**Croatia** ([/kroʊˈeɪʃə/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English" \o "Help:IPA/English) ([About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:En-us-Croatia.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/24/En-us-Croatia.ogg)), *[kroh-AY-shə](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Help:Pronunciation respelling key)*; [Croatian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_language" \o "Croatian language): *Hrvatska*, pronounced [[xř̩ʋaːtskaː]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Serbo-Croatian)), officially the **Republic of Croatia** (Croatian: *Republika Hrvatska*, [About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hr-Republika_Hrvatska.oga)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/33/Hr-Republika_Hrvatska.oga) ([help](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Media_help" \o "Wikipedia:Media help)·[info](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hr-Republika_Hrvatska.oga))) is a country at the crossroads of [Central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Europe) and [Southeast Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Europe" \o "Southeast Europe), on the [Adriatic Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriatic_Sea" \o "Adriatic Sea). It borders [Slovenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenia" \o "Slovenia) to the northwest, [Hungary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary" \o "Hungary) to the northeast, [Serbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbia" \o "Serbia) to the east, [Bosnia and Herzegovina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina" \o "Bosnia and Herzegovina) and [Montenegro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montenegro) to the southeast, sharing a [maritime border](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_border" \o "Maritime border) with [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy" \o "Italy). Its capital, [Zagreb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagreb), forms one of the country's [primary subdivisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_Croatia" \o "Administrative divisions of Croatia), along with [twenty counties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty_counties" \o "Twenty counties). Croatia has an area of 56,594 square kilometres (21,851 square miles) and a population of 4.28 million, most of whom are [Roman Catholics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholics).

Inhabited since the [Paleolithic Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleolithic_Age" \o "Paleolithic Age), the [Croats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croats" \o "Croats) arrived in the area in the 6th century and organised the territory into two duchies by the 9th century. Croatia was first internationally recognized as an independent state on 7 June 879 during the reign of duke [Branimir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Branimir_of_Croatia" \o "Branimir of Croatia). [Tomislav](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomislav_of_Croatia) became the first king by 925, elevating Croatia to the status of a [kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Croatia_(925%E2%80%931102)" \o "Kingdom of Croatia (925–1102)), which retained its sovereignty for nearly two centuries, reaching its peak during the rule of kings [Petar Krešimir IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petar_Kre%C5%A1imir_IV) and [Dmitar Zvonimir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dmitar_Zvonimir" \o "Dmitar Zvonimir). Croatia [entered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia_in_the_union_with_Hungary" \o "Croatia in the union with Hungary) a [personal union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_union" \o "Personal union) with [Hungary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary" \o "Kingdom of Hungary) in 1102. In 1527, faced with [Ottoman conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Years%27_Croatian%E2%80%93Ottoman_War), the Croatian Parliament elected [Ferdinand I of Austria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) to the Croatian throne. In October 1918, in the final days of [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I), the [State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs), independent from Austria-Hungary, was proclaimed in Zagreb, and in December 1918 it was [merged into](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Creation of Yugoslavia) the [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbs,_Croats_and_Slovenes" \o "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes).

Following the Axis [invasion of Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Yugoslavia) in April 1941, most of the Croatian territory was incorporated into the [Nazi-backed client-state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_State_of_Croatia)which led to the development of a [resistance movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberation_Movement_in_Croatia" \o "National Liberation Movement in Croatia) and the creation of the [Federal State of Croatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_State_of_Croatia" \o "Federal State of Croatia) which after the war become a founding member and a federal constituent of the [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). On 25 June 1991, Croatia [declared independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_of_Croatia" \o "Independence of Croatia), which came wholly into effect on 8 October of the same year. The [Croatian War of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_War_of_Independence" \o "Croatian War of Independence) was fought successfully for four years following the declaration.

