

Summer 2007

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Instant Dubrovnik

Essential mini guides

Introducing Dubrovnik

Amidst the summer heat and the fragrance of the Adriatic that surrounds you, here we are with an abundance of hot information to help make your time in Dubrovnik, one to savor. This gem of a city offers more than ever before. We've got the low down on some of the finest restaurants in town; if you're looking for somewhere to stay then check out the vast range of hotels on offer plus a load of information on some of the city's treasure spots. In fact, the entire region is packed with activities and daytime pursuits. Our features include island hopping to gorgeous Mljet or if you fancy a fabulous hand on salty experience, then Solana Ston on Peljesac is the answer. Without giving too much away all the details are inside, plus some handy little tips are included. With us by your side, exploring Dubrovnik will be a whole lot easier. Enjoy your summer!

Hotels
Restaurants
Nightlife
Sights
Transport
and a whole host of other useful information

Customs

All major items brought into the country (laptops, boats, sauna equipment) must be declared; to do so ensures you will be allowed to take them back when you leave. Keep receipts in order to qualify for a VAT refund at all border customs offices for items over 500kn. Any Croatian art or cultural works must receive export approval before purchase. Call the Ministry of Finance for further details tel. 01 459 13 33, www.mfin.hr.

Electricity

The electricity supply is 220W, 50hz, so visitors from the United States will need to use a transformer to run electrical appliances.

Water

Tap water is absolutely safe for drinking.

Religion

These days Croatia is fairly monotone in religious terms. Having always existed on the frontiers of three churches; Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim; time was that one could find a right old mix here. Catholic population with the 2001 Census recording 87.83% as loyal to Rome.

Roads

Amid an almighty hoo-hah, the law on drinking and driving changed last year. The legal limit for drinking and driving is now a pure and chaste 0.0%. Yup, that's right: you can't drink and drive at all. The rights and wrongs of this we'll leave for others to debate, but given the mountainous terrain along the coast, this law will probably save lives. And the police are enforcing it.

Speed kills more people on Croatian roads than alcohol does. Speed traps are common along the Adriatic highway, and speed patrol cars have been introduced on the motorways. So don't be caught out. The speed limit in urban areas is 50kph unless otherwise marked; 80kph on secondary roads and 130kph on highways.

Basic data

Population:

Croatia (April 2001): 4,437,460
Dubrovnik Neretva County: 122,870
Dubrovnik (April 2001): 30,436

Territory: Croatia's land territory takes up 56,542km². It borders with Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and there is a sea-border with Italy.

Dalmatian coast: The coast is the main tourist attraction for good reason - the crystal clear waters are some of the most beautiful on the planet and were just named some of its most pure!

Dubrovnik Neretva County: Dubrovnik Neretva County measures 1,783km², of which roughly half is sea.

Islands: An amazing 1,246 islands lie off the Dalmatian coast, 47 of them inhabited.

Climate: Mediterranean

Local time: Croatia is part of the Central European Time Zone (GMT+1): when it is noon in Zagreb it is 12:00 in Berlin, 11:00 in London, 06:00 in New York, 14:00 in Moscow, and 21:00 in Sydney.

On the spot fines are payable for offences. If you are stopped for any reason, you will be expected to show your driving licence, car registration papers and insurance certificate, so make sure always to keep them with you.

Safety

You will surely find Dubrovnik to be remarkably safe in comparison with most Western European cities, even at night. Although there is little street crime, of course it is always wise to keep a sensible eye on your personal belongings.

Toilets

Public toilets are few and far between - a far better option is to take the excuse to pop into a cafe for a drink and avail yourself of their facilities. There is a public toilet in the street Iza grada, just behind the city walls near the Pile gates. They're Turkish style (squat) but clean - and free.

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Dubrovnik In Your Pocket

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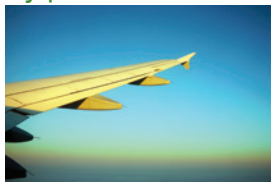
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Editor's note

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By plane



Čilipi Airport is located 20km southeast of Dubrovnik. It's small, clean and functional. There is a restaurant and café, plus information, exchange offices and ATMs, a post office and car hire facilities are all to

be found in the arrivals hall. **Parking** costs 5kn per hour and 30kn per day. The pay machine for the car park is in the arrivals hall and accepts credit cards. **Getting to town:** Most airlines organise buses to meet their flights – please check with your operator. A one way ticket to town costs 35kn. If your cheapskate airline has neglected you in this way, you'll be reduced to forking out for a taxi – expect to pay 200kn (30€) to get to the city centre. **Dubrovnik Airport, Čilipi, Konavle.** Flight info tel (020) 77 33 33, www.airport-dubrovnik.hr

By boat

There are two harbours in Dubrovnik – the centuries old harbour snug against the walls of the Old Town, or the commercial port at Gruž. The Jadrolinija ferry office and quay are at Gruž, a ten minute bus ride from the Old Town. Many grumble it's not the most attractive place in the world, but there are plenty of amenities for weary travellers. Hotel Petka right behind the quayside has great food, good accommodation and you can take a bath or shower there. There's a fruit market, a large Konzum supermarket, and loads of small shops and travel agencies etc. The port looks onto the Lapad peninsula, where many of Dubrovnik's hotels are located. To get to the centre of town, hop on an orange bus number 1A, 1B or 8. A ticket for a single trip costs 10kn if you buy it in a news kiosk, 12kn if you buy it on board. You must stamp your ticket on entry.

By car

For the time being, there is no motorway to Dubrovnik. Considering how narrow non-motorway roads are, you're safest sticking with the motorway as far as Split. Do be aware that during weekends approaching August, all roads become catastrophically busy, especially at borders, motorway toll booths and tunnels. Avoid weekends!

To approach Dubrovnik, you can either travel:

Via Split: From Split, follow signs for Dubrovnik leading you inland. (Avoid the coast road passing through Omiš, a terrible bottleneck). Just south of Metković you pass through a corridor belonging to Bosnia and Herzegovina, so keep your passport or ID card handy.

