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MINI-GUIDE
Complimentary Copy 2009

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KARLOVAC

Experience Karlovac!

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WHAT TO SEE

Essential Karlovac
Count Josip Jelčić Square (Trg bana Josipa Jelčića) P-2. A sensation of solitude and serenity sweeps over you as you stand in the Baroque square, admiring the architecture of bygone years. Surrounding the square are former palaces of noblemen, artisans and merchant's houses, and the Holy Trinity church, all adapted to the urban plan of the star. On the square a votive column was erected in dedication to the Madonna to protect the city folk from further grief after the plague epidemic of 1691. In the centre of the square sits the well of 1869.
Dubovac Castle (Stari grad Dubovac) C-9, tel. 61 59 80. Its name originating from the oak forests (Dub = Oak), the Old Town of Dubovac dates back to the 13th century. Dubovac Castle is only a short walk away from the centre of town (northwest from the star), just head for the highest hill your eye can see. Once you reach the top of the castle's prehistoric hill, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views of the city below and its long stretching Kupa River. The castle was built in the 13th century for the Gorč-Babonić counts and further expanded upon in the 15th century where the castle was rebuilt in Renaissance fashion. The former owners included the noble Slavonian Sudars (1387) and the Frankopans (1442). By the 16th century, it had passed into the hands of Stjepan Frankopan's sister Katarina as a wedding gift when she married the famous Croatian nobleman and warrior, Nikola Šubić Zrinski. Gašpar Šubić Peranski possessed the property in 1576 and in the later part of the 16th century Dubovac Castle was used as a granary as the developing town of Karlovac became an important trade centre. The keep, then entered by a small drawbridge, was used as a jail. From 1671 onwards until the arrival of the French in 1809, the old city was owned by the generals of Karlovac. In 1837 Earl Laval Nugent restored it in the spirit of Romanticism. It was later bought by the city of Dubovac in 1896. Perfectly located, the preserved castle and tower is remarkably charming...you almost expect to see figures from another era dashing about. ▶ Open 14:00-18:00, Sat 10:00-18:00. From October 01 to April 01 open by prior arrangement. Admission 5 - 10kn.
Josip Juraj Strossmayer Square (Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera) O-2. This Baroque styled square of semi-circular shape lies in the north-western part of the star and dates back to the 18th century. The Baroque palace of the current city museum built earlier in the 17th century faces the square, other buildings include artisan's houses, military palaces and the town hall, with the town's government based here. An interesting structure sits in front of the city museum, the foundation remains from the 17th century of St Joseph's chapel.
Karlovac Star (Karlovačka zvijezda) F/G/H-9/10. The most interesting feature of Karlovac is perhaps its most peculiar architectural point, its star formation, which was designed around a typical Renaissance styled urban centre plan. Designed for purposes of defence in keeping out the troublesome Turks, this six-pointed star formed an interestingly different type of fortress, one based on ditches and a moat. Walls were built up on the foundations of the star, and in each of the six corners a strong bastion was erected. It's interesting to note that there are only two other towns in Europe that have similar plans (Palmanova in Italy and Novy Zamk in Slovakia). The beginning of the construction of Karlovac fortress is known as the birthday of Karlovac - 13th July 1579. The city was built upon a Zrinski family estate, beneath the Old Town of Dubovac. The city was situated inside the lines of the star, some sectors which are located within the star include, are the Holy Trinity church and its Franciscan monastery and the Orthodox, St. Nicholas church (1784-86) which lie on the main square. On the same square one can see a well (1869) that is decorated with terracotta sculptures which symbolise the seasons. Old plans of the city portray geometrically lined streets and city blocks. The first residents were military men and their families followed by civilians. This new city was named after its founder Karlo von Habsburg, but for some time it was simply known as the new fort under Dubovac and then a century later when the city really developed its identity as, Karlovac beside Dubovac. The unique feature of this star is well worth the visit and is best explored by foot, so take a leisurely walk around the former bastioned fortress.
Katzler House Pavillion (Pavilion Katzler) N-2, Radiceva bb, tel. 098 51 80 57, info@pavilion-katzler.hr, www.pavilion-katzler.hr. This intriguingly distinctive building was built in 1892 as an exhibition piece for the main exhibition fair in Zagreb. Several years later in 1897, the new owner becomes Wilhelm Friedrich Katzler, a gardener, and he begins to utilise this pavilion as a floristry, where it overflowed with flowers and plants that attracted the romantic passers-by. It also served as a gallery space for the well-known Croatian painter Oskar Herman (from the Munich circle). Recently restored, the pavilion still stands proudly, now housing a modest collection of antiques and memorabilia of Karlovac's past. Step inside to step back and glimpse into time. Souvenirs in photographs, postcards, paintings and memorial coins can be purchased here. ▶ Open 10:00 - 13:00, 16:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.
Vrbanić's park (Vrbanićev perivoj) R-4. Named after town mayor Josip Vrbanić who led the city from 1895-1903. Under his mandate, Vrbanić initiated the move to redevelop and expand the park with the assistance of town gardener Engelsberg Hajek. The park was opened in 1896 and is now a protected horticultural monument. It masses exotic and rare trees that include the Gingko bilboa, the Tulip tree, the American walnut as well as oak and chestnut trees. The park was divided into three: the conifer, English and French woods. Inside the English Park, an artificial hill was made (later called The Olympus) and soon became a favorite spot for lovers. Today, you can still find trees that were planted over one hundred years ago. Within the park, visitors can find sculptures which have been named 'Lovers', these were created by Ante Despot. From 1967-1976, a number of replicas by famous Croatian sculptors such as Vanja Radauš, Ivan Meštrović and others were placed there. That explains how the park became an open gallery.

