

For tours departing beyond 2009, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2010 brochure (issued in Oct 09)

2009
Tour Dossier

EXPLORE!
WORLDWIDE

CROATIA Dossier Ref. DD & DDC

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia

Amended 09 Jun 2009. Valid from 01 Jun 2009 to 31 Dec 2009
Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: meal plan & sightseeing

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, www.explore.co.uk. Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

JOINING TOUR ABROAD

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia Ref. DD
8 days/7 nights Land Only
Dubrovnik to Trogir

Join Dubrovnik (day 1)

End Trogir (day 8)

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia + Dalmatian Island Cruise Ref. DDC
15 days/14 nights Land Only
Dubrovnik to Trogir

Join Dubrovnik (day 1)

End Trogir (day 15)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Dubrovnik. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia Ref. DD
8 days/7 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights
London-Dubrovnik & Split-London

Depart from London Gatwick to join tour the same day in Dubrovnik (day 1 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer to hotel.

Return from Split (day 8 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer from Trogir to Split airport for flight to London Gatwick, arriving the same day.

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia + Dalmatian Island Cruise Ref. DDC
15 days/14 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights
London-Dubrovnik & Split-London

Return from Split (day 15 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer from Trogir to Split airport for flight to London Gatwick, arriving the same day.

Passengers with non-group flights booked through Explore! should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

Earth Matters

- The Croatian people have put enormous efforts in rebuilding their country since the Civil war, and your visit brings support to communities throughout this fascinating region.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- * **DUBROVNIK** Guided tour of the 'Pearl of the Adriatic'.
- * **SPLIT** Guided tour of Diocletian's Palace.
- * **PLITVICE LAKES N. PARK** Beautiful lakes and waterfalls.
- * **ZADAR** Exploring Croatia's old capital.
- * **TROGIR** Fascinating medieval town.

Croatia is without doubt one of Europe's most fascinating countries. Independent since 1991, and peaceful since the civil war ended in 1995, a new and unique identity has been carefully forged. Croatians are proud of their beautiful country, great sportsmen, history, food and wine, and extend a warm welcome to visitors who will appreciate all of this. The Dalmatian Coast is home to numerous and romantic old coastal towns – Dubrovnik, Split, Zadar and Trogir. UNESCO has classified several places as heritage sites of world importance, including not only medieval old centres but also natural wonders such as the Plitvice Lakes. On this discovery tour we visit many of these impressive sights. Travel is by chartered bus and the occasional ferry with some easy walks. Accommodation is generally in comfortable mid-range hotels. You may also like to consider combining this trip with our 'Dalmatian Island Cruise' to spend a further week relaxing and cruising Adriatic Islands on board our 'Oldtimer' motorsailer – Ref. DDC.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

Be Prepared: While our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day route printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary.

CO₂ Offsets Included

The biggest environmental impact of your holiday with Explore is the CO₂ generated by your flights. As a responsible tour operator, we have included in our tour prices the costs of offsetting CO₂ emissions from all international and domestic flights forming part of the tour. Our chosen offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to take responsibility for your CO₂ emissions by offsetting through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.

This tour offers a comprehensive overview of mainland Croatia and as such we cover quite a distance by bus, so please be prepared for some longer drives.

Please note: Participation in canoeing, kayaking, or rafting (including white-water) requires that you are able to swim 25 metres unaided.

Accommodation and Included Meals: please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

Day 1. Join tour Dubrovnik
Arrive Dubrovnik and check into hotel.
3 nights hotel H+.

Days 2 & 3. In Dubrovnik
We have two wonderful days available to enjoy the extensive attractions of Dubrovnik and its surrounding villages or even venture further afield. Now essentially fully restored following damage from shelling in the Siege of Dubrovnik in 1991-92, the old medieval town of Dubrovnik still retains its unique atmosphere and charm. UNESCO have granted Dubrovnik World Cultural Heritage status as one of the world's finest examples of a fortified medieval town. 'Those who seek paradise on earth', George Bernard Shaw once wrote, 'should come to Dubrovnik.' The best way to get a feel of the layout of the old town and its wealth of monasteries, museums and old buildings is on our guided tour of the main places of interest. Starting from Pile Gate we will visit the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery, the cathedral and the Rector's Palace on our first morning here. There will also be time for you to walk the entire circumference of the city wall (1940m) for great views over the twisting alleyways and out over the Adriatic (optional). A day is left free for you to follow your own interests. You could choose to take a boat to the pretty fishing village of Cavtat or possibly visit the nature reserve on the island of Lokrum, just off the coast of Dubrovnik. It is also possible to do a full-day excursion to nearby Montenegro, or take a ferry to the Elaphite Islands. (Included meals: Bx2).

