Dubrovnik is the most visited tourist destination in Croatia. Lord George Gordon Byron nicknamed this marble port town “the pearl of the Adriatic”, and rightly so. The mighty defensive walls protect the magnificent medieval buildings and narrow cobbled streets and overlook fantastic beaches washed with turquoise blue water.

The history of Dubrovnik has not always been a walk through a rose garden, though. The city suffered a major earthquake in 1667 which cost the lives of 39,000 inhabitants. It is the seventeenth century that gave the city its face. Nevertheless, the city suffered yet again in the 1990s during the Yugoslav war – bullet holes hidden in some of its buildings have left a lasting reminder.

Dubrovnik is a truly enchanting place. The charming, pedestrian-only Old City, which has been listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1979, has an exceptionally rich historical and cultural heritage. The gems include the Rector’s Palace, the Synagogue, the Church of St Blaise and the Bell Tower, to name just a few. And let’s not forget to mention the rich variety of interesting museums and lovely markets that attract crowds of tourists every year.

**Time Zone**

GMT/UTC +1, observes daylight saving time.

**Contacts**

Tourist Contacts

- Dubrovnik Tourist Board: +385 20 323 887, +385 20 323 889, 1385 20 323 907
- Croatian National Tourist Board: +385 1 4699 333

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**Emergency Contacts**

- A single countrywide number for all emergency situations: 112
- Police: 192
- Fire Department: 193
- Ambulance: 194
- District police tel: +385 20 443 333
- Traffic police tel: +385 20 443 666
- Hrvatski Autoklub: +385 1 987
Croatia’s unit of currency is the Kuna (Kn.), which is divided into 100 lipa.

You can exchange your money at any bank, post office, travel agency or exchange bureau (mjenjacića). ATMs are scattered around the town, primarily near the banks and major bus stations. Sometimes you can pay in euros or dollars, but always make sure they accept them before you try to buy anything. Banks are generally open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. with lunch breaks. Credit cards are generally accepted in hotels and restaurants, but be sure to ask before you order.

**Tax Refunds**

Tourists who do not reside in Croatia are qualified to receive a VAT refund if any of their receipts exceed the minimum of 740 kn. You should ask the store clerk for a PDV-P form which must be stamped and filled out on the spot. Upon leaving the country, the receipt must be verified by the Croatian customs service. You then mail the verified receipt back to the shop together with the bank account number into which the refund should be paid. The refund will be dealt with within 15 days of receiving of the claim.

**Prices**
- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – 100 kn
- Meal for 2 in mid-range restaurant (3 courses) – 500 kn
- Domestic beer (0.5l draught) – 22 kn
- Regular cappuccino – 13 kn
- Water (0.33l) – 12 kn
- Pepsi (0.33l) – 15 kn
- Gasoline (1l) – 10 kn
- Hostels (average price/night) – 126 kn
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – 1050 kn
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – 450 kn

Dubrovnik is a popular tourist destination and the local businessmen make the most of it. When choosing a restaurant, avoid those on the main squares as they tend to be tourist traps serving poor quality food for astronomical prices. Don’t be afraid to check the bill before you pay and make sure the prices match those in the menu. If you wish to order fish, always demand to know its weight before you are served. Also make sure the wine label is the same as the one you ordered.

**Tipping**

In most cases, tips are already included in the bill. If you want to reward exceptional service, a 10% tip is appropriate. Taxi drivers do not expect a tip but a small tip will not be refused.

**Electricity**

220V, frequency 50Hz (European 2-pin plug).

**Languages**

The official language in Croatia is Croatian. Young people are taught English as their second language at school. Those who work in the tourist industry speak mainly German or Italian. The older generation may understand some Russian.

**Mobile Phones**

Croatia is on the GSM 900/1800 frequency, which means that American mobile phones are not compatible unless you have a tri-band phone. The GSM network is operated by three companies: T-Mobile, VIP and Tele2. If you are an owner of an older phone, make sure it works on the 900 or 1800 MHz GSM frequencies that are used in Croatia. Do not forget to switch off data roaming if you have a smartphone, as you might be unpleasantly surprised later; roaming rates are astronomical in Europe.

The telephone code for Croatia is +385 and for Dubrovnik and Dubrovnik Region dial (0)20.

**Internet**

Internet is accessible in internet cafés, restaurants and hotels. Most of it is paid but there are some free Wi-Fi hotspots available, for example at Sky Bar or at Katie O Connor’s Irish Pub. Rates are generally around 25 kn/hr.