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SURROUNDINGS

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Ozalj This little town lies close to the border with Slovenia, near the Dobra and Kupa rivers and close to lakes richly stocked with fish, protected by the serrated Žumberak mountains to the north, and surrounded by gentle hills and vineyards. At the centre of the little town stands, high on a limestone rock, Ozalj's castle, the symbol of the town. Founded in the 13th century and owned by successive Frankopan and Zrinski dukes, the castle grew into a small walled city. A newer part of town later grew up at the foot of the fort, but the overriding impression is a charming medieval one.
Since it acted as a seat for these noble families, the town once had a far greater importance than you would think now, including a rich cultural and literary life based on the Kajkavian dialect. Ozalj has a Native Museum and an Ethno Park, which are excellent for giving you an insight into this cultural past and into local traditions. The museum is where you can find everything from prehistoric remains to artefacts from the time of the noble families from the military to the religious and spiritual life of the area. There's also a collection of landscapes by the local painter Slava Rašićak. The Ethno Park (actually the ethnographic department of the museum) is where you can see the hear breathtakingly pretty thatched cottages typical of the area, and the simple but pristine, whitewashed and wooden interiors brightened with flashes of colour of handmade textiles.
In the Ozalj area there are numerous stately homes and palaces dotted around. One of the most surprising looking rather than the English castle, lying right by a weir on the Kupa riverbank. This "Stone Palace" is, in fact, a hydro-electric power plant, dating back to 1908, one of the first in Croatia. Although it really did work, serving Karlovac with electricity, this neo-renaissance building is nowadays a listed monument. All in all, we vote Ozalj a great day out.
Pilivčicka Jezera A sultry oppression sat over the fields and mountains for months. People and animals, meadows and gardens yearned for refreshing, gentle rain. The Crna Rijeka river, ordinarily a cheerfully babbling stream, dried up. The people's prayers and pleading were all in vain the skies showed no mercy on them. But then the Black Queen with her glittering entourage appeared in the valley. The people cried for help, asking for water, without which they would all perish. And the Queen took pity on them with great thunder and lightning, heavy rain began to fall in an instant, bringing life to the people and animals, fields and meadows. The rain poured and poured, and the waters began to grow, until they formed the lakes as we see them today.
This reads just one of the many legends that surrounds the forming of this series of sixteen lakes that step down hill, connecting to each other by waterfalls. Pilivčica really is the most unique natural sight in the country, having been formed, as an alternative and more coldly scientific theory reasons, by triffids! Well, not actually triffids if truth be told; the lakes are in fact formed by lumps of moss, but how else does one think of pleasure pool building plants?
Let's get the technical bit out of the way shall we? It is entirely true that the lakes are built by plants. The warm, aerated water of the streams that permeate the park are ideal to promote the growth of mosses. The mosses in the water and catch in their roots the dissolved limestone that the rough water sweeps down. This material is then called travertine. Over time this limestone hard builds, new mosses jump on the top and round it all goes again. Leave to stew for a few thousand years and hey presto, you have yourself a series of lakes consisting of water trapped by the limestone barriers that the mosses have built.
Further than this, these mosses, perfectionists that they are, are not satisfied with their creation and continue to feverishly construct new barriers. Measurements of the depth of the water taken in 1855 were 3m lower than those recorded in 1958. These glistening blue and green lakes are linked by waterfalls as the water

