



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the right.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid national license, passport, vehicle documents and proof of third-party insurance. Drivers from some countries may also need an International Driving Permit (IDP).
- ❑ If renting a vehicle, do not turn over passport as a form of security.
- ❑ Passports should be carried at all times. There are frequent identity checks. Maintain a digital copy of personal documents.
- ❑ Passport requirements stipulate a "date of issue" less than ten years prior to travel dates; and an expiration date valid for a minimum of three months of departure from any of the Schengen zone's 27 member countries. Visas are not required for stays of less than 90 days within Schengen countries. Border checks for dates are stringent.
- ❑ Visitors must register at a local police station within 48 hours of arrival. Registration is generally handled by hotel staff or property owners of other lodging; if staying in private accommodations, a form must be filled out at a local police station. Proof of accommodation and an onward ticket may be required at Croatian border control points.
- ❑ The Euro is the official currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted.
- ❑ Male drivers account for an estimated 79% of traffic-related fatalities.
- ❑ Most rental vehicles are manual transmission. If an automatic is required, reserve car in advance.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.05 g/dl for general population; and zero for those under age 24, boat operators and drivers of trucks and buses.
- ❑ There are an estimated 8.1 road deaths per 100,000 people in Croatia, compared to 2.1 in Sweden and 1.5 in Norway.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Speeding** is common.
- **Motorists** often ignore traffic laws.
- **Many drivers** are aggressive. Road rage incidents occur regularly.
- **Motorists** frequently tailgate and pass on curves or in oncoming lanes.
- **Young drivers** are frequently reckless.
- **Traffic authorities** often fail to enforce safety laws.
- **Despite** restrictions, many drivers use car horns to greet other drivers.
- **Criminal** roadside scams are common. Do not stop to assist people signaling for help.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** an estimated 26,958 km (16,751 miles) of roads.
- **Road conditions** vary widely. Upgrades and improvements have been made in some areas, but many roads are inadequately maintained.
- **Minor roads** and those in rural areas are generally in poor condition and are often hazardous.
- **Roads** along the Adriatic coast and in Istria are frequently narrow and congested.
- **Many roads** are poorly marked and have inadequate or no lighting, particularly in small towns and rural areas.
- **Surfaces** become slippery during and after rain.
- **Coastal roads** are subject to rock falls.
- **Roads** often have sharp curves and lack guardrails.
- **Road** and traffic signs are in Croatian.
- **Emergency SOS** phones are located every 2 km (1.24 miles) along motorways.
- **There are** some toll roads, including the E59 and E70 out of Zagreb, and the E71 between Zagreb and Split. Fees may be paid in cash (Euro) or by credit card.
- **Tickets** are dispensed at booths when entering toll roads, and are paid at highway booths when leaving. Hrvatske Autoceste (ENC) is an electronic toll collection system with payment made via a transponder.
- **Spot checks** for drink driving are common.
- **Service stations** may be long distances apart on some main roads and highways.
- **Pedestrian infrastructure** is well-developed in cities, and less developed in other areas.



