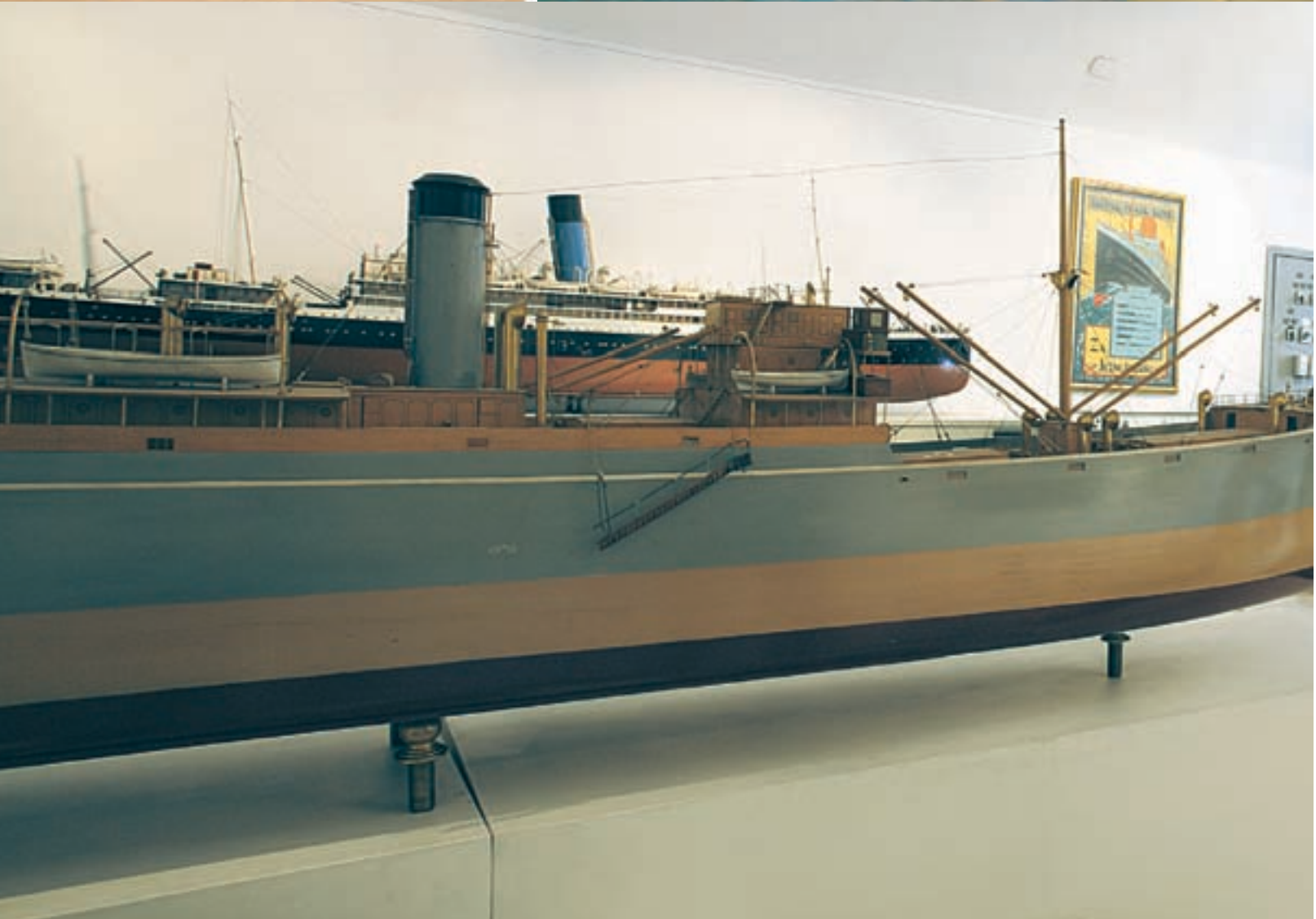
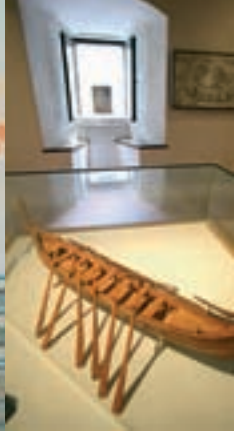


**CROATIA
SEE,
FEEL,
ENJOY**

CROATIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

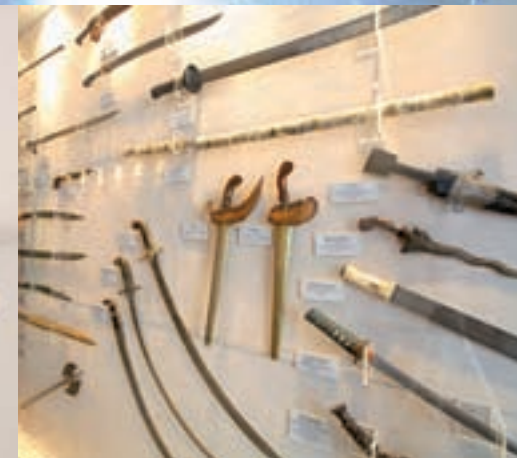
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STRUGA LIGHTHOUSE, ISLAND OF LASTOVO



THE RICH AND FASCINATING STORY OF SHIPPING AND SEAFARING ON THE ADRIATIC CAN BE SEEN IN MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS IN DUBROVNIK, OREBIĆ, KORČULA, SPLIT, BIOGRAD, SENJ, RIJEKA, ROVINJ AND NOVIGRAD

THE CROATIAN MAGICAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Croatian cultural heritage is not as well known as the cultural heritage of some large and powerful countries. It has no magnificent monuments, such as for example the Egyptian pyramids, the Pompeii in Italy or the castle Neuschwanstein in the German Alps. Croatia was not the centre of the great empires of the past and will surprise many visitors in that, in proportion to its surface, there are more sites of cultural heritage under UNESCO protection in Croatia than for example in France or Germany. Croatia has many other valuable cultural monuments which would also be able to find a place on UNESCO's list.



Proportional to its size, what is particularly significant about Croatia is its wealth of intangible heritage; with as many as nine cultural phenomena inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Croatia is among the countries with the most protected intangible assets in the world. Inscribed on the UNESCO list are the Festivity of St. Blaise in Dubrovnik, lace-making in Lep-

oglava and on the islands of Hvar and Pag, the carnival group of bell ringers from the Kastav region, near Rijeka, a unique religious event – the Hvar Procession “Za Križen” (‘following the Cross’), two-part singing and playing of the Istrian scale, the spring procession of the women’s folklore group Ljelja in Slavonia, the production of traditional wooden toys from the Croatian Zagorje region, the Sinjska alka – a knights’ tournament in Sinj and the gingerbread craft from northern Croatia. Ojkanje singing features on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

One reason for this wealth of tangible and intangible cultural heritage is the outstanding position of Croatia on important traffic routes and at the crossroads of great civilizations, each wanting to leave their mark. There-

fore, Croatia is characterised by exceptional diversity of cultural heritage on a small surface and the presence of monuments from all periods of civilization, from Ancient History to recent times. Thus, in Croatia, we can find monuments from ancient Greece, ancient Rome, early medieval monuments, Mediterranean Renaissance, Middle European Baroque and Modern secessionist heritage. There are also unique testimonies from the earliest prehistoric times, such as the Neanderthal man of Krapina, one of the world's most important sites, the Vučedol Neolithic culture near Vukovar, pre-Roman Illyrian ruins and many more.

In Croatia there are many testimonies of local people using skills that followed modern trends of large neighbouring cultures, but they also created unique autochthonous achievements, such as the medieval churches of Croatian rulers in northern Dalmatia, or the palaces of the Old Town of Dubrovnik. Many Croatian artists and architects entrusted the whole of humanity with their works, in the 15th century, Juraj Dalmatinac applied a previously unseen form of prefabricated building to the Cathedral in Šibenik, while the statues of Ivan Meštrović adorn particularly important locations in Chicago, in the United States.

Croatia has managed to preserve the rural and indigenous architecture, which clearly testifies to its cultural diversity. Today we can still see old wooden houses and churches in the flatlands of Pannonia and the unique elongated Slavonian houses with large yards in the Danube region, picturesque huts on hills in the north and shingle covered old houses in the snowy mountains of Croatia. Perhaps even more charming, are the Mediterranean villages with houses made of stone on the mountain peaks in Istria, or by the sea on the Croatian coast and islands.

This diversity makes it clear that large European civilizations had mixed here, and that it is right here that the influences of Europe's largest ethnic groups of Slavs, Romans and Germans had come together. Adding to the luxury of Croatian cultural heritage, is the fact that just by the country's Eastern borders were the former Western and Eastern borders of Christianity, and Western and Eastern European culture. This is where the last line of defense used to be for the overcoming Islamic civilization in the late Middle Ages, as evidenced by many mighty works, and other monuments of the rich military history.

The six most important parts of Croatian cultural heritage are - the Old City of Dubrovnik, a historic complex in Split with Diocletian's Palace, the historic town of Trogir, Euphrasius' basilica in Poreč, the Cathedral of St. James in Šibenik and Starogradsko polje on the island of Hvar, all protected as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. In addition to these, Croatia has 340 protected historic entities and a whole series of individual historic buildings, churches and chapels, fortresses and castles, manors and palaces and archaeological sites. Croatia, in its many museums, holds priceless and diverse cultural treasures, and there are many festivals and events, from music and film events to folklore events and carnivals. The cultural riches hold something for everyone, so let's go ahead and discover them.

CROATIAN TOURIST REGIONS



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ISTRIA - The magical country

The Istrian peninsula, located on the Western edge of Croatia, where the Mediterranean Sea most deeply retracts into the European mainland, has always been a special place. Such is the tourist region of Istria, which has only one county (the Istrian county), and which is by far the most visited county in Croatia. Istrian peculiarity stems from its location and isolation from the rest of Croatia by the high massif of the river Učka. This unique location and the mix of various influences led to the creation of a special culture, landscape, music and gastronomy, because of which many call it the magical land.

The first known inhabitants of Istria were the Illyrian tribe of the Histri, after which Istria was named. In ancient times it had been an essential part of the Roman Empire, and after its collapse and the arrival of the Croats, Frankish rulers and the Aquileia Patriarchate took turns in ruling over it. From the 15th century, the western coastal region of Istria was governed by Venice and the Eastern part and the interior by the Habsburgs. In the late 18th century, Istria was briefly ruled by the French and after that, until the end of World War I, was under the rule of Austria. Between the two World Wars, Istria belonged to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1945, Istria finally became Croatian territory, first as part of Yugoslavia and since 1991, as an independent county in the state.

This brief historical review is important in understanding the origins of the wealth of Istrian culture and the characteristics of the area which, perhaps more than any other in Croatia, came to the fore of the great mixing of cultures and the ethnic groups of Slavs, Germans and Romans. Istrians are therefore widely known as people who know how to keep their peculiarity, as well as a very tolerant people who respect diversity. Therefore, in Istria, despite the paucity of the Italian national minority, the Croatian and the Italian languages are equal.







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Istria's cultural richness and the beauty of her heritage are present throughout this magical peninsula, and are perhaps most apparent in the town of ROVINJ. The panorama of Rovinj with the church of St. Euphemia and the bell tower in the centre is one of the most impressive symbols of Istria (1). The beauty of Rovinj has long been attracting many artists inspired by its magical views, preserved old town houses (8) and picturesque narrow streets of the old part of town (5).

Among these streets, Grisia has a special place, as the artists who gather there traditionally offer their works to many tourists on the spot (7). The Museum of Rovinj in the Baroque building in the centre of the main city holds many paintings by old masters (2 & 11). There are works of artists from the 19th century, inspired by life in Rovinj, particularly from the period of the Austrian authorities, when Istria was a strategically very important part of the once powerful Habsburg Empire (15).

In Novigrad, a picturesque historic town on the peninsula, there is a "Galerion", a unique and very special collection of artifacts and photographs which show in an impressive way the meaning and the life of the Austro-Hungarian Navy (3). The lapidary (4) next to the parish church holds, and in a very unique way presents, historically valuable stone fragments of the church's liturgical inventory. Novigrad has managed to preserve much of its architectural heritage, including magnificent defensive walls (10). Similar to Novigrad is Umag, the northernmost coastal city of Istria, opposite which is one of the largest marinas in Croatia (6). Other picturesque coastal towns, such as Vrsar, are located on the hills above the safe bays, which are a favourite amongst many boaters (13).

Much of the cultural heritage preserved on the Istrian coast was built during the Venetian occupation. A winged lion, the symbol of the evangelist Mark and the patron Serenissime, can be seen in Bale in the South of Istria. (9). An extremely rich archaeological heritage is also represented in numerous museums. The largest by the number of exhibits in the state is the Archaeological Museum in Pula (14).

Like Rovinj, Novigrad and Umag, the central city on the West coast of Istria, Poreč, boasts its lovely location on the peninsula (16). In this city, which by the number of tourists is the strongest tourist centre in the whole of Croatia, stands the most valuable cultural and historical monument in Istria. This is the EUPHRASIAN BASILICA in Poreč, for now the only monument in Istria listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The basilica is named after Bishop Euphrasius, in whose time it was built on the foundations of an even older basilica.

It is the period of the basilica's construction that is one of the main reasons for its value, as from that early period of Christian history, there are almost no completely preserved monuments. It is unique and special in its style of construction and a splendid example of early Byzantine art of the 6th century, which is rarely found so far to the West, the result of a well organized government of the famous Byzantine Emperor Justinian, who was ruler at the time of restored power, after the fall of the Roman Empire.



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The Basilica is almost invisible from the outside because it blends into the urban structure of the old city centre of Poreč (18). Yet if we enter into its interior, we will immediately be impressed by the uniqueness of its structure (22), and in particular the splendor and uniqueness of the altar (21). Like other Byzantine churches of that era, it is embellished with rich mosaics, and the best preserved are on the apse of the church (17) and in a special collection in the whole complex of the basilica. Among them, the most famous is the mosaic of the fish (20), a historical symbol of Christ, which serves as a sort of symbol of Poreč, which is therefore sometimes called the city of mosaics.

Poreč, of course, is not only defined by the basilica, but also by its picturesque urban core which holds other beautiful and well preserved buildings from ancient times. Like other cities in Istria, Poreč also has a local History Museum. In this museum, paintings have a special role, with the most valuable part of the collection belonging to the once powerful and rich family Carli (19).

