

instant

RIJEKA

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2010



Introducing Rijeka

Rijeka itself is gathering momentum as a city with an identity far beyond a stereotypical “resort”, which is why we chose it as the new In Your Pocket destination. The people of this region are well known for their openness to new ideas, and a number of recent initiatives are making the city a truly fascinating and fun place to visit. We hope you'll enjoy reading about everything that Rijeka has to offer, and be inspired to spend a few days here exploring.

Transport
Restaurants
Nightlife
Sights
Hotels

and a whole host of other useful information

A word of warning: if you're travelling by car to Rijeka from Italy, you'll have a tough time finding your way unless you have a satellite navigation system or know a few words of Italian. Italian road signs don't show the name “Rijeka”, but “Fiume” – which means “river” in Italian. And guess what “rijeka” means in Croatian? River. Why? Well, take the highway which traverses behind the city and you'll come to a spectacular gorge through which the river Rječina runs. Travelling the main road into Rijeka itself, you'll drive right along it. The Rječina was one of the reasons why this area was settled before Roman times – both providing water for life and shelter for the ships of the Liburnians, an Illyrian tribe famed for their skills as sailors. What's harder to spot today is that the ground under Rijeka bubbles with underground springs. Water is absolutely central to the personality and existence of Rijeka – bright, refreshing, life-giving and always moving on.

Although there are traces of Stone Age inhabitation in the area, it was the Liburnians who built the first significant settlement on Trsat hill (or, as they called it, Tarsat), to defend their harbour from attack. The Romans drove out the Illyrians in the 13th century. Trsat ceased to be the most important settlement, as the Romans founded the town of “Tarsatica” on the land where Rijeka's old centre now lies. The area around St Vitus' Cathedral was given the name Flumen Sancti Viti after the city's patron saint. In the 14th century, a powerful family of Croatian counts from Krk Island increased their power over the territories of the mainland. Later, this dynasty took the name Frankopan, and their influence can be seen everywhere around Rijeka – they built the shrine at Trsat, and many churches and fortifications on the coastline, as well as on Krk island itself. Over the centuries that followed, various European powers gained influence over Rijeka and its surroundings, and each left its mark. One of the most influential for the development of the city was the Austrian period, and many of Rijeka's great buildings were designed by the same people that built the cities of that empire. Rijeka was connected to Vienna and Budapest by road and rail, and proclaimed a free port. These transport links contributed massively to the development of Rijeka as an industrial city. The city's fortunes shifted as it changed hands, but after reintegration into Croatia after the Second World War, it became one of the driving forces of the economy and is now the third biggest city in the republic after Zagreb and Split.

Basic data

Population:

Croatia (April 2001): 4,437,460

Rijeka (April 2001): 144,043

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. Rijeka is capital of the Primorska-Goranska županija “Littoral and Highlands County”, which encompasses the Opatija Riviera to the west, the coast to the east including Novi Vinodolski, a mountainous hinterland and the islands as far south as Ilovik. This all covers an area of 3,582km² on land; 4,398.64km² of sea, the coastline is 1,065km long and the highest point is the Kula peak of Bjelolasica, the mountain where the Croatian ski team train, which stands at a proud 1,534m.

Climate Sub-Mediterranean on the coast; temperate continental to mountainous.

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

Look over the Rijeka waterfront from a gull's eye view on the ferryboat, and you'll encounter a mass of cheeky winks from the shuttered windows of the buildings that line the quayside and clamber up the hills. Rijeka is a window onto the world not only for Croatia, but also for a huge part of Central Europe. Here, the Adriatic bites deep into the European landmass. The Austro-Hungarians turned this to their advantage, and founded one of the Empire's busiest ports here. Shipping became the second stream of lifeblood for the city – the first, of course, is water itself.

Rijeka, exposed to the wide world for so many years now, is cosmopolitan in outlook and young in spirit - you can feel it as you walk along the elegant Korzo, get to know the history of the city, the forward-looking people and their culture. And it's capital of Kvarner, which truly has so much to discover. Travel west, and see how the lush Opatija Riviera, dotted with fairytale villas reminds you of the Italian lakelands. Penetrate into the hinterland or head south along the coast road and see a chain of forts, the legacy of the local nobles. Discover the charms of the islands – each one so different, but all surrounded by sparkling sea and a climate that returns to you the life that the hectic pace we live by robs us of day by day.

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Instant Rijeka

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Tourist information



Tourist Information Centre D-2, Korzo 33A, tel. 33 58 82. Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 09:00 - 14:00.

Rijeka Tourist Board D-2, Užarska 14, tel. 31 57 10, tz-rijeka@ri.t-com.hr, www.tz-rijeka.hr Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Kvarner County Tourism Office N, Tesle 2, Opatija, tel. 27 29 88, 27 26 65, fax 27 29 09 www.kvarner.hr, kvarner@kvarner.hr
Kvarner Info - The Gateway to the Adriatic tel. 62 33 33, 62 88 88, fax. 62 33 34, info@kvarner.hr. Open 08:00 - 20:00.



By boat

A seafaring city since before the Romans set foot on these lands, an arrival by boat in Rijeka gives you a great view of the grand old buildings lining the quayside and puffing their way up the hillside, with myriad shutters lending a Mediterranean feel. You're right in the heart of the city, with the coach and local bus stations close at hand and a taxi rank right there - see the map of the city centre at the back of this guide.

You can buy tickets for Jadrolinija ferries at the Jadrolinija office and at European travel agencies using the START booking system. Check Getting around for domestic and international timetables.

Jadrolinija C-3, Riječki lukobran bb (Putnički terminal), tel. 21 14 44 - Ticket sales and exchange bureau. Call **060 32 13 21** for the automated timetable service. Hypo Bank cash machine outside. Timetable in the window. Open Mon, Fri 07:00 - 20:00, Tue, Wed, Thu 07:00 - 17:00, Sat 08:00 - 17:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

By bus

Rijeka Coach Station-Autobusni kolodvor Rijeka C-2, Trg Žabica 1, autotrans@ri.t-com.hr, www.autotrans.hr Though small, the long-distance bus station, right in the city centre, is a real hub and has everything you need. Bus travel is the preferred method of long distance public transportation: it's cheap, relatively quick and usually comfortable. **Ticket office:** open 05:30 - 21:00, tel. **060 30 20 10** (automated service, press 2 to contact the operator) for reservations and info. Outside opening times, you can buy tickets on board, but during summer it's best to reserve in advance. Check Getting around for domestic and international timetables. **Changing money:** there are exchange bureaux on Platform 1 and ATMs by the big church you see there. **Left luggage (garderoba):** tel. 33 63 47 the garderoba is inside the station building and is open 05:30 - 22:30. **Toilets:** inside the station, cost 2kn, pissoir 1kn. Public phones are on the platforms. **Shops and cafes:** Several snack bars, news kiosks and mini-markets work all night. There are a few cafes where you can refresh body and soul when you arrive. **Getting to town:** See the waterfront? Hang a left. The main street Korzo is just behind the waterfront buildings. **Taxis:** There's a taxi rank at the station, or call (051-if you are calling from mobile) **970** (check Getting around for other taxi companies).

