SENJ inyourpocket

2010/2011



Introducing Senj

Nestling at the foot of the Velebit mountains, the seaside town of Senj is in many ways the surprise package of the northern Adriatic. The alleyways of Senj's old town are a treasure trove of historical discoveries, while the region's stunningly varied geography provides a wealth of outdoor-adventure opportunities. And when it comes to the scenery, Senj is extraordinarily well-endowed. The Lika-Senj County contains more nature conservation areas than any other region in Croatia, with the Velebit mountains and the Plitvice Lakes counting among the many natural attractions that lie within day-trip range of town. Senj's wild hinterland provides unique access to a range of different climatic zones, with the brittle rockscapes and dry scrub of the Mediterranean rubbing up against the forests and meadows of continental Croatia. All of which provides the perfect setting for an active holiday, with opportunities for hiking, mountain-biking and rock climbing lying only minutes' away from the beach.

> Transport Restaurants Nightlife Sights Hotels

and a whole host of other useful information



Senj Harbour, Mile Mraković Mici

National holidays

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
April 4	Easter
April 5	Easter Monday
May 1	International Workers' Day
June 3	Corpus Christi
June 22	Anti Fascist Resistance Day
June 25	Statehood Day
August 5	Victory and Homeland
	Thanksgiving Day
August 15	Feast of the Assumption
October 8	Independence Day
November 1	All Saints' Day
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Saint Stephen's Day



Velebit Nature Park, Josip Tomaić

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Instant Senj

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Tourist information



Senj Tourist Board and Tourist Information Centre A-1, Stara



cesta 2, tel. (+385-53) 88 10 68, info@tz-senj.hr, www.tz-senj.

hr. June - September Open 08:00 - 21:00. October Open 08:00 - 14:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. November - December Open 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun. January - May Open 08:00 - 14:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

By bus

There are at least four daily buses (more in summer) from Zagreb, although not all of them follow the direct route described in "by car from Zagreb" below. Generally speaking, buses that travel via Rjeka to Senj take longer than those that use the motorway. If you have time to spare, however, it can be quite pleasant to catch a Zagreb-Rjeka bus, and spend a couple of hours looking around northwest Croatia's maritime capital before picking up one of the regular local buses which run down the coast to Senj.

By car

From Zagreb: Senj lies just over 160km from the Croatian capital, and with much of the route involving the marvel of modern road-building that is the A1 Zagreb-Split motorway, it's a smooth and straightforward ride. Even allowing for a coffee stop en route, it shouldn't take you more than two and a half hours. It's also a highly scenic journey, taking you through the sparsely-populated highlands of the Gorski Kotar before crossing the sheep-nibbled pastures of the Lika plateau. Leave the motorway at the Žuta Lokva exit and follow the signs for Senj. The road crosses the Vratnik Pass, where panoramic views of the Adriatic coast suddenly appear

From western Slovenia and Italy: Approaching from western Slovenia or Italy your best bet is to aim for the port city of Rjeka and then take the south-bound coast road from there. It's a stunning journey, with the road twisting its way around a series of inlets, and providing stunning views of the offshore islands.

By plane

Nearest airport to Senj is at Rijeka, although the number of flights to Rijeka from western cities is relatively small. Budget operator Air Berlin offer several flights to Rijeka from German cities.

Travellers from elsewhere in western Europe will have a greater choice of flights to Zagreb airport. Bus transfer from Zagreb airport to Zagreb bus station takes under one hour, from where you can follow one of the routes mentioned in 'by bus'.

By train

There are four trains a day from Zagreb to Rijeka. From Rijeka's train station it is an easy five-minute walk to the bus station, where you can pick up one of the regular bus services down the coast to Seni.

Approaching Sen from Slovenia is a swift and easy process, with two daily trains from Ljubljana to Rijeka (travel time 2hr 30min), followed by local bus.

Road help (HAK) tel. 987



Zdenko Vukelić

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Bura

If you ask the average Croat what first springs to mind when the name Senj is mentioned, then they'll probably say the Bura. This ice-cold northerly wind is a feature of the whole Adriatic coast, although it's around Senj that the Bura is considered to be at its strongest, frequently reaching speeds of over 200kph. The Bura is caused by the build up of cold air behind the rock wall of the Velebit range, before the accumulated pressure eventually forces it over the mountain passes and down towards the coast in great gusts. Although it is usually a north-easterly wind, the Bura in Senj can blow in more than one direction, powering its way both south down the coast and north towards Rijeka. The tight web of alleyways that makes up Senj's Old Town was always intended to provide shelter from the Bura's bonechilling blast. At its height the Bura can lift pedestrians off the pavement, knock over tall-sided vehicles, and capsize small boats. At such times you will find that ferry services are suspended, the bridge to Krk Island is closed, and large vehicles are ordered off the roads.

The effects of the Bura are by no means entirely negative. Unlike some other mountain winds, such as the Föhn in Austria and Switzerland, the Bura usually has a positive effect on human mood and a cleansing, reinvigorating effect on all-round health. This is especially true in spring, summer and autumn, when a more moderate Bura blows, bringing clean air and the invigorating aroma of mountain herbs and grasses.

Although more common in winter the Bura can occur at any time of year, and predicting its arrival is a major preoccupation of the local TV weather forecasts.



Symbol key

Air conditioning
 Credit cards accepted
 Live music
 Take away
 Child friendly
 Facilities for the disabled
 Non-smoking areas
 Casino
 Animal friendly
 Internet
 No Credit cards

Most of Senj's restaurants rely on freshly-caught fish, making this the ideal place in which to eat your way through the Adriatic coast's rich seafood repertoire. Senj's mountainous hinterland has a rather different culinary tradition, with roast lamb, succulent sausages and locally-grown vegetables forming the staple fare.

