

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Dalmatian Island Cruise (DC 2014)



TOUR
DURATION
8
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Relaxed

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Simple

Tour Code: DC

Tour Highlights - Dalmatian Island Cruise

- ✓ Oldtimer Motor Cruiser - 7 nights on board our own chartered vessel cruising to the islands of Sipan, Korcula, and Hvar in the Croatian Adriatic
- ✓ Korcula - Discover the delightful Venetian architecture of the most historical of all of the Dalmatian islands

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 7 nights Simple Boat
Included Meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 1 dinner
Start Point: Join tour: Dubrovnik
End Point: Tour ends: Dubrovnik
Transport: Boat, Taxi
Countries: Croatia

Dalmatian Island Cruise

Home to over a thousand islands, the Croatian Adriatic offers some of the best cruising in the Mediterranean. We travel to the islands of Mljet, Korcula and Hvar on board a traditional wooden boat. Unwind with us as we swim in crystal clear seas off the coast of remote islands, explore pine-forested trails and enjoy delicious local cuisine and wines.



Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, typically with en suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Relaxed

Easy paced tours with plenty of time to relax and absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join tour Dubrovnik, settle into cabins on boat

Join tour Dubrovnik. Board a traditional Croatian wooden boat, your home for the next week.





Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 2 Visit Mljet National Park

After breakfast we cruise on towards the forested island of Mljet, where legend has it Odysseus and the nymph Calypso spent their time together. Mljet National Park covers more than 100 square kilometers and includes two beautiful salt-water lakes, surrounded by lush evergreen forests with several rare varieties of plant life. On an island in the larger lake is the Benedictine St. Mary's Monastery, built in the 12th century, which can be visited by small motor launch and the park has a maze of pathways to explore on foot whilst the clear waters of the lakes offer some welcome opportunities for swimming.



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 3 Discover Korcula Island

This morning we will head to Korcula. Korcula is the most obviously historical of all of the Dalmatian islands and is believed to be the birthplace of Marco Polo, as well as being well known for its high quality white wine production. Korcula is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip. Take a self-guided walking tour of Korcula Town whose history, like most of Croatia, spans the centuries. Start your walk at the Rector's Place, with its admirable 15th Century turrets, and continue to the City Museum housed in a 16th Century mansion. Here you can witness an impressive array of artefacts and Byzantine icons that bring Korcula's history to life. Korcula is a photographers dream, with its red terracotta roofs, stone cathedrals and winding roads. You may choose to take dinner at a typical Mediterranean restaurant with fresh seafood prepared and served as a local speciality.



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 4 Explore Hvar Island

Today we explore the sunniest of the 1244 Croatian islands, Hvar and head for its jewel, the ancient town of Hvar. 7000 years of history are encapsulated in this small island town. Sparkling amid green hills, rocky terrain and a sea of cobalt blue, Hvar is a producer of olive oil, lavender oil and local wine. The town is filled with sophisticated shops, cafes and restaurants. There is a main square around which most of the activity revolves. Walk through the narrow streets to visit the 15th Century Franciscan Monastery; the renaissance cloister, the old rectory that today houses a collection of lace, manuscripts and books; and the church with its remarkable collection of paintings. Wander to the main square to see St. Stephen's Cathedral with its treasury and bell tower, all of which bear the mark of Venetian rule. You can climb up the fortress and enjoy the sunset tonight.



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 5 Relax on the sunny beaches of Lumbarda

Today we can relax on the sandy beaches at the small fishing village of Lumbarda, located on the eastern side of Korcula Island.



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 6 Visit Sipan Island

Cruise to the largest and least-visited of the Elaphiti Islands; Sipan is a delightful mix of olive trees, vines and craggy peaks and dotted with remnants from the Roman times. On arrival we will take to the saddle to enjoy a quiet ride across the island to the northern settlement of Sipanska Luka, exploring the pretty olive groves and ancient vineyards on the way.



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 7 Cruise to Dubrovnik; explore the town

This morning we will take to the water with a guided sea-kayaking trip through the clear blue waters of the Adriatic. With full equipment and instruction provided, we spend the morning paddling below the towering city walls of this majestic town. Then we will have the opportunity to explore them and its twisting alleyways by foot. 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

EXPLORE! The Adventure Travel Experts available online 24/7

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. 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).



Overnight: Simple Boat

DAY 8 Tour ends Dubrovnik

The tour ends this morning after breakfast.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 1 dinner included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

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

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow £15.00 for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Foreign Exchange

Croatia

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 in banks.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

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

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a huge selection of competitive flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport to ensure you get the very best priced flight at all times.

On our website we do display a UK flight inclusive package price which is usually based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure the best available fare for your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

Visa Information

Croatia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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

Vaccinations & Protection

Croatia

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. The above 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. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Croatia

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, sunny summers. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally it is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Occasional high winds may make the more open waters too choppy for comfortable passage and the itinerary will need to be adapted accordingly. 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.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes/trainers plus sandals for relaxing. Footwear is generally not worn on board, but you may find a pair of old shoes or plastic sandals useful to avoid sea urchins on rocks.

Clothing

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 showers. You'll need your swimming gear, a 'bath' towel (as towels are not provided on board) and a beach towel. Take a fleece for potential chilly breezes when sailing.

Equipment

We also recommend a water bottle, a sun hat, sunglasses and sun cream, a towel and if you wish to snorkel, your own mask and snorkel. Please note that if you wish to sleep out on deck on some nights, as many choose to do in good weather, you should bring a sheet sleeping bag and a roll mat, as the cabin bedding is not permitted on deck. You may also wish to bring ear plugs.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack for shore excursions. Remember that you will have to carry your own luggage – so don't overload yourself. Space is limited on board so only bring what you need. A soft bag is more easily stored on board than a hard suitcase.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Food

Croatia

Lunch: 15.00

Dinner: 18.00

Water

Croatia

1.50

Country details

Croatia

Size of Country: 56,594 sq km

Population: 4,290,612

Major Language: Croatian

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Electric Supply & Plugs

Croatia

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family-run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which supports AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

EXPLORE! The Adventure Travel Experts available online 24/7

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest.

www.coolearth.org

Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

- [Tourism Concern](#)

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

These tour notes were last updated on 10/12/2013 03:50:24