

...where the rocks touch the sea...



Croatia



*Climbing at Cliffbase on Hvar Island,
photo by Hermann Erber*

Croatia has some of the best climbing in Europe. Actually it seems as if the country is made of rock!

With its beautiful coastline, old fishing villages and the sea always nearby, Croatia is undeniably a great climbing destination.

Since the bloody conflicts in the 90's, Croatia has been working very hard to rebuild itself and to join the EU as soon as possible. Tourists and climbers have already found their way to the beautiful towns, beaches and climbing areas of Croatia again. This is not without reason: the country includes 1,185 islands in the Adriatic Sea and has an amazing 5,835km of coastline full of cliffs and reefs. The coastal towns contain many traces of Roman settlements and Italian influences. Many of these towns, from Dubrovnik in the south to Rovinj in the north, are absolute jewels of Mediterranean architecture. Just outside the urban areas there are the most picturesque coves, bays, cliffs and beaches. No wonder the coastline of Croatia is considered to be one of the most beautiful in the Mediterranean.

But it is not just the coast that makes Croatia a popular tourist destination – inland there are a number of fantastic national parks. And if you're looking to combine climbing with other activities, such as scuba diving, windsurfing, hiking or biking, Croatia is the place to be. Simply exploring the towns of Dubrovnik, Split or Pula is also a great way to spend the day.

The wonderful Paklenica National Park has become a very well known rock climbing destination in Europe. But, besides this great area, Croatia has lots more excellent climbing, most of it being close to the sea. In short, it's a perfect climbing destination!



Last route of the day at Rovinj

Climbing information

Croatia has over 50 different crags - with endless potential for more - and all routes tend to be very well bolted, making it attractive for the pleasure seeking climber. There is even an excellent guidebook covering all crags in Croatia. In this Rock Climbing Atlas we describe the most interesting areas into detail - that is those areas where you could easily spend at least a week. The places not further described here are either very small or too hard to reach but, nevertheless, the climbing is often very good.

Climbing area Istria

Istria is Croatia's peninsula in the northwest and has 15 developed crags. Of these, the largest and most beautiful are: Rovinj, Limski Kanal, Dvigrad and Vela Draga. Climbing in Istria gives you the perfect combination of crags, beaches and picturesque small Mediterranean towns. This is an ideal destination to visit with children as well.

Climbing area Split

The crags in this area are all close to the city of Split, with the crag of Marjan actually situated in Split itself. Markezina Greda is just outside Split and the fine crags of Omiš and Brela are a bit further to the south. There is more than enough to choose from!

Climbing area Hvar

How does the prospect of a 300 metre deep-water solo sound? Good, you've come to the right place! This area includes the beautiful climbing at Cliffbase, which is in part directly above the sea, on the sparkling island of Hvar.

Climbing area Paklenica National Park

The Paklenica National Park offers some of the best climbing in Europe, especially for those interested in long multi pitch routes. Only 2km away from the beach, Paklenica makes a perfect destination for both hard climbing and relaxing in the sea.