The largest town in Istria, PULA, is located in the extreme South of the Istrian peninsula and at first glance does not imply the cultural richness which it hides, and the beauty of its surroundings. The reason for this is its location in the plains, the size of the town and the buildings on its edges. If we enter into the centre of town, we will immediately be impressed by the monumental and well preserved amphitheatre (28), which testifies to the extraordinary importance of Pula and Istria since ancient times. This is the sixth largest Roman amphitheatre in the world and also one of the best preserved.

The amphitheatre was built during the reign of Emperor Vespasian in the first century after Christ, and its appearance has remained virtually unchanged for two thousand years. It once served as an arena for cruel gladiator fighting which was watched by up to 20 000 people, and today serves as a tourist attraction and as a stage for various events (31), most of which are musical performances - from classical music and ballet (30) to rock concerts (29), which favours a unique atmosphere and the acoustics of the arena. However, the most famous of all national events is the international film festival held in July each year.



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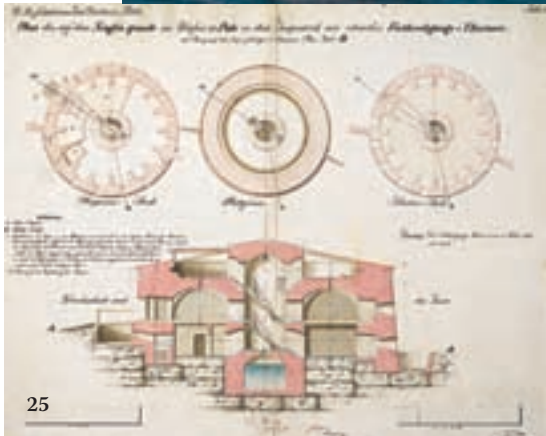




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In addition to the amphitheatre in Pula, there are many other monuments from the Roman period, such as the Arch of the Sergi (33) in the city centre. One of the most important museums in Croatia – the Archaeological Museum of Istria is also located in Pula. It holds the largest number of archaeological finds in Istria, dating from pre-historic times to the Middle Ages (34). Many monuments, particularly from recent times, are held in the Historical Museum of Istria and also in small galleries (27). Interesting pictures and graphics can be found in the impressive building of the City Council (32), particularly from the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (25), when Pula was one of the largest military ports in the world.

The areas that surround Pula are also extremely abundant in valuable cultural and historical monuments, the most notable being the Brijuni National Park, the main pearl of the natural heritage of Istria. In the park are especially valuable monuments of Antiquity, such as Roman villas and (26) complexes and fortresses from the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Among them is the most magnificent fortress on the island of Mali Brijun (24), which now occasionally serves as a stage for theatrical performances. In the vicinity of Pula is the old and ancient Illyrian city of Nezakcijum, dating back to the pre-Roman era, and the impressive lighthouse Porer (23) located on the southernmost point of the Istrian peninsula near Cape Kamenjak.

While the cultural heritage of the coastal part of Istria attracts visitors mainly with its urban Mediterranean setting, there is the equally breathtakingly beautiful inside, with its predominantly cultivated landscape and small Istrian villages and towns. Istria's most beautiful parts are romantic hilltop towns, among which is MOTOVUN (35), located above the valley of the largest Istrian river, Mirna and



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the Motovun forest greens. The town is the venue for the Motovun Film Festival, which, unlike the more traditional Pula Film Festival, attracts mainly young audiences and thus provides a kind of injection of vitality to this ancient city.

The magical Grožnjan (41) is revived by young people as it is the International Cultural Centre of the Croatian Musical Youth (39). There is old Buzet (43), Oprtalj, Hum, Pićan, the romantic Završje (42) and many other towns. In addition to decorating the Istrian hills, most of these towns have beautiful vantage points from which, as in Buzet (44), the magic beauty of the Istrian land can be enjoyed. Istria also boasts the smallest city in the world, tiny Hum, with only 17 inhabitants. It is known for the Glagolitic road – a seven kilometre long road decorated with sculptures of stylized letters from the old Croatian alphabet, Glagolitic (45).

The interiors of churches and palaces from the Istrian interior offer many interesting features, such as the attractive interior of the church of St. Blaise in Vodnjan, with mummies of saints from the time of early Christianity, and the altar (40) and valuable paintings (37) in the church of Santa Maria in Buje. Of all the art in churches, perhaps the most famous are the frescoes by Vincent of Kastav, depicting a death dance from the 15th century, located in the church of Santa Maria in Škrlin, in Beram near Pazin (52).

The town of LABIN (47) holds a special place in Istria, as the only major city in the East of the Istrian County. This former mining town has a particularly picturesque historical centre (36 & 38) full of important buildings from different historical periods in which there are numerous galleries and small museums. Particularly interesting is the outdoor sculpture gallery, where nowadays, numerous domestic and foreign sculptors create and exhibit their work (56). The city is also known for the revolution of the miners, who rebelled against the fascist occupiers between the two World Wars.

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Located in the heart of Istria is the capital, PAZIN, dominated by the monumental castle (49) over the scary Pazin pit, which was an inspiration for the great Jules Verne for his novel “Mathias Sandorf”. The citadel was founded in the early Middle Ages at the time of Frankish rulers, and today has a form obtained mainly in the 16th century, at the time of the Habsburgs. In the castle is, according to many, the most interesting museum in the entire county, the Ethnographic Museum of Istria (46). It preserves a valuable collection of folk costumes that show the specificity of Istrian folk heritage. Among them are the particularly harmonious folk costumes of Vodnjan (58), a town in the south of Istria.

Not far from Vodnjan is another special Istrian town, Svetvinčenat, which is known for its central square. The Renaissance Square is dominated by the Grimani castle, a symbol of the town (57), and a church and a number of houses in the same style. Throughout Istria there is all kinds of beauty, from the ancient church towers, such as in Sveti Lovreč (51), castles and palaces as in Bale (48) to the mysterious ruins like Boljun (53 & 54), which invite us to wander about this magic land.



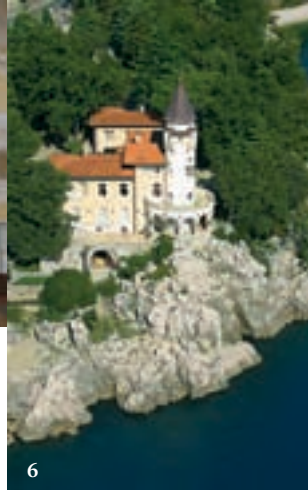
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KVARNER – The wonder of Central Europe and the Mediterranean

Within Croatia, a culturally and naturally very diverse country, one of the most diverse parts is the Kvarner region, which is part of the Primorje - Gorski Kotar County. This region covers the coastal area of the Kvarner Bay along with numerous islands and most of the small historic province of the mountainous Gorski Kotar. It is right here that the warm Mediterranean area, with stone houses and a rich medieval and Renaissance heritage, passes into the cooler central European areas with powerful fortresses, castles and Baroque churches.

Unlike Istria and Dalmatia, which were under foreign rule for a significant part of History, the area of Kvarner was under Croatian rulers from the early Middle Ages. Therefore, this part of Croatia highlights a number of autochthonous monuments of the Croatian culture. The noble family Frankopan had a special role in this; their castles and fortresses are still preserved and stand over the Kvarner Bay. A rich heritage written in Glagolitic script also testifies to this. This is the unique Croatian script which the Croats used from the 9th to the 19th century. The additional advantage of Kvarner is a strong tradition of carnivals, and the carnival



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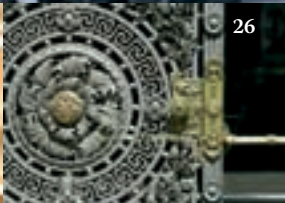
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in Rijeka is one of the largest in the world. Within the region of Kvarner there are more diverse smaller areas - the Primorje and Kvarner Riviera on the Istrian peninsula in the coastal region, the Cres-Lošinj archipelago, the islands of Krk and Rab, and Gorski Kotar in the mountainous hinterland. The Kvarner Riviera and the Cres-Lošinj

group of islands culturally and historically belong to Istria, while Rab Island once belonged to Dalmatia, and the Island of Krk was once tied to Istria as well as Dalmatia. Today all of these areas are connected to Rijeka, the major metropolitan centre.





The Kvarner Riviera is the cradle of Croatian tourism. At the centre of the Riviera is OPATIJA, one of the first bathing resorts in central Europe and once the main seaside resort for the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Many believe that the "official" beginning of Croatian tourism was in 1844, when near the old abbey (hence the name of the town) a villa called "Angiolina" was built and it was the first building designed to host the wealthiest of tourists.

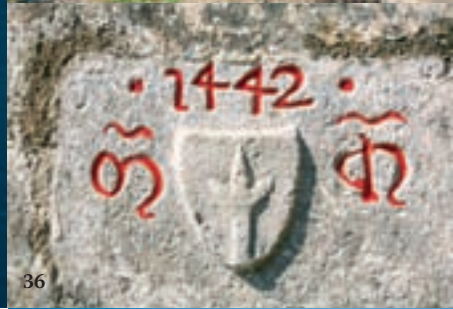
Almost all the old hotels in Opatija have the same function today, and the vistas of Opatija, drowned in the green hills of Učka, are the most popular tourist vistas of the Kvarner Bay (1). Among these hotels, a special place is held by the hotel "Kvarner" in the centre of Opatija (2), which due to its internal and external luxury (5), has kept the spirit of ancient times, and is a favourite venue for important events and performances. Other old hotels in Opatija such as the "Palace" (4), "Zagreb" (10), "Opatija" (12) and many others aren't any less luxurious.

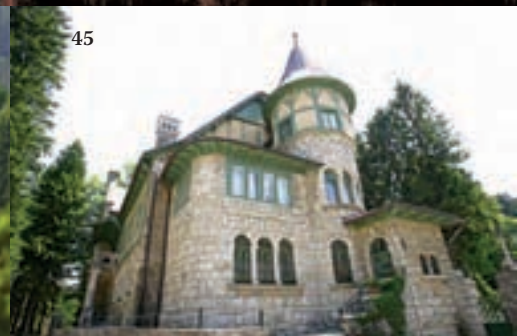
Due to the very pleasant and healthy climate, Opatija has the role of climate health spa, which was the reason these first hotels were built. Current health tourism facilities include the famous "Thalassotherapy" (7). Opatija has a number of casinos (13), fancy restaurants and coffee bars (16), and there is a well known 10 km long coastal promenade (Lungomare), by which the picturesque old town of Lovran can be reached. Lovran and the surrounding small towns, such as Medveje and Ike, boast a large number of luxurious villas (11), often in attractive places (6).

The Opatija Riviera is marked by the lush imagination of old builders, whether in the shapes of whole buildings (15), and balconies (8) or house fronts (14). This came to the fore in the making and design of decorations for hotels and villas (3) and the gorgeous interiors with valuable paintings and sculptures (9).

The unique historical importance of Kvarner as an area at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and Central Europe, can be seen in the cultural heritage of RIJEKA, the main Croatian port and most important city throughout western Croatian.







Due to its extremely strategic position, it was ruled over by various rulers of ancient times, like the Venetians, the Habsburgs, the French, Hungarians and Italians and between the two wars, it was even divided between Italy and the former Yugoslavia.

The most monumental buildings in Rijeka are tied to the second half of the 19th century, when it became the main port of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. A big port with administration buildings (17), the Modello Palace (23) and the governor's palace, as magnificent on the outside (19) as



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it is on the inside (25) were built in that time. There are also many churches, including the Capuchin Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, which captures our attention with its appearance (24). The beauty of Rijeka is found in many details, such as on the facades of public buildings (26) and in the interiors, like in the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc (21).

Rijeka is now best known for its carnival, one of the five largest in the world, emphasised by the unique combination of ancient Slavic traditions and the urban carnival similar to the one in nearby Venice. It involves a large number of the

population of Rijeka and the Kvarner Bay and the carnival parade is known to gather more than 100 000 participants and guests. The best known participants of the carnival are the Halubjanski bell ringers (22) from the nearby hinterland, which invoke the old pagan customs, and the Morčići (18), named after the Moorish servants in the Venetian court. Morčići in the form of earrings and other jewelry are a sort of trademark and a favourite souvenir of the city of Rijeka.

In Rijeka, there are many monuments from earlier periods, among which is the patron church of Rijeka, the church of St. Vid from the 17th century in the city centre (27), with its characteristic oval shape (28). The rich heritage of Rijeka is preserved in

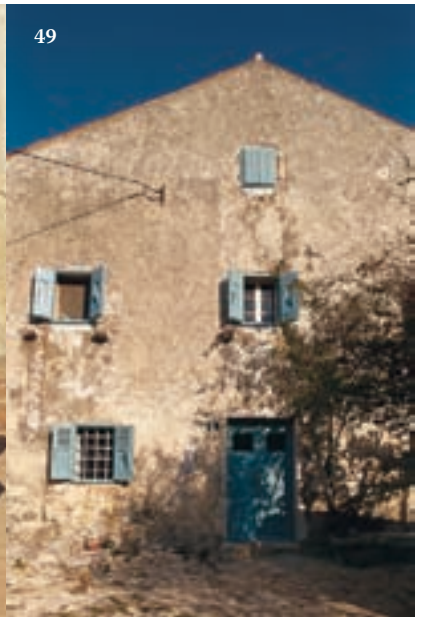


its museums, including the most important museum of the city of Rijeka, the Maritime and History Museum, located in the Governor's Palace, and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (20).

Rijeka's oldest monuments are not related to the centre of the town, but to its outskirts, in Trsat, on the hill east of the city centre. There lies the Trsat fort, whose beginnings date back to pre-Roman times (29).

The central cultural point of Trsat is the church of St. Mary which, along





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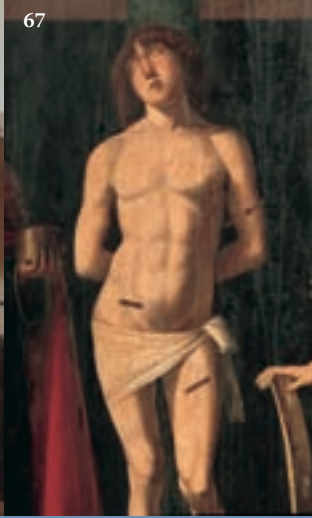


with Marija Bistrica, is the biggest procession centre of Croatia. The beginnings of this shrine and the church are linked to the 13th century, while the church in its present form in the Baroque style (27) was built in the 17th century by the Frankopans.

