EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Old Dubrovnik + Dalmatian Island Cruise (DDC 2017)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI(
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation Grade: Standard

Trip Code: DDC

Trip Highlights - Old Dubrovnik + Dalmatian Island Cruise

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Trogir - Discover the narrow streets and historical buildings of this charming Medieval town
- ✓ Oldtimer Motor Cruiser - 7 nights on board our own chartered vessel cruising to the islands of Korcula, Hvar, Vis and Brac 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

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	7 nights Standard Hotel 7 nights Simple Boat
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Dubrovnik
End Point:	Trip ends: Trogir
Transport:	Bus, Boat, Public Bus, Taxi
Countries:	Croatia

Old Dubrovnik + Dalmatian Island Cruise

Explore the best of Croatia's historic and natural highlights. 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. After spending a week exploring the land we'll take to the waters. Home to over a thousand islands, the Croatian Adriatic offers some of the best cruising in the Mediterranean. We travel to the scenic islands of Vis, Korcula, Hvar and Brac on board the traditional Oldtimer wooden boat. Unwind with us as we swim in crystal clear seas off the coast of picturesque islands with a mix of sandy beaches and rocky coves. We'll also visit ancient villages, explore pine-forested trails and enjoy delicious local cuisine and wines along the way. There'll be the chance to get active on our included cycling, windsurfing and sea kayaking excursions.

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.

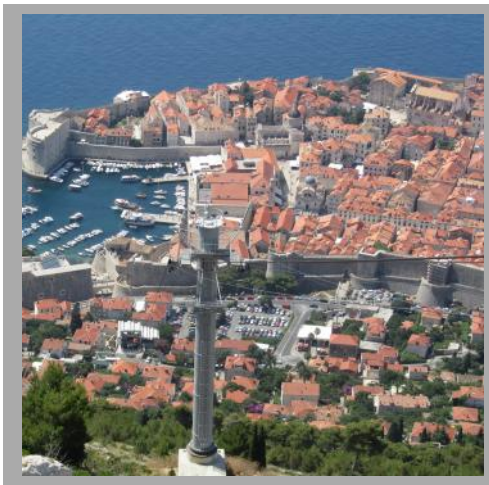
Your Tour Leader

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 learnt 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.

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 visit the peristyle (central square), cathedral, crypt and basement halls at the palace. In the afternoon we drive to Plitvicka Jerera's 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.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room 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

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.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Join the cruise in Trogir, settle into the cabins on our boat

This morning you'll have free time to explore Trogir before joining our Dalmatian Islands cruise this afternoon. Old Trogir is a pretty, walled town of ancient palaces and jutting belfries and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best preserved Romanesque-Gothic towns in Central Europe. The town offers a lot of sights that are worth visiting such as the cathedral, Kamerlengo Castle and the Tower of Saint Marc. You'll join our traditional wooden boat, the Oldtimer, which is docked on the old town waterfront. Tonight we shall meet the crew, settle into our cabins and have a light supper on board. Please note that the days on which the lunches and dinners that are included may alter although there will always be the appropriate total number of meals included within the trip.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 Cruise to Hvar Island; afternoon cycling from Jelsa

We enjoy breakfast on board as we start our journey cruising towards Jelsa on Hvar Island. Along the way there'll be the chance to swim in the clear waters of the Adriatic. The town of Jelsa is located mid-way along the coast of Hvar Island, which has a mild climate, clean atmosphere and warm and welcoming locals. The old town of Jelsa has been in existence since the 13th century and remnants of the old wall can still be seen. It prospered through the ages as it developed into a maritime and trade centre predominantly selling local wines, olive oil and fish which is still the main produce today. Jelsa and the Island of Hvar as a whole are a treasure trove of cultural and historical monuments that can found in its churches, parks, caves and beautiful town squares. This afternoon we enjoy a cycling excursion from the port in Jelsa along the coast with the chance to stop along the way for refreshments and swimming.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10 Explore Hvar Town; cruise to Vis Island

This morning we have time to discover 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 and most activity revolves around the main square. Our Explore Leader will guide you through the narrow streets to visit the citadel. Whilst exploring 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. This afternoon we cruise to the town of Vis, on the island by 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 may move around the headland to a quiet bay where a tunnel 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. Tonight we will moor in this harbour town where you can choose to dine in a number of waterfront restaurants.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 Sea kayaking excursion; cruise to Korcula Island

