



## **IAESTE App: Country Information**

### **General information:**

- Country: Croatia
- Capital: Zagreb
- Population: 4,076 million
- National language(s): Croatian
- Currency: Croatian Kuna (HRK)
- Time zone: Central European
- Voltage: type C and F sockets, 230V
- Phone country code: +385
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: Osijek, Pula, Rijeka, Split, Zagreb
- Climate: In Croatia, you can experience two different types of climate. The Mediterranean climate prevails in the coastal region, with a lot of sunny days, hot summers and mild winters. In the continental region, there is, of course, the Continental climate: pretty hot during the summer, and pretty cold in the winter. Average temperatures during the summer period are between 25-35 °C.

## Travel tips:

- Fun facts about the country:

**1. According to Alfred Hitchcock, the seaside city of Zadar in Dalmatia holds the title of the best sunset in the world.**

Quoted as saying 'Zadar has the most beautiful sunset in the world, more beautiful than the one in Key West, Florida'.

**2. The world's first torpedo was constructed in Rijeka**

Ivan Luppis (Ivan Vukić) developed the first prototypes of the self-propelled torpedo in 1866.

**3. Red Lake near the city of Imotski, Croatia is the deepest sinkhole in Europe, 3th largest in the world.**

**4. Rice chocolate was invented in Croatia in 1963 at the Zvečevo factory in the western Slavonian city of Požega.**

**5. Dactylography**

Croatian Ivan Vučetić invented dactylography - a science of using fingerprints for identification, used today mainly in forensics but in other fields as well.

### *Cities to visit in Croatia:*

1. **Osijek** - biggest city in the eastern continental part of Croatia, also the centre of Slavonia and Baranja County. It's most famous parts are the part of the old town called Tvrđa, which was built as a baroque town in 18th century. The pedestrian bridge that lights up serves as a connecting part between Slavonia and Baranja and it is an important part of the city. The co-cathedral of Peter and Paul of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Đakovo-Osijek, is a neo-Gothic sacral structure. This is the tallest building in Croatia outside of Zagreb.

2. **Šibenik** - The must-see incredible cathedral of Saint James (which since 2000, has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List), the beautiful beaches and medieval old town are just a few named special places to visit there. Šibenik is situated on the side of a hill overlooking the sea below. There are four old fortresses for visitors to take a look at. Šibenik is greatly connected to islands of Zlarin and Prvić which are in a close distance with a boat ride, as well as the Krka National Park.

3. **Dubrovnik** - 'The Pearl of the Adriatic' lies at the foot of Mount Srđ which towers above it. Dubrovnik gained its popularity amongst Hollywood movie industry, as it became one of the most wanted filming locations in this part of Europe. It is remarkable for its history, cobbled roads, narrow streets, ancient building, and friendly locals.

4. **Zadar** - Located on a small peninsula, Zadar serves as an all-in-one Adriatic town, mixing the modern and old all in one. Made out of the central old town with beautiful buildings and a modern part makes it a town for everyone. The central old town is made out of Roman ruins and old churches. The vibrant bars and cafes that are found absolutely everywhere show the youth of the town, as it is a student town as well. The two main attractions in Zadar are the interesting and innovative architectural installations named the Sea Organ and Monument to the Sun, which lights up every night and makes a light show. Zadar is also the perfect base from which to explore some of the nearby islands.

5. **Rovinj** - Located in the Istria peninsula, it is one of the most beautiful towns of the western Croatia. Its Venetian architecture reminds of the nearby Italy and the influence can be immediately seen. The Amarin and Skaraba beaches are one of the best to visit there. You can climb the bell of the Saint Euphemia Cathedral which offers you view of the town. The interesting sight to see is the Dinosaur Island where you can discover dinosaur footprints, as well as the Kamenjak Park where you can go swimming in the caves.

6. **Pula** – Located in the Istria peninsula, Pula is the largest city in Istria County and the eighth largest city in the country. It is known for its multitude of ancient Roman buildings, the most famous of which is the Pula Arena, one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres, and its beautiful sea. The city has a long tradition of wine making, fishing, shipbuilding, and tourism.

- *Other places you recommend visiting:*

**Krka National Park** - Located in Central Dalmatia of Croatia, the Krka National Park is a protected area of natural scenery, wildlife and historic sites. Situated along the Krka River within Šibenik-Knin County, the national park is best known for its waterfalls and natural water pools. It is a perfect nature getaway, as you can sunbathe, swim and enjoy there.

**Plitvice National Park** - One of the most famous natural wonders in Croatia and all of Europe, the Plitvice National Park consists of several lakes, waterfalls and forest. The park's most notable features are the 16 interconnecting lakes that are divided into upper and lower clusters. Formed by various dams, the lakes range in distinct colors from turquoise to blue, green and gray. Visitors can explore the lakes and surrounding area by walking along the assortment of wooden walkways as well as by boat.

**The Pula Arena** - is the name of the amphitheater located in Pula. The Arena is the only remaining Roman amphitheater to have four side towers. It was constructed in 27 BC – 68 AD and is among the world's six largest surviving Roman arenas. A rare example among the 200 surviving Roman amphitheatres, it is also the best-preserved ancient monument in Croatia. However, the arena is not listed on UNESCO world heritage list due to a reconstruction gone wrong. They used the wrong materials to rebuild some of the damaged walls.

