



Dubrovnik
RIVIERA



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AS IT WAS ONCE BUILT



*DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF ROCK, A REGULATION WAS IMPOSED IN WHICH EVERY PERSON WHO ENTERED THE CITY HAD TO BRING A STONE WITH THEM DURING CONSTRUCTION OF **MINČETA TOWER** IN THE 15TH CENTURY.*

The magnificent **DUBROVNIK WALLS**, which are the most recognizable and visited Croatian tourist attraction, belong to the most beautiful and monumental fortification monuments in Europe. Its construction began in the 8th century, but the most intensive construction occurred in the 15th and 16th centuries, when the City and Republic were constantly under threats of danger. Thanks to past skilled construction as well

as Dubrovnik’s renowned diplomacy, they appear impeccable to this day.

With its 16 towers, 3 fortresses and 6 bastions, these 1940-metre-long and 22-metre-high walls rise above the majestic coast and steep slopes, which take every visitor’s breath away.

THE CITY OF KORČULA is one of the best-preserved specimens of medieval cities, surrounded by massive walls, in which the streets are distributed like a fishbone. This is due to a unique urban regulation which enabled ideal conditions of life thanks to free air flow and protection from strong winds as well as numerous assailants.

*AFTER THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA, **THE STON WALLS**, ARE THE LONGEST PRESERVED FORTIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE WORLD!*

The Ston area on the Pelješac peninsula came into possession of the Republic of Dubrovnik in the 14th century, where planned construction of the towns Ston and Mali Ston began, with connecting walls. The goal was to protect the people and saltern, a factory for the then “white gold,” from which the Republic abundantly profited. With a total length of 5.5km **THE STON WALLS** were fortified with around 40 towers and 5 fortresses.



CULTURAL STORY CREATED FOR CENTURIES



THE FESTIVAL OF ST. BLAISE WAS PLACED ON UNESCO'S REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY (WORLD HERITAGE LIST) IN 2009.

Besides a rich material heritage, the Dubrovnik riviera can also be proud of its diverse and valuable intangible cultural heritage.

The **FESTIVAL OF SAINT BLAISE**, the magnificent procession in honour of the Patron Saint of Dubrovnik, has been celebrated continuously since 972. The statues of St. Blaise, the saint who holds the Town in his hands, mark the Dubrovnik walls and entrances into the city, and the traditional Festival enriches the cultural heritage with its spiritual dimension.

MOREŠKA sword dance established its roots in the 12th century after the Spanish celebration of the expulsion of Mauro. Over the centuries it has almost entirely vanished on the Mediterranean, while on Korčula it was deeply rooted even 400 years ago and as such has become unique in the world. With its impressive dance figures, costumes, music and vivacity, it is a part of the identity of the town of Korčula and at the same time a reflection of Croatian cosmopolitanism.



In the areas of Korčula Pupnat, Čara, Smokvica, Blato and Vela Luka, the old knight's dance **KUMPANIJA** settled in, which also features old swords, rich costumes and music.

LINDO originated on the coast of Dubrovnik, belongs to the unique forms of traditional dance in Croatia. It is a folklore dance called "kolo" with combined couples distributed around the musician, with a leader who shouts instructions to the dancers regarding change of position in humorous, often ambiguous rhymes.

Along with the Festival of St. Blaise, Moreška and Lindo, the list of protected intangible cultural goods of this area is complemented by Dubrovnik speech, the craftsmanship



of Konavle embroidery as well as the custom of the Lastovo Carnival.

The fame of Dubrovnik has been pronounced for centuries by its master craftsmen, Dubrovnik goldsmiths. Even today the **TRADITIONAL JEWELRY OF DUBROVNIK** made from gold and filigree silver captivates people with its modern beauty, specific workmanship and universal design which goes with all fashion styles. Traditional earrings "rećine" or "puce" are without a doubt beautiful keepsakes which last a lifetime.



LIFE THRIVES ON LAND AND IN THE SEA

Flora in the Dubrovnik area is especially diverse, dominated by cypress, pine and olive trees. In addition, the entire region is filled with numerous vineyards as well as citrus plantations – lemons, oranges, and of course, **TANGERINES**.



*THE TEMPERAMENTAL **BLACK SWIFT**, A PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE CITY OF DUBROVNIK, IS AMONG THE FASTEST IN THE WORLD AND SPENDS THE LONGEST TIME IN THE AIR OF ALL THE BIRDS.*

The picturesque Mediterranean landscape is home to numerous animal species, and its inexhaustible wealth especially lies in the Adriatic Sea: from oysters to mussels, over to crabs and octopus, then to sea bass, dentex and groupers or red fish...to name only a few of the more famous (gastronomical) inhabitants.