**Internet Resources**
- Dubrovnik Tourist Board (www.tzdubrovnik.hr)
- Croatian National Tourist Board (croatia.hr)
- Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)
HOLIDAYS

- 1 January – New Year
- 6 January – Epiphany
- 1 May – Labour Day
- 7 June – Corpus Christi
- 22 June – Anti-Fascist Fight Day
- 5 August – Victory and National Gratitude Day and Croatian Defenders Day
- 15 August – Feast of the Assumption
- 8 October – Independence day
- 1 November – All Saints Day
- 25 December – Christmas
- 26 December – St. Stephens Day

Opening Hours

Banks and post offices are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on weekdays and until p.m. on Saturdays. Museums are open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and are closed on Mondays. The majority of shops in Dubrovnik are open from Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (9 p.m. in summer), and on Sunday mornings to 2 p.m. Souvenir shops in the Old City are usually open until late.

The Gruž open-air market is open in the morning. The open-air market in the Old City closes at noon except for the souvenir stands.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transportation

Bus

The local bus service (www.libertasdubrovnik.com) is cheap, reliable and connects all parts of the city. The buses start operating at around 5 a.m. and stop at around midnight. They run at 10-30 min intervals. A single ticket bought in the bus costs 10 kn. Buy tickets in advance from a kiosk or at your hotel to get a 20% discount (8kn).

Dubrovnik Cable Car (www.dubrovnikcablecar.com)

There are two cabins with a capacity to transport up to 30 passengers each. They will take you up the 405m Srd Hill in about 4 minutes. A round-trip ticket costs 87 kn for an adult and 40 kn for a child.

Taxis

Taxis are available at the busiest parts of the city and most bus stations, or you can call one of the taxi companies.

The taximeter must be running when the customer enters the taxi, with the start amount of 25 kn. In case the taximeter is not running, the customer does not have to pay the fare. Every kilometre costs 8 kn. The taxi accommodates a maximum of four people. Waiting is charged at 80 kn per hour, and you will pay additional 2 kn for each piece of luggage. The taxi driver should never charge you more than 100 kn within Dubrovnik city. Bear in mind that taxis cannot enter the Old City.

- Radio taxi center (www.taxiservicedubrovnik.com)
- Tel. no.: + 385 (0) 91 722 3879

Regional Transportation

Dubrovnik is a major transport junction of south Dalmatia and therefore offers many ways to get around.

There is a small international airport just outside Dubrovnik (www.airport-dubrovnik.hr)

There is also a bus terminal located in Gruž, from which you can take express buses that run to other cities as well as to Montenegro and Bosnia. Official website of the Libertas bus company can be found here (www.libertasdubrovnik.com)

There is no direct rail link through Croatia to Dubrovnik. Direct trains connect Zagreb with Ploče, a town about 100 km from Dubrovnik. For more information, refer to the official website of Croatian Railways. (www.hznet.hr)

Dubrovnik is well connected with boat lines to the inhabited islands and other cities on the coast. There are ferry connections from Dubrovnik to other significant Croatian harbours (Korčula, Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, Split and Rijeka), and to Bari Harbour in Italy.

Some of the companies:

- Official Website of Jadrolinija (www.jadrolinija.hr)
- Official Website of Jadroagent (www.jadroagent.hr)

Driving

Speed limits:
### TRANSPORTATION

- 50 km/h (31 mph) within inhabited places
- 90 km/h (56 mph) outside inhabited places
- 110 km/h (68 mph) on expressways (brza cesta)
- 130 km/h (81 mph) on freeways (autocesta)

Permitted blood alcohol level is 0.05 BAC.

Everyone in the car must wear their seat belt. A special seat is required for children under 5. Children younger than 12 must not sit in the front seat. Have your headlights on from the last weekend in October until the last weekend in March. It is illegal to use your mobile phone while driving. It is obligatory to have a fluorescent vest available in your car. Do not store it in the car boot. Always wear the vest while attending to any breakdown.

If you are planning to stay in Dubrovnik only, there is no need for a car. The Old City must be explored on foot and if you’d like to make a short trip to the beach, you can use the bus service. However, if you’d like to explore the Croatian nature and beyond the city, a car is probably your only option (if you’re not planning on visiting the islands). Croatia could be a challenge even for an experienced driver, since the roads are often narrow and high in the mountains.

### Food

The local diet consists mainly of pork, beef, fish and seafood which come in grilled fillets, risottos and stews. The restaurants in the city center offer similar meals so if you become bored with the menu, head to the inland for different tastes. The meals are usually fresh and of good quality. It is better to eat at a more expensive restaurant than at the cheap ones for better price to quality ratio.

