



# CENTRAL DALMATIA

## *The Heart of Adriatic*



CROATIA



SPLIT



MAKARSKA



ZAGORA



BRAČ



HVAR



VIS

TOURIST  
GUIDE

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# Foreword

The coastal area and a chain of green islands, lovely pebble beaches that are deeply indented under the skirts of the surrounding mountains and the adjacent clear waters of the Mediterranean, over which hang hundred-year-old pine trees, the green "heart" in the valleys of the Cetina and Jadro rivers is the area of the central part of the Adriatic coast, from Marina in the north to Gradac in the south and it is here that tourism has had its home for more than a century.

In this strange and in many ways special place, the most skilled hands of art and culture masters, from ancient times and Romanesque eras, to old Croatian folk artists and builders, all left their traces, inscribing them in rocks, walls and palaces of towns and urban centres that, at the same time, not only provide guests with peace and solitude but also cheerful nights soaked in the warm Mediterranean south.

The history of this century-long tourist area notes the hosting of many crowned heads, renowned dignitaries, statesmen and potentates, as well as world famous and easily-recognizable celebrities. But the warmth, compassion and openness of the hosts to people from all walks of life and their putting the customer in the centre of their attention have always been present here.

If you choose this region for your stay and vacation, not only will it provide physical comfort, but you will feel your soul elevated to higher levels. Your visit will allow you the adventure of peeking into the life and customs of the local people to discover their cheerful nature, and you will certainly wish to come back again, and again.

Welcome to Central Dalmatia  
- the heart of the Adriatic!

*Split - Dalmatia County Tourist Board*

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# Split Riviera

World's cultural heritage  
in the palm of your hand



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From the peaceful groves of Trogir, with its surrounding villages and islands, across the seven Kaštela, Solin, Split and all the way to Omiš lies the Split Riviera, a tourist area where every solitary step of history mingles with the present day, where people live and work in regions which are thousands of years old. Present Riviera underneath Kozjak and Mosor mountains is the middle part of the Adriatic Coast, and it has been the intersection of trading routes since the period of the Illyrians and Greeks, therefore, in this very spot, beside numerous drinking water springs, the first and oldest settlements emerged, attested to by those rarest of cultural and historical monuments. At a mere thirty kilometres in distance you will find two cities registered on the UNESCO's registry of the world's cultural heritage: Diocletian's Palace along with the historical core of Split, and the historical core of the City of Trogir, among which there is Salona, the largest archaeological site of the Croatian Adriatic, which was formerly the capital of the Roman Province of Dalmatia. Croatian kings were crowned in this region, wars were fought for hundreds of years for this small part of the coast, and it would be conquered, only to be later given back to those to whom it belonged, and the conflicts and casualties have been creating legends and heroes, protectors and saints for centuries.





**MARINA**, SEVID, VINIŠĆE, VRANJICA, ISLANDS DRVENIK VELI AND DRVENIK MALI, **SEGET**, **TROGIR**, ISLAND ČIOVO (**OKRUG**, ARBANIJA, SLATINE), **KAŠTELA**, **SPLIT**, STOBREČ, **PODSTRANA**, KRILO JESENICE, SUMPETAR, **DUGI RAT**, DUĆE, **OMIŠ**, NEMIRA, STANIĆI, RUSKAMEN, LOKVA ROGOZNICA, MIMICE, MARUŠIĆI, PISAK, ISLAND ŠOLTA (ROGAČ, NEČUJAM, MASLINICA, STOMORSKA, GROHOTE)



## NATURAL BEAUTY

This region, rich in historical and cultural heritage, also offers an entire spectre of interesting and unusual natural features. You should certainly visit, as legend has it, one of the oldest olive trees in the world, the one in Kaštel Štafilić, which is at least 1500-years old! You should also visit the Botanical and Biblical gardens in Kaštel Lukšić, and also the Pantan swamp and its mills near Trogir, the Marjan forest park in Split and the magnificent canyon of Cetina river near Omiš.

## ACTIVE VACATION

Split Riviera is a region which offers a myriad of sporting possibilities that are adapted to guests of all ages, with only average physical capacity. If you prefer to spend your vacation cycling, walking, diving, sailing, playing tennis,

fishing, etc., a number of agencies will be happy to show you the joys and locations of an active vacation. Discover a wondrous world of caves and pits around Split and Omiš, mountaineering and free climbing, rafting and canyoning on the Cetina River, as well as producer of the newest adrenaline rush in the canyon of this blue river that takes ones breath away, the zip-line.

## GASTRONOMY

Residents of Dalmatia are well known as admirers of liberal table, lightly cooked and easily digestible food, with lots of fish, olive oil, vegetables and seasoning herbs. Diverse aromatic herbs that grow on sunny hillsides, alongside parsley and garlic, create a small culinary delight with the scent of laurel, rosemary and basil. Capers and olives are indispensable appetizers, and especially with Dalmatian prosciutto which has been dried in Bora







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wind, as well as the sheep cheese. You should try *Poljički Soparnik* (Chard pie), which is a light appetizer, garnished with an unusual chard and pastry baked on cinders on a fireplace. Fish, which is grilled, stewed or cooked, occupies a special place in this cuisine, while clams and crawfish which are traditionally prepared in *buzara* style. The most well-known way of preparing meat is by making a *Pašticada* with homemade *gnocchi* and traditional Croatian roasted lamb, and you can sweeten your gastronomic odyssey with some *flan* or *Trogir rafioli*.

## WINE

With every mention of Croatian wines, the name "Plavac Mali" is inevitable. Plavac Mali is the most wide-spread and economical wine, as well as the most important grapevine in Croatia, and it is certainly the most well known among the wine

admirers abroad. Mike Grgich, a famous Californian vintner of Croatian descent, has for many years claimed that the predecessor of the famed American *zinfandel* is precisely the Dalmatian Plavac Mali. Years of research and testing resulted in the discovery that *zinfandel* really does originate exactly from this part of Croatia, from Kaštela, where old grapevines known by the name *crljenak kaštelski* have been found.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Split, Trogir, Kaštela, Solin and Omiš are the cities and towns where life vibrates by day and erupts in all of its beauty during night outings and events. The most well-known theatre festival out in the open is Split Summer, which makes Split, its squares, historical locations and the heritage become a stage of world famous operas, bal-

lets, drama and classical music concerts. At the same time, the main Split promenade Riva is a place of folklore and entertaining concerts and performances of street entertainers during the summer evenings. "Diocletian days," with a royal dinner on the authentic premises of Diocletian's basements, present an unforgettable experience. The original sounds of Dalmatian *kla* songs will excite you in Omiš, as will *kla* ensembles' performances in Kaštel Kambelovac, and concerts in Kamerlengo Castle in Trogir. In all of the small Split Riviera towns, you will be greeted by fishermen's feasts, summer carnivals, concerts, and numerous restaurants and taverns ready themselves to satisfy everyone's taste, after which the gala evening continues in discotheques and nightclubs in the open air, many by the sea.



# UNESCO's cultural heritage

## DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE IN SPLIT

The Palace consists of a regular, square foundation with about 200 metres-long sides and it is surrounded by high walls with numerous forts. Historians claim that the year 305 was the year when the Roman Emperor retired to the palace which was built for his family, honour guard, servants and military crew. Certain architectural and decorative parts had been shipped from distant parts of the world, therefore sphinxes and granite pillars had been shipped from Egypt. As the centuries passed, the original architecture of the palace changed, and people who lived inside it began using the buildings for their own purposes, and so it was that the heart of today's City developed inside the Roman walls.

## HISTORICAL CORE OF TROGIR

The city of Trogir is a remarkable example of the continuity of a city. Street plans for these settlements date from the Hellenistic period, and various rulers during the years of town's history have continued to add to it with public and residential buildings and forts. Its gorgeous Romanesque churches are complemented by remarkable Renaissance and Baroque buildings. The most significant building is Trogir's Cathedral of St. Lovro with its west gate portal, a masterpiece of the artisan Radovan and the best-preserved example of Romanesque-Gothic art in Croatia.

## KLAPA (HARMONY) SINGING

Klapa singing is traditional harmony singing without the accompaniment of any instruments. The tradition of Klapa groups and Klapa songs which we know today was created in the middle of 19th century, in a time when cultural and musical identities of Mediterranean towns on our coast and islands were being individualised, especially in Dalmatia. The festival of the Dalmatian Klapa in Omiš is significantly meritorious for promoting Klapa singing and it is the first institution which presented Klapa singing as an organised form of traditional (and later on, artistic) music making. Klapa singing has been included in the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list.



## EXCURSIONS

On one-day excursions by boat, you can visit all the islands of Central Dalmatia: Šolta, Brač, Hvar and Vis. Visit Klis fortress, Makarska and Malacological museum, with its beautiful collection of clams, and the nearby Marian Sanctuary

called Vepric. If you drive for only about ten minutes, you will get to the green hinterland of Mosor and Kozjak mountains- Zagora, with its karst rockery and fertile fields. Get a taste of the past and the life of Dalmatian peasants in the ethnovillages, Škopljanci, beyond

the Kozjak Mountain and Koko-rići, near Vrgorac. Visit the popular resort Radmanove mlinice in the canyon of the mouth of the Cetina River near Omiš, the Gubavica waterfall and other natural phenomena, such as the Red and Blue Lakes, Vranjača cave, and more.



# The City of Split

[www.visitsplit.com](http://www.visitsplit.com)

Split, "the most beautiful city in the world," as its inhabitants enjoy calling it, is the main seat, traffic crossroads, the biggest and the third ferry port at the Mediterranean. It was created as a result of settlements that developed within and on the exterior of the Emperor Diocletian's Palace's walls, whose origins date back more than 17 centu-

ries. It is hard to say what has the strongest impact on today's visitor: the old city centre with the Roman emperor Diocletian's Palace, or the lifestyle of Split's inhabitants. Enjoying life in the open air is the lifestyle that Split's citizens nurture, when they're sipping their coffees on Riva by the sea, or in the cool inside the stone walls of Diocle-

VISIT

Peristil

The Emperor's Peristil in the centre of the Palace is one of the most recognisable Split motifs and a real cultural treasure. Peristil is again open to public after 8 years of painstaking renovation and conservation. This area is transformed into an opera stage during the summer, especially for the performances of Verdi's Aida. Each day at the Peristil, a tourist spectacle is organised in which tourists can meet Emperor Diocletian, his wife Priska and guards





## TAKE

### Tourist bus

Participate in unforgettable sightseeing activities from an open tour bus and a professional guide, and take in all the interesting nooks and crannies of the city. And don't miss the opportunity to visit the first gazebo on Marjan Hill, from where you can view the most recognizable panorama of Split



## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

The **Archaeological Museum** in Split is the oldest museum in Croatia with a rich antique collection, while the **Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments** researches the spiritual and material heritage of Croatian people dating back to the early Medieval state, and the **City Museum of Split**, located in a Gothic/Renaissance palace, is replete with exhibits that highlight the development of the City. **Ethnographic Museum**, located in former imperial sleeping chambers, reveals the historical details of the lifestyles of the people in that area. **Art Gallery** offers over 3.200 works of art, while **Split Cathedral Treasury** is a place where precious pieces of church history are preserved, and the **Croatian Maritime Museum** relates the intriguing story about the rich traditions of life near the sea and on the sea, while **Split Sport Hall of Fame** contains an exquisite abundance of stellar sports and Olympic biographies of the best Split athletes.

## SPLIT CARD

If you are staying in Split hotel or in a private accommodation for three days or more, the City's Tourist Board gives you a Split Card, which is a card that allows you free sightseeing throughout Split! You can ask for your Split Card at the reception desk in your hotel or in the Tourist Information Offices if you opt for private accommodations. Also, the Split Card allows you free admission to museums and significant discounts in numerous restaurants and shops in Split. You can also purchase the Split Card for HRK 35, approximately EUR 5, if you are staying fewer than three days in Split.

tian's palace that provide shade during the hot summer days. When you walk along Split's streets, you are walking through centuries of history and art, you can visit museums, galleries and churches or simply relax in the

shade of Marjan pine forest or take a swim at the famous Split beaches of Bačvice, Žnjan, Bene, which proudly display the Blue Flag, the international ecological recognition given to beaches with a pristine environment.



## TOUCH

### Grgur Ninski

Rub the toe of a bronze statue of Gregory of Nin, which is completely smooth because of the local belief that rubbing his toe brings good fortune and makes all wishes come true. This monumental piece by Ivan Meštrović is also displayed in front of the Golden Gates of the Diocletian's Palace

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## DIOCLETIAN



The Roman emperor Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus Augustus abdicated from the throne in 305 and retreated as a retired emperor to a newly-built palace located in the serene Spalatum bay, which is the heart of today's Split. It is presumed that Diocletian origins were from that part of Dalmatia and that he opted for spending his retirement in the place he lived as a child, in the sunny lee-side of his luxurious mansion. He proclaimed himself to be the reincarnation of Jupiter on earth and was a devout persecutor of Christians, but, surprisingly, his wife Priska and daughter Valeria were both Christians. In turbulent years after Diocletian's rule, he received an invitation from Rome to return to the throne, but, according to the legend, his answer from his Split palace was: "If you could see the cabbage that I planted with my own hands in Salona, you definitely wouldn't think of asking that from me."

## SAINT DOMNIUS

Saint Domnius is the patron saint of the City of Split and the first Bishop of Salona, from 284 to 304, during the time of severe persecutions of Christians by the Emperor Diocletian. He was martyred upon the orders of the Emperor Diocletian when Marcus Aurelius Junius, the governor of Dalmatia, executed him. He was buried by the soldiers outside the city walls and a piece of his tombstone is today preserved in the Archaeological Museum in Split. His earthly remains are placed in a tomb at the altar from 18th century in Split Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is popularly known as the Cathedral of St. Dujam.



## SUDAMJA

Sudamja is a local name given to the celebration by which Split inhabitants and their guests celebrate the holiday of their patron saint, Saint Domnius on May 7. The celebration starts with numerous cultural and entertaining events and sport competitions during the first days of May and continues for two entire weeks. The most spectacular festivities are organised on May 7 when the procession consisting of thousands of people walk throughout the city and carry the artefacts of their patron saint, with procession ending at Riva where a mass dedicated to beloved patron saint and the City itself is held. May 7 is a non-working day in Split for the purposes of ensuring that hundreds of thousands of people have a chance to participate in traditional religious and public events and various activities organised for that occasion.

## VISIT

### Saint Domnius Cathedral

The Saint Domnius Cathedral, built in the Emperor Diocletian's mausoleum, with its 13th-century bell tower, which dominates the old city centre. Split cathedral is famous for its 800-year old wooden doors, made by Andrija Buvina in 1214 and containing 28 carved scenes from Jesus' life in walnut wood.







