When summer hits Zagreb, life shifts to the streets, squares and parks. An escape from long, sizzling days comes at night, with terraces buzzing and open till late. In 30-degree swelter, cool down by the water: choose between lakes and pools or chill by a fountain but remember – no swimming! To quench your thirst, look out for the green drinking fountains – or the funky ones painted by Zagreb’s graffiti artists.

First Minute

Start with the iconic view of Zagreb. If the Upper Town is the jewel in Zagreb’s crown, then the Gradec plateau is the emblem of that historic quarter. Climb it and be wowed by the view of the Zagreb cathedral. To the left is the renowned Klovićevi Dvori gallery and to the right, watching you from a building, is the Whale mural. You can also leave your love lock there – the place is that special.

Word

Sladoled (sla-do-led) Ice cream, das Speiseeis, crème glacee, gelato Verano, helado, sorvetes,

Aiscekremアイスクリーム

Ice cream
WHERE
WHAT

ZAGREB TIME
MACHINE IS BACK ON
Summer season is on and we can again enjoy the flair of "old Zagreb". From listening to the love tunes of street singers to rubbing shoulders with costumed characters from Zagreb's past and its legends. On weekends, catch the Honorary Cravat Regiments in their Change of Guards ceremony, performed throughout the city center. @infozagreb.hr

TANGO ON THE MOUNTAIN, ANYONE?
Climbing Medvednica mountain is a quintessential Zagreb experience. Now you can tango away in Tomislav Hotel at its top. Join Spring Tango Escape (June 1–3), a weekend of dance workshops and milongas. Dancers of all levels are welcome. Tickets: 350KN. Get the full program at @tangoargentino.hr/#ste2018

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD 60s'
Traveling back in time is always fun but The 60s in Croatia: Myth and Reality multimedia exhibition takes it up a notch. Head to the Museum of Arts and Crafts (throughout June) and immerse yourself in one of the most unique periods of Croatian history. From art and pop culture to everyday objects, it's a full-on experience. @muo.hr

DANCE LOVERS’ TREAT
The 35th edition of the famed Zagreb Dance Week Festival is on June 6–12. If you're a fan of contemporary dance, hurry to book your tickets. Catch performers and companies from all over Europe plus the striking dance spectacle Pixel on the closing day. See the full program at @danceweekfestival.com

ZAGREB SUPERHEROES
A ZAGREBIAN FOR ALL TIMES
The star of Zagreb's most famous movie in history, One Song a Day Takes Mischief Away, an anthropological comedy by Krsto Gökl, is now "Zagrebian of the year". Mirjana Bohaneć-Vidović could easily win "Zagrebian of the century" though – if such a prize existed. Her character Ana Šafraňek personifies a timeless dame. She lives in the courtyard of Basarčićeva street between the Parliament and St Mark's church, takes the Samoborček train and swims in the Sava. Mirjana Bohaneć Vidović has played many roles, sang in the Croatian National Theater for 30 years, worked in diplomacy, and tirelessly helps others as a humanitarian.

MONOVIEW
Jelena Iva Nikolić, founder of the unique market and initiative, Little Market at the Loft

The funkiest loft in town
Little Market at the Loft in Sinkoviceva 8 is on every Saturday in the summer. But it's more than just a market – besides tasting and buying high-quality produce, what else is there at Tavan? Lots of fun, new people and a unique scene made of locals and people who get our vibe. You host cool pop-up events, too. What's that about?
Each pop-up is a story of its own, built on creative enthusiasm and values. Recently we did a dinner for moms and on June 2, we're hosting Taco Taco, a chef duo from Prague who fell in love with Mexican cuisine and now they're bringing us their own version. Taco-rolling starts at noon and goes till 10pm. People can enjoy great cooking at Tavan too. Who are the chefs?
I wanted to give myself, other creatives and vendors at Tavan a chance to bring what we produce to brunch or dinner. The food is locally grown and real. Sometimes guest chefs cook, sometimes it's me or my partner – or we cook all together! We guarantee a one-of-a-kind foodie experience, great music and the nicest rooftop in town. You lived outside of Zagreb for a while, in India. What did you miss most?

WHEN I'M NOT IN ZAGREB, I MISS ITS PEACE, QUIET AND STREETS THAT ARE PERFECT FOR WALKING
Peace. Quiet. The sometimes-empty streets – and walking. In Bombay, you can only walk around the Bandri neighborhood and for a European, that's awful! What do you love the most about Zagreb in June?
The smell of lime trees in bloom. There's one across the window from my bedroom.

ZAGREB 2.0
Taking Zagreb to the next level
It may not be digital but it's bordering an augmented reality experience: Rooftop Lateral is Zagreb's first and only official rooftop venue (Mon–Sat 8am–10pm). You'll find it on the 26th floor of the building at Strojarska 20. Apart from serving excellent cocktails – on Fridays you can also join a workshop – Rooftop Lateral boasts a proper garden. Wow vistas, serene vibe, great drinks – this is Zagreb mixology at its best.

