EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Old Dubrovnik and Dalmatia (DD 2015)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
8
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard
tour Code: DD

Tour Highlights - Old Dubrovnik and Dalmatia

- ✓ Dubrovnik - Guided tour of the Pearl of the Adriatic including the Franciscan Monastery and the Rector's Palace
- ✓ Split - Guided tour of Diocletian's Palace
- ✓ Plitvice Lakes National Park - Discover this picturesque national parks beautiful lakes and waterfalls on foot
- ✓ Zadar - Explore Croatia's old capital
- ✓ Trogir - Explore the narrow streets and historical buildings of this fascinating Medieval town

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	7 nights Standard Hotel
Included Meals:	7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Dubrovnik
End Point:	Tour ends: Trogir
Transport:	Bus, Taxi
Countries:	Croatia

Old Dubrovnik & Dalmatia

Explore the best of Croatia's historic and natural highlights on this one-week tour. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik, the historic city of Trogir, the Diocletian's Palace of Split and the shimmering lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes National Park.

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: 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 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.

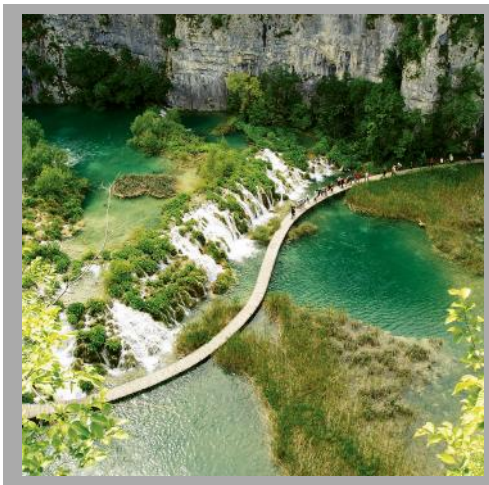
Your Tour Leader

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

Arrive in Dubrovnik and check in to our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available



Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site of 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 (1940 m) for great views over the twisting alleyways and out over the Adriatic (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Free day in Dubrovnik; chance to visit Montenegro

Today is left free for you to follow your own interests. You could choose from multitude of available activities including a full-day excursion to nearby Montenegro or take a ferry to the Elaphite Islands.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Drive to Split via Trpanj and Omis

This morning we first drive through the vineyards of the Peljesac Peninsula to Trpanj, then take a ferry back onto the Croatian mainland to Ploce. Continuing towards Split we arrive at Omis at the head of the Cetina River, where you can take a boat trip to visit Cetina Gorge before heading back to 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 riva (promenade) past aromatic restaurants and bustling cafés.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Guided tour of Split before departing for Plitvice Lakes National 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.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Explore Plitvice Lakes National Park

We plan to spend a full day walking the wellmarked 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.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room 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. You will have some free time to explore the Old Town. You may 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 though one of Europes most beautiful countries.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Tour ends in Trogir

The tour 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 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

Dubrovnik - City walls walk 18.00 Euros; cable car 14.00 Euros; boat to/from Cavtat 20.00 Euros return; boat to/from Lokrum Island Nature Reserve 10.00 Euros return; day trip to Montenegro (operates from 08-Jun to 14-Sep) 52.00 Euros; boat trip to Elaphite Islands

(three islands cruise) 48.00 Euros; day trip to Korcula 54.00 Euros.
Omis - Boat ride 16.00 Euros return.

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 10 Pounds for tipping. 10% is expected in restaurants.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders 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 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 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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