By car

From Italy: E70 motorway to Trieste, look for signs for "Fiume" and route number E61 / local route 7, which crosses Slovenia and enters Croatia at Pasjak. Route E61 / local road 8 lead you into Rijeka. The signs for the ferry, marked "Trajekt", are a good orientation point for the centre.

From Slovenia: From Ljubljana follow route number E70 via Vrhnika and Postojna. Join local route 6 through Ilirska Bistrica. You'll cross the border at Rupa and join the E61 which drops directly down into Rijeka.

From Zagreb: The E65 / A6 motorway runs directly from Zagreb to Rijeka. Watch the signs where motorways merge at Karlovac. The motorway toll costs 56kn in one direction, payable in most currencies and credit cards.

From Split: We recommend taking the new A1 motorway from Split, turning off at Bosiljevo for the A6 to Rijeka. The A8 coast road is spectacular, and great if you have plenty of time, but if you're in a hurry its sharp bends can be fatal.

Be aware that at weekends in August, traffic in coastal areas and on the main routes into Croatia can be very heavy. For the latest traffic information, check out the Croatian Automobile Club website at www.hak.hr.

By plane

Rijeka Airport-Zračna luka Rijeka, Hamec 1, Omišalj tel. 84 20 40. **Flight info:** tel 84 21 32, www.rijeka-airport.hr; information@rijeka-airport.hr

The airport (zračna luka) near Omišalj on Krk island serves Rijeka and the Kvarner coast. It's a tiny airport, but has a bar with sandwiches, a tourist information point, an ATM, a small 24hr duty free shop, toilets, payphones, a post box, free left luggage and free parking. **Getting to town:** Autotrans buses take you to Rijeka's city bus station on Žabica Square for 30kn one way. Check with your airline for the timetable. **Taxis** await your hailing outside the airport.

By train

Rijeka Train Station - Željeznički kolodvor Rijeka A-2, Trg kraja Tomislava 1, tel. 21 33 33, National info line: 060 333 444 www.hznet.hr. Rijeka's train station is in a lovely old Hungarian style building. It has all the basic services you need. Train services are rather slow, but it's a relaxing and inexpensive way to travel. The new HZ (Croatian Railways) website has good English and German pages featuring ticket prices and connections for domestic and international routes.

Ticket office: In the central lobby you'll find the ticket office including the international (*međunarodni*) window, (tel. 21 13 04), open 09:10 - 20:45 and domestic (tel. 21 16 38), open 05:15 - 17:10, Fri and the day before public holidays 05:15 - 20:00. You can buy tickets on board out of hours, but it's best to reserve in advance for international journeys. **Information:** on Platform 1 (Ljubljana direction). Open 08:30 - 15:30h, Closed Sun and public holidays. They have tourist information in various languages; the staff speak English, German and Italian. **Changing money:** There's a cash machine en route to the Zagreb platform, a Privredna banka (tel. 75 10 27, Open 08:00 - 14:00, Thu 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun) and 24-hour cash machine outside the station building. There's a small exchange bureau in Nikole Tesle Street opposite. **Left luggage:** Lockers; 00:00 - 24:00, cost: 15 - 20kn per day. **Toilets:** on Platform 1, lovely and clean. Public phones in front of the station and on platform 1. **Shops and cafes:** There are a couple of newsstands by the entrance.

Getting to town: The bus stop to the centre is directly in front of the station (two stops, take lines 1, 1A, 2, 6, 7, 7A or 32). If you cross the street, bus no. 32 heading west takes you to Opatija. **Taxis:** There's a taxi rank outside the station, or call (051-if you are calling from your mobile) **970** (check "Getting around" for other cab companies).

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Symbol key

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Air conditioning | Credit cards accepted |
| Live music | Take away |
| Child friendly | Facilities for the disabled |
| Non-smoking areas | Guarded parking |
| Casino | Animal friendly |
| Internet | No Credit cards |

There's a temptingly broad range of restaurants in Rijeka, with fresh seafood a speciality. For a truly memorable meal however you should be prepared to travel: there are some wonderfully atmospheric inns in the hillside settlements above Rijeka, and some truly great restaurants in the Opatija Riviera towns of Volosko, Opatija and Lovran.

Croatian

Konoba Nebuloza F-1, Titov trg 2b, tel. (+385-51) 37 22 94. Although it calls itself a *konoba* (a kind of traditional inn), Nebuloza is in fact a smart and atmospheric restaurant with a winning combination of modern décor and rustic interior touches. The food focuses on regional favourites, with plenty of fresh fish and seafood alongside Istrian-style sausages and pork chops. Filling bowls of *šurlice* (local pasta) drenched in either goulasch or *žgvacet* (spicy lamb stew) make for the perfect mid-price lunch. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun.

Municipium D-2, Trg Riječke rezolucije 5, tel. (+385-51) 21 30 00/(+385-) 098 38 87 21, www.municipium.hr. Housed in a historic building (see "What to see"), Municipium is regarded as Rijeka's finest and most luxurious restaurant. Traditional Croatian meat and fish dishes, the food is light and sublime. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. (70 - 150kn).

Nono Frane Viškovo 47, Viškovo, tel. (+385-51) 25 62 44/(+385-) 098 21 20 21, info@nono-frane.hr, www.nono-frane.hr. Located in Viškovo, a fair-sized village just outside Rijeka to the northwest, this family restaurant has a chirpy spirit and wonderful staff to match. The menu here is prepared the old-fashioned original way, from meat dishes to homemade cakes. Mmm...very tasty! Grilled foods here are particularly appetising. They are also more than happy to organise wedding parties. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00, (50 - 90kn).

Oštarija pul Belega S-3, Mihanovićevo 35, tel. (+385-51) 21 63 82. Full of local atmosphere, Pul Belega is a neighbourhood eatery with a pleasant terrace, definitely not glamorous, but a favourite place of Rijeka's journalists for a working lunch. The menu includes Istrian specialities, inexpensive shellfish and roast lamb. ▶ Open 10:30 - 17:00. Closed Sun. (60 - 150kn).

