

What Should Visitors To Istria Know About Caspian Gull?

You can help too!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Never feed them!

Always try to use appropriate, closed garbage disposal bins and containers!

Don't leave garbage on beaches or other open areas!

Don't dispose of garbage in plastic bags, especially in the early morning hours, since they become the main attraction to the seagulls and their source of food!



ABOUT CASPIAN GULL

How To Recognize It?

Caspian Gull is the largest seagull in the southern part of Europe and a very common urban bird of our coastal area. It's a large and strong bird, with a strong chest and highly positioned wings in flight. Its body is covered with white feathers – in the areas of the head, throat and the underside of the body. Feathers on the backside are light grey. Its wing tips are black and have light grey edges. The bottom side of a wing is white.

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Caspian Gulls Aren't Choosing Their Place For Nesting Anymore

Lately, we've been witnessing this bird building its nests everywhere. It has replaced once uninhabited rocky islands with the roofs of hotels, buildings and family houses. It nests in our area from April to June.

It nests in large groups that can amount to a few thousand pairs. They build simple nests made out of feathers, algae and available plants.

They lay 3 to 4 eggs of different colours in their nests. They sit on their eggs for about a month. Baby birds get feathers in 5-6 weeks. Seagulls in our region don't have natural enemies, which is why the population of Caspian Gull keeps excessively increasing. Global researches predict a multiple increase of birds in the next 5 to 10 years.

Diverse Menu Mainly Based On Waste

Although its basic food consists of fish and smaller animals, this bird has become an urban bird over the years and doesn't avoid feeding on diverse waste and leftovers.

It's Good To Know...

In Istria, in area from City of Novigrad to City of Rovinj, the first Croatian project "Control and Prevention of Caspian Gull Over-Population" is being realized, in cooperation of experts from Veterinary clinic Poreč, Healty City Poreč, City of Poreč, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Zagreb, as well as municipalities and towns from the same area, tourist boards and large tourist companies!

Did You Know...

- that seagulls have a long lifespan, and birds of 35 years of age have been reported
- that colonies can contain up to 8000 birds
- that global researches predict a threefold increase in bird density in the Mediterranean countries, unless humane control measures are taken
- that the over-populated seagulls damage facades of hotels, public buildings and monuments with their feces, and that they disturb Istria's inhabitants and visitors
- that Caspian Gull especially likes to nest on flat surfaces, so they often use flat building and hotel roofs
- that large seagull colonies make it impossible for people to approach small islands in the summer months
- that seagulls are prone to attack people when they're given the chance to "steal" food
- that seagulls consider people enemies when they approach their nests with baby birds in them, and that they will attack humans in defense of their nestlings...

We Thank You for Your Cooperation and Wish You a Pleasant Stay!



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