The Frankopan heritage is still visible in the vicinity of Rijeka. The castle in Crikvenica (38 & 39) has been preserved to this day, and serves in part as a hotel. Also well preserved is the Frankopan fortress in Kraljevica (34). Relatively well preserved are the tower Tureta in Bribir (37), the Drivenik Fort on the foundations of an Antique fort (40) in the hinterland of Crikvenica, and the fortress Grobnik (35), built 13 centuries ago. In the vicinity of Rijeka there are other fortresses, which are often associated with towns on the mountain peaks, similar to those in Istria. After all, Brseč (31), Kastav (33), Veprinac (36) and Mošćenice (32) are historically parts of Istria, although they are quite close to Rijeka. Many other coastal towns in this area are distinctively picturesque, especially the town of Bakar (30) in the inlet, known for its long maritime tradition.

The naturally picturesque Gorski Kotar is not particularly rich in







historical and cultural monuments because until the construction of the first modern roads, three hundred years ago, this area was covered by uninhabited forests. However, even here we can find Frankopan forts, beautiful castles and churches, while most other parts emphasise the picturesque traditional architecture (43). Villages are mostly located along the roads, either on the mountain high ground, as Crni Lug (41) at the front of the National Park Paklenica, or on the plains in inland areas, as the extremely elongated Ravna Gora (42). Among the castles stand out the Zrinski castle from the 17th century (46) and a romantic castle in Stara Sušica close to Ravna Gora (45) from the late 19th century, while among religious monuments is the Orthodox monastery in Gomirje, from the 17th century (44).

Let's go now to the sea again, this time to the island part of the Kvarner Bay, which offers plenty of gems to enthusiasts of cultural heritage. The most valuable monuments are in the island's main historic towns, such as Krk, Cres and Rab, but not only in them. On the islands of CRES and LOŠINJ, the historical town of Osor, situated at the point where the two islands merge, is richest in cultural and historical monuments. Up until the 15th century, it was the capital of both islands and the seat of the diocese, which we can witness in the almost completely preserved medieval core (47). Other villages, such as Nerezine on Lošinj (49), and more villages on the small islands belonging to the Cres-Lošinj group of islands are also very picturesque. There are no cars on those islands and life there resembles life in the an-



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cient times. The island of Susak is known for unique folk costumes (48) and an interesting cemetery (51) while the village Unije on the island of Unije distinguishes itself with its old houses (50 & 52), and the nearly deserted island Vele Srakane is isolated in the middle of the sea (53). The complete feeling of isolation can be experienced in the isolated lighthouses around Lošinj, such as the Galijola (54), which is now used for the accommodation of tourists, fans of so-called Robinson tourism.

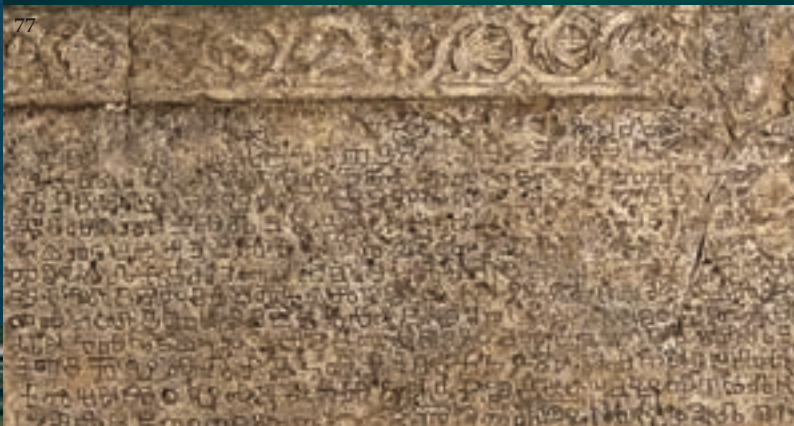
The most important town in Lošinj is Mali Lošinj (59), which is the largest urban town on all the Adriatic islands. It received a significant role in the 19th century, when it outgrew the neighbouring Veli Lošinj. In recent times, Mali Lošinj has become famous for the ancient statue of Apoksiomen from the 4th century BC (55-58), which was found in 1996 in nearby waters, and for which a special exhibition place has been arranged in the Kvarner palace. Valuable exhibits can be found in other exhibition areas of Mali Lošinj, such as in a private collection of the Piperatas (61), while



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in the picturesque Veli Lošinj (62) the church of St. Antun Pustinjak is of cultural and historical significance (63) with the famous painting of the Renaissance Venetian painter Bartolomeo Vivarini (60).

Unlike the small and densely populated Lošinj, the largest Croatian islands of Krk and Cres are very sparsely inhabited. Most of the population live in the only urban settlement, Cres, which has become more developed since the 15th century, when it became the capital of the island (71). Among its monuments, of special importance is the church of St Marija Snježna from the 15th century, which is em-





phasised by an interesting portal (65), nice interior (66) and valuable works of art (67), and from the same period, the Franciscan monastery (68).

Many small villages on the island of Cres are, because of their picturesque location on the mountain peaks high above sea level, and preserved architecture, protected as particularly valuable rural units. There is Predošćica (64) and Orlec, known for beautiful folk costumes (72), Beli, known as the griffon vulture protection eco-centre (69) and probably the most attractive is Lubenice, located on a gorge above gentle sandy bays, with matchless views towards the open sea (70). On the island of KRK there are also equally interesting large villages, like the old town of Krk with its preserved town centre (73), and also smaller ones, like the picturesque Vrbnik (80) above the sea, as told by an old folk song. In Krk Town, the episcopal centre has a cathedral (82), whose beginnings date back to the 6th century, and which features a rich sacral collection (75). Near the town of Krk stands the Franciscan monastery Košljun, on a small island (74) with a nice church (76) and a museum with a collection of valuable works of art (81 & 83) and archives with many old manuscripts (79).

The famous Baška tablet was also found on the island of Krk (77), and is considered the most important monument of Croatian diplomatic history, written in the Glagolitic script

at the end of the 11th century. It was found in Jurandvor in Baška in the South of the island, known for its beautiful beaches and preserved folk heritage (78). In Jurandvor is the copy, while the original Baška tablet, because of its exceptional value and sensitivity, is kept as a separate exhibit in the atrium of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb.

The island of RAB, in the extreme South of the Kvarner Bay, is widely known for the preserved historic centre of the town of Rab (84), in which the four towers of its churches (87 & 93) - three Romanesque towers from the 12th century and a Baroque one from the 17th century, are a favourite motif for many paintings (88). Like Krk, Rab was a diocesan centre and its medieval cathedral has an interior (86) decorated with paintings (92) and other valuable works of art (89, 90 & 91). Rab had a particular role at the time the state of San Marino was being established on the neighbouring Apennines. According to legend, San Marino was founded in the 4th century by a stone mason from the island of Rab, called Marin, after who the state was named.



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LIKA – KARLOVAC

An area with a rich warrior past

The region of Lika – Karlovac is the largest of all the regions that lead out to the Adriatic Sea, and it is the biggest and the most sparsely populated part of Croatia. In addition to crude nature, the sparse population of this area has been influenced by its turbulent history, and frequent exposure to a number of wartime devastations, especially in times of battle between the Christian Europe and the Ottoman Empire. Consequently, we can find relatively few historical monuments here, and those which survived are in large part related to the rich military history.

This region consists of two Croatian counties - Lika-Senj and Karlovac. The Lika-Senj County encompasses the most historical province of Lika in the mountainous area, the rugged and wild coastline leaning on Lika, and the northern part of the island of Pag. The Karlovac County also covers a part of the Croatian mountains, but in most part it comprises the historical province of Kordun and Pokuplje in Pannonian Croatia. The warrior tradition in this region is supported by the fact that its largest city, Karlovac, was founded as a military fortress, and the name of the historical province Kordun comes from the French name for the area, cordon militaire (Military Frontier).



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From these regions, in spite of their low population density, come many famous people in history. The most famous among them is one of the world's greatest inventors, Nikola Tesla, and for Croatian history, of particular importance are politician Ante Starčević, known as the "father of the fatherland", the noble warrior Fran Krsto Frankopan, and one of the greatest writers, Ivana Brlić Mažuranić.

In the coastal part of the Lika – Karlovac region the only major town is SENJ, a city at the foot of the slopes of the largest Croatian mountain, Velebit. In Senj there stands one of the most monumental forts of the Croatian coast, the tower Nehaj (1). It was built in the 16th century and housed the famous Senj Uskoks, who defended the Croatian coast from attacks by the Turks. The tower is now a museum (5) which holds a rich collection of weapons (2) and national costumes (6).

Of the military importance of Senj testifies the tower in the port (3) and the scenic lighthouse in the form of a circular fort (4), while its maritime significance can be inferred from models of ships in Senj's museums, and even in the church of st. Mary of Arta (7). Senj is an

important port as, of all the coastal towns, it is the closest to the Croatian inland. The Jozefina road, built in the 18th century, connected the port with Karlovac, and today has a monument dedicated to it (9). Senj, despite its small size, is a bishop's city, as evidenced by the Cathedral of St. Mary from the 12th century (8).

The only major island that belongs to the Lika – Karlovac region is the island of PAG, which can be reached from the ferry port Prizna near Senj (12). Specifically, only the northern part of the island of Pag, which used to be a part of the town of Rab, belongs to the region, and the southern part, that once belonged to the city of Zadar, today is within the Zadar County. The only larger settlement of this part of the island is the town of Novalja, known for its beautiful beach Zrće, which offers a fantastic nightlife. The Novalja area has been inhabited since Roman times, as evidenced by the remains of the Roman aqueduct (15) and a number of amphora underwater sites (17). Its naval and ethnological heritage (11) can be experienced by a visit



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to the local museum (16). Around Novalja are a number of small settlements, among which stands out Caska (ancient Cissa), exhibiting the archaeological remains of the once powerful city of the Roman Empire, known for the so-called 'Tunera' observation tower (13), and Lun in the extreme north of the island, known for its interesting old churches (14) and olive trees over two thousand years old (10). Starting from Senj, going over the Velebit mountain into the inland of LIKA, we come to the picturesque rural landscapes of Lika, nestled in the green forests and clear lakes, like the Lake Kruščica (21). Thanks to the abundance of forests, but also because of the harsh climate, the houses here were built mostly from wood. The best preserved are in the Gacka valley, where the clear waters of the river Gacka are the fisherman's favourite (29), and where we can sometimes come across mills from the old times (27). Similar waterside settlements can be found elsewhere in this region, like in the most important place of the historical province Kordun, the town of Slunj, which boasts, besides the ruins of a medieval fortified city, the waterside village Rastoke, at the mouth of

the rivers Slunjčica and Korana (26).

The autochthonous folk culture is preserved in the villages around the capital city of the Lika-Senj County, Gospić, as evidenced by examples of traditional rural architecture, some of it from older (31) and some from recent times (25). Also preserved in Lika are some of the old crafts, such as the production of a traditional Croatian instrument, the tamburica (28). The Museum of Lika is located in Gospić, known for findings from the prehistoric period (23).

One of the world's greatest scientists, Nikola Tesla, was born in Smiljan, a village near Gospić. In his native home is a museum with a sculpture of Tesla in front of it (18). In the museum, set up in 2006 (20) on the 150th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth, there are pictures from his life and displays of his famous inventions related to the power adapter, wireless power transmission and others (19).

In the second largest town of Lika, Otočac, in the Gacka Valley, there is also an interesting museum collection which shows the rich folk heritage of the region (24). Its most valuable exhibit is the famous helmet (22) from the Bronze Age,





which belonged to the original inhabitants of this region, the Illyrian tribe Japoden.

At the other end of the Lika - Karlovac region, at the starting point of the old roads Jozefina, Lujzijana and Karolina, is the town of KARLOVAC, established in 1579 in order to protect from Turkish conquests. Then, in the plains, at the confluence of the Kupa and the Korana rivers, an ideal Renaissance city was built in the form of a six-pointed star surrounded by moats, which are still partially visible today (32). Apart from Karlovac, the military importance of its surrounding area is emphasised by numerous ancient ruins (43), towers (37) and castles.

Among the preserved forts and castles are Dubovac on the edge of Karlovac (38), Novigrad on the river Dobra (35), Ozalj on the canyon above the river Kupa (34) and the castle Frankopan in Ogulin (36). The unique Ribnik (33) is

important as an example of "Wasserburg", a castle that is surrounded by water, and the fortress Sokolac in Brinje on the way to Lika has a preserved and restored Gothic-style chapel (41).

Given the fact that from Karlovac, important old roads lead towards the sea, there are also many old bridges that have been preserved (42), and these are monuments to road builders (44). The richness and refinement of the Karlovac region is witnessed through numerous exhibits in the Museum of Karlovac (39), and by one of the oldest hydropower plants in Europe, the popular "Munjara" (40), located in Ozalj, near Karlovac.



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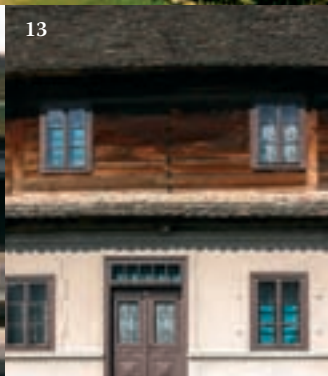
CENTRAL CROATIA

Empire of Baroque churches and palaces and medieval fortresses and castles



Due to the unusual shape of the country, central Croatia actually extends to the Northwest of the national territory. Yet it is central because it is situated between two other large units - the mountain part at the Southwest, through which it goes towards the sea, and Slavonia in the East. Perhaps the more important reason for which it is called central is that it is the most densely populated part of Croatia, where nearly half of its population live. It is also by far the largest tourist region and is made up of seven counties (Zagreb, Krapina-Zagorje, Varaždin, Međimurje, Koprivnica - Križevac, Bjelovar - Bilogora and Sisak - Moslavina), which like rings surround the Croatian capital city, Zagreb.

The high population density and the abundance of cultural heritage are due to the fact that this part of Croatia was mostly spared from the devastation of wars in the past. Therefore, in central Croatia, there are many well preserved medieval urban complexes,





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old forts and fortresses at the tops of mountains, romantic castles, fortresses and palaces, gorgeous churches and valuable museums.