Ronjgi Ronjgi bb, Viškovo, tel. (+385-51) 25 60 38, guido@ronjgi.com.hr, www.ronjgi.com.hr. In the hills above Rijeka, great for comfort food, especially game. Meats are delicious, portions enormous and the soup in a bowl made from freshly baked bread is gorgeous. The former home of the composer Ronjgi (museum open weekdays), families with children will feel welcome. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (50 - 100kn).

Šmrika Marčelji 15, Viškovo (Pansion Šmrika), tel. (+385-51) 65 10 20, smrika@smrika.hr, www.smrika.hr. A traditional Mediterranean cuisine and dishes include traditional preparation of lamb. Home made wine called '*elido pilato*' plus many more wines. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon.

Desserts

Choco bar D-2, Korzo 24a, tel. (+385-51) 58 09 59, www.kraschocobar.com. Chocoholics look out! Dip into this two levelled bar located on Korzo and fill your tender taste buds with the sweets on offer. It's a franchise linked to the famous Croatian brand Kraš so you can purchase all their specialities downstairs or even hop on upstairs where you can mellow out and enjoy coffee whilst nibbling on chocolate cookies, sip on chocolate cocktails and more. The interior has a pleasant mix of minimalist furniture with a touch of art deco. ▶ Store is open 07:00 - 21:00, Sat 07:00 - 20:00, Closed Sun. Bar is open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun 08:00 - 22:00.

Corso D-2, Korzo 20, tel. (+385-51) 32 48 90. Light and delicious cakes - some of the best in town, we'd say. Great coffee too. A perfect terrace for a spot of people-watching on Korzo, and a bright and cheerful upstairs seating area with a view of the decorative buildings opposite. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun 08:00 - 23:00.

Fast food

Hamby E-2, Ante Starčevića 11, tel. (+385-51) 33 06 53, info@hamby.hr, www.hamby.hr. Fast food but not junk - hot and cold sandwiches, burgers - including soya - and pizza cuts. This Hamby at the train station does pasta, gnocci, pizzas and salads too. Lifesaving! ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00.

McDonald's D-2, Trg Republike Hrvatske 1, tel. (+385-51) 33 51 77, www.mcdonalds.hr. If you can't bear to be separated from your golden arches, you'll be delighted with Rijeka's McDs - its in a gorgeous yellow building that used to house Rijeka's historic coffee house. Sacrilege! ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 24:00.

Pizza Cut Planet E-1, Žrtava fašizma 1, tel. (+385-51) 33 53 35. Triangles of dough covered with tomato and cheese. Also circles! ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sun 14:00 - 22:00.

International

Brun E-3, Ivana Zajca 2, tel. (+385-51) 21 25 44. Stylish in clean white and wrought iron with elegant table settings, Brun has classic seafood offerings and is a favourite place with locals for an inexpensive midday meal. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:30 - 15:30. Closed Sun. July 26 - August 15 Closed. (38 - 75kn).

Kamov C-2, Dolac 4, tel. (+385-51) 35 78 17, www.bonavia.hr. Located in Rijeka's top hotel, the Bonavia, this fine restaurant comprises several spaces, each with its own relaxing ambience. Croatian delicacies are imaginatively combined: the squid stuffed with cheese are delicious. Good wines by the bottle or glass; surprisingly reasonable prices. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (80 - 110kn).

Rijeka
telephone code is +385-51

Rijeka is a dynamic, restless, party-hard city whose list of nightlife opportunities seems to grow with every passing season. The nearby Opatija Riviera can appear somewhat sleepy in comparison, but still boasts a discreet handful of highly individual bars.

Bars

Champagne bar Pommerly D-2, Korzo 33, tel. (+385-51) 21 51 11. Pommerly is a prime spot to do some serious hanging out, but you'll have to make some choices first: will it be a low, cushioned seat or a high, wooden bar stool? Will you sit inside or out on the terrace? And drinks: choose from a wine list with over 20 varieties or sample some of the champagne on offer. The choices include Pommerly, Lanson, Dom Perignon or Cristal, setting you back something between 500-3200 kunas per bottle. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Charlie Bar D-2, Trg Ivana Koblera bb, tel. (+385-091 559 28 01, moris90@hotmail.com. Charlies has a pleasant, pubby feel and a lovely outside seating area on a square by a fountain. Rijeka's younger generations (whatever that means) have chosen it as one of their favourite spots for hanging out, day or night. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

El Rio C-2, Jadranski trg 4c, tel. (+385-098 21 13 11. A spacious cafe-bar at the beginning of the Korzo boasting an ancient bare-brick arched ceiling, El Rio is something of a Rijeka classic, pulling in a broad cross-section of local caffeine addicts during the daylight hours before filling up with a young, energetic and hormonally charged crowd at night. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 05:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Jazz Tunel E-1, Školjić 12, tel. (+385-51) 32 71 16, jazz@jazztunel.com, www.jazztunel.com. Located next to the car park at Školjić and set in a real tunnel, this is a haven for all fans of funk, soul, jazz and blues. The atmosphere is laid-back, and the cool interior has a small stage for jam sessions which are on every Monday and Wednesday, as well as live concerts. As an added bonus, there's a free net connection in case you decide to finish your work while tapping your toes! ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Sat 17:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Johnnie Walker Pub C-2, Riva 18, www.johnnie-walker-pub.com. Did someone say Scotch all-round? Well, what better place to be then here! Once you find the energy to open the heavy wooden doors, you'll find that this is more of a bar with leather seats and tables on the first floor which are a perfect formula to unwind. Situated near the bus station, the music is mainstream with late night Croatian hits. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 04:00, Sun 08:00 - 24:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎



Monokini Maršala Tita 96, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 70 38 88. If you're beginning to tire of Opatija's haughty belle-epoque self-image then it's high time you headed for Monokini, where sixties' inspired furniture and sculptural light fittings provide a this-is-not-the-riviera-of-old sense of pop-art modernity. Changing exhibitions of art and photography enliven the walls, while the bendy bit of metal below the bar throws hall-of-mirrors reflections back on bemused drinkers. The street-facing terrace is a great place to slump if there's enough sunshine. In the evening, DJ decks in the corner provide the source of chillout sounds or frisky bone-bending beats, depending on what night of the week it is. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Rozi E-2, Pavla Ritera Vitezovića 11, tel. (+385-51) 33 84 23. Favoured by Rijeka's student crowd, Rozi is a little scruffy, which gives it a laid-back feel. Cheap drinks and snacks are accompanied by lively music, conversation, gesticulation and mastication. ▶ Open 07:00 - 17:00, Sat 07:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Teta Roza S-3, Kumičićeva 55, tel. (+385-098 137 61 19. Possibly the best of Rijeka's neighbourhood bars, with a marble-and-mirror-lined sanctuary of a main bar, and a more arty space at the back featuring paintings on the walls, chairs on the ceiling, and a small stage for frequent jazz and rock gigs. About twenty minutes' walk northeast of town on the main road to Trsat it's hardly central, but with Austrian Hirter beer on draught, alongside Duvel, Corsendonk and other Belgian speciality beers by the bottle, Auntie Rosie's place is well worth struggling up the hill for. ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00, Sun 08:00 - 24:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Casinos

Casino Ri D-2, Trg 111. brigade hrv. vojske, tel. (+385-51) 31 12 46, casino.rjeka@lutrija.hr, www.lutrija.hr. ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00, public holidays 18:00 - 04:00. ☎
Grand Hotel Adriatic Maršala Tita 200, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 71 91 81, www.adriatic-hotel.hr. ▶ Open 16:00 - 04:00.

Clubs

Disco Seven Maršala Tita 125, Opatija, tel. (+385-099 477 70 00)/(+385-098 45 08 47, info@discoseven.hr, www.discoseven.hr. Perhaps the most stylish summer discotheque in Opatija is Disco Seven, located right on the beach next to Hemingway Bar. House is typically the music du jour. ▶ Open Thu, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 06:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Nina 2 C-2, Adamičev gat, tel. (+385-091 531 78 79, club@nina2.com, www.nina2.com. Nina 2 is a recently restored and re-decorated boat, complete with two floors and a chill-out terrace on the bow. By day, a relaxed place to hang out with a coffee; at night, dj's motivate partygoers to hit the dancefloor with house, R & B and disco tunes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 06:00.

Palach C-2, Kružna ulica 8, bookamall@gmail.com, www.myspace.com/palachtheclub. Rijeka's main counter-culture hangout is dedicated to Jan Palach, the Czech dissident student who set himself on fire during the Soviet invasion in 1968. DJs, performances and exhibitions bring life to the student scene in this grungy space tucked away behind Korzo. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Thu 09:00 - 03:00, Fri 09:00 - 04:00, Sat 09:00 - 04:00, Sun 17:00 - 24:00. July 25 - August 23 Closed. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Terminal D-3, Riječki lukobran bb, tel. (+385-51) 31 21 12, info@terminalclub.hr, www.terminal.hr. Unsure of where to go even in the early hours of the morning, then look no further. Take in the view of the big blue sea whilst sipping on coffee from morning till night at Terminal. For something more formal, you can dine above the cafe where you will find a Steak House and come mid afternoon the Lounge area opens (after 16:00). Weekends are known to attract some of the most famous Croatian and foreign DJ's so you can party on until dawn. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 05:00.

Cocktail bars

Hemingway Zert bb, Opatija, tel. (+385-099 541 44 44, www.hemingway.hr. Nowadays there are Hemingway bars all over Croatia but this was the first and remains the most cultish, with its semi-circular glass facade gazing out towards the yachts and excursion boats of Opatija's tidy little harbour. There's a dearth of Hemingway-related memorabilia on display but the cocktails remain reliable and the mildly upmarket party atmosphere still kicks in at weekends. The standard of service ranges from the merely ok to the absolutely rubbish and the drinks are more expensive than the ones you can help yourselves to in the average hotel minibar, but Hemingway is the one place in Opatija in which you have to hang out at least once. ▶ Open 07:00 - 06:00.

Karolina D-2, Gat Karoline Riječke b.b., tel. (+385-51) 33 09 09/(+385-51) 21 14 47. Spectacular inside and out - a beautiful glass structure designed by Sonja Miculinić, who also designed the new Slovenian parliament. Right on the quayside with a full view of the ferries, the quayside terrace, super drinks including good wines and champagnes and great music make this sure to be the "in" place. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 01:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Teuta E-2, Užarska 1. A café by day, by night it turns into a club featuring guest DJs and music of the chilly house kind. The "no under-20s" policy is sure to please if you're worried you have bits hanging. ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00, Thu 07:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 04:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Pubs

Belgian Beer Caffè - Brasserie As D-2, Trg Republike Hrvatske 2, tel. (+385-51) 21 23 45, info@ugostiteljstvo-as.com, www.ugostiteljstvo-as.com. Another woody "real" pub, huge and with an extensive menu featuring daily set menus and veggie platters. The terrace between Korzo and Riva demands you rest your weary limbs on a hot day. The food's not very Belgian. The beer is. Or at least some of it. So are the prices. ▶ Open 06:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 06:00 - 02:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Capitano E-2, Riva 8. First impressions suggest a classy and yuppified pub, complete with bustling be-aproned waiters, upholstered booths and polished cherrywood surfaces. However the pumping music and no-nonsense

party atmosphere draws a young and hedonistic crowd in the evenings, especially at weekends when Capitano is a key stop-off on the city-centre booze crawl. ▶ Open 07:00 - 06:00.

Celtic Caffè Bard E-2, Trg Grivica 6b, tel. (+385-51) 21 52 35, bard@caffebard.com, www.caffebard.com. A lovely little bar right outside St Vitus's Church, with a cosy split-level interior filled with off-beat artworks - and not a TV screen or replica soccer shirt in sight. Connoisseurs of a good pint will be kept happy by Carinthia's finest Hirter beer on tap and a large number of speciality ales in bottles. With a music policy that runs through blues, jazz, sixties soul and classic reggae, Bard appeals to a slightly older crowd who like a drink and who appreciate good music but don't want to shout over the din of top-40 drivel. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Gric & guc C-2, Dolac 8b, tel. (+385-51) 31 90 43, catering.as@ri.t-com.hr. As the name itself suggests, this is a place to nibble and snip! Perfectly placed in the heart of town close to Korzo, this L-shaped beer house is set in a basement and has all the tasty meaty dishes one can only want when knocking back a pint. They haven't forgotten lovers of seafood and veggies either, they cater for all. A simple, wooden interior, pleasant atmosphere and fair prices. After a day of sightseeing what more could you ask for? ▶ Open 06:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 06:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun. (18-99kn). ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Phanas Pub D-3, Ivana Zajca 9, tel. (+385-51) 31 23 77, phanas@phanas.hr, www.phanas.hr. A big hit with the local crowd, Phanas plays music from rock to commercial dance, and is the place to rub shoulders with the city's party people. A rather luxuriously executed traditional dark wood pub with a nautical feel, with a huge bar, jet-setty drinks plus a few snacks. ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 04:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

