

Presents you...



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Diversity is beautiful

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With an enormous diversity of natural beauty, the Kvarner region knows how to please even the most critical tourist. The region stretches from the Rijeka Riviera to Karlobag and has three sub-areas. Firstly, there is Primorje, with the prominent resort town of Opatija. Secondly, there are several beautiful islands off the coast of

Kvarner: Krk, Cres, Lošinj, Pag, and Rab, each of them a gem. Finally, there is also the economic heart of the region: the city of Rijeka. With numerous attractions, shops, restaurants, and a very lively local market, the city is worth a visit.

What follows is a brief overview of the most prominent attractions in the region...

Opatija



Opatija is located just east of Istria and is called the pearl of the Kvarner Gulf. With its long Lungomare promenade and many neoclassical and baroque-style buildings, Opatija is a feast for the eyes. The numerous parks and hotels are reminiscent of the fashionable public who already stayed here in the 1800s. Visit Opatija and follow in the footsteps of kings, emperors, and grand dukes. Furthermore, Opatija offers a nice range of beaches, cafes, bars, restaurants, and shops. You will never be bored here!

Although Opatija has suffered during the Yugoslav period, the seaside resort has regained its former glory and now attracts many visitors all year round. The spa hotels, excellent restaurants and cafes, and mild climate make Opatija attractive as a destination for senior trips, among other things.

Opatija is often called the 'Vienna by the Sea'. The 12 km long promenade along the sea, which extends all the way to the village of

Lovran, is very popular. This promenade is more than 100 years old and is especially known for the statue of the 'Girl with the Seagull'. During a walk along the Lungomare, you will pass many important monuments, including hotels and villas. You will also come across information boards here and there, which tell more about important historical figures who had a link with the city.

Because there are many trees along the Lungomare that provide the necessary shade, you can also walk along the sea on hot days. The main parks are Angiolina Park, St. Jakob Park, and Margarita Park, where you can admire hundreds of plant species from all over the world. The perfectly maintained parks have not been declared horticultural monuments for nothing and are among the most beautiful in all of Croatia.

In Angiolina Park, you will find Villa Angiolina, where the Tourist Museum of Croatia is located. Here you can learn more about how tourism began in Opatija in the 19th century and how it has developed over the years.

In the summer season, many events are organized, such as outdoor concerts and exhibitions. The Liburnia Jazz Festival is a good example of this. During this festival, jazz artists from all over the world come to Opatija to perform at various locations, such as in the parks, on the squares, and even on boats.

On special fisherman's evenings, which take place regularly in the summer, you can taste traditional local dishes and enjoy typical Croatian music. On these evenings, everything revolves around life by the sea.

Of course, in Opatija, there are bars and cafes open in the evening, and there are a few clubs where you can go. However, don't expect

a vibrant nightlife as there are simply not enough young people coming to Opatija for that.

Lovran



Lovran sounds like a charming village with plenty of things to do and see. The name Lovran comes from the laurel tree that grows in the area, and the village is situated at the foot of the Učka mountain, making it a popular destination for hikers and cyclists. The Učka National Park covers around 155 square kilometers and is known for its unspoiled nature, rare fauna and flora, and stunning panoramic views.

One of the highlights of the park is the Vojak summit, which is 1.400 meters high and provides a unique view of the Kvarner Bay. The park also offers a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, climbing, paragliding, hang gliding, and horseback riding. In addition to these outdoor activities, there are also several villages within the park worth visiting, such as Vela Učka, Mala Učka, Lovranska Draga, and Brgudac, which are known for their wine and fruit orchards, as well as cheese factories.

Lovran itself is a vibrant village with plenty of restaurants and cafes along the Lungomare boulevard. The historic center of Lovran is car-free and has a Tuscan feel to it, making it an enjoyable place to explore. Visitors can also take a leisurely stroll along the Lungomare boulevard towards the village of Lovran and enjoy the beautiful scenery along the way. In the evenings, the village comes alive and offers a lively atmosphere for visitors to enjoy.

Overall, Lovran and the Učka National Park offer a unique and enjoyable experience for visitors looking to explore the beauty of Croatia's nature and culture.

Mošćenička Draga



Mošćenička Draga is indeed a charming village that used to be a fishing village but has now become a popular tourist destination. It offers two long beaches, a trendy beach bar, and a variety of restaurants, making it an ideal place to spend a relaxing day.