Senj

Buffet Senia Blaža Baromića 19, tel. (+385-53) 88 12 77, buffetsenia@yahoo.com. A solid and reliable menu of grilled fish and seafood served up in a homely woodenbench tavern. Senia's small outdoor terrace is something of an old-town oasis, overlooking residential alleys and a tiny rose garden. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. June - October Open 10:00 - 24:00. (40 - 100kn). € ↑

Konoba Lavlji dvor C-2, Petra Preradovića 2, tel. (+385-53) 88 17 38, Info@lavlji-dvor.hr, www.lavlji-dvor.hr. Arguably the town's stand-out restaurant when it comes to atmosphere, Lavlji Dvor spreads its tables across one of the town's most celebrated renaissance courtyards. The indoor dining room, complete with upright piano, antiquated gramophone and tables mounted on old Singer sowing-machine stands, is no less appealing. The extensive menu of pasta, meat and seafood lives up to the decor. ▶ April October Open 11:00 - 23:00. (35 - 150kn). 倒€

Konoba Stari Grad C-2, Uskočka 12, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 42. Underneath the bell tower of the Franciscan Church is one of Senj's most enjoyable dining venues, with a stone-clad interior stuffed with nautical nick-nacks, and wooden-bench seating on a shady outdoor terrace lined with potted shrubs. The food, with risottos, grilled white fish and Central-European-style schnitzels predominating, is good too.

▶ Open 08:30 - 22:00. June - October Open 09:00 - 24:00. (35 - 90kn). 圖圖圖

Konoba Tvrdava Nehaj I-3, Nehajski put 3, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 44/(+385-) 098 79 60 44. With wooden benches strewn around the groundfloor ambulatory of Senj's sixteenth-century castle, this is certainly one of the most evocative places to eat in town - although the non-conditioned fortress air means that it can get warm in summer (and correspondingly cold out of season). A straightforward and satisfyingly hearty menu of grilled fish and meat. ▶ April 15 - October 15 Open 10:00 - 24:00. (40 - 100kn). €

Konoba Val E-1, Ive Senjanina 25, tel. (+385-53) 88 19 60, 88 20 99/(+385-) 091 512 70 85. This attractive blue-shuttered building just above the main coastal road offers relaxing outdoor seating on a vine-shaded terrace, with the brooding form of Krk island running along the western horizon. The fish, seafood and lobster dishes are first class, and the wine list offers plenty of choice too. ▶ January - June Open 08:00 - 23:00. June - September 15 Open 08:00 - 24:00. (35 - 100kn). P↑

Krešimir B-3, Obala Dr. Franje Tudmana 10, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 47/(+385-) 098 43 13 25, restoran@ivana. hr, www.ivana.hr. Located at the top of a rather grand flight of steps, Krešimir occupies the ground floor of a former hotel, with a functional but smart dining room enlivened by a tropical fish tank and a scattering of model ships. Freshly-caught seafood is the main draw, although there is a full range of grilled meats as well. Local specialities including lamb or octopus cooked ispod peke (under an ember-covered lid) are available if you request them in advance - either call round in person or give them a ring. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. June - October Open 08:00 - 24:00. (50 - 100kn). P

McDado C-2, Ive Vlatkovića bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 27 30. Hole-in-the-wall snack food joint right in the centre of the Old Town, offering ćevapi, burgers and sandwiches to the local bar-hopping crowd. ▶ Open 09:00 - 14:00, 16:00 - 24:00. June 15 - September 15 Open 09:00 -14:00, 16:00 - 02:00.

Zagreb Pijavica 1, tel. (+385-53) 88 11 38/(+385-53) 88 25 33, info@restaurant-zagreb.hr, www.restaurant-zagreb.hr. Smart and roomy restaurant located above the main northbound coast road, with a large outdoor terrace offering memorable panorama of Senj and the sea. Dine on the best in seafood risottos, pastas, and fine white fish with dentex, sea bream and sea bass among the regular favourites. ▶ Open 11:00 - 20:00. June - October Open 11:00 - 23:00. (50 - 100kn). இ@P

Senjska Draga & Vratnik

Jablan Senjska Draga 19, tel. (+385-53) 76 40 22. Homely and unpretentious country restaurant with spit-roast lamb (janjetina) and suckling pig (odojak) available daily. Lamb is usually served with a side-order of crunchy spring onions. And you'll probably get a basket of crusty home-baked bread into the bargain. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. (30 - 70kn).

[P€⊗ ↑

Konoba Stric Luka Senjska Draga 28, tel. (+385-53) 76 40 90. Roast lamb and suckling pig are on the menu at this friendly little place just up the hill from Senj. The simple four-table interior is overlooked by a small display of Croatian army badges, and there's a vine-covered terrace outside, looking across the street to meadows and orchards. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Mon 13:00 - 21:00. €⊗↑

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www.inyourpocket.com

Sveti Juraj

Hazienda Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 30 69/(+385-) 098 167 28 97. info@restaurant-hazienda.com. www. restaurant-hazienda.com. On the coast-hugging route south of town, this sunny roadside pavilion has superb views of the offshore islands and a solid menu of Adriatic seafood favourites - order the two-person riblia fritura (fried fish platter) to sample a selection of the fresh catch. There's a wide-ranging list of Croatian wines although it's the white Žlahtinas from nearby Krk that take pride of place. > Open 08:00 - 22:00. June - October Open 08:00 - 24:00. (40 -150kn). (((₹)) ((150kn)). (((150kn)).

Konoba Gušti Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-) 091 536 36 12. Port-side place with a spacious, awning-covered terrace, and a view of the rocky školi (small island) that rises on the far side of Sveti Jurai's small bay. Tuck in to the trusty menu of meat and fish. Dopen 07:00 - 22:00. July, August 07:00 -01:00.

Konoba Kiko Nade Babić 46, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 32 92. Slightly set back from the seafront, this seafood-and-pizza restaurant has an outdoor terrace set beside a stream - so you can listen to both the gurgle of fresh water and the lapping of the Adriatic at the same time. With lines of bench seating set either side of the main entrance, it's a good place to simply hang out with a drink too. Food served during the summer only. > Open 07:00 - 23:00. (40 - 250kn). (₩€(X) 🗇

Konoba Mul Sveti Juraj 43, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 30 07. Seafront restaurant serving up a flavoursome array of grilled fish, shellfish and squid risottos. Featuring crazy paving and a dolphin mosaic, the outdoor terrace looks directly out onto Sveti Juraj's small-boat harbour. > June -September Open 06:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 06:00 - 01:00. October - May Open 07:00 - 22:00.

