



The Istria Region (Croatia)

Istria is the largest peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, and is located at the head of the Adriatic between the Gulf of Trieste and the Kvarner Gulf. It is shared by three countries: Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy, but the largest part belongs to the Republic of Croatia. Throughout its extremely rich history, Istria has been the meeting place of many nations and their cultures. The Liburni, the Histri, the Greeks, the Croats, the Franks, the Venetians, the Austrians, the Italians, etc.. with their presence, they left the traces that today's inhabitants of Istria try to preserve, ennoble, and update.





Economic activities and regional strategies

Istrian economy is very diverse. It is traditionally the most visited tourist region, so that it realized 24 % of all arrivals and 29 % of all nights in the Republic of Croatia in 2017. It has a well-developed processing industry, construction industry, trade, sea fishing and fish growing, agriculture, and transportation. According to the number of economic subjects and according to financial indicators, the leading activities are processing industry, tourism, and trade. In its self-governing domain, the Istrian County performs works of regional significance, and especially works related to: education, health, physical and town planning, economic development, planning and development of the network of educational, health, social, and cultural institutions.



Tourist attractions

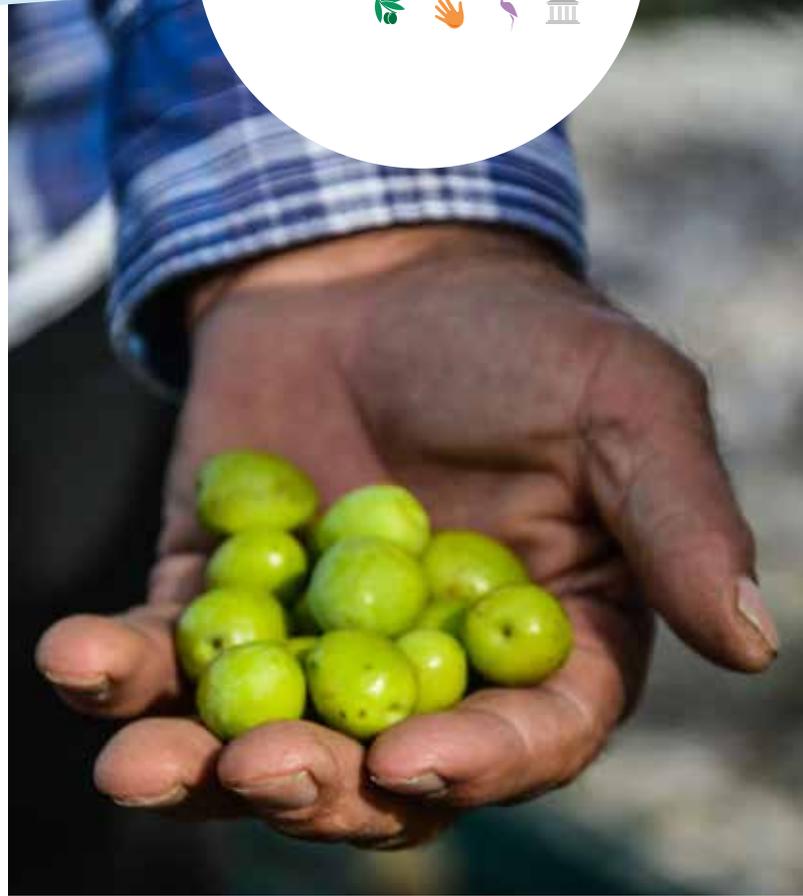
Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the Istrian Region. Istria is rich in both ecology and culture as magnificent bases for tourism and recreation. The tourist attractions in the region include geological and natural features, places of historic and archaeological significance as well as man-made and pre-historic sites. The environment consists of beautiful woodland scenery and is endowed with abundant natural tourist attractions. For instance, the Nation Park Brijuni, the Baredine cave, famous for stalactites and stalagmites. The man-made tourist resources in the region include prehistoric archaeological sites. The biggest city of the region, Pula, is famous for the history of ancient Rome, of which cultural and historical monuments have been preserved till today.





Local products linked to the Mediterranean Diet

The Istrian Region is, in terms of gastronomy, the most developed part of Croatia. The istrian gastronomy faithfully reflects all of the historical, geographical and climatic characteristics of this area. The greatest impact on istrian gastronomy was done by the Venetian gastronomy, which authority lasted in these areas almost for five centuries. The basic unit of Istrian catering is the tavern or agrotourism. Both are places with a rustic ambient and both imply they are run by a family whose own produce is offered to the guests. Istrian cuisine can provide everyone with something delicious: from meat, sea food, pasta or vegetables. Speaking of meat, the most traditional specialties are ombolo (cured and dried boneless pork, sliced thin and fried), Istrian „pršut“ (dry ham), and istrian sausages. Seafood, in addition to the gold of the olive oil, is the main reason behind the longevity and health of people from the Mediterranean. Istrian people are masters in preparing seafood and they will offer delicacies prepared according to different recipes with love.



Cultural routes and itineraries

The region is famous for its toristic routes. Cultural creativity in Istrian area takes place throughout the year, although, the most numerous manifestations are still in the tourist season. Most events take place from May to October, and for the other months, most of the events are promoted by books, scientific and professional gatherings, theatrical performances, lectures, cultural events intended for a specialized audience. Istria is managing with reconstruction of cultural heritage through revitalization and sustainable development of cities and rural areas and environmental protection and resource sustainability.