



**CROATIA** is a Central European and Mediterranean country, bordering Slovenia in the west, Hungary in the north, Serbia in the east and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the south; the country also has a long maritime border with Italy in the Adriatic Sea. Most of Croatia has a moderately warm and rainy continental climate, **but the islands, Adriatic coast and especially its immediate hinterland are characterized by the Mediterranean climate.** During its rich history, which dates from the Greek and Roman times, Croatia was, among others, a duchy, a kingdom, a distinct state under the Austrian and Hungarian government, and a part of Yugoslavia, until its independence in 1991. Today, Croatia is a part of the European Union (since 1 July 2013) with tourism as one of the main economic branches.

- Official name: Republic of Croatia
- Population: 4,284,889 (according to Census 2011)
- Official language: Croatian
- Currency: kuna (HRK)
- Capital: Zagreb
- Timezone: CET (GMT+1)
- Calling code: +385
- Internet domain: .hr
- Number of islands: 1244
- Highest peak: Dinara 1,831 m
- Neighbouring countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia
- Largest cities: Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Zadar, Pula



CROATIA



## THE ABSOLUTE BASICS

### PHRASES

Hi Bok  
Good morning Dobro jutro  
Good afternoon Dobar dan  
Good evening Dobra večer  
Good night Laku noć  
Goodbye Doviđenja  
How are you? Kako si? (informal) Kako ste? (formal)  
Yes Da  
No Ne  
Maybe Možda  
Where is ... ? Gdje je ... ?  
Thank you Hvala  
Excuse me Oprostite  
Please Molim  
Cheers! Živjeli!  
How much is...? Koliko košta?  
Where are the toilets? Gdje je wc?  
Is this a bus to....? Je li ovo autobus za...?  
Can I pay? Mogu li platiti?  
Do you speak English? Govorite li engleski?  
I don't understand. Ne razumijem.  
See you! Vidimo se!

And more at: <http://www.learncroatian.eu/blog/basic-croatian-for-your-holiday-in-croatia>

### TRANSPORT

Bus Autobus  
Train Vlak  
Bus station Autobusni kolodvor  
Bus stop Autobusna stanica  
Train station Željeznički kolodvor

### FOOD & DRINKS

Coffee Kava  
Milk Mlijeko  
Juice Sok  
Water Voda  
Tea Čaj  
Beer Pivo  
Bread Kruh  
Fruit Voće  
Vegetable Povrće  
Lunch Ručak

# CROATIAN LANGUAGE



## CROATIA

### EMERGENCIES

Telephone number: **112**. Calls to this number are free of charge. This is the number to call if you need assistance from police, firefighters, mountain rescue, or an ambulance. Roadside assistance is tel. **1987**. (When calling from abroad or by cellphone, call tel. **385-1-987**.) The national headquarters for Search and Rescue at Sea is tel. **9155**. Weather forecasts are [www.meteo.hr](http://www.meteo.hr) and road conditions are [www.hak.hr/en](http://www.hak.hr/en).

**BUSINESS HOURS** -- Banks are generally open Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm and Saturday 8am to noon. The bigger post offices work Monday to Friday 7am to 8pm, and Saturday 7am to 1pm. Public offices are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm. Shops and department stores stay open from 8am to 8pm and to 2 or 3pm Saturday without a break. Increasingly, stores in malls are open on Sunday as well. Most supermarkets remain closed on Sunday, as do butchers and bakeries, though in popular resorts along the coast there will often be a few small general stores open for Sunday shopping in summer.

**DRUGSTORES** -- weekdays from 8.00 to 20:00, Saturday from 8.00 to 15.00; on Sunday just 2 pharmacies on duty 24 hours situated in Ulica Josipa Pupačića 4, tel.: (021) 533-188 and in Sirobuja, supermarket SuperKonzum, Ulica kralja Držislava 22, tel.: (021) 325-504.

**ELECTRICITY** -- Croatian electricity is 220v, 50Hz; the two-prong European plug is standard.

**GASOLINE (PETROL)** -- Gasoline and diesel are readily available all over Croatia and almost all stations take credit cards.

