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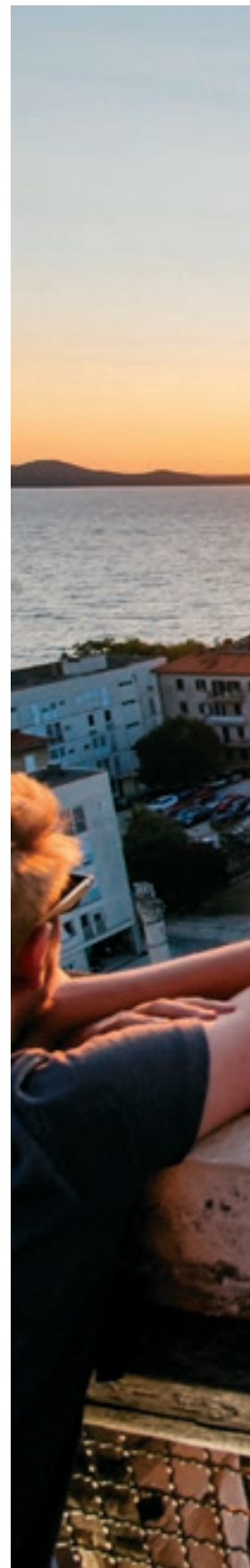
The Adventure Began Three Thousand Years Ago

Not all stories are known, nor are all secrets uncovered. The cultural heritage of Zadar is ancient, sometimes visible only in traces and shrouded in mystery. Monuments of architecture, fine arts or the written word are found everywhere in the old town as guardians of heritage and ancient times. All you have to do is look at the right place.

At the height of the Bronze Age or the beginning of the Early Iron Age, at least three thousand years ago, Zadar emerged as a settlement, and according to a legend told by the Renaissance Zadar poet Petar Zoranić, it was founded by the legendary Jason with his Argonauts. The mythical sailor was sailing the eastern Adriatic on one of the final sea arms of the Amber Road from the Baltic to Italy and Greece, and the central position of Zadar on the east Adriatic with its deep bay might have seemed like a safe and peaceful port. Three thousand years later, Zadar is still a safe harbour for travellers and a peaceful haven for many tourists from around the world. At the same time, its ancient name Iadera (Jadera, Adriatic) seems to essentially depict the position of Zadar on the Adriatic Sea and its centuries-old metropolitan character. Republics, empires, kingdoms, principalities, and federations alternated, but the presence of the city was constant in times that passed and those that came.

One segment of that rich Zadar past was included in the World Heritage List by a UNESCO decision in 2017. The famous city walls that the people of Zadar call Muraj, are today renewed and revitalised into a lovely promenade. They are a stone part of the city's past which today is woven into the status of a cultural asset, but Zadar is much more than that. Its streets and side alleys, squares, parks and gardens, the waterfront bathed in the crystal clear water of the Adriatic Sea, numerous churches and monumental heritage, reveal antiquity at every turn. Modern installations such as the Greeting to the Sun and Sea Organ offer a vision of modernity and inspiration for new travellers.

Three thousand years ago, the foundations were laid, and the adventure had already begun by then.





Forum

From the first century BC, the Zadar Forum was the principal gathering place of Roman soldiers, religious people, officials of the Republic and then the Empire, as well as merchants and all residents of Zadar in ancient times. At the time of its full splendour, the Forum was surrounded on three sides by a magnificent porch. It is an unavoidable promenade and one of the symbols of the city.

- 1 Forum Aerial Photograph
- 2 Forum and St Donat's Church



City Walls and UNESCO

By the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in 2017 the city walls of Zadar were included in the World Heritage List as part of the cultural heritage. The Land Gate of medieval Zadar was built in 1543 and still sends out the same mystique and awe. From the historic Land Gate on which they lean, all the way to the University of Zadar building, the little port of Foša is an unavoidable promenade for travellers and tourists and one of the most recognizable city symbols.

1 Foša and the Land Gate





The Church of St. Donat

The monumental medieval monument was built in the 9th century on the model of early Roman (Byzantine) architecture. It first bore the name of the Holy Trinity, and then the name of Bishop Donatus who had it built. It is the venue for summer music concerts. It is also the most famous monument in Zadar, to which many songs are dedicated.