Jablanac

Lux Obala B. Šubića bb, Jablanac, tel. (+385-53) 88 70 69. A solid repertoire of Adriatic fish and grilled meats served up on an expansive terrace situated right next to Jablanac ferry dock. It's a relaxing place from which to observe the arrivals and departures of the Rab catamaran. Den 07:00 - 24:00. Closed December 20 - January 20. (20 - 400kn). **இ©P©T**

Krasno

Bistro Libertas Krasno bb, Krasno, tel. (+385-53) 85 **10 66.** Family-run cafe and restaurant conveniently sited on the way to the Krasno pilgrimage church, with a conservatorystyle dining room and a reliable menu of grilled meats and home-made sausages. There may well be a spit-roast lamb smoking away on the outdoor terrace if you arrive on summer weekends. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. (25 - 160kn). P €

Rizik Krasno 27, Krasno, tel. (+385-53) 85 11 51. Attractive half-timbered building near the western end of the village with a solid menu of local cuisine and a well-stocked bar. With good view of the surrounding hills, it's a great place to soak in the scenery. May - November Open 06:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 06:00 - 24:00. (25 - 150kn). P۩↑

More restaurants...

Senjska Draga & Vratnik

Konoba Josephina Senjska Draga bb, tel. (+385-) 099 681 87 59. Den 08:00 - 22:00.

Konoba Putnik Vratnik 51, tel. (+385-53) 76 40 15. Open 08:00 - 22:00. Closed December - January. (40 -150kn). [P] 🖎 🗇

Seni

Bistro Potok C-3, Potok 2, tel. (+385-) 091 288 15 28. April - November Open 11:00 - 23:00. (50 - 100kn).

Bistro Tropicana C-2, Dvorac 3, tel. (+385-) 098 942

Buffet Čempres J-1, Kapetana Knežića 25, tel. (+385-**53) 88 25 73.** • Open 07:00 - 22:00. (30 - 200kn). ₽€⊗₸

Konoba Adria Sv. Jelena bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 26 **59.** April - October Open 08:00 - 22:00. (30 - 70kn).

Konoba Gajeta G-2, Škver bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 66, kamp skver@yahoo.com. May - November Open 12:00 - 23:00. (50 - 100kn). P (3)

Konoba Lovro G-2, Damira Tomljanovića Gavrana 6, tel. (+385-53) 88 22 75. Dopen 07:00 - 23:00. (30 -110kn). **P**€(**3**) 🗇

Sveti Jurai

Bistro Riva Selo bb, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 31 **59.** ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. (25 - 150kn). இ€⊗

Lukovo

Porat Lukovo bb, Lukovo, tel. (+385-53) 61 54 00. June - September 10 Open 10:00 - 24:00.

Starigrad

Konoba Marin Bralići 44, Starigrad, tel. (+385-53) **61 52 26.** May - November Open 07:00 - 22:00. (40 -90kn). 働€©1

Stinica

Buffet Rukavina Stinica bb. tel. (+385-) 091 111 57 11. April - June 19, September Open 08:00 - 13:00, 16:00 - 20:00. June 20 - August 31 Open 07:00 - 02:00.

Jablanac

Oaza Karoline Mihanovića 4, Jablanac, tel. (+385-53) 88 72 23/(+385-) 098 60 67 45. Open May - September.

Krasno

Bistro Adrijana Krasno bb, tel. (+385-53) 85 12 05. March - November Open 07:00 - 23:00. (55 - 120kn).

Bistro Manjan Krasno 109, Krasno, tel. (+385-53) 85 **10 14.** ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. (30 - 150kn). €(3)

Konoba Jure Krasno Kula 165, Krasno, tel. (+385-**53) 85 11 00.** Deen 08:00 - 23:00. (30 - 70kn). **®P€**

Seni is rumoured to have more bars in proportion to its population than any other town in Croatia. A guick tour of the old-town streets reveals a cosy café-bar joint on almost every corner, each hosting a knot of chatty locals. There's a growing number of swanky drinking joints appealing to more cosmopolitan tastes, especially during the tourist season.

Bony C-2, Stari trg 3, tel. (+385-53) 88 40 07. A snug corner café containing a couple of tables overlooked by charming wood-carved panels, Bony's main advantage is the outdoor bench-seating in a quiet pedestrianized corner of the old town. Doen 07:00 - 14:00, 17:00 - 23:00, Sun 07:00 - 14:00. June - October Open 07:00 - 14:00, 17:00 -01:00. 🕸 🕸 🗂

Kod tri mornara C-2, Ive Vlatkovića 2. Right on the seafront and with an outdoor terrace that is partially covered, this is the ideal place to gaze out at the Adriatic while enjoying a degree of protection from the elements at the same time. Open 07:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00. June - October Open 07:00 - 02:00. 图风丁

Križ C-3. Pavlinski trg 13. Križ is slightly set back from the main square but still enjoying good square-side views and plenty of tree-cover for its outdoor terrace. The neat interior makes imaginative use of limited space, with soft benches and funky cushions creating a mini lounge-bar feel. June - September Open 07:00 - 02:00. October - May Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Mirakul C-3. Pavlinski trg bb. Bright and refreshing cafébar with mood-enhancing red and cream décor and a healthy cross-section of locals. This is one of the prime end-of-theday, beginning-of-the-evening spots for watching the ebb and flow of life on the main square. > June - September Open 06:00 - 02:00. October - May Open 06:00 - 23:00.

Uskok C-3, Križ 6. Right at the back of the main square but still at the heart of things, Uskok mixes mat-black benches, purple walls and a light-studded ceiling to create the ideal atmosphere for a quiet relaxing drink. Dopen 07:00 - 22:00. June 15 - August 31 Open 07:00 - 01:00.



Banja Beach bar H-3, Banja beach. Al-fresco drinks and cocktails in a perfect shore-side location, with a big circular outdoor bar right beside Senj's Banja beach. A great place from which to observe the sun setting behind the island of Krk, it stays open round the clock in summer and is frequently the place where revellers from Magnus (see below) end up for an early-hours after-party. June 15 - September 15 Open 00:00 - 24:00.

