



Discover Split™

the what to see, where to go, what to do newspaper for tourists supported by the Tourist Board of Split

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www.discoversplit.com



www.splitrestaurantguide.com

The 2026 Discover Split's restaurant guide features a selection of the best restaurants

The 13th edition of the Restaurant Guide is now online and features a selection of the best restaurants in Split and surroundings. The website includes filters for selecting the type of cuisine you want, the location and the price range. The DiscoverSplit's restaurant Guide is designed to give you the feel and flavor of each restaurant with a review written by the publisher who has dined at every restaurant. With more photos of the restaurants and their appetizing meals, it is easy to find the right temptation for a delicious meal at lunch time or dinner time.



Baška Voda

Baška Voda inviting you to its beautiful beaches and nature of Biokovo Mountain

Just over an hour drive from Split, Baška Voda is famous for its pebble beaches (Nikolina, Krvavica and Ikovac) as well as its rich cultural attractions. The Archaeological Museum is among the „must“ with its collection containing exhibits dating back to 2000 BC. Several attractive events, shows and parties are organized during the summer months. There are walks in the pristine nature of Biokovo Mountain and the beautiful village of Topići is worth a detour, primarily constructed of stone on the Biokovo slopes and has to this day preserved its original architecture.



PAD KA PHOW at Siam Thai food

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The lovers of Thai food can enjoy a TOM YUM GUNG soup or the favourite PAD THAI at the Siam Thai food restaurant which is located in the underpass connecting the green market and the street heading to the harbour and bus station. The passion of head chef Nucht will delight you with the flavors of Thai cuisine, prepared with the freshest ingredients from the local markets. You will be welcomed with the warmth and hospitality of Thai culture; the staff will provide the best service for a pleasurable experience. www.thaifood.hr



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Getting around

Getting around Split is easy—you can walk, rent a scooter or bike everywhere and the ferries and catamarans are waiting to take you to the islands and Trogir!

■ **The waterfront Riva.** Split's waterfront pedestrian promenade, called the Riva, goes all the way from the Ferry Terminal (the long red building with a digital temperature/clock on the roof) on the eastern side of the harbor to the ACI marina on the western



Every day during the summer, the Emperor Diocletian and his soldiers greet you at noon in the Peristyle

side. Bronze plaques embedded in the western side walkway commemorate all of Split's Olympic medal winners, more than any city our size in the world! It's a great 30 minute walk each way with cafes/restaurants on the western side to stop, have a drink or a meal and enjoy the million dollar view. The city has two official Tourist Offices—one in the middle of the Riva (with a big white letter "i" on the glass window), next to the Adriana Hotel and the other in the Peristyle. Be sure to pick up a free, 48 page copy of The Split Guide, complete with city maps! Really nice people and multi-lingual

too. At the head of the Riva there is a parking lot for cars, taxis and where tour buses park. Also here is a two-story complex of travel agencies, restaurants and shops. Where the parking lot driveway turns, check the wonderful large bronze map of the Palace as it looked in 305AD. Just across the driveway, there's another bronze map showing the Old Town today that vividly illustrates how much of its Roman heart is still present. The east tower of the Palace and its southern façade are facing you and the entrance to its substructures is just opposite this bronze map.

■ **The Green Market** is opposite where the taxi's and tour buses park. Yummy fresh fruits, veggies, bread and more. Be sure to get there before noon when it is at its most colorful! As you walk down the Riva, there are small white day tour booths along the waterfront offering Blue Cave tours, harbor trips, pirate-themed ships, like Korsaro, to the islands and more.

■ **The Palace and beyond.** Give yourself at least two hours to walk through the ancient Palace streets and alleys and you must go inside the Cathedral and Jupiter's Temple! Be sure to make time for some wonderful museums inside the Palace too, like the Split City Museum, Vidović Gallery and the Ethnographic Museum. Outside the Palace, enjoy specialty museums like the Museum of Illusions, Diocletian's Dream (a stunning VR show) and the Game of Thrones Museum—the first and only one on the planet!

■ **FREE Split Card.** Here for 5 nights or more between April and October (2 nights between October and March) You can get free admissions to city museums and save 10-50% at shops, restaurants, tours, etc.. Just bring your booking confirmation to the Peristyle or Riva Tourist Board offices to get yours.

■ **The Harbor.** The eastern pedestrian Riva promenade along the harbor takes you to the catamaran docks where Krilo (to the islands and Dubrovnik) and Bura Line (to Slatine and Trogir), TP Line



Marjan Hill Park, the green hill looming over the western end of the city, is perfect for walking, running, biking and swimming.

and Adriatic Fast Ferries to Hvar and Brač and day cruises on Polaris and Summer Blues. Walking further and it's the main ferry terminal for both local and international service. At the very end of this promenade is the cruise ships terminal.

■ **City buses**, bright yellow, cost less than 2€ for most rides. Most drivers speak English—pay on the bus. Opposite the ferry terminal is the main bus terminal for local, inter-city, international and direct Airport service. Behind the bus

station is the train station, with very limited service. But the slow trip to Zagreb is fabulous—up, over and through the mountains! The night train, with sleepers, even has a wagon to take your car!

■ **Marmontova, the Prokurative, Sv. Frane** At the end of the central Riva promenade on your right is Marmontova street, the city's main pedestrian shopping walkway. The Fish Market is just up on your right. The handsome square just past Marmontova, on your right, designed to look like St. Marks in Venice, is the Prokurative. Straight ahead is Sv. Frane Church (with a clock in its tower). Try the entrance door on the far left—inside is a surprise, a well-preserved Romanesque monastery from the early 14thC. Before you cross the street to this church there is a bus stop. From here you can take the Bene bus (marked "Bene"). It's a gorgeous 20 minute bus ride out to Bene where you can swim, enjoy a cool forest, even play tennis on clay courts! Or rent a bike or a scooter to do this trip. To walk up Marjan Hill for a fabulous city/sea overlook take the first street just to the right of Sv. Frane Church, This is Varoš, the city's oldest neighborhood, with narrow streets and wonderful stone houses. Think about renting a car. Driving is fun and easy here. We like Nova—excellent service and low online rates: www.rentacarsplit.net. For private trip/airport transfer, call Marin (he and his team speak English, take credit cards and are available 24/7) at +385 95 522 7140

Welcome to Split! Split your costs using the SplitCard!

April 1 to October 31, enjoy the very best of Split with SplitCard – from free museum admissions to discounts at some of the city's best restaurants, shops and service providers. Just show proof that you are staying in Split for 5 nights or more in any type of accommodation. SplitCard is valid for 3 days (72 hours)



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Wining and dining

From casual to fine-dining, Split's culinary scene has something for every taste and great wine, too!

It's hard for us living here to imagine just how much the culinary scene has changed since we enjoyed our first *pašticada*, a slow-cooked marinated beef stew with a unique sweet-sour-salty taste (originally prepared by ancient Greek and Roman cooks) at a sleepy little back street Palace *konoba*. This year, more than a dozen restaurants are recommended by **Michelin Red Guide**, Europe's oldest hotel and restaurant reference guide. **Gault & Millau**, another well-respected gourmand guide, has selected more than two dozen different establishments, from tiny cafes to elegant fine-dining venues, to be on their awards list.

