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Zagreb RIDDLE TOUR

SCRAPBOOK





Same city.
New perspectives.

Zagreb City Riddle Tour

Student-Led Tour

October 21, 2026







On October 21, we took a walking tour through the streets of Zagreb. We solved fun **location -based riddles** to find our way around the city while learning about the cultural and historical sights of the Upper and Lower Towns. We also shared our knowledge of Zagreb with our international guests from Poland, Portugal and Türkiye, who visited our school as part of the Erasmus+ programme.





Zagreb City Riddle Tour

Lower Town



Following the clues and riddles prepared by teacher Mirna, we explored some of Zagreb's most important cultural and historical sights. Along the way, under the guidance of our Geography teacher, Ms. Magdalena Geček, and History teacher, Mr. Leon Šijanski, students presented short, site-specific talks about the people behind Zagreb's street and square names**,** sharing interesting facts about the city's history and heritage. Our tour began at **Marulić Square** and **Mažuranić Square**, before we continued to the **Croatian National Theatre**, where we admired Ivan Meštrović's sculpture *Well of Life*. We learned that Marko Marulić was credited with the first known use of the word *psychology*; that Ivan Mažuranić coined words that have become part of standard Croatian, including words for ice cream, accounting, rhinoceros and sculptor; and that the Croatian National Theatre took only sixteen months to build. From there, we headed to **Ban Jelačić Square**, the centre of the city and one of the most popular meeting points for Zagreb's residents. Our next clue led us to the **Manduševac Fountain**, which is associated with a legend about how the city got its name. According to one version of the legend, a young knight returning from battle asked a girl named Manda to scoop him some water from a spring, saying, "Zagrabi, Mando" (English: "Scoop it, Manda"). The story explains the name Manduševac and is traditionally linked to the name Zagreb.









Zagreb City Riddle Tour

Upper Town











Our next stop was **Zagreb Cathedral,** where we admired its impressive Neo-Gothic architecture. The 2020 earthquakes severely damaged the cathedral, and the towers were later shortened for safety reasons. Restoration work has been underway to preserve this important historical landmark. Overlooking the main square and standing in the shadow of the cathedral is one of Zagreb's most precious resources: **Dolac Market**, often called the belly of Zagreb. Here, we could feel the city's lively atmosphere and experience local flavours. The popular *kumice*, or female farmers who sell their produce, contribute to the market's unique character and popularity. Dolac Market is currently being renovated, so its outdoor stalls have temporarily moved to Ban Jelačić Square and nearby streets. We continued our walk to the statue of **Marija Jurić Zagorka** in Tkalčićeva Street and then to Bloody **Bridge.** Marija Jurić Zagorka, the first Croatian female journalist, wrote the famous novel *The Secret of the Bloody Bridge*, which helped popularise the legends associated with this place. **Stone Gate**, once the main entrance to the medieval town, was our next stop at the top of Radićeva Street.

Zagreb City Riddle Tour

Lower Town



We then reached the heart of the Upper Town and one of Zagreb's most important squares: **St. Mark's Square**. St. Mark's Square has long been an important centre of political and public life in Zagreb. Historically, important public decisions were announced here. In the central part of the square once stood a pillar of shame, where people were tied and punished by court order. Matija Gubec, the leader of the Croatian Peasants' Revolt, was also punished here for his role in the rebellion. The square is best known for its iconic **Church of St. Mark**, easily recognisable by its colourful tiled roof bearing the coats of arms of the medieval Kingdoms of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia, as well as the City of Zagreb. We continued to one of Zagreb's most recognisable landmarks, **Lotrščak Tower**, built in the 13th century to guard the southern gate of the Gradec town walls. It is famous for the Grič cannon, which fires daily at noon to announce midday to the citizens of Zagreb and their guests.