Riječka pivnica A-2, Krešimirova 16a, tel. (+385-098 928 18 00, rjeckapivnica@net.hr, www.rjeckapivnica.info. This L-shaped tunnel of a place is one of Rijeka's best-loved beer halls, thanks in large part to the presence of Kilkenny, Guinness and Budweiser on draught. The bar menu features plenty in the steak and pork-chop line, although the goulash with Czech dumplings for 38kn stands out as one of the best-value and tastiest feeds you'll find in town. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. ☎☎☎☎☎☎

River Pub D-1, Frana Supila 12, tel. (+385-51) 21 34 06, www.river-pub.com. With a slightly older crowd, a nice woody interior, a great deck out back and music that inspires conversation and inebriation, River Pub is one of the most fun places to enjoy a drink and a little shimmying till late. One of the best nights out in Rijeka. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri 07:00 - 04:00, Sat 18:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 02:00. ☎☎☎☎☎☎





City Market (Velika tržnica) E-3, Verdjeva. Together with the nearby National Theatre and its park, the Modello Palace and numerous residential, commercial and industrial buildings, the City Market forms a super urban architectural complex. At its core are beautiful art nouveau market halls, especially the lively fish market, which is in an imposing Liberty style building with charming mouldings by famous Venetian sculptor Urbano Bottasso of the poor

crustaceans destined soon to hit your plate. Don't miss the city's central market if you love to get the feel for real local atmosphere. Stalls piled high with fresh local produce and the cheery banter of traders and their customers are one of the everyday pleasures of this part of the world. The market is a good place for speciality delicatessen, and the lively fish market at the end closest to the sea is a must if you have the means to cook your own! The pleasant streets of the market area are lined with fast food takeaways and inexpensive *konoba* for a quick and authentic lunch - see the "Where to eat" section - plus a few pleasant cafés with leafy terraces.

Port of Rijeka (Riječka luka) D-3.

The Port of Rijeka was founded in 1717 by the Austrian monarch Charles VI. Over the years, railway lines were built connecting the port with the large cities of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and trade boomed. By the late 19th century Rijeka was the main port for the transport of goods to Hungary, and in 1913, Rijeka ranked among the top ten European seaports by volume. War then wreaked havoc over Rijeka's fortunes. The First World War stopped the international transport of goods by sea. After the war, the Treaty of Rapallo handed the port of Rijeka to Italy, while Sušak, the suburb immediately to the east, became part of the short-lived Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The city was effectively split in two.

During the Second World War, much of Rijeka's harbour was destroyed. Rebuilding took place after 1945, focusing on the construction of facilities for the transport of specialised goods: oil, crops, bulk cargo, liquid cargo and containers. By 1980, Rijeka was handling over 20 million tons of cargo per year.

War hit the Adriatic again in the 1990s. Although the northern Adriatic was not directly affected by the conflict, it was damaging enough to shipping and industry to divert part of the trade to the neighbouring ports of Koper (Slovenia) and Trieste (Italy). Shipbuilding, Rijeka's other important industry, went into steep decline. However, since the end of the war, the shipping industry has been getting back on its feet, and the yearly turnover of shipped goods has enjoyed steady growth. Rijeka's location is extremely favourable. Strategically, Rijeka has a long-standing transport connection with the countries of Central Europe, with a direct link to Budapest. It's an ideal point for the import and export of goods between the Mediterranean and Hungary and the countries that lie around it: Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, southern Germany and Poland, western Ukraine and more.

Rijeka's Bridges (Riječki mostovi) E/F-1/2. "Rijeka" means "river", and the city didn't get its name by chance - many waters sourcing in those mountains you see there wind their way through the city, underground and overground. The Rječina is the big sister of all of these. Downtown Rijeka lies west of the river, and east is the old neighbourhood **Sušak** (once a separate town, and at one time in a separate country), the dockland **Brajčica and Pećine**.

The mouth of the Rječina provided shelter for seafarers since before Roman times. When the port was developed, the Rječina was diverted, leaving its original course abandoned - you'll see it on the map marked as "Mrtvi kanal" - "Dead canal". In the middle of these is an area called **Delta**, where there's a pleasant park, with its bandstand and café. The two sides are connected by bridges. Just in front of the Hotel Continental is the bridge where you'll find a statue of the writer Kamov (see Landmarks) leaning against the railings. Further south, you'll spot the brand new bridge built as a monument to the soldiers who defended Croatia in the recent war (see Landmarks). Fans of WW II history may also be interested to see the plaque commemorating Rijeka's liberation from fascist rule by Tito's partizans.

St Vitus Cathedral (Katedrala sv. Vida) D-1, Grivica 11, tel. (+385-51) 33 08 79. Although there has been a church dedicated to the patron saint and protector of Rijeka since the Middle Ages the Cathedral as we see it today was founded in 1638 by the Jesuits, who were once an influential force in the Europeanisation of Rijeka under the Hapsburgs. It's a rotunda, rather unusual in this part of Europe, with elements of baroque and gothic, including fine baroque statuary inside. A gallery was built in the 18th century, apparently to insulate devout novice monks from the allure of girls in the congregation. There is also some unusual stained glass work, including an image of St Vitus, and a gothic crucifix. Legend has it that a certain Petar Lončarić was playing cards outside the church, and in a fit of pique at losing, threw a stone at the crucifix. To the amazement of onlookers, the figure of Christ started bleeding. The ground opened and swallowed up the blasphemous Mr Lončarić, leaving just his arm waving gruesomely. It was cut out and burned in public. The cathedral has a separate belltower which once gave access from the gallery to a huge Jesuit college and seminary, which sadly are no more. By the main entrance you can see a cannonball embedded in the wall and a Latin inscription referring to the Napoleonic wars which translates as "This fruit was sent to us by England when it wanted to oust the Gauls from here". St Vitus' was promoted to Cathedral status in 1922. ▶ Open 06:30 - 12:00, 17:00 - 18:30.

