

# Croatia



Croatia lies in the southeast of Europe bordering the Adriatic Sea between Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its land mass is roughly 56,000 sq. km. and it has about 5,800 km. of coastline. Its climate is both Mediterranean and continental with hot summers and cold winters, with milder seasonal extremes along the coast. Just as its climate varies widely, so does its

terrain, with plains along the Hungarian border, and low mountains and highlands along the Adriatic coastline.

Croatia's natural resources include oil, some coal, bauxite, low-grade iron ore, calcium, gypsum, natural asphalt, silica, mica, clays, salt, and hydropower.

Formerly the People's Republic of Croatia or the Socialist Republic of Croatia, its current official name is the Republic of Croatia or locally, Republika Hrvatska. Croatia was once a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and following World War I, it was folded into what became known as Yugoslavia. While Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, the declaration was followed by four years of fighting to eject occupying Serb armies. The country is today a presidential/parliamentary democracy with 20 administrative counties. Its capital city is Zagreb.

Croatia has one of Central Europe's most prosperous economies. It exports transport equipment, textiles, chemicals, foodstuffs and fuels mostly to Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and Slovenia.