However, during the peak season months of July and August, the popular beaches of Modra can get crowded. A helpful tip is to walk past the main beach (keeping the water on your left) for about 10 minutes, where you will find

a few small private beaches. But note that even these private beaches can also be crowded during peak season, so Uniline suggests driving another 10 minutes to Brseč, which they consider having the most beautiful beach in the entire Kvarner region.

Rijeka

Rijeka is the most prominent city in the Kvarner region. Although Zagreb, Split, and Zadar are more well-known, Rijeka also has its charms. Unlike, for example, Dubrovnik or Split, the city feels less touristy. Here, you experience more economic and industrial activity. This, of course, makes Rijeka the second most prosperous city in the country, after Zagreb!

However, Rijeka has a charming center. The city is rich in cultural and historical landmarks that refer to Rijeka's rich past. Think, for example, of the City Museum, the Komuna Palace, the remains of the Roman arch, or the city tower.

Take a walk on the Riva Boulevard and take in the city. Or how about a climb to Trsat Castle, where you can enjoy a beautiful view? Rijeka also has numerous beaches and a lively evening and nightlife!



Platak and Rišnjak NP



Just outside of Rijeka is the Platak mountain. Popular with skiers in winter, it is perfect for escaping the heat in summer. The summit reaches about 1363 meters high. If you enjoy hiking or mountain biking, Platak is worth a visit!

For the real hikers among you, however, exploring the Rišnjak National Park is a must. The Rišnjak National Park is located about 15 kilometers northeast of Rijeka in the Gorski Kotar area, near the Adriatic Sea. The national park covers a total area of 53.5 km² and is the most forested part of Croatia.

It was Dr. Ivo Horvat who convinced the then-ruling authorities to declare this area a national park. The official opening took place in 1953. An expansion with the source of the Kupa River and the Snjeznik Massif came in 1997. This massif, as well as the Veliki Risnjak (the highest peak in the NP), is part of the Dinaric Alps. This is a karst mountain range, mainly consisting of limestone and dolomite. The highest peak is only 1.528 meters high, and the Snjeznik Massif is only 1506 meters high, but despite this low altitude, it forms a barrier for climate and vegetation between continental Croatia and the coastal region. The interplay between these two different climates creates a specific microclimate in the NP. Quite warm summers (up to 20° and more), a wet autumn and spring, and

long cold winters with a lot of snow. At the mountain hut on Risnjak, there is snow for five full months, sometimes up to four meters thick.

The plant and animal life in the NP Risnjak is very diverse. On this relatively small area, not only the continental and Mediterranean climates come together, but also the Alpine and Dinaric. Not too much timber has been cut here, so the vegetation has remained relatively untouched. Most of the park is covered with beech and spruce trees that grow on a limestone and dolomite substrate.

The wildlife includes several specific inhabitants. If you're lucky and patient, you may still encounter a lynx here. The lynx, which is called "riš" in Croatian, gave its name to Risnjak. There are also brown bears, deer, foxes, wolves, martens (Kuna in Croatian, like the former currency), squirrels, and many other wild animals that you would encounter in a forest. However, you're less likely to come across a fox, wolf, or most of the other animals.



Many visitors to NP Rišnjak come with the goal of reaching the top of Veliki Risnjak. Just below the summit of the peak is the Slöserov Dom (Schlosser's hut) shelter, named after the botanist and first president of the Croatian Climbers Society Dr. Josip Schlosser-Klekovski. The peak can be reached via various marked trails.

Just walking in the park can be enjoyable, but if you want to learn something, it's best to follow the designated "Leška" path. It allows you to stop at different places and learn about the park's flora and fauna, as well as the rarities of a karst mountain range. This park starts and ends at the administrative building at the entrance to Bijela Vodica.

The source of the Kupa River is a remarkable geological phenomenon and one of the jewels of the Risnjak National Park. The Kupa can be found in the northeast part of the NP. The source itself is an oval-shaped pond next to high vertical rocks. The water comes from two different vertical channels. The narrower of these two channels is 86 meters deep, and the wider one is 57 meters deep.

In its first few hundred meters, the young river gets additional water flow from tributaries. You can kayak and raft on the Kupa (further downstream), but fishing is also allowed with the necessary permits. More information can be found on the following link: <http://np-risnjak.hr/en/>

If you're going to hike here, make sure you wear appropriate footwear and have enough drinking water with you.

Crikvenica



Crikvenica sounds like a popular tourist destination in the Kvarner region of Croatia. It is located at the mouth of the small Dubračina river, about 35 kilometers south of the city of Rijeka. The Crikvenica Riviera consists of several settlements, including Dramalj,

Jadranovo, and Selce, with Jadranovo being especially nice due to its newly built sand beach.