Central Croatia comprises a series of small historical regions - the hilly Croatian Zagorje region in the north of Zagreb, Međimurje between the rivers Mura and Drava, the plains of Podravina along the river Drava, and Posavina along the river Sava, Banovina in the rocky south, and also Prigorje, Moslavina, Turopolje and Žumberak. Therefore, the Croatian capital, Zagreb, in the centre of this region, offers its citizens a number of different contents in its surroundings. Since in its distant past, the centre of the Croatian state was in its coastal area, the most valuable cultural monuments in central Croatia refer to the late Middle Ages and Modern Age, although it also has many prehistoric and ancient monuments.

The densely populated Croatian Zagorje, known for its beautiful hills, such as "Vinogorje", the vineyard hill, holds a special place in Central Croatia (1). To the picturesque rural landscape contribute many votive crucifixes that can be seen along the way. (14)

Croatian Zagorje is also known as the birthplace of many famous Croats. The most famous among them was Josip Broz Tito, leader of the anti-fascist movement and longtime

president of the Socialist Yugoslavia, born in the village of Kumrovec. There is now a unique outdoor ethno-museum in the village, which consists of a series of original country houses in which the way of life of people in the past is presented (11). One of them is the birth house of Josip Broz, with a statue of him in front of it (3). Also from the Croatian Zagorje is the leader of the Croatian national revival in the 19th century and the first president of the independent Croatian state, Franjo Tuđman.

It is in the capital of the Croatian Zagorje, Krapina, that the most important paleontological site in Croatia can be found - the site of the Krapina Neanderthal man. Next to the discovery site is the Krapina Neanderthal Museum (10), which opened in 2010. According to many, it is the most attractive Croatian museum, depicting the evolution of man, from prehistoric times to today. Next to the museum, in the park on the hill, is a collection of statues of the Neanderthal man (7) and of animals by which he was surrounded. The importance of this site was depicted on the cover of the "National Geographic" magazine in January 1996.

To central Croatia, unfortunately, are linked the most terrible events and places of the Croatian past. One of these places is Jasenovac in Posavina, next to which in the Second World War was the notorious Ustasha concentration camp.

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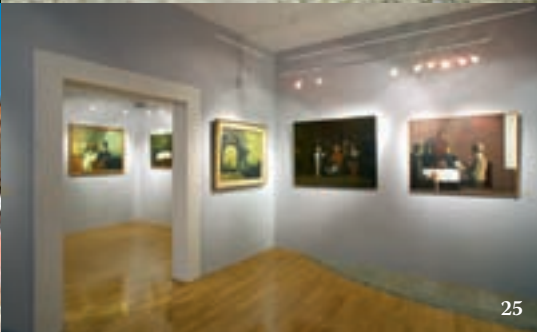
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Today it is a memorial area, which is prevailed by "The Jasenovac Flower" (2) monument. Posavina is known today for villages with family houses of traditional folk construction, and the famous arks (12 & 13) with characteristic wooden structures and ornaments (8). Among these villages, the most famous is Čigoć, located in the Lonja Field (Lonjsko Polje). In 1994, the village was proclaimed the first European village of storks (9).

Due to the abundance of thermal waters and traditions of their use, central Croatia has the most spas in the country. Some of them were founded in Roman times, and the best evidence of this is the Varaždin spa, the former Aquae Isae (6). The importance of central Croatian spas is shown through monumental bathing buildings, especially in Daruvar (4) and Lipik (5).

The spirit of central Croatia comes to the fore in late Renaissance and Baroque towns such as Varaždin, Bjelovar, Sisak, Koprivnica, Samobor and Čakovec. They preserved the typical central European building heritage, mostly from the 16th and 17th centuries. They have especially beautiful main city squares, such as the one in Koprivnica, decorated with a landscaped park (16), the Samobor square, which boasts an old fountain (17), or the main square in the city for pilgrims of the Holy Blood of Jesus in Ludbreg, where it is symbolically marked as the "centre of the world" -- "Centrum mundi" (24).

Many buildings, such as the 17th century palace Prassinsky-Sermage in Varaždin attract with their beautiful design (29). Particularly interesting are the bridges, such as the Old Bridge made from red brick in Sisak (15), and the pursuit of beautiful horticulture is evident in city parks and cemeteries. Among them is the most beautiful cemetery in Varaždin. Decorated with high hedges, it also serves as a park (18).

Numerous findings from the past and works of art are stored in museums that exist in almost every city. Most of them are regional types with several different collections, such as the Samobor Museum (30), but there are also specialised museums, such as the Food Museum in Koprivnica (22). Central Croatia has a strong artistic tradition and there are also many galleries, such as the Gallery Stančić in Varaždin, dedicated to its famous painter (25).

The town of Varaždin has a special place among cities in central Croatia because of its preserved and valuable heritage and museums. It especially comes into play during Špancirfest, a typical Central European Festival of street strollers (19). Špancirfest is held at the end of August every year and is known to gather close to 200 000 visitors and more than one thousand artists from twenty different countries.

The trademarks of Špancirfest are the traditional uniforms of the past (20) and costumed events (21 & 26). Here we can see renewed old crafts (28) and the significant musical culture (27) of Varaždin. Various traditional products can be purchased on the spot and gastronomic specialties can be tasted. Špancirfest is also a good place to purchase paintings (23).

The most beautiful ornaments of central Croatia are considered to be its CASTLES and FORTRESSES, which cannot be found in such numbers and forms anywhere else in Croatia. Among them, the first place is occupied by Trakošćan castle (37), located amidst thick forests above a romantic lake in the northwestern corner of Croatia. It was built as a small fortress in the 13th century, and received its latest form in the late 19th century, at the time of the Drašković counts.

The luxury of Trakošćan is especially visible in its towers (39) and the entrance to the castle (38), and the attention to detail can be seen in the auxiliary buildings and yards (40). The museum located in its chambers houses the most valuable collection of old weapons and military equipment in Croatia (36). It was largely furnished personally by Count Drašković, and apart from the many old rifles (35) we can also find old medieval armour (31). The museum also exhibits valuable old furniture (32) and lots of old books and writings (34).

The old town of Varaždin from the 16th century also stands out with its magnificence (48) and with a central town museum. To the North of Varaždin, in the



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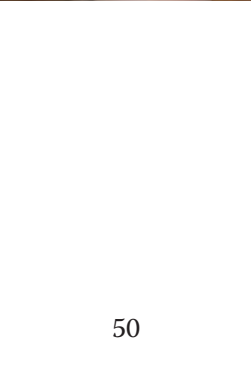
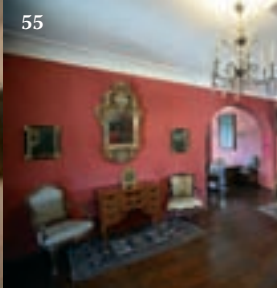


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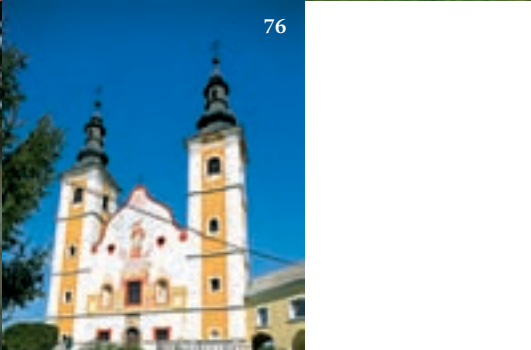
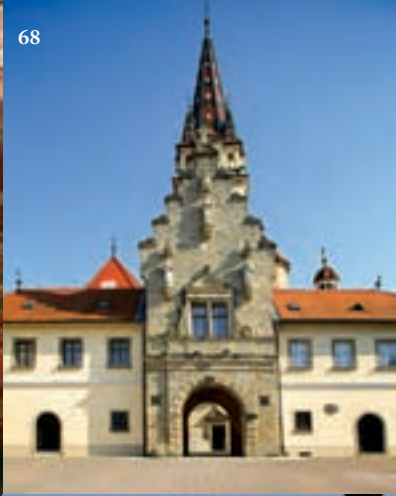
middle of the northernmost province of Međimurje, in the town of Čakovec, there stands a famous castle of the Zrinski counts (50), also arranged as a museum (54, 55 & 56). In the South of Varaždin there is another beautiful castle, the romantic Maruševac (42).

Even further South, on the hills of the Croatian Zagorje, there stands the amazing castle Veliki Tabor, with its external appearance almost unchanged from the 16th century, when it was built (46). It is known as a gathering place for swordsmen and hawkers, who enjoy the medieval atmosphere at the foot of its walls and in the courtyard within the fort (47). Today it is arranged as a museum (41), which testifies to the turbulent events of the castle's past (52 & 53), where the legend of Veronika Desinićka and her tragic love have a special place.

The Croatian Zagorje has newer castles too, such as Oršić in Gornja Stubica (43 & 49) which is arranged as an interesting museum showing the peasant uprising (58). It was here in the 16th century that one of the largest peasant revolts in Croatia was organised, and a monument to its leader Matija Gubec stands in an area under the castle (57). Another new castle is Bežanec at Pregrada, now converted into an exclusive hotel (51). Closer to Zagreb is the unique preserved feudal estate in Novi Dvori, close to Zaprešić, where Croatian Ban Josip Jelačić lived. In one of the farm buildings there is a collection of paintings by the famous Croatian painter Matthias Skurjeni (61).

In the southeast of central Croatia there are also majestic waterside castles, such as the fortress in Hrvatska Kostanjica (59) on an island in the middle of the river Una. More important however is the fortress in Sisak, at the mouth of the Kupa and Sava rivers (60), known for the great Croatian victory over the superior Ottoman army in 1593. Similarly, in the northeast of central Croatia, the fortress in Đurđevac has a glorious past (62). Unfortunately, many once famous fortresses have been destroyed through time, and of their glory speak only their ruins, such as the walls of the city of Samobor (44) or Kalnik (45) in Križevci.

The beauty of the CENTRAL CROATIAN CLERICAL HERITAGE is not inferior to the beauty of any other secular heritage. Nearly every town boasts at least one impressive church, and there are also many valuable churches in villages. The city of Varaždin has long been known for the bell towers of its churches, among which is the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the 17th century, known for its gorgeous altar (63). The church of John the Baptist is from the same time and has a nice pulpit (66). The Croatian Zagorje region also stands out with its very valuable sacral heritage, even though there are no large cities in this area. The most important is the church of Mary in Marija Bistrica (68 & 69), Croatia's main pilgrimage centre (65). The church of St. Marija Snježna in the village Belac has a particularly beautiful altar (67).





The Pauline Monastery in Lepoglava (75) and the church in Vinagori (70) have notably luxurious interior and exterior designs.

Picturesque churches with rich interiors can also be found in other parts of central Croatia. The most beautiful are the church in Sela, near Sisak (64 & 72), the church in Komin, near Sv. Ivan Zelina (71) and the church of St. Jeronim in Štrigova (76), at the extreme northern point of Croatia. The Holy Trinity Church adorns the municipality of Krašić near Jastrebarsko, where the Croatian archbishop Alojzije Stepinac was born. Amongst the churches which are not Roman Catholic is the beautiful Greek Catholic Cathedral in Križevci (73).

Understanding the culture of central Croatia would not be complete without viewing the works of its NAÏVE ARTISTS who have made it famous around the world. This is primarily related to the Hlebine school of painting, which holds the same name as the picturesque village in Podravina near Koprivnica. There are two galleries there, the Hlebine Gal-

lery of Naïve Art and the Gallery Generalić (84), which exposes the paintings and images from the life of the founder of the school, Ivan Generalić (81).

Through his painting skills, his son, Josip Generalić (80 & 89) also became famous, along with others from Hlebina and the surrounding Podravina villages, and other naïve artists from other parts of central Croatia. Many are still active today, and deal with sculpture (88) as well as painting, as does one of the few women artists in Podravina, Ljubica Matulec (82 & 83).

Many famous artists have their own naïve art galleries in the places of their birth, for example, Ivan Lacković Croata (78) in the Podravina village Batinske (86), Ivan Rabuzin in the village Ključ in the Croatian Zagorje, and Matija Skurjeni from Veternica, in Zaprešić near Zagreb. Most of the major works of Croatian naïve art are now exhibited in the Museum of Naïve Art, Zagreb, including famous works by Mijo Kovačić (79), Ivan Rabuzin (77) and Matija Skurjeni (85).







THE CITY OF ZAGREB

A modern capital city with a preserved medieval and modern heritage

Like most other major cities in Europe, Zagreb has a distinctly rich cultural heritage. The city represents a special administrative unit (county) and tourist destination surrounded by the Croatian Central region. As Zagreb gained importance in the 11th century and became the Croatian capital in the 16th century, it has many monuments dating from the ancient times, especially in the preserved old town centre - the Upper Town, while the city centre in the Lower Town has a large number of buildings from the turn of the 20th century.

Since Zagreb, despite its importance, was a small town until the 20th century, almost all the main cultural interests are located in the middle part and the Lower and Upper towns. This is where almost all the most valuable palaces, churches and museums, including the most important hotels are located. Therefore, the majority of visitors to Zagreb can experience its cultural heritage on foot. Zagreb also has a special intimate atmosphere, atypical for major European cities.

The so-called Lenuci horseshoe, a series of parks which form a horseshoe surrounding the town, enhances the experience of visitors. It is named after the architect Milan Lenuci, most responsible for its form at the turn of the 20th century.





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For visitors who do not like short walks and those wishing to visit other parts of the city, there is the Zagreb tram. It has been the main form of public transport and has had a tradition since the 19th century. Zagreb, as a European city, emphasises a dense tram network, which leads to all major parts of the city. Also available to the public is the the old funicular railway between the Upper and the Lower Town and the cable cart that leads up to the top of Medvednica mountain, whose greenery can be seen from all parts of the city.

This wooded mountain (2) stretches all the way to the Upper Town, and through it to the city centre, the Ban Jelačić Square (1). Greenery will welcome you even if you come to Zagreb by train, because immediately upon leaving the main train station there is a view of a series of parks that lead to the city centre. Such a scene would welcome passengers of the famous Orient Express which passed from Paris to Istanbul, for which the famous hotel "Esplanade", now part

of the Regent Hotel chain, was built (3). Next to this hotel there is also the greenest part of the so-called Lenuci horse-shoe, the Zagreb Botanical Garden.