**State Lipizzaner stud farm in Đakovo** - The Stud Farm in Đakovo was established in 1506, which qualifies it to be among the oldest stud farms in Europe and proves a long tradition of horse breeding in this area. Horses of the Lipizzan breed have been bred in the Stud Farm since the beginning of the 19th century. Today as the State Stud Farm Đakovo, the institution uses two locations for horse breeding and horse selection – one of which is Stallion Station, located in the heart of Đakovo and the second one Ivandvor, in the immediate vicinity of the town. Besides breeding and selecting horses, the Stud Farm offers dressage services whose quality has been confirmed by conquering noteworthy rankings in horse competitions.

**Safari park Brijuni (National Park Brijuni)** - Brijuni Safari Park is the only safari park in Croatia. It is located on an area of 9 hectares on the northern edge of Veliki Brijun, within the national park. It was founded in 1978 and houses exotic animals donated by foreign statesmen (Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Sékou Touré, Haile Selassie, etc.) to the longtime Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito. The Sony elephant that was a gift from Indira Gandhi was once the largest Indian elephant in Europe. He died in 2010, and his companion Lanka remained alive.

**Kopački Rit** - is a nature park in eastern Croatia in the municipalities of Bilje and Kneževi Vinogradi. It is located northwest of the confluence of the Drava and the Danube, situated at the border with Serbia. It comprises many backwaters and ponds along the Danube. It is one of the most important, largest and most attractive preserved intact wetlands in Europe. A part of Kopački Rit has been designated as a zoological reserve. Around 260 various bird species nest here (wild geese and ducks, great white egret, white stork, black stork, etc.), and there are many other species using this area as a temporary shelter on migration from the northern,

cooler regions to the southern, warmer areas and vice versa. It is also a home for many types of fish.

**Galešnjak Island** – although Galešnjak Island isn't an island you can actually visit and stay on, it is a special heart shaped Island placed nearby Island Pašman. It is considered to be a good luck charms to love couples.

**Trakošćan Castle** – One of the most famous Croatian Castles Trakoscan was built in the late 13th century in northwestern Croatian defense system as a small observation fortress for monitoring the road from Ptuj to Bednja Valley. According to legend, Trakoscan was named after the Thracian fortress (ARX Thacorum) which allegedly existed in antiquity. Another preserved legend says, it is named after the knights Drachenstein who in the early Middle Ages, ruled the region. Today it serves as a museum.

**Vinkovci** – The area around Vinkovci has been continually inhabited since the Neolithic period, therefore it is looked at the oldest inhabited place in Europe. It was made a municipium (the Roman name for town or city) It was the birthplace of Roman emperors Valentinian I and Valens. The Roman Thermal Bath is still preserved underground, along with several other Roman buildings located near the center of today's Vinkovci.

**Krapina Neanderthal site** - Krapina Neanderthal Site, also known as Hušnjakovo hill is a Paleolithic site known as the first paleontological natural monument in the Republic of Croatia, and is listed as one of the richest Paleolithic habitats of Neanderthals in Croatia and Europe.

Airports with budget airlines: Zagreb, Split, Pula, Dubrovnik, Zadar (WizzAir, RyanAir, EasyJet)

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country:

Train - <http://www.hzpp.hr/en>

Bus - <https://www.akz.hr/en>

Airplane - <https://www.croatiaairlines.com/hr/>

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying:

**Any kind of fish** - Fish is used in various traditional foods in Croatia, as Croatia is very rich with water. On the coast you can try anything from octopus to lobster, and in continental Croatia, the sweet water fish is made fried, cooked or cooked in the famous Fiš.

**Kulen** – part of the Slavonija and Baranja cuisine, it is a type of flavoured sausage made from minced pork. The pork meat is low-fat, spicy flavoured with hot red paprika and garlic.

**Čorbanac** – Traditional Slavonija and Baranja meal, usually made from three or more types of meat, some of it often being from wild animals such as deers, does or boars. It is prepared in a kettle and it is cooked for hours on a mid fire. It is spiced with paprika and salt (nowadays with our famous Vegeta spice) and it should be so spicy it burns.

**Sarma** – a dish where cabbage leaves are rolled around a filling usually based on a combination rice and minced meat, onions, garlic and various spices. It can be served with bread or mashed potatoes.

**Fritule** - a festive pastry made particularly for Christmas. They resemble little doughnuts they are usually flavored with rum and citrus zest, containing raisins, and are topped with powdered sugar or Nutella.

Tipping in the restaurants: The tipping is not included in the price, so we usually tip 10% or more depending on how satisfied you are.

Discounts for transportation:

- **approximately 25%** off bus tickets for college students and people younger than 26

Other discounts per request according to the age/student status/city

What is the common greeting in your country?

Croatians usually greet strangers or people they don't really know with a handshake, friends usually hug.

### **Emergencies - numbers:**

Police: 192

Ambulance: 194

Fire brigade: 193

### **Any other interesting or useful information:**

- The tap water is safe to drink.
- Although part of EU, Croatia is not part of the Schengen area.
- As Croatia is part of the EU, if you are from EU yourself, roaming while in Croatia - doesn't exist anymore. You can use your data (please do check with your provider on which percentage of the data you can use) and make phone calls as you would in your home country.
- Most Croatian cities have WiFi Hotspots that are free to use. Some café bars share theirs as well, but you might have to ask for the password.
- We are very passionate about European football, especially when our national team plays!
- Some commonly used words:  
Dobar dan! – Hello! / Good day!  
Hvala! – Thank you!  
Molim vas (to an older person)/Molim te (if the person is your age/younger) – Please  
Živjeli! – Cheers!  
Doviđenja! – Goodbye!

- The country is safe, we have a low criminal rate.
- We have a custom of enjoying our coffee in a caffe bar, and we love drinking it for hours! If someone invites you “for a coffee”, you don’t really have to drink coffee, and it can last for a while.