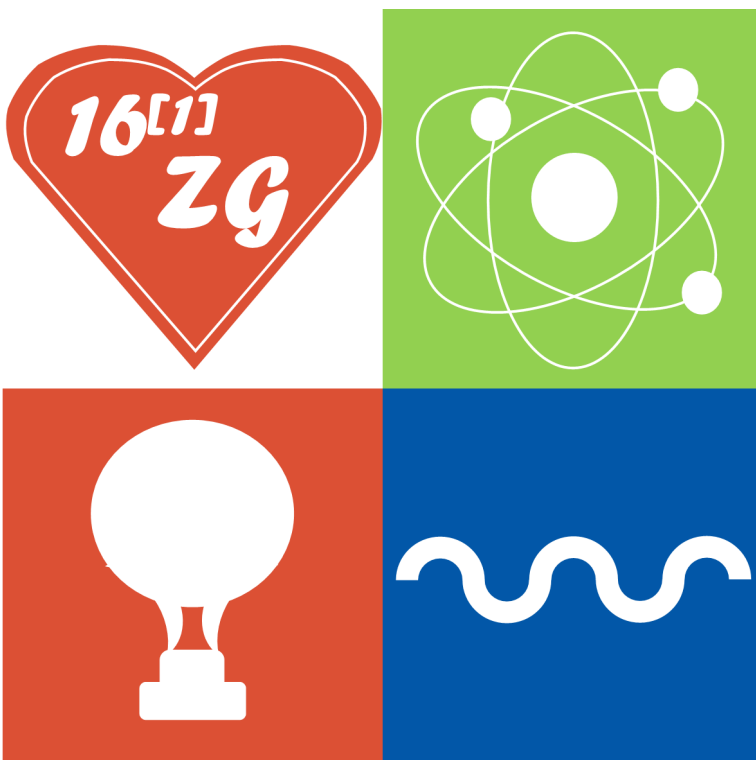


< *note* >

1st edu weekend

Zagreb survival booklet



{iaps}

Croatia facts

Situated at the crossroads of Central Europe, Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean, Croatia is the 24th largest and the 26th most populated country in Europe.

If you plan to take some extra time to explore Croatia, you should know that it is generally a very safe place, with low crime rates and very good road infrastructure.

Despite the country's small size, the tourism industry is anything but. Infact, over 14 million people visited Croatia in 2013 only, outnumbering the locals by a factor of three. Most of them visited the 1800 km long coast or one of the 1246 islands that are scattered across the Adriatic Sea, hoping to make the most out of the 2600 hours of sunshine per year.

Areas specially protected due to their unspoiled natural beauty include 8 national parks, 11 nature parks and 2 strict reserves, while 7 places have been marked by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Two of the latter, namely the Old City of Dubrovnik and the Palace of Diocletian in Split, were even used as filming locations for the popular TV series Game of Thrones. Dubrovnik was also a filming location for upcoming Star Wars movie.

Being constantly exposed to such beauty can surely be inspiring and some notable Croats have put a lot of effort into making the world a better place. Leopold Ružička and Vladimir Prelog were awarded Nobel prizes for their groundbreaking research in chemistry, Andrija Mohorovičić was one of the founders of modern seismology and the 18th century polymath Ruđer Bošković produced a precursor of modern atomic theory. He also borrowed his name to the largest Croatian research institute.



The "Pearl of the Adriatic", the Old City of Dubrovnik, was founded in the first half of 7th century. Today it is under UNESCO protection and it is ruled by the Lannisters (at least on TV). (Photo Copyright: © UNESCO)

Croatia facts 2

Croats can be credited with the discovery of a widely used antibiotic azithromycin, the invention of a mechanical pen and the pioneering work in the development of parachutes, torpedoes and dactyloscopy. It is interesting to note that neck ties, worn by millions of people every day, are thought to have originated from the scarves of 17th century Croatian soldiers. The Croatian village of Smiljan is the birthplace of Nikola Tesla, the electricity pioneer and a great inventor. His old house and its surroundings have been converted into a memorial complex, well worth visiting.