So whether it's a nutritious **açaí** breakfast, terrific sushi or juicy burger lunch, sublime dry-aged steaks or fresh grilled Adriatic seafood, the choice of cuisine here has never been better. And you don't have to pay a small fortune to get a very good meal. A number of places are offering a three course dinner for as little as **25€** if you come between **17:00 and 20:00**. Since all restaurants here have their menus out front, it's easy to see what's today's special as well as the rest of the menu and the price. Wine, an essential part of dining here, is also much less than in other parts of Europe and the quality is exceptional. In addition to **Split's traditional family-run konobas** that really know how to cook local, there are an increasing number of bistros that have decided to add a new twist to Dalmatian cuisine. One thing they all have in common however, is a focus on fresh. The sheer variety of such **terrific local produce, fish, poultry,**



The new Casa Sol restaurant at the front of Zrjan beach, with sea and mountain views, is the perfect place for an enjoyable meal in a relax atmosphere.



Whether it's an exquisite fettuccine with lobster and truffles or their own tiramasu with crunchy cappuccino, Portofino is fine casual perfection.

game, fruit and more--food we all take for granted but somehow always long for-- is truly one of the joys of living here!

Family-owned and tasty

Today, you'll often find the owners in the kitchen or on premises making sure everything runs smoothly. It's this subtle behind the scenes attention that makes all the difference. Let's start with a walk up



Whether it's Skipper's by the meter pizza for your posse or just a great pie for you and yours, wood-fired perfection and that million-dollar view!

to the end of the central waterfront **Riva**, where it meets **Marmontova St.** This is Split's favorite walking street that takes you past the fish market up to the beautiful turn-of-the-century Croatian National Theatre. Just before Zara, opposite a cool bronze coffee cup sculpture is a sea of tables—it's **Paradiso**, one of the city's most popular cafes and behind it, **Chops Grill and Seafood restaurant**. Run by

Igor and his wife Jasmina, Chops has generated a solid buzz and a legion of fans with its **great grilled premium, Black Angus, Wagyu and other steaks**. The seafood here is also first-rate. Afternoons and evenings, you can sit in their cool covered outdoor terrace and enjoy excellent wine too.

Casa Sol - the new place to let it be andeat !

Igor's new venture is the beautiful setting of the **Casa Sol** restaurant, right at the front of the **Žrjan beach**. With sea and mountain views, it is the perfect place for an enjoyable meal in a relax atmosphere. The outdoor wood furniture's and decoration is very inviting; with low, high or dining tables, there is a perfect place for spending time with relatives and friends. The tropical plants and the two hammocks provide the visitors a holiday ambiance. If you have a more formal occasion to celebrate, the indoor design of the dining room with its chandeliers is the perfect place to be. **The menu card is complete with a wide choice of dishes to meet anyone taste;** from tapas, coastal bites, raw and salad bars to smoked risotto, truffle or lobster pasta, sea bass or sole meuniere, fillet mignon or Argentinian ribeye or wagyu steaks and even sushi and sashimi. The dessert card is very mouthwatering with home made chocolate tart or chocolate truffle and the creme brulee which come with flame on your table. The Casa Sol restaurant can be reached by public transport (bus line 8) or with the new Hop On Hop Off boat service directly from the center of Split (Matejuška pier).

Discover Split's Restaurant Guide



Selection of the best restaurants

www.splitrestaurantguide.com

■ **Discover Split Restaurant Guide**

Because the number of restaurants in Split and the surrounding area have mushroomed to more than 250, we've created a **Discover Split Restaurant Guide** that profiles more than a dozen that we feel reflect the diversity of cuisine here. We have eaten at all of these places and sat down with the owners to listen to their stories. Visit us on www.splitrestaurantguide.com

■ **Grilled to perfection**

Whether it's slow-cooked **peka** on a wood fire, fresh, line-caught tuna or a succulent chunk of Japanese **Wagyu**, if you enjoy your fish or beef grilled, you've come to the city that knows how to do it perfectly. Some of the best local, family-owned konobas are grouped together in the Varoš neighborhood of Split, just uphill on **Senjska street** next to, **Sv. Frane Church** at the end of the Riva—with the clock in its tower. Up here you'll find **Šperun**, **Fetivi** and other long-established eateries as well as newer ones. A lovely hidden gem not to be missed is the **Deep Shade** restaurant and its beautiful terrace in the heart of the Old town. The owner Božo is very much hands on, making sure that every table is nicely set up and ready to receive the guests. The menu can cope with the expectations of every guest : great choice of starters, soups, pasta and risotto, meat and fish dishes. In the evening, the candle in a glass for each table gives a nice cozy atmosphere.

■ **Patience is a virtue**

Dining out in Split is less about gourmet and white glove service and more about relaxing with good food and good wine. If you expect tons of bread with butter on the table, quick service, and pampering it's not Dalmatian. But then again, instead of butter, you get to soak your *kruh* (bread) in fabulous olive oil—more delicious and healthier—and many places have their *own* olive oil, so

be sure to ask and savor the subtle difference. If you just want water, ask for **plain water from the tap**—it's been filtered through limestone for 1,700 years and is perfectly good to drink. If you want bottled water, you have a choice of **still or very good local mineral water**. And the local beer is just fine, too, although

times. So if salt is an issue, it's best to tell the waiter 'no salt' and then simply add it yourself. Split also has a growing reputation for fast/casual dining. Really fresh, tasty food served up quick. Let's begin with **Maka Maka Açaí and Poke**, just behind the Fish Market. We can't think of a more nutritious, yummy way to

■ **Street-side al fresco dining watching the world walk by**

Another Old Town beautiful and popular outdoor square is the **Prokurative**, located at the western end of the waterfront. Designed to look like **St. Marks Square** in Venice, **Bajamonti Pizza, Steak and Fish House** is located in the rear of the square and is named after the city's most famous mayor **Antonio Bajamonti** (elected in 1860). Facing the harbor and sitting pretty under a sea of umbrellas, it's shaded outdoor terrace is relaxing and cool anytime of the day. Their interior space used to be the city's first movie theatre. Today, its two-level seating area is the perfect place when the weather gets cooler. From wonderful healthy breakfasts to late night wine and dessert, Bajamonti has it all, a unique blend of Mediterranean flavor and spirit --wood-fired pizzas, juicy steaks and signature fish dishes, plus exciting DJ acts, live music, cabaret shows and other events during the season. And you can book a party.



Bajamonti's romantic outdoor seating in the Prokurative. Enjoy DJ's as well as live entertainment inside. It looks like you are in Venice.



SIP27 Wines & Tapas prepare small snacks with sophistication like these cheeseballs.



In the heart of Varos, enjoy the fabulous grilled fish at the open air Deep Shade tavern.

SIP27 Wines & Tapas is the brainchild of Filip, a young entrepreneur of just 27 when he launched his restaurant back in June 2024. When you enter the place, you can immediately feel a relaxed atmosphere with music and a projection on the screen. It specializes in providing a variety of small snacks paired with curated wines to enjoy a sophisticated tasting. The menu offers cold tapas from wild boar and deer to prosciutto to oysters and warm tapas such as cuttle fish and tacos but try the mushroom, bacon with crême fresh, a delight! The small bites are all very well presented and the waiter will help you to pair your dish with one of their wide selection of wines. The attention to detail, the excellence of service and the relaxed ambiance are worthwhile and will create a memorable experience. All is reflected in the very good reviews received so far.

many will find it lighter than most European brands. And the **craft beer here is excellent**. Try **Leo's on Dosud in the Palace**—he even make's his own! For those of you on a low salt diet, be sure to tell your waiter, no salt, because being in the Mediterranean, the use of salt as a way to help retain water to combat dehydration during the hot summer has been practiced since Greek

enjoy fruit, berries, cold pressed juices and more. If you haven't tried acai and poke bowls, you really must. There's such a **wonderful selection of healthy food** here, you'll want to come back just to try something different every day. Their selection of cold pressed, fresh juices are particularly delicious—we love their fresh-squeezed orange juice with a wallop of ginger. The taste is wowzer!