## VISIT

### National Theatre

Visit one of the plays performed by the **Croatian National Theatre in Split**, established in 1893, which is the principal and most prominent theatre among all the theatrical institutions in Dalmatia. Among original plays, we certainly recommend the operettas “Spli’ski akvarel” and “Mala Floramy,” by Split composer Ivo Tijardović, which are set in Split during the period between the two World Wars



Apart from Diocletian’s Palace and numerous cultural monuments from all epochs of this millennia-old city’s history, the attractive Riva promenade, and the 14 km of beaches, Split also prides itself on its numerous sports, and cultural and entertainment events. The people of Split are emotionally attached to their favourite football club, Hajduk, whose 103 years of history are proudly showcased at the city stadium in Poljud. A mere 10-minute drive from this urban region centre will place you among the peaceful bays of Stobreč and Podstrana ([www.visitpodstrana.hr](http://www.visitpodstrana.hr)), where, in thousands of private accommodations’ beds, small family hotels, apartments and pensions by the sea, is the tradition of hospitality and enjoying the peace, sun, the and sandy beaches being nurtured for decades.



## VISIT

### Meštrović Gallery

Do not miss the opportunity to visit Meštrović Gallery, an impressive family house, containing the atelier of one of the most famous Croatian artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ivan Meštrović. His bronze, stone and wood masterpieces are exhibited in a gallery area that is surrounded by a beautiful garden



## VISIT

## Diocletian's Palace cellars

You must visit the cellars in Diocletian's Palace that represent the best-preserved antique complex of its kind. This astonishing structure presents a complex of ground floor halls that effectively raise the area of Emperor's living quarters to the equivalent of an upper floor mezzanine

## VISIT

## Sfinga

At the very entrance to the cathedral, there is an Egyptian sphinx made of black granite, which is older than anything in the Palace. It is 3.5 thousand-years old and Diocletian had it imported to Peristil from Egypt

BARS,  
COCKTAILS,  
ENTERTAINMENT

In the evening hours, Split's night life transfers to Poljud in bars and discos, as well as Bačviče, Ovčice, Zenta and Žnjan bays where you can enjoy cocktails made by top cocktail-

## VISIT

## Temple of Jupiter

Visit the Temple of Jupiter which was originally used for celebrating Jupiter's cult, but was later transformed into a baptistery during the late antiquity

## VISIT

## Vidović Gallery

See the unique paintings and drawing collections by the renowned Split painter Emanuel Vidović in Vidović Gallery near Silver Gates, which ranks at the very pinnacle of European art history







masters and enjoy music and entertainment programs. The City Centre is also bustling until the early morning hours, and the city squares and alleys are transformed into large bars lit with torches, immersed in the sounds of music.

Only a few hundred yards away, on Peristil, you can take a seat on stone tables on the old Imperial Square and enjoy the intertwining melodies of guitars and chansons, or enjoy vocal group performances under the arches of the millennia-old Vestibul, the outer entrance hall into the imperial apartments.

## VISIT

### Pazar

**Visit Pazar fruit and vegetable market that is filled with a vibrant Mediterranean atmosphere, and you should also visit the Split fish market in the centre of the city that is built next to a live phosphorus wellhead, which makes it the world's only fish market without pesky flies**

## THE CITY OF SPORT

Split is proud of its rich sport history, as well as its modern present, and its inhabitants like to call it "the best sport city in the world." That can best be attested to in the "Split Sport Hall of Fame," where a visitor is informed of

the fact that 161 athletes from Split have participated in the Olympics throughout its history and 60 of them returned home with a medal, something only a few cities of this size in the world can say. Their names and Olympic medals are written on bronze tablets along the stone promenade on Split's West coast.





# The City of Trogir

[www.visittrogir.hr](http://www.visittrogir.hr)

Every step made among the stone houses and palaces of Trogir, which is called the museum city due to its century-long history is an exceptional experience.

The historical core of this City, located on a small island between the mainland and the island of Čiovo, was duly recognised by UNESCO and placed on its revered list of protected cultural monuments due to its multilayered cultural heritage. Picturesque streets, squares and churches testify once more to the wealth of works finalised by talented artisans who have continuously invested their creativity and productions to fashion this city, leaving visitors mesmerised and their hosts proud. A walk through the stone heart



VISIT

Saint Lawrence's  
Cathedral

Visit Saint Lawrence's Cathedral, one of the most beautiful Renaissance monuments in Europe, built during the period of four centuries between 1200 and 1598. Radovan's portal from 1240 is the main cathedral's portal and the most important Middle Age portal on the eastern part of the Adriatic and in this part of Europe. It was named after its builder, Master Radovan, who carved it and signed it. The Cathedral houses precious works of art. The bell tower has been being built for centuries and it is one of the most beautiful bell towers on the entire Mediterranean coast





## VISIT

### Kairos



The City of Trogir is also known as the City of fortunate moments. Namely, at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a relief depicting Greek god Kairos that dates back to 4<sup>th</sup> century BC was found in a palace in Trogir. The original is stored in the Kairos Collection in Saint Nicholas Benedictine's monastery in Trogir. This is a story of a deity, that shows itself only once during person's lifetime and provides a person with the opportunity to "catch it by its cowlick" at the right moment. That is the personification of an opportune moment which awakens the imagination and serves as a foundation for many stories and events in Trogir

## PHOTO

### Čipiko Palace

Take a photo of the front of Čipiko Palace, whose façade was created by combining a variety of Romanesque buildings. At the front façade of the palace you will find the gothic Trifora, a work by Andrija Aleši, and doors carved by Ivan Duknović



## VISIT

### City hall

See the Croatian Anthem Plate placed on the main façade of the City hall, which was put there in 1935 when all of Croatia celebrated the 100 years' existence of the Croatian anthem

of the city ends at the city's waterfront where you can gaze at dozens of wooden sailing ships and modern yachts that found shelter, peace and repose in Trogir's port. Modern Trogir lives in the rhythm of a bustling tourist city and is the favourite destination of passengers and sailors who are inspired by its hundred years old stone beauty.

The Archipelago of picturesque islands and cliffs located in Trogir's sea front creates a beautiful scene in front of the stone city and nearby settlements of Marina ([www.tz-marina.hr](http://www.tz-marina.hr)), Okrug ([www.visitokrug.com](http://www.visitokrug.com)), Seget ([www.tz-seget.hr](http://www.tz-seget.hr)) and Slatine, constitute the most indented area of central Dalmatia coastline. There you can find numerous small, remote pebble beaches separated by stony caps, covered with pines, seemingly reaching out to the crystal-clear water. From Marina and Seget to the island of Čiovo you will find an area dedicated to selected villas and summer houses, which today constitute an exquisite variety of private and hotel accommodations.

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## VISIT

### Kamerlengo Fort

Sightsee the city walls and Kamerlengo Fort in the vicinity of the circular Saint Mark the Evangelist Fort, dating back to 15<sup>th</sup> century, which today is The House of Dalmatian Music

## WALK

### Main city square

Take a walk to the main city square presenting numerous historical sites, such as the City hall and Saint John the Baptist Church, Saint Mary Church, Saint Sebastian Church and the small Saint Barbara Church



# The City of Kaštela

[www.kastela-info.hr](http://www.kastela-info.hr)

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The littoral area between Trogir and Split under the Kozjak Mountain is known as the cradle of Croatian statehood since many Croatian kings held their seat in that area. Seven Middle Age noble forts built on the serene shores of Kaštela Bay in later centuries became the centres of the modern seven Kaštela. These forts, *kastela* (hill forts), looked like forts on the mainland side, with towers, ditches, gun holes, moving bridges etc., while from the sea they were built like Renaissance summer houses with broad windows and balconies. Today's seven settlements, Kaštel Štafilić, Kaštel Novi, Kaštel Stari, Kaštel Lukšić, Kaštel Kambelovac, Kaštel Gomilica and Kaštel Sućurac grew and de-

veloped and eventually merged into one city, Kaštela, but even today their centres containing Dalmatian architecture, houses with *solaris* and *balatures* (terraces), taverns, *kaletas* (small streets) and squares are all preserved. Villas were built on the shore and they are still a part of this urban unit made up of the seven merged settlements with a century-long tourism tradition and a rich cultural heritage entwined with a unique historical image. The most popular beaches in Kaštela are Divulje, Resnik, Kaštel Štafilić, while the most popular picnic resorts are the Lady of Stomorija with Biblical garden, Saint George of Radun, Saint George of Putalj and Malačka Mountain Lodge.

VISIT

Vitturi Mansion

**Visit the City Museum of Kaštela located in Vitturi Mansion in Kaštel Lukšić and the Museum area Podvorje in Kaštel Sućurac, the treasury of the Parish church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in Kaštel Štafilić, and hear the legend about Miljenko and Dobrila, a legend dating back to the second part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century about the tragic love of two young people whose grave is located in Saint John's Church in Kaštel Lukšić. On a monument commemorating their final resting place you can see carved note: "Rest in peace, lovers"**

## Škopljaneci Ethno-eco village



Only a mere 20-minute drive from Split, we discover the picturesque, ethnological village of Škopljaneci, hidden around Radošić in Lečevica municipality which is located north from Kaštela. The Škopljanec family nurtures a long tradition of agricultural tourism on their 300.000-square-metres estate. Here in the centre of this vast area you can find some beautiful-

ly restored houses. Three of those houses have been converted into taverns and one houses a small ethnological collection. This family is the proud owner of 40 autochthonous folk costumes from all parts of the Zagora region. Apart from a restored stone village, this complex also includes a downy oak forest which is a protected natural heritage site.





## ENJOY

### Fešta

Be a part of commemorating the Day of the City and the Nativity of the Theotokos Feast in honour of the city's protector, organised on September 8 every year and offering a rich religious, entertainment and sports program and traditional fair



## VISIT

### Salona

Visit Salona Archaeological Park whose grandeur and luxury are attested to by its imposing walls, towers and doors, a forum with temples, an amphitheatre and old Christian churches, Manastirine, Marusinac and Kapljuč, where Salona martyrs were buried

# The City of Solin

[www.solin-info.com](http://www.solin-info.com)

A city where the green Jadro River runs through its centre and supplies the whole region with fresh water has always, even since the time of ancient Salona, attracted visitors from around the world. It is an integral part of the history of Croa-

tian rulers since the time when Queen Helen walked through-out Our Lady's Island in Solin and since the coronation of the Croatian king Zvonimir in Saint Peter and Moses Church in 1076, which is one of the most important places in the entire

Croatian history. The City of Solin proudly remembers one of its most important moments in its history, the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1998, when he sang with 50.000 young faithful sang in front of Our Lady of the Island's parish church.

## VISIT

### Our Lady of the Island

Visit Blessed Virgin Mary Church, or as people call it, Our Lady of the Elms, located on the place of today's Our Lady of the Island's parish church, which is one of the two old Croatian churches built by the Croatian queen Helen the Glorious in 976. The church's foundations are marked on the northern side of today's church

## VISIT

### Gašpina mill

Gašpina mill is one of the rare and still preserved mills on the river and it was built at the start of the 18th century. It is made of 4 stone buildings on which window openings were subsequently added on the front façade



# The City of Omiš

[www.visitomis.hr](http://www.visitomis.hr)

Under the cliffs of Mosor in Omiš, where the Cetina River runs into the sea, one discovers the only place in the world where one can find "The House of a Happy Man" whose owner, in 15<sup>th</sup> century, had the following inscription carved on his house: "Thank you God for allowing me to live in this world." The happiness of this inhabitant of medieval Omiš is not surprising, since even today this small town with its numerous surrounding settlements located at the Riviera (Duće, Omiš, Dugi Rat ([www.visitdugirat.eu](http://www.visitdugirat.eu)), Jesenice, Stanići, Čelina, Ruskamen, Lokva Rogoznica, Nemira, Mimice, Medići, Marušići and Pisak), located between the blue sea and harsh mountain rocks, takes pride in its long tradition of tourism accommodation for all those who seek quiet but attractive vacation near rivers, mountains or the sea. The historical city centre with its stone streets still lives on the difficult to conquer rock which served as the shelter for pirates, and today, in its foothills during summer nights you can still hear vocal group songs which made this town so popular. Thanks to the imposing river near the city's centre, you will find the longest spacious sandy beach which proudly displays the Blue Flag.

## ENJOY

### Klape

**Klapa Festival in July, which has for almost fifty years served as a gathering venue for the best vocal groups and whose aim is to preserve and promote traditional Dalmatian songs**

## WATCH

### Pirates

**Historic spectacle, "Pirate Battle." organised in August on the main pier. Hundreds of armed participants take part in the battle reconstruction on several pirate and Venetian ships**



## Radman's Mills resort

At a place where the Cetina River ends its hundred-kilometre long voyage through Zagora towards the sea, in a magnificent canyon which serves as its vortex, the tremendous surge of water at that juncture has been powering the water mills for centuries. Today, in the shade of the century-old trees is one of the most beautiful resorts in central Dalmatia, Radmanove mlinice (Radman's mills), named after its former owner. Next to the sea, only six kilometres from Omiš, this resort, with an impressive fishpond containing trout, provides sanctuary and repose to all those who wish to enjoy the natural ambiance of the river and the beauty of unspoiled nature.



## VISIT

### Fortica Fort

Fortica Fort, a tower at the top of Omiš Dinara; from here you can see the whole town, the Cetina River canyon and the islands of Brač, Hvar and Šolta. That was a great vantage point for local pirates who used it to control the surrounding sea and land areas

## VISIT

### Mirabela Fort

The Mirabela Fort, rising 245 meters above the town, is also a 'must-see.' experience. It was built during the 13th century and for a long time it offered a reliable defence to Omiš pirates

## VISIT

### Saint George's Church

Saint George's Church, located on the site of a pre-historic fort above Cetina River mouth. This church is an important location for the faithful on Saint George's day and in the past the duke of Poljička Republic was elected in front of this church

## BE

### Active

Discover mountaineering and free climbing, rafting and canyoning on the Cetina River, as well as producer of the newest adrenaline rush the zip-line

## VISIT

### Dino Park

Dino Park, an open pre-historic museum and entertainment park for families with children, covering 7.000 square meters with life-size dinosaurs



# The Island of Šolta

[www.visitsolta.com](http://www.visitsolta.com)

Between the blue sea and blue sky, only 9 miles from Split mainland, is where you will find the island of Šolta, with numerous picturesque fisherman and tourist settlements in a pristine nature setting. The silent beauty and salubrious climate offer complete serenity and pleasant moments' stay in harmonious nature. Šolta, an island of olives, wine, figs and honey and exquisite inspiration, was visited by the most famous Croatian renaissance poets. Do not miss the gazebo adjacent to Saint Nicholas's Church in Maslinica, picturesque old streets with stone houses in

the interior of the island, Vela Straža, the highest peak on the island, and the remains of an early Christian basilica next to Saint Stephen's Church in Grohote.

