



## Welcome to Zagreb

Dear friends,

It is with honor and great pleasure that we invite you to the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Zagreb, Croatia's capital, which will take place from October 7 - 10, 2009.

These ISU Junior Grand Prix will be an opportunity to show once again the beauty of this sport which brings skaters together from all over the World, and connects countries both off and on the ice. It will also be an opportunity for the people of Zagreb to show what good hosts they can be, and for spectators to show once again their support and enthusiasm.

### A Brief History of Zagreb

Today's Zagreb has grown out of two medieval settlements that for centuries developed on neighbouring hills. The first written mention of the city dates from 1094, when a diocese was founded on Kaptol, while in 1242, neighbouring Gradec was proclaimed a free and royal city. Both the settlements were surrounded by high walls and towers, remains of which are still preserved.

During the Turkish onslaughts on Europe, between the 14th and 18th centuries, Zagreb was an important border fortress. The Baroque reconstruction of the city in the 17th and 18th centuries changed the appearance of the city. The old wooden houses were demolished, opulent palaces, monasteries and churches were built. The many trade fairs, the revenues from landed estates and the offerings of the many craft workshops greatly contributed to the wealth of the city. Affluent aristocratic families, royal officials, church dignitaries and rich traders from the whole of Europe moved into the city. Schools and hospitals were opened, and the manners of

European capitals were adopted. The city outgrew its medieval borders and spread to the lowlands. The first parks and country houses were built. Zagreb confirmed its position as the administrative, cultural and economic centre of Croatia.

When Kaptol, Gradec and the surrounding settlements were administratively combined into the integrated city of Zagreb in 1850, the development accelerated still more. The disastrous earthquake of 1880 sparked off the reconstruction and modernization of many shabby neighbourhoods and buildings. Prestigious public buildings were erected, parks and fountains were made, and transportation and other infrastructures were organized.

In the 19th century the population increased tenfold. The twentieth century brought the Secession style to Zagreb. The city lived in the plenty of a civil society, with firm links with all the central European centres. With an increase in wealth and industry from the 1960s on, the city spread out over the wide plains alongside the Sava River, where a new, contemporary business city has developed, ready for the challenges of the third millennium.

## THE ARENAS

The main venue for the ISU Junior Grand Prix "Croatia Cup" is Dom sportova Arena. It has a seating capacity of about 5000 seats and was built in 1973. The ice surface is 60 x 30 m.

Zagreb Fair Arena will serve as the practice arena for the Event. Located on Zagreb Fair complex, it was firstly used as Ice arena in 1979 and renewed in 1999. Before it was used as fair pavilion of Zagreb Fair. Ice surface is also 60 x 30 m.

## THE HOTELS

Official hotels for the Skating family can be booked only thru the Organizing Committee.

**Four Points Sheraton - Panorama Hotel \*\*\*\*** is the official hotel for ISU Technical Panel, Referees, Judges and ISU Office holders. Hotel is situated opposite of the Dom sportova Arena in the same square, Trg Krešimira Čosića. It is within walking distance to the town center (20 minutes) and 15 minutes bus ride to the Practice Arena.

**Hotel "I" \*\*\*** is the official Hotel for all the Team Leaders, Competitors, Coaches and Chaperons. The Hotel is situated 5 minutes bus ride to the Practice Arena and 10-15 minutes bus ride to the Main Arena, it depends on the traffic.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

Zagreb is the capital of Croatia, one of Europe's youngest countries - a parliamentary democracy that adopted its constitution in 1990 and was internationally recognized in 1992. It is geographically, culturally and historically in the very heart of Europe.

### **LANGUAGE**

The official language is Croatian. Many people, especially young, speak English. German is also widely spoken.

### **WEATHER**

Inland Croatia has a continental climate, warm in summer, cold in winter. In Zagreb temperature can easily reach 34°C (90°F) in high summer (June-August) and drop to -14°C (6°F) in winter. Temperatures start to rise from early March.

