

CROATIA – PEARLS OF SOUTHERN DALMATIA

8-days / 7-nights of moderate cycling (with one or two challenging ascents)



Our cycling-tours in Southern Dalmatia - the smallest and most sparsely populated region in Croatia - will take us past unique little towns and through beautiful island countryside. You will experience the splendid island of Korcula with its picturesquely situated old township, the wine growing peninsula of Peljesac and to the south of the peninsula the island of Mljet, with its impressive national park. Our tour guide will guide you through the towns of Trogir, Hvar, Stari Grad and Korcula, which are almost all protected by UNESCO's world heritage list.

We offer different boats for your standard cruise accommodation: the Kapetan Jure – a comfortable and spacious wooden motorised yacht, with a cosy above & below deck cabins each with ensuite shower & toilet. We also offer premium cruises onboard the elegant Romantica or the San Snova – modern & comfortable motorised yachts, with generous cabins & superior fittings. Please note on all boats, there is limited storage space in the cabins.

Our moderate graded cycling tours are all-inclusive. They require a good level of fitness, which can be acquired from steady cycling practise. The tours will range up to a height of 200 - 500m above sea level. The daily itineraries of 20 - 50km will take you through hilly, sometimes mountainous terrain without any time-constraints. There are long and steep climbs but there is plenty of time to rest or walk as you choose. You are free to set aside a time each day to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you. We will travel mostly on sealed roads (rarely travelled outside the holiday season) and each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join with the two multilingual tour guides.

Pearls of Southern Dalmatia:	Standard cruise:	\$1890 per person (twin share).
	Romantica or San Snova' cruise:	\$2135 per person (twin share).
	Above Deck Cabin supplement:	\$105pp (twin share), \$210 (single)
	Single Use Cabin supplement:	\$625per person

Departs:

Standard cruise: 3, 10, 17 April, 1, 15, 22, 29 May, 5 Jun, 21 Aug, 4, 18, 25 Sep, 9, 16 Oct 2010

Romantica or San Snova cruise: 24 April, 12, 26 June, 3, 17, 31 July, 14, 28 August, and 11 September 2010

Starts & Ends: Port of Trogir. Nearest airport: Split

Cruise includes: 8-day-trip on a motor yacht with a crew of four, double / twin or single cabins with shower/toilet, full board on the ship includes breakfast, lunch & dinner, English-German speaking tour guide & 7-guided cycling tours as described in itinerary & bike hire, bed linen and towels, entrance fees for National Park of Mljet, overview-maps for the daily tours (available on board).

Not included in tour: Personal expenses, gratuities, local fees, port taxes (@ Euros 20 paid to captain), drinks – tally sheet onboard to be paid at end of trip, taxi transfer airport – ship in Trogir (one way 20 Euro paid locally)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



SUGGESTED ITINERARY – subject to weather & sailing conditions

Day 1 (Sat) Split

(Cycling @ 20 km/12 miles)

On the day of arrival (usually at Split airport which is about 5 km/3 miles from the harbour of Trogir) make your way by taxi to the ship. After check in we will fit you up with a bicycle before a short cruise at @ 2.00pm from Trogir to Split. Here we take a short cycle tour to the Marjan Mountains, a popular recreational destination for the inhabitants of Split – this is the chance to adjust your bikes and shake out the cobwebs from your flight.

Anyone arriving late should try to get to the ship before dinner in Split. After dinner our guide will accompany you on a walk through the old town and Roman Palace of Split a world heritage site. Overnight is in Split.

Day 2 (Sun) Cetina Canyon

(Cycling @ 43 km/27 miles)

After a short sail across to Omis we cycle into the valley of the Cetina River, which has buried itself deep into the cliff face. We return to Omis with its pirate castles by way of small side roads through a varied and interesting rocky landscape. There is also the option of taking part in a 2-hour rafting tour on the Cetina River.

In the afternoon we cross over to Brac Island with a swimming break. The famous white marble of Brac was used for the construction of the White House in Washington and the Reichstag Parliament building in Berlin, Germany.