There are eight smaller settlements on the island, Grohote, Gornje Selo, Srednje Selo, and Donje Selo, located in the interior of the island, and Stomorska, Nečujam, Rogač and Maslinica on the coast where you can enjoy beautiful beaches.

The Southern tip of the island is hiding numerous coves and beaches where many yachtsmen drop their anchors.

# Riviera Makarska

Experience the sea and the mountain



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Many claim this is one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic coast, with 60 kilometres of coves hiding picturesque stone towns and settlements, beaches with crystal-clear blue sea and the best pebble stones, shaded by pine trees. The Makarska Riviera is truly one of the tourist's pearls of the Adriatic. When you travel from Split southward, you will delight in the beautiful scenes of stark stones cascading down to the sea, a pristine Vruļja natural reservoir, a place where the Biokovo Mountain reaches down to the sea and where the Makarska Riviera starts, an area of a rich, long-standing tourism tradition that has maintained its allure for decades. In the shade of pines, you will experience an inexpressible joy never before imagined. With professional service in top hotels, tens of thousands of private apartments, villas and rooms in which guests become a part of the hosts' families; the Makarska Riviera is at the very apex of Croatian tourism with a natural beauty that gives memorable meanings to vacations. Located under Nature Park Biokovo, with its "head in the heavens and its feet in the sea," the Makarska Riviera experiences tourism as a part of its daily routine and tradition, and the desire to always be better, different and even more beautiful.





**MAKARSKA, BRELA, BAŠKA VODA, PROMAJNA, BRATUŠ, KRVAVICA, BAST, TOPIČI, TUČEPI, PODGORA, DRAŠNICE, IGRANE, ŽIVOGOŠĆE, DRVENIK, ZAOSTROG, PODACA, BRIST, GRADAC**



## NATURAL BEAUTIES

Biokovo Mountain, topping the Makarska Riviera in its entire length, limits the area of the Riviera to only 3 kilometres in width from the mountain to the sea, but that is where the unmatched blue-green beauty of the entire Riviera area lies. This mountain, with its highest peak (Saint George at 1.762 meters), is a protected natural park and on a clear day from its protected peak you can see all the way across the Adriatic to the Italian shore. The richness of the Mediterranean flora makes Biokovo the place where mountain goats, mouflon, game birds and golden eagle live. Kotišina Botanical Garden is an integral part of the Nature Park Biokovo, where you can find 300 species

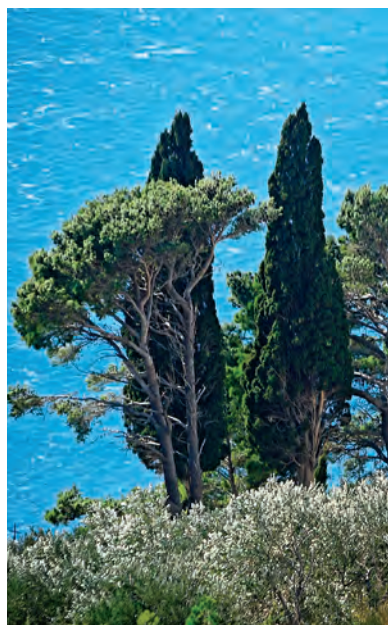
## Vrulja

Vrulja Beach is special and different from any other beach on the Adriatic. It is located near Brela, under Dubpci ablaut, and there are no roads leading to the beach and it offers no additional facilities, and it is dwarfed by steep cliffs. The only way you can reach it is on foot or by boat. Fresh water sources beneath the sea's surface create mesmerising foam. These underwater fresh water sources create a difference in water temperature and if you dive more than a metre under the surface, you will become instantly refreshed. Taking a ride on a boat with glass bottom and bright night lights is especially attractive because it allows passengers to see the true richness of underwater maritime life.

of wild plants, from Mediterranean to mountainous species. Various forms of karst landscape, limestone pavement, caves, pits (some are over a few hundred metres deep) and sink-holes, where famous Biokovo potatoes are still cultivated, are a real challenge for all nature lovers.

## ACTIVE VACATION

If your dream vacation is one filled with activities that juice up adrenaline, such as sports, walking, or inviting activities on water, then Makarska Riviera is the right choice for vacation you. The natural surroundings of imperious



mountains with all their secrets, meadows, forests and gazeboes, all ensure a rich, active vacation possibility, especially for people into adrenaline- producing sports, such as free climbing, paragliding, cave exploration, mountaineering, walking, bicycling etc. As mountains tempt people with their precipitous heights, the shore also offers various recreation in the form of cycling, beach volleyball courts, tennis courts, football pitches and basketball courts, as well as a variety of amusement at the sea; scooter riding, parachute sailing and hand-gliding, banana riding etc. Exceptionally pleasant temperatures and generous portions of sunshine are the hallmarks of this Riviera in early spring and late autumn when it is very pleasant to take a walk in olive groves and vineyards where you can participate in picking olives or grapes with your hosts.

## GASTRONOMY

Staying on the Makarska Riviera can only be fully enjoyed if you al-

low yourselves to enjoy the tastes and scents of fruit, vegetables and aromatic herbs that are cultivated in that sun-bathed area. You should also treat yourselves to seafood specialties that are a part of the traditionally simple, light and healthy cooking style of Dalmatian cuisine, where the use of fresh ingredients, fish and shells is *de rigueur*. What makes this area unique is the Torta Makarana gastro-brand, a traditional delicacy of the Makarska area, made of almonds whose recipe has not changed in centuries and which is an integral part of any festive menu. The unique and readily identifiable cuisine of that area allows you to enjoy the savoury taste and aroma of the area's spice herbs, and you should surely try some of local honeys made of flowers or sage from Biokovo Mountain.

## WINE

Plavac Mali is the most dominant grapevine variety in this area, and especially impressive are the vineyards owned by Zlatan Plen-

ković, located on the sunny Biokovo slopes above Baška Field, with 75 ha of vineyards. As a part of Opačak Tavern in Gornji Tučepi, you can find a registered winery in the region of the Makarska Riviera that offers quality wines made of autochthonous Dalmatian grape varieties that received numerous awards and recognition.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Numerous events, traditional feasts and customs that were transformed into tourism attractions are the hallmark of Makarska Riviera throughout the better part of the year, especially during the summer season. When swimming and sunbathing during the day give way to fresh nights spent out in bars and clubs near the sea, Makarska Riviera is transformed into party destinations filled with live music for all tastes and generations, along with dance nights, Klapa groups' concerts, jazz music, exhibitions, shows, summer carnivals and fisherman festivities that ensure good times and





unmatched memories, and can be found in all the places in the Riviera. Especially interesting are cool summer nights in small villages on Biokovo slopes around the Riviera where you can enjoy cultural events, plays, exhibitions and concerts in century-old stone yards.

## PICNICS

With its ideal location along 60 kilometres of seashore, the Makarska Riviera extends an invitation to you to visit its towns and settlements, discover new beaches and visit small villages on the Biokovo slopes every day. At the same time, only a narrow sea passage separates the Riviera from the islands of Hvar and Brač, which you can reach by taking a pleasant boat trip, all while enjoying their beautiful coves rich culture and history. Only sixty kilometres separate the Riviera from the centre of Split and many agencies encourage tourists to visit Međugorje, the famous sanctuary in nearby Bosnia and Herzegovina.





## VISIT

## Lighthouse

Visit unique Saint Peter's lighthouse, built in 1884 in a stone building and which today serves as a tourism facility that can be rented

# The City of Makarska

[www.makarska-info.hr](http://www.makarska-info.hr)

One of the most popular tourist destinations on the Adriatic is surely the City of Makarska which, despite its size and urban development, has preserved a multitude of vacation benefits and entertainment along its communal beach that stretches for 2 kilometres along a

pine-covered promenade. Only a few minutes away, you will encounter a stone waterfront that is typical of all Mediterranean cities, replete with a vibrant atmosphere and filled with historical aspects and numerous shops and restaurants. Here you will find the City Museum and ba-

roque Saint Philip Neri's Church and the main city street, Kalelarga, located in its centre. Central city square is called Kačić Square, with a monument of Father Andrija Kačić Miošić, a Church containing Makarska's history, and Saint Mark's Church that is surrounded by picturesque facades





## INTERESTING

### Facts

#### Father Andrija Kačić Miošić

Father Andrija Kačić Miošić was a local poet and a friar who holds an important place in Croatian literature with his work "Razgovori ugodni naroda Slovinskoga," dating from 1756. In the following centuries, this book became the most popular Croatian folk book, second only to the Bible, in all parts of the country. The city square in Makarska is named after this great man, and his monument, a work by Ivan Rendić, was erected on the square in 1890.

#### Villages under Biokovo

Although their inhabitants have long ago abandoned the harsh soil on Biokovo slopes, the former settlements of Veliko Brdo, Puharići and Makar, above Makarska, preserved their picturesque rural architecture since many houses were restored or converted into attractive villas. The most beautiful view of Makarska, its entire coastline and surrounding islands, is certainly from these villages.

#### Summer carnival

One of the most attractive summer events in Makarska is the traditional summer carnival in which thousands of masked participants take part in singing and dancing. The carnival entertainment accompanied with music in the entire town, is organised during the first part of August every year. An equally attractive and entertaining tradition is Kalemarg Night festival.

#### The most beautiful beaches

The municipal beach Makarska, pebble beaches Cvitačka and Ramova, and the Nugal nudist beach, which is reached via Osejava beach

of stone houses and balconies. Makarska Port is located between Sveti Petar Peninsula and Osejava, which provides a view of Biokovo Mountain, the mainland and the sea. The Franciscan Monastery, dating back over 500 years is built adjacent to Saint Mary's Church, which today serves the function of *pinacotheca* and the monastery holds rich archives, as well as a library and an exquisite malacological collection, in one of its parts.

## VISIT

### Observatory

Visit Makarska observatory on Glavica, located in the centre of the City only a few dozen metres from the waterfront and main municipal beach, which is open late at night during the summer months

## VISIT

### Malacological Museum

Visit the Malacological Museum in the Franciscan Monastery, established by Father Jure Radić in 1963 and which holds over 3.000 exhibits of snails and shells from local area and around the globe

## VISIT

### Vepric



Visit the Croatian Roman Catholic Marian church, Vepric, at the entrance into Makarska, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. It was established in 1908 in a natural cave reminiscent of Lourdes. There you will find a chapel with a vestry, an altar at the square, confessionals, Stations of the Cross, home for spiritual exercises and procession paths. You can visit this sanctuary throughout the year, but the main pilgrimages are organized on March 25, August 7 and September 8 each year. This is one of the most visited Croatian sanctuaries and unavoidable pilgrimage sites on the path towards spiritual renewal



## VISIT

**Saint Stephen church**

Visit the church dedicated to Saint Stephen, the patron saint of Brela

## VISIT

**Our Lady of Karmela**

Visit Our Lady of Karmela Church, which is a valuable monument of baroque architecture built as a token of gratitude by the local population for a victory over the Turks in 1715

**The most beautiful beaches**  
Dugi rat and Punta rata, and Berullia, Soline and Vruja pebble beaches

# Brela

[www.brela.hr](http://www.brela.hr)

Brela represents the first and most beautiful contact with Makarska Riviera as you travel from northwest then towards the south. In this picturesque settlement, whose beauty looks as if it came directly from a canvas, is perfect for people who wish to enjoy solitude, a crystal-clear sea and shade provided by pine trees. This settlement is almost two thousand-years-old. Due to its natural beauty and rich tourism tradition, Brela is a modern tourist resort today, of-

fering a plenitude of interesting possibilities for tourism activities. The resort is proud of its beautiful pebble beaches, and Dugi rat beach was proclaimed one of the top 10 beaches in the world and the most beautiful European beach by American magazine Forbes. Brela's readily identifiable trademark is its abundant stone, found at the sea cliff Brela, from which several pines seemingly grow from the stone itself and play an integral role in the beautiful pebble beach.







# Baška Voda

[www.baskavoda.hr](http://www.baskavoda.hr)

The tourism tradition is almost one-hundred-years-old in this former fishermen's and farming settlement, which was, according to archaeological data, settled as early as 4.000 BC. Belonging to the Baška Voda are the picturesque settlements Promajna, Bratuš, Krvavica, Bast and Topići. The main motive for settling on that location was its source of fresh water. Today Baška Voda is a modern tourist centre with rich cultural and entertainment attractions and widely famous pebble beaches that dominate the entire settlement and represent a recognisable landscape of Makarska Riviera. Baška Voda offers many attractive events, shows and parties during the summer months and interesting exhibits in archaeological museums and museum collections, as well as a rich collection of shells. It offers walks and serene enjoyment in the pristine nature of Biokovo Mountain and villages below Biokovo, among which is the especially beautiful Topići village, a small village primarily constructed



## VISIT

### Saint Nicholas's Church

Visit Saint Nicholas's Church built in 1889 in neo-romanticism style. It holds valuable artefacts, such as a stainless glass by Josip Botteri Dini and a painting of the Stations of the Cross by Josip Bifel

of stone on the Biokovo slopes and has to this day preserved its original architecture of old stone buildings where adventurers and mountain enthusiasts can find many accommodations to their liking.

## VISIT

### Archaeological Museum

Visit the Archaeological Museum and its collection containing exhibits dating back to 2.000 BC

## VISIT

### Bast

Visit Saint Rocco's Church in Bast, which was the mountains' predecessor of today's settlement on the shore

## The most beautiful beaches

Nikolina is a pebble beach, and Ikovac is the most popular beach among young people due to its numerous beach bars, and Krvavica beach is also gorgeous

# Tučepi

[www.tucepi.com](http://www.tucepi.com)

Tučepi transformed itself from a small fishermen's village in the 19<sup>th</sup> century into one of the leading tourism centres of Makarska Riviera today. The history of Tučepi is almost 4.000 years old, since the time of Roman country houses (*villae rusticae*) that were built on that location, and are inextricably bound to Tučepi and tourism. Practically the whole settlement is one big, clean and marvellous pebble beach, stretching almost 3 kilometres in length. Along the whole promenade, parallel to the beach, you can take pleasant walks in the shade of pine trees and only 10 minutes away you will find small villages on mountain slopes that are famous for their vineyards and olive groves. In that area you

will also find the remains of fortifications and houses with numerous towers that were used for defending the settlement.