The area has been inhabited since ancient times, thanks to the fertile Vinodol valley and pleasant Mediterranean climate. The first organized settlement at the site of today's Crikvenica was built on the site of the Roman station Ad Turres. During the Middle Ages, it was an important port for settlements in the interior, such as Bribir or the castle of Grižane, which was under the control of the Frankopan family. Throughout history, the inhabitants of Crikvenica were mainly active in shipping, agriculture, and fishing. Today, tourism plays a very important role.

There are numerous historical monuments and remains that testify to the city's turbulent past. History lovers can visit the Pauline monastery (which contains valuable historical possessions of Crikvenica), Tos (an old mill used for making and processing olive oil), the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the St. Anthony Church, the Zvonko Car memorial studio, and the Crikvenica City Museum. In the summer, many activities take place here, such as concerts, fashion shows, exhibitions, and traditional festivals.

Island of Krk



Croatia counts 1.185 islands, to be precise. Of these, about 70 are inhabited. Therefore, it is a true paradise for water sports enthusiasts, boaters, and lovers of unspoiled nature. Each island offers its

own culture as well as unique sights, views, and festivities. The largest islands are Cres, Krk, Brač, and Hvar. Croatia is, therefore, perfect for island hopping. Thanks to good ferry connections, it is very easy to visit the islands and discover their great diversity.

The island of Krk, a peninsula thanks to the Krk Bridge (1.309m long), which was built in 1981, is a beautiful tourist destination in the Bay of Kvarner. With 408 km², it is the second-largest island in the Adriatic Sea after Cres.

The island is very diverse: the beautiful white rocky landscape on the east coast of the island forms a sharp contrast to the sunny, green,

Mediterranean hills on the west side. Smaller and larger bays and inlets are located around the entire island. Like the island itself, the towns on Krk are very diverse, with the largest villages being Omišalj, Malinska, the city of Krk, Baška, Njivice, and Punat. Each of these places has its own atmosphere and character.

Krk is also known for its native wine Vrbnička Zlahtina and for its cultural and Glagolitic heritage. In addition, the narrowest street in the world is located on this island.

Beautiful bays, picturesque towns, the green interior, and a moderate climate make the island a popular tourist destination. Krk has several dozen marked tourist roads that lead through forests and along the water, and there is also an international airport (Rijeka Airport) on the island. The underwater flora and fauna around Krk are very diverse, making it a good diving destination.



Our favorite spot on the island is the village of Vrbnik, which is located on the east coast of the island (about a 25-minute drive from the hotel) and was built by the residents on a 49-meter-high cliff above the sea. The old town is particularly fascinating

because every house, alley, and passage was adapted to the rock. This gives the place a unique atmosphere.

Because of the inspiring architecture of the place, many artists find their inspiration here. The old city walls also speak to everyone's imagination. The small town is characterized by narrow streets and

hospitable inhabitants. It is not unusual to be offered a homemade white Zlahtina wine by the locals while strolling through the alleys. Another great tip in Krk are the mud baths of Soline. This village was named after the salt pans during Roman rule. In particular, it is common to find people sunbathing in the mud in the village of Meline. The mud is said to be very healing for arthritis and skin diseases.



Krk town and its harbor are in a spacious bay in the southwestern part of the eponymous island. The former Roman municipality and the home of the most influential Croatian medieval noble family, the Frankopans, is now the administrative, cultural, and religious center of the island.

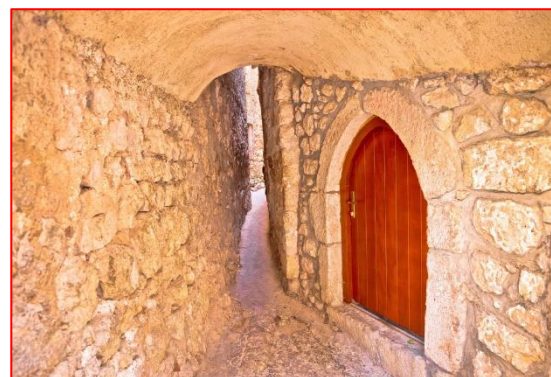
The old town is surrounded by walls dating back to before Roman times. You can enter the city through the four city gates. Krk has retained its medieval layout to this day. The most interesting sights are the Krk Cathedral (which dominates the cityscape), the Frankopan Castle, the Vela Placa Square, and the many secular buildings with valuable traces from different historical periods.

