

Croatia - National Parks & Islands of Central Dalmatia cycling cruises

8-days / 7-nights - approximately 200km of cycling

Regular departures from April to October – choice of ships available



Bike and Boat cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with island cruising). They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timer or small groups.

Bike and Boat cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities sampling wine and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers mostly include a mix of different nationalities - including English or German speaking with French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages - adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

Croatia has a beautiful coast with thousands of islands, reefs and bays. Spend week on a ship cruising between the mainland and the islands and visit two national parks and the islands of Central Dalmatia, starting from Trogir.

Highlights of this cycