

# DESTINATION REPORT

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**YOUR TRAVEL SNAPSHOT:** Destinations included in this guide

**Dubrovnik, Croatia**

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DESTINATION GUIDE

# Dubrovnik, Croatia



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## INTRODUCTION

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Like something out of a picture-perfect fairy tale, the Old Town of Dubrovnik, Croatia, is a walled medieval city, with drawbridges (used in the 1991-92 war) and 18-ft-/6-m-high gates guarding the main entrances. The entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage site, but it's also very much a living, breathing city.

From the crenulated ramparts and watchtowers, there are some perfect vistas of the city and the Adriatic Sea. Because the Old Town is blissfully free of traffic, the main streets (Placa or Stradun), squares and alleyways are perfect for exploring the city on foot.

Most of the inhabitants of Dubrovnik live outside of the Old Town's city walls. However, inside those walls, the streets and alleyways are crammed with tiny shops, bars, cafes and restaurants that spill out onto the street at every conceivable point.

The serious damage from the Serbia-Croatian War has been completely repaired. Locals are still keen to point out the shrapnel and bullet damage that has been retained as a reminder of those dark days, which still come up frequently in conversation.

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## MUST SEE OR DO

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**Sights**—Views of the city and the sea from the city walls; religious relics and baroque architecture at the Dubrovnik Cathedral and Treasury; a tour of historic Fort Lovrijenac; chamber music concerts at St. Saviour Church; the view from Cafe Buza (the Hole in the Wall) and a jump off the cliff—if you dare; a ride up the cable car to the peak of Mount Srd for breathtaking views over the city.

**Museums**—The Cloister of the Franciscan Monastery and its paintings of the city from times gone by; the museum at the Dominican Monastery; the city's naval history at the Maritime Museum.

**Memorable Meals**—Dalmatian cuisine at Nautika; "black risotto" at Locanda Peskarija; the daily catch at Rozarij; the freshest local seafood at Proto; immaculately presented Croatian food at Restaurant 360.

**Late Night**—International DJs at Klub Lazareti; cool jazz at the outdoor Troubadour Hard Jazz Cafe; local wine at the D'Vino Wine Bar; hot sounds at the Eastwest Beach Club Banje.

**Walks**—A walking tour of the Old Town; a stroll along Sunj Beach; a morning walk through the Gruz Farmers Market at Gruz Harbor.

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## GEOGRAPHY

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Dubrovnik is a coastal town overlooked by a range of mountains, the largest of which is Mount Srd. Just 3 mi/5 km across the mountains is Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 25 mi/40 km to the southeast is the border with Montenegro. Westward across the Adriatic Sea is mainland Italy.

The old walled city is seated on a small peninsula. Residential and tourism development extends southeast (the Ploce District) along the coast for a short distance and northwest to the nearby port of Gruz. But most people live to the west of the Old Town on the larger bifurcated peninsula, where one part is called Lapad and the other Babin Kuk.

The wide, marble-paved Stradun runs from the Pile gate to the Ploce gate and separates the old city of Ragusa to the south from old Dubrovnik to the north. The Ragusa side has all the grand buildings, churches and squares; the other side has steep climbing paths and steps to the city walls.

Just 15 minutes by boat from the town harbor is the peaceful and undeveloped island of Lokrum, and 25 minutes northwest from the main port of Gruz are the beautiful Elaphite Islands.

The island-studded coast of Croatia is generally referred to as the Dalmatian coast.

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## HISTORY

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The history of Dubrovnik is complex and checkered. Roman and Illyrian (from ancient Albania) remains have been found in Dubrovnik, but the site was more permanently occupied in the seventh century. People from the Roman city of Epidaurum, fleeing the invading Avars, settled on the rocky outcrop south of a marshy channel—this eventually was filled in to become the Stradun, the city's present-day main thoroughfare. On this site, they built a fortified city called Ragusa or Ragusium.

Croatian people who settled on the slopes of nearby Mount Srd and on the northern side of the Stradun called their city Dubrovnik. Over the years, the populations mixed, and the city was unified. The Stradun was paved in 1468, but the name Dubrovnik was not officially adopted until the early 20th century.

In the 11th century, Dubrovnik and most of Croatia fell under the dominion of Venice, the eastern Mediterranean's greatest maritime power. After 150 years of Venetian rule, Dubrovnik was transferred to the authority of the Hungaro-Croatian kings. As a republic, the city was left to run most of its own affairs, heavily paying off nearby countries in order to maintain its valued independence.

General unrest in the Balkans forced Dubrovnik to develop into a maritime trading power that stretched from England to Goa, India. In 1588, the city sent ships to join Spain's "Invincible Armada," which was defeated by the English fleet (led by Sir Francis Drake) off the French coast. Dubrovnik sailors also accompanied Columbus on his journeys west to the New World.

In 1806, Napoleon Bonaparte arrived under the pretext of preventing a Russian invasion—but his troops stayed put. When Napoleon was defeated at Leipzig in 1813, the Austro-Hungarian Empire annexed Dubrovnik.

After World War I, Dubrovnik joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which in 1929 became known as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In 1944, Joseph Broz Tito's Partisans liberated the city from German occupation.

In the aftermath of the war, Tito's dictatorship and particular brand of communist rule kept Yugoslavia united. His liberalized travel and economic policies provided Croats with a better quality of life than others in the Eastern Bloc. However, after Tito's death in 1980, and the fall of the Soviet Union a decade later, a power vacuum allowed ethnic and nationalistic disputes to take hold of the region.

Resisting President Slobodan Milosevic's attempts to keep a unified Yugoslavia with power centered in Belgrade, Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia. Serbs within Croatia, who had the support of the Yugoslav People's Army, then declared their own borders within the Croatian state. These actions precipitated an invasion by the Yugoslav army.

Dubrovnik was not part of the Serb-Croat disputed territory but fell under siege from October 1991 to August 1992. The bulk of Yugoslav forces attacking Dubrovnik were from neighboring Montenegro. On just one day (6 December 1991), 5,000 shells rained down on the city. During the siege, snipers shot people in the streets, 70% of the city's buildings were damaged, and 200 defenders and 100 civilians were killed. Residents were saved by the thick ancient city walls, behind which they lived during the siege.

Today, Dubrovnik has been restored to its former glory. Five-star hotels have emerged to pamper travelers, an airport serves the city, it's one of the world's most popular cruise ports, and the only visible war damage was left there intentionally to remind people of what was lost in the war.

In July 2013, Croatia became the 28th member of the European Union, another major milestone for Croatia and its people.

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## POTPOURRI

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The city of Dubrovnik was named Ragusa until around 1918. At that time, the name Dubrovnik, which is derived from the Croatian word *dubrava* (oak forest) became the city's official name. Mount Srd was once covered in oak forests, which were torn down over the years for ship-building purposes, giving the area a barren and gray look.

The Republic of Dubrovnik was the first state to recognize the U.S. as a sovereign country.

Croatian-born actor Goran Visnjic, perhaps best known as Dr. Luka Kovac in the television drama *ER*, was the six-year reigning prince of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival for his lead in *Hamlet* before heading to Hollywood.

According to local history, Richard the Lionheart gave funds to the city of Dubrovnik to build its cathedral after he found refuge in the city from a storm during his return from a crusade.

The winds through the Adriatic have names, habits and even moods. *Maestral* is the light summer daytime breeze from the northwest; from the north comes the *bora*, which is cold and dry but considered good; the *jugo* blows warm and moist from the southeast and puts the locals in a bad mood.

Near Dubrovnik is the island of Mljet, considered by some to be the location of Calypso's island, where Odysseus was held captive by the sea nymph.

Dubrovnik's city walls represent some of the most durable fortress walls in the region. They encircle the city with a length that spans 6,365 ft/1,940 m. The walls saved the lives of thousands of residents during the siege in 1991-92.

Fort Lovrijenac is perched on a high steep cliff that is actually an Eocene thrust fault—there's a visible rusty red fault line rolling up the cliff face. The fort was damaged in the earthquake of 1667, along with many other parts of Dubrovnik.

The Feast of St. Blaise, the city's iconic patron saint, is arguably the most important date of the year in Dubrovnik. On 3 February, the celebrations begin with the release of doves from the St. Blaise Church. Processions, Masses, games and parties follow.

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## LOCATION

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There are two options for incoming cruise ships. The main port for large cruise ships (and Jadrolinija ferries) is called Gruz and is about 15 minutes by bus from the Old Town. However, some smaller ships anchor in the deepwater bay opposite the Old Town, and passengers from these ships are tendered to shore.

The port of Gruz is a busy shopping area featuring Dubrovnik's two main department stores, a fish market, a tourist information office, banks, car rental agencies, hotels, taxis and a bus station. For docking boats, amenities offered at the port include access to fresh water, trash disposal, and connections to the Internet, electricity and telephones.

Additional information on the port can be obtained through the Dubrovnik Port Authority. Phone 020-313-333. <http://www.portdubrovnik.hr>.

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## SHORE EXCURSIONS

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Shore excursions, which vary from cruise line to cruise line and usually are not included in the cost of your cruise, might include a guided walking tour of the Old Town; a folklore excursion to the village of Cilipi; a chance to see the Mediterranean gardens, oyster and mussel farms; the sea-salt production of Ston; a wine tour of the Peljesac peninsula or the island of Korcula; and an island-hopping cruise to the nearby Elaphite Islands, where the best beaches are located.

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## SIGHTSEEING

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The walled city of Dubrovnik's Old Town is about 1 mi/1.6 km in circumference, but there is no motorized transport within it, so you'll need comfortable footwear for your explorations. Most of the main sites can be seen without negotiating the steps and steep alleyways leading off the main street. Ploce gate allows access to the city without entrance steps.

Walking around the wall battlements will provide a good overview of the city's main sights, which are all within minutes of each other. However, if you're visiting in July and August, especially during the Summer Festival, be sure to get an early start, because this is the busiest season.

Perhaps the most enjoyable time in Dubrovnik is spent strolling through the alleyways peeking in the little shops, stopping in tiny bars and absorbing the medieval atmosphere of a walled city and its well-preserved architecture.

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## CASINOS

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Casinos are few in Dubrovnik and found mainly in hotel complexes. The minimum age to enter a casino is 18. If you plan to go gambling at a casino, make sure that you have a valid ID on you; the best is to carry your passport as identification.

### Golden Sun Casino Dubrovnik

Located inside the Rixos Libertas Hotel, the Golden Sun Casino Dubrovnik has more than 70 slot machines, plus 14 tables for roulette, blackjack and poker. The beachfront hotel, about a 20-minute walk or short taxi ride from the Old Town, also has a cocktail bar that features live music. There's a free shuttle bus, and passports are required for entry. Open daily 2 pm-4 am. Open 24 hours during the Eureka Poker Tour. Liechtensteinov put 3, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-638-588. <http://www.goldensuncasino.hr>.

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## HISTORIC SITES

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### Cable Car

Dubrovnik's cable car travels 2,552 ft/778 m up the peak of Mount Srd, giving riders breathtaking views over the city. At the top there are binoculars, a cafe and restaurant, terraces and a souvenir shop. The ride departs every half-hour. Open daily December and January 9 am-4 pm; February, March and November 9 am-5 pm; April, May and October 9 am-8 pm; June-August 9 am-midnight; September 9 am-10 pm. Round-trip fare is 100 HRK adults, 50 HRK children ages 4-12. Ulica Kralja Petra Kresimira IV 4 (lower station, just outside the city wall), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-414-321. <http://www.dubrovnikcablecar.com>.

### Church of St. Blaise

St. Blaise is the patron saint of Dubrovnik (his statue is found all around the town). When the original church dedicated to him was destroyed in 1667, a silver statue of St. Blaise was the only item that survived. The present baroque church was completed in 1714. Daily 8 am-8 pm. Free. Pred Dvorom (at the Ploce gate end of the Stradun), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-999.

### City Walls

A walk along the city's ramparts is the most iconic sightseeing experience in Dubrovnik. The 1-mi/1.6-km walk along the top of the walls offers the best possible rooftop and sea views, and affords great photo opportunities. The main access point is on Stradun near Pile gate. Open daily 9 am-3 pm (until 7 pm in summer). 100 HRK adults, 30 HRK children. Gunduliceva Poljana 2, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-641. <http://www.citywallsdubrovnik.hr>.

## Dubrovnik Cathedral and Treasury

Richard the Lionheart supposedly paid for the original Romanesque cathedral when he was shipwrecked in 1192 on his way back to England from the crusades. After it was severely damaged by an earthquake in 1667, it was rebuilt in the baroque style and is now officially called Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin (Velika Gospa). The Treasury contains more than 100 priceless relics, allegedly including one of John the Baptist's hands, the arms and legs of various saints, part of Christ's crucifix and St. Blaise's head. These items aren't as gory as they sound, because they are all encased in gold. Treasury open Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 11 am-5 pm. 15 HRK adults. Kneza Damjana Jude 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-459.

## Fort Lovrijenac

You have to climb steep stairs and cross a drawbridge to enter this great defensive structure. It sits above a steep cliff, facing the sea to the west with its 39-ft-/12-m-thick walls. In summer, it's used as a performance stage for plays, notably Shakespearean plays during the Summer Festival. Entrance to Fort Lovrijenac is included in the price of the entrance to the City Walls. If you are not visiting the City Walls, the cost of entrance is 30 HRK. Pila district, Dubrovnik.

## Onofrio's Great Fountain

This magnificent multifaceted fountain was built in 1444 as an integral part of the city's plumbing system. During the 1991-92 war, it enabled the city's residents to withstand the siege after their water supply was cut off. It's located just inside the Pile gate at the end of the Stradun.

## Rector's Palace

You enter this 15th-century building through a beautiful loggia (covered archway with seating). It was the seat of government, a courthouse and prison for the old city of Ragusa. It houses the Cultural Historical Museum, which includes artifacts from the Dubrovnik Republic era—furnishings, paintings, clothing, coins, stamps and so on. The Gothic and Renaissance inner atrium is a regular musical venue during the Summer Festival. There are dungeons in the basement and state apartments upstairs. In winter, open daily 9 am-4 pm; in summer, open daily 9 am-6 pm. 80 HRK adults. Pred Dvorom 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-422.  
<http://www.mdc.hr/dubrovnik/eng/kulturnopovijesni/fsdvor.html>

## Sponza Palace (Dogana)

This old customs house was built in 1522. It has a beautiful arched portico, Venetian Gothic stonework and Renaissance windows. There is also a memorial room to the defenders and civilians killed during the 1991-92 siege of Dubrovnik. Open daily 10 am-3 pm in winter, 9 am-9 pm in summer. Free. At the end of the Stradun (near the Ploce gate), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-887.

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## MUSEUMS

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### Dominican Monastery

Napoleon's troops occupied this monastery in 1808, and you can still see where they hacked out horse troughs around the stunning courtyard, which is now filled with orange and lemon trees. The museum holds a great Renaissance library with an 11th-century Bible and a painting of old Ragusa. There is also a marvelous altarpiece by Titian and a room full of votive (religious) gold. Daily May-October 9 am-6 pm, November-April 9 am-5 pm. 20 HRK entrance fee. Ulica Svetog Dominika 4 (by the Ploce gate), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-423.  
<http://www.dominikanci.hr>

### Franciscan Monastery

Rebuilt after the Great Earthquake of 1667, this masterpiece of Romanesque-Gothic style is a regular concert venue during the Summer Festival. It houses what is billed as the oldest public pharmacy in the world (1348), some fascinating paintings of the city and the resting place of Ivan Gundulic, a local poet. The cloisters are beautiful and a peaceful respite from the busy city in high summer. Daily 9 am-5 pm (until 6 pm in summer). 30 HRK adults, 15 HRK children. Placa 2 (Stradun by the Pile gate opposite Onofrio's Great Fountain), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-410.



## Homeland War Museum

This museum tells the story of the Croatian War of Independence (1991-95), as well as the history of the Napoleonic Imperial Fort (where the museum is located), which the locals defended in 1991. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. 30 HRK adults, 15 HRK children. Imperial Fort, Srdj, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-497. <http://www.dumus.hr/en/museum-of-contemporary-history/about-museum>.

## Maritime Museum

This museum is housed on the upper level of St. John's Fortress. Because Dubrovnik was once a major maritime power in the Mediterranean, the museum is a vital part of the city's history. Its holdings include a number of maps, old photographs, models and miscellany from the days of sail and steam. Open daily except Monday 9 am-6 pm in summer, 9 am-4 pm in winter. Closed holidays. 80 HRK adults, 25 HRK children. St. John's Fortress (beside the harbor, at the end of Kneza Damjana Jude), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-904. <http://www.dumus.hr/en/maritime-museum/about-museum>.

## Museum of Modern Art

Housed in a beautifully restored villa with walkways and gardens, this museum features modern Croatian artists represented in its permanent collection from the fin-de-siecle period as well as other feature exhibitions. Open daily except Monday 9 am-8 pm. 30 HRK adults, free for children. Put Frana Supila 23 (outside the city walls, near the Banje Beach), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-426-590. <http://www.ugdubrovnik.hr>.

## Museum of the Orthodox Church

This small upstairs museum has an impressive collection of 15th- to 19th-century religious icons from Russia and elsewhere. Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-2 pm. 10 HRK adults, 5 HRK children. Od Puca 8 (next to the Orthodox Church), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-823.

## The Dulcic, Masle and Pulitika Gallery

Housed in a beautiful building next to the Rector's Palace (it was intended to be a memorial to former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, who died in a plane crash on the way to Dubrovnik), this gallery houses the works of three Dubrovnik artists. It is worth visiting for the sea views alone. Tuesday-Sunday 9 am-8 pm. 15 HRK adults. Poljana Drzica 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-172. <http://www.ugdubrovnik.hr>.

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## NEIGHBORHOODS & DISTRICTS

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### Gruz

More business than tourist, the Gruz neighborhood is about a 25-minute walk, or a short bus trip, from the Pile gate to Old Town. Gruz is a transportation and shopping hub and has the busy commercial and tourist port, a bus station, and a number of shops, budget hotels and restaurants. It also has a lively morning seafood and produce market, which is worth the detour.

### Lapad

Lapad is a green neighborhood north and west of the Old Town. It is an area of excellent hotels, restaurants and beaches.

### Old Town Harbor

The harbor is always full of fishing and pleasure boats, and huge celebrity yachts arrive regularly in the summer. A busy fish market springs to life early in the morning, and there are a few cafes and restaurants serving superfresh seafood.

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## RECREATION

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Recreation opportunities are limited within the old walled city of Dubrovnik. In the greater Dubrovnik area, however, there are a number of traditional seaside activities and some reasonable hiking trails around the Babin Kuk Peninsula and up into the forest starting at the Dubrovnik Palace Hotel. It's also possible to walk up the quiet switchback road to the top of Mount Srd for fabulous views of the city.

Boat hire is available at Dubrovnik Marina, but it's probably easier if you ask your hotel to arrange it. Kayaking, horseback riding and snorkeling are available at Lapad Bay, and opportunities for swimming in the sea or in pools are widespread. A number of hotels have their own tennis courts, and public ones are also available at Lapad. There are no golf courses in the area, but discussions have been under way for some time to build one above the town on Mount Srd.

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## BEACHES

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Dubrovnik is known for its rocky shores and pebble beaches. Except for a few high-end hotels that have managed to close off access to their beachfronts, the coast of Croatia is public domain. Sunbathers there are used to lying on this rugged terrain or on nearby concrete sunbathing areas.

For sandy beaches, you'll have to head to some of the nearby islands in the Elaphite archipelago. However, the swimming is good, and the water is exceptionally clean and clear. Nude bathing, as indicated by the sign "FKK," is permitted on Lapad Beach and some island beaches.

### Banje Beach

The small city beach of Banje, just beyond the Ploce gate, is well-known for its pebble beach. There are restaurants, a bar and snack facilities in the summer. Chairs and parasols can be rented. Various watersports are available in the summer. Free. Frana Supila (just outside the Ploce gate), Dubrovnik.  
<http://www.crobeaches.com/en/banje-beach-dubrovnik>.

### Lokrum Beach

The short boat ride to the island of Lokrum takes you to its rocky shores and swimming coves (for more advanced swimmers), and a shallow sea lake (called the Dead Sea) for those who want easier access. Lokrum is also popular with nudists; on its eastern shores you can bathe without any swimming attire. There are a few tourist sites, cafes and a restaurant on the island. It's also a great opportunity to view Dubrovnik from the sea. The ferry leaves from the Old Harbor every half-hour from 9 am. Tickets are 25 HRK each way. For more information on ferries, contact Javna ustanova Rezervat Lokrum (Od Bosanke 4; phone 020-427-242).  
<http://www.lokrum.hr>.

### Sunj Beach

Located on Lopud, one of the Elaphite Islands, this beach is reputedly one of the loveliest in the Adriatic. The beach can be reached by ferry ride from Dubrovnik direct to Lopud. Check the website for information on ferry schedules and fares. <http://www.jadrolinija.hr>.

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## BOATING & SAILING

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### Adriatic Kayak Tours

Run by a U.S. expat, this dynamic company not only offers kayaking tours, but also white-water rafting, mountain biking and snorkeling. It covers destinations throughout Croatia and Montenegro. Prices vary. Zrinsko-Frankopanska 6, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-312-770. <http://www.adriatickayaktours.com>.

## **Adventure Dalmatia**

This Split-based tour company offers sea kayaking, canoeing and rafting trips, among other adventures. Trips are available in Dubrovnik and throughout Dalmatia, for single days or weeklong adventures. Prices vary. Phone 021-540-642. <http://www.adventuredalmatia.com>.

## **Elite Travel**

Among a number of other recreational options, this touring company offers cruises and other boating excursions depending on the season. Prices vary. Vukovarska 17, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-358-200. <http://www.elite.hr>.

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## SCUBA & SNORKELING

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### **Diving Center Abyss Dubrovnik**

This company offers a range of activities such as diving courses, dives, equipment rental and underwater photography courses. It also does sightseeing boat trips. Located on the Lapad peninsula on the beach behind the Hotel Dubrovnik President. Prices vary. Iva Dulcic 142, Dubrovnik. Phone 099-256-1256. <http://www.dubrovnikdiving.com>.

### **Diving Center Blue Planet**

Training, equipment rental and a variety of dive tours are available through Blue Planet, located in the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace. Popular dives include a sunken ship from World War II and a number of caves. Reservations may be made online, by phone or in person—stop in about 24 hours in advance to ensure equipment availability. Open year-round, but make phone reservations in advance for diving October-May. Prices vary depending on services provided. Masarykov put 20, Dubrovnik. Phone 091-899-0973. <http://www.blueplanet-diving.com>.

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## NIGHTLIFE

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Dubrovnik's nightlife scene is mostly limited to a Mediterranean cafe or bar lifestyle. There are a few nightclubs, a hotel casino and a cinema, but most of the evening action is centered on the city's cafes and bars. Sometimes these establishments have live music, and seasonal music bars and occasional discos are open on the Lapad Peninsula. The larger hotels often have a piano bar, lounge or nightclub located in their facility.

There is a limited gay and lesbian scene in or around Dubrovnik, and most places aren't particularly gay-friendly. However, the Troubadour Hard Jazz Cafe is a popular meeting spot for the gay community.

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## BARS, TAVERNS & PUBS

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### Cafe Buza

Loosely translated as "hole in the wall," Cafe Buza is just that—a quick turn off the wall of St. Stephen leads to this terrace on the cliff. Simple drinks, amazing views, and who can resist the freedom to jump into the blue sea? Buza beach is right below the bar. Daily 9 am-1 am. Crijevicava 9, Dubrovnik. Phone 098-361-934.

### D'Vino Wine Bar

This cozy bar is Dubrovnik's most serious wine bar, with more than 100 wines available—nearly all by the glass. The proprietor also organizes wine-tasting day trips to nearby wine regions. Daily 10 am-2 am. Palmoticeva 4-A, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-130. <http://www.dvino.net>.

### Razonoda Wine Bar

Part of the Pucic Palace Hotel, this classy bar is a great place to go to sample local wines along with Croatian tapas, such as prosciutto and cheese. Daily 11 am-midnight. Od Puca 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-326-200. <http://www.thepucicpalace.com>.

### Sunset Lounge

A popular evening bar located in a convenient and safe location inside the Dubrovnik Palace Hotel. Try its signature Pink Pleasure cocktail. Open daily 7 pm-midnight. Masarykov put 20, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-300-300. <http://www.adriaticluxuryhotels.com/en/hotel-dubrovnik-palace/bars>.

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## DANCE & NIGHTCLUBS

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### Banje Beach Club

Dancing, drinks, a trendy restaurant, a beach bar during the day—there's much that makes the Eastwest Beach Club Banje the hip, hot spot that it is. You can reserve a table in the nightclub. There's no dress code, but most guests look pretty snazzy. Nightclub daily 10 pm-6 am (May-October). Cover charge varies. Frana Supila 10-B, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-412-220. <http://www.ew-dubrovnik.com>.

### Klub Lazareti

The cellar of the Lazareti complex is a nightclub that often features top European and international DJ acts. There's also an open courtyard area. Opening hours vary according to the program. General entrance is around 50 HRK; entrance to a live act can be more. Frana Supila 8, Dubrovnik. <http://www.lazareti.com>.

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## LIVE MUSIC

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## **Troubadour Hard Jazz Cafe**

Described as a "hard jazz cafe," this bar has a great collection of jazz that it plays when musicians aren't on stage during the summer. A great place to hang out, although drinks can be expensive, especially when live music is featured. Daily 9 am-3 am in summer, 5-11 pm in winter. No cover charge. Buniceva Polijana 2, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-476.

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## PERFORMING ARTS

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The Summer Festival is the best opportunity to see traditional performing arts in Dubrovnik. The city doesn't have a concert hall, so theater, opera, orchestra and ballet performances are scattered around town in forts, palaces, monasteries and in open-air venues. The festival is a truly unique spectacle where the environment is as exciting and interesting as the performances. <http://www.dubrovnik-festival.hr>.

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## DANCE

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### **The Lindo Ensemble**

This famous Dubrovnik folk-dance troupe performs at various events and cultural celebrations. Look for posters or inquire at the tourist office for specific details. Marojice Kaboge 12, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-023. <http://www.lindjo.hr>.

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## MUSIC

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### **Dubrovnik City Brass Band and Dubrovnik Majorettes**

This band comes out in its finery to play for the city's more important occasions and processions. Phone 020-323-574.

### **Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra**

The orchestra performs in the 16th-century Fort Revelin, where the acoustics are amazing, or at the Rector's Palace. It's worth your time to attend a concert, if possible. Ulica Svetoga Dominika 9, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-417-110. <http://www.dso.hr>.

### **St. Saviour Church Concerts**

This church is known for its wonderful acoustics, and different chamber music concerts and classical recitals are performed there. The year-round concerts typically start at 9 pm. Ulica od Puca 8, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-887.

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## THEATER

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### **Marin Drzic Theatre**

This glorious little theater is full of gilt stucco, velvet curtains and lined with theater boxes in classic 18th- and 19th-century style. Unfortunately for the visitor, most performances are in Croatian. Nevertheless, it is worth a visit to admire the theater's old-world charm and decor. Kovacka 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-420. <http://www.kazaliste-dubrovnik.hr>.

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## SPECTATOR SPORTS

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There are limited spectator-sport opportunities in and around Dubrovnik. Water polo is the big local game, and the spot to see a game is at the beach in front of the Hotel Bellevue. Minor-league football (soccer) can be seen at the stadium in Lapad on Saturday morning.

Professionally organized beach football is played late July-early August, and visiting players are welcome to join in.

Tennis is also a popular sport in Dubrovnik, with international tournaments hosted at the Tenis Klub Dubrovnik, Setaliste Kralja Tomislava bb. Phone 020-437-355.

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## SHOPPING

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Dubrovnik is not a great shopping destination; however, shopping centers are on the increase in the area. You will also find many souvenir and other shops that sell Dubrovnik mementos throughout the city. There are two department stores at the port of Gruz and another shopping precinct on the Lapad Peninsula.

On Stradun, Old Town's main street, you'll find banks, bookshops and clothing stores, but Od Puca, which runs to the south, has a number of small shops that sell jewelry, watches, photographic equipment and other merchandise. There are also several butchers, bakers and a minimarket. Silver filigree, linens and lace are local crafts specialties.

**Shopping Hours:** Shopping hours are not consistent from shop to shop and vary throughout the year. Small shops may shut down during the day while the owner goes out for a coffee or an extended lunch break. Generally these shops open around 8-9 am and close around 7-8 pm. Larger shopping centers are open 8 am-8 pm.

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## BOOKSTORES

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### Algoritam

Sells books, movies and CDs. English-language books are readily available, plus a wide selection of travel guides, cookbooks and photography books. Open Monday-Friday 9 am-8:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm, Sunday 10 am-1 pm. Placa Ulica 8, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-322-044. <http://www.algoritam.hr>.

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## GALLERIES

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### Galerija Sebastian

A private gallery featuring established and new artists from the region. Most artwork is for sale. Open daily 9 am-9 pm. Svetog Dominika 5, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-358-140. <http://www.sebastian.gallery>.

### Lobel Galerija

A top-notch, quality furniture shop that specializes in individual architectural designs. It also offers free interior-design assistance and can help with shipping. Open Monday-Friday 9 am-8 pm, Saturday 9 am-7 pm. Od Domina br. 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-940. <http://www.lobelgalerija.com>.

### Romana Milutin Fabris

Renowned painter of Dubrovnik scenes and buildings in larger-than-life color and size. Monday-Friday 10 am-1 pm and 5-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-noon. Atelier Romana, Marojice Kaboge bb, Dubrovnik. Phone 091-501-3318. <http://www.romana-milutin.com>.

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## MARKETS

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### Gruz Farmers Market

The Gruz Farmers Market has fresh vegetables and fruits, homemade jams and honey, olive oil, wine, brandy, bread and pastries, and more of what grows fresh and plentiful. Look for figs, pomegranates and oranges when they are in season; otherwise dried figs and candied orange peels are available, too. An indoor fresh fish market is also on-site. Open daily 6 am-6 pm. Obala Stjepana Radica (on Gruz Harbor), Dubrovnik.

### Lapad Market

This small farmers market sells fresh produce and homemade foods. On Sunday, a flea market is also on-site that sells all types of interesting items, including postcards and books. Open daily 7 am-2 pm. Setaliste kralja Tomislava/Mata Vodopica, Dubrovnik.



## Shopping Center Minceta

This shopping center includes numerous clothing and other stores such as Mura, Cobra Jeans, Kappa and Top Sport. Open Monday-Saturday 8 am-8 pm. Nikole Tesle 2, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-357-312. <http://www.minceta.hr>.

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## SHOPPING AREAS

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### Downtown

Newly opened—and expanding—shopping center that features shoe stores, a toy shop, drug store and more. Open Monday-Saturday 8 am-8 pm. Vukovarska Ulica 9, Dubrovnik.

### Shopping Center DOC

This small above- and underground shopping mall has a large supermarket, shoe shops, clothing stores, souvenir shops, cafe-bars and more. Monday-Saturday 8 am-8 pm. Kralja Tomislava 7, Lapad, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-887.

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## SPECIALTY STORES

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### Boutique Croata

The cravat and its derivative modern-day necktie were invented in Croatia, so this is the place to get them. Beautiful women's scarves are sold as well. Daily 9 am-9 pm. Pred Dvorom 2, Stari Grad (Stari Grad), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-641-066. <http://www.croata.hr>.

### Croatian Designers Room

This boutique stocks clothing and accessories from Croatia's finest designers. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Old Puca 11, Dubrovnik.

### DM Drogerie Markt

Part of an international drugstore chain that offers everything from cosmetics and toiletries to health foods, small gifts and other everyday items. Although you can pick up some health-related items there, prescription and other medicines can be obtained only at a pharmacy. Multiple locations throughout Dubrovnik, including one in the Shopping Center DOC. Open Monday-Saturday 8 am-9 pm. Vukovarska 13, Dubrovnik. Phone 20-362-2012. <http://www.dm-drogeriemarkt.hr>.

### Foto Studio Placa

Film and digital processing, batteries, memory cards, film, Internet access and Internet phone calls, and general accessories. Open Monday-Friday 9 am-9 pm, Saturday 9 am-7 pm. Dropceva 3, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-366.

### Maria Outlet

If you are in the market for a fancy outfit, look no further. Maria has two locations; both sell local and international designer clothing. Open April-October, Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm. Cvijete Zuzoric 3, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-495. <http://www.mariastore.hr>.