Bilao C-2, Ive Vlatkovića 13, tel. (+385-53) 88 28 05. With plush green-benched booths, relaxing purply-brown colour scheme and attractive wall-mounted artwork, this is a fine place to relax over coffee during the day - when the clientele can range from high-school kids to adult professional types. A nightly influx of stylish youth make this a good place to kick off an evening. > Open 07:00 - 23:00. Fri. Sat 07:00 -02:00. July - September Open 07:00 - 02:00. 🗇

Magnus C-2/3, Kolan 10. Hosting DJ parties and live gigs by Croatia's pop aristocracy, Magnus isn't just the top club in Senj, it's also something of a nightlife focus for the whole of the northern Adriatic. It's an impressive place, with a lofty, pillared interior harbouring three bars, canopied settees, private enclosures and plenty of dance-floor space. Affordable drink prices, an extensive cocktail list and a menu of classy snack food add to the appeal. Open Fri, Sat, Sun 22:00 05:00. May - October Open 22:00 - 05:00. (*)

Mališa C-3, Križ 14. Crossing the threshold of Mališa is a bit like passing into another world, with frescoes of some southsea paradise stretching across the walls, bits of bamboo figuring strongly in the furnishings, and friendly-looking alligators scurrying towards the ceiling. Plush houseplants overlook a slightly sunken area illuminated by what look like airport landing lights. Expect music from Latino to Balkan folk-pop, and a lively local crowd. > Open 07:00 - 04:00.

Mališa Lounge Bar H-3, Obala Dr. Franje Tuđmana 8, www.hotel-libra.hr. The Hotel Libra's roomy lobby bar mixes black-and-white minimalism with discreet warm touches, with fluffy balls hanging from the ceiling, and art-nouveau-style rose motifs on the pillars. A quartet of TV screens ensure that you stand little chance of missing whatever's on Fashion TV or the sports channels, although you can always escape to the first-floor terrace and its excellent view of Senjs's harbour. Expect a good range of shots and cocktails, as well as icecream and cake fare for the daytime coffee crowd. > Open 07:00 - 02:00. 回行

Meduza G-2, Škver bb. This snazzy glass-fronted pavilion right beside the municipal beach is a good spot for a waterside drink. Sink into a bowl-like wicker chair and admire the wallmounted pictures of prowling lions and galloping elephants. There's also a healthy sprinkling of model ships just to remind you that you're at the seaside. > May - September 15 Open 08:00 - 02:00. Fri. Sat 08:00 - 04:00.

O'Connors Pub C-3, Potok 7a, tel. (+385-) 098 923 91 16. Quaint and comfortable pub-style bar with a cluster of cast-iron street lamps sprouting from the tables. The outdoor seating in a small old-town square makes for one of Senj's more popular venues for night-time supping. Bottled beers such as Erdinger and Guinness add variety to the liquid menu. Den 07:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00. From July - September Open 07:00 - 02:00.

Lost the beat? senj.inyourpocket.com Senj is a compact place full of historical resonances, with a tight web of narrow, pedestrian-only streets running past handsome-looking mansions and crumbling medieval fortifications. The town's lively harbour offers mesmerising views of the bare, otherworldly flanks of islands such as Krk, Prvić and Goli just across the water. Stroll along the seafront after nightfall and you'll catch the northern horizon all a-twinkle, with the lights of nearby resort towns Novi Vinodolski and Crikvenica illuminating the mainland shore.

Essential Senj



Nehaj Fortress (Tvrđava Nehaj) 1-3, Nehajeva bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 77, gradskl.muzej.senj@ gs.t-com.hr. Dominating the horizon south of Senj is the hilltop fortress of Nehaj, a monumental sixteenthcentury cube of grey-brown stone embellished by a bouquet of dramaticallysprouting corner towers.

It was built between 1550 and 1558 on the orders of Ivan Lenković, who as the Habsburg-appointed Captain of Senj was charged with turning the town into an impregnable bastion of the Empire's anti-Ottoman defences. Any houses, churches and monasteries lying outside Senj's town walls were demolished in order to provide enough stone for the new castle's construction. Featuring walls which are three-and-a-half metres thick at the base (and two metres thick further up), it's no wonder that the resulting fortress was nicknamed Nehaj - a dialect word which loosely translates as "No worries!". Nehaj was usually manned by a Germanspeaking garrison loyal to the Habsburg Emperor, while the local Uskoks were based in the town below.

The fortress is a simple but effective construction consisting of a single keep-like tower with two storeys of gun positions and an open parapet at the top.



The history display inside makes imaginative use of Senj's turbulent past, beginning on the groundfloor with engravings of the religious buildings demolished to make way for Nehaj's construction. There are also several poignant photographs showing the churches destroyed or damaged during the bombing raids of World War II. An oval of ancient stones on the south side of the ground-floor ambulatory reveals the outline of the eleventh-century Church of St George, sacrificed during Lenković's demolish-and-build campaign.



Nehai Fortress, Zdenko Vukelić

On the first floor are costumed dummies clad in the traditional dress of sixteenth-century Uskoks, with knobbly-handled pistols and sabre-like yatagan swords sticking out of the waist sashes of the moustachioed men-folk. There is also a fascinating relief map of Senj as it looked in the seventeenth century - which shows how little the town's maze of narrow alleys has changed in the intervening centuries. Look out for a real-size relief of Ivan Lenković (a copy of his tomb in the Slovene town of Novo Mesto), showing him in full body armour and wielding a mace to symbolize his authority. A tunnelled stairway leads to the second floor, where a pair of cannon point mutely out to sea. A further climb leads to the open parapet, with fantastic views of the coast and islands. May - June, September - October Open 10:00 - 18:00. July - August Open 09:00 - 21:00. November - April Open by prior arrangement. Admission 10 -20kn.