- **Dubrovačka zelena menestra** – a traditional Dubrovnik meal made of cabbage, smoked meat and stew
- **Pasticada** – marinated beef stew with carrots, red wine, cloves, nutmeg and prosciutto
- **Dubrovacka rozata** – Dubrovnik’s answer to crème brulée; sweetened cream made from eggs in a caramel sauce and fruit
- **Arancini** – candied orange rind
- **Kotonjata** – quince pudding with fresh bay leaves
- **Fritule** – traditional pastries served at Christmas time
- **Šporki makaruli** – meat and macaroni seasoned with cinnamon
- **Bruštulane mjendule** – sugared almonds
- **Kraš chocolate** – delicious chocolate

The most popular alcoholic drink is homemade rakija – a traditional alcoholic beverage produced by distilling fermented fruit. Sljivovica (plum) is the most famous one, but try loza (grape), or andorahovica (walnut) too. The region produces some excellent wines such as Plavac Mali.

### Legal Age

The legal drinking age is 18. Smoking is forbidden in most restaurants and bars (there are only very few exceptions and you probably won’t encounter one in Dubrovnik).
EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

February
- Masquerades (visit.dubrovnik.hr)

July/August
- Dubrovnik Summer Festival (www.dubrovnik-festival.hr)

August
- Libertas Film Festival (www.libertasfilmfestival.com)

THINGS TO DO

Free Things To Do
- Climb up Mount Srd to enjoy the stunning panorama of Dubrovnik and its surroundings.
- Swim in the clear blue water and catch some rays at Banje Beach.
- Take a stroll, admire the architecture and watch other people wandering about at Luza Square and Stradun.
- Feast your eyes on the food and products and have a chat with local vendors at Gunduliceva Poljana market.
- Cliff jumping
- Admire the anchored yachts and enjoy the hustle and bustle of the City Harbor.
- Explore the narrow streets of the Old City.

Shopping
Dubrovnik offers quite a wide selection of souvenirs to choose from. Women might appreciate handmade tablecloths decorated with Konavle embroidery, napkins or Konavle earrings. Girls will like dolls dressed in folk costumes. Other unique souvenirs include hand creams and various toiletries based on ancient recipes from the pharmacy. You can’t go wrong with bringing home some delicious local wine, sweet arancini (candied orange peel), broštulani (sugared almonds) or kontonjata (quince cheese). Last but not least, handmade leather products or replicas of historical parchments can also make for a nice souvenir.
DOS AND DO NOTS

- DO wear shoes in water.
- DO walk the walls of Dubrovnik.
- DO barter at the markets.
- DO NOT forget to register with the local police or the local town tourist center within 48 hours of arrival, unless you are staying at a hotel or official tourist accommodation.
- DO NOT miss the world-renowned Dubrovnik summer festival, with music, theater and dance performances.
- DO NOT step on sea urchins.
- DO NOT call a person by their first name without being invited to, it is considered rude.
- DO NOT ask strangers about the war.
- DO NOT forget your sense of humour at home and don’t get offended if someone makes a personal joke.

Safety

Dubrovnik is a safe city, although pickpocketing occurs every now and again. Be careful in the Old City as the streets tend to be rather slippery. When you are going down stairs in the rain, step on the entire sole of your foot, not just your toes. Always wear water shoes when you go swimming – the rocky sea shore is home to sea urchins, spiny sea creatures. If you suffer from claustrophobia, check the cruise ship arrival times as the city gets enormously overcrowded and it is difficult to walk about freely. Always wear your hat and sunglasses. Don’t forget to apply enough sunscreen and hydrate yourself – the stone buildings radiate heat and it’s common for the temperature to rise up to 45 degrees Celsius in summer. Tap water in Croatia is safe to drink.
Ancient City Walls, Dubrovnik / Dubrovačke gradske zidine
Make sure to visit this monument of the city's ancient history and experience the spirit of Dubrovnik and the Mediterranean.
Old Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64174, E18.10697

Old Town Dubrovnik / Stari grad Dubrovnik
The heart of the 'Pearl of the Adriatic' and a must-see for any visitor. Walk the small streets and soak up the atmosphere.
Stari Grad, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64069, E18.10906

Placa – Stradun Street / Placa – Stradun
The main street of Old Town and a shopping haven. A great place to sit down in a café and breathe in the spirit of the city.
Placa – Stradun, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64144, E18.10838

Prijeko Street / Ulica Prijeko
The street, lined with inviting restaurants, provides a walk through history with its Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque style buildings.
Prijeko, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64167, E18.10952

Rector’s Palace / Knežev dvor
Find out about the life of the most powerful men in the city through the building’s extensive collection of items.
Pred dvorcem 1, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64071, E18.11048
Phone: +385 20 321 437
**Pile Gate / Gradska vrata Pile**
The entrance to the Old City and home of the statue of Dubrovnik’s patron saint, St. Blaise. There’s a bridge near the gate.
Gradska Vrata Pile, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64176, E18.10672

