INTRODUCTION

Croatia is a country with a rich historical and cultural heritage and natural beauty. Its national and natural treasures are revealed in the numerous museums, galleries, churches and national and nature parks, which are, as monuments of the highest category and examples of exceptional beauty, an unavoidable chapter inscribed on the UNESCO list of world heritage. Moreover, those historical and natural resources are indeed visible on almost every corner, whether following the intricate white stone alleyways and streets, or sailing along the exceptional marine archipelago and merry harbors of the coastal towns of Istria, the Kvarner and Dalmatia. The Millenial history of Croatia is told by hundreds of medieval churches with striking frescoes and fascinating braided reliefs. With as many as nine cultural phenomena, Croatia has become the country with the most protected cultural phenomena in Europe.

The unique Croatian seascape, beautiful coastline, bays, beaches with pine trees and picturesque coastal towns and more than a thousand islands simply grab one’s attention with their uniqueness. The Croatian coast and the deep blue sea bed with an abundance of flora and fauna, reveal the magical world of the centuries past, from ancient amphorae to sunken galleys and ships that sunk in the whirlwinds of the two world wars. It is a true paradise for divers and boaters whether they prefer sailing under a full sail or on cruising motor boats.

KEY INFORMATION

The Adriatic Sea was named after an ancient port of the same name. Today, the city of Adria lies on the Italian coast, 38 kilometers away from the sea, which is a result of geological forces by which the north shore constantly rises and the south shore descends.

The Adriatic spans from the Balkan to the Apennine Peninsula. The part that belongs to Croatia is the east coast which extends from Prevlaka in the south to Cape Savudrija in the west, including all islands, islets and reefs along the coast, as well as the islands of Palagruža, and represents a unique area in Europe for cruising with motor boats, speedboats, or sailing boats, and enjoying the underwater world.

HISTORICAL FACTS

Croatia is not only special because of its clear, blue sea, but also because of millennia of different cultures that have mixed through time in this region. The Adriatic Sea is the cradle of ancient civilizations, and a multitude of preserved material evidence is now slowly coming to light from the depths of Adriatic caves, caverns and the deep blue sea.

It was found that the eastern Adriatic coast was inhabited in the early Neolithic times, evidence of which can be found in the caves of Hvar, on the island of Palagruža, etc.
Thanks to the favorable geographic characteristics of the Croatian coastline dotted with numerous bays and coves, the coastal belt has always been an important trade and maritime route. Archaeological findings provide evidence from the 6th century BC that the ancient Greeks maintained maritime connections with the Illyrians, and formed their own colonies on this territory (eg. Pharos, the current Starigrad on the island of Hvar or Issa on Vis).

The Romans did not only build palaces and villas in these areas, but also sailed intensely, as evidenced by numerous underwater sites distributed throughout our waters, from Pula to Cavtat. They are mainly amphoras, which were everyday containers in those times and into which everything from wine to wheat and spices was packed. No matter where you dive, you will find the remains of ancient shipwrecks and their cargo. And perhaps one of the most precious findings from that time are the remains of pithos or dolia, huge clay vessels which were built into ships and used to transport bulk cargo. One site is located near Cavtat, while another is in Murter.

With the arrival of the Slavs, and with them the Croats, a new era for this region began, which is characterized by a constant struggle for supremacy and defense from various enemies, while Dubrovnik rose as a Republic and a leader in culture and trade.

Napoleon came in the 18th century, but was after a short reign dismissed by Austria. Over the next hundred years, Austria and Italy fought for supremacy on the east coast, culminating in the Battle of Vis in 1866. On one side there was the Austrian fleet, led by Tegetthoff, positioned on the armoured frigate Erzherzog Ferdinand Max, while on the other was Admiral Persano as the commander of the Italian fleet. During the battle Tegetthoff sunk Persano who was on the ironclad Re d'Italia, and the Italians started to pull back, admitting defeat.

Evidence of those glorious days can be found on the mainland, but also under the sea in the form of shipwrecks and cargo residues. During the reign of the Austro-Hungarian Empire numerous ports, jetties and lighthouses were built, while trade and shipbuilding were booming.

During the two World Wars, the Adriatic was one of the most important battlefields, as evidenced by the number of wrecks from this period. Around twenty submarines, destroyers and torpedos were found in the surroundings of Pula, which was an important naval port.

**HYDRO AND OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA**

**Depths**
The shallowest sea is in Istria, where the depth does not exceed 50 meters. From Pula, the seabed mildly drops, making a long, narrow valley which extends from Žirje towards Italy and is called Jabučka Kotlina (pit). The biggest depth there is about 240 meters. From Jabučka Pit, the sea bed rises to Palagruža Reef where the biggest
depth is 130 meters. Towards the south, the bottom drops steeply towards Južnojadranska Valley (southern Adriatic) where the biggest measured depth is approximately 1300 meters.

**Seabed**
The appearance of the underwater relief is the consequence of tectonic movements, abrasion and erosion that occurred millions of years ago at a time when certain parts of the seabed were land or the coastal area. Uneven areas on the bottom are constantly reduced by sedimentation of detritus from the land. This process is slow, but steady.

**Tides**
Adriatic tides have relatively small amplitudes. In the southern part, the difference rarely exceeds 40 centimeters, while in the northern part it is somewhat bigger, so in Istria and the Gulf of Trieste it measures up to one meter. In some narrow channels and bays the high tide can grow considerably during a strong storm. This phenomenon is characteristic for big and deep bays of the southern Adriatic. The tides are of a mixed type, which means that their rhythm is semidiurnal during the new and full moon and diurnal during the first and last quarter. Their amplitudes are very irregular.

**Ocean Currents**
Sea currents occur under the influence of winds, the difference in pressure, temperature and salinity. With respect to direction they can be horizontal or vertical. There are also sea bottom currents which arise as a consequence of water moving from warmer to colder areas. During this movement the surface layer gets cold and descends towards the seabed. Adriatic Sea currents are more difficult to notice. The speed of currents changes in particular areas, but this also depends on the period of time. The average speed of currents is about 0.5 knots, but they can reach a speed of up to four knots.

**Water Salinity**
The total amount of salt dissolved in one kilogram of sea water is called salinity, which is usually expressed in grams per thousand or permills. The salinity of the Adriatic Sea is 38.30 permille on average, ie. a kg of water is needed to obtain 38.30 g of salt. In the northern part, the salinity is somewhat lower than in the middle and southern part because of the influence of the river Po.

**Sea Temperature**
The Adriatic Sea has a much accentuated annual change of the sea surface temperature.
The average annual temperature is 11 degrees Celsius. The sea is the coldest during winter, and the surface temperature is about 7°C and rarely falls below that. In the spring, the sea becomes warmer and the surface temperature rises to 18°C. Summer temperatures can reach the highs of even 22-25 °C and in the southern Adriatic and Istria up to 27°C. Thermo climates or parts of the water column of the same temperature, can be very well distinguished on the Adriatic. Thermo climates are most evident during the summer. In the winter, the isothermal process arises,
resulting in equaling of the temperature throughout the water column. In the summer, we notice the first thermo climate at a depth of three to five meters, the next at about 12 meters, and the next at 18 meters, while below 30 meters the temperature is mostly constant throughout the year.

**Waves on the Adriatic**
Waves occur primarily as a result of wind. The bigger the reach, ie. the surface across which the wind blows, the higher the waves will be. Their strength depends on the shape of the coast and the exposure. In this way, we get the mixing of the surface layer of water with water from the deep, and the interaction between the atmosphere and the sea. We distinguish the crest and trough of a wave. Wave length is the distance between two troughs. Adriatic waves are generally between 0.5 and 1.5 meters, and very rarely exceed 5 meters.

**Climate**
The climate of the Adriatic Sea is typically Mediterranean, with mild wet winters and hot, dry summers. Although in recent years deviations have been noted, we are still not familiar with the exact cause of variations in climate. The differences are noticeable in the northern part, where there are some characteristics of continental climate, such as significant changes in temperature and often varying weather conditions.

Air temperature varies depending on the area. Thus, summer temperatures in July in the northern part will be around 34 °C, while in the south they will rise up to 38°C. In the winter, the coldest temperatures were recorded in the northern Adriatic (up to minus 16°C), while in the southern part they have not crossed minus 6°C.

**WINDS**
Winds blowing on the Adriatic Sea are usually bora, scirocco and the north-western winds.

**Bora**
Bora is a dry, cold downward wind blowing in gusts from the north-northeast to east-northeast. The direction of the wind is mostly influenced by the configuration of the coast. The strength of bora is explained by the existence of warm air over the ocean surface and a layer of cold air over the mountain ranges along the coast, causing a powerful airflow to balance the pressure. Cold air tends to fill the void created by booting warm (mild) air from the surface of the sea. Cold air is coming off the sea, sometimes with hurricane force. Along the east coast, the areas which are protected from the bora are the western coast of Istra, the leeward of the island Unije, the leeward of Dugi Island, the mainland coast in the Zadar Channel, the leeward side of the Kornati Islands and the leeward of the island of Mljet. Bora wind usually blows in the winter. During the summer it usually lasts a day or a few hours, while during the winter it can blow for up to 14 days.