Sušak - Pećine Q/S-3/4. The neighbourhood of Sušak that lies across the river was once a separate settlement. It got its name from the Croatian verb *sušiti* - "to dry", since once upon a time there were large areas used for drying the laundry washed in the many springs here. The coming of the railway brought wealth and expansion, and a host of fine buildings and palaces grew up and today line the bank on the east side of the Rječina. The area of land between the centre of Rijeka and Sušak, called the Delta, was the dividing line between two states between the World Wars. Rijeka fell under the jurisdiction of Italy, and died a death due to competition from the larger Italian ports, while Sušak prospered as the main port of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Take a walk through the atmospheric streets and you come to the neighbourhood of Pećine that lies on the shore. It was the elite residential area during Austro-Hungarian rule, and it's worth a wander. The Ružić villa, where members of the political and literary families Ružić and Mažuranić lived, is particularly noted (Pećine no. 5). Industrialist Đuro Ružić was responsible for building many of Sušak's fine houses. His relative by marriage, Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić, was an author of much-loved children's books. In the family's library, which is



listed as a cultural monument, a beautifully illustrated English language edition of her book of fairy stories "Tales of Long Ago" is kept. You can see a beautifully illustrated edition in English translation in the family's library, which is listed as a cultural monument.

The City Tower and City Gate (Gradski toranj, Gradska vrata) D-2, Korzo. Walking along Korzo, near the Jadranski trg end, is a fine yellow building topped with a clock tower. This was once a gate - the original entrance to the Roman settlement Tarsatica - where one entered the city from the sea - everything that stands between here and the present-day waterfront is reclaimed land. There has been a tower on this spot since the Middle Ages, when Rijeka was a walled city. A massive earthquake in 1750 destroyed it, along with many other important buildings. Money for a new one was given by the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa. In 1873, a new-fangled clock which Rijeka's governors spotted at the World Exhibition proved too tempting by far, the very same which still shows the correct time today.

The Corso (Korzo) C/D-2, Korzo. The "Corso" is Rijeka's main pedestrian street. Lined by elegant period buildings, shops and cafés, interspersed with refreshing fountains, this is where the locals gather by day to catch up on the latest, and to enjoy a promenade. Just behind the seafront, Korzo is the very heart of the town, and there's no way you should miss a stroll, an espresso and a spot of people-watching here.

The Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc (Hrvatsko narodno kazalište Ivan pl. Zajc) E-3, Uljarska 1, tel. (+385-51) 35 59 00/(+385-51) 35 59 07, zajc@hmk-zajc.hr, www.hmk-zajc.hr. This is one of the proffs Rijeka is where Central Europe meets the Mediterranean. The National Theatre in Rijeka was largely the work of Fellner and Helmer, a Viennese architectural studio specialising in theatre design, responsible for, among others, the Prague State Opera and the colonnade and Grand Hotel Pupp in Czech spa Karlovy Vary. When the theatre opened in 1885, the theatre was lit by the first electric lightbulb in Rijeka. During June and July, the theatre hosts a Summer Nights festival. If you can get a ticket, it's worth it even if only to catch a glimpse of the ceiling paintings by Gustav Klimt, and the stage curtain painted by Oton Gilha, a Croatian artist who lived on and was inspired by the landscape of Krk island. In the newly-landscaped park in front of the theatre stands a memorial to Rijeka's composer Ivan Zajc, one of the most important contributors to the development of classical music in Croatia. ▶ Box office open 09:30 - 12:30 and one hour before the show, Sat 09:30 - 12:30. Tickets available at www.kulturaplus.com.

The Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral (Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja) D-1, Muzejski trg 1, tel. (+385-51) 21 35 78/(+385-51) 55 36 66, pomorski-povijesni-muzej@ri.t-com.hr, www.ppmhp.hr. One of Rijeka's important landmarks is the Maritime and Historical Museum which is located in one of the most beautiful buildings from 19th century Rijeka. A former palace, it was originally designed and built as the residence for king's emissaries and governors. Today it is a Museum which collects, keeps, handles and presents artefacts connected to the history and culture of the Primorsko-goranska County and the city of Rijeka, starting with the first settlers in pre-historical times through to the 20th century.

Divided into categories, the museum's collection contains the Archaeological Department with pre-historical, Greek, Roman, medieval and numismatic collections. For those fascinated by aquatic forms of transport, the History of Maritime Department consists of historical reconstructions of ships, ship equipment, nautical instruments, maps, pictures and prints as well as material from the Ethnographical, Cultural and Historical Departments. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 5 - 10kn.

The Roman Gate (Stara vrata) D-2, Trg Julija Klovića. Just above Trg Ivana Koblera is a massive and plain stone archway, the oldest structure in Rijeka, once the entry into the Roman Praetorium, the military command centre. Built onto it is an odd structure: half-church, half socialist department store, with a Hapsburg era town house added on for good measure. Go through the arch and you come to Roman excavations where you can see decorative columns, stone walls and slabs.

Trsat S-1. Perched on a hill overlooking the harbour area and keeping watch over the hinterland is the fortress Trsat, which has stood guard over the city since Illyrian times. Trsat is the site of the first settlement of Rijeka, inhabited since prehistoric times. It's one of the best known symbols of the city.



You may also notice from a distance the elegant spire of a white church. Trsat is a complex comprising the fortress and church, a Franciscan monastery, a smaller church, a sports hall and exhibition centre (where many concerts are held), landscaped park gardens and a charming huddle of houses. It's a serene place to linger over a coffee, and the ecclesiastical heart of Rijeka. The church, St Mary of Trsat, has been a shrine to the Virgin Mary and a place of pilgrimage for hundreds of years. The story goes that when, at the end of the 13th century, the Crusaders were taking Mary's house from Nazareth to Loretto, where they would set it up as a pilgrim shrine, they stopped and rested at Trsat. A church was then built on the site by the Frankopans (who played a large role in the entire development of Trsat), which became a place of pilgrimage. The church contains a great number of renowned religious paintings and a 14th century icon of Our Lady, reputed to be miraculous. It was presented to Croatian pilgrims in Loretto, and is venerated to this day. For more on the church and its sacral art collection see below. The fort has had many facelifts over the centuries, notably by local influential families, the Frankopans of Krk, the Captains of Bakar and the Hapsburgs. The last and most romantic alterations were made by Irish-born Count Laval Nugent, a commander of the Austro-Hungarian empire, who eventually made his home here and established a museum. Sadly, the museum no longer exists. There are attractive underground spaces (one of which once housed prison cells) which are now used as exhibition spaces, and apparently a secret passageway leads to the Rječina river. The Grecian style Nugent family mausoleum is also now a gallery space. The fort is well worth visiting for its architectural beauty and the stunning views over Rijeka and the Kvarner Gulf. It's part of a chain of defences across the mountains that protected the Roman Empire from barbarian invasion. You can reach Trsat using the 16th century stairs of Captain Petar Kružić - the traditional route for pilgrims. Before you start complaining, pilgrims often climb them on their knees as a mark of devotion. But if it's hot or you're feeling pary, you can also reach Trsat by road from the east of the centre, or take bus 1 or 1a.

