

Croatia

Croatia is a country in Europe. It borders Slovenia and Hungary to the north, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the east, Montenegro to the south, and Italy to the west.

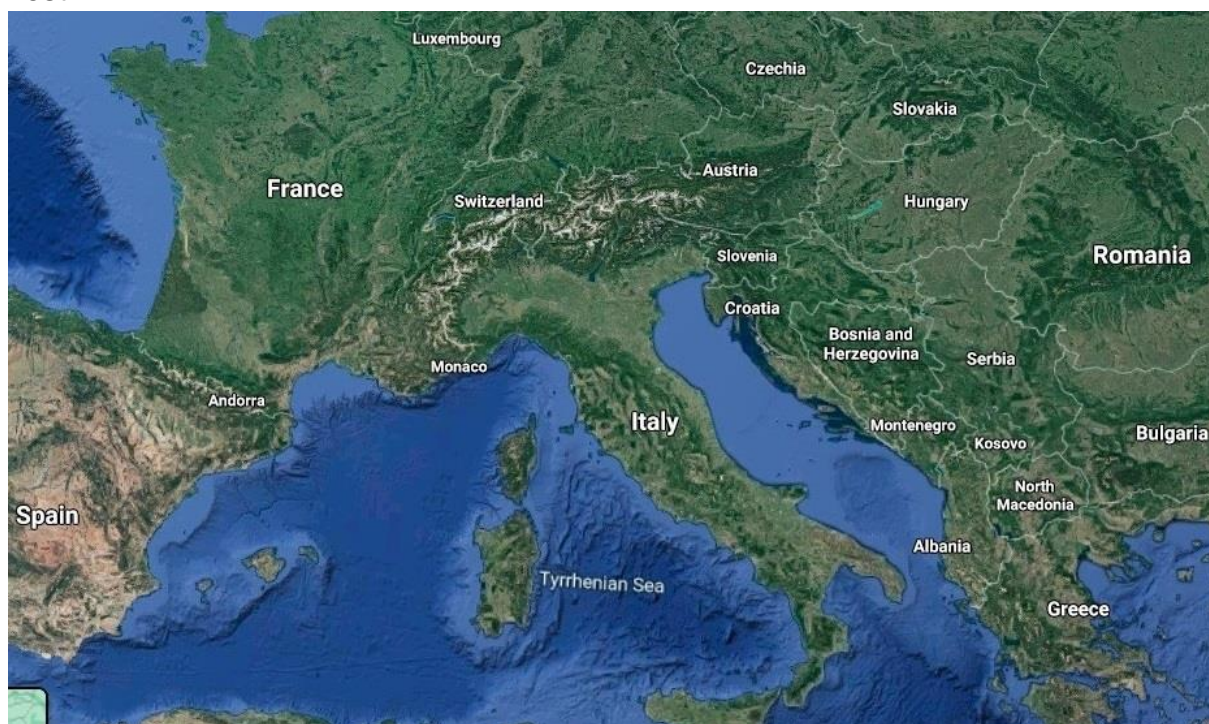


Figure 1. Map

The land area is 56,578 km², and the coastal sea area is 31,067 km².



Figure 2. Croatian flag

In Croatia the flower is known as Kockavica (*Fritillaria meleagris*) and is part of the country's national symbol.



Figure 3. Kockavica (*Fritillaria meleagris*)

The capital of Croatia is Zagreb. In Croatia, the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet are officially used.

The largest part of the population is of the Christian faith, while among Christians the majority are believers of the Catholic faith.

The Croatian currency, the money used to pay in Croatia, is named after the animal kuna.

Kuna fur was once highly valued and traded, but also paid for. That is why the Croatian currency is named after this important animal.



Figure 4. Kuna (*Martes foina*)

Croatia has lakes and hills in the continental north and northeast (central Croatia and Slavonia as part of the Pannonian Plain).



Figure 5. Slavonia

Forested mountains in Lika and Gorski Kotar, which belongs to the Dinarides.



