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Discover Split

Split/Central Dalmatia

Travel Guide

Activities/Destinations/Events



Photo: Archive Tourist Board Split, by Ante Verzanti

with support from the Tourist Board of Split



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GRAD SPLIT



Welcome to Split!

I am pleased to welcome you to our beautiful city by the sea. Continuously occupied for more than 1,700 years, Split is a living city, a city where tourists and citizens alike can enjoy the sea, the sun, music, art, history, wonderful gastronomy and so much more!

Discover Split's *Travel Guide to Split-Central Dalmatia Activities/Destinations/Events* is just one of the ways we help new visitors enjoy the Split experience.

If you need more information about our city, the official tourist offices on the Peristil square and on the waterfront Riva are staffed with multi-lingual professionals who can help you with everything from where the closest laundromat is to finding a dentist!

We are glad you are here..... enjoy your stay!

Alijana Vukšić / *Director, Tourist Board of Split*



Welcome to DiscoverSplit's Guide to Activities/Destinations/Events!

with support from the Central Dalmatia Tourist Board and the Tourist Board of Split

Dear Visitor,

Central Dalmatia and Split, Croatia's second largest city with a bit over 200,000 residents, are rapidly becoming one of the "must visit" Mediterranean destinations. There's so much to see and do here—from experiencing 1,700 years of living history in the Palace of Diocletian to the thrilling Alka Knights Tournament in the inland village of Sinj.

Whether it's whitewater rafting on the Cetina in Omis, spending a day enjoy olives, honey and wine on the island of Solta or going underground to experience a still-working original Roman aqueduct, Central Dalmatia and Split are a joy for the senses. From a hidden stone village on Hvar, a fabulous beach in Brela, to a glittering waterfront restaurant, the discoveries never end.

For this year's edition, we have chosen to profile more than 100 different activities, destinations and events in the region. Everything is divided into travel-related sections, from Adventure to UNESCO sites. All of the texts are written by people who live here and love it. Since it's possible that some information has changed, we have included a website address at the bottom of each activities/destination page so you can check for the most up to date information.

Throughout the Guide you will see a single sponsor for certain activities/destinations. We have personally chosen these to be exclusive sponsors because of their excellent reputation for professional service and quality. If for some reason, you find otherwise, please write to us!

Welcome and enjoy your stay here in Central Dalmatia!

The Editors

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There are festivals all over Central Dalmatia all year round. Whether it's a town's patron saint's day; a wine/gastronomy event; musical event; historic re-enactment; sailing regatta or something else, be sure to check the local town tourist board. Our list includes several dozen of the most popular area annual events.

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Stari Grad, Hvar backstreet
photo: Jedan Komadic

Adventure

FIND YOUR BLISS ON LAND OR SEA HERE IN DALMATIA!



Biking



With wonderful parks, back alleys and bike-laned waterfront promenades, riding around Split is a great way to get some easy exercise and see the sights at your own pace. For those who want ride into the wilderness or explore the region, bike rental agencies here offer everything from guided small group tours, by the hour solo jaunts to week long adventures. Most agencies offer well-maintained top name hybrid and mountain bikes. You can also rent Segway's, electric bikes and even Trikke electric

scooters. Favorite local rides are Marjan Hill Park, the big green hill that overlooks the city, which has a beach with changing booths, cafe's and more at Bene; along the Riva, to the Western Promenade and then towards Meštrović Gallery and the beaches below in the Meje neighborhood. We also like tooling around the back alleys in and around the Palace when the crowds are gone, and zipping over to Bačvice beach near the ferry terminal. Island biking is also fabulous with lots of marked trails!

www.meridienten.com



With its enormous coastline, more than 1100 islands, almost 100 lakes and rivers, fishing has been an integral part of life here for thousands of years. From deep sea fishing for giant tuna, and broadbill swordfish to delicious gray mullet, orada, and sea bass to brown and speckled trout caught from banks of the nearby Cetina River, a day spent fishing and then grilling your catch later with some great local wine is Dalmatia at its best. The most prized sea species are John Dory, dentex and sea bream. Around

the islands, albacore, amberjack and mahi-mahi can be caught. Locals use a variety of techniques, from traps and vertical jigging to deep rock fishing, trolling and spear fishing. Day boats from Split and other coastal towns normally have a boat rate for up to 10 anglers making it very reasonable for you and your crew to enjoy a day at sea with dinner included! Some even have their own cookout facilities for you to grill your catch and enjoy lunch with some wine, so grab a rod and let's go fishing!

www.opcijatours@gmail.com

Hiking



Central Dalmatia is a paradise for hikers! Whether it's enjoying an easy ramble up and round Marjan Hill, the big green peninsula overlooking the city; majestic Biokovo Nature park in Makarska (the second highest mountain range in Croatia with 16 peaks above 1,400 meters) or island trekking, we have it all! Let's start with the islands. It's just a 45 minute ferry trip to nearby Šolta. Lots of charming village towns, we like the walk from Gornje Selo to Stomorska. On Brač, the leisurely

walk to Dragon Cave in Murvica is fun or for a rugged trek, go to Vidova Gora peak, 780 meters above sea level. Next, take the catamaran to Hvar town, along the nearby coastline is a well marked small trail to the hidden village of Malo Grablje. For an amazing view, take the trek to the islands highest peak Sveti Nikola. There are a lot of outfitters and routes from easy to rugged to choose from. Some even offer 3-5-7 day hikes with guides and excursions as well as hiking cruises that include lots of islands!

www.andadventure.com/activities/hiking-croatia

Kayaking



Kayaking is becoming more and more popular all over the planet because its perfect for couples and being able to get really close to shore, just drift, relax, slip over the side for a swim, makes for a wonderful day of soft adventure. You don't need experience and it's fun whether you are 12 or 85. Modern kayaks are remarkably tough, but lightweight and easy to paddle. And since you are sitting on the waterline, they're much more stable than a canoe and easier to steer, turn and navigate. Here in

Central Dalmatia you can kayak on the sea, lakes or rivers. From Split, you can be kayaking in 15 minutes on one of the many day trips from Bene at the end of Marjan Hill. We love the terrific inland Lake Vrljka day program--gorgeous scenery, easy paddling on a pristine lake and a lunch prepared shoreside with fresh local delicacies and wine! Great river kayaking is waiting at the Cetina, which offers both easy and extreme kayaking. Hvar island kayaking is amaaazing!

www.andadventure.com

Whitewater rafting



Photo: raftingomis.com

We've mentioned the Cetina River a number of times in the *Guide* and one reason it's such a favored destination of adventure-seekers is because it offers so many varied experiences. With a deep canyon carved out over thousands of years, the Cetina flows strong and steady from the hinterland behind the Dinaran mountains all the way down to the sea. For most people, the term whitewater means scary. Not to worry. Rapids are rated 1-5 and the stretch of river used by most outfitters here is 2 to 3,

so while there's enough spray and action to get your attention, it's not dangerous. The trip down river also has numerous pools with enough calm water for you to enjoy a swim. Most rafts hold 8 people plus the guide—so if you can put together your own group of 8, you'll have even more of a blast. Don't worry about safety gear, you'll be given helmets, life jackets, etc. Most trips end at Radman's Mills, an ancient flour mill now fully restored as a lunch/picnic area where you can grab some chow.

www.raftingomis.com

GREAT FAMILY FUN!



Enjoy four hours of fabulous fun on the Cetina! Rafting 9.5 kilometers through small rapids, quiet water and lush river vegetation! Plus a short break next to the Studenci waterfall to swim and relax. We supply helmets and safety vests—all you need is the spirit of adventure, a swimming suit, shirt, towel, sandals and a set of dry clothes and shoes for later. Our staff is licensed by the International Rafting Federation as well as the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service—a decade of experience leading thousands of first-time rafters like you!

Yes, we can pick you up in Split. Private groups welcome!

BOOK NOW! +385 98 567 675

www.raftingomis.com



Area Festivals

FROM BULL FIGHTING TO PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS!