## The most beautiful beaches

Slatina, a beach in front of Jadran Hotel, and Dračevac nudist beach located between Tučepi and Podgora

## VISIT

### Kaštelet

Explore the interior palace of Kaštelet baroque summer house, today's Kaštelet Hotel, located on the promenade which was built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century for rest and for gatherings of noble families

## VISIT

### Saint Anthony of Padua

Visit parish church dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of Tučepi, located in Gornji Tučepi, which was built in 1911 and contains three baroque altars



# Podgora

[www.tz-podgora.hr](http://www.tz-podgora.hr)



Podgora was named after its location (Croatian, 'pod gora,' under the mountain). Podgora was a famous fishermen's village since olden times, and because of the devastating earthquake in 1962 most of the old settlement was destroyed and its inhabitants ventured down towards the sea, and that is when Podgora became a settlement on the shore, especially attractive for tourists. Known as fishermen, the people of Podgora to this day keep fishing boats in the port, which gives the entire settlement a special marine feeling. In the centre of the settlement, with its promenade and stone waterfront, we find a monument

to don Mihovil Pavlinović, one of the founders of the Croatian national revival in Dalmatia. Above the settlement, we find a stone monument called "Sea gull's wing," which was erected in 1962 in honour of the military navy which today serves as a sort of Podgora trademark. Podgora includes other settlements, such as Drašnice and Igrane, with their picturesque pebble beaches and archaeological locations that testify that these fishermen's villages were inhabited in the time of the Romans. Today they are an excellent destination for all those who wish to spend a peaceful vacation in pristine nature.

## VISIT

### Igrane

Visit Saint Michaels' Church built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century on a hill above Igrane ([www.igrane.org](http://www.igrane.org))

## VISIT

### Drašnice

Visit All Saint's Church in Podgora, dating back to 1764, and Saint Thecla's Church, dating back to 1630, Our Lady of Ružarija Church in Igrane, and Saint George's Church in Drašnice, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century

## VISIT

### Zalina tower

Visit Zalina tower in Igrane, erected during the conflicts with the Turks

### The most beautiful beaches

Plišivac and the central municipal beach in front of Podgora Hotel, and municipal beach Drašnice as well as Klokun, which you can reach by boat



# Živogošće

[www.zivogosce.hr](http://www.zivogosce.hr)



This is a picturesque tourism settlement with a typical pebble beach almost 6-kilometres long, with a rich history dating back to the times of the Illyrians and Romans, which is preserved in churches and monasteries, including the Franciscan Saint Cross monastery dating back to

**The most beautiful beaches**  
Dole camp beach, beach Blato and the beach in front of Nimfa Hotel

## VISIT

**Licinian's epigraph**

The famous Licinian's epigraph that dates back to 474 consists of 16 Latin hexameters, arguably the most beautiful piece of classic literature, carved into a living rock above the Pokrivenice spring on the sea's shore. With this classical piece and setting, the Roman quaestor Licinian is seen celebrating the "freshwater" spring which still exists there to this day

1616. Živogošće is famous for its many freshwater springs that have been supplying the local population with fresh water since ancient times. The natural beauty of olive groves and pine forests that hover over 6 kilometres of interlinked beaches, the clean sea beneath the mountain and similar attractions make this place perfect for family vacations. The highest peak in Živogošće is Sutvid (1.155 meters).

# Drvenik

[www.drvenik.hr](http://www.drvenik.hr)

An especially important day in the history of Drvenik is April 15, 1687 when the Turkish army conquered the Drvenik tower which was defended by women from Drvenik. The remains of the building are on the top of a high hill above Drvenik. Saint George's Church, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is a priceless cultural heritage monument and its front façade is decorated with a rose with eight petals. The large marble altar contains Saint George's statue. Today's Drvenik is a relatively young settlement, being created as recently as in this century, offering a myriad of tourist invitations and specials for pleasant family vacations on the beautiful pebble beaches of Donja Vala and Gornja Vala.

Drvenik has a ferry service that connects the mainland and the islands of Hvar and Korčula.







## INTERESTING

### Facts

Gradac was named after the fort that was located on the hill above Saint Michael's Church

Zaostrog is the only place in the world where the Sun rises two times in one day. During a certain period of the year, the Sun comes up behind Vitel Hill, then, it hides behind the rocks, only to rise again for the second time 20 minutes later. This phenomenon is unique in the world

Due to its special composition, due to its many streams and undercurrents that run into the sea, the sea water in this equatorial area has healing properties which can be used for the treatment of various illnesses

## VISIT

### Brist

Visit the old village in Brist, with tombstones dating back to the bronze and Iron Age

# Gradac

[www.gradac.hr](http://www.gradac.hr)

The ranges of Biokovo Mountain that dwarf Gradac are a world's phenomenon when it comes to the number and depth of caves and other karst features. Along 16 kilometres of coastline, which includes Gradac and the smaller settlements of Podaca, Brist and Zaostrog, you will find

36 pebble beaches whose total length surpasses 10 kilometres, and 7 kilometres of beaches are located inside the tourism settlements. Gradac has a beautiful beach called Gornja Vala, south of the port, which is the longest beach on the Makarska Riviera. The first hotel was built in 1919.

The monastery in Zaostrog is the oldest preserved monastery in the entire central Dalmatia region, and among the many valuable exhibitions found in monastery's museum we wish to emphasise its library that contains over 20.000 old books and its unique botanical garden.

## VISIT

### Podaca

Visit Saint John the Baptist's Church in Podaca, dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and gothic Saint Barbara's Church in Zaostrog with 18<sup>th</sup>- century organ

## VISIT

### Zaostrog

Visit the ethnographic collection, along with a collection of ethnographic paintings, in the Franciscan monastery in Zaostrog

# Dalmatian Hinterland

In the arms of the river and the mountains



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Rarely anywhere does the blue sea come so close to the continent as it does in Dalmatian Hinterland, where the green heart of valleys and the river are separated from the sea only by the Kozjak, Mosor and Biokovo Mountains. This is a unique “leap” into the green continental part of the region, only 30 kilometres from the sea, containing autochthonous settlements and friendly hosts who mostly work in vineyards and with cattle, but they are increasingly becoming involved in agricultural tourism, for which they have ideal conditions. Zagora, as a part of central Dalmatia, is a place of significant value and importance in Croatian history. The people and their legends made this region into a unique oasis of history built into the very essence of their stone houses and forts, all surrounded by a pristine nature. Staying in the ethnological villages or on the serene shores of Cetina River, a river that gives life to an always thirsty Dalmatia, or visiting the Nature Park Biokovo, or the Imotski Lakes or Vrgorac Field, all create memorable tourist adventures.

## ACTIVE VACATION

The diverse nature surrounding the Cetina River shores and valleys, the serene paths under willow trees, the caves, holes and stone features of the Mosor, Dinara and Biokovo mountains encourage you to be active and experience adventures in this natural and calm environment. Canoe safaris and rafting on the Cetina River, mountain climbing, walking, diving, bicycling, hunt-



## UNESCO's Cultural Heritage

### SINJSKA ALKA

The City of Sinj is famous for its traditional equestrian competition, which has been held every first Sunday in the month of August since 1715 in the honour of its heavenly patron, Our Lady of Sinj who, according to legends, chased away the Ottoman Turks. Alka is organised as a reminder of the perpetual vow of loyalty to and admiration of that heroic victory. Richly decorated uniforms, along with the clattering of horses' hooves, the cannon shots roaring from Stari Grad fort, the clashing sound of lances hitting the ring, the competitive spirit and chivalry, all guarantee an unparalleled experience when you take in this traditional event.

### SILENT CIRCLE DANCE

Zagora's silent circle dance is still performed today on festivities in the Vrljka region. This dance is undertaken without music and the rhythm is created by the sound of the dancers' feet. This dance is extremely demanding but very appealing to spectators. The dance is symbolic of the difficult living conditions on harsh land and the strength and perseverance of the people of that region. The well-choreographed circle dance is an integral part of the folklore programmes presented by numerous cultural and artistic societies in the region.

### STEĆCI

The „Stećci“ Medieval Tombstones Graveyards near the town of Imotski are included on the World Heritage List.

and spices), steamed lamb, veal baked under the lid, polestar (young rooster) baked under the lid, game meat, goat, cow and sheep cheese, doughnuts and the most important, traditional Dalmatian prosciutto, salted and smoked, and pork loin dried under the northern wind (bora). When it comes to delicacies, you do not want to miss out on Imotski cake and rafioli (traditional cakes), and bikla (a drink made by mixing milk and red wine, often in the same ratio). Bikla can be dark or light purple in colour, depending on the wine content.

### WINE

Kujundžuša is the leading white wine grape variety in the Imotski region. With a normal vintage, it is characterised by a gentle and neutral scent and these wines enter the market as quality varietal wines. Grabovac champagne is the first sparkling wine produced in Dalmatia. Wine is left in a barrel for two or more years in order to mature and is characterised by a light yellow to a golden colour, a flowery aroma, a perfect limpidity and a stable foam.



ing, fly fishing, paragliding and parachuting, etc., are just some of the activities you can experience in an unspoiled nature setting, with clear water, wild soil, untouched grasslands and orchards. People of Zagora have been in love with horses for centuries and horse breeding is a tradition dear to them. In Sinj, Trilj and Muć, you will find stables and horse clubs that organize riding schools for beginners and offer recreational riding possibilities to professionals.

### GASTRONOMY

The tradition of coming together at the table and enjoying home-made food produced in a mixture of cool mountain air and rich sunny valleys will provide your senses with new sensations and unique tastes emanating from the Mediterranean hinterland. Traditional Zagora meals served in top-quality restaurants are Cetina trout, frogs and crabs, Sinj arambaši (a traditional dish made of minced beef, cabbage



## Klis

[www.tvrdavaklis.com](http://www.tvrdavaklis.com)

Klis is an unusual settlement, one that is located on a large rock in a notch between Kozjak on the west and Mosor on the east, only 10 kilometres from Split. Klis fort is one of the most prominent Croatian forts. Due to its strategic location, this area had been fought over for centuries. Klis fort became famous during the Ottoman invasions when the fort commander Petar Kružić and his troops resisted the Otto-

mans for decades until, in 1537, the Ottomans finally managed to conquer the fort. Old Klis and its famous fort come alive in the last week of July when the battle between the Ottomans and fort defenders is re-enacted. Fencing and archery tournaments, archaic folk songs, the sound of bagpipes, drums and fiddles, accompanied by oriental music and belly dancers, all guarantee an unforgettable experience.

## Dugopolje

[www.visitdugopolje.com](http://www.visitdugopolje.com)



Modern Dugopolje, only 15 kilometres from Split, is located in a typical Zagora region landscape, on the edge of a vast karst field which it was named after. Particularly interesting is Vranjača Cave in Kotlenice, which is a protected geomorphological natural heritage site with numerous stalactites adjacent to a waterfall encased in stone. Abundant speleothem ornaments and large underground chambers which can be reached via staircases make this cave the most attractive cave site in all of Dalmatia.

**Stella Croatica  
- an authentic  
cultural  
& gourmet  
experience!**



Etno Agro Park Stella Croatica has been following a long family tradition of growing Mediterranean fruits and producing olive oil & selected Dalmatian delicacies respecting traditional recipes. Tour the (manu) factory where sweets are handmade, walk through the rich Mediterranean garden, visit the olive oil museum and take an opportunity to taste products in the concept store. By visiting traditional family estate, take a peek into the past – the culture, customs and everyday life of the Dalmatian family. Awaken all your senses in traditional tavern with daily cooked authentic meals – all made from fresh, organic and local ingredients. Discover all the natural beauty of the Mediterranean with your senses and heart!



# The City of Sinj

[www.visitsinj.com](http://www.visitsinj.com)



Sinj is the centre of the Cetina region and a pearl in the Zagora region's treasure chest where life on this rocky hill started as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Sinj is one of the most famous Roman Catholic Marian sites in Croatia. Its inhabitants proudly remember the year 1715 when they managed to defend their city from Ottoman invasions and in commemoration of that great victory and glory, the inhabitants of Sinj nurture an equestrian competition called alka. In the Cetina Region Museum and Archaeological Collection in the Franciscan monastery you can see valuable exhibits and precious finds that testify to the longevity and interminable turmoil of history of that area. On the celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady, October 15, numerous pilgrims participate in festive religious celebrations and processions in which they carry the painting of Our Lady.



## VISIT

### Miraculous Lady of Sinj Church

Visit the Miraculous Lady of Sinj Church that houses a painting of the Miraculous Lady of Sinj, which is one of the most beautiful paintings ever painted in all of Christian art. It is painted on a 58x44 cm canvas; interestingly, it does not reveal the entire image of the Mother of God, only her bust on a dark background. Today only the face of the Mother of God is seen and a small segment of a shroud since the remaining surface of the painting is covered with gold and pearls, which were given as votive offerings. The most impressive gift is a golden crown offered to the Lady by the defenders of Sinj; this festive coronation was organised in 1716 by Split's archbishop Stjepan Cupilli. The painting is set in a silver frame made of votive offerings. This is a work of an unknown author but is suspected to be the superlative work of a Venetian painter in the second part of the 15<sup>th</sup> century

## SEE

### Alka

See equestrian competition alka, visit Alkars' Palace (alkar is a knight that participates in alka), the alkar monument, Stari Grad Fort and the Kamičar tower, with a clock. show "The siege of Sinj 1715," as well as the Mustang family picnic resort and Panj family farm



## The City of Trilj

[www.visittrilj.com](http://www.visittrilj.com)

As a crossroad, Trilj has always been a destination for travelers looking for new adventures and experiences in nature. This is a two-millennia-old city that is separated by a river and connected via bridges. Its location, adjacent to the Cetina Field and between Kamešnica slopes and surrounding hills, ensures

numerous entertainment possibilities to enjoy nature in one of the best-preserved natural reservoirs in the world. Trilj has always been known for its hospitality and good cuisine. It is exceptionally easy to enjoy the surrounding nature, the local people, customs and life, in every sense of the word, in the unique city of Trilj.

### VISIT

#### Museum

Visit Trilj Region Museum, the Roman military camp Tilurium, where 6 thousand soldiers lived up to the middle of the 1st century, Čačvina Fort, the old Grab mills, preserved in their original form, the traditional commodities-cattle fair on Saint Michael's Day in September, where you can see and purchase almost everything, from various handicrafts to farm animals



## The City of Vrlika

[www.visitvrlika.com](http://www.visitvrlika.com)

Located near the source of the Cetina River and Peruća Lake, Vrlika is famous for its springs and healthy climate of ozone-filled Dinara Mountain air. It is also famous for its rich folklore tradition and embroidery products (folk costumes, rugs, hats, purses etc.) that have not changed in centuries. Vrlika folklore and traditional folk songs inspired the Croatian composer Jakov Gotovac to write his famous comical opera, "Ero s onoga svijeta" ("Ero the Joker", literally translated as "Ero from the Other World"). Nearby Perućko Lake has been used by Croatian rowers, both the national team and various sport clubs, as a practice location before competitions.





# Imotski/Imota

[www.visitimota.com](http://www.visitimota.com)

On the northeast side of Biokovo Mountain, adjacent to the Bosnia and Herzegovina border, is an area with an abundantly fruited karst field, and that is where the City of Imotski is located, which has served as an important fort since the Middle Ages. It was named after an old Croatian parish centre, Imota (Emotha). The legend says that the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina was determined by the shooting of

a cannon ball from Topana Fort in order to determine a demarcation line between the Turks and the Venetians in 1717. Due to semi-circle cannon ball reach, today's state border also has a shape of a semi-circle. You can reach Imotski from the Makarska Riviera by driving through Sveti Ilija (Saint Elijah) tunnel, and if you are driving on a highway from Split, then you proceed to highway exit Zagvozd.



