

Zagreb



A walking map of classic Zagreb

STEP BY STEP



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Velika Gorica

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Lotrščak Tower
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FIND OUT MORE



UPPER TOWN

10 CROATIAN HISTORY MUSEUM

Soak up this stunning showcase of Baroque, the Vojković-Oršić-Kulmer-Rauch Palace built in the 18th century. Once the "it" spot for the city's elite who gathered in its grand hall for balls and concerts, today the majestic palace houses the Croatian History Museum, with temporary exhibits that highlight different episodes of local history.

11 ST CYRIL AND METHODIUS STREET

See the wealth of Baroque palaces along this street named after Cyril and Methodius, Slavic missionaries from the 9th century. St Cyril (Constantine) devised the Glagolitic alphabet, the first Slavic script, and together with St Methodius spread Slavic literacy. Stop by the Greek Catholic Co-cathedral that is dedicated to this pair, and visit the Croatian Museum of Naive Art, which guards works by more than 20 masters of the genre. Ogle the Old City Hall, where the sessions of the City Assembly and marriage ceremonies are held. If it (the marriage) doesn't work out, take comfort in the quirky Museum of Broken Relationships.

9 ST MARK'S SQUARE

Marvel at the colourful rooftop of St Mark's Church, adorned with coats of arms on its glazed roof tiles; check out Banski Dvori, home of the Croatian government (Vlada Republike Hrvatske); see the building of Croatia's Constitutional Court; and saunter by Hrvatski Sabor, the Croatian parliament. Make out the face carved into a corner building; it's said to be the head of Matija Gubec, leader of the 16th-century peasant uprising who was – so the story goes – executed on the square.

8 OPATIČKA STREET

Stroll along the splendid palaces that line this ancient street, from the three-winged palace that's home to the Croatian Institute of History (at #10) to the neo-classical palace of the aristocratic Drašković family (at #18). Check out the Zagreb City Museum inside the former convent of St Claire and take a peek at the turret called the Priest's Tower at the northern end, built in the 13th century as part of the city's defense system and since 1903 featuring an observatory on the top floor of its dome.

7 STONE GATE

Light a candle and take in the silence inside the only city gate preserved since the Middle Ages, a place of worship for the devout from all over Croatia. First mentioned in the medieval times, the gate was rebuilt after the big fire that swept the city in 1731 but miraculously spared a painting of Virgin Mary – and so the gate became a chapel dedicated to the Mother of God, with flickering candle lights and plaques of gratitude covering the walls. Past the gate, see the bronze statue of Dora Krupičeva, a character from Croatia's first historical novel, *The Goldsmith's Gold*, written by the great Croatian novelist August Šenoa.

★ MIROGOJ CEMETERY

→ 10 minutes by bus from Kaptol

Meander around the maze of walking paths that crisscross this monumental cemetery, opened in 1876 and today Croatia's largest. Shaded by tall trees and dotted with sculptures and pavilions, Mirogoj is a serene, gorgeously landscaped park with neo-Renaissance arcades designed by Herman Bolle.

4 TKALČIČEVA STREET

Stroll down the street where a stream ran in the past, which once upon a time separated the medieval settlements of Kaptol and Gradec and was lined with watermills. Today, the pedestrian Tkalča, as locals lovingly call it, is a street of pastel-coloured townhouses and bustling cafe terraces. Stop by the statue of Marija Jurić Zagorka, a renowned Croatian writer and the first professional female journalist who spoke up on women's rights way back in the early 20th century, and write a number of novels set in Zagreb, including the *Witch of Geric* series. See the sundial just behind Zagorka's statue, an art project from 1955 which still shows the right time.

2 THE CATHEDRAL

Gaze at Zagreb's cathedral, Croatia's largest sacral building, that has stood in this spot for eight entire centuries. Damaged several times by fires and earthquakes, it got its neo-Gothic look at the turn of the 20th century. Size up the Renaissance ramparts by the cathedral, built in the 16th century to ward off the Turkish invasion.

5 BLOODY BRIDGE

Cross this small cobblestone street where there was once a bridge over the Medveščak stream. It was named after the fights that the two neighbouring hilltop settlements, Gradec and Kaptol, had right on this spot for centuries. In 1899 the stream was paved over and the bridge removed but the menacing name of the alley remains to this day.

14 STROSSMAYER PROMENADE

Take a leisurely stroll along Štros, as Zagreb locals call the city's first public walkway, a leafy promenade lined with benches, chestnut trees and dazzling vistas of the city below. Share the bench with the statue of great Croatian writer Antun Gustav Matoš, who sits there wistfully gazing at the city. Look at Lotrščak Tower and climb to the top for panoramic views – but don't get startled by its cannon blast that has marked noon every day for centuries. Take the 64-second ride on the blue funicular, the world's shortest cable railway used for public transport, which has linked the Lower and the Upper towns since 1890.



