Winter sleep is over and the European Best Advent destination is about to enter its loveliest time of year. Zagreb shows off its new airport, the soon-to-open cable car to Sljeme, heaps of new cafes, clubs and cultural spaces featuring fun that never stops. Zagreb For You unearths the freshest stories. All you need to do is hit the streets and check them out. The city is yours!

The city that never stops

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ZAGREB
for YOU

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zagreb4you.com

HOW ZAGREB’S CATHEDRAL BELLS TOLL

Most locals know the general facts about the Zagreb cathedral. That it stands where an 11th-century Romanesque church once stood. That it was renovated in the early 20th century by the famous architect Herman Bollé, who also gave it the two 100-meter belfries. Lesser known is that the northern belfry is 4cm higher than the southern one. And the really obscure fact is that both belfries were supposed to be 15 centimeters lower. Bollé reworked the original design by crowning the cathedral with ornaments. Each belfry has 8 bells which toll in a particular sequence 11 times a day, and each in its own unique tone. During important feasts like Easter, all bells toll together for 15 minutes non-stop.

TALKABOUT

SPRING HAS ARRIVED and everything is as usual: cafe terraces are sprawling out and new coffee shops are popping up. But the price of coffee is new. With VAT going up, coffee now costs 1–2KN more. Still, at some places the price has stayed the same. All hail to those cafes.

CYCLISTS! From March you can take your bikes on buses. The city council has decided to allow bikes in designated areas, which are marked on each bus. The service is only available to those over 14.

SCHOOLCHILDREN will wear uniforms after Easter break. But not all of them. 108 schools in Zagreb voted “yes” while the rest have until fall to decide. Zagreb’s best designers are already offering their sketches.

ŠUPA is Zagreb’s first speakeasy. The address is secret, entry is by invite only and fun is provided by top DJs. We can only reveal this: this cool new spot is in the very center of the city.

FIRST MINUTE

SOAK UP THE BUZZ AT THE FLOWER SQUARE

Nothing reflects the flair of Zagreb as much as the city’s vibrant cafe culture. The charming Flower Square (Cvjetni Trg) fizzes with laid-back cafe terraces that will quickly get you right into the city’s mood. Pick a chair, order a macchiato and blend in with the locals.

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The first one to beat Disney

The first ever Oscar for the best animated short to go to a non-US author landed in the hands of Đušan Vukotić Vud. This pioneer of Zagreb’s animated film scene won it in 1962 for his film Surrogate. Vud never thought he could beat Disney so he didn’t show up at the awards ceremony. Surrogate went on to receive many other awards. And after Vud declined an offer from Disney, he pressed on in his Viškova street studio. The following year his film The Garden also received an Oscar nomination. Until the 1990s Vud worked on several feature films, taught students, wrote scripts and continued relentlessly with animation. All of his 105 films are kept in the Zagreb Film archives.

ANJA MUTIĆ

Author of Lonely Planet Croatia, writes for New York Magazine and The Washington Post. Follow her at @everthenomad

Spring in my step

Spring is here. In my step, on Zagreb’s streets, in its skies. I love this annual awakening. In winter months, the city gets cloaked in fog and grey skies and then one day, as if by magic, it all turns colorful again. Cherry blossoms, lilacs and magnolias in bloom, their floral cocktail diffusing a delightful smell. The skies a speckless blue, save an occasional afternoon shower to wash away what is left of winter. Sidewalk cafes will soon be full again and street performers out on the streets. Market stalls will overflow with wild edibles, omelets whipped up with freshly picked asparagus. Trees will don a green coat on. There will be fresh energy in the air, new pomp. I sit under willow trees of my favorite neighborhood café sipping a macchiato. There is still a nip in the air but soon even that will vanish. And spring will take over.

ZAGREB SUPERHEROES

The lowdown on Croatia’s coffee craze

What makes coffee so central to Croatian culture? Croats love coffee, that’s for sure. It’s about that social moment, when we meet friends, strike business deals or just relax while sipping our espressos or lattes. It’s a custom that has been loved and enjoyed for decades now, from old coffee houses of the early 20th century to home coffee rituals and today’s specialty coffee shops.

