

# EXPLORE!

**BEST SELLER**

**Cycle the Dalmatian Coast**  
8 days

Croatia - Trip code CCD



## Cycle the Dalmatian Coast

The south Dalmatia stretch from Split to Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful coastlines in Europe, dotted with medieval towns, fishing villages and a myriad of islands. Local ferries take us to the islands of Hvar and Korcula which we explore by bike on quiet roads, riding past vineyards, olive groves, dramatic limestone cliffs, forested hills and hidden coves. We end our route on a high in historic Dubrovnik.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Split** - Tour through the historic heart of one of the region's oldest cities
- ★ **Hvar Island** - Cycle through the beautiful countryside of one of Croatia's scenic gems
- ★ **Korcula Island** - Explore the villages and vineyards of historic Korcula
- ★ **The Dalmatian Coast** - Explore the coastal plains and breath-taking valleys of Dalmatia by bike
- ★ **Dubrovnik** - A chance to explore the stunning 'Pearl of the Adriatic'

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### CYCLING GRADE:

##### Moderate

Medium length rides suitable for cyclists who are used to undulating routes with occasional energetic climbs. Mainly on trails and quiet roads and you should have a reasonable level of fitness.

#### GROUP SIZE:

##### 10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip Split

The trip starts today in Split.



**Accommodation: Dalmina Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Morning sightseeing in Split. Ferry to Hvar Island and explore by bike

Lying on the eastern shores of the Adriatic, Split's historic heart is centred around the ancient Roman Palace of Diocletian, which dates back to the early years of the 4th century AD. After spending the morning exploring this beautiful town we head for the port. We'll take a tour around this renowned World Heritage Site, before boarding the ferry to Stari Grad on the beautiful island of Hvar. After a two hour journey, the ferry will get us in with time to enjoy an afternoon cycle to the picturesque harbour town of Jelsa. Here we will have time for some optional wine tasting at one of the most famous wineries on the island, Tomic wines, famed for its elegant red wine and sumptuous Prosek - a local delight. Trips running at the end of September and October may not have time for wine tasting due to fading daylight. Our return journey takes us along the scenic coastal road before we ride through the UNESCO protected Stari Grad Plain, where we experience an agricultural landscape of grapes and olives, mainly unchanged since the 4th century BC. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 26 kilometres



**Accommodation: Hotel Lavanda** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Explore the historic old streets and abandoned villages by bike on the beautiful island of Hvar

Today we have a full day to explore more of this beautiful island by bike. There are some gravel sections today which can be rocky and quite challenging at first, however become easier with experience as your confidence grows. Your Explore Leader is an experienced cyclist who will brief you on how to navigate these sections safely. Our day starts with a lengthy ascent up to the highest point of the island, cycling past the lavender fields that were once the workplace of all of Hvar's inhabitants. Tourism is the main source of employment now and it's easy to see why the island attracts so many visitors as we finish our climb and enjoy sweeping views across the island. Our descent then takes us through the village of Brusje to the charming town of Hvar. Here we will have lunch and free time to explore the historic old streets of this Venetian town. In the afternoon we will make our way back to Stari Grad on an unpaved road through the abandoned villages of Velo Grablje and Malo Grablje, encountering steep climbs and beautiful scenery. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 40 kilometres



**Accommodation: Hotel Lavanda** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Ferry to Korcula. Afternoon cycling around the red terracotta roofed villages and marbled streets to the sandy beach

Taking a short drive from Stari Grad this morning then board a catamaran, we head next for the historical and fertile island of Korcula, famed for its quality wine and its age-old traditions. A gorgeous blend of red terracotta roofs, stone cathedrals and marble streets, the old Venetian town of Korcula is a photographer's dream, we'll negotiate our way through the historic streets where there are ample opportunities to sample local cuisine at a Konoba restaurant. From here we take a leisurely cycle along the coast to Lombarda, our home for the next two nights, with an opportunity to experience an exquisite cemetery as we ride into town. Lombarda is famed for its beautiful sandy beaches, dramatic coastal views and vineyards and an early finish provides an excellent opportunity to enjoy these luxuries. There is a chance for a swim and wine tasting at a local winery which is notorious for Grk, a white variety indigenous to Korcula and pairs well with sun and cycling. Our total cycling distance is approximately 10 km