Figure 6. Gorski Kotar

Rocky coast on the Adriatic Sea (Istria, North Coast and Dalmatia).

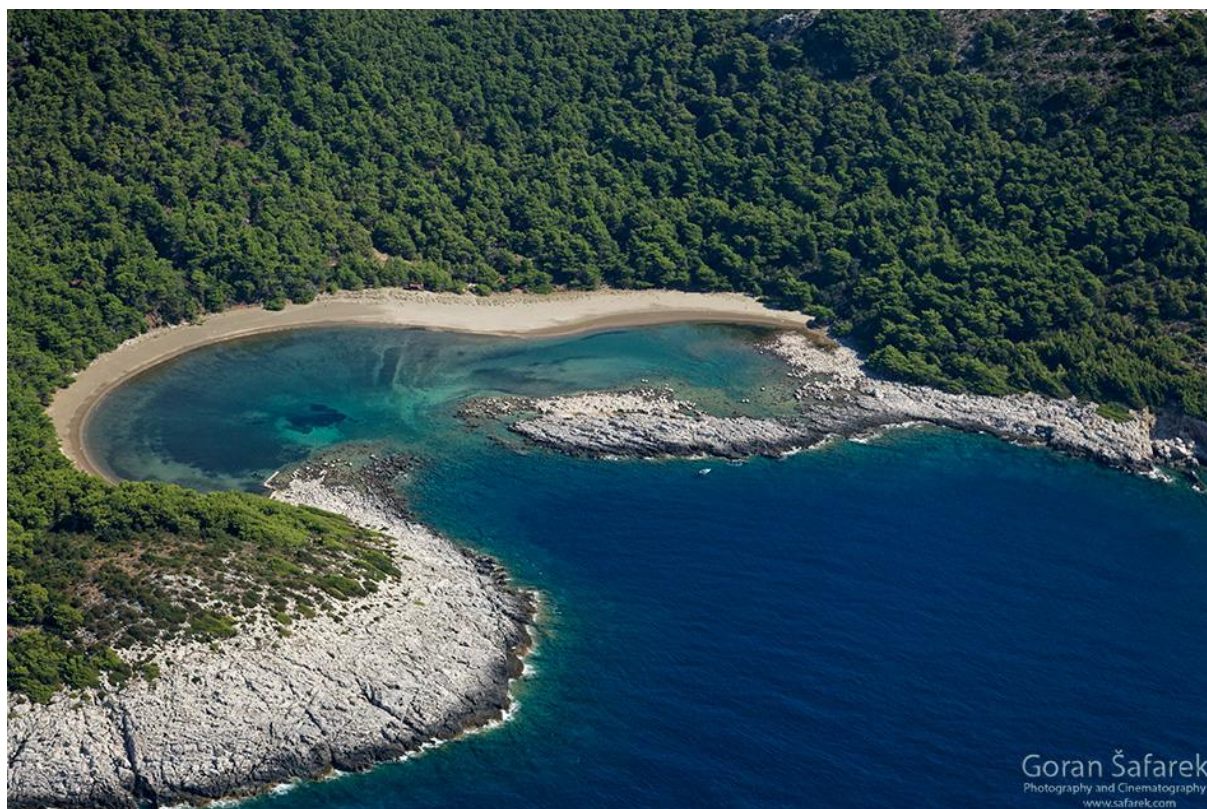


Figure 7. Dalmatia

We live in Slavonia in Našice.



Figure 8. Našice

What is Croatia known for?

The tie is an original Croatian product that is used all over the world today! Ties spread to Europe as they began to be worn by Croatian soldiers in the 17th century. They did not look like today then, but the ties were red scarves that were tied in a knot around the neck. It was among the first in the world to be accepted by the French. Today, the tie is an integral part of formal and formal attire.



Figure 9. Ties

The amphitheater in Pula is the largest and best preserved monument of ancient architecture in Croatia.

The Pula Arena is the sixth largest Roman amphitheater in the world.

Croatia and Spain are the two countries with the largest number of intangible heritage assets under UNESCO protection in Europe.



Figure 10. Pula Arena

Intangible heritage includes customs, skills of making characteristic products, dances, singing, various dishes and the like.

Under the protection of UNESCO is a recognizable souvenir of the island of Pag - Pag lace! It is an original Croatian product, and it is characterized by quality, beauty of samples and special workmanship.

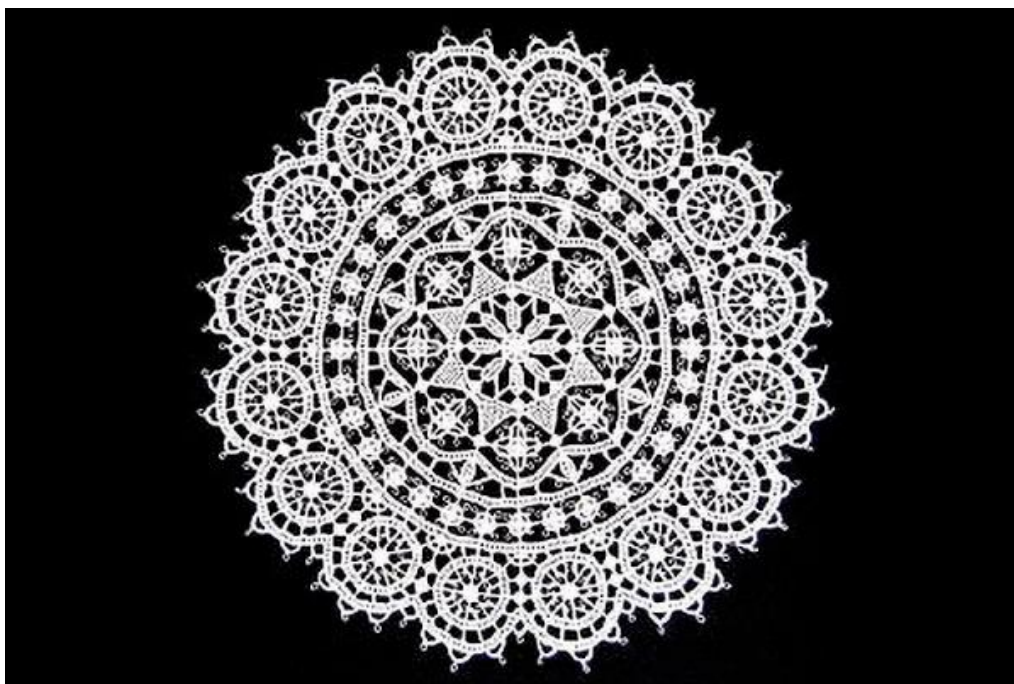


Figure 11. Pag lace

Croatia - a country of natural beauty

In Croatia, natural wonders and beauties are at almost every step! Some of them are so significant and special that they are protected. Croatia has eight national parks!

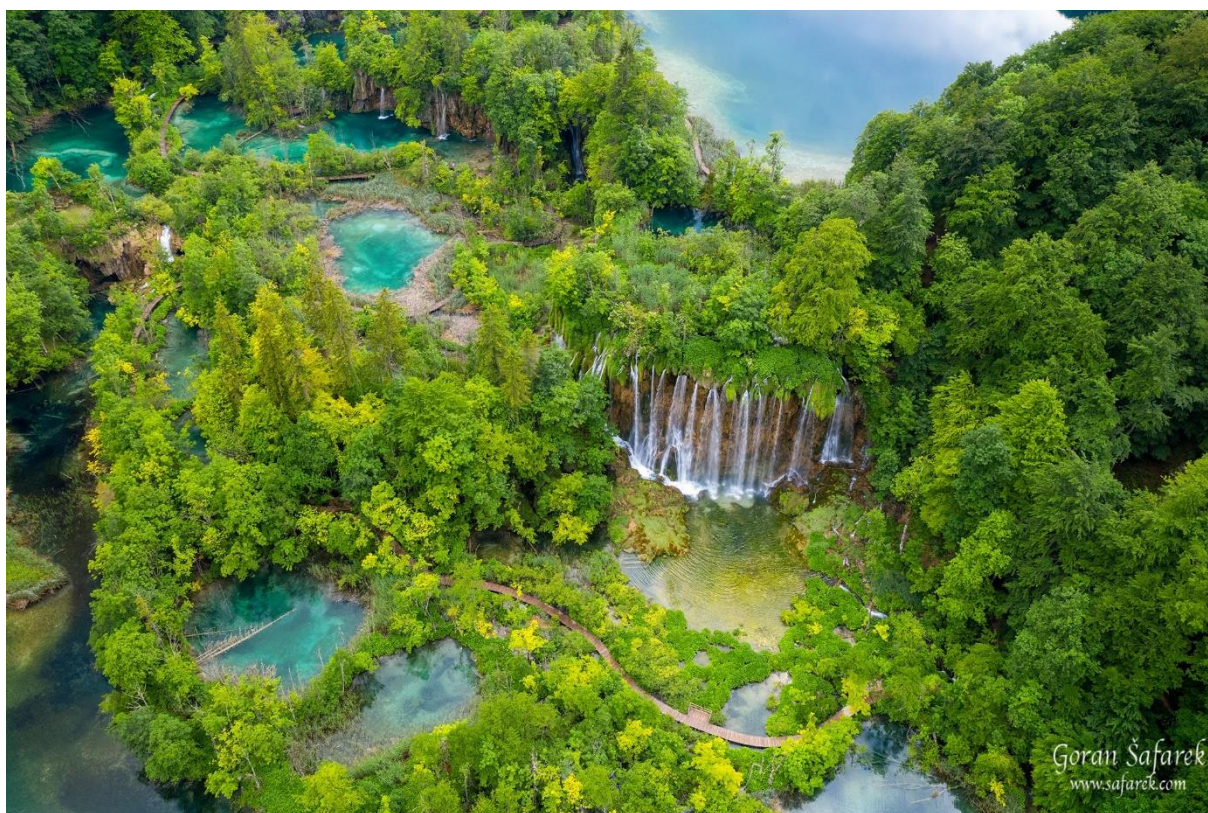


Figure 12. Plitvice Lakes - National Park

Croatia has given the world heritage many greats: from writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, architects, scientists, philosophers and warriors.

The three most important winners of the Nobel Prize can be mentioned: Ivo Andrić for literature, Vladimir Prelog and Lavoslav Ružička for chemistry.

Many important scientists and inventors come from Croatia.

Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla was the world's greatest inventor, born and raised in Croatia. He had more than 700 inventions.

Nikola Tesla's most important inventions: Multiphase current system and rotating magnetic field (alternating multiphase motors and generators on the principle of rotating magnetic field), Alternating power transmission and distribution system, Tesla oscillating transformer (Tesla coil), Lighting transmission with high frequency currents, Wireless system radio signals and energy, Teleautomatika (remote control of the ship), Tesla turbine, Radio...

