

Croatia an attractive destination !

## Croatia's history

When you visit Croatia, you will find a place that has preserved history in almost every town and city. For example in the town of Sibenik, located along the Croatian coast, you'll find Sibenik's Cathedral. Also called the Cathedral of St. James, a UNESCO monument featuring Renaissance architecture. You can also visit the Euphrasian Basilica. This Byzantine church bears the name of a bishop of Porec, Euphrasius. He commanded the three-nave cathedral in the sixth century. In the summer, classical Croatian and international musicians play music in the monument, based on the theme for the year. Historic Rab Town is on the island of Rab, and its four bell towers and Mediterranean architecture make it a site to behold from land or air. The main

part of town is divided into two parts. The older part was settled by the Romans and sits at the tip of the peninsula. Built with old stone villas and narrow stone streets, it maintains an ancient feel. The newer part is situated farther back and is home to narrow streets and classic Mediter-

ranean architecture. The whole town is for pedestrians only, which makes it a nice place for wandering and sightseeing. Several nice beaches provide a swimming area, as well as sunbathing and water taxis.

### The neck tie

Did you know that Croatia claims credit for the invention of the necktie and that parts of Croatia show evidence of historic Italian influence?

The cravat is a neckband, the forerunner of the modern tailored necktie and bow tie, originating from 17<sup>th</sup> century. It's a symbol of culture and elegance, and is associated with Croats. They have not actually patented it, but they spread it as an accessory across Europe in the 17th century. Then it became and, to this day, has remained a necessary article of clothing under the name of Croatia.

After Turkish attacks, the Croatian Military Boreder was formed and its soldiers were an inexhaustible source for other European battlefields. They participated in the German Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and they were easily recognized because of the scarves around their necks, a predecessor of the cravat. From 1635 Croatian soldiers also served in France and in 1667 a special regiment named Royal Cravates was formed. Common soldiers wore scarves made of coarse materials and officers wore scarves made of fine cotton or silk.



## Croatia nature

In Croatia, the landscapes are very beautiful, they are composed by a lot of colours: the blue for the sea and the sky on the coastline; the green for the pasture; the yellow for the tall pasture of cereal and the grey for the mountain chain. It can be very nice when you travel in a town which has beautiful landscapes. Croatia has a lot of national parks, they protect nature because lately the environment has become a big problem because of pollution. So it's good to protect nature, and we can visit the parks, to spend a moment to remember in the great outdoor! Most of Croatia has a moderately warm and rainy continental climate as defined by the Köppen climate classification. Main monthly temperatures range between  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $27^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) (in January)

and  $18^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $64^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) (in July). The coldest parts of the country are Lika and Gorski Kotar where a snowy forested climate is found at elevations above 1,200 metres (3,900 feet). The warmest areas of Croatia are along the Adriatic coast and especially in its immediate hinterland characterized by the Mediterranean climate, as the temperature highs are moderated by

the sea. Consequently, temperature peaks are more pronounced in the continental areas the lowest temperature of  $-35.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-31.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) was recorded on 3 February 1919 in Čakovec, and the highest temperature of  $42.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $108.3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) was recorded on 5 July 1950 in Karlovac.



## Croatian cuisine

Sometimes tourist travel to discover other cultures and also other types of foods. In Croatia, the typical and most important aliment is in link with the coastline: it is octopus. Croatian cuisine is usually revolves around the rich diversity of fresh fish, squid, lobster and shellfish supplied by the Adriatic Sea. You can find different recipes in link with octopus or fish like the octopus salad which is a cold salad with octopus, fish and olive oil.

But Croatia's coastal regions have preserved a wealth of age-old regional specialities, many of which are coming back into fashion having been nearly forgotten for decades. For example there are Twizles of home-made pasta called fuži, which are still common in Istria and the northern Adriatic sea, while the island of Krk has preserved the tradition of making šurlice, succulent macaroni-like twists made from flour-and-egg dough. These traditional pastas are usually served with some kind of lamb or beef stew. Dubrovnik and the nearby islands are famous for šporki makaruni (also called "dirty macaroni") a meaty goulash served with home-made macaroni and dusted with grated hard cheese. Anyone touring the Adriatic coast

by car is sure to pass roadside restaurants where whole lamb carcasses revolve slowly over open fires in the car park. The resulting spit-roast meat is delicious served with raw spring onion and potatoes. Each of the islands has preserved highly individual dishes which can't always be found on the mainland.

