

Zagreb



Everyone knows about Croatia, its coast, beaches and islands, but a mention of the country's capital still draws confused questions: 'Is it nice?' 'Worth going to for a weekend?' Well, here it is, once and for all: yes, Zagreb is a great destination, weekend or week-long. There's lots of culture, arts, music, architecture, gastronomy and all the other things that make a quality capital. Admittedly, it doesn't register highly on a nightlife Richter scale, but it does have an ever-developing art and music scene, and a growing influx of fun-seeking travellers.

Zagreb is made for strolling the streets, drinking coffee in the almost permanently full cafés, popping into museums and galleries, and enjoying the theatres, concerts, cinema and music. It's a year-round outdoor city: in spring and summer everyone scurries to Jarun Lake in the southwest to swim, boat or dance the night away at a lakeside disco, while in autumn and winter Zagrebians go skiing at Mt Medvednica, only a tram ride away, or hiking in nearby Samobor.

Visually, Zagreb is a mixture of straight-laced Austro-Hungarian architecture and rough-around-the-edges socialist structures. Its character is a sometimes uneasy combination of these two elements: try hard as they may, frequenters of Zagreb's elegant galleries, high-class restaurants and alternative art and music venues cannot quite ignore the vast turbo folk crowds, attesting to the city's – and the country's – lasting struggle between its perceived Central European sophistication and Balkan 'savagery'. But perhaps therein lies much of its charm – the mixture of and the schism between these two characteristics have given Zagreb a personality all of its own.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sipping coffee and cocktails alfresco along **Tkalčičeva** (p87)
- Strolling along the winding streets of Zagreb's **Upper Town** (p73)
- Gorging on *štrukli* (dumplings filled with cottage cheese) in **Samobor** (p93), after a day's hiking
- Coveting the paintings at the **Museum Mimara** (p80)
- Picnicking in **Maksimir Park** (p81)
- Contemplating mortality amid the trees and tombs in **Mirogoj** (p80)



HISTORY

Zagreb's known history begins with two hills. Kaptol, now the site of Zagreb's cathedral, was a thriving canonical settlement in the 11th century while another small settlement was developing on nearby Gradec hill. Both were devastated by the Mongol invasion of 1242.

In order to attract foreign artisans to the ruined region, King Bela walled Gradec and turned it into a sort of royally controlled 'fiscal paradise' (tax haven) with numerous privileges. Kaptol remained unprivileged, unwalled and under the church's jurisdiction. As the centuries rolled on, a ruinous rivalry developed between the two towns that frequently descended into violence and near-warfare.

On a number of occasions, the bishops of Kaptol excommunicated the entire town of Gradec, which responded by looting and burning Kaptol. The two communities were finally united by their common commercial interests, such as the three annual fairs that brought merchants and money to the neighbourhood.

In the middle of the 15th century, the Ottomans reached the Sava River, prompting the bishop to finally fortify Kaptol. By the mid-16th century, they had taken much of the surrounding territory, but not the two hill towns, which, having lost their economic importance by the beginning of the 17th century, decided to merge into one town. Thus Zagreb was born.

Zagreb emerged as the capital of the tiny Croatian state largely because there were few towns left standing after the Turkish onslaught. The commercial life of the city stagnated during the ensuing two centuries of warfare, fires and plague, and in 1756 the seat of Croatian government fled from Zagreb to Varaždin, where it remained until 1776. By the end of the 18th century, Zagreb had a mere 2800 residents, the majority of whom were German or Hungarian.

Meanwhile, the space now known as Trg Josipa Jelačića grew as a commercial centre and became the site of Zagreb's lucrative trade fairs, spurring construction around its edges. In the 19th century the economy expanded with the development of a prosperous clothing trade, a steam mill and tannery, and a rail link connecting Zagreb with Vienna and Budapest, and the city's cultural and educational life blossomed, too.

Zagreb also became the centre for the Illyrian movement that was pressing for south-Slavic unification, greater autonomy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire and recognition of the Slavic language. Count Janko Drašković, lord of Trakošćan Castle, published a manifesto in Illyrian in 1832 and his call for a national revival resounded throughout Croatia.

Drašković's dream came to fruition when Croatia and its capital joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes after WWI. Between the two world wars, working-class neighbourhoods emerged in Zagreb between the railway and the Sava River, and new residential quarters were built on the southern slopes of Mt Medvednica. In April 1941, the Germans invaded Yugoslavia and entered Zagreb without resistance. Ante Pavelić and the Ustaše moved quickly to proclaim the establishment of the Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska), with Zagreb as its capital (see p33 for more on Pavelić and the Ustaše). Although Pavelić ran his fascist state from Zagreb until 1944, he never enjoyed a great deal of support within the capital, which consistently maintained support for Tito's Partisans.

In postwar Yugoslavia, Zagreb (to its chagrin) took second place to Belgrade but continued to expand, with the development of Zagreb Airport and the Zagreb fairgrounds.

Zagreb was made the capital of Croatia in 1991, the same year that the country became independent.

ORIENTATION

Lying between the southern slopes of Mt Medvednica and the Sava River, Zagreb covers 631 sq km. Most of the city's highlights lie within the Upper Town (Gornji Grad), which includes the neighbourhoods of Gradec and Kaptol, and the Lower Town (Donji Grad), which runs between the Upper Town and the train station. The majestic central square of the Lower Town is Trg Josipa Jelačića, which is the hub for most of Zagreb's trams. Radiating west from the square is Ilica, the main commercial street; north of the square are the medieval Gradec and Kaptol neighbourhoods. Many streets in the Upper and Lower Towns are closed to cars.

The train station is in the southern part of the city. As you come out of the train station, you'll see a series of parks and pavilions

directly in front of you, which lead into the centre of town.

The bus station is 1km east of the train station. Trams 2, 3 and 6 run from the bus station to the train station. Tram 6 goes to Trg Josipa Jelačića.

See p293 for more information on the use of street names in Zagreb.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Algoritam (Gajeva 1; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) This shop off Trg Josipa Jelačića has a wide selection of books and magazines in English, French, German, Italian and Croatian to choose from. It's inside the Hotel Dubrovnik but accessed through a separate entrance.

Knjižara Ljepak (Ilica 1; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Has an excellent selection of maps as well as English translations of destination guides and Croatian cookbooks.

Emergency

Police station (☎ 45 63 311; Petrinjska 30) Assists foreigners with visa problems.

Internet Access

In addition to the place listed here, there are a number of smaller internet cafés along Preradovićevea.

Sublink (☎ 48 11 329; www.sublink.hr; Teslina 12; per hr 15KN; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat, 3-10pm Sun) It was the city's first cybercafé and it remains its best.

Laundry

If you're staying in private accommodation you can usually ask the owner to do your laundry, which would be cheaper than the two options listed here. Both charge about 60KN for 5kg of laundry.

Petecin (Kaptol 11; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri)

Predom (Draškovićeva 31; ☎ 7am-7pm Mon-Fri)

Left Luggage

Garderoba bus station (per hr 1.20KN; ☎ 5am-10pm Mon-Sat, 6am-10pm Sun); train station (per hr 1.20KN; ☎ 24hr)

Libraries

British Council (☎ 48 13 700; Ilica 12; ☎ 10am-4.30pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 1.30-6.30pm Wed) Has a library where you can read British and American newspapers, books and periodicals, watch BBC news and borrow books and DVDs. It also sponsors plays, concerts and exhibitions.

French Cultural Institute (☎ 48 10 745; Preradovićevea 40; ☎ media centre 10am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 4pm Fri, library 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) Has a reading room

and media centre. Enter at 5 Preradovićevea to listen to French tapes or watch French news in the media centre. The institute's library has a selection of French books, magazines and newspapers. Both the media centre and library are closed for five or six weeks in the summer.

Medical Services

Dental Emergency (☎ 48 28 488; Perkovićevea 3; ☎ 24hr)

KBC Rebro (☎ 23 88 888; Kišpatičeva 12; ☎ 24hr) East of the city, it provides emergency aid.

Pharmacy (☎ 48 16 198; Trg Josipa Jelačića 3; ☎ 24hr)

Money

There are ATMs at the bus and train stations, the airport, and at numerous locations around town. There are banks in the train and bus stations that accept travellers cheques, and exchange offices can be found in the Importanac Centar, Zagreb's main shopping centre, on Starčevićev Trg. Atlas Travel Agency (below) is the Amex representative in Zagreb.

Post

Main post office (☎ 48 11 090; Jurišičeva 13; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Has a telephone centre.

Post office (☎ 49 81 300; Branimirova 4; ☎ 24hr Mon-Sat, 1pm-midnight Sun) Holds poste restante mail. This post office is also the best place to send packages.

Tourist Information

Main tourist office (☎ 48 14 051; www.zagreb-tourist.info.hr; Trg Josipa Jelačića 11; ☎ 8.30am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun) Distributes city maps and free leaflets. It also sells the Zagreb Card (see p77).

Plitvice National Park Office (☎ 46 13 586; Trg Kralja Tomislava 19; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Has details on Croatia's national parks.

Tourist office annexe (☎ 49 21 645; Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinjskog 14; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) Same services as the main tourist office but less documentation.

Zagreb County Tourist Association (☎ 48 73 665; www.tzzz.hr; Preradovićevea 42; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri) Has information about attractions in the region outside Zagreb.

Travel Agencies

Atlas Travel Agency (☎ 48 07 300; Zrinjevac 17; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Amex representative.

Croatia Express (☎ 49 22 237; www.zug.hr; Trg Kralja Tomislava 17; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) At this office opposite the train station you can change money, make train reservations, rent cars, buy air and ferry tickets, and book hotels around the country.

Dali Travel (☎ 48 47 472; travelsection@hfhs.hr; Dežmanova 9; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) The travel branch

of the Croatian YHA can provide information on HI hostels throughout Croatia and make advance bookings.

Dalmacijaturist (☎ 48 73 073; Zrinjevac 16; ☹ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Next to the tourist office annexe. Specialises in the Dalmatian coast; also books excursions and air tickets and is a good source of information on boat and ferry routes along the coast.

Generalturist (☎ 48 10 033; www.generalturist.com; Praška 5; ☹ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Has branches throughout Croatia and books excursions to the coast, cruises and plane tickets. Bookings are done at the office on Petrićeva.

Marko Polo (☎ 48 15 216; Masarykova 24; ☹ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) Handles information and ticketing for Jadrolinija's coastal ferries.

SIGHTS

As the oldest part of Zagreb, the Upper Town has landmark buildings and churches from the earlier centuries of Zagreb's history. The Lower Town has the city's most interesting art museums and fine examples of 19th- and 20th-century architecture.

Keep track of the latest special exhibitions in the Zagreb tourist office's monthly *Zagreb Events & Performances* guide, but bear in mind that nearly everything is closed on Monday.

Upper Town

DOLAC FRUIT & VEGETABLE MARKET

Zagreb's colourful **Dolac fruit & vegetable market** (☹ 6am-3pm) is just north of Trg Josipa Jelačića. It's the buzzing centre of Zagreb's daily activity, with traders coming from all over Croatia to sell their products here. The Dolac has been heaving since the 1930s when the city authorities set up a market space on the 'border' between the Upper and Lower towns. The main part of the market is on an elevated square; the street level has indoor stalls selling meat and dairy products and, a little further towards the square, flowers. The stalls at the northern end of the market are packed with locally produced honey, handmade ornaments and super-cheap food.

KAPTOL SQUARE

The medieval Upper Town centres on Kaptol Sq. Most of the buildings here date from the 17th century. Make sure you take a peek at the **Stone Gate**, the eastern gate to medieval Gradec Town, now a shrine. According to legend, a great fire in 1731 destroyed every part of the wooden gate except for the painting of the Virgin and Child

by an unknown 17th-century artist. People believe that the painting possesses magical powers and come regularly to pray before it, light candles and leave flowers. Square stone slabs are engraved with thanks and praise to the Virgin.

On the western facade of the Stone Gate you'll see a **statue of Dora**, the hero of an 18th-century historical novel who lived with her father next to the Stone Gate.