The town walls (Gradske zidine) Senj was a heavily-fortified town from the Middle Ages onwards, and its walls were strengthened and expanded during the sixteenth century when the Ottoman threat was at its height. The best-preserved stretch of town wall is on the northern side of town, beginning with the Papinska Utvrda or "Pope's Tower" at the northwest. This barrel-shaped bastion was begun in 1513 using money donated by Pope Leo X, who was eager to protect the Christian Adriatic from possible conquest from the Ottoman Turks. A toothy stretch of wall continues east from here, passing the quadrangular Tribenac Tower before arriving at the sandcastle-shaped Lipica Tower, the crown of which is currently being renovated and returned to its former glory.

Moving over to the south side of town, the cylindrical bastions of the **Kastel** or main command building can be seen overlooking the Kolan, a sixteenth-century storm drain that also functioned as a moat.

The southwestern extent of the former town wall is marked by the **Šabac Tower** on the seafront, now occupied by the Harbourmaster's office.

Museums

The Museum of Church Art (Sakralna baština Senj) C-1, Trg Clmiter 7, tel. (+385-53) 88 21 09. Accessed through an arched gateway watched over by a carved Uskok head, the Museum of Church Art occupies the lower floor of the former palace of Senj's historically powerful bishops. The exhibition rooms are at the bottom of a carefully-tended terraced garden, with an apricot tree standing centre stage.

Inside lies a glittering array of gold and silver churchware, including a locally-crafted fifteenth-century processional cross bearing a relief of a lamb surrounded by symbols of the apostles. Look out too for the Venetian-made Crozier of Bishop Kristofor, embellished with figures of saints and a lamb inside the curled-over point of the staff. Occupying a display case all to themselves are the appropriately chunky-looking keys to Klis Fortress, the castle just outside Split that was re-taken by Senj's Uskoks in 1596. Elsewhere in the museum, locals are particularly proud of a white papal cap that once belonged to Pope John Paul II, and was brought to Senj by a Croatian priest who had spent much of the communist period living in exile in Rome. Running around the walls of the main display area are 24 portraits of Senj's bishops through the ages, beginning with black-hatted, bushy-bearded Bishop Agatić who took office in 1617. Rounding things off is the recreated sitting-room of nineteenth-century Bishop Ožegović, featuring the fine Second-Empire furniture he Sun and by prior arrangement. July 15 - September Open 09:00 - 12:00, 18:00 - 20:00. Admission 5 - 10kn.



Nehai Fortress. The Town Museum

The Town Museum (Gradski muzei Seni) B-2. Milana Ogrizovića 5. tel. (+385-53) 88 11 41. gradski. muzej.senj@gs.t-com.hr. Senj's Town Museum occupies the Gothic-Renaissance palace of the Vukasović family, a beautifully restored building with wooden-beamed ceilings and atmospherically creaky staircases. The museum's pride and joy is the brand-new display of Roman-ea amphorae in the basement, where a recreated seabed scene shows how these shipwrecked ancient vessels looked when the marine archeologists first found them. Three more floors of exhibits follow, showcasing Seni's importance as a spiritual centre from the Middle Ages onwards. Occupying pride of place is the so-called Senj Tablet (Senjska ploča), a fractured piece of stone bearing a twelfth-century inscription in the Glagolitic script. Built into a staircase in the Nehaj fortress, the tablet probably originally belonged to a medieval monastery demolished to provide Nehaj with construction

materials. Senj was a major centre of Galagolitic printing during the Renaissance, recalled here by a collection of old books and facsimiles. Several rooms pay moving tribute to those Senj citizens who served during the Homeland War of 1991-1995. The display culminates with a room devoted to the Bunjevci, Croats who originally lived in the river Buna area (Herzegovina) but were dispersed in the aftermath of the Ottoman invasion. Today, descendants of the Bunjevci live in three main locations: the Senj region, the hinterland of Dalmatia, and the area around Subotica in northern Serbia. Characteristically colourful Bunjevci costumes are beautifully displayed here, alongside embroidery, tufted rugs and other traditional handicrafts.

Open 07:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun. August - September Open 07:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 12:00, 18:00 - 20:00. Admission 10 - 20kn.



The Town Museum

Landmarks

Cilnica Square (Trg Cilnica) D-2. Once Senj's set-piece town square, Cinlica at the eastern end of the Old Town is nowadays a grubby car park and no longer fulfils the central role in civic life it did in the past. Occupying its eastern side is the sixteenth-century Kastel, the Captain of Senj's residence and the nerve-centre of the Habsburg Empire's frontier defences. Under nineteenth-century Bishop Mirko Ožegović the building was turned into a boarding school for disadvantaged children. The school was known as the Ozegovicianum, and an inscription bearing that name can still be seen running along the façade today. Converted into

SIGHTS SIGHTS 1

residential flats after World War II, the building was returned to the church in 2009 and its long-term future is currently being debated.



Cilnica Square, Zdenko Vukelič

In the centre of the Cilnica is the hexagonal fountain erected by Major Kajetan Knezić, the Croatian military engineer responsible for renovating the Karlovac-to-Senj Jozefinska cesta in the 1830s.

The Large Gate (Velika vrata) D-2. Senj's Large
Gate was erected in 1779



to commemorate the completion of one of the great engineering feats of the age, the so-called Jozefinska cesta or "Josephine Road". Running over the mountains from Karlovac to Senj, the road was built by order of Habsburg Emperor Joseph Il in order to open up the port of Senj to continental trade. Joseph himself visited the area to supervise the planning of the route, staying in Senj at the Vukasović Mansion (now home to the

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Town Museum). Begun in 1775, the road took three and a half years to build and required hundreds of locally-recruited labourers.

Marking the road's final destination, the gate takes the form of a simple archway bearing the inscription Josephinae Finis, with distances marked in old German miles on the left-hand side of the portal. The German mile was a rather cumbersome unit of measurement adding up to roughly 7.5 of today's kilometres - hence the distance from Vienna to Senj is marked here as 63 miles.

The road still ranks as the shortest route from Central Europe to the Adriatic - although with the construction of modern two-lane highways elsewhere, it is hardly the quickest.