Area festivals

May

May Day—an annual town celebration all over Central Dalmatia
Hand Fair, Trogir--crafts, food, fun
Bull fighting Bikijada in Radošić—real bullfighting in a forest
Kaštela Broad Bean Festival, Kastel Kambelovac—oh what you can do with beans! A marvelous local gastronomy event with food, music
The Feast of St. Prosper, Hvar—the town co-patron saint--food, wine, fun
June

DokuMa, Makarska--international documentary film festival
Festival of Dalmatian Klapa, Omiš—Croatia's most important singing contest. www.fdk.hr
Ethnoambient, Solin--unusual live music from around the world
Lavender Festival, Hvar island—the annual island harvest event
Biser Mora, Brač island—an international culinary festival with invited chefs from around the world
Supetar Town Day, Brač--the Fair of St. Peter and Paul.

July

Delmatae vs. Romans, Sinj--Emperor Diocletian, surrounded by guards and soldiers, bandsmen, a referee and players.
Annual Graffiti Festival, Brač island--graffiti writers, designers, skaters and musicians from all over the region.
The Pulling of Mrdžula Island—a tug of war with 150+ boats between Brač and Šolta
The Battle for Klis—a high-energy

nighttime re-enactment between the Uskoks (our guys) and the Turks

August

Split Beach Festival, Bačvice--international DJ's, house music and more on the beach
Klis Day August, 16th. Also the festival of St. Roch, with a procession through the village. Food and fun
Moondance, Trogir—techno festival held inside the 15thC fortress
Annual Pirate Battle, Omiš—ships, gunpowder, sabers, at the harbor.
Makarska Jazz Festival, Makarska—enjoy international jazz artists
304th Annual Alka Tournament, Sinj—every year since 1715! Dressed in authentic period clothing, Sinj knights on horseback race full tilt to spear the alka. One of Croatia's must experience events, Sunday Aug. 5
Voi'Sa Festival, Brač island—live music on Supetar's beach from dub to funk

September

Goulash Disco Festival, Vis island—a crowdfunded, world music celebration in Komiža.
Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Solin--A rich, religious, cultural entertainment program together with a sports program and a traditional fair.
The Festival of St. Mihovil, Gradac—The patron saint's day, with Mass in the morning followed by a procession and evening festival

Photo: Jarle Nystuen

Culture/Historical sites in Split

EXPERIENCE 1,700 YEARS OF LIVING HISTORY!

Archeological Museum of Split



Split's Archaeological Museum is the oldest museum in Croatia, founded almost 200 years ago in 1820. Despite being located in such a small city, the museum enjoys an international reputation. Its long time director, the father of Croatian archeology, Frane Bulić, created the First International Congress of Early Christian Archaeology in 1894, which brought the city and the museum worldwide acclaim (for almost 140 years has been publishing its own scholarly journal). A handsome Viennese-

designed building, the fascination begins as you enter the portico which is lined with ancient stone sculptures and epitaphs. Inside you'll find an intriguing collection from prehistoric times to the Greek, Roman, early Christian and early Medieval periods. The star attraction? More than 6,000 stone relics from Salona, the capital of the Roman empire in Dalmatia, present day Solin, less than 10km away. The Museum is an easy walk from the center. Closed Mondays.

www.armus.hr

Art Museum of Split



We really love the city's Art Museum here (in Croatian it is called Galerija Umjetnina). Celebrating its 88th anniversary this year, it took on a whole new life when it moved into the former city hospital, which was beautifully renovated to also include a cafe and courtyard (take a left at the famous Meštrović statue of Grgur of Nin, and walk until you see the flags and museum building on your right). The ground floor is devoted to the contemporary, with both permanent and special exhibits

from the '60s to present day—installations, video, multi-media as well as painting and sculpture. Up one flight, the exhibition spans the centuries with carefully chosen work from the 14th century to the '60s. The works by Croatian masters like Bukovac, Celestin, Vidović, Dešković, Medović and others are stunning—you won't forget them. On the ground floor there's a really nice outdoor terrace cafe that serves wine too and inside on the same floor be sure to stop at the gift shop.

www.galum.hr/en/exhibitions/

Croatian National Theatre



the gorgeous interior of Split's National Theatre. / Photo DT Croatia

One of the cultural treasures of the city is the splendid HNK Croatian National Theatre building at the end of Marmontova. The foundation stone was laid on April 4th, 1891. Just two years later, it was finished. The lavish interiors, including gorgeous painted ceilings and plaster work, were done by Italian masters. The horseshoe shaped seating area has stunning balconies and loges offering terrific sight lines to the vast stage that hosts full-scale opera, theatre, ballet and other performances.

Throughout various lobbies there are wonderful sculptures of famous theatre people from Split, some of whom went on to international fame. A jewel box foyer for intimate recitals is part of the complex as is a vast enclave of offices, wardrobe and gymnasia for actors, dancers, singers to train. This year, if you have 30 minutes, enjoy a behind the scenes look at this splendid building for just 50 kn pp! To reserve a National Theatre tour call +385 91 222 2727 (the minimum is 2 people).

www.visitsplit.com

Ethnographic Museum of Split

photo: Anastasia Kardynova



Like its Archaeological Museum, Split's Ethnographic Museum is the first of its kind in Croatia. This year, on the 3rd of July, the museum will celebrate its 109th anniversary! The building itself has a fascinating history. Located in the southern residential quarter of Diocletian's palace, it not only includes original 4thC remains (which some feel could have been one of the Emperor's bedrooms), but one of the oldest churches in Split, the church of St. Andrew de Fenestris from the 7thC. The

outside wall still has defensive ramparts from the 15thC. On display inside are wonderful examples of characteristic island and coastal life in Dalmatia. Enjoy typical costumes of the region (the embroidery is stunning), furniture, jewelry, handicrafts, knitting, pottery and even weaponry. While the focus is on this part of the world, there are also many items from other parts of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Europe. Closed Monday.

www.etnografski-muzej-split.hr/ (Croatian only)

Gripe Fortress



Photo: Slobodna Dalmacija

A ten minute walk east of the Green Market at Gripe, a natural hill that overlooks the historic city core and harbor, the Venetians, who ruled Dalmatia for 400 years, built a fortress to protect the city against the Ottoman Turks. Although a major portion was built in less than a year, the entire project took from 1647 to 1682. Gripe played a critical role in the seemingly endless war against the Turks during this period. Time and again the Turks made repeated attempts to siege the city and actually

captured the fort, holding it for just a single day until they were repelled. To prevent Turkish cannon fire from crashing through its stone walls, the fortress was designed with massively-thick earthworks in between the walls. Under military control for centuries, in 1995 it was turned over to the city of Split. Today it's the only fortress in Split that has been completely restored and now is the fascinating home of the Croatian Maritime Museum complete with a courtyard drydock! (see page 22)

<http://www.hpms.hr/gripe-fortress.html>

Jewish Synagogue



Photo: Total Croatia News

Evidence of Jewish life in Dalmatia goes back more than 2,000 years. In Split, Jews not only played a pivotal role in the development of the city as a port, but also defended the West tower of the Palace against the Ottomans in the 16thC. Now more than 500 years old, Split's synagogue is the third oldest in Europe. Still in its original location, it was created in the 16thC by converting the second floor of two attached medieval houses in the then Jewish ghetto. Its current appearance dates from

1728. After the Holocaust, there were only 100 Jews left here, but their volunteer spirit has kept the synagogue alive with weekly Friday shabat and holiday events. The sanctuary itself is upstairs and still has its Torah facing Jerusalem in a niche carved directly into the west wall of the Palace. Open mornings and early afternoons, just ring the bell for a free tour. As you leave the sanctuary, there's a small box for donations to help keep the synagogue in repair. Yours will be much appreciated.