Via Bosnia and Herzegovina: You can enter "BiH" from the A3 (E70) heading east from Zagreb, or one of the roads heading south from Hungary. Of the possible routes, Bosanska Gradiška – Banja Luka – Jajce – Mostar is probably quickest, but you may wish to take a detour through the fair city of Sarajevo. When you get into Dubrovnik, a one way system leads east and west of the Old Town – try to have a map handy!

Check out the **Croatian Automobile Club** website at www.hak.hr for traffic information, or keep an ear open for traffic news in English on the radio.

By coach

The city has a brand spanking new coach station close to the Gruž harbour. Sparkling clean, it's a short walk from the ferry terminal at Gruž with all its amenities. **Ticket office:** open 05:30-22:30, tel. 060 30 50 70 for information. **Changing**

money: head east for Gruž harbour, where there are ATMs and exchange bureaux. **Toilets:** inside the terminal, cost 3kn. **Left luggage:** the garderoba works 0-24, 10kn per day. Public phones are on the platform. **Shops and cafes:** there is a news kiosk, plus a large Konzum supermarket next door (open 0-24). **Getting to town:** buses to town stop right outside the station, take lines 1A or 1B. Tickets cost 10kn from the driver. **Taxis** wait by the platform, or call (020) 970.

By train

Amazing but true, the railway system does not serve Dubrovnik, although it is possible to travel to Ploče and head south by bus. See our "Getting around" pages for information on Ploče routes.

Tourist information

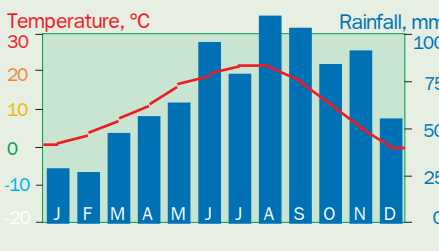


Tourist Board Dubrovnik C-3, Cvijete Zuzorić 1/II, tel. (020) 32 38 87, fax (020) 32 37 25, e-mail: info@tzdubrovnik.hr

Dubrovnik-Neretva County Tourist Board C-3, Cvijete Zuzorić 1/1, tel. (020) 32 49 99, fax (020) 32 42 24, info@visitdubrovnik.hr, www.visitdubrovnik.hr

Association of Tourist Guides Dubrovnik C/D/3, Gundulićeva poljana 9, Tel. (020) 32 36 08; fax (020) 32 47 33, vodici.dubrovnik@du.t-com.hr. Open: Mon-Fri 10:00 – 12:00.

Climate



National holidays

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
April 9	Easter Monday
May 1	International Workers' Day
June 7	Corpus Christi
June 22	Anti Fascist Resistance Day
June 25	Statehood Day
August 5	Victory and Homeland Thanksgiving Day
August 15	Feast of the Assumption
October 8	Independence Day
November 1	All Saints' Day
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Saint Stephen's Day

Cream of the crop

Dubrovnik Palace F-3, Masarykov put 20, tel. 43 00 00, fax 43 01 00, info@dubrovnikpalace.hr, www.dubrovnikpalace.hr. Hits the spot if you have contemporary tastes and take your surroundings seriously. A great pool and beach area, spa facilities and cool reception complete with arty waterfall and gallery. The soothing rooms are complete with Gharani Strok toiletries - this is Daddy Strok's hotel, after all. ▶ 308 rooms (22 singles €222, 249 doubles €348 - 420, 24 Junior suite: €495, 7 Executive suite: €608, 2 De Luxe suite: €698, 3 Ambassador suite: €768, 1 Presidential suite: €1265). ★★★★★

The Pucić Palace C-3, Od Puča 1, tel. 32 62 00, fax 32 62 23, reception@thepucicpalace.com, www.thepucicpalace.com. A breathtaking hotel in a real live palace in the heart of the Old Town. So beautifully decked out in period style, it will awaken the blubbery romantic in the most hardened cynic. The staff knocked us off our feet with their friendly and helpful approach. ▶ 19 rooms (4 singles €315, 13 doubles €505, 1 suite €1025, 1 Junior Suite €760). ★★★★★

Hostel

Dubrovnik Youth Hostel I-3, Vinka Sagrestana 3 (Bana Josipa Jelačića 15-17), tel. 42 32 41, fax 41 25 92, dubrovnik@hfhs.hr, www.hfhs.hr. Although Dubrovnik's youth hostel is sadly lacking in facilities, we found it clean and cheerful and can vouch for the comfy beds. A communal kitchen is at your disposal, there's catering for large groups, and you can rent a bike or scooter next door. ▶ 19 rooms (1 double 105 - 120Kn, 14 4-bedded dorm: 105 - 120Kn, 4 6-bedded dorm: 105 - 120Kn). ★★★★★

Mid-range

Adriatic G-3, Masarykov put 9, tel. 43 35 20, fax 43 35 30, sales_adriatic@hotellimaestral.com; adriatic@hotellimaestral.com, www.hotellimaestral.com. A good sized gym and clay tennis courts are a nice surprise in a two star hotel, and an additional host of activities (fancy sea kayaking?) make this a good option for sporty types. Decent, clean and friendly accommodation in leafy surroundings on the Lapad peninsula. ▶ 158 rooms (16 singles 370 - 590Kn, 124 doubles 260 - 440Kn, 18 triples 260 - 440Kn). ★★

Argosy F-1, Iva Dulčića 41, tel. 44 61 00, fax 43 56 22, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. This airy low-rise has a discreet modern theme, and is only a pebble's throw from popular Copacabana beach, with a water slide and beach restaurant to keep big'uns and little'uns happy. Or take in the view from the Argosy's pool with an ice cold beer... mmmm! ▶ 308 rooms (308 doubles €69 - 189). ★★