**The Large Onofrios Fountain / Velika Onofrijeva fontana**
Drawing water from a distant well, this is an architectural gem that is not to be missed. Called after its architect, Onofrial della Cava.
Placa – Stradun, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64153, E18.10727

**Lovrijenac Fort / Tvrđava Lovrijenac**
Overlooking the entire city, the fort was a crucial defence point. Nowadays, it’s a visitor magnet and a theater.
Don Frana Bulića, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64087, E18.10431

**Church of St Blaise / Crkva svetoga Vlaha**
The Baroque church was destroyed by fire in the 17th century – except for the statue of the local saint St. Blaise.
Pred dvorom 1, 20000 Dubrovnik – Chorvatsko
GPS: N42.64080, E18.11044

**Sponza Palace / Palača Sponza**
A marvellous Gothic-Renaissance building and the ground for the opening ceremony of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival.
Luža, Svetog Vlaha, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64106, E18.11056

**Church of St Ignatius / Crkva svetoga Ignacija**
Breathtaking Italian-build Baroque church, formerly belonging to the Jesuits and a must-see in Dubrovnik.
Poljana Rudera Boskovic 6, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.63941, E18.10936

**Dubrovnik Cable Car / Žičara Dubrovnik**
Ascend to the top of the Old City and enjoy the majestic view of the islands and mountains or visit the Homeland War Museum.
Petra Krešimira 4. bb, 20000 Dubrovnik
GPS: N42.64326, E18.11182
Phone: +385 20 414 321

**Dubrovnik Cathedral / Katedrala**
Majestic Baroque cathedral with a light and breezy feel. Located on the ground of several former cathedrals.
Kneza Damjana Jude 1, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.63991, E18.11036
Phone: +385 20 323 459

**The Cathedral Treasury / Riznica Katedrale**
A reliquary containing the relics of the city’s patron saint, St. Blaise, and what is said to be a piece of the Cross.
Drziceva poljana, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.63992, E18.11051
Phone: +385 20 323 459
**ACTIVITIES**

**Pustjerna District** / Pustjerna
The oldest area of the city, holding many churches, and a truly remarkable sight which serves as a walk through Dubrovnik's history.
GPS: N42.63981, E18.11123

**Fort Bokar** / Tvrdava Bokar
Late Middle Ages two-store fortress and a key point in the defence of the city. Houses a collection of rare stones.
GPS: N42.64098, E18.10607

**Minčeta Tower** / Tvrdava Minčeta
The highest point in the city walls and the symbol of Dubrovnik's freedom. Was meant to be square, but was changed to round shape.
GPS: N42.64302, E18.10845

**Old Port Dubrovnik** / Gradska luka
What once used to be a glorious harbor and a guarantee of Dubrovnik's prosperity is now a local port with small boats.
GPS: N42.64135, E18.11200

**Franciscan monastery** / Franjevački samostan
A 700 years old building holding a collection of decorated old manuscripts and the world's third oldest pharmacy.
Placa – Stradun 2, Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64173, E18.10771

**Gundulić Square** / Gundulićeva Poljana
Holds a market with fresh vegetables and fruit every morning. While shopping, you can check out the statue of the famous Croatian poet.
Gundulićeva Poljana, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64029, E18.10999

**Synagogue Dubrovnik** / Sinagoga Dubrovnik
The second oldest functioning synagogue in Europe and a chance to explore the hidden part of Dubrovnik's history in the Jewish Museum.
Zudioska 5, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64145, E18.11016

**Cafe Buža**
One of the most romantic places in Dubrovnik with one of the best views of the sea. Serves drinks only.
Crijevićeva 9, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.63935, E18.10858

**Franciscan Monastery Museum** / Franjevačka apoteka
The first half holds the third oldest working pharmacy in Europe, the second half houses various paintings and manuscripts.
Placa 2, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64105, E18.11061
Phone: +385 20 321 410

**Church of St Saviour** / Crkva sv. Spasa
Built after the great earthquake in 1520, the church is a fine showcase of the city's refreshing Renaissance architecture.
Placa – Stradun, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
GPS: N42.64150, E18.10820
**Orlando’s Column / Orlandov stup**
A statue of the mythical knight Roland, who is rumored to have saved Dubrovnik from the Saracens.

Placa Stradun, 20000 Dubrovnik, Chorvatsko
GPS: N42.64110, E18.11017

**Ploče Gate / Vrata od Ploča**
One of the two gates which served as entry points into the city. A statue of St. Blaise, the city patron, stands on top of the gate.

GPS: N42.64100, E18.11067