www.zost.hr/selected.php?id=1&jezik=EN

Jupiter's Temple



Photo: Wikimedia

Diocletian was the last Roman emperor to declare himself divine, proclaiming that he be worshiped as the son of Jupiter, the god of sky and thunder, the king of all Roman deities. To honor his father, he ordered a monumental temple to be built opposite his mausoleum. Today Jupiter's Temple is still imposing, but jammed at the end of a dark alley imagine what a spectacular sight it must have been in 300AD, set on its own handsome square, flanked with columns, palm trees and a sphinx--booty taken

from Egypt. The gorgeous intact barrel vaulted ceiling still has some of its spooky faces and the lacy doorway carvings and those figures just under the entrance portal are fabulous. Converted to a baptistry in the medieval era, the figure of Croatian king Petar Krešimir IV, on the front panel as you enter, is the first stone sculpture of any European king! The imposing statue of John the Baptist in the rear of the Temple is by Ivan Meštrović, Croatia's most famous artist whose museum/villa is a must, see page 24.

www.visitsplit.com/en/526/temple-of-jupiter

Maritime Museum



Overlooking the harbor since the 17thC, the Gripe Fortress, the city's only fully-preserved fort, is the home of the Croatian Maritime Museum. Its rich and extensive historic collections include marine archaeological finds and artifacts from Brodosplit Museum, situated in Split's shipyard, as well as other maritime museums. The wonders begin as soon as you enter the courtyard "drydock" of the ships 'Bakar' and 'Perina,' a traditional Dalmatian 'gajeta' built in 1857, one of the oldest surviving fishing

boats on the east Adriatic coast. From pre-history to modern times, each floor is a treasure-trove of models, figureheads, ships engines, instruments, anchors, artwork, torpedoes (invented by a Croat!) and even a rare *pithos*, a huge ceramic container used to store live fish, from the 1st/2ndC! It's the perfect place for anyone who loves the sea and anything nautical to spend a couple of cool hours in the summer. Open 9-20, but unlike many other Split museums, open Mon.-Sat. The kids will love it too!

www.hpms.hr/about-museum.html

Marjan Hill and Bene

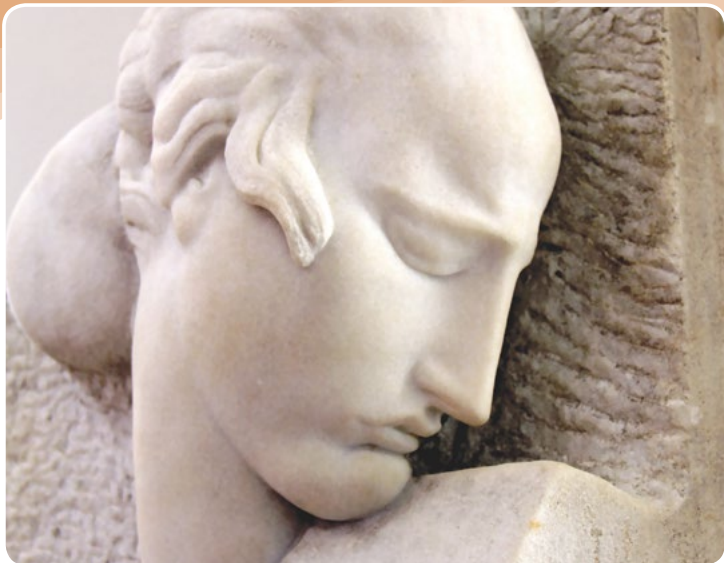


Whether you arrive by cruise ship or car, the magnificent green hill on a peninsula looming high over the west coast of Split's waterfront is hard to miss. Locals call Marjan and its park within, the "lungs of the city" not only because its dense, Mediterranean forest is green all year but also it's the perfect place to run, hike, walk, bike and even swim. All this nature is so close to the old town, plus with a little uphill walking, you'll be able to visit some fascinating ancient hermitages as well as one of the oldest Jewish

cemeteries in Europe (the cemetery is usually open, but if not just ask for the key inside the cafe/restaurant in front). Marjan's tallest point, **Telegrin**, rises 178m above the city. But from even lower, the views of the entire city, surrounding islands and nearby mountains are stunning. At the end of the peninsula is **Bene**, with tennis courts, cafe's, a shady beach and places to picnic. Take the Bene bus from the end of the Riva, or walk up through Varoš on Senjska St., the first street to the right of Sv. Frane church.

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjan

Meštrović gallery



Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962) is considered the greatest of all Croatian artists. Just a 15 minute walk from the end of the waterfront Riva is his house, atelier, sculpture garden and private *kaštelet* (chapel), that overlook the sea and contain some of his most important pieces in marble, bronze and wood. In his will, he bequeathed these homes, his Zagreb studio and home and a chapel in Otavice to the Croatian people, together with the majority of his sculpture. Arrested during WW2 by the

Nazi puppet government here, Pope Pius X11 helped him get to Switzerland. Later he immigrated to the US and taught at Syracuse and Notre Dame. In 1954, President Eisenhower personally presided over the ceremony granting him American citizenship. After your visit, enjoy a glass of wine in the garden cafe to your right, just before the steps down to the street. And don't forget to visit his *kaštelet*, a five minute walk, for an entirely different experience!

www.mestrovic.hr

St. Domnius Cathedral/ Diocletian's Mausoleum



Photo: softcom2017

Built around 305AD by the Emperor Diocletian as his mausoleum, St. Domnius Cathedral, (affectionately called Duje cathedral by locals) is the world's oldest Catholic cathedral still in use today, in the same building where it was founded. Although Diocletian persecuted many believers (the sarcophagi of the martyrs St. Domnius and St. Anastasius are inside), Split's Christians decided not to destroy his mausoleum, but transform its extraordinary interior into a cathedral. The

result is sumptuous. Just look at the symmetry of the red granite columns; those ornate capitals; the ceiling frieze under the largest, still-intact unsupported dome from Roman times; the octagonal exterior yielding to a circular interior; the choir stalls in the annex and much more. The belltower, which took 200 years to build, was added in the 13thC. Don't miss the upstairs Treasury, and as you leave, the magnificent wooden doors by Buvina, which were carved in 1214.

www.visitsplit.com/en/527/cathedral-of-saint-domnius

Split Islamic Center and Mosque



Like the Jewish Synagogue, just a 5 minute walk away, the Islamic Center for Split's Muslim community is also in the Palace. In addition to being a community center for Muslims living here, there is also a mosque which was created inside of an Archiepiscopal Seminary from the 1700's that was no longer used. Five times each day, as is custom, the mosque opens for prayers. A local imam and his family live in Split and are a frequent presence at both Jewish and Christian ecumenical

programs. Most Muslims here are originally from Bosnia and Albania and arrived in the 19th and 20thC. They represent just 1% of the population--95% of which is Catholic. The Muslim population is very spread out--Zagreb, Pula in Istria, and far away in Osijek are where most live and work. If you would like to visit the mosque or the community center, you are very welcome. Just give a call to **+385- 21 360 651** Their email is: medzlis.split@email.t-com.hr

www.medzlis-split.org

St. Sava Orthodox Church



St. Sava's is a fascinating off-the-beaten track experience--an unfinished metaphor for the always uneasy centuries-old relationship between Catholics and Orthodox Christians. Just behind the Fish Market, next to Kruščić, the city's best artisan bakery, behind a high, non-descript wall is a monumental 80 year old church built in a courtyard behind a former 14thC convent waiting to be finished. Open until noon, just walk in and up the stairs to see the temporary

sanctuary, and the remains of some of the convent's original arches. Push back the window curtains in the sanctuary to see the stunning carved portals and the friezes of the church, which seem as ancient as the religion itself. Waiting silently are cut slabs of stone all around the basilica-like structure to be put in place once the dome is erected. The church is now looking to raise necessary funds to complete their dream of having their own church in Split "within 2 or 3 years".