**Accommodation: Hotel Borik** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Full day's cycling on Korcula experiencing the rural elegance of the island

A full day's cycling tour of the island allows us to experience the elegance of rural Korcula, as we slowly make our way across the island to the small town of Cara, one of the oldest settlements on the island. We then head downhill to the pretty coastal village of Zavalatica, where the old traditions of fishing and farming are still celebrated. Here we will swim, enjoy lunch and take in the spectacular views of the crystal clear Adriatic Sea; on a clear day one can hope to see Italy's Monte Gargano. After lunch we cycle through the fertile landscape to Smokvica, a small village nestled amongst the hills in the centre of the island. Surrounded by vineyards, the village is home to one of Croatia's best-known wines, Pošip, as well as the impressive Neo-Romanesque church of The Purification of Our Lady. On our return journey we will cycle past the terracotta roofs of Pupnat, the smallest village on the island before joining the road which takes us back to Lumbarda. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 70 kilometres (Total ascent/descent 520 metres)



**Accommodation: Hotel Borik** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Morning ferry to Orebic. Cycle to Zuljana, then drive to Dubrovnik

We depart Lumbarda after breakfast by bike for a short ride to Korcula harbour. We'll cross over to the Dalmatian mainland, to the thin, finger like strip of the Peljesac Peninsula and then we will start our cycling in Postup. A route along the coast allows us to cycle through a landscape blanketed in rich vineyards of Plavac Mali grapes - a local speciality. An hour drive takes us to the hills that rise above Dubrovnik and to the top of Mount Srđ where we have the pleasure of seeing the old city walls for the first time as we visit the Imperial fort, well known for its crucial role in the Siege of Dubrovnik when a handful of Croatian soldiers successfully defended the fort and therefore kept the vital high ground. The fort is now a fascinating photographic war museum (optional visit) which provides a vivid account of the war. We then make our way to our hotel in Dubrovnik by road. Our cycling distance today is approximately 30 kms.



**Accommodation: Hotel Sumratin** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Optional cycle through the villages of the Dalmatian Coast or relax in Dubrovnik

This morning you have the option for a final ride or relax in Dubrovnik. If you chose to cycle the route takes you through the beautiful Dalmatian countryside, heading out towards Cavtat and starting our ride with a gradual ascent along a tarmac road with panoramic views over the Konvale Valley. The olive growing region of Croatia, as well passing through green groves the roads are also lined with ghostly Cypress Trees; standing guard over the valley and it's travellers. We will have a drink break in an idyllic village on the banks of the river Ljuta, before making our way through the valley to Cavtat where we finish our last ride and have lunch. Returning to Dubrovnik, the afternoon is then free to enjoy the 'Pearl of the Adriatic'. Once described by George Bernard Shaw as paradise on earth, the old medieval town of Dubrovnik still retains a unique atmosphere and charm, with its wealth of monasteries, museums and medieval buildings. A walk around the entire circumference of the city walls offers some great views out over the rooftops and alleyways of the old city and the tranquil waters of the Adriatic. Our total optional cycling distance today is approximately 40 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Sumratin** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Trip ends Dubrovnik

The trip ends in Dubrovnik this morning after breakfast.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

## Cycling information

### DAILY DISTANCE



 Optional Rides

### General cycling information

On this trip we cycle 215 km over six days (an average of 36 km per day) with further optional rides available. The roads are mainly quiet and paved with some gravel and rocky sections. The terrain is gently undulating with some steep inclines. Some customers find the hills challenging but due to the short nature of them and overall cycling distances we have graded the route as moderate. A support vehicle accompanies the rides.

