

EXPLORE!

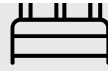


Why book this trip?

Explore the beautiful Dalmatian coast by bike from Split to Dubrovnik. Visit medieval towns, fishing villages and plenty of vineyards while island hopping along Croatia's coast.

- **Dubrovnik and Split** - Spend time in the historic hearts 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 this historic Island.





INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7

TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour Leader / Cycle guide
Driver(s)

TRANSPORT
Bus
Bicycle
Boat

ACCOMMODATION
3 nights standard hotel
4 nights simple hotel

CYCLING GRADE:
Moderate

GROUP SIZE:
10 - 16

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip Kastel Kambelovac

The trip starts today in seaside town Kastel Kambelovac, 10 km from Split.

If you arrive early you can take advantage of the beach in front of the hotel, and excellent restaurant offering traditional dishes that is very popular with the locals.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Baletna Skola (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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

Today we cycle 14 km to Split, 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 and stopping here for lunch (not included) 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 a late 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 42 kilometres (410 metres total accumulated ascent).

Our accommodation for the next two nights is a large, communist-era hotel in a prime water front location with a wonderful swimming pool and rooms with ensuite facilities. We have classified the hotel as simple due to the slightly tired décor and furnishings but are confident it is the best choice and location for this trip.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Lavanda (or similar)



Grade: Simple 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. 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 (not included) and free time to explore the historic old streets of this old Venetian town and take a dip in the crystal clear water. In the afternoon we will make our way back to Stari Grad on a quiet paved road through the abandoned villages of Velo Grabjle and Malo Grabjle, encountering one short, steep climb and beautiful scenery.

Our total cycling distance today is approximately 42 kilometres (1100 metres total accumulated ascent). There are two big hills today, the support bus is with us should you wish to sit one or both out and just enjoy the downhills and flatter sections.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Lavanda (or similar)



Grade: Simple 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 Dalmatian style 'Konoba' restaurant (not included). 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 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 today is approximately 13 kilometres (156 metres total accumulated ascent)



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Borik (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Full day's cycling on beautiful Korcula 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 very much alive. Here we can swim, enjoy lunch (not included) in a local restaurant 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, through vineyards with sweeping coastal views, 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 62 kilometres (Total accumulated ascent 1150 metres)



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Borik (or similar)



Grade: 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. The end of our ride is celebrated at the little-visited but beautiful bay of Zuljana. A two hour drive takes us to the hills that rise above Dubrovnik and to the top of Mount Srd 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 total cycling distance today is approximately 27 kilometres (230 metres total accumulated ascent)

Our hotel is in the lively Lapad Bay area, close to many restaurants and a public beach. Dubrovnik Old Town is easily reached by a twenty minute public bus ride. All rooms have ensuite facilities and we have classified the hotel as simple due to the slightly tired décor and furnishings.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Sumratin (or similar)



Grade: Simple 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 (not included). 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 cycling distance today is approximately 34 kilometres (387 metres total accumulated ascent).



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Sumratin (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends Dubrovnik

The trip ends in Dubrovnik this morning after breakfast.

We suggest adding an additional night if you wish to further explore the ancient city of Dubrovnik, UNESCO World Heritage Site.





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Croatia

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	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic	Croatian

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Korcula - Moreska sword dance show 16 Euros

Lumbarda - Winetasting 8 Euros

Pupnat - typical lunch 17 Euros

Hvar - winetasting in local winery 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. Accordingly you should allow approximately EUR 20 for local staff.

Croatia

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	Beer price	Water price
£18	£2	£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

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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, Travcour. See www.travcour.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 Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

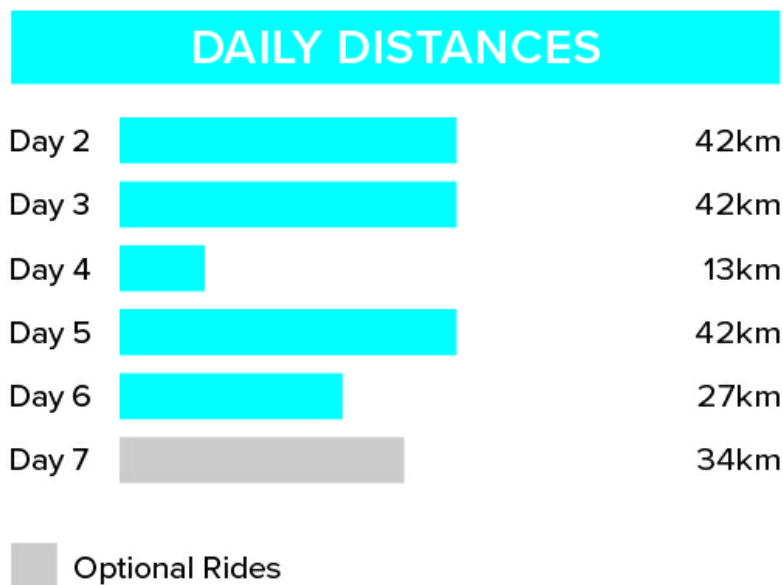
On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Croatia

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. Please 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Cycling information



General cycling information

On this trip we cycle 220 km over six days (an average of 37 km per day). The roads are mainly quiet and paved. 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 hybrid bike. Electric bikes (e-bikes) are available for an additional cost.

Bike information

Your included bike is a 21 gear Polar Avalanche hybrid 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. Electric bikes are available for an additional cost.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are available for an additional cost for the duration of the holiday. Please contact us for more details or to request your e-bike.

Cycling grade

Moderate



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**