

# The Adriatic Sea

**1** Look at the title. What do we call it in Croatian? What is it called in other European languages?



**2** In one minute, write down as many verbs as you can that describe activities related to the sea.

**3** Now, you are going to read the text about the Adriatic Sea. Underline any new pieces of information about the Adriatic Sea and make notes in your notebook.

Croatia is a country in the south-east of Europe. It has got beautiful valleys, hills, mountains and rivers. But it has also got the beautiful Adriatic Sea. It is part of the Mediterranean Sea and we share it with our neighbours. How much do you know about the Adriatic?

The Adriatic stretches from the Strait of Otranto to the Gulf of Venice, in the north. Its western, or Italian, coast is low and straight while the eastern coast is rocky and mountainous but full of large and small islands. These islands run parallel to the continental shore.

The Adriatic is about 800 kilometres long and has an average width of 160 kilometres. Its maximum depth is 1,250 meters. The Adriatic has a high salt content. Salinity is 38%, which is higher than the world average. The climate is

Mediterranean. This means that it has warm and dry summers and mild, humid winters.

The main winds prevailing in the area are **the bura**, a strong northeast wind that blows from the mountains across the sea, and a south-easterly wind named **the jugo**. During winter months, bura and jugo alternate, with periods of a few calm days in between.

The Adriatic is a relatively warm sea in which temperatures vary from 22°C to 25°C in summer and from 5°C to 15°C in winter. Sea currents in the Adriatic are warm and run along the Croatian coast from south to north, and back down the Italian coast from north to south. The change in tides is not extreme.

The Adriatic Sea is well-known for the number of islands, big and small. It has got 1244 islands and islets. Some are inhabited and some are not.

The largest islands are Krk and Cres. The longest is Hvar and the flattest is Krpanj. The smallest island is Jabuka. There are two peninsulas in the Adriatic, Istra and Pelješac.

In summer, its temperature, between 22°C and 25°C, makes it perfect for summer time activities like swimming, surfing and sailing. The Adriatic flora and fauna is rich. The sea is inhabited by numerous species of fish, molluscs, mammals, urchins, crabs, algae, plankton, sponges and other organisms.

Many tourists are drawn to Croatia because of the sea so the Adriatic is an important part of tourism in Croatia and the generator of the economic growth. Many holiday resorts are located on its shores. Fishing is another important branch of economy, the fishing catch on the Adriatic includes lobsters, sardines, and tuna. Maritime transport is also a significant activity of the country's economy—there are many seaports in the Adriatic that handle tonnes and tonnes of cargo per year.

We must make sure it stays clean for future generations as it is a great resource but also it has deeply shaped the culture and life style of the people who live with it every day.

Croatian children who live along the coast grow up going to the beach and sea every day in the summer with friends and family. That means making sand castles, digging holes in the sand, jumping, swimming, snorkelling, diving and all kinds of fooling around in the sea.

**4** Have you ever been on the Adriatic coast? Which places/towns did you visit? Did you like it?

**5** Brainstorm ideas about free-time activities at the beach and at the sea. e.g. to sunbathe to watch the sunset to make a sandcastle to take a boat tour to Vis/Šolta ...

**6** Writing: Imagine you are spending your summer holiday somewhere along the Adriatic coast. Write an e-mail to your friend about your summer holiday and send it to your friend. Include some of the activities in exercise 5.

The following questions can help you, make sure you answer them.

- 1 Where are you?
- 2 Who are you with?
- 3 Where are you staying?
- 4 What is the place like?
- 5 Which summer time activities do you normally do?
- 6 Which summer time activities are you doing now?