12 CATHERINE'S SQUARE

Admire the striking Baroque church of St Catherine that graces the namesake square. Built by Jesuits in the 17th century, this single-aisle church with six side chapels had its facade reconstructed by Herman Bolle after the "great Zagreb earthquake" of 1880 which devastated the city. Also on the square is Zagreb's oldest secondary school, founded by the Jesuit order back in 1607.

13 KLOVIČEVI DVORI GALLERY & GRADEC PLATEAU

Pop into the former Jesuit monastery from the 17th century that today houses Klovičevi Dvori Gallery, featuring exhibitions by renowned Croatian and international artists, and don't miss the panoramic city view from the Gradec plateau (situated just behind the church), stretching toward Kaptol and the Ban Jelačić Square.

6 RADIČEVA STREET

Amble up this steep charming cobblestone street, one of the oldest in Zagreb. It was once called Long Street and lined with wooden houses later replaced by townhouses that you'll see today. In the 19th century, Radičeva was the trade epicentre of the city; today it's a scenic way to the Upper Town, lined with craft shops, designer boutiques and souvenir stores. At the top of the street stands the bronze statue of St George on his horse, a slayed dragon at his feet.

1 BAN JELAČIĆ SQUARE

Make a wish and throw a coin into Manduševac fountain – an ancient spring named after Manda, a gorgeous girl who according to legend once gave water from the spring to a thirsty knight back from battle. Then walk through Harmica, a short passageway where market tolls were collected back in the 18th century.

GRİČ TUNNEL

Go underground to this pedestrian tunnel built during WWII as an air raid shelter. Today it's a great shortcut that connects several city centre streets and hosts frequent exhibits.



GAS LAMPS
Gaze at the gas-powered lamps that have been illuminating the city for more than 150 years. Two hours before the sun goes down every day, designated lamp lighters begin manually lighting more than 200 of these old-school beauties, perched high on cast-iron pillars and facades around the Upper Town and Kaptol.



DRAŠKOVIĆEVA ULICA

PALMOTIČEVA ULICA

DORĐIČEVA ULICA

LOWER TOWN

13 BRITANSKI SQUARE

Delight in digging through precious antiques, collectors' items and flea market finds at the popular antiques market that pops up on the British Square (Britanski trg or Britanac) every weekend. During the week, pick up some fruit and veg from the market stalls or grab a cafe table in the sun to fit right in with the locals. Hop on a tram (three stops on #11 or #1) to get to the Croatian Nobles Square.

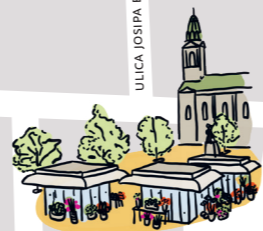


12 ILICA STREET

Drift down Zagreb's most famous street and one of the city's longest, which has carried the same name since the 15th century. Today this vibrant street is Zagreb's main shopping thoroughfare, home to the unusual Museum of Illusions and the way to the emblematic blue funicular that connects the Lower and the Upper towns. Don't forget your sunglasses as you're heading west at sunset, when the sun rays hit Ilica directly, creating magical but blinding light.

10 PETAR PRERADOVIĆ SQUARE

Feel the buzz of this bustling square named after the renowned Croatian poet but more commonly known as the Flower Square, called so for its iconic flower stands (though a handful still stand). The square has been hosting various fairs since the 14th century; today it's the epicentre of špica (the peak), the celebrated coffee strip that doubles as Zagreb's open-air living room.



11 OKTOGON

Take the most striking shortcut in town, along this hidden urban passageway that connects Petar Preradović Square with Ilica Street through the building of the former First Croatian Savings Bank. Stop in the middle octagonal atrium and gaze up through the beautiful glass cupola.



1 BAN JELAČIĆ SQUARE

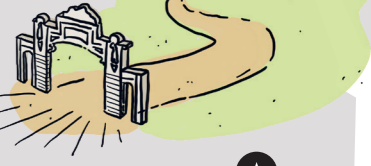
Stand beneath the tail of the equestrian sculpture of Ban (Governor) Josip Jelačić or under the towering clock, just steps away, and blend in with the locals at their favourite rendezvous spot on the main city square – in the very heart of Zagreb.



★ MAKSIMIR PARK

→ 15 minutes by tram

Mosey around Maksimir, the oldest public park in Zagreb, unveiled in 1794. It's landscaped in the English style and spans 316 hectares, almost as much as New York City's Central Park – with five lakes, several pavilions and the Zagreb Zoo. Take tram #11 or #12 from Ban Jelačić Square.



AUGUST ŠENOJA

Find this 19th-century writer leaning on a column along Vlaška, the street he was born on. The monument by Marija Ujević Galetović pays homage to the renowned Croatian novelist, a prolific chronicler of city tales and a devout devotee of Zagreb.



15 MEŠTROVIĆ PAVILION

See the circular building constructed in 1938 as an exhibition pavilion, originally designed by Ivan Meštrović. Today it is home to the Croatian Association of Artists and features frequent exhibits. Peel the layers of the building's complex history to find out why the locals still call it Džamija (Croatian for "mosque").