Komodor G-3, Masarykov put 5, tel. 43 35 00, fax 43 73 33, sales_komodor@hotellimaestral.com, www.hotellimaestral.com. A slightly older, smaller hotel close to the centre of Lapad affords an intimate atmosphere. Rooms overlook a rather lovely pool area, and there's great outdoor seating for mealtimes. A wide range of free time activities laid on with a smile, and facilities for small meetings. ▶ 63 rooms (8 singles €74 - 108, 51 doubles €102 - 174, 4 triples €142 - 216). ★★

Symbol key

	Air conditioning		Credit cards accepted
	Casino		Conference facilities
	Child friendly		Facilities for the disabled
	Internet		Guarded parking
	Fitness centre		Non-smoking rooms
	Restaurant		Nearest metro station
	Sauna		Swimming pool
	Animal friendly		

Kompas G-2, Šetaliste kralja Zvonimira 56, tel. 35 20 00, fax 43 58 77, sales@hotel-kompas.hr, www.hotel-kompas.hr. This smallish hotel close to the centre of Lapad is delightfully appointed in a clean and tasteful style in keeping with its modern design. The indoor and outdoor seawater pools (weather permitting) are excellent, and guests have unlimited free use of the gym, sauna and Jacuzzi. ▶ 115 rooms (7 singles €135, 54 doubles €150 - 190, 54 triples €210). ★★★

Lapad H-2, Lapadska obala 37, tel. 43 29 22, fax 41 72 30, sales@hotel-lapad.hr, www.hotel-lapad.hr. Fans of old world charm could do little better than book into Hotel Lapad - the grand old building sits proud among elegant villas. The pool is lovely, there are conference facilities, you're a short hop from Gruž harbour and the price is right! Clean, comfy and friendly. ▶ 194 rooms (18 singles €74 - 130, 176 doubles €45 - 81). ★★★

Lero I-4, Iva Vojnovića 14, tel. 34 13 33, fax 33 21 23, hotel-lero@du.htnet.hr, www.hotel-lero.hr. This complex is perfectly located between the Old Town and Gruž Cove. It's a five minute bus ride to the centre and the beach is a mere 150m walk. All 160 rooms include air-conditioning, SAT-TV, shower, and toilet facilities. Breakfast and dinner packages are available as Taverna Nava and the Aperitif Bar are all in-house. ▶ 160 rooms (singles €94 - 110, 160 doubles €124 - 140). ★★★

Petka I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 38, Gruž, tel. 41 05 00/ 41 05 03, fax 41 01 27, hotel-petka@du.htnet.hr, www.croatia-vacation.com. Refurbished hotel with over 100 rooms each with air-conditioning and elegant bath facilities. Choose one of 64 balcony rooms with breathtaking views over the Adriatic. Restaurant Taverna Nostromo will delight you with its rich menu. Only minutes from the medieval city by bus. ▶ 104 rooms (8 singles €76 - 85, 64 doubles €60 - 68, 32 triples €60 - 68). ★★★

Tirena F-2, Iva Dulčića 22, tel. 44 82 49, fax 43 56 22, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. The jury is out - seventies eyesore or modernist delight? But the rooms are lovely, and the best bit is the bar in the middle of the pool where you can cool down from without and within simultaneously. Loads of sports and the famous Copacabana beach nearby. ▶ 208 rooms (208 doubles €120 - 157). ★★★

Dubrovnik

telephone code is +385-20

Bars

Arsenal D-3, Pred Dvorom 1, tel. 32 10 65 / press 1/098 983 08 31, sales@mea-culpa.hr, www.mea-culpa.hr. This huge space is a former repair workshop for wooden galleys. Plonk yourself at one of the pirate-sized wooden tables and chow down on great seafood (served by midnight), have a drink or three, take in a live band and indulge in a spot of shimmying on the dancefloor - in any order or combination. Spectacular. ▶ Open 10:00 - 04:00. ☎📺📺📺

Buža D-4, Outside the city walls near St.Stephen's tower. What a place to sit - rocky terraces overlooking the open sea south of the Old Town. There's no running water here so bottled drinks only - which are pretty pricey - but the laid back music and hedonistic mood make up for everything. ▶ Open 08:30 - 03:00. ☎

Capitano A-1, Između vrta 2, tel. 43 69 87, fax 43 69 88. This bar is usually empty before the witching hour, after which it transforms into a scene of drinking, dancing and shenanigans which go on 'til the wee small hours. Commercial dance, occasional live bands and hormone-fuelled youth dressed to kill. ▶ Open 18:00 - 04:00. ☎📺📺

Mirage C-3, Buničeva poljana 3, tel. 32 34 89. On a fine square near the Cathedral, this café slash bar has great outdoor seating to rival Troubadour's. The inside isn't bad either (not that you'll need it, we hope) and beer and cocktails are well priced. ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00. ☎

None Nina D-3, Pred Dvorom bb, tel. 098 915 99 09/ 091 466 67 86. A perfect spot for people-watching on comfy loungers right opposite the Rector's Palace - you can see people climbing about on the city walls. This place does coffees by day and shakes the cocktails by night. The toilets are designed for the fairy people. ▶ Open 09:00 - 03:00. ☎☎☎

Porto Srebrno 10, Milini, tel. 48 70 78. It's a hop out of town in the village of Srebrno (you can get there on the bus heading for Cavtat), but this big, modern space which serves as a chillout zone by day and a lively bar with dancing by night has proved to be very popular with local trendsters at weekends. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 04:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

Troubadour Hard Jazz Cafe C-3, Buničeva poljana 5, tel. 32 34 76. It's hard to beat a warm evening spent here toe-tapping to mellow jazz (live acts too), with your super-view onto the Cathedral. A near-perfect experience, so we'll forgive the significantly above-average prices. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎☎

Casinos

Casino Orenes M-5, Frana Supila 12, Hotel Excelsior, tel. 31 20 77, fax 31 20 70, www.orenescasinos.com. A super fancy casino in the Excelsior hotel. ▶ Open 16:00 - 04:00.

