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Tourism summary

Record tourist traffic



Even though it's still too early to sum up the results of the total tourist year because of the still intensive tourist traffic, it is without a doubt that 2005 is convincingly the best tourist year since the independence of Croatia and has exceeded even the most optimistic tourist expectations. Namely, according to preliminary data from tourist boards, from January to the end of August, over 7.8 million guests have stayed in Croatia which is an increase of 7 percent more than this time last year. Of these nearly 6.9 million were foreign tourists which is 8 percent more than this time last year. A total of 44.15 million overnight stays were recorded or 8 percent more than this time last year.

The above average increase in tourism was noted in Dalmatia which, along with the enriched tourist offer of the central and southern Adriatic, can also be assigned to easier access owing to the completion of the highway to Split.

There is a noticeable increase in the number of tourists from nearly all countries so that on the basis of results achieved, it can be rightly said that Croatia has firmly entrenched itself among the favourite European tourist destinations.

Istra

Kempinski has arrived in Savudrija

The well known European hotel chain Kempinski has also finally entered Croatia. Namely, a contract was recently signed between Kempinski and the Istrian tourist company Skiper Hotels from the locality Alberi, near Savudrija, that is the City of Umag.

The concluding of the business cooperation contract between the hotel chain Kempinski and the company Skiper hotels has ushered in the turning of a new page in high quality tourist offer earmarked for upscale guests. Namely, with the signing of the contract, Kempinski has pledged that it will run the

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entire complex according to the high standards of this brand, which will soon begin to be applied not only in the area of accommodation but also in the entire gastronomic and wellness offer. On the other end of the contract, the company Skiper has pledged to construct new accommodation capacities by spring of 2008, that is a five star plus category hotel and 29 new villas, an 18 hole golf course, new congress centre and berths for 38 yachts.

To date, the Skiper hotels have had at their disposal a total of 241 apartments in 10 residential facilities. Seven of the facilities consisted of 6 to 12 apartments, while the other three facilities consisted of only luxury apartments. So that the villa Skiper Royal – which has a total of 1200 m² of air-conditioned space, with a heated pool, luxurious terrace, its own wellness oasis with a Jacuzzi, sauna, table tennis and billiard table, gym and wine cellar – represents truly luxurious accommodation.

The other villa – Skiper Delux is a complex of five smaller villas which are located right by the sea and along with luxurious accommodation, they also offer a joint terrace for sun tanning and heated pool with a Jacuzzi. The villa Skiper Exclusive offers two stylishly decorated apartments which are also right next to the sea.

All in all, the company Skiper presently offers quality accommodation for 800 guests with an accompanying hospitality offer and sports centre. About 60 million Euros have been invested to date into their construction, while the announced construction of new facilities will cost about 100 million Euros.

The new hotel will have about 120 rooms and these capacities will be increased by the addition of 29 new villas. Each villa will be about 500 square metres in size, with a pool about 100 square metres in size and will accommodate up to six people. In this way the company, which will soon change its name to Kempinski Adriatic Resort, will by spring of 2008 have accommodation facilities of a high five star category for a total of 1500 guests.

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Novigrad

The opening of the luxury hotel Nautica expected soon



Soon the Novigrad marina will be able to offer its guests a new, luxury hotel, the Hotel Nautica. Officially the opening of the five star hotel has been announced for the 1st of October and as announced by the hotel manager, Dalibor Matovina, it will be open all year round.

The Hotel Nautica has at its disposal a total of 42 accommodation facilities, of which 38 are double bed rooms, two junior suite apartments and two superior suite apartments. All rooms are furnished according to the highest category and even greater, as each room has a luxurious, large flat screen television and first class furniture. It also stands out because of

its ship style design which is reflected throughout the entire hotel and in this way the hotel is in complete harmony with the surrounding marina.

Other than the accommodation facilities, the hotel also has an a la carte restaurant seating about 200 guests and a large bar which can also accommodate close to 200 guests. It also offers a congress hall seating about 160 people and a rich wellness centre in which guests will be able to enjoy in the fitness centre, wet and dry sauna, outside and inside pool and children's pool, as well as many luxury body and face treatments.

In cooperation with the marina Novigrad, the hotel will also offer private charters, hire of fishing boats and will also have a sailing school. There will also be a private dental clinical operating on the premises of the hotel.

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Zagreb

Old lake – new recreational oasis



In the next few months, the City of Zagreb will be richer for a new place to enjoy strolls and nature. The location in question is not new, but the old lake Bundek, where a complete reconstruction has recently begun and which will include the renewal of surrounding infrastructure, so that the lake will soon become a new oasis for the citizens of Zagreb and their guests.