www.viewfromtheriva.wordpress.com/2009/12/30/

Split City Museum



One of the great treasures here, the City Museum, just a few minutes walk from the central Peristil, occupies the entire grand Gothic-Renaissance palace of the Split noble family Papalić. From its wonderful open courtyard, with a beautiful period staircase and relics from different epochs of Split's illustrious past; a fascinating ground floor display of an original marble 4th/5thC Roman dining table and model of the Peristil; elegant upstairs drawing rooms filled with memorabilia, furniture

and more, it's 1,700 years of life in Split come alive. At one time the Renaissance salon of the city's most celebrated writers, painters and intellectuals, the palace didn't become an official museum until 1946. Since then the collection has been greatly expanded and today the museum has an extensive library, and sponsors many events and activities. Its ground floor exhibit space is a year-round showcase for local artists, so be sure to see what's going on and enjoy everything.

www.mgst.net/povijest-muzeja

Radunica neighborhood



Not many tourists venture into Split's city neighborhoods—those who do normally go to Varoš, at the end of the Riva since it has the most direct walking street up to Marjan Hill. But Radunica is still well worth enjoying—it begins just opposite the Green Market. Cross the street, go left, take your first right at the hanging green cross (pharmacy) sign and up a short staircase to a wide stone street lined with old houses and alleyways that winds its way uphill for a good 20 minutes. Named after

an ancient Illyrian word for water spring (radun), it was first settled 500 years ago by people fleeing the Turkish invasion from the Omiš hinterland. Although it's becoming more gentrified, there are still plenty of kids on bikes, moms hanging wash, people getting their hair cut, etc. to keep it a cohesive neighborhood. The last week in June the whole place turns into a street fair because it's the Days of Radunica—food, games, singing and more and yes, you don't need to live here to be welcomed.

www.visitsplit.com/en/510/radunica

Varoš neighborhood



Also called Old or *Veli Varoš*, this is where Split's citizens first ventured out of the Palace in the 11thC to create the city's first real neighborhood. The best way to experience it is to walk to the end of the Riva where Sv. Frane Church is (with the clock in the tower) and take the first street to your right, Senska, and keep walking. Have you ever seen so much marvelous stone!? From lovingly restored restaurants to untouched ancient dwellings, the streets, alleys, churches (the best known is the 11thC **Church of St.**

Mikula) up here are really wonderful. Keep walking until you are high up over the beautiful red tile Varos rooftops and then take the staircase to your left to the city's most famous overlook—**Prva Vidilica**. There's a cafe here to relax. Behind it is the 500 year old Jewish cemetery and up the stone paths to the left, ancient Christian hermitages and churches. On the way back down, take some side streets, you won't get lost—at the bottom of your trek is where you began—the Riva and the sea!

www.visitsplit.com/en/519/veli-varos

Vidović Gallery



Emanuel Božidar Vidović (1870–1953), is Split's most celebrated post-Impressionist painter and graphic artist. A contemporary of sculptor Ivan Meštrović, together they founded the Medulić Society, a turn of the century group of influential secessionist artists who embraced a new national artistic style to promote independence from Austria-Hungary. Vidović's early work was more art nouveau, inspired by South Slavic history and legends. His later work, landscapes and interiors of local

churches, was more expressionist and darker, with bright accents. His studio work focused on still life and interiors. In 1942 and again a year before he died, he was elected to participate in the important Venice Biennale. Administered by the Split City Museum, which also is responsible for the Substructures of Diocletian's Palace, the Vidović Gallery was opened in 1986 in a renovated building next to the East, or Silver Gate of the Palace.

www.galerija-vidovic.com



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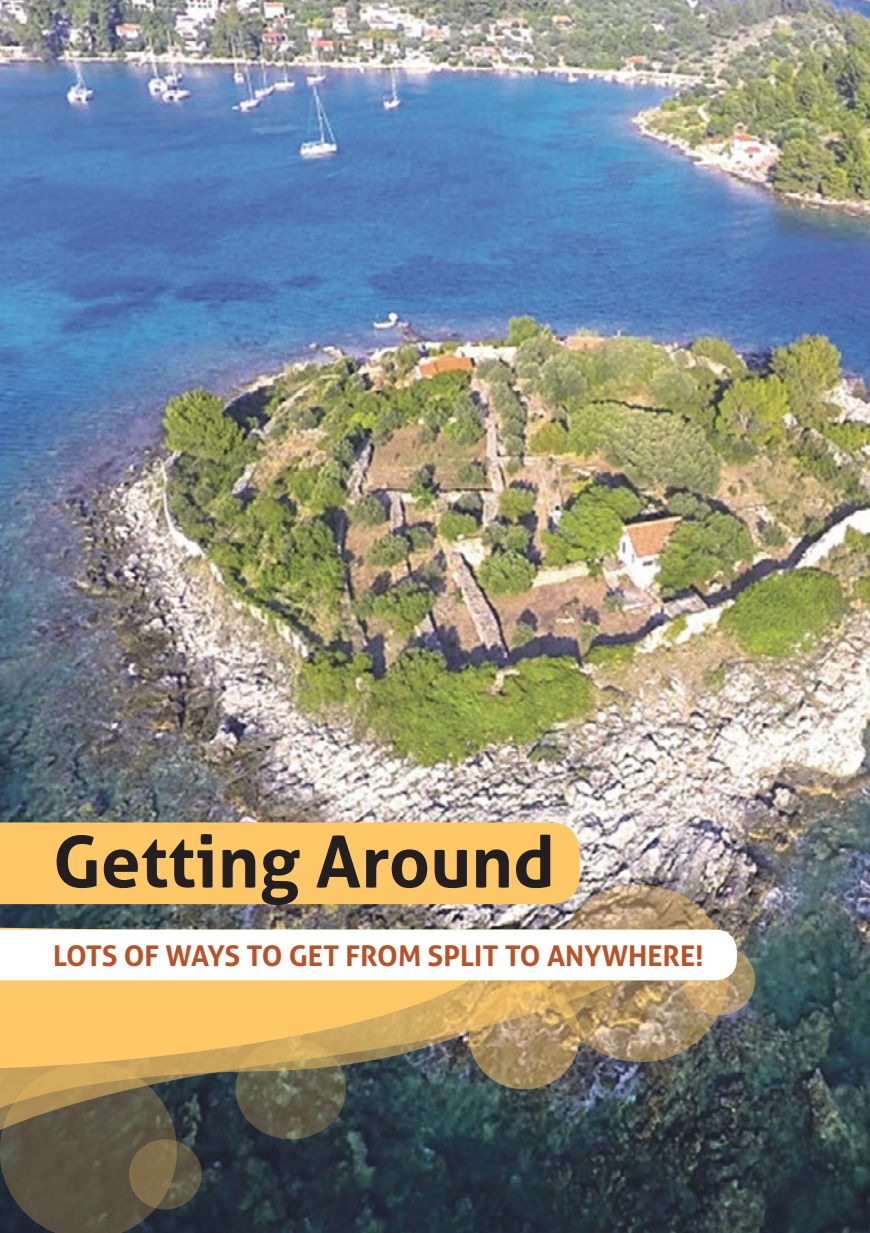
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Getting Around

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Air/sea/ground transport



Split has excellent multi-modal connections to Croatia and beyond. Complete ferry schedules and online ticketing are at **www.jadrolinija.hr**. The daily Krilo catamaran to Dubrovnik runs May-October; online ticketing too: **www.krilo.hr**. The main bus terminal for local and international buses is just opposite the big red ferry terminal on the harbor, as well as the all important direct airport bus. The information office there speaks English, too. Website: **www.ak-split.hr/EN/**. Local bus service,

inland as well as up and down the Dalmatian coast, is excellent and frequent. The website, in Croatian only, is **www.promet-split.hr/**. The train station is just before the bus station. Service is infrequent, slower than the bus but more comfortable, and the trip to Zagreb over the mountains is gorgeous, **www.hzpp.hr/en**. For taxis and transfers, call **+385 95 522 7140** or use Whatsapp, Viber, Facebook, **taxitransfers365@gmail.com**. They can also arrange scenic private airplane flights over Split and more.

