

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Old Dubrovnik and Dalmatia (DD 2017)



TRIPDURATION
8
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: DD

Trip Highlights - Old Dubrovnik and Dalmatia

- ✓ Dubrovnik - Walking tour of the Pearl of the Adriatic including the Rector's Palace and Maritime Museum
- ✓ Split - Guided tour of Diocletian's Palace and the beautiful old town
- ✓ Plitvice Lakes National Park - Discover the picturesque lakes and waterfalls on foot
- ✓ Zadar - Explore Croatia's old capital and see the sea organ and sun salutation
- ✓ Trogir - Discover the narrow streets and historical buildings of this charming Medieval town

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 6 nights Standard Hotel
1 night Premium Hotel

Included Meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Start Point: Join trip: Dubrovnik

End Point: Trip ends: Trogir

Transport: Bus

Countries: Croatia

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia

Explore the best of Croatia's historic and natural highlights on this one-week trip. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik, which has been wonderfully restored after the shelling in the war in the early 1990's. We also visit the historic city of Trogir, the Diocletian's Palace in Split and the shimmering lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes National Park. You'll have the chance to visit the nature reserve on Lokrum Island, which is home to a mini dead sea and a Benedictine monastery.

Why Book this trip

Discover the hidden gems of Plitvice National Park, the UNESCO Heritage city of Dubrovnik and the charming town of Trogir in this one week trip. If you fancy something a little longer, why not also go on our 'Dalmatian Island Cruise' to make a 2 week adventure.

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.

Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable 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: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

Your trip 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

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

DAY 1 Join trip in Dubrovnik

Arrive in Dubrovnik and check in to our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available



 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Free day in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik

Today is left free for you to enjoy Dubrovnik's Old Town or to join one of our excursions to the surrounding attractions. Now essentially fully restored following damage from shelling in the Siege of Dubrovnik in 1991-92, the Old Town still retains its unique atmosphere and charm. UNESCO granted it 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. You may choose to get a view from above by taking the cable car to a nearby hilltop or by enjoying a walk around the city walls (the walk of the full course is 1940 metres). You may also like to visit the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery or the cathedral in the Old Town. Alternatively you could leave the city and head to Montenegro, take a boat ride to the charming harbour town of Cavtat or cruise to the picturesque UNESCO protected Lokrum Island Nature Reserve. This idyllic island, with an ancient Benedictine monastery at its heart is only a short boat ride from Dubrovnik. As well as visiting the monastery there is the opportunity to take one of the forest walks, relax on one of the small beaches or to take a dip in the mini 'Dead Sea' on the island.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Walking tour of Dubrovnik; drive to Split

The best way to get a feel for the wealth of monasteries, museums and old buildings in Dubrovnik's Old Town is on foot. Starting from Pile Gate this morning we'll take a walking tour including visits to the Rector's Palace and the Maritime and Ethnographic Museums. The Rector's Palace was built in the 14th century for the Rector of the Regusa Republic and was in use for this up until 1808. It was then used as an armoury, watch house and prison. As well as the buildings fantastic architecture it also houses a museum that will give you a taste of the Ragusan lifestyle. The Maritime Museum is located in the Fort of Saint John and gives you an overview of ship building and trading from the start of the Dubrovnik Republic right up to after World War II. The Ethnographic Museum is found in an old granary dating from the 16th century. Here you can learn about the heyday of the Dubrovnik Republic and see the traditional folk costumes and textiles from the time. This afternoon we drive to Split and if time allows we'll make a stop for lunch in Ston along the way. Ston is a village known for its unusual salt pans and its impressive defensive walls. Split is vibrant city set on the coast and with a beautiful old town area. This evening you may like to take the opportunity to join the glamorous locals on a stroll along the Riva, Split's seafront promenade and stop off in one of the aromatic restaurants and bustling cafes along the way. On our 16 September 2017 departure we will be staying at a hotel in nearby Kamen. It is 8 kilometres from the centre of Split, which is easily accessible by local bus.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Free day to discover Split or the chance to visit Hvar Island

Split is the second largest city in the country and it's a hive of activity. It has a long history and its old cobbled streets are a pleasure to explore, with their small boutique shops, hidden art galleries and reams of restaurants and cafes - some of which are built into the ancient city walls. Fresh fish and homemade wine is a popular choice for lunch with the locals. You could take the opportunity to relax on the city's main beach, Bacvice and perhaps try your hand at a popular local game called, Picigin, where a small group of people will swim in the sea whilst trying to keep a rubber ball out of water for as long as possible, but your only allowed to touch it once on your turn. Perhaps, you'd like to visit Krka National Park, which main attractions are its stunning waterfalls and Visovac Island with a pretty monastery sat in the centre. If you wish to remain closer to Split then you could take a walk on Marjan Hill, which is on the same peninsula and offers great views over the city and coastline below. Within the city itself you could visit the Mestrovic Gallery, which features works of art by Ivan Mestrovic, Croatia's most famous modern sculptor.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Tour of Split and Diocletian's Palace; drive to Plitvicka Jezera

