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Zadar was the capital of the historical district of Dalmatia for almost two thousand years, and today it is the administrative and cultural center of the county that bears the same name, in the Republic of Croatia. The historical city nucleus is the largest on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea and the best example of historical multi-layered architectural heritage for its Roman urban basis, Early Christian and early Medieval architecture, powerful Romanesque layer, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque and the monumental public architecture of the 19th century.

In the cyclic changes throughout its past, war and renewal alternate while the Second World War destructions almost stopped city life and damaged greatly the historical image of a strong Adriatic city. If war ravages are evil, renewal is its good fate or destiny. In the past sixty years Zadar has undergone continual quality renewal as was so during and after the recent War for Independence.

Renewal and quality preservation of the most valuable monuments from sacral ones on the remains of the Roman Forum with the episcopate complex, convent of the Benedictines of St. Mary, and Saint Elias were and excellent basis and stimulus for its nomination to the list of UNESCO World Heritage.

The single examples of sacral and public historical architecture in the city enclosed by strong Renaissance fortifications represent the highest art and style on the Dalmatian coast. Examples of this are the church of St. Grisogonus, St. Simon, St Peter the Elder, St. Francis, palaces belonging to noble families, the City Loggia and Guardhouse, etc. The matchless and diverse cultural treasure is preserved in the museums in Zadar among which the Archeological Museum and the Permanent Exhibition of Sacral Art are to be pointed out.

Nevertheless, the Zadar historical nucleus is not a museum of objects and shapes but, above all, a live and dynamic heart of one of the most prosperous cities in Croatia.