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8:40 Hvar Town, leaves 8:50
10:00 Korčula, leaves at 10:10
10:40 Mljet, leaves at 10:45
12:00 Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik-Split inbound

16:30 Dubrovnik
17:45 Mljet, leaves 17:50
18:20 Korčula, leaves 18:30
19:35 Hvar Town, leaves 19:45
20:15 Brač (Milna), leaves 20:20
20:45 Split

**Daily Sept. 1-Oct. 20 same outbound schedule
but leaves Dubrovnik at 16/arrives Split at 20:25
Oct. 21-Oct. 26 Mon.-Wed.-Sat. same times as Sept. 1-Oct. 20**

May 27 – Oct 6 Daily Schedule via Bol/Makarska

Split-Dubrovnik outbound

7:30 Split
8:20 Brač (Bol), leaves 8:30
9:05 Makarska, leaves 9:15
10:20 Korčula, leaves 10:30
11:15 Mljet(Sobra),leaves 11:20
12:15 Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik-Split inbound

16:00 Dubrovnik
16:50 Mljet(Sobra),leaves 16:55
17:45 Korčula, leaves 17:55
19:05 Makarska, leaves 19:15
20:05 Brač (Bol), leaves 20:10
20:55 Split

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Islands

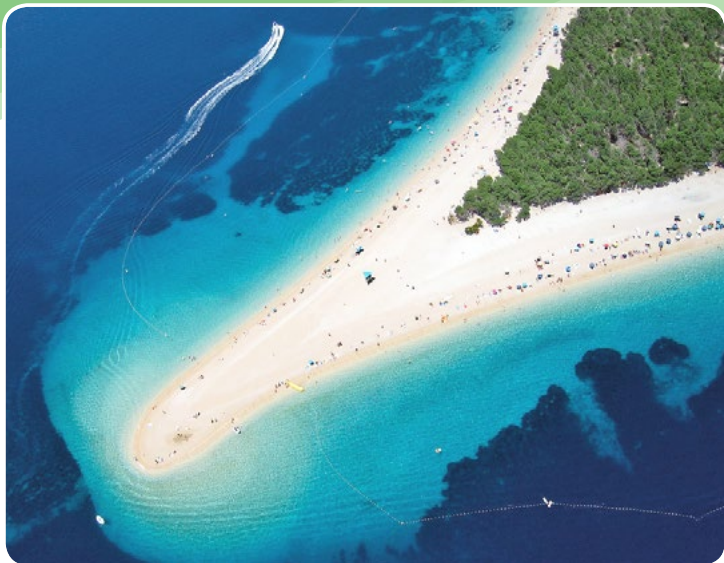
ISLAND EXPERIENCES, THE PERFECT DAY TRIP!



Croatia has more than 1,100 islands! An hour or less from Split are some of the best. **Vis**, only 60 miles from the Italian coast, takes several hours. Closed for decades as a military base (it was from here that Tito and the partisans fought against the Nazi's) is the least touristy, with excellent beaches, charming towns and history back to the 4thC BC **Šolta** is where the Emperor Diocletian chose to have *his* summer home. Bucolic, great sailing and biking and home to a singular olive, honey

and wine tour. **Hvar**, an hour by catamaran, two by ferry, famous for its glitterati visitors and world-class party scene, has gorgeous Renaissance architecture as well as the oldest, continuously farmed agricultural plot on the planet in Stari Grad. **Brač**, with the best ferry service, just 45 minutes away, has Croatia's most famous beach at Bol and much, much more. **Korčula**, less than 3 hours via catamaran, has great wine, Marco Polo, wild beaches, outstanding medieval architecture. Such great choices!

Brač



Although less glamorous and more laid back than its neighbor, Hvar, Brač has everything a vacationer wants—plus a lot of mystery. **Supetar** is the main ferry port, just 45 min from Split with an attractive harbor and charming backstreets. The beach at **Bol** is a natural wonder, with its long, sandy pebbled tongue changing shape with the tides. Cafes, changing rooms and deep shade make this beach a must. Off the coast, fascinating places like **Blaca Monastery**, hand built out of the cliffs, is a marvel

of human ingenuity. **Škrip**, a hilltop stone village with a restored olive mill complex, is memorable. Brač's white marble was used by the ancient Romans to facade their public buildings as well as by modern architects and affluent homeowners today. The island even has a stone masonry school. At **Donji Humac** you can see stone artists working. Charming seaside hamlets like **Povlja**, **Pučića** and **Sumartin** and some of the best olive oil on the planet all add to the Brač magic.

www.idiividi.com

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www.supetar.hr
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Hvar



Photo: Jedan Komadić

Hvar gets written up in more international travel magazines than any Croatian island, often as a top 10 destination because of its elegant charm, A-list visitors, lavender, wine and rich history. The big lure here is **Hvar town**, a Renaissance beauty, complete with its own fort overlooking its beautiful harbor. The other main towns of the island play second fiddle, but undeservedly. **Stari Grad**, literally old town, is the ferry port for the island. In 2017 it celebrated its 2400th birthday! Founded by

the Greeks, its Ager agricultural plain is a UNESCO World Heritage site. **Vrboska**, often dubbed little Venice because of its small canals, is charming. **Jelsa**, where families head for good beaches, is a seaside village with surprisingly good restaurants and well-preserved buildings from the 15th and 16th C. Inland Hvar is all about ancient stone villages (some intact, but abandoned) and olive groves, while the south coast is all about Plavac mali, Croatia's most famous red wine.

www.dalmatia.hr/en/island-of-hvar

Jelsa, quiet beauty



With beautiful beaches, ancient churches and stunning Roman remains, some of the island's finest restaurants and a lovely protected harbor, Jelsa is the perfect day trip from Split, via morning ferry to Stari Grad where buses are waiting to take you here!



Tourist Board of Jelsa

on the waterfront Riva, Jelsa

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www.tzjelsa.hr

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21460, Stari Grad

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tzg-stari-grad@st.t-com.hr

www.stari-grad-faros.hr/en/



Photo: Korčula Tourist Board

The sixth largest island in Croatia, Korčula is like a long, languid serpent stretching west from **Vela Luka**, the main ferry port for the island, to the walled medieval fortress city of **Korčula town** in the east. The island's serpentine roads and hilly spine make for a wonderful scooter trip as you swoop up and down past endless vineyards (Pošip and Grk are the island's signature whites) and beautiful towns like **Blato**. High above Vela Luka's harbor is **Vela Špilja**, a 20,000 year old open cave

you can visit. Korčula town is just plain marvelous with its warren of fish-bone streets and curvy seafront promenade. Good beaches on either coast, idyllic villages like **Lumbarda**, where Croatia's oldest written relic was found—a Greek-inscribed stone tablet from the 3rdC BC. Terrific fish, the island's famous moreska sword dancers (real swords, real blood) and the legendary home of Marco Polo make Korčula a favorite holiday destination for Europeans who love its civilized, easy ambiance.

Šolta



Photo Tourist Board of Solta

The closest island to Split, but the least visited, with less than 2,000 year round inhabitants, Šolta is one of the best kept secrets in Dalmatia. Like so many islands here, the Greeks were the main settlers, but remains from the Stone Age have been found on Šolta too. A nautical paradise with 22 bays, the island has sweet village marinas and virgin coves where day sailors and charter boats put in to enjoy great swimming and sunbathing. **Rogač**, just 45 minutes away by ferry, is the main port with several

very good restaurants around the harbor. **Stomorska, Maslenica, Necujam** are the main seaside towns. Famous for its olives and rosemary honey, even Emperor Diocletian had a summer palace here as well as a fish farm! A great place to bike or hike, with plenty of hidden beaches and very good ferry service, Solta is the perfect day trip to discover pristine island nature. Want to stay longer? Lots of locals rent out apartments (some even with swimming pools), just check online.

www.visitsolta.com

Photo: Tourist Board of Vis



It's hard to imagine how this small island, just 60 miles from the Italian coast played such a crucial role in Dalmatian history. Although it can trace its beginnings to the Neolithic period, the island's first real colony was founded in the 4thC BC by Dionysis the Elder from Syracuse. Named Issa, the colony was so well-established it became an independent town/state (*polis*) and even coined its own money. Rich and powerful, the Issans sailed all the way to the Dalmatian coast settling islands

like Hvar and founding cities like Trogir. The Romans picked up where the Greeks left off, but after their empire fell in the 7thC, Vis withered. In WW2, Vis was used by Tito and his partisans, and the Allies. Today divers enjoy a seabed graveyard of British and American aircraft just off its coast. Closed as a military base for decades, the island's flora and fauna flourished. With the filming of *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* here a couple of years ago, this glorious island is now enjoying a true renaissance.



