

Dubrovnik & the Dalmatian Coast

8 Days | Starts/Ends: Dubrovnik



Explore the dazzling Dalmatian coast with its beautiful secluded bays, perfect beaches and attractive villages, stopping at a new island each night including glamorous Hvar and architecturally-rich Korčula, as well as Dubrovnik and Split.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Dubrovnik - Pearl of the Adriatic with a beautiful old town
- Korčula - coastal citadel rich in Renaissance and Gothic architecture
- Brač - famous for its limestone and exquisite stonemasonry
- Omis - stunning beauty of the River Cetina canyon and historic pirates
- Split - historic port city with ancient Roman monuments
- Hvar - sunniest island in Croatia with a buzzing and beautiful historical town
- Mljet - stunning island covered with verdant vegetation and vineyards
- Slano - small village located on a 2km-long sandy bay with ancient ruins
- Trogir - UNESCO listed historical town and harbour

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinner
- Complimentary 1/2 litre of water with meals as well as complimentary tea, coffee and fresh fruit throughout the day and a snack in the afternoon.
- Welcome drink and snack on day 1
- 7 nights accommodation on board the air-conditioned Providencia motor boat
- Linen and bedding with towels changed every second day and bed linen changed twice a week
- Free WiFi on board
- Services of 9 crew members including a Cruise Manager

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
- Port Taxes - EUR40 per person to be paid on board in cash. Beach towel hire (optional)
- Optional excursions

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Dubrovnik

Saturday. Welcome to Croatia and the start of your sailing adventure! Embarkation takes place after 14.00 at Gruz Harbour in Dubrovnik, where you will be served a

welcome drink. Your journey begins with dinner on board, after dinner why not head out to explore Dubrovnik. **Overnight - Dubrovnik - Onboard (D)**

Day 2 : Korčula and Brač Islands



Dubrovnik - Korčula. After breakfast this morning, you can choose to participate in the optional walking tour of Dubrovnik. In the early afternoon we depart for Korčula, a small town of immense beauty located on the northeastern part of the island of Korčula. On the way, we will stop for a break on one of the scenic Elafiti Islands, and lunch is served on board. We will arrive in Korčula late afternoon, and will be spending the night there. The medieval core of the town is built in a fishbone-like pattern on a small peninsula protruding into the sea, offering a great view of the sunsets it is known for.

If you opt for the walking tour packages (bookable and payable locally - see Trip Notes

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for more information) this morning you will enjoy a guided tour of Dubrovnik before heading to Korcula where you will learn all about its long history, ingenious building strategies, peculiar layout and the famous merchant traveller, Marco Polo, who was born and spent his childhood in Korcula. **Overnight - Korcula - Onboard (B, L)**

Day 3 : Korcula and Brac Islands

Korcula - Brac - Omis. We sail towards the island of Brac this morning, passing through the scenic Peljesac channel, around the tip of Peljesac peninsula and the southeastern tip of the island of Hvar. We then dock at Pucisca, a town nestled in a beautiful bay on Brac, surrounded by stone quarries that yield some of the whitest and best quality limestone in the world, famously used to decorate the façade of Washington's White House. You can join a short visit to a stonemasonry school nearby where you will learn of the Brac limestone, the centuries-old tradition of stonemasonry and the unconventional tools they use. Later in the day we sail to Omiš, where we will dock for the night. **Overnight - Omis - Onboard (B, L)**

Day 4 : Split



Omis - Split. This morning there will be an excursion by coach through the Sibenik hinterland to the towns of Skradin, Sibenik, and Trogir. Skradin is located at the entrance to a National Park, while the old town of Sibenik has been a coastal fortress hub since the late 11th century. Trogir, situated on a small island between the mainland and the island of Ciovo, is famed for its Romanesque-Gothic architecture, which landed it on the list of World Heritage Sites in 1997.

In the afternoon we continue sailing to Split, our port of call for the day. Upon arrival you

are free to enjoy Split's Old Town and the monumental Diocletian Palace built over 1,700 years ago. For those who have opted for the walking tour package, you will learn all about Split and its history from the knowledgeable guide. Later, perhaps join the locals enjoying a cup of coffee on their much beloved seaside promenade. **Overnight - Split - Onboard (B, D)**

Day 5 : Hvar

Split - Hvar - Vela Luka (Korcula Island). Today we will be sailing towards Hvar, known as the sunniest island in Croatia and famous for its endless fields of lavender and rosemary, its beautiful coast and lovely historical towns. Your destination is the town of Hvar, a town of immense beauty that buzzes with vibrant energy in the summer sun. Upon arrival, if you've opted for the walking tour package, our expert local guide will take you for a walk around the ancient streets of Hvar. Afterwards we continue to Vela Luka Korcula Island, arriving late afternoon where you are free to explore at leisure. **Overnight - Vela Luka - Onboard (B, D)**

Day 6 : Mljet National Park

Vela Luka (Korcula Island) - Mljet. Departing Vela Luka this morning your Captain will hand-pick a secluded bay where the anchor will be dropped for a swimming stop in the crystal blue Adriatic, surrounded by pine trees and the sound of crickets. Afterwards continue sailing to Pomena on the island of Mljet where you will have the option to visit the Mljet National Park located on the western side of the island and known for its immense beauty and its two turquoise saltwater lakes surrounded by thick forest.

