



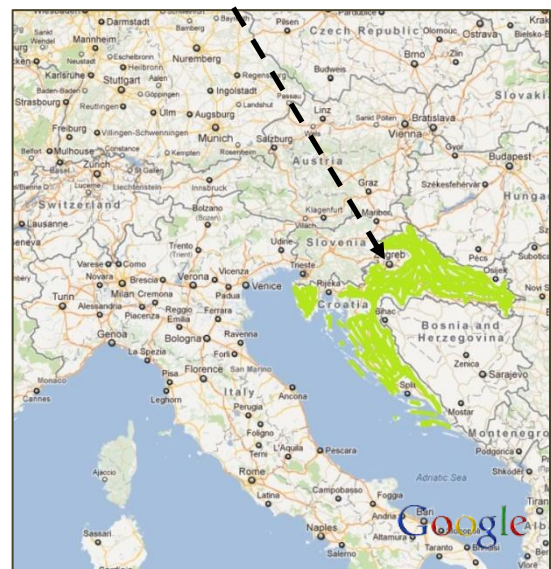
Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Zagreb, Croatia, located at 45° N and 16° E.
- We have traveled approximately 34,789 miles (55,987 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- Today's Croatia was part of the Roman Empire. In 300 AD a huge palace was built by Emperor Diocletian in the city of Split. It still stands today.
- Post-Roman Empire, the area was divided into dukedoms and then united into a kingdom in 925 AD. This kingdom was unified with Hungary in 1102 and later joined the Habsburg Empire. After World War I, Croatia became part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Croatia became an independent nation in 1991. A war took place with other former Yugoslavian states from 1991 to 1995, which Croatia eventually won.
- The current population is about 4.3 million. Zagreb and Split are the largest two cities. Croatia is scheduled to join the European Union in 2013.
- Cuisine includes a variety of meats, including pork, ham, lamb and suckling pig. *Kulen* is a hot-pepper sausage served at harvest time. *Sarma* are meat-stuffed cabbage leaves eaten on Christmas Day.
- Popular sports in Croatia include soccer, handball, basketball, water polo and skiing. Olympic successes include gold medals for the national handball team in 1996 and 2004, and silver medals for the national basketball team in 1992 and national water polo team in 1996.



Diocletian's Palace (source: Wikimedia.org)

Did you know?

- Dalmatian dogs come from Croatia's Dalmatian coast
- The American White House was built out of Croatian stone, which comes from the island of Brac. The same stone was used to build Diocletian's Palace in Split.
- Dubrovnik, which was an independent nation at the time, was the first state to recognize the United States as a nation when it declared its independence in 1776

source: Croatialogue.com



Sarma and Kulen (sources: Turkishbakery.com, Wikimedia.org)

The Plitvice Lakes

Croatia's first national park, Plitvice Lakes was established in 1949. It consists of a series of lakes and waterfalls with about 5 miles (8 kilometers) of hiking trails between them. The lakes contain differing shades of blue, due to the types of minerals found in each body of water. It is a popular tourist destination and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



sources:

NP-Plitvicka-jezera.hr, [Flickr.com/rosa-amato](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rosa-amato/)



Veliki Brijunin in the Brijuni archipelago
(source: [Flickr.com/John W. Schulze](https://www.flickr.com/photos/john_w_schulze/))

Nature and Environment

- Croatia is shaped like a crescent and is bordered by Hungary in the north, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the south, Serbia and Montenegro in the east and Slovenia in the west. It is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of West Virginia.
- The country of Croatia has three different geographic zones. The first is a coastal region, along the Adriatic Sea. The second is a mountainous region. The third area consists of plains near the Hungarian border that are an agricultural region. Crops include wheat, corn, sunflowers, fruit, olives and grapes.
- There are over 1,000 Croatian islands in the Adriatic Sea. Only 66 are inhabited. The largest islands are Cres and Krk. The island of Korcula was the birthplace of Marco Polo.
- Croatia has an extensive cave system, with 49 caves deeper than 820 feet (250 meters).
- About ten percent of the country has some protected status. This includes eight national parks and 11 nature parks.
- The Brijuni archipelago in northwestern Croatia is home to one of the national parks. It consists of 14 islands with over 600 types of plants and 150 types of birds.

Our Plans

- We are in Croatia for almost a week. In addition to visiting Zagreb, we plan to journey to Plitvice Lakes National Park and to the coast.
- As we come to the end in our current time in Europe, we have just two more countries to visit: Italy and Vatican City. We will arrive in Italy after an overnight ferry across the Adriatic Sea. Then we will start our journey to Africa.
- Be sure and send us any comments or questions that you have about the rest of our Europe trip or about our upcoming time in Africa. We will try to answer them in future emails.

More Information

- <http://www.croatiaemb.net/>
- <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Croatia-LOCATION-SIZE-AND-EXTENT.html>
- <http://www.find-croatia.com/islands-croatia/brijuni/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia>
- <http://geography.about.com/library/cia/blccroatia.htm>
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1097128.stm#facts
- <http://www.find-croatia.com/national-parks-croatia.html>
- <http://croatia.hr/en-GB/Discover-Croatia>

Dubrovnik

Known as the “Pearl of the Adriatic”, Dubrovnik is a walled city on the Adriatic Sea coast. It was known as the Republic of Ragusa in the Middle Ages and was a city-state, along with Venice, Pisa, Genoa and Amalfi in today’s Italy. The old city, consisting of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.



sources: Wikipedia.org,
Whc.unesco.org, Flickr.com/BruceTuten

Our Partners



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License.