Clubs

Eastwest beach club L-5, Frana Supila bb, tel. 41 22 20/ 098 981 38 51, fax 31 25 73, info@ew-dubrovnik.com, www.ew-dubrovnik.com. The Banje beach at Ploče is where posers come to perfect their tans, since East West rents out funky loungers and screens to protect one's privacy from the hoi polloi. This bar churns out cocktails and keeps 'em dancing 'til The Man says go home. ▶ Open 10:00 - 05:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

Fuego A-2, Brsalje 8, tel./fax 31 28 70, fuego.du@yahoo.com. A proper little club on Pile. As the name suggests, you'll often find a Latin theme down here, but other nights mainstream rock, dance, the odd live band... And on hot summer nights when you're full of cocktails and joie de vivre, who really cares? ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

Lazareti L-5, Frana Supila 8, tel./fax 32 46 33, arl@du.tinet.hr, www.groznica.net. A superb stone spaces in the former quarantine house is given over to happenings of an arty/underground nature, including quality DJs spinning electronica. Cult Zagreb club Močvara has a festival here, and the Karantena international multimedia festival includes independent, cutting-edge music, theatre, dance and more. Open midnight 'til late. ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00.

Living Room J-4, Ante Starčevića 7, tel. 46 86 52/ 091 567 26 32, www.livingroom.com.hr. A café/bar that is comfortable and relaxing, it's great for that casual chat amongst friends in a setting that is neat, casual and well known for its fine coffee. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎

Orlandinjo Club F-3, Masarykov put 20, Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, tel. 43 00 00, info@dubrovnikpalace.hr, www.dubrovnikpalace.hr. The Palace is one of the grooviest corners of Dubrovnik, practically exploding with contemporariness, and urbanites will find the nightclub is no exception. Live jazz acts go down nicely with excellent wines and cocktails, but be aware you do pay for your fancy surroundings! ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. ☎☎☎

Orlando K-4, Branitelja Dubrovnik 41, tel. 31 26 74, fax 31 26 75, klub_umo@yahoo.com, www.klub-orlando.com. A multi-talented organisation organising excellent live bands, DJ appearances, film screenings, workshops, exhibitions and much much more, leaning towards the alternative stream of culture. Check out our culture pages or the club's website for what's on. Open daily 2pm 'til late.

Lounge bars

Gil's Cuisine and Pop lounge bar D-2, Sv. Dominika 2, tel. 32 22 22, fax 32 22 20. A beautifully designed complex of mediterranean restaurant and lounge bar, which you can probably only afford to frequent if you can afford if the currency your salary is paid in is doing particularly well at the moment and resides in an equally beautifully designed wallet. ▶ Open (restaurant) 12:00 - 01:00 and (lounge bar) 10:00 - 02:00.

Pubs

Irish Pub Karaka C-2, Između polača 5, tel. 32 30 70/ 098 50 03 22, www.irishpub-karaka.t-com.hr. A spit and sawdust style music pub full of persons of Gaelic descent and loud rock music! Crowded, sweaty, drunken, not very Croatian - but fun. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

Katie O'Connell's Irish Pub C-2, Dropčeva 4a, tel. 32 15 75/ 091 220 20 94, bradley@du.t-com.hr. Brand new in 2006 but managing to look centuries old, this delightful stone cellar in one of the streets leading north of Stradun is sure to be a decent spot to eat and drink this year. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

King Richard's Pub I-4, Josipa Kosora 40, tel. 33 37 40/ 33 37 33, vlam1@du.t-com.hr. Somewhat incongruous - a classy, "traditional" style pub in a rather new residential building, but nice nonetheless, and has become a favoured night spot on Lapad. Upstairs is for drinking and scoffing; downstairs is for boogieing and karaoke. ▶ Open 08:00 - 04:00. ☎☎☎☎☎

Essential Dubrovnik

Dominican Monastery (Dominikanski samostan) D-2, Sv. Dominika 4, tel. 32 14 23, fax 32 22 05. The Dominican order was established in Dubrovnik in the 13th century, and with the building of their monastery a century later, they became an important part of the city's defences - the monastery is at a strategic corner of the Old Town, vulnerable to attack from land and sea. Graceful stone steps lead up to the complex - notice that the balustrades have been filled in to prevent rogues from looking up devout ladies' skirts! As befits the monastery's strategic position, from the outside it is fairly austere, but inside hides a jewel of a gothic and renaissance cloister (1456-1469), with a thick carpet of grass in the centre. The interior of the monastery church is delightfully simple, with a sweeping wooden roof and some fine stone furniture. The Dominican monastery, like the Franciscan, holds an important library and collection of art including a painting of Dubrovnik before the great earthquake by local master Nikola Božidarević that has been invaluable to historians in reconstructing the look of the Old Town, as well as important works by Titian, Paolo Veneziano and Vlaho Bukovac of neighbouring Cavtat. Entry 15kn. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Gundulić Square (Gundulićeva poljana) C/D-3, . This square is named after the long-haired chappie standing in the centre - one Ivan Gundulić, a Dubrovnik statesman and Baroque poet whose verse set the standard for literary Croatian which is still accepted today. The statue to him was erected in 1893. Gundulić's poems were hymns to his home city and the struggles of the Slav nations against rival powers. The square bordered by elegant shops, restaurants and homes is the Old Town's fruit market in the mornings.

Lokrum Island L/M-6, . You don't have to travel far to experience the tranquillity of island life: Lokrum island is just a short hop away by boat (departs 09:00, 10:00 and every 30min till 20:00. 10min trip, 35kn return). It's one of the best spots for a swim. The island's shores are rocky, but the peace and the racket of crickets are something else, there's a tiny saltwater lake which is perfect for kids, and there's a naturist beach to the east of the jetty. Thick pine forests have been complemented by cultivated gardens first begun by Benedictine monks - the monastery here was founded in the 11th century, apparently by grateful citizens after being spared from a great fire in Dubrovnik. Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph built a summer house and formal gardens here, and a botanical garden was founded in 1959 - Lokrum is now a Nature Reserve. Lokrum's hills are topped by a star shaped fort built by the French in 1806, from which you have great views.

