On Bogovićeva street, Zagreb’s bustling artery, you’ll spot a statue – of a dog. He sure earned it, over half a century ago. Pluto was a stray dog who made his way to the construction site of the popular Oktogon* at the corner of Flower square. The workers and the architect Josip Vracaš welcomed the dog and he quickly became their local guard. One night, he was fatally injured while protecting the area from clay thefts. That’s how this brave canine got his own monument.

*Why Oktogon? The palace interior of the first Croatian Savings Bank, which has served as a walkway from Petar Preradović square to Ilica since 1900, is shaped as an octagon.

First Minute

Hit the cult Zagreb street

Nothing speaks Zagreb more strongly than a stroll down Ilica street. For the longest time the city’s longest street, this is where you go window-shopping and bumping into friends. A tram ride out to Črnomerec peels off layers of Zagreb’s character. A fun fact to know: the first (horse-drawn) tram glided this same route on September 5, 1891.

Word

Nebo

(Neh-bo)

sky, Himmel, cielo, ciel, céu

天国, 천국,天堂
**WHAT WHERE WHEN**

**CATCH YOUR FAVORITE WRITER**
The 6th edition of the Festival of World Lit- erature continues to gather some of the most renowned people of letters. Many readings are in English so check out the program at fsk. hr – chances are one of your favorite authors is in Zagreb this September 2–8. Main events are held at the fab Art De-co-styled Cinema Europe. #FSK2018

**WATCH WHAT YOU EAT**
It's a pun but also a great description of a cool foodie festival held September 7–16 at Zrinjevac park. Zagreb Food Film Festival mixes up street food and culinary workshops with screen- ings of foodie movies. Catch Croatia's celebrity chefs ruffling up on the spot and don't miss the concert of the Frajle band on Saturday, Sep 15. #Foodfilmfestival

**SEE THE DIFFERENCE**
The 10th International Photography Festival, The Organ of Sight, is on September 7–16 at the Museum of Contemporary Arts (MSU). Don't miss the grand opening event Engaged, Active, Aware - Women's Perspectives Now' at 8pm. Lovers of photography will enjoy seeing the work of young photographers throughout the four-day event. #organhvita.com

**BURGER AND MUSIC BONANZA**
Last year, Zagreb Burger Festival delighted more than 150,000 people, so this year the bar has been raised even higher. If you love burgers, head to Strossmayer Square Sep- tember 14–24; this must-see event features 10 burger hubs from various parts of Croatia. Spice it up with live music in the evening and your palate will be in heaven. #burgerfestival.hr

**ZAGREB SUPERHEROES**

**DUBRAVA’S DISCUS QUEEN**
No one has ever been European champi- on five times in a row – nobody but World and Olympic champion Sandra Perković, a girl from Zagreb's Dubrava neighborhood. For the past decade, she’s literally been dominating the athletics scene with her discus. The only thing Sandra's still missing is a world record; she’s already won all the rest. Everyone forgot that she was once a Croatian record winner in shot put; by the age of 28 she even dedicated time to politics in the parliament. Follow Sandra in the Diamond League and on her profile #discus70queen

**ANJA MUTIĆ**
writes for BBC Travel, the Washington Post and the New York Times. Follow her at @everthenomad

**Life, alfresco**
The tail end of summer is here. As I write this, grey clouds have gathered above the rooftops I overlook from my fourth-floor apartment on the eastern edge of Zagreb’s city center. It is Saturday, just past noon, and a storm is brewing forecasted to sweep the coast and the mainland. I got back to Zagreb from the islands in the nick of time, to watch it happen not from a boat rocked by rough seas but from my cozy living room. A after a month on the seaside, be- ing back home feels like a treat. For a nomad at heart, having a home feels like a treat. There’s that lovely moment when you unpack your bags full of half-wet beach towels, random pebbles and well-worn flip flops. You wash off sea salt from your hair and get ready to bid summer farewell. But the buzz is still on; there’s a few weeks left before autumn kicks in. How to spend them in Zagreb?