14 CROATIAN NOBLES SQUARE

Pause by the fountain on Trg Burze, the Zagreb Stock Exchange Square, as it's called by locals, with the classicist Croatian National Bank building by architect Viktor Kovačić as the backdrop.



ZAGREB'S FIRST FOUNTAIN

Zagreb's first fountain, popularly known as "the mushroom", was built in 1893 and designed by Herman Bollé.



THE GROUNDED SUN

This bright golden spherical sculpture by Ivan Kožarić takes the spotlight on Bogovićeve Street.



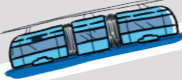
9 NIKOLA TESLA MONUMENT

Pay tribute to Nikola Tesla, one of the world's greatest inventors, who was born and raised in Croatia. His bronze sculpture by Ivan Meštrović shows the great man deep in thought. Stroll by the elegant Art Nouveau buildings that line Masarykova Street, and catch the thrill of Nikola Tesla Street, jam-packed with restaurants.



ZAGREB TRAM

Hop on one of the city's iconic trams – all in bright blue, the colour of Zagreb – for a fun ride through the capital. Though not drawn by horses as when they first started running back in 1891, the trams – powered by electricity since 1910 – are a stellar way to experience the city like a local.



7 MIMARA MUSEUM

Moon over the gray grande dame, the neo-Renaissance palace dating back to 1895 that today houses the museum. On display inside is a large private collection by Ante & Wiltrud Topić Mimara that was donated to the City of Zagreb, opened to the public in 1987.



★ CHURCH OF ST BLAISE

Wonder at this remarkable church by Croatia's great architect Viktor Kovačić, a unique blend of Byzantine elements, traditional Croatian styles and a contemporary twist from the early 20th century. Check out its reinforced concrete dome, the first of its kind in Croatia. At Christmas, don't miss the exquisite Nativity scene by sculptor Vojta Braniš, exhibited every year.



8 REPUBLIC OF CROATIA SQUARE

Marvel at the monumental Croatian National Theatre, a bright-yellow building unveiled in 1895 that graces the centre of the square. Ponder the meaning of it all by the *Well of Life*, a poignant sculpture by Ivan Meštrović, Croatia's most globally renowned sculptor. Admire the striking new home of the Academy of Music, with its rainbow-coloured roof and the "needle", a 29-metre silver-plated sculpture in the front. See the home of Zagreb University founded in 1669, one of the oldest universities in Europe. Gape at the splendid historicist palace that houses the Museum of Arts and Crafts, designed in 1888 by Herman Bollé.



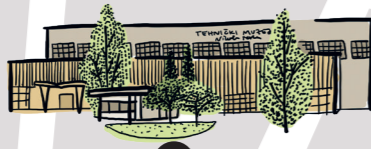
6 ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Note another great example of Art Nouveau architecture, built in the early 20th century, and wander in to see the treasure trove of ethnographic finds on display.



★ TECHNICAL MUSEUM NIKOLA TESLA

Walk through a recreation of a mine, see the replica of Nikola Tesla's lab and observe fascinating night skies at the planetarium – all great fun for science and technology buffs.



5 CROATIAN STATE ARCHIVES

Soak up the sight of Croatia's stunning showcase of Art Nouveau, completed in 1913 to house the National and University Library. Today it is home to Croatian State Archives. Note the four globe-carrying owls on the cupola above the main reading room and the symbols of science on the front facade.



4 BOTANICAL GARDEN

Take in the flower power and meander on the many paths of this wondrous landscaped garden planted back in 1892, at the south end of the Lenčić Horseshoe. Amble through the English-style arboretum, check out the colourful flower parterre, see the giant water lilies in the Victoria Greenhouse and cross the mahogany-red larch wood bridge.



2 NIKOLA ZRINSKI SQUARE

Stroll the leafy Zrinjevac, part of the Lenčić Horseshoe (also known as the Green Horseshoe), a feat of 19th-century urban planning that showcases a verdant string of parks and squares lined with landmark buildings, like the Archeological Museum housed inside a historicist mansion, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in a striking neo-Renaissance palace and the National Museum of Modern Art in a historicist palace. Don't miss the meteorological post from 1884, with vintage weather instruments that are wound up manually every Monday, and the dreamy 19th-century music pavilion, host to frequent performances.



3 KING TOMISLAV SQUARE

Pay homage to Tomislav, Croatia's first king whose statue proudly presides over the square high up on his mighty horse. See the stately Art Pavilion, originally built to serve as the Croatian pavilion for the 1896 Budapest Millennium Exhibition. Wander through the grand central train station of Zagreb, a historicist building constructed in 1892, and marvel at Hotel Esplanade, a magnificent edifice built in 1925 as lodging for illustrious passengers travelling on the Orient Express from Paris to Istanbul.



★ MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

→ 25 minutes by public transport

Catch a tram, bus or taxi to this meander-shaped mammoth of a building, dazzlingly eye-catching and dedicated to contemporary art from Croatia and abroad.