## Blue and Red Lake

Blue Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in Croatia and is located at the very edge of the City of Imotski. People called it Blue Lake because of the colour of its water. Water levels within the lake fluctuate significantly throughout the year and the lake is sometimes 90 metres deep and sometimes it completely dries up. When the lake is completely dry, people play football at its bottom.

Red Lake is a karst pit near Imotski filled with water. It was named after the red rocks at its bottom. Recently, the mystery of Red Lake has been solved. The depth was measured to be 255.4 metres, which confirmed that the lake bottom is below sea level. Whenever visitors try to toss a rock into the lake from the road, they always fail despite the fact that it seems easy to toss a rock into the lake.

## VISIT

### Topana Fort

Visit Topana Fort and its votive church of the Lady of the Angel, the Gospin dolac football stadium, the Imotski City Museum and the Franciscan monastery's collection, the archaeological site, Crkvine-Cista Velika, serpentine over one-hundred years old, leading to Blue Lake, the mills and a complex on Perinuša, the old city centre beneath Topana, Saint Francis's Church, numerous monumental tombstones in Lovreč, and the remains of a basilica in Zmijavci. Imotski is a place where the famous ballad "Hasanaginica" was written and the development of a thematic memorial park is currently in progress on the slopes of Blue Lake in order to commemorate this famous ballad

## Šestanovac

[www.sestanovac.com](http://www.sestanovac.com)

The area of municipality Šestanovac, only some fifteen kilometers distant from the coastal region of town Omiš has become a very popular destination for daily visits and excursions, especially for those seeking for untouched nature and like to visit small traditional hamlets. The number of holiday homes offered for rental is also increasing in the past years.



## Kokorići Ethno-eco village

Near Vrgorac in the Bunina Field armllet, the ethnological village Kokorići dominates from a mildly elevated hill from whose vantage point you can gaze upon cultivated fields and the peaks surrounding the village. The autochthonous rural entities, such as its wells, stables, haylofts, houses, taverns, the Prže Prvan tower, the old medieval Saint Anthony's Church, all of this reflects folk architecture and is placed under conservation protection. The whole village has been restored and is now a tourist attraction. You can spend time in a Dalmatian resort house or in Pržina tower, sample local home-made delicacies in fabulously furnished taverns, or learn about the Ethnographic collection exhibits and see local traditions of living in Kokorići.

# The City of Vrgorac

[www.tzvrgorac.hr](http://www.tzvrgorac.hr)

Vrgorac is a city at the cross-roads, a place where continental and coastal region roads meet, a city surrounded by three fruitful fields on the Matokit reef slopes for which it was named. This city is a link between the sea and the rich agricultural fields in the hinterland. Discovered archaeological remains testify that this area has been constantly inhabited throughout history. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century this region was discovered by a travelling writer Alberto Fortis who conveyed his

love of this area in his book. The landscape of the history of this area is probably best painted by the seven towers surrounding it, as well as its medieval fort and beautiful Gradina gazebo under which the city itself was formed. The famous Croatian poet Antun Tin Ujević was born in one of those towers. Vrgorac is today famous for its great wines and ecological food production, especially its strawberries which were dubbed the best strawberries in Dalmatia.







## CETINA

Cetina River is a source of life and subsistence for the Zagora region. It protects the people against thirst and irrigates their fruitful fields. Its source is at the Dinara Mountain foothills near Vrlika. After flowing for 100.5 kilometres it runs into the Adriatic near Omiš. Downstream from Trilj, the Cetina River forms a canyon valley, and further along it encounters Velika and Mala Gubavica in its lower flow.

## APHRODISIAC

A legend says that the source of the underground river Betina, in Kokorići Village, near Vrgorac, has aphrodisiac properties. It is certainly worth checking out!

## HEROINE MILA GOJSALIĆ

Mila Gojsalić, the celebrated heroine from Poljice, was originally from the village of Koštanje. According to the legend, in 1530 she lost her virginity after a night spent in Ottoman captivity. Instead of living with shame and denial, she opted

for death. At the break of dawn she blew up a gunpowder storage tank which claimed the life of Ahmed-pasha and the entire Ottoman camp. A monument to Mila Gojsalić made by Meštrović and located on a reef above Zakućac that overlooks the Cetina River canyon is an attractive reminder of this young heroine who is watching over her city and the river.



## ROMAN ROADS

The Roman roads in Dalmatia are not readily visible monuments, but for those who wish to immerse themselves into antiquity, they are highly captivating when uncovered. Partial roads and paths built during the Roman rule are still discoverable in the Dalmatia province today. The starting point of all roads in antiquity was Salona, a metropolis of the Dalmatia province. There were at least eight known separate roads coming from Salona towards the hinterland or towards the shore. The Roman road network in the Zagora region was built, except for military purposes also for exploiting resources and trade. All roads towards the hinterland passed through a mountain pass under the strategically located Klis fort, and then the road branched out into three different directions. One communication route led to camp Andetrium (Gornji Muć), another to Aeguum (Čitluk near Sinj), while the third road lead to Tilurij (Trilj) on the Cetina River.

## ANTIQUE FOOTBALL

The first football activities in the world were played in the region near today's Trilj. That fact is proven by the antique gravestone of a seven-year-old Roman boy Gaius Laberius that dates back to the 2nd century and found at the Tilurium site near Trilj, depicting a boy holding a ball with interlinked hexagons, looking almost identical to a football used today. This monument is now encased in the front façade of a stone house in Vrlika Street in Sinj. In 1969 FIFA officially recognised this monument as the world's first monument dedicated to football.

# Brač

The island of culture and adventure



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The largest Dalmatian island and the third biggest Adriatic island, Brač, with its twenty settlements, provides a peaceful, attractive vacation opportunity. Covered with vegetation and with numerous hidden bays where you can enjoy peace and quiet, Brač is an island replete with historical heritage and a typical Mediterranean island with lots of sunny days and pleasant sea temperature. It is widely famous for its stone which adorns the world's most famous buildings. One of the island's trademarks is the widely famous beach, Zlatni rat in Bol, whose unique beauty leaves every visitor breathless. Apart from its plethora of hotel accommodations, on Brač you can enjoy camping and private accommodations in thousands of apartments and villas, all in a pleasant environment, with hospitable hosts. The island is connected to other islands and the mainland via numerous ferry lines and you can reach Split or Makarska in just one hour on a delightful ferry ride.

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

### **Vidova gora**

This is the highest peak of the Adriatic archipelago (780 metres), and it was named after the ruins of Saint Vitus's Church located only a hundred metres from the peak. On a clear day you can see all the way to Monte Gargano on the Apennine Peninsula and famous Zlatni rat beach in Bol. At the summit, you will find a typical Dalmatian tavern.



BOBOVIŠĆA, **BOL**, DRAČEVICA, DONJI HUMAC, DOL, LOŽIŠĆA, GORNJI HUMAC, **MILNA**, MIRCA, MURVICA, NEREŽIŠĆA, NOVO SELO, **POSTIRA**, POVLJA, PRAŽNICA, PUČIŠĆA, SUPETAR, SUTIVAN, SUMARTIN, SPLITSKA, SELCE, ŠKRIP

## Stonemasonry School in Pučišća

The Stonemasonry School in Pučišća was established in 1909 and it teaches students the mastery of traditional stonecutting, and the entire school has a certain Renaissance feeling. This is one of three stonemasonry schools in Europe. The school's workshop, stonecutting techniques and traditional skills are the principal reasons for visiting this school during the summer when the school is open to the public.



## Škrip

The oldest and most authentic Brač village, Škrip, is a testament of the millennia-long life on the island and its rich history. On an area of less than one hectare, you can see a line of history reaching back to the prehistoric era, represented by early defensive walls, to the Roman era, represented by many mausoleums, reliefs and sarcophagi, to the late antiquity Church and medieval graveyards. In old houses of typical Brač architecture and in the Radojković defensive tower complex, built in the 16th century, you will find the Local Heritage Museum where an archaeological, ethnographic and cultural-historic collection is housed. Near the museum you will see old Roman stone quarries and one of them displays a carving depicting Hercules with a club and lion skin.

### Zlatni rat beach

Many consider this to be the most beautiful beach on the Adriatic. It is located next to Bol in the foothills of Vidova gora. This beach is a natural phenomenon because, depending on the direction of the wind or waves, the tip of the beach turns left or right. Zlatni rat is one of the best places for windsurfing and surfing on the whole Adriatic.

### Dragon's Cave (Zmajevo spilja or Drakonjina spilja)

Located 200 metres from the village Murvica, this cave was used as a home and a shrine dedicated to Glagolitic monks from Poljice who escaped to these steep southern slopes in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to start their monastic lives. The cave contains reliefs depicting life in those days, and these reliefs are of immense historic value and importance.

### Lovrečina Cove

Lovrečina, a deep cove with sandy beach and rich archaeological finds, as well as exquisite location for a picnic is located near Pučišće. There you can find the remains of an early Christian church and on the northern side of the cove you will find a baptismal well in the shape of a cross.

### Pine on the roof of Saint Peter and Paul's Church

A black pine on the roof of the Romanesque church in Nerežišće is a fantastic natural phenomenon believed to be 100 years old. A tree trunk sprouted between stone tiles on the roof, and due to these unfavourable conditions the pine tree remained small and underdeveloped.

## ACTIVE VACATION

Bicycling, hiking, free climbing, scuba diving, kayaking, sailing and tennis are just some of activities you can participate in when staying on the island of Brač. The tennis centre in Bol has 20 tennis courts with red clay surfaces, surrounded by green pines, and many consider Bol to be the best location on the Adriatic for surfing and windsurfing. Mountain bicycling across the island is an unforgettable experience. In sports centres and hotels you can rent bikes and enjoy taking a ride on marked cycling roads around the island. If you prefer walking, you can take a walk on the designated thematic walking trails, such as Hercules trail in Splitska, the Maslinov put (Olive trail) in Mirca, or the walking and gourmet thematic trail Dolčevita near Supetar or many other walking trails.

## GASTRONOMY

In addition to the standard Dalmatian dishes such as fish, seafood, fresh and organic fruit and vegetables and olive oil, Brač gastronomy offers something special. Brač lamb and kid that haven't grazed the aromatic mediterranean herbs but had only milk made Brač gastronomy famous as early as ancient times, especially "vitalec" Brač cheese is also famous, and "procip" is a special treat (a traditional dish prepared from fresh young cheese, baked in caramelized sugar). After a tasty meal you should try Brač cake, Hrpačuša (rugged cake), named after its resemblance to the rugged cave walls around Dol where this cake originated.

## WINE

Brač is rich in autochthonous grapevine varieties that are used for making traditional wines of exquisite quality. The vineyards on the southern slopes of the island have the highest yield due to their favourable position on sunny slopes. The most famous variety is Plavac Mali, which has seemingly existed forever on the island. When it comes to white wines, Pošip is an especially good variety, while Plavac Mali is dominant among red varieties. "Jako Vino" winery in Bol is one of the most beautiful wineries in Croatia. It is located at the waterfront in the centre of the city and it has been there for over a century.

## OLIVE GROWING

The island of Brač holds the honour of being one of the first Dalmatian islands where olives were grown and where olive oil production started. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Brač had approximately 500.000 olive trees, and today more extra virgin olive oil is being produced on the island than ever before.

## TRIPS

The turmoil of history is seen at every step on the island and the island is filled with a notable heritage dating back to prehistoric times, to Illyrian and ancient settlements. If you wish to experience this historical heritage, it is a good idea to venture into the island's hinterland where you can see 'bunje,' the traditional stone houses that resemble piles of rocks surrounded by stone drywalls. They were used as shelters and each of those houses is a unique masterpiece of folk architecture and a testament to human hardship



and to the coexistence of humans and nature.

### The mysterious bridge

Franz Joseph's Bridge, as Brač inhabitants call it, was built at the top of Veliki dolac pass. Since there are no fresh water streams on the island today, it is believed that in the past a river flowed through there. The bridge was built during the Austrian administration and today it is a part of an attractive walking path.

### Ložišća

This place is a typical example of Dalmatian urban development and folk architecture. The entire settlement is dominated by Saint John and Paul's Church bell tower, a work by the sculptor Ivan Rendić in the historicism style.





## Blaca hermitage

The Imposing former monastery of hermetic monks is at the top of the list of places to visit since this is a natural and cultural phenomenon and a favourite picnic site of many Brač inhabitants and their guests. This is a complex of buildings that seemingly rise from the rock. Blaca hermitage was established during the 16th century at the southern tip of the island by Glagolitic monks from Poljana. The first sanctuary that was built there was a partitioned cave that was used as a shelter. Near the steep cliff, hard-working hermits built a church and a monastery, as well as housing and outbuildings, and they converted forests into productive vineyards and olive groves. A well-preserved hermitage inventory is housed in today's museum and it includes a library and an observatory with a valuable astronomical collection. The Brač Cultural Centre is responsible for maintaining the Blace desert.



### Gažul

Gažul is a small shepherd's village, with the dotting of typical shepherds' dwellings seen all about, set in a pristine environment. During the winter, the village is abandoned, but in the summer, with prior consent, you can sample traditional Brač dishes and the famous Brač specialty, vitalac.

### Dol - Ethno-eco village

In a deep valley reaching down towards the sea, you will find Dol, a place where stone houses seem to be hanging from cave-clustered cliffs. Taking a rest in one of two Dol taverns is an especially pleasant experience where you can enjoy good food, great wine and divine olive oil.

### Donji Humac – Kopačina

Donji Humac, only seven kilometres from Supetar, is one of the oldest Brač settlements where most houses are built of stone and covered with stone slabs. In the Kopačina tavern in Donji Humac, you can sample the very best Brač delicacies and see a window case that displays the various finds from Kopačina Cave, the oldest settlement on Brač from where life on the island originated. It is located only a short 20-minute walk to the northwest.

### Nature Park Sutivan

This resort offers a visit to a zoo, playing sports at its recreational centre and taking a rest near the fountain. The visitor can also indulge in a wide variety of drinks

and various scrumptious barbecue dishes. The park is an ideal place for spending an afternoon resting and having fun, designed for both younger and older generations and those who seek nature's surrounding beauty.

### Brač stone quarries

The biggest central Dalmatian island is famous for its stone that decorates many building around the globe. Brač's white marble has been used throughout history in the construction of some of the most famous world sites, such as Diocletian Palace in Split, the White House in Washington, the House of Parliament in Vienna and the Wiener Neustadt, the House of Parliament in Budapest and the Regent's Palace in Trieste etc.



