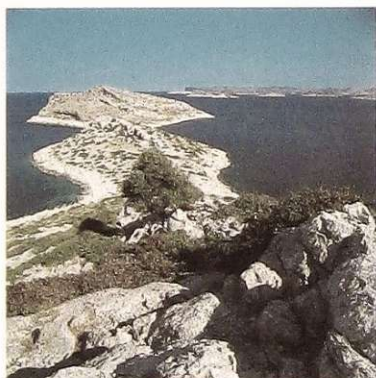
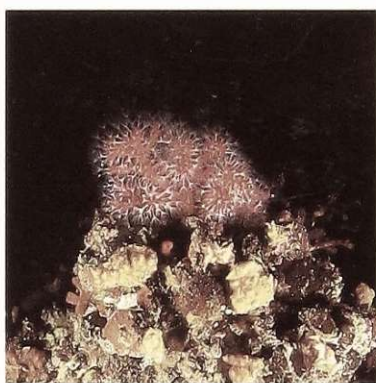


Ivo Bralić

# THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CROATIA





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Translated from the Croatian by

*Vladimir Ivir*  
*Nikolina Jovanović*

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## Preface

This book is intended as a popular science publication bringing together the most important data and information about all the national parks in Croatia. Public interest in national parks is growing, with more and more visitors seeking information that goes beyond the "tourist postcard" level. This increased interest reflects the rising level of general knowledge about nature in this country and in the world. The dual – scientific and popular – nature of this book poses the problem of balance of the two elements, and it is possible that some readers might feel that one or the other element has been overemphasized.

The national parks are presented here in the chronological order in which they reached the national-park status. In the texts themselves, the order of presentation reflects the importance and value of the natural phenomena in each national park. Since cultural heritage is also important in many Croatian national parks, due attention has been paid to this aspect too. Four years have passed since the appearance of the first edition of this book. In the meantime, Croatia has gained independence, but it has also become the victim of a brutal aggression which brought a great deal of destruction and suffering. Parts of the country, including the Plitvice Lakes National Park and some areas in the Krka National Park and southern Velebit, are still under occupation. In addition to the already officially proclaimed national parks, the Velebit region is also included in this book, because it is planned that the most interesting parts of this mountain should be categorized as a national park in the foreseeable future. This would actually exhaust the areas that can be designated as national parks in Croatia.

Finally, I must note that new topographic maps have been used for elevation data and that considerable differences will therefore be found in some cases compared with the data given in earlier brochures, guide books and maps of the Croatian national parks. Where differences in the names and designations are found, an attempt has been made in each case to give all the variant names.

I. B.



## Contents

### **The Plitvice Lakes National Park – pp. 15 – 33**

From Devil's Garden to the World Heritage List, A procession of lakes, On the origins and history of the lakes and cascades, Not just lakes, Human settlements at Plitvice

### **The Paklenica National Park – pp. 35 – 47**

On the boundaries of the National Park, Features of relief and landscape, Paklenica forests and their significant flora, Fauna

### **The Risnjak National Park – pp. 49 – 59**

Geographical characteristics, The Risnjak forests, "A carpet woven with flowers", The animal world of Risnjak

### **The Mljet National Park – pp. 61 – 71**

Homer's Ogygia?, Bays or lakes?, A green island, Animal life on Mljet, Valuable cultural monuments, Villages and fields

### **The Kornati National Park – pp. 73 – 91**

"As many as there are days in the year ...", In the labyrinth of the sea and stone, The living organisms in the Kornati waters, Man's presence in the Kornati environment, Cultural heritage, Plant and animal life on the islands, Islands in the Kornati National Park

### **The Brijuni National Park – pp. 93 – 105**

Geography and landscape, Indigenous plant life, Landscaped parks and grassland, Animal life in the National Park, History and historic heritage

### **The Krka National Park – pp. 107 – 125**

Contrasts of form and colour, The boundaries of the National Park, From Trošenj and Nečven to Roški Slap, From Roški Slap to Skradinski Buk, From Skradinski Buk to the Šibenik bridge, Plant life, Animal life

### **Velebit – pp. 127 – 144**

Why Velebit in this book?, Landscape and climate, Plant and animal life, In the tracks of Velebit shepherds and shapers, Among the Velebit peaks and valleys, Inside the mountain, Important floristic and forest localities and regions