**Scirocco**
Sirocco is a warm and humid wind that blows from the east - southeast to the south - southwest. The consequences are high waves and rain. Sirocco is a characteristic
wind for the southern Adriatic, where it blows longer and stronger than in the northern part. In the summer, it usually blows for up to three days, and in the winter up to three weeks. The signs of scirocco are calm seas, weak changeable winds, dimness of the horizon, the increase in temperature and humidity and a gradual drop in pressure. Waves from the southeast gradually increase.

**Mistral**
Mistral is a daytime thermal wind which blows from the northwest, and is created as a result of the difference in the increase of temperature of the land and the sea. It is present from spring to autumn, and during the day often changes direction of blowing. In the southern Adriatic, mistral is stronger than in the north and begins to blow earlier.

**Burin**
Burin is a wind that blows in the direction opposite of mistral. It blows at night, mainly from the north, north-east in the northern Adriatic Sea, and in the south from the east or southeast. It is strongest before the dawn and stops soon after.

**Storms**
Thermal storms occur at high speed from the open sea. They are short in duration but they have great strength. They are most common in the summer. They are more common in the northern Adriatic and are accompanied by thunder. Before the arrival of the storm there is silence. It typically occurs after several days of heat, warm nights and blurry horizon.

**Weather Information**
Weather forecasts are prepared by the State Hydrological Institute and can be followed on VHF frequencies of coastal radio stations and port authorities. They are broadcasted on FM stations at the end of the news or as part of the program for sailors. Port authorities continuously broadcast weather reports and warnings on their VHF working channels in four languages. It is possible to obtain forecasts showing the synoptic situation in all marinas and port offices.

**MARINE RADIO SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**
The entire Croatian coast is pretty well covered by radio communications. Radio service for the protection of human life and the safety of navigation is performed by Plovput from Split, through radio stations Split and Dubrovnik, which cover the southern Adriatic, while radio Rijeka covers the northern part of our sea. By the standards of the GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System), the channel of automated reception of digitalized calls for help is channel 70, after which it switches to a working communication channel of the coast station and port authorities. In Croatia, there are also three commercial systems of wireless mobile communications: T-Mobile (099 and 098), Vip (091) and Tele2 (095).
THE ADRIATIC AS ECO-DESTINATION

The Adriatic boasts diverse natural values and attractions, whilst nature enjoys special protection in the Croatian Constitution. On the whole, the quality of the Adriatic Sea is very well preserved. The results obtained by continuous monitoring of water quality on more than 800 beaches meet the strictest criteria. The only affected coastal waters are areas close to major port cities and towns with inadequate sewage systems, even though there are remediation projects that have begun in those areas. Besides the purity of the sea, an essential feature of the coastal area is the biological and landscape diversity which is reflected in the number of plant and animal species, and the high number of endemic species (eg the human fish). In order to preserve such natural wealth and protect it, a list of rare and endangered species called the Red Book has been drafted.

The coastal region is an area which occupies a special place, and therefore, has a systematic policy of preservation through urban planning and management of sustainable development. Continuous research of the Adriatic from a biological, ecological, chemical and physical point of view is ongoing at the Institute of Marine Research in Rovinj, Split and Dubrovnik. In addition to government agencies, a number of organizations are contributing to the conservation and protection of natural resources through their programs and activities. The Croatian Biological Society and the Croatian Ecological Society are carrying out and supporting research projects of the Adriatic and its seabed.

A few years ago the U.S. Forbes Magazine published a list of the cleanest countries in the world, according to which Croatia is ranked in the 20th place, taking first place in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. 'Croatia recognizes the value of tourism and makes clean beaches a priority. The country that lies on the Adriatic Sea, opposite Italy, offers visitors a rich and healthy fish fund and the protection against diseases transmitted by water", says Forbes.

That the situation has not deteriorated is also shown through the results of a large study on 671 Adriatic locations, published in mid 2011. Out of 671 measurement points, 654 of them (97.5 percent) had excellent sea-water quality, good at 15 points, while on two measuring points the sea was only satisfactory for swimming.

Equally good results were achieved in a report of the European Commission for the Environment, which has carried out tests on more than 22 000 marine and freshwater samples in all 27 EU countries. Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland were also participating in the study. According to European examiners, only Cyprus has cleaner seas than Croatia, where every testing location was excellent. Malta, Greece and Ireland came after Croatia.

LIFE IN THE SEA

Numerous animal and plant organisms live in the Adriatic Sea. We distinguish two vital habitats of which the first is pelagic or the area of open water where two large groups of plankton organisms live, ie. all those organisms that float in the sea, and
nekton, ie. the real swimmers. This includes all those organisms that can actively move. The second habitat is benthos or the seabed and includes all organisms that are permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed. In the water column we distinguish bands or steps with certain characteristics. Thus we have the supralitoral band, which represents a band exposed to sea spraying, then the mediolythoral ie, a tidal band, followed by the infralitoral band of photophilic algae and sea grass which, in the Adriatic Sea, extends from the low tide limit to between 35 and 50 meters. Abyssal is the band situated from 50 to 200 meters, while the hadal or deep sea area encompasses the vastness deeper than 200 meters. Abyssal is present only in the southern part of the Adriatic Sea.

PARADISE WITH A THOUSAND ISLANDS

Croatia is a country of a thousand islands, namely 1244, which create one of the most beautiful indented coastlines in the world. On the 6176 km of coastline there are 50 inhabited islands. The rest are small islands, reefs and rocks which all contribute to our well-indented coast.

Each island is different from the other, has its own story and destiny. The first visit to the Adriatic coast and islands is a journey into the unknown. Each following visit will be a journey to the already familiar beauty of this country, always different but equally fascinating.

Given the number of islands and reefs, but also marinas, which can meet the needs of the most demanding sailors, the Croatian coast can rightly be called a paradise for boaters. While the boating season runs from late April to mid-autumn, the period from June to September is ideal for boaters who, in addition to sailing, want to enjoy the classic pleasures of the sea.

Seafarers without boats can solve their problems in one of the 900 professional charter companies with about 3500 high-quality and well-equipped vessels. Once you have decided whether you want a sailboat, motor yacht or catamaran, you are left with nothing else to do but sail to the open sea, while the best sailing route will be decided by the port you have chosen as your starting point.

We begin the story of the islands with Brijuni. These 14 islands are situated along a seven kilometer stretch between Pula and Rovinj. Nature has created a small paradise in this area - a true harmony of flora and fauna, historical monuments and comfortable hotels. At Brijuni, for example, golf has been played on a unique golf course since 1922, and in those days acquired the coveted title of one of the largest and most beautiful courses. Today, on the field with18 holes, golf is played in the company of deer, mouflon, rabbits and peacocks.

Golden or green Krk is and is not an island. It is an island by its idyllic nature and peaceful oasis far from everyday life, but because of its traffic connections due to the bridge it doesn not seem like an island at all. Cres and Lošinj. One island or two? In
the ancient times they were separated by a channel dug out by the Romans, but today they are connected by a bridge. Of the 1185 islands and cliffs scattered along the Adriatic coast, from hard, sharp rocks and a fistful of soil, Susak is one of the rare islands that nature has created from sand. The 20 million cubic meters of sand give a distinctive flavor to the wine produced on Susak. The island of Rab, situated in the Kvarner Bay is the next in line. Rich in Mediterranean vegetation and sandy beaches, the local council declared it a bathing and health resort in 1889.

**Pag** is an island full of mythical olive groves, rich in sea salt, famous for its lace, and cheese which is a world famous delicacy. **Silba** is an island of shipowners and captains, with docks that are a real haven for sailors hiding from wild gusts of wind. It is also known as an island without cars. The island Ugljan is the ‘suburb’ and garden of Zadar, and was named because of its rich production of oil. The nearby island Pašman has grown into Ugljan. They seem like twins, only Pašman is a bit more peaceful. **Iž** is known for its lush Mediterranean vegetation. Traditional occupations of the local population, fishing and farming are a guarantee of good homemade food that the island offers. On Dugi Otok (Long Island), you can rest in a natural area of 114 km². According to the legend, Kornati, a labyrinth of sea passages and islands, were created from a number of cliffs that God had left over after creating the world. He threw them into the sea and concluded that nothing more needs to be corrected. Among the islands, another picturesque one is Murter, which has an area of 18 km². This is an island of fishermen, olive growers and ship builders. **Prvić Island**, an oasis of Mediterranean flora and fauna, is located near the tourist pearl Vodice. **Zlarin** Island is located southwest of Šibenik. In the fifteenth century it was famous for corals and sea sponges. **Žirje** is the farthest inhabited island of the Šibenik archipelago with great fishing grounds and many coves for boaters.