# The City of Supetar

[www.supetar.hr](http://www.supetar.hr)

The City of Supetar is an administrative and cultural centre of the island. It is connected with Split via ferry lines. With its beautiful traditional Mediterranean waterfront and stone buildings, this city has carefully preserved its unique island lifestyle. With its rich array of events, cultural sights and sport facilities, this city is an ideal place for people who love culture and recreation. The nearby settlements are Mirca and Splitska. Mirca captivate visitors with their simplicity and beautiful rural architecture that is so characteristic of small Dalmatian island settlements. Splitska

is a settlement established in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in a peaceful bay 8 kilometres from Supetar, a location that was originally used as an export port in antiquity and from where stones for building Diocletian Palace in Split were shipped.

## VISIT

### Gallery

Visit the gallery of Ivan Rendić, one of Brač's most famous inhabitants and noted Croatian sculptor, where you can see a collection of his busts and drawings

## The most beautiful beaches

West from the main city port you will find the pebble beach Vlačica and sandy bay Banj, which is especially attractive for families with children. A bit further, behind Svpetrvs complex, you can find the pebble beach, Bili Rat, and Vela Luka bay

## VISIT

### Church

From the central city square you can see the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Church and its bell tower, dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today's church was built on the foundations of an early Christian basilica that was dedicated to Saint Peter, after whom the city was named



# Sutivan

[www.visitsutivan.com](http://www.visitsutivan.com)



A typical Mediterranean settlement surrounded by well-kept olive groves, orchards and vegetable plantations, Sutivan offers ten attractive pebble beaches, and in Livka bay you can find a sandy beach as well. The experience of Brač as an island of adventure is greatly enhanced by its Outdoor Adventure Sport

and Film Festival that has existed in Sutivan during the month of July for over two decades. This festival, dedicated to adventure and films, generally attracts a younger audience and contestants who compete in climbing, bicycling, mountain climbing, scuba diving, kayaking, sailing or standing rowing,

that is, mostly extreme competitions. The part of the festival that is dedicated to movies attracts film buffs who are particularly into adventure-type films, and afterwards everyone can indulge in the nightlife and various concerts that have become an integral part of this popular festival.

# Milna

[www.tz-milna.hr](http://www.tz-milna.hr)



Milna and its deep bay have always been a shelter to sailors, and today's marina in the centre of the settlement is an important location on Adriatic sailing route. The Milna of today is a peaceful and quiet oasis, ideal for a vacation far away from bustling cities and large tourist centres. In Milna you will find four vast pebble beaches, Pasikova, Lučice, Maslinova, and Osibova, of which two are located within Milna, while the remaining two are in the proximity of the settlement. Milna offers many interesting events, one of which we would particularly like to highlight and recommend. This is the folk feast "Potezanje otočića Mrduje" (Pulling of the small island Mrduja) that is organised in July and is inspired by a story about a never-ending quarrel between the inhabitants of the islands of Brač and Šolta, to which the small island Mrduja belongs.

## The most beautiful beaches

The sun, the shade from hundred-year-old pines, pebbles and a crystal-clear sea, Zlatni rat beach is a beach of exquisite beauty. You can also visit nearby Paklina beach, a pebbly oasis surrounded by many small beaches and bays that offer relaxation far from the noise and crowding of the tourism centres. In addition, the Bol beaches and their expansive sea counterpart are ideal for water sports



Bol is famous around the world for its Zlatni rat beach, but it is also as a place where you can find top-quality accommodations, relaxation and entertainment. Located in the centre of the southern part of the island, as the only settlement in that area, Bol is the oldest coastal settlement on Brač located under Vidova gora, the roof of the Adriatic. The mountain range Bolska kruna (Bol's crown) and fortified Koštilo with Illyrian

fortifications rise above the settlement. This picturesque settlement used to be the home of winemakers, fishermen and sailors, and the tourism tradition emanating from this environment has been nurtured in Bol for the past 90 years. At that time, Bol began converting itself into a place of hotels, camps and apartments. It is linked to Split on the mainland and Jelsa on the island of Hvar via several ferry and catamaran lines a day.

## VISIT

### Dominican Monastery

Visit the Dominican Monastery, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and its unique botanical gardens and a museum that houses important archaeological findings and baroque paintings

## TASTE

### Wine

Taste and purchase wine in a beautiful old winery located in the centre of Bol

## VISIT

### Gallery

Visit Branislav Dešković Gallery in a renaissance-baroque palace. The Museum's exhibit holds over 400 works by fifty artists





## Selca

[www.visitselca.com](http://www.visitselca.com)

This small settlement on the eastern part of the island has a long-standing connection to stone and stonemasonry. In Selca, you can see a sort of gallery out in the open that holds busts and statues of famous people throughout history. In 1911 a statue by the Czech sculptor Jaroslav Barda and dedicated to Leo Tolstoy was erected in Selca, only a year after Tolstoy's death, thus making this the first monument dedicated to this famous writer. You should also visit Christ the King's Church, which was dubbed Brač cathedral due to its beauty and its unique architectural design. This is the only stonemason's settlement in which all houses are made of Brač white marble.

## Postira

[www.postira.hr](http://www.postira.hr)

Postirais is a fishermen's and tourist settlement that is located on the northern side of the island. Its heritage results from the remains of many archaeological remains, such as the Roman summer houses (villae rusticae), the Benedictine Monastery and the early Christian church, Saint Lawrence's basilica. Its favourable position made Postira an important port and fishermen's settlement, and the fertile soil in the hinterland ensured the cultivation of quality food and grapes, which are used for making exquisite wines. In the surrounding areas of Postira, you can find numerous bays with sandy beaches (Prvja and Lovrečina), and pebbly beaches (Mala Lozna and Zastivanje), as well as rocky beaches that are surrounded by pine forests.



## Sumartin

Sumartin is, along with Supetar and Bol, one of the doorways of the island due to its connections with Makarska on the mainland.



## Pučišća

[www.tzo-pucisca.hr](http://www.tzo-pucisca.hr)

Pučišća is an ideal place for vacation far away from bustling cities where you can enjoy yourself in untrammelled nature.



## Povlja

This coastal settlement, whose parish church was built on early Christian baptistry, was constructed adjacent to the early, large Christian basilica dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

# Hvar

A sunny lavender island

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Since the beginning of civilization, from the culture in antique Faros that was promulgated in 384/383 BC with the remains of Roman artefacts, to medieval buildings, along with Renaissance and baroque influences, the island of Hvar is an island richer in history than any other Adriatic island. Covered with purple lavender fields, Hvar is symbolic of that nurtured tradition of organised tourism that has been unfolding on the island since 1868. Unique in its size and beauty, with a mild climate of temperate winters and pleasant summers, the island of Hvar is a place to visit if you seek a sun-filled vacation, with a historical environment, bountiful nature, flowers, vineyards, olive groves and numerous cultural sites. Furthermore, Hvar is one of the ten most attractive islands in the world according to "Traveller Magazine," and people also eagerly land on its shores to indulge in unforgettable parties, its exuberant nightlife, concerts or its nudist tourism. The City of Hvar is unavoidable destination of all celebrities who visit central Dalmatia. With an annual average of 7.7 sunny hours per day and as much as 2843 sunny hours in a year, the island of Hvar is the sunniest island on the entire Adriatic. Those sun rays, long after they have dropped below the horizon, continue to nurture the populous vineyards that ultimately become the widely famous Hvar wines, acclaimed around the world.





BASINA, BOGOMOLJE, BRUSJE, DOL, GDINJ, GROMINDOLAC, **HVAR**, HUMAC, IVAN DOLAC, **JELSA**, MILNA, PITVE, POKRIVENIK, POLJICA, SELCA, **STARI GRAD**, **SUĆURAJ**, SVETA NEDJELJA, SVIRČE, VELOGRABLJE, VRBANJ, **VRBOSKA**, VRISNIK, ZARAČE, ZAVALA



## NATURAL WONDERS

### **Paklinski Islands**

A cluster of approximately 20 small islands and cliffs stretching in front of the City of Hvar, Paklinski Islands are unique and the most recognizable natural beauty of the island of Hvar. Forest-covered islands immersed in blue sea with numerous hidden beaches and breath-taking bays, Paklinski Islands present the favourite place for swimming and vacation.

### **Šćedro Island**

It is said that this is the most serene island of the Mediterranean, an island of untamed landscapes and pristine nature, covered by vineyards and olive groves that extend down to shores and bays.

### **Red Rocks**

In an unusual and picturesque play of nature, softer deposits have been washed away by the

sea and rain, and only vertical red cavities remain, which look like gigantic organ pipes protruding from the sea depths today.

### **Grapčeva Špilja (Grabac Cave)**

Grabac Cave, a cradle of Hvar culture and civilization, is the most important prehistoric site dating back to the Early Stone Age. It is located near Humac on the southern tip of the island and is filled with stalactites and stalagmites.

### **Sveta Nedilja Cave**

This cave is located above the homonymous village. This cave of majestic dimensions and an impressive interior was used by prehistoric people as a shelter and a sacred site, and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century a hermitage was built inside the cave. The cave is easily accessible for visitors.

## ACTIVITIES

Exploring the island of Hvar on bicycle is the best way to experi-





ence its beauty and call on it to satisfy all your senses. Apart from the designated cycling routes, you can also tour the island via walking trails and experience the everyday life in Hvar villages and discover its magnificent traditional architecture. For those seeking the excitement of free climbing, the island of Hvar is a bounty of cliffs and steep rocks where the adventuresome can truly pump up their adrenaline. We recommend that you visit the cliffs near Zastražiće where you can find three caves and an adapted climbing spot in Vela Stiniva Bay. Visit the island's hinterland by taking jeep tours, accompanied by experienced guides, and see vineyards in the heart of the island, and experience the unspoiled nature of the island's

highest peak, Saint Nicholas, from where you can see the surrounding islands. Also try sailing in Hvar archipelago or scuba diving in its rich underwater world.

## GASTRONOMY

This island of Sun, with its aromatic herbs, clean sea and rich fields, creates a panoply of gastronomic riches for all its guests to enjoy. Naturally, gastronomy is dominated by fish and seafood dishes, and while you are at Hvar we recommend you to try some distinct local dishes, such as Hvar's gregada or brujet (a casserole made of various fishes, shells and crabs) and grilled fresh fish. When it comes to meat dishes, Hvar pašticada (stewed beef dish cooked in a special sauce) with potato dumplings,



is an incomparable treat. The most famous Hvar cuisine specialty is gingerbread biscuits, a traditional treat with honey that was made in the region of Dalmatian coast and islands, especially in Stari Grad on the island of Hvar.

## WINE

Ever since ancient times, thanks to its ever-present sun and rich soil, Hvar has been a place where grapevines have been



## Hvar lavender

The first lavender was planted on the island in 1928 near Velo Grablje and nearby Brusje where it magnificently adapted to the Hvar climate, and soon the autochthonous hybrid called budrovka was created. The blue colours of the blushing fields connect the island with the blue sea, captivating everyone with the scent of fresh lavender. In almost all island settlements you can buy popular bags that are filled with dried lavender leaves. It is generally believed that lavender is a plant with miraculous curative properties and that planting lavender ensures good fortune.



# UNESCO's cultural heritage

## Stari Grad Plain (Ager)

Greeks from the island of Paros colonized Hvar in 384 BC and established a settlement there, Pharos, which is now Stari Grad. On an adjacent vast field stretching from modern Stari Grad to Jelsa, antique agricultural land divisions are preserved in the form of 75 separate parcels (so-called horas), which represent the best-preserved antique cadastre on the Mediterranean.

## Agave lace production

Almost every stone of Hvar has a unique and ancient story that lives simultaneously in the past and in the present. Set aside by the prominent

walls of an isolated monastery and accompanied by a surrounding stone building in the centre of the City of Hvar, the Order of Saint Benedict and its nuns are nestled and secreted from the rest of the world. Since the rules of the Order forbid them to venture outside of the monastery, their existence is only known to the public because of the existence of beautiful hand-made agave lace which is sold as unique works of art.

## Easter procession "Za križen"

Before Easter, a special celebration is organised on the island of Hvar, a procession called "Za križen" which is

over 400 years old. Starting in the evening on Maundy Thursday and lasting until the early morning hours of Good Friday, this procession is a folk form of worshipping the Passion of Christ. The celebration starts with simultaneous masses in six parishes: Jelsa, Plitve, Vrisnik, Svirče, Vrbanj and Vrboska, followed by a procession which travels 25 kilometres in total. Since each group starts the procession from its own parish and all groups move in a clockwise direction, they never meet. Each group is led by a specifically appointed cross-bearer. This unique tradition is also open to visitors who can take part in it.

highly cultivated. Throughout their history, the inhabitants of Hvar have nurtured grapevines and gave all their love and effort to them since grapes and wine were their only source of security, food and medicine. They created the best varieties and converted them into harmonious, exquisite wines. We recommend that you meet the famous Croatian winemakers Zlatan Plenković, Andro Tomić, Antun Plančić and Ivo Duboković, as well as some small family wineries like the Bracanović family winery, and sample their fine wines. All of them have their own cellars, and Zlatan Otok in Sveta Nedjelja is especially worth noting, as well as the beautiful cellar in Jelsa that is owned by Andro Tomić.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Numerous concerts, plays, folklore and vocal group events are

organised as a part of Hvar's and Stari Grad's summer events. The City of Hvar is a place of posh gatherings, fun and good times, in many seaside bars where you can party until the early morning hours. Pop diva Beyonce visited Hvar and was so mesmerised by its beauty that she named her daughter Blue Ivy after ivy that she saw at Hvar.

## TRIPS

During your stay on Hvar, you should experience the hidden beauty couched in the island's hinterland. Take in the lush vegetation, vineyards, olive groves, lavender and rosemary fields and climb hills and rest in gazeboes. Visit Velo Grablje, a village where 100 years ago lavender and rosemary essential oil production started and is thriving to this day. You should also not miss a visit to Pitve and

the shepherds' village Humac, established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which is a unique example of preserved rural architecture. Nearby Grabac Cave is the most significant prehistoric site on the Adriatic, where cultural artefacts that date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC have been discovered. It was used as Greek lookout and was built on the remains of the Illyrian fort.

On the northern side of the island, you can visit Parja bay which is accessible only via the sea.

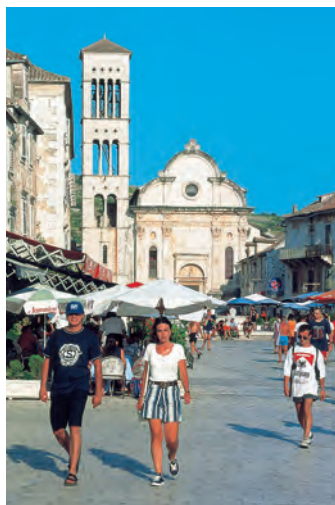
On the southern side, you will find the sun-bathed bays Milna, Zračće, Dubovica and Pišćena, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. Sveta Nedilja and Jagodna are also located on the southern side and you can reach them via the tunnel near Plitve near Jelsa. During the summer, trips to nearby Bol on the island of Brač are available every day from Jelsa and Vrboska.



