



# Croatia Challenge Badge





Hi there! We are a group of Guides and Rangers from Girlguiding Hertfordshire county going to a trip to Croatia in summer 2026.

We are so excited for the trip and are very grateful to you for helping us in our fundraising by purchasing our activity pack and badges. Thank you for your support; we hope you enjoy our Croatian themed activities.

If you are a Rainbow or Brownie unit, choose a minimum of 5 activities, with at least 1 from each section, to earn the badge.



If you are a Guide, Ranger, Trefoil unit, choose a minimum of 7 activities, with at least 1 from each section, to earn the badge.



To order your heart-shaped Croatia 2026 badges, costing £1.50 each plus postage and packaging, please email: [croatia26@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk](mailto:croatia26@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk) for a form.



# Contents

Crafts

Activities

Food

Venice

Links and resources



# Crafts

## Paper Licitar hearts



**Licitar hearts** are traditional, brightly coloured, heart-shaped biscuits from Croatia, made from sweet honey dough and decorated with elaborate icing, symbolizing love, affection, and loyalty; they are UNESCO-recognized keepsakes often exchanged as tokens of love, used as Christmas tree ornaments, and sold as popular souvenirs, deeply rooted in Croatian culture since medieval times.

## Kayaking

As part of our trip, we will be kayaking along the coast. Girls can do this as individuals or in patrols. Give them a variety of junk materials to make their kayaks. Add an element of competition by seeing which one floats the best. To make it harder, see which one can hold the most weight. If resources are limited, girls could make mini kayaks for Lego people and have a race (blowing the kayaks through straws). You could also make a kayak out of lolly sticks.





## Croatian flag



The Croatian flag features red, white, and blue stripes (Pan-Slavic colours) symbolizing bravery, peace, and loyalty, with the central coat of arms representing Croatian history, sovereignty, and unity, featuring

the red-and-white checkerboard (šahovnica) and a crown of 5 shields for its historical regions. Each element reflects the nation's resilience, heritage, and deep connection to its lands, rivers, and Adriatic Sea. Use red, white, and blue paint or markers for handprints, stamping, or colouring.

## Lace (Čipka)

Exquisite, handmade lacework from various regions, especially the islands (like Pag), are used for delicate tablecloths, doilies, and garments, recognized by UNESCO. Have a go at creating paper lace or use lace in a sewing project.



## Embroidery (Vez)



Traditional embroidery, often using red, white, and gold threads, are found on clothing, headscarves, and household textiles, varying by region. Have a go at embroidery on an item of your clothing or a bag etc.... or design an embroidery pattern.

- [Guides Stitcher badge](#)



## Šestine umbrellas

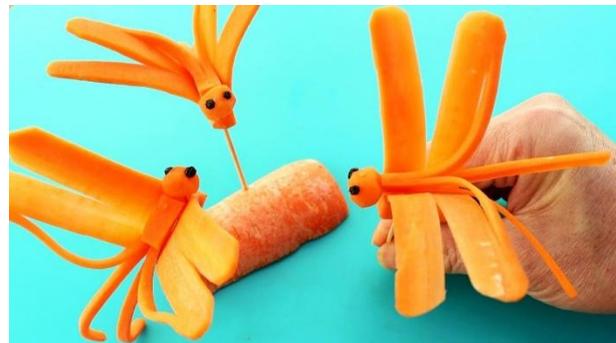


Šestine umbrellas are iconic, handcrafted Croatian umbrellas from Zagreb's Šestine region, known for their vibrant red color with colorful stripes, used in folk costumes and as cherished souvenirs, traditionally made by the Cerovečki family, symbolizing quality and tradition against rain and sun. Have a go at

making a paper umbrella or design your own inspired by the traditional Croatian ones.

## Woodcarvings

Croatian woodcarving is a rich folk-art tradition featuring intricate, often religious or heraldic designs, seen in everything from decorative household items, like mangle boards and furniture, to iconic symbols like the Croatian coat of arms, with contemporary artisans blending traditional techniques with



modern utility for unique pieces. The craft emphasizes detailed handwork, preserving centuries old skills for both cultural heritage and functional art. Have a go at carving a vegetable, like a carrot, into a small statue or whittle. Alternatively have a go at wood carving as part of the whistling badge or just for fun.