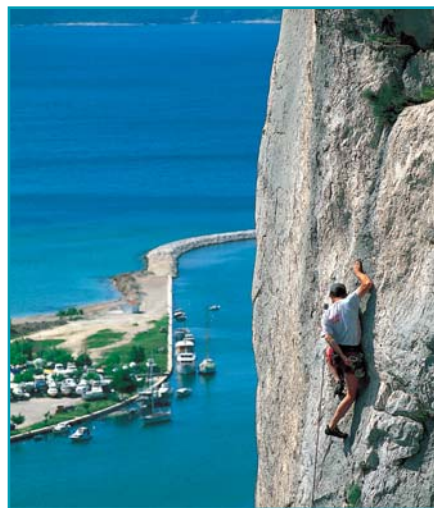


Colourful Dubrovnik

Croatia



Climbing area	#		Climbing area	#	
1 Velika Stiniva	43	👉	30 Istarske toplice	12	👉
2 Hvar			31 Raspadalica	34	👉 🧺
Cliffbase	117	👉	32 Izvor Mirne	11	👉
3 Stračine	16	👉	33 Nugla	14	👉
4 Komiza	13	👉	34 Pazin	36	👉
5 Brač	59	👉	35 Dolina Raše	9	👉
6 Ducé	9	🧺	36 Rabac	14	👉
7 Mosor	96	🧺	37 Mošćenička draga	18	👉
8 Split			38 Veli vrh	19	👉
Brela	87	👉	39 Kamenjak	23	👉
Omiš	81	👉	40 Golubinjak	10	👉
Marjan	75	👉	41 Antovo	8	👉
Markezina greda	57	👉	42 Terihaj	15	👉
9 Rupotine	11	👉 🧺	43 Okić	31	👉
10 Kaštel Sućurac	50	🧺	44 Gorsko Zrcalo	10	👉
11 Kozjak	6	👉	45 Ravna gora	41	👉
12 Malačka	13	👉	46 Vranja peč	11	👉
13 Trogir	27	👉 🧺	47 Pokojec	60	👉
14 Vinišće	9	🧺	48 Zia	20	👉
15 Ugljan	5	👉	49 Ljubelj	10	👉
16 Paklenica National Park			50 Kalnik	125	👉
Paklenica	376	👉 🧺	51 Papuk	10	👉
17 Zir	7	👉			
18 Pag	19	👉			
19 Božin kuk	16	👉 🧺			
20 Dabarski kukovi	49	👉 🧺			
21 Strogir	17	👉 🧺			
22 Plitvice	7	👉			
23 Klek	20	👉 🧺			
24 Krk	13	👉			
25 Cres	11	👉			
26 Vinkuran	28	👉			
27 Istria					
Rovinj	96	👉			
Limski kanal	118	👉			
Dvigrad	87	👉			
Vela Draga	68	👉			
28 Ponte Porton	30	👉			
29 Čepić	46	👉			



Boris Čujić on H.P.D. Imotski (Tb+), Omiš

Climate

There are two climate zones: a mountainous climate prevails, very locally, in the interior with hot summers and cold snowy winters; a pleasant Mediterranean climate prevails along the Adriatic coast with an overwhelming number of sunny days (with 2,600 hours of sunlight per year, on average). The summers are dry and hot and the winters are mild and humid.

In general, the best time for climbing in Croatia is in spring and autumn. During summer you will have to climb either in the morning or late afternoon to avoid the heat. On the island of Hvar you can climb year round.

Month	Average temperature (°C)	Average rainfall (mm)
Jan	6	79
Feb	6	64
March	8	65
April	13	65
May	17	58
June	21	50
July	23	38
Aug	23	58
Sept	20	73
Oct	16	75
Nov	11	111
Dec	7	99

*Climate table Istria.
Average temperatures at the Dalmatian coast
are approximately 2 degrees higher.*



Split

Getting there

By plane

Croatia has eight major airports: Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Pula, Rijeka (on the island of Krk), Zadar, Brac and Osijek. When flying to Croatia from elsewhere in Europe, you'll almost certainly be flying to one of the first five. Pula and Rijeka are near the climbing area of Istria. Try to book a flight to Split if you are planning to climb at the other three areas. Of these, the Paklenica National Park is close to Zadar, which is also worth checking out as a flight destination. Zagreb, the capital, is a few hours away from all the areas.

From Germany there are a few low cost airlines flying directly to Rijeka and Split, amongst others German Wings (www.germanwings.com). The volume of flights from the UK to Croatia is also considerable and they're inexpensive too. Try Easyjet (www.easyjet.com) or Thomsonfly (www.thomsonfly.com). From other European towns it is best to search for a charter flight or for connecting flights with low cost airlines. Flights from other continents will head for Zagreb.

