

Adriatic Explorer

8 days | Split to Dubrovnik



Sail the beautiful Dalmatian Coast in style onboard a premium boat. Travelling from sensational Split to Medieval Dubrovnik, visiting some of Croatia's most picturesque islands, national parks and historic towns en route.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Split - historic port
- Makarska - port & riviera
- Pakleni Islands - azure waters & secluded bays
- Mljet Island - National Park & Salt Water Lake
- Dubrovnik - Pearl of the Adriatic
- Korcula - fortress & medieval old town
- Hvar - harbour town & culinary delights
- Brac - the historic town of Bol and Zlatni Rat
- Crystal clear Adriatic waters and sun kissed beaches

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 7 3-course lunches, 1 Captain's dinner
- 7 nights accommodation onboard an air conditioned Comfort Motor Sailer Boat
- 7 days sailing off the Dalmatian Coast in the Adriatic Sea.

- Opportunities to swim, snorkel, hike and bike ride
- Services of onboard captain and crew
- 2 bath towels for personal use
- Linen and Bedding
- Most port taxes and visitor fees. A supplementary port tax of €40 will need to be paid upon cruise check in
- Guided city tour of Dubrovnik
- One litre of bottled water per day

What's Not Included

- International flights visa and transfers to and from the port
- Tips for the crew are not included and at your own discretion. As a guideline we suggest EUR 3-5 per person per day
- Supplementary port tax of EUR 40 to be paid upon cruise check in
- Entrance tickets to national parks not included. The exact cost is dependent on the season and parks visited, approx EUR15 per person

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Croatia

Saturday. Split - Makarska. Welcome to Croatia! Departure from Split harbour is at 1pm as we begin our cruise along the Dalmatian coast towards the Makarska Riviera. After lunch we arrive at Omiš, a picturesque town surrounded by steep rocky mountain cliffs,

where the river Cetina flows into the Adriatic Sea. Try river rafting on the streams of the Cetina River and meet the ship again in Makarska. Climb up to the old fortress above the town or take a walk through the old town of Omiš and discover its glorious history through the many historical monuments. Makarska is a popular destination for visitors, with many restaurants and bars as well as a beautiful promenade along the famous beach.

Overnight - Makarska - onboard (L)

Day 2 : Beautiful Brac



Makarska - Bol (Brac). This morning we continue our cruise towards our next destination - the island of Brac. We stop at Bol, a typical Dalmatian fishermen's town. Bol is known for its famous Zlatni Rat beach (Golden horn), a natural phenomenon that dominates the other beaches of Bol. A walk along the promenade (approx 2 hours) takes you to the highest peak of all of the Adriatic islands - Vidova Gora, which towers over the town. After a swimming break and lunch

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we continue our journey towards Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, the sunniest Adriatic island. This afternoon is free to explore the town and the famous UNESCO-listed Stari Grad Field, the best preserved example of an ancient Greek agricultural landscape in Dalmatia. **Overnight - Stari Grad - onboard (B, L)**

Day 3 : Hvar & swimming by the Paklina Islands

Bol - Hvar. Today we sail around the island of Hvar to the town of the same name. Hvar island is the longest and sunniest of all the Adriatic islands and a favourite destination for jet setters from around the world. En route to the town, we stop for a swim at the Pakleni islands. Take some time to relax and enjoy refreshment in clear, crystal blue sea before we arrive into Hvar this afternoon. Hvar town offers many cultural and historical sites including the Renaissance Cathedral, the oldest community theatre in Europe and the Franciscan monastery, as well as the Spanjola fortress, which towers high above the town. There are also many restaurants and bars that open late into the night. **Overnight - Hvar - onboard (B, L)**

Day 4 : Picturesque Vis



Hvar - Vis. The ship sets sail early this morning as we cruise towards the island of Vis, which was, because of its unique geographical position, a strategic harbour for the navy. As such it was closed to the public until recently. Because of this isolation, Vis has a special charm - 'the Mediterranean as it once was' which makes it really interesting to see. We spend the night moored by the town of Vis, on the northern side of the island. The settlement was developed near the remains of ancient Issa, the first urban centre in Croatia. If interested, visit the remains of the