Road Conditions, continued

- **Croatia** is a popular cycling destination. Infrastructure, including separate bike lanes and single-purpose paths, are well-developed in central areas of major cities.
- **In small towns**, rural areas and on some highways, bicyclists must share busy roads with motorized traffic.
- **There are** long-distance cycling routes in some areas of the country.
- **Wild animals** are common on roadways, especially in rural areas.
- **Avoid all** demonstrations. Even peaceful public gatherings may turn confrontational or violent, and can disrupt road travel and public transportation. Public conflict may follow sporting events, especially soccer matches.
- **Croatia** is a member of the Schengen area. Driving across borders with Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina requires stopping at police and customs checkpoints.
- **Active landmines** and unexploded ordnance remain in all former confrontation lines at borders. Suspected sites are well-marked by signs with a skull and crossbones within a red, upside-down triangle, but not all areas are marked. Drivers should stay on paved roads. Known locations with mines include Eastern Slavonia, Brod-Posavina County, Karlovac County, areas around Zadar County and remote sections of Plitvice Lakes National Park.
- **A free** smartphone app is available from The Croatian Mine Action Centre that identifies danger areas.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **Sveti Juri/Biokovska cesta/Biokovo Tourist Road** is a mountain road in Split-Dalmatia County located at 1,744 meters (5,721 feet) above sea level in the Biokovo mountain range. The steep, paved route is too narrow in places to allow more than one car, requiring one driver to back up. Several passing zones have been created to allow one car to pull to the side. Overtaking is prohibited. Sheer drops are protected by guardrails. Severe winds and winter weather conditions add to hazards. This route is popular with visiting drivers, particularly during summer months. Do not attempt this road during inclement weather.
 - » **The road to Mali Alan Pass** is a treacherous route in the Dinaric Alps on the border between the counties of Lika-Senj and Zadar. Part of the road is paved and the remainder has a gravel surface. Sections are steep with drop-offs. This road was an active fighting zone and there is a strong danger of active landmines. Avoid this road.
 - » **The A3 Motorway** is a major route linking Zagreb and the Slavonia region, with sections requiring tolls. It is fully paved, with two lanes and an emergency lane in each direction. This road is the location of many serious and fatal crashes including buses, particularly along the section linking Staro Petrovo Selo and Nova Gradiška. Driver fatigue and heavy traffic are major contributors to crashes.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Croatia** is subject to earthquakes, wildfires, floods, landslides, high winds and severe winter weather.
- **Major earthquakes** have struck Croatia in recent years, including within the capital city. Some damaged buildings remain unrepaired. Minor tremors occur regularly.
- **Wildfires occur** frequently during summer months. Smoke may impair vision, impacting road travel and public transport.
- **High winds** may cause motorway and road closures, affecting road travel with little notice.
- **During winter** months, heavy snow and road ice can create treacherous driving conditions.
- **Landslides** may follow strong rains.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (30 mph)
Rural roads	90 kph (55 mph)
Highways	110 to 130 kph (68 to 80 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Examples of road and traffic signs in Croatia.

Right turns on red prohibited	Shared use path	Oncoming vehicles have priority	Priority over approaching vehicles	Highway sign example	Lane directions	Use headlights	Road splits	Speed limits per lane



Regional and Seasonal Conditions, continued

- **Severe flooding**, including flash floods, may follow rain. High risks exist in area between Karlovac and Slavonski Brod in central Croatia. Do not step or drive into floodwaters, which may contain strong currents and obscure deep potholes, branches or other debris.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation options** include cars, car shares, taxis, rideshares, buses, trams, funiculars, cable cars, bicycles, trains and boats.
- **Public transportation** is well developed and generally regarded as safe and reliable.
- **Buses and ferries** are crowded in summer, particularly July and August. Seats may not be available.
- **Public transportation** routes and services are reduced from November to March.
- **Public transport tickets** must be validated before boarding.
- **Prepaid cards** for public transport are available in Zagreb; reload cards at “Tisak” kiosks (newsstands).
- **Use only** official taxis ordered by phone or through a reputable hotel. Do not hail taxis on the street.
- **Taxis are** regulated. Many routes have fixed fares.
- **Most taxis** are metered. Drivers may not activate meter unless passengers insist. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- **Sexual assaults** have occurred in taxis. Take a photo of taxi number (displayed inside) and send to a trusted person. Additional safety measures include sharing your ride progress on the taxi company app; calling a friend and alerting them to the vehicle number and your destination, and speaking loud enough for the driver to hear.
- **Rideshares are available.** Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **Carpooling platforms** are popular and available in many urban locations. Safety statistics are unavailable.
- **Buses** are the most popular form of public transport.
- **The bus network** is well-developed and covers most cities and small towns, with the exception of the Istria peninsula and some islands.
- **Buses are** operated by multiple companies, including Arriva, FlixBus and Čazmatrans. In cities, several companies may offer the same route.
- **Main bus stations** are generally located close to ports in coastal cities, with the exception of Dubrovnik.