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## CROATIA

**ETIQUETTE & CUSTOMS / APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:** Croatians, especially Croatian women, take pride in their appearance. In cities, both men and women usually dress in business casual. On the coast and countryside, the “dress code” is more relaxed.

If you visit museums or churches anywhere, plan to wear tops with sleeves and pants that go to at least the knee.

**GESTURES:** *Dobar dan* (good day) is the way Croatians generally greet each other. Handshakes are appropriate for first meetings and between business associates. Good friends will kiss on both cheeks in the European style.

**AVOIDING OFFENSE:** Religion and politics are topics to avoid universally.

### **MONEY:**

US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged for local currency; Croatian Kuna.

Major credit and debit cards are accepted in most banks, hotels, restaurants, shops etc. However do check in advance.

There are plenty of ATMs.

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## CROATIA

### HEALTH

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial **112** and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

### LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS

We recommend that you carry your passport (or, if a resident your Croatian ID card) at all times. They are the only officially recognized form of identification in Croatia.

Keep a photocopy of the biographical details page in a safe place, including details of your next of kin. If your passport is lost or stolen you should report it to the police and get a police report. You need to do this before applying for an Emergency Travel Document.

Walking shirtless or in swimming costumes is frowned upon in some town centers in Croatia. You should take notice of your surroundings including signage and judge what is appropriate. Some towns, have signage to show that the practice is prohibited by law and offenders will be subject to an on the spot fine.

Drug related offences are punished with fines and jail sentences.

### CRIME

Crime levels are low and violent crime is rare.

But, as anywhere in the world; take care in busy tourist areas, Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Don't leave valuables unattended, particularly on the beach. Use a hotel safe if possible.

Report all incidents of crime to the local police station and get a police report.

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## CROATIA

### LOCAL TRAVEL

If you are hiking in the mountains seek expert advice from local guides, however tame the mountain might seem to you. The weather in the Croatian mountains can change quickly, even in summer and temperatures can get very low overnight. You can find tips about mountaineering and direct numbers for regional rescue teams on the Croatian Mountain Rescue page If you get into trouble, call the emergency number **112**.

### ROAD TRAVEL

A valid driving license is required! It is illegal to drive with more than 0.05% of alcohol in the blood system. All passengers must wear seat belts.

Information on road border crossings and international rail journeys can be found at the [Croatian Automobile Association \(HAK\) website](#).

### SEA TRAVEL

There is zero tolerance on alcohol consumption if you are in charge of a yacht or boat. The penalties for being caught drunk in charge of a boat are heavy. If you are sailing in Croatia enter only at a designated port. The Croatian Government requires all skippers to have an International Certificate of Competence (ICC).

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## **CROATIA**

### **DRINKING WATER**

Tap water is potable throughout Croatia.

**When in Rome, do what Romans do (metaphorically☺)....**

### **COFFEE DRINKING IN SPLIT:**

The number one social ritual in Split city – drinking coffee. Drinking coffee with Croats is a social event, and spending our free time meeting in bars is almost a tradition. If someone asks you to grab coffee with them, don't assume you need to drink coffee: it can be a glass of beer, wine or anything else.

The point is to meet up, socialize with someone, just hang out and talk. Drinks you're having is completely unimportant.

### **ALCOHOL**

The minimum age for purchasing liquor in Croatia is 18. Croatia has strict laws regarding drinking and driving; the legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05 percent.

### **TAXES**

Croatia's PDV (VAT) is 25 % . For further information, go to [www.carina.hr](http://www.carina.hr).

### **TIPPING**

A 10 percent to 15 percent gratuity is expected in upscale restaurants. Otherwise, it is considered polite to leave any coins from your change on the table in cafes and restaurants. A 10 percent tip for other service providers (taxi drivers, hotel personnel, and others) is the norm, as is a tip for anyone who helps you carry your luggage or conducts a tour.

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