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Kaptol Sq is dominated by this **cathedral** (Katedrala Marijina Uznesenja; ☎ 48 14 727; Kaptol; admission free; ☹ 7am-7.30pm), formerly known as St Stephen's. Its twin spires – seemingly permanently under repair – soar over the city. Construction of this cathedral (on the site of an earlier Romanesque cathedral, which had been destroyed by the Tartar invasion in 1242) began in the second half of the 13th century. It followed the prototype of the Church of St Urban in Troyes, France.

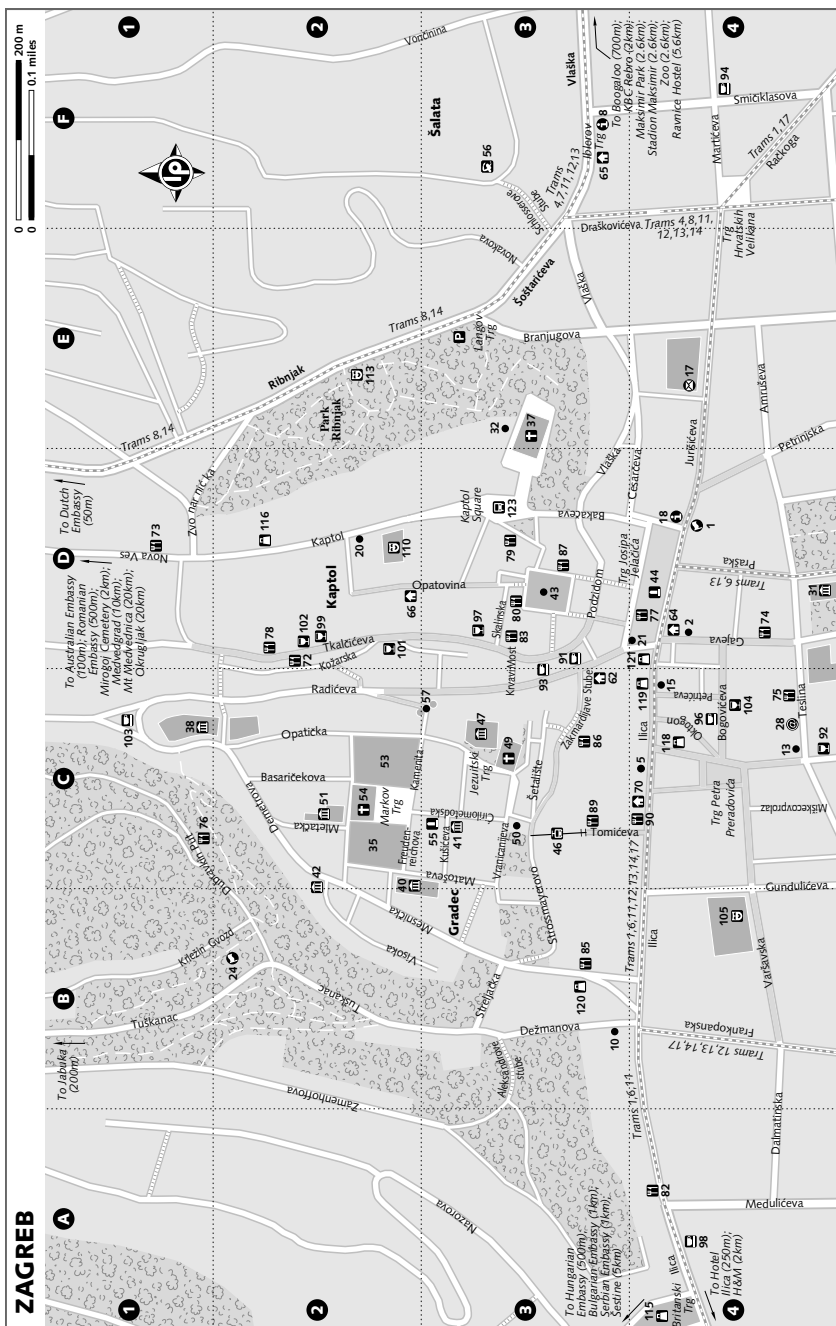
Although the cathedral's original Gothic structure has been transformed many times over, the sacristy still contains a cycle of **frescoes** that date from the second half of the 13th century. As the furthest outpost of Christianity in the 15th century, the cathedral was surrounded by walls with towers, one of which is still visible on the eastern side. An earthquake in 1880 badly damaged the cathedral and reconstruction in a neo-Gothic style began around the turn of the 20th century.

Despite the scars inflicted on the structure, there is much to admire on the inside. Notice the **trptych** by Albrecht Dürer on the side altar; the baroque marble altars, statues and pulpit; and the **tomb of Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac** by Ivan Meštrović.

To the north of the cathedral, an **Archbishop's Palace** was built in the 18th century in a baroque style, but little remains. Under the northeastern wing of the cathedral is a **19th-century park** with a sculpture of a female nude by Antun Augustinčić.

JESUIT CHURCH OF ST CATHERINE

This fine baroque **church** (Crkva Svete Katarine; ☎ 48 51 959; Katarinin Trg; ☹ 7am-noon) was built between 1620 and 1632. Although battered by fire and earthquake, the facade still gleams and the interior contains a fine altar dating from 1762. The interior stucco work dates



INFORMATION

Albanian Embassy.....	1 D4	Dverce Mansion.....	(see 47)	Pod Gričkom Topom.....	86 C3
Algoritam.....	2 D4	Equestrian Statue.....	44 D4	Rubelj.....	87 D3
Atlas Travel Agency.....	3 D5	Ethnographic Museum.....	45 B6	Tip Top.....	88 B5
Bosnian & Hercegovinian Embassy.....	4 E6	Fountain.....	(see 47)	Vallis Aurea.....	89 C3
British Council.....	5 C4	Funicular Railway.....	46 C3	Vincek.....	90 C4
Canadian Embassy.....	6 A5	Galerija Klovčićevi Dvori.....	47 C3	Zinfandel's Restaurant.....	(see 71)
Croatia Express.....	7 E7	Gallery of Modern Art.....	48 D5		
Croatian National Tourist Board..	8 F3	Jesuit Church of St Catherine.....	49 C3	DRINKING ☑ ☑	
Croatian YHA.....	(see 10)	Lotrščak Tower.....	50 C3	100% Liquid Health.....	91 D3
Czech Embassy.....	9 A7	Meštrović Atelier.....	51 C2	Apartman.....	92 C4
Dali Travel.....	10 B3	Museum Mimara.....	52 A6	Argentina.....	93 C3
Dalmacijaturist.....	11 D5	Sabor.....	53 C2	Booksa.....	94 F4
Dental Emergency.....	12 B6	St Mark's Church.....	54 C2	BP Club.....	95 C5
French Cultural Institute.....	13 C4	Sculpted Stone Head of Matija Gubec.....	55 C3	Bulldog Café.....	96 C4
French Embassy.....	14 D5	Sports & Recreational Centre Šalata.....	56 F3	Cica.....	97 D3
Generalisturist.....	15 C4	Stature of Dora.....	(see 57)	Eli's Café.....	98 A4
Irish Consulate.....	16 C8	Stone Gate.....	57 C3	Funk.....	99 D2
Knjžara Ljevak.....	(see 15)	Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters.....	58 D5	Hemingway.....	100 B5
Main Post Office.....	17 E4	Technical Museum.....	59 A7	Melin.....	101 D2
Main Tourist Office.....	18 D4			Oliver Twist.....	102 D2
Marko Polo.....	19 C5	SLEEPING ☑		Palainovka.....	103 C1
Petcin.....	20 D2	Arcotel Allegra.....	60 F7	Škola.....	104 C4
Pharmacy.....	21 D4	Evistas.....	61 F6		
Plitvice National Park Office.....	22 D6	Fulir Hostel.....	62 C3	ENTERTAINMENT ☑	
Police Station.....	23 E5	Hotel Central.....	63 E7	Croatian Music Institute.....	105 B4
Polish Embassy.....	24 B2	Hotel Dubrovnik.....	64 D4	Croatian National Theatre.....	106 B5
Post Office.....	25 E7	Hotel Jadran.....	65 F3	David.....	107 B7
Predom.....	26 F5	Krovovi Grada.....	66 D2	Dražen Petrović Basketball Centre.....	108 A7
Slovakian Embassy.....	27 A5	Never Stop.....	67 E5	G Bar.....	109 E6
Slovenian Embassy.....	(see 9)	Omladinski Hostel.....	68 E6	Kazalište Komedija.....	(see 118)
Sublink.....	28 C4	Palace Hotel.....	69 D5	Komedija Theatre.....	110 D2
Tourist Office Annexe.....	29 D5	Pansion Jägerhorn.....	70 C4	Koncertna Direkcija Zagreb.....	111 F5
Zagreb County Tourist Association.....	30 C6	Regent Esplanade Zagreb.....	71 D7	Kset.....	112 B8

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Archaeological Museum.....	31 D4	EATING ☑		SHOPPING ☑	
Archbishop's Palace.....	32 E3	Agava.....	72 D2	Antiques Market.....	115 A4
Art Pavilion.....	33 D6	Baltazar.....	73 D1	Bornstein.....	116 D2
Arts & Crafts Museum.....	34 B5	Boban.....	74 D4	Branimir Centar.....	117 F7
Banski Dvori.....	35 C2	Cantinetta.....	75 C4	Croatia.....	118 C4
Botanical Garden.....	36 B7	Dubravkin Put.....	76 C1	Nama.....	119 C4
Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.....	37 E3	Gavrilović.....	77 D4	Prostor.....	120 B3
City Museum.....	38 C1	Ivica I Marica.....	78 D2	Rukotvorine.....	121 D4
Croatian Association of Fine Artists.....	39 F5	Kaptolska Klet.....	79 D3		
Croatian History Museum.....	40 C2	Kerempuh.....	80 D3	TRANSPORT	
Croatian Museum of Naive Art.....	41 C3	Konoba Čiho.....	81 E6	Avis.....	122 F6
Croatian Natural History Museum.....	42 C2	Makronova.....	82 A4	Budget Rent-a-Car.....	(see 122)
Dolac Fruit & Vegetable Market.....	43 D3	Market.....	(see 115)	Buses to Mirogoj.....	123 D3
		Nocturno.....	83 D3	Croatia Airlines.....	124 D5
		Pekarnica Dora.....	84 D6	Hertz.....	125 A6
		Pivnica Stari Fijaker 900.....	85 B3	Hrvatski Autoklub.....	126 F5

from 1720 and there are 18th-century medallions depicting the life of St Catherine on the ceiling of the nave.

GALERIJA KLOVIČEVI DVORI

This gallery (☎ 48 51 926; www.galerijaklovic.hr; Jezuitski Trg 4; adult/student 40/20KN; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sun) is housed in a former Jesuit monastery and is the city's most prestigious space for exhibiting modern Croatian and international art, presented in a series of changing exhibitions.

Some of the more noted exhibitions have included Picasso and, more recently, Chagall, as well as collections of Croatia's prominent fine artists, such as Lovro Artuković and Ivan Lovrenčić. If you're looking for an unusual, arty souvenir, try the gallery's gift shop. There's also a nice café attached to the gallery.

Opposite the gallery is the 18th-century **Dverce mansion**, which was restored in the 19th century and is now used for official receptions.

Before leaving the square, note the **fountain** with the statue *Fisherman with Snake*, which was created by Simeon Roksandić in 1908.

SABOR

The eastern side of Markov Trg is taken up by the Croatian **sabor** (parliament), built in 1910 on the site of baroque 17th- and 18th-century townhouses. Its neoclassical style is quite incongruous on the square, but the historical (and present) importance of this building is undeniable – Croatia's secession from the Austro-Hungarian Empire was proclaimed from its balcony in 1918, and it is the centre of Croatian politics today.

ST MARK'S CHURCH

This **church** (Crkva Svetog Marka; ☎ 48 51 611; Markov Trg; ☎ 11am-4pm & 5.30-7pm) is one of Zagreb's most emblematic buildings. Its colourful tiled roof was constructed in 1880 and the tiles on the left side depict the medieval coat of arms of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia, while the emblem of Zagreb is on the right side. The 13th-century church was named for the annual St Mark's fair, which was held in Gradec at the time, and it retains a 13th-century Romanesque window on the southern side. The Gothic portal composed of 15 figures in shallow niches was sculpted in the 14th century. The present bell tower replaces an earlier one that was destroyed by an earthquake in 1502. The interior contains sculptures by Meštrović.