Roman Thermal Baths, City museum or simply take a walk and enjoy the view of beautiful Roman styled villas along the coast. Tonight we'll enjoy a scrumptious Captain's Dinner. **Overnight - Vis - onboard (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Korcula



Vis - Korcula. Before breakfast we depart towards Korcula, the birthplace of famous explorer and adventurer Marco Polo. Surrounded by medieval walls, Korcula resembles a miniature Dubrovnik when approaching from the sea. It has more legends, tales and monuments than you will find anywhere else. Today, Korcula is the only place in the world where the Spanish medieval knight's game – Moreska is still performed. Upon arrival enjoy a walk through the streets of the old town built in the shape of a fish bone. Enjoy the numerous konobas / taverns, restaurants, cocktail bars and nightclub located within and around the city walls. **Overnight - Korcula - onboard (B, L)**

Day 6 : Mljet National Park



Korcula - Mljet & Slano/Sipan. We continue cruising towards one of the greenest Adriatic islands - Mljet. This afternoon we take time to enjoy the beauties of the National Park, two salt lakes connected by a narrow channel to the sea and a boat ride to the St Mary isle in the Great Lake, where the old church and monastery are situated. You can cycle around and swim in the lakes. We continue our

cruise towards #ipan, part of Elaphite islands, or towards Slano on the coast, both small fishermen's villages where we will overnight in the port. **Overnight - Slano/Sipan- onboard (B, L)**

Day 7 : The Pearl of the Adriatic

Slano/Sipan - Dubrovnik. In the early morning hours we depart towards our final destination, Dubrovnik. Arriving after lunch, we enjoy a guided tour of this "paradise on Earth", as the famous writer George Bernard Shaw described. Later there's an optional cable car ride up to Srđ mountain for spectacular views of the old town. During free time a stroll along the 1940 metre long city walls is highly recommended and offers magnificent views of the old town of Dubrovnik and the surrounding islands. **Overnight - Dubrovnik - onboard (B, L)**

Day 8 : Dubrovnik



Saturday. After breakfast you will say goodbye to the crew and our tour comes to an end - Dovidjenja!(B)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Premium Ship

Premium ships are a class above our traditional ships and are used on our Adriatic Explorer cruise and an upgrade on most other sailing trips. The Premium ships are fully renovated with slightly larger en suite cabins 8 – 14square metres (twin share or double). All cabins have air conditioning and most common areas do too whilst sailing as

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well as hair dryers and safety deposit boxes. Towels and bed linen are changed twice weekly and all premium ships include a tour of Dubrovnik with an English speaking guide. Additionally, premium ships offer plenty of hot water, towels, some linen, a TV and sound system in the reception area, board games, WiFi in common areas (when in port) and extensive sun and shaded deck space to lounge about!



Our partners

This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go.

The sightseeing group may vary in size from 10 – 32 persons.

Optional Excursions

Below are some optional tours available locally (booked and paid locally). There are many others and the full list is available on board your ship.

UNDERGROUND TUNNELS TOUR ON VIS - 1.5hrs EUR30

This excursion visits military tunnels from the 'Cold War' used for the submarines and gun battery in the past.

Included: Guided tour of the tunnels and return transfer

GAME OF THRONES TOUR IN DUBROVNIK - 2 hours EUR27

On this tour, you will be taken through all the parts of the Old City where some of the most memorable scenes from the ongoing cultural phenomenon were filmed.

Premium Ships

Premium ships offer more spacious cabins than our Traditional Ships with en-suite bathroom on newly built or fully renovated ships. Accommodation is mostly twin or double-bedded cabins, though bunk bed cabins are sometimes all that is available. Exclusive features of Comfort boats include:

air-conditioning in all cabins and in most of the common areas whilst sailing (no A/C is available when the boat is stationary), a guided sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik with an English speaking tour guide and a delicious Captain's Feast.

Additionally, Premium ships offer plenty of hot water, towels, some linen, a TV and sound system in the reception area, board games and extensive sun and shaded deck space to lounge about.