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Why do Adriatic fish swim 3 times?

Every local knows the answer—once in the sea, once in oil and then again in wine! Here in Dalmatia, **most konobas prepare fish grilled with a healthy dose of olive oil** and that's it. Or if it's stewed, a good dose of wine is sure to be included. A particularly delicious starter is **cream of shrimp soup**. Rich, creamy, with lots of shrimp—-together with a crunchy salad and some local bread, a lunch you will remember! Many places put their seafood catch of the day and other specials on a blackboard out front—so be sure to check it because it's usually what's the freshest. If you really consider yourself a seafood aficionado, now that you are finally here, the one dish you must have at least one serving of is **black risotto**. Made with cuttlefish—don't be put off by its strange licorice look, which is actually made with squid ink—the taste is remarkably light and sweet. Other fine food not to miss, despite its lowly status and bargain price is **gavuni and sardines**. The former are tiny smelts that are quick-fried and so downright yummy they're like seafood pomme frites. And the sardines here are so fresh and un-salty, you will be amazed. Then there's **grdobina/monkfish** ("devil's mother), a ferocious looking monster whose fat, sharp toothed head is chucked into the soup pot, but its firm, white yummy tail is delicious grilled.

The delights of Adriatic seafood

There are a lot of different Adriatic fish. A good rule of thumb is if you like **white fish** like halibut, hake, flounder, etc. look for the local equivalent—like **monkfish, brancin, lubin (sea bass), orada (sea bream), list, tabinja and zubatac**. If you like **blue fish**, then go for **sardele, skusa/locarda (mackerel), and palamida** (like the baby cousin of tuna). Surrounded by the sea, you should expect to get high quality

fresh fish wherever you decide to eat. Don't be afraid to simply ask your waiter, "what is today's freshest fish?" With one of the largest fish markets right off the Riva that's been here more than a century, if you really love fish, you can enjoy everything from **succulent shellfish, terrific oysters and mussels as well**



Enjoy a fine dining experience with the sunset at Adriatic restaurant or a wood-fired pizza at the Skipper pizzeria with a million-dollar view overlooking Split's harbor.



Noir offer Italian specialities, pasta and delicious risotto with a wide selection of foreign and domestic wines in an exclusive atmosphere.

as **seafood royalty like fresh tuna, zubatac and John Dory**. There's also a lot of farmed fish here. Almost every restaurant here has fish on the menu. Grilled with vegetables and liberally doused with olive oil is the traditional serving—if you want to add your own olive oil, please tell the waiter *in advance!* While we are still fishing, let's continue our Croatian odyssey. Next on the line

is **lubin**, also called **brancin**, a farm raised (and wild) sea bass which is white, light and delicate. The most expensive fish and arguably the tastiest here is **San Pietro (John Dory)**, which is flat with a tell tale large black spot on its flank. If you see a red, mean-looking scaly critter in one of the outdoor chill cases in



Like its name, Restaurant Adriatic, perched on a cliff overlooking the islands and Split harbor next to Sustipan Park, is all about great seafood

front of a restaurant, it's a **scorpion fish** and it is yummy. Enjoy flounder and other white flat fish? See if they have **list (Dover sole)**. And of course you can't go wrong **with mussels (locally grown and trucked in daily)** and other shellfish like shrimp and larger shrimp (scampi).

Looking for Italian specialities?

Noir in the heart of Split, offers a fine dining experience featuring fresh

ingredients, handcrafted pasta and a meticulously curated wine selection. The modern ambiance with high tables and a curtain of lights creates an intimate atmosphere. The menu has a great choice of entrees, various seafood dishes but also lamb, a slow-cooked veal shank, aged rump steak and the mouth-watering grilled fillet steak served with home-made roasted potatoes. The succulent almond and orange cake makes it a perfect finish! Another stylish gem, just off the main Peristil Square in the Palace, is **Portofino**. With very comfortable inside and outside terrace seating, their eclectic menu includes inspired takes on traditional favorites that add a whole new taste dimension (like out of this world octopus salad!); wonderful wine-paired entrees and one of, if not the best, wait staffs in the city. The whole experience here is personal, memorable, and delicious, and tucked away from the hustle and bustle, really relaxing too!

Outside the Palace

The first alleyway on your right as you walk up **Marmontova Street** from the end of the Riva is **Morpurgo Sq.** As you come into the square, **Brooklyn Bagel** is there on your left. The brainchild of a New Yorker, BB is the real deal, hand formed, boiled, then baked. Enjoy their fabulous made fresh daily authentic bagels—from plain to garlicky—with homemade cream cheese "schmears" (lox, veggie, other varieties) or as wonderful chunky sandwiches on the bagel of your choice. Their other retail shop is inside the Ferry terminal where the international arrival corridor is.

Fast/casual, cheap, yummy

On the way to Bačvice beach, Bistro Toć, on a curvy street called **Segvica**, has been a favorite with locals for years. It was the first bistro here to create a fusion of Mexican/Mediterranean. One taste of their quesadillas will tell you why. **Fresh**

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Local flavors meet south of the border sassiness! Now add in salmon wraps as well as traditional Croatian grilled specialties, home-made desserts, **a shaded outdoor terrace as well as indoor seating** and it's a recipe for success. Elena's wait staff have been here for years and the service shows. And oh yes, the prices are really fair for such yummy food.

From Old Town atmosphere to open air ambience

Eight years ago, Zoran started his 1st restaurant by opening the „Cicibela“ in the heart of the Old Town offering a true Dalmatian experience from seafood to homemade pasta and steaks including a wide variety of starters. The restaurant is located at the intersection of two alleys, giving an authentic feel of eating on the street in the middle of Old Town. They are also a few tables for eating inside giving a homely ambience. As the number of tables is limited, booking is essential to guarantee a seat or the waiter can bring you to the Zoran's 2nd restaurant (serving the same menu), the „Roko i Cicibela“ located in an adjacent alley about 100 meters away from the original Cicibela restaurant. The „Roko i Cicibela“ has been opened in 2025 after extensive renovation work done in the building ; the result is a superb set up with the nice stone building, the roof and the open walls, the fire place and the wood panels for privacy, the whole giving a nice and relax atmosphere. The food served is of the same quality as in the original Cicibela restaurant and the service is equally good. For food and ambience, this is definitely the place to go. As „food and restaurant“ is a family affair, Zoran's wife opened also in 2025 her own restaurant „Belina“ on the back of the Palace. This open air restaurant, below big trees, gives the perfect setting for an enjoyable lunch or dinner. The menu is exhaustive from pasta, burgers, risotto, gnocchi, ravioli, pate, salads to various meats and seafood including the famous buzara.

The service is excellent with the waiter explaining each dish. Soon, Zoran will open his 4th restaurant „Luigi & Betina“ serving a dozen of dishes from hand made pasta with a local twist which can be observed while being prepared. You can either sit in their restaurant to eat or take them away. All in all, Zoran and



Feel the atmosphere of eating in an authentic street in Split at the Cicibela restaurant where food and service are great value.



Bistro Toć, on the way to Bačvice Beach, is homey, comfy, family-run Split at its best. Great all-day grub with real flavor, very fair prices, served by wait staff that really care.

his wife offer a choice of food and atmosphere to meet the wishes of all the guests. Last but not least, the service and the quality of the food give you real value for money.

