



Island of Krk Croatia







Island of Krk the legend and the reality

Among 1185 Croatian islands, only one is known as the “Golden Island” (*Insula Aurea*), namely the island of Krk. It is situated in the heart of the Kvarner Bay and is recognized as one of the most attractive tourist destinations. Already in ancient times, the island of Krk was referred to as the “Golden Island” because of its mild Mediterranean climate, geographical position and diversity of natural and cultural beauties. For its cultural heritage, it was also dubbed the “Cradle of the Croatian Culture” and at the beginning of the 20th century, some even started referring to this island as the “Sixth Continent”.

All paths lead to the island of Krk. It can be reached by land crossing the Krk Bridge. If you are coming by sea, there are boats that will take you to major and small ports on the island as well as ferries to Valbiska and Baška ferry ports. Finally, if coming by air, take a flight to the Rijeka Airport near Omišalj. Only 30 kilometers separate the island of Krk from the city of Rijeka, the transit, business, commercial, educational and cultural center of the Kvarner region.

Regardless of which path you choose, by coming to the island of Krk you will bear witness to the unity of diversities characterizing the “Golden Island” - the unity of the past and the present, the contemporary and archaic elements, the legend and the reality.

“No man is an island” but all of us need an island for ourselves. Let the “Golden Island”, the island of Krk, be your chosen island. Learn about it through pictures and words, through legends and the reality!





Punat

Since ancient times, it has been believed that the history of the island of Krk is connected to number seven: the island was inhabited by Croats in the 7th century; it successfully withstood seven pirate attacks; and the 7th in the line of the Frankopan dukes was the last Duke of Krk. Today, the island of Krk has seven major centers, the main of which is the city of **Krk**, former Roman municipality (*municipium*) and today an administrative, religious and economic center of the island as well as one of the most significant cultural and historical cradles. The old part of the town, which by its shape evokes the time of the Roman Empire when it was referred to as the “Shiny Town of the People of Krk”, stands apart from modern hotel complexes, motor camps and contemporary architecture.

Punat, one of the largest Croatian nautical destinations and the prime olive-growing section of the island, is situated not far from Krk. The islet of Košljun famous for its Franciscan monastery, a recognized monument of culture, is situated in the heart of the Puntar Bay (*Puntarska draga*).





The main trademark of **Baška** is a 2-kilometer-long beach, proclaimed one of the most beautiful in the world. Jurandvor, the cradle of the Croatian literacy and culture, is situated close to Baška. The Baška Tablet (*Bašćanska ploča*), the most significant Croatian Glagolitic monument and document dating from 1100, also referred to as the “birth certificate” of the Croatian people, originated in Jurandvor. There are two centers on the island with no hotels. These centers differ from others and are called museum cities.

Vrbnik, one of the strongest preservers of the Glagolitic heritage and spirituality, is situated atop a 48-meter-high cliff. **Dobrinj**, situated on a 200-meter-high slope, is the center encompassing the surrounding twenty settlements, **Šilo** being the main tourist center among them. Dobrinj and Vrbnik are perhaps the most authentic examples of former Frankopan fortifications found on the island. Although these two museum cities have been affected by modern civilization, Dobrinj and Vrbnik still evoke the life and customs of the days gone by.

Omišalj, one of the oldest settlements on the island and an important Glagolitic and cultural center dating from the prehistoric times, is situated on a hill, only 2 kilometers from the Krk Bridge and in the immediate vicinity to the Rijeka Airport. **Njivice**, situated not far from the municipal center of Omišalj, has grown from what used to be a peaceful fishing settlement into a tourist center with modern accommodation facilities, dominated by hotels and the motor camp that enjoys the shade of deciduous trees.

Malinska, the center of Dubašnica that encompasses twenty settlements, is located on the northwest coast of the island. It is one of the stronger tourist centers on the island characterized by numerous beaches and developed hotel business. The surrounding settlements are adapted to suit the needs of those who prefer family tourism.

Vrbnik



Šilo



Njivice



Omišalj







Treasures of the past

The island of Krk abounds in various types of cultural and historical heritage, and it is an undisputable fact that religious institutions, mainly communities of friars, have played a great role in the preservation of the cultural heritage. Besides the Franciscan monastery and church, on the islet of Košljun there are also a collection of ethnographic and religious items and a library of rarities. And, here, in this oasis of peace, is also the eternal resting place of Katarina Frankopan, one of the most famous members of the Frankopan family. The religious art collection is part of the unique religious complex encompassing the Basilica of St. Quirinus (*Bazilika Sv. Kirina*), the patron saint of the city of Krk, the Church of St. Margaret (*Crkva Sv. Margarete*) and the three-nave Cathedral of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (*Katedrala uznesenja Marijina*). One of the most significant monuments of religious architecture on the Croatian coast, the Church of St. Dunat (*Crkva Sv. Dunata*), stands by the road leading from Krk to Punat. The Baška Tablet, the most important monument of the Croatian history and culture written in the Glagolitic script in the Old-Croatian language and dating from 1100, was found at the site where former Benedictine church in Jurandvor used to stand. The Church of St. Vitus (*Crkva Sv. Vida*) in Dobrinj is one of the most significant