- **Bus connections** between major tourist destinations and main cities are good.
- **International bus routes** are available.
- **Bus tickets** at large stations must be purchased at station offices, not from drivers.
- **On islands**, including Pag and Lošinj, bicycle travel is popular. Nextbike is a bike-sharing program; downloading the app is necessary for use.
- **There are** regular train connections between major cities, but less availability to other locations. Trains are often slower than buses.
- **Train tickets** may be purchased at stations; if ticket offices are closed, tickets may be purchased onboard.
- **There are** multiple ferry routes between mainland locations and multiple islands along the Adriatic coast. Many ferries transport cars; vessels listed as “catamaran” are generally passenger-only.
- **Boat routes** include additional trips during summer months. Vessels are often crowded; pre-booking does not guarantee berth on a particular sailing.
- **Boat sinkings** have occurred. Safety records vary among operators. Do not travel by boat during inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 18 years old, and a minimum of 21 years to rent a vehicle. Some rental agencies may have additional restrictions.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for drivers and passengers.
- **Children** up to 135 cm (53 inches) in height must be secured in a child safety restraint.
- **Children under** age three or below 150 cm (59 inches) in height may not ride in front seats.
- **Drivers** of motorcycles up to 125cc (speeds of 90 to 115 kph/60 to 70 mph) must be at least 16 years old.
- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle and motor scooter drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened and meet national standards.
- **Children** who are at least 12 years of age are allowed to be motorcycle passengers.
- **Helmets are** mandatory for bicyclists under the age of 16. For safety, all cyclists should wear fastened helmets.
- **Bicyclists** must wear a reflective jacket at night.
- **Pedestrians** have right-of-way at crosswalks.
- **Right turns** on red are prohibited unless a green arrow indicates otherwise.
- **Car headlights** must be used at all times from November 1 to March 31 and when fog or inclement weather conditions are present.

**Traffic Regulations, continued**

- **Headlights** must be used year-round on motorcycles and motor scooters.
- **Unless signs** indicate otherwise, motorists must yield to traffic approaching from the right.
- **Use horns** only to alert other road users of danger.
- **All passenger** vehicles must be equipped with a warning triangle, first aid kit and fluorescent vest. Vests must be carried in the car, not in the trunk, and put on before leaving the vehicle to address a breakdown or emergency.
- **Winter tires** with a minimum tread depth of 4mm (0.157 inches) are compulsory from Nov. 15 to April 15.
- **Snow chains** must be carried in the trunk during winter.
- **Drivers** of cars without adjustable headlights must carry headlamp beam deflectors (stickers placed over headlights to prevent blinding oncoming motorists).
- **Motorists** may overtake only on the left, and are prohibited from passing other vehicles at level crossings, pedestrian crosswalks and when approaching or driving through an intersection.
- **Parking is** prohibited at intersections, at the top of hills, at tram and bus stops, and on or near a bend.
- **Parking fees** are determined by city zone.
- **On-the-spot fines** may be imposed on drivers of foreign-registered vehicles; passports may be confiscated until fines are paid. Drivers who have inadequate cash on hand may be taken to a bank.
- **Tickets** are not issued for parking violations; instead, vehicles are immediately towed.
- **Recreational** boat pilots must carry an up-to-date International Certificate of Competence.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests. Refusal to submit to a test constitutes an admission of drink driving.
- **Police are** required to take blood samples of drivers in crashes involving serious or fatal injuries.

Zagreb (Capital)