Pre-Tour Accommodation

On our Group Sailing holidays we are able to offer pre/post tour accommodation for those looking at spend additional time in Split, Dubrovnik or perhaps Opatija before or after their cruise.

The hotels we've selected for pre/post tour accommodation factor in comfort and traveller's needs - such as proximity to local transport, restaurants, shops and attractions. On all our programs, we utilise superior tourist class hotels (locally rated as 3 - 4 star) with the emphasis on accommodating you in well-managed hotels that factor in comfort, cleanliness and a modest range of guest facilities rather than putting on the Ritz. All guest rooms offer an en suite bathroom, a television and occasionally a fridge. Most of our Croatian hotels offer a range of guest facilities such as a restaurant or coffee shop and sometimes-additional facilities such as a bar, shops, and currency exchange.

Families Onboard

On occasion family groups, including parents with children may form part of your sailing group. If you specifically do not wish to travel with one or two children onboard, please let us know at time of booking so we can aim to make the necessary arrangements of your request.

Captain's Call

The Captain has the right to change the scheduled route at any point in time to ensure the safety of all travellers and to ensure the cruiser stays on schedule. Changes may become necessary due to weather, sea conditions, port regulations or any other reason.

Life Onboard

Luggage

You will need to use a large holdall or rucksack rather than a suitcase due to limited space in the cabins.

What will I eat?

Aboard the cruise, breakfast and lunch is provided. The cooked breakfast includes eggs and bacon, in addition to tea or coffee, fruit juice, bread, butter and preserves. Lunch will include a starter of home made soup or pasta and a main course comprising either fish, meat or chicken with a minimum of two sides (potatoes, cabbage, other vegetables) and side salad and dessert. Dessert will be either seasonal fruits or perhaps pancakes. All menus are designed and cooked by the onboard cook.

Is there a bar onboard?

A bar operates on board all boats. Prices are in line with those one will pay in port at bars/cafes for beers, wines, basic spirits, mixers, soft drinks and bottled mineral water. Since there is a bar aboard, it is not possible to consume personal supplies of alcohol or beverages not purchased aboard. If you were found to be flouting this rule, you would be asked to consume such personal supplies when ashore. The same would happen if you were drinking BYO drinks in a hotel lobby! You'd be asked to consume the drink(s) beyond the confines of the hotel!

Can I smoke onboard?

Smoking is restricted to outside only – On deck.

Should I book an 'on deck' or 'below deck' cabin?

There are small differences between 'above deck' and 'below deck' cabins. 'Above deck' cabins are arranged on the main or top deck of the boat and have windows allowing fresh air and views. Whilst 'below deck' cabins are arranged within the hull of the boat below the main deck. 'Below deck' cabins may have port holes, but these will not necessarily open.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not

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On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Croatia.

UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA passport holders don't require a visa for a stay of less than 90 days.

South African passport holders REQUIRE a visa (issued before departure). Requirements for the procurement of a Croatian visa are subject to change but application requirements include the need to show proof of sufficient funds to cover duration of stay, proof of pre-paid accommodation or documentation regarding the purpose and means of travel (such as a return or onward ticket, details of holiday arrangement etc).

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Croatia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Diphtheria, Hepatitis A and Tetanus is strongly recommended. The tap water in Croatia is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Holiday Money

The official currency in Croatia is the Croatian Kuna.

Any money paid locally for optional excursions that you may wish to partake in can be paid in local currency only - Kuna.

If travelling with Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies these can be exchanged locally or in advance of departure. Internationally recognized debit/credit card can be used for cash machine withdrawals (available in all bigger towns). It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Time & Voltage

Croatia is 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October, Croatia observes Daylight Saving and is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, AC 50Hz. Primary sockets generally require European plugs, of the two round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Croatia is a northern hemisphere destination with Mediterranean and continental climatic conditions. The continental climate is predominant with hot summers and cold winters. Along the Adriatic coast, dry summers are experienced with mild winters. Our cruises operate during the Croatian summer, when temperatures are generally high (particularly from June through September), so pack sunscreen and a hat, as the sun can be strong.

