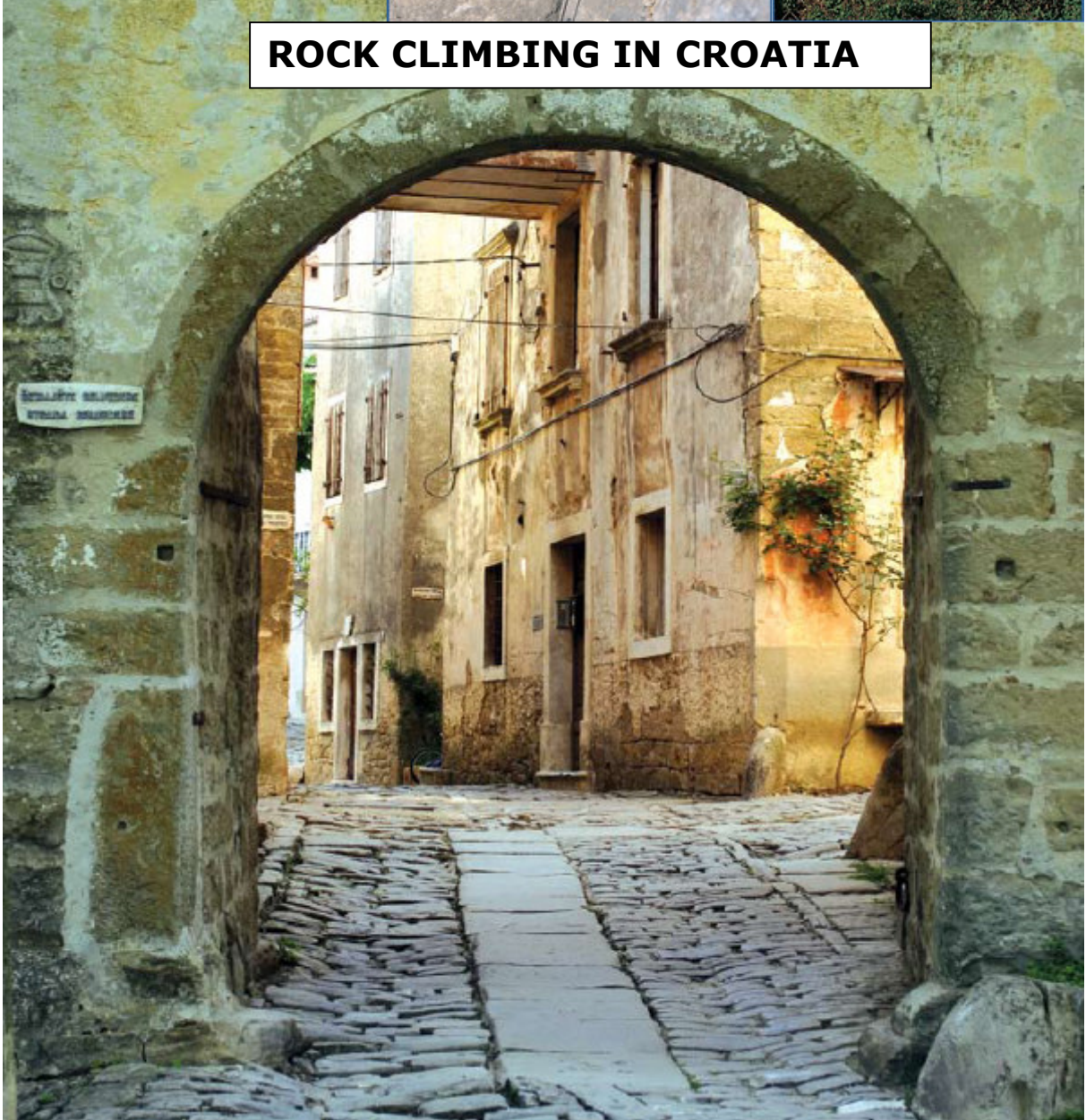


**ROCK CLIMBING IN CROATIA**





# Rock Climbing & Mountaineering in Croatia

## General Information

About 60% of Croatia's surface is mountainous which, together with its unusual karst phenomena, makes it one of the most interesting places to climb in Europe. There are a lot of routes which have been tried and tested, some made secure with fixed anchorage bolts, but a whole lot more that have not. Croatian climbers await and welcome all you adventurous rock climbers out there to join them in pushing the boundaries of exploration further.

The mountains of the Republic of Croatia mainly belong to the **Dinaric range**, which is known in the world as a classic region of deep karst. The sharp karst shapes, the domination of bare karst, the lack of water, poverty of vegetation, harsh climate and sparse population require the same efforts from the climber as many much higher mountains.



A view down Biokovo Mountain



A Norwegian tries out Crown point on Hvar

There are differences among the Dinaric mountains. Those in the north, in **Gorski kotar**, for example, are lower and milder and those in the south, the **Dalmatian mountains**, are higher and more deserted. Good climbing mountains are not just restricted to the mainland, there are some excellent climbs on the islands of **Hvar**, **Brac** and on the almost-island, the **Peljesac** peninsular.

Unlike the mountains of the mainland, the foothills of the island mountains have been shaped by the action of the sea. The best such example is the coast of **Dugi otok**, with its vertical cliffs that rear right up from the sea for over 100 metres, but this is a common feature of all the islands. Well known climbs on **Hvar** include **Miss Jadrana** and **Crown point**, both on the cliff base of **Suplja stina**. Nowhere in Croatia is the climate as mild as in the islands. The average temperature in January is never below zero which means that the summer climbing season lasts all the year round. The main trouble that a climber may encounter is the summer heat and lack of water.

**Velebit** at 1,758 m is one of Croatia's tallest mountains and the longest mountain of the Dinar system, with a limestone structure and steep sides. It is part of the **Paklenica & Sjevern Velebit National Parks** and includes the famous vertical rock formation, known as **Anica Kuk**, which is one of the most popular training areas for Croatian mountain climbers.



**Tadej Slabe climbing Miss Jadrana on Hvar**

The **Biokovo** mountains of Central Dalmatia, with **Sv Jure** as its highest peak at 1762 m, are perhaps the most imposing mountains of Croatia. The most important feature of these mountains is that the highest mountain regions here do not have the form of a ridge but of a high plateau (up to about 1700 metres), with a very complicated relief, with many gorges and peaks, caverns and spurs. The edges of the plateaux often finish in huge vertical cliffs that plunge into deep, flat karst fields. As a rule the cliffs tend to be found on the south slopes, an exception being Troglav, which has cliffs on the northern slopes.



**Biokovo towering above Makarska in Central Dalmatia**

## Rock Climbing Areas of Croatia

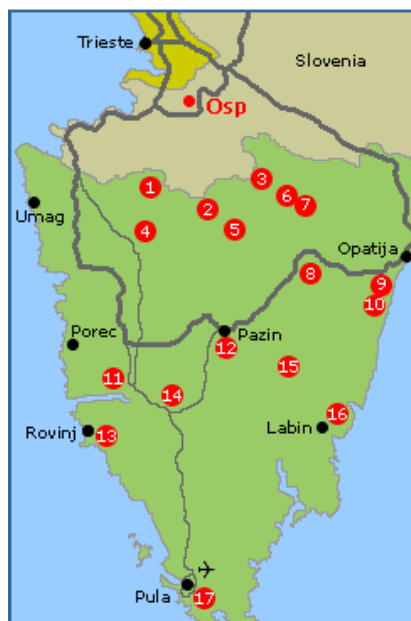
Croatia can effectively be split into the following 5 different rock climbing areas:

1. **Paklenica National Park** near Zadar. Paklenica offers both single pitch sports routes and long multi-pitch rock climbing routes up to 350m long on the famous face of Anica kuk.
2. **Istria** region, which includes rock climbing around Pazin, Pula and Rovinj. There are over 500 sports routes here, which are mainly single pitch. Close by there is also the excellent crag at **Osp in Slovenia**, and further climbing around **Trieste in Italy**. This makes the whole region very comprehensive and has something for everyone.
3. **Kvarner** region to the south of Rijeka is the smallest climbing region in Croatia though there are some crags offering multi-pitch routes up to 185m long.
4. **Split** region which includes rock climbing on Hvar, Brac & Vis islands offers over 400 mainly single pitch sports routes. Also at Omis there are some bolted multi-pitch routes up to 300m long.
5. To the West and North of the capital **Zagreb** there is a collection of crags mainly offering single pitch sports routes.