LASTOVO ARCHIPELAGO is declared as a nature park because of its mystical beauty, accentuated landscape, thick forests and fertile fields as well as numerous rare sea and land species and habitats. Even 70% of the surface of the nature park is comprised of the sea and is famous for the beauty of its various corals, as well as for the fact that approximately 150 types of fish live there. Still, fishermen are the happiest when they catch the king of crabs, the expensive lobster.

The island of **MLJET** is a treasure of biodiversity, home to a colourful animal world and original tree nurseries of Aleppo Pine Trees, Stone Pine and Evergreen Oak. The west side of the greenest Croatian island was protected in 1960 as the first Adriatic National Park, and the importance of its protection are witnessed by numerous endemic and endangered species.



ENCHANTING NATURE AWAITS ADVENTURERS

Along the whole region a multitude of activities are offered on land and in the sea. Rafting, diving, mountaineering with a view of the sea, off-road jeep safari or fishing, birdwatching, tangerine picking... The only problem is to choose the one that is the most fun, and here are our recommendations:

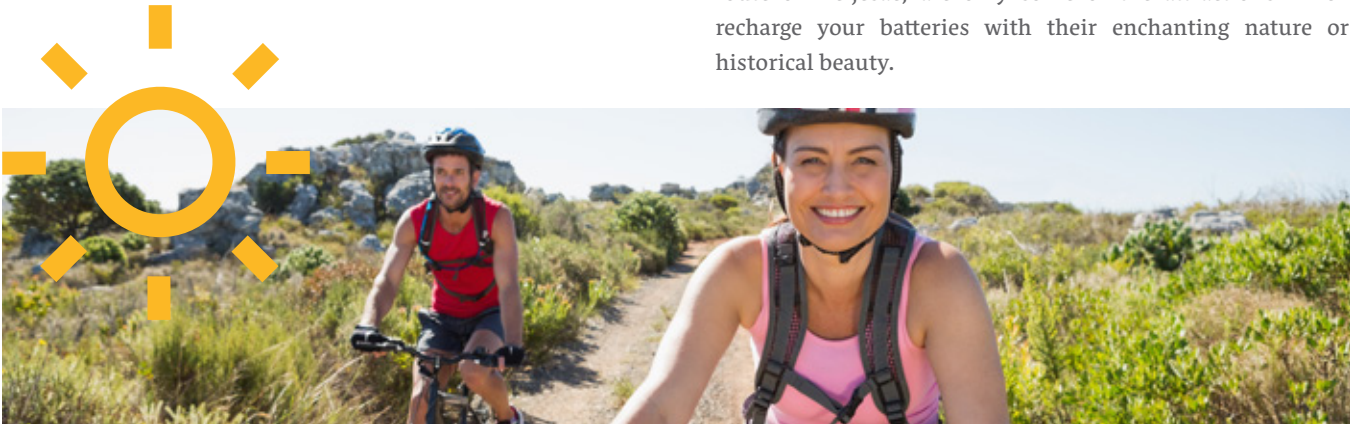
KAYAKING is one of the most popular activities on the Dubrovnik coast, mostly because of the spectacular view of the grandiose Dubrovnik walls from the sea. Another beautiful sight to see by kayak is the Betina caves in front of which you can enjoy yourselves in complete peace and quiet, not far from Dubrovnik.



KAYAKERS AND SAILORS CAN ALSO ENJOY ENCOUNTERS WITH A POD OF DOLPHINS OR FLOAT OF TUNA WHICH ARE COMMON IN THIS AREA.



The indented coast and large number of islands and islets enable a peaceful sail and stay on the sea, even when weather conditions are not ideal. Mljet archipelago, as well as Elaphiti islands, besides safe anchorage offers a view of this unique natural beauty which makes it worth **RENTING A SAILBOAT OR TAKING A BOAT EXCURSION**.



The west side of Pelješac is ideal for windsurfing because of the winds which give the ideal waves, while kite surfers often visit the mouth of the Neretva river which offers a 3km bay of shallow sea, sandbars and a warm and strong wind.



Olive groves, stone walls and vineyards on Pelješac, the pedestrian-cycling path around Small (Malo) and Large (Veliko) salt lakes on wooded Mljet, routes around Baćina lakes and along the coast of the Neretva river, paths through the picturesque and authentic village of Konavle, beside the mills on the Ljuta river, thematic routes such as the Medieval Tombstones of the Dubrovnik Littoral Track or Napoleon's route on Pelješac, are only some of the attractions which recharge your batteries with their enchanting nature or historical beauty.