It is unfortunate that the church's courtyard (ie the square itself) is used as a car park for government members.

CROATIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This **museum** (Hrvatski Prirodoslovni Muzej; ☎ 48 51 700; Demetrova 1; adult/concession 15/7KN; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) houses a collection of prehistoric tools and bones excavated from the Krapina cave as well as exhibits showing the evolution of animal and plant life in Croatia. Temporary exhibits often focus on specific regions.

BANSKI DVORI

The **Banski Dvori** (Ban's Palace; Markov Trg) was once the seat of Croatian viceroys and is now the presidential palace. The building is composed of two baroque mansions and houses courts, archives and other government offices. In October 1991 the palace was bombed by the

ZAGREB CARD

If you're in Zagreb for a day or three, getting the Zagreb Card is a pretty good way to save money. You can choose either 24 or 72 hours (60 or 90KN) and you get free travel on all public transport, a 50% discount on museum and gallery entries, and discounts in some bars and restaurants, car rental and so forth. A booklet is available listing all the places that offer discounts, or check www.zagrebcard.fivestars.hr for more details. The card is sold at the main tourist office and many hostels, hotels, bars and shops.

federal army, in what some believe to have been an assassination attempt on President Franjo Tuđman. From April to September there is a guard-changing ceremony every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at noon.

Leaving Markov Trg by Čirilometodska, you'll come across a **sculpted stone head** representing Matija Gubec, the leader of a celebrated peasant rebellion who was allegedly beheaded on the square.

MEŠTROVIĆ ATELIER

Croatia's most recognised artist is Ivan Meštrović. His former home, a 17th-century building where he worked and lived from 1922 to 1942, is now the **Meštrović Atelier** (☎ 48 51 123; Mletačka 8; adult/concession 30/15KN; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, to 2pm Sat & Sun). The excellent collection has some 100 sculptures, drawings, lithographs and furniture from the first four decades of his artistic life. Meštrović, who also worked as an architect (see boxed text, p80), designed many parts of the house himself.

CITY MUSEUM

The **City Museum** (Muzej Grada Zagreba; ☎ 48 51 364; www.mdc.hr/mgz; Opatička 20; adult/concession 20/10KN; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) sits in the 17th-century Convent of St Clair, which is built along the eastern wall of the town. Since 1907 the convent has housed a historical museum presenting the history of Zagreb in documents, artwork and crafts, plus interactive exhibits that fascinate kids. Most interesting is a scale model of old Gradec. Summaries of the exhibits are posted in English and German in each room and evocative music accompanies your visit.

ZAGREB IN...

Two Days

Start your day with a stroll through Strossmayerov Trg, Zagreb's oasis of greenery. While you're there, take a look at the **Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters** (opposite) and then walk to **Trg Josipa Jelačića** (below), the city's centre.

Head up to **Kaptol Square** (p73) for a look at the **Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (p73), the centre of Zagreb's (and Croatia's) religious life. While you're in the Upper Town, pick up some fruit at the **Dolac fruit & vegetable market** (p73) or, better, have lunch at **Kerempuh** (p85). Then get to know the work of Croatia's best sculptor at **Meštrović Atelier** (p77) and see its naïve art legacy at the **Croatian Museum of Naïve Art** (below) or take in a contemporary art exhibition at **Galerija Klovičevi Dvori** (p76). See the lay of the city from the top of **Lotrščak Tower** (below). The evening is best spent having a drink at **Škola** (p87) or bar-crawling along **Tkalčićeva** (p87).

On the second day, tour the Lower Town museums, reserving a good two hours for the **Museum Mimara** (p80). Lunch at **Tip Top** (p85) and digest in the **Botanical Garden** (p80). Early evening is best at Trg Petra Preradovića before dining at one of the Lower Town restaurants and sampling some of Zagreb's nightlife.

Four Days

Your third day should take in the lovely **Mirogoj cemetery** (p80), with maybe a stop at **Medvedgrad** (p81) or **Maksimirk Park** (p81).

On your last day, make a trip out to **Samobor** (p93) for a heavy dose of small-town charm. Eat, drink and then take a nice walk to digest it all.

CROATIAN HISTORY MUSEUM

Located in a gorgeous baroque building, the **Croatian History Museum** (Hrvatski Povijesni Muzej; ☎ 48 51 900; www.hismus.hr; Matoševa 9; adult/concession 10/5KN; 🕒 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) displays an interesting collection of flags, stones, fine art, photos, documents and maps tracing Croatia's history.

CROATIAN MUSEUM OF NAÏVE ART

If you like Croatia's naïve art, a form that was highly fashionable locally and worldwide during the 1960s and 1970s and has declined somewhat since, the **Croatian Museum of Naïve Art** (Hrvatski Muzej Naivne Umjetnosti; ☎ 48 51 911; www.hmnu.org; Ćirilometodska 3; adult/student 10/5KN; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat) will be a feast. The small museum houses over 1000 paintings, drawings and some sculpture by the discipline's most important artists, such as Generalić, Mraz, Virius and Smaljić. For more on these artists, see p105.

Don't miss the fun and technicolour sculptures produced by Sofija Naletilić Penavaša (1913-94), an illiterate Hercegovinian woman who first started making wooden sculptures to amuse her grandson and then became massively popular during the 1980s and 1990s.

LOTRŠČAK TOWER

The **Lotrščak Tower** (Kula Lotrščak; ☎ 48 51 926; Strossmayerovo Šetalište; admission 10KN; 🕒 11am-8pm Tue-Sun) was built in the middle of the 13th century in order to protect the southern city gate. For the last hundred years a cannon has been fired every day at noon commemorating an event from Zagreb's history. According to legend, a cannon was fired at noon one day at the Turks camped across the Sava River. On its way across the river, the cannonball happened to hit a rooster. The rooster was blown to bits and, the story goes, that's why the Turks became so demoralised and failed to attack the city. A less fanciful explanation is that the cannon shot allows churches to synchronise their clocks.

The tower may be climbed for a sweeping 360-degree view of the city. Near the tower is a **funicular railway** (3KN), which was constructed in 1888 and connects the Lower and Upper Towns.

Lower Town

TRG JOSIPA JELAČIĆA

Zagreb's main orientation point and the geographic heart of the city is Trg Josipa Jelačića. This is where most people arrange to meet up, and if you want quality people-watching

you can sit in one of the cafés and watch the tram-loads of people getting out, greeting each other and dispersing among the newspaper and flower sellers.

The square's name comes from Ban Jelačić, the 19th-century *ban* (viceroi or governor) who led Croatian troops into an unsuccessful battle with Hungary in the hope of winning more autonomy for his people. The **equestrian statue** of Jelačić stood in the square from 1866 until 1947, when Tito ordered its removal because it was too closely linked with Croatian nationalism. Franjo Tuđman's government then dug it up out of storage in 1990 and returned it to the square.

Most of the buildings date from the 19th century; note the reliefs by sculptor Ivan Meštrović at No 4.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The **Archaeological Museum** (Arheološki Muzej; ☎ 48 73 101; www.amz.hr; Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinjskog; adult/concession 20/10KN; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) has artefacts that stem from prehistoric times onwards. Among the most interesting are the 'Vučedolska golubica' (Vučedol Dove), a 4000-year-old ceramic censer found near the town of Vukovar. The 'bird' has since become a symbol of Vukovar and peace. Also fascinating are the **Egyptian mummies**, with ambient sounds and light designed to provoke pondering. The **coin collection** is one of the most important in Europe, containing some 260,000 coins, medals, medallions and decorations.

The courtyard has a collection of **Roman monuments** dating from the 5th to 4th centuries BC and functions as an open-air café in summer.

STROSSMAYER GALLERY OF OLD MASTERS

This **museum** (Strossmayerova Galerija Starih Majstora; ☎ 48 95 115; www.mdc.hr/strossmayer; Zrinjevac 11; adult/concession 10/5KN; ☎ 10am-1pm & 5-7pm Tue, 10am-1pm Wed-Sun) is housed in the 19th-century neo-Renaissance Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences. This lovely building showcases the impressive fine-art collection donated to the city by the illustrious Bishop Strossmayer in 1884.

The museum includes Italian masters from the 14th to 19th centuries such as G Bellini, Tintoretto, Veronese and Tiepolo; Dutch and Flemish painters such as J Brueghel the Younger; French and Spanish artists Proudhon, Carpeaux and El Greco;

and the classic Croatian artists Medulić and Benković.

The interior courtyard contains the **Baška Slab** (Bašćanska ploča), a stone tablet from the island of Krk, which contains the oldest example of Glagolitic script, dating from 1102. There is also a **statue of Bishop Strossmayer** by Ivan Meštrović.

GALLERY OF MODERN ART

West of the Strossmayer Gallery is the **Gallery of Modern Art** (Moderna Galerija; ☎ 49 22 368; Andrije Hebranga 1; adult/concession 20/10KN; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat), which has a glorious display of Croatian artists of the last 200 years, including such 19th- and 20th-century Croatian masters as Bukovac, Mihanović and Račić. It's an excellent overview of the vibrant Croatian arts scene.

ART PAVILION

The yellow **Art Pavilion** (Umjetnički Paviljon; ☎ 48 41 070; www.umjetnicki-paviljon.hr; Trg Kralja Tomislava 22; adult/concession 20/10KN; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-1pm Sun) presents changing exhibitions of contemporary art. Constructed in 1897 in stunning art nouveau style, the pavilion is the only space in Zagreb that was specifically designed to host large exhibitions.

ARTS & CRAFTS MUSEUM

Built between 1882 and 1892, this **museum** (Muzej za Umjetnost i Obrt; ☎ 48 82 111; www.muio.hr, in Croatian; Trg Maršala Tita 10; adult/student 30/15KN; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) exhibits furniture, textiles, metal, ceramic and glass dating from the Middle Ages to contemporary times. You can see Gothic and baroque sculptures from northern Croatia as well as paintings, prints, bells, stoves, rings, clocks, bound books, toys, photos and industrial designs. The museum also contains an important library and there are frequent temporary exhibitions.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

This **museum** (Etnografski Muzej; ☎ 48 26 220; www.emz.hr; Trg Mažuranićev 14; adult/concession 15/10KN, free Thu; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Thu, to 1pm Fri-Sun) is worth a visit, especially on Thursdays when admission is free. It's housed in a domed building dating from 1903 and contains some 70,000 items that catalogue the ethnographic heritage of Croatia. Only about 2750 exhibits are on display, including ceramics, jewellery, musical instruments, tools and weapons, as well

ART VERSUS HISTORY

The **Croatian Association of Fine Artists** (Hrvatsko Društvo Likovnih Umjetnika; ☎ 46 11 818; www.hdlu.hr; Trg Žrtava Fašizma; admission free; 🕒 11am-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat & Sun) is one of the few architectural works by Ivan Meštrović and a building that's had several fascinating incarnations that reflect the region's history in a nutshell.

Originally designed by Meštrović as an exhibition pavilion, the structure honoured King Petar Karađorđević – the ruler of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes – which grated against the sensibilities of Croatia's nationalists. With the onset of Croatia's fascist government, the building was renamed The Zagreb Artists' Centre in May 1941, but several months later Ante Pavelić, Croatia's fascist leader, gave orders for the building to be evacuated of all artwork and turned into a mosque. This was, according to him, so that the local Muslim population would feel at home in Croatia (there was no other mosque at the time to serve the needs of these people). There were murmurs of disapproval from the artists, but the building was significantly restructured and eventually surrounded by three minarets.

With the establishment of Socialist Yugoslavia, however, the mosque was promptly closed and the building's original purpose restored, although the government renamed it the Museum of the People's Liberation. A permanent exhibition was set up and, in 1949, the government had the minarets knocked down. In 1951, an architect called V Richter set about returning the building to its original state according to Meštrović's design. The building has remained an exhibition space ever since, with a nonprofit, nongovernment association of Croatian artists making use of it. Despite being renamed the Croatian Association of Fine Artists in 1991 by the country's new government, everyone in Zagreb still knows it as 'the old mosque'.

as Croatian folk costumes, gold-embroidered scarves from Slavonia and lace from the island of Pag. Thanks to donations from the Croatian explorers Mirko and Stevo Seljan, there are also interesting artefacts from South America, the Congo, Ethiopia, China, Japan, New Guinea and Australia. Fascinating temporary exhibitions are often held on the 2nd floor.