## Rock Climbing area of Istria

The Istria region, which includes rock climbing around Pazin, Pula and Rovinj is the 2nd best rock climbing area in Croatia after Paklenica. In terms of routes there are over 500 sports routes here, which are mainly single pitch, well bolted and on solid limestone rock. Close by there is also the excellent crag at **Osp in Slovenia**, and further rock climbing can be found around **Trieste in Italy**. This comprehensive region has a good mix of grades and has got something for everyone.



The best time to rock climb in Istria is the spring and autumn, though due to the varied character of the crags it is possible to climb all year round. For example it is possible to climb at places such as Rovinj, Pazin and Cepic in the hot summer months, or climb at sheltered crags such as Limski Kanal, Dvigrad and Raspadalica in the winter.

Istria is a popular holiday resort, with the main towns being Pula, Rovinj, and Porec. This area is ideal to include a few days rock climbing as part of your general holiday.

No	Crag	Total No of routes 2007	Number of Routes in Gade Range							Multi or Single Pitch
			Up to 4c	5a to 5+	6a to 6b	6b+ to 6c+	7a to 7b	7b+ to 7c+	Over 8a	
1	Cepic	39	3	11	16	6	3	0	0	Single
2	Istarske Toplice	12	0	2	2	3	2	2	1	Both
3	Raspadalica	30	1	6	13	7	1	2	0	Single
4	Ponte Porton	29	2	17	9	1	0	0	0	Single
5	Izvor Mirne	7	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	Single
6	Nugla	20	0	0	3	7	4	4	2	Single
7	Krkuž	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	Single
8	Vela Draga	55	5	10	21	14	4	1	0	Both
9	Medveja	12	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	Single
10	Moscenicka Draga	29	3	1	13	5	5	1	1	Single
11	Limski Kanal	107	2	21	37	21	16	4	6	Single
12	Pazin	45	4	5	8	8	7	9	4	Single
13	Rovinj	92	15	40	23	11	2	0	1	Single
14	Dvigrad	87	5	23	15	16	12	11	5	Single
15	Zub - Dolina Rase	9	1	2	4	2	0	0	0	Single
16	Rabac	11	0	3	5	1	2	0	0	Single
17	Vinkuran - Cava Romana	31	0	4	8	8	3	5	3	Single

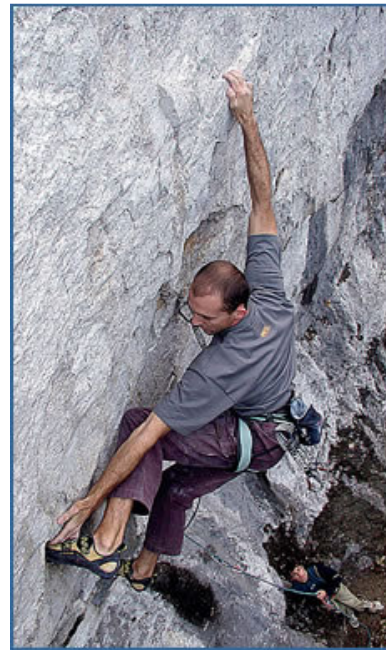




## Rock Climbing around Zagreb

The majority of the rock climbing is to the north and west of Zagreb. All the rock climbing is on solid limestone rock and the crags are generally well bolted offering single pitch routes. The 2 main crags of the area are situated in atmospheric surroundings; Pokojec, which is surrounded by picturesque hills and vineyards; and Kalnik, which is situated within the ruins of a castle

No	Crag	Total No. of Routes at Crag	No of routes at these grades							Single or Multi Pitch
			3 to 4c	5a to 5+	6a to 6b	6b+ to 6c+	7a to 7b	7b+ to 7c+	8a to 8c	
1	Terihaj	13	2	1	4	1	2	2	1	Single
2	Okic	30	6	8	10	2	1	1	2	Both
3	Ravna gora	37	3	4	18	6	5	1	0	Both
4	Vranja pec	15	0	2	1	1	3	4	4	Single
5	Zia	20	0	4	5	3	3	2	3	Single
6	Pokojec	60	2	6	8	11	13	13	7	Single
7	Ljubelj	10	2	2	3	1	2	0	0	Single
8	Kalnik	129	19	13	30	26	22	14	5	Single





## Rock Climbing in the Kvarner Area

There are a few small crags to the north and east of Rijeka, though the best rock climbing area is near the town of Karlobag. Dabarski kukovi crag is a collection of buttress's offering multi-pitch rock climbing up to 185m high. All of the crags in this area are all limestone rock and are generally well bolted.