Another interesting option is to fly to Italy (especially to Venice and Treviso) and catch a ferry. There are many low-cost airlines offering flights to several Italian cities, amongst them Ryanair (www.ryanair.com), and together with cheap prices, there is a lot of availability. Try to head for Ancona or Rimini (100km from Ancona). From Ancona there are several ferries to Split. See the 'By boat' text for more information about the websites of the ferry companies. Check www.trenitalia.it for train schedules between Ancona and other cities in Italy.

By train

The main train stations in Croatia with connections to the rest of Europe are Zagreb, Pula, Rijeka and Split (via Zagreb). If you're travelling from north east Italy - Venice and Trieste - to Split, the detour via Zagreb can add quite a few hours to your journey, in which case it is better to travel by bus. A good website to check international train schedules is: www.reiseauskunft.bahn.de.

Climbing area Istria

Istria is a region that covers north-western Croatia with a small slice of Slovenia and a tiny area encompassing the town of Muggia in Italy. The landscape of Istria is marked by picturesque towns, fertile fields, rocky mountains and a coast washed by a clear blue sea. The Italian atmosphere, the local artists performing and selling their wares in the narrow streets, and the many authentic cafes and restaurants make Istria a popular tourist destination. Actually it is a perfect family beach destination!

Rovinj, a picturesque fishermen's port, is definitely your best choice to stay when in Istria. It is the perfect spot for combining rock climbing with either water sports or just relaxing on the (rocky) beaches. And in the evening the charming town has more than enough space on terraces to enjoy a good dinner.



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

The climbing in Istria is diverse with many different limestone crags of varying height and size. The Croatian peninsula has 12 diverse crags with over 600 routes of which the vast majority is single pitch (up to 40 metres) sport climbing. The four biggest crags are described in this Rock Climbing Atlas. Istria is a good place for those who have just started climbing but intermediate climbers too have lots to choose from.



Sector Horoskop at Limski Kanal

Climbing area Istria

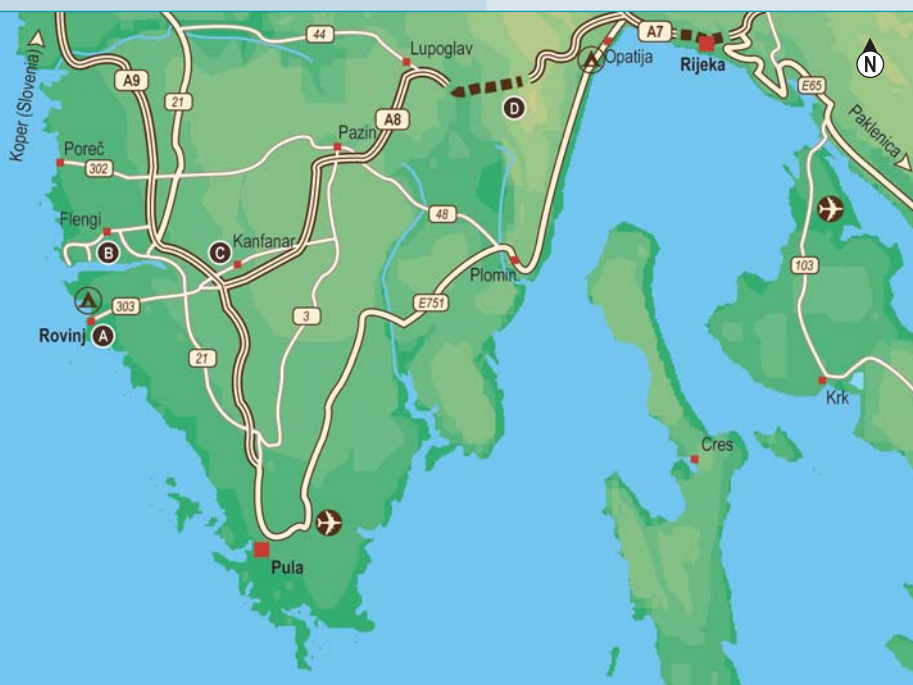


When to go

Istria boasts a pleasant Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm summers. The sea is warm enough to swim in from May until the end of September. Due to these favourable conditions, climbing is possible year round. During the day in the summer months the temperatures are high but the sea breeze might cool things down.