Delicious waterfront dining

With such a beautiful, busy harbor, at least once during your stay having lunch or dinner overlooking the sea is a must. A local favourite is

Restaurant Adriatic, high above the harbor next to **Sustipan Park**, it's just a 10 minute walk along the Riva's Western Promenade and *the* place for a romantic sunset dinner. Long **one of the favorite places for locals**, it's also owned by the family that runs Bajamonti. While fresh seafood is a specialty--from

dozen or more pies, and kick back with a local brew or a cocktail. Pasta, salads and be sure to try grandma's pancakes for dessert. And if you have a posse, order their meter long special. Starting at just 10 euros for a generous pie, it doesn't get better than this!

Wine tasting

Croatian wine, especially here in Dalmatia, is fabulous. **Markus Wines** has a Split tasting **Varoš** venue to join their new **Kaštel Novi** winery/tasting facility that showcases the best local varieties. Enjoy their unique whites and luscious reds with Dalmatian delicacies in a beautifully restored Varoš stone house.

Tip like a local

The local custom here is simply to round out the bill if it's under 10 euros. Order an espresso for **2.70€**, leave 3. No one puts their nose up over a tip in a cafe—even if it is under a euro--because, well, it's just the custom here. Considering we drink coffee all day, all those small coins really can add up. That said, tourism and tourists is what keeps this town prosperous so tip like a local and you'll always get a 'thank you' from your waiter. While Split is humming during the summer, when the planes stop landing and ships stop docking in October/November, a lot of shops and restaurants close—there simply isn't enough business to stay open year round and pay a staff, much less pay the year-round rent. While there is no standard rule of thumb, for lunch or dinner, a **gratuity of 15% or more** really makes an enormous difference here. And compared to the price of what most restaurants charge elsewhere 15% is a small price to pay, so be generous.



Savor a nice steak at the open air Belina restaurant and soak the ambience below the trees.

delectable tuna tartare appetizers and shrimp tail tempura to lobster and sea bass, their grill masters also excel at classic rack of lamb and steak. Just in front of the restaurant is their famous pizzeria—**Skipper**. The beauties that come out of their two wood-fired ovens are stunning—and the view over the marina into the city is priceless. Choose from a

DiscoverSplit's Restaurant Guide



Good food in a cosy atmosphere

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With two wood-fired ovens and a spectacular waterfront setting above Split's ACI marina, our **Pizzeria Skipper** is pure heaven for pizza lovers. Bring a posse and share our one meter long special pizza, with excellent local beer and wine and oh, that view of the harbor and the sea--heaven!



If you truly love seafood, there's nothing quite so delicious as gorgeously grilled Adriatic fish. From *zubatac* ("zoo-batatch"), the big guy to the left, *skarpina*, shellfish and tuna to lobster, sitting on the terrace, enjoying great wine with your dinner and gorgeous views of the islands--it doesn't get any better than our **Restaurant Adriatic**. We're right next to Sustipan Park at the end of Western Promenade.



Our tuna tartare appetizer is divine. But if you are craving for some serious dry-aged steak, grilled lamb chops and juicy burgers, head for **BAJAMONTI**. With a cool, spacious outdoor shaded terrace and indoor/ balcony seating, our grill masters are waiting and ready! And if you're looking for some great pizza, our wood-fired specialties are divine.



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Split shopping

From exquisite, quirky and one-design to famous brand mall heaven, you'll enjoy finding that special something

Split is not only a rare opportunity to experience a living 1,700 year-old city, but to bring home some of its authentic magic. The diversity of "made in Split/Croatia" is wonderful, from **hand-made chocolates** and **divine olive oil** and wine to gorgeous jewelry, painting and sculpture. Tucked in and around the Palace you'll find arts and crafts boutiques, locally-designed clothing and leather bags, beautiful galleries, unusual souvenir shops and specialty stores who focus on locally produced food, wine, jewelry and **even hand-painted in Croatia** Christmas ornaments at the city's only **Christmas Shop**. Let's begin with the many small, charming shops in and around the Palace. You'll find boutique designer clothing, famous brand name sportswear as well as where those locally produced gourmet food products shops are—like Uje's award-winning olive oil ceramic decanter. You'll even find simple gifts like magnets, postcards and T shirts made right here—look for the sign or tags that say "made in Croatia".

■ All that glitters

Split has a lot of small, family-owned jewelry shops where the owners make, repair and sell. Just inside the West Gate, opposite Bobis, is a tiny shop called Ispod ure where you can find antique as well as modern gold and silver jewelry and get to say high to Dina's dog Biba. Check out KRUG, on Nepotova street in the Palace, it's opposite the city's very well maintained pay toilet facilities, and it has great Croatia designed sportswear.



Hand-painted silk scarves, divine wine and olive oil make great gifts at BBenkus

■ Split loves shoes

Everywhere you look there seems to be another shoe store here—it's been said that Split has more of them per capita than anyplace on the planet. For women who love shoes, Split is paradise. There are shops in and around the Palace selling everything from the latest European imports to brand-name sports shoes. Guliver, a local favorite, brings in leather from Italy and then makes its own shoes and bags right here. Their Old Town Split shop is on Donaldova ul., just outside the Palace proper.

■ The cravat is Croatian

Did you know that today's ties were first invented by Croats? In the 17thC, King Louis XIII hired Croatian soldiers to help him during the 30 year war. Arriving on horseback wearing a bright red piece of cloth around their neck as part of their uniform, the French and pretty soon the rest of Europe embraced the cravat as an essential part of a proper gentleman's attire. To commemorate the invention, the founders of Croatia's most famous tie shop, **Croata, created Cravat Day**.

In 2008, the Croatian Parliament unanimously declared October 18 to be the "Day of the Cravat". Inside their museum-themed shop right here in the Peristil, and another in Fruit Square, you can find 100% silk ties with authentic Glagolitic symbols and other intriguing designs. In addition to ties, there's also a collection of sumptuous silk and pashmina scarves, shirts and more. And if you appreciate truly authentic artisan jewelry, **Split's last remaining silver filigree maker** is hard at work in his tiny family run **Filigran Split** shop on Bosanska St., just to the right of the West Gate as you enter the square. Made with single strands of silver wire, Viktor Civiljak works his magic to form intricate designs that go back more than 700 years, everything you see is painstakingly made by hand. It's one of the crafts that unfortunately



Filigran's hand-made-to-measure woven silver bracelets for woman and men are stunning.

is dying out as the public taste for traditional silver and gold craftsmanship is more into the modern. To help support Filigran, a group of friends here in Split, including us, have donated an Etsy website.

■ Museums, GOT and more

For posters, art books and more,

check out **the museum shop in the Split Fine Arts Museum** just outside the Palace. If you're a GOT fan, some scenes from this iconic series were filmed right here in Split, nearby Klis, Dubrovnik and other locations. **The Game of Thrones Shop** here only sells approved,



Have your photo taken at the GOT fan shop sitting on the Throne!

licensed products, from iconic T shirts to mugs. It's right at the end of Bosanska St. and you can even have your picture taken in an exact replica of the throne! Just across from the GOT Shop is the only GOT Museum in the world, too. For sheer quirkiness, the Palace has been invaded by flocks of ducks. **The best of these duck shops is also on Bosanska**—even a Trump duck! At Benkus, just behind Fruit Sq. tucked into the former altar of an ancient church, Blaženka' hand-painted silk scarves and jewelry are marvellous finds. Museum gift shops are a rich source of unique gifts and our favourite tourist souvenir shop is Cro Corner since everything they sell, even magnets, is made in Croatia.

