

Croatia - OVERVIEW

Updated: March 25, 2014



Country Name Long Form: Republic of Croatia

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy

Languages Spoken: Croat, Serb, Bosniak, Hungarian, Slovene, Czech, Roma, English, German

National Flag



Croatia is a Tier III Country. Significant security measures are necessary.

	Overall Assessment	Political Violence	Crime	Terrorism	Travel Safety
Croatia	L	L	L	L	M

Key: (L) Low – (M) Medium – (H) High – (C)Critical

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political Violence is rated at LOW

Croatia has experienced large demonstration in recent years; however, they remain peaceful and largely focused on domestic issues.

TERRORISM

Terrorism is assessed as LOW

Terrorism threats remain low; however, on January 9-10, 2013, small improvised explosive devices were detonated on railroad tracks and a bus stop in western Zagreb, causing minor damage and one injury.

RULE OF LAW / CORRUPTION

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2013 gave Croatia a score of 48, indicating that the country has medium levels of corruption. The CPI rates countries by the perceived

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levels of corruption in their public sector, with the least corrupt country receiving a maximum score of 100.

CRIME

Crime is assessed as **LOW**

Croatia is widely considered very safe with low crime rates and a modernized, professional police force.

Overall, general crime remains at low levels; however, residential and apartment theft in the Zagreb metropolitan area has increased slightly. There is a correlation between the stagnating economy and increased crimes of opportunity.

Croatian police also closely monitor civil disturbances with soccer hooligans during high risk matches.

Organized crime elements operate in Croatia and throughout the Balkans; however American citizens are not targeted in Croatia.

KIDNAPPING

Kidnappings are rare and usually involve personal disputes and financial debts.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assaults are usually underreported. Women often do not report rape because of a lack of knowledge of the law and the protections provided.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Summer months (June to September) are characterized by hot, dry weather and some regions are prone to wildfires. There is also a risk of flooding during the rainy season (November to March), particularly in mountainous regions and along the coast. This has the potential to lead to transport disruptions and damage to infrastructure.

Earthquakes are known to occur in Croatia and have caused deaths and infrastructure damage in the past.

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Although English and German are widely spoken, having a basic command of the Croatian language will aid in business interactions.
- It is strongly advised to avoid engaging locals on sensitive issues, such as Croatia's relations with Serbia and past conflicts, as discussions can lead to confrontations.
- Stay in groups, travel in a caravan consisting of two or more vehicles, and stay on the main roads.
- Ensure that someone not traveling with you is aware of your itinerary.

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- Avoid hotels that do not have adequate security.
- Intercity travel after dark anywhere in should be avoided.
- It is preferable to stay in the main tourist destinations.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings, especially when walking.
- Official taxis are a suitable means of travel in daylight hours in urban areas. It is highly recommended that taxis be arranged through your hotel, or program office. Negotiate the price in advance.
- Women should be especially careful when traveling alone and avoid staying out late without a trusted male escort.
- Make sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of petty crime, particularly pick pocketing and bag snatching.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling to avoid losing it in a robbery.
- Do not resist if you are being robbed and avoid eye contact and to not make any sudden movements. Victims have been killed when they resisted attack or refused to give up their money or other valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and keep a low profile.
- Never leave your food, drinks or belongings unattended.
- Carry bags close to your body and make sure the fasteners are secure.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry or valuables.
- Leave all important documents in a safe or safe deposit box at your hotel and only carry certified copies.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the situation.

Important Contact Details:

International Dialing Code: +385

International Dialing Prefix: 00

Victims of crime in should contact the following phone numbers for assistance:

POLICE: The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in is: 112

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 112

AMBULANCE: 112

Note: Police, ambulance or fire department response may be unreliable in some parts of the country.

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- Croatia has satisfactory infrastructure, although this varies greatly from region to region.
- Road conditions in and around the capital, Zagreb, are of a high standard, as are newly constructed highways to Rijeka and Split on the Adriatic coast. Road conditions elsewhere remain poor, including many coastal roads, highway to Dubrovnik, and mountain regions of Lika and Gorski Kotar.
- Due to the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance left over from past conflicts, **travelers should refrain from leaving well-traveled roads.**
- Driving conditions in Croatia are challenging and road safety standards are poor.
- The provision of electricity, water and fuel is reliable across the country, despite shortages developing in certain locations along the Adriatic during the summer tourist influx.
- Telecommunication services, including mobile phone and internet coverage are widely available in urban centers, but are limited in rural areas.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- No photographs of any military installation, establishment or site of strategic importance, including airports, ports and harbors.
- No use of ATMs after dark.

HEALTH

Most medical facilities are of reasonable quality, but may be basic in outlying areas and islands. In addition, some medicines and related supplies are often reported to be unavailable in state-run hospitals. For British nationals, emergency medical treatment is normally free on presentation of a UK passport as a reciprocal healthcare agreement is in place. All other medical services could require payment up front.

- Tap water is normally chlorinated and is therefore considered safe; however bottled water is recommended for drinking purpose.
- Due to the risk from brucellosis and other diseases, unpasteurized dairy products should be avoided; unpasteurized milk should be boiled before consumption or powdered or tinned milk should be used as an alternative. Pasteurized milk can normally be found in major cities, hotels and resorts.

The following vaccinations are recommended or required of traveling to Croatia:

- Hepatitis A (recommended)
- Hepatitis B (recommended)
- Rabies (recommended for those at high risk of suffering animal bites)
- Tick-borne encephalitis (recommended for travelers visiting forested parts of the country)
- Typhoid (recommended)

It is also important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

SIGNIFICANT DISEASES –

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Diarrhea – A common issue among travelers and can be caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites. One of the most common causes is a bacterium known as E. coli, which is transmitted by ingesting contaminated food and liquids.

Tick-borne encephalitis – A viral infection of the central nervous system that is spread by Ixodes ticks. It is a risk for travelers visiting forested areas, particularly in the northern part of the country between the rivers Sava and Drava, between March and November.

Brucellosis – An infectious disease that occurs from contact with animals carrying Brucella bacteria. The greatest risk is in rural areas of southern Croatia, near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HOSPITALS –

Klinicki Bolnicki Centar Zagreb

Salata 2
Zagreb 10000
Tel: +385 1 492 0019
Fax: +385 1 481 8457

Poliklinika Za Dijagnostiku

Nemetova 2
Zagreb 10000
Tel: +385 1 4693 111
Fax: +385 1 4673 975

US EMBASSY – CONSULATE LOCATIONS

United States Embassy Zagreb

2 Thomas Jefferson Street
Zagreb
Tel: +385 (0)1 661 2300
Fax: +385 (0)1 661 2373
Email: ConsularZagreb@state.gov
Website: <http://zagreb.usembassy.gov/>

USF INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE

USF 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 813-317-5815

AXA Assistance 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 1-877-577-9504 / +1-203-399-5130 (Call collect from abroad)

ASSIST ID #: GLMN 04983932. <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/resources/>

* Information derived from CIA World Fact Book, US Department of State, OSAC, and Travel Guard. This travel overview summarizes some of the most important concerns; however, it does not negate the need for detailed trip planning.