The lake Bundek is located very close to the river Sava and the Zagreb Fairgrounds and is also not far from the very centre of the city. Once this used to be the favourite place for swimming and for enjoying nature but sadly the ravages of time have taken their toll.

Today the citizens of Zagreb have the lake Jarun around which an extensive infrastructure has developed with numerous recreational and entertainment facilities. They also have Maksimir, one of the most beautiful and also one of the largest parks in Zagreb and soon they will have a new-old place to enjoy themselves.

The reconstruction of the whole park actually began in August. To date a new sewerage system, water and electricity have been installed and public lighting has been erected around the all the pathways. The large lake has been completely cleaned, while next year equipment to remove the silt build-up will be installed so that it will again be fit for swimming and bathing. The small lake will continue to be a reserve for fish and birds. A wooden house will be built between the Malo (small) and Veliko (large) lake which will be used by fishermen who have for years now been looking after the lakes.

Aside from this, there will also be four showers, benches and a few children's playgrounds erected around the lake. Courts for beach volleyball, badminton and a soccer field will also be constructed. Cars will be banned from driving around Bundek so that the paths being prepared will be solely for pedestrians and bike riders, for which bicycle tracks are also being constructed.

The entire project will cost about 3.5 million Euros and it is expected that within a month or two Bundek will have a completely new and significantly more beautiful appearance of which the citizens of Zagreb will truly be able to have great pride.

However, the renewal of Bundek is only the first phase of the complete renewal of the entire area around the river Sava. Namely, the leaders of the City of Zagreb are increasingly talking of plans to again renew the entire area so that it once again looks as it once did. Namely, in the not so distant past the river Sava was the favourite gathering place of the citizens of Zagreb, especially in the summer months when the bathing area used to be overflowing with interesting activities and events. In short, at one time the river Sava was the main life pulse of the entire city and it is hoped that this atmosphere can once again be returned to the city.

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Presenting: Terme Tuhelj New look of the Tuhelj Riviera



Terme Tuhelj, symbol of the Tuhelj thermal springs, located in the Krapina-Zagorje County, forty kilometres north of Zagreb, were renovated this summer.

The renovation of the entire complex began last year and through systematic work the entire complex has acquired a completely new look. All the existing facilities were renovated and other new facilities were also added. A new modern pool with attractive accompanying content is a refreshingly new

innovation in Croatia.

Presently the Tuhelj Riviera (Water planet just by land) has four outside pools covering an area of 15,000 square metres. One of the pools was constructed so that it has a current causing waves, making it a unique pool in Croatia. The other large pool is also very attractive and has a large water slide and after a fast ride bathers can immerse themselves in a thermal blue oasis where they can relax while enjoying hydro-massage, air massage or underwater beds or simply enjoy the waterfalls and geysers lying hidden inside the pool. Around the pool runs a 250 long slow river in which bathers can relax leisurely floating on air mattresses.

There are two pools especially for children. One pool was made with small children in mind with toys and another for older children, in which they can enjoy a castle with four slides and two water cannons.

On the side of the pools there is a cocktail bar and large grill with a 35 metre long bar.

The outside pools have already attracted a large number of bathers this summer and the same is expected of the indoor bathing area whose first section will be opened at the middle of October, with all five pools expected to be in function by the end of November.

The inside bathing area with five pools filled with thermal waters – for swimmers, a children's pool and three therapeutic pools are located inside the hotel and by the end of the year they will be joined by a richly equipped wellness centre.

The wellness centre will abound in content and activities – a large massage centre which will offer classic, sports, anti-cellulite and relax massage with aromatic oils and fango therapy with therapeutic mud. Also on offer will be different saunas, beauty centre, fitness hall, table tennis area and a gymnasium, while a number of bars and night clubs will also be available for fun and relaxation.

There are many sports facilities available to guests including a grass soccer field, volleyball court, two mini golf courses, four lanes for lawn bowling and table tennis. Also close to the hotel are walking paths extending through the natural surroundings of the hotel and every Sunday there are guided walking tours organised taking groups of guests through the surrounding green oasis all the way through to the Tuhelj church and belvedere.

As far as the Hotel itself - it has also undergone a complete transformation this year. The hotel has at its disposal 138 rooms with a total of 300 beds. Of this 46 rooms have been completely renovated and offer four star category accommodation.