In the new part of town, which stretches along the coast and between the hills, you have a fantastic choice of beaches. Guests interested in outdoor activities will enjoy a wide range of sports facilities and water sports, as well as cycling and hiking trails that lead along the coast and to fertile vineyards, olive groves, and picturesque towns.

In Krk, it is worth trying the local specialties prepared with Kvarner Bay fish, the famous Kvarner scampi, Krk prosciutto (pršut), cheese, handmade 'šurlice' pasta, and the top-quality lamb dishes of the island.

Next to Krk town is the town of Punat. There is not much to do in Punat itself, except for a few nice restaurants and a beautiful boulevard. But from the boulevard, you have a beautiful view of the island of Košljun. This island is super small, and you will find a monastery where a few monks live, two churches, four museums, and a library. The monastery was founded in the 12th century and monks have lived there ever since.

If you visit this monastery, please make sure you are dressed appropriately, with shoulders and knees covered. In the port of Punat, you can find various tour operators who will take you to the island for a few euros.



But we've already mentioned Vrbnik... This ancient stone town on the island of Krk seems to rise up out of the sea, capturing your heart with its beauty and soul. The town is famous for the Glagolitic script and its many artists. The numerous liturgical texts in Glagolitic, hidden in old churches, tell of the great historical, linguistic, and cultural importance of the town. Here, you can also walk through the narrowest street in the world, called Klančić.

On the slopes near Vrbnik, a noble grape variety is cultivated, the Zlahtina, which is carefully bottled with love in bottles of the famous wine Vrbnička Zlahtina. A walk through the narrow stone streets and the smallest street in the world will lead you to the wine cellars with honest, local cuisine and many famous wineries.

Finally, there is Baška, an important place on the island of Krk, and it has two reasons. The first reason is the many beautiful beaches, but the second reason is the most important for the Croats, and that is the tablet of Baška. The tablet is 1 meter by 2 meters and weighs 800 kilograms. It dates to the year 1100 and is the most famous of early Croatian literacy. It is so famous because it is the oldest document on which Croatia is mentioned as a country, and the Croats are naturally very proud of it. The real tablet is in a museum in Zagreb, but a replica can be found in St. Lucy's Church.



Islands of Cres and Lošinj

Lošinj and Cres used to be one island. However, in ancient times, the Romans dug a small canal, which split both islands. It is recommended to visit Lošinj if you must choose between the two islands.

On the island, we can distinguish Veli Lošinj and Mali Lošinj as the two main places. Although "veli" in Croatian means "big" and "mali" means "small," Mali Lošinj is the largest village on the island. This is because hundreds of years ago, the first houses were built in Veli Lošinj, but due to its better location on the other side of the hill, Mali Lošinj is now the main place.

The most famous beach is the Cikat Bay, southwest of Mali Lošinj. It is 30 km long and a popular location for water sports. While the vegetation on Cres is still continental and sub-Mediterranean, the flora of Lošinj is truly Mediterranean. The pine and umbrella pine forests, which provide a lot of shade in various places, have been planted.

Most visitors reach Lošinj via Cres, taking the ferry connection between Brestova (Istria) and Porozina (Cres). However, there is also a ferry between Valbiska (Krk) and Merag (Cres).





On the way to Lošinj, a combined visit to Valun and Lubenice is an absolute must. Park your car in one of the parking lots at the top of the hill in Valun and take the steep walk down the stairs. Valun has the quietest beach on the island, and Uniline recommends spending a few

hours here. Nowhere is the water clearer than here. Then you can drive to Lubenice, which is only 3 km from Valun. Upon arrival, you will be greeted with a pleasant surprise: this village offers the most beautiful view par excellence. Lubenice is also known for its lamb and has only one restaurant: Konoba Hibernicia. This is an absolute must: you will never taste fresher lamb meat! However, please note that it is only open until 3 pm.

If you enjoy hiking, you can also choose to go directly to Lubenice and visit the lower beach. Note that this is a very challenging hike! Another fun activity is to walk from Veli Lošinj along the church to the neighboring Rovenska.



Furthermore, a boat trip around the island is an absolute must. Lošinj is known for the many dolphins that swim here.

Rab

The island of Rab is one of the sunniest islands in Europe, along with Hvar. On average, the sun shines here for about 7 hours a day.

The island is parallel to the Velebit massif, separated by a sea channel that was feared by sailors because it forms a tunnel for the cold and dry Bora wind, which makes this part of the coast a barren rocky area. Rab is located south of Krk and east of Cres and still belongs to the Kvarner region.