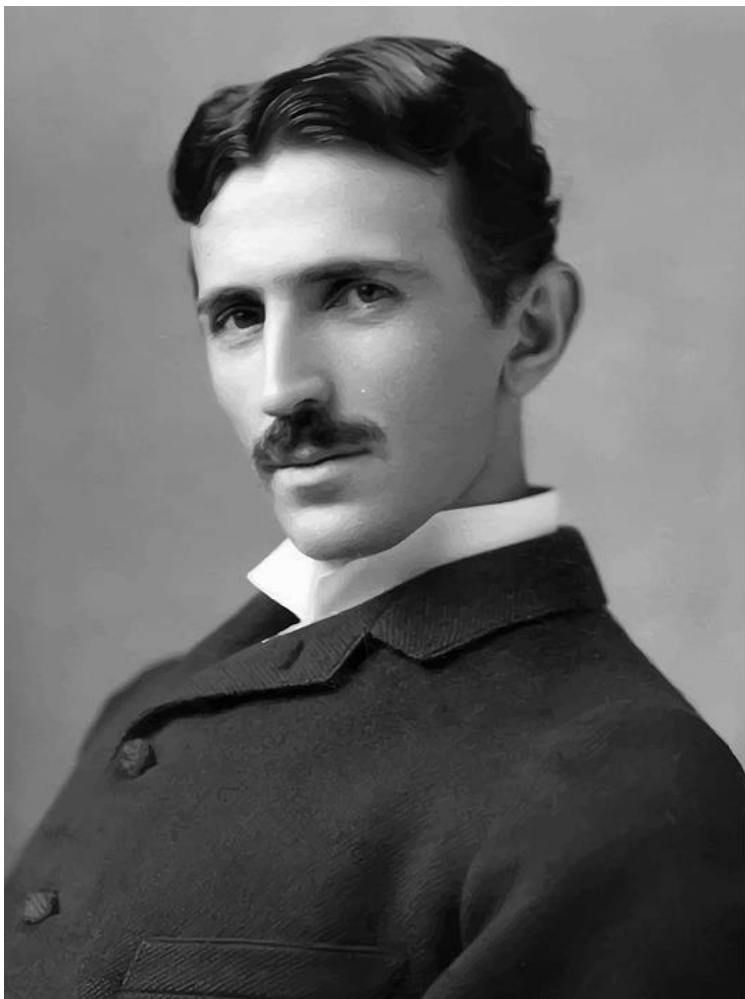


Figure 13. Nikola Tesla

Slavoljub Penkala was the first in the world to construct and make a mechanical pencil which he called "Penkala". The pen is significant because with its patenting, in 1906, the period of modern stationery began. The name "Penkala" became a name used all over the world!



Figure 14. Penkala

Torpedo - the first torpedo was constructed by Ivan Lupis Vukić in Rijeka in the 19th century.



Figure 15. Torpedo

Parts of the lunar surface are named after Croatian scientists Ruđer Bošković and Andrija Mohorovičić.



Figure 16. Moon

Faust Vrančić invented the parachute.



Figure 17. Parachute

Ivan Vučetić is the inventor of dactyloscopy, a fingerprint identification system.



Figure 18. Fingerprints

Antun Lučić is credited with inventing the first oil well.

The most important scientists are Ruđer Bošković and Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger, paleontologist, archaeologist and geologist.

The site of the Krapina Neanderthals "Hušnjakovo" is protected as the first paleontological natural monument in Croatia, and belongs to the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world. Thanks to the exceptional wealth of finds and the discovery of the largest habitat of Neanderthal man, thanks to geologist and paleontologist Dragutin Gorjanović Kramberger, an unsurpassed source of modern scientific information has remained to this day. About nine hundred human fossil bones, numerous fossil remains of Pleistocene animals and more than a thousand pieces of stone tools from the Paleolithic period have been found. The age of this rich paleontological site corresponds to the time of 125,000 years ago.



Figure 19. Krapina Neanderthal Museum

Interesting facts

The Croatian national flower is the iris. Twelve wild iris species grow in Croatia: Croatian iris (*Iris croatica*), dwarf Adriatic iris (*Iris adriatica*), Illyrian iris (*Iris illyrica*), Adriatic iris (*Iris pseudopallida*) and others.



Figure 20. Iris (Iris croatica)

The Dalmatian dog is a very recognizable dog breed due to its characteristic white coat with black spots. No other purebred breed has such a unique dot mark.

The breed was named after the Croatian region of Dalmatia. The Dalmatian dog originally originated from this area.

Dalmatian dogs have been working dogs for centuries, guarding flocks of sheep and carriages on trips.



Figure 21. Dalmatian dog (*Canis Dalmaticus*)

The crystal sea in Croatia provides not only beauty for those who watch it, but also for those who listen to it! The sea in Croatia is literally playing! This is the first sea organ in the world, located in Zadar. They are built so that under the influence of the movement of the sea "emit" different sounds.



Figure 22. Sea organ

[Listen to that tune.](#)