Curiosities

The Sundial (Sunčanik) F-1. Senj is situated right on the 45th parallel, meaning that it lies exactly half way between the Equator and the North Pole. It's a statistic celebrated in the form of a large concrete sundial, which stands in a small seaside park near the northern entrance to the town. Designed by Zagreb sculptor Josip Cmrok, the sundial takes the form of a horned crescent held aloft by a stocky column - a shape inspired by the Glagolitic letter 'S'. There's a good view of Senj from the sundial, making it a popular stop-off for camera-wielding holidaymakers driving down the coastal highway.

Uskok heads Many of the historic houses in Senj's Old Town feature tiny sculpted heads emerging from the wall just above the doorway. Celebrating the Uskok families who once lived there, they usually sport the bushy moustaches and cylindrical caps that were part and parcel of the Uskok look. Some of



the best examples can be found gracing the entrances to the Museum of Church Art, the house at Daničićeva 6, and the house at Augusta Šenoe 2.

Churches

Cathedral of the Ascension (Katedrala Marijina Uznesenja) C-1, Trg Cimiter, tel. (+385-53) 88 10 43.

Senj's principal place of worship is thought to date from the eleventh century, and fragments of Romanesque brickwork can still be seen on the lower parts of the west-facing façade. The Cathedral was severely damaged in the Allied bombing raids of September 1943, after which the exterior was reconstructed in a selection of different materials thereby explaining the building's current mix-and-match appearance.

Inside, each row of pews is engraved with a character from the Glagolitic alphabet (those on the left-hand side spell out the words 'Katedrala Senj', just in case you're wondering). Decorating the pillars on either side of the nave is a series of wooden reliefs illustrating the Stations of the Cross, carved in 1958 by Ivan Kozarić, a leading Croatian sculptor more famous for his abstract work (such as the enigmatic bronze-coloured sphere that adorns the pedestrian zone in the centre of Zagreb). Main highlight on the left side of the nave is the baroque Altar of the Angels, with Raphael the Healer in the centre, and St Michael spearing a frowny-faced demon to his right. The curtained glass cabinet beneath the altar contains the mummified remains of an early Christian martyr brought here from the catacombs in Rome. Posed in a reclining position with head propped up on an elbow, the centuries-old shrivelled corpse looks as if it is relaxing at a country picnic. Nearby, an ornate baroque pulpit dating from 1757 bulges from a pillar like a gilded fungus. Over on the opposite side of the nave is a charming nineteenth-century effigy of the Virgin and Child mounted on a canopied trolley, traditionally paraded around town on the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16 July).

One of the cathedral's most revered artefacts is the renaissance relief of the Holy Trinity immediately to the right of the main entrance as you face the altar. Dating from 1491, the relief bears a touching portrayal of the Crucified Christ alongside the earliest known stone-carved example of a šahovnica, the chequerboard pattern that appears on the Croatian coat of arms.

Across the square from the cathedral, past the free-standing belfry, look out for the charming figurine of Suffering Jesus placed half way up the wall of a renaissance house. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00, 16:00 - 17:00.

Church of St Mary of Art (Crkva sv. Marije od Arta) H-3, Park senjskih književnika. Presiding over a seaside park on the Art peninsula just south of town, the Church of St Mary was built in the mid-eighteenth-century as a votive church for sailors eager to give thanks to the Virgin for ensuring their safety at sea. It's an undeniably attractive building, with a stepped triple-bell tower rising above a sloping entrance porch. Inside there's a handsome trio of baroque altars, and a collection of intricately-detailed model ships hanging from the ceiling.

The remains of the Church of St Francis (Ostaci crkve sv Franje) C-2, Svetog Franje. Originally located afew steps away from Seni's cathedral, this church was built

by Captain Ivan Lenković in 1558 to compensate the Franciscans for the loss of their monastery outside the city walls, demolished in order to provide building materials for the Nehaj Fortress. The church was so badly damaged by allied bombing in 1943 that it had to be demolished, and today only the bell tower still remains. A rectangle of grass marks the original ground plan of the church.

Parks

Writers' Park (Park senjskih književnika) H-3. Spread out beside the Church of St Mary of Art is this shady sea-side park, site of a cluster of busts and statues celebrating some of Senj's greatest cultural figures. Alongside Pitter Viterović (Sen Statues & Manumesta), the most

celebrating some of Senj's greatest cultural figures. Alongside Ritter-Vitezović (see Statues & Monuments), the most prominent personalities honoured here are poet Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević and novelist Vjenceslav Novak. Walk to the southern end of the park to enjoy fine views of the nearby fishing port of Sveti Juraj, with the Velebit mountains hovering haughtly above.

Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević (1865-1908)

One of Croatia's greatest poets, the Seni-born Kraničević boycotted his final school exams to express solidarity with friends who had been expelled, leaving him without that crucial passport to education and career advancement - a high-school diploma. Despite passing through teachertraining college in Zagreb, he was disqualified from teaching in Croatia itself, and was assigned to schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina instead, teaching in Livno and Mostar before settling in Sarajevo. Kranjčević wrote complex and rather dark lyric poetry with philosophical themes, although there was a strong patriotic underlay to all of his writings. One poem that almost all Seni schoolchildren know by heart is Kraničević's 1884 Seniu-gradu ("To the Town of Seni") in which Senj's heroic past is contrasted with the the current predicament of the Croatian people - then languishing in the Hungarian-administered half of the Habsburg Empire.

Vjenceslav Novak (1859-1905)

Born in Senj to Czech-Bavarian parents, Novak was Croatia's most prolific realist novelist of the nineteenth century. He is best remembered for Posljednji Stipančići ("The Last of the Stipančićs"), a family saga set in nineteenth-century Senj that makes considerable use of Senj's heroic-patriotic heritage.

Statues & Monuments

Blaž Baromić A bust outside the south wall of Seni Cathedral honours Blaž Baromić, founder of Seni's famous printing press - thought to be the first press in Croatia used for printing books in the Glagolitic script. Baromić was probably born some time in the 1440s in Vrbnik on Krk, a major centre of Glagolitic manuscript production. However the Krk Cathedral authorities were increasingly turning towards the Latin script in Baromić's time, so he relocated to Senj where enthusiasm for Glagolitic was still strong. Eager to apply the new technology of printing to the promotion of the Glagolitic script. Baromić went to Venice to learn the trade. producing his first Glagolitic prayer book there in 1493. He returned to Seni armed with the latest printing equipment in 1494, establishing a Glagolitic press that produced a series of beautifully crafted books until closing in around 1508. Baromić himself designed the fonts, producing an elegant

print-ready alphabet that included so-called 'broken ligatures' - one-and-a-half character blocks of print that could be strung together in a way that imitated the fluidity of a hand-written manuscript. The books produced by Baromić were in many ways the design classics of their time, and although none of the original copies remain in Senj itself, it's well worth visiting the Town Museum to have a look at their facsimiles.