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The Franciscan Monastery and Church of the Holy Trinity (Franjevački samostan i crkva Presvetog Trojstva) P-2, Trg bana Josipa Jelčića 7, tel. 61 59 50. Located on the main square, construction of this church began in 1580. The lay clergy led prayers until the arrival of the Franciscans in 1641. It was then that the General Vuk Frankopan pleaded with King Ferdinand II for authorization to build a monastery, which was granted the following year, with construction beginning in 1658. Altars inside the church were dedicated to St. George, St. Anthony and St. Nicholas. In 1683 General Josip Herberstein erected the church tower. In 1692 a fire greatly damaged the church and adjacent monastery, burning all altars and part of the tower with all renovation finally completed in 1705. In 1987 in a section of the monastery, Fr.Tomislav Tomić placed a rich collection of sacrosanct art. Visiting is possible by prior arrangement to the number above.
Galleries
Žunac Ethno Gallery (Etno galerija Žunac) outskirts, Rečica 64, tel. 71 33 00/ 098 67 87 85. On the outskirts of Karlovac in a village called Rečica, not long ago the city received its first ethnographic gallery, Founded by the painter Josip Žunac, in a house over 200 years old, a collection is displayed of many facets of former village folk life, some items mentioned back from the 15th century. This museum opened in 1995 and its history and character can be seen through the exhibition of the house itself, national costumes, handmade furniture, folk crafts and agricultural implements that give us insight into a former existence. ▶ Open 16:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 20:00.
Ulak Gallery (Galerija Ulak) F/G-10/11, Dombrovska 2a, tel. 61 49 56. Located at the Fine Art Artists Society where exhibitions by various authors and artists will begin in April and change every month. ▶ During exhibitions Open 17:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun. Admission free.
Vjekoslav Karas Gallery (Galerija Vjekoslav Karas) E-11, Ljudevita Šestića 3, tel. 41 23 81. This gallery was inspired by the great Croatian painter, Vjekoslav Karas. Established in 1952, (but moved to a new location in 1967 for more space) it exhibits paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries with an emphasis on painters from Karlovac such as, V.Karas, M.Schieder, J.Šašel, M.Detoni). It also displays temporary and travelling exhibitions from the 19th-21st century in an open-spaced modern interior. ▶ Open 07:00 - 15:00, Wed, Fri 17:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 12:00.
Ziljk Gallery (Galerija Ziljk) N-2, Radiceva 13, tel. 61 70 31/ 091 616 75 50, galerijaziljk@yahoo.com. An exhibition hall owned by The Vicarior Nazor Foster Home in which retrospective by Croatian artists who have worked with children at the Ziljk fine art colony and workshop, are on display. ▶ Open Mon, Fri 10:30 - 12:30, Wed 17:30 - 19:30. Closed Tue, Thu, Sat and Sun.
Churches
Our Lady of the Snows (Crkva Snježne Gospe) C-9, Dubovac, tel. 41 70 31, zupadubovac@net.hr, http://b2bhr.net/zupa-dubovac.com/eindex.htm. This parish church is situated in the old town of Dubovac, just a short stretch from the castle. Dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows, this church was built in the Baroque style from 1683-1732. In 1897 with donations from parishioners, especially those from Canadian St. Joseph's society, the Way of the Cross (which includes 14 concrete chapels as Stations of the Cross) was constructed outside of the actual church, with the purpose of serving local followers and pilgrims. As the masses are held here only four times a year, for visit you should call the number above.
Pauline Monastery Kamensko (Pavlinski samostan u Kamenskom) Kamensko 53, Kamensko, tel. 64 18 00. This monastery, in honour of Virgin of the Snows, came into being by the generous donation of Katarina Zrinski in 1404, following the death of her husband Stjepan Frankopan. The Paulines came to the area in March 1404. Evidence has shown an early gothic stage in the church and the monastery. Damaged by fire, on its 600th birthday the church received a restored wooden altar as the Korana detailed 18th century altar had been damaged in the Homeland War of 1991. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it is said one of the most beautiful altars. ▶ Open 08:00-12:00 and 16:00-18:00 with prior arrangement needed. Closed Sun.
The National Sanctuary of Saint Joseph (Nacionalno svetište svetog Josipa) C/D-9, Boškoviceva 36, tel. 41 70 31/ 41 36 49, zupadubovac@net.hr, http://b2bhr.net/zupa-dubovac.com/eindex.htm.