Interestingly enough along with the usual standards offered by such a high category of accommodation which included mini-bar, safe, internet access and microwave, the rooms also offer another special detail. Namely, the rooms are coloured in four different colours – yellow, red, blue and green, so that every guest may choose an ambiance they have an affinity for.

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The congress centre is located in the castle Mihanović – a baroque complex located in close vicinity to the hotel. The congress centre has a number of different halls. The blue salon has a capacity of 120 people. The green salon and Protocol hall are intended for smaller meetings both accommodating up to 15 people each and also offered by the castle are two smaller salons for working meetings and business lunches. Along with this, the castle has a large wine cellar with room for about 50 people. Next to the castle there is a natural bathing area which is unique in Croatia as it offers bathing in natural thermal waters springing up from the very base of the pool, with the continuous flow of water always ensuring clean natural spring water.

It is important to point out one more dimension of the offer at the Tuhelj thermal springs. Namely, at the thermal springs the natural temperature of 33°C creates a therapeutic peloid mud which in combination with the thermal waters helps with rheumatoid arthritis, joint and bone injuries and various gynaecological infections and urological processes. The therapeutic waters contain sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, chloride, sulphate, hydrocarbonates, among other things and have a strong effect on the preservation and improvement of health.

Otherwise, the Tuhelj thermal springs are located in the western part of the green and hilly Croatian Zagorje. It is because of this that the entertainment staff at the Terme Tuhelj, other than the numerous interesting programs inside the Terme themselves, also organise excursions for guests into the surrounding areas. These are excursions full of interesting visits to the cultural and sacral monuments of Zagorje, while enjoying the clean, lush, green nature.

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Announcing (I) 3rd Zagreb Film Festival



In the period from the 17th to the 22nd of October, the third Zagreb Film Festival will be held in Zagreb. This festival is an international festival of debut films – long feature and short feature films and debut documentary films. Subsequently various films will be able to be seen at the festival – from student films, to films which have already won at film festivals of a similar competitive nature.

The Zagreb Film Festival is a competitive festival which presents and awards new film authors for their long, short feature and documentary films. The “Festival of Firsts” will also be held as part of the festival and its role is to affirm the value of debut creative achievements. The desire of both festivals is to recognise innovativeness and encourage interdisciplinary dialog

between professions and therefore as their loyal public they also foresee mostly young and also creative people. Aside from this, both festivals want to, in a wider generational context, contribute to awareness regarding experimenting with new creative possibilities. Further, as the modernist culture in the history of the City of Zagreb was a type of reflex of social processes, so too these two festivals wish to encourage new forms of dialog in culture, but also in other areas of social activity.

The Zagreb Film Festival has become a new subcultural manifestation in the City of Zagreb. It takes place on city premises and promotes innovativeness and cooperation as important determinants of urban culture. During the five days of the festival, the festival location – the Student centre will become a city within a city – it will revive the memories entrenched in the premises where throughout the twentieth century some of the most significant events of Zagreb’s modern culture have taken place – from exhibitions of the Zagreb choir, through to the theatre group ITD, exhibitions of the Gallery of the Student centre, all the way to new wave concerts and theatre shows by alternative theatre groups.

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Announcing (II)

Pula: 42nd International Music Forum

The International Music forum in Pula is a festival of contemporary music and is an annual review of sorts of activities of international contemporary composers. It will be held from the 9th to the 12th of November.

The Forum was founded in 1963 in Opatija with the basic intention of the manifestation being an informative look into the creative achievements in the period spanning the last three years, while giving consideration to everyone's attitude, taste and opinion, every artistic orientation and commitment.

At the beginning of the nineties the Forum changed its program conception and the Croatian Composer's Society as the main co-organiser encourages the idea of making it an international manifestation. Subsequently in 1994 the manifestation under the name the International Music Forum began to humbly and later more intensively, present and include an increasing number of content and themes. Five years later its host city changed from Opatija to Pula where the manifestation begins to be held every November.

Central to the program are works by Croatian composers, primarily premiere performances, while the annual theme of the Forum is determined by the international framework of the program. Every year special attention is given to the unique characteristics of the Croatian contemporary music scene but also Croatia's music heritage.

Performing at the Forum will the most prominent Croatia and foreign ensembles and soloists, while in the most varying formations they will also be accompanied by members of the Ensemble Cantus. The program is enriched with various accompanying events, like meetings of music and dance pedagogues, promotions, music listening workshops and much more. For the third year in a row, as part of the Forum, a cycle of lectures on Gatherings of Mediterranean composers of the new generation will also held.

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