THE BEST OF MEDITERRANEAN DELICACIES

The Mediterranean model of nutrition, written in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, is the basis for the entire culinary system in this region. Taking a gastronomical walk in the region, we start with numerous restaurants and taverns in the Neretva valley where eel or frog stew is offered as well as delicious meals made of wild game, especially coot.



Further on the path we come to Ston, where nobody can resist fresh out of the water **OYSTERS**, the renowned specialty of this area, as well as mussels and just made fresh fish.



On the islands of Mljet, Šipan, Lopud and Koločep you can enjoy delicious meals made from dried fish or seafood, and in restaurants and taverns of the Dubrovnik district and Konavle prosciutto, cheese in oil, green “menestra” and other delicacies are offered.



A healthy and high-quality bite is good to water down with excellent wines, with those that stand out from Komarna but especially from the Pelješac peninsula. Tasting high-quality Dingač and Postup wines, from the locations of the same name where vineyards with the popular sorts **PLAVAC MALI** give the best quality Croatian red wines, is an infallible ritual for every wine lover. For those who prefer white wine however, we recommend the island of Korčula, where they can enjoy autochthonous sorts Pošip or Grk, or Konavle where the Dubrovnik Malvasija reigns supreme.

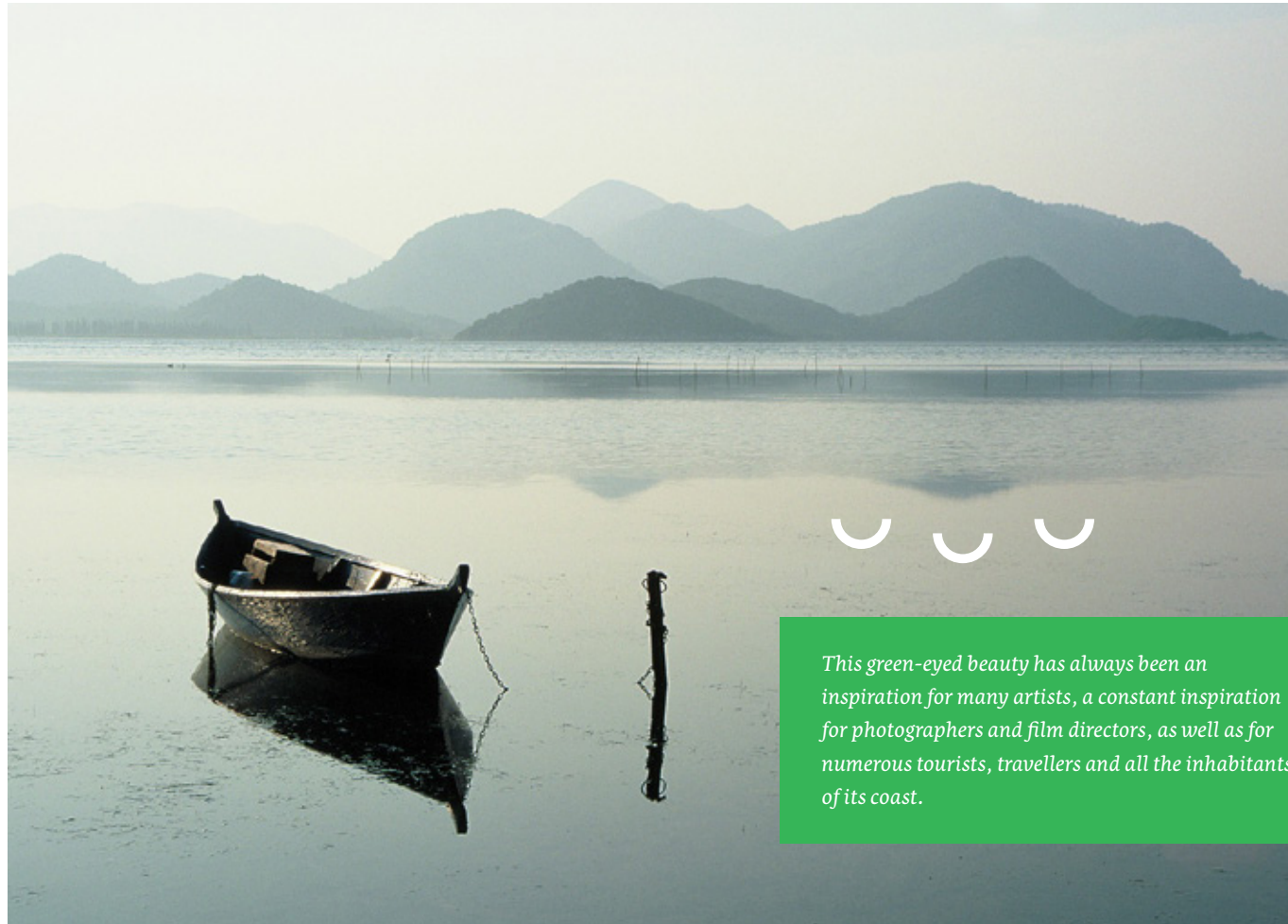


KORČULA CAN COMMEND ITSELF FOR ITS TRADITION OF WINE CULTURE SINCE THE TIMES OF THE OLD GREEKS, THAT IS, 4 CENTURIES BC.



NERETVA oasis of life

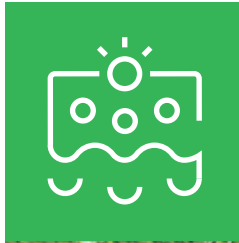
The Neretva river valley is one of the most picturesque parts of Croatia, the only delta in the country and the third largest in the Mediterranean (after the Nile and Po rivers), among the rarest remaining areas of its kind in Europe.



This green-eyed beauty has always been an inspiration for many artists, a constant inspiration for photographers and film directors, as well as for numerous tourists, travellers and all the inhabitants of its coast.



The fertile soil and Mediterranean climate have enabled the population to intensively develop agriculture. Delicious citrus fruits, watermelons, tomatoes and many other fruits are famous in the entire country and abroad.



BAĆINA LAKES



NARONA MUSEUM



BOAT VESSEL MARATHON

The picturesque **BAĆINA LAKES** are a group of smaller lakes and home to many unique plant and animal species and a must-see for all visitors to this area.

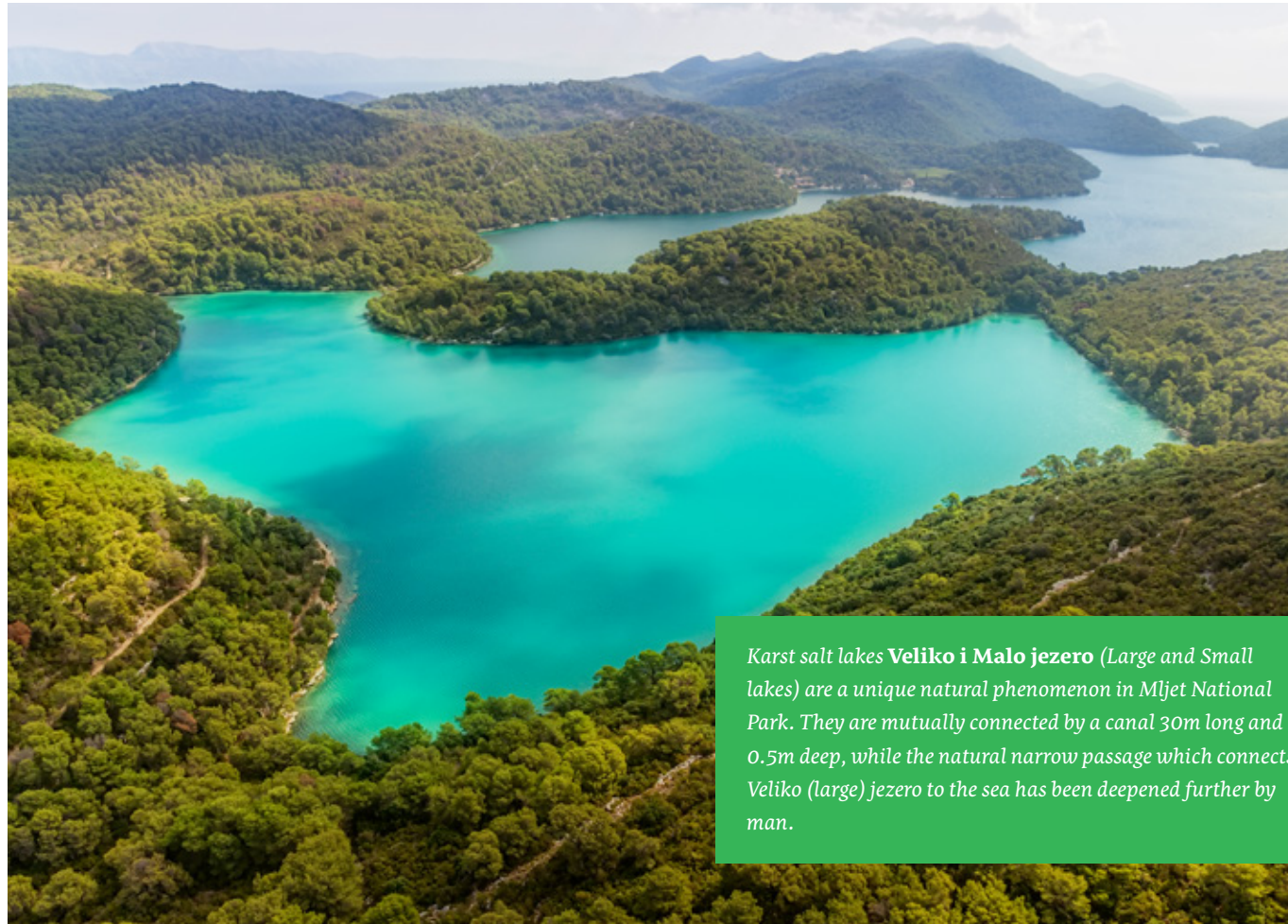
NARONA MUSEUM which is close to Metković originated on the place of sensational archeological findings in 1995/96 - the remains of Roman temple Augusteum and 17 marble sculptures.