SURROUNDINGS

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tumbles onward down the staircase that the barriers created, the tumult ending 135m below the point at which it started, as the waters leave the final lake in the series and plunge in one last 72m dive to join numerous cascades racing to fuse with the Korana River. Around the lakes stand dense forest with the occasional glade - mostly the result of human engineering for the sake of livestock. Many paths lead through the park and around the lakes providing you with a superb playground to wander about in, feeling insignificant in comparison to the majesty of nature; the power of the waters; the vigour of the forest; the achievements of moss. Definitely a must while you are in Karlovac. www.np-pilivcicka-jezera.hr. More info on Karlovac surroundings: www.tz.hr

EVENTS
April - May weekends Spring Promenades Spring is in and everything organic just seems to flourish at this time of year! Throughout the next few months a series of musical and entertainment events with sales and flower exhibitions will be held in the park on the Promenade.
May - June The Nobility Fair Dubovac (Sajam vlastelinstva Dubovac) For the 5th year in a row the glory and the pride of knightly and chivalry returns at this fabulous fair that reinvigorates the medieval past. The event is set underneath the old Dubovac Fortress and is seen as a great educational experience. More info at **Tourist Board Karlovac**.
May 15 - 17 KLC most wanted Who said break-dance is dead? This energetic style of dance which came to fruition in the 80's is alive and kicking. There'll be a break-dance competition at Korzo, Promenada klub (Draškovićeva 15).
May 24 European Days of Parks Parks are essential in keeping our good health. Some see them as an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, whilst for kids they bring sheer joy. Central events will be held at the Franjo Tuđman Promenade. Extra fun - "Grahajada" - event where you can see all the local recipes of different ways to prepare and serve bean dishes. It will be held at the Korzo and Promenade.
May 30 The 7th Festival of Old Military Vehicles If you are interested in war and in particular relics, then attend the promotion of the museum's collection in Turanj and of the town of Karlovac which has rich military historical heritage.
Mid June Hit the street take a break (the end of the school year) A second break-dance competition located in-front of the Zorin Dom.
June 15 - August 15 Karlstadt festival This great summer festival simply rocks as the city becomes a summer stage with concerts of all musical styles, dancing and theatre plays on squares, in parks and river banks; it's on for young and old all age with food prepared according to traditional Karlovac recipes. All in one!
June 22 - 28 'Four Rivers' International Ethno & Jazz Festival Jazz enthusiasts will be delighted with this four day bonanza in the city of four rivers. The festival will be organized on the Promenade and Sanac basketball playground.
June 23 The St. John's Bonfire (Ivanjski krijes) One traditional event that's sure to lighten up your night as big bonfires will be lit on both sides of the Kupa River to mark the summer solstice.
July International Joust tournament Three days Jousting was seen as an art to be mastered centuries ago. Today, attractive tournaments are on and you can also see various exhibitions of medieval equipment. Held at the old town of Dubovac and the Sanac Basketball Playground.
The 430th Birthday of the Town Karlovac
July 13 The 430th Birthday of the Town Party our dear readers as this festive town is celebrating its birthday and everyone is cordially invited. The fun and shenanigans will be held at the PARK and RIVER; Radiceva Street - Promenada-Korzo-Sanac and the Korana Sports and Recreation Centre - (includes night events for teens). Witness this big mosaic of different activities with the main focus on birthday and various theme contests as well as the breaking of records. After all, records were meant to be broken! So come and join in on the fun!
August 28 - September 6 Karlovac Beer Days You'll probably here the chant "more beer, more beer" at this traditional beer festival that makes Karlovac the beer capital of Croatia. Here of entertainment provided, did we say "more beer, more beer". Then nothing else needs mention apart from the fact that it takes place at the Korana Sports and Recreation Centre and the Korana River bank.