We start today with an included sea kayaking excursion for a few hours, which takes us to a number of beaches, close to Manjarema Fort and the beautiful Barjoska Bay with its crystal clear waters. Please note that the kayaking routing may alter based upon the abilities of the group and local conditions, which will be decided by the Explore Leader on the day. This afternoon we cruise 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. In a secluded bay near to Vela Luka, towards the most westerly part of the island, will be our overnight mooring spot. There's the opportunity to walk up Pinski Rat Hill (950 metres) to a nearby archaeological cave. This evening there's the option to visit an olive grove where you can have dinner and enjoy a local music performance or dine in one of the selection of restaurants and inns offering traditional specialties and locally produced wine. Vela Luka is also home to many talented musicians and artists, so don't be startled if spontaneous singing starts in the street.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12 Explore Lumbarda; afternoon windsurfing

Today we continue east, following Korcula's coastline with stops for swimming and snorkelling along the way to our destination for tonight, Lumbarda, which is close to Korcula Town. From Lumbarda this afternoon we have our included windsurfing lesson with an instructor who will teach us the basics of how to manoeuvre the board to best catch the wind. There's the opportunity this evening to enjoy a dinner and wine tasting. There are also several taverns and inns in Lumbarda offering traditional dishes, especially fresh grilled fish seasoned with olive oil and accompanied by the local white wines. It is also known for its white wine called Grk which has been locally produced for hundreds of years. Alternatively, you may choose to take a short taxi ride to Korcula Town for dinner.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 Cruise to Korcula Town and Kuciste on the Peljesac Peninsula

Today we cruise to Korcula Town which 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. We then cruise a short distance to Kuciste, a small village on the southwest of the Peljesac Peninsula. It's located about 5 kilometres from Orebic and overlooks Korcula Town and the village of Banja Zrnovska on the opposite side of the Korcula Channel. Due to its location in the Korcula Channel, there are plenty of strong but pleasant westerly winds during summer, which make it a favourite spot for sailors and windsurfers, perhaps the best in the entire Croatian Adriatic. The beaches here are a mix of sandy and pebbled so there's something to suit everyone. The shops and restaurants in Orebic are easily accessible for you to find anything you may need.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Cruise to Pucisca on Brac Island; visit the Golden Horn Beach

This morning we cruise to Pucisca on Brac Island and take the local bus to Bol, which is famous for its sandy beach, Zlatni Rat, also known as the 'Golden Horn' which is excellent to swim from. After free time here to relax, there's the opportunity to visit Vidova Gora peak, which affords great views over the island and coastline below. There are regular buses back to Pucisca, and the harbour where the boat is docked is close to the bus station. You may wish to visit the stone masonry school in the town which produces a famous white stone that is mined from quarries nearby. This stone was used during the construction of many famous buildings, such as the Diocletian Palace in Split and the White House in Washington, U.S.A. Pucisca has retained many of its original Mediterranean characteristics and its white roofs create a truly ambient atmosphere. From this beautiful coastal town you can also enjoy swimming in numerous bays and pebbled beaches, dine in small family-owned restaurants and meet friendly local people. Tonight, as it will be our last evening on board, we'll get to enjoy a Captain's dinner.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 15 Cruise to Trogir where the trip ends

This morning we'll sail three hours along the coast to Trogir, where our trip ends. If you have time before your flight you may choose to explore the pretty walled town of Trogir with its narrow streets and beautiful old buildings.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

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 most beautiful 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 and cosy. There are 10 twin cabins (bunk beds) on the main and upper decks, with a wash basin in each. There are also four toilet/showers and one separate shower. Electric plug sockets are not available in the cabins; however there are sockets available in the corridor of each deck in order to charge phones, cameras, etc. Please be aware, as with all accommodation on traditional boats, cabin space is limited, so please pack accordingly. Soft sided 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 swimming and snorkelling opportunities. There is an Explore 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.

The likelihood of getting sea sick during this trip is low as the islands themselves provide protection against strong winds, reducing the possibility of choppy sea conditions.

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, where you do need to be able to swim 25 metres unaided to participate.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches,3 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

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.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

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 Introducer 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. 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 recommend a water bottle, a sun hat, sunglasses and suncream, a towel and if you wish to snorkel, your own mask and snorkel. Consider taking some mosquito repellent. A torch is useful in case of powercuts/ emergencies. 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. 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. Footwear is generally not worn on board the boat, 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. Remember that you will have to carry your own luggage between our bus and your accommodation so don't overload yourself. Space is limited on board the boat so only bring what you need. A soft bag is more easily stored on board than a hard suitcase.

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 & 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, 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 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 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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