

## My Erasmus Experience in Croatia.

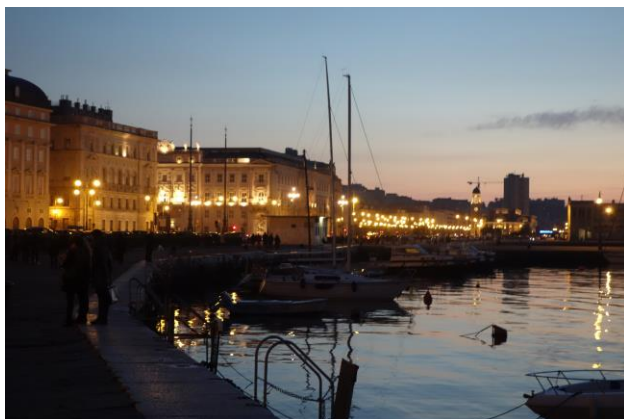
It all started with the inspiring insights from the students who had been on Erasmus exchange already. Erasmus, they said, is something everybody has to try - it is bound to be an amazing experience. Encouraged to apply I selected Zagreb as my first choice and got accepted. The reason I chose Croatia was that I saw it as a life-time opportunity to learn about the Balkan region and not least important – the University of Zagreb offers an array of very interesting courses on law not yet available here in RGSL.

Before I went, I experienced some anxiety moments since I did not know what to expect, I was not sure whether I would like it there, whether the people would be nice. But all these insecurities vanished once I got out of the plane and my mind switched onto a survival regime ready to observe and make most of my stay in Zagreb. This attitude helped a lot since then one focuses best on what there is to get as opposed to what there is missing or different from the circumstances I had been used to. I lived in dorms that were comparatively new consisting of small apartments – two rooms for four people, a shared kitchen and bathroom. My roommate was French but the other room was shared by Belgian and Croatian girls.

During the first week there was the so-called “welcoming week” when you are introduced with the teachers, university and other essential information that might be useful during the stay. Every other week there were trips and events organised by the Erasmus Student Network, which gave the opportunity to see more of Croatia and meet students from other faculties.

During the week I was attending lectures but we typically spent the weekends travelling around Croatia. The nature in Croatia is amazing. The Plitvice Lakes (see the photo below) are like a fairytale – no words can describe the beauty of this place. When the weather got colder, we took some trips outside Croatia. Croatia has a very good location as it is in the centre of Balkans and close to other Eastern Europe countries. So you can visit the Czech Republic, Serbia, Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. My lecture schedule at the University was pretty tight but I nevertheless managed to visit Italy, Austria, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

I am very happy I had the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus programme and see the world, meet people and gain invaluable academic experience. It is not the place that matters so much, but rather it is your own state of mind and the people around you that make such experiences life changing and meaningful in all different ways. Now I have friends from all around Europe making my world much smaller but way more interesting than it was before.



In Italy (Trieste)



In Zagreb (Croatia)

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Plitvice Lakes (Croatia)