Rijeka

Upmarket

Best Western Hotel Jadran S-3, Šetalšte XIII divizije 46, tel. (+385-51) 49 40 00/(+385-51) 49 40 11, fax (+385-51) 21 64 58, jadran@jadran-hoteli.hr, www.jadran-hoteli.hr. Rijeka gets its first real seaside hotel back after extensive renovation. The gorgeous period building occupies its own beach in the Pećine neighbourhood, 1km out of the centre (towards Split). It's been brought up to 4 star standard, and has a restaurant open to the public, conference facilities and more. ▶ 69 rooms (28 singles €114, 35 doubles €134, 3 triples €190, 1 suites €297, 2 Junior Suite €170).  ★★★★★

Grand Hotel Bonavia C-2, Dolac 4, tel. (+385-51) 35 71 00, fax (+385-51) 33 59 69, bonavia@bonavia.hr, www.bonavia.hr. The one to choose if you want luxury in Rijeka itself. Right in the old town, in a 125 year-old building renovated in 2000, it's part of a luxury chain owned by Mr Štok, father of Vanya from designer duo Gharani Štok. Pets welcome free of charge. ▶ 121 rooms (20 singles €130 - 150, 94 doubles €160 - 205, 6 suites €315, 1 Presidential apartment €650).  ★★★★★

Mid range

Continental F-1, Šetalšte Andrije Kačića-Miošića 1, tel. (+385-51) 37 20 08, fax (+385-51) 37 20 09, kontinental@jadran-hoteli.hr, www.jadran-hoteli.hr. This grand Imperial building in the heart of Rijeka overlooks the park by the river in the city centre. Rooms are decent rather than luxurious. The coffee house does great cakes and has a lovely terrace. Breakfast included. ▶ 69 rooms (13 singles €523kn, 50 doubles €54kn, 1 triples €54kn, 4 suites 800kn, 1 Junior Suite 1100kn).  ★★★★★


Neboder F-1, Strossmayerova 1, tel. (+385-51) 49 31 40/(+385-51) 49 32 00, fax (+385-51) 49 32 99, neboder@jadran-hoteli.hr, www.jadran-hoteli.hr. Recently renovated from top to bottom, the Neboder offers small but neat rooms with crisp lines, new carpets and fittings, and just enough space to fit in a desk, a TV, and a tiny balcony. Although at least one room on each floor faces inland, all the others come with extravagant views of the sea, the port, and central Rijeka's rooftops. Built in the 1920s, the building itself (Neboder means 'skyscraper') is something of a monument to Croatian modern architecture. ▶ 54 rooms (8 singles €64 - 69, 46 doubles €81 - 87).  ★★★★★

Hostel

Youth hostel Rijeka R/S-3, Šetalšte XIII divizije 23, tel. (+385-51) 40 64 20, fax (+385-51) 40 64 21, rijeka@hfs.hr, www.hfs.hr. Rijeka's clean and cozy hostel opened in winter 2006 in a fully renovated, fine old building in the genteel suburb of Pećine 15min walk or a short bus ride from the centre of town. Super accommodation, with a great restaurant area and TV room, plus internet point. Prices are per person per night. ▶ 62 dorm beds, 20,20 - 23,90€ per person.  ★★★★★

Reserve a room at
rijeka.inyourpocket.com

Symbol key

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

Opatija

Cream of the crop

Milenij Maršala Tita 109, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 20 20 00, fax (+385-51) 27 80 21, info@milenijhoteli.hr, www.milenijhoteli.hr. Five star creature comforts in a splendid pink villa (1900s) centrally located right by the town beach. The Millennium is well known for its great wellness centre, and its coffee house is a classy spot to enjoy *kafava und kuchen*. ▶ 125 rooms (120 doubles €145, 6 suites €237).  ★★★★★


Villa Adela Šetalšte maršala Tita 47, Lovran, tel. (+385-51) 29 44 00, fax (+385-51) 29 46 00, sales@lovranske-vile.com, www.lovranske-vile.com. Tucked in a cove in romantic Lovran and with beautiful gardens, the story goes it was built (1905) as a love nest for a Lovran sea captain and a Spanish singer. Intimate and richly decorated, it sleeps up to four. Breakfast not included. ▶ 1 room (1apartments €227 - 252).  ★★★★★

Upmarket

Design Hotel Astoria Ulica Maršala Tita 174, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 70 63 50, fax (+385-51) 70 63 51, info@hotel-astoria.hr, www.hotel-astoria.hr. An uber-stylish choice, offering neat, modern, design-conscious rooms in an elegantly restored belle-epoque building. East-facing rooms come with great views of Rijeka and the mountains inland. Top floor apartments have the added advantages of hardwood floors and a bathtub in the bathroom. Wireless internet throughout for 50kn/24hr. ▶ 50 rooms (46 singles €87 - 120, 46 doubles €120 - 160, 3 suites €230 - 255, 1 Junior Suite €180 - 205).  ★★★★★

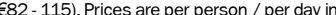
Grand Hotel Adriatic Maršala Tita 200, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 71 90 00, fax (+385-51) 71 90 15, info@hotel-adriatic.hr, www.hotel-adriatic.hr. Peacefully located a 10-minute walk from the centre, you can choose between renovated 4 star and simpler 3 star rooms, but all guests get to enjoy the pool, natural rocky beach, 8th floor sun terrace, sauna and other fitness and wellness facilities. ▶ 307 rooms (126 singles €80 - 120, 174 doubles €115 - 185, 7 suites €210 - 250).  ★★★★★

Kristal Maršala Tita 135, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 27 13 33, fax (+385-51) 27 18 76, kristal@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. Sensibly priced accommodation in a spot where you can take advantage of the wellness facilities in the nearby Grand Hotel Adriatic or Thalassotherapy centre. Rooms are simple, and there's a pleasant dining terrace shaded with wisteria overlooking the hotel's beach. Pets

90kn/day. ▶ 130 rooms (33 singles €67 - 105, 97 doubles €52 - 85). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★

Milenij Grand hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta Viktora Cara Emina 6, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 29 50 01, fax (+385-51) 27 80 21, info@milenijhoteli.hr, www.milenijhoteli.hr. A brand new complex of four buildings named after the four flowers of Opatija - agave, camellia, oleander and tamarisk. Multifunctional, both business travellers and souls in search of bodily well-being will find all they need here. ▶ 248 rooms (229 doubles €136, 19 suites €223).  ★★★★★