- » Largest city. Most of the country's major highways begin or end in Zagreb.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, buses, trams, funiculars, cable cars, bicycles, trains and boats.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is generally congested, and worsens during twice-daily rush hours and during summer months.
- » City parking is expensive and difficult to find.
- » Public transportation is well developed and generally regarded as safe and reliable.
- » The public transportation network is operated by ZET (Zagrebački električni tramvaj) and includes city buses, trams, funicular trains and cable cars.
- » Buses and ferries are crowded during summer months, particularly July and August. Seats may not be available, even for ticket holders.
- » There are fewer public transportation routes from November to March.
- » Reloadable ZET cards or single-use tickets purchased from ZET shops may be used to pay for transport; cards may be reloaded at "Tisak" kiosks (newsstands). The MOJ ZET app may also be used to pay for public transport.
- » Tickets for all forms of public transport must be validated prior to boarding. Random inspections for validated tickets take place on buses and trams.
- » Buses are operated by multiple companies, including Arriva, FlixBus and Čazmatrans. More than one company may offer the same route.
- » There are more than 140 bus routes during the day, and four night routes.
- » International bus routes include major cities throughout Europe.
- » Not all bus and tram stops have posted schedules.
- » At large bus stations, tickets must be purchased at offices and not from drivers.
- » In heavy traffic, buses may be backed up in traffic and open their doors for passengers in advance of the actual stop.
- » There is a tram network with 15 day trams and four night trams. Some trams are new, low-floor vehicles.
- » Trams and buses run from about 4 am to midnight, and are frequently crowded. Tickets may be purchased from a tisak kiosk or driver; all tickets must be stamped at onboard yellow validation boxes.
- » One cable car links Gračansko dolje to Sljeme at the top of Medvednica mountain.
- » A funicular train runs approximately every ten minutes between Donji grad/Lower Town and Gornji grad/Upper Town.



Zagreb, continued

- » Use only official taxis ordered by phone or through a reputable hotel. Do not hail taxis on the street.
- » Taxis are regulated. Routes may have fixed fares.
- » Most taxis are metered. Taxi drivers may not use meters unless passengers insist. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- » Sexual assaults have occurred in taxis. Take a photo of taxi number (displayed inside) and send to a trusted person. Additional safety measures include sharing your ride progress on the taxi company app; calling a friend and alerting them to the vehicle number and your destination, and speaking loud enough for the driver to hear.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Ferry routes to many islands along the Adriatic coast are available, with additional sailings during summer months. Many ferries transport cars; vessels listed as "catamaran" are generally passenger-only.
- » Vessels are often crowded. Pre-booking does not guarantee berth on a particular sailing.
- » Boat sinkings have occurred. Safety records vary among operators. Bring your own life preserver, and do not travel by boat during inclement weather.
- » Trains are operated by Croatian Railways (Hrvatske Željeznice) and include long-distance and suburban routes. Trains are often slower than buses.
- » The main railway station is Zagreb Glavni kolodvor. Train tickets may be purchased at the station. If ticket offices are closed, buy tickets onboard.
- » There are regular train connections between Zagreb and many major European cities, including Vienna, Graz, Munich, Budapest, Zurich and Belgrade.
- » Overnight rail service is available to and from Split. There is no domestic train connecting the city to Dubrovnik.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed.
- » Pedestrians should use extreme caution in areas where trams/streetcars are present. Streets are narrow and trams travel at high speeds.
- » Bicycle use is increasing. Nextbike is a bike-sharing program. Downloading the app is necessary for use.
- » There are many new, well-marked bike paths. Many are identifiable by lanes painted red.
- » Franjo Tuđman Airport is about 17 km (10.5 miles) southeast of the city.
- » Transport between the airport and city includes cars, taxis, buses and rideshares.
- » Official taxis are located outside of the arrivals terminal. Taxi drivers accept most, but not all, major credit cards. Verify form of payment prior to travel.
- » Pleso Prijevoz is a shuttle bus service with direct routes between the airport and Zagreb Central Bus Station.
- » Public buses link the airport, Kvaternik Square and Velika Gorica in the city.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented at the airport. There is also a car sharing program accessible through the Avant2Go app.

Split

- » Second-largest city. Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, buses, bicycles, trains and boats.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic jams are considered to be the worst in the country.
- » Public transportation is operated by Promet Split; it is well developed and generally regarded as safe and reliable.
- » During summer months, buses and ferries are crowded. Passenger volume is highest in July and August. Seats may not be available, even when tickets are purchased in advance.
- » There are fewer public transportation routes from November to March.
- » Buses are the most popular form of public transport, and are operated by multiple companies.
- » City buses are yellow. There are 19 day routes and three night routes.
- » The city has two main bus stations: The local terminal (Sukoisan Autobusni Kolodvor) and an intercity terminal.