At the **Strossmayer Promenade** and **Vranyczany Plateau**, we took a break and enjoyed one of the most beautiful panoramic views of the Croatian capital. On our way back through the city, we explored **Preradović Square**, popularly known as Flower Square. We discovered that Petar Preradović was a well-known Croatian poet and military general, adding another piece to the puzzle of Zagreb's rich history and culture.





We then continued to the statue of **Nikola Tesla** in Teslina Street, where we found out more about the life and achievements of one of the world's most famous inventors.

We ended our tour with an ice cream treat. It was a perfect mix of exploring, learning and relaxing. Following clues, solving riddles and sharing our knowledge made the day both fun and memorable.

Look for the Zagreb sights in the riddle

Clue # 1

His statue is a symbol of our capital town,
he raises his sword to all the enemies around.
In the beginning, his sword to the North pointed,
but now, South is more wanted.
Though his name may confuse you,
we hope he'll never be banned.
It's a famous meeting point and
the place for your clue that we planned.

Clue # 2

It was almost 7 centuries ago,
that's what people think.
When lovely Manda grabbed some water there
and gave a young knight to drink.
Then the knight build the city around that well,
the city called Zagreb is still there.

Clue # 3

An earthquake shook and took one crown,
the other one also went down.
It has a name, but we call it by a noun,
the tallest of God's houses in our town.

Clue # 4

People say it's the belly of the town
when you are hungry, it's good to be around.
It's where you can buy fruit and veggies
under red umbrellas,
„kumice" will sell you cheese, „burek",
or „some flowers, fellas"?

Clue # 5

A writer, a journalist, a polemicist, a lady for sure
in the street where you go for a drink,
a place for a tour.
There she is - taking a walk
in the shadow of a Solar clock,
where the Grič witch from her novel
planted you a clue using a magic shovel.

Clue # 6

Once there was a bridge
where battles were fought.
Today it doesn't seem as rough
as you would have thought.
Though its name could frighten you to the core,
there's no blood running under, not any more.

Look for the Zagreb sights in the riddle

Clue # 7

They call them the doors that are made of stone,
a place old and cold.
Nearby is a statue of the maiden
from the novel Goldsmith's Gold.
It's a wall of hope for some
when their life is hard to handle,
to say a prayer to Mother Mary and light a candle.

Clue # 8

Famous, brightly coloured tile roof
that bears coats of arms.
In front of that building
he went down.
They called him the *Peasant King*
and made him wear a thorn crown.

Clue # 9

The bell is there since 17th century,
but now it belongs to the city legacy.
At first is the bell was a signal
that town gates are closing.
But now there is a cannon that says
„your watch needs checking".

Clue # 10

It's an Upper town meadow,
which name after Bela IV came to be.
That king took Zagreb out of the shadow
and made it the royal city – and FREE.
It's a lovely place,
and we hope you will someday be back.

Clue # 11

On the square with most of the flowers
you will find me, one of the famous writers.
Poet as well, here I stand,
you can sit under my statue,
luckily – it is NOT banned.
Behind my back there is an Orthodox Church.
Soon there will come an end
to this difficult search.

Clue # 12

If you want to go electric,
your car is named after THIS eccentric.
Though he was almost 2m high,
he was still a very nice guy.
He suffered from Obsessive-compulsive syndrome
but electric current was his kingdom.

Look for the Zagreb sights in the riddle

Clue # 13

There are actors and dancers, opera and ballet,
tragedies and dramas,
masterpieces and vanity fair,
classics and remakes,
all art we should see and care.
But to give you a hint –
the building is big, yellow and square.

Clue # 14

The square's name is shared between me,
my son and my brother.
They're calling her Croatian Andersen
and I am proud to be her grandfather.
There you can find the Academy of Dramatic Art
where starts all the magic
that can warm your heart.

Clue # 15

A writer, a poet, true Dalmatian pride,
he wrote in Latin, Italian, Croatian – real bard.
In the 15th century his masterpiece Judita
did appear,
and today when you see him
everything will be clear.
He has moustache and a beard,
and his statue's a bit weird.