The island of **Brač** is the highest and the third largest island in the Adriatic Sea, with the beach Zlatni Rat as one of the most famous symbols of Croatian tourism. This island also features an unusual stone desert Blaca, which was founded by Glagolitic monks in the 16th century when fleeing the Ottoman conquerors. South of Brač is **Hvar**, the longest island in the Adriatic. It is an island of vineyards, olive groves and lavender. Hvar is, no doubt, an exceptional island. It has pleasant winter and summer resorts, a mild climate and exuberant subtropical vegetation. **Pakleni Islands** are a particularly interesting group of islands with pebbly, sandy, mostly nudist beaches and a rocky sea bottom, perfect for fishing. Far from the mainland and its problems is the island of **Vis**, rich in palm trees. **Bišćevo** Island stretches across an area of 6 km², with many caves carved into the steep shore.

Although officially a peninsula, **Pelješac** looks like an island. It is separated from Korčula by a narrow channel. They say no island has more legends or monuments than Korčula which, along with Lokrum and Mljet, is the most forested island in Croatia. Far out in the open sea is the island of **Lastovo**, with an area of 50 km²,
with an indented pebble coast with sandy beaches and a few islands on the west and east sides. Alongside Pelješac is the green Mljet, which is spread over 100 km². Because of its dense pine forests, caves and two picturesque lakes connected with the sea, gravelly and sandy beaches and seas rich in fish and lobsters, the western part of the island is a national park.

**NAUTICAL TOURISM**
www.aci-club.hr; www.hjs.hr;

Nautical tourism is the most elite part of the Croatian tourism offer, which annually brings in about 10 percent of the total revenue from tourism. Croatia has some 21,500 berths in the ports suitable for nautical tourism, which also includes anchoring, mooring, dry docking and numerous marinas. When you add the number of berths in ports open to public traffic and sports ports, the total number of berths climbs to 35,000.

Croatian marinas are situated in very protected locations from major cities to small coves on islands. They are safe havens where, in addition to servicing and maintenance, all other facilities are on offer, along with the inevitable heavenly gastronomic experiences in many restaurants and local taverns. For those who, on the other hand, prefer the charm of small ports in the heart of coastal towns that proudly cherish old customs and traditions of Mediterranean leisure, there are a number of waterfronts along the Adriatic.

The construction of 15,000 new berths for sailors is a part of the Government's 'three times fifteen' strategy, which is scheduled to build 15,000 new berths in 15 prestigious destinations around the Adriatic and to achieve annual earnings of 15 billion kunas from nautical tourism by 2018.

According to the strategy of development of nautical tourism, existing ports of public transport need to be used for the construction of new berths for sailors, which would expand the offer with new content and quality of services. To avoid the destruction of the coast, new marinas will then be built in urban areas, and for this purpose, the former military harbors and ports from Pula to Vis need to be used. They are generally ideally located and feature greater depth, which is suitable for the acceptance of megayachts.

The prestigious Lonely Planet Magazine published a full 12-page report by Philip Marsden, entitled "Sailing in Croatia" in 2011. While sailing along the Croatian coast with the help of a skipper, the author was attracted by the beauty of the Croatian islands and sea, imaginative cuisine and rich cultural heritage. After Brač, Hvar and Šolta, he stopped on the island of Vis, describing it as an island of wine, white limestone terraces and olive groves. On Korčula, he returned to the distant past through personal experiences and stories told by the locals, and described the island as the home of Marco Polo listing this world traveler’s achievements and influences as well as details of his life. Watching the outlines of Mljet and Lastovo from the high seas, he imagined how once battles were held in those same waters and on the ships
that were built locally.

More than 300 Regattas on the Adriatic
The popularity of sailing on the Adriatic coast is indicated by the fact that more than 300 regattas are organized annually, mostly in central Dalmatia. There are also events such as the famous Mrduja, Vodice Easter Regatta, Murter Kornati Cup, Latin Jidra and the Vis and Komiža regattas. At the conclusion of the last year's ACI Match Race in Split, the world's best skipper, New Zealander Adam Minoprio, participated in the 'dual' race.

A Regatta in Front of Rovinj’s Old Town Core
ADRIS RC 44 Rovinj Cup, a prestigious sailing regatta, was held from 28 September to 2 October 2011 in Rovinj and gathered Olympic medalists, American Cup winners and world champions. Familiar names of those who sailed on the Adriatic coast were led by Russell Coutts, Paul Cayard, Cameron Appleton, Ray Davis, Larry Ellison, James Spithill, Markus Wieser and Terry Hutchinson. A total of 15 teams from 11 countries competed in the regatta. The overall winner of the fifth regatta in the waters of Rovinj was the crew of ‘Aqua’, with skipper Chris Bake from Canada and tactician Cameron Appleton from New Zealand.

Rogoznica - Marina Frapa, the Best Nautical Base in the World
Master Yachting, part of TUI, one of Germany's leading agencies, declared Marina Frapa in Rogoznica the best nautical base in the world. This coveted title was won by the Rogoznica marina in competition with 139 nautical ports around the world, selected by experts and users of services in the marina. While choosing the best nautical base in the world, experts from the above mentioned German agency evaluated the appearance of the marinas, the berths, cleanliness of the marinas and the sea, as well as the offer in the marinas. In all these segments best grades in 2010 were won by Marina Frapa. The magnifying glass of Master Yachting also focused on the work ethic on board the boats. The marina has 460 vessels on annual berths and ten thousand over night stays of vessels in transit. Marina Frapa is one of the most beautiful marinas in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. It is situated in the town of Rogoznica in the heart of Dalmatia and the central part of the Croatian coast, between Šibenik and Split, and protected from all sides by a beautiful Soline Bay.

Boat Shows in Split and Rijeka
In mid April 2011, for the 13th consecutive year, the city of Diocletian, hosted the nautical fair Croatia Boat Show (CBS), an unavoidable event for all those for whom boats are a favorite means of travel and who are openly passionate about sailing. From year to year, CBS attracts more and more local and foreign companies and ship builders. From a local exhibition, CBS has grown into the largest boat show in South East Europe and climbed to the seventh place of worldwide boat shows which gather the world’s largest producers of boats. Here you can find nautical equipment and boats of all types and sizes and visitors can learn all about the arrangements and offers of nautical – tourism sector.

Around 100 exhibitors and 20 innovators presented themselves at the Rijeka
International Boat Show Nautica 2011 and the Exhibition in Innovations in Maritime and Yachting, held in September. At the 27th Nautica, there were around 50 boats exhibited on land and sea - motor boats, inflatables, sailboats, wooden boats, inboard and outboard engines as well as nautical and other equipment.

NAUTICAL NOVELTIES

Princess of the Adriatic – a Chain of Island Nautical Centers
Zagreb company "Princess of the Adriatic" is planning to build a chain of 12 nautical centers by 2018, on the Croatian islands from Lošinj and Brijunii to Vis and Lastovo. The value of the investment is estimated at 350 million euros. The first four marinas on Lastovo, Kaprije, Mljet and Lošinj should be constructed by 2013. The second phase would include the marinas on Korčula, Vrgada and Dugi Island, while the third phase, which is envisaged around 2017, would include the marinas on Olib, Šipan, Vis and Hvar’s Starigrad. Investors are also connected with the company Geofoto which operates a fleet of aircraft. Islands’ nautical centers will be linked with airports in Dubrovnik, Split and Zadar with new seaplanes (amphibian), which will allow, for example, boaters from Germany to reach their boats on Lastovo in three hours.

The Marina and Breakwater Near Novi Vinodolski
Two new projects are additionally enriching the tourist offer of the Kvarner in Novi Vinodolski. It is the building of a small marina with 260 berths and breakwaters in Klenovica. The new and extended 90-meter breakwater, worth 15 million kunas, will protect the port and the local authorities are hoping to encourage the development of nautical tourism.

Slano – a Marina with 200 Berths
The construction of a marina with 200 berths began in Slano Bay, at the end of the 2011 tourist season. The marina will be located on the south side of Slano Bay, and the value of construction is estimated to be at least five million euros. The marina will be a floating pontoon, so there will be no excessive construction works and cementing going on in the area. Ten acres of land and sea are allocated for this project. Completion of works was planned for the beginning of the 2012 season.

The First Marina with Five Gold Anchors
The Šibenik marina Mandalina of the nautical center Prg in and Turkish Dogus Group is the first Croatian marina which rightly holds the "Five Golden Anchors" status of the British Yacht Harbour Association - TYHA. According to TYHA, the Šibenik marina is “perfectly located”, naturally sheltered by a peninsula, situated amid idyllic natural beauty of the island and close to many national parks as well as the historic town of Šibenik. It also states that there are 367 new berths for boats up to 75 meters in length. Golden anchors are not spread outside the UK and there are only a dozen marinas that comply with their standards on the Mediterranean. Categories are in the range from 1 to 5 gold anchors, equivalent to hotel stars.

