

# EXPLORE!



## Family Dubrovnik and Islands Explorer

CROATIA - TRIP CODE FDI

FAMILY

### Why book this trip?

Based on the island of Lopud, just three quarters of an hour by ferry from Dubrovnik, this week long active family holiday is ideal for water lovers. Spend the week exploring inlets, bays and neighbouring islands by kayak. Learn how to SUP (stand up paddle boarding), cycle on Sipan island and venture into Dubrovnik to explore its winding limestone streets and grand baroque buildings.

- **Snorkelling and swimming** - in the crystal clear waters of the Adriatic
- **Stand up paddle board** - ideal for beginners or experienced paddle boarders. No previous experience needed!
- **Kayaking between islands** - explore grottos and golden sandy beaches
- **Historic Dubrovnik** - exploring the alley ways and charming streets of Dubrovnik's old town

**INCLUDED MEALS**Breakfast: 7  
Dinner: 2**TRIP STAFF**Explore Tour  
Leader  
Activity Guide(s)**TRANSPORT**Bus  
Ferry**ACCOMMODATION**7 nights standard  
guesthouse**TRIP PACE:**

Relaxed

**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 in Dubrovnik airport, ferry to Lopud Island

Arriving in Dubrovnik airport, transfer to the port Gruz close to the centre of Dubrovnik to catch a mid afternoon ferry to the island of Lopud. If arriving in Dubrovnik earlier in the day there is ample time to explore the old town before joining the group at the port. Bags can be left at the ferry port. The ferry takes 55 minutes and offers panoramic views of the bay of Dubrovnik as well as the outer islands. For those on later flights to Dubrovnik, a private transfer to the port and later ferry is available, the latest arrival time on day 1 is 6pm.

Upon arrival in Lopud harbour we take a short walk to our guesthouse. Tonight we have a welcome dinner at a local tavern.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)

**Grade: Standard Guesthouse****MEALS PROVIDED: DINNER**

### DAY 2 - Introduction demonstration to sea kayaking. Paddle to the Green Grotto, swim and snorkel

Breakfast is served on the terrace offering views of the neighboring inlets and islands. After breakfast take a short stroll down to our kayaking base for a introduction and safety demonstration to kayaking including paddle strokes and getting comfortable in our boats. After the instructions we head out to explore Lopud's coastline starting in a shallow protected bay before venturing out across the channel to the island of Sipan. Heading south and west, we first paddle to a natural stone arch which is a perfect photo-op. Under this archway, you can see the Adriatic sea open up in all of its glory.

Next, we regroup and paddle along the coast to the hidden Green Cave. We'll then tie up our kayaks and get ready for a wonderful morning of swimming and cliff jumping. But first, we'll grab snorkels and masks and swim down through the cave's opening. Inside, there is plenty of room for swimming and even standing. This large, and safe, cave opens up to reveal an ethereal green light caused by the sun's reflection off the sandy bottom.

We continue on to the delightful fishing village of Sudurad on Sipan, for a lunch of local delicacies (not included). Following lunch, we paddle back toward Lopud and our guesthouse. Total kayaking distance - 10 km



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Guesthouse**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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### **DAY 3 - Sea kayak to Sunj Beach on Lopud, beach games. Walk back to Lopud town along island tracks**

Returning to our sea kayaks after breakfast, we paddle from the harbour around to the opposite side of Lopud, the wonderful sandy beach of Sunj where we spend the morning playing water games.

An especially popular beach game in Croatia is called Picigin. It's basically 'keepie-uppie' ball game where the goal is to keep the ball in the air as long as possible, but in acrobatic fashion with a great deal of jumping, diving and kicking. There are no winners or losers, just great fun!

In the afternoon we'll have time to swim, snorkel, and jump from rocks, which are all very safe with plenty of deep water. Leaving our kayaks on Sunj beach, we walk back over the island to our guesthouse, a distance of just over 2km along a mainly flat track, to get ready for dinner.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Guesthouse**





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Introduction to 'SUP' stand up paddle boarding with a full day to practice. Sunset paddle from Sunj to Lopud town**

Stand up paddle boarding has recently had a surge of popularity around the world. Originating in Hawaii, its a sport that is accessible to everyone, easy to learn and lots of fun. The inflatable boards are very buoyant allowing for maximum stability, a tall paddle is used to navigate and propel the board.

After an introductory lesson we have the rest of the morning to put into practice and refine our skills in the calm waters of the Adriatic. Late afternoon we walk across the island to reclaim our kayaks and paddle back to our kayak base, pausing to see the sunset. The perfect way to end the day.