Onofrio's Fountains - Great and Small (Velika i mala Onofrijeva fontana) B-2, D-3, Poljana Paska Miličevića, Pred Dvorom. One of the first spectacular sights that greets you when you enter Stradun from the Pile Gate is the Great Onofrio Fountain, with its huge central dome and sixteen water taps all around. A ledge and steps around the water trough provide a perfect resting spot for tired sightseers. The fountain is the end point of the aqueduct



that architects Onofrio dell Cava and Andriuzzi de Bulbilo built from a source near the river, almost 12km away, one of the first aqueducts to be built on the territories of today's Croatia. Completed in 1438, the fountain was once more ornate with a massive cupola, but was damaged in the great earthquake and never repaired. Onofrio's small fountain is an elegant little masterpiece decorated with playful dolphins that stands near the tower at the other end of Stradun

Orlando's Column (Orlandov stup) D-2, Pred Dvorom. In front of the Church of St Blaise stands a column with a carving of Orlando (or Roland), nephew of Charlemagne and legend of minstrel ballads embodying freedom and nobility. The column was raised in 1418, and from that date the flag of St Blaise flew here right until the end of the Republic. Today you'll see the white "Libertas" flag symbolising the city's enduring spirit of independence. This spot was once the both the marketplace and to some extent still is the political "heart" of the city: it was the place where citizens were once summoned to hear state decrees and to witness punishments. Orlando's right forearm was used as the standard for the traditional Dubrovnik measure for trading fabric - a Ragusan cubit or "lakat" (elbow) - you can see the rather more convenient measure near the bottom of the sculpture

Stradun, Placa B-2/D-2, . When talking about finding your way around town, you'll often hear people referring to "Stradun", which you won't see on any street signs. It's the unofficial name for the main street Placa that joins the two main entrances to the Old Town at Ploče in the east and Pile in the west. The name comes from the Italian "strada", meaning "street". With its shining limestone flags and the uniform baroque buildings that line it, it is itself one of the best known sights of Dubrovnik. It's the place people bump into and chat with friends on their daily business, and dress up for a stroll in the evening or at coffee time. Stradun marks the dividing line between the earliest settlement and the parts of the city that followed. This first settlement was on the land south of Stradun, and was then named Laus, Greek for "rock", since it was originally an island. From the name Laus came Raus, Rausa and then Ragusa. Although Laus was probably inhabited by Illyrian peoples since the 4th century, it was colonised in the 7th century by Greco-Roman refugees from Cavtat fleeing Slav incursions. Later, Slavs settled the land across the narrow, marshy channel - this settlement was called Dubrava, from the Slav word for "oak tree". The channel was filled in during the 12th century, thus creating Stradun, and the two towns integrated and began to build the city walls.

The Cathedral (Katedrala) D-3, Kneza Damjana Jude 1, tel. 32 34 59 Treasury/ 32 34 96. The elegant pale grey Cathedral at rosy sundown exemplifies the frequently quoted phrase "city of stone and light" (Jure Kaštelan). Its dome gracefully tops the skyline whichever way you look at it, and its baroque forms are one more chapter of the fairytale of the city streets. It was thought that the Cathedral, built between 1672 and 1713 by Italian architects Andrea Buffalini and Paolo Andreotti, was built on the site of an earlier 12th century Romanesque cathedral, destroyed in the great earthquake of 1667. However, following another earthquake in 1979, excavations showed that there had, in fact, been a Byzantine cathedral on this spot since the 7th or 8th centuries. The light and lofty interior is most famous for its collection of treasures, which includes reliquaries of St Blaise. The golden caskets containing the saint's head and foot are thought to be the work of Byzantine masters of the 11th century. By the main altar is a painting of the Assumption by Titian which features a self-portrait of the artist. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:30, Sun 11:00 - 17:30.



The City Belltower (Gradski zvonik, Luža zvonara) D-3, Pred Dvorom. Look carefully at the bell in the tower that crowns the east end of Stradun, and you'll notice the figures of two men, poised to strike with hammers. If your zoom isn't up to the task of making them out clearly, you can see their two older brothers in the Sponza palace next door. Their green colour is a result of their copper composition rather than their roots on Mars. They are affectionately known as zelenci – "the green ones" – or, individually, Maro and Baro, the descendants of the two original wooden figures. The bell is the only original part of the tower – an older one dating back to 1444 was destroyed and rebuilt in 1928. It weighs two tonnes and was cast by a master craftsman famed far and wide for casting bells and cannons: Ivan Krstitelj Rabljanin - or John the Baptist of Rab Island. The tower's clock with its sunburst centrepoint is rather lovely in its simplicity.

The City Harbour (Gradska luka) D/E-2, D/E-3. Dubrovnik owes its very existence to shipping. There is evidence that the lands here were first colonised by Illyrian tribes in the 4th century, probably attracted by the security offered by the island which lay where the southern half of the Old Town now stands, and the natural lie of the land with Mount Srđ standing guard. It lay at a natural resting point on the maritime trade routes that existed even before the Roman Empire. After the Slavs settled here and began fortifying the city in the 13th century, owing to good diplomatic ties with powers such as Turkey and Venice, Dubrovnik began to establish a healthy shipping trade. Two harbours were built in rocky, protected coves: a main one near the Ploče gates and a smaller one on the Pile side. Through trade, Dubrovnik grew wealthy and rose to rival that other maritime city state, Venice. During the city's golden age in the 16th century, the merchant navy numbered around 200 ships. Shipbuilding was a highly important industry, and the Dubrovnik "Karaka", a beautiful galleon, was well known as being of exceptional quality as it was made of durable Lebanese Cedar. You can see a replica in Gruž harbour in the evenings. The sheltered harbour at Ploče has a wonderful atmosphere, and is now the spot for embarking on a boat tour, for buying local textiles from the local ladies sewing in the shade, or for enjoying a good meal. *Did you know? The English word "argosy", meaning a fleet of ships, is derived from the name Ragusa.*