**TIP:** To prepare for the rains, grab one of the handcrafted Cerovecki Umbrellas (Ilica 49), run by the fourth generation of master craftsmen; their Sestine umbrella is a hit.

**MONOVIEW**

**Having a beery good time in Zagreb**

**You’re always getting the best grades on Ratebeer: out of the top 10 new best breweries in the world (2014), your Porter ranked fifteenth. Who grades you and what does it mean for you as a brewery?**

Ratebeer is one of the highest-ranking beer websites on earth, where beer enthusiasts place their votes. Last year, we were an- nounced the best Croatian brewery, and RIS BA was voted Croatia's best beer. It means a lot to us: it’s how tourists and beer importers get to know us. You started off in a bar and now your beer can be tasted in over 250 locations across Croatia and the region. What was that first bar and why there?

Yes, Tolkien's House was where we launched our first beer, as it was one of the rare places in Zagreb where one could have a drink that wasn't mass-produced. Where does the name Zmajsko come from?

Around 2008, I made one of my first batches to enjoy with my friends for May Day. When they tried that May beer, they liked it so much they called it Zmajsko, meaning “dragonish”.

September is full of open-air food festivals. Beer is a great drink to match those occasions. Which beer do you recommend for September?

I can’t help but recommend all our beers. Otherwise, it’s like choos- ing which one of your kids you love the most. But fine – during Indian summer, I suggest Jam Session IPA.

What do you love most about Zagreb in September?

Beer Yard Festival is the crown of summer’s beer events. I also enjoy drinking coffee in my neighbor- hood, Črnomerec, at my favorite café, Keglić.

**OUR CRAFT BEERS ARE ONE OF THE WAYS VISITORS GET TO KNOW ZAGREB.**

**ZAGREB 2.0**

**Travel back in time with a new app**
Want to find out what Zagreb was like way back when? Hop on a journey through time with the new Zagreb Time Travel app, which brings the city’s historic events and characters to life using augmented reality. Take a city tour of 14 at- tractions with Zagreb’s famous women leading you – it could be the iconic Barica from the market, writer Marija Jurić Zagorka, or literary character Dora Krupićeva. Solve quizzes and puzzles to learn more about Za- greb and snap photos with fun backdrops.
Where does Zagreb flock to on sunny weekends? To Medvednica Nature Park, the city’s most frequented countryside destination. Its highest peak is Sljeme, at an altitude of 1033 meters. A hiking trail all the way up is 7 km long and it takes about three hours, or less if you’re really fit. There are some 20 mountain huts and even more mountain shelters on Sljeme. The calories you burn climbing up can be restored by a delicious bowl of beans and sausage and savory or sweet strudel.

1. Medvedgrad fortress was built in 1254, initially to house the valuables of the church during war times, and later as a fortified defense of the town of Kaptol and its lands. In the early 15th century it became home to Barbara Celjska, known as ‘the Black Queen.’ According to legend, Barbara bathed in milk every day to preserve her beauty. She kept a giant raven and trained it to torture her subjects to death by tearing out their flesh and picking out their eyes.

2. Veternica cave is home to 14 protected species of bats. The cave itself is a protected geomorphological entity. The inside canals amount to a 71-km trail but only the first 380 meters are lit up and open for visits.

3. Zrinski mine first opened in the 16th century to extract silver. It’s open for guided visits on Sundays and holidays from 11am to 5pm. Dress in layers because temperatures inside the mine drop as low as 10-12 degrees Celsius.

4. Sljeme cable car ran from 1963 to 2007. There are plans currently underway to replace it with a new modern network that will run both upwards and downwards as well as along the opposite slope of Medvednica, facing Bistra in Zagorje.
Once an American friend of mine told me that Zagreb should be called the city of fabulous shoes. I couldn’t agree more. But it’s not only shoe shops that dot the streets of central Zagreb. There are all kinds of artisan boutiques that sell hats, leather accessories, umbrellas... and all those items are hand- and custom-made.

