

Croatia (Dalmatia) & Montenegro

Captivating Beauty of 1000 islands

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

HIGHLIGHTS

SPLIT - the Vestibule of Paradise (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
KORČULA - where the Silk Road begins...
MLJET - the lush Odyssey
DUBROVNIK - the Pearl of Mediterranean (UNESCO)
MONTENEGRO - Wild Beauty (UNESCO: Kotor)

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
- Private ride with a small traditional boat to the island of Our Lady of the Rock in Montenegro

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

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walk through this living monument and all its magnificent sights. You will discover the basement halls of 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

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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 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 – KORČULA



This morning meet your skipper for a private transfer to the island of Korčula.

Upon arrival, you will check in to the Lesic Dimitri Palace Hotel – a unique property that tells an extraordinary tale of Marco Polo and his Silk Road...

In the afternoon, 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 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. Enjoy the evening at your leisure in Korčula.

DAY 5: KORČULA – MLJET – DUBROVNIK

This morning meet your skipper for a private transfer to Dubrovnik. On your way stop to visit **Mljet** – one of the greenest and most beautiful islands in Adriatic. A Greek settlement of Melita (honey) got its “sweet” name after the bees that lived in the vast forests of the island when the ancient Greeks first discovered it. Mljet is believed to be the island of Ogygia mentioned in the famous epic



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poem 'Odyssey' as the paradise island where the Calypso nymph detained Odysseus for seven years. True or not, this legend celebrates the luxurious beauty of Mljet which you will get a chance to discover.

Upon arrival to the port of Polače, you will first come across an ancient Roman palace, built probably in the 5th century, which dominates the village. Then you will head out, with your driver, towards the area of

national park of Mljet (self tour). You will be fascinated by the untouched nature and the beauty of the Great and Small Lakes connected with the open sea by a narrow channel. In the heart of the Great Lake stands the Isle of St Mary with the sleepy 12th century Benedictine Monastery that can easily be reached by a small boat. Do not miss the walks along the lovely wooded paths by the lake, along the ancient pine forest. 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 tour

This morning meet your local guide in the hotel lobby for a private tour of **Dubrovnik** – one of the most beautiful stone-built cities in the world.

A town-museum is a one-of-a-kind destination which makes you fall in love it and come back to it over and over again in an endless pursuit of unique experiences. More than a thousand-year history is reflected in every part of this town. 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



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“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: MONTENEGRO HIGHLIGHTS



This morning meet your driver in the hotel lobby for a private transfer to Montenegro – a mystical land of wild beauties. Your local guide will welcome you at the borderline of Croatia and Montenegro. You will ride through Boka Kotorska, the only fiord in the Mediterranean, surrounded by high cliffs that reflect in the deep blue sea.

Your first destination is the old town of **Perast**, a sleepy baroque place on the seashore. The strong merchant navy tradition represents the best preserved baroque entity in the Adriatic. At that time seafaring was growing and captains built magnificent villas that even today capture you with their beauty. Perast also abounds in sacred monuments, such as the Church Sveti Nikola and Our Lady of the rocks, built on the artificial island just opposite of Perast. Following your visit to Perast, your guide and driver will take you to the Old Town of **Kotor**, listed on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List and protected by the UNESCO. The architecture of Kotor, a post-modern mix of the different epochs and its position at the bottom of the sharp cliffs of the Lovcen Mountain, makes it different from any other Mediterranean town. It is a city of traders and famous sailors, with many stories to tell. The Old City is a well preserved urbanization typical of the Middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th century. Through the entire city the buildings are criss-crossed with narrow streets and squares. At one of them there is the Cathedral of St. Trifun, a monument of Roman culture and one of the most recognizable symbols of the city. You can also visit the Maritime Museum, situated in the



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Baroque palace Grgurin, which preserves the fame of Boka navy. The memories on those long gone glorious days, on the successes of the famous Kotor sailors, ship builders and crafts man are all today kept in this museum.

Then you will continue to **Budva**, considered to be one of the oldest settlements in the Balkans. According to Greek mythology, Cadmo, the son of the Phoenician King Agenon, established Budva. After his expulsion from Thebes, Cadmo arrived in this area by ox-drawn cart, and founded Budva. This ancient town lies on a little island that was linked to land by a sandbar, and in time became a peninsula. You will get a chance to marvel at its surrounding 15th-century ramparts and medieval fortification system consisting of city gates, defense walls and towers. Inside the walls, you will find the town to be a combination of narrow streets and little squares, with superb monuments of the different Mediterranean cultures marking its development. Later this afternoon, you will say good-bye to your guide and continue with your driver back to Dubrovnik.

DAY 8: 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

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HVAR

Adriana Hotel
Riva Hotel

KORCULA

Lesic Dimitri Palace

DUBROVNIK

The Pucic Palace Hotel
Bellevue Hotel
Villa Dubrovnik
Excelsior Hotel