



Kayaking on the Zrmanja River

At right: Village life

ISV Checklist

Have you turned in the following?

- Flight/Options Form and applicable Deposit(s)
- Copy of Passport
- Proof of Travel/Medical Insurance
- Project Preference Form
(sent by Departure Date)
- Total Balance

Due dates link:

www.isvonline.com/croduedates.html

Croatia Country Facts

- There is an ancient amphitheater in the city of Pula, left from the time Croatia was a Roman colony. Many monuments are left from that period, mostly on the coast.
- Until the monarchy collapsed in World War I, Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in Europe.
- Many inhabitants of the Croatian Hinterlands region speak a local dialect called *Kajkaski*, named after their word for "what?" (*kaj?*).

Phrase of the day

Kako ste?

"How are you?"

What do you know about Croatia's history?

A word from your Country Coordinator...

If you look at any map of Croatia you will be struck by what an odd shape it is. While some countries have been defined by geographical boundaries such as mountain ranges and deserts, the predominant factor shaping Croatia's borders, and indeed its culture, has been the influence of past empires and the Croat's fight for autonomy over the last 13 centuries.

Within these boundaries lie three major landforms: flat, mountainous and coastal. Scattered amongst the hillsides, valleys and coast are centuries old villages with characteristic houses of white-washed stone walls with red terracotta roof tiles. Vegetable gardens adorn most yards where you will find cabbage, tomatoes and beans, reminiscent of the communist era when family incomes were low. The tallest building in these villages is likely to be the church, with 89% of Croats identifying with the

Catholic religion. In the cities the influence of other cultures is more apparent: Greek; Roman; Celtic; Illyrian; Austrian; Hungarian; Byzantine; and Islamic.



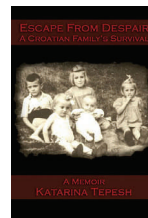
While Croatia is now a democratic republic, a quick historical review on any website (www.wikipedia.org is a good one) will reveal that through much of their history, Croats were ruled by another political body. The conflicts of the 20th Century centered around Croatia's push for a national identity. They joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1918 (later called Yugoslavia),

before being granted a republic status after the bloody events of WWII which saw over one million people killed throughout Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Amidst fears that Serbia was trying to impose its rule over the rest of the Federation, Croatia declared its independence in 1991 and heavy fighting broke out between Croats and Serb militias. In six months, 10,000 had died, hundreds of thousands had fled, and tens of thousands of homes had been destroyed.

With support from the EU, and a change in Croatia's constitution to protect minority groups and human rights, a sense of stability eventually returned to the country. Subsequent governments have opened up the economy and Croatia has been accepted as a candidate for membership into the EU, slated to occur in 2010. Volunteerism is still an emerging concept in Croatia, so your efforts this summer really can make a difference!

Check out these books & movies that take place in Croatia!

Escape from Despair: A Croatian Family's Survival (2007) by Katarina Tepesh, is the memoir set among Croatia's working-class during the communist era. Also check out Croatian Nights: A Festival of Alternative Literature (2005), which captures the true spirit of Croatia as the country becomes an increasingly popular holiday destination, and thoughts turn from war coverage and the Hague to EU enlargement.



You Only Love Once (1981), a political melodrama which discusses the moral decay of the early communist establishment in the late 40s. Also see A Wonderful Night in Split (2004), a Tarantino-like film dealing with contemporary Croatian reality of dissipated war veterans, drug abuse, and teenagers with no present or future.

Project Preference Form

If you have not already submitted one, your Project Preference Form will be sent to you by Departure Date (100 days prior to your Departure). It will be due 75 days prior to your Departure. See the due dates link for exact dates.

Departure Date Change

You should have already received notice of your Departure Date change to Saturday instead of Friday. Please call or email the office if you have not received this information or have further questions.