Fortunately, Zagreb was quick to realize that global brands and small local producers can and should coexist. That’s why shopping centers settled outside town while artisans continued to thrive in the center, in storefronts along streets such as Vlaška and Ilica. And because most of us get new shoes and clothes in September, the time now is perfect for a shopping spree. Here’s how to do it the Zagreb way.

Window shop for shoes until you find a perfect match. If nothing catches your fancy, swerve into an artisan shoe shop and get a custom-made pair. Next, go look for leather accessories to match the style and color. Pick a bag, a purse or a belt. Finally, to complete the look and feel of the old-world Zagreb, get a hat. Even if you don’t usually wear one, getting a handmade hat in Zagreb is one of the nicest souvenirs. Put it on, have a stroll around and then stop for a lazy coffee: now this is the kind of shopping we do in Zagreb.

Tip: Catch the best handmade hats at Cahun (Pod Zidom 8) and the best shoes at Zvonimir (Dalmatinska 12).
Flower Square - Zagreb’s living room

For locals, showing up at Flower Square or any of the nearby streets means bumping into a familiar face. This charming stretch of Zagreb is packed with cafés and bars. Even if you’ve come to meet one friend, you’ll probably run into and mingle with others, too. It’s like being in your own living room. For travelers, having coffee here is the best way to feel the true pulse of the city.

Flower Square
Though officially named after poet Petar Preradović, everyone calls it Flower Square because flower stands are part of its identity. It was constructed in 1897 and has been a bustling city hub ever since.

Ban Jelačić square

1. Bogovićeva Street
This street is the synonym for špica, a peak time when Zagreb locals strut around and then meet friends for a lazy coffee on Saturday, between 10am and 2pm.

2. Pluto
This is where you’ll find the relief of the beloved stray dog from page 1.

3. Oktogon
Zagreb’s first covered passageway was built in 1900. It connects Ilica with Flower Square and boasts a superb octagonal square with a stained-glass dome.

4. Bogdan Ogrizović Library
One of the liveliest libraries in town, this venue hosts many book readings and other literary events. It also has a large number of foreign language titles.

5. Petar Preradović
This military general had a heart of a romantic. During the Illyrian movement, he wrote some of the most memorable verses in Croatian. His statue that you’ll see on the square is a work of Ivan Rendić.

6. Orthodox Cathedral
Built in 1865/6, this Orthodox church is a work of two renowned architects: Franjo Klein and Hermann Bollé. Its style is a fusion of Romanesque and Byzantine architectural elements.

7. Shopping Center
Centar Cvjetni is the official name of this shopping center that opened in 2011. It features standard high street brands, food outlets, as well as the city’s most expensive underground parking.

8. Sister Baković Passage
This passage changed names so many times that even locals don’t know which is the official one. It’s a cozy walkway with cafés and shops, overlooked by beautiful balconies.

9. Cinema Europa
One of few remaining arthouse cinemas, Kino Europa showcases a dazzling Art Deco interior. With its eclectic film program, it won the Best European Cinema Award in 2016.

10. Tin Ujević
Tin is the most monumental lyrical figure of 20th-century Croatia. He followed in the steps of Rimbaud but later scorned the bourgeois mentality. Ujević is known as a whimsical bard, homeless by choice, who spent most of his time in cafés around Flower Square. The statue, by Vlado Radas, is a tribute to his work and life.

THE MOST USEFUL CARD
With Zagreb Card, tourists get free transport and access to over 80 attractions plus ticket discounts for more than 80 locations. The daily card is 98KN, a three-day card is 135KN. A ride on the funicular is included.

@zagrebcard.com
It's impossible to make use of all the delicious ripe fruit at the end of the summer – so we look for ways to process and preserve it as long as possible. Apples, pears, plums, quinces, peaches and figs...

Summer in a jar

Last minute

While Luftanje is still on, summer isn’t over. One of the best events of the season continues by the gazebo in Maksimir through September. Every weekend, watch movies on the green, dance the day away and enjoy open-air fun at Zagreb’s most popular park.

Airing out at Vidikovac

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