Hand made authentic Split filigree jewelry

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Day trips

From fascinating museums to enjoying unspoiled Plitvice and Krka, explore the islands, go rafting, find your fun-- Split and Dalmatia has it all



Omiš is the adventure capital of Croatia with outdoor activities ranging from climbing to hiking, rafting, zipline, canyoning and more.

■ Wet and wild

An hour or so down the coast (the #60 bus from the Green Market takes you right there twice an hour) is the terrific seaside town of Omiš. Beside rafting, you can do also ziplining, canyoning, kayaking, mountain biking, climbing the via ferrata, quad tours, hiking (7 trails), free climbing, cycling, waterbiking, jetskiing, windsurfing, scuba diving and relaxing by doing a boat tour (either on the river or at sea) or just laying at the beach. **No wonder that Omiš is the Adventure capital of Croatia. For more details, go online at discoveromis.com.** As soon as you come into the town you'll realize why it's all about adventure and pirates. The Cetina River swoops down the mountains and runs smack into the sea under the only bridge leading to the town. Up river is whitewater rafting heaven.

■ National park and the Blue Cave

Krka National Park, where you can swim under the waterfalls is an hour's drive. **Plitvice National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site**, 3.5 hours away, is the country's most visited attraction because it's even more spectacular.

■ The Blue Cave

A natural phenomenon when sunlight streams through a cave like opening, creating a surreal blue pool below, is also hugely popular.

Accessible only by boat, hundreds of tourists each day climb aboard spiffy speedboats to zoom dozens of miles out to see to experience this unique adventure as part of a Blue Cave 4 or 5 island adventure.

■ Razzle dazzle museums

Despite its small size, when it comes to museums, Split has world-class bragging rights. There is **Split's first virtual reality (VR) specialty**

museum, Diocletian's Dream, located just across the street from the park that starts behind the big statue of Grgur of Nin. The dazzling VR show takes you back 1,700 years to the time of the famous Roman Emperor. **It's #1 rated on Trip Advisor!** If you are a Game of Thrones fan, **The Game of Thrones Museum** is the first and only of its kind in the whole world! Fabulous replicas, stills, costumes, music—all with great guides!



The Games of Thrones Museum has room after room of costumes, reliefs, relics, images and more that regale the best episodes, villains and heroes.

■ Panoramic flights

Split Air offers flights from Sinj airfield and Brač airport with their Cessna 172 four-seat plane. Their routes propose a wide spectrum of choice, from the shortest one "The Diocletian" to "The Wonders of nature route" out of Sinj airfield and "The Golden horn" to the "Thousand islands" out of the Brač airport. It is a memorable experience to take off from the grass airfield of Sinj, climb towards the mountain range and then suddenly pass over the top and embrace the breathtaking view of the coast line.

■ Head for the hills

Just up and over the hills behind

Split is another world waiting to be discovered for those who prefer more off-the-beaten track experiences. Less than an hour and it's towns like **Sinj and Trilj** for a fascinating taste of countryside Croatia with unique museums, festivals and food that make for terrific day trips. Sinj's **Franciscan Monastery** has a marvelous collection of Roman artifacts—just call and they will open it for you! And their **Alka Museum** is stunning --a visual history tour through an event celebrated here for more than 300 years that recounts the victory by 700 Sinj residents over a 10,000 man Ottoman army aided by a miraculous appearance the night before the battle of the Virgin Mary.

■ Salona

Just 10 minutes from Split, on the way to the airport, is Solin and the **ancient Roman capital of Dalmatia, Salona**. Still a mostly un-earthed archeological site it has enough vestiges of its former glory to make a visit very worthwhile. At one time, under the reign of Marcus Aurelius, in 170AD, it had a population of 50,000!

■ Klis Fortress

Perched impossibly high on a rocky butte 20 minutes from Split, perfectly situated to command a vast territorial view, Klis was the last stronghold against the Ottoman onslaught. For GOT fans, Klis was used as the backdrop for Mereen.

■ The deepest lake in Europe

Less than an hour on the toll road, about \$5, is **Imotski**, home to two singular lakes, **the Blue Lake and the Red Lake**. The Red Lake is the **deepest in Europe** and both are with



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Brela has beautiful beaches bordered by pine tree forest and a lovely town center

a short ride of each other. Just off the pretty town center are staircases leading to an upper town where perched on top of a cliff is **Topana**, an ancient fort you can walk around with paths leading down to the Blue Lake where you can swim during the summer season.

■ Enjoy the sea

For a perfect day of sun, swimming and island village exploring, the pirate-themed **Korsaro** has **daily cruises to Šolta and the Blue Lagoon with lunch** and it's the only day cruise boat with a glass bottom! Sunset cruises too.

Krilo created the first **daily round trip to Dubrovnik from Split**. It was such a huge success, Luka and his team have extended the season and added a new run **via Bol and Makarska as well as Milna and Hvar Town!** With spiffy airline seating, onboard cafe, lots of bathrooms and big windows, it's a great way to save the long round trip drive or bus ride. All the way to Dubrovnik and back in the same day! **Jadrolinija, the state-owned ferry line, has trips to all the islands.** You can take a car, rent a bike, or a scooter to enjoy when you get there.

■ Brela

If you love to swim, relax and

discover a charming seaside village, Brela is a perfect daytrip.

About 30km from Split, Brela has a 7-km long coastal area that features one of the most beautiful, natural, pebble beaches in the Mediterranean. Framed by a pine trees forest, one of its beaches--Punta Rata--was once voted by Forbes magazine as the number one beach in Europe!

■ Up the coast

Kaštela, the coastal stretch of seven different kastels (castles) between Split and Trogir, was first settled in the 7thC and later became the bastion of Croatian nobility. Several castles are still intact, one of them, **Vitturi Castle in Kaštel Lukšić**, is now the home of the tourist board and a wonderful small museum with artifacts and ethnographic displays depicting life way back when.

Trogir. Unlike Roman Split, Trogir's heritage is Greek. Its partially-walled Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has a rare ensemble of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. The monumental cathedral of St. Lawrence dominates the central square. Once inside, the ancient pews anchored to the floor are vivid testimony that this place was literally a private cathedral for the town's first families to enjoy.

■ The islands

Let's begin with **Brač, just 45 minutes away by ferry**, it's easy to get here with lots of trips every day all year round—including a very late night crossing allowing you to spend a long time on the island. The main ferry port is **Supetar**, where a special walking route has been created. **Zlatni rat, Bol's famous beach**, is where a lot of folks head. Although it looks white and sandy, the beach is actually small pebbles. What makes this beach so popular isn't just it's amazing tongue-like shape, but the deep shade, cafes and changing/toilet facilities just off the beach that make it so comfortable to spend the day here—especially with kids.

