EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Dalmatian Island Cruise (DC 2015)

BOAT JOURNEYS

TOURDURAT
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 Korcula, Hvar and Vis in the Croatian Adriatic
- ✓ Windsurfing - Learn this fun activity off the coast of Korcula Island
- ✓ Kayaking - Sea kayak in the Adriatic Sea along the coastline of Vis Island
- ✓ Relaxation - Unwind on sandy beaches in unspoilt bays and swim in clear waters
- ✓ Cycling - Explore Hvar Island on two wheels

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	7 nights Simple Boat
Included Meals:	7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Trogir
End Point:	Tour ends: Trogir
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 Vis, Korcula, Hvar and more on board a traditional wooden boat. Unwind with us as we swim in crystal clear seas off the coast of remote islands with sandy beaches, visit ancient villages, 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 in Trogir, settle into cabins on our boat

Arriving in Trogir, we join our traditional wooden boat, docked on the old town waterfront. Old Trogir is a pretty, walled town of ancient palaces and jutting belfries. Tonight we shall meet the crew, settle into our cabins and have a light supper on board.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 Cruise to Vis Island, visit the Blue Cave and partake in sea kayaking

We start our journey cruising towards Komiza on Vis Island, which is a full days sailing. Along the way we'll stop at Bisevo to visit the Blue Cave. In this grotto, if there is direct sunshine overhead, it displays the most wondrous turquoise waters, which give the cave its name. We then sail from the small islet of Bisevo to Vis Town on the island of the same name. With both Greek and Roman ruins, and a very pretty church built out on a spit, it has plenty to entertain including a small fort and museum. We also enjoy an included sea kayaking excursion for a few hours that departs from Komiza on the north west of Vis Island. Our sea kayaking journey takes us to a number of beaches, close to Manjarema Fort and the beautiful Barjoska Bay with its crystal clear waters. There's also the opportunity to walk to an old military bunker at Barjoska. Tonight we will either moor in the harbour at Vis Town where you can dine in a waterfront restaurant or alternatively we may move round the headland to a quiet bay where a deep tunnel into the cliffs was constructed by the Yugoslavs to hide their ships from the German air raids during World War II. A section of the tunnel has been converted into a family run wine cellar where you have the option to stop and sample the local wine. In splendid isolation, away from the harbour lights, you can dine on board (optional) and spend time gazing up at the stars.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 Cruise to Vela Luka on Korcula Island

Today we head to Korcula, one of the most historical of all the Dalmatian Islands, which is believed to be the birth place of Marco Polo, as well as being famed for its high quality white wine production. They'll be plenty of time today to stop for a swim or to snorkel. Vela Luka is towards the most westerly part of the island and this will be our overnight mooring spot. This evening there's the option to visit an olive grove where you can have dinner and enjoy a local music performance.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 Cruise to Korcula Town and enjoy windsurfing from Lumbarda

Continuing east, we follow Korcula's coastline with stops for swimming and snorkelling to our destination tonight, Lumbarda which is close to Korcula Town itself. It is from here that we have our included windsurfing lesson with an instructor who will teach the basics of how to manoeuvre the board to best catch the wind. Korcula is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip. Take a self-guided walking tour of this wonderfully compact walled town whose history, like most of Croatia, spans the centuries and includes a stop at the Rector's Place and City Museum which is housed in a 16th Century mansion and boasts Byzantine icons. 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**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 Cruise to Scedro Island and Hvar Town on Hvar Island

Today we head eastwards to the tiny island of Scedro, south of Hvar. We stop at this secluded bay to enjoy lunch on board and to take a swim, or maybe visit a small harbour. We then make for Hvar, where 7,000 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 wine. The town is filled with sophisticated shops, cafes and restaurants. There is a main-square around which most of the activity revolves. Our tour leader will guide you through the narrow streets to visit the citadel. Whilst explorer you'll also have the chance to see the 15th century Franciscan Monastery, the old rectory that today houses a collection of lace, manuscripts and books and the church with its remarkable collection of paintings. In the main square you'll see Saint Stephen's Cathedral with its treasury and bell tower, all of which bear the mark of Venetian rule. We'll return to our boat this evening to enjoy dinner on board.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Cruise to Brac, cycle ride and swim stops

This morning we take to two wheels and cycle from Starigrad on Hvar Island through small island settlements, fields and vineyards along a trail that follows the old Greek and Roman pathways. There may also be the opportunity between Vrboska and Jelsa to have a short swimming break on one of the beaches. Upon re-boarding our boat, we head north to the Island of Brac. There is an included stop at Bol on Brac Island, which has an excellent beach from where you can swim. We then dock for the night at the quiet port and village of Milna. From here we can explore the local monastery and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Cruise to Solta Island

Today we make the short journey to Solta Island where we enjoy our lunch in a restful bay before having the opportunity to visit an olive oil factory where we can taste the local produce. Tonight, as it will be our last evening onboard, we'll get to enjoy a Captain's dinner.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Cruise to Trogir where tour ends

There's just an hour or two's sailing time along the coast to Trogir, where our tour ends. If you have time before your flight you may chose to explore the pretty walled town of Trogir with its narrow streets and beautiful old buildings.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

Why not join us for a week on a traditional wooden sailing boat cruising between some of the most beautiful and dramatic islands on the Croatian Adriatic? With over 1000 islands to choose from we've based our cruise itinerary around some of the more 'classic' islands off the Dalmatian Coast. We will have the chance to explore the cliffs, bays and beaches along the shoreline.

The boat is family operated and the cabins are small but cosy. There are 10 twin cabins (bunk beds) on the main and upper decks, with a wash basin in each. There are also 4 toilet/showers and one separate shower. Please be aware, as with all accommodation on traditional boats, cabin space is limited, so please pack accordingly. Soft bags are much easier to stow than hard-framed suitcases.

Our boat is equipped with a galley (kitchen), dining room and spacious sundeck. There is also a boat ladder to make the most of the swimming and snorkelling opportunities. There is an Explore tour leader, plus the captain, boat crew and a cook on board. Breakfasts and lunches are generally taken on board the boat, leaving you free to sample the cuisine in local restaurants in the evenings.

While our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day route printed, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops and even islands visited, may vary due to weather, sea conditions and the availability of mooring space in harbours. In some harbours, we may be mooring alongside other boats and so access may involve crossing other vessels decks.

An ability to swim is strongly recommended and for water activities such as sea kayaking you do need to be able to swim 25 metres unaided to participate.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches,3 dinners 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.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Croatia

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 18.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Croatia

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00

Water £: 1.50

Other Sightseeing & Activities

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 these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Vela Luka - Dinner and entertainment at an olive grove 35.00 Euros plus taxi cost
Solta Island - Olive oil tasting in Stomorska (including transport) 20.00 Euros

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

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.

Foreign Exchange

Croatia

ATM Availability: Most towns have ATM’s for cash withdrawal.

Credit Card Acceptance: Generally accepted throughout including most larger restaurants (make sure you have informed your credit card company that you are travelling abroad as some companies will reject payments)

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can only be exchanged in banks.

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 have a Bureau de Change

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

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of 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.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure 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. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

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. Itineraries with boat cruises can occasionally be disrupted due to bad weather.

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.

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.

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

Country details

Croatia

Population: 4,290,612

Size of Country: 56,594 sq km

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, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one 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 traditional, 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: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

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/

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: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

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 LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â 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.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

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 2014 and 31st December 2015.

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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

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