

Rovinj information package for our FCVC participants

Welcome to Rovinj – Your Summer Escape Awaits

Rovinj, often hailed as one of Croatia's most picturesque coastal towns, offers a captivating blend of rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking natural beauty. Nestled on the western coast of the Istrian Peninsula, this charming town is a timeless mix of cobbled streets, pastel-coloured buildings, and shimmering Adriatic waters. Whether you're planning a quick weekend getaway or a leisurely summer stay, this short guide gives you the essentials on how to get to Rovinj, what to see and do, where to dine, how to pay, and the best beaches to soak up the sun.

From exploring its historic Old Town to savouring seafood by the sea, Rovinj is more than just a postcard-perfect destination — it's a living mosaic of art, tradition, and coastal charm. Whether you're climbing the bell tower at sunset, strolling through art-filled alleys, or simply watching fishing boats sway in the harbour with a glass of local wine in hand, Rovinj will leave you enchanted. Whether you're drawn by its timeless charm, vibrant culinary scene, or scenic coastline, Rovinj promises unforgettable moments for every traveller.

Hope to see you soon at FCVC2025 this summer!

Getting to Rovinj

Rovinj is situated on the western coast of the Istrian Peninsula. For travellers coming from Zagreb, the journey spans approximately 250 kilometers. Here are the primary modes of transportation:

- **By Car:** Driving from Zagreb to Rovinj typically takes around 3 hours via the A1 and A6 highways. This option offers flexibility and the opportunity to explore the Istrian countryside en route.
- **By Bus:** Several bus companies operate daily routes from Zagreb to Rovinj, with journeys averaging 4 hours. The main bus station in Rovinj is conveniently located at the southeastern end of Carera Street which is in the centre of the town.
- **By Air:** While Rovinj doesn't have its own airport, the nearest international airport is in Pula, approximately 40 kilometers away. From Pula, you can reach Rovinj by taxi, shuttle service, or rental car. We advise our participants that taxis can be quite expensive.

Things to do in Rovinj

Rovinj offers plenty of activities catering to diverse interests:

- **Explore the Old Town:** Wander through narrow, cobblestone streets lined with colorful buildings, art galleries, and boutiques. Don't miss Grisia Street, renowned for its artistic atmosphere.
- **Visit the Church of St. Euphemia:** Dominating the town's skyline, this Baroque church offers panoramic views from its bell tower. The climb is rewarded with breathtaking vistas of Rovinj and the Adriatic Sea.
- **Zlatni Rt Forest Park (Golden Cape):** Ideal for nature enthusiasts, this park boasts walking and cycling trails amidst lush greenery, leading to secluded beaches and offering opportunities for rock climbing. **We shall offer morning/evening yoga classes in this park, led by our co-organiser Dr Petra Krpan, if FCVC2025 participants wish to enjoy some mindful movement (ask Petra for more details).**
- **Boat Excursions:** Explore the Rovinj archipelago, consisting of 19 islands, by taking a boat tour. These excursions often include swimming, snorkeling, and visits to nearby attractions like the Lim Fjord. There are also ferries to nearby islands from two places in Rovinj (ask Petra for more information)
- **Farmer's Market:** Located near Valdibora Square, the market offers fresh produce, local cheeses, truffles, and souvenirs, providing a taste of Istria's culinary delights. Ask Petra for more information where to buy food and from whom.

Currency and Payment

As of January 2023, Croatia adopted the Euro (€) as its official currency. Credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger shops. However, it's advisable to carry some cash for smaller establishments, local markets, and services that may not accept cards. ATMs are readily available throughout Rovinj for cash withdrawals.

Restaurants in Rovinj

Rovinj's culinary scene is a delightful fusion of Italian and Croatian influences, emphasising fresh seafood and local ingredients:

- **Monte:** As Croatia's first Michelin-starred restaurant, Monte offers an innovative dining experience with artfully presented dishes in a romantic setting. Very expensive and arguably maybe not worth the money. Reservations are required.

- **La Puntulina:** Situated on the waterfront, this restaurant provides stunning sea views alongside a menu featuring fresh seafood and traditional Istrian specialties. Great restaurant near the beach, a little expensive, and reservations are required.
- **Balbi:** Nestled in the heart of the Old Town, Balbi is known for its cozy ambiance and a menu that highlights local flavors at reasonable prices.
- **Giannino:** A family-run establishment offering a warm atmosphere and a selection of seafood dishes prepared with a modern twist. A lovely restaurant, wonderful food, but reservations are required.
- **Kantinon** and **Rio** are also very nice options for fish and meat dishes. Reservations are required.