# The City of Hvar

[www.visithvar.hr](http://www.visithvar.hr)

The City of Hvar, bathed in sun throughout the year, is one of the first resorts on the Croatian Adriatic since the times of the Austrian empress Elizabeth who sponsored the construction of one of the first Hvar hotels. The hotel was built in 1899 and Hvar became famous as a resort for medicinal tourism because of its mild and healing climate, sea air and sunny days. Tourists from Austria and other countries started visiting Hvar, which was soon dubbed the Austrian Madeira.

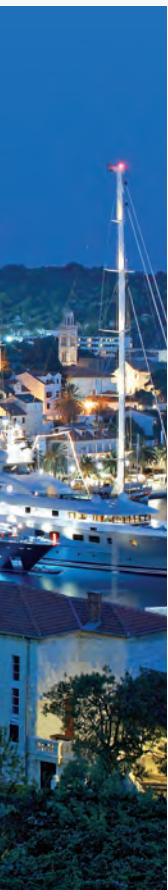


## VISIT

### Baroque monastery

Visit the baroque monastery, home of the nuns of the Order of Saint Benedict, which was established in 1664. There you can see the famous Hvar lace, an original Hvar souvenir of unique artistic value that has been continuously produced in this monastery for over 120 years. It is derived from dried agave leaves that are specially processed for lace production





## Hvar pjaca (piazza/square)

If you are staying in Hvar, all roads will lead you to Saint Stephens's Square, popularly called Hvar pjaca. This is the largest, and according to many, the most beautiful island square in Dalmatia and the centre of public and social life of the city. Its eastern side is closed by Saint Stephen's Cathedral, and the fact that the square has a direct contact with the sea gives it a special feeling. At the centre of pjaca you can see a communal well, dating back to 1520. The entire area of pjaca was fully paved in 1780.

## Palmižana Beach

In the small cove of Klement Island, in the Paklinski Islands archipelago, you will find the famous sandy beach of Palmižana. The family of Professor Eugen Meneghello built a summer house on the island at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and imported many exotic plants on the island, thus creating a unique botanical garden. Palmižana is the most popular Hvar resort which can be reached by taxi-boats or private boats.



### BEACHES



### VISIT

#### Theatre

Visit the Hvar Theatre which is an integral part of theatre history since Hvar theatre, established in 1612, was the first communal theatre in Europe. The theatre is built above the Arsenal, an area used for fixing boats and for storing maritime goods

### VISIT

#### Franciscan monastery

Visit the Franciscan monastery, famous for its magnificent Last Supper painting

### LEARN

#### History

Discover the historical heritage of Hvar, step-by-step, listen to stories about Fortica, medieval fortifications, monasteries and palaces

**Beach Vela plaža in the centre of Hvar is only a five-minute walk from the city's centre and it bears the European Blue Flag as an indication of its superior sea quality and preserved environment. On the other side of the bay you will find a luxurious Bonj beach with a restaurant, showers, deck chairs and a massage service. One of the taxi-ships can take you to Paklinski Islands with pebbly beaches, and you can also venture into two nudist beaches, Stipanska and Jerolim. The beach of Milna is located in the village of Milna, only 5 kilometres from Hvar, is especially recommended for families with children. Beach Zaraće and village Zaraće are naturally protected against wind and waves, as is the Dubovica beach which is only 8 kilometres east of the City of Hvar**



## BEACHES

Lanterna is a municipal beach, Maslina, is a sandy bay near ferry port, Banj, a municipal beach, and Paklena, Baba, Zavala, Žukova, Mudri Dolac and Basina are pebbly and rocky beaches on the Kabal peninsula

# Stari Grad

[www.visit-stari-grad.com](http://www.visit-stari-grad.com)

The oldest city in Croatia was established in 384 BC by Greek colonists from the island of Paros who named their new settlement and the entire island Pharos. It is the historic jewel of the island, located in a deep and protected

bay that is a safe and unavoidable port for all yachtsmen sailing the Adriatic. This ancient city of rich history attracts visitors with its narrow stone streets, facades and buildings that form a rich historical and cultural heritage.

## VISIT

### Tvrđalj

Tvrđalj is the most famous monument in Stari Grad. This is a fortified summer house owned by the writer Petar Hektorović, the author of the first realistic epic of Croatian Renaissance, "Ribanje i ribarsko prigovaranje (Fishing and Fishermen's Talk)." Tvrđalj is also a type of stone book since there are over twenty inscriptions written in Latin, Italian and Croatian carved into the stone. A poet, Christian thinker and builder, Petar Hektorović built Tvrđalj throughout his life, almost obsessively. The most famous site in Tvrđalj is its fish pond with brackish water in which mullets swim. The fish pond is open to the public between May and October

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# Jelsa

[www.tzjelsa.hr](http://www.tzjelsa.hr)



## BEACHES

A tourism centre of the northern part of the island, Jelsa is surrounded by pine forests, sandy beaches, vineyards and olive groves. Numerous remains of summerhouse villas, country houses around Jelsa, Saint Mary's Church, Our Lady of Health's Church, Saint John's Square and piazza are just some of trademarks of this city where you can enjoy taking a walk through history. Located at the centre of the island, Jelsa is an ideal place for venturing out and taking one of the numerous trips around the island: Grapčeva Cave and Svirče, Pitve, as well as the famous beach Zlatni rat in Bol on the island of Brač. A bit fresh nights in Jelsa ensure pleasant walks near the sea, while those seeking the fun of dancing and greater socialising can find entertainment in one of the many bars in Jelsa.

The sandy beaches of Mina and Bočić are only 500 metres from the centre of Jelsa. On the island of Zečevo you will find one of the most famous nudist beaches From Gdinj and Bogomolja, you can reach Smrska Bay via the road or beaches of Mala Pogorila, Kožija, Veprinova, Rapak and Tvrđidolac. In addition, Grebišće, Uvala svetog Luke (Saint Luke's Bay) or pebbly beach Crkvića are only 4 km east of Jelsa



# Vrboska

[www.vrboska.info](http://www.vrboska.info)



Vrboska is located in a narrow and deep-island bay, and its two bay sides (Vela and Mola) are connected via stone bridges, which is why Vrboska was dubbed Small Venetia. Surrounded by dense pine forests, bridges, paved streets and Renaissance and gothic houses on both sides of the bay, with a small island in its centre, creates a site that will take every visitor's breath away. Stone houses and anchored fishing vessels exude a special feeling and warmth that seems to encompass the entire settlement. During the summer, boats take off for Bol on the island of Brač every day.

## VISIT

### Saint Mary's Church

Visit Saint Mary's Church's fort in the centre of a large square that resembles a huge stone ship. Originally it was a church, but after two Ottoman invasions when Vrboska, Hvar and Stari Grad were sacked, the locals started converting it into a mighty fort with high, thick walls and gun openings used for defending the entrance into the port

## VISIT

### Fishery Museum

Vrboska is known as the biggest fishermen settlement on the island, and the existence of the Fishery Museum testifies that

# Sućuraj

[www.tz-sucuraj.hr](http://www.tz-sucuraj.hr)

This small fishermen settlement on the eastern side of the island of Hvar has a history over 2.300 years long, which was created by both the Croats and all other peoples that ruled over this area, leaving many traces of their architecture and culture. Throughout history, Sućuraj has been demolished and rebuilt on several occasions, and the oldest building in the settlement is the Franciscan monastery. Its stone houses are connected and linked via closed streets, which remind us of a specific style of buildings brought about by the ever-present dangers of pirate attacks. At the end of the 19th century, the present-day parish church was built



## BEACHES

**The most famous beaches are central beach Česminica and beaches Bilina, Židigova and the pebbly beaches in Mrtnovik and Prapatna bays. Sandy beaches are Pernu and the Mlaska campsite beach**

and dedicated to Saint George, and Sućuraj was named after that church. Also interesting is the baroque style Saint Anthony's Church and Venetian fort, both dating back to the 17th century. Sućuraj can be reached via ship line from the mainland, from Drvenik near Makarska or via the road from Hvar.

# Vis

## A blue hideout

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If you love the pristine nature of the blue Adriatic, then the island of Vis is the best choice for you. This is an area that has preserved the karst phenomena, such as the Blue, Medvidina and Green caves on the nearby island of Biševo, and the area is also adorned with serene meadows in the central part of the island, as well as with vineyards, Mediterranean herbs, palm trees and citrus fruit. There are not many places where you can enjoy vast, unspoiled nature and settlements established in antiquity as much as you can on the island of Vis and its biggest centres Vis and Komiža. These cities have preserved the spirit of history in their stone streets and buildings. But, the biggest advantage of Vis is its untouched and lively nature, which is a real rarity on the Mediterranean and a reason why the World Environmental Organization included the island of Vis on the list of its ten best-preserved islands of the Mediterranean.





## BEACHES

**Mala Travna** is a small bay and a beach on the southern side of the island, surrounded by steep plateaus running down to the crystal blue sea.

**Srebrna**, the most famous Vis beach, was named because of the pebbles that shine in a silver colour when exposed to the moonlight (Croatian word "srebrna" translates as "made of silver"). Luxuriously lying in the shade provided by pine forests, Srebrna is the most frequent choice of families with children. Large and spacious stone plateaus are partially covered by pine trees on its western part.

**Stiniva bay** is to the west of Mala Travna, on the southern side of the island. You can reach it via the sea through a narrow passage after which the bay broadens and ends with a beautiful beach.

**Zaglav** is surely one of the most delightful and pleasing sandy beaches on the entire Adriatic.

The sand of the beach is very light and bright, and it is highlighted by innumerable small lines that are caused by the western current of the sea.

**Stončica** is the name that represents the following: a lighthouse, a long bay and a small fishermen's settlement with a sandy beach. The intimate bar at the beach, sand volleyball courts and an abundance of shade make this beach the best choice for a great family vacation.

**Milna** is a sandy beach located at the bottom of the bay. It is primarily a tourist settlement on the southeast side of the island. This beach is very shallow and you can walk as far as thirty metres into the sea and the water will still not reach above your knees.

**Tepluš** is a pebbly beach favoured by younger generations. It is located on the southwest end of the bay, in front of the fishermen-tourism settlement of Rukavac.



**Punta od Biskupa, Vela Svitnja, Novo Pošta and Templuž** are favourite nudist beaches on the island.

## CAVES

**Blue Cave** on the island of Biševo is a natural phenomenon and a favourite tourist destination. The cave resulted from the sea effect on limestone rock, and the only way to access the grotto is via boat. One of the many special attractions of this grotto is the light effects created by the refraction and reflection of sunrays from the bottom of the cave which created a silver-like effect. This is why this grotto is also called the Underground Fairy Court.



**Medvidina Cave (Monk Seal Cave)**, on the island of Biševo, is 160 metres long, and at its very end it is rather low and tapered as it ends on a small beach. This cave was a habitat of one of the most endangered mammals on the world, the monk seal, and a special, rarely-seen creature by the occasional fishermen.



**Green Cave**, on the island of Ravnik, is a cave with two entrances and an opening which lets light in while sunrays are deflected on the surface of the water and paint the entire cave green. It is interesting to note that during the World War II this cave was used as a shelter for smaller vessels.

## ACTIVE VACATION

Fun-filled active vacations and staying outdoors on the island of Vis cannot be avoided. You can walk around the whole island on appropriately marked walking trails, or you can take a

bicycle and explore the interior of the island, or you can indulge in scuba diving, which is also very popular, and a kayak trip offers another unique way of exploring the island. Vis also has several paragliding runways and those willing to try new sports can take a try at cricket. There are also tennis and basketball courts, and each year in the beginning of August you can participate in a swimming marathon from the small island Host to Riva in Vis. Twice a year, Rivas in Komiža and Vis are almost completely taken over by racing boats and yachtsmen

who fill promenades, pubs, bars and taverns.

## GASTRONOMY

Rarely have traditional dishes kept their honoured place in the daily cuisine fare of restaurants and taverns as they have on the island of Vis. Try the Vis style bread made of salty fish and experience its rich taste and aroma dating back to the antique times of Issa. Vis style bread is filled with red onions, sprinkled with olive oil, spiced with pepper and oregano and baked in a bread oven or in a regular one. In



Komiža, chefs also add tomatoes into the mix. There is also an old widespread custom of grilling sardines on wooden grills, and you can also try a traditional dish made of beans and pasta with cooked fish. This island offers the unique experience of enjoying grilled fish or dried fish casseroles.

Hib is a Vis treat dating back to ancient times. With its traditional preparation, a mélange of tastes derived from a mixture of figs, almonds, home-made schnapps and fennel, along with the unmistakable aroma of laurel and rosemary, this dish presents an appeal to multiple senses. It is preserved in dry laurel and rosemary leaves for an enhanced aroma. In the past, each Vis house kept several

hibs for Christmas holidays when hib used to be sliced into thin strips and offered to friends with a glass of herb schnapps.

## WINE

*"Wine from the island of Issa in the Adriatic is better when compared to other wines"* as it was written by Agatharchides in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

Vis is an island of wine and has been famous for this elixir since ancient times. Plavac from Vis is exquisite wine made of the Plavac mali variety, the oldest known red grape variety, mentioned by Greek chronicles and which produces dense wines with rich colour and a rounded, finished and palate-pleasing

taste. Bugava is the most famous wine brand from the island of Vis. It is a famous white wine made from the Bugava variety, with a characteristically honey-like taste that proffers a sense of completeness, a wine for which is said that you do not drink it, but eat it. Harvest season is in September and lasts until the end of October, and that period allows visitors to fully experience life on the island and get to know its people and nature.

## TRIPS

Vis is an island crisscrossed by roads, gravel roads and walking trails, and there are no inaccessible or impassable parts of the island. Talež is a reconstructed old village at the top of the hill from where you can easily reach Vela Gomila, the oldest lighthouse on the Adriatic. Sveti Vid (Saint Vitus) is a hill-top at the centre of the Vis plain and there you can find Saint Vitus's Church. Plinsko Field is known as the only Dalmatia cricket pitch, and Vis has a cricket club named after the British Admiral Host. We recommend you visit the highest point of the island, Hum, at 572 metres altitude, where on a clear day you can see the Adriatic's horizon in a most unusually delightful manner. You can also visit Holy Spirit's Church, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and right next to it you will find a paragliding runway. Tito's Cave is actually two caves that are easily accessible via stone staircases. The cave was named after Tito, the supreme commander of armed forces and the leader of the Resistance movement during World War II. You can also visit the islands of Biševo, Svetac and Brusnik, and visit the legendary Palagruža and the most distant Croatian island, the volcanic island of Jabuka.