After breakfast we take a guided walking tour of Split's old town and Diocletian's Palace, which is a particular highlight. The palace was built by Emperor Diocletian for his golden years at the turn of the 4th century as an imperial residence and fortified camp. It quickly became the heart of the city. What was then the mausoleum of this pagan Roman emperor evolved over time to become the world's oldest Roman Catholic cathedral, the Cathedral of Saint Domnius. A tour of the palace is a step back in time, as we wander through the intriguing maze of narrow cobble-stone streets where pre-Romanesque churches nestle alongside Gothic chapels. We'll see the peristyle (central square), cathedral, crypt and basement halls at the palace. In the afternoon we drive to the Plitvicka Jezera region which is an ideal base for visiting the nearby Plitvice Lakes National Park. Located in a valley between high forested mountains, Plitvice was the first and is one of the most attractive national parks in the country and is considered to be one of Europe's greatest natural wonders.

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Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Full day to explore Plitvice Lakes National Park

We'll spend a full day walking the well-marked trails in the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which follow the course of 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, travertine has been deposited to form the natural dams that separate the lakes. This dynamic process still continues with new falls breaking through the travertine barriers and constantly changing the look of this icon national park. A popular circuit leads you from the Upper Lakes, you take a ferry across Lake Kozjak and then the path twists between the Lower Lakes. Every turn leads to new breathtaking scenery and yet another stunning waterfall. The walk is mostly on wooden promenades and shorter walks are possible for those wanting less activity.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Scenic drive to Trogir via ancient Zadar

Following scenic backroads initially through rolling farmland, we make for the northern Dalmatian Coast towards the ancient capital of Dalmatia, Zadar. On arrival we'll take a walking tour to see the unique experimental musical instrument on the sea front, known as the Sea Organ as well as the Sun Salutation, which is a multi-coloured sun powered light display on the pavement. We'll also see the round Church of Saint Donat, which is considered to be the symbol of the city. We then continue our drive along the twisting and picturesque Dalmatian coastal road to Trogir. Here we'll take a walking tour of the main sights and visit Saint Lawrence Cathedral. This evening you're free to enjoy your final night in this charming Medieval harbour town. On our 09 September 2017 departure we will be staying on Ciovo Island, which is just two kilometres from the centre of Trogir and connected to the mainland by a bridge. The hotel is in peaceful countryside surroundings and only around 25 metres from the nearest beach.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Trip ends in Trogir

The trip ends in Trogir this morning after breakfast.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this trip. 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 Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip 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 £: 8.00 - 10.00

Dinner £: 18.00

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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

Dubrovnik - City walls walk €18.00; cable car €14.00; boat to/from Cavtat €20.00 return; boat to/from Lokrum Island Nature Reserve €10.00 return; day trip to Montenegro (operates from 15-May to 09-Oct) €52.00; Franciscan Monastery entry €5.50; Dominican Monastery entry €3.00; Cathedral entry €2.00.

Split - Walk on Marjan Hill; Mestrovic Gallery entry €4.00; excursion to Krka National Park and Sibenik €62.00 (minimum 4 people).

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore 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 10 Pounds for tipping. 10% is expected in restaurants.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore 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 and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

Credit Card Acceptance: Generally accepted throughout including most restaurants and hotels.

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

Local Currency: Croatian Kuna.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Pound Sterling, US Dollars and Euro cash can all be exchanged for the local currency.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns and cities - your Explore Leader will advise you on arrival. Only exchange money at reputable places like banks, ATM's and official Forex Offices.

Joining your Trip

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.

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

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>.

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 booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

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Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducing Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Travel Aware

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

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting cr@explore.co.uk or 01252 379438.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

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.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Vaccinations & Protection

Croatia

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend being up-to-date with your routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK including protection against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Tick-borne encephalitis protection is recommended by some medical sources at certain times of the year. Ticks are most active between spring and late

autumn. Check the 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. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Croatia

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, dry, sunny summers. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally it is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms can occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Hvar Island gets the most sunshine in summer with 10-12 hours each day, followed by Split, Korcula Island and Dubrovnik with around 7-8 hours. Temperatures from May to October are generally in the low to mid 20's (in °C), but can reach into the 30's (in °C) in July and August. Trip 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 odd shower. Please note air conditioning is not normally available.

Equipment

We recommend a water bottle, a sun hat, sunglasses and suncream. Consider taking some mosquito repellent. A torch is useful in case of powercuts/ emergencies.

Footwear

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

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. Remember that you will have to carry your own luggage between our bus and your accommodation so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Croatia

Population: 4,190,700

Size of Country: 56,594 square kilometres

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 & 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, 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.

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

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, 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) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group (www.tourismconcern.org.uk) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

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.

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 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip 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: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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