CURRENT SITUATION IN CROATIA
REGARDING THE NAUTICAL TOURISM IN RESPECT OF COVID-19

With this information we intend to keep you up to date about the situation of the nautical tourism in Croatia. A weekly update is aspired.

09.04.2020
Disclaimer

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Outbreak of Coronavirus in Croatia

NEWS FROM LAST WEEK:

On 19 March, the number of recorded cases surpassed 100. On 21 March, it surpassed 200. On 25 March, it surpassed 400, On 31 March, it surpassed 800. On 2 April, it surpassed 1,000. On 4 April, the number of recovered cases surpassed 100.

On 22 March an intense earthquake hit Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, causing problems in enforcement of social distancing measures set out by the Government. It was the strongest earthquake in Zagreb since the 1880 earthquake.

According to Oxford University, as of 24 March, Croatia is the country with the world’s strictest restrictions and measures for infection reduction in relation to the number of infected.

On April 9th, situation is following:

Infected with coronavirus: 1407 (+ 64 from 09.04.2020.)
Fatalities: 20
Cured: 219 (16%)
COVID-19

Situation in Croatia

So far, Croatian efforts in containing the coronavirus pandemic have been successful and we managed to „flatten the curve“ and not to have exponential growth – due to quarantine, strict monitoring of cases and contacts, and self-isolation measures. Government even forbade intercity travel and restricted public transport in order to minimize the impact.

On 8 April, 61 new cases were reported, increasing the number of cases to 1,343. Twelve recovered while one died; an 87-year-old from Split who suffered from hypertension.

On 9 April, 64 new cases were reported. The number of patients on ventilators decreased to 34, while forty people have recovered. Twentieth death was confirmed; an elderly man "with extensive comorbidity. One of the newly confirmed cases was reported to be a patient of a nursing home from Koprivnica, who previously spent ten days self-isolating.
Information on Croatian borders

To contain the spreading of the virus, on 16 March, the European Commission recommended to Member States to apply a temporary 30 days coordinated restriction of non-essential travel from third countries into the EU. On 8 April, the Commission invited Member States and non-EU Schengen countries to extend the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU until 15 May.

The reintroduction of border control is a prerogative of the Member States. The Commission may issue an opinion with regard to the necessity of the measure and its proportionality.
To contain the spreading of the virus, on 16 March, the European Commission recommended to Member States to apply a temporary 30 days coordinated restriction of non-essential travel from third countries into the EU. Following the endorsement by EU leaders, all EU Member States (except Ireland) and all Schengen Associated Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland) are now applying this travel restriction.

To allow for the continued professional activity despite the temporary travel restrictions, the Commission has issued guidelines to facilitate border crossings of essential workers, particularly in the health care and food sector, and other essential services (e.g. health care professionals, personal care workers, food manufacturers and seasonal workers).
Predictions on COVID – 19 outbreak in Croatia

Please note that this text is based on subjective opinions of the authors and current situation in other countries of EU.
COVID-19 OUTBREAK

‘Peak’ of the pandemic reached

Croatia may have reached the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the country’s civic guard expects the numbers of newly infected patients to start dropping during the next week even though the country saw the biggest daily surge of newly infected patients on Wednesday (1 April).

While Health Minister Vili Beroš emphasised that there were 1,5 COVID-19 related deaths per million citizens in Croatia, Italy had 192 and Spain 175. Besides, the average age of the Croats which have tested positive for the virus is 48.3 years, while men account for 53 per cent of the patients.
Nautical tourism in Croatia in 2020.

Predictions and opinions of the authors.
Nautical tourism in Croatia

Will definitely suffer enormous cost caused by COVID-19

CURRENT SITUATION

Every yacht charter/sales/management company is already affected by COVID-19 outbreak – reservations are cancelled or postponed. Marinas are working with 10% of work power currently, and finding/ordering the parts for repair is hard due to border/work restrictions. Due to this, we expect a high crisis in nautical tourism sector to last till middle of June/July, possibly even longer.

Opening hours and working conditions may change daily – if you have any questions please contact your provider or marina directly.

What do providers do to save the season?

