

Highlights of Dalmatia - E-Bike and Sail

SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK

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.

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 a moderate 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 20–60 km. Only hire a gravel bike if you are a strong cyclist.

- DURATION 8 DAYS
- AVERAGE DISTANCE PER DAY 33 KM
- ARRIVAL DESTINATION SPLIT
- DEPARTURE DESTINATION DUBROVNIK

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN SPLIT

Please make your own way to Split harbour where check-in to your motor yacht will be between 2pm-2.30pm. On a guided city tour at 4.30pm, we get the opportunity to see inside the former

Palace of Emperor Diocletian and learn about its transformation into the city it is today. As we stay in this harbour tonight you will have plenty of time this evening to explore the town and maybe sample its nightlife!

Cycling Distance: 0km Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 ISLANDS OF BRAC AND HVAR

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. We start our ride from the picturesque harbour town of Pučišća, known internationally for its stone masonry college, across the island to Bol. We meet the boat here and cruise to the city of Stari Grad on the island of Hvar where we spend the night.

Cycling Distance: 23km Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

DAY 3 ISLANDS OF HVAR AND VIS

Today's bike ride on the Island of Hvar leads us from Stari Grad through lavender fields and small villages to the island's capital of Hvar on the opposite side of the island. Marvel at the magnificent Renaissance Square and the view up to the Spanish Fortress, towering high above the town. Make sure you go for a little stroll through Hvar town before boarding the boat for the next crossing to the island of Vis where we stay tonight.

Cycling Distance: 20km Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner

DAY 4 ISLANDS OF VIS AND KORCULA

Vis is the farthest inhabited island from mainland Croatia. A Greek colony called Issa settled on the island 2,300 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 Komiža. There's also the possibility of a traditional lunch along the way before returning to the boat. After our ride the boat takes us to the harbour of Vela Luka on the Island of Korčula, our home for the night.

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

DAY 5 ISLAND OF KORCULA

From Vela Luka we'll cycle right across the charming island of Korčula all the way to Korčula town. This 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. The picturesque town of Korčula competes with Venice for the honour of being the birthplace of the famous explorer Marco Polo. Spend the evening wandering through the fishbone alleyways and soak up the vibes of this stylish and historic town during a guided city tour.

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

DAY 6 ISLANDS OF KORCULA, MLJET AND SIPAN

A relaxing morning cruise brings us to the harbour of Pomena 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 afternoon ride stretches almost the entire length of the Island. We meet the boat in Sobra and cruise to the island of Sipan for the night.

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

DAY 7 ISLAND OF SIPAN TO DUBROVNIK

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 last bike ride. After returning to the boat we can reflect on the week as we cruise to our final highlight: the city of Dubrovnik! On arrival there is plenty of time to explore this UNESCO World Heritage city and join our guided city tour. During our last evening meal on board the boat, celebrate the wonderful week with your fellow travellers and tour guides.

Cycling Distance: 11km Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM DUBROVNIK

Time to say farewell. After breakfast please disembark by 9am. You may like to extend your stay in Dubrovnik 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 decents, 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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