

Holidays in Croatia

Our Croatia holidays washed by the clean, clear waters of the Adriatic have more than a little of the southern Mediterranean character. The vast majority of Croatias population is Roman Catholic, regular churchgoers are the norm, and family values form the fabric of the nation. An afternoon siesta is observed on a Croatia holiday and balmy evenings begin with the traditional stroll on the seafront or in the city square. Croatia celebrates a host of national days and religious feasts.



Holiday in Croatia and take a water taxi along the scenic route from town to town. Hillsides cloaked in forestry run right to the water's edge. Summer concerts draw the crowds to ancient amphitheatres, and along a thousand miles of shore a thousand tiny Croatian islands are sprinkled in a sapphire sea. In such a setting, relaxation is carried on the breeze in one of our Croatia holiday hotels.

On a Croatia holiday you will find a coastline where sandy bays are few and far between, there's nothing to cloud the clarity of the surrounding seas, making them perfect for swimming, snorkelling and diving.

With rocky beaches, pebble coves and manmade bathing platforms, it's easy to make the most of the water, and for those who would rather be on it than in it, there are island hopping ferries to many of the offshore islets and outcrops. Little fishing ports are liberally scattered along the shoreline ensuring a fresh supply of seafood for delicious local dishes. Away from the coast, glorious rural scenery lines your route to timeless tiny villages. Here in the hills there's an almost tangible awareness that you're well off the beaten track of tourism. It's a rare and refreshing feeling.



Croatia and her resorts...

Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik has been called the most perfectly preserved medieval city in the world, which has for centuries rivalled Venice as a major sea trading port.

The huge walls, built between the 11th and 17th centuries are still intact.

The churches, monasteries, palaces, wide marble-paved squares, steep cobble-stepped streets and houses have remained unchanged for centuries. But Dubrovnik is no museum. It is alive with the comings and goings of people whose homes line the narrow streets and sunlit squares enclosed by massive walls.





Take a walk along the stone ramparts of the city for the best views, before venturing inside to experience many treasures. The famous Dubrovnik Summer Festival in July and August features outdoor concerts and other cultural events such as opera and ballet.

Visit beautiful churches, ornate palaces, interesting museums, markets and bazaars. There is an excellent choice of bars, pizzerias and restaurants together with a few nightclubs and discos. Sporting

activities in the area include tennis, volleyball, and a variety of watersports and bicycles for hire.

Cavtat

Cavtat is a delightful resort with a picturesque bay, harbour and palm-fringed promenade.

It is a mix of ancient culture and modern hotels, gift shops, pavement cafés, bars and restaurants which come alive in the evening. The pebble beach's are clean, the sea is clear and warm and the



Mediterranean climate encourages lush, green vegetation.

Cavtat has been a particular favourite of British guests for many years. Walk around the old town to the bars and specialty restaurants or explore the meandering paths around the peninsula.

Visit the local art gallery, the Baroque parish church and the octagonal, domed mausoleum

built by the famous sculptor Mestrovic. In the evenings, dance on the terraces or in the nightclub. Watersports are generally available from June to September and range from sailing, windsurfing, scuba diving, water skiing, para-sailing, jet-skiing and canoeing to pedaloos and rowing boats.

Mlini

The hamlet of Mlini, sheltered by high mountains, nestles amongst pine trees, cypresses, olive and orange groves and oleanders, basking in the warmth of the Mediterranean sun.

This charming fishing village, whose name was derived from the old watermill and stream in its centre, has a peaceful harbour and pleasant shoreline. The old stone houses add to the charm of the area.



The old city of Dubrovnik is a short 10km bus or boat ride journey.

The Zupa Valley with its enchanting villages, farms and vineyards is a 15 minutes walk or short bus ride. There are lovely walks along the seashore to the neighbouring resort of Srebreno. Visit the old city of Dubrovnik, easily reached by local bus or boat, the botanical gardens at Trsteno, the oyster

beds at Ston, the Elaphite Islands, fish picnic by boat or visit the Konavle Valley, just south of Dubrovnik Airport.

The naturist beach Beterina with its own restaurant, is in a secluded bay five minutes by boat from Mlini. Sailing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, water-skiing, parasailing and pedaloes are generally available June to September.

Island of Korcula

Korcula is one of the largest and most attractive of Croatia's 1,000 islands with 195 unspoiled coves and beaches, lush upland valleys and extensive vineyards.

Its backbone is formed by a mountain chain, the highest peak being the Klupca which rises to a height of 568m. There is evidence which suggests that the Romans first settled on this island as early as the 3rd century BC. The temperate climate delivers an average of 3,000 hours of sunshine each year and sustains an abundance of lush aromatic Mediterranean plants.