A Marina with a Four-Star Hotel
A four-star hotel with accompanying facilities should soon be built in Pula’s Marina
Veruda, with a plan to build additional berths. The marina currently has 630 berths and its own charter fleet. In preparation for the upcoming tourism season, a lot has been invested in the modernization of existing facilities and piers. A new dry dock has been built on an area of 3000 square meters at the entrance to the marina where between 250 and 300 boats can be accommodated. On one of the piers, a platform was constructed for the reception of ships in transit. A new self-propelled conveyor was acquired, for transportation of vessels of up to 30 tons, and there is already a 30-ton crane.

**Significant Capacity Increase of Charter Fleets**

There are more than 900 highly professional, modern and professionally organized charter companies in Croatia, with about 3,500 high-quality and highly equipped vessels, for the professional and recreational use of sailors. Charter companies offer sailing and motor yachts, catamarans, small boats and speedboats. Croatian charter fleet consists of about 75 percent of vessels that are sailing boats, while the rest are motor yachts and other vessels.

One-week rental prices range from 1500 euros for the smallest boats to 60,000 euros for mega-yachts up to 30 meters in length. In recent years, there have been a few local renters of Croatian yachts, as these boats are not hired only by rich foreigners who are predominantly Russians, but also by successful local companies and individuals, as well as those from the neighboring countries. Hiring a motor boat 17 to 18 meters in length costs around 20,000 euros per week, and they can comfortably accommodate up to 10 guests.

Keeping in mind the growing numbers of mega yachts sailing into their marinas, ACI, the Croatian nautical system, is gradually turning to this segment of the market. The term mega yacht includes boats in length of 30 to 150 meters, which, depending on equipment level, cost from 10-300 million euros.

**THE MOST POPULAR NAUTICAL ROUTES**

A coast with over a thousand islands is a real challenge for all those who love sailing. Every sea dog definitely has his favorite Adriatic nautical route, but for those who want to experience this pleasure for the first time, we propose several sailing tours, by which during the course one week, and starting from various ports, they can visit the most beautiful parts of our coast.

**Kornati**

The most famous archipelago, especially among foreign sailors, are certainly Kornati, a national park with more than 150 islands, islets and rocks scattered in central Adriatic. The tour can start from a number of ports, but on this occasion we have chosen Zadar as the starting port. After sailing out of the port, turn the bow to face Ugljan, sail by its north side and go through Veli Ždrelac passage, between Rivanj and Ugljan. Sail around the southern tips of the island and the islets in front of them and after a 16 mile sail you will get to Božava, a bay on Dugi Otok. After anchoring along the waterfront or in the bays, on the second day, start sailing
southwards along Dugi Otok. The sail to the nature park Telašćica, in the southeastern part of the island, is best divided into two days, and you can spend the night in numerous ports such as Bibinj, Mala or Vela Rava, Savar ...

On the third day you will see Kornati before you. Go through one of the two passages - Velika or Mala Porversa and turn right into the 3 km long Telašćica. In the fifteen branches of the bay you will certainly find a quiet berth.

On day four, plunge into the world of Kornati. Get a good map and get inspired. We suggest that by the evening of the same day you get to Vrulje, a small village on the island of Kornat, where you can tie up the boat along a concrete dock.

On the fifth day, after circling around the national park, finish in marina Piškera or the dock on Žakan. There are also other options - Kravljačica, Levrnaka, Lavsa. On the sixth day, you can get out of Kornati and go towards the marina on Žut. This can be done by sailing the Kornat around the south side and going through its south gate between Cape Opat and Vela Smokvica or returning towards Proversa. On the last day, for the remaining 16 miles to Zadar, the only thing left would be to sail through Ždrelac passage, between Ugljan and Pašman, with a range of options for stopovers.

Istria and Kvarner

If you also want to sail along the Brijuni Islands, it is best to start in Umag. There are 22 nautical miles to the first station - Rovinj, which should be a comfortable sail in the breeze with the wind in the middle of the stern. The Istrian coastline is low and sailing should be done far from it because of shallows waters, especially between Novigrad and Poreč. The route can be shortened by stopping in Poreč, in marinas Funtana and Vrsar, while the Rovinj marina is located behind the small island of Sveta Katarina.

The next day, proceed to Veruda (19 miles) and Brijuni and sail around the outer side. To experience this archipelago from all sides, save the passage through Fažana Channel for your return trip. Continue to Pula, where you can spend the night, and on the third day sail out to the 22 mile distant Unije. Remember when sailing the Kvarner – the bora and south winds can be unpleasant.

On the morning of the fourth day, sail out towards Osor (10 miles), and carry on along the west coast of Cres towards the north. By evening, you can sail to Valun (19 miles) along beautiful bays which are mostly only accessible by the sea. The next day, there are 25 miles to be sailed across the Kvarner to Pomer marina on the Istrian coast. If you are not skilled in navigating at night, try to arrive before dark because sailing into Medulin Bay is slightly more complex.

Leave the visit to Brijuni (17 miles) for the sixth day. Today there are 50 berths in the harbor, where once Tito's yachts Jadranka and Podgorka used to be docked. The next day, there will be 35 miles to sail on your returning trip to Umag.

Elafiti

For lovers of the far south, it is best to head out from Dubrovnik to Elafiti, a series of islands that stretch all the way to Pelješac. Your first stop should be Lopud, to which there are approximately 7.5 miles from Gruž or Mokošica.

The next morning, go out to sea and head towards Požura or Sobra on Mljet -
another national park - about 15 miles away. On the third day, continue to sail along the coast of this island to reach the western tip of the island of Mljet and sail into the gulf of Polač. If you want to visit the famous sweet lake, anchor in Pomena. You will find a free berth outside the hotel Odisej, or you can dock in a nicer place, by the islet of Pomeštak.

The next day, sail 14 miles to the town of Korčula, and along the way stop on the sandy beaches of Lumbarda, along vineyards where Pošip and Grk are grown. On the fifth day, visit Badija or some other forested island near Korčula or sail the Pelješac channel and stop in Orebić. But still, on the same afternoon return southwards. The wind will push you to the Okuklje bay, at the bottom tip of Mljet, along the Mljet Channel. The day before last, head straight out to the rock crevice Harpoti, between Jakljan and Šipan and do not miss the chance to drop anchor in one of the three bays on the north side of Jakljan.

Stay overnight in Šipanska Luka, but watch out for the wind similar to tramontana, which can blow here from the Ston Bay, due to which this place is called Stončica. On the last day, on the way back to Dubrovnik, have a swim on Kalamota or in the large Zaton Bay.

**Vis, Hvar, Šolta**

Finally, do not forget the route across the islands of the Split archipelago. Even if you were planning to spend two or three weeks on the sailboat you would not have enough time to experience the beauty of this area. If your route lasts a week, it is enough to cross the 19 miles from Split to Maslinica on the island of Šolta on the first day. On the second day go out to sea – 25 miles to Komiža where sailing is most enjoyable with the mistral on the left flank.

The next morning, first head five miles to Biševo. After experiencing the beauty of the Blue Cave, which used to be inhabited by the Mediterranean monk seal, and before heading south along the coast of Vis, sail along the other side of Biševo on to the bays of Salbunara or Porto (the Biševo port). By the evening, circle around the northeast cape of Vis and after 23 miles, snuggle into the Vis harbor.

On the fourth day, it will be time to start heading back. Sailing to Hvar (14 miles) is a must. There, you can choose among the crowds in the port of Hvar, the greenery of the marina on Palmižana or anchoring in one of the ten bays along the south shore of the Paklenski Islands. The next morning go around cape Pelegrin towards Stari Grad (15 miles), and along the way, you can swim in the beautiful bays of the northern coast, where, at the end of a deep bay, you will be able to experience the other face of Hvar – the fishing and farming town of Stari Grad.

The sixth day should be used for roaming the many bays towards Vrbovska, Jelsa and further east, but if you do not want to leave too many miles for the last day, point the bow towards Milna on Brač (15 miles from Stari Grad). If you have the time, take a swim in one of forested coves of Lučice, just two miles from the gate to the southeast. You will have just ten miles to Split, (18 to Trogir), so will be time to swim in one of the bays of Brač or Šolta on the way back.
In the period from January to October 2011, there were 777 foreign ship cruises in Croatia. There were 1,075,176 passengers travelling on these ships, and they stayed in Croatia 1,546 days in total, which is an average of two days.

Most foreign cruisers entered Croatian territorial waters in Dubrovnik-Neretva (70.7%) and Split-Dalmatia (14.2%) counties, registering the total of 84.9% of all cruises. The remaining 15.1% of foreign cruise ships registered their first entry into Croatian territorial waters in Zadar (7.8%), Šibenik-Knin (3.8%), Istria (3.1%) and Primorje-Gorje (0.4%) counties.

Compared to the same period in 2010, the number of trips decreased by 3.5%, while the number of passengers who entered the Republic of Croatia in such a way, increased by 4.5%. The total number of days spent here by these passengers in the same period increased by 1.6%.

National Geographic’s Traveler magazine included Croatia on its list of ‘top cruises of a lifetime’ in 2011. Specifically, a cruise on wooden sail boats, which is according to the Traveler’s journalist Margaret Loftus, "so - retro, so - Mediterranean".

Every year the Traveler publishes a list of the top 50 trips to be taken at least once in a lifetime. Among the thousands of trips, the chosen ones are the ones that offer tourists exotic cultures and experiences that will change them. The author pointed out how she sought adventure tours, family trips and small ship cruises, that are designed to create an experience, are environmentally sustainable and promote the forming of cultural connections.

Croatia found itself among the top 50 international destinations, thanks to cruises on old sailing ships that were once the main suppliers of food for the inhabitants of the islands, along the 1,100 km of Adriatic coastline. According to the author, they are now able to accommodate 20 to 40 passengers and cruise along the Adriatic with casual pace. She also recommends visiting the ports in the medieval fortified towns, fishing villages with orange roofs, vineyards and white beaches or simply enjoying the view from the ship. The article points out the good ratio of price and quality of the offer, citing it as the best by far among the listed European cruise tours.

**THE BEAUTY OF THE CROATIAN SEABED**

They say the Adriatic coast is one of the most beautiful in the world, but to really get to know it, you need to look under the surface of the sea. From season to season, more and more tourists are exploring the Croatian seabed, new clubs and diving schools are opening and more than 40,000 diving permits are sold annually.
**Curiosity - 1500 undiscovered underwater caves and pitts and 15 000 wrecks**
Thanks to the exceptional clarity and richness of Adriatic submarine life, as well as caves, underwater pitts and reefs, diving tourism on the Adriatic coast is experiencing a real expansion. The Adriatic is among the richest in the world by the number of wrecks. It is assumed that there are at least **1500 undiscovered underwater caves and pitts** in the Adriatic. On its bottom lie as many as **fifteen thousand sunken ships** - stranded ships, submarines, planes, torpedo-boats.

Getting close to a wreck is a unique experience. Each ship carries an interesting story, and each story is a monument to someone’s courage or tragedy. In the last ten years, diving tourism has recorded a growth of 15 to 20 percent. The number of professional diving centers, which are situated at the most attractive locations in the Adriatic, is also simultaneously growing. There are more than one hundred registered and licensed diving centers, of which the largest number is in Istria, Kvarner and Central Dalmatia.

**Istria**
The Istrian seabed is particularly popular because of its shallowness, which is a favorite target for divers with no experience. Though there is somewhat less clarity and visibility than in the southern Adriatic, the depth of the sea along the western coast of Istria does not exceed 40 meters, while in the east, towards Rijeka, it reaches up to 70 meters.

Among the most famous diving sites of the area is undoubtedly the wreck of the Austro-Hungarian passenger ship Baron. The wreck is at a depth of 11 to 25 meters and is being investigated by members of ten diving centers, as well as being available to tourists. Of the significant major wrecks there is the British ship Coriolanus, which sunk in 1945, the Austro-Hungarian torpedo boat Flamingo, that was sunk by one of its own mines near Premantura, the Italian torpedo war boat Giuseppe Dezza, blown apart by an English torpedo and the remains of the legendary German submarine U-81.

The seabed of the Brijuni National Park is under special protection and diving is allowed only by authorized diving centers. The bottom along the the island is full of crevices in the rocks, small caves and tunnels. Fraškerić is a network of tunnels located near the campsite Indie, south of Pula, and is very attractive and well visited because it is suitable for divers of all categories. There, divers can view the underwater wall which starts at the depth of 14 meters and ends at a depth of 35 meters, with the mast of the sunken sailboat stuck in the wall. Valovine is the location for the so-called relaxing diving, and is a cluster of caves just off the coast and west of Pula, which end in a canyon of up to 20 meters long. It is also very interesting for underwater photography.

**Kvarner**
The northernmost islands of the Adriatic are most attractive for divers who love to explore the underwater walls and reefs. The area around the islands of Cres and Lošinj, especially the outer side of the islands, is specific because of the clarity of sea and the wealth of underwater flora and fauna. The area is full of underwater reefs with caves, such as the Cathedral on Premandura and Ćutin on the east coast of Lošinj. They are suitable for all diving conditions, for beginners and advanced divers.
The islands of Krk, Rab, Lošinj and Cres are well covered with diving centers, and there are numerous centers located on land from Rijeka to Selce. Here too, we can find the remains of sunken ships that are accessible to divers, such as the Italian merchant ship Lina sunk close to the Cres Cape Pećenj in 1912, the Italian torpedo destroyer Stella Polare, which hit a mine near Brestova in 1944, the Austro-Hungarian cargo steamer Tihany on the island Školjić near Unije, the Croatian cargo steamer Vis, which sank only 400 meters before the entrance to Plomin Bay.

The Area of Zadar
Most islands are situated in these waters. Islands abound in locations sheltered from wind and waves at any time of the year and are thus most suitable for diving. In the area of the island of Pag, there is a large number of shipwrecks, but they are situated at depths of over 40 meters, making them inaccessible for diving with compressed air.

The area has plenty of walls, reefs and caves, often teeming with fish, particularly on the outer side of the so-called Kornati wall. It is characterized by numerous steep submarine walls, underwater crevices, caves and excellent visibility, but in many locations personal experience or a guide from a diving center are necessary. Special diving permits are needed within the area of Nature Park Telašćica and National Park Kornati, so in common practice, diving trips are organized through licensed diving centers, which have their bases in Murter and the area from Biograd to Primošten. Even so, this region is not adequately covered by diving centers although there is a number of smaller, remote diving centers, situated close to attractive locations.

The Area of Šibenik
Due to the position facing the open sea, the zone from the Kornati archipelago to the area of large central Dalmatian islands represents a true threshold of the Adriatic. In addition to numerous smaller archaeological sites (Kornati, Lavsda, Žirje, Smokvica, Muljica) and the variety of geological formations of the southern Kornati belt, here is where the north and the south Adriatic seabed come together. Clear sea, cliffs and reefs, caves and deep depressions, conceal many undiscovered wrecks. The area is relatively unexplored, because diving was forbidden during the military strategic system, in the time of Yugoslavia.

Along with the shipwrecks, off the islands of Mala Smokvica and Kapri, one can visit underwater cascades, reefs and underwater caves along the coast of the island of Drvenik. Also near Primošten, there are numerous underwater walls and caves situated close to the island of Tmar, where there is a reef which divers call the Cathedral.

The Area of Split
Large central Dalmatian islands are well covered with diving centers, especially the areas with the most interesting diving locations around Čiovo, the southern coast of Šolta and Brač, Hvar and Vis. There are also sites in the area from Omiš to Podgora which are visited by members of diving centers from Omiš, Brela, Baška Voda, Makarska, Podgora and Gradac. A special place in this zone is occupied by the island of Vis, rich in attractive diving sites and wrecks as well as the caves on Biševo and Vis (Blue Cave, Bear Cave, and Green Cave), and the variety of archaeological sites classify Vis as an unavoidable diving destination. Diving centers on the island are
located in Vis and Komiža.
Visitors of the underwater photo and video safaris in these waters, almost always return with representative works, the subjects of which are well known from Croatian tourism promotional materials.

More active diving centers are located on Hvar (in Hvar and Jelsa), Bol and Supetar on Brač, Okrug on Čiovo and Stomorska on the island of Šolta. Situated along cape Livka, near the island of Čiovo, is a perpendicular wall with a large cave at a depth of 35 meters, while southwards, near the bay Travna, six underwater pyramidal peaks can be seen. The first is at 25, and the others at 35 m depth. In the bay Lučice on Brač, at three meters depth, there is an entrance to a cave, which descends vertically 25 meters. There are huge amberjacks that swim along with the divers. It is possible to dive through the entire cave with natural light, except in the tunnel, where underwater torches are required. Cape Ptičji Rat, near Povlje, represents one of the most beautiful walls in the area of Brač, according to experienced foreign divers.

The Area of Dubrovnik
This area is specific for high-purity of the sea (open southern Adriatic), great depths which allow a relatively small numbers of diving locations mostly close to the coasts of the islands, while between Lastovo and Mljet there is a whole archipelago of islands, rocks and reefs (Vrhovnjaci). This area is rich in fish, while some species, which are rare in the northern parts of the Adriatic Sea (grouper, lobster), can be filmed. The warming of the seabed of Mljet has in the last five years, resulted in the emergence and growth of tropical fish species. Korčula and Mljet offer several attractive underwater caves. The largest underwater reef of stony corals in the Mediterranean can be found in the area of Mljet, in the vicinity of islet Glavat and in Veliko Lake. Another special experience is diving in the area of Odysseus' Cave.

This is also a location where one can find attractive shipwrecks, mostly along the coast of Peljašac, while interesting caverns and caves can be found along the coasts of Lastovo and Korčula.

