

Croatia (Dalmatia)

A Tale of Olives, Wine and Sea

Six-night tour: 1 night in Split, 3 nights in Hvar, 2 nights in Dubrovnik

HIGHLIGHTS

SPLIT - enjoy the silent beats of history (UNESCO)

TROGIR - a treasury cove of the historical and cultural monuments (UNESCO)

HVAR - the sunniest island in Europe

PAKLENI ISLANDS - like jewels in a crown

VIS & BIŠEVO - infinity in azure

KORČULA - where the Silk Road begins...

DUBROVNIK - the Pearl of Mediterranean (UNESCO)

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

- Cruise around the most beautiful islands of Croatia with a private motor boat
- Private wine tasting at the famous Plenković winery on the island of Hvar
- Oyster tasting with a glass of wine at the Lesic Dimitri Palace Hotel in Korcula
- Visit to the Novakovic family estate in Konavle, Dubrovnik hinterland and olive oil tasting

DAY 1: arrival to SPLIT

Arrival to Split airport; flight details TBA.

Meet your driver for a private transfer to the Vestibul Palace - luxury boutique **hotel** situated in the heart of the historic Diocletian's Palace in Split. You will have a unique chance to stay in the former suites of the Roman emperor. Overnight in Split.



DAY 2: SPLIT - TROGIR - HVAR

Meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a private sightseeing tour of **Split**, a 1700 years old town with famous Diocletian's Palace, included in the UNESCO's World Heritage list. The first inhabitant of Split was the Roman emperor Diocletian who started to build his palace in this friendly bay around 293 AD. After his abdication he withdrew to this luxurious palace to enjoy the rest of his days. Your guide will take you for a walk through this living monument and all its magnificent sights. You will discover the basement halls of

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the Palace and their unique role in the history of Split. Then you will continue to the Peristyle, the main square of the Palace that preserved the cult of emperor as the son of god. You will visit the Cathedral of St. Domnius, the patron-saint of Split, the temples of the Palaces, as well as the suites of the Emperor. You will explore the waterfront promenade of Split, the lively open green market and the monuments not

only from antiquity, but also from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque.

Then you will continue to **Trogir** – a treasury cove of cultural and historical monuments dating as far back as the 4th Century BC. Set on a small island just off the mainland, Trogir is a tiny charming town surrounded by impressive fortress walls. As you enter the fortified town through the Land Gate, you will stroll along its narrow streets, flanked by ancient stone houses. Your guide will walk you through all the magnificent monuments of this picturesque town: St. Lawrence Cathedral, a masterpiece of mediaeval architecture, with a magnificent Romanesque portal, carved by the Dalmatian sculptor Master Radovan in the 13th Century; the Old City Hall from the 15th Century, the city walls, the Kamerlengo tower, the relaxing waterfront promenade etc.

In the late afternoon, you will meet your skipper for a private motor boat transfer to the island of Hvar. Upon arrival, you will check in to the Adriana Hotel – the best hotel in Hvar. For the next four days, you will have a private motor boat on disposal – Jeanneau Prestige 36 – with included skipper services, fuel and the port fees for the suggested routes (optional supplement for extra cruise).

DAY 3: HVAR & PAKLENI ISLANDS

This morning meet your local guide for a private walking tour of the town of **Hvar** – a unique fusion of the luxurious Mediterranean nature and the remarkable cultural and historical heritage. Since the island of Hvar lies in the heart of all the main sea routes since the ancient times, many different cultures left their traces to the present day. A Greek colony in the 4th century BC, Hvar gained its glory and power during the Middle Ages being an important port within the Venetian naval empire. New meets the Old in the perfect harmony of the town of



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Hvar. Your guide will take you for a stroll through the inexhaustible treasury of the cultural heritage of Hvar. You will start by visiting the largest square in Dalmatia, previously bordered by gardens. It is ringed by grand palaces and beautiful historic edifices, such as the town loggia and the Gothic and Renaissance palaces. The most impressive is the Cathedral of St. Stephen, a harmonious synthesis of the Renaissance and early

Baroque elements so typical of the Dalmatian architecture of the 15th and 16th centuries. Its graceful 17th century bell tower is the most beautiful element in the skyline of the town. You will continue to the mighty Arsenal, a 13th century warehouse for the communal war galley that today houses Hvar theatre – the oldest theatre in Europe from 1612. A stroll through narrow streets of the town, along the waterfront promenade will take you to the Franciscan Monastery, a former retreat for sailors from the 15th century. You will discover the charming Renaissance cloister and the old refectory with its remarkable collection of lace, manuscripts and books.

After some time for lunch, you will meet your skipper for a cruise towards the **Pakleni Islands**. On your way, first you will visit the village of Sveta Nedjelja for a **private wine tasting at the famous Plenković Winery**. You may also wish to stay here for lunch. Then you will continue towards Pakleni Islands, a breathtaking archipelago with lush vegetation, beautiful bays and intact nature. Even though their name is popularly translated as Hells' islands (pakleni: hellish), it originally derives from paklina, which is the pine resin once used to coat ships. A chain of eleven playful islets watches over the entrance to Hvar port and shine like the jewels in the monarch's crown. Enjoy the azure waves, sandy coves surrounded by pine forests, endless fields of lavender and gentle breeze scented by aromatic herbs. Should you wish, you can stop for a swim in one of the hidden bays you will discover along the way. Overnight in Hvar.