■ Frozen in stone

Škrip, one of the highest points on Brač, is a stone village dating back to the 11thC with a very good museum and a terrific restored 19thC original olive mill, complete with hand cranked wooden press, a loft where round the clock workers would sleep and more. Lovingly restored, you can also buy olive oil here and it is excellent. **Donji Humac**, home to island stone masons, is well worth a trip to see why Brač stone is so valued around the world and **watch artists at work at Jaksic Gallery**. And for a unique thrill and a rugged 45 minute walk, nothing quite prepares you for **Blaca Monastery**, a village created by Glagolitic priests in the 16thC who **carved an entire town out of the cliffs!** Brač also has some stellar wineries, like Stina and Senjkovic, and Cheers Croatia offers wine tastings at an outdoor restaurant with glorious sunsets and views of the mainland where you can enjoy six top Dalmatian wines and learn about the region's viticulture from wine expert and Brač island resident Kit Pepper at www.cheerscroatiamagazine.com

■ Hvar

Dating back to the first millennium BC, Hvar is considered by many to be the jewel of all the Adriatic islands. **Stari Grad**, the island's ferry port, **founded by the Greeks in 384BC—**

is the **oldest town in Croatia!** Its centerpiece is the **marvelous Petar Hektorović castle**. The island's magnet is **glittering Hvar Town**, complete with a looming Renaissance fortress guarding it's beautiful harbor, fancy restaurants and shops. Once you're out of the buzz of Hvar town, the rest of the island is a quiet paradise with rolling hills, vineyards and groves, tiny villages and charming towns. **Vrboska, dubbed a little Venice because of its canal** and **Jelsa** are the main towns. Lots of beautiful architecture, terrific sailing and of course, all that famous splendid wine. www.hvartours.com has a wonderful selection of trips.

■ Vis

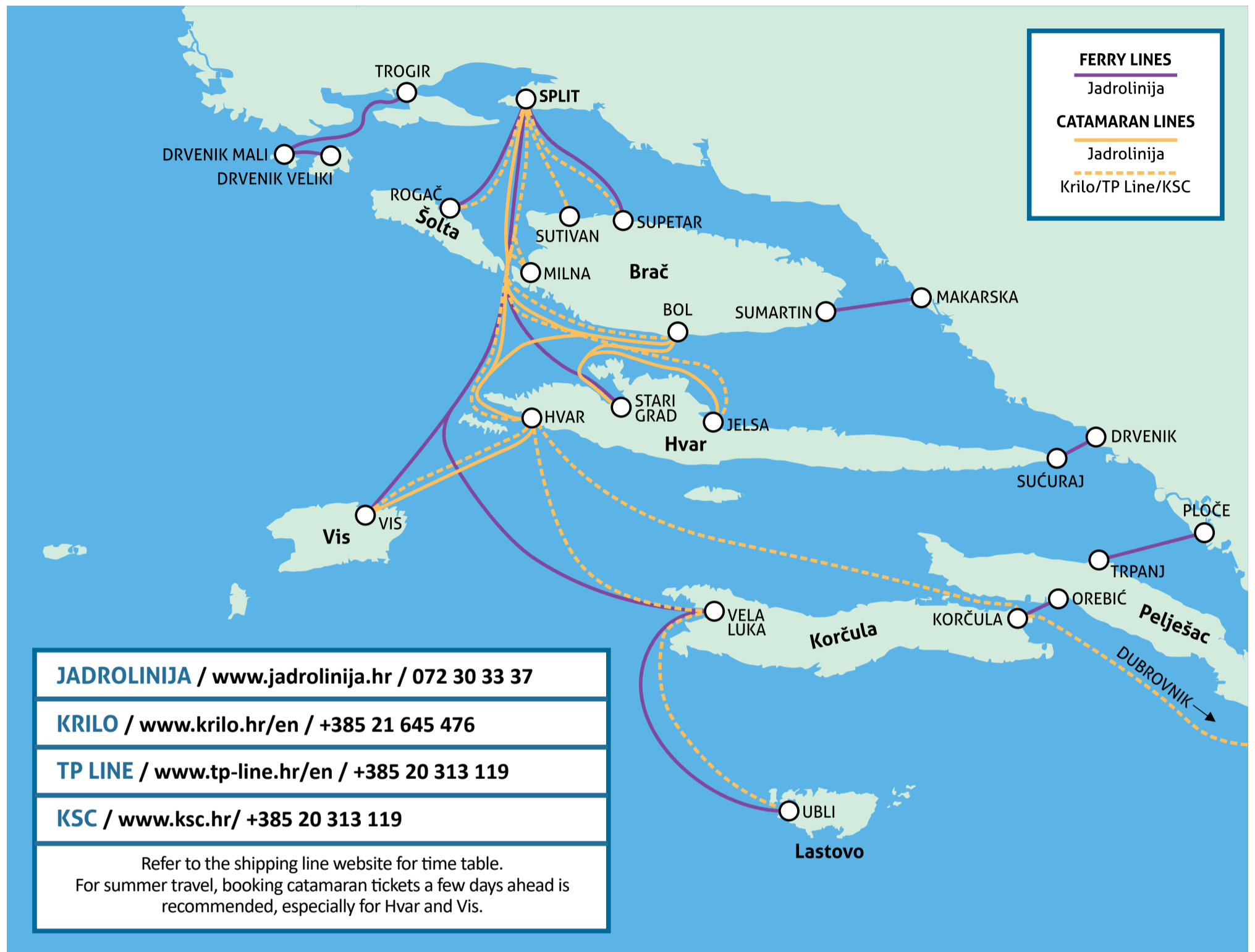
For true pristine beauty it's **Vis**, just 60 miles off the Italian coast. Because it was a military base for decades the whole island grew wild and wonderful. So today the lushness of the interior and unspoiled coastal beaches are a paradise for nature lovers and those who like to get away from it all. **Vis town** is a pretty place with its own park, some restored Roman ruins, a long horseshoe shaped seaside walkway and lovely cobbled back streets and alleys. For the best fish anywhere in Croatia, the commercial fishing village of **Komiža** is also where the lobsters are. By small boat, discovering **hidden beaches like Stiniva** are a joy.

■ Hop On Hop Off boat to Žnjan beach

The **Hop On Hop On** boat service from the center of Split (Matejuška pier) is a nice way to go to the fully renovated beautiful pebble beach of Žnjan with crystal clear waters. The service operates every 45 minutes, starting from 8am to 8pm and the journey takes about 40 minutes. The route passes in front of the Bačvice beach, continues the coast to Firule and then arrives near the Radisson Hotel at Žnjan. A comfortable way to discover a new paradise.

Going to the Islands

Take a relaxing trip by ferry or catamaran and discover the enchanting nearby islands.



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Split TP line - ticket booth, Obala kneza Domagoja & Gat sv. Petra, Split (Mon-Sun, from 7:30 to 18:30)

Events in Split

The city of Split enjoys a packed cultural and sporting calendar each year, here is our selection.

June 2026

Picigin, a popular game played on the beaches of Split has a “world” championship event held each year on June 15th – and it’s lots of fun to watch! **The 19th Mediterranean Film Festival Split** takes place from 11th to 20th June 2026. **Klapa performances** (traditional acapella singing group) –



during June and September, every Monday at 8:00 p.m., at several iconic locations in Split’s historic city center (Pjaca, the Vestibule, the Golden Gate..). **Melodije Jadrana** is a Croatian pop festival that takes place from June 25 to June 28. **The Bačvice Summer Cinema** is an open-air cinema close to the famous beach that offers a run of new and classic films all summer.

July 2026

Ultra Europe is back for 2026, and there’s no doubt another hundred thousand or so people will jet in for this year’s event! It will take place at the Park Mladeži stadium from 10th to 12th July 2026. **The Split Summer Festival** runs for about a month from mid-July to mid-August, featuring open-air theatre, music and dance performances at various venues around the city.

