



THE NEW SHORE

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(The Newlyweds Park) | 10 - Sports Centre | 15 - Meštrović Square |
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INFO & BOOKING

Explore Novi Zagreb with a guide!

THE NEW SHORE



Discover Novi Zagreb in 19 stops



The New Shore — Discover Novi Zagreb in 19 stops

What can we see in Novi Zagreb? People often ask this when they hear about Secret Zagreb tours of that part of our city. So we prepared this map – to inspire you to explore Zagreb’s southern riverbank.

How to explore?

- **By bike** – try Bajs city bikes
- **Walking** – start from the Savski most bridge and skip stops 02, 03, and 12. You’ll need about 6 hours. Shorten the route if it’s too much, and come back later for more
- **By tram** – trams 6, 7, and 14 run through Novi Zagreb
- **By city bus** – the stop is at the end of the Importanne underpass on Trg Kralja Tomislava square

Welcome to the new shore!

The southern bank of the River Sava has an interesting history. This was the border of Napoleon’s Illyrian Provinces in the early 1800s – so technically a part of France at that time. You can read the history of the neighbourhoods from their names. Still, Zagreb only truly crossed the river to the south in the 20th century, led by visionary mayor Većeslav *Veća* Holjeva. The high-rises and the first neighbourhoods – Trnsko and Zapruđe – started popping up in the 1960s. At first glance, Novi (New) Zagreb seems grey and cold. But once you step into the neighbourhoods, you’ll feel its colour and warmth!

01 – Hendrix Bridge

This railway bridge, built in 1939, gets its nickname from the mysterious graffiti word *Hendrix* that keeps appearing on its arch.

02 – Arena

Modern architecture and sport are always welcome in Novi Zagreb – and sometimes they arrive together! That’s what happened in 2008, when Arena Zagreb was built to host the World Handball Championship.

03 – Hippodrome

First came the horses, then the people! The very first big project on the southern bank of the river Sava was the construction of a venue for equestrian sports. It was built on the site of a former imperial military training ground.

04 – SEECEL - Regional Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning for Southeast Europe

This building is at its most beautiful when its surfaces reflect the colours of sunset. Construction began when Croatia joined the European Union, and the building is a symbol of the ambitions of the then-young member. Does it remind you of anything? When you reach point 17, see if you can spot the architect Franić’s signature style.

05 – Trnsko Underpass

Trnsko shares its story with every visitor through the murals in this storytelling underpass. If you’d like to know more about the neighbourhood, visit the exhibition in the Mrav restaurant.

06 – The Newlyweds Park - Park Mladenaca

What’s behind the romantic name of this park? Every tree planted between 1967 and 1978 is a symbol of someone’s love. The custom was for newlywed couples to choose a tree and have it planted right here.

07 – Superandrija

Superica really is brutal! The second biggest residential building in Zagreb holds almost 500 flats, all stacked into this concrete giant. The idea was that greenery would spill from the balconies, but not everyone kept their plants going. If you ask a neighbour, you might hear some 50-year-old gossip about Andrija – a mysterious man who inspired the building’s nickname.

08 – The Shipbuilding Institute

Even this far from the Adriatic Sea, ships were once built and tested in two large basins at the Brodarski Institute, starting back in the 1948! The institute hides in the greenery of its arboretum, but the nearby street names inspired by maritime heritage hint at its location.

09 – Church of the Holy Cross

The first residents of Novi Zagreb in the 1960s had no place of worship so a new one was built here in the Siget neighbourhood, opening its doors in 1983. They went big! This is one of the largest churches in Zagreb. It can hold 3,500 worshippers, so you won’t find a parking space in Siget around major religious holidays!

10 – Sports Centre

Come to Dragovoljac (Sopot Sports and Recreation Centre) for tennis or five-a-side football, and to Utrine (Utrina) for swimming or ice skating!

11 – Community Gardens

A long green belt hides many gardens. This is a remnant of the old *Blue Horseshoe* plan – a landscaped green ring around Novi Zagreb’s neighbourhoods, modelled after the *Green Horseshoe* in the city centre. The only completed part of the original plan was the Newlyweds Park.

12 – Oktogon

Several Novi Zagreb neighbourhoods form distinct architectural ensembles, and Dugave stands out among them. If you get lost in the semi-circular layout – don’t panic! Just take a break in Oktogon, this octagonal meeting spot.

13 – Mamutica - She-mammoth

It grew on what used to be a meadow, so people called it *Tratinčica* (Little Daisy), but most agree that the name *Mamutica* (She-Mammoth) suits it better. The largest residential building in this part of Europe is home to almost 5,000 people. Many of them wouldn’t trade it for anything.

14 – Utrina Market

It may not be as picturesque as Dolac in the city centre, but it has such a great selection that many people from all over town come to Utrine at the weekend. We’ll let you in on a secret – this is where you’ll find the best *sir i vrhnje* (traditional cottage cheese and cream)!

15 – Meštrović Square

For the residents of Zapruđe neighbourhood, the famous *limenke* (cans) – the sheet-metal-clad buildings – just weren’t enough. They also wanted a gathering place, so they initiated its construction themselves. Half a century later, Meštrović Square is still full of life! Good to know: they say you can eat the best *ćevapi* (delicious grilled sausages) in Zapruđe.

16 – Lake Bundek

When stone was dug to construct a nearby building, a little lake was formed in its place. For a long time, the area was left wild and overgrown.. Today, Bundek is fully landscaped, and in summer you can even enjoy a swim!

17 – MSU – Museum of Contemporary Art

This famous example of contemporary Croatian architecture pays tribute to the concrete structures of Novi Zagreb and to the painting style of Julije Knifer. Even children fall in love with serious art here, thanks to Carsten Höller’s Double Slide installation.

18 – Velesajam - Trade Fair Grounds

The real development of Novi Zagreb began with the construction of the Zagreb Fair on what was more-or-less empty land along the southern Sava bank. Look for the works of art decorating the outdoor spaces and the imaginative pavilions, like the Chinese one, or Vitić’s pavilion, built using principles from bridge construction.

19 – Avenue Mall

The first big Western influence on Novi Zagreb’s socialist vibe arrived in the shape of a small shopping mall with a cinema. Kids used to hang out in playgrounds, on garage lots, and atomic shelters – today, they head to the Mall instead.

There’s so much more we’d love to share with you, but we’d need a bigger map! What would *you* recommend in New Zagreb? Let us know at info@secret-zagreb.com

The sounds of Novi Zagreb

Novi Zagreb is the birthplace of local bands, has featured in music videos, and hosted concerts by famous artists. We’ve put together the perfect *Spotify* playlist for exploring Novi Zagreb. It starts with a romantic song that uses the metaphor *obala nova – the new shore*, and then it’s all rock ‘n’ roll from there!



For true explorers

A complex mosaic: Uran, Vodan, Villa Katarina, street-art museums, and good old *kloferi* are just some of the pieces awaiting discovery. Scan the code and explore the map of Novi Zagreb’s hidden details. Enjoy the quest!



Novi Zagreb on the big screen

Novi Zagreb sets the scene for a few movies. See if you recognise any of the background in these ones:

- *The Trial* (1962), directed by Orson Welles
- *Metastases* (2009), directed by Branko Schmidt

A big thank you...

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A special thanks to everyone who joined the live walks in September 2025 and shared their Novi Zagreb experiences. This map includes your contributions too!



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