1 St Donat's Church Exterior

2 Musical Evenings in St Donat's Church



Illuminated with Light and Splendour

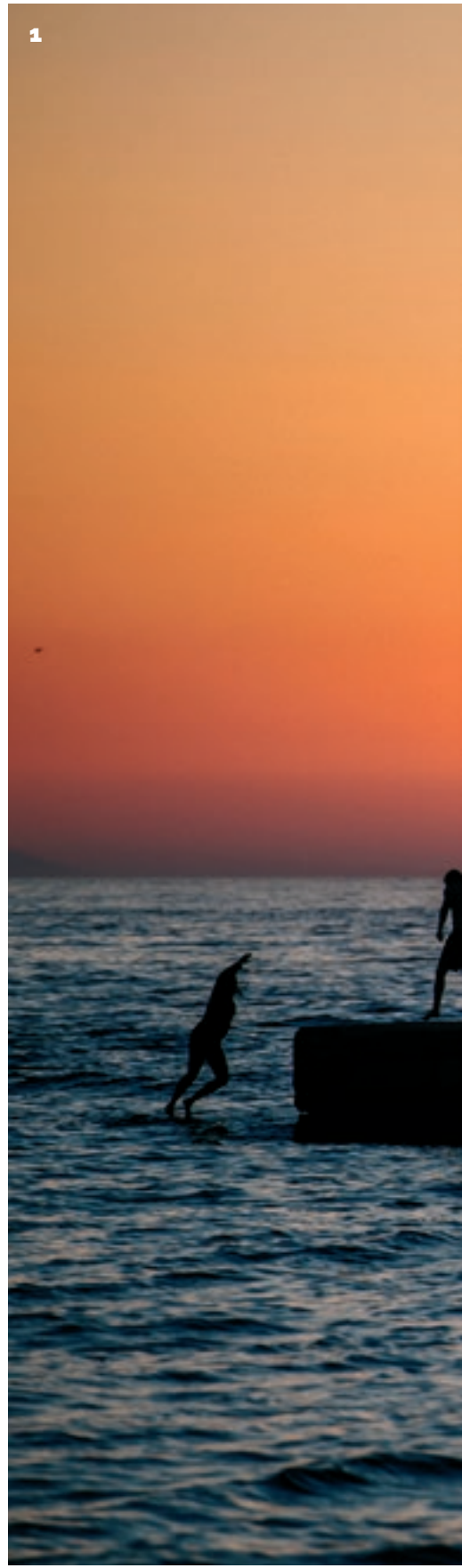
The lazy afternoon sun is slowly approaching the horizon, but it seems to be bursting with power. The entire ancient Forum in Zadar is illuminated with light which glimmers on a copper bracelet in the show- windows of the Archaeological Museum. It is modelled on the Iron Age jewellery with spiral motifs, and such, and other objects are made by the museum masters who seek inspiration from three thousand years back. Since then, the Zadar Peninsula, where this scene is located, has significantly changed its face, and its central square has meanwhile been embellished with the most valuable monument of early medieval architecture, the Church of St. Donat from the 9th century. A quiet sleeper that Donat is.

His dormant pre-Romanesque attire today dominates the Forum undoubtedly enjoying the attention and looks of admiration he receives from passers-by. Despite the ups and dramatic downs, the glorious days of the Forum and St. Donat seem never to have passed. From this whirlwind of historical changes arose Zadar, which until the beginning of the twentieth century was the most important Dalmatian commune and the centre of the political power of various republics, kingdoms or empires on the eastern Adriatic coast. In the Archaeological Museum under the afternoon sun, in an ever-lasting languidness leaning against the Zadar Forum, there are artistic and material testimonies of those passed epochs. Here is the point where Zadar is like an open-air museum, a coded time puzzle in space.