MUSEUM MIMARA

Zagreb's best art collection is at the **Museum Mimara** (Muzej Mimara; ☎ 48 28 100; Rooseveltov Trg 5; adult/concession 20/15KN; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat, to 7pm Thu, to 2pm Sun). This is the diverse private collection of Ante Topić Mimara, who donated over 3750 priceless objects to his native Zagreb, even though he spent much of his life in Salzburg, Austria.

Housed in a neo-Renaissance former school building (1883), the collection spans a wide range of periods and regions. There is an archaeological collection with 200 items from Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Rome and early medieval Europe; exhibits of ancient Far Eastern artworks; a glass, textile and furniture collection that spans centuries; and 1000 European art objects.

In painting, Italian artists Raphael, Veronese, Caravaggio and Canaletto are represented. Dutch artists Rembrandt and

Ruisdael are also present, and there are Flemish paintings from Bosch, Rubens and Van Dyck. Spanish painters Velázquez, Murillo and Goya, German and English painters, and French masters de la Tour, Boucher, Delacroix, Corot, Manet, Renoir and Degas are also in the collection.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

If you need a change from museums, galleries and/or shopping and schlepping, take a break in this lovely **garden** (Botanički Vrt; http://hirc.botanic.hr; Mihanovićeva bb; admission free; 🕒 7am-9pm Apr-Oct). Laid out in 1890, the garden has 10,000 species of plant, including 1800 tropical flora specimens. The landscaping has created restful corners and paths that seem a world away from bustling Zagreb.

North of the Centre MIROGOJ

A 10-minute ride north of the city centre on bus 106 from the cathedral (or a 30-minute walk through leafy streets) takes you to **Mirogoj cemetery** (🕒 6am-10pm), at the base of Mt Medvednica. This is without a doubt one of the most beautiful cemeteries in Europe – one wag commented that the people here are better housed in death than they ever were in life. The cemetery was designed in 1876 by one

of Croatia's finest architects, Herman Bollé, who also created numerous buildings around Zagreb. In Mirogoj he built a majestic arcade topped by a string of cupolas, which looks like a fortress from the outside but is calm and graceful on the inside. The cemetery is lush and green and the paths are interspersed with sculpture and artfully designed tombs. Highlights include the graves of poet Petar Preradović and the political leader Stjepan Radić, the bust of Vladimir Bečić by Ivan Meštrović and the sculpture by Mihanović for the Mayer family. The newest addition at Mirogoj is a **memorial cross** in honour of the fallen soldiers in Croatia's Homeland War.

MEDVEDGRAD

The medieval fortress of **Medvedgrad** (admission free; ☎ 7am-10pm), on the southern side of Mt Medvednica just above the city, is Zagreb's most important medieval monument. Built from 1249 to 1254, it was erected to protect the city from Tartar invasions and is itself well protected by high rocks. The fortress was owned by a succession of aristocratic families but fell into ruin as a result of an earthquake and general neglect. Restoration began in 1979, but was pursued with greater enthusiasm in 1993 and 1994 when the country was looking to honour monuments from its past. Today you can see the rebuilt thick walls and towers, a small **chapel** with frescoes and the **Shrine of the Homeland**, which pays homage to those who have died for a free Croatia. On a clear day, it also offers a beautiful view of Zagreb and surrounds.

East of the Centre

MAKSIMIR PARK

This **park** (Maksimirska; ☎ 9am-dusk) is a peaceful wooded enclave covering 18 hectares; it is easily accessible by trams 4, 7, 11 and 12. Opened to the public in 1794, it was the first public promenade in southeastern Europe and is landscaped like an English garden-style park with alleys, lawns and artificial lakes. The most photographed structure in the park is the exquisite **Bellevue Pavilion**, which was constructed in 1843, but there is also the **Echo Pavilion** and a house built to resemble a rustic Swiss cottage. There's also a modest **zoo** (adult/under 8yr 20/10KN; ☎ 9am-8pm), which came up with the novel idea of installing 'cages' for humans to educate the big-brained wonders about their impact on the environment.

ACTIVITIES

The **Sports Park Mladost** (☎ 36 58 541; Jarunska 5, Jarun; family day ticket 60KN; ☎ 11am-3pm & 4-8pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 11am-3pm Wed, 1-5pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun) has outdoor and indoor Olympic-sized swimming pools, as well as smaller pools for children and a gym. To get to Jarun, take tram 5 or 7.

The **Sports & Recreational Centre Salata** (☎ 46 16 300; www.salata.hr, in Croatian; Schlosserove Stube 2; admission 25KN; ☎ 1.30-6pm Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm Sat & Sun) offers outdoor and indoor tennis courts, a gym, a winter ice-skating rink and two outdoor swimming pools. There's also an indoor ice-skating rink that rents skates.

Although Zagreb is not normally associated with winter sports, if the snow lasts long enough you can ski right outside town at Sljeme, the main peak of Mt Medvednica. It has four ski runs, three ski lifts and a triple chairlift; call the **ski centre** (☎ 45 55 833) for information on snow conditions.

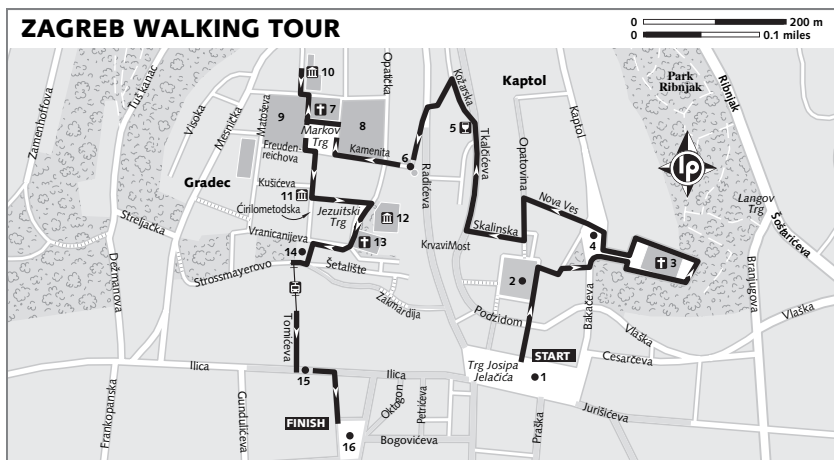
Jarun Lake in south Zagreb is a popular getaway for residents at any time of the year, but especially in summer when the clear waters are ideal for swimming. Although part of the lake is marked off for boating competitions, there is more than enough space to enjoy a leisurely swim. Take tram 5 or 17 to Jarun and follow signs to the *jezero* (lake). When you come to the lake you can head left to Malo Jezero for **swimming** and **canoe** or **pedal-boat** rental, or right to Veliko Jezero, where there's a **pebble beach** and **windsurfing**.

ZAGREB WALKING TOUR

You can pick up a copy of *City Walks* free from any tourist office. It suggests two walking tours around the town centre exploring both the Upper and Lower Towns.

The natural starting point of any walk in Zagreb is the buzzing **Trg Josipa Jelačića** (1; p78). Climb the steps up to **Dolac fruit & vegetable market** (2; p73) and pick up some fruit or a quick snack and head for the **cathedral** (3; p73). Cross **Kaptol Square** (4; p73), walk down Skalinska and come out at Tkalčićeva. Wander up the street and climb the stairs next to the bar **Melin** (5; p87), which will take you up to **Stone Gate** (6; p73), a fascinating shrine. Next, go up Kamenita and you'll come out at Markov Trg, the site of **St Mark's Church** (7; p77), Zagreb's most emblematic place, the **sabor** (8; p77), the country's parliament, and **Banski Dvori** (9; p77), the presidential palace. Wander

ZAGREB WALKING TOUR



WALK FACTS

Start Trg Josipa Jelačića

End Trg Petra Preradovića

Duration 1½ hours

about the winding streets of the Upper Town and take in different aspects of Croatia's art world in **Meštrović Atelier** (10; p77). Walk back across Markov Trg and down Čirilometodska, stepping into one of the country's most particular museums, the **Croatian Museum of Naive Art** (11; p78). Cross Jezuitski Trg and enter **Galerija Klovičevi Dvori** (12; p76), where local and international contemporary art exhibitions await. When you're finished with art, gaze up at the gorgeous **Jesuit Church of St Catherine** (13; p73), before finally emerging at **Lotrščak Tower** (14; p78). Take in the cityscape, and, if you fancy, go down in the funicular. Otherwise descend the verdant stairway – both will leave you on the side of **Ilica** (15), Zagreb's commercial artery.

Cross Ilica and walk to **Trg Petra Preradovića** (16), where you can take a break at any of the (many) alfresco cafés.

ZAGREB FOR CHILDREN

Zagreb has some wonderful attractions for kids but getting around with small children can be a challenge. Between the tram tracks, high kerbs and cars, manoeuvring a stroller on the streets is not easy. Buses and trams are usually too crowded to accommodate strollers

even though buses have a designated stroller spot. Up to the age of seven, children travel free on public transport. If you choose taxis, be aware that few have working seat belts for either you or junior.

After checking out the bug collection at the Croatian Natural History Museum (p77), take your kids to the **Technical Museum** (Tehnički Muzej; ☎ 48 44 050; Savska 18; admission 15KN; 🕒 9am–5pm Tue–Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun), which has a planetarium, steam-engine locomotives, scale models of satellites and space ships, and a replica of a mine within the building, as well as departments of agriculture, geology, energy and transport.

For a little open-air activity, the best place for tots to work off some steam is **Boćarski Dom** (☎ 61 95 713; Prislavlje 2). The park has the best in playground equipment, playing fields and a rollerblading ramp. There's also a relaxing path along the Sava River for parents to enjoy. To get there, take tram 17 west to the Prislavlje stop.

There are two playgrounds (as well as a zoo) inside Maksimir Park (p81), but these are smaller than those at Boćarski Dom and usually more crowded. Aquatically minded kids will like the pools in the Sports Park Mladost (p81) or Jarun Lake (p81).

TOURS

The tourist office sells tickets for two-hour walking tours (95KN) and three-hour combination bus and walking tours (150KN), which operate daily. The walking tours leave from in

front of the main tourist office on Trg Josipa Jelačića and the combination tours leave from in front of the Arcotel Allegra hotel. Tickets are on sale in tourist offices, travel agencies and most hotels, and should be purchased at least one day in advance.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

For a complete listing of Zagreb events, see www.zagreb-convention.hr. Open-air events are free but admission is usually charged for the indoor concerts. Prices depend upon the concert, but tickets for most musical events can be purchased from **Koncertna Direkcija Zagreb** (☎ 45 01 200; www.kdz.hr; Kneza Mislava 18; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri). Highlights on Zagreb's calendar include the following:

Zagreb Biennial of Contemporary Music (www.biennale-zagreb.hr) Croatia's most important classical music event is held during odd-numbered years in April.

Queer Zagreb FM Festival (www.queerzagreb.org) Camp out and party during the last week of April.

Žedno Uho (Thirsty Ear) An excellent festival (held 24 to 29 April) that promotes contemporary international music with a focus on electronic sounds.

Urban Festival (www.urbanfestival.hr) A contemporary art fest with specific themes every year (5 to 15 May).

Vip INmusic Festival (www.vipinmusicfestival.com) A two-day extravaganza, this is Zagreb's highest-profile music festival. Nick Cave fronted the 2008 line-up and previous years have seen Franz Ferdinand, Iggy Pop and Morrissey take the Jarun Lake main stage. There are four stages, a camping ground and 48 sleepless, party-packed hours (from 3 to 4 June).

Animafest (www.animafest.hr) A festival of animated film is held during even-numbered years in June.

Strossmartre (www.kraljeviulice.com) An oddball's feast, this festival lasts the whole of June and stages free outdoor film screenings, concerts and things such as best-in-show mongrel dog competitions. All along the Strossmayer Promenade.