October 18 is celebrated in Croatia as Cravat Day. In 2003, a 803 m long necktie was wrapped around the old Roman amphitheatre in the the City of Pula to mark the occasion.
(Photo Copyright: likecroatia.com)

When they are not working (and sometimes even when they are), Croats like to meet up with friends and have a long chat over a cup of coffee or a bottle of beer. In 2010, Croatia was the 14th country in the world by beer consumption per capita, with 10 bottles of its most popular beer *Ožujsko* being consumed every second. If you consider trying something stronger, you should definitely go for *rakija*, traditional liqueurs that are made almost out of everything – plum (*šljivovica*), pears (*kruškovača*) and grapes (*lozovača*) probably being the most common flavours. Although all of these liqueurs are mass produced, it is not uncommon for Croats to distill these drinks themselves at home – often the reason why they are very strong.

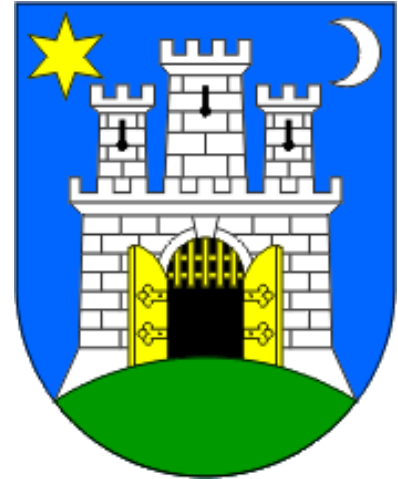
As of 2013, Croatia is the member of European Union. **You should note that we still use kuna** (*engl. marten*) as the official currency (in the medieval times marten pelts were used as units of value). One kuna has 100 lipa. **A euro is around 7.5 kuna these days.** But don't worry – the exchange offices can be found around almost every corner, as well as shops, some of which are open even on Sundays. The communication with locals shouldn't be a problem. 2009 survey showed that 78% percent of Croats claim the knowledge of at least one foreign language – most often English.)

Welcome and enjoy Croatia!

Zagreb facts

Having approximately 800 000 residents, Zagreb is the capital and the largest Croatian city. It is located in the northwest of the country, along the Sava river, at the southern slopes of the Medvednica mountain. Zagreb lies at an elevation of approximately 122 m (400 ft) above sea level.

The wider Zagreb metropolitan area includes the City of Zagreb and the separate Zagreb County bringing the total metropolitan area population up to 1,110,517. It is the only metropolitan area in Croatia with a population of over one million.



The name "Zagreb" is mentioned for the first time in 1094 at the founding of the Zagreb diocese of Kaptol, and Zagreb became a free royal town in 1242, whereas the origin of the name still remains a mystery in spite of several theories. In 1851 Zagreb had its first mayor, Janko Kamauf, and in 1945 it was made the capital of Croatia when the demographic boom and the urban sprawl made the city as it is known today.

Gornji grad, (Upper Town) and Donji grad (Lower Town) are the cultural, religious, and commercial hubs of Zagreb. These are where most of the restaurants, bars and tourist sights are located.

The Upper Town, which is the medieval core of the city, developed as two separate (and often warring) towns—*Kaptol*, the seat of the Bishop (where the imposing Cathedral now stands), and *Gradec*, the free town where tradesmen and artisans lived merged in the 1770s to form the northern section of historic Zagreb. Following this, the city expanded south of today's Trg Bana Josipa Jelacica (Jelacic Square) to the railway station and the Sava River.

Getting to Zagreb and your accomodation

Youth Hostel Zagreb (Omladinski hostel Zagreb)

Petrinjska ulica 77 10000, Zagreb, Croatia

Mail: zagreb@hfhs.hr

Phone: 003851 48 41 261

Mobile: 0038598 298 490

Check in: December 8th after 14:00

Check out: December 11th before 10 am

For early or late check ins and outs please let us know in advance.

WiFi is available at the hostel

Free parking spaces are available at the hostel, let us know if you are arriving by car

LOCAL TIP:

- If you travel by plane, check out flying into Vienna, Split, Ljubljana or Budapest, there are cheaper cities to fly into. From there you can take a bus or a train.
- Hostel is located in City centre, if you get lost ask for:

Police station—from there you have a 3 min walk south

Best Western Premier Hotel Astoria—from there you have a 1 min walk south

CONTACT for assistance:

edu@iaps.info

If you arrived by...