Croatia Country Guide

Croatia: Fact File

Official Name: Republic of Croatia

Capital: Zagreb

Population: 4.5 million

Total Area: 56,542 square kilometres

Official Languages: Croatian (others Serbian, Italian, Slovenian, Hungarian, Czech) English is widely spoken in the main cities, If you tour also spends time in smaller towns and villages you may wish to bring along a phrasebook to help you pick up a few words of the local language.

Religion: Roman Catholic 88%, Orthodox 4.4%, Muslim 1.3%

Voltage: 220-240V. Sockets are of European two pronged round pin variety.

Time Difference: GMT/UTC + 1. For all time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com

Croatia: Brief History

Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known as Yugoslavia. Following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal

independent Communist state under the strong hand of Marshal TITO. Although Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, it took four years of sporadic, but often bitter, fighting before occupying Serb armies were mostly cleared from Croatian lands. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998.

Croatia: Geography and weather

Croatia is situated in southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. Geographically diverse, the country has flat plains along the Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coastline and islands. The climate is predominantly continental with hot summers and cold winters, although the coast is more Mediterranean with mild winters and dry summers.

Croatia: Visas

Many nationalities (including citizens of the UK, Australia, Canada, the US and EU citizens) do not need a visa to enter Croatia or Slovenia. However, visitors must hold an onward ticket, all documents required for their next destination and sufficient funds. If your nationality is not listed please consult your nearest Croatian consulate before you travel.

Croatia: Money

Croatia: Money

Prices quoted in this country dossier are in euros unless otherwise specified.

ALL prices mentioned are for guidance only and are subject to change.

Local currency

The monetary unit in Croatia is the kuna (HRK). For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com. You might find kuna difficult to obtain overseas, however it should be no problem to change currency on arrival

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

The easiest way to obtain money in Croatia is to draw it out of an ATM (cash machine) on a credit or debit card (e.g. visa or cirrus). ATMs are widely available throughout Croatia and credit cards are accepted in many restaurants

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and shops. Another option is to bring cash, in either US dollars or euros (pounds sterling and other currencies cannot always be easily changed) but we advise against bringing all your money in this form, in case of theft. In all of the cities that we visit there are many places to change money and your tour leader will be able to show you where to get the best rates of exchange.

Tipping

In a restaurant, round up the bill unless a service charge has already been added or the service was not up to standard. You should also round up bar bills and taxi fares.

Croatia: Optional excursions

A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found in the daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

Croatia: Security

Most people find Croatia a very friendly and safe and feel quite comfortable wandering around alone during the day. However, as with any area you are not familiar with (particularly in the capital cities) it is recommended that you exercise more caution at night especially if you are a lone female.

Croatia: Local food and drink

Some breakfasts are included in your tour. Breakfasts can be basic so if you tend to get hungry it may be a good idea to buy some fruit or snacks to eat during the day. All other meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense.

Ask your tour leader if they can recommend any restaurants in the area to suit your taste or budget or have fun exploring independently.

Food

Croatian specialities include Dalmatian or Istrian prosciutto, Pag or Lika cheese, sheep's cheese, Slavonian paprika-flavoured salami ("kulen" and Samobor or Zagorje garlic sausages ("ëe#njovka"). There is also a wide selection of meat dishes, including turkey with a special pasta known as "mlinci", roast lamb, roast suckling pig, and boiled or baked "#trukli" (pasta with cheese). Croatian vineyards produce reasonable wine – particularly red and you will almost

certainly come across plum brandy, a national favourite.

Drink

All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with wine and beer generally being the cheapest options.

Croatia: National holidays

1 January - New Year's Day

6 January - Epiphany; Easter Sunday & Easter Monday

1 May - Labour Day; Corpus Christi

22 June - Anti-Fascist Resistance Day

25 June - Statehood Day

5 August - Victory Day and National Thanksgiving Day

15 August - Assumption Day

8 October - Independence Day

1 November - All Saints' Day

25-26 December - Christmas Holidays

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