International Folklore Festival This festival has been taking place in Zagreb for over 30 years, usually for six days in July. The program includes folk dancers and singers from Croatia and other European countries dressed in traditional costumes. There are free workshops in dance, music and art that are designed to introduce you to Croatian folk culture.

Zagreb Summer Festival In July and August this festival presents a cycle of concerts and theatre performances in the Upper Town. The atrium of Galerija Klovičevi Dvori on Jezuitski Trg, the Jesuit Church of St Catherine, St Mark's Church and the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary are often used, and sometimes the concerts are held in squares in the Upper Town.

Zagreb Film Festival (www.zagrebfilmfestival.com)

This is a major cultural event in town, so if you're in Zagreb between 19 and 24 October, don't miss the screenings or the parties that accompany them. International directors compete for the Golden Pram award.

Croatia's largest international fairs are the Zagreb spring (mid-April) and autumn (mid-September) grand trade fairs.

SLEEPING

Zagreb's accommodation scene has been undergoing a small but noticeable change with the arrival of some of Europe's budget airlines; the budget end of the market (so far rather fledgling) is consequently starting to get a pulse. Although the new hostels cater mainly to the backpacker crowd, it's a good start. For midrangers and those wanting more privacy and a homely feel, there are private rooms and apartments, arranged through agencies. The city's business and high-end hotels are in full flow, thanks to Zagreb's role as an international conference hot spot. This means that if you want to splash out, you should have plenty of choice.

Prices usually stay the same in all seasons, but be prepared for a 20% surcharge if you arrive during a festival, especially the autumn fair. The rates of the budget and mid-range hotels listed here include breakfast.

If you intend to stay in a private house or apartment, try not to arrive on Sunday because most of the agencies will be closed. Prices for doubles run from about 300KN and apartments start at 400KN per night for a studio. There's usually a surcharge for staying only one night. Some agencies worth trying include the following:

Evistas (☎ 48 39 554; evistas@zg.htnet.hr; Augusta Šenoje 28; s from 200KN, d 250KN; ☎ 9am-1.30pm & 3-8pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat) This agency is recommended by the tourist office; it's closest to the train station and finds private accommodation.

InZagreb (☎ 65 23 201; www.inzagreb.com; Remeteička 13; apt €65-86) Great apartments, centrally located, with a minimum two-night stay. The price includes bike rental and pick up/drop off from the railway or bus station. Book through the website or over the phone.

Never Stop (Nemoj Stati; ☎ 48 73 225; www.nest.hr; Boškovićeva 7a; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Great apartments in the centre of town, but note the minimum three-night stay. Check the website for details and contact for prices.

Budget

Fulir Hostel (☎ 48 30 882; www.fulir-hostel.com; Radićeva 3a; dm low-high 100-140KN; 📺) Right in the centre of town, seconds away from the bustle of Jelačića and bars on Tkalčićeva, the Fulir has 16 beds, friendly owners, self-catering (its proximity to Dolac market is perfect), a DVD-packed common room, satellite TV and free internet. Opened in summer 2006, it's a popular spot for shoestring travellers, so book in advance.

Omladinski Hostel (☎ 48 41 261; www.hfhs.hr; Petrinjska 77; 6-1/3-bed dm per person 103/113KN, s/d 193/256KN) Although recently renovated, this place still maintains a bit of its old gloomy feel. The rooms are sparse and clean; it's relatively central and the cheapest in town.

Buzzbackpackers (☎ 23 20 267; www.buzzbackpackers.com; Babukićeva 1b; dm/d from 120/400KN; 📺 📺) More slick and bright than Fulir, but a bit further out, Buzzbackpackers is another great-value newcomer. It's clean, the rooms are bright, there's wi-fi access, free internet, a shiny kitchen, laundry service (at a charge) and a BBQ area for the summer months. Take tram 4 or 9 from the main train station to the Heinzlova stop; it's a short walk from there (check the website for detailed directions).

Ravnice Hostel (☎ /fax 23 32 325; www.ravnice-youth-hostel.hr; Ravnice 38d; dm 125KN; 📺) This place is possibly the weakest link in Zagreb's hostel choices due to its location – it's a good 45-minute hike from the centre or a 20-minute tram ride (take 4, 7, 11 or 12 and get off at the Ravnice stop). Having said that, the quiet residential area, past Maksimir Park, is quite lovely. The rooms are clean but spartan, there's a big kitchen downstairs where tea and coffee are free, and the nice garden has ping pong tables for your entertainment. The internet is charged at 16KN per hour, laundry 50KN per load and, oddly, you have to pay 7KN for your locker.

Krovovi Grada (☎ 48 14 189; Opatovina 33; s/d/tr 200/300/400KN) Possibly the most charming of Zagreb's central budget options, this place is right in the Upper Town. The restored old house is set back from the street; rooms have creaky floors, vintage furniture and grandma blankets. There are also two large apartments with shared bathrooms that can sleep eight. The amenities may be one-star but it's a five-star location within spitting distance of the restaurants and nightlife of Tkalčićeva.

Midrange

Hotel Fala (☎ /fax 61 94 498; www.hotel-fala-zg.hr; Trnjanska 18; s/d 350/495KN; 📺 📺) The rooms are small and frill-free, and it takes a tram ride or a 20-minute walk to get to the centre, but it's all neat and clean. Take tram 5 or 13 to Lisinski.

Hotel Ilica (☎ 37 77 522; www.hotel-ilica.hr; Ilica 102; s/d/tr/apt 399/499/599/849KN; 📺 📺) A great central option, with rooms ranging from super-kitsch to lushly decorous – there are gilded motifs, plush beds, wall-long paintings and lots of reds. The bathrooms are well equipped and the setting is quiet. Trams 6, 11 and 12 stop right outside the entrance, or walk down buzzy Ilica for 15 minutes.

Hotel Jadran (☎ 45 53 777; www.hup-zagreb.hr; Vlaška 50; s/d 517/717KN; 📺) This six-storey hotel has a superb location only minutes from Trg Josipa Jelačića. The 48 rooms are laid out in a cheery, modern style and the service is good and friendly.

Pansion Jägerhorn (☎ 48 33 877; www.hotel-pansion-jaegerhorn.hr; Ilica 14; s/d/apt 590/690/890KN; 📺) A great little hotel that sits right underneath Gradec and Lotrščak Tower, the 'Hunter's Horn' (don't snigger!) has friendly service and spacious, classic rooms with good views (you can gaze over Gradec from the top-floor attic rooms). The downstairs restaurant serves wild game.

Hotel Central (☎ 48 41 122; www.hotel-central.hr; Branimirova 3; s/d 600/780KN; 📺) The best place to stay if you have a train to catch, the Central is right opposite the train station. It's in a square cement building and the rooms are modern if a little pokey. The top-floor rooms facing the leafy courtyard are larger, so ask to stay in one of those.

Top End

Palace Hotel (☎ 49 20 530; www.palace.hr; Strossmayerov Trg 10; s/d from 810/1050KN; 📺 📺 📺 📺) This hotel oozes European charm and is the oldest in Zagreb. Built in 1891, it's both aristocratic and outfitted with the latest modern comforts. Try to get a front room for the fantastic views over the park.

Hotel Dubrovnik (☎ 48 73 555; www.hotel-dubrovnik.hr; Gajeva 1; s/d from 875/1350KN; 📺) Right in the centre of town, this glass New York-wannabe building is a real city landmark. It buzzes with business travellers who love being at the centre of the action. The 260 rooms are elegant and have all you need, and the style is old-school

classic. Try to get a view of Jelačića and watch Zagreb pass by under your window.

our pick Arcotel Allegra (☎ 46 96 000; www.arcotel.at/allegra; Branimirova 29; d €152-162; P ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒) The Arcotel Allegra is Zagreb's first designer hotel, with airy, elegant rooms and a plush, marble-and-exotic-fish reception. The bed linen is covetable and soft, and the bed throws are printed with faces of Kafka, Kahlo, Freud, Lorca and numerous other iconic personalities. There's a DVD player in each room and the hotel has movies you can borrow. The top floor has a gym, sauna and great views of the city. The on-site Radicchio restaurant is good and Joe's Bar's hot on Latino music.

our pick Regent Esplanade Zagreb (☎ 45 66 666; www.regenthotels.com; Mihanovićeve 1; s/d 1660/2025KN; P ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒) Sprawling and drenched with history, this six-storey, 215-room hotel was built next to the train station in 1924 to welcome the *Orient Express* crowd in grand style. It has hosted kings, journalists, artists and politicians since. It's an art deco masterpiece, replete with walls of swirling marble, immensely wide staircases and wood-panelled lifts. Even if you're not staying here, take a peek at the magnificent Emerald Ballroom or eat at Zinfandel's Restaurant (p86), one of the finest dining experiences in Croatia.

EATING

You'll have to love Croatian and (below par) Italian food to enjoy Zagreb's restaurants, but new places are branching out to include Japanese and other world cuisines. The biggest move is towards elegantly presented *haute cuisine* at *haute* prices.

Budget

Nocturno (☎ 48 13 394; Skalinska 4; mains 20-50KN) Right on the sloping street underneath the cathedral, this place is very popular for its Italian menu and lively outdoor terrace. There are all the usual pizzas, and some good salads, too, which will gladden vegetarian hearts. The risottos are pretty huge, so order one of those if you're starving.

Rubelj (☎ 48 18 777; www.rubelj-grill.hr; Tržnica Mala Terasa; mains from 25KN) One of the many Rubeljs across town, this Dolac branch is a great place for a quick portion of *ćevapi* (small spicy sausage of minced beef, lamb or pork). Though none is as tasty as those in neighbouring Bosnia and Hercegovina (the spiritual home of the *ćevap*), these are Zagreb's best.

Vallis Aurea (☎ 48 31 305; Tomičeva 4; mains from 30KN) This is a true local eatery that has some of the best home cooking you'll find in town, so it's no wonder that it's chock-a-block at lunchtime. Taste the Dalmatian staple, *pašticada* (beef stew with wine and spices), or the slightly spicy beans, accompanying either with some house red. Right by the lower end of the funicular.

our pick Tip Top (☎ 48 30 349; Gundulićeva 18; mains from 35KN) Oh how we love Tip Top and its waiting staff, who still sport old socialist uniforms and scowling faces that eventually turn to smiles. But we mostly love the excellent Dalmatian food. Every day has its own set menu (in addition to *à la carte*); Thursdays are particularly delicious with octopus *brodet* (octopus stewed in red wine, garlic and herbs). Owned and run by Korčulans, you'll find that island's wines on offer – wines that were no doubt enjoyed by Tin Ujević, once Tip Top's most loyal customer.

Ivica i Marica (☎ 48 17 321; Tkalčićeva 70; mains from 40KN) Based on the Brothers Grimm story *Hansel & Gretel*, this little restaurant/cake shop is made to look like the gingerbread house from the tale, with waiting staff clad in traditional costumes. It's not exactly veggie, but it does have a decent range of veggie and fish dishes plus meatier fare. The ice creams and cakes are good, too.

Boban (☎ 48 11 549; Gajeva 9; mains 40-60KN) Italian is the name of the game in this cellar restaurant that's owned by the Croatian World Cup star Zvonimir Boban. Devised by an Italian chef (who hasn't quite instilled the concept of pasta al dente into the local chefs), the menu is a robust range of pastas, salads and meats. It's a popular lunch and dinner spot; the upstairs café's terrace attracts Zagreb's youngsters.

our pick Kerempuh (☎ 48 19 000; Kaptol 3; mains 50-70KN) Overlooking Dolac market, this is a fabulous place to taste: a) Croatian cuisine cooked well and simply, and b) the market's ingredients on your plate. The set menu changes daily and the dishes are decided in the morning, when the chef gets that day's freshest ingredients from Dolac. Get an outside table and enjoy the excellent food and market views.

Konoba Čiho (☎ 48 17 060; Pavla Hatza 15; mains from 55KN; ☒ Mon-Sat) An old-school Dalmatian *konoba* (simple family-run establishment), where, downstairs, you can get fish and seafood grilled or stewed just the way the

regulars like it. Try the wide range of *rakija* (grape brandy).