The crags of Dabarski kukovi (185m high) and Bozin kuk (220m high) offer good multi-pitch climbing of up to 6-pitches. For all the crags that offer multi-pitch climbing, a set of nuts and friends are required. Also note for some routes at Dabarski kukovi a 70m rope is recommended.

The Spring and Autumn are the best time to climb in this area, though it is possible to climb all year round at crags such as Veli Vrh, krk - Baska, and Cres - Lubenice.

No	Crag	Total No. of Routes	Number of Routes in Gade Range						Single or Multi Pitch
			4a to 4c	5a to 5+	6a to 6b	6b+ to 6c+	7a to 7b	7b+ to 7c+	
1	Veli Vrh	18	4	2	6	6	0	0	Single
2	Kamenjak	33	7	11	10	5	0	0	Both
3	Antovo	8	1	3	3	1	0	0	Both
4	Golubinjak	18	1	11	6	0	0	0	Single
5	Klek	22	1	7	6	5	2	1	Both
6	Krk - Baska	13	3	4	1	3	1	1	Single
7	Cres - Lubenice	12	2	3	5	2	0	0	Single
8	Cres - Babina	16	3	5	5	3	0	0	Single
9	Stogir	21	0	8	7	4	2	0	Multi
10	Plitvice	7	0	3	3	1	0	0	Single
11	Radetina greda	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	Multi
12	Dabarski kukovi	47	2	11	16	12	6	0	Multi
13	Bozin kuk	15	0	3	7	5	0	0	Multi
14	Zir	6	0	1	1	3	1	0	Multi
15	Pag - Stogaj	19	2	8	7	2	0	0	Both

## Rock Climbing in Paklenica

Paklenica is at the heart of Croatian rock climbing and is known as one of the top European rock climbing areas. The rock climbing here is very varied from single pitch sports routes to big wall rock climbing on the 350m face of Anica kuk, where the routes are up to 11 pitches long.

### Situation & Character

The National park of Paklenica is a place of outstanding natural beauty, situated halfway between the sea and the mountains of Velebit. The entrance to the park is via the coastal village of Starigrad-Paklenica.

This superb Karst limestone gorge is made up of various rock faces, with over 400 routes, of both single and multi pitch climbing (up to 11 pitches long), with the majority of the routes bolted.

### Access to the Crag

Paklenica is reached from the small coastal town of Starigrad-Paklenica, which is approximately 46Km from the tourist town of Zadar. The National Park is well sign posted off the coastal road.

Climbers are required to purchase a climbing pass, available at the park reception. As of 2004, the cost is; 3-day pass is 60 Kuna (just over £6); 5-day pass is 90 Kuna (just over £9). It should be noted this pass only allows climbing within the designated climbing area. To find out about the different types of **routes at Paklenica**, from single pitch sports routes in Klanci to the many multi-pitch classics on Anica kuk. There are more than 400 routes to chose from!

The best time of the year to visit is in the spring, late summer and autumn, though it is possible to climb throughout the year. Every year there is an International Alpine gathering held at the end of April and beginning of May.



**ANICA KUK**

1. **Velebitaski.** 350m; 5b, 4a, 4c, 4b, 5b, **6a+**, 5a, 3a, 4a, 4a, 4b.
2. **Klin.** 350m; 4a, 4a, 5a, 6b, **6c+**, 5c, 4c, 4b, 6b, 4c.
3. **Mosoraski.** 350m; 3a, 4a, 4a, 4a, 4b, 3a, **5c**, 4b, 4a



## Rock Climbing Areas at Paklenica



### Gear Needed

For the single pitch sports routes, a 50m single rope and 10-12 quickdraws would be perfectly adequate. However, for the multi pitch routes twin 50m ropes and a full rack of wires and friends would be recommended, as the older routes only have a few in-situ pegs and on the other routes the bolts are very spaced. As always on multi-pitch, limestone routes it would be advisable to take a helmet!