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INMUSIC FESTIVAL #13: To the island, everyone!

Three days, three islands, over 30 concerts and 30,000 people. For the 13th year in a row, INmusic kicks off the summer season in Zagreb. According to NME’s Most Popular Festivals, this year it’s ranked within the top 12, right by the world-famous Coachella and the legendary Isle of Wight. For Zagreb, INmusic is more than just a musical happening – it’s a brand that reels thousands of tourists in from all over Europe.

This year’s line-up is impressive – Nick Cave, David Byrne, QOTSA, Interpol, plus a dozen Croatian performers.

It’s no wonder that INmusic will be sold out again; maybe they’ll even hit a record of 100,000 visitors!

Find all news online at @inmusicfestival.com

A PLAYLIST THAT GOES DOWN IN HISTORY
#1 Franz Ferdinand
#2 Iggy & The Stooges
#3 The Prodigy
#4 Moby
#5 The Flaming Lips
#6 Arcade Fire
#7 New Order
#8 Arctic Monkeys
#9 The Black Keys
#10 Placebo
#11 Florence + The Machine
#12 Kings of Leon

DAY 1
Queens Of The Stone Age, David Byrne, The Kills, Franck Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Superorganism, Témé Tan, Them Moose Rush, Straight Mickey And The Boyz, False Heads, Tyger Lamb, Rival Bones, Tus Nua, Nellcote, Grapevine Babies

DAY 2
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, St. Vincent, Bombino, Jinx, Reykjavíkurðætur, Šumski, Koala Voice, Irena Žilić, J.R. August, ZMAJ, Lika Kolorado, Ischariotzky, Bad Notion

DAY 3
Interpol, Alice In Chains, Portugal, The Man, General Elektriks, PINS, Tschegue, Super Besse, She Loves Pablo, Moskau, Sana Garić, Killed A Fox, Cubies, Rens Argoa, Futurski
Honestly, it’s time to be fast and fruity

Most people agree that fast food is bad for you. As a vegetarian and an eco-minded person, I agree, too. But June in Zagreb turns things around a bit – this is the time when you can snag the fastest and the healthiest bites right from the city’s streets and corners. In early June, you’ll still be able to catch strawberries. So even if you overlook red-draped wooden stalls, the fruity bouquet will make you stop short. These are Zagreb’s fast fruit joints where you can grab a vitamin bomb all throughout the summer. The season opens with strawberries, then carries on with cherries, raspberries and wraps up with blackberries in September. The best thing is that the fruit stalls keep going until the evening. So even if you’ve missed your morning round at Dolac market, fresh fruit is still there, waiting.

There’s another reason why I love Zagreb fast fruit stalls. They stock only locally grown produce and so farmers and city dwellers actually get to know each other. It always amazes me that such luscious fruit grows within the city borders. So, forget everything you know about how bad fast food is. Get a punnet of strawberries or cherries and walk to the nearest park. Buy a bottle of water and give the fruit a rinse. Dig into your fast fruit snack.

Tip: Catch the best fruit offer just off the main train station. Wash it at the old water pump in Zrinjevac park by the Pavilion – another of Zagreb’s attractions.

Mingle with Croatian naïve artists in Podravina

After you get hooked on the Croatian naïve art in the namesake museum in Zagreb, head out to Podravina. This gentle verdant region is home to Croatia’s most celebrated self-taught painters. Visit Hlebine, the village where it all started. Or catch the Podravina Motifs event in Koprivnica town (June 29–30) during which you can also buy naïve art.

Tip: Have lunch in Kraluš pub in the center of Koprivnica. The entire space, including the stained-glass windows, was designed and created by three renowned painters and sculptors.
Discover Zagreb’s Design District

A hub of creativity, the up-and-coming area around Martićeva street, the neighborhood’s main artery, always has something exciting up its sleeve. The annual showcase of all that’s brewing in the hood, Design District Zagreb, is on June 14–June 17. The fest’s third edition, with “Local Pathways” as its theme, brings a rich program of interdisciplinary events to more than 80 micro-locations all over the hood, from artist studios and parks to courtyards and abandoned spaces.

Check out the program at www.designdistrict.hr/en

1. Croatian National Bank
   This grand classicist building fronted by a fountain on the Croatian Nobles Square, better known as Trg Burze, marks the unofficial entrance to the Design District. Lined with sidewalk cafes on one side, it’s also the start of Martićeva, the area’s main stretch.

2. Oris – House of Architecture
   Pop into this multimedia cultural center to check out its design- and architecture-focused exhibits and workshops held in its all-white gallery-like space.

3. Ibler – the Wooden Skyscraper
   Size up this iconic neighborhood building, one of the city’s first skyscrapers – built in the 1950s and designed by the renowned Croatian architect Drago Ibler.

4. Vivat Fine Wine Bar
   This recently opened bar doubles as a showroom of Vivat’s wine cellars, with a shop across the street. Check out its assortment of smooth wines from the Croatian and global wine regions, as well as fine distillates, gin, liqueurs, rum and whiskey.