Day 3 (Mon) Brac Island

(Cycling @ 22 km/14 miles)

Today's route begins in Pučišća with a long but moderate ascent of the mountain ridge on the island, past mulberry, kiwi and fig trees, olive groves and vineyards. The descent to Bol is a wonderful reward with amazing panoramic views of the neighbouring island of Hvar. After lunch we will cross over to the island of Korčula, whose capital town vies with Venice for the title of the birthplace of Marco Polo. Overnight in picturesque Račišće harbor.

Day 4 (Tues) Mljet and Pelješac Peninsula

(Cycling @ 12 km/7 miles + 26 km/16 miles)

Early in the morning we cross over to the green, wooded island of Mljet, which is also known as the honey island. In the 12th century Benedictine monks established a beautifully situated monastery, which you will see on our short cycle trip. The local pine forest is one of the most beautiful of its kind in the entire Mediterranean region – Odysseus is said to have spent 7 years here. Today this region is a national park and is the highlight of every Dalmatian journey.

Pelješac is impressive even from afar with its Sv. Ilija Mountain, which rise almost 1000 metres from the sea. After a short cruise at noon to Trstenik, there is a cycle tour into the inland of the island, past the most famous wine-growing region of Dalmatia (the excellent Plavac und Dingaè wines come from here) to Orebić. We then cross back to Korčula Island, where there is enough time for us for an extensive stroll through this beautiful town.

Day 5 (Wed) Korčula Island

(Cycling @ 55km/34 miles)

Today we explore Korčula Island. The peacefulness and remoteness of the luscious gardens here with large cypress tree make this perhaps the most beautiful of the Dalmatian islands. We cycle along the 12km/7 mile coastal road to Racisce for lunch. A steep ascent (perhaps pushing your bike) to Pupnat gets us to the old 200m/660 ft. high pass above the magnificent Bay of Pupnat and later the village of Blato, which like Rome, was built on seven hills. Overnight stay in the harbour of Vela Luka.

Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL on info@outdoortravel.com.au

Day 6 (Thurs) Hvar Island**(Cycling @ 20+25 km/12.5+15 miles)**

Arriving in Hvar we take an interesting tour around the town, across the large Renaissance Square, with its cathedral and many gothic palaces. Our first cycle tour today leads us along the almost traffic free pass road through small villages. After lunch in Stari Grad we take a second cycle tour to the harbours of Jelsa and Vrboska. Here there is time to relax and to have an extended break to explore.

We will overnight in Stari Grad, which is a Mecca for artists and art lovers in recent years.

Day 7 (Fri) Solta Island**(Cycling @ 19 km/12 miles)**

After the crossing to Stomorska on the island of Solta we commence our last cycle tour passed walled fields, numerous olive groves, locust bean and fig trees so typical in Croatia. The herby smells of lavender and rosemary will accompany you as we tour of this island.

In Maslinica we load the bikes aboard the ship and enjoy your last crossing back to Trogir, where if time permits, you can take a tour of the old town which again is a world heritage listed site.

Day 8 (Sat) Disembark

Tour ends after breakfast.

**Kapetan Jure****San Snova****Romantica**

Please note: We offer this as a Bike & Boat cycling tour however, you can decide each day if you want to join the bike ride cycling as part of the group with the guide or independently or not to ride at all if you prefer to stay with the boat. The tour requires a minimum number of passengers to operate.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece & Turkey. We also have similar tours in Vietnam & Canada.

Bike & Barge cycling cruises are available on many of the canals & rivers of Europe including the Seine, Loire Valley & Burgundy or Provence in France & on the 2-week route between Paris & Bruges through the Somme WW1 battlefield & memorial sites in northern France.

We also offer several routes in Holland, Belgium & Germany – along the Saar, Moselle & Rhine or in Italy.

Other sailing holidays are available in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily & in Australia. Cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe, Australia & New Zealand - ask for details

Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102