Romanesque monuments (it dates from 1100, the same year as the written document describing its construction, considered one of the oldest Croatian Glagolitic written monuments, also dates from). The Franciscan monastery complex of the friars of the third order situated on the Glavotok Cape (where the first island printing house operated) includes the Church of the Sinless Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary (*Crkva bezgrešnog začeća*) from the beginning of the 16th century. The Franciscans of the third order were also active in Port, located not far from Malinska. The Church of St. Mary Magdalene (*Crkva Sv. Marije Magdalene*) and a collection of religious and ethnological items with a Glagolitic lapidary section are found next to the Franciscan monastery dating from 1480. Among the museum and gallery spaces, make sure you visit the Vitezić Family Library in Vrbnik, the Native Museum in Baška, and the Infeld Gallery in Dobrinj in which Peter Infeld, a Viennese art collector, has been organizing art exhibitions presenting the most famous local and international artists and different artistic styles for ten years now. End your tour of the treasures of the island's past in the Sepen Cove near Omišalj, home to an Old-Christian basilica from the 5th century (probably the largest such basilica in the Mediterranean region) and the remnants of the Roman settlement called Fulfinum, the city of Roman veterans, whose discovery in the 1970s put new light on the achievements of ancient civilizations.



The cultural and entertainment offer of the island of Krk also largely relies on tradition, combining past and present.

The so-called *semnji/samnji/somnji*, folk festivities organized on respective patron saint holidays (depending on the settlement in question), are also traces of the past. The most famous among them is the Krk Fair known as “*Lovrečeva*” dating from 1524 and held on August 8-10.



The Krk Folklore Festival is one of the oldest festivals of this kind in Croatia (started in 1938). The Krk Summer or Krk Island Summer Festivities, the international festival of classical music, a capella singing typical of the Croatian coastal region (*klape*), ballet and drama, which is organized in Krk from June to end of August, enjoys a tradition of over half a century as well. Creative entertaining workshops for the youngest, folk festivities, fishermen's nights, summer sporting events, exhibitions, pop and classical music concerts, and folk ensemble performances are part of the summer offer of almost all centers on the island.



Beaches, coves and the sea

Pebble, rocky, concrete, sandy, protected by pine, holm oak and olive forests... overcrowded during the summer months, enjoyed by many as ideal vacation places and empty during the winter when turned into promenades. We are, of course, referring to beaches. There are a lot of beaches on the island of Krk. Which one is the most beautiful? The answer to this question was given and confirmed a long time ago. The 2-kilometer-long pebble beach in Baška is not only considered the most beautiful beach on the island of Krk, but was proclaimed one of the most beautiful beaches of the world.



Which of the numerous beaches of the island of Krk should you choose? Well, if you prefer a vacation away from the public eye, choose the beaches in smaller settlements (Klimno, Glavotok, Stara Baška etc.). If you wish to see and be seen, go to one of the main tourist centers and beaches, i.e. Dražica and Ježevac in Krk, Rupa in Malinska, the beach nestled in the Omišalj cove called Pesja, the Kijac Cove etc. Due to the confirmed and proven efficacy of the healing mud, the beaches in Dobrinj's Soline Cove are becoming more and more frequented.

Discretion and complete indulgence in the sun and the sea are guaranteed at nudist beaches. Some of the beaches designated as nudist are located within motor camps and some are nestled in less-known coves and protected by forests. Only the balance of our physical and spiritual bodies brings satisfaction in life, and since the wellness program is based exactly on the foregoing, it has become part of the tourism offer of the island. The island offers wellness centers, whirlpool and spa programs, solariums and all else that contributes to the harmony of the body and the soul and serves to enhance your health and beauty. Besides wellness tourism, congress tourism is also growing intensively as part of the tourism offer of the island of Krk.







Pleasant to the eye and the palate

Life expectancy on the island of Krk is often above average. The legend of an area endowed with natural wealth, mild climate and light Mediterranean cuisine is turned by many local hundred-year-olds into reality. The secret of longevity lies in the “elixir of youth, health and beauty” that the island of Krk abounds in, say the locals, referring of course to olive oil, an unavoidable ingredient of both authentic and national culinary specialties. Besides fish specialties (seafood), in restaurants, taverns and other food-service facilities on the island, you will be served dishes with local pasta types (*šurlice*, *makaruni*, *njoki-strgujići*) in various sauces (goulash locally known as *žgvacet*), homemade goat cheese and prosciutto, and, of course, Krk lamb with various vegetable side dishes.



Treat yourselves to a special dessert made from goat cheese, whose name varies from place to place - presnac, presnec, presnoc.