For the rest of the afternoon you will have plenty of free time to explore the park independently - consider renting bikes for a leisurely cycle or go for a walk along the numerous paths around the lakes or in the forests. You can also rent kayaks and cut the surface of the magnificent lakes to observe the scenery from a different perspective. For something more relaxing you can hop onto the small boat that will take you to a tiny island on one of the lakes, home to the monastery and church of St. Mary's built in the 12th century. Here you can enjoy a cup of coffee

whilst soaking up the stunning views. The final leg of the journey brings us to Slano where the boat will dock for the night. **Overnight - Slano - Onboard (B, L)**

Day 7 : Slano and Ston



Slano - Dubrovnik. After breakfast you are free to take the optional Taste of Dalmatia guided tour. On this tour you will visit Ston, a small town famous for its 5km-long city walls, the longest in Europe. Visit a local winery where you will have the opportunity to taste some of the finest Dalmatian wines. Those who do not opt for the tour can spend the time at leisure in Slano.

Later we continue on to Dubrovnik, cruising beneath the old City Walls to port Gruš, where we'll spend the night. **Overnight - Dubrovnik - Onboard (B, L)**

Day 8 : Departure from Dubrovnik

Saturday - Dubrovnik. Today marks the end of your sailing adventure in Croatia and you are free to leave after breakfast this morning. (B)

Our partners

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

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.

Optional Excursions

WALKING TOUR PACKAGE

Available to book on arrival:

This package includes a guided walking tour of Dubrovnik, Korcula, Split and Hvar on the

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days docked in these destinations with a Pucisca Stonemasonry School visit inclusive of entrance fees. The Dubrovnik tour also includes coach transfers from the port.

CETINA RIVER TRIP

Offered on day 3:

Enjoy a leisurely boat cruise on the Cetina River for stunning views of the canyon and surrounding mountains with services of a guide and a snack included in the price.

MLJET ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Available on day 5:

Guided visit to this stunning national park that borders two saltwater lakes, perfect for walking with fees including entrance to the park.

TASTE OF DALMATIA:

Available on day 7:

Visit a local winery in the small town of Ston for the chance to sample some of Dalmatia's finest wines with the services of a guide, transfers and wine tasting included in the price.

*All prices for Optional Excursions will be provided on arrival in Croatia. We're unable to provide these in advance.

M/S Providencia Specifications

MS Providencia was commissioned in 2014 and refurbished in 2018.

The boat is 47 m long, 9 m wide with a cruising speed of 9 knots and capacity of 40 persons. There are 20 en suite cabins on the upper, main and lower deck.

There are 8 twin cabins / double cabins on the lower deck.

On the main deck there are 11 cabins, 8 twin cabins / double cabins and 3 twin cabins.

On the upper deck there is 1 twin cabins / double cabins.

Cabin furnishings include a cupboard, a cabinet and a window or a porthole.

All cabins are fully air-conditioned and equipped with power plugs, LCD TV, safe box and hairdryer. Bathrooms are fully equipped with a shower, toilette and vanity with a sink.

Also, on the main and upper deck there is one bathroom with showers.

Upper deck houses a fully air-conditioned salon-restaurant that sits all guests at the same time with a fully equipped bar and LCD TV.

At the rear of the boat you can find a shaded lounge area with club tables and comfortable sofas.

Top deck, also called the sun deck offers 145 m2 of space and is equipped with sun tanning chairs and jacuzzi.

WIFI is available free of charge in the salon and in the rear part of the boat

Life Onboard

Luggage

We recommend that you use a large holdall or rucksack rather than a suitcase due to limited space in the cabins though suitcases can be accommodated.

What will I eat?

Aboard the cruise, Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Continental breakfast will comprise tea or coffee, fruit juice, bread, butter and preserves, plus cold cuts and cheeses. Lunch will include a main course of pasta or risotto-type dishes served with a side salad. Dessert will be either seasonal fruits or perhaps pancakes. All menus are designed and cooked by the on board cook.

Is there a bar on board?

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 on board?

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.

Pre-Tour Accommodation

On our Group Sailing Holidays we are able to offer pre/post tour accommodation for those looking at spending additional time in Dubrovnik before or after their cruise.

The hotels we've selected for pre/post tour accommodation factor in comfort and travellers' 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

Family groups, including parents with children from 5yrs are accepted on our Dubrovnik and the Dalmatian Coast sailing holiday and so may form part of your sailing group.

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.

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

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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 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 ("èe#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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