Nikola Jurišić (1490-1545) Set beneath a tree near the Large Gate is a bust commemorating the Nikola Jurišić Nesenj-born military man who was a major player in the Austrian-Croatian struggle to hold back the Ottoman Turks. Jurišić's finest hour came in 1532, when he led the defence of the Hungarian frontier fortress of Köszeg against a significantly larger Ottoman force led in person by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. Repeated Ottoman attacks proved ineffective (some say that the miraculous intervention of St Martin prevented the townfromfalling), and a disgruntled Suleyman gave up after 25 days. Emperor Ferdinand presented Jurišić with the town of Köszeg as a reward. Jurišić subsequently served as court advisor and imperial emissary to the Ottoman Empire.

Pavao Ritter Vitezović (1652-1713) Adorning a fountain in front of the town museum is a bust of one of Senj's most compelling characters, the writer, publisher and all-round action man Pavao Ritter-Vitezović. Born the son of a Habsburg officer from Lorraine, Ritter-Vitezović grew up in Senj before studying in Zagreb and travelling extensively in Europe. He served as assistant to the great Slovene researcher and publisher Janez Vajkard Valvasor, whose geographical tomes, richly illustrated with copper engravings, inspired the young Ritter with a lifelong love of books and book production.

Vitezović also represented Senj in the Hungarian parliament of 1681, securing a charter of municipal rights that offered the town a degree of protection from the pillage-hungry local Habsburg garrison.

Vitezović served against the Ottoman Turks in southern Hungary in 1683, an experience that helped inspire his epic poem The Relief of Siget, published in Linz in 1684. The work eulogized the heroic deeds of Croatian aristocrat Nikola Šubić Zrinski, who had died defending the fortress of Siget against the Ottomans in 1556. Vitezović's book was clearly intended as a patriotic rallying cry at a time when Croatian interests seemed to be increasingly ignored by the Austrian court.

Vitezović set up a printing press in Zagreb in 1694, publishing his own Kronika aliti spomen vsega svieta vikov ("Chronicle or Remembrance of the Whole World's Centuries") two years later. Deliberately written in Croatian instead of Latin in order to ensure a wide readership, the Chronicle was an attempt to write a history of the world in which the sufferings of the Croats were placed centre stage. Vitezović was awarded an estate outside Zagreb by a benefactor, but disputes over ownership forced him to return to Vienna in 1710, where he died in poverty three years later.

Boat excursions

Pasadur tel. (+385-)098 23 71 45.

Senj is a good base for trips to the neighbouring islands, with a couple of local companies offering boat excursions during the summer season. Popular destinations include the beaches and medieval towns of Rab and Krk, and the memorial site at Goli Otok - the notorious labour camp which housed political prisoners during the communist period.

Gramex tel. (+385-)098 74 03 69.

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HOTELS 1

Symbol key

- Air conditioning
- Casino
- ★ Child friendly
- Crilla menaly
- Internet
- ★ Fitness centre
- Restaurant
- __ Sauna
- Conference facilities

 Facilities for the disabled

cc Credit cards accepted

- Guarded parkingNon-smoking rooms
- ▲ Animal friendly
- Swimming pool



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There's a handful of hotels in the Senj area, and a huge stock of private rooms and apartments - almost everyone on this stretch of coast rents out rooms to tourists over the summer. The coast around Senj is also known for its campsites, many of which occupy stunning seaside locations. However the ground tends to be on the stony side, and tent-campers will need tungsten-steel tent-pegs hammered in by a mallet the size of a small tree unless they want to be blown away by Senj's notorious bura wind.

Hotels

Ablana Obala B. Šubića 1, Jablanac, tel. (+385-53) 88 72 16, fax (+385-53) 88 72 17, hotel-ablana@ email.t-com.hr. A brutish modern lump it may be, but don't let that colour your perceptions of the comforts that lie within. Rooms are plush in an old-fashioned, grey-carpet kind of way, and come with small TVs and DVD players. The views are outstanding whichever part of the building you're in, with maritime vistas to the west and the Velebit massif to the east. The original eleventh-century tower next to the reception desk provides unique historical interest, and there is a rock-and-concrete bathing platform down the steps from the front door. Prices are per person. ▶ 26 rooms (1 singles €40 - 64, 21 doubles €28 - 54, 4 triples €35 - 60).

Art H-3, Obala kralja Zvonimira 4, tel. (+385-53) 88 43 77/(+385-53) 88 43 78, 88 43 79, fax (+385-53) 88 84 79, fax (+385-53) 88 84 76, hotelart@coning.hr, www.coning.hr. Portside bed-and-breakfast hotel offering simply-decorated rooms with small T Vs, and excellent views of Senj harbour if you're lucky enough to get a northwest-facing room. Some rooms have space for an extra child bed, and there are several family rooms with a double bed for mum and dad and two small singles for the kids. ▶ Open April - October.24 rooms (24 singles 269 - 384kn, 24 doubles 310 - 412kn, 24 triples 381 - 489kn). [☑[P] ★★

Libra B-3, Obala Dr. Franje Tudmana 8, tel. (+385-53) 88 10 51, fax (+385-53) 88 11 95, hotel-libra@hotel-libra. hr, www.hotel-libra.hr. This harbourfront hotel began life as a communist-era eyesore but has been tastefully refurbished over the last couple of years. Rooms come in eye-catching shades of chocolate and red, and most of the double rooms have sea-facing balconies - while north-facing single rooms have a birds-eye view of the main square. With a beauty parlour, a smart café-bar and a good-quality restaurant, this is a good place to base your holiday. ▶ 39 rooms (12 singles €56 - 65, 24 doubles €46 - 55, 3 apartments €180 - 198). Prices are per person. ❷ ③ ★□ → □

Private accomodation

Rooms (sobe) and apartments (apartmani) get booked up quickly in summer, and seeking out the vacancies that remain can be a time-consuming process. The best way to secure a bed is to contact one of the following agencies before you arrive.