Charming Coffee Spots in Rovinj

- **Mediterraneo Bar**
Located right on the seafront in Rovinj's Old Town, Mediterraneo is a cozy and artistic café bar tucked between colourful stone houses. It offers stunning views of the Adriatic, quirky decor, and a peaceful vibe — ideal for sipping a coffee or cocktail, especially at sunset. Great for couples and solo travelers looking to relax with a sea breeze. It is often crowded as it is a popular tourist spot.
- **Caffe Bar XL**
Situated near the Church of St. Euphemia, this local favorite offers a laid-back garden setting with panoramic views of the sea. It's a solid choice for a casual espresso or cold drink after exploring the cobbled streets of Rovinj. It has a no-fuss, authentic charm. Lovely and cool in the mornings, wonderful view.
- **Augusto Coffee Shop**
A small specialty coffee spot in the heart of Rovinj, Augusto is known for its quality espresso, friendly staff, and modern feel. If you're into craft coffee and minimalism, this is your place.
- **Monte Carlo bar**
Lovely in the morning and evening, right next to the sea. Great coffee.

Café Bars in Hotels

- **Grand Park Hotel Rovinj – Viva Eufemia Lobby Bar**
This elegant bar inside Rovinj's most luxurious hotel offers a refined atmosphere with panoramic views over the marina and old town. It's a great place to enjoy a morning cappuccino, an afternoon tea, or a signature cocktail in the evening. They also have the *Tabakina* cigar lounge for a more exclusive experience.

Grand Park also has another bar called **Katarina's bar** and they serve wonderful coffee, cakes, gelato. Prices are reasonable even though it is a hotel. It is also on the way to Zlatni Rt forest park. Great after conference place :)

- **Hotel Adriatic – Adriatic Caffè Bar**
Located on the main square by the waterfront, this boutique hotel's café bar blends contemporary art with classic elegance. Their terrace is perfect for watching the world go by, and the drink menu includes everything from artisan coffee to local wines and cocktails.
- **Hotel Lone – Lobby Bar**
Inside the stylish and design-forward Hotel Lone, the lobby bar serves premium coffee and a wide range of drinks in a cool, modern setting. Surrounded by pine forest and close to the beach, it's ideal for a calm coffee break away from the bustle.

Beaches in Rovinj

Rovinj boasts a variety of beaches, each offering a unique experience:

- **Mulini Beach:** Located near the Monte Mulini hotel, this pebble beach offers clear waters and is equipped with sun loungers and a beach bar.
- **Lone Bay:** Situated within the Zlatni Rt Forest Park, Lone Bay features a mix of pebble and rocky shores, surrounded by pine forests, making it ideal for relaxation and swimming.
- **Amarin Beach:** Part of the Amarin Resort, this beach offers various amenities, including water sports facilities, and is suitable for families.
- **Cuvi Beach:** A popular spot among locals, Cuvi Beach is a combination of pebbles and sand, offering shallow waters suitable for children and a nearby café for refreshments.

Shopping & Local Products

Rovinj is a fantastic place to discover unique souvenirs and local goods:

- **Art Galleries and Studios:** Especially along Grisia Street, you'll find many local artists selling original paintings, jewellery, ceramics, and handcrafted items.
- **Local Delicacies:** Pick up Istrian truffles, olive oil, fig jams, lavender products, and local wines such as Malvazija and Teran, very nice wines and also try kissing brandy (cro. rakija).
- **Markets:** Besides the Valdibora Market, small boutiques throughout the Old Town offer a mix of trendy clothes, accessories, and artisan items.

Useful Tips

- **Language:** Croatian is the official language, but English, Italian and German are widely spoken, especially in tourist areas.

However, here are some basic Croatian phrases:

Dining & Shopping

- **How much is this?**
Koliko ovo košta?
- **The bill, please**
Račun, molim
- **Cheers!**
Živjeli!
- **Delicious!**
Ukusno!
- **Water**
Voda
- **Coffee**
Kava
- **Beer**
Pivo
- **Wine**
Vino

Travel & Directions

- **Where is...?**
Gdje je...?
- **Beach**
Plaža
- **Toilet**
Toalet or WC
- **Left / Right / Straight**
Lijevo / Desno / Ravno
- **I need help**
Trebam pomoć

Hope these phrases help :)

- **Electricity:** Standard European plugs (Type C and F) with 230V.
- **Tipping:** Tipping is appreciated, but not mandatory. Rounding up or leaving 5–10% is customary in restaurants.
- **Internet:** Most accommodation, cafes, and restaurants offer free Wi-Fi. You'll also find public hotspots in the Old Town (very important for all of our FCVC2025 participants travelling from outside of EU).
- **Important numbers:** If you're visiting and not fluent in Croatian, dialling **112** is often the best choice – operators can usually speak **English, German, and Italian**.