The City Walls, Bastions and Gates Pile & Ploče (Gradske zidine, tvrđave, gradska vrata Pile, Vrata od Ploča). Almost two kilometres in length, Dubrovnik's city walls are among the best preserved and most attractive on this planet, and a walk along them is an absolute must. The defences were built between the 8th and the 16th century. The fact that on the land side they are almost 6m thick in places shows their primary purpose as defence against attack from the mountainous hinterland – the Ottoman Empire, for example, lay just a few kilometres inland. The walls were strengthened by myriad towers and bastions, and were never breached – the Republic of Dubrovnik only fell after Napoleon's armies were invited in on condition that they would respect its independence. Two further fortresses, Revelin to the East and Lovrjenac, on a headland just west of the Old Town, provided additional strategic defence. Revelin is a venue

for concerts during the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, and has a cocktail bar, pizzeria and nightclub inside. Lovrjenac is one of the most atmospheric venues of the festival, with traditional performances of Hamlet taking place under the stars. Your ticket to the city walls includes entrance to Lovrjenac, and its well worth visiting. It was for some time used as a prison, and is surrounded by delightful parkland with some of the best views of the city, a great picnic spot. The Minčeta fort, just north of the Pile gate, with its stylised battlements, is one of the symbols of the city, and St John's fortress houses the Maritime Museum and Aquarium. Apart from the fortresses, each of which has its own story and character, the Pile and Ploče gates are also masterpieces. From these gates, you now access the Old Town over stone bridges ending in drawbridges spanning the moat, now filled with park benches and orange trees. Above the gates you'll see reliefs of St Blaise, protector of the city.



The Franciscan Monastery of the Brothers Minor and the Old Pharmacy (Franjevački samostan i stara apoteka Male braće) B-2, Plača 2, tel. 32 14 10, fax 32 10 29. The Romanesque cloister of the Franciscan monastery is an absolute delight, decorated with the remnants of old frescoes, and with delicate pillars surrounding a garden where orange trees grow. The monastery is most famous for its pharmacy, among the oldest in Europe and the oldest one still working. The monastery houses a museum where you can see original items from the pharmacy, plus an extensive library with precious incunabula, manuscripts, and a large collection of musical notations and a treasury of artworks. Outside the Church of the Little Brothers on Stradun you'll see a lovely relief of the pieta, and, on a lighter note, a gargoyle below knee height. The trick is to stand on it facing the wall - it's the test of a real man! Entry 20kn adults, 10 kn children. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

The Lazaret (Lazareti) L-5. Just past the Ploče gates is a row of adjoining stone buildings with gates guarding the courtyards. This was the Dubrovnik lazaret - quarantine houses for travellers in times of plague. Since these buildings were usually destroyed when the need for them passed, Dubrovnik's lazaret is one of the last remaining in Europe. The rather impressive stone buildings now house artists' workshops and a humanitarian organisation, and are the venue for concerts and DJ parties.

The Rector's Palace (Knežev dvor) D-3, Pred Dvorom 1, tel. 32 14 37. One of the loveliest buildings in the city and the seat of the Rector, the figurehead of the Republic elected within the nobility, whose term lasted for just one month confining him to these quarters which he could only leave on official occasions and religious holidays. The building changed its appearance after two explosions of gunpowder stored here, and its current appearance is mainly thanks to the renaissance designs of Juraj Dalmatinac of Zadar and Michelozzo Michelozzi of Florence in the 1460s. Alterations were added in baroque style in the 17th century following

Airline offices

Croatia Airlines A-2, Brsalje 9, tel. 41 37 76, fax 41 39 93, dbvto@croatiaairlines.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00, Sat 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun. [C]

Dubrovnik Airline Zračna luka Dubrovnik, Čilipi, tel. 77 37 00, fax 77 37 80, info@dubrovnikairline.com, www.dubrovnikairline.com. Charter airline. They are also available for 24 hours a day only during Sat and Sun on telephone number 77 37 05. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Airport

Dubrovnik Airport (Zračna luka Dubrovnik) Čilipi, Konavle, tel. 77 33 33 / 77 32 22, www.airport-dubrovnik.hr. The advent of well priced tickets for domestic flights means that most people in Dubrovnik get around the country by plane. There are a limited number of tickets selling for rock bottom prices - a single to Zagreb can cost as little as 200kn, but you must reserve your ticket well in advance - or strike it lucky - to get these. International flights are also becoming more affordable with the arrival of budget airlines such as Sky Europe, Germanwings and Hapag Lloyd Express. See the airline websites for reservations. **Getting there:** Catch a bus from the main coach station, tickets cost 35kn one way, or call a taxi (200kn). Check with your airline for the bus timetable. If you take your car there's a long stay car park (30kn per day).