The [sovereign state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state" \o "Sovereign state) of Croatia is a [republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic" \o "Republic) governed under a [parliamentary system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system" \o "Parliamentary system) and a [developed country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country" \o "Developed country) with a [very high standard of living](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Very_high_standard_of_living" \o "Very high standard of living). It is a member of the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union" \o "European Union) (EU), the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) (UN), the [Council of Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Europe), [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO), the [World Trade Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) (WTO), and a founding member of the [Union for the Mediterranean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_for_the_Mediterranean). As an active participant in the [UN peacekeeping forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_peacekeeping_forces), Croatia has contributed troops to the [NATO-led mission in Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO-led_mission_in_Afghanistan) and took a non-permanent seat on the [UN Security Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_Security_Council) for the 2008–2009 term. Since 2000, the [Croatian government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_government" \o "Croatian government) has constantly invested in infrastructure, especially [transport routes and facilities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_in_Croatia) along the [Pan-European corridors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-European_corridors" \o "Pan-European corridors).

[Croatia's economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia%27s_economy) is dominated by [service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_sector) and [industrial sectors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_sector" \o "Industrial sector) and agriculture. [Tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_Croatia" \o "Tourism in Croatia) is a significant source of revenue, with Croatia ranked among [top 20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Tourism_rankings) most popular tourist destinations in the world. The state controls a part of the economy, with substantial government expenditure. The European Union is Croatia's most important [trading partner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trading_partner). Croatia provides a [social security](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_security), [universal health care](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_Croatia" \o "Healthcare in Croatia) system, and a tuition-free [primary and secondary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Croatia" \o "Education in Croatia), while supporting [culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Croatia) through numerous public institutions and corporate investments in [media](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_of_Croatia) and [publishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_literature" \o "Croatian literature).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apoxyom%C3%A8ne_de_Croatie_expos%C3%A9_au_mus%C3%A9e_du_Louvre_-04.JPG)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_provinces_of_Illyricum,_Macedonia,_Dacia,_Moesia,_Pannonia_and_Thracia.jpg)

Left: *[Croatian Apoxyomenos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Apoxyomenos" \o "Croatian Apoxyomenos)*, [Ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece) statue 2nd or 1st century BC.  
Right: The Roman provinces of the Lower Danube. Old historical map from Droysens Historical Atlas, 1886

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tanais_Tablet_B.png)

[Tanais Tablet B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanais_Tablet_B), name Khoroáthos highlighted

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Oton_Ivekovic,_Dolazak_Hrvata_na_Jadran.jpg)

*The Arrival of the Croats at the [Adriatic Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriatic_Sea" \o "Adriatic Sea)* by [Oton Iveković](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oton_Ivekovi%C4%87" \o "Oton Iveković)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ba%C5%A1ka_tablet.jpg)

The [Baška tablet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ba%C5%A1ka_tablet), the oldest evidence of the [glagolitic script](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glagolitic_script" \o "Glagolitic script)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Johann_Peter_Krafft_005.jpg)

Croatian *[ban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ban_of_Croatia" \o "Ban of Croatia)* [Nikola Šubić Zrinski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikola_%C5%A0ubi%C4%87_Zrinski" \o "Nikola Šubić Zrinski) is honoured as a national hero both in Croatia and in Hungary for his defence of [Szigetvár](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Szigetv%C3%A1r" \o "Siege of Szigetvár) against the [invading Ottoman Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invading_Ottoman_Turks" \o "Invading Ottoman Turks)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Radic_govori_na_skupstini.jpg)

[Stjepan Radić](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stjepan_Radi%C4%87), leader of the [Croatian Peasant Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Peasant_Party" \o "Croatian Peasant Party) who advocated federal organisation of the [Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Kingdom of Yugoslavia), at the assembly in Dubrovnik, 1928

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jela%C4%8Di%C4%87ev_trg_12.5.1945.jpg)

People of [Zagreb celebrating liberation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagreb_in_World_War_II) from [Axis powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers) on 12 May 1945

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tu%C4%91man_i_Ana_Havel.jpg)

[Franjo Tuđman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franjo_Tu%C4%91man) was the first democratically elected [President of Croatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Croatia" \o "President of Croatia)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg)

Croatia has been a member of the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union" \o "European Union) since 2013.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Plitvice_Lakes_National_Park_(2).jpg)

[Plitvice Lakes National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plitvice_Lakes_National_Park)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kr%C4%8Di%C4%87_source.jpg)

[Dinara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinara) is the highest mountain in Croatia (1831m)