Like almost every Adriatic Island, Rab has numerous bays and inlets, marinas, and some nice towns, including Rab town. The western side of the island is sheltered from the wind and has a mild climate. If it comes to a unique cultural and ecological destination, the Croatian island of Rab is highly regarded. This is thanks to the preservation of local traditions and culture combined with good tourist offerings.

The beautiful beaches, stunning location in the Kvarner Bay, beautiful nature, and diverse range of events set this island apart. Rab town was recently named the most beautiful town in the country.

Tourism on Rab mainly targets culture lovers, water sports enthusiasts, and divers. Research among visitors to the island shows that 76% of those surveyed want to return to Rab because of its unspoiled nature, extremely mild climate, and friendly population.

The old town of Rab with its famous clock towers extends on a narrow, rocky peninsula surrounded by water on two sides. The capital city of Rab is one of the most beautiful places to be found on the Croatian islands. It is a place full of history, but also a place with a relaxed holiday atmosphere and about 2500 hours of sunshine per year.



Rab town is the only real center of the island. The city has a rich cultural and historical heritage. It is rightfully called a museum city: every stone, every building is a monument from the long and turbulent history of Rab. The ancient Greeks and later the Romans already wrote about the beauty of Rab, but also about its strategic importance. Small cafes, galleries, inner courtyards, intimate

squares, weathered walls, and white pavement dominate the image further in the old town.

The 3 main streets run from north to south, parallel to the harbor boulevard. They are the Donja, Sredna, and Gornja ulica, which translate to 'Lower', 'Middle', and 'Upper Street'.

Here and there are historic patrician houses, and one can inspect old facades with a coat of arms. In the middle of Sredna ulica, there is a small square that is almost entirely occupied by a Venetian loggia. In the corner stands the small Gothic St. Nicholas Church.

If you walk all the way up from Trg Svetog Kristofora at the beginning of the old town, you will come out slightly to the right at the St. Christopher's Church (Sveti Kristofor). St. Christopher or St. Christoforus is the patron saint of Rab. In 1075, his relics miraculously saved the city from a siege by the Normans, who at that time had control over Sicily and southern Italy. The St. Christopher's Church is located at the edge of the vast and shady Komrcarpark, which was established over a century ago and is now full of large black pines, Aleppo pines, pine trees, cypresses, holm oaks, and other trees.

You can reach the island via the ferry connection between Valbiska (Krk) and Lopar (Rab). There is also a ferry connection on the south side of the island, which takes you to Stinica (back on the mainland).

Pag

As soon as you arrive on the island, the unique landscape immediately catches your attention. The Bura wind, blowing from the inland, causes little vegetation to grow on Pag. You drive through large, bare, white-colored rock formations with the occasional olive tree.



Due to this wind, a lot of saltwater is blown over the island, which makes the food on the island so special. There are many salt flats on Pag, where the special Pag salt is harvested. The 30,000 sheep that live on the island consume this salt through the salty grass they eat. This gives the lamb meat and sheep cheese the distinctive salty flavor it's known for.

The capital of the island is Pag town. It is an old and quiet town, as if nothing has changed since its inception in the 15th century. It has

an old center with narrow streets, squares full of terraces, and old churches. In front of many houses, you will still see older women sitting at the door, making the famous lace dresses of Pag.



The town of Novalja consists of two parts, Stara Novalja and Novalja. Stara Novalja is the old part of town, and Novalja is the new part. Everything happens in the new part of town.

Here you will find a boulevard, nice restaurants, and most of the hotels. If you are looking for peace and quiet, skip Novalja!



Novalja is the only other major town on the island besides Pag town and is mainly known for the parties held on Zrće beach.

During the summer months, young Europe flocks to this beach to celebrate holidays and party. You will find several beach clubs here, each more beautiful and larger than the other. Famous clubs on Zrce beach are Aquarius, Kalypsso, and Papaya.

The after-beach parties start here in the afternoon, and the party continues until late at night.



Optional excursions:



Rišnjak, hiking



Učka, hiking



Rijeka, city tour & Trsat castle



Opatija, American gardens



Delnice, rafting



Krk, wine tasting



Lošinj, boat tour



Cres, lake Vrana



Zrće, party boat



Rab, cake tasting



Pag, cheese tasting



Restaurant tips:



Ganeum, Lovran



Ružmarin, Opatija



Valle Loška, Volosko



Ulika Grill, Vrbnik



Faro, Dramalj



In Vino Veritas, Rab