

CROATIA

Continent: Europe

[Population](#): 3.9 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 79.0

[Governance System](#): Parliamentary Republic

Capital: Zagreb

[Area](#): 56,590 km²

Major Languages: Croatian

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 67,219 US\$ millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 40th

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 43rd

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 42nd

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 47th

[Good Country Index](#): 30th

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 56th

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 25th

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 8 (30th)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0 (NR)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): UEFA

[FIFA Ranking](#): 12

World Cup Appearances: 5

Best World Cup Performance(s): 2nd Place (2018)

Qualification: UEFA Group H winners

[World Cup Group](#): F

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

CROATIA in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Roman Vysochansky)

Despite being a fairly young nation-state, [Croatia \(Hrvatska\) is an old country](#). Before being recognized as an independent state in 1992, it had to endure 1,000 years of foreign meddling, subjugation, incursions, and outright wars. It had once been a formidable kingdom under Croatian first king Tomislav in the tenth century, a significant naval power in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and an awakening national entity in the nineteenth and twentieth.

Croatia's foreign policy prioritizes its region, NATO, and EU membership, as well as regional cooperation. Croatia has been a member of the European Union since July 1, 2013, and it is currently applying to join the Schengen Area. Croatia will adopt the euro on January 1, 2023. In the first part of 2020, Croatia had its first EU Council Presidency. Croatia formally joined the UN on May 22, 1992, the WTO on November 30, 2000, and NATO on April 1, 2009. Croatia's accession to the OECD formally began on July 8, 2022. There are [diplomatic ties between Croatia and 187 countries](#).

The first five years (1991-1995) of Croatia's existence as a young and promising multi-party democracy were defined by the [Homeland War](#). Serb insurgents were helped by

some Yugoslav National Army soldiers when it officially began in the second half of the year. In four years, there would be more than 20,000 fatalities on both sides and hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

After the war, the country and its people underwent significant political, social and economical changes. Remembering its own tragic wartime past modern Croatia promotes peaceful worldwide politics and firmly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. Croatia took a firm stance to support [Ukraine in the war with Russia](#). In terms of domestic and foreign politics, [the national democratic development was strongly directed toward integration into the EU](#). Nowadays Croatia's membership in the EU represents the acknowledgement of its accomplishments in the creation of a nation-state and a democracy, as well as its political and normative-institutional successes. The great majority of Croatian citizens also consider EU membership as a symbolic break from their difficult history and a return to the Western, European cultural community, which is where they have always believed they belong. The strong pro-European attitude that resulted from this sentiment —an manifestation of the inhabitants of Croatia's strong political resolve for freedom and autonomy — helped the country realize its political and historical objectives when state independence and democracy were established.

Following Croatia's 1991 declaration of independence from the former Yugoslavia, [diplomatic ties between Canada and Croatia](#) were established in 1993. Since then, the two countries have developed a cordial and amicable relationship. Relationships are bolstered by interpersonal connections, expanding commercial ties, and shared moral principles.

The embassy of Canada in Zagreb is the country's diplomatic mission. There is an embassy for Croatia in Ottawa, a regular consulate in Mississauga, and an honorary consul in Vancouver.