Car rental

Adria rent G-3, Masarykov put 9, tel. 43 70 66 / 098 28 53 15, adria.rent@du.t-com.hr, www.adriarent.hr. You can also rent a scooter. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 08:00 - 12:00. [C]

Budget I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 24, tel. 41 89 98 / 091 201 46 38, dbd@budget.hr, www.budget.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 08:00 - 12:00. [C]

Dollar&Thrifty Zračna luka Dubrovnik, Čilipi, tel. 77 35 88, fax 77 35 89, apt.dubrovnik@subrosa.hr, www.subrosa.hr. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:00. [C]

Gulliver L-5, Frana Supila 7, tel. 42 64 77 / 41 22 78, rent-a-car@gulliver.hr, www.gulliver.hr. Also at Obala S.Radića 32, tel. 31 33 13 ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. [C]

Hertz Frana Supila 9, tel. 42 50 00 / 091 42 51 111, fax 488 30 77, dubrovnik.ap@hertz.hr, www.hertz.hr. Also at the airport 08:00 - 20:00 every day, tel: 77 15 68. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00, Sun 09:00 - 11:00. [C]

Uni rent Dubrovnik Airport, Čilipi, tel. 77 34 80, uni-rent@du.t-com.hr, www.uni-rent.net. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. [C]

Gas station

Gas station (O-24)

Komolac, Ogarčić 8, tel.45 34 66

Čilipi, Konavle, tel.77 35 94

Kupari, Kuparsko polje b.b., tel.48 67 22, 48 67 26

Ston, Doli bb, tel.75 35 96

Opuzen, Jadranska 6, tel.67 22 60

Harbour office

Harbour office (Lučka kapetanija) K-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 37, tel. 41 89 88, www.mmtpr.hr. 24 hours Info: 41 89 89 ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Parking

Parking. There's one problem with having a town clustered within city walls – there's nowhere to park. When the tourist season is at its height, parking is almost impossible – the car parks around the centre are barely sufficient for the locals. So do make sure that your hotel secures parking for you. If not, try to find a parking spot on the Lapad peninsula and enjoy Dubrovnik for what it is – a city of pedestrians.

There are several 24hr guarded car parks located around the city walls, and one at the Gruž harbour. You'll pay 10kn/hr during the summer, and space is limited. See the maps at the back of the guide for locations.

Text message parking. Croatia was the first ever country to introduce payment by text message for street parking! It's so simple. Look for the sign to see which zone you're in. Send the registration number of your car as a text message (no spaces, no special characters) to the four digit number shown. Your payment is confirmed when you get a message back from them. Different zones have different max waiting times and prices.

Public transport

City buses, www.libertasdubrovnik.hr. The orange city buses are run by Libertas (hooray, freedom!) You'll be amazed how efficient and clean they are. They connect the coach station and Gruž harbour with the Old Town and hotels on Lapad, and take you to Cavtat in the south of the county, and Peješac in the north. See the company's website (sorry, no English) or any number of placards or fliers in the city for a route map. Tickets are cheaper from news kiosks - 8kn for a single journey, or 10kn from the driver. Stamp your ticket on entry.

Taxi

Taxi. The easiest and simplest way to get a cab is to call 970 (dial 020 in front if you are calling from your mobile) 0800 1441, otherwise you'll find them on the following ranks: (Pile, tel. 42 43 43, Main Coach Station, tel. 35 70 44, Gruž Harbour, tel. 41 81 12, Ploče, Lapad)

There are no night supplements, you'll always pay a 25kn start, 8kn per kilometre, 2kn per baggage item and 80kn per hour for waiting.

Train

By train. Amazing but true, the railway system does not serve Dubrovnik. Inter-railers may consider the Zagreb-Ploče train, travelling via Bosnia and Herzegovina and visiting towns such as Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo. Normal people would probably prefer to avoid this 13-hour odyssey and travel to Split, then continue south by coach, especially since the Zagreb-Split fast train now takes less than six hours, or you can take the sleeper.

Drivers can rest up and escape tourist traffic by loading their car on a train, travelling to Split and then continuing south. However, since the Zagreb-Split motorway has reduced journey times from to about 5 hours (traffic permitting), many people choose to drive or take the coach. A final touring option is the Ploče-Sarajevo-Osijek-Budapest route, which takes the best part of 17 hours.

 Dubrovnik

telephone code is +385-20



Banks & Exchanges

Erste&Steiermarkische Bank I-3, Vukovarska 26, tel. 062 37 46 85/ 0800 7890 free info, fax 062 37 46 86, www.erstebank.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:30, Sat 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Hypo-alpe-adria bank I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 26a, tel. 43 19 00, fax 43 19 90, www.hypo-alpe-adria.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

OTP banka I-3, Vukovarska 19, tel. 062 20 15 55, fax 062 20 12 69, www.otpbanka.hr. Also at Placa bb, **Stradun**, tel. 32 10 19; Iva Vojnovića 98, **Lapad 2**, tel. 41 36 10; Setalište kraja Zvonimira 28, **Lapad 1**, tel. 062 20 13 18; Placa 4, **Ston**, tel. 062 20 13 32; N. Tesle 13, **Atlantska**, tel. 062 20 13 24; with same working hours. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Privredna banka I-2, Obala S. Radića 8, tel. 43 15 01/ 43 15 20, fax 72 00 65, pbz365@pbz.hr, www.pbz.hr. Also at Placa 12, **Stradun**, tel. 32 13 41; same working hours. ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00, Sat 07:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

Raiffeisen bank I-3, Vukovarska 17, tel. 44 18 00, fax 44 18 08, www.rba.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:30 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Volksbank I-3, Vukovarska 36, tel. 35 89 00, fax 35 89 10, www.volksbank.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Zagrebačka banka I-3, Vukovarska 7, tel. 35 84 20, fax 35 84 14, www.zaba.hr. Also at Gundulićeva Poljana bb, tel. 32 40 58, 32 40 57, fax. 32 40 56 with same working hours. ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Business Connections

American College of Management and Technology K-5, Don Frana Bulića 6, tel. 43 30 00, fax 43 30 01, american.college@acmt.hr, www.acmt.hr.

Croatian Chamber of Economy - Dubrovnik County Chamber J-4, Pera Ćingrije 6, tel./fax 41 20 44, hgkdu@hgk.hr, www.hgk.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Euro info Centre Relay Dubrovnik J-4, Pera Ćingrije 6, tel. 31 20 99, www.euroinfo.hr, www.hgk.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Consulates

Austria I-3, Vukovarska 28, tel. 35 76 97, fax 35 72 22. ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Denmark H-3, Od sv. Mihajla 1, tel. 35 67 33/ 098 20 62 97, fax 35 61 48, pmusladin@atlant.hr. ▶ Open 10:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Spain Zagrebačka 2, tel. 42 65 28/ 091 503 80 57, fax 41 10 22. ▶ Open 16:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

The Netherlands H-3, Od sv. Mihajla 1, tel. 35 61 41/ 35 61 33, fax 35 67 29, ajerkovic@atlant.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

UK C-3, Bunićeva poljana 3/1, tel./fax 32 45 97, honcons.dubrovnik@inet.hr. ▶ Open 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Wed, Sat, Sun.