Split, continued

- » Bus tickets at large stations must be purchased at station offices, not from drivers. Tickets for all public transport must be validated prior to boarding.
- » Train routes include daily service to and from Zagreb. Routes increase during the summer tourist season.
- » Kolodvor Split is the main rail station. Train tickets may be purchased at stations; if ticket offices are not open, tickets may be purchased onboard.
- » Suburban train service is available as far west as Kaštel Stari.
- » Use only official taxis ordered by phone or through a reputable hotel. Do not hail taxis on the street.
- » Taxis are regulated. Routes may have fixed fares.
- » Taxis are generally metered, but drivers may not activate meter unless passengers insist.
- » Sexual assaults have occurred in taxis. Take a photo of taxi number (displayed inside) and send to a trusted person. Additional safety measures include sharing your ride progress on the taxi company app; calling a friend and alerting them to the vehicle number and your destination, and speaking loud enough for the driver to hear.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » The ferry port is located next to the main bus and train station. There are multiple ferry routes to islands along the Adriatic coast. Many ferries transport cars. Vessels listed as "catamaran" are generally passenger-only.
- » Boat routes include additional services during summer months. Vessels are often crowded; pre-booking does not guarantee berth on a particular sailing.
- » Boat sinkings have occurred. Safety records vary among operators. Do not travel by boat during inclement weather. Bringing your own life preserver is recommended.
- » Zračna luka Split/Split Airport is 25 km (15.5 miles) west of the city.
- » Transport between the airport and the city includes cars, taxis, shuttle buses and city buses.
- » The Airport Shuttle Bus runs hourly between the airport and the inter-city bus station.
- » City bus 37 links the airport and Sukoišan local bus station. The pick-up location is outside the airport on Cesta Dr. Franje Tuđmana highway.
- » Official taxis are located in queues outside of the arrivals terminal.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented at the airport.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Laws** prohibit discrimination against persons with mobility, sensory or other challenges. Law requires access to transportation, communication and public buildings. Access to older buildings may be limited.
- **Older city areas** often have cobblestone streets. Many sidewalks are steep and uneven, posing difficulties for those with mobility challenges or who depend on wheelchairs.
- **Access to** public transportation is not always available, even in major cities. In Zagreb, Zadar, Rijeka, Split and Dubrovnik, most bus and train stations are accessible. Ferries do not have accessibility features; some beach areas may be reached only by steep stairs or walkways.
- **Most parking spots** for mobility-challenged drivers are marked with a yellow dot. A parking permit is required. Persons with parking permits from other countries should request a Croatian permit from local authorities. There are approximately 1,000 reserved parking spaces in Zagreb for mobility-challenged drivers. EU permits are recognized.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Responders to emergency numbers** in some areas may not speak English.
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
 - » Police: 192 / Fire: 193 / Emergency services: 112 / Ambulance: 194 / Emergency roadside assistance: 1987
 - » From mid-June to mid-September, Channel 2 provides traffic and other information in English.
 - » The Croatian Automobile Club (HAK) provides up-to-date traffic condition information at <https://www.hak.hr/en>

Emergency Information, continued

- **Ambulances** are not widely available. Training of first responders may be below western standards. Responses to emergency situations may take longer beyond major urban areas.
- **Suitable** medical care is available throughout most of Croatia. Beyond major cities, facilities may not meet western standards. Services in the islands may be inadequate.
- **Public clinics** may lack specialized medical resources and supplies, and are not fully staffed overnight in non-emergency wards.
- **Cash payment** may be required prior to the delivery of care, especially in private clinics.
- **Doctors** and medical staff may not speak English.
- **There are** shortages of doctors and trained medical staff. The availability of some medications may be limited.
- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries may be illegal in Croatia. Check legality of all medications prior to travel. Carry all medicines in their original packaging, accompanied by a written doctor's prescription stating required dosage and that the medicine is for personal use.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call police and any necessary emergency services.
 - » Turn on hazard lights, put on reflective vest and place warning triangle outside of vehicle to warn other road users.
 - » Exchange contact information with other driver(s). Law requires drivers to offer assistance to injured persons.
 - » Foreign-registered vehicles involved in a crash must have a damage certificate in order to cross the border out of the country; a traffic crash report must be requested from police in writing.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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