National Parks

UNTOUCHED NATURE, GORGEOUS WATERFALLS, GO!

Krka National Park



With its signature waterfalls that you can practically swim under, Krka is one of the most visited national parks in Croatia. It is about an hour by car via the toll highway. Begin your Krka experience in the pretty seaside town of Skradin, where the Krka River meets the sea and a fleet of two-decker boats bring you to the park—a short mini-cruise included in the price of admission. A second option is to drive to the park. All tours include a fascinating walk through an authentically-

restored ensemble of small stone houses, workshops and exhibits which show how water used to make village life possible and sustainable centuries ago. You can walk on your own or be taken through well-marked trails to enjoy the flora and fauna here. Added excursions: Roski slap, a beautiful, quiet, untouched nature area in the upper part of the river canyon, perfect for swimming and **Šibenik**, to see its main attraction St James Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

www.np-krka.hr/en

Plitvice



Photo: NP Plitvice

Plitvice, like Iguassu in Argentina, Yellowstone in the US and Serengeti in Tanzania is one of those rare thrilling experiences you remember forever. Covering almost 73.000 acres, it's divided into upper and lower lake areas (there are 16 lakes, over 90 waterfalls, plus caves, caverns, and forests). It's a good three hour drive from Split, and in the summer, has as many as 12,000 visitors a day! Best bet is get here early or spend the night. There are two main entrances to the

park, Entrance 1, above the lower lakes and Entrance 2, next to the upper lakes. There's also the Flora entrance, the least crowded. With shuttle buses every 20 minutes, boat rides on Lake Kozjak, hiking trails—from 2 to 8 hours—and all that gorgeous flora and fauna, you will love it. Spend time on their website to get well-oriented. Admission is not cheap, \$40 in summer. Less expensive, much less crowded and even more gorgeous in the Spring and Fall!

www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr/en/plan-your-visit/

Photo by Ante Verzotti, used by permission of the photographer and the Tourist Board of Split.



Split Festivals/Events

FROM ADVENT TO ULTRA, SPLIT IS A FESTIVAL!

Split Festivals/Events

St.Domnius Day (Sudjama)

May 7 Split's festive patron saint's day, Cathedral and Riva events, and a rowing regatta with Oxford, Cambridge and Split!

Mediterranean Film Festival

June 13-22 Croatian and international films outdoors nightly at Bačvice beach and days at Zlatna Vrata in the Palace.

Sustipan Nights / first week of July

A summer live performance delight under the stars at gorgeous Sustipan Park, at the end of the Riva. Get there early and take a blanket!

ULTRA Festival / July 12-14

Europe's epic EDM and house music rave in Poljud Stadium. Join tens of thousands dancing like crazy from night 'til dawn. www.visitsplit.com

Blues Festival Split / July

A 3 day festival featuring Croatian, regional and world artists. www.splitbluesfestival.com

65th Annual Split Summer Festival / July-August

A performing arts extravaganza from around the world. Outdoors as well as in. Schedule at: www.splitsko-ljeto.hr/en/#schedule

Days of Diocletian / late August

Locals and tourists alike dress up in tunics and togas to enjoy Roman games, food and more. www.visitsplit.com

Mag Festival of Chamber Music / Aug.-Sept.

Enjoy live classical music in the gorgeous grand hall of the Papalić Palace, home of the Split City Museum. www.udrugamag.com for exact dates

Split Int. Festival of New Film Sept. 18-25

Croatia's premier festival of the avant garde, with an international jury. Program info at www.splitflmfestival.hr

Split-Vis Regatta / Oct. 18-20

For the past 74 years, the regatta that defines the end of the summer sailing season. Watch more than 150 sail boats from around the world.

Advent in Split / Dec.-early January

The annual holiday fair on the waterfront Riva. Traditional food, grog, entertainment and fun!



www.visitsplit.com



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A: Josipa Jovića 93

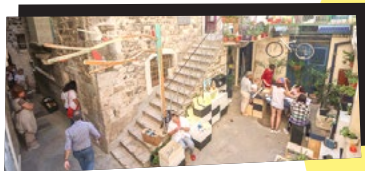
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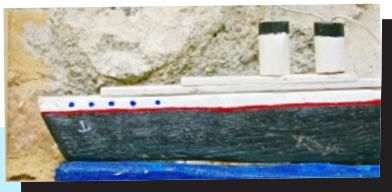
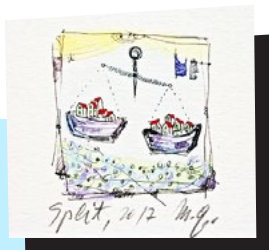


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Town/City Day Trips

FROM BAŠKA VODA TO TROGIR!

Baška Voda



Photo: Baska Voda Tourist Board

One of the prettiest towns along the Makarska Riviera, Baška Voda, like its Croatian name, has always been a source of fresh water—a valuable resource for early settlers and farmers who arrived here 4000 years ago. Nestled between the Biokovo mountain range, just above the town, and the sea, Baška Voda is an oasis of calm beauty. Besides enjoying its harbor and pebble beaches, there's some intriguing sightseeing here, like the town's **Macalological Museum**, which features a large collection

of seashells from the Adriatic as well as from other oceans. The **Archaeological Museum** has a fine collection of pre-historic implements, Roman and Greek amphorae, ancient coins and more. And there are some interesting Renaissance-era churches like **St. Roko's**. During the summer, lots of local events like fishermen's nights and folk dancing. No wonder this small town, with a good selection of accommodations, restaurants and its beautiful natural surroundings, is such a success!

www.baskavoda.hr/en/welcome-to-baska-voda



Photo: Tourist Board of Brela

Brela has been welcoming tourists since 1897. Like its sister, Baška Voda, the deep pine forests framing its beaches, the Biokovo mountain range looming overhead and a particularly rich history and culture make it a perennial destination for many Europeans. *Forbes* listed Brela's **Punta Rata beach** as one of the 10 best in the world and its famous lungomare (a beach front walking promenade) extends 6,5 km from Jakiruša to Berulija is a joy to walk. Perfect for a more active holiday, after all that

walking, swimming and hiking, you can enjoy some terrific local sites like **the Napoleon Road** (1808-1813), the carved stone Bekavci-Ivandić complex of 19thC houses; fortified **tower of Soline** and **Biokovo Nature Park**. You can also visit boutique wineries and enjoy some delicious local cuisine like Brela's surprising swiss chard cake made with cinnamon and raisins! Despite its small size, Brela also boasts some excellent Bluesun-branded and other top quality hotel-resorts.