Emergency Numbers (Free and available 24/7):

- **112 – General Emergency** (unified number for police, fire, ambulance, mountain rescue, etc.)
- **192 – Police**
- **193 – Fire Department**
- **194 – Ambulance**
- **195 – Maritime Search and Rescue**
- **1987 – Road Assistance (HAK - Croatian Auto Club)**

There is an emergency department and a smaller hospital in Rovinj, a bigger hospital is in Pula (25-30 minutes away). Police department and fire department are also situated in Rovinj.

Day Trips from Rovinj

If you have a few extra days after the FCVC2025 gathering, consider these nearby gems:

- **Pula** – Just 40 minutes away, famous for its Roman amphitheatre and historic ruins.
- **Motovun** – A charming hilltop village known for truffles, panoramic views, and medieval architecture.
- **Lim Fjord** – A scenic estuary ideal for boat trips, swimming, and sampling fresh oysters and mussels. There are two restaurants (Viking and Fjord) which offer wonderful food, but please do reserve in advance.

- **Brijuni National Park** – A short ferry ride from nearby Fažana (takes 20 minutes by car or bus) takes you to this lush island paradise with ancient ruins, exotic animals, and biking trails. If you have time to visit Brijuni, you won't be sorry; it is a wonderful place which many secluded beaches. You can rent bicycles and a golf cart (it is a little expensive) to go around the National Park.
- **Opatija** – is a picturesque coastal town in western Croatia, nestled at the foot of Mount Učka and overlooking the Kvarner Bay, one hour and 10 minutes from Rovinj (84 km), known for its refined elegance, lush parks, historic villas, and mild Mediterranean climate, Opatija has long been a beloved destination for travellers seeking relaxation, culture, and sea views.

Rovinj to Venice

1. Ferry:

There is a tourist office in the main square where you can buy tickets.

Kompas Rovinj

Obala M.Tita 5

52 210 Rovinj

+385 52 813 211

rovinj@kompas-travel.com

Working hours:

22.04.-31.05. 09:00-20:00, Saturday closed

01.06.-30.09. 09:00-21:00

01.10.-15.10. 09:00-16:00, Saturday and Sunday closed

- **Operator:** Venezia Lines
- **Duration:** Approximately 2 hours 45 minutes to 3 hours (a very nice ferry ride and ideal for a day trip to Venice)
- **Frequency:** Seasonal service from April to September, with around 2 weekly sailings
- **Departure Time:** Typically around 08:00 or 08:15 (or earlier)
- **Price:** Ranges from €100 to €450, depending on the season and booking time
- **Additional Info:** It's advisable to book in advance due to limited sailings.

2. Bus:

Operator: FlixBus

Duration: Approximately 4 hours 40 minutes

Frequency: 2 rides daily

Price: Starting from €24.48

Additional Info: Buses depart from Rovinj bus station and arrive at various stations in Venice, including Mestre and Tronchetto.

3. Private Transfer:

Service: Daytrip

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Price: Starting from €65 per seat

Additional Info: Offers door-to-door service with options for sightseeing stops along the way. [Daytrip Transfers](#)

Rovinj to Trieste

1. Bus:

Operators: FlixBus, Brioni Pula d.o.o., Arriva Croatia

Duration: Roughly 2 to 3 hours, depending on the service

Frequency: Multiple daily departures

Price: Tickets range from €10 to €15

Additional Info: Buses depart from Rovinj bus station and arrive at Trieste's main bus station.

2. Private Transfer:

Service: Daytrip

Duration: Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes

Price: From €31 per seat

Additional Info: Provides door-to-door service with potential sightseeing opportunities en route. [Daytrip Transfers](#)

General Recommendations:

- **Advance Booking:** Especially during peak tourist seasons, it's advisable to book tickets in advance to secure availability and better prices.
- **Check Schedules:** Transportation schedules can vary based on the season and day of the week. Always verify the latest timetables before planning your trip.
- **Border Crossing:** Since you're crossing international borders, ensure you have the necessary travel documents and be prepared for potential border checks.
- **Health insurance:** make sure you have travel health insurance