**Prepare the yachts**

Provider still do works on yachts, in order to get them in best possible shape to be ready once outbreak is contained.

**Crisis management**

Provider create new policies on reservations, postponing the reservations for later terms in 2020 or terms in 2021, cutting unnecessary costs, disinfecting the yachts, training the crew on how to behave during COVID-19 pandemic.
Nautic Tourism after COVID-19 outbreak

Things will change, people will adapt.

ARE THERE ANY GOOD NEWS?

We believe there are!

We think that nautical tourism won’t be affected as much as mass tourism (hotels, congresses, events etc – everything with larger groups of people circulating).

Is there a better way to spend holiday after these times then to isolate on boat with family and friends, far away from big cities and crowds?
Nautic Tourism after COVID-19 outbreak

Things will change, people will adapt.

WHAT CAN CHARTER-CUSTOMER DO TO SECURE THEIR PAYMENTS?

YACHT-POOL created an independent payment-security system for Charter Customers! The YACHT-POOL Trust Security Service:

In many cases, there are still uncertainties about further developments. Some things may change. But certainly not the need of people looking for relaxation on the sea. We are sure of that. YACHT-POOL can provide security when it comes to your payments for your next charter.

YACHT-POOL offers absolute security for charter-payments until the proper take-over of the chartered ship, in that payments are secured up to this point in a separate, bankruptcy-safe trust account in cooperation with a well-known German law firm.

For more information please contact YACHT-POOL: skipper@yacht-pool.de

Therefore, booking now and sailing later is without any financial risk!
Nautic Tourism after COVID-19 outbreak

Things will change, we will adapt.

WHAT AUTHORITIES THINK?

Considering the evolving nature of the situation, it is too early to estimate the full impact of the COVID-19 on international tourism. For its initial assessment, UNWTO takes the SARS scenario of 2003 as a benchmark, factoring in the size and dynamics of global travel and current disruptions, the geographic spread of COVID-19 and its potential economic impact:

As of today, UNWTO estimates that in 2020 global international tourist arrivals could decline between 30-40%, down from an estimated growth of 3% to 4% forecast in early January 2020.

This could translate into a loss of US$ 30 to 50 billion in spending by international visitors (international tourism receipts).

Estimates for other world regions are currently premature in view of the rapidly evolving situation.

We believe that, due to Croatia outstanding efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, and low number of those infected, Croatia won’t be hit as much as other EU countries.

This could help Croatia to get back on it’s feet more quickly, and to provide a safe zone for travelers around the world once the borders are open!
Latest News from Croatia regarding the Nautical Tourism

• Since maritime borders are closed and the opening of seasonal sea border crossings is delayed until further notice, it is forbidden to sail the Adriatic Sea to foreign and domestic boaters and to sail in and sail out nautical ports. Sailing is permitted only for fishing purposes and under special allowance.
• Foreign guests who might come across land borders are obliged to go into self-isolation for two weeks after crossing the border. The Civil Protection Headquarters and the Ministry made the decision that it is not possible to carry out self-isolation on yachts but only in fixed facilities.
• Due to the special circumstances caused by the Covid 19 epidemic, nautical tourism is suffering enormous damage and therefore the Croatian Marines Association has asked the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure for assistance.
• Marinas are still obliged to pay for their concession, additionally to other running costs, that may threaten their existence. Therefore, the Croatian Marines Association requested that they be temporarily released from the concession payment. Another required measure is to reduce VAT from 25% to 13% on berth prices, or to equalize the VAT rate with other tourism services in order to help charter companies directly affected by the restrictions caused by the Covid epidemic 19.
• It should be borne noticed that the charter fleet in Croatia occupies 30% of berth capacity in marinas.
• Most marinas in Croatia ensure the safety and care of the ships throughout, since the care of the yachts remains on them and is implemented with full intensity. Also, most marinas offer their customers special yacht related services in terms of specially requested services from yacht owners, such as yacht photography, lifting on dry land and servicing arrangements where possible, and more.
STAY IN TOUCH
For further info on COVID-19 outbreak in Croatia

info@yacht-pool-croatia.hr

And let us know if there is anything else we might do for you in this stressful times, we’re at your disposal for help, support and assistance.