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www.visitdugopolje.com



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www.top-outlet.hr



The “Pearl of the Adriatic”, Dubrovnik is one of the most popular destinations in Croatia and a key cruise stop. To enjoy it with less crowds, best to start your sightseeing before 9 or after 6! As the first protected port on the east-west Adriatic route, Dubrovnik used its strategic location to become the most significant maritime and mercantile center of the Adriatic --rivaling its arch enemy Venice. By the 16thC, the Ragusa Republic, as Dubrovnik was called, entered a golden age with a world-class merchant navy of almost

200 vessels! Today, its wealth and power are amply evident in the rich architectural legacy within its monumental fortress walls. You can take a funicular to high up over the city to enjoy the spectacular view or walk atop its fortress walls. The churches, public buildings, squares and palaces—all within the fortress walls—are glorious. A UNESCO World Heritage site, plus great cuisine, wonderful shopping and ferries to take you to Korčula, Mljet National Park and other nearby islands for perfect day trips.

www.tzdubrovnik.hr/lang/en/news/gradski_vodic/index.html

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7:40AM from Split, 16PM from Dubrovnik

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Discovering Imotski is a such a surprise—only 45 minutes from Split on the E65, there's enough real magic here to keep you fascinated for days. The first surprise is that it looks like a coastal city with stone houses nestled into the hills, steep narrow streets and stone steps, beautiful facades and wrought iron railings—and protecting the town, the 10thC Topana fortress (photo above). The nearest coast is 30km away! This is off-the-beaten-path Croatia at its best. Where else

can you find two very strange lakes—one blue, called of course Blue Lake and the other, the Red Lake, whose depth is a staggering 528 meters—the deepest karst lake in Europe! With hotels and holiday home rentals, excellent local cuisine like slow cooked veal *peka* and *kapurali* (minced meat in cabbage) and terrific wine (the first Dalmatian champagne was made here), Imotski has a lot to offer—plus having more Mercedes Benz's per capita than anywhere on the planet!

The Kaštelas



Inhabited since prehistoric times (50,000 year old artifacts have been found here), the name *kaštela* means castle in Croatian. Between the 13-15thC, aristocrats and clergymen from Trogir and Split built fortified castles here, some complete with moats and drawbridges. At one time, the 12 mile stretch between Split and the airport had 16 of them. Today Kaštela includes 7 distinct townships, like **Kaštel Novi** (new castle town), **Kaštel Stari** (old castle town) and others. With well-

preserved town squares, steps from the sea, surrounded by a tangle of narrow streets and old stone houses, the walk along a common seafront promenade (with beaches for swimming) that connects some of the towns is wonderful. To visit a restored castle, enjoy Kaštel Vitturi, now a museum and tourist board office in **Kaštel Lukšić**. Excellent restaurants, boutique wineries, too. Kaštela is the birthplace of Zinfandel wine (*crljenak kaštelanski*)—and it's also home to a 400 berth marina!

www.kastela-info.hr/en/home

Photo: www.boredpanda.com/blog



Klis Fortress, now internationally famous as a *Game of Thrones* site, is one of Croatia's most important and celebrated strongholds. Impossibly built atop the narrow spine of a craggy butte overlooking the city and the surrounding area between Mosor and Kozjak mountains, it's easy to see why it has been such a defensive prize since the 2nd BC. In 10AD, the great Roman Emperor Augustus used it to keep the Dalmatians in line. More than 600 years later, it fell to the Avars and Slavs, enabling them to

overrun the nearby capital of the Roman Empire in Dalmatia, Salona, today's Solin. Largely restored and significantly enlarged, the views down the valley to Split and the sea beyond are thrilling—especially at sunset. Best of all, it's just 15 minutes from Split by highway or the old Klis road where locals from far and wide come to enjoy spit-roasted lamb. You can also get here via the highway, without tolls, just get off at the Klis exit and follow the signs to Klis Fortress, just five minutes away.

<http://www.tvrdavaklis.com/>

Knin

Krčić Waterfall



Like other off-the-coast inland gems like Imotski (page 78), Knin is a constant surprise—why don't more tourists come here?! Not only was Knin the one-time capital of Croatia during the 10thC when kings like Krešimir IV and Zvonimir made their mark, but its stupendous fort, majestically looming over the town is the second largest in all Europe. Beautifully restored, sitting 300 meters above everything in sight, its defensive walls are almost 2km long! You can spend hours just admiring the

stone work and the sheer vastness of the place. Despite its hinterland location, Knin was clearly one very important place. The town is also famous for an enclave of splendid medieval churches and fascinating archaeological finds like a trio of Roman camps. And after all this walking about, just a 30 minute drive takes you to Krka National Park where you can cool off as well as swim under its waterfalls! More reasons why Knin is exactly the kind of terrific day trip you always hope for.

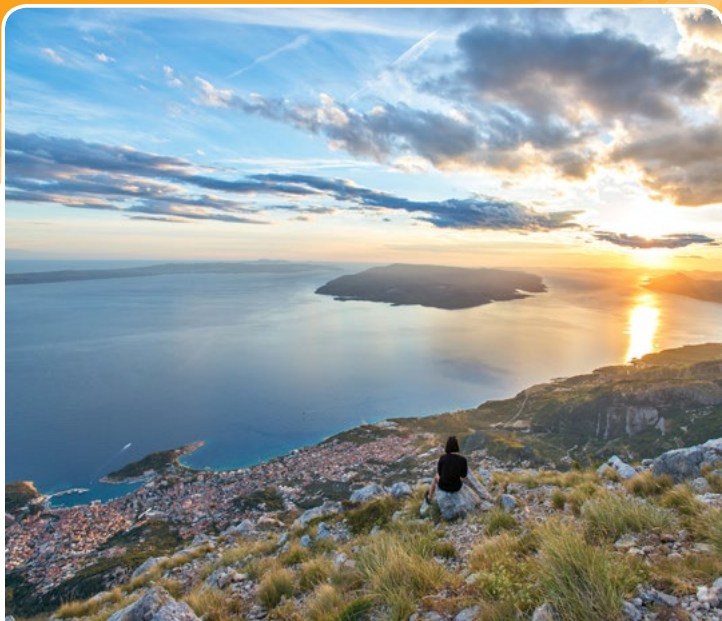
<http://www.tz-knin.hr/>



Photo: Makarska Tourist Board

What makes so many Central Dalmatian towns so fascinating is how much of their history and culture still remain--from Makarska's prehistoric Illyrian artifacts, Roman villas, Turkish walls and Venetian Baroque buildings to its 17thC beginnings as a popular Austrian resort town. Today, it's a lively city of more than 15,000 that's a perennial destination for international travelers who love its sandy beach, almost 2 km long, pine tree-lined walkways, hotels, campgrounds,

nature (Biokovo Mountain Nature Park is minutes away) and pulsing nightlife. During the summer months its harbor is jammed with yachts and tourist ships. At night, the center of town is hopping with nearby discos, bars and bistros. For culture, head to the city's waterfront museum, as well as **St. Filip Church**. For a gorgeous city view, magnificent Mount Biokovo and the open sea, enjoy **St. Petar park**. Another big plus--a ferry line to Sumartin on the island of Brač for a great day trip!



DISCOVER MAKARSKA!

Enjoy gorgeous beaches, great nightlife, outdoor adventure on Mt. Biokovo! Explore ancient churches and monasteries, our world-famous museum of sea shells from around the world. Experience authentic Dalmatian cuisine and so much more. A beautiful drive along the coast, frequent bus service or come by Krilo catamaran from Split every day!



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Enjoy Makarska's great beaches, restaurants and Biokovo Nature Park for the day!