The past has left its mark at every step, and so has the church architecture as well. Zadar has many of them such as the Church of St. Donat, the Church of St. Mary, the Cathedral of St. Anastasia, the Church of St. Krševan, the Church of St. Simon, the Church and Franciscan Monastery of St. Francis, the Church of Our Lady of Health, the Church of St. Andrew and St. Peter, the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet, the monastery of St. Michael, the Church of St. Dominic and the remains of the Church of St. Nediljica and the Church of Stomorica from the early Middle Ages.

After the declaration of independence by the Republic of Croatia, and the Serbian aggression against Croatia, the city of Zadar and its hinterland were attacked in October 1991 by the unprecedented force of the Yugoslav Army in order to conquer and destroy them. The city of Zadar was completely under siege, repeatedly bombarded and devastated, leaving its monumental heritage significantly damaged.

The turbulent past is revived on the other side of the mirror, in the spiritual life of the city.





Rector's & Providur's Palace

The Rector's and Providur's Palace is a modern cultural and historical complex renovated with EU funds. The palaces are also a tourist attraction which integrates museum and gallery space, a concert hall, multimedia halls, spaces for education and creative expression in one place, and represent a new social, cultural and tourist centre of the city.

1 Atrium of the Rector's Palace

2 Rector's Palace Permanent Exhibition



St Anastasia's Cathedral

Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, Zadar's cathedral has a richly decorated facade and an impressive three-nave interior with the remains of frescoes in the side apses. The cathedral was badly bombed during WWII and has since been reconstructed. On the altar in the left apse is a marble sarcophagus containing the relics of St Anastasia, while the choir contains lavishly carved stalls. A glass vestibule allows you to peer inside when the cathedral's closed, which is often. Tip: climb the bell tower for old-town views!

1 St Anastasia's Cathedral

2 Interior of St Anastasia's Cathedral



Gold and Silver of Zadar

Within the monastery of the Church of St. Mary in Zadar, a representative exhibition was staged, the Permanent Exhibition of Church Art. This exhibition is one of the most valuable collections in Croatia, popularly called the Gold and Silver of Zadar. In the eight halls, the priceless treasures kept by the Benedictine Sisters shine with dazzling beauty.

1 The Crown of the Anjou Queen Elisabeth From the 14th Century

2 Reliquaries Designed to House the Holy Relics and Remains of Saints

1





Zadar Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum is the oldest museum in Zadar and the second oldest in Croatia opened at the beginning of the 19th century. It houses more than 100,000 archaeological objects from all cultural and historical periods from the Paleolithic to the end of the 11th century. As part of the preparation workshop, it also deals with producing handmade souvenirs, from amphorae, vessels and fibulae to jewellery.

1 Archaeological Museum



Museum Of Ancient Glass

The Museum of Ancient Glass is a unique cultural institution in the world. It has a specialized archaeological collection with more than 5,000 glass items from the period of antiquity in the first century BC to the 5th century. It has a permanent exhibition and an attractive glass workshop in which replicas of antique glass are made by hand blowing.

1 Museum Of Ancient Glass



As in Heaven, so it is in the City

From the Park of Queen Jelena Madijevka, as the first public city park created at a time when Zadar was still a fortress city, to the Park of Vladimir Nazor, which was declared a natural monument, Zadar's stone nucleus abounds in its green oases. In Zadar, there is also the Vruļje Park with water sources, springs, outside the old town and, more recently, a watermill. The Park of Our Lady of Health is a pleasant refuge for walkers from Trg tri bunara (Square of Three Wells) to the Church of Our Lady of Health. Everything is about walking and soaking up the day and afternoon sensations.

Like all other important Mediterranean cities, Zadar is an open promenade with squares where life takes place. Narodni trg (People square) has been the centre of public life for half a millennium. At the same time, Petar Zoranić Square, dedicated to the famous Zadar Renaissance writer, is the present-day centre of all entertainment events in Zadar. Next to it is the Square of Five Wells with the Captain's Tower, built in the 16th century.

