

**Croatian kuna and lipa:
One of the few world currencies
named after animals and plants**

The Croatian currency was one of the few in the world with a name derived from animals and plants, testifying to Croatia's special relationship with nature. For a full 28 years, the Croatian currency was the kuna, which consisted of 100 lipa.

The idea of the kuna as a currency appeared as early as the Middle Ages. At the time, valuable marten (called kuna in Croatian) pelts were used as a form of payment for taxes called kunovina or marturina in medieval Slavonia, Primorje and Dalmatia regions. Not long after that, the kuna became a currency of the autonomous province of Banovina of Croatia (Banovina Hrvatska).

Kuna notes were printed in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000. The obverse showed important people from Croatia's history, while the reverse showed plans and motifs of Croatian cities and towns. The 1, 2 and 5 kuna coins had motifs of various plants and animals typical of Croatia, such as the nightingale, bluefin tuna and brown bear, respectively.

Lipa, as the hundredth part of the kuna, was not traditionally used as currency, but this tall, strong and elegant tree was considered sacred by the ancient Slavic people, who wove numerous legends and folk tales around its symbolism. Lipa coins all exhibited motifs of Croatian plants, such as olive, tobacco, common oak, common grape vine and corn.