Midrange

Pivnica Stari Fijaker 900 (☎ 48 33 829; www.stari.fijaker.hr; Mesnička 6; mains 50-80KN) This was once the height of dining out in Zagreb, and its decor, comprised of banquettes, wood and white linen, still has a certain staid sobriety. Tradition reigns in the kitchen, so try the homemade sausages, beans and *štrukli* (dumplings filled with cottage cheese).

Kaptolska Klet (☎ 48 14 838; Kaptol 5; mains from 70KN) This friendly restaurant is comfortable for everyone from solo diners to groups of noisy backpackers. There's a huge outdoor terrace and a brightly lit beer-hall-style interior. Although famous for its Zagreb specialities such as grilled meats and homemade sausages, it also turns out a nice platter of grilled vegetables and a vegetable loaf.

Okrugljak (☎ 46 74 112; Mlinovi 28; mains from 80KN) This is a popular spot on Mt Medvednica for city people celebrating a special occasion. Dining is casual; you can sit at wooden tables in carved-out wine barrels or on the terrace. There is usually music on weekends, and the occasional wedding reception can make the ambience more than lively. The spit-roasted meat, especially lamb or duck, is unusually juicy and served with delicious *mlinuci* (baked noodles).

Cantinetta (☎ 48 11 315; Teslina 14; mains 80-120KN) The perfect environment to end an affair. No one would think of making a scene in such elegant surroundings and the exquisitely prepared cuisine would go a long way towards mending a broken heart.

Makronova (☎ 48 47 115; www.makronova.com; Ilica 72; mains 80-120KN; ☎ Mon-Sat) This macrobiotic restaurant is elegant and peaceful, and more than welcoming for those of the vegan persuasion. It's part of a whole healthy emporium – there's a health food shop downstairs, shiatsu treatment, yoga classes and feng shui courses.

Pod Gričkim Topom (☎ 48 33 607; Zakmardijeve Stube 5; mains from 90KN) Tucked away by a leafy path below the Upper Town, this restaurant has a somewhat self-conscious charm, along with an outdoor terrace and good Croatian meat-based specialities. It's a great place to hole up on a snowy winter evening or dine under the stars in summer.

Agava (☎ 48 29 826; Tkalčićeva 39; mains 100-120KN) Right on Tkalčićeva, this is a smart and sophisticated place for smart and sophisticated people. The food ranges from starters such as swordfish carpaccio (50KN) to mains of steak and truffle, while the delectable risottos and pastas feature seafood seared in cognac (60KN). The wine list is good, with plenty of Istrian and Slavonian choices.

Baltazar (☎ 46 66 999; www.restoran-baltazar.hr; Nova Ves 4; mains from 120KN; ☎ Mon-Sat) Meats – duck, lamb, pork, beef and turkey – are grilled and prepared the Zagorje and Slavonia way in this upmarket old-timer, and there's a good choice of local wines. The summer terrace is a great place to dine under the stars.

Top End

Dubravkin Put (☎ 48 34 975; Dubravkin Put 2; mains 90-150KN) In a woody area northwest of the town centre, this is an upmarket restaurant with a light and modern decor and outstanding fish specialities that attract the crowds. The owner is from Dubrovnik and the cuisine is inspired by Dalmatia, with risottos as starters and main courses of perfectly grilled fish.

Zinfandel's Restaurant (☎ 45 66 666; www.regent.hotels.com; Mihanovićeve 1; mains 90-200KN; ☎ Mon-Sat) The tastiest, most creative dishes in town are served with polish in the dining room of the Regent Esplanade Zagreb. For a simpler but still delicious dining experience, head to Le Bistro, also in the Esplanade. Don't miss the *štrukli*.

Quick Eats

The town's main shopping street, Ilica, is lined with fast-food joints and inexpensive snack bars.

Pekarnica Dora (Strossmayerov Trg 7; ☎ 24hr) Close to the train station, this bakery is open round the clock for those late-night pastry needs.

Vincek (☎ 48 33 612; Ilica 18) This *slastičarna* (pastry shop) serves the best ice cream in town. The long lines as soon as summer starts attest to its popularity.

Self-Catering

Right in the centre of town, there's **Gavrilović** (☎ Mon-Sat) for excellent local cheese, smoked meat and cold cuts. On Ilica, there's a daily fruit and vegetable **market** (Britanski Trg; ☎ 6am-3pm), which sells farm-fresh produce. There's also the Dolac fruit and vegetable market (p73). Don't hesitate to bargain.

DRINKING

In the Upper Town, the chic Tkalčićeva is throbbing with bars. In the Lower Town, there's bar-lined Bogovičeva, just south of Trg Josipa Jelačića, which turns into prime meet-and-greet territory on sunny spring and summer days and balmy nights. Trg Petra Preradovića is the most popular spot in the Lower Town for street performers and occasional bands in mild weather. With half a dozen bars and footpath cafés between Trg Preradovića and Bogovičeva, the scene on some summer nights resembles a vast outdoor party. Things do close by midnight though.

Cafés

Café culture is alive and well in Zagreb and probably one of the nicest ways to see the city is to experience *špica* – the Saturday morning and pre-lunch coffee drinking on the many terraces along Preradovičeva and Tkalčićeva.

ourpick Booksa (☎ 46 16 124; www.books.hr; Martićeva 14d; ☒ 9am-11pm Tue-Sun) Bookworms and poets, writers and performers, oddballs and artists, basically anyone on the creative side of things in Zagreb comes to chat and drink coffee, buy books and hear readings at this lovely bookshop. There are English-language readings here, too, so check the website.

Eli's Café (☎ 091 527 9990; www.eliscaffee.com; Ilica 63; ☒ 8am-9pm Mon-Sat, 9am-3pm Sun) You'll see why this tiny place was given the 'Best Coffee in Croatia' award in 2008 when you try the excellent espresso or smooth cappuccino. There are also breakfast pastries for dipping.

Bulldog Café (☎ 49 17 393; Bogovičeva 6) It's easy to sit for hours outside, watching the activity on this busy pedestrian street. At night, it's a good place to meet and have a few drinks before clubbing.

Palainovka (☎ 48 51 357; Ilirski Trg 1) Claiming to be the oldest café in Zagreb (dating from

1846), this Viennese-style place serves delicious coffee, tea and cakes under pretty frescoed ceilings.

Bars

Most of the places following open around noon and serve drinks all day but the action heats up at night.

ourpick Skola (☎ 48 28 197; www.skolaloungebar.com; Bogovičeva 7) This has to be the best designed bar in the whole of Zagreb with its huge, differently themed rooms, lounge sofas, an olive tree in the middle of the main room, and notebook-style menus (it's called 'School', you see?). There are DJ nights, various 'after-school' parties and it's packed with the trendiest of people (and, of course, students).

Cica (Tkalčićeva 18) The size of an east London bedsit, and with a similar vibe, this underground place has a massive choice of *rakija*. Herbal, nutty, fruity – you think it, they've got it. Lovers of hedonistic pleasures, Cica is your place.

Apartman (☎ 48 72 168; Preradovičeva 7) A 1st-floor space decked out with large cushions and an unpretentious, relaxed crowd, Apartman gets going with DJ music on weekends. You can also come and lounge around during the day.

Melin (☎ 48 28 966; Tkalčićeva 47) This is rock'n'roll as it used to be, with grotty seats, oddly painted walls, smoke curtains and music that bursts ear drums. A corner of grungy old Zagreb on a fast-gentrifying street.

Hemingway (☎ 48 34 956; Trg Maršala Tita) The main accoutrements you'll need here are black sunglasses and a mobile phone glued to your ear. This is an upmarket cocktail bar where you come to pose and be seen.

BP Club (☎ 48 14 444; Teslina 7; ☒ 10pm-2am) One of a couple of cafés and music shops that share the lively complex at the corner of Teslina and

TKALČIČEVA DAY-LONG BAR CRAWL

Start your day with a healthy shot of fresh juice or a cool smoothie at **100% Liquid Health** (No 5), then go on to **Argentina** (No 9) for an energy boost of excellent coffee. Pop over to **Cica** (No 18) for a dizzying array of artisanal *travarica* (herbal brandy). Do some serious people-watching from the sprawling outdoor terrace of **Oliver Twist** (No 60). If the weather is uncooperative, you can hide out inside where a British pub has been perfectly reproduced for the benefit of Zagreb's trendies. Grab some pub grub and settle in until the DJ arrives (Friday and Saturday nights). If nothing's happening, try **Funk** (No 52) a few steps away, which combines a gallery with an eclectic music scene.

Gajeva streets. In the basement, check it out for jazz, blues and rock bands.

Zabac (☎ 36 95 792; Jarunska bb) The booze is cheap, the scene is rowdy and you're only steps away from Aquarius (below).

Movie Pub (☎ 60 55 045; www.the-movie-pub.com, in Croatian; Savska 141) This immensely popular pub has posters of movie stars on the walls, starting with bemusement as their fans sample 30 varieties of beer. The Thursday karaoke night starts at 10pm, so come and belt out all the tunes you know.

ENTERTAINMENT

Zagreb's theatres and concert halls present a great variety of programs throughout the year. Many (but not all) are listed in the monthly brochure *Zagreb Events & Performances*, which is available from the main tourist office. The daily newspapers *Jutarnji List* and *Večernji List* show the current offerings on the concert, gallery, museum, theatre and cinema circuit on the back page.

Nightclubs

Nightclub entry ranges from 40KN to 80KN, depending on the evening and the event. Clubs open around 9pm but most people show up around midnight.

KSET (☎ 61 29 999; www.kset.org; Unska 3; ☎ 8pm-midnight Mon-Fri, to 3am Sat) Zagreb's best music venue, with anyone who's anyone performing here. Saturday nights are dedicated to DJ music, when hundreds of young Zagrebians drink, dance and stay up late. You'll find gigs and events to suit most tastes.

Aquarius (☎ 36 40 231; Jarun Lake) A truly fab place to party, this enormously popular spot has a series of rooms that opens onto a huge terrace on the lake. House and techno are the standard fare here.

Močvara (☎ 60 55 599; www.mochvara.hr, in Croatian; Trnjanski Nasip bb) Unfortunately closed down in May 2008 until further notice, do keep an eye on the website as this club may open again. In a former factory, it is one of the best venues in town and has hosted the cream of alternative music.

Boogaloo (☎ 63 13 021; www.boogaloo.hr; OTV Dom, Vukovarska 68) A great venue that hosts DJ nights and live music. It's a 15-minute walk from Jelačića square.

Purgeraj (☎ 48 14 734; Park Ribnjak) This is a funky, relaxed space to listen to live rock, blues, rock-blues, blues-rock, country rock and avant-

garde jazz. There's a daily two-drinks-for-one happy hour from 9pm to 11pm.

Jabuka (☎ 48 34 397; Jabukovac 28) This is a bit of an old-time favourite, with 1980s hits played to a 30-something crowd that reminisces about the good old days. It's a fun place and much loved by Zagrebians.

Gay & Lesbian Venues

The gay and lesbian scene in Zagreb is finally becoming more open than it had previously been, although 'freewheeling' it isn't. Many gays discreetly cruise the south beach around Jarun Lake and are welcome in most discos.

David (☎ 091 533 7757; Marulićev Trg 3) This sauna, bar and video room is a popular spot on Zagreb's gay scene.

G Bar (www.gprojekt.com; Mesnička) Still under wraps at the time of writing, G Bar promises to be at the forefront of Zagreb's gay community, with events, parties and great drinks.

Theatre

Theatre tickets are usually available, even for the most in-demand shows. A small office marked **Kazalište Komedija** (☎ 48 12 657; ☎ 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) in the Oktogon sells theatre tickets (look for the posters). It's in a passage connecting Trg Petra Preradovića to Ilica near Trg Josipa Jelačića.

Croatian National Theatre (☎ 48 28 532; Trg Maršala Tita 15) This neobaroque theatre, established in 1895, stages opera and ballet performances. You have a choice of *parket* (orchestra), *lože* (lodge) or *balkon* (balcony) seats. Check out Ivan Meštrović's sculpture *The Well of Life* (1905) standing in front. The theatre was designed in 1894 by Herman Helmer and Ferdinand Fellner, the same team that designed the Art Pavilion.

Komedija Theatre (☎ 48 14 566; Kaptol 9) Close to the Zagreb cathedral, this theatre stages a good range of operettas and musicals.

Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall (☎ 61 21 166; www.lisinski.hr; Trg Stjepana Radića 4) This is the city's most prestigious venue in which to hear symphony concerts and attend theatrical productions.

Croatian Music Institute (☎ 48 30 822; Gundulićeva 6a) Another good venue for classical music concerts, which often feature Croatian composers performed by Croatian musicians.

Sport

Jarun Lake hosts competitions in rowing, kayaking and canoeing in the summer. See the

schedule at www.jarun.hr or phone ☎ 0800 300 301. There's a racetrack in south Zagreb, across the Sava River. For information on sporting events dial ☎ 9841.

Basketball is popular in Zagreb, and from September to April Zagreb's basketball team, Cibona, plays at the **Dražen Petrović Basketball Centre** (☎ 48 43 333; Savska 30; tickets from 35KN), next to the Technical Museum. Games are usually on Saturdays at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at the door.

Dinamo is Zagreb's most popular football (soccer) team and it plays matches at **Stadion Maksimir** (☎ 23 86 111; Maksimirska 128; tickets from 30KN), on the eastern side of Zagreb. Games are played on Sunday afternoons between August and May. Take trams 4, 7, 11 or 12 to Bukovačka. If you arrive too early for the game, Zagreb's zoo is across the street. For more information check out www.nk-dinamo.hr.

SHOPPING

Ilica is Zagreb's main shopping street with fashionable international brands peeking out from the staid buildings.

our pick Prostor (☎ 48 46 016; www.multiracionalna.kompanija.com; Mesnička 5; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) A fantastic little art gallery and clothes shop, featuring some of the city's best independent artists and young designers. Check out the website for exhibition openings, when you can go and hang out with interesting people and take a closer look at Zagreb's arty crowd. In a little courtyard off Mesnička.

Croata (☎ 48 12 726; www.croata.hr; Oktogon Passage, Ilica 5) Since the necktie originated in Croatia, nothing could make a more authentic gift, and this is the place to get one. The locally made silk neckties are priced from 175KN to 380KN.

Rukotvorine (☎ 48 31 303; Trg Josipa Jelačića 7) Sells traditional Croatian handicrafts such as

dolls, pottery and red-and-white embroidered tablecloths.

Bornstein (☎ 48 12 361; Kaptol 19) If Croatia's wine and spirits have gone to your head, get your fix here. This shop presents an astonishing collection of brandy, wine and gourmet products.

If shopping centres are your thing, head to the following:

Branimir Centar (Draškovićeveva 51) With a giant cinema, bars, cafés and restaurants to help you relax after a good shop.
Nama (Ilica 4) Zagreb's immortal department store.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Zagreb Airport (☎ 62 65 222; www.zagreb-airport.hr), 17km southeast of Zagreb, is one of the country's major airports, offering a range of international and domestic services. International and domestic flights to and from Zagreb are operated by **Croatia Airlines** (☎ 48 19 633; www.croatiaairlines.hr; Zrinjevac 17; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat).

Bus

Zagreb's big, modern **bus station** (☎ 61 57 983; www.akz.hr, in Croatian; Avenija M Držića) has a large enclosed waiting room where you can stretch out while waiting for your bus (but be warned – there's no heating in winter).

Buy most international tickets at windows 11 and 12. Eurolines operates bus services between Vienna and Zagreb (€35, six hours, two daily), a twice-weekly service all year between Brussels and Zagreb (€115, 22 hours) and three daily buses between Sarajevo and Zagreb (€18, eight hours). There are six daily buses from Zagreb to Belgrade (€20, six hours); at Bajakovo on the border, a Serbian bus takes you on to Belgrade. There are also buses between Ljubljana and Zagreb (110KN, three hours, two daily).

MARKET DAYS

Zagreb doesn't do many markets, but those that it does do, it does well. The Sunday **antiques market** (☎ 9am-2pm) on Britanski Trg is one of central Zagreb's joys, but to see a flea market that's unmatched in the whole of Croatia, you have to make it to **Hreljić** (☎ 7am-3pm Sun). It's a huge space that's packed with everything – and we mean everything – from car parts, cars and antique furniture to clothes, records, kitchenware, you name it. All goods are, of course, second-hand, and you can bargain if you find something you want. Apart from the shopping, it's a great experience in itself and a side of Zagreb you probably won't see anywhere else – expect lots of Roma, music, general liveliness and grilled meat smoking in the food section. If you're going in the summer months, take a hat and put on some sunscreen – there's no shade. Take bus 295 (8KN, 20 minutes) to Sajam Jakuševac from behind the railway station.

The following domestic buses depart from Zagreb:

Destination	Fare (KN)	Duration (hr)	Daily services
Dubrovnik	250	11	7-8
Korčula	224	11	1
Krk	160-190	4-5	4
Makarska	210	8	10
Mali Lošinj	260-280	6½	2
Osijek	125-160	4	8
Plitvice	80	2½	19
Poreč	170-210	5	6
Pula	170-230	4-5	6
Rab	195	5	2
Rijeka	125-150	2½-3	14
Rovinj	170-190	5-8	8
Šibenik	165	6½	15
Split	195	5-9	27
Varaždin	69	2	20
Zadar	120-140	3½-5	20

Train

The following domestic trains depart from the Zagreb **train station** (☎ 060 333 444; www.hznet.hr):

Destination	Fare (KN)	Duration (hr)	Daily services
Osijek	113	4	5
Pula	131	6½	2
Rijeka	96	5	5
Šibenik	149	6½-10	3
Split	160	6-8½	6
Varaždin	59	3	13
Zadar	156	7-9¼	5

Trains to Zadar stop at Knin. It's advisable to book in advance because of limited seating (the trains can be quite small).

There are two daily and two overnight trains between Vienna and Zagreb (€69, 6½ to 13 hours), and daily train services connecting Zagreb with Banja Luka (200KN, five hours), Sarajevo (260KN, eight hours), Mostar (290KN, 11 hours 40 minutes) and Ploče (310KN, 10 hours). There are three trains daily from Munich to Zagreb (€88, nine hours) via Salzburg and Ljubljana. Reservations are required southbound but not northbound.

There are four daily trains from Zagreb to Budapest (€60, 5½ to 7½ hours). Between Venice and Zagreb (€60, 6½ to 7½ hours) there are two daily direct connections and several more that run through Ljubljana. Five daily trains connect Zagreb with Belgrade (€25, seven hours). There are up to 11 trains

daily between Zagreb and Ljubljana (€16, 2¼ hours).

GETTING AROUND

Zagreb is a fairly easy city to navigate, whether by car or public transport. Traffic isn't bad, there's sufficient parking and the efficient tram system should be a model for more polluted, traffic-clogged European capitals. Walking is, of course, always the best way to see a city.

To/From the Airport

The Croatia Airlines bus to the airport (one way 50KN) leaves from the bus station every half-hour or hour from about 4am to 8.30pm depending on flights, and returns from the airport on about the same schedule. A taxi would cost about 300KN.

Car

Zagreb is a fairly easy city to navigate by car (boulevards are wide and garage parking only costs 5KN per hour), but watch out for trams buzzing around. The **Hrvatski Autoklub** (HAK; Croatian Auto Club; ☎ 46 40 800; www.hak.hr; Draškovićeve 25) helps motorists in need.

The following international car-hire companies are represented in Zagreb:

Avis (☎ 46 73 603; www.avis.com.hr; Hotel Sheraton, Kneza Borne 2)

Budget Rent-a-Car (☎ 45 54 936; www.budget.hr; Hotel Sheraton, Kneza Borne 2)

Hertz (☎ 48 46 777; www.hertz.hr; Vukotinovićeve 1)

Bear in mind that local companies will usually have lower rates. Try **H&M** (☎ 37 04 535; www.hm-rentacar.hr; Grahorova 11), which also has an office at the airport.

Taxi

Zagreb's taxis all have meters, which begin at 20KN and then ring up 7KN per kilometre. On Sunday and at night from 10pm to 5am there's a 20% surcharge. Waiting time is 40KN per hour. The baggage surcharge is 2KN per suitcase. At these rates, you'll have no trouble finding idle taxis, usually at blue-marked taxi signs, or you can call ☎ 970 to reserve one.

Tram

Public transport is based on an efficient network of trams, although the city centre is compact enough to make them unnecessary. Tram maps have been posted at most stations, making the system easier to navigate. Trams 3

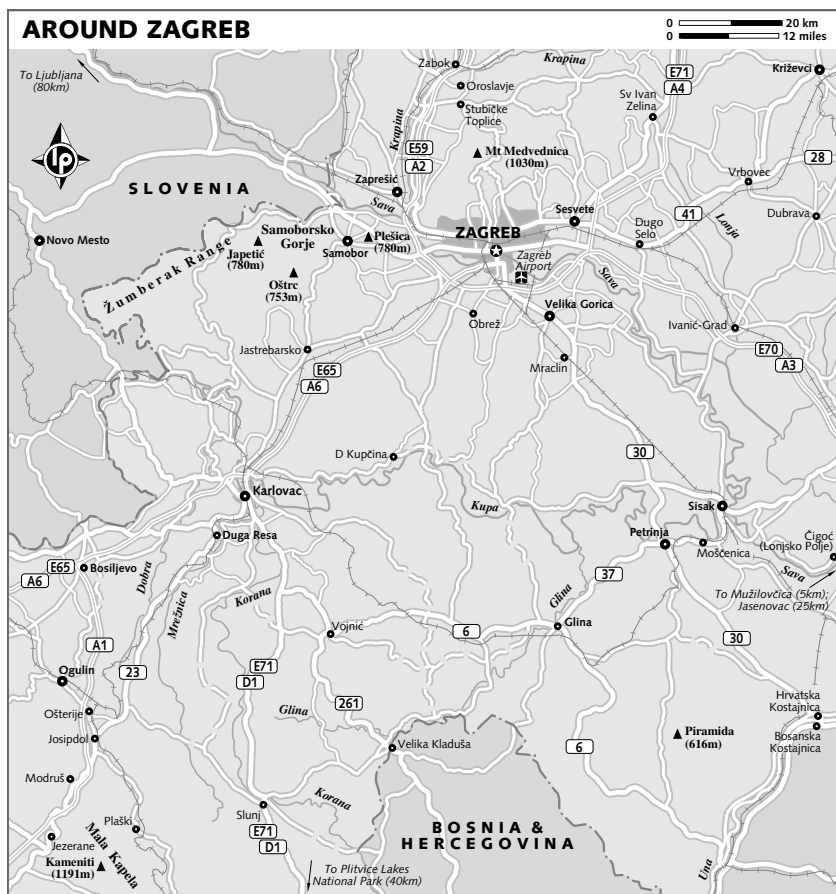
and 8 don't run on weekends. Buy tickets at newspaper kiosks for 8KN. You can use your ticket for transfers within 90 minutes, but only in one direction. A *dnevna karta* (day ticket), valid on all public transport until 4am the next morning, is available for 25KN at most newspaper kiosks. Make sure you validate your ticket when you get on the tram by inserting it in the yellow box.

AROUND ZAGREB

The area around Zagreb is rich with quick getaways from the city, from picturesque Karlovac to Samobor with its peaceful hillside walks (and great cakes).

MOUNT MEDVEDNICA

Mt Medvednica to the north of Zagreb offers excellent **hiking** opportunities. There are two popular routes. You can take tram 14 to the last stop and then change to tram 15 and take it to its last stop. Here you'll be near the funicular that goes to the top of the mountain; next to the funicular there is a clearly marked footpath that also takes you to the top. Or you can take bus 102 from Britanski Trg, west of the centre on Ilica, to the church in Šestine and take the hiking route from there. Allow about three hours (return) for each of these hikes and remember that this is a heavily wooded mountain with ample opportunities to become lost. Take warm clothes and water, and make sure to return before sundown. There is



also a danger of disease-carrying ticks in the summer, so wear trousers and long sleeves, and examine your body after the hike for ticks (for information on tick-borne infections, see p316). For more information about hiking on the mountain, contact the Zagreb tourist office (p72).

You can also go skiing at the **Sljeme ski resort** (www.sljeme.hr), where there are five slopes of varying difficulty – the website provides an up-to-date status on each slope. Lunch is available at one of the local restaurants and you can rent equipment on site.

