

Croatia - Sailing the Dalmatian Coast to Dubrovnik

<http://www.kudutravel.com/tours/croatia-coastal-walks>

25 September – 3 October 2020

Over 1,000 sparsely populated islands off the Dalmatian coast form one of the most beautiful archipelagos in the world, a boating paradise of turquoise waters and safe harbours. With an appealing heritage of Venetian architecture and a strongly Italian influenced cuisine and wine-making tradition, Croatia's scenic national parks and Roman archaeological sites provide entrancing shore visits and seaborne delight, all away from the noise of tourism.

We have chartered a fully crewed and equipped yacht for our explorations - 30 m/100 ft overall, with 6 double/twin cabins for guests, all with modern en suite facilities. There are plenty of opportunities to swim in quiet coves and explore ashore on foot each day. A particular highlight is a visit to the walled mediaeval city of Dubrovnik.

HIGHLIGHTS of our Croatia coastal walks and tour include:

- Walking the mediaeval walls of Dubrovnik and exploring Diocletian's 4C palace in Split
- Visiting the dramatic island of Vis, a Partisan base in WWII and off limits under Tito's rule
- Strolling through olive groves, seeing swathes of cyclamen in flower and enjoying fresh figs from the trees
- Swimming in quiet coves, reading in comfort on deck and enjoying ever-changing sea and island views
- Super fresh seafood prepared by the excellent chef on board, accompanied by very palatable Dalmatian wines

Guests' comments on this trip:

'A fabulous trip which exceeded my expectations. Our boat was a very special home for a week - delightful crew who worked really hard to attend to our every wish. The chef was superb. Scenery just beautiful. Relaxing, fun, really enjoyable holiday.'

'Kudu came up trumps as usual, with a flexible programme that fitted in with everyone's capabilities and the vagaries of the weather. The food was amazing! And the drink! And what an interesting group of people. Many thanks for a wonderful trip.'

'A wonderfully relaxed holiday in the most beautiful surroundings. Croatia really is attractive and I so enjoyed everything about it.'

Itinerary

DAY 1

D included

After meeting at Split airport in the early afternoon, a short road transfer along the coast brings us to Trogir, a delightful historic town and harbour situated on a small island separated from the mainland by a narrow channel. We settle into our 4-star heritage hotel and walk through the compact old town with its Venetian style fortress, palaces and churches, including the Cathedral, built over five centuries with a fine 1240 stone portal. Our first dinner together will feature fresh seafood accompanied by a crisp Croatian white wine.

DAY 2

B, L, D included

Outside Split, we visit the impressive archaeological park of Salona, the ancient capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia. Within the remains of the city walls, we find a forum with temples, a necropolis where early Christian martyrs were buried and an amphitheatre. In Split, we explore the Emperor Diocletian's 4th century Palace, an extraordinary complex defying description, centred around the Cathedral, a 7th century conversion of the imperial mausoleum. After lunch, we board our yacht, meeting our captain and his three-person crew, including our personal chef. We set sail for the island of Brač, pausing to swim from the boat en route, then moor and go for a stroll in the unspoilt, picturesque 17th century fishing village of Milna, once capital of a Russian protectorate during the Napoleonic wars.

DAY 3

B, L, D included

On the small islet of Biševo, off the mountainous island of Vis, we visit the well-known Blue Grotto. After a leisurely lunch on board, we tour Vis by Land Rover to learn about the partisans of Tito; the SOE operations during WWII; the emergency airfield constructed for RAF and USAF landings and why the island was off-limits for visitors until 1989. We dine ashore, accompanying our meal with local wines such as the powerful, spicy, red 'Plavac Mali'.

DAY 4

B, L, D included

Sailing south to the island of Hvar, we moor in a quiet bay to swim and lunch. We go ashore by tender for a guided walking tour of Hvar, discovering the 17th century Venetian Arsenal, which was converted into one of Europe's earliest theatres in 1612, the many churches and monasteries and excellent views from the hilltop Citadel. We join fashionable Croatians in the *Korzo* (evening promenade) along the palm tree-lined harbour, before a seafood dinner in an excellent local restaurant.

DAY 5

B, L, D included

We travel along the coast of the island of Korčula, seeing fields of lavender and olive and fig trees. We moor in the harbour beside Korčula's defensive walls, built by the Venetians over almost eight centuries ago. One of their most famous subjects, Marco Polo, was allegedly born here. This compact historic town is a delight, full of architectural treasures, an excellent art collection, including works by Tiepolo, Carpaccio, Tintoretto and Bassano, the beautiful 13th century Cathedral of St Mark, and many outdoor cafes for a glass of wine or 'an ice cream with a view'.

DAY 6

B, L, D included

Sailing south, we reach the island of Mljet, where St. Paul is said to have ran aground on his voyage to Rome and many of Dubrovnik's admirals built summer houses. We walk (1.5 hrs) in the forested national park featuring mainly Aleppo and stone pines, seeing swathes of cyclamens in the olive groves. We overnight in Polace. This quiet harbour has an ancient history and on our stroll through the village we see remains of a 4th century Roman villa and two early Christian basilicas.