- [Guides Whittling badge](#)



## Croatian cravat



The original necktie, a fashion innovation with historical roots in Croatian mercenaries. The **Croatian cravat** (*kravata* in Croatian) is the historical forerunner of the modern necktie and bow tie. It originated in the 17th century as part of the military uniform of Croatian mercenaries serving in France. To celebrate a neck tie have a go at making a Cravat, design/make a tie or learn how to tie a tie on a friend.

## Pottery and ceramics

Croatian pottery and ceramics boast a deep history from ancient times, showcasing diverse regional styles, like rustic Istrian with earthy tones and Dalmatian with vibrant patterns, often featuring nature and folklore motifs, using traditional techniques like coiling or pinching, and continuing today with artisans blending heritage with modern designs, found in museums, local shops, and online, with authentic pieces often signed or certificated. Why not have a go at making and decorating a clay pot or tile inspired by the Croatian ones.





## Amphitheatre



The Pula Amphitheatre, also known as the Pula Arena, is a remarkably well-preserved Roman amphitheatre in Pula, Croatia, known for its complete outer walls and 4 intact corner towers. Built in the 1st century AD, it once hosted gladiatorial games and could hold over 20,000 spectators. Today, it serves as a major cultural venue for concerts, the Pula Film Festival, and historical reenactments. Why not use recycled materials to create your own amphitheatre.

## Decorate your own Pisanica

A Pisanica is a decorated Croatian Easter egg that comes from an old custom dating back to pagan times. During Easter, eggs would be painted with bright colours, and would be given as gifts. Girls should decorate egg shells using felt tips/sharpiers or paints. Older girls could use melted wax to create a pattern on the egg shell before painting over this, as is traditionally done in Croatia.





# Activities

## Learn the Kolo



The Kolo is a Croatian dance popular across the region. It is a circle dance and was traditionally performed during social gatherings in villages and towns. This link shows the simplest first step (it is in

Croatian but watch the demo). Once this move is mastered, get into a circle and perform, going round in a circle. The link below is 3 minutes of traditional Croatian music to which the girls can perform to. Older girls may wish to make up some of their own steps to add to the dance.

## National Anthem

Create your own national anthem and perform it to others. Listen to the clip of the Croatian National Anthem. Discuss what a country might want to include in its National Anthem. Girls to write their own anthems. Note: This activity is best completed towards the end of the badge pack so girls can use their new knowledge about Croatia to help them with ideas of what to include.





## Turtles



Turtle conservation in Croatia focuses on protecting endangered sea turtles (Loggerhead, Green) and rare freshwater turtles (Balkan Pond Turtle) through rescue centres (like in Mali Lošinj and Pula Aquarium), habitat preservation, public awareness (threats from fishing gear, pollution, development), research (satellite tracking), and community involvement, with recent successes including confirmed nesting sites for loggerheads, boosting hope for future nesting grounds. Have a turtle drive, similar to a beetle drive, but with a turtle instead of a beetle or cut turtles out of newspaper and have flap the turtle races, use a rolled up newspaper as the flapper. Why don't you make it into a relay race?

## Crab ball

Crabs are an animal that a lot of our team are less keen on seeing when exploring the Croatian beaches! This game encourages girls to imitate these speedy creatures. Divide the girls into 2 teams. Each team should nominate 1 person to be goalkeeper. Make 2 goals using cones. Get each team to spread out around the floor. The goalkeepers should be sitting in front of their goals. Girls should get into a crab position by putting all of their weight on their hands and feet with their stomachs facing upwards. The aim of the game is to score goals in the opposite team's goal by rolling the ball along with your feet and passing it to your teammates. If the girls are unable to form the crab position, play as upside down crabs (tummy down).



## Circle of fish



We are looking forward to seeing schools of colourful fish when snorkelling in Croatia. This game encourages girls to dash about like speedy fish! Place enough chairs in a circle for all the girls except 1. Ask 1 girl to stand in the middle and the others to sit down. Choose 3 or 4 (depending on number in group) types of fish (list below) and give each girl 1 of the fish names. The girl in the middle

calls out a fish and the girls that were named that fish have to get up and swap seats. When the girls get up, the girl in the middle tries to grab a vacant seat. The girl left in the middle then starts the process again. Types of fish: Mackerel, Tuna, Squid, Pilchard, Sea Bream, Goldfish, Whitefish, Mullet, Hake, Base, Perch, Sole.