August 2026

On the first weekend of each August, a very famous and historic horseback tournament takes place in the town of Sinj, near Split. Now in its 311th year (not a typo – it really is that old) **the Sinjska Alka** sees competitors on horseback armed with lances, aiming to hit the inside of a metal ring – the alka. The Sinjska Alka was included on the UNESCO Intangible



World Heritage List in 2010. “**Days of Diocletian**” takes place each year in mid- to end-August, with the streets surrounding Diocletian’s Palace and by the waterfront turning into something resembling...Roman Emperor Diocletian’s time! At the **Handpan Festival “Svargov Kotač”**, (July 31 – August 3, at Žrnovnica) a rich program of workshops and activities awaits both adults and children. **Tennis Summer** (August 17 – 29) is an international tennis camp in the heart of Split, mentored by Goran Ivanišević (one of Croatia’s greatest athletes of all time); it brings together education, top-level tennis, and an attractive public event. The program lasts for two

weeks, culminating in a spectacular final event – a tennis match at Prokurative, in the very center of the city. **Vibrez Festival** once again confirms its status as one of the most exciting music events in Split in 2026, bringing a total of eight concerts to be held from August 26 to 30 at the Meštrović Gallery, and from September 7 to 9 at Peristyle.

September 2026

The Split Festival (66th edition this year, from September 4th-September 6th) is one of the most famous music festivals in this area.

October 2026

The 95th Mrdujska Regatta will take place in early October. It is the largest sailing regatta in this part of the Adriatic.

November 2026

The Classical Guitar Days Festival will take place in early November; both Croatian and international guitarists will perform concerts.

December 2026

The annual ‘**Advent in Split**’ sees festive events take place on the Riva and nearby from early December through to early January, involving music and food. **New Year’s Eve** is also big business in Split...of course! Tens of thousands of people usually pack onto the Riva to listen to live music from well-known Croatian singers and to watch fireworks.

January 2027

A number of Split’s museums will be taking part in this year’s partly digital ‘**Night of the Museums**’ on 29th January 2027. Museums offer free entry from 6pm to 1am, with many venues also hosting special events.



February 2027

The 27th Split Marathon will take place over the weekend of February 13 to February 14 on a course that takes in many of the famous sights and areas of Split, including the Riva (start/end point), Marjan Park and Poljud stadium. **The two-day Split Carnival** in the middle of this month includes various fun activities, the highlight of which is an evening procession with many locals – masks donned – joining in.

March 2027

Split will focus its attention on Easter, this year on 28th March 2027.

April 2027

The second edition of the **Dalmatia Boat Show** will take place in Seget Donji (30km from Split, near Trogir) from 15th to 18th April 2027.

May 2027

The Split Tri Triathlon will take place on early May 2027. **The Festival of Flowers** is held each year in the cellars of Diocletian’s Palace at the beginning of May, usually with a high number of exhibitors showing displays on a particular theme. Split’s patron saint, **Saint Domnius** (Sveti Dujе in Croatian) is celebrated with a feast day held each year on 7th May, although celebrations normally start few days before.

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Places of historical interest

All the information you need for your self-guided Diocletian's palace tour and see the Gates, the Churches, the various Palaces, the Museums and more.

Diocletian's walled fortress/residence was designed as the emperor's "retirement" home. It was begun around 293AD and using as many as 15,000 workers, including Greek slaves, was completed in just 10 years. It's considered to be the most important surviving example of late Roman architecture. Rectangular in shape, 705' x 590'. It originally had just two main intersecting streets, *Cardo*, now *Dioklecijanova Ul.* and *Decumanus*, now *Poljana Kraljice Jelene*, that run N-S and E-W. Located in the center of each outside wall is a gate. Many of the sites below have small signs on a nearby wall that fully explain their historic details.

NORTH WALL / "GOLDEN GATE"

The Golden Gate. Of the four entrances to the palace this is architecturally the most elaborate and was probably the main entrance.

Church of St. Martin, 5th/6thC. Up the staircase is one of Christendom's earliest churches--literally built inside the walls of the Golden Gate guard tower and used by soldiers who named it after their patron saint. Next to it is the 14thC Dominican Convent whose nuns oversee the church. Free, but a contribution is welcome.

Golden Gate Palace, late 15thC. In the courtyard is one of the most beautiful late medieval facades in Split, designed by the workshop of *Juraj Dalmatinac*.

Fountain, 1880 in the rear of the courtyard. The water is completely safe to drink.

Split City Museum, located inside the **Large Papalić Palace**. 15thC. Look half-way up at the corner of *Papalićeva* and *Dioklecijanova* at the carved medieval **gargoyle**.

Marulić Palace, 15thC, considered the home of *Marko Marulić*, the father of Croatian literature.

The Augubio Palace, 15thC / Admire the handsome coat of arms above the entry.

Cardo / The name of the original N-S main Roman street.

Roman column and drain. Go inside the art gallery here to see the original Roman street, part of the walls and a wonderful drain at its base! Standing here allows you to see how wide the original Roman *Decumanus* street was.

Cindro Palace, 17thC Splendid, multi-story residence.

WEST WALL / known as the "IRON GATE"

Iron Gate. It's here where medieval



Iron Gate

residents of the Palace finally decided to venture outside its walls and build a "suburb"—the present day *Varoš* neighborhood. The grand square just outside the gate is called "People's Sq."

Church of Our Lady of the Bell Tower, 6thC. Like *St. Martin's* at the Golden Gate, this church was also built in a guard passage above an interior gate. Above the gate is an 11thC bell tower. To see the magnificent 14thC clock, go through the arch into *People's Sq.* and look up behind you.

Split Synagogue, 16thC, still active it is the 3rd oldest in Europe Open M- F, 10-14 for tours. Donations gratefully accepted. Tel: +385 21 345 - 672

Medzlis Islamic Center, Open M- F 9-12, and Sunday 10-12. Tel: +385 21 345 581. You may ask to visit the Mosque nearby.

Fountain. The stone arch is Roman. This is the original place where Palace soldiers and workers got their water! Yes, still ice cold, perfectly safe to drink.

Moor's head, 15thC, halfway up the wall on the side of the building opposite the garden courtyard.

Sphinx head, also here, 3500 years old—both artifacts probably stuck on the wall in medieval times as curiosities.

EAST WALL / known as the "SILVER GATE"

Vidović Gallery. Works by Split's most world-renowned post-impressionist painter *Emanuel Vidović*. Admission charge.

Grisogono Cipci Palace 15thC. Literally attached to the grand open Roman peristil, this magnificent residence forever changed the original wide Roman *Decumanus* street into today's narrow *Krešimirova* street. The *Grisogono* family lived here for seven hundred years. The upper floor is 16thC Renaissance.

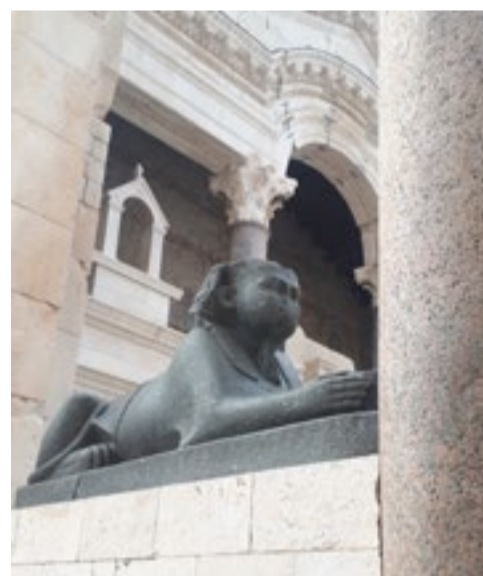
Peristil. The fabulous heart of the Palace—with 3500 year-old columns looted from Egypt, crowned with Roman Corinthian capitals and fitted around the central open courtyard. It is here where the Emperor would appear to be worshiped as the son of the god *Jupiter*. The southern area behind the *Peristil* was the Emperor's living quarters.

