

Canvas
Holidays



Holiday Guide

Living and driving in Croatia

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Croatia is a land with a deep cultural history. Having left its turbulent past behind, Croatia is once again becoming a thriving European tourist destination. There are thousands of kilometres of coastline, owing in no small part to the 1,185 islands, one of the sunniest coastlines in Europe

The Istrian peninsula is Croatia's green oasis. Tiny fishing villages are dotted along the clear azure of the Adriatic sea, while the landscape is rich with vineyards and pine forests. The area has been heavily influenced by Italy. It was ruled by the Venetians for hundreds of years, reflected in the architecture of the area.

These Italian connections can be traced back for thousands of years. The ancient three story Roman amphitheatre in Pula is the sixth largest in the world, and numerous other Roman sites are dotted around the countryside.

General Information

Money and banking

The Croatian currency is the Kuna (K) which is divided into 100 Lipa.

Notes: 1000K, 500K, 200K, 50K, 20K, 10K, 5K

Coins: 2K, 1K, 50L, 20L, 10L, 5L, 2L, 1L

Most banks are open between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday with some open Saturday morning and even Sunday morning in major cities. Major credit cards are usually accepted at cash dispensers.

Shopping

Most shops are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm. Many food shops, supermarkets and outdoor markets are open from 7am to 7pm. Credit cards may not be accepted in all shops and restaurants.

Museum hours

Museum opening times vary from place to place so enquire at the local tourist office. Most museums tend to close on a Monday.

Public holidays

Croatia takes the following public holidays

2nd & 5th April

1st May 3rd June

22nd June 25th June

5th August

Restaurants and eating out

The cuisine of Croatia is a real clash between the light dishes and seafood of the Mediterranean and the more hearty, meat based, dishes of the Balkans and eastern Europe. There is also a particularly strong Italian influence in the east. For a good value meal out pizzas are generally superb and reasonably priced.



A 10-15% tip is customary provided the service has been good, although it is usually enough just to round up the bill.

Telephones

To use a public telephone you will need to buy a phone card from a post office, newsagent or tobacconist. It can be up to 50% cheaper to make international calls from within the post office.

Calls to the UK

Dial the UK international access code 00 44, followed by the number minus the first zero.

Calls from the UK

To dial Croatia from home dial 00 385 followed by the number, again removing the first '0' from the area code.

Clothing

The climate in Croatia is typical of southern Europe, the summer is usually warm and sunny. The temperature can drop a little at night, this is more evident inland than on the coast. Trainers are not really acceptable for dining out but soft soled shoes are fine. You have to pay attention to modesty when entering churches and basilicas during the day, and cover your knees & shoulders.

Radio World Service

The BBC World Service broadcasts in English 24 hours a day, with World News on the hour which can be picked up on (times in GMT):

From	To	Days	Frequency
00.00	24.00	Daily	648kHz
00.00	05.30	Daily	198kHz
15.00	19.00	Daily	12095kHz
17.00	21.00	Daily	9140kHz
17.00	22.00	Daily	6195kHz

Language

Croatian is the national language, though you will find various dialects throughout the country. Most Croatians also speak a foreign language (German and Italian in particular are widely spoken on the coast). You will find that many people in the resorts and larger cities understand and speak some English.

Driving Information

Speed limits

Unless otherwise stipulated, the speed limits on the roads are:

- 50km/h in cities and towns
- 90km/h outside towns
- 110km/h on dual carriageways
- 130km/h on motorways
- Speeding incurs an on-the-spot fine

Regulations

- Children must be at least 12 years of age to travel in the front seat
- The minimum age for driving is 18 years.
- It is compulsory to carry a high visibility jacket.
- It is compulsory to carry a warning triangle, spare bulbs and a first aid kit.
- It is recommended that you carry a fire extinguisher.
- Headlight converters are required. Headlight converter kits are available from most motoring shops or your car dealership.
- Croatia has a zero tolerance to drinking and driving. Having even the slightest trace of alcohol detected can result in confiscation of your driving license.
- It is compulsory to drive with your headlights on. Failure to comply with this can result in a fine.
- A GB/IRL sticker must be displayed on your car

Emergency numbers and breakdown

Ambulance 94

Fire 93

Police 92

Documents

- You must carry your driving licence, car insurance certificate and vehicle registration document (V5) at all times.
- A green card is not compulsory but is recommended.
- A GB/IRL sticker must be displayed in your car.

Driving in Slovenia

- If you are planning a day trip to Slovenia, please be aware that you must purchase and clearly display a Vignette (toll sticker) before travelling on any toll roads
- If you are caught driving without one, you will face an on-the-spot fine of €300