## Don't get caught (ladders game)

The players have to get in pairs and sit in a line opposite each other with their feet touching. Each pair is given a name in Croatian (list of words included in Resources). The pair then have to race each other up the line, jumping the other players legs. The player who gets back to their seat first wins. This is a good game to play having learnt some of the Croatian vocabulary.



## Ice cream



How many scoops? Ice cream is everywhere in Croatia! In this game, everyone runs around and someone calls out a number of scoops in a cone (e.g. 6 scoops in the cone), then everyone runs into random groups of that number. Those participants not in a group are out.

Whilst we are away, we will be staying in Pula, which is famous for its Roman Amphitheatre. In this game, the parachute is the amphitheatre. The players are all given a flavour of ice cream. If your flavour is called you need to run into the amphitheatre and swap with another player. When 'ice cream sundae' is called out, everyone has to run in.



## Quiz on Croatia

This activity might be a useful way of getting your girls to show you what they have learnt from all the Croatian themed activities they have done. See the quiz questions and answers in Resources. You could always add additional questions based on what your girls are interested in.



# Food

## Gingerbread



Gingerbread is considered an intangible cultural heritage of Croatia that is recognized by the United Nations. They've been making gingerbread there since the Middle Ages and it is a true craft where gingerbread is made in intricately formed designs. The Licitar heart is probably the most well-known version that you'd find in bakeries and tourist shops.

## Decorate biscuits

Decorate rich tea biscuits with the Croatian flag. Older girls could also include the emblem on the flag, whereas younger girls could stick to the 3 main colours.



## Make your own Palacinke



(pronounced pala chink eh)

This is the Croatian equivalent of a crepe. Traditionally, there were stuffed with walnuts, but more recently, the popular choice is chocolate spread!



## Pizza challenge



Although pizza doesn't originate from Croatia, it is widely eaten and just as delicious as in Italy! Girls should make their own pizzas. Younger girls may be given the dough to stretch and add toppings, whereas older girls could make the dough as well. For an extra challenge, ask the girls to create a Croatian picture/pattern on their pizza. A recipe is included in the Resources. To turn this into a longer activity, tell the girls they have to complete some of the shorter activities included in this pack (wordsearch, ice cream tasting, learning Croatian and some of the games) to earn the toppings for the pizza. Tell them that if they fail, they won't get any toppings!

## Croatian tuna salad

Fish is one of the most popular dishes in Croatia, so try this quick and easy pasta salad. For the salad, chop up tomatoes, onion, cucumber and green peppers. Mix in 2 tablespoons of white wine vinegar and season with salt and pepper. Open a can of tuna and mix in with the prepared salad. Enjoy!





## Prawn and veggie skewers



A great recipe for some outdoor cooking! You will need skewers (1 per person; if you are using wooden ones, please soak 10 mins before placing on heat), BBQ sauce, large prawns (peeled and de-veined), 2 lemons (thinly sliced), 1 large red onion (diced thickly) and 1 pepper (diced thickly). Thread 2 prawns, lemon, onion and pepper onto skewers. Barbeque on each side for approximately 6 minutes, or until charred. For extra flavour, coat the prawns in BBQ sauce before placing on heat.

## Make your own ice cream

Ice cream can be found all over Croatia. Locals use secret family recipes to make creamy, delicious ice cream. Try the recipe (included) with your girls. No ice cream maker needed! Older girls may want to come up with their own flavours.



## Fritule



**Fritule** are traditional Croatian miniature doughnuts or sweet fritters, especially popular in the coastal region of Dalmatia. They are a festive treat, traditionally served during holidays such as Christmas and the Carnival season (the period before Easter). Why not have a go at making some.



## Try some Croatian food

Try some Croatian food. See if the girls know what the food is before you tell them, ask them which foods they like/dislike and whether they would eat any again. For an extra challenge, blindfold the girls before bringing out the foods.

Some traditional Croatia foods you could try are:

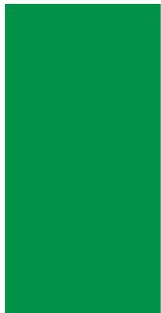
- Prawns
- Pickled cabbage
- Sheep's milk
- Pizza
- Salami
- Tuna
- Cottage cheese
- Ice cream
- Squid rings
- Gnocchi
- Honey
- Olives
- Flatbread
- Walnuts



# Venice

As part of our trip, we are excited to be visiting Venice for the day via the ferry. Here are some Venice inspired activities.