# The City of Vis

[www.tz-vis.hr](http://www.tz-vis.hr)

In a naturally protected bay, today's town was created after two smaller settlements merged, Luka and Kut. The city of Vis contains numerous archaeological remains, testifying to the development of this city in antiquity. On the Prirova peninsula you can visit the remains of the Roman theatre, and on the eastern side adjacent to the sea were a city forum, agora, and monumental baths on the western side. The city is rich in monumental heritage from more recent periods, rendering villas, summer houses, palaces and forts. Regarding religious monuments, the most important sites are the pre-Romanesque

Saint George's Church, the patron saint of the city of Vis, Saint Mary's Church in Podselj and Our Lady of Spilice Church serving Kut and Luka.

Other popular places include the municipal beach on the Prirovo peninsula that stretches over 100 metres and filled with fine pebbles. Grandovac is a pebbly beach in a bay in front of the eastern entrance into the Vis port. Throughout the year Vis hosts numerous nautical competitions, cultural and sporting events and during the summer the "Vis Cultural Summer" with numerous concerts and events is especially popular.







## Remains of Greek Issa

Ancient Issa, today's Vis, was an independent city-state that has existed since the 4<sup>th</sup> until the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC when the Romans conquered it. From the remains we can see that this was a city stretching over an area of 10 hectares, surrounded by an 800-metre-long wall. It is located on the southern slopes of Gradina, which is to the northwest of the Pirovo peninsula and reaches to the sea.

## Issa archaeological collection

The Issa archaeological collection is housed in the Austrian fort in the city centre and it holds interesting historical collections, such as ceramic vessels, male and female heads, a collection of amphorae and many other exhibits. You can also gaze at the bronze head of the goddess Artemis which was created as a kind of cult piece during the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Many amphorae discovered in Vis archipelago testify to the long wine-making tradition of that area.



## Vis regatta

Traditionally, each year in October, the nautical club "Labud" from Split, in conjunction with the nautical club "Vis," organises the most prestigious sailing spectacle in Croatia, the ever-popular Vis regatta. Each year over 1,000 people on 150 vessels take part in the competition. The Vis regatta stretches over a period of several days, and since it is organised in October it offers the last chance for sailing before the onset of winter.

# The City of Komiža

[www.tz-komiza.hr](http://www.tz-komiza.hr)

Komiža, the most famous fishermen's settlement of the Adriatic, is located on the sunny side of the island of Vis, protected from cold winds and currents in the deepest bay on Vis. Komiža is a city of narrow streets and narrow buildings and is believed to be the birthplace of the fishing industry on the eastern side of the Adriatic. This city is located in the foothills of Hum. It is separated from the rest of the island and completely faces the open sea and the Komiža archipelago containing the most distant Adriatic islands, rich with fish, especially tuna, Biševo, Palagruža, Svetac and Jabuka. Not surprisingly, traditional Komiža cuisine is based on sea delicacies and good wines. You will find several pebbly beaches in Komiža, with

Kamenice being the most popular beach, one that turns into a party zone every night. Komiža fish mongers offer fresh fish every morning, and since the area's reputed restaurants are so

much in demand, you need to book your table in advance.

Ferries do not dock in Komiža, so you have to take a ferry to the city of Vis and then take a 10 kilometre drive to Komiža.





## Falkuša

Falkuša is the traditional boat of the island and for centuries fishermen from Komiža ventured to Palagruža to catch sardines which they salted and brought back home at the end of the season. That was the staple food of island of Vis and Hvar. On the Komiža Riva you can see a sleek black boat marked as 33KŽ and the name Comeza Lisboa. That is the replica of authentic fishermen boat falkuša. It is made of pine wood from the island Svetac, and it has a high broadside so it can venture out to the high seas. This nine-metre-long and three-metre-wide vessel was propelled by five rowers. Falkušas were in use until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when they stopped being used. The last original, called Cicibela, sank in 1986 on the island of Biševo. It was later removed from the sea and is now preserved in the Fishermen Museum. For the last several years, the historical fishery vessels regatta has been organised on the route between Komiža and Palagruža, named "Rota palogruzona".

### VISIT

#### Komuna Fort

Komuna Fort was built in 1592 by the Venetian administration for defence against pirate attacks. Today this fort serves as a Museum of Fishery. The Fishermen from Komiža were the first on the Adriatic to fish on the open sea. That is why some consider their collection of knots to be even richer than those in British Maritime Museum



## Pope and fishermen

On March 9 1177 on Palagruža beach, the fishermen from Komiža welcomed Pope Alexander III who travelled to Venetia with his fleet, but a storm forced him to take shelter in Komiža. On the next day, falkušas from Komiža led the pope's boats to Komiža where the pope blessed Saint Nicholas's Church out of gratitude for the fishermen's help and he absolved the fishermen of all their sins during the Church's holidays. According to the pope's biographer Boson, Komiža fishermen celebrated with the pope over a festive dinner. In the honour of that event, each year at the end of the "Rota palogruzona" regatta, a Pope's Dinner is organised on Palagruža beach, prepared by the crews of all ships that participate in the regatta (Joško Božanić, Ph.D.)



### VISIT

#### Muster

During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, monks of the Order of Saint Benedict built a fortified complex of monasteries with a tall tower on its southern side, which will later have a significant impact on the life on the island. That was the first church-fort built in Dalmatia. On December 6 each year, on Saint Nicholas's Day, the patron saint of sailors, travellers and innocent children, a traditional ship-burning feast is organised wherein the faithful carry the boat from the port in their hands and then burn it in front of the church. The old boat disappears in flames and the remaining ashes are used to sprout new life. This event is also the biggest gathering in Komiža

# How to reach us

## **AUTOMOBILE**

You need driver's license and a registration card to enter the Republic of Croatia with a passenger vehicle. Any driver in a vehicle with foreign license plates must have a valid international insurance document which is applicable to the territory of the European Union.

Mobile phone usage while driving is forbidden. It is obligatory to fasten seat belts. A reflective vest is an obligatory item in the vehicle's equipment. During DST, it is obligatory to turn on parking lights or lights on dim during driving, even during the day.

## **ALLOWED SPEED**

In populated areas, 50 km/h;

Outside populated areas, 90 km/h;

On roads designated exclusively for motor vehicles and fast roads, 110 km/h;

Highways, 130 km/h;

For motor vehicle towing other vehicles without breaks, 80 km/h;

For Buses and buses with light trailers. 80 km/h, 100 km/h on highways, apart from buses that transport children.

## **GAS STATIONS**

Gas stations in larger cities and on highways are open 24/7. Gas stations sell: Euro super 95, Super 95, Super 98, Super-plus 98, Euro Diesel, Diesel, and at most gas stations in larger cities and on highways you can find gas. Information regarding gas prices and a list of gas stations can be found at following sites: [www.ina.hr](http://www.ina.hr), [www.crodux.hr](http://www.crodux.hr), [www.tifon.hr](http://www.tifon.hr), and [www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr).

## **CROATIAN AUTO CLUB**

Information on state of the roads, maps and gas stations, as well as general and miscellaneous information for tourist travelling through Croatia can be found at [www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr) or by calling 0800 9987. For roadside assistance please call + (3851) 1987

## **AIRPLANE**

Split Airport ([www.split-airport.hr](http://www.split-airport.hr)) is the largest Adriatic airport and the closest airport to the central Dalmatian islands Brač, Hvar, Vis and Šolta. If your destination does not offer a direct flight to Split, you can fly to Zagreb and then to Split since there are multiple daily lines between Zagreb and Split. Split airport offers organised transportation to Split ferry port (30- minute drive). You can also reach the port by taxi, rented vehicle or ship taxi, which will take you directly from the airport to those islands.

## **BUS**

The nearest bus station ([www.ak-split.hr](http://www.ak-split.hr)) in Split is located adjacent to the port. Split has great bus connections to all cities in all directions.

## **TRAIN**

Croatia has direct train lines with Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Serbia and Montenegro and indirect lines with all European countries. Trains arrive at Split train station, which is the closest station to the central Dalmatian islands ([www.hzpp.hr](http://www.hzpp.hr)). The Split train station is located near the bus station and ferry port.





How to reach

### **THE ISLAND OF ŠOLTA**

There are multiple daily ferry lines:

Split-Rogač/Rogač - Split  
(passengers and vehicles) ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr))

There are multiple daily catamaran lines:

Split-Rogač - Split (<https://www.ksc.hr/schedule>).

On Fridays and Sundays, there is also catamaran line for Stomorska. ([www.splittours.hr](http://www.splittours.hr))

How to reach

### **THE ISLAND OF BRAČ**

If you travel by car, you can go from Zagreb to Split or Makarska via new A1 highway, or take the express road or Adriatic highway. Ferry ride from Split to Supetar lasts 50 minutes, and from Makarska to Sumartin one hour. The choice of ferry depends on your final destination, ferry price, departure frequency and trip duration.

There are multiple daily ferry lines: Split-Supetar/Supetar-Split (passengers and vehicles);

There are multiple daily ferry lines: Drvenik-Sućuraj/Sućuraj-Drvenik (passengers and vehicles);

There are multiple daily boat lines: Split-Bol-Jelsa/Jelsa-Bol-Split (passengers only) ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr)).

How to reach

### **THE ISLAND OF HVAR**

If you travel by car, you can go from Zagreb to Split or Drvenik near Makarska via new A1 highway, express road or Adriatic highway. The ferry ride from Split to Stari Grad lasts 2 hours, and from Drvenik to Sućuraj, 30 minutes. The choice of ferry depends on your final destination, ferry price, departure frequency and trip duration.

There are multiple daily ferry lines; Split-Stari Grad/Stari Grad-Split (passengers and vehicles);

There are multiple daily ferry lines; Drvenik-Sućuraj/Sućuraj-Drvenik (passengers and vehicles)'

There is one daily boat line: Split-Hvar-Vela Luka-Lastovo (passengers only);

The island of Hvar is linked twice a week via Stari Grad port and the long ferry line Rijeka-Split-Stari Grad-Korčula-Dubrovnik-Bari;

There is one daily boat line: Split-Hvar/Hvar-Split (passengers only) ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr));

There is one daily line: Vis-Hvar-Split ([www.krilo.hr](http://www.krilo.hr)) (passengers only);

There is one daily line: Korčula-Hvar-Split ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr), [www.krilo.hr](http://www.krilo.hr)) (passengers only).

### **INTERNATIONAL BOAT ARRIVALS**

There is a boat line Ancona-Split/Split-Ancona throughout the year and during the summer it is available every day (passengers and vehicles) ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr));

During the summer months, from June 30 to September 1, Stari Grad port is connected by the international ferry line (twice a week) Ancona-Stari Grad-Split-Korčula.

How to reach

### **THE ISLAND OF VIS**

If you travel by car, you can go from Zagreb to Split via new A1 highway, express road or Adriatic highway. From Split to Vis you have to travel by ferry or catamaran.

There are multiple daily ferry lines, Split-Vis/Vis-Split (people and vehicles), and the trip lasts 2.5 hours ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr));

There is one daily line: Split-Vis/Vis-Split (passengers only) ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr));

There is one daily line: Vis-Hvar-Split (passengers only) ([www.krilo.hr](http://www.krilo.hr)).

***During the summer months, ferry lines connecting the islands are more frequent.  
The summer timetable is valid from May 31 to September 28.***

# Useful information

## DEAR GUESTS...

For your own comfort and in accordance with the law, please check whether you have been properly registered for the entire duration of your stay, from the date of your arrival to the date of your departure. This is an important and necessary procedure, particularly if you are staying in private accommodation, in order to guarantee the quality of service and your personal safety, as well as to prevent the illegal provision of accommodation by those who are not registered with the appropriate authorities. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and wish you a pleasant stay.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR TRAVELLING

A valid passport or other document which is recognized by the international agreement, and which proves one's identity and citizenship; Notifications: Diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia abroad or the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the European Integration of the Republic of Croatia.  
[www.mvpei.hr](http://www.mvpei.hr); [stranci@mvpei.hr](mailto:stranci@mvpei.hr); [vize@mvpei.hr](mailto:vize@mvpei.hr)

## MONEY

The official currency in Croatia is the kuna (1 HRK= 100 lipas); Foreign currencies can be exchanged at banks, exchange offices, post offices, and most tourist agencies, hotels and camps. Credit cards (Eurocard/Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners) are accepted in almost all hotels, marinas, restaurants and shops, as well as at ATMs.

## ELECTRIC SUPPLY

220 V with 50 Hz frequency.

## IMPORTANT

### PHONE NUMBERS:

International telephone code for Croatia: 385;  
Split-Dalmatia County telephone code: 021;  
*(For Split – Dalmatia County, telephone code is 021. If you are calling from abroad or using your mobile phone you do not have to dial the first 0, so the phone code is 385 21.);*  
Unique European phone number for emergency services: 112;  
Search and rescue at sea: 195.

## MEDICAL SERVICE

There are hospitals and clinics in all of the major towns and cities, and one can also find infirmaries and pharmacies in smaller towns/villages. Foreign tourists who have compulsory health care insurance do not pay for their emergency health care services during their stay in Republic of Croatia, if Croatia has concluded the health care agreement with the country they come from and provided they have the required verification demonstrating they have the right to health care for themselves.  
[www.hzzo-net.hr](http://www.hzzo-net.hr)

## POSTAL SERVICE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Post offices are open during the day from 7 AM to 7 PM, in smaller towns from 7 AM to 2 PM, and some utilize a split shift. In major towns and tourist destinations, duty post offices are open on Saturdays and Sundays. Telephone cards sold at post offices and newspaper stands can be used on all public phones. One can make a call abroad directly from any phone.  
[www.posta.hr](http://www.posta.hr)

## USEFUL LINKS

Ministry of Tourism, [www.mint.hr](http://www.mint.hr)  
Split – Dalmatia County Tourist Board, [www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)  
HTZ - Croatian National Tourist Board, [www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)  
Exchange rate list, [www.hnb.hr](http://www.hnb.hr)  
Weather, [www.dhmz.hr](http://www.dhmz.hr)  
Airlines, [www.croatiaairlines.hr](http://www.croatiaairlines.hr)  
Split Airport [www.split-airport.hr](http://www.split-airport.hr)  
Zagreb Airport, [zagreb-airport.hr](http://zagreb-airport.hr)  
Dubrovnik Airport, [www.airport-dubrovnik.hr](http://www.airport-dubrovnik.hr)  
Zadar Airport, [www.zadar-airport.hr](http://www.zadar-airport.hr)

## PETS

Transferring pets across the border is possible only with the possession of all required documents indicating the current health state of the animal, provided by a veterinarian, and dogs and cats also need to have microchip implants.  
[www.mps.hr](http://www.mps.hr)





# CENTRAL DALMATIA

## *The Heart of Adriatic*

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