Day 4. Drive to Split
This morning we first drive through the vineyards of the Peljesac Peninsula to Trpanj, then take a ferry back onto the Croatian mainland to Ploče. Continuing towards Split we arrive at Omis at the head of the Cetina River,

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here you may choose to visit the Pirate Fort (optional). We then head inland briefly to view the scenic Cetina Gorge before setting back on the road to Split. The centre of the city is located close to the *riva* (seafront) and the old town. Take the opportunity to join the glamorous locals on an evening *korzo* (promenade) past aromatic restaurants and bustling cafés. **Overnight hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

Day 5. Drive to Plitvice Lakes N. Park
After breakfast we take a guided morning walking tour of Split. Today's Split is the product of 17 centuries of building, renovating and remodelling. A visit to the remains of the Diocletian's Palace is a particular highlight. The palace that Emperor Diocletian built for his golden years at the turn of the 4th century became the heart of the city. The mausoleum of the pagan Roman emperor evolved with time into the world's oldest Roman Catholic church. A tour of the Palace is a step back in time. What began as an imperial residence and fortified camp is today an intriguing maze of narrow cobble-stone streets where pre-Romanesque churches nestle alongside Gothic chapels. We'll visit the Peristyle, cathedral, crypt and basement halls. In the afternoon we head inland into the mountainous hinterland of Croatia. A brief stop at the fortress at Klis affords an impressive view of Split and the Dalmatian Coast. Later, we arrive at Plitvice Lakes, located in a valley between high forested mountains. Plitvice was the first and is the most beautiful National Park in the country. It is also one of the natural wonders of Europe. **2 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

Day 6. Exploring Plitvice Lakes N. Park
We plan to spend a full day walking the well-marked trails in the National Park, following the 16 crystal blue-green lakes on their dramatic and cascading descent over 92 travertine barriers and waterfalls. Over the millennia, the waters of these lakes have dissolved the limestone rock and carved out the valley in which they now lie. Through the sedimentation of calcium carbonate and the work of special kinds of algae and moss, *tufa* or travertine has been deposited to form the natural dams that separate the lakes. This dynamic process still continues, creating new falls as water breaks through the travertine barriers. A popular circuit leads from the Upper Lakes, involves a ferry across Lake Kozjak, then twists between the Lower Lakes, walking mostly on wooden promenades. Every turn leads to breathtaking scenery and yet another waterfall. Shorter walks are possible for those wanting less activity. **(Included meals: B).**

Day 7. To Trogir via Pag and Zadar
Following scenic backroads initially through rolling farmland, we make for the northern Dalmatian Coast. We plan to stop in the typical Mediterranean town of Pag, with time for a swim before continuing on towards the ancient capital of Dalmatia, Zadar. The afternoon is left free for a leisurely lunch and to explore the old the Old Town of Zadar. You could choose to see the influence of Romanesque art in the round church of St. Donat, one of the largest 19th century churches in Europe. Also of interest are the ruins of the Roman Forum, which date from the 2nd century BC. We then continue our journey along the twisting and extremely scenic Dalmatian Coast road to Trogir. This evening we will enjoy this seductive medieval town and to reflect on our journey through one of Europe's most beautiful countries. **(Included meals: B).**

Day 8. Tour ends in Trogir (Included meals: B).

For those booked onto the DDC combination tour, today is a free day to explore Trogir at your leisure. Luggage can be left at the hotel until we join the boat this afternoon.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You will also need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Foreign Exchange

Local Currency: Croatian Kuna.
Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling pounds, US Dollars and Euro cash can all be exchanged for the local currency.
Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.
ATM Availability: Most towns have ATM's for cash withdrawal.
Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are also generally accepted.
Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can only be exchanged at banks.