## Rock climbing routes in Paklenica

In total there are over 400 routes in Paklenica on superb limestone rock. There is everything from single pitch sports routes to big wall rock climbing up the 350m face of Anica kuk (up to 11-pitch routes). Therefore Paklenica is ideal for everyone from the absolute beginner to the most experienced rock climber. With the exception of Anica kuk that generally faces north, the vast majority of the other crags face either east or west meaning you can always be climbing in the sun or shade, depending upon your preference!

### Single Pitch Sports Routes

From the car park a path leads up through a narrow section of the gorge know as **Klanci**. This is where the majority of the single pitch sports routes are and the start of these can be reached inside 5 minutes. The routes are located on both sides of the valley, on small independent faces and steep over hangs, at the base of the peaks of Kuk od Skradelin, Cuk and Debeli kuk. In this area there are over 100 routes between F5a to F8b+.

### Multi Pitch Routes

The majority of the multi pitch routes are located on the faces of Anica kuk, Debeli kuk, Cuk, and Mali Cuk. Particularly on Anica kuk the atmosphere is of big wall traditional rock climbing, requiring the placing of natural gear such as friends and nuts, though the classic lines have been re-equipped with bolts.

**Anica kuk** is the classic crag of the valley, with its 350m high NW face, and only a 45-minute walk from the car. This crag alone has over 100 multi pitch routes, from F4 to F8-, with climbs up to 11-pitches long.

**Debeli kuk** is also a classic crag with the added bonus of being nearer the car park! The climbs are shorter, though they can still be up to 6-pitches long.

## Rock Climbing around Split



There are over 600 sports routes around the Split areas including rock climbing on the islands of Hvar, Brac & Vis. All of these crags are limestone and are generally single pitch, though at Omis there are some bolted multi pitch climbing up to 300m long. Also at Bukovac Biokovo, in the mountains behind Makarska there are bolted sports routes between 215 to 600m long. The rock climbing in this region is often in spectacular surroundings; such as the fantastic views from Trogir and Malacka; to the beach climbing on Hvar island at Suplja stina.

The crags around Split easily offer a good weeks worth of quality rock climbing. Split and Hvar Island are popular holiday resorts, making this an ideal area to include a few days climbing as part of your general holiday. Hvar Island also offers fantastic deep water soloing.

Generally it's ideal to rock climb in this area throughout the year at all of these crags, except at Kozjak in the summer and Markezina greda in the winter.

No	Crag	Total No of routes	Number of Routes in Gade Range							Multi or Single Pitch
			Up to 4c	5a to 5+	6a to 6b	6b+ to 6c+	7a to 7b	7b+ to 7c+	Over 8a	
1	Trogir - Sveti Vid	31	0	2	3	6	6	8	6	Single
2	Malacka	13	2	2	2	4	3	0	0	Single
3	Kozjak	5	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	Both
4	Markezina greda	67	1	2	12	12	16	10	14	Both
5	Marjan	76	2	13	18	21	9	8	5	Single
6	Rupotine – Klis	18	0	1	1	5	4	4	3	Single
7	Omis	78	6	12	24	14	6	10	6	Both
8	Brela	68	8	17	21	14	7	1	0	Single
9	Vrisove glavice	17	1	4	7	0	0	0	5	Both
10	Bukovac Biokovo	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	Multi
11	Brac	59	7	21	12	10	5	2	2	Single
12	Hvar - Milna	14	0	2	7	3	2	0	0	Single
12	Hvar - Podstine	11	0	5	1	2	3	0	0	Single
14	Hvar - Stracine	16	4	4	5	3	0	0	0	Single
15	Hvar - Suplja stina	103	0	16	36	22	22	6	1	Single
16	Hvar - Velika Stiniva	45	1	26	0	5	7	1	5	Single
17	Vis - Crnjene stine	12	3	2	3	4	0	0	0	Both