### Bike included

21 gear Polar or Mirage mountain bike

### Bike information

Your included bike is a 21 gear Polar Avalanche mountain bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. A 5 litre handlebar bag and water bottle holder are included as well as the facility to fit your own pedals or saddle if you wish to bring them. A support vehicle accompanies the rides throughout the trip. We provide spare parts and take care of the day to day maintenance. All you need to bring is your own helmet.

### Cycling grade

Moderate



## Why book this trip

Unlike many other operators, we include the hire of your bike in the overall cost of the holiday: you don't need to bring your own or pay extra to hire one locally. We also provide a support vehicle, spare parts and take care of day to day bike maintenance. All you need bring is your own helmet.

# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 7



## Transport

Bus  
Bicycle  
Boat



## Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Cycle  
guide  
Driver(s)



## Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

# Trip information

## Country information

### Croatia Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, dry, sunny summers. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally it is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms can occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Hvar Island gets the most sunshine in summer with 10-12 hours each day, followed by Split, Korcula Island and Dubrovnik with around 7-8 hours. Temperatures from May to October are generally in the low to mid 20's (in °C), but can reach into the 30's (in °C) in July and August. Trip itineraries with boat cruises can occasionally be disrupted due to bad weather.

#### Time difference to GMT

+1

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Roman Catholic

#### Language

Croatian

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

Korcula - Moreska sword dance show 16 Euros Lumbarda - Winetasting 8 Euros Pupnat - typical lunch 17 Euros Hvar - winetasting in local winery with lunch 20 Euros Dubrovnik countryside cycle - 40 Euros Dubrovnik - City wall walk 15 Euros. Cable Car 15 Euros

### Clothing

When cycling: quick drying cycle tops, padded cycle shorts, lightweight wind and water proof jacket and warmer breathable layers where local conditions require. General: Pack essentially for hot or mild weather depending on the time of the year.

## Footwear

If you are not bringing cycle shoes then try to bring stiff-soled shoes as these are better for cycling - transmitting your energy into the pedals more efficiently. This becomes more relevant and recommended the more demanding the grade and distances to cover. SPD cycle shoes are not well suited to trips that combine sightseeing with cycling. Comfortable shoes, trainers, sandals or flip flops are useful when not on the bike.

## Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

We recommend you bring a daypack and one main piece of luggage (total allowance: 44lb/20kg) which will be transported between hotels while you cycle. Check the bike details section to see if a pannier or handlebar bag is provided on the bike.

## Equipment

On all Explore cycle holidays we strongly recommend you bring along and wear your cycle helmet. In case of an accident resulting in personal injury, certain insurance policies are invalidated in cases where a helmet was not being worn. Cycle glasses to protect against dust, pollen and the sun, padded cycle gloves and a water bottle or water delivery system (e.g. camelback or platypus) are also useful. You may choose to bring your own gel seat cover for added comfort. If a handle bar bag or pannier is not provided (check bike details) then you may like to bring a small rucksack to wear while cycling. Other items to consider bringing are a sunhat and sun cream, torch, earplugs and insect repellent. Please carry some or all of your cycling equipment e.g. helmet as part of your hand luggage.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

## Country Information

### Croatia Holidays & Tours

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

##### Dinner price

£18

##### Beer price

£2

##### Water price

£1.5

#### Foreign Exchange

##### Local currency

Croatian Kuna.

##### Recommended Currency For Exchange

Pound Sterling, US Dollars and Euro cash can all be exchanged for the local currency.

##### Where To Exchange

Most major towns and cities - your Explore Leader will advise you on arrival. Only exchange money at reputable places like banks, ATM's and official Forex Offices.

##### ATM Availability

Most towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Generally accepted throughout including most restaurants and hotels.

**Travellers Cheques**

Travellers Cheques can only be exchanged in banks.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Bicycle, Boat

### Accommodation notes

**Booking a Single Room**

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard - Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa Information

Croatia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcours. See [www.travcours.com](http://www.travcours.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcours. The Team at Travcours will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)



### **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Croatia Holidays & Tours**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend being up-to-date with your routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK including protection against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Tick-borne encephalitis protection is recommended by some medical sources at certain times of the year. Ticks are most active between spring and late autumn. Check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.