Aleniva Otinja 29, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 30 33/ (+385-) 098 189 24 46, iva.rukavina2@skole.hr, www. aleniva.hr.

June - September Open 14:00 - 21:00.

Brana Tours Ivana Lenkovića 10/I, tel. (+385-53) 88 13 67/(+385-) 098 938 96 79, info@brana-tours.hr, www.brana-tours.hr. ▶ May 15 - September 15 Open 09:00 - 12:00, 18:00 - 22:00.

Euromilok Sv.Jelena 89, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 50, euromilok@post.t-com.hr. ▶ May - October Open 09:00 - 20:00.

Gema Riječka cesta 31d, tel. (+385-53) 88 41 30, info@ gema-senj.hr, www.gema-senj.hr. ▶ August - September Open 09:00 - 22:30.

Goldie Obala kralja Zvonimira 15, tel. (+385-53) 88 14 00. goldie.tours@gs.t-com.hr.

Komet Ive Senjanina 21, tel. (+385-53) 88 12 61, komet1@gs.t-com.hr. ► April - October Open 08:00 -

Madi Tours Obala V. Nazora bb, Karlobag, tel. (+385-53) 69 41 95/(+385-) 091 579 95 11, 091 760 63 57, info@madi-tours.hr, www.madi-tours.hr. ▶ June - October Open 07:00 - 22:00.

Krasno

Degenija Krasno polje 58, tel. (+385-53) 85 10 07. ▶ Open March - October.27 rooms (3 singles 130 - 260kn, 16 doubles 130 - 260kn, 7 triples 130 - 260kn, 1 quads 130 - 260kn).

Muzej šumarstva (Forestry Museum) Krasno bb. Krasno, tel. (+385-53) 85 11 16/(+385-) 098 45 05 59, sumarska-kuca-krasno@hrsume.hr. Located in the same building as Krasno's forestry museum (see p. 27), the accommodation on offer comprises ground-level 4-person apartments with fully-equipped kitchen-diners and large, parquet-floored bedrooms. Upstairs are neat and cosy double rooms with sloping attic ceilings and skylight windows. There is also a meeting room for those who want to book the place for a mini-conference or work-related get-together. Another accommodation unit by the same management is Sumarska kuća (Foresters' House) in the immediate vicinity, with 11 more double rooms and three apartments. > 4 rooms (2 doubles 220 - 280kn, 2 apartments 360 - 500kn), P € (3) Pansion Jure Krasno 158, tel. (+385-53) 85 10 00.

▶ 50 dorm beds, 100 - 130kn per person.



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Riva N.Babića 2, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 36 14/ (+385-) 098 32 83 79. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. June - October Open 06:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 06:00 - 01:00.

San Nade Babića 11, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 33 13, san-tourist@inet.hr. ▶ June - October Open 07:30 - 22:00.

Senia Tours Obala Dr. Franje Tudmana bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 21 14, senia.tours@gs.t-com.hr, www.seniatours.com. ▶ June, September Open 08:00 - 12:00, 17:00 - 21:00. July, August Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Škver Škver bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 66, kamp_skver@ yahoo.com. ▶ May - November Open 08:00 - 21:00.

Stinica Tours Mršići bb, Jablanac, tel. (+385-53) 88 76 05/(+385-) 098 990 03 94. ▶ Open May - October 07:00 - 22:00.

Suzy Abatovo 1, tel. (+385-53) 891 07 40/(+385-) 091 593 36 12, suzy-senj@net.hr, www.suzy-senj.hr. ▶ June, September Open 10:00 - 20:00. July, August Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Camping

Bunica I Bunica 33, Senj, tel. (+385-53) 61 67 16. Squeezed into one half of a bay 4km north of Senj, this site has verdant patches of grass and a wonderful pair of secluded, clean pebble beaches. ▶ Open June - September.

Bunica V Bunica 9, Senj, tel. (+385-53) 61 67 18. Occupying the other half of the same bay as Bunica I, Bunica V is arguably the most attractively landscaped of the sites, with camping plots divided by bits of hedge and a terraced garden under the trees. Enjoys access to the same beaches

as Bunica I. Peak season (July, August) prices for adults are 35kn and 17,5kn for children between 3 - 12. Additional prices include car for 25 - 30kn, a trailer 40 - 55kn, a tent 30 - 35kn and electricity 20kn. Off peak season are June and September. No pets.

Škver Škver bb, Senj, tel. (+385-53) 88 52 66, kamp_skver@yahoo.com. Right beside Senj's seafront, Škver is a level gravelly expanse with not much shade, but it is only 5 minutes' walk from the town centre and restaurants, bars and supermarkets are close at hand. ▶ Peak season (July, August) prices for adults are 32kn and 21kn for children between 3 - 18. Additional prices include car for 21kn, a trailer 42kn, a tent 21kn and pets are 10kn. Electricity is 20kn. Off peak season are April, May, June, September and October.

Ujča Vučja Draga bb, tel. (+385-53) 88 46 26/(+385-53) 88 46 27, info@camp-ujca.com, www.camp-ujca.com. Squeezed into a funnel-shaped bay beneath the main road, Ujča has its own beach and a fair few trees for cover. There is also a diving school.

Rača Rača bb, Sveti Juraj, tel. (+385-53) 88 32 09, camp@moko.hr. Another camp right on the sea, with a strip of shingle beach and a reasonable amount of tree cover. The camp has its own scuba diving school, and a single clay tennis court. There's a snack bar, shop and cocktail bar at the camp itself, and the Hacienda restaurant is just up the road. → Open May 15 - October. Peak season (July, August) prices for adults are 32kn and 16kn for children between 7 - 15. Additional prices include car for 22kn, a trailer 24 - 30kn, a tent 25kn and pets are 20kn. Electricity is 20kn. Off peak season are May, June and September.