## Italian flag



The Italy flag, known as the Tricolore, is a vertical tricolor of green, white, and red, with green at the hoist (staff side) and proportions of 3:2, formally adopted in 1948 after use since 1946. Its vibrant colours symbolize fertile lands (green),

hope/peace (white), and the blood shed for unity (red), rooted in the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century revolutionary period inspired by the French flag.

Create the Italian flag by hand painting. Paint a third of your hand red, a third white and a third green before printing on card or coloured paper.

## The Carnival of Venice

The Carnival of Venice is an annual festival held in Italy. It is famous for its brightly coloured costumes and masks. Make your own mask, fit for a carnival or host your own carnival themed party inspired by The Carnival of Venice or Carnevale.





## Rialto Bridge



The **Rialto Bridge (Ponte di Rialto)** is the oldest and most famous of the 4 bridges spanning the Grand Canal in **Venice**, Italy. It connects the districts of **San Marco** and **San Polo** and is a major tourist attraction and a vital pedestrian crossing with shops lining its covered ramps. Build the Rialto Bridge using bread sticks.

## Gondola

A Venice gondola is a traditional, black, flat bottomed boat navigated by a gondolier using a single oar, offering iconic tours through the city's canals, accommodating up to 5 people and offering a unique



perspective of Venetian palaces and landmarks. Draw a picture of a gondola or try making a gondola using fresh fruit.



# Links and resources

## [Paper Licitar hearts](#)

<https://www.visit-croatia.co.uk/blog/tag/croatian-crafting/>

## [Gingerbread](#)

<https://www.licitar.hr/en/about-licitars-1>

## [Kayaking:](#)

<https://craftulate.com/craft-stick-kayak-craft/>

## [Paper lace:](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqjxlVm\\_goM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqjxlVm_goM)

## [Paper umbrella craft:](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_CzNAHoy9Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__CzNAHoy9Q)

## [Croatian cravat:](#)

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Cravat>



### **Origami tie:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_jL4pBO8ZlI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jL4pBO8ZlI)

### **Fruit and vegetables carving:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=or0xcpZWPLE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EVO8IIEU\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EVO8IIEU_Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLXEiMIIF5E>

### **Kolo:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQl2pp4AfX4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVevZnmpRkE>

### **National anthem:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjqg LZ7fZY4>

### **Croatian Palaćinke crepes:**

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/croatian-pancakes-crepes-palacinke-recipe-1135910>