Starting from the main train station and going straight to the city centre, we can see the monumental buildings of the LOWER TOWN, built mostly in the late 19th and early 20th century. The first among them is the actual Main Train Station with a very characteristic front (8). Across it, we find one of the most famous vistas in Zagreb, the Art Pavilion (12), the first major construction in Croatia with exhibition as its sole purpose. The space in front of it is occupied by a park with fountains and a monument to the first Croatian king, Tomislav (19), who ruled Croatia in the 10th century. If we move towards the centre along a nearby road, West of the hotel "Esplanade" (14) and the Botanical Garden, we will pass next to the Croatian National Theatre (13) and the Museum Mimara (15). Whichever way we go, we will end up on the main square (7) which has a statue of the Croatian Ban



Josip Jelačić in the middle of it (5), and whose name it carries. The citizens of Zagreb are especially connected to this statue because it was removed from the main square during the Communist rule, and they gladly welcomed it back after the realisation of Croatian independence in 1991. There are also interesting buildings on the outskirts of the Lower Town. Of these, the most famous one is the Home of Croatian Artists, which was built in 1938 by the most

famous Croatian artist, Ivan Meštrović (16). Lower Town palaces boast the most luxurious interiors (4 & 6) with valuable furniture (9). The Oktogon passage is especially sophisticated (10), and is a sort of forerunner of modern day shopping centres. On the edges of the Lower Town, new buildings such as the “Cibona” skyscraper (11) have also risen, although such constructions are more common in the more modern, southern



part of the city, where the building of the Museum of Contemporary Art (18) is especially distinguished. However, even in those parts the people of Zagreb have not forgotten the need for greenery and care for children (20). The nearest lake to the city centre is Bundek (17 & 18) in Novi Zagreb, the most popular gathering place for citizens of Zagreb and their guests.

Unlike the vivacious Lower Town, the essentially medieval GORNJI GRAD (Upper Town) exudes peace and tranquility. Its position on two hills above today's centre and its romantic narrow streets are still often reached today through even narrower city gates. Among them, the most famous is Stone Gate (23), a votive place with a miraculous image of Our Lady (26). The Upper Town is composed of two parts, the profane Gradec on the western hill and the sacral Kaptol in the east. In the centre of Kaptol is the Zagreb Cathedral

of St. Stephen and the Assumption of Mary. Standing at 105 metres in height, it is the highest ecclesiastical building in Croatia (35). It was built back in the 11th century, but was often changed and so has had the present form only since the late 19th century. On the square in front of the cathedral there is a stone monument with a golden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary (27).

From other churches in the Upper Town, the people of Zagreb are particularly fond of St. Mark's Church from the 14th century (33), known for its roof, decorated with the coats of arms of Croatia and Zagreb (30). Immediately next to it, in the middle of "profane" Gradec, is the Croatian Parliament building (32 & 34), with a monumental entrance gate (29). Nearby is the Jesuit church of St. Catherine (24) with a rich interior (25) and altar (21). Right next to the church, in the buildings of the former Jesuit monastery, is one of Zagreb's



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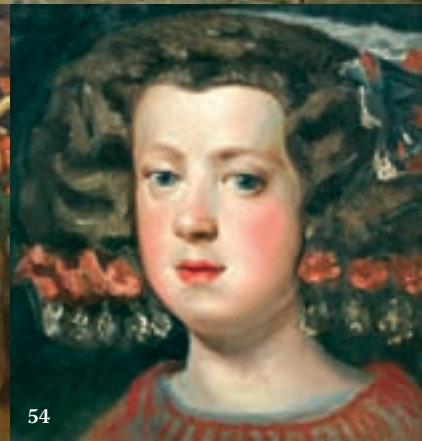
main exhibition spaces, Klovićevi Dvori (22 & 38).

In the Upper Town, stands what most consider to be the most attractive museum in Zagreb, the Zagreb City Museum. It boasts original exhibits from the history of the city (36), old images of citizens of Zagreb (39), and the central place is occupied by a miniature model of the Upper Town (37). Across the walls of the Upper Town, in the peaceful park Tuškanac, is the museum of the great Zagreb and Central European writer, Miroslav Krleža. The museum is housed in his birth house (28) and there is a statue of the writer in front of it (31).

There are even more museums in the Lower Town and Zagreb is well known for their large numbers. There are thirty MUSEUMS IN ZAGREB and even more galleries. The most important is the Mimara Museum, named after its founder, the collector, Ante Topić Mimara. There are about 4 000 dif-

ferent items in the museum, which is particularly known for its collection of glass (48), the far east collection (49) and the collection of paintings by old masters (44 & 56) which includes the works of great painters such as Bruegel (53) and Velazquez (54). The Archaeological Museum distinguishes itself with the size and variety of its exhibits (460 000), especially from ancient Roman times. There are also special departments for prehistoric times (52), Antiquity (43) and the Middle Ages and a unique Egyptian collection (41).

The Museum of Arts and Crafts also has a large number of exhibits (about 160 000), which show the essence of historical material culture in Croatia (40 & 50). Among the 19 different collections, the collection of watches (45) and furniture (61) are particularly interesting. This museum and Klovićevi dvori (51) are usually temporary exhibition venues. Among the art galleries, a collection of old masters (59)



is housed in the Strossmayer gallery (55), named after its founder, the Bishop, Josip Juraj Strossmayer (60). The magnificent Modern Gallery (58) boasts the works of local artists from the 19th and 20th centuries (47, from Nikola Mašić, known for his idyllic rural paintings (46, to Edo Murtić and his gorgeous abstract work (42. The Technical Museum is extremely popu-



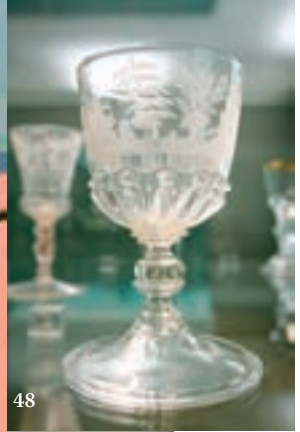
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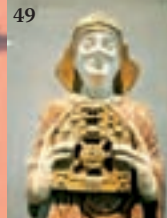
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lar, famous for its old mine, the inventions of Nikola Tesla and original old aeroplanes (57), and after opening in 2009, the Museum of Contemporary Art enjoys the same popularity (61).





ZAGREB, CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE





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SLAVONIA - Primeval Central Europe on the banks of the mighty Danube

In the east of Croatia, between the large Danube, Drava and Sava rivers lies the fertile Slavonia. It is the largest Croatian historical region after Dalmatia, known for its wide plains, oak forests, picturesque vineyards and old cellars, baroque palaces and churches. Here we have well preserved original Croatian folk heritage, with ornate carriages, picturesque costumes, the sounds of the tamburitza and unique culinary delicacies.

After central Croatia, this is the biggest Croatian tourist region, consisting of five counties: Virovitica-Podravina, Požega-Slavonia, Brod-Posavina, Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem. For now relatively rarely visited by tourists because it is away from the main tourist routes, which usually lead to the sea, the region has many pleasant surprises to offer to those who want to discover it, especially for those who enjoy discovering hidden cultural experiences.

Although, because of its position in Central Europe Slavonia is culturally similar to Central Croatia, it is also very different in many ways. Namely, while central Croatia was spared the devastation of war, for a big part of its history, Slavonia was under Turkish rule, from which it was exempt only in the early 18th century. Therefore, the majority of its current residents are immigrants from other parts of Croatia, and partly from other parts of the Habsburg Empire, in whose composition it was.

Due to the historical circumstances of this region, there are relatively few old monuments. However, there are some especially valuable monuments from the Bronze Age which have been preserved, as was a sort of symbol of Slavonia, the more than 4 000 years old Vučedol Dove (8). Here we can also find remains of the once powerful ancient cities and fortresses, and in the occasional corner we find preserved rare monuments from medieval pre - Turkish times. To those times belong the walls of the Croatian town of Ilok, standing east above the Danube river (3), which thanks to them resisted Turkish attacks up until the 16th century. They were later used by the Turks, and due to their solid construction are still standing today.

Most of the cultural monuments in Slavonia are tied to the 18th century, when the most attractive buildings were built, especially churches that testify of the return of this area into Christian hands. The churches are regularly decorated with gorgeous altars, as is the Franciscan monastery in Slavonski Brod (2). This was a period of economic growth and connectivity, which we can witness in the ornate emblems of craft guilds of the city of Požega (4). Slavonia has an important role due to its good connectivity and because it is surrounded by the great Danube, Drava and Sava rivers (5). From the ports on these rivers, goods were transported by horse carts, and Slavonia is known today for its tradition of horse breeding (1).



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Unfortunately, the importance of traffic and flat landscapes has always made Slavonia attractive for big conquering armies, and in almost every major war, this area was exposed to heavy destruction. It was especially devastating in the Second World War, when at Batina on the Danube, one of the biggest battles between the Nazis and the Soviet Red Army took place. In memory of the battle, there stands a monument by the Croatian sculptor Antun Augustinčić (6).

Of all the parts of Croatia, Slavonia suffered most in the Homeland War, especially the city of Vukovar. This heroic city was almost completely destroyed by the former Yugoslav People's Army which conducted the biggest genocide in Europe since the Second World War, as evidenced by the memorial area Ovčara and a monument to Vukovar's heroes at the cemetery (7).

During the Homeland War, the largest Slavonian city of Osijek also suffered great damages, but it has now been almost completely restored. Along the river Drava we can find its characteristic TOWN PALACES, such as the one in which the main city theatre is located (12). The area is dominated

by the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul (9) near the main square, the Square of Ante Starčević (10).

Monumental palaces also adorn other Slavonian towns, such as Vinkovci (11), Vukovar (20), Virovitica (14), Slavonski Brod (15 & 18) and especially Požega (13 & 16). The latter is important because it has one of the most beautiful squares in Croatia (19), although the people of Slavonski Brod (17), today the second largest Slavonian town, are unlikely to agree with this.

However, the Osijek Fort represents the most important Baroque heritage of Slavonia. This unique combination of a military fort and the city, in which normal civil life was led, was founded in 1712 and was modeled on Dutch military fortifications. Except for the walls, the Fort has remained in an almost unchanged condition (32). It is now the University of Osijek and the Museum of Slavonia (24) and, what is most interesting, a modern archaeological museum (28 & 29). The Fort is the only cultural monument in Slavonia proposed to be put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

Unlike the Osijek Fort, in Slavonski Brod, the former defensive walls have remained well preserved (27). Like most





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of the Slavonian fortresses from the 18th century, this fort was designed by the famous general, Prince Eugene of Savoy. The fortress has a largely tourist function and serves as a museum (21), as a space for keeping old crafts (38), and it is partly used for purposes of the Slavonski Brod City Hall (42).

From other older fortified complexes in Slavonia, there are the relatively well preserved fortresses of the town of Ilok (34), a Franciscan monastery and the Palace of the Roman family Odeschalchi (former princes of Ilok) with a modern museum and the famous Ilok cellar (26), in which the famous Ilok wine Traminac is produced. The country manor Principovac is also near the fortress (35), and it is attractive for hosting various celebrations. Unlike in Ilok, only ruins remain of the walls of the once powerful medieval town Ružica on Papuk, above the town of Orahovica (36). The rich military history of Slavonia and Baranja of recent times

is exhibited in a museum in Batina, the place of a great battle in World War II (25).

Due to relatively recent construction in Slavonia's Podravina, west of Osijek we can find many well preserved castles and palaces. Among the most magnificent is the castle Normann Prandau in Valpovo (22) with partially preserved walls (31). The most elegant is the classicist castle Pejačević in Našice (39), surrounded by a beautiful landscape park and lake (40), and named after a famous noble family (33), which ruled most of Slavonian Podravina. In this castle lived the famous Croatian composer and pianist, Dora Pejačević, whose piano (23) stands as one of the main exhibits in the Heritage Museum of Našice.

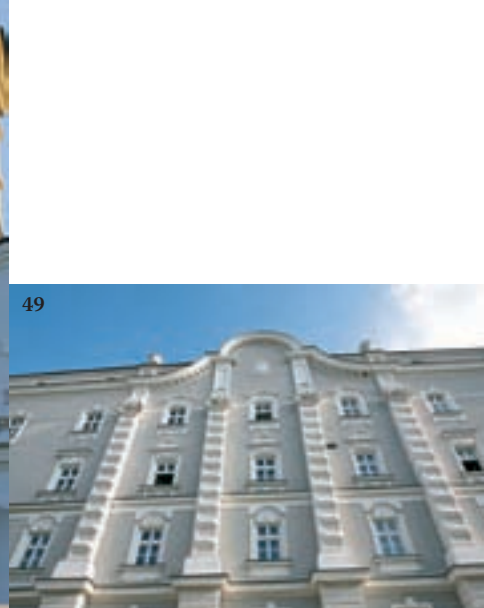
A Pejačević castle also stands at the centre of the westernmost Slavonian town of Virovitica (30). However the most special one is the youngest castle, Mailath, in Donji Miholjac, beside the river Drava, and which was built in the early



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20th century in an English hunting style (37), atypical for these regions. There are beautiful castles further south in Požega, like the castle in Kutjevo (41) next to the famous wine cellar from the 13th century.

SLAVONIAN SACRAL HERITAGE also maintains the spirit of the time in which it was built. The most valuable buildings are related to bishop centres like Požega, with one of the most beautiful buildings of the Episcopal (49) in the main square, the Square of the Holy Trinity. It boasts the “Kužni pil” in memory of the victims of the plague (48).

The most impressive religious building in Slavonia is the cathedral in Đakovo, which was ordered to be built in 1866 by the Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, in order to give importance to Đakovo as the church centre of Slavonia. The Đakovo cathedral is equally beautiful on the outside, attracting with its red bricks (47), as it is on the inside, where it is decorated with a magnificent altar and stained glass windows (43). The characteristic red colour is visible on the exterior of the main church in Osijek, the church of St. Peter and Paul (46).

The Franciscan monastery in Virovitica, with the church of Saint Roko (55), and especially with the interior of the church (50), the convent garden (56) and dining area (45), stands out with its beauty. The Franciscans were responsible for the splendour of St.Trinity in Slavonski Brod (52) and the convent in Sarengrad, next to the Danube (54). Some other small churches also hold an exceptional value, such as the church of St. Lovro in Lipovac in Srem (58), or the church of St. Peter and Paul, near the village Topolje in Baranja, which was built in 1722 by the Prince Eugene of Savoy in gratitude for the victory over the Turks (59).