### Modni Kantun

This elegant shop stocks the stylish silver and stone jewelry made by Croatian designer Ivana Bacura. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Zlatarska 3, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-321-241. <http://www.ivanabacura.com>.

### Ronchi Hat Factory

A great place to purchase unique, handmade hats at a good price. Exceptional quality and craftsmanship ensure you a durable hat that is also fun to wear. Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm and 5-7 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-1 pm. Lucarica 2, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-699. <http://www.dubrovnik-online.net/ronchi>.

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## DINING OVERVIEW

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The local food, known as Dalmatian, is classic Mediterranean cuisine, which means that it's mainly seafood: red snapper, squid, cuttlefish, octopus and shellfish. And the preparation couldn't be any simpler—most seafood, fish and vegetables are simply grilled with olive oil, garlic, rosemary and lemon juice. The most popular meat dishes are pork, lamb and veal. Just about every restaurant seems to have a special risotto dish.

You'll find restaurants all over the city, but the Prijeko (a thoroughfare running parallel to the Stradun) is packed with tables and chairs during the summer.

International cuisine is on the rise in Dubrovnik, with pizzerias and pasta restaurants, as well as a steak house, available to diners. The big luxury hotels also offer multiple restaurant options and a broader range of international cuisine. But all offer fish and other local specialties in a more elegant and refined (and more expensive) atmosphere.

In true Mediterranean style, opening hours are variable and inconsistent; if business is quiet, an eatery may close early, or it may stay open later if it's busy.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than 100 HRK; \$\$ = 100 HRK-250 HRK; \$\$\$ = 251 HRK-400 HRK; and \$\$\$\$ = more than 400 HRK.

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## LOCAL & REGIONAL

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### Locanda Peskarija

This restaurant is very popular with locals and serves mainly seafood. There's a small bar downstairs, and there are additional tables upstairs and outside in summer for views of the harbor. This is definitely the place to try "black risotto," a local seafood specialty consisting of rice cooked with cuttlefish, colored and flavored with its own ink (hence its black color). Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Na Ponti bb (harbor front), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-750. .

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#### Address

Na Ponti bb  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

#### Phone

020-324-750

### Maestoso

Grilled meat and local vegetables—as well as fish—are the specialties at this popular restaurant. It has views of the harbor and city walls, but the busy road nearby makes dining on the terrace somewhat off-putting. Daily for lunch and dinner (till midnight). \$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Hvarska bb (just outside the Ploce gate), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-420-986.

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#### Address

Hvarska bb  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

#### Phone

020-420-986

### Proto

A stylish fish restaurant, open since 1886, with a popular terrace and a waitstaff in traditional dress. Dishes there, though simple, are some of the city's finest examples of how to prepare the local fish. It is very popular with the locals and somewhat less expensive than Nautika, its sister restaurant. Daily 11 am-11 pm. Reservations recommended in summer. \$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Siroka 1, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-323-234. .

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#### Address

Siroka 1  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

#### Phone

020-323-234

# Dining: Overview

## Restaurant 360

This place serves immaculately presented (and prepared) Dalmatian and Continental food with expertly sourced ingredients. The location, at the top of the old port, isn't bad either. Tuesday-Sunday 6:30-11 pm. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Sv. Dominika bb, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-322-222. .

### Address

Sv. Dominika bb  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

### Phone

020-322-222

## Restaurant Konavoka

Family-oriented restaurant that specializes in regional seafood and meat platters. Also popular are its dessert crepes filled with fruit, nuts and ice cream. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$ . Most major credit cards. Setaliste Kralja Zvonimira 38, Lapad, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-435-105. .

### Address

Setaliste Kralja Zvonimira 38  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

### Phone

020-435-105

## Rozarij

For genuine local cooking and Dalmatian specialties served in a small, homey atmosphere, try this local favorite. A popular dish is the daily catch with Dalmatian-style vegetables. Daily noon-11 pm. Reservations recommended in summer. \$\$ . MasterCard and Visa accepted. Prijeko 1 (near the Dominican Monastery), Dubrovnik. Phone 020-322-015. .

### Address

Prijeko 1  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

### Phone

020-322-015

## Taverna Maslina

Set inside a five-star hotel, this restaurant offers stunning sunset views inside and outside on the terrace, and serves local cuisine with an international flair. Attentive and informative staff. May-September daily noon-11 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Dubrovnik Palace Hotel, Masarykov Put 20, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-330-000. .

### Address

Dubrovnik Palace Hotel,  
Masarykov Put 20  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

### Phone

020-330-000

## Wanda

Popular Mediterranean restaurant that offers both indoor and outdoor dining options. Grilled fish and meat dishes are available along with local and international wines. Daily 11 am-10 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Prijeko 8, Dubrovnik. Phone 098-944-9317. .

### Address

Prijeko 8  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

### Phone

098-944-9317

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## PERSONAL SAFETY

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Crime is not much of an issue in Dubrovnik, perhaps because it's a bit like an island with only three narrow exit points. There are no neighborhoods to avoid, although the alleyways leading off the Stradun do seem dark and creepy at night. Plenty of people are always nearby, even in the relatively quiet winter period.

However, as with most busy tourist areas, pickpockets are present: Be sure to use commonsense precautions, especially during the crowded Summer Festival.

In an emergency, dial 92 for the police, 93 for a fire. You can also dial 112 for any emergency situation.

For the latest information, contact your travel-advisory agency.

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## HEALTH

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The city water is safe to drink, and the produce also is safe. Summer days are hot, and it's important to use hats, sunglasses and sunscreen lotion against the heat of the day. Be sure to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Dubrovnik's General Hospital is located on the Lapad Peninsula, at Dr. Roka Misetica 2. It is about a 15-minute drive from the old city and has a 24-hour accident and emergency service. Phone 020-431-777 or 94 for an ambulance.

There are plenty of pharmacies in greater Dubrovnik. Hours are generally Monday-Friday 8 am-8 pm, Saturday 7:30 am-3 pm. There is also an off-hours pharmacy system, which alternates locations between the Kod Zvonika pharmacy located at Placa 4 and the Gruz pharmacy located at Obala pape Ivana Pavla II 9.

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## DISABLED ADVISORY

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The city of Dubrovnik has made significant strides in assisting disabled visitors to see its sights. Besides making it possible to rent a wheelchair on location, the city also provides a transporter free of charge, which enables wheelchair-bound individuals to access stairs at museums, churches and other buildings. For information on using these services, phone 099-915-2834. Larger hotels, as well as travel agents or tourist offices, can also help answer any questions a disabled person might have on getting around in Dubrovnik.

For additional information on disabled access in Croatia, contact the HSUTI (located at Sostariceva 8, Zagreb). Phone 385-1-4812-004. <http://www.hsuti.hr>.