Real estate

Alavija nekretnine I-2, Dr. Ante Starčevića 29, tel. 098 20 30 82, info@alavija-nekretnine.hr, www.alavija-nekretnine.hr.

Colliers International F-2, Kardinala Stepinca 64, tel. 43 72 00/ 43 72 01, fax 43 72 09, ivana.bucevic@colliers.com, www.colliers.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Croatian Sun H-3, Iva Vojnovića 52, tel. 31 22 28, fax 31 22 26, info@croatiansun.com, www.croatiansun.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Dubrovnik Sun Vukovarska 17, tel. 35 86 60/ 098 906 61 81, fax 35 86 61, dubrovnik.sun@inet.hr, www.dubrovniksun.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Ozana I-3, Dvorničićeva 33, tel. 091 364 64 83/ 091 426 69 33, realestate@ozana.hr, www.ozana.hr. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Pro Krečak I-3, Put Republike 12, tel. 43 66 02, fax 43 66 01, pro-krecak@du.t-com.hr, www.nekretnine-prokrecak.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Zlatka Vukovarska 17, tel./fax 35 68 65, tel. 091 454 00 04, zlatka@zlatka.hr, www.zlatka.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Call the experts

Ana's Studio K-5, U Pilama 5, tel. 41 65 15, gigdbk@yahoo.com. Cosmetic treatments, nail art, hair cuts, body painting. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. €

Beautyline K-5, Branitelja Dubrovnika 1, tel. 42 30 81, kozmetickisalon.beautyline@gmail.com. Beauty centre. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Farčić I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 13, tel. 42 69 36. Shoes repair. ▶ Mon to Fri 08:00-12:00 and 17:00-20:00, Sat 08:00-12:00, Sun cls.

Foto Studio Placa C-2, Dropčeva 3, tel./fax 32 13 66, foto-studio-placa@du.htnet.hr. Photo studio. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 19:00. [CC]

Mišić C-3, Bunićeva poljana 5, tel. 32 37 55. Key cut. Open Mon to Fri 08:00-13:00 and 17:00-20:00, Sat 08:00-13:00, Sun cls.

English books & newspapers

Algoritam C-2, Placa 8, tel. 32 20 44, fax 32 20 43, www.algoritam.hr. Books, magazines, newspapers, maps in many languages. Open: Mon to Sat 09:00-23:00, Sun 10:00-13:00 and 18:00-22:00. ▶ [CC]

Slobodna Dalmacija kiosk B-2, Placa bb. Newspapers and magazines in a wealth of languages. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00.

Tisak kiosk B-2, Placa bb, tel. 32 14 26. Also offers lots of newspapers and magazines in different languages. ▶ Open 06:30 - 23:00.

Hospital

General Hospital H-4, Roka Mišetica bb, tel. 431 777, fax 42 61 49.

Marinas

ACI Marina Dubrovnik Rijeka dubrovačka - Komolac b.b., tel. 45 50 21, fax 45 50 22. 450 berths, 110 places on land. Two restaurants, souvenir shop, supermarket, mechanic, swimming pool, showers. ▶ [CC]

ACI Marina Korčula, tel. 71 16 61, fax 71 17 48, m.korcula@aci-club.hr. 144 berths, 16 on land. Restaurant, hairdresser, mechanic, accommodation. Staff speak foreign languages. ▶ [CC]

Luka Porat - Gruž I-2, tel. 091 431 35 29/ 31 35 11. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [CC]

Pets

Bobanović K-4, Dr. Ante Starčevića 33, tel. 35 73 45/ 098 24 39 38, goran.vet@du.t-com.hr. Veterinary clinic for small pets, emergency calls on 098 / 24 39 38. Open Mon to Fri 08:30-12:00 and 17:00-20:00, Sat 09:00-12:00, Sun cls. ▶ [CC]

Fauna I-2, Rožat 32, tel. 45 14 66/ 098 191 26 94, fax 45 37 79. Veterinary clinic. Emergency calls on 098 191 26 94. ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:00, Sat 07:30 - 15:00. Closed Sun. [CC]

Krmek I-1, Đura Basarićeka 3, tel. 31 36 70. Veterinary clinic. ▶ Open 07:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies . Gruž, Gruška obala (H-1), tel. 41 89 90, open: 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:00-20:00, Sun cls.

Kod zvonika (C-2), Stradun, tel. 32 11 33, open: 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:00-20:00, Sun cls.

Kod male braće (B-2), Stradun, tel. 32 14 11, open: 07:30-15:00, Sat 07:30-15:00, Sun cls.

Lapad (H-3), M. Vodopića 30, tel. 43 67 78, open: 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:30-20:00, Sun cls.

Prima Pharma (I-3), Put Republike 12, tel. 31 11 92, open: 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:30-15:00, Sun cls.

Mišković, Trumbićev put 2, Cavtat, tel. 47 82 61, open: 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:30-15:00.

Night shifts, Sun and holidays each week are covered by either Kod Zvonika pharmacy (weeks beginning 3rd, 17th, 31st July continuing every other week in August), or Gruž pharmacy (weeks beginning 10th and 24 July, again continuing every other week in August).

Police station

Coast guard I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 22, tel. 44 35 55, fax 44 35 00. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00.

Police station K-4, Dr. Ante Starčevića 13, tel. 44 37 39. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00.

Traffic police I-2, Andrije Hebranga 118, tel. 44 36 66, www.mup.hr. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00.

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