Zadar was rarely called Zadar. All Dalmatian regional centres for their residents and visitors from the mainland or the islands are called the City, as the heart and bloodstream of one body which is dispersed on land and sea. It is in the City from the Zadar waterfront, where the famous Hitchcock once enjoyed the evening fantasy and the most beautiful sunset in the world, that a group of strollers see the sights of the Greeting to the Sun and the Sea Organ. Perhaps in the same place, as the poet says, the Argo crew disembarked to dedicate the stone essence of the emerging City to their legendary journey. In those ancient times, in areas where Jason sought wealth and fame, the fleece was laid in rapids to collect gold nuggets or dust. The islanders of Zadar are still drying fleece outside the doors of the island barns at the time of grape picking when the dishes made of mutton are a gastronomic echo of myths and legends dedicated to the Sun and its eternal journey. It is this event that the sea ruffled by the south wind now sings about as it gently strikes the City, melting the past into the present and the present into eternity.

As in the evening sky, so it is in the City.







Greeting to the Sun

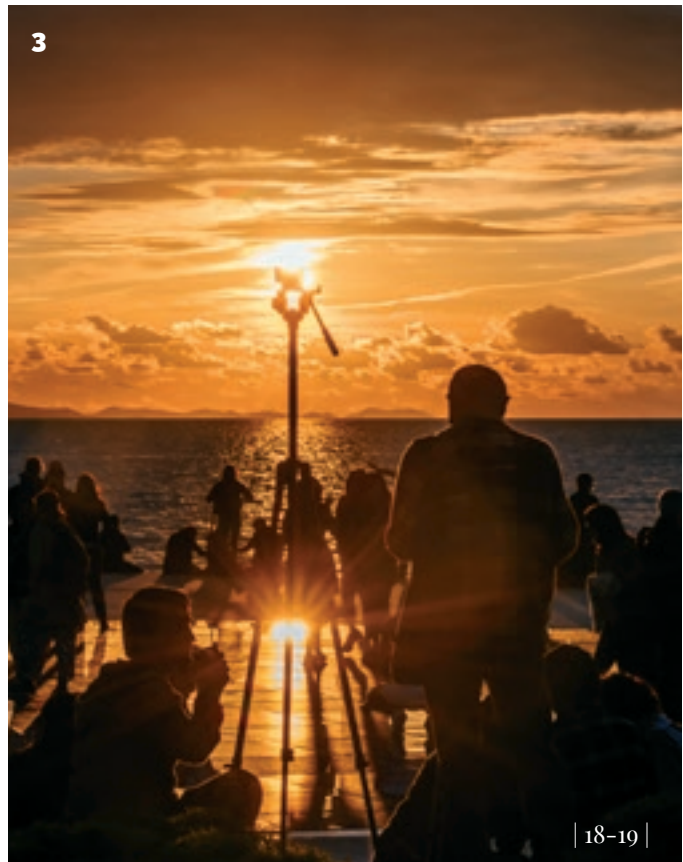
The modern installation of the Greeting to the Sun made up of 300 multi-layered glass plates in the shape of a circle, each 22 meters in diameter. Greeting to the Sun is near the Sea Organ, another modern installation on the Zadar waterfront, and both have made the front page of all relevant world tourist media.

1, 2, 3 The Greeting to the Sun

2



3



Sea Organ

The Sea Organ was broken off and then gently shaped and returned to the sea. It stretches over about seventy metres of the Zadar coast, below which, at the level of the lowest low tide, 35 pipes of various lengths, diameters and slopes have been installed. When the sunset permeates the waterfront, the light game of Greeting to the Sun takes place in the rhythm of the sounds of the Sea Organ.

- 1 The Sea Organ
- 2 Old Town Aerial Photograph



Barkajoli (Rowing Boatmen)

The walk that ends on the city walls continues at the other end of the city port, and the easiest and shortest way to get to the other side is using the services of a rowing boat. Since the 14th century, these persevering guardians of tradition have been carrying passengers over in small boats in all weathers. Tradition is passed down from one generation to another.

1 Barkajoli (Rowing Boatmen)

1



Sphinx

Overwhelmed by the early loss of his wife Attila, the famous Zadar native Giovanni Smirić had a concrete sphinx built in her honour in 1901. It is located in the city area of Brodarica, within the space of Villa Attilija and the park in the bay of Maestral, and the legend has it that it fulfils love wishes for all romantic souls.

1, 2 Sphinx





Map Legend

1. Forum
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