WHAT TO SEE

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Located right next to the Dubovac cemetery, this modern sanctuary was built in 1968 to accommodate the pilgrims who make their way from all over Croatia to celebrate the town's patron St. Joseph. In 1969 a vestry was built and in 1970 a religious classroom. In 1987 it was declared a sanctuary by Croatian Bishops. The academic sculptor Ante Starčević created the main statues of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary. The most important pilgrim image here is 13th March, St. Joseph's day. It will be open for you by arrangement.
Landmarks
City theatre Zorin dom (Gradsko kazalište Zorin dom) N-4, Dombrovska 1, tel. 61 49 50, tajništvo@zorin-dom.hr, www.zorin-dom.hr. Founded in 1892 by the Zora society, with all the literary and dance talent in Karlovac, it's easy to understand why this secessionist styled theatre became the most important cultural establishment in town. In fact, Zora is the oldest Croatian Singing Association first founded in 1885.
Miljokaz (Milestones) Located at the beginning of the historical Josefina Road that leads from Karlovac and on towards Senj, the statue Miljokaz is a symbol of the economical development of the town of Karlovac. The building of the road started in 1775 during the reign of Joseph II and was finished in 1779. It's final stop being the Great Gates of Senj. It was in this year that the city of Karlovac was declared a "free royal town". Miljokaz is placed on the exact spot that marks a 115 km distance between Karlovac and Senj and it also shows the distance between Karlovac and Rijeka which is written in the old German metric system. In 1892, another Karlovac landmark, Zorin Dom was built next to this monument as well as the beautiful promenade.
Museums
Karlovac City Museum O-2, Strossmayerov trg 7, tel. 61 59 80, gradski-muzej@ka.t-com.hr, www.gmk.hr. Housed in the historic Vuk Frankopan palace on Strossmayer Square this revealing museum founded in 1904 holds a permanent collection with departments that cover natural science, archaeology, history, cultural history, ethnography with almost 18,000 holdings to keep you well informed about the heritage of the region. A display of natural science and fossils is followed by an interesting archaeological exhibition of artefacts from the Karlovac region. These include items from the late Neolithic to the Medieval period. Particularly significant and remarkable is the largest such figurine collection in Croatia which contains the finds of almost 400 clay figurines from the Illyrian shrine at Turška kosa near Topusko. The Ethnographic collection boasts folk life and traditions with a focus on textile handwork. The History Department collection leans towards the national identity with aspects of the social and political life prior to World War II also noting the period of the formation of Croatian independence. The historical and cultural development of Karlovac and its surrounding area in the period between the 14th century to the end of the 19th century is presented in thematically organised segments that provide a monograph treatment of the urban history of the town, the importance of trade and crafts and social and public life. Guided tours by prior arrangement. ▶ Open 07:00 - 15:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 12:00. Admission 5 - 10kn.
The Museum of Army Collections from the Croatian Homeland War (Muzej zbirke naoružanja iz Domovinskog rata) Turanj, muzejdomovinskograta@ka-net.net, www.mznd.net. Located in Turanj, one of the most damaged areas of this region during the past war, and as a tribute to the recent Homeland War, this complete, large open-air museum is held in front of the old Austro-Hungary army barracks. The collection intended to educate the new generation of visitors and citizens contains several tanks, exhibits of war and of fighting technique, cannons and other elements of military battle.
Parks
Marmont's Avenue (Marmontova aleja) D-9/10. The French left a great impact along this tree avenue that was built in the Classicist style. This lush, green, plane-tree plantation was built in 1809 whilst under French rule and overseen by Napoleon's marshal Frédéric Louis Lesse de Marmont in Karlovac. The avenue originally had 112 trees planted whereas today it has 96. Marmont's Avenue has been a protected horticultural monument since 1968 and is under special protection as a monument of park architecture.

EVENTS

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August 28 - 30 LED Festival Fans of electronic music and multimedia can join this into their buzzing calendars with a three day festival for dance to. Set along the Korana River and is organized by the Poluga Association.
August 30 The 6th Cross-Country World Cup Race Helmets on with this event which is being held on the Dubovac cycling road.
End of August/beginning of September Kayak rodeo on the Korana Waterfall There's no better place to hold this sports competition in 'kayak rodeo' than on the Korana waterfall, in front of the Korana Hotel.
September 10 - 13 The 14th Film Review by the Youth and the 2nd Four Rivers Film Festival It isn't mainstream but that's cool! A review of Croatian films and videos made by high school students held together with the 2nd international film festival which will also host high-school students from abroad. Held at the Zorin Dom.
September 11 - 13 International Tango festival Viva la tango! Come and see top class tango dancers who will perform on the streets and squares in and around the city centre.
September 16 - 22 European Week of Mobility The main feature of this event will be Saturday when the city is organizing a cycling race.
September - October weekends Autumn Spice A change of season brings with it this series of entertainment, music and gastronomy held in the park on the Promenade. A treat for all!
October 31 Pumpkin Days The brew of the witches just might include this orange vegetable. Celebrate Halloween at the old town of Dubovac with pumpkins a la!
December 6 - 24 Karlovac Christmas City Promenade, Korzo
December 31 New Year's Eve Celebration Held on Korzo

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Printed by Kriatis, Zagreb

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