BANIJA-KORDUN REGION

South of Zagreb and bound by the Sava River basin in the north, the Una and Kupa Rivers in the east and west, and Mala Kapela mountain range in the south, the Banija-Kordun region is trying to recapture some of the tourism it had before the war. Until 1991 the region's many rivers were popular with local anglers, and hunters combed the woods for prey. The large Serbian majority made it a tempting target for Serbian expansion in the early days of the war and large parts of the region remained under Serbian control until 1995. The many mines laid in the countryside have curtailed the hunting and fishing that made the area famous, but as de-mining proceeds, anglers and hunters are returning.

Karlovac

☎ 047 / pop 49,000

Lying at the confluence of four rivers – the Kupa, Korana, Mrežnica and Dobra – it's not surprising that Karlovac and its surrounds have become a haven for city folk looking for waterside relaxation. The town itself is unique in that its historical centre is shaped in the form of a six-point star, divided into 24 almost rectangular blocks. It lies on the main road that links Zagreb with Rijeka and was constructed in 1579 as a military stronghold against the Turks. Although only the moats remain from the original fortifications, the town centre retains its tidy geometric streets of baroque buildings.

ORIENTATION & INFORMATION

The Kupa River divides the town along an east–west axis. The main road through town is Prilaz Vece Holjevca, which runs north–south. The old town is east of Prilaz Vece Holjevca

and lies on the southern bank of the Kupa River. The main square in the old town is Trg Josipa Jelačića. The bus station is on Prilaz Vece Holjevca, about 500m south of the town centre, and the train station is 1.5km north of the town centre also along Prilaz Vece Holjevca. The **tourist office** (☎ /fax 615 115; www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr; Petra Zrinskog 3; ☎ 8am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) has a limited amount of documentation available but finds private accommodation.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The main attraction of Karlovac is the **Zvijezda** (Star), the old town. The 17th-century **Church of the Holy Trinity**, with its altar of black marble, and the adjacent **Franciscan monastery**, are the highlights of Trg Jelačića. The 17th- and 18th-century merchant and military residences on the surrounding streets are being restored to emphasise their fine features. Merchants' houses are recognisable by their inscriptions showing the year of construction and the owner's initials. Military houses are often distinguished by stone carvings and wrought-iron work. Particularly attractive is a stroll down Radičeva, which features the house of Count Janko Drašković.

One block north of Trg Jelačića is Strossmayerov Trg, a semicircular baroque-style square that contains the **Town Museum** (Gradski Muzej; ☎ 615 980; Strossmayerov Trg; adult/student 10/7KN; ☎ 7am–3pm Mon–Fri, 10am–noon Sat & Sun). The museum is in a Frankopan palace and features scale models of old Karlovac among its displays of local handicrafts and historical exhibits.

A 30-minute walk north along the banks of the Kupa River and then uphill takes you to **Dubovac** (Zagrad 10), a medieval fortress that now contains a restaurant and affords an excellent view of Karlovac.

SLEEPING & EATING

The tourist office can help you find private accommodation (about 90KN per person) and there is one hotel in the town centre.

Carlstadt Hotel (☎ /fax 611 111; www.carlstadt.hr; Vranicanijeva 1; s/d 317/462KN; ☎ ☎) Carlstadt is a business travellers' favourite, with beige and brown rooms, each with TVs and phones. The location is excellent.

Mirna (☎ 654 172; Rakovačko Šetalište bb; mains from 70KN) After an aperitif at the Carlstadt, head here for fresh and saltwater fish served up on a pretty terrace overlooking the Korana River.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Karlovac is well connected to Zagreb by bus (36KN to 40KN, 50 minutes, 20 daily). There are also frequent trains to Zagreb (35KN, 50 minutes, 18 daily) and Rijeka (81KN, three hours, six daily).

Samobor

☎ 01 / pop 14,000

Samobor is Zagrebians' version of the Hamptons for New Yorkers, only it doesn't have a beach and it's much smaller. OK, we may be stretching it with this comparison, but this is where stressed-out city dwellers come to wind down and get their fix of hearty food, creamy cakes and pretty scenery. A shallow stream stocked with trout curves through a town centre that is composed of trim pastel houses and several old churches, while the verdant woods of Samoborsko Gorje are perfect for hiking.

In keeping with its mission to preserve a little piece of the past, the main economic activity centres on small family businesses involved in handicrafts, restaurants and the production of mustard and spirits. The town's literary and musical traditions, which produced the poet Stanko Vraz and the composer Ferdo Livadić, are reflected in a number of annual festivals, most famously the **fašnik** (Samobor Carnival) on the eve of Lent.

ORIENTATION & INFORMATION

The bus station (no left-luggage office) is on Šmidhenova, about 100m uphill from the town, which centres on Trg Kralja Tomislava.

In the town centre, the **tourist office** (☎ 33 60 044; www.samobor.hr, in Croatian; Trg Kralja Tomislava 5; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-7pm Sat, 10am-7pm Sun) has limited documentation but you can purchase hiking maps.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The **Town Museum** (Gradski Muzej; ☎ 33 61 014; Livadićeva 7; adult/student 8/5KN; ☎ 8am-3pm Tue-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun) has vaguely interesting exhibits on regional culture. It's housed in Livadićev Dvor Villa, which once belonged to composer Ferdo Livadić and was an important centre for the 19th-century nationalist cause. Stop by the **Museum Marton** (☎ 33 64 160; admission 15KN; ☎ 10am-1pm & 3-6pm Sat & Sun) for a look at a private art collection that centres on paintings from the Biedermeier period as well as porcelain, glass and furniture.

SLEEPING & EATING

Most people come to Samobor on a day trip from Zagreb but you can also stay here and commute into Zagreb.

Hotel Livadić (☎ 33 65 850; www.hotel-livadic.hr; Trg Kralja Tomislava 1; s 360KN, d low-high 465-530KN) This atmospheric place is decorated in 19th-century style and provides spacious, comfortable rooms with TV and phone. Since cuisine is a major draw for Samobor, you can count on the quality of the restaurant and café.

Samoborska Pivnica (☎ 33 61 623; Šmidhenova 3; mains 35-90KN) An excellent array of local specialities is served in this vaulted space, with a variety of sausages, eye-watering horseradish and delicious, cheesy *štrukli*. It's a beer house

TAKE A HIKE

Samobor is a good jumping-off point for hikes into the **Samoborsko Gorje**, a mountain system (part of the Žumberak Range) that links the high peaks of the Alps with the karstic caves and abysses of the Dinaric Range. Carpeted with meadows and forests, the range is the most popular hiking destination in the region. Most of the hikes are easy and there are several mountain huts that make pleasant rest stops. Many are open weekends only (except in the high season).

The range has three groups: the Oštrc group in the centre, the Japetić group to the west and the Plešivica group to the east. Both the Oštrc and the Japetić groups are accessible from Šoićeva Kuća, a mountain hut 10km west of Samobor, only reachable by foot. From there, it's an easy 30-minute climb to the hill fort of Lipovac and an hour's climb to the peak of Oštrc (753m). Another popular hike is the 1½-hour climb from Šoićeva Kuća to Japetić (780m). You can also follow a path from Oštrc to Japetić, which will take about two hours. If you want to explore the Plešivica group, head east to the hunting cabin Srndać on Poljanice (12km), from where it's a 40-minute climb to the peak of Plešivica (780m). The tourist office in town has maps and information on hikes in the region.

LONJSKO POLJE NATURE PARK

Lonjsko Polje is a fascinating mix of several diverse delights. It's packed with Croatia's 19th-century wooden architecture, bird-watchers (well, stork-lovers) can have a field day here, as can those who appreciate all things equestrian, and if you're a WWII history buff, the area holds one of ex-Yugoslavia's most poignant monuments. Pronounced a nature park in 1990 and nominated for World Heritage site status in January 2008, **Lonjsko Polje** (☎ 044-715 115; www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr; Čigoć; adult/child 20/5KN; 🚗 8am-4pm) is a 506-sq-km stretch of swampland (*polje* is literally 'field') in the Posavina region, between the Sava River and Mt Moslavačka Gora. Seated along Lonja River, a Sava tributary that gives the park its name, this huge Sava River retention basin is famed for the diversity of its flora and fauna.

The area is divided into several villages. The most interesting is **Čigoć**, a world-famous 'stork meeting point' (though you're forgiven if you weren't aware of this fact), most of whom nest on top of Čigoć's lovely wooden houses. The baby-bringing birds flock here in late March and early April, hanging around and munching on the swampland insects all the way until the end of August, when they start their two- to three-month flight back towards southern Africa. If you're here during autumn and winter, you might catch sight of a few year-round storks, who are content to hang out and be fed by the villagers. Čigoć is home to the park's information point and ticket office and a small ethnographic collection owned by the Sučić family.

The next village is **Mužilovčica**, another place rich with wooden architecture. Nearby is **Retencisko Polje**, where the meadows turn into a massive lake from autumn to spring and waterfowl descend to bathe and eat. Look out for the *posavski* horse, a local breed that grazes in the oak forests of Lonjsko Polje. You can go horse riding here – ask at the information office in Čigoć.

After Mužilovčica is **Jasenovac**, the site of a notorious WWII concentration camp. Run by the Ustaše and Croatia's pro-Nazi WWII government, the estimated number of Serbs, Jews, gypsies and antifascist Croats who died here ranges from 30,000 to one million, depending on who came up with the statistics. Some modern historians estimate the number of victims at between 85,000 and 90,000. The camp, now a monument (undergoing refurbishment at the time of research), is a touching reminder of the horrors of war.

Lonjsko Polje is 50km southeast of Zagreb. The best way to visit is with your own transport – public transport is poor and makes moving around the park quite difficult.

(*pivnica*), so accompany your food with a glass of crisp local beer.

Pri Staroj Vuri (☎ 33 60 548; Giznik 2; 2-course meal 90-110KN) About 50m uphill from Trg Kralja Tomislava, this restaurant serves traditional dishes in a cosy cottage, and sometimes hosts poetry readings. The specialities of the house are *hrvatska pisanica* (beef steak in a spicy mushroom, onion, tomato and red wine sauce) and *štruklova juha* (soup with *štrukli*).

our pick U Prolazu (☎ 83 66 420; Trg Kralja Tomislava 5) This eatery on the main square serves the best *kremšnite* (custard pie) in town.

SHOPPING

The local aperitif is a delicious, woody red drink called *bermet*, which Samobor has been producing for centuries according to a top-secret recipe. It's not for every taste so try it in town first with lemon and ice before deciding to buy a bottle, which will cost about 120KN.

Samoborska muštarda (Samobor mustard) is from another age-old recipe. The 60KN price tag may seem rather expensive for mustard, but it comes in attractive (and reusable) clay pots.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Samobor is easy to reach by public transport. Get a **Samoborček bus** (www2.samoborek.hr, in Croatian) from the main bus station in Zagreb (one way 12KN, 30 minutes, half-hourly).

STUBIČKE TOPLICE

As the spa closest to Zagreb, **Stubičke Toplice** (www.bolnicastubicketoplice.com) steams away the stress of a devoted band of Zagreb habitués. There was talk of the spa going into private hands, with sharp protests from the staff and regulars, so it remains to be seen what will become of this socialist-era remnant.

The hot-spring water (69°C) rising from the subterranean rock layers has spurred

tourism since the 18th century. The pools – eight outdoor and one indoor – have a temperature of between 32°C and 36°C, and are used to treat a variety of muscular and rheumatic conditions. The services range from the most basic – 15KN for an hour in the pools and 30KN for a 15-minute massage – to a whole array of elaborate therapies. Check the website for an exhaustive rundown.

The bus drops you off in the centre of town near the **tourist office** (☎ 282 727; Šipeka 24; 🕒 9am-

5pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat), which can help you find private accommodation.

Hotel Matija Gubec (☎ 282 630; www.hotel-mgubec.com; Šipeka 27; s/d 340/540KN; 📺) has modest rooms with TVs and phones, plus use of swimming pools, a sauna and a gym. If you don't stay in the hotel, it costs 30KN to use its outdoor pools and 50KN to use the pool, sauna and massage facilities.

Buses from Zagreb's main bus station go to the spa (37KN, one hour, eight daily).