Booking a Single Room

All of our tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. On this particular tour we are pleased to be able to offer customers the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room for each night of the tour except on the cruise.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

Meal Plan

Local Food and Drink: DD: 7 breakfasts.
DDC: 14 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 1 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Croatia
Coffee/Tea	£1.20	£0.60
Soft Drink	0.80	1.50
Bottle of Water	0.80	1.00
Bottle of Beer	2.50	1.50
Bottle of Wine	10.00	10.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	18.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	26.00

*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

**Typical food in a simple, reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

Tipping

Local Staff: In this part of Europe, tipping is a recognised part of life. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow £10 for tipping. 10% is expected in restaurants.
Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your tour leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

2-Tour Combination

It is possible to combine the Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia tour with our Dalmatian Island Cruise:

15 days Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia + Dalmatian Island Cruise - Ref. DDC:

Day 1. Join tour in Dubrovnik. 2 & 3. In Dubrovnik.
4. Drive to Split. **5.** Tour Split, drive to Plitvice Lakes N. Park. **6.** Walking in Plitvice Lakes N. Park.
7. Drive Trogir via Zadar. **8.** Free in Trogir; board boat. **9.** Cruise to Hvar Island. **10.** Cruise Korcula Island. **11.** Cruise to Mljet Island. **12.** Cruise to Korcula Island. **13.** Cruise to Vis Island. **14.** Cruise Split. **Day 15. Cruise Trogir where tour ends.**

Please see separate dossier Ref. DC for further details of the Dalmatian Island Cruise.

EXPLORE ACCOMMODATION RATINGS : An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round.

To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning.

Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

H++ : Comfortable hotels, lodges or guesthouses with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. With air-conditioning/heating where appropriate and with reliable hot and cold water. Generally good levels of service and often with added amenities such as restaurant, bar, gardens or swimming pool.

H+ : Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

H : Basic hotels, lodges or guesthouses (also village houses, mountain huts, hotels etc often come into this category). Accommodation may be communal or dorm-style, and WC / washing facilities are usually shared. Running hot and cold water may be unreliable or even unavailable. These can be the most rewarding and memorable places to stay, but comfort levels are low.

Camping

C++ : Comfortable, full service camping generally in permanent, fixed camps with walk-in tents, proper beds and often with en-suite facilities and other amenities such as dining area, bar, gardens and a swimming pool. Your bed-linen is provided.

C+ : Standard camping in private or public campsites, usually with WC and washing / showering facilities in a shared ablutions building. Typically in two person tents, and some level of participation is often required. Generally bed linen or sleeping bags are not provided.

C : Basic camping in wild camps where facilities / amenities may be limited or non-existent. Generally there is no running water, and we dig a temporary bush toilet. Two person tents are often used, but occasionally we sleep under the stars. Participation normally required and sleeping bags usually not provided.

Note: other accommodation, for example, aboard boats or on overnight sleeper trains is described individually at the appropriate point in the tour itinerary above.

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Other Sightseeing

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

DUBROVNIK Return boat trip to Cavtat £15.00; Lokrum Island boat trip £5.00; City wall walk £5.00. Full day trip to Montenegro £45.00; Elephiti Islands (includes lunch) £28.00.

OMIS Boat ride £5.00.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Seasonal Climate

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, sunny summers. With an average of 2,600 hours of sunshine per year, it is one of the sunniest and warmest coasts in Europe. There is a chance of sporadic rain in Spring and Autumn, though generally this is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Inland around the mountainous Plitvice Lakes area expect more unpredictable weather and a cooler climate.

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Visa Requirements

Entry visas are NOT required by UK, AUS, NZ, USA and CAN citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure

Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against hepatitis A, polio, tetanus, and typhoid. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Eastern Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure.

Special Note: Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

This is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel. Your policy document must also indicate that you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip. If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority.

Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination including safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements and health. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's '**General Information Booklet**', available only after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

Luggage: One main piece of baggage and a daysac. Total allowance: **20kg/44lbs**. Remember that you will have to carry your own luggage between our bus and your accommodation so don't overload yourself.

Clothing: Pack essentially for '**All Tours**' plus '**Hot Conditions**'. July and August are the hottest months, but early and late in the season go prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature and the odd shower. NB: Air conditioning is not normally available.

Footwear: Comfortable shoes/trainers plus sandals for relaxing. Take something with good grip for walking in Plitvice Lakes N. Park. You may find a pair of old shoes useful for swimming off rocks and stoney beaches.

Equipment: We also recommend a water bottle, a sunhat, sunglasses and sunscreen. A torch is useful in case of powercuts/emergencies.

Trek Kit Bag: For an exclusively designed Explore Trek Bag, follow the relevant link at www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore

Personal First Aid Kit: For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore

Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore for further information.

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