Park Maršala Tita 60, Lovran, tel. (+385-51) 70 62 00, fax (+385-51) 29 37 82, info@hotelparklovrana.hr, www.hotelparklovrana.hr. Delightful in duck-egg blue, this classic waterfront villa in the centre of Lovran was renovated and reopened in 2005, complete with restaurant, pool, wellness and meeting facilities. One of the embarrassingly few Croatian hotels that currently has disabled access to all communal areas and some rooms. ▶ 50 rooms (3 singles €69 - 98, 44 doubles €54 - 85, 3 suites €76 - 100).  ★★★★★


Villa Ambasador Feliksa Peršića 1, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 74 33 33, fax (+385-51) 74 34 44, ambasador@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. Right on the water's edge, the Ambasador's little sister is an agreeable older building, simply and tastefully furnished, surrounded by trees and lawns. You can use the Ambasador's facilities, park your car and bring your pets by arrangement for an extra charge. ▶ 42 rooms (8 singles €80 - 118, 24 doubles €60 - 98, 10 suites €82 - 115). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★

Villa Astra Viktora Cara Emina 11, Lovran, tel. (+385-51) 29 44 00, fax (+385-51) 29 46 00, sales@lovranske-vile.com, www.lovranske-vile.com. Absolutely one of the prettiest villas and one of the few boutique hotels on the entire Croatian coast, this place is out of this world: the rooms, the restaurant, the garden, the pool and the view are all utterly... gorgeous. Breakfast included. No pets. ▶ 6 rooms (6 singles €204 - 263, 6 doubles €255 - 329).  ★★★★★

Wellness

Admiral Maršala Tita 139, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 27 15 33, fax (+385-51) 27 17 08, admiral@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. A great choice if you're into sport - the Admiral has a large and well equipped fitness centre and two clean, good-sized pools (one indoor with warm sea water), a marina and sailing club. Garage 60kn/day, pets 90kn/day. ▶ 180 rooms (31 singles €90 - 121, 131 doubles €70 - 101, 6 suites €93 - 118, 12 Junior suite €93 - 118). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★

Ambasador Feliksa Peršića 5, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 74 33 33, fax (+385-51) 74 34 44, ambasador@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. First opened in 1966, this brash concrete-and-steel cube of a building seems decidedly at odds with its belle-epoque surroundings. Ugly from the outside it may be, but once you get inside the advantages of modern functionalism soon become apparent. All the rooms get a balcony with sweeping views, and the social areas at ground-floor level have an expansive, open-plan feel. Trendy modern artists decorated various parts of the hotel - look out for the Zvonko Lončarić sea-creature mosaic overlooking the indoor swimming pool. The newly-opened wellness centre in the basement offers state-of-the-art massage, aromatherapy and chocolate-bath facilities, alongside saunas, steam baths and whirlpools. ▶ 171 rooms (36 singles €97 - 134, 108 doubles €77 - 114, 27

suites €103 - 131). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★

Miramor Ive Kaline 11, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 28 00 00, fax (+385-51) 28 00 28, info@hotel-miramor.info, www.hotel-miramor.hr. With the turreted Villa Neptune as its centrepiece, the Miramor reopened in Spring 2005 as a spectacular modern wellness hotel. Run by the owner of the Salzburgerhof, voted best wellness hotel in Austria - these people know what they're doing. ▶ 102 rooms (96 doubles €65 - 140, 4 suites €150 - 240, 2 apartments €100 - 140).  ★★★★★

Thalassotherapie Opatija-Villa Dubrava Maršala Tita 188/4, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 20 26 80, fax (+385-51) 20 26 87, villa.dubrava@ri.t-com.hr, www.thalassotherapie-opatija.hr. The truest expression of Opatija's famous health tourism - it's connected by heated walkway to the thalassotherapy spa and medical facility. You get to stay in a lovely old Opatija villa, beautifully renovated to provide comfortable, tastefully decorated accommodation with a seawater pool and healthy restaurant. Prices are per person per day. ▶ 36 rooms (5 singles 470 - 520kn, 29 doubles 320 - 410kn, 2 Junior Suite 410 - 460kn).  ★★★★★

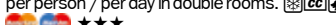
Old-school charm

Bristol Ulica Maršala Tita 108, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 70 63 00, fax (+385-51) 70 63 01, info@hotel-bristol.hr, www.hotel-bristol.hr. This lovely old wedding-cake of a villa has been renovated, but retains a hushed sense of imperial grandeur, with clean lines and restrained colour. There's a Viennese coffee house, restaurant, wi-fi internet, plus conference facilities for up to 130 with full a/v backup. They have new Spa and Beauty zone (fitness, Whirlpool, Steam bath, Sauna, treatments for women and for men). ▶ 78 rooms (66 singles €90 - 120, 66 doubles €127 - 165, 2 suites €245 - 275, 10 Junior Suite €195 - 225).  ★★★★★

Mid-range

Istra Maršala Tita 145, Opatija, tel. (+385-51) 27 12 99, fax (+385-51) 27 18 26, istra@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. On the seafloor close to the centre and the town beach, the Istra is well equipped for its class, with an indoor swimming pool and a gym and wellness centre close by. Room service (07:00 - 22:00) and all-inclusive packages ensure you'll never go hungry. Pets welcome, 70kn/day. ▶ 123 rooms (28 singles €49 - 76, 95 doubles €37 - 64). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★

Lovran Šetalšte Maršala Tita 19/2, Lovran, tel. (+385-51) 29 12 22, fax (+385-51) 29 24 67, office@hotel-lovrana.hr, www.hotel-lovrana.hr. Two beautifully renovated Habsburg villas in the heart of Lovran providing modern comfort and period charm. There's a bar, two restaurants, business facilities and a staff who help you enjoy the sea, the town and the surrounding countryside to the full. ▶ 56 rooms (7 singles €33 - 57, 46 doubles €56 - 138, 3 suites €96 - 172).  ★★★★★

Mediteran Trg slobode 1, Mošćenička Draga, tel. (+385-51) 73 76 22, fax (+385-51) 73 75 38, mediteran@liburnia.hr, www.liburnia.hr. Modern and simple, good for families with kids, the location overlooking Mošćenička Draga's glorious beach couldn't be better. You can use the indoor pool and health centre at the nearby Marina, where you can also organise diving in the pristine sea. ▶ 69 rooms (3 singles €44 - 79, 66 doubles €32 - 67). Prices are per person / per day in double rooms.  ★★★★★