### **Ice cream recipe:**

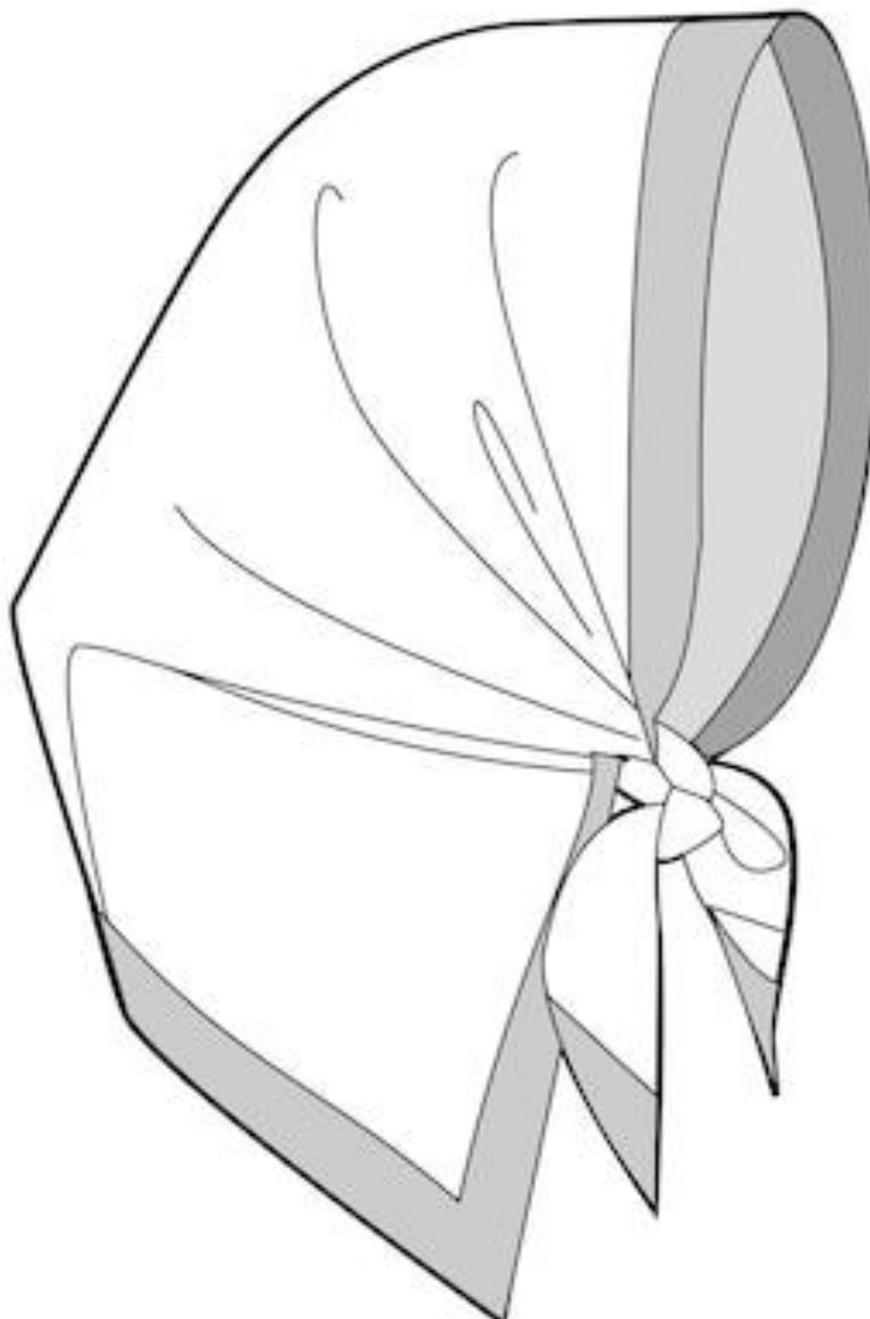
<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a54721/ice-cream-in-a-bag-recipe/>