And finally, do not forget that although diving is a wonderful activity, there are basic rules that need to be followed. Never dive alone, always mark the diving site in a proper way, do not collect 'souvenirs', do not touch sea organisms, do not feed them or bother them. Marine animals, no matter how scary they may look, will not attack unless they feel threatened.

SPORT FISHING

From the most diverse marine species such as sea bass, dentex, sea bream and tuna to fresh water specimens like trout or catfish, Croatia is an unrivaled top destination for sports fishermen. We have a rich tradition working in our favour, because the first underwater fishing gun arrived in Croatia at the beginning of the last century, while the first World Championship in underwater spear fishing was held in Mali Lošinj back in 1957.
Nowadays, the best fishermen in the world gather every year in September at Jezera, a small fishing village on the central Dalmatian island of Murter, in order to compete in the hunt for the 'big fish' or the so called Big Game Fishing. Hunting, fighting, mastering and drawing fish out are extremely demanding and require great strength, patience and knowledge, as some of the fish weigh several hundred kilos, among which are, bluefin tuna, little tunny, swordfish and albacore tuna. This adrenaline sport is uncertain and unpredictable until the very end, and always offers new challenges that require teamwork and competitive spirit.

Before you go fishing, you will need a permit. To obtain a license you must show a valid proof of identity (passport, driving license, etc.). Fishing licenses are issued by travel agencies and offices in all towns along the coast. Licenses are issued for sports and recreational fishing, spear gun fishing or tuna fishing. Fishing is forbidden in ports and harbors and on beaches and swimming areas in the period from 1 May to 1 October. Prohibitions are also present at special reserves, mouths of the rivers Dragonja, Mirna, Raša, Riječina, Žrmanja, Jadra, Žrnovnica, Cetina, Neretva and Rijeka Dubrovačka, as well as the Lim and Fažana channels and Medulin and Klimno bays on the island of Krk. In the national park areas of Brijuni, Kornati, Krka, and Mljet fishing is regulated by special regulations of internal order.

The cost of the license varies depending on whether you're looking for a daily, weekly or monthly license. For example, a daily permit costs 60 kunas, a weekly one 300 kunas, and a monthly one 700 kunas. Up to 5 kg of fish and other sea organisms are allowed to be caught, through recreational or sport fishing, per day. A person doing underwater fishing is only allowed to move around using his or her own strength, whether they are under the sea or on top of it. Fishing is permitted without the use of devices that allow breathing underwater (diving equipment). Fishing is allowed during the day in the period from sunrise to sunset, with the use of signal buoy. The use of underwater torches is permitted.

Licenses are sold through the members of the Croatian Association for Sport Fishing in the Sea ( M. Gupca 2, Rijeka (tel. 051/212-196 and 051/320-775, fax. 051/333-776, www.hssrm.hr, e-mail: cfosa@ri.t-com.hr)

Further information is provided by the Directorate of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Adriatic at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, 10000 Zagreb, Vukovar Street 78, Tel. 01/6106111, fax. 01/6109201, www.mps.hr

CROATIAN BEACHES
www.lijepa-nasa.hr; www.croatia-beaches.com; www.blueflag.org;
www.crobeaches.com; www.visinfo.org; www.picigin.org; www.zrce.hr;
www.holidays-in-komiza.com;

Just before the summer of 2011 the Croatian coast was described as a top destination by the world media. The reason was not only a good ratio of price and quality, but also the beautiful beaches where everyone can find a place to swim - whether they're looking for fun, romance or a quiet holiday with the family.
One of the factors primarily responsible for the good ratings by the foreign media is quality entertainment and, according to the British Guardian, Croatia was listed as a replacement for Ibiza. However, with more than 1,700 kilometers of coastline, and hot entertainment, there are also more and more fantastic beaches with extensive facilities for children, or places for building sand castles like Zlatni Rat on Brač, which, according to the Daily Telegraph, is the most beautiful beach in Europe.

Sandy Beaches
While there are not many naturally sandy beaches, along with the already mentioned Zlatni Rat - the only beach set perpendicularly to the coast, which often changes shape under the influence of the current – another one of the most popular beaches is Lumbarda on Korčula. On the nearby island of Mljet there is a well known Saplunara, a beautiful sandy lagoon located in the southeastern part of the island. The bay, surrounded by pine trees is about a kilometer long, and consists of two beautiful sandy beaches, called Velika and Mala Saplunara.

Less than a kilometer away from Lopud, on the island of the same name, is the beach Šunj. The walk towards it leads through the heart of the island, past the cemetery and the church situated on the slopes of the beach. The famous beach in central Adriatic is Saharun. The tiny white grains of sand paint the sea a unique turquoise colour, on this beach on the northwest side of Dugi Otok, not far from Božava. Close to the beach is a pine tree forest from which you can watch the open sea.

Beaches for the Whole Family
Besides Zlatni Rat on Brač, the largest and most photographed sand and pebble beach is Rajska Plaža (Paradise Beach) in Lopar, on the island of Rab. This is a location ideal for children and those who are not good swimmers, because there is almost a 500 meter distance from the shore to the deeper waters. It is about 1,500 meters long, located in the center of Lopar, near the hotel and a campsite. Also famous for its beach and sand is Crveni (Red) Island, a beach which is about ten minutes away by boat from the centre of Rovinj. In Brela, on Makarska Riviera, there is a pebble beach called Punta Rata which has for years been regarded as the best beach in Croatia, and according to some, in Europe as well. The shallow and sandy coves on Sabunike near Nin, are particularly interesting to children and are an attractive tourist destination known for its healing mud suitable for healing rheumatic and skin disorders.

Wilderness or Luxury
One of the features of the Croatian coast is a series of small hidden places that can only be reached by descending the steep cliffs on foot or by a boat. This refers mainly to the bays on islands like Stinive, Stončica, Milne and Srebrna on Vis. The situation is similar in certain places on Kornati, where without much effort you can find a place where you will literally be alone with the sea.

On the way to the distant islands the connoisseurs will not want to miss the beaches of Biševo (Porat, Mezoporat) or Skrivena Luka (Hidden Harbour) on the island of Lastovo. The lovers of Pakleni Otoci (Pakleni Islands) will want to visit
The most elite beach on the Adriatic is Bonj on Hvar where the stone cabins offer a private place to relax or nap. Guests can enjoy refreshing drinks on the terrace bar on the top floor or a delicious meal in the bar by the sea. Dubrovnik's beach Banje offers a similar sensation as well as the unique view of the city walls. Among the top beaches is the beach of the hotel Lav in Split, which has a diving school, water sports center, sports activities on sand, yoga classes and more.

**Entertainment and Active Holidays**

With Zrće (island of Pag), which has in recent years become synonymous with unruly summer fun and the reason why Croatian summers are being compared to those of Ibiza, Petrčani is another location which was, due to its Garden and Soundwave Festivals in July and Electric Elephant in late August, a centre of music events on the coast. The main location for fun and parties is the beach, which is surrounded by the sea on three sides, as well as on board the ship Argonaut which sails from Petrčani to the Garden Club in Zadar during the festival.

Kamenice beach, nesting under a steep cliff about ten minutes walk from the town center of Komiža on the island of Vis, was until a couple of years ago a pocket for locals in search of solitude. However, a nightclub that has opened right next to the sea has become a magnet for musicians and guests from around the world.

Cult Split beach, Bačvice, is best known for having fun and entertainment, as well as for 'picigin' (a type of valley-ball played in shallow water), a sport that was invented here. The gathering spot of the entertainment-hungry people of Split, in the summer months also becomes a great location for their guests.

**Kite and Windsurfing**

www.smsportnet.com; www.avantura-teambuilding.hr; www.adventuredalmatia.com; Surfmania Center, which organizes courses in kitesurfing and windsurfing opened in Nin, on the longest sandy beach in Croatia. Courses are held on long and shallow sandy beaches in the area of Zadar, specifically in the lagoon near Nin, where conditions for learning are the best on the Adriatic. Kite surfing or kiteboarding is an extreme water sport which combines hang gliding and windsurfing. Kiteboarding is regarded as a freestyle use of a kite, whereas kitesurfing is more focused on techniques for overcoming the waves. A kitesurfer stands on a kiteboard with their feet in bindings and uses the strength of a large kite high in the air, which pulls it across the water surface. Apart from the ride itself, the kite allows the surfer to perform various stunts.

Besides the Nin lagoon, the best places on the Adriatic for kitesurfing and windsurfing are: the channel between Korčula and Pelješac Peninsula; Viganj - a little place near Orebić; the mouth of Neretva; Povlja and Bol on the island of Brač (in Bol there a special beach for kite surfing, a kitesurfing school and rescue service); Hvar (the island of Hvar); Žnjan beach in Split; the bay and beach Pantana in Trogir; Jadrija (a large resort and beach in Šibenik); the beach in Biograd; on the island of Krk: Punat and Klimno, a shallow closed bay and sandy beach; Premantura near Pula.
and a large sandy beach within a campsite Kažela in Medulin.