The **BOAT VESSEL MARATHON** is an amateur sports race of autochthonous vessels of the Neretva valley. With its beginning in Metković and finish in Ploče, this race is in total 22500m long, and represents one of the most massive and most watched events in Croatia.



MLJET the island of eternal spring

The most wooded Adriatic island is ideal for exploring rich flora and fauna as well as enjoying the beauty of undisturbed nature which once enchanted Odyssey.



Karst salt lakes **Veliko i Malo jezero** (Large and Small lakes) are a unique natural phenomenon in Mljet National Park. They are mutually connected by a canal 30m long and 0.5m deep, while the natural narrow passage which connects Veliko (large) jezero to the sea has been deepened further by man.



The largest Mljet attraction is the picturesque **Islet of St. Mary** which is on the south side of Veliko jezero (Large lake), on which the Benedictine monastery and Church of St. Mary were built in the 12th century.



BLACE



ROMAN PALACE



ODYSSEY'S CAVE



Saplunara nature reserve boasts of unique vegetation and exotic sandy beaches which stretch to the neighbouring “lagoon” **BLACE**.

In the largest and safest Mljet harbour Polače lies a **ROMAN PALACE** with spas, the third most well-preserved Roman monument on the Croatian coast of the Adriatic (after the Arena in Pula and Diocletian's Palace in Split).

ODYSSEY'S CAVE is a cave with a collapsed ceiling and a bottom covered by sea, so you can enter it by swimming or sailing on a small boat. It is allegedly from this very spot that the charmed Odysseus stared at the open sea for 7 full years after the shipwreck, longing for home and Penelope, while the beautiful nymph Calypso, daughter of the god Poseidon, gazed at him with sad and loving eyes.

