

# Highlights of Dalmatia E-Bike and Sail

*DUBROVNIK TO SPLIT*

## OVERVIEW

Discover this sparsely populated area of Croatia on board a charming motor yacht with breath-taking scenic experiences and cultural attractions awaiting you. Highlights include the town centres of Dubrovnik and Split, both of which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We cycle on the islands of Mljet, Vis, Korčula, Hvar, and Brač, experiencing sea, land, culture and nature first hand.

The deluxe motor yacht of Harmonia is your home for this unforgettable week, with roomy, ensuite cabins, a comfortable sundeck as well as a stylish salon at your disposal. We also offer this tour on a luxury yacht.

Although this is an E-bike tour through hilly and mountainous terrain, strong cyclists have the option to hire a gravel/road bike.

After a hearty breakfast we'll either start cycling directly from the harbour or we may first cruise to a different island before beginning our day's ride. In the evenings, stroll through historic harbour towns before settling into your spacious cabin to sleep. Or stay longer on deck under a thousand stars. The tour offers an active cycling challenge as the islands are hilly (with some steep sections). From each harbour you climb to approximately 200-500m above sea level and then continue on rolling terrain along the island. Daily distances range from 11–60 km. Only hire a gravel bike if you are a strong cyclist. The tour is conducted in both English & German due to the mix of nationalities usually on board.

- DURATION - 8 DAYS
- AVERAGE DISTANCE PER DAY - 30 KM
- ARRIVAL DESTINATION - DUBROVNIK
- DEPARTURE DESTINATION - SPLIT

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN DUBROVNIK

Please make your own way to Gruz, the town port in Dubrovnik where check-in to your motor yacht will be between 2pm-2.30pm. On a guided city tour at 4.30pm, we will hear some interesting stories about the town's history and visit some impressive sights. The boat will spend the night in Gruz so you can take the opportunity to experience Dubrovnik's nightlife!

Cycling Distance: 0km      Meals: Dinner

### DAY 2 DUBROVNIK TO ISLAND OF SIPAN

Today is a great day to acclimatise to your holiday. In the morning we will have breakfast and cruise to the Island of Sipan with the possibility of a refreshing swim on the way. Sipan (although fairly small) is the largest of the Elaphiti Islands. What it lacks in size, it compensates for in charm so is a great place for our first bike ride. We will spend the night on this peaceful island.

Cycling Distance: 11km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

### DAY 3 ISLANDS OF MLJET AND KORCULA

A relaxing morning cruise brings us to Sobra on the Island of Mljet. With 70% of its landmass being covered by woodland it is the most forested island in the Mediterranean region. Homer mentioned this lovely island in his epic poem the "Odyssey" - making it the home of the Nymph Calypso and the legendary Greek king Odysseus, who, unable to resist Calypso, stayed on Mljet for seven years. Today's ride stretches almost the entire length of the Island. We meet the boat in Pomena and cruise to the picturesque town of Korcula with its fishbone alleyways. This small town competes with Venice for the honour of being the birthplace of the famous explorer Marco Polo. We spend the evening on a guided tour learning about the history of the city and island.

Cycling Distance: 33km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

### DAY 4 KORCULA TOWN TO VELA LUKA

From Korcula town we will cycle right across the charming island of Korcula to Vela Luka. The island has a mild Mediterranean climate and a variety of different landscapes, so take your time and enjoy the views down to the deep blue sea and across to neighbouring islands. We will have lunch in one of the island's local restaurants before continuing our journey to Vela Luka. We will have dinner on board and spend the night in the sheltered bay.

Cycling Distance: 60km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

#### **DAY 5 ISLAND OF VIS**

In the morning we leave the island of Korcula and have breakfast as we cruise to the island of Vis. There may be time for a swim on the way. Vis is the farthest inhabited island from mainland Croatia. A Greek colony called Issa settled on the island 2300 years ago. Due to its strategic location it was a military zone until 1995 and prohibited for foreign tourists. Today we have the opportunity to explore this lovely island by bike. From the town of Vis we cycle once around the entire island, stopping for coffee in the harbour of Komiza. We spend the night in the harbour of Vis.

Cycling Distance: 32km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

#### **DAY 6 VIS TO HVAR TOWN TO STARI GRAD**

We start the day with a relaxing cruise to Hvar town on the island of Hvar. You will have a little time before the bike ride starts to explore the town. Marvel at the magnificent Renaissance Square and the view up to the Spanish Fortress, towering high above the town. Today's bike tour starts with a steady climb from Hvar town and continues through small villages and lavender fields. The descent to the harbour town of Stari Grad on the other side of the island offers breathtaking views. After lunch on the boat we can take a more leisurely ride to the town of Jelsa for an ice cream and coffee and return via the picturesque town of Vrboska and through the Ancient Greek plains - now a UNESCO heritage site. We spend the night in Stari Grad.

Cycling Distance: 20km and 20km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 7 ISLAND OF BRAC**

This morning we cruise to the island of Brač, famous for its limestone which was used in buildings such as the White House in Washington and the Reichstag building in Berlin. Today we ride from Milna to the pretty town of Postira where our boat will be waiting. We will have lunch on board and cruise to our final destination of the week - the UNESCO world heritage city of Split. On a guided city tour we will visit the inside of the former Palace of Emperor Diocletian and learn about Split's transformation into the city it is today. During our last evening meal on board the boat, celebrate the wonderful week with your fellow travellers and tour guides.

Cycling Distance: 30km      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM SPLIT**

Time to say farewell. After breakfast please disembark by 9am. You may like to extend your stay in Split or other parts of Croatia.

Cycling Distance: 0km      Meals: Breakfast

## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- 7 nights on a deluxe motor yacht (cabins with ensuite & air conditioning)
- Meals: 2 x full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner) & 5 x half board (breakfast & either lunch or dinner)
- Bed linen and towels
- English & German speaking cycling guide(s)
- Walking tour in Dubrovnik, Korcula & Split
- Daily cycling maps provided on board

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- Flights, travel visas, Travel Insurance
- Surcharge for above deck and/or single cabin
- Meals ashore (if not included in tour price)
- Bike hire
- Optional bike insurance - €28
- Helmet (compulsory): bring own or request in advance
- Transfer between Split airport & harbour (extra cost)
- Transfer between Gruž harbour & Dubrovnik Airport (extra cost)
- Visitors tax & bottled water €80 (payable on board)
- Special dietary requests €70 (advise in advance, payable on board)
- SGR insolvency protection scheme: additional €5
- Entrance fee for sights visited
- Drinks on board
- Tips for the tour guides and crew

## TOUR GRADE 2: ACTIVE

Although daily distances on this tour only range from 11 to 60 km, the rides take us through hilly to mountainous terrain with some steeper ascents of up to 400m Total daily elevation is from 400 to 700m. Riders need to be confident on winding descents, uneven asphalt and occasionally gravel paths. An e-bike will give you a boost on the climbs but riders need to be confident in handling e-bikes as they are significantly heavier and faster than conventional bikes.

The roads are mostly asphalted and there is little traffic outside of holiday periods. On the island of Hvar, a short section runs along unpaved gravel and field tracks. There are no designated bike

paths in Dalmatia, so the bike tours take place on public roads, preferably on quiet side streets.

You will need a good basic level of fitness and accustomed to some longer days in the saddle.

Safe cycling skills and familiarity with road traffic are prerequisites for taking part in our tours.

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