Alternatively, contact the Association of Organisations of Disabled People of Croatia (SOIH), located at Savska Cesta 3/I, Zagreb. Phone 01-482-9394. <http://www.soih.hr>.

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## DOS & DON'TS

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Do shop for handmade tablecloths and other linens when in Dubrovnik. The craftsmanship is top-notch, and the cloths reflect local patterns and customs.

Don't be afraid to ask locals for directions if you are lost or looking for a site. Croatians are very friendly and often speak other languages fluently.

Do reserve hotel or other accommodations well in advance of your visit to Dubrovnik, especially if you plan to visit in the summer. Rooms are frequently booked solid during peak tourist seasons, and accommodations are hard to find without prior reservations.

Don't forget to stop in one of the many smaller cafes that line the alleyways of Dubrovnik. These cafes offer a glimpse into Dubrovnik's local culture, and you can taste some great coffees and other local drinks there.

Do eat as much local seafood as you can. It is top-notch and ultrafresh. It goes down well with the local wines *posip* and *plavac mali*.

Do learn a few phrases of Croatian to speak with the locals, such as *zdravo* (hello) and *hvala* (thank you). The townsfolk will appreciate your efforts immensely.

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## Geostats

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**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Passports, but not visas, are needed by citizens of Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. for stays of up to three months. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

If arriving by land from the north, don't forget that the highway crosses through a small portion of Bosnia. Bosnia has similar visa requirements, but do double-check to avoid problems.

**Population:** 43,217.

**Languages:** Croatian. However, English, Italian, German and other languages are spoken, especially in tourist-oriented locations.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodoxy).

**Time Zone:** 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the end of March to the end of October.

**Voltage Requirements:** 220 Volts, 50 Hz.

**Telephone Codes:** 020, Dubrovnik; 385, Croatia;

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## Currency Exchange

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The local currency is the kuna (HRK), which is divided into 100 lipa. It is a stable currency, but as a convenience prices often are quoted in both kunas and euros, which are widely accepted. Paying for goods and services in U.S. dollars may result in an unfavorable exchange rate for the purchaser. Therefore, using U.S. dollars in Dubrovnik is not recommended.

Most large hotels will change any foreign currency into kunas, and surprisingly, they offer excellent rates. ATMs are widespread, including one at the airport, and are the second-best way to exchange currency. Changing traveler's checks is not a problem in banks or exchange bureaus.

Credit cards are widely accepted in hotels and larger restaurants. Cash is best for general day-to-day transactions.

Bank hours vary, but they are generally open Monday-Friday 7 or 7:30 am until 7 or 8 pm, Saturday 7:30 am-1 pm.

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## Taxes

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The value-added tax (VAT) is 25%, but this is usually included in the price of goods purchased. In restaurants, 13% VAT is charged on services. There is also a tourist tax per night of about 54 HRK for each adult; this tax is half-price for each child age 12-18.

The VAT is redeemable on purchases larger than 740 HRK. To redeem this tax, make sure the store fills out the appropriate tax reclaim form, called a *porezni cek*, and get the form stamped by a customs official before departure (at the port or airport). The refund should arrive some months later in the mail.

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## Tipping

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Tipping is informal, and it's not universally expected. Usually rounding up with some small change is sufficient. You should tip taxi drivers and other service personnel whose service was exemplary—10% is considered generous. In a nice restaurant with a significant level of personal service, 10% is also appropriate.

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## Weather

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The weather is typically Mediterranean, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Snow is very rare, and the temperature rarely drops below 40 F/5 C. Heat can be a problem in high summer, but the mercury rarely exceeds 85 F/30 C (although the temperature can be magnified if you're strolling inside the city walls). Spring and autumn are the best months to explore the city unless you're there for a sun-and-sea vacation. It can rain at any time during winter, and you will often need to wrap up in warm layers or a lightweight winter jacket.

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## What to Wear

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Hats and sunscreen are the most important accessories to wear in the summer months; a light sweater might be needed occasionally in the evenings, especially in spring and autumn. Swimming shoes make the pebble beaches more accessible. Comfortable, even sturdy, footwear is recommended for the many steps and the stone-paved streets. T-shirts and shorts are acceptable around town in the daytime, but showing too much skin is considered disrespectful when visiting religious buildings. Don't wear swimsuits in town or to cafes.

Women do dress fashionably, and businessmen wear suits and ties but can dress casually at times. Croatians are very easygoing, and even very stylish restaurants are happy with casual wear.

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## Telephone

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Small hotels have direct-dial telephones, and European-banded cell phones work throughout the city (though they're an expensive way of making calls). Your mobile provider can assist you with rate plans prior to your trip and can let you know how (or if) your device will work while traveling. If you have a GSM phone, the best option is to purchase a local SIM card to make calls. Cell phone coverage is extensive throughout the country.

When making calls within Croatia, it is not necessary to dial the area code if it is the same as the one from where you are calling. For calls within Croatia, the 0 preceding the area code must be dialed. If you are calling a Croatian number from abroad, you can drop the 0.

Phone cards are required for public phones; however, there are few public phones to be found anymore. You can buy phone cards at post offices and at newspaper kiosks. For general information, dial 18981; for Croatian telephone number enquiries, dial 11888; for international telephone number enquiries, dial 11802. To obtain weather and traffic-related information, dial 18166.

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## Internet Access

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Small hotels usually have an Internet corner for guests, and many have broadband or Wi-Fi connections in rooms. Larger hotels invariably have Wi-Fi in some public areas as well as in guest rooms. Additionally, a number of public areas in Dubrovnik are set up as free Wi-Fi hotspots. These hotspots are located in Dubrovnik's parks, squares, playgrounds, and in the historical center.

Internet cafes are on the decline in the Old Town and around greater Dubrovnik. If you do find one, they usually provide wireless internet access that costs 15 HRK per hour.

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## Mail & Package Services

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Stamps are available at most news kiosks. Although the postal service is generally reliable, use an express mail service such as DHL if you are sending something of value.

## DHL

Located at the Hotel Excelsior, DHL can also make pickups. Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm. Frana Supila 12, Dubrovnik. Phone 385-1-665-1111. <http://www.dhl.hr>.

### Address

Frana Supila 12  
Dubrovnik, Croatia 20000

### Phone

385-1-665-1111

## Post Office (Main Office)

Monday-Friday 7 am-8 pm, Saturday 8 am-3 pm. Vukovarska 16, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-362-067. <http://www.posta.hr>.