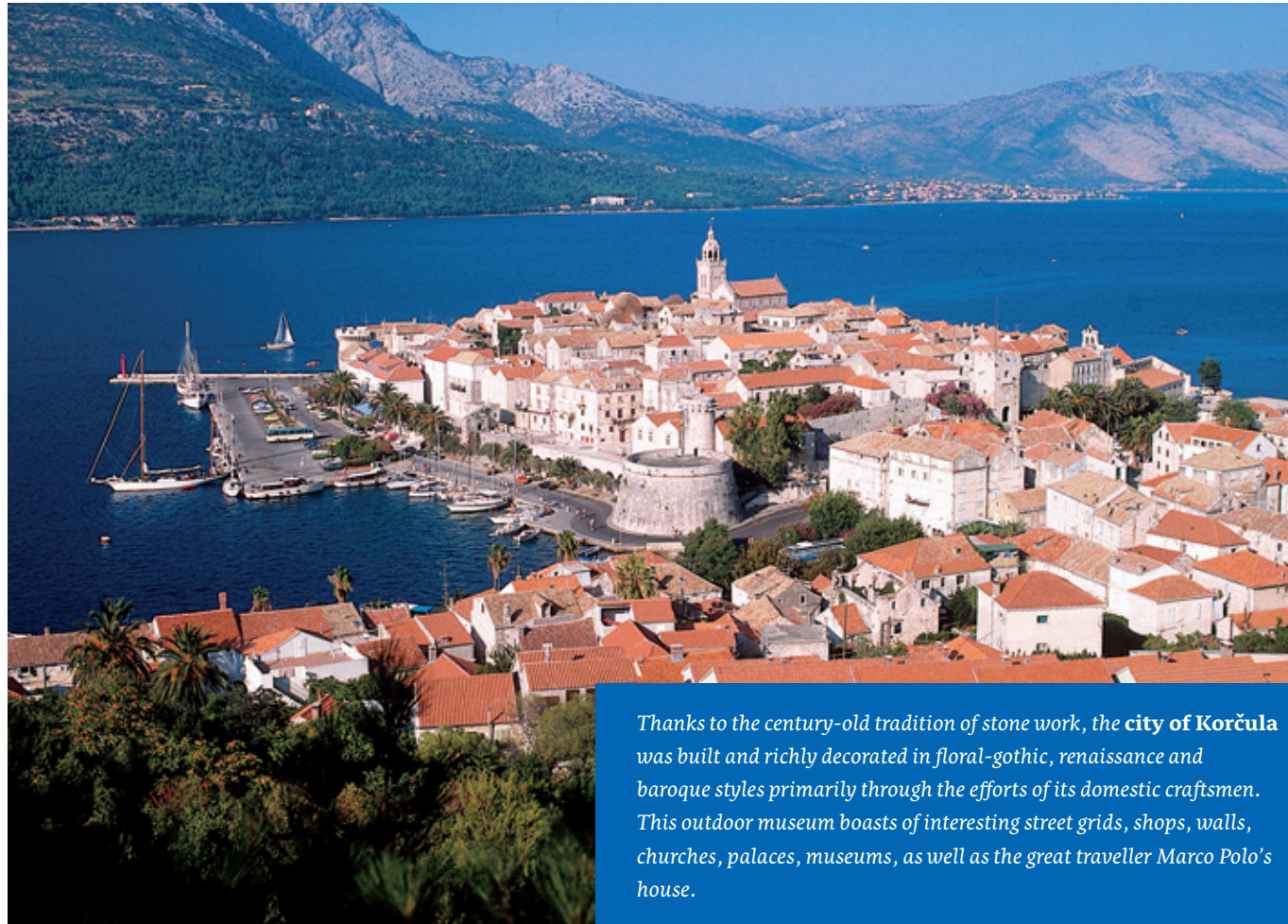
Apart from the rich forests, numerous endemic species grow on Mljet, as well as 25 different types of **ORCHIDS**.

After a whole day of enjoying the magical Mljet atmosphere, the biggest “delight” is to visit one of the island's taverns and enjoy the local delicacies.



KORČULA stone jewel

Allow yourselves to be captivated by Korčula with its timeless beauty, surreal landscapes and exceptionally rich cultural-historical heritage.



Thanks to the century-old tradition of stone work, the **city of Korčula** was built and richly decorated in floral-gothic, renaissance and baroque styles primarily through the efforts of its domestic craftsmen. This outdoor museum boasts of interesting street grids, shops, walls, churches, palaces, museums, as well as the great traveller Marco Polo's house.



The **Islet of Proizd** has a rocky and pebbly shore, but its north side takes your breath away. Here you can find white rock beaches immersed in the turquoise coloured sea. The smooth rocks are ideal for sunbathing, and lovers of peace and quiet can enjoy themselves because the island is not inhabited.



PUPNAT HARBOUR



VELA SPILA

ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL



LINDEN WALKWAY

PUPNAT HARBOUR is a deep cove 15 minutes away from the city of Korčula. It's surrounded by lush Mediterranean vegetation, and the pebbly beach at the bottom of the cove is regularly included in the most beautiful beaches of the Adriatic.

VELA SPILA is situated above Vela Luka and is one of the most significant archeological prehistorical localities in Europe. The cave has been continuously populated since the younger Stone Age, that is from approximately 20000 BC, and it has been used by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and many others ever since.

ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL, the Patron Saint of Korčula, is the centre of religious life and the most beautiful gothic-renaissance monument in the old town. It was built and decorated by the best domestic and Italian craftsmen during the 15th and 16th centuries.

LINDEN WALKWAY was planted in 1991 and stretches down the whole main Blato street. This row of trees is a whole kilometre long and it's the second longest row of Linden trees in Europe, after Berlin.



LASTOVO the island of crystal stars

Long ago Romans called this island imperial ("Augusta insula"), today this youngest Croatian Nature Park is called the island of rare beauty as well as the oasis of peace and quiet.



The untouched shore with numerous coves, lush vegetation which veers down to the sea itself, crystal clear water...lures which are difficult to resist.