DAY 4: HVAR - VIS - BIŠEVO - HVAR

This morning meet your skipper for a private cruise around the most beautiful islands of the area. Your cruise will first take you to **Biševo Island**, where you will discover the untouched beauty of a true Adriatic gem. Immerse yourself in the deep blue around you and enjoy the uniqueness of the Blue





Grotto – a hidden treasure of Biševo Island.

A secluded cove, accessible only by boat, is at its best around noon, when the rays of sun passing through an underwater opening illuminate it with a blue light and everything beneath the surfaces shimmers in silver and pink.

After this elevated experience, you will continue towards the island of Vis. Traces of the incredible history dating from the Roman times can be found all around the island. But other

than a remarkable cultural heritage, the delightful beauty of nature will also leave you breathless. A former army base of Yugoslavia, Vis has been closed for visitors for years. Thus its natural wonders and the traditional way of life remained intact. Enjoy the beauty of its translucent waters, lush vegetation, alluring scents and historic ambiance in the town where the time has stopped.

On your cruise back to Hvar, you may wish to stop for a swim in one of the hidden bays you will discover along the way.

DAY 5: HVAR – KORČULA – DUBROVNIK

This morning meet your skipper for a private transfer to Dubrovnik. On your way, you will stop to visit the island of Korčula. Upon arrival, you will meet your local guide for a private walking tour of the Old Town of **Korčula**. This secluded part of the world is known as the home town of Marco Polo – the first world traveler. This is where his silk road began. But the visitors often joke that it can't be true – after all, if the famous explorer has indeed been born here, he would have never left...

With more than 2000 years of history, the former Greek colony of the “Black Korčula” (Korkyra Melaina) resisted the sieges of centuries and remained a living monument that is now yours to discover... Through the narrow cobblestone streets you will come to the Cathedral of St. Marko, an architectural masterpiece in Gothic and Renaissance style. Its construction is an admirable testimony of the artistry of the local stone masons and the excellent adamant stone of the island. You will visit also the Town Museum of Korčula, with its interesting exhibits illustrating the island's glorious naval history. Your stroll will



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finally take you to Marko Polo's childhood home – a modest mediaeval house from which originates this great Venetian merchant, writer and traveler. The mediaeval city walls have surrounded the town since the 14th century and its mighty fortification deterred many invaders. Once you are out of the city walls, your guide will take to the Lešić Dimitri Palace Hotel's restaurant and its beautiful terrace overlooking the sea. Here you will enjoy oyster tasting with a

glass of famous Korčula's wine of Pošip. Later this afternoon, your skipper will take you back to Dubrovnik. Your cruise back will be even more memorable if you decide to pass through Elaphiti Islands and seek the hidden bays for your indulgence in the azure sea. Upon arrival to Dubrovnik, check in to your hotel – The Bellevue – and enjoy its splendid location, stunning views and chic ambiance.

DAY 6: DUBROVNIK & KONAVLE tour

This morning meet your guide and driver in the hotel lobby for a private full day exploration of Dubrovnik region – a true essence of Dalmatia. The region of contrasts and exceptional beauty, mountains and valleys, green hills and naked stone; inclines down to the cozy coves of small fishermen villages.

Your first destination is the ancient Mediterranean town of **Cavtat**. Like many Dalmatian towns, Cavtat began as a Greek settlement, called Epidaurus, and later became a Roman colony.

Your guide will take you for a stroll through this picturesque little town – its cobbled streets with traditional red-roofed houses, narrow st airways and charming promenade along the shore. Your walk will take you to the top of the hill, where you will discover the extraordinary Mausoleum of Račić Family, a work of Ivan Meštrović, the most prominent Croatian sculptor.

Then you will continue your exploration of the countryside of **Konavle**. In the village of Čilipi, the local family Novaković will welcome you at their humble estate that has a small ethno museum presenting Konavle region history, a tavern with a wine cellar and a variety of agricultural structures. You will taste their home-made products such as grappa, liquors and wine in a unique ambiance of a private vault of a stone-



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built house. While you enjoy their hospitality, they will serve a light snack of their home-made cheese, prosciutto and bread, dipped in a golden liquid of the finest olive oil.

After this light lunch, your guide and driver will take you back to **Dubrovnik** for a private walking tour of one of the most beautiful stone-built cities in the world.

More than a thousand-year history is reflected in every part of this town-museum. An

important maritime port and a one-time state, it has always been a cultural metropolis. As one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Dubrovnik owes its special charm to the historic monuments which testify to its rich history. The works of artists, writers and scientists of Dubrovnik have been woven into the texture of the town.

While strolling with your guide down Stradun, the main street, you will stop to visit the Franciscan monastery of the "Order of Little Brothers" that preserves one of the three oldest pharmacies in Europe. You will continue down to Orlando Column and the Sponza Palace and visit the Church of St. Blasius, the patron-saint of the town. You will also discover Rector's Palace, the magnificent structure of the dukes of Dubrovnik, and the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary with a treasury containing the originals by Tiziano and Rafaelo and many other valuable relicts.

The rest of the day is at your leisure.

DAY 7: DUBROVNIK - onward

This morning meet your driver for a private transfer to the airport for and your flight onward.

We wish you a memorable journey...





RECOMMENDED HOTELS

SPLIT

Vestibul Palace Hotel
Marmont Hotel
Luxe Hotel
Le Meridien Lav Hotel

HVAR

Adriana Hotel

DUBROVNIK

The Pucic Palace Hotel
Bellevue Hotel
Excelsior Hotel
Villa Dubrovnik

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