The island will appeal to devotees of active pursuits. There are pleasant pine-scented woods and many caves to explore, once the homes of the Stone-age inhabitants.

Korcula's azure blue sea, well-tended beaches and unspoiled coves are perfect for enjoyable swimming and diving in an exciting underwater world of flora and fauna. Sailing and windsurfing are also available.

Island of Kolocep

This enchanting island with just over 200 inhabitants is one of the 13 islands and islets of the Elafiti and is celebrated for its luxuriant sub-tropical vegetation. There is a daily boat service to Dubrovnik which is just 7km away.

The quaint fishing village of Donje Celo is situated on the northwest coast of Kolocep and is protected from winds by a limestone ridge. Its beautiful and ancient Church of Our Lady was first constructed in the 13th century. The Hotel Villas Kolocep is close to the village, which is surrounded by secluded beaches and pine forests.

Island of Lopud



This small and peaceful island is located some 7kms to the west of Dubrovnik. Its warm and sunny climate sustains luxuriant Mediterranean and sub-tropical vegetation with cypress, lemon, orange, pine and palm trees. There is a beautiful sandy beach in the Bay of Sunj which faces the open sea. The small fishing village of Lopud has a wide promenade, a botanical garden, a profusion of flowering shrubs and trees, little bars and a restaurant or two. A safe, sandy beach and traffic-free streets are ideal for families with children.

Island of Mljet

Thought by many to be the most beautiful island of the Adriatic, Mljet is covered by a carpet of ancient forest and is rich in flora and fauna. There is an outstanding national park of over 11 square miles with two lakes, Malo and Veliko.

On the tiny island of St Mary there is a 12th century Benedictine monastery which can be reached by small taxi boat. For those who prefer pleasant walks, the island is criss-crossed with paths around the lakes, over the hills, through forests and along the seashores. Its hot summers, numerous bathing beaches and fascinating cultural heritage distinguish Mljet as an unspoiled island resort of immense quality.



Orebic

Orebic is situated on the southwestern segment of the Peljesac Peninsula at the base of Mount Ilija.



Its glorious beaches are reported to be the finest in Southern Dalmatia.

Its wide sandy coves are fringed by beautiful groves of tamarisk and pine. This quaint fishing town has magnificent views of the Adriatic Sea, the island of Korcula and the coastline of southern Dalmatia.

Split

1,700 years ago the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his first summer palace in Split, which is now listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The squares, restaurants and cafes bustle with activity. The city enjoys a gloriously sunny climate and the wide promenade is refreshed by a mild wind in the summer. This is a city of great culture and historical interest which successfully blends the old and the new.

There is a wealth of leisure activities and Split serves as an ideal base for many enjoyable tours and excursions.



Makarska

Makarska is a delightful old town sitting in the middle of a pretty horseshoe-shaped bay against a spectacular backdrop of the impressive Biokovo Mountains.



There is a wonderful palm-fringed promenade with a selection of fashionable cafés, bars and boutiques overlooking the pretty harbour where pleasure craft bob jauntily at their moorings. The town is vibrant with a bustling and cosmopolitan atmosphere, particularly in July and August. Most hotels are located just outside the bay with their own curving pine-protected beaches.

Makarska offers the best of both worlds, old and new, and is an ideal resort for those looking for a livelier holiday and a good choice of facilities.

Baska Voda

Situated in the heart of the riviera on one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic coast, Baska Voda, once a small fishing, farming and trading village, is now a favourite tourist resort. It nestles beneath the spectacular Biokovo Mountains from which watercourses mark out olive groves, vineyards and pine forests from the mountain peaks down to the golden beaches.



Brela



A charming resort with a most beautiful white pebble beach, blue sea and green pines, fig trees and olive groves edging the shore. Brela's beach was awarded Blue Flag status in 2003. The sleepy village and fishing port with stone houses, small bars and cafés awakens in the early evening. The hotels are built to the side of the port on densely wooded slopes. A perfect resort for a carefree, seaside holiday.

Tucepi

Tucepi is a small but delightful town, just 80 kilometres south of Split airport. Along its idyllic coast are a series of golden beaches bordered by a turquoise sea and a green necklace of Mediterranean vegetation. Nestling on the slopes of mighty Mt. Biokovo, the highest mountain in the Mediterranean, Tucepi benefits from a level coastal promenade running alongside the beaches and through the town. The Tucepi area consists of a number of quaint villages, olive groves, vineyards and glades, rustic Roman villas and the ancient 13th century church of St. George.