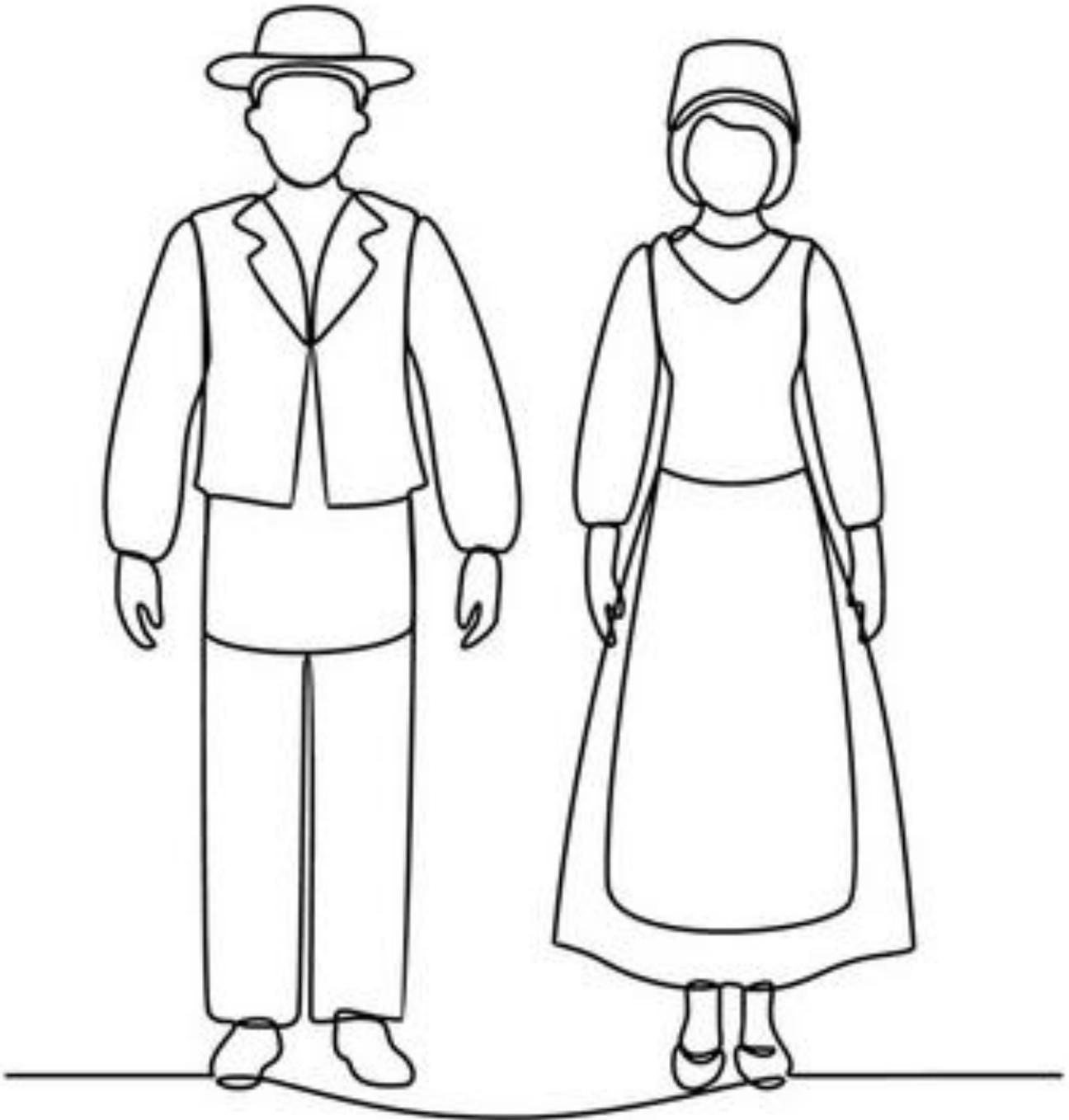
### **Fritule**

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/inspiration/croatian-fritule/>



## Embroidery design outlines





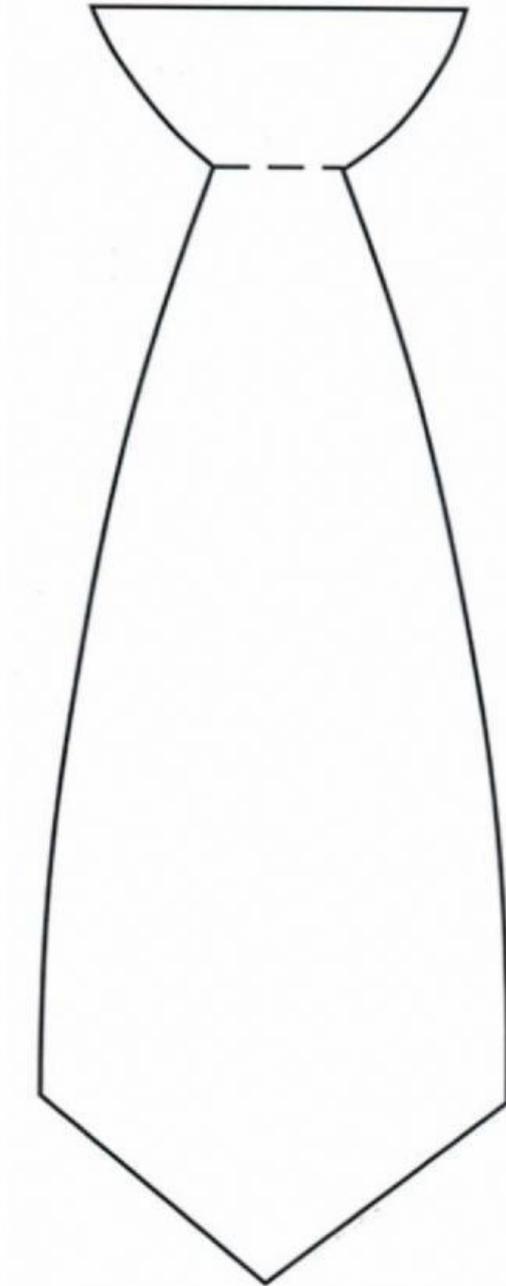


## Umbrella outline





## Tie outline





## Mask outline

