

Croatia - Sailing the Dalmatian Coast to Dubrovnik

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

27 September – 5 October 2019

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 shore visits and seaborne delight.

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 3C 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 Dubrovnik airport in the early afternoon, a short road transfer along the coast brings us to Trsteno where we visit the fine Renaissance gardens. Continuing to Mali Ston, we settle into our boutique hotel, a recently converted 16th century Venetian mansion on the waterfront, before enjoying our first dinner together: fresh seafood accompanied by a crisp Croatian white wine in a famous local restaurant.

DAY 2

B, L, D included

Travelling the 'magistrala', the former Roman coastal road north, we arrive in Split and stroll, as Roman dignitaries once did, on the Riva, the waterfront before the Emperor Diocletian's magnificent 4th century Palace. We explore the archaeological complex and the cathedral, an extraordinary 7th century conversion of the imperial mausoleum, before boarding our yacht and meeting our captain and crew. 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

After a leisurely start and breakfast on deck, we sail around the northern coast of Brač, famed for its lustrous white limestone used to build both Liverpool Cathedral and Washington's White House. We swim, sunbathe and enjoy the endlessly changing views of islands and mountains en route to the mountainous island of Vis, a base for co-ordinating partisan operations during WWII and off-limits for visitors until 1989. We dine ashore in the fishing village of Komiza, accompanying our meal with local wines such as the powerful, spicy, red 'Plavac Mali'.

DAY 4

B, L, D included

On the nearby small islet of Biševo, we use the ship's tender to visit the well-known Blue Grotto before sailing south to the island of Hvar, mooring to swim from a sandy beach and walk through stone pines on a small island en route. We go ashore by tender to join fashionable Croatians in the *Korzo* (evening promenade) along the palm tree-lined harbour before a lobster dinner in an excellent local restaurant.

DAY 5

B, L, D included

We spend the morning on 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. Setting sail by lunchtime, 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. Balkan specialities feature at dinner: *pršut* (prosciutto), spicy lamb stew with aubergines and peppers and walnut and honey cakes.

DAY 6

B, L, D included

We spend the morning ashore, exploring Korčula. The 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'. Sailing south, we reach the island of Mljet, where St. Paul once ran aground and many of Dubrovnik's admirals-built summer houses. We spend the afternoon walking in the forested national park (mainly Aleppo and stone pines), seeing swathes of cyclamens in the olive groves.

DAY 7

B, L, D included

Sailing from Mljet island after breakfast, we enter the dramatic channel of Ston, framed by steep karst mountains, and moor beside a rustic tavern, accessible only by sea. 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 Šipan, 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 from a sandy beach and have lunch on deck. Approaching Dubrovnik, we pass beneath the splendid new Dubrovnik suspension bridge to moor in the marina. In the early afternoon, taxis take us into 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 in 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 that most of the time 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 every day on stony paths, uneven pavements and many steps. Ability to swim essential (for insurance purposes) – also, 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 Mali Ston, in a hotel recently converted from a 16C Venetian mansion, situated on the waterfront
- 7 nights on a fully crewed yacht, with six guest cabins, all with en-suite facilities

Trip Price, per person sharing

£3,320.75 until 26th December 2018 **£ 3,410.50** until 26th March 2019

£ 3,500.25 until 26th June 2019 **£3,590** after 26th June 2019

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

£520 supplement for single use

£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 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 entirely at your discretion)

Price does not include

- Flights to 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. You may also wish to check the advice given to travellers by the Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk/travellers) and the FCO (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.