The meaning which transcends its external appearance is significant for the templar church of St. Martin in Našice (60), being one of the few well preserved churches from pre-Turkish times. The church of All Saints in Đakovo is also very special (51), with the preserved interior of the former Turkish mosque and the chapel built into the walls of the Valpovo castle (57).

The churches of St. Teresa of Avil (44) in Suhopolje near Virovitica, and St. Demetrios in Brodski Drenovac (46) and the Orthodox monastery of St. Nicholas at Orahovice (53) are noted for their special appearance.

Finally, a cultural tour of Slavonia is not complete without experiencing its unique NATIONAL CULTURE. It emanates from the pastoral Slavonian villages, such as Davor on the Sava river, with grass covered roofs (68), from the richness of large yards with old carts (67), and from the warm colours of the facades which speak of the spirit of Slavonia (69), as does the simplicity of the house interiors (63). Equally beautiful and imaginative are large village houses (66) and also smaller ones intended for resting after hard work in the vineyards, such as those on vineyard hills in Požega (64).

Among these villages, particularly beautiful is Zmajevac in Baranja, with the bell towers of its churches harmoniously integrated between the village houses along the main street (61). The spirit of this region can be experienced even more by entering the houses of Baranja’s winegrowers (62) and trying light wines that are kept in their carefully arranged cellars (65).





DALMATIA - ZADAR REGION

The origin of early Croatian culture

Dalmatia is the largest and the most famous historic region of Croatia. It occupies the southern part of Croatia and it is an area of sun, warm sea, olives, wine, fish, poems and picturesque villages with houses made of stone – the real pristine Mediterranean. It is culturally the richest part of Croatia, in which five of the six sites are protected as World Heritage by UNESCO. Since Dalmatia is often reached from the north, we are welcomed by the first of four Dalmatian tourist regions, the Dalmatia - Zadar region, which includes the Zadar County.





Here we find the historical centre of Dalmatia, Zadar, the islands of Pag, Dugi Otok, Ugljan, Pašman, and many smaller islands. Moreover, most of the inhabited islands of the Croatian tourist region can be found in the Zadar area, the region with the strongest developed agriculture on the whole of the Croatian Adriatic coast. All these regions are rich with historical heritage dating back to prehistoric times, and especially the heritage of the antique period and the early Middle Ages.

As it offers the most attractive lifestyle and has an important strategic position in the centre of the Croatian Adriatic, the region has been hit hard in many wars, including the Homeland War. There are many traces here of life dating from pre-

historic times and ancient times of the Illyrians and Romans, and it is precisely the area of Zadar that is connected to the development of the first Croatian Kingdom and the largest number of monuments of early Croatian culture. This is where the Croats first came into contact with ancient culture in the 7th century, with traces left in monuments on every corner, and they were one of the first European nations to embrace Christianity.

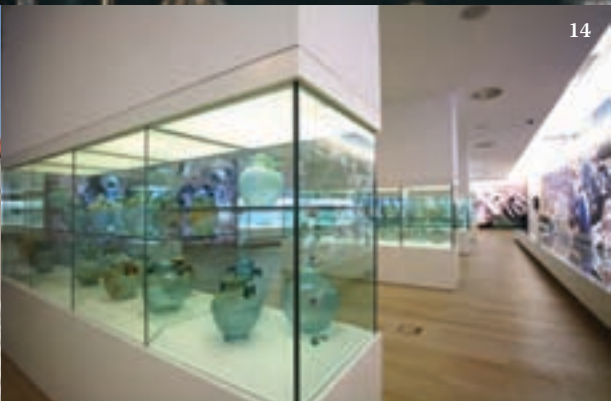
Although the Venetians ruled the coastal part of the Zadar area in the 15th century, and the hinterland came under the authority of the Turkish Empire, the area of Zadar kept a strong Croatian national spirit throughout that time. This spirit was preserved during the Austrian rule from the 19th



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century to the end of World War II, and it is precisely in the Zadar area that the national movement focusing on the unification of Dalmatia and Croatia strengthened, which was achieved primarily in the former Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and since 1991 in the independent Croatia.

Today, it is the same strong national spirit which directs the rapid economic development making Zadar and its surroundings economically one of the most dynamic parts of Croatia. Despite the strong development, the natural heritage of the Zadar region has remained well preserved, and numerous monuments still remain harmoniously integrated into the natural landscape (4) and the structure of urban settlements (5). One of the best testimonies to the ZADAR region's his-

torical importance and value of its historical heritage is the core of the city, the largest on the Croatian Adriatic coast (1). More highly valuable sacral heritage is connected to the city and its surrounding islands, such as Pašman (3).

The inhabitants of Zadar, the second largest city in Dalmatia, say that the most beautiful sunset in the world is one seen from Zadar's waterfront. This was also stated by the famous British film director Alfred Hitchcock during his visit to Zadar in the 1970s. On this site today is a particularly interesting, fun, very effective and impressive complex of installations; the Sea Organ and Greeting to the Sun (2).

Among the many churches in Zadar, the 9th century church of St. Donat (8) holds a special place, with its unique circular



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form (7), making it an indispensable part and a sort of trademark of Zadar. There is also the Romanesque Basilica of St. Grisogono from the 12th century (10 & 9), the Cathedral of St. Anastasia from the 12th – 13th century (6) and the church of St. Simeon from the 5th – 18th century, whose corpus is kept in the famous chest at the main altar (13).

Zadar has been the Archdiocesan centre since the 12th century. The Permanent Exhibition of Church Art at the Museum of Ecclesiastical Art, popularly called by the great Croatian writer Miroslav Krleža as



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"The Gold and Silver of Zadar", exhibits many works of art made from gold and precious stones, especially crosses (12) and valuable religious paintings (15).

Zadar's historical core is filled with various cultural monuments - walls, towers, churches, palaces, public buildings and majestic gates. Among the towers, the one that stands out in particular is the Captain's Tower (11), and among the gates, the Land Gate (12), a masterpiece of the late Renaissance architect Michele Sammichelia. The Museum of Antique Glass is also located in Zadar, and it exhibits a unique set collection (14). Outside the walls of Zadar there are some modern architectural works, among which are a new

sports complex with a basketball court and indoor swimming pool (17) and Greeting to the Sun (18) - an interesting visual installation.

Since Zadar was the centre of Byzantine Dalmatia in the early Middle Ages, the main church centre around the Croatian Kingdom was the city of NIN. Here, on a picturesque island (27), which can be entered through several old gates (22 & 26), the settlement of the Illyrian Liburna tribe has existed since the 9th century BC. Nin became the headquarters of Croatian bishops, and an extremely valuable and very distinctive medieval church of the Holy Cross was built there in the 11th century (30), while the interior of the city was



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decorated with other smaller churches and chapels (25).

On a hill next to Nin stands another jewel of Croatian medieval art, the Romanesque church of St. Nicholas (19). The role of the parish church today is held by the church of St. Anselm, a former early Christian and medieval Cathedral with a bell tower from the 12th century (24). Very valuable exhibits of the former Cathedral are kept in the treasury of the parish church, and have on them inscribed the names of significant donors, such as the princes Šubić (20 & 21). The archaeological collection houses valuable artifacts dating from prehistory to present times, with special emphasis on the Roman and Old Croatian period (23 & 29). The remains of the old Croatian early medieval ships found in the lagoon in Nin (28) are of exceptional value.

In the microregions of Zadar, RAVNI KOTARI and BUKOVICA, we can also find many valuable cultural and historical monuments. Among them is a special place with monuments related to the Knights Templar and Hospitallers in Croatia. Their centre was in the town of Vrana and the fa-

mous Vrana priory had a crucial role in the management of the medieval Croatian state until it fell into Turkish hands in the 16th century. Today all that remains of Vrana are the walls (37), with the village of the same name along the banks of Lake Vrana, and important remains of the Turkish khan (caravanserai), the endowment of Jusuf Mašković, admiral of the Turkish Armada, born in Vrana.

Today the centre of the Ravni County, Benkovac also boasts a mighty fortress and an old church (38). Benkovac was an important centre even in ancient times, as evidenced by the remains of the nearby ancient Roman city, Asserija (33). Nearby Benkovac are the old forts Kličevica (34) and Karin (42), below which there is the Karin Franciscan Monastery, dating from the 15th - 18 century (39 & 40), which lies in the deeply indented bay of the Karin Sea in the Adriatic. The Karin Sea flows through the Strait of Ribnica into the Gulf of Novigrad Sea, named after the picturesque town of Novigrad, positioned under an old medieval fortress (31).

The 16th century Orthodox monastery Krupa, whose



church interior was decorated with frescoes in 1602 (36), is situated further inland into the the karst hills of the south-eastern desert of the Velebit mountain in the valley of the river Krupa (32). In the Ravni Kotari and Bukovica districts there are many other smaller, old churches (41), harmoniously integrated with the surrounding landscape between the slopes of Velebit and the sea coast (35).

The numerous ZADAR ISLANDS have a valuable historical heritage, and the area of Zadar is exceptionally indented (55), which makes it especially interesting for sailing. On the island of Pašman, there are two valuable monasteries - a Franciscan monastery from the 14th - 18th century (48) and Benedictine Čokovac, on the hill above Tkon, from the 12th - 15th century (49). The latter is the only active Benedictine monastery in Croatia and holds the most notable and valuable collection of old paintings (47). Next to the island Ugljan on the smaller island of Galevac is a beautiful monastery of

the Franciscan Third Order from the 15th century (51).

On the islands of Zadar there are many old forts and towers, such as the Kaštelina on Vir (50) or Toreta, a viewpoint on Silba (53), and the cape of Veli rat on Dugi Otok (Long Island) has one of the most beautiful Croatian lighthouses (43). However, the most valuable cultural heritage of the Zadar islands is found on Pag, the island of salt, cheese and lace. It is connected to the mainland by a bridge and is surrounded with well preserved fortified towers (45 & 52). Today's city centre originates from the 15th century Pag (46), organised as an orthogonal grid of streets and squares, an idea probably originating from the famous Croatian sculptor and architect, Juraj Dalmatinac. At its heart is the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the same period (44).



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DALMATIA – ŠIBENIK REGION

The guardian of Mediterranean architecture that marked the world

Starting from Zadar and moving towards the south, we come to the Dalmatia - Šibenik Region, known for its national parks Krka and Kornati. This region, which constitutes the Šibenik-Knin County, also has very valuable cultural heritage. After all, the county itself was named after its two most important historical cities - the capital, and today the more important Šibenik along the Adriatic coast, and the second, but more important in the past, the royal town of Knin in the interior of the Dalmatian hinterland.

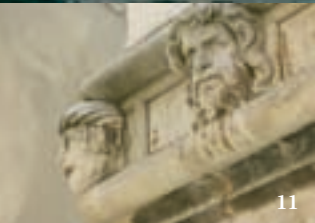
The Šibenik part of Dalmatia and the neighbouring Zadar area consist of three parts - the coastal area, in which the central part is the city of Šibenik, the islands of Murter, Prvić, Kaprije, Žirje, Zlarin and Krapanj, and the vast Dalmatian hinterland around the towns of Drniš and Knin. Although in the Šibenik area there are no large islands, the Kornati archipelago consists of the largest number of islands in all the Adriatic region.

Like other parts of Dalmatia, the Šibenik area also has numerous cultural monuments dating from prehistoric to present times. Here we have a particular abundance of archaeological monuments from the Illyrian, Roman and early medieval period, with the most valuable monuments being from the 15th and 16th centuries. This area





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is an important part of Croatian history. It was the centre of the early medieval Croatian kingdom, where Croatian princes and kings ruled from the 9th century until the unification with Hungary in the 12th century.

Thus, unlike most Dalmatian cities which were erected on the foundations of ancient cities, Šibenik was the first original major Croatian coastal city. It was founded in the 11th century at the time of King Petar Krešimir IV and many still call it Krešimir's city. At the time of King Zvonimir the capital city of Croatia was Knin, which we call Zvonimir's city even today.

The best known and most valuable cultural monument of the Šibenik part of Croatia is the Šibenik Cathedral, protected as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. There is also the picturesque town of Primošten with its vineyards, and a number of ancient archaeological sites, particularly on Bribirska Glavica in the vicinity of Knin. Among religious buildings, the Franciscan monastery on the island of Visovac (1) is of exceptional beauty. It has a unique position on a small island in the middle of the lake near the expansion of the river Krka. Not far away is the Orthodox Monastery of St. Archangel in the canyon of the river Krka (3), which is, with the already mentioned Krupa Monastery, considered to be the most valuable monument of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Croatia.

A sort of trademark of this part of Dalmatia are a number of fortresses, a testimony to the tumultuous past. In Šibenik there are three monumental forts that stand out, Saint John, Saint Anne and Šubićevac (2), and the only entry into Šibenik from the sea, is through the narrow passage of Saint Anthony (8), where the monumental 16th century fortress of St. Nicholas is located (9). An interesting newly constructed church in the village of Kijev, located at the foot of the Croatian Dinara Mountains (6), is a testimony to the suffering endured in recent wars.

The Šibenik area is known for its many picturesque places, such as Skradin, along the river Krka (5) or Prvić Šepurine on the island of Prvić (4). There are also picturesque villages in Dalmatian Zagora, from which the most famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović originates. For his last place of rest he chose his native village Otavice, where he built a unique mausoleum (7).

The most important cultural monument of the Šibenik part



of Dalmatia is the CATHEDRAL OF ST. JACOB in the town of Šibenik. This magnificent structure was built over more than 100 years, from 1431 until 1535, and its features and appearance are the works of the greatest Croatian sculptor and architect, Juraj Dalmatinac, while the dome was completed by Nikola Firentinac. The main reason for which it is on the UNESCO World Heritage List is the unique blend of Gothic and Renaissance style of building (10 & 16) and the special way of construction with large stone blocks. This especially comes to our attention in the dome of the cathedral (15). The interior is even more luxurious than its exterior (12).