May 27 - Oct. 26 Daily Schedule from/to Makarska
(see page 62 for schedules from Split)

Makarska-Dubrovnik		Dubrovnik-Makarska	
9:15	Makarska	16:00	Dubrovnik
10:20	Korčula	16:55	Mljet(Sobra)
11:15	Mljet	17:55	Korčula
12:15	Dubrovnik	19:15	Makarska

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Omiš



Omiš is one of the most picturesque and fascinating towns in Central Dalmatia. Its sheer physical beauty--the Dinara mountain range behind Split that snakes its way down the coast when it gets here--is matched by its unusual history of being the home of the Adriatic's most successful and feared pirates! For almost two centuries, Omiš pirates raided shipping from as far away as Venice, and even attacked papal galleons sailing

to Palestine. So powerful that in 1221 Pope Honorius III organized a crusade against them--and lost. No wonder cities large and small decided it was better to pay tribute rather than lose their ships. Today, Omiš is still all about adventure--whitewater rafting, free climbing, hiking, zip lines and more. The winding back street old town, ancient churches and burial grounds; a very good town beach and all that adventure make it a perfect day trip by car or #60 bus direct from Split's Green Market.

www.visitomis.hr/en/about-omis

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Primošten



Photo: www.tz-primosten.hr

What a jewel of a town, so photogenic there's even a place where cars can park just off the highway so you can take your own fabulous photos. Dating back to the 7thC BC, the site was called Kunara. An island for most of its life, in the 16thC a wooden bridge connecting it to the mainland and defensive walls were built to protect townsfolk against the Ottomans. Now an embankment and more modern causeway let both cars and pedestrians enjoy. Park outside and then stroll across

to get the full effect of discovering this private, wonderful charming world—lovely winding streets, pretty houses, small churches, steep steps down to some nice fine pebble beaches (Raduca is a favorite with families because of its shallow water) and that marvelous sea air enveloping you as you make the grand circle walk around the entire island in less than an hour. Nice cafes and restaurants to sample the local cuisine and at night, a surprisingly hot club scene!

www.tz-primosten.hr



Solin, just 6km from Split is a pretty little town with the Jadro River flowing right through its winding center. Nice cafes; restaurants and a lovely park fronting the beautiful 5 star President Hotel. Surrounding all of this charm is the remains of Salona, whom Emperor Marcus Aurelius decreed in 170 AD to be the Roman capital of Dalmatia. It became so important, by Diocletian's time, it was the 3rd or 4th largest city in the empire with 50,000 inhabitants! Although there are some splendid

early Christian remains, carved Roman sarcophagi and remnants of majestic entry gates, most of Salona is still underground--even its amphitheater has been stripped--looted by the Venetians. As you walk these vast meadows that overlook the harbor behind Split's port, it's easy to see how this was once a very great city. With a year round events schedule and new restorations, spending a day enjoying Solin/Salona is easy, rewarding and inexpensive--just take a bus or Uber!



Cradle of ancient and Croatian history

5 reasons to #visitsolin:

- Salona - explore Croatia's largest Roman-era archaeological site
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- 18. century old mill - see how farmers worked their harvest centuries ago
- St. Mary's isle - feel the beauty of the oldest Marian shrine in Croatia
- Festival 2019 - enjoy year round events from gladiator fights to food and heritage festivals

Experience Solin/Salona at www.solin-info.com

Photo: Croatian National Tourist Board



Up and over the hills behind Split are off-the-beaten-track discoveries that every tourist yearns for. Sinj is a world-class find. With a history that began in the Bronze Age, this fortified hill town has a lot to celebrate. Topping the list is a 1715 battle where 700 Sinj citizens faced ten thousand Ottoman Turks. Emboldened by a magical apparition of the Virgin Mary the night before, the Sinj defenders miraculously fought off the Turks. Some claim it was dysentery and starvation that

caused the rout, but all Croats know it was the miracle! Every year, for the past 304 years, the town honors its triumph with **the Alka**, an authentic knights tournament (see page 23). The newly-opened **Alka Museum** is a treasure and the **Franciscan Monastery Museum** is downright gorgeous with Roman rarities like the head of Heracles and a 172 cm intact statue of the goddess Diana Lucifera and much more. All this plus ancient forts, pristine nature, trout fishing on the Cetina River and unique cuisine!

Skradin



A little more than an hour on the toll-road from Split is Skradin. With less than 4,000 lucky inhabitants, it's a charming little seaside town gorgeously nestled in its own protected harbor downstream from the famous waterfalls at Krka National Park where the river meets the sea. It's the water gateway to the Park, where you can park your car and then board one of the fleet of double decked water taxis for the short trip up river to the entrance. The waterfront is full of people, yachts, day boats,

restaurants and shops...but the back streets are quiet and lovely and as you climb higher, offer a great harbor view. With direct access to the sea, the town is a favorite of sailors. From traditional folk klapa singing to the roaring waterfalls of the Skradinski Buk, Skradin is a marvelous find. And so is their wine--more than 75 years ago a local vintage here won the grand prix award in Toulouse, France and was declared one of the six best wines in the world!

<http://www.skradin.hr/en/>

Photo: www.sibenik.in



First mentioned in 1066 by the Croatian king Petar Krešimir IV, Šibenik is Croatia's oldest native coastal town. Its picturesque harbor has been of constant importance throughout history. To protect it against the mighty Ottoman navy, the Venetians built a ring of fortresses above the town starting in the 16thC-- St. Michael, St. John and Šubićevac—all of which can be toured. Just off the waterfront, ancient back streets (some with wonderful carvings on the doors of the wealthy), handsome squares

and shops makes walking here a real pleasure. The crown jewels are St. James Cathedral (1431-1535!) and St. Nicholas Fortress, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, the only city in Croatia with two such marvels!, The cathedral is built entirely of stone, without any binding materials, like mortar! With triple-nave basilica, a dome soaring to 32m and 71 realistic sculptural portraits around the exterior, it's wondrous. Close to Kornati National Park (a necklace of stunning islands) and Krka National Park make Šibenik a must!

www.sibenik-tourism.hr/en/eng

Trogir



Photo: Hrvatsko geografsko društvo

On its own tiny island that you can walk around in 30 minutes, Trogir's historic core, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is in a word, astonishing. Founded by Greeks in the 3rdC BC, the symbol of the town is the Greek god *Kairos*. A relief with his image found here can be seen in the Benedictine Monastery. Few places on earth have had so much money spent by so few people in such a small area to showcase their wealth and power. **The Cathedral of St. Lawrence** is their jewel and it

took 400 years to finish. Beginning with its supernatural entrance portal carved in 1240 replete with serpents, demons, life size nudes of Adam and Eve, a four year old Jesus being given a way too hot bath to the literal face of God looking down at you from a basilica ceiling inside, the magic and mystery here is profound. The main square medieval architectural ensemble, stone paved winding alleys, richly ornamented facades, original Venetian-era city walls and **Kamerlengo Fortress** are fabulous.

www.tztrogir.hr



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Trogir

Experience the past

**There are 10 UNESCO World Heritage sites in Croatia—
Šibenik is the only place with 2
These 8 are all easy day trips:**

Ager, Stari Grad, Hvar

In the 4thC BC, the Greeks who settled this island laid out a sophisticated agricultural plain that today is the oldest continuously farmed plot on the planet. It's just a few minutes from where the ferry from Split docks. Buses to Stari Grad meet all ferries. See page 58

Cathedral of St. James, Šibenik

A stunning example of high Renaissance art and architecture, set on its own handsome square near the harbor. Many tours to Krka National Park include a tour of this cathedral, so check to see if the one you are booking does.

St. Nicholas Fortress, Šibenik, built at the entrance to the narrow mile long channel of St Ana which is the access by sea to the Šibenik bay

Diocletian's Palace and complex

Walk in the footsteps of a Roman emperor and see history evolving in front of you from the 4thC to present day. Avoid the crowds and wait until later in the day to experience this great living monument. See page 25

Dubrovnik old city

Surrounded by majestic walls and the Adriatic, with gorgeous 15th/16thC architecture, in the Middle Ages, it rivaled the mighty Venetian Empire. During the summer, the main square is teeming with tourists and it's really hot. So try to do your sightseeing before 9 or after 4. See page 61

Plitvice Lakes National Park

A wondrous series of connecting lakes, tumbling waterfalls, hiking trails, caves and forests that seem to go on forever. The most visited site in the country, despite its vastness, it can be really crowded. Best bet, spend the night, or get here before 9. See page 50

Trogir's historic core

Arguably Central Europe's best-preserved Romanesque, Gothic complex. The Cathedral of St. Lawrence is astounding inside and out. Take a water taxi from Split during the season or #37 bus if you don't have a car. See page 78

Zadar's fortified city walls and gates

once the largest city-fortress in the entire Republic of Venice, never fell to the Ottomans, allowing it keep more of its independence than most of its neighboring cities.

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Croatia

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CROATIA
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Photo: Marko Kapitanović