PLANE

Zagreb Airport Pleso which is located 30 km from downtown Zagreb. From there you can take a taxi or cheaper Croatia Airlines bus that goes to the central bus station in Zagreb. Our recommendation is not to take the taxi as it will be quite expensive. Taking a taxi in opposite direction is fine. Croatia Airline bus leaves every 30 min in front of the terminal at the airport, you may purchase a ticket at the bus driver. The bus ends at Central bus station (see bus).

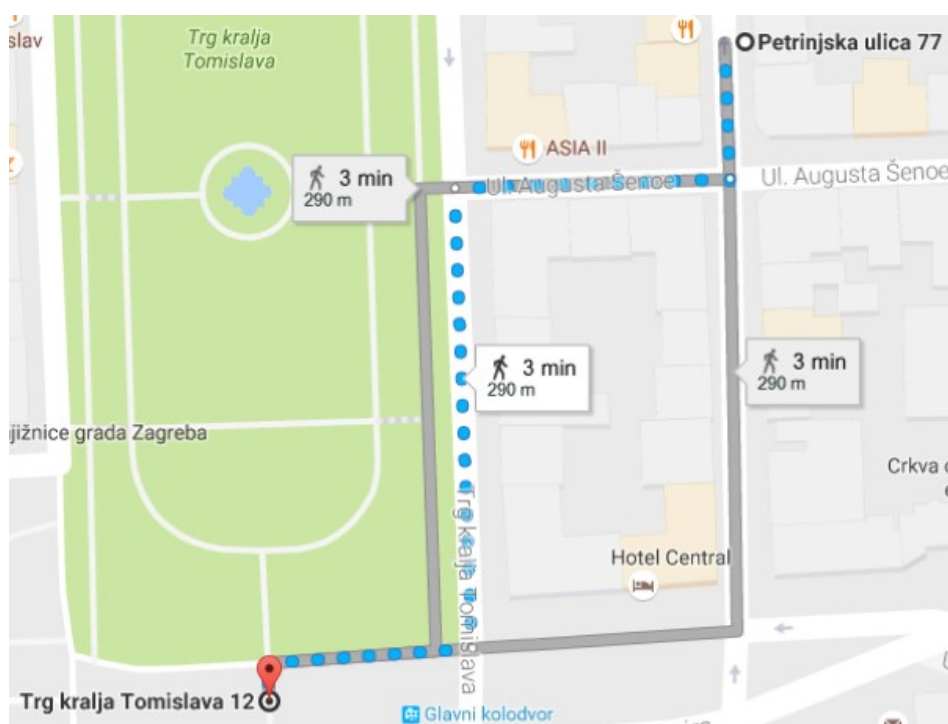
BUS

Take the tram no. 6 (towards Črnomerec) & and get off on third station (Main train station) - see train.

TRAIN

Take a walk! It will take you about 3 minutes.

- Face the statue of first Croatian king Tomislav and walk towards it. You are now on King Tomislav square. Turn right, walk about 15 m, then turn left at crossing.
- Walk straight, turn first right into August Šenoa street.
- Take the first turn left, you are now at Petrinjska street and need to walk straight for < 1 min. You will see the flag above the entrance.



Public transport

The company regulating public transport in Zagreb is called ZET. There are fifteen day-time tram lines (there is no line 10 or line 16, so the numbers go to 17), and four night-time tram lines (numbers from 31 to 34). There are also over a hundred bus lines and a funicular. The Zagreb funicular is the shortest in the world and is a protected monument of culture.

Tickets may be bought at any Tisak or iNovine kiosk. Single ride tickets may be bought from the driver in any tram or bus.

Note that single ride ticket come in paper form, while the other can be bought by using a 'value card': a plastic card that costs 10kn. You may transfer cash onto it and then use it to buy one of the longer lasting tickets.

The single ride ticket is validated by pushing it inside the orange machine (in most trams this can only be done near the first and the last entrance). 'Value card' is used by touching it to any of the yellow machines, right under the screen.

Prices:

single ride:	day 10kn night 15kn
one day:	30kn
three days:	70kn
seven days:	150kn
funicular:	4kn

Taxi may be ordered on any of the following numbers:

+3851 1717 Radio Taxi	start: 10kn
+3851 1212 Taxi Cammeo	start: 15kn (2km included)
+3851 1414 EkoTaxi	start: 8.8kn

Price per kilometer is 6kn for all companies.

You can also get Uber service.