The outside of the building boasts a frieze decorated with 71 stone heads of men, women and children (11 & 13), while the inside of the church is richly decorated with sculptures (14) and an expansive portal (21). The cathedral is harmoniously blended into the town's centre, with steep narrow streets at the foot of the slopes of Šubićevac hill (17), which also holds other valuable cultural monuments. Particularly emphasised are the numerous churches, such as the church of Santa Barbara (19), Saint John (20) and the Orthodox Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (18) on the site of a former Catholic church. Among the secular buildings of Šibenik, the one which stands out the most is the Renaissance building of the City Hall from the 16th century (22).

THE COAST AND ISLANDS of the Šibenik part of Dalmatia do not hold as many valuable monumental buildings as the city of Šibenik, but attract attention with their picturesque scenery and the preserved national heritage. This is particularly applicable to Primošten (24), located on a hilly peninsula and connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. Along it stretch the famous vineyards, an example of diligent manual work on the grudging stone (32).

The Croatian Garden, in which the Primošten vineyards have a leading role, won the gold medal at the world exhibition "Japan, Flora 2000", which shows of what great value they are. After the exhibition, the process of listing the Primošten vineyards on the UNESCO World Heritage List started, and today their images adorn





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the interior of the UNESCO building in Paris. Old customs are also preserved in the villages around Primošten, like on the Jurlinini Dvori estate (29), where you can witness how people once lived (27) and worked (30).

A number of the island villages are characterised by their originality and preservation of traditions, such as Betina on the island of Murter (23), known for its tradition of building wooden ships (26). There is also the fishing centre Murter (25), whose inhabitants have always been the owners of land on the Kornati Islands (33), and the smallest inhabited island of Krapanj (31), known for its tradition of sponge making (28). On the island is a Franciscan monastery with a typical regional museum.

The area of DALMATINSKA ZAGORA on the inland hides many sites, especially from the Antique period and the early Middle Ages. The most important site is Bribirska Glavica on the hill at Skradin, with partly preserved walls from the time of the Illyrians, and the remains (35) of the Roman and the early Croatian city. Along the canyon of the river Krka is

the site Burnum, with preserved remains of a Roman camp built on the foundations of even older Illyrian ones (41), next to which are the remains of a Roman arena (44). At the site of Danilo near Šibenik are the remains of a prehistoric settlement (43).

A very special sight of Šibenik is the Church of St. Savior from the 9th century, under the highest Croatian mountain Dinara. It is known as the oldest Croatian church, and has a preserved bell tower (40). Below Dinara, in the town of Knin, is probably the largest Renaissance castle from the 16th century (34). Next to it is a small museum (37) with exhibits from the ancient past, but also from the recent past of the Homeland War (36). There are many forts around Drniš, next to the river Krka (45), such as Nečven grad (46) or the fortress above the town of Drniš (42). Since the famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović is from Drniš, the Drniš Museum has a rich collection of his works. In addition to the statues (39) exhibited there, is one of the few of his paintings – an image of a mother (38).



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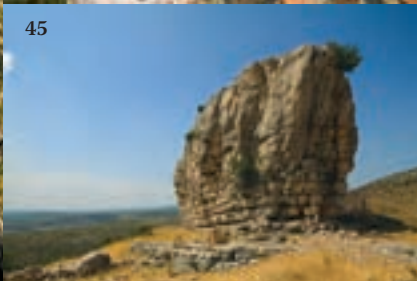
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DALMATIA - SPLIT REGION

Three major cultural landmarks under UNESCO protection and much more





The largest tourist region of Dalmatia is the part around its largest city, Split, which only includes the Split-Dalmatia County. It is the heart and the centre of Dalmatia, where most of its inhabitants live, and where the main Dalmatian islands and the most beautiful beaches are located. This is also where the most valuable cultural monuments and four of the seven Croatian sites declared as World Heritage by UNESCO are - the historic centre of Split with Diocletian's Palace, the historical town of Trogir, and Starogradsko polje on the island of Hvar. If it is Dalmatia, as many say, which portrays the real pristine Mediterranean, it is precisely its central part around Split that is the heart of the Mediterranean.





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The Split part of Dalmatia shared the same historical fate as other parts of Dalmatia, but because of its central position and protection by the vast hinterland, it was less exposed to devastation than its neighbouring regions. It is for this reason that so many people live here and that the Mediterranean spirit has been especially preserved. This is especially true for the city of Split, the largest city in Croatia after Zagreb, as the main cultural centre. Near Split are the other large coastal resorts of middle Dalmatia, Trogir and Omiš, while further south we have the picturesque Makarska Riviera. In front of Split, one next to the other, are almost all the large Dalmatian islands - Brač, Šolta, Čiovo, Hvar and Vis, and directed towards Split is the largest inland part of Dalmatia, with Sinj, Imotski, Vrljika and Vrgorac. Although all of these areas are rich in cultural heritage dating from prehistoric times to recent times, what makes the central part of Dalmatia particular is the exceptionally well preserved heritage from the Antique period. There are the two most important ancient settlements of Dalmatia – the Ancient Greek Issa and the Roman Salon, and also the largest pearl of Croatia from the Antique period - the HISTORICAL HEART OF SPLIT, DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE.

A well known song says that the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his palace in "the most beautiful part of the world, in the heart of Split" (1), and it is not far from the truth. At the end of the 3rd century, this Roman Emperor chose the location for his palace to be in this safe and quiet bay at the foot of the wooded hill Marjan, with beautiful islands stretching one after the other, where healing waters flow even today. The palace is almost an exact square shape, with sides about 200 metres long, and surrounded by high walls with numerous towers (2). The position of the palace is so valuable that this location was almost always constantly inhabited from then until this day and age, and it is still the centre of life in this great Dalmatian city.

The Cathedral of St. Dujam (5), the patron saint of Split, has since the turn of the 4th century been located in the mausoleum of the Emperor Diocletian, which was slightly converted for this function and its interior was equipped with valuable religious items. In front of its entrance, a magnificent Romanesque bell tower was built in the 12th century. Its luxurious interior (3) is still a gathering place for believers, as well as many tourists. In front of the Cathedral is the Peristyle, the former space where the worship of Diocletian could be expressed, now gathering believers and tourists, and the unrivaled summer scene with mythical opera performances, especially Verdi's Aida (4).

The Diocletian Palace now hosts many theatrical performances (8) and gathers Dalmatian Klapa singers (7) – it is where the daily life of Split goes on (11). In the vicinity are monu-



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ments to famous Croats, like the protector of the Croatian language, Bishop Gregory of Nin (12), and the "father of Croatian literature", Marko Marulić (6). The palace can be exited through four doors - Iron, Gold and Silver, leading to the Pjaca of Split (10), and the Bronze doors that lead to Split's waterfront through the palace cellars (9). Here along the seaside is the promenade, a favourite gathering place for the people of Split and their guests.

Many valuable cultural monuments are also located outside of the walls of Diocletian's Palace. Among them is Prokurative (27), a Neo-Renaissance square along the western edge of the palace, where every year the Festival of Dalmatian Chansons takes place, glorifying the love its inhabitants share towards beautiful songs. There are beautiful historic palaces in other parts of Split too (28).

Split is also known as THE CITY OF MUSEUMS. Among them is the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments (16), which exhibits the most valuable remains of the Croatian material culture, especially from the time of the

early medieval Croatian state from the 9th to the 12th century. In Split is the most important of the three galleries, dedicated to the greatest Croatian sculptor, Ivan Meštrović (13 & 14). Many valuable paintings (15) are kept at the Museum of Split, which stands out with its interesting internal setting (18 & 19). There are also many art galleries, among which are the Art Gallery (21) located in the building of the old hospital (22), and which owns a valuable collection of paintings from the 19th century (20), and the Vidović Gallery named after the famous Croatian painter (17).

The importance of Split as the largest Croatian coastal city and the third largest passenger port in the Mediterranean can be discovered in the wealth of the Croatian Maritime Museum in Split. The museum has a number of models of ships that sailed many different seas, from the early Middle Ages (24) and times of great sailing ships (25) to the modern period (23). The part of the museum which specialises in the military navy of the 19th and 20th centuries (26) is particularly rich.



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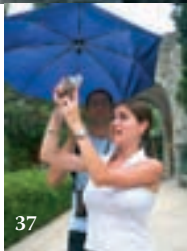
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Split only became the capital of Dalmatia after World War I, when the former capital city of Zadar came under temporary Italian rule. The centre of Dalmatia in the Antique Period was Salona, whose ruins are located near the city of Split, in today's Solin. THE ANTIQUE SALONA was a metropolis of the great Roman province of Dalmatia, which then spread across an area on the east coast of the Adriatic and was greater than the whole of Croatia today.

The extensive ruins of Salona speak of its importance (42), which often surprises visitors (37) with respect to its location in the mainly industrial suburb of Split. Sometimes you can see the whole layout of individual buildings (30) and preserved Roman arches of the former palace (35), but most of the findings from Salona are stored in the most valuable museum of Split - the Archaeological Museum, the oldest Croatian Museum, founded in 1820.

The building of the museum boasts an interesting atrium (40), and a nicely decorated interior (36), with about 150 000 different exhibits. Apart from the sites of Salona and other Roman sites, there are many objects from ancient Greece (33) and the early medieval period. Among the exhibits is the collection of antique sarcophagi (31 & 34), stone plastic (32 & 38), antique clay lamps and Roman glass (29 & 41), bone and metal objects (39) and precious stones.

Along the coast of the Kaštela Gulf, where the Antique Salona and Split are, is another great pearl of Croatian cultural heritage which is protected as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO – THE HISTORIC CITY OF TROGIR. Located

on a small island between the mainland and the island of Čiovo, which it is connected to by bridges, the city has kept its appearance almost unchanged since the Middle Ages (43). Trogir is particular for the continuity of its existence since Ancient Greek times, and there we can find, one next to another, monuments from the Hellenistic period, Ancient Rome, the early Middle Ages and late Middle Ages.

The most important cultural monument in Trogir is the Cathedral of St. Lawrence, built from the 13th to the 15th century. It is known for its impressive Romanesque portal, which was sculpted by perhaps the best, as the inscription says, master sculptor, Radovan (47), and for the altar with a monumental ciborium (54). The chapel of Blessed John Ursinij was built in the northern nave of the church in the 15th century (49) and its magnificent sculptures on the walls and ceiling (57) are considered to be the apex of Renaissance architecture and sculpture in Dalmatia, in which Nikola Firentinac, Andrija Aleši and Ivan Duknović have left their work. Next to the cathedral is the City Lodge from the 15th century (56), and from the same time originates the tower Kamerlengo (55) at the west end of town, which is sung about in many melodious Trogiran songs.

The largest part of the findings from the rich history of Trogir is contained in the Museum of Trogir, in the Palace Garagnin - Fanfogna. The museum treasures valuable paintings (45 & 46) and sculptures (52), and has a richly equipped library (44). The 11th century female Benedictine Monastery of Saint Nicholas (50) also holds a valuable collection.



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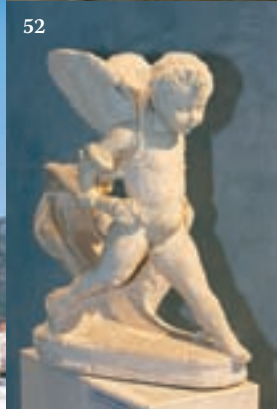
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Its most important exhibit and a sort of symbol of the city of Trogir is a Greek relief with the image of Kairos, god of the happy moment (53), from the 3rd century BC.

The close surroundings of Trogir also have many well preserved cultural monuments. Among them are a mill, from the 16th century, located at Pantana not far from Split airport(48), and a tower from the 15th century in a place called Marina (51).

Starting from the coast of Dalmatia and heading towards the central Dalmatian islands, we will find plenty of Antique and Medieval monuments, but also green landscapes and picturesque towns and villages. Among these islands is HVAR, declared one of the ten most beautiful islands in the world by the famous American magazine "Traveller". The beautiful city of Hvar, surrounded by powerful medieval walls, attracts the most visitors (58). From its fortress Španjola, high above the city (60), unravel magnificent views of the green Pakleni Islands (61) and the open sea.

Small museums and other exhibition spaces in the town of Hvar (66) hide valuable works of art. One of the most important among them is The Last Supper (65), in the refectory of the Franciscan Monastery in Hvar, from the 15th century. However, tourists who visit Hvar most like to spend time on the main square in front of the Cathedral, the late Renaissance building from the early 17th century (70), next to the old Arsenal, and the oldest Croatian theatre. The Benedictine Monastery is known for the production of unique lace made of agave fibres (67).

However, in recent times the island of Hvar is most famous for the Old Town, the former Antique Pharos, after which the entire island was named. Specifically, this land remained untouched since the ancient Hellenistic times, the reason for which Starogradsko polje was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008. (63). In the Museum of the Old Town, formerly the main settlement of the island, there is a special collection dedicated to ancient Pharos. In addition to the collection, the museum has a special maritime and ethnographic collection and a gallery of



"Juraj Plančić" paintings, named after the famous Croatian painter, originally from the Old Town (62, 71 & 83).

The Old Town also attracts visitors with its primordial atmosphere of the Mediterranean coast (69) and streets (79). The most valuable part of the cultural heritage of the Old Town is Tvrđalj, a fortified Renaissance castle from the middle of the 16th century, which was built and occupied by the great Croatian poet Petar Hektorović (72).

Other parts of the island also stand out with their picturesque scenery, which includes lavender fields, dry-stone walls and numerous old churches and chapels (64). Jelsa is emphasised by the Renaissance and Baroque square of Saint John (68), Vrboska is known for its unique church-fortress of St. Mary of Mercy from the 16th century (73), while from the villages with preserved traditional stone architecture, the village Velo Grablje (59) is particularly interesting.

The largest and the highest is the Dalmatian island of BRAČ, which does not have so many ancient monuments as Hvar but attracts the attention of visitors with its magnificent views, beautiful Mediterranean landscapes with characteristic dry stone walls (82), the most beautiful beaches and its white stone houses. It is from the antique quarries in Brač that the stone used to build a large number of palaces in Dalmatia and Venice and part of the White House in Wash-

ington was sourced. The inhabitants of Brač are also known by their peculiar character; they create monuments in honour of all the people who have marked them in a special way. Thus, in Selce, there are monuments of Pope John Paul II., the German politician Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy (80).