Medieval loggia, Temple of Venus. Inside the *Luxor* café, a well-preserved medieval loggia, except for the ceiling. Sadly, only a circle of black marble on the floor in front of the bar inside marks where the *Temple of Venus* was.

Cathedral Ticket Office—here is where you buy tickets to the Cathedral, *Jupiter's Temple*, etc. Inside is also the Cathedral treasury, wonderful architectural drawings, actual colored tiles from the Cathedral ceiling and other artifacts.

Prothyron. The grand arched entry to the Emperor's living quarters with ceremonial loggia under the central arch where *Diocletian* was viewed and worshiped as a cult deity.

Sphinx--one of dozens ordered by

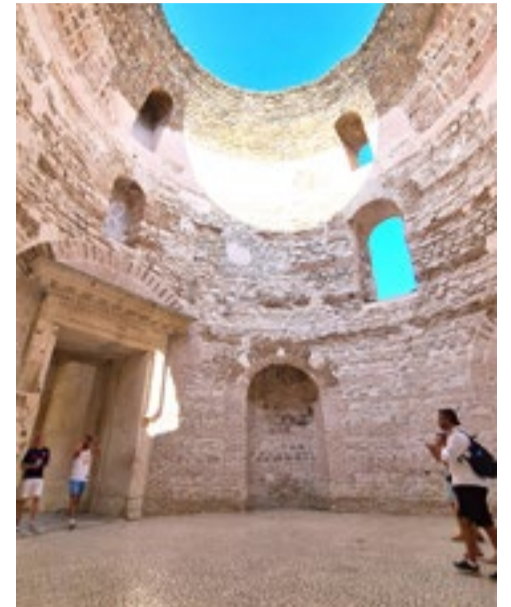


The Sphinx

Diocletian to be brought from Egypt. 3500 years old from the time of *Thutmos I - III*

Diocletian Mausoleum, 3rdC. Today, **St. Domnius's Cathedral**, The oldest cathedral on the planet (that was never moved or was always a cathedral). Admission charge (you MUST see the inside!) Almost completely intact--original frieze under the dome of chariots being pulled by winged boys and more; spectacular Roman columns and decorations. The hand-carved wooden doors and bell tower are 13thC.

The Vestibul. The monumental entrance to *Diocletian's* living quarters. It's here where dignitaries were meant to be first overwhelmed by the grandeur of the architecture and design before meeting a deity.



The Vestibul

Jupiter's Temple, Baptistry of *St. John*. A rare, intact temple dedicated to the legendary Roman god with a headless Egyptian sphinx at the entrance. Later converted into a baptistry. Admission charge.

Brass Gate / Southern basement "sea gate" entrance. The original small entrance to the Palace basements. To explore the actual rooms on either side of the main corridor there is a separate entrance fee. The basement steps lead up to the *Peristil*.

SOUTH WALL / Remains of the emperor's suite

Severova street-- the imperial suite extended over the entire south quarter. Today the courtyards around the *Ethnographic Museum* reflect this grand space with its views to the harbor along the southern façade with its massive arches.

Church of St. Andrew, 7thC. Actually part of the museum's interior and the building erected in the 15thC.

Ethnographic Museum. Well worth the visit, be sure to see the excavations as you walk around this building.

Church of Filip Nerij, built in 1736

Mosaics--*Bulićeva* and *Arhiđakonova*. At both places are the remains of early Roman mosaic floors.



Sv. Duje bell tower

Split like a local

Split and Dalmatia are very different from the rest of Croatia—it's not just the sea, the sun and islands, it's the way we live, relax and even talk.

Living like a local means **starting your day in your favorite café** for an espresso, or whatever type of coffee you like. With more than 100 different cafes in and around the Palace, on the Riva and tucked into narrow alleys, finding one that speaks to you is easy. But if people watching and sun is your thing, head for the Riva and find a spot. Unless your café is a restaurant, it only can serve coffee and alcohol, so if you want to have a croissant or some other pastry with your java, not to worry—just go to the closest bakery, buy it to go and bring it back. **As long as you order something to drink, you can bring any kind of food!** And the wonderful thing about café culture here is that once you are seated, you can stay for hours. No refills, but you won't be chased away so they can serve more people.

■ Sun and fun

After your morning coffee, it's time to head to the beach. Pick up a free copy of **The Split Guide** at the tourist office, for a **handy map** showing



Having a drink on Riva is as local as you can get.



Bačvice beach, Split's most popular, all sand beach is just a short walk from the Old town.

where the best beaches are. The local favorite and the only all sand beach is just up the hill on the street that goes to the Bus Station and Ferry Terminal. Just under the top of this hill is **Bačvice beach**, with an all sand curved beach, a café and amazingly calm water that you can walk out for more than 100 meters and it will only be chest high! **Bačvice is where the game picigin was invented.** If you see a group of people in a semi circle trying to keep a small ball from falling in the water by swatting it to each other, that's picigin. Watching locals fly through the air trying to do this and splashing like dolphins is a real treat. Walking past Bačvice are other beaches like **Firule** and by continuing all the way you arrive at the renovated **Žnjan Beach**, Croatia's newest paradise. Cristal clear waters perfect for swimming and snorkeling. There is plenty of parking, a cultural amphitheater, cafés and restaurants and 1.7 km scenic promenade surrounded by 730 palm trees !

Žnjan beach can be reached by public bus (# 8) or by the Hop On Hop Off boat directly from the center of Split (Matejuška pier). Heading west, at the end of the waterfront Riva there is a bus stop where you can take the bus to **Bene, in Marjan Park, where you can swim, bike, hike, jog and even play tennis!** A further 10-20 minutes walk and you come to a string of beaches at **Kaštelet** and **Kašjuni**, which has chairs you can rent as well as a fast food café.

■ Fjaka

Now it's time for lunch and then *fjaka* (fee-yakah), a fabulous word that loosely translates into 'the sweetness of doing nothing' or as Wikipedia says, 'the subtle art of not giving a ****'. So take a siesta until late afternoon when you can start planning your evening activities.

■ After dark

If the day was brutally hot and you're craving some AC, a **movie at the Mall of Split**, which has **free buses from the parking lot at the beginning of**

the Riva, can be just the ticket. Tons of shops, all your fast food favorites plus local bistros and cafes and their very excellent cinema with all first run flicks, great seating, popcorn and more. A great way to chill for a few hours. In town, **the club scene runs from sophisticated chic to grunge.** In addition to several pub crawls that do group bar hopping, in and around the Palace the most popular spots are **Sanctuary, Charlies, La Linea, Maviv's Jazz Library, Noor** and for great local brew, **the Daltonist** and **Leopold's Deli Bar and Mandrill Tap room.** For DJ's and live music it's **Luxor, Fabrique** and **Roof 68.** The night club live music scene includes **Vanilla** and **Mandrach** (all near Poljud stadium) and intown at **The Central Club** and **Boiler**, which also has a restaurant. Hard to find, but definitely unique is **Judino Drvo.** Starting pretty close to midnight, where you can dance til dawn, are the **bars and clubs at Bačvice beach**—but make sure to download the UBER app or other local taxi contacts so you can get back home safely after your night time fun.



Night clubs like Boiler are where everyone goes to dance

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