Your favorite spots in Zagreb to sip coffee outside... Cafe u Dvorištu (a beautiful hidden terrace in an old Zagreb courtyard) and Express (on Petrinjska, one of the liveliest streets the last couple of years). I also love the terrace of Mali Kafe on Britanski Trg (the British Square), especially on Sunday.

How do visitors who frequent Cogito react to Zagreb? People get really surprised by Zagreb, in a positive way. They’ve heard about Croatia’s seaside but they don’t expect to find Zagreb so interesting and lively. Part of that is our coffee culture, and sidewalk cafes always filled with people.

Where in Zagreb do you like to hide away in springtime? I should probably go much more to nature, especially when weather gets brighter and sunnier after the long winter. Maksimir park and the Zoo are great spots to relax and enjoy a sunny day. What’s your coffee with... ice cream? It’s a hit in the summer. Our affogato has become really popular on hot summer days.
NEW Zagreb’s 21st century

2016 was a record year for the Zagreb airport – it welcomed 2.8 million travelers. The new terminal is just about to open, ready to receive 5 million people. Future plans include an airport hotel, reachable from the city by tram. This will make the Zagreb airport, named after the first Croatian president Franjo Tudman, a traffic hub for more than 8 million people a year. But size is not the only thing that matters. The airport impresses with its stunning architecture, signed by Branko Kincl and his team. What looks like a dainty structure with playful weight-bearing grid can actually

AIRPORT IN NUMBERS

5,000,000 travelers
65,000 m² of surface (11 football fields)
1100 parking spaces
30 check-in desks
8 airport bridges

ALL ZAGREB AIRPORTS

1909 Črnomerec Airport from where Penkala’s biplane took off in 1910 - Croatia’s first airplane
1928 Borongaj Airport for domestic and international flights until World War II
1945 Lučko Airport with a grass airstrip that still caters to sports airplanes

Zagreb is a European champion in which of these sports?
a) basketball
b) volleyball
c) handball

What is the altitude of Zagreb’s city center?
a) 101 meters
b) 111 meters
c) 122 meters

Zagreb has 18 hospitals. Which one is the oldest?
a) Sveti Duh
b) Sestre Milosrdnice
c) Merkur

BONUS QUESTION

A film about a Zagreb boy called Koko is made in how many sequels?
a) 3
b) 4
c) 5

ANSWERS

1a, b, c; in all of them. Cibona basketball team, as well as the Zagreb handball team, were twice European champions twice. The women volleyball team Hleđost won the championship once.
2. e) 122 meters is the altitude of Zrinjevac park. Grič in the Upper Town is 158 m above sea level.
3. a) Sveti Duh hospital is the oldest in Croatia, operating continually since 1804.

BONUS b, there are four sequels made since 2011: Koko and the Ghosts, Mysterious Boy, Koko 3 and The Grill Hill Alert

Honestly, wake up but not too quickly

Wake up but not too quickly! One of the nicest things in Zagreb is the change of seasons. The city and its people are always in flux with countless occasions to show off their different moods as well as dresses. If you watched a time-lapse movie of Zagreb in a year, it would be as packed with action as a good thriller. And if you imagined it as a mythical storyline, the shift from winter into spring would be its arch – the moment when the hero meets the dragon.

Where as other seasons flow in and out gradually, spring arrives with fanfare. It can take a single sunny day, and bam – you know winter is over. It’s time to wake up and hit the streets. You’ll see the locals still walking slowly, taking frequent coffee breaks to soak up the sun. But they know the slumber time is over and so off they swarm out. Nothing is as sweet as that young Zagreb spring. Even when you go overboard with the sunshine and require an afternoon nap to recharge. Take baby steps because the story is about to heat up.

Tip: Get some young green vegetables at the Dolac market and fill up on vitamins.

Zrinjevac – the epitome of Zagreb’s old charm – is ideal for a leisurely stroll. As you walk by the elegant plane trees, breathe in fragrant flower blossoms. Rest on a bench and watch the world go by.

Maksimir – Zagreb’s biggest park – makes for a perfect day trip. This semi-wild forest is criss-crossed with idyllic trails where the city’s noise quickly disappears. Don’t forget to visit the nearby Zoo.

Rokov Perivoj is a secluded nature oasis perched above the busy Britanac square. The uphill may be steep but the delicious peacefulness at the top makes it worthwhile. Cool down by the Elegy statue and fountain.