ACCOMMODATION:

Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Guesthouse**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 5 - Early morning ferry to Dubrovnik, full day for sightseeing, late afternoon ferry back to Lopud**

After an early breakfast, take the ferry back over to the mainland to see Dubrovnik's Old Town. Now essentially fully restored following damage from shelling in the Siege of Dubrovnik in 1991-92, the Old Town still retains its unique atmosphere and charm. UNESCO granted it World Cultural Heritage status, as one of the world's finest examples of a fortified Medieval town. For fans of Game of Thrones, the iconic red-tiled roofs of Dubrovnik will be familiar as the setting of King's Landing, the seat of power in the Seven Kingdoms.

Our local guide will accompany us to the city gates, providing an overview of the best sights to take in, followed by free time to further explore the town under your own steam. You may choose to get a view from above by taking the cable car to a nearby hilltop or by enjoying a walk around the city walls (the walk of the full course is 1940 metres). You may also like to visit the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery or the cathedral in the old town. Return to Lopud by ferry late afternoon.



ACCOMMODATION:

Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Guesthouse**





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 6 - SUP in the morning, afternoon ferry to Sipan island, biking on the island and beach time**

This morning we have further time to try stand up paddle boarding in the calm waters of the bay.

Late morning ferry to Sipan, the largest and most scenic island in the Elaphiti Archipelago and its harbor town of Sudurad. Trade our paddles for pedals and explore Sipan island, a traditional fishing island with just two villages and one road connecting the two.

Biking across the middle part of the island which is mostly flat with old olive growths, vineyards, stone villas and wild fig trees (a perfect dessert for late August, as they can be picked freely while biking past them). We make a stop at the Saint Spirit fort-church, built in 14th century as a defense against Turks. Its possible to climb up the steps onto a flat roof and see the whole of Sipan island from the top.

Continuing to the village of Sipanska Luka on the island's north end, we'll stop for a bite to eat at one of the region's best kept restaurant secrets. Relax with a swim in the Adriatic before heading back the way we came, making the short ferry trip back across to Lopud and our guesthouse.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)

Grade: Standard Guesthouse



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 7 - Free day. Optional day trip to the incredible fjord-like scenery of Montenegro**

Designed as a free day, be as active as you want, enjoying more time on the Lopud's beaches or take an excursion via ferry back to Dubrovnik for further sightseeing or go on our optional white water rafting tour to beautiful Cetina river (suitable for children over 8 years old) or take a day trip to Montenegro, just over 90 kilometres from Dubrovnik and home to the historic lakeside town of Kotor.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Lopud Guesthouse (or similar)

Grade: Standard Guesthouse





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### DAY 8 - Ferry back to Dubrovnik where the trip ends

After breakfast, take the ferry from Lopud back to Dubrovnik port and drive to the airport where the trip ends, the first ferry departs Lopud at 6.20am, there are ferries throughout the day.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### 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

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### Budgeting and packing

#### Clothing

July and August are the hottest months, but early and late in the season go prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature and the showers. You'll need your swimming gear and a beach towel. Light rainwear may be needed at any time of year.

#### Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals; footwear that you don't mind getting wet - a pair of old trainers would be ideal or water shoes with a rubber sole.



## Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece and a daypack. As there are no cars on the island of Lopud you will need to carry your bag from the harbour to the guesthouse. The total walking time is no more than 10 minutes. For this reason it is worth considering taking a suitable suitcase that can be easily carried.

## Equipment

Lifejackets and dry bags for the stand up paddle boarding and kayaking excursions will be provided locally. Consider bringing cycle gloves, handy to protect the hands when kayaking. A cycling helmet will be provided for the bike day.

A water bottle and plenty of high factor sunscreen are all essential though and you may also wish to bring your own mask, snorkel and shoes suitable to wear in the water to protect from rocks and sea urchins. Bring insect repellent with you as there are mosquitos, especially in the evening.

We also strongly recommend taking a cap or hat to protect the head from getting sunburnt in the strong summer sun whilst kayaking.

There is no pharmacy on the island of Lopud so plan ahead and bring anything you might need. If necessary we should be able to get emergency supplies shipped over from the mainland.

Money: Cash is still the best kind of money in Croatia. Markets will take credit cards but many small restaurants will not. There is an ATM machine on Lopud island, but no bank or exchange office.

## 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

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest 150 Kuna per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## 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.

<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£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.

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Ferry

### Accommodation notes

Our base for the week is a small locally owned guesthouse, located in the centre of car free Lopud Island, within easy walking distance to the sea front. Breakfasts are served at our guesthouse, with a welcome dinner included in a local taverna. There is a good selection of local bars and restaurants close by and the beautiful Sunj beach is a twenty minute stroll away. For larger groups we will use two guesthouses located close by to each other.

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## 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](http://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.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of this water based activity trip. If you wish to participate in any of these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## **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.

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## Family information



**Triple Rooms:** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included at our guesthouse for the entire duration of the holiday. If you would like this option, please ask our Sales team for further information.

**Average Age:** As a guide we have estimated the average age of the children who have travelled on similar trips over the the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The projected average age on this trip is 12 years old, this trip is suitable for children of all ages.



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**