DAY 7

B, L, D included

We head for the dramatic channel of Ston, framed by steep karst mountains, and moor beside a rustic tavern. A 2 hour walk through the hills gives us good appetites for a lunch of freshly caught fish grilled on charcoal, accompanied by jugs of wine from the vineyards behind the

tavern. Continuing south, our destination is Šipán, largest of the inhabited Elaphite islands, where we go ashore for a stroll to see the ruined 15th century mansions of the Dubrovnik aristocracy.

DAY 8

B, L, D included

We moor in a quiet cove off the island of Lopud for a final opportunity to swim and have lunch on deck. Approaching Dubrovnik, we pass beneath the splendid new Dubrovnik suspension bridge to moor in the marina. In the afternoon, taxis take us to Dubrovnik, for centuries a great trading Republic and major centre for the arts and science, and now a beautifully restored mediaeval city. We take an introductory stroll along the 12th century Stradun, then disperse through the polished white marble streets for individual explorations. Highlights include the 15th century Rector's Palace; the Maritime Museum; the superb manuscript collection in the Sponza Palace; the Dominican monastery with its orange and palm tree-filled Renaissance cloisters and the richly embellished Baroque church of St Blaise, the city's patron. Our farewell dinner is provided by one of Dubrovnik's most innovative restaurants.

DAY 9

B included

Bidding farewell to our ship's crew, we disembark after breakfast on deck and return to Dubrovnik to circumnavigate the 2 km mediaeval city walls on foot. Our journey concludes with a private transfer to the nearby airport for flights home.

Itinerary

The published itinerary is subject to alteration if weather and sea conditions make it necessary. The captain's decision as to the most appropriate routing for the safety and comfort of the yacht, guests and crew is at all times definitive.

Please note the boat is under motor rather than sail and this is not a sailing trip as such, rather a stylish way to visit various islands by boat.

Activity Level

Relaxed

Short walks ashore most day on stony paths, uneven pavements and many steps. Ability to swim essential for insurance purposes, together with a good sense of balance for using the yacht's gangplank. The yacht has snorkelling gear (optional).

Temperatures

Late September and early October are considered amongst the best months for sailing in the Adriatic with an average daily high temperature of 24°C and cooler evenings. The sea temperature is normally between 20 and 23°C.

Accommodation

- 1 night in Trogir, in a 4-star heritage hotel
- 7 nights on a fully crewed yacht, with six guest cabins, all with en-suite facilities

Trip Price, per person sharing

£3,413.25 until 24th December 2019 **£3,505.50** until 24th March 2020

£3,597.75 until 24th June 2020 **£3,690** after 24th June 2020

<https://www.kudutravel.com/faq#discounts>

£580 supplement for single use room/cabin

£800 deposit per person

Please note that the availability of single use cabins is strictly limited (2 only). If you are willing to share, but no other suitable guest books on the trip, we regret that the supplement will be payable.

Price Includes

- Accommodation for Days 1 through 9, on a twin shared basis
- Meals with wine and beer at lunches and dinners, as listed in the daily notation
- Land and sea transportation as described
- Entrance and sightseeing fees as described, except during free periods
- Services of yacht skipper, engineer and chef, plus a Kudu tour leader
- Gratuities for boat, restaurant and hotel staff (appreciation for the tour leader is at your discretion)

Price does not include

- Flights to Split and from Dubrovnik airport
- Trip cancellation, medical or other insurance
- Immunisations, prescriptions or other medical requirements
- Passport, visa and health documentation
- Personal expenses (laundry, alcohol besides wine and beer with group lunches and dinners, free time activities, etc.)
- Transport and transfer of excess baggage

VALUE FOR MONEY - SO MUCH IS INCLUDED

On Kudu trips, you will only need money for postcards, presents to take home, the odd G & T or an irresistible ice cream. Festival and opera tickets, museum and gallery entrances, National Park fees, all meals (with a very few exceptions specified in individual itineraries), wine with lunch and dinner, access to specialist books carried by the guides, gratuities for porters and hotel and restaurant staff, boat rides, train trips, internal flights, wine tastings, 4WDs with drivers, the services of skilled local guides and trackers etc. are ALL INCLUDED in the cost of your holiday.

We are confident that, like previous very satisfied guests, you will discover that our tours give you excellent value for money.

Visa and Health Requirements

Visitors from the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA currently require a valid passport, but not a visa, for entry to Croatia. If you are a national of any other country, please check visa regulations with your nearest Embassy of Croatia.

At present, there are no specific and compulsory health requirements for entry to Croatia. Residents of countries in the EU can claim free (emergency) medical treatment in Croatia by presenting their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). You may also wish to check the advice given to travellers by the Department of Health (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/>) and the FCO (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>).

Insurance

It is essential, and a condition of booking, that you protect yourself with a suitable travel insurance policy as soon as you book a trip. We can arrange comprehensive cover for UK residents. For further details, please see the website.

Size of Party

This trip will run with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 guests.