*The Lastovo islands are quite far from the mainland and all possible, even light, pollution and give a fantastic view of the **night star-filled sky** which those who desire romance mustn't miss.*



*A kind of seal of Lastovo's view are the stone houses with unusual chimneys – "**fumari**." You will rarely see 2 similar chimneys on the island, especially among the older houses.*



LIGHTHOUSE STRUGA



LASTOVO CARNIVAL



True adventurers won't miss visiting or staying in some of the famous **LASTOVO LIGHTHOUSES**: Glavat on a small islet east of Lastovo, Sušac on a steep cliff far away on a bay, or Struga at the entrance of Skrivena luka (Hidden harbour) cove.

LASTOVO CARNIVAL is one of the oldest carnival customs in Croatia and abroad, it is mentioned for the first time in 1390. It is celebrated in honour of the unsuccessful Mauritian siege of the island, and because of its uniqueness it has been placed on the Republic of Croatia's list of protected intangible cultural goods.

The indented coast with numerous coves, rocks and shallow waters, as well as Lastovnjaci – a miniature archipelago of surprising beauty, is true **UNDERWATER HEAVEN FOR DIVERS**. Particularly fascinating is Bijelac islet with its rocks and cliffs – the most famous diving location on the south of the Adriatic.



PELJEŠAC home to great wine

Visitors are attracted to the idyllic scenes of unspoiled vineyards, olive groves and turquoise coves, traditional Dalmatian specialties and many other temptations for the eyes and taste buds.



Dingač is the God-given winegrowing site on the southern slopes of Pelješac, where the symbiosis of the sun and soil along with the help of a heavy hand, have given the most famous Croatian wine of the same name for centuries.



One of the main assets of Pelješac are absolutely the divine pebbly and sandy beaches, crystal clear sea, shade under the pines...Can it get better than that?



The mistral wind which blows in the most southern area of the Pelješac canal, at **Viganj**, is the dream of every fanatical surfer.



OREBIĆ



STON SALTERN



In the famous **STON SALTERN** salt is produced even today as in ancient times, when war was waged because of it.

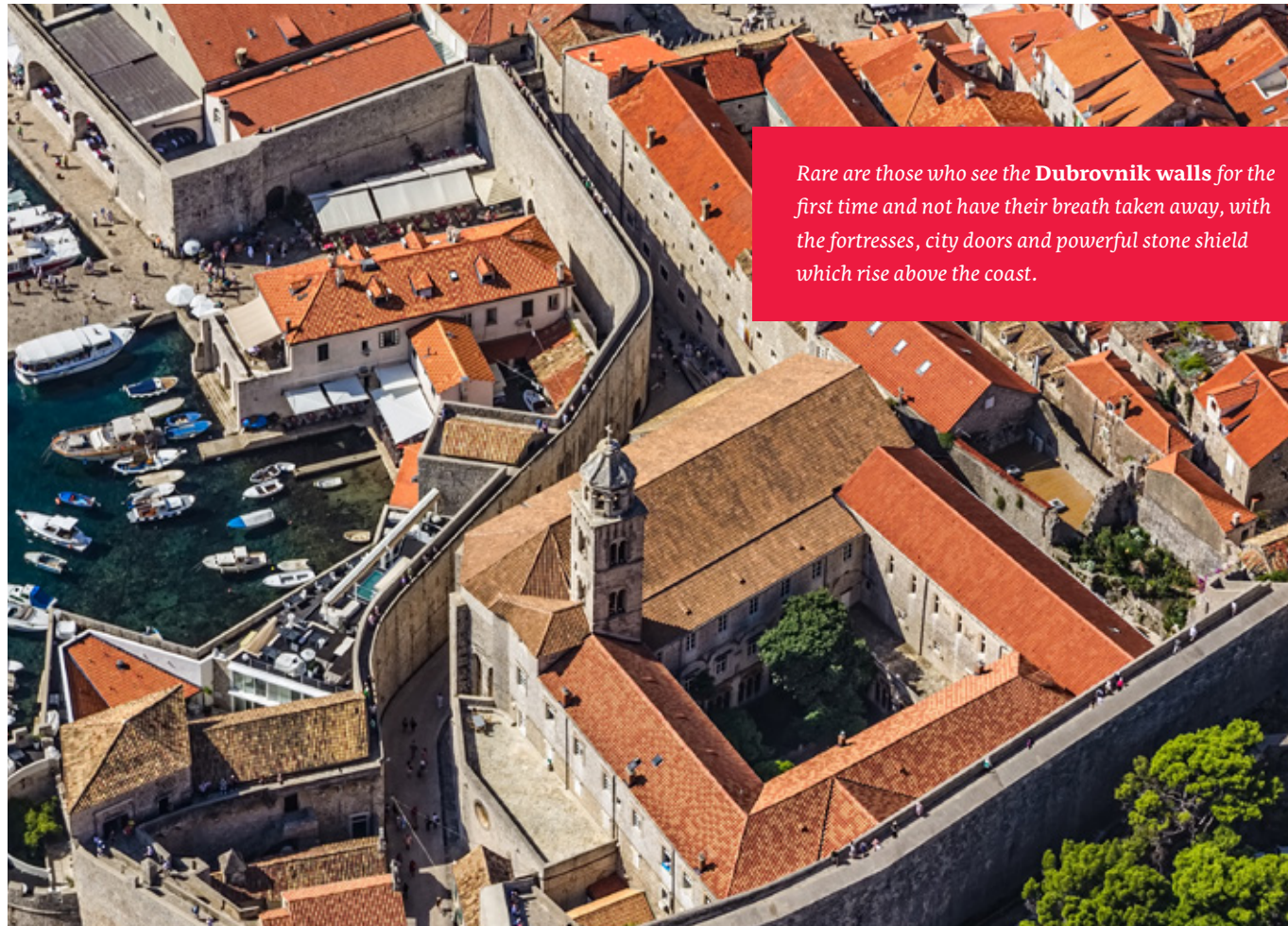
The picturesque town of **OREBIĆ** is proud of the seaman's tradition which tells the story of the captain's house and Seaman's museum. Saint Elias (Sveti Ilija), the highest mountain and one of the most popular mountaineering destinations, towers above the town which looks out to the clear sea of the Pelješac canal in the south.