The Island of Hvar

Hvar is the second largest island in the Adriatic and in 1997 was voted as one of the ten most beautiful islands in the world by Traveller Magazine. It is known as the 'Madeira of the Adriatic', and its splendid climate boasts an average of 2,715 hours of sunshine a year.

The island is noted for its lush vegetation, pinewoods, olive trees and various aromatic plants that perfume the crystal-clear unpolluted air. Hvar is renowned for its spectacular lavender fields and its many vineyards, producing over 47 different types of quality wines.

This is an island with a rich cultural heritage and architecture, hosting many beautiful resorts and picturesque villages in peaceful, idyllic settings.



Hvar Town is a handsome fortified town built of honey-coloured stone, which today has become cosmopolitan and is often lively. It is one of the most architecturally beautiful in the world with its Venetian Palace and a perfect, centuries-old theatre, the first to be built in Europe and still in use today. There is a white polished stone square in front of the Cathedral, which looks out over the pretty harbour with a backdrop of islets.

The island of Brac

The island of Brac is well known for its lovely coves and beaches, wonderful bathing and unsurpassed scenic beauty which provides an ideal setting for an escape from the tempo of modern living.



It is the third largest island in the Adriatic and enjoys hot and dry summers.

The island is famous for its vineyards, olive groves, lush pine forests and its white stone, which has been used in many famous buildings all over the world, including the White House in Washington. There are beautiful Renaissance and Baroque palaces along the island's famous, picturesque bays.

Bol is Brac's oldest settlement and its origins have been traced to the beginning of the Christian era. Situated on the south shore of the island, nestling under the steep heights of Mt. Vidova Gora, it is a distinctive medieval seaport and the most well known resort on the island. In the harbour area, there is a promenade with a selection of bars, cafés and restaurants.

The famous 'Zlatni Rat' beach, known as the 'Golden Horn', is reputed to be the most beautiful in the Adriatic. This unique beach is 630m long and extends 300m into the sea. There are also other beautiful pebble beaches nearby.

Postira is a small picturesque fishing village located on the north coast, and is surrounded by ancient olive groves, pine forests and other Mediterranean flora. The local people welcome visitors and mix with them in the village bars and restaurants. Nearby Lovrecina has a wonderful sandy



beach sheltered by a cove which is ideal for children.

Supetar is a small picturesque town with a harbour that has regular ferry services linking Brac to the mainland. It is a charming resort with imposing buildings and has long been popular with visitors of all ages. It enjoys a wide range of restaurants and bars along the waterfront where many excursions are offered by boat to nearby islands and attractive bays.

Rovinj

The ancient fishing port of Rovinj is arguably one of the most breathtakingly beautiful resorts in the entire Adriatic region. The old town has a fascinating mix of Gothic Renaissance, Baroque and neo-classical styles. Its winding narrow back streets reveal a profusion of red-tiled buildings and unique exterior chimneys, all dominated by the imposing Cathedral of St. Euphemia, which stands imperiously on its hill-top location in the very heart of the peninsula.



Porec

Porec, or Parentium, as it was once known, was originally a Roman town strategically positioned on a wooded peninsula amongst small bays and uninhabited islets, washed by the clear and warm waters of the Adriatic. Its Roman heritage is distinctly visible with main streets named Decumanus



and Cardo Maximus. Roman churches and villas, medieval walls and round towers, Gothic and Baroque houses all bear witness to the development of Porec throughout the long passage of time. This is an exquisitely built old stone town of Venetian-style houses, narrow cobbled streets, gold mosaic frescoes and its 6th century Euphrasian Basilica, a World Heritage site and one of the finest examples of Byzantine art.

Porec also boasts an exciting range of quality hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, cafés and bars matched only by a bewildering selection of activities and excursions. This beautiful, coastal resort has won many national tourism awards for its outstanding quality.

Opatija

The charming and rather sophisticated seaside resort of Opatija was originally created by the monarchs and aristocrats of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Today, the splendour of a bygone era of opulence and grandeur still remains in the classical architectural styles of many of the hotels with their facades painted in fresh pastel colours. The town's parks and gardens are well maintained and



exhibit cedars, palms, magnolia, wisteria and mimosa, which thrive in the region's benign climate. The magnificent coastline can be appreciated from a waterfront promenade, which extends for 12km along the Gulf of Kvarner. Opatija is a lively and colourful seaside resort with an excellent selection of seafront shops, restaurants, bars, casinos, cafés and nightclubs with activities ranging from watersports to mountain hiking. A perfect and unusual fusion of traditional and

contemporary lifestyles.