The most important cultural monument of the island of Brač is the Monastery Blaca, which was built deep in the mountains in the 15th century by Croatian Glagolitic monks (74). In the mystical contemplative atmosphere of the monastery is an old observatory and a museum collection (76). The island's main heritage museum is situated in the hilly part of the island in the old tower (81), in the picturesque village of Škrip (77). Visitors are attracted to the island of Brač by magnificent church bell towers made of the white stone from the island. The most interesting among them is the bell tower in the village of Ložišća from the 19th century, the work of the Croatian sculptor Ivan Rendić (75). An attractive museum of the Petrinović family is also made out of the white stone and is located in Supetar (78), the biggest settlement in Brač.

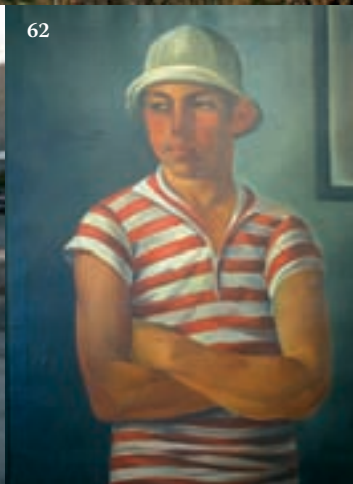
The outermost and the largest island of middle Dalmatia is the island of VIS. On the open sea, it is known for its valuable Hellenistic sites but also for the true Mediterranean at-



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mosphere and crystal clear waters along the coast of its two cities, Vis and Komiža (88). This is partly due to the isolation of the island up until 1991 and partly because of its role as a military base at the time of communist Yugoslavia, when access was forbidden to foreigners.

Authenticity is particularly significant for Komiža, in the south of the island (89 & 92), whose centre is dominated by the picturesque tower Grimaldi (86). The most important church in Komiža, the church of St. Nicholas, rises above the city (85), where it offers magnificent views towards the

open sea and the most remote Adriatic islands; Biševo, St. Andrew and Palagruža. There is an even more beautiful view from the churches above Komiža (90). The sea surrounding Komiža has always been rich in fish, which is why the town is known as one of the main fishing centres of the Adriatic. There is a special fishing museum (91) in the town, and its seafood restaurants are noted for their special atmosphere (87).

The town of Vis on the northern side of the island is located in a large quiet bay and is a favourite docking site for sailors



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(94). Vis is also decorated with old churches (95) and stone houses (99), and it is precisely here that in the 4th century BC stood the most important city in Dalmatia, the Greek colony of Issa. Findings from Issa are stored in the Archaeological Museum on the island of Vis, known for its large collection of ancient amphorae (96) and other ceramics (97). Its most famous artifact and a kind of symbol of Vis is a bronze head of the Greek goddess Artemis (93). Close to Vis, an important strategic location in the Mediterranean, one of the greatest naval battles between the

Habsburg and the Italian Navy took place in 1866, and its anniversary is still celebrated today (98). The Island of Vis played an important role in the Second World War, as the headquarters of the partisan army, under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito (100). At the end of our journey across central Dalmatia it is time to take a peak at the inland, THE DALMATIAN ZAGORRA, home to proud highlanders and warriors, and known for the preservation of old customs. The most famous is the Croatian knights game; the Sinj Alka. It is held every year in



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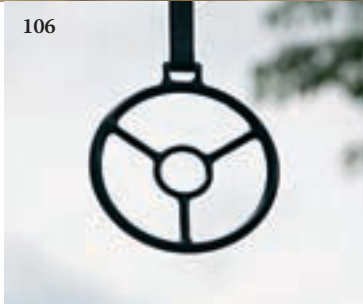
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August in the largest city in the Dalmatian hinterland, Sinj, on the anniversary of the Battle from 1715, when 500 Croatian soldiers refused the attack of 60 000 Turkish troops.

In this knight's competition the rider is dressed in a traditional Alkar costume (105) and on horseback, in full gallop, has three attempts to try to hit the centre of a small iron disk "the alka" (106) with a spear, and collect the most points to win. Other participants of the Alka are also dressed in traditional costumes (102), and traditional female costumes of Sinj and the surrounding area have also been preserved (103). In addition to the Alka, Sinj is known for the main pilgrimage site of the Miraculous Lady of Sinj (101), and has an interesting museum (104).

The surroundings of Sinj also have many archaeological finds from the Antique period and the early Middle Ages, and what makes it special are unique medieval tombstones (107). On the way from Sinj to Split is the most magnificent monument of Dalmatian Zagora - the fortress of Klis, famous for the battles with the Turks in the 16th century (108). From its still preserved city walls (112) and tower (109 & 111) stretches one of the most beautiful views of the city of Split. A monumental fortress also stands in the second most important city of the Dalmatian hinterland, Imotski (110 & 113), below which is the magical Modro Jezero (Blue Lake).



DALMATIA – DUBROVNIK REGION

The most beautiful jewel of Croatian cultural heritage





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The most beautiful jewel of Croatian cultural heritage, the Old City of Dubrovnik, is situated in the extreme south of the sunniest tourist region of Dalmatia – the Dubrovnik area. The region is made up of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, which stretches across the coastline. This is where Dubrovnik is the most important, but by no means the only cultural pearl.

There is the home of Marco Polo, on the island of Korčula, the green islands of Mljet, Lastovo and Elafiti and their picturesque villages, the Pelješac peninsula with its vineyards and captain's homes, the magic valley of Konavle, and the

fertile delta of the Neretva river. The Dubrovnik area also had a special historical development from the 13th to the 18th century, when Croatian culture and art particularly flourished. It peaked in the 16th century, during which time the famous Dubrovnik Republic was most powerful (1).

The view of the OLD TOWN OF DUBROVNIK, when seen from high above the sea (2), from the direction of Dubrovnik airport, is one of the most famous views of Croatia on the Mediterranean. After all, the first sentence in the description of Dubrovnik on the UNESCO List of World Heritage starts with the words "The pearl of the Adriatic on





the Dalmatian coast", because not many cities boast such a beautiful location on the cliffs above the sea, with such well preserved medieval stone walls and towers (3).

The towers and walls were built with good reason. Dubrovnik, being so beautiful and wealthy was under threat from many conquerors, as it was under threat in the recent war in the last decade of the 20th century. Next to the cannons on the walls of Dubrovnik today we will not find soldiers, but peaceful tourists (5 & 8) and participants of theatrical performances and folklore events (4). Instead of cannons and rifles, today well-intentioned tourists admire this unique panorama, trying to permanently capture its beauty with their cameras (7 & 9).

The main vein of Dubrovnik is the street Stradun (30), on whose western end we can find the large fountain of Onofrio (6), and at the eastern end in the square of Luža is the column of Orlando, a symbol of the freedom of Dubrovnik (10). Luža Square is a favourite gathering place for tourists (29) and one of the main areas for hosting various events, including the major cultural event, the annual Dubrovnik Summer Festival (11).

Arranged around the Luža Square are the most important

secular buildings of medieval Dubrovnik - a Gothic-Renaissance Rector's Palace, the centre of the Dubrovnik authorities (18) and the palace Sponza (26). Both were built in the 15th century, like most of the major buildings in the Old Town. The Rector's Palace boasts an interesting atrium, a popular stage for theatrical performances (16). In its interiors (14), converted into a museum, there is a lot of old furniture (15), paintings and sculptures (17), and even the carriages of Dubrovnik nobility (19). The Sponza Palace, a former customs house and today The Archive of Dubrovnik, also boasts an interesting atrium (27).

Along the Luža Square stand the main religious buildings of the Old Town – the Church of St. Vlaho (31), the patron of Dubrovnik, and the Cathedral of the Assumption (23). Both are decorated in Baroque splendour since they were built in the late 17th century, after the disastrous earthquake in 1667. The interior of the Cathedral boasts a magnificent organ (22) and a number of valuable exhibits of which the most important is the reliquary head of St. Vlaho (21).

The town core of Dubrovnik has a few monasteries with rich interiors. The interior of the church within the Jesuit Monastery is decorated with painted walls (24), while the

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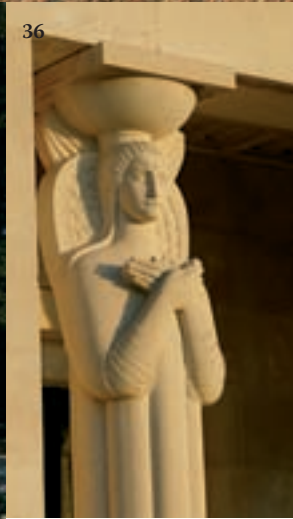


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Franciscan Monastery has a collection of old pharmaceutical equipment, and the Dominican Convent has a rich collection of paintings (20) and a nicely decorated garden (28). Among the religious buildings of other religions is a synagogue from the 15th century (25), the second oldest in Europe by virtue of its continued use.

Dubrovnik is well known for its museums, which are annually visited by close to half a million visitors. After the Rector's Palace, the second most visited is the Maritime Museum, where you can learn about the maritime history of Dubrovnik from the Middle Ages to the 20th century (12 & 13).

The surrounding area of Dubrovnik doesn't have many monumental buildings, but is characterised by the harmony of architecture embedded in the green environment. This is especially evident in the southernmost corner of Croatia, in the fertile valley of KONAVLE.

Konavle comes to the fore with its preservation of beautiful folk costumes (39) and the preserved building heritage, such as Konavoski Dvori at the source of the river Ljuta (34). The Konavle ethnographic treasures are kept in the Ethnographic Museum in Čilipi (37). The southernmost part of Konavle and the Croatian mainland on the Prevlaka Peninsula is known for its strategic significance; it controls entry into the Bay of Kotor in the neighbouring Montenegro, and is still today prevailed by a monumental fortress (33).

The main settlement of Konavle is the picturesque village of Cavtat (32), birthplace of the great Croatian painter Vlaho Bukovac. His birth house was converted into a gallery (40) of his paintings (38). Another valuable site in Cavtat is the

Račić family mausoleum from 1921 (35), the work of the Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović (36).

The west of Dubrovnik offers the Dubrovnik coastline, famous for its noble summer residences surrounded by greenery. On one of these residences, in the picturesque village of Trsten (42), is the most beautiful Croatian arboretum, where on a small surface are a variety of subtropical species of plants, flowers and trees. The whole arboretum Trsteno is arranged as a landscape park decorated with sculptures, of which the most famous is the statue of the Greek god Poseidon, in front of the picturesque fountain (45). The arboretum boasts nicely decorated rest areas from which you can enjoy the view of the open sea (49).

Further down to the west stretches the naturally most special part of the Dubrovnik region, THE NERETVA RIVER DELTA, with preserved wetland landscapes and picturesque places along the river, among which the town of Opuzen stands out with its exceptional beauty (46). Near the largest town of the Neretva river delta, Metković, there is a village called Vid at the site of the former ancient Narona. Here, at the original location of the site stands a museum that was built over a part of the Roman Forum, or Augusteum, with a number of carved marble imperial statues (43 & 44).

Starting from the coast of Dubrovnik and moving towards the island of Korčula, we pass through the mountainous winegrowing peninsula of PELJEŠAC. The old centre of the peninsula is the scenic town of Ston, located on the isthmus that connects the peninsula with the mainland. Between Ston and the neighbouring Mali Ston, famous for the cultivation of oyster shells, are impressive walls (41).



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At the west end of the Pelješac Island is Orebić, its most famous centre and the village of sea captains (47). The strong maritime tradition of Orebić can be seen in two maritime collections, one in the Maritime Museum (52) and the other is a collection (51) of the Franciscan Monastery (48) on the hill above Orebić. Here, next to the church and the Franciscan Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels (50 & 53) we are offered an unforgettable view of the Pelješac channel, Korčula and the other islands.

The largest island of the Dubrovnik area, KORČULA, again offers the luxury of large buildings, especially in its main town, which bears the same name (58). Its appearance today is mainly due to the period from the 14th to the 16th century, when, unlike the rest of the Dubrovnik area, it belonged to the Republic of Venice. Korčula is easily recognizable by its streets, arranged in the shape of a fishbone, and the preserved Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

Among those buildings is the Cathedral of St. Mark (64) with a richly decorated exterior (67), and an interior which holds the painting of the great Venetian painter Tintoretto (63). The second most important religious building is the Franciscan Monastery (69) on the island of Badija, situated near the town of Korčula, also with a richly decorated exterior (68). There is the Town Museum of Korčula (59), which has exhibits dating from ancient times (62) through to the 20th century (65).

To visitors of Korčula, the most interesting place is the house of the Polo family (66), because Korčula's most famous son and world adventurer Marco Polo comes from here. The inhabitants of Korčula carefully preserve their heritage, such as religious events (60) and the medieval knight game called Moreška, which traditionally takes place annually on the streets of the city (61).



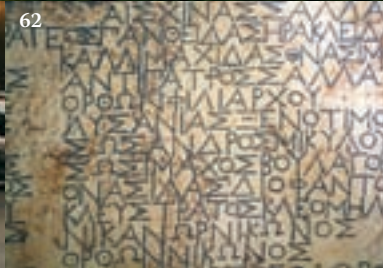
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Vela Luka and Blato, the two larger towns in the west of the island also have valuable heritage. Along Vela Luka (54), made famous in a beautiful song, is the most important prehistoric site in Dalmatia, Vela Spila. A number of ceramic, stone and bone objects from the Neolithic period and preserved decorated tombs (56) were found in the cave above the town (57). The picturesque Blato, in the inland of Korčula, once the largest town of the Adriatic islands, is today known for quality agriculture and preserved ambient architecture (55).

The two most distant islands of Dubrovnik, MLJET and LASTOVO are known for their natural heritage - the National Park Mljet and Lastovo Nature Park. They also have interesting cultural monuments, among which the most important is the Benedictine Monastery from the 12th century (74) on an island in the middle of the Great lake in the National Park (75).

Lastovo, the main town which bears the island's name captures us with its beauty. Located on the amphitheatre - shaped hillside above the fertile fields (73), it is known for decorative chimneys on the roofs of the houses (70), preserved traditional costumes (71) and a special carnival. The pearls of architecture and the old lighthouses from the 19th century on the most remote islands in the waters of Lastovo, Sušac (72) and Glavat (76) are something special.

At the end of our journey across Dalmatia and Croatia it would be a sin not to mention the Elafiti islands in front of Dubrovnik, with magical old villas and castles from the period of greatest splendour of the famous Republic of Dubrovnik. Most of them are on the island of Šipan, and the most beautiful is the 16th century Renaissance castle – Skočibuh, which belongs to the Stjepković family (77).



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