OPATOVINA PARK is just around the corner from the popular Tkalča Street. When you’ve had your share of people watching and coffee drinking, step inside to steal a quiet moment and admire the amazing Gulliver mural.

Botanical Garden is an island of tranquility in the city center. Stroll among more than 10,000 plant species or rest on a bench among an English-style arboretum with lilies-covered ponds. Opens 1st of April

Photo: MZLZ

ALL ZAGREB AIRPORTS

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Borongaj Airport for domestic and international flights until World War II
Lučko Airport with a grass airstrip that still caters to sports airplanes

Spring in ZG parks

Global anthropologist and Zagreb writer with a twist. Follow her at @travelhonestly.com

ANDREA PISAC

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defy a 9 magnitude earthquake. It is also a smart building with numerous solar panels and the collection of rainwater to supply it with water for as long as 280 days a year.

With the excellent events calendar on Total Zagreb, no day in town is the same

COOL TURE

**ZGF OR THE ZAGREB GUITAR FESTIVAL**
will gather some of world’s best guitarists during the last six days of March. Expect to see the Grammy-winning Pepe Romero, jazz player John Scofield and flamenco guitarist Vicente Amigo. Among the musicians from 30 different countries, there is also our own diva Ana Vidović. Check out the day program at the Student Center and the evening one in concert halls across the city. @zagreb guitarfest.com

**CATS,** the original musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, arrives from Broadway to Arena Zagreb. Catch it three nights in a row (March 22–24) and join more than 50 million people who have already seen it. Tickets @eventim.hr

**MACY GRAY**, winner of multiple Grammy awards, plays at Tvornica on March 9. This soul diva is promoting her ninth album, Stripped, recorded live in a New York City church. Starts at 9pm. More @tvornicakulture.hr

**EXHIBITION MALKOVICH,** Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters opens on April 9 at Bačva gallery. Zagreb is the 13th city to host this traveling show by photographer Sandro Miller and actor John Malkovich. @hdu.hr

**TENOR PIOTR BECZALA,** one of today’s leading opera singers, performs on March 30 in the Lisinski Concert Hall. The Polish star is celebrated for his interpretation of Verdi and Dvorak and a real treat for opera lovers. @lisinski.hr

**ZAGBLOG**

There’s a new portal in town

The latest portal to hit town is Total Zagreb, the go-to for all things capital city, from best places to party, eat, drink and rest your head to events like live music gigs and off-beat workshops. We love the Meet the People of Zagreb section, which has so far featured a Harry Potter quizmaster, an opera singer and a smart toy developer. Also check out Zagreb in History, with stories about the city’s public transport and the history of its coffeehouses. @total-croatia-news.com/destination-zagreb

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Exploring Zagreb on a 4KN-tram ride

Pick anywhere on the edge of Zagreb and you’ll be able to reach the center in half an hour. Either by hopping on a tram at the end of the line or by bus where trams don’t run. And to get from one end of Zagreb to another it’s never more than an hour. Now the good news is that a half-an-hour tram ride costs only 4KN. Compared to a regular 10KN ticket, valid for 90 minutes, these blitz ones are a real hit. At the Jelačić square kiosk, they sold 7000 in just one day. To keep up with the capital, Velika Gorica introduced them, too. A half-an-hour ride from there to the Zagreb train station will cost you only 4KN.

Relive times past at Trakošćan Castle

To escape the Zagreb hubbub, head west to the arcadian Zagorje region. In this land of historic mansions, Trakošćan Castle is the pearl which soars above forests and two gorgeous lakes. As you explore its preserved parlours, you’ll relive the everyday life of Croatian nobility. The surrounding nature is a gem in itself so make sure you set out on a walk around the large lake.

Tips: Replenish the lost calories with the excellent štrukli at the visitors’ center restaurant.

GET TIED UP
Croatia is the homeland of the tie (cravat). Buy this original Croatian product in Croatasalons, located at Kaptol 13 and Ilica 5 (inside the Oktogon passageway).

FOR RAINY DAYS...
The Šestine umbrella is one of Zagreb’s most recognizable souvenirs. Grab yours at one of the souvenir shops on Bakačeva street, below the Cathedral.

CAN I DRINK WATER FROM THE PUMPS?
The old iron pumps, popularly called ‘Iron Franceki’ remain an image of childhood for many elderly citizens of Zagreb. Today the Pimp My Pump art group paint them over with symbols of popular culture. And, yes, the water is good for drinking.

THE MOST USEFUL CARD
With Zagreb Card tourists get free transport and ticket discounts for more than 150 locations. Daily card is 98KN, a three-day card is 135KN. A ride on the funicular is included.

TICKETS & PRICES
30 min 4KN
90 min 10KN
Night ticket 15KN
Day ticket 30KN
3 Day Ticket 70KN
7 Day Ticket 150KN
Monthly Ticket 400KN

Funicular single 4KN
Sijeme cable car single 11 KN, return 20KN

EXCHANGE RATES, (BUY RATE, MARCH 1, 2017)
€ 17,44; $ 17,07; JPY 6,19

TIPS & TRICKS
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CAN I DRINK WATER FROM THE PUMPS?
The old iron pumps, popularly called ‘Iron Franceki’ remain an image of childhood for many elderly citizens of Zagreb. Today the Pimp My Pump art group paint them over with symbols of popular culture. And, yes, the water is good for drinking.

THE MOST USEFUL CARD
With Zagreb Card tourists get free transport and ticket discounts for more than 150 locations. Daily card is 98KN, a three-day card is 135KN. A ride on the funicular is included.

TICKETS & PRICES
30 min 4KN
90 min 10KN
Night ticket 15KN
Day ticket 30KN
3 Day Ticket 70KN
7 Day Ticket 150KN
Monthly Ticket 400KN

Funicular single 4KN
Sijeme cable car single 11 KN, return 20KN

EXCHANGE RATES, (BUY RATE, MARCH 1, 2017)
€ 17,44; $ 17,07; JPY 6,19
ONE MORE ROUND BEFORE YOU LEAVE?

It’s not a round of drinks but a ride around Zagreb’s city centre. Hop on tram #6 and take the last round from the main train station to the British Square. You’ll catch a glimpse of your favorite sights as you choo-choo by Zrinjevac park, through the Jelačić square and along Ilica street. It’s city spotting at its best.

Sure, Zagreb is not Croatia’s lamb country but the smell of roast baby lamb spreading through the city’s kitchens is a sure sign of spring. Butchers proudly display their fresh halves, and restaurants compete for the most tender of lamb. The best lamb comes from the islands or the Lika region, while the nearest local source is Žumberak hills. The prevailing style is the old-school lamb on a spit, or slowly roasted under the iron baking bell (peka). Rub in the salt, add some baby potatoes, rosemary and optional veggies, and get the juices flowing. Croats don’t care for smaller cuts or elaborate recipes. Well-known pilgrimage spots for lamb lovers who like their lamb the classic way are restaurants Vinodol, Pod Mirnim Krovom and Trnjanka. For a modern take on this “old-fashioned” meat, don’t forget to check out the spring menu at the hip Pod Zidom bistro.

CITY SPOTTING AT ITS BEST

At the Sava bridge, the end of the tram line is also the end of a night out in Zagreb. At 4am, when everywhere else shuts doors, #Sidro saves the day. This yellow concrete raft is a leftover from the 1980s, when a night out on the Sava was a big hit. With a view to the Railway bridge, Sidro stays open as long as there are people inside. The music is always loud, and the booze is cheap. You can’t miss it at the Sava riverbank.

FREE Wi-Fi IS SPREAD-ING THROUGH ZAGREB

The network of wi-fi hotspots already includes stations and major squares. Now it has branched out to cover the British and Kvaternik squares as well as Crnomoer, Dubrava, Borongaj and Ljubljanska tram depots, and Utrina, Jarun, Savica and Trešnjevka markets. The internet speed depends on the location but it averages at 1.5 Mbps.

There are 25 locations in the Zagreb wi-fi network. Next year the plan is to have 50 more.

TASTE OF ZAGREB

powered by Taste of Croatia

Young lamb – the herald of spring

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Calories per 1/2kg = 1000 kcal. Price per kg = 250KN

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Sky over Zagreb. No filter

Quite unexpectedly, Zagreb sky has become a big attraction. Amazing photos of a purple sunset over Zagreb went viral on Instagram, catching the attention of international media even. The burning sky phenomenon needed no filter. The sun and the clouds were enough and, unfortunately, a few particles of aerosol, too.

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