FRANCISCAN MONASTERY AND OUR LADY OF ANGELS CHURCH, above Orebić provide an unforgettable view of the Korčula, Mljet and Lastovo islands.



DUBROVNIK the pearl of the adriatic

For this ancient city, almost everyone has heard of and wanted to visit the Treasury and Museum which exude the rich heritage from our ancestors.



Rare are those who see the **Dubrovnik walls** for the first time and not have their breath taken away, with the fortresses, city doors and powerful stone shield which rise above the coast.



The most popular promenade for all Dubrovnik citizens and visitors from all over the world is Placa, that is the popular **Stradun**. Walks will take them to numerous historical buildings such as Prince's Court (Knežev dvor), the Church of St. Blaise (Crkva sv. Vlaha), Sponza Palace, Onofrio's Fountain (Onofrijeva fontana), Orlando's column (Orlandov stup) ...the famous Stradun has served as a backdrop in numerous films and series, from the Game of Thrones to Star Wars and Robin Hood.



KOLOČEP



CAVTAT



ARBORETUM



MLINI

ELAPHITI or Jelenji islands, eternal guards of the Dubrovnik sea and coast, are situated in close proximity to the city of Dubrovnik, and are comprised of larger islands Koločep, Lopud, Šipan and Jakljan as well as a few smaller ones.

CAVTAT is an older town on a hill of wooded peninsula Rat whose glamour is accented by buildings from the age of the Republic of Dubrovnik. This unique spot with its surrounding area guards many traces of the city's history, thousands of years old.

TRSTENO ARBORETUM is the oldest arboretum in the world and the only one on the Adriatic coast. Within the Arboretum lies a Baroque fountain from 1736, named after roman god Neptune.

One of the more beautiful oases of the Dubrovnik riviera is **ŽUPSKI ZALJEV** which is situated only 10km from Dubrovnik, with its 5 places (Kupari, Srebreno, Mlini, Soline and Plat) offers a handful of pebbly beaches, hidden coves, trails, hotels and villas.



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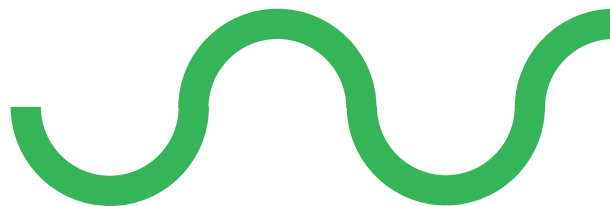
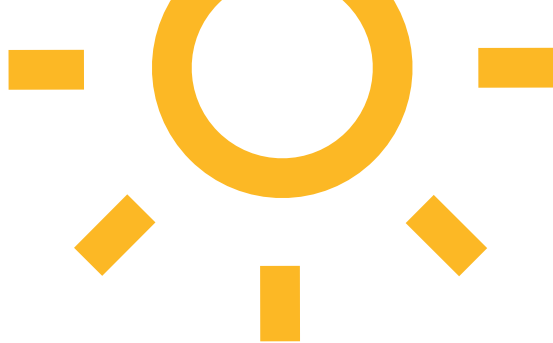
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