Crag

- A Rovinj
- B Limski Kanal
- C Dvigrad
- D Vela Draga



How to get to the area & how to move around

Rovinj, the most convenient and one of the nicest towns in which to stay, can be easily reached by public transport. Nonetheless, a car would be convenient as it allows to get to a wide range of crags in a short period of time.

By public transport

There are many options to reach the area from different countries. The best are:

Via Rijeka

Fly directly to Rijeka and then take one of the ten daily buses to Rovinj [3½h, 80Kn]. Buses leave from the central bus station in the centre of Rijeka.

Via Italy

Fly to Trieste or to Treviso (Venice) in Italy. From Treviso you can take one of many trains to Trieste [2½h]. Next to the Trieste train station there is the bus station from where 8 buses daily leave for Rijeka [2½h], starting at 8.30 am with the last one at 7.15 pm. There are two buses at 9 am and 2 pm for Pula stopping in Rovinj [3h] (the 2 pm bus does not go on Sundays and special holidays).

There is also a bus from Venice (P. le Roma) to Rovinj [5h], except on Sundays. Check www.saf.ud.it and look under "orari-internazionali" for timetables.

There is also a twice-weekly passenger boat from Venice to Rovinj [3¾h, €94 for a return ticket]. Check www.aferry.com for all ferry schedules.

Quite a few climbers rent a mountain bike to get to the crags of Rovinj, Limski Kanal and Dvigrad although getting to the latter two requires some pedalling effort. In Rovinj the company Globtour, at Obala Alda Rismondo 2 (in the centre of town on the promenade) rents (mountain) bikes for about 65Kn per day.

If you plan to climb at Vela Draga you will need a car to get there. There are a few car rental agencies based in Rovinj, for example Vetura on Nazorova bb (Tel: +385 52 815209).

By car

Rovinj is 60km from the border with Slovenia and only 93km from Trieste in Italy. From Munich, in Germany, the drive to Rovinj via Slovenia takes 6 hours.

Where to stay


There are plenty of campsites around Rovinj (watch out in case you end up on a nudist site!) as well as various apartments and hotels. Expect to pay 100Kn to 150Kn for a pitch on a campsite for two people with a car and a tent. Downtown there are apartments for rent: prices start at €35 per day per apartment and are roughly 20% more expensive in the high season.

A very basic, but definitely the cheapest, place to stay is Camping Sport & Relax, near the crags of Dvigrad. Another possibility, if you'd like to be near to the crags of Vela Draga, is to find accommodation in Opatija, which is 15km away from Vela Draga. There is only one campsite in Opatija.

Camping Porton Biondi


 Aleja Porton Biondi 1

HR-52210 Rovinj

 +385 52 813557

 N 45°05'42,2 E 13°38'29,8

Open 15/3 – 31/10

Grade 

Price 100Kn per night for 2 persons, a car and a tent

Camping Porton Biondi is less than 1km from the centre of Rovinj, situated in an old pine forest. The campsite covers 11 hectare offering plenty of "rocky" places to pitch your tent. Try to find a spot on top of the hill, as far as away from the road, where only the squirrels and the birds will wake you up.

Directions

Follow the signs in Rovinj to get to the campsite.



P 0-20 min. → 10-305 metres

Waypoints crag

N 43°26'53,0 E 016°41'40,7

Type of rock	Limestone	Protection	1 2 3 4
Family friendly			
Yes for Sector Planovo			
Climbing angle	Face direction		
Slab Vertical Steep Really steep			