**LIGHTHOUSES**

www.plovput.hr; www.alh.hr;

Many lighthouses, erected on dangerous promontories and cliffs on the Adriatic coast, have been granted new life when they were converted into unique holiday locations. Croatia boasts 12 attractive lighthouses, from those 'conventional' ones in tourist centers to the remote, ‘Robinson Crusoe’-type lighthouses situated in inaccessible locations on most remote islands on which the true lovers of the sea, nature and silence will find their paradise.

**The Coast of Istria**

The oldest lighthouse on the Adriatic was built in 1818 in Savudrija, the northernmost point of the Croatian coast. As the lighthouse is situated next to a hotel resort it is an excellent choice for those who are not inclined to remote locations and ‘robinson tourism’ (term used in Croatia for holidaying in isolated locations).

Lighthouse Rt Zub (Cape Zub), built in 1872 on Lanterna Peninsula, between Poreč and Novigrad, is dedicated to the same type of tourist.

A more authentic experience of the solitary lives of lighthouse keepers can be found on Porer – an 80m wide cliff situated 2.5 km away from mainland and Istrian town Premantura.

The lighthouse Sv. Ivan (St. John) was built in 1853 on the most distant islet of a small archipelago facing Rovinj. Beautiful underwater landscapes with a wealth of fish species make this an attractive destination for lovers of solitude, fishing and diving.

**Central Dalmatia**

Veli Rat on Dugi Otok (Long Island) is considered to be one of the most beautiful lighthouses on the Adriatic coast. It was named the ‘off-shore gate-keeper of Dalmatia’ probably due to magnificent views that surround it and is one of the few lighthouses which can be reached by car.

Another lighthouse which can be reached by car, is Sveti Petar (St. Peter), built in 1884 on the peninsula of the same name at the entrance to Makarska, only a 20 minute walk from the city.

Islet Prišnjak is situated only three hundred meters from the west coast of the island of Murter. The surrounding waters are rich in fish and the lighthouse is only 15 meters away from the beach.

**Remote South**

Palagruža lighthouse was built in 1875 on the island bearing the same name in the middle of the Adriatic Sea. This is the farthest Croatian island of exceptional beauty
and rich history.

The Island of Sušac is situated 23 nautical miles south of Hvar and 13 nautical miles west of Lastovo, and is surrounded by the views of the vast open sea which give one the impression of being separated from the world.

In the middle of the south side of the island of Lastovo, at the entrance to Skrivena Luka (Hidden Cove) lies Rt Struga (Cape Struga). Because of its distance from the shore this lighthouse appears remote and it seems to be emerging from the blue sea and sky.

The newly renovated lighthouse Pločica is located on the island with the same name situated between Korčula, Hvar and Pelješac. This spacious lighthouse, built in 1887, can accommodate a larger number of guests and is ideal for a big group of 'Robinson-tourism' followers.

An exception to the Robinson south and a novelty is offered by the lighthouse Grebeni, on Grebeni island, about three hundred meters away from Dubrovnik's tourist resort Babin Kuk where it was built in 1872.

NATURISM
www.camping.hr; www.dnh.hr;

In 1953, Croatia was the first country in Europe which opened its doors to naturists. Indeed, almost twenty years earlier, in 1936, British King Edward VIII bathed in the nude on the beach Kandarola on the island of Rab.

Meanwhile, naturism also developed in other Mediterranean countries which attracted tourists with their specialized naturist centers, hotels and even 'skimpy' cruises. Croatia is now the third nation in Europe by capacities in naturist camps.

Because naturists respect the balance between man and nature, love spending time in the open air and enjoy sports and healthy foods, Croatia's specialized naturist campsites are extremely popular among them and place Croatia in the European top. Croatian naturist campsites are noted for their extremely attractive and well preserved natural locations, usually near the sea. Apart from the beautiful and peaceful environment, all Croatian naturist campsites are safe, have high standards and offer a wide selection of food and shopping facilities, as well as various sports and recreational facilities.

'The Naked Cruise'
The HotelsCombined website, which among other things, rates hotels around the world, ranked Croatia among the most desirable places for naturists because of the program organized in Croatia by the British agency eWaterways. This agency which specializes in cruises, offers naturists a seven-day journey around the Croatian coast called the "Naked Cruise". The cruise includes a visit to the islands of Rab, Molat, Olib, Mali Lošinj and Zadar, and guests can at all times, except during dinner, be naked.
GASTRONOMY AND ENOLOGY

Croatian gastronomy is heterogeneous, and is known as the cuisine of various regions. Continental cuisine is more characterized by the earlier Proto-Slavic roots and the more recent contacts with established schools of gastronomy - Hungarian, Viennese and Turkish. It is dominated by meat products, fresh water fish and vegetables. The coastal region is characterized by the influence of the Illyrians, Greeks and Romans and later Mediterranean cuisine - Italian and French. It is characterized by numerous sea food (fish, squid, cuttlefish, octopus, shrimp, lobster) prepared in various ways as well as olive oil, prosciutto, various vegetables, and world famous wines.

Gligora Cheese from Pag Won Three Gold Medals at the World Championship
In 2011, at the World Championship in Birmingham, a panel of 200 experts from around the world awarded the cheese by Gligora family from Pag, with gold medals in as many as three categories: sheep cheese, hard cheese and new cheese. The cheese produced by the Gligora family from Kolan on the island of Pag, which has for some time been described by specialists as a cult product, won the gold medal in competition with approximately 2600 cheeses from Europe, USA, Asia, Africa, Australia and other countries.

Croatian Chefs Win Six Bronze Medals at the World Culinary Cup
The Croatian culinary team won six bronze medals at the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, one of the most prestigious chef competitions in the world, which was held as part of international gastronomy fair Expogast. A thousand chefs from 53 countries participated in the contest.

The Gault Millau Guide for Austria Listed 40 Croatian Restaurants
Forty Croatian restaurants were included in the 32nd edition of the Gault Millau guide for Austria, which describes the "culinary delights" from Vorarlberg to Hungary, from Vienna to Dubrovnik and from Salzburg to Bolzano, on 572 pages. Gault Millau is one of the most prestigious gastronomic guides. The criteria for evaluating the restaurants is the freshness and quality of products, especially seasonal ones, as well as creativity and preservation of the natural properties of foods, while the equipment, decoration and service at the restaurant are not graded.

Croatian Olive Oil
www.azrri.hr; http://dalmatinsko.com/;
Croatian olive oil producers have renewed their grandparents olive groves, trying to preserve the tradition of growing olives and respecting nature and ecological production, in order to guarantee the safety of their products as well as the exquisite aroma and taste. Processing in Croatian oil refineries is done by the use of modern equipment for cold processing, thus keeping the original taste, aroma and richness of antioxidants and vitamins. One of the most famous Croatian olive groves is located in Lun on the island of Pag, where about 80 000 indigenous wild olive trees grow on 400 acres, surrounded by stone walls, the oldest trees being more than a thousand years old. Lovers of this area are making a proposal for the inscription of
this site on the UNESCO register of cultural heritage.

A Wide Range of Quality Wines

As the cultivation of vine in this region has been nurtured since the time of antiquity, Croatia is justifiably proud of its wide range of wines. It offers more than a thousand different wine labels, of which 900 are with the protection and control of geographic origin.

Worldwide, there are five vineyard zones designated by the number of hours of sunshine and temperatures. Croatia has each of them, while the world's first wine and vineyard nation France, has four. The result of this diversity is a lavish wine mosaic, ranging from fresh, airy, aromatic and fragrant wine in the north to the strong, sweet and full bodied in the south.

By wine production Croatia is divided into the continental and coastal region, which are then subdivided into a total of 12 sub-regions. The coastal wine region extends through Istria and along the Adriatic coast and the Dalmatian hinterland. The entire region is divided into four winegrowing sub regions: Istria and the Croatian Coast; Northern; Central and Southern Dalmatia and the Dalmatian hinterland. In continental Croatia, there are several sub-regions: in the northwestern part are Zagorje-Medjimurje, Prigorje - Bilogora, Plešivica, Pokuplje and Moslavina, and in the northeast, Slavonia and Podunavlje.

The most widespread continental white variety in Croatia is Graševina; from indigenous varieties it is largely Škrlet and Kraljevina, whilst good wines are made from world varieties such as Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Traminer, Chardonnay and Sauvignon.

Black continental sorts are Pinot Noir, Portugizac and Frankovka, while Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes are also widely planted. However, the last two varieties are more common in coastal wine growing regions, where the famous indigenous variety is Dalmatian Plavac Mali. Croatia's best wines by variety are the Plavac wines and they are named after the localities where they are grown such as Dingač, Postup, Ivan Dolac etc.

Interestingly, the latest research has shown that the Californian Zinfandel and Italian Primitivo indeed originated from the old Dalmatian sort Plavac, also known as crljenak. Notable coastal white varieties are Istrian Malvasia, Pošip, Rukatac, and Vis Vugava.

