



Croatia 2012 Crime and Safety Report

Stolen items; Burglary; Theft; Earthquakes; Improvised Explosive Device

Europe > Croatia > Zagreb

8/15/2012

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Crime Threats

Croatia is considered very safe with low crime rates. One of the essential characteristics of criminal offenses in Croatia is that a majority of crime (approximately 61.8 percent) occurs in the greater, urban areas. Croatia has experienced a 4.4 percent increase in overall general crime, but key categories such as murder, attempted murder, rape, and attempted rape, have decreased. However, robbery and aggravated theft, to include residential theft, have shown a marked increase most likely due to economic hardships throughout Europe and the world.

Road Safety

Common sense driving is recommended throughout Croatia. The roads and traffic infrastructure are excellent.

Political Violence

Historical Perspective

Large demonstrations in recent years, including those in February/March 2011, have focused on domestic issues. Such demonstrations have not been anti-American in nature nor targeted the American presence.

Regional Terrorism and Organized Crime

Terrorism threats remain low; however, the October 2011 attack on the United States Embassy in Sarajevo highlights continued challenges in neighboring countries. While organized crime elements operate throughout the Balkans, American citizens do not appear to be targeted in Croatia.



International Terrorism or Transnational Terrorism

The transnational terrorism threat in the Balkans remains an issue. Croatia, which is expected to join the European Union (EU) in July 2013, remains on the transit path from the Balkans to the EU, and extremist elements exist in pockets throughout southeastern Europe.

Civil Unrest

Croatia, like many other countries, experienced Facebook-inspired protests, to include the "Occupy Wallstreet" demonstrations. However, despite a few altercations with police forces, these demonstrations remained non-violent.

Soccer hooligans and "high risk soccer matches" provide the biggest challenge for police and civil unrest.

Post-Specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Croatia is in a high seismic zone.

Industrial and Transportation Accidents

Croatian emergency response capabilities for dealing with accidents are very good. Emergency road services are responsive and reliable.

Kidnappings

Kidnappings are rare and usually involve personal disputes and financial debts.

Drug and Narcoterrorism

Croatia is not a major narcotics destination point but remains a transit country for Western European markets.

Police Response



Croatian police are professional, well respected, and do not target or harass American citizens. The U.S. Embassy has an excellent relationship with the Ministry of Interior. Police have been very responsive to Americans in need of assistance.

Police/emergency services (192)

Medical Emergencies

Croatia has a modern emergency call center that coordinates police, ambulance, and fire response. Individuals requiring emergency services should dial (192). The Ministry of Defense also provides air ambulance emergency services upon request by first responders.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Although Croatia has a low crime rate, a common sense approach should be applied to safety and security. Be mindful of your surroundings and secure important personal items and documents. Petty crime does occur, especially along the Adriatic Coast during the summer season; however, simple proactive measures will go a long way.

Areas to be Avoided and Best Security Practices

One of the main residual effects of the war in the early 1990s are unexploded land mines. While the government of Croatia continues de-mining efforts with the support of the international community, it is important to be aware of the following statistics and locations. The mine suspected area in Croatia extends to about 830 km² in the proximity of 100 municipalities covering 12 counties. The following are classified as the most mine contaminated counties: Lika-Senj County, Osijek-Baranja County, Sisak-Moslavina County, Karlovac County, Vukovar-Srijem County, Zadar County and Požega-Slavonia County. However, Croatia has achieved security of the road network, tourist destinations, and community and public facilities. Please reference the Croatian Mine Action Center at <http://www.hcr.hr/en/protuminUvod.asp> for more information.

The U.S. Embassy does not have security restrictions on any urban or rural areas other than locations with de-mining efforts.

Further Information

Embassy Switch Board: 01-661-2200 (0730 – 1630 hours)



Embassy Marine on Duty: 01-661-2400 (24 hours x 7 days a week)
Embassy Duty Phone: 091-455-2247

OSAC Country Council

There is no Country Council in Croatia.