### Address

Vukovarska 16  
Dubrovnik, Croatia 20000

### Phone

020-362-067

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## Newspapers & Magazines

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Few English-language newspapers are available for sale in winter, but in summer you can find papers that are only a day or two old for sale at small kiosks set up around the city. The larger hotels often print out the online edition of American and British newspapers every day. Events calendars, brochures and visitor guides are available through hotels and tourist offices.

Another good source for Croatian news in English can be found in the News section of the Croatian Information Centre's website (<http://www.hic.hr/english>). *The Croatian Times* is another online source. <http://www.croatiantimes.com>.

Events magazines such as *Time Out* and *Dubrovnik In Your Pocket* are good sources of up-to-date information and are published every few months.

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## Transportation

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Getting around the inner city of Dubrovnik is easy, especially since walking is the prevalent mode in the town. To journey outside of the city, public transportation and taxis are readily available. Consider renting a car only if you plan to travel farther outside the city's boundaries. Traveling to and from the airport is also inexpensive and easy to do, especially if you use the local bus system.

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## Air

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Dubrovnik Airport (DBV) is located 12 mi/20 km from the city in Cilipi. The airport is continuously extending, updating and reconstructing various areas of the facility to assist with the growing numbers of visitors to the region. The airport hosts both domestic and international flights, and passenger services include cafes, duty-free and news/tobacco shops, a bank, currency exchange offices, and tour and transportation services, including rental car facilities. The road to and from the airport is in good condition, but it's only one lane in each direction. Phone 385-20-773-100. <http://www.airport-dubrovnik.hr>.

## Connecting Transportation

*Best way:*

For 35 HRK, you can take an Atlas bus from the airport into the city (phone 020-442-222;

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<http://www.atlas-croatia.com>). Atlas buses are always ready and waiting to pick up passengers after each flight arrives. Public buses are also available to ride into Dubrovnik and to other towns nearby.

### *Other options:*

A taxi from the airport costs about 260 HRK-305 HRK. A taxi stand is located outside next to Terminal B. If you book in advance, you may be able to obtain a discounted fare price. There are taxi ranks at the Pile and Ploce gates, or you can have a taxi pick you up where you're staying. Meters are used for fares, but it's good practice to ask what the fare will be before starting the journey. A dependable taxi service is Taxi and Transportation Service, Dubrovnik (phone 098-725-769; <http://www.taxiservicedubrovnik.com>). Taxi Dubrovnik is another good alternative. Phone 095-830-5016. <http://taxi-dubrovnik.com.hr>.

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## Bus

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The bus network extending from the bus station (not an actual building, just an area) outside the Pile gate is substantial and easy to use. The fare is a flat rate of 15 HRK from the adjacent Libertas kiosk or at travel offices and hotels. You can travel any distance within an hour of stamping the ticket in the machine beside the driver, and no destination in greater Dubrovnik is more than an hour away. <http://www.libertasdubrovnik.hr>.

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## Car

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Driving is on the right side of the road in Croatia and the wearing of seat belts is mandatory. It is illegal to use a handheld cell phone while driving. Once in the city, however, Dubrovnik's Old Town can only be explored on foot, and all delivery traffic is banned daily after 10 am. If you are driving and encounter any problems, dial 1987 for roadside assistance, which will put you in contact with the Croatian Automobile Club (HAK) for help. <http://www.hak.hr>.

The legal driving age in Croatia is 18. When renting a car, note that you must be at least 18 years of age and have held a driver's license for at least one year. Drivers who are younger than 25 may also incur an additional young driver fee when renting a car in Croatia.

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## Ferry

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The ferry from the Old Town Harbor to Lokrum Island costs 70 HRK adults, 14 HRK children ages 5-15. It runs every half-hour in summer, and the ride takes 10 minutes. Tickets can be purchased on the dock in front of the boat.

Ferries also regularly travel between the Elaphite Islands and Mijet, other popular destinations for day trips. These boats depart from The Gruz Harbor. For additional information, visit <http://www.jadrolinija.hr>.

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## For More Information

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Current traffic and sailing conditions are broadcast daily in English on Croatian Radio's Channel 2.

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## Tourist Offices

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## Croatian National Tourist Board

The main headquarters of Croatia's tourist board is located at Iblerov trg 10/IV in Zagreb. Lots of valuable information about Dubrovnik can be obtained from the website. Phone 385-1-469-9333. <http://croatia.hr>.

### Address

Dubrovnik, Croatia 20000

### Phone

385-1-469-9333

## Dubrovnik-Neretva County Tourist Board

It provides information about the county and can recommend accommodations in the area as well as provide other travel services. Vukovarska 24, Dubrovnik. Phone 020-324-999. <http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr>.

### Address

Vukovarska 24

Dubrovnik, Croatia 20000

### Phone

020-324-999

## Dubrovnik Tourist Office

Valuable resource for obtaining information on events and other local activities, as well as on receiving travel assistance while in Dubrovnik. There are several locations for the Dubrovnik Tourist Information Office, including at Brsalje 5 (phone 020-312-011); and at Obala Ivana Pavla II, br. 1 in Gruz (phone 020-417-983). Both offices are open Monday-Saturday 8 am-8 pm. Brsalje 5, Dubrovnik. Phone 20-323-887. <http://experience.dubrovnik.hr>.

### Address

Brsalje 5

Dubrovnik, Croatia 20000

### Phone

20-323-887

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## Calendar

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A number of cultural events and festivals occur throughout the year in Dubrovnik.

Parades and special events honor the city's patron saint on St. Blaise's Feast Day, celebrated on 3 February.

As in other European countries, Dubrovnik's residents celebrate the Winter Carnival season in February with processions, parties and costumes.

Oysters are a Dalmatian specialty, and the Dubrovnik Oyster Festival, held in late March, honors them when they are in season. Festivities are concentrated around the Stradun, where oysters are prepared in a variety of ways.

Easter traditions are strong in Dubrovnik, and the period is marked by numerous religious celebrations.

The Summer Festival (10 July-25 August) is a major cultural event that always draws huge crowds.  
<http://www.dubrovnik-festival.hr>.

The Re-Action Festival of Urban Culture, held during July and August, is an underground festival held at the Orlando Klub. The program features more than 50 events. <http://www.klub-orlando.com>.

The Water Polo Wile League, held from mid-July to mid-August, is a water-polo competition involving teams from the city's beaches. Matches are played in the open sea. <http://divljaliga.webs.com>.

In September, the Dubrovnik International Wine and Jazz Festival is a good reason to visit in the preseason.  
<http://dubrovnikwinejazz.com>.

All sorts of Nativity events (parades, singing and the like) lead up to Christmas throughout the month of December.

For a listing of daily events occurring in Dubrovnik, visit <http://visitdubrovnik.hr/en-GB/Events>.

Additional information is available at <http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr/eng/dogadjanja.php>.