40 Medals and 25 Recommendations by Decanter 2011
Croatian wines have once again confirmed their quality in 2011 by getting 40 medals and 25 recommendations of the world’s most famous professional wine magazine.
Decanter, which is 11 awards more than last year. The top rated Croatian wines are Bodren Bodren Ice Harvest 2009, which has received the most prestigious award - the regional trophy, and Krauthaker Graševina, dried berries harvest from 2009, which won the gold medal.

**CROATIA- A MAGNET FOR CELEBRITIES**

www.eventim.hr; www.lupapromotion.hr;

The beauties of the Croatian Adriatic coast have for a long time been recognized by members of the world high society, international stars from the world of entertainment and politicians. This summer once again, a large number of them visited the Adriatic. As the guest of the head of Formula 1, Bernie Ecclestone, who has for many years been regularly visiting the Adriatic coast, the beauty of the Croatian coast was experienced by the current world champion in Formula 1, Sebastian Vettel. The head of Formula 1 invited the Red Bull pilot to his yacht, and Vettel tried surfing during his stay. German daily Bild published a photograph taken by an Austrian tourist on which the young German is "cutting" waves in front of the central Dalmatian island of Šolta while being pulled by a motor boat.

One of the biggest Hollywood stars, Angelina Jolie, visited Brijuni Islands where she attended a theatre production of her friend, Croatian actor Rade Šerbedžija. Delighted by the beauty of the islands, where the former leader of the Socialist Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito received world leaders, the actress announced that she will return to Croatia on holiday with her family.

"Bijuni islands are beautiful. I'll definitely be back with my family and spend a little more time here", said Angelina Jolie.

Another Hollywood star that visited Croatia was Matt Dillon. First he cruised the Kornati archipelago in the company of Hollywood producer, Oscar winner Branko Lustig, and then visited Zadar, where he was at the closing of the Forum Film Festival.

The heavenly beauty of Brijuni was also admired by musician Jon Bon Jovi, who decided to experience at least part of the beauty offered by Croatia this summer. Before Brijuni the famous singer and his family visited Dubrovnik, the island of Šipan, Cavtat, Korčula, Trogir and Krka National Park.

Britain's Prince Harry, the younger brother of recently married William, also came to Croatia in secret, but reporters spotted him in a nightclub in Hvar, on the central Dalmatian island of Hvar, known for its wild night life. The Prince, according to published photos, had great fun until the early hours of the morning, and at one point even jumped into the pool at the disco Veneranda, for which the British media say is one of the best open-air clubs in the world.

Italian designer Valentino Garavani could also not resist the beauty of the Adriatic. He sailed into the beautiful Telašćica Bay on Dugi Otok on his yacht, which is referred
to as a floating museum because the owner is known as an art lover and has artworks by Picasso and Andy Warhol. Accompanying him on this Mediterranean cruise there was the actress Elizabeth Hurley.

Apart from celebrities from the world of fashion and entertainment, the Adriatic was, in 2011, visited by numerous foreign politicians. The Slovenian Prime Minister Boris Pahor spent the summer in his summer house near Umag. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban is a regular guest of the Croatian coast, and in 2011 he again set aside a few days for a holiday on the Adriatic. Visiting for the second year in a row was the Slovakian president Ivo Gašparovič, who once again chose Brijuni for his private vacation. The Slovak minister of economy, Juraj Miškov, was another politician who could not resist sailing his yacht across the Adriatic. The Czech minister of agriculture, Ivan Fuksa, also sailed the Croatian coast and was particularly impressed by central Adriatic. Listing Croatia as a favourite holiday destination are also the minister of environment Pavel Drobl and the minister of industry and trade Martin Kocourek.

Also sailing among the numerous Croatian islands last summer was former Colombian president Andrés Pastrana Arango.

Some of the foreign politicians bought properties in Croatia and among them is the Swedish minister of foreign affairs Carl Bildt, who spends his holiday in a house on Korčula.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF CROATIA

Since the prestigious world travel guide Lonely Planet proclaimed Croatia the most desirable destination a few years ago, in terms of tourism it has become a darling of the international media, which presents it as an intact natural pearl and the ultimate lifestyle destination with rich cultural heritage.

Istria Among the Most Attractive Regions of the World
National Geographic has recommended Istria as one of the ten most attractive tourist destinations in the world for a holiday in 2011. The prestigious world magazine CNN Traveller presented almost a million readers from about sixty countries, with the "flavors of Istria" - ham, cheese, pasta, noodles, seafood, game, truffles and Istrian Malvasia ... In its traditional competition Diners Club Magazine Award, the editors of the German edition of Diners Club Magazine put Istria in the second place in the category of "the most beautiful tourist regions in Europe".

The praised beauty of Dubrovnik
"If you do not believe in love at first sight, you must visit Dubrovnik. If you have never experienced a moment that will forever shine in your memory, 'the pearl of the Adriatic' will certainly make this happen". Thai newspaper Bangkok Post began its report about Dubrovnik and Croatia with these words proving that they were gaining more and more fans among tourists from the Far East. In Britain's The Guardian, in the printed and online editions, a great Travel report on the beauty of Croatia was published by actress Gemma Arterton. In the article entitled "I was a Bond girl, but
this was the greatest Bond moment in my life", the actress conveys impressions from a holiday in Hvar and Dubrovnik, which were characterized as one of the most romantic places in the world. "Dubrovnik is the new Saint Tropez", was released from the most popular Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, which recommended the tourist center of southern Croatia for a romantic getaway on the occasion of St. Valentine's Day.

TripAdvisor, the world's largest online community of travelers, ranked Dubrovnik in the 15th place among the 25 top European destinations, while the British website JustLuxe, describes a holiday in Croatia as one of the most beautiful coastlines with historic cities in Europe and Dubrovnik as an ideal destination for those looking for something more.

**Beautiful Beaches**

Th American Los Angeles Times included the beach Zlatni Rat on Bol on the list of the 40 most beautiful and most unusual places in the world. Istrian cape Kamenjak topped the list of ten most interesting and secluded beaches of the Mediterranean in the selection of the Lonely Planet, one of the most influential tourist guides in the world. Kamenjak is described as a wild beauty, south of Pula, which won its cult status among the visitors of Croatian beaches because of the wild untouched nature and the feeling that you are at the "end of the world".

Just before the start of the season the German daily newspaper Bild, published an article with the 40 most beautiful beaches in the world where people mostly prefer to gather and relax. Among them were also two Croatian beaches: the beach at the foot of Lubenice on the Croatian island of Cres, and the already world-famous beach Zlatni Rat on Bol, on the central Dalmatian island of Brač.

Valalta beach in Rovinj, which is a part of the naturist camp Valalta, was included on two lists of the best nudist beaches in the world. Totallytop10.com website compiled a list of the world's best nudist beaches in 2011. The beach in Rovinj found itself in the seventh place. As voted for by users of the famous tourist website TripAdvisor, Valalta beach was declared the ninth best beach in the world in 2011.

**The Most Beautiful Islands**

British daily newspaper The Guardian reported in its "Travel" section an article full of praise for five Croatian islands. British writer and journalist James Hopkin praised Vis, Hvar, Mali Lošinj, Korčula and Pag, noting that these are the best islands for a vacation.

For those who really want to get away from the noise and hectic lifestyle, the real choices are offered by the wonderful and hidden Mediterranean islands devoid of crowds and tourists, which offer rest, relaxation and beautiful nature. The Financial Times ranked the Croatian island of Vis among the top five such Mediterranean islands. This island also found itself on the website of Britain's Guardian newspaper, in an article about the ten ideal destinations for solo travelers.

The British newspaper The Telegraph included Šolta among the six most beautiful
lesser-known European islands that are definitely worth a visit.

The travel section of the Sunday Times, published an article on fifty affordable summer destinations, and used an image of Hvar as an illustration, which was, of course, mentioned as one of the top destinations for a comfortable, laid back and not too expensive vacation.

The global television network CNN included the Croatian island of Rab among the top ten world islands that tourists of various inclinations should visit. CNN recommended Rab to nudists, and called the island the birthplace of "skinny dipping".

**An Oasis of Untouched Nature**
One of the jewels of Croatian nature, Plitvice Lakes, found themselves on the list of "10 most beautiful waterfalls in the world" according to BudgetTravel, which CNN recently published in its travel section. Plitvice are in the third place, just behind Niagara Falls which divide Canada and the U.S. and Hanakapi'ai waterfalls (Kauai, Hawaii).

the British Guardian has on its website published a video-report about the beautiful and strong mountain - Velebit. It also states the fact that more than 2000 plant species grow on Velebit Mountain, about 50 of which are indigenous, while throughout the whole of the UK there are around 1180. One can still encounter a bear, a wolf, a lynx, a fox and a mink on Velebit. The report also mentions the famous mountain winters and beautiful views from the numerous heights.