October still may be quite warm and sunny, but rains are also possible. You can follow the weather update on [http://meteo.hr/index\\_en.php](http://meteo.hr/index_en.php).

### **TIME DIFFERENCES**

Croatia is a part of the Central European Time Zone (GMT +1): when it is noon in Zagreb it is 12:00 in Berlin, 11:00 in London, 06:00 in New York, 14:00 in Moscow and 21:00 in Sydney.

### **ELECTRICITY**

The voltage in Croatia is 220 V, 50 Hz, which is the same as the rest of Europe.

### **CURRENCY & EXCHANGE**

The basic Croatian currency unit is *KUNA*.

Coins are 1, 2 *KUNA*; coin and paper bill: 5 *KUNA*, paper bills: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 *KUNA*.

1 *KUNA* contains 100 *LIPA*. Coins are 1,2,5,10,20 and 50.

Foreign Currency can be exchanged for local money in banks, official exchange offices, post offices, hotels etc.

## **BANKING HOURS**

Many bank branches and exchange offices are normally open from 8 a.m. to 7-p.m. non-stop (Monday-Friday), and from 8 a.m. to 12 noon (Saturdays).

Most of the banks have cash machines (ATMs), which operate 24 hours a day.

At the Airport, banks are open every day (including Sunday and holidays) from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## **POST OFFICE**

Post boxes are yellow in Croatia and the times of collections are indicated on the box.

The main Post Office in Zagreb is in Jurišićeva 13, with opening hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday- Friday and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The other Main Post Office is next to the Railway Station open 24 hours a day.

## **OPENING HOURS**

Government offices work from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Most shops and department stores are open non-stop, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Malls at the City entrance are open from Monday to Saturday and have working hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and are even open on Sundays.

## **TIPPING**

A "service charge" is already included in restaurant bills, but it is customary to "round up" the bill in a restaurant (but not if you just have a drink).

For special services rendered by hotel personnel usually expect tips between 10-50 *KUNA*.

## **TAX-FREE SHOPPING**

Tourist whose purchases exceed 500 *KUNA* may claim a PDV (VAT) return for all goods except petroleum products when leaving the country with TAX CHEQUE receipts verified by the Croatian Customs Office. Time limit for tax refunds is one year.

## **CREDIT CARDS**

All major credit cards like: American Express, Diners Club, Eurocard/Master Card, Visa, JCB and Eurocheques are advertised at points of sale, are normally accepted throughout Croatia.

## **LIQUOR LAWS**

The minimum legal drinking age in Croatia is 18 years.

## **TELEPHONE**

Local area code is +385 1

Public telephone boxes accept only phone cards available in post-offices and convenience stores. They cost between 15,00 and 100,00 Kuna. There are also pre-paid phone cards with discount for calling abroad which are available on news stands.

## **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

Local transport includes trams and busses and the tickets are the same. Tickets can be bought at news stands and they cost 6,50 Kuna. Daily ticket costs 18,00 Kuna. One ticket is valid for 90 minutes and you can change the means and directions of transport. There are plenty of taxi cabs in the city and they can be ordered by phone 970.

## **ZAGREB AIRPORT**

Zagreb International Airport at Pleso is about 30 minutes away from the city center by car and can be reached by bus or taxi. Croatia Airlines operate a bus service from Zagreb bus station, which runs half-hourly to hourly from 5,30 a.m. to 11 p.m. time of departure depend upon flights. Return buses from the airport are on about the same schedule. The price is 25,00 Kuna in one direction.

Taxi price from the airport to the city center varies between 150-200 *KUNA*.

## **EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES**

There is a listing with all the details at [www.mvp.hr](http://www.mvp.hr)

## **TOURIST INFO**

All tourist information is available at the Tourist Information Centre located at the Trg Bana J. Jelačića 11(Main Square) and at the Web-site [www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr](http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr)

## **CONTACT**

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