The traditional events organized on the island also celebrate local produce - Wine Days in Vrbnik, Fig Days in numerous food-service facilities across the island and The Black Sheep (*Crna ovca*) in Baška. Make a toast with the Žlahtina wine, and should you wish to take a culinary souvenir from the island of Krk home with you, choose homemade brandy (*rakija*) and dried figs. Remember: if the locals offer you brandy and dried figs, it is their way of welcoming you and wishing you a long and happy life. Why don't you welcome someone in this special way as well?





The already mentioned Punat Marina is the most significant among the mooring places for yachts, boats and other vessels. It is one of the most famous and luxurious marinas in the Adriatic region. It offers dry berths for winter storage, repair services and various related amenities. As many as 1250 yachts are stored and maintained in the Punat Marina on a yearly basis. The marina offers 800 berths in the sea and 400 berths on the land. Due to an increasing number of users of the services provided at the marina, other related facilities and amenities, necessary for a complete and quality vacation, are being developed in the area as well.



Besides getting familiar with the landscapes of the island, why not explore the undersea world as well?

If you are an experienced diver or you have mastered the diving skills in one of the island's diving schools, we suggest you take an organized diving excursion to the sunken Greek motorboat called "Peltastis", whose shipwreck lies near Šilo. It set off on its final voyage at the end of the 1960s. This is the most frequented Krk Island diving site. Besides the "Peltastis" near Šilo, the undersea world surrounding the islet of Plavnik hides a sunken sailboat probably dating from the time of Napoleon. The secrets of our undersea world can also be explored through organized excursions to numerous underwater sites both in the waters surrounding the island of Krk and the nearby islands or islets (Plavnik, Prvić, Cres etc.)

So, venture into the undersea world, dive into its secrets and discover a whole new world...





Somewhere far away...

You have the spirit of an adventurer, you strive for the unknown, or simply wish to get away from it all for a while? You've got a lot to choose from - the land, the sea, the undersea world, the heavenly trails, mountain peaks, caves... So, choose, decide and get going!





If you are attracted by peaks and you are a lover of nature and hiking at that, make sure you see Veli vrh (541 m asl), as well as the highest island mountain peak called Obzova (568 m asl). They can be reached following the marked trails leading from Punat and Baška Valley (*Bašćanska dolina*). Peace, serenity and a dream view - this is the shortest description of the impression the hike on Veli vrh and Obzova will leave on you.

From a stroll along the 200-meter-long Glagolitic Alley (*Put glagoljaša*) leading from Gabonjin (near Dobrinj) towards the Church of St. Peter (*Crkva Sv. Petra*), and the Baška Glagolitic Trail (*Bašćanska staza glagoljice*), you will return relaxed and enriched with the knowledge of the Glagolitic script. The Biserujka Cave, also known as the Vitezić Cave, the only island cave maintained and adapted for visits, located in the small village of Rudine near Dobrinj, will evoke the atmosphere from the famous novel, *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*. The cave allegedly hides the buried pirate treasure no one has been lucky to find so far. Why not try your luck? Vrbnik also hides a surprise for you! It has the narrowest street in the world! Find it and explore it!

Our story about the island of Krk, its legend and reality ends here, and here, we hope, is where your story begins. Let the "Golden Island" be your chosen island!



www.krk.hr



TOURISM OFFICE ISLAND KRK

Tel.: +385 (0) 51 221 359, Fax: +385 (0) 51 222 336, E-mail: tz-otoka-krka@ri.t-com.hr
www.krk.hr

TOURISM OFFICE KRK

Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 221 414, E-mail: tz@tz-krk.hr
www.tz-krk.hr

TOURISM OFFICE PUNAT

Tel.: +385 (0) 51 854 860, Fax: +385 (0) 51 854 970, E-mail: info@tzpunat.hr
www.tzpunat.hr

TOURISM OFFICE BAŠKA

Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 856 544, Tel.: +385 (0) 51 856 817,
E-mail: tz-baska@ri.t-com.hr
www.tz-baska.hr

TOURISM OFFICE DOBRINJ

Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 852 107, E-mail: tzo-dobrinj@ri.t-com.hr
www.tzo-dobrinj.hr

TOURISM OFFICE VRBNIK

Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 857 479, E-mail: info@vrbnik.hr
www.vrbnik.hr

TOURISM OFFICE OMIŠALJ

Tel.: +385 (0) 51 846 243, 846 735, Fax.: +385 (0) 51 847 662
Omišalj: Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 841 042
E-mail: tzo-njivice@ri.t-com.hr
www.tz-njivice-omisalj.hr

TOURISM OFFICE MALINSKA - DUBAŠNICA

Tel./Fax: +385 (0) 51 858 254, Tel./Fax.: +385 (0) 51 859 207
E-mail: tzo-malinska@ri.t-com.hr
www.tz-malinska.hr



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