5. Ratkaj Passage
   This street turns into Design District Zagreb’s “living room” – and closes to traffic for the four days. Don’t miss the Pop-up Plant Clinic, the Baustella installation for chilling and hanging, and RoUm, a new venture by local artists, designers and the Roma community, using discarded objects to craft cool usable objects.

6. Noel
   Have an espresso at this neighborhood café-bar, with a tiny interior and sidewalk tables on a leafy street corner. The namesake restaurant on the diagonal corner dishes out globally inspired cuisine using seasonal ingredients and whips up great cocktails.

7. Bookska
   The pioneer of change that has swept the hood, this literary club and hangout has been around since 2004. Run by a non-profit, it has a full calendar of readings and talks, and makes for a top spot to read, surf and chill (note the annual membership fee of 10KN). The little park just across will host a concert on Jun 14 and film screenings on June 16.

8. Program
   Don’t miss this neighborhood fave, a funky café-bar where the cool cats fly solo or hang out with their kids and dogs. Whether you want to work in the relaxed-chic interior or grab one of the sidewalk tables to see the street action, it’s a great spot to get a feel of everyday life in the Design District.

9. Old Military Hospital
   Check out “REBOOT! Backstage of Progress” during the four days of DDZ, an exhibit of design brands from the region, and other events inside this humongous complex hidden away from Vlaška street through an unmarked courtyard. Built in 1833 for the Austro-Hungarian military and used as the medical center, today it’s a venue for all sorts of cool events.

10. Vivica Skyscraper
   With its playful and colorful façade, this is the neighborhood’s tallest building, named after its architect and today home to many creatives.

THE MOST USEFUL CARD
With Zagreb Card tourists get free transport and six attractions, plus ticket discounts for more than 80 locations. Daily card is 98KN, a three−day card is 135KN. A ride on the funicular is included. @zagrebcard.com

Number of annual visitors to DDZ: 20,000–30,000
RIDE A PUBLIC BIKE

Nextbike, Zagreb’s first public bike system, is celebrating five years since its launch – by spreading to neighboring countries. Croatia fell head over heels: over 20 cities offer Nextbike, and they’re crossing the border to Bosnia & Herzegovina, with Slovenia and Serbia coming shortly. In Zagreb, more than 10,000 cyclists use hundreds of bikes from around 20 locations across the city. nextbike.hr

Yearly subscription
200 KN gets you the value of 1200KN, and an unlimited number of free 30-minute rides

Weekly subscription
10 hours for 100KN, an unlimited number of free 30-minute rides

Pay as you go
30 minutes 5KN
*electric bicycle 30 minutes 10KN

10,500 users in Zagreb
2-3 km average ride per rental
24/7 service

TASTE OF ZAGREB
powered by Taste of Croatia

Paint the summer red

Spring departing and summer nearing means everything is painted red: strawberries, tomatoes, sweet and sour cherries. Gobble them up fresh, or in countless recipes. Sour cherries are all the rage: tiny, juicy and bitter-sweet – perfect for making strudel, a tradition that goes back to Austro-Hungarian times. Housewives used to make dough from scratch, but today we mostly buy it ready made. Freshly picked and firm cherries are best – in summer, frozen and canned fruit is a big no-no. To keep the filling together, add bread crumbs, semolina or cottage cheese, plus cinnamon or vanilla for extra flavor. The crunchy crust and the warm oozy filling are a winning mix, especially with vanilla sauce - the Viennese way.

Zagreb’s facades and parks may be covered in murals, but the founder of Art Park Boris Bare strikes again – by pairing nature and art. The drawings of a green-haired girl, forest grandpa and a dude in sunglasses, in three parks – Ribnjak, Opatovina and Bundek – have been done in collaboration with Floraart.

TASTE OF ZAGREB
Head south and reach the river

If you’re only whizzing through Zagreb, you might miss out on the Sava River. And that would be a pity. Set a few hours aside and head towards Bundek lake and the park on Sava’s south bank. Stretch your legs before boarding that flight and let the little ones enjoy Zagreb’s biggest playground. Then savor your last drink with a lakeside view.

4am ALCATRAZ, WHERE EVERYONE ENDS UP, AT LEAST ONCE

The official closing time is 2am, but when it comes to Alcatraz in Preradovićeva street – that’s the least of anyone’s concerns. The café with a terrace down the street from the Flower Square is well known for crowds spilling out onto the sidewalk and blocking traffic. Zagreb’s Alcatraz is where nights out start and end, even with your first morning coffee. Working hours are from 7am-2am. @alcatraz

Coffee without a smoke? It’s possible, at over 100 spots in Zagreb. The map of non-smoking cafés, restaurants and bars includes 145 places in town. The data is updated by administrators, non-smokers who have decided to seek out their city oases for everyday life. Google “non-smoking bars Zagreb” and – enjoy your coffee.

The map was created in 2013 and is updated every couple of weeks. Over 140,000 people have used it so far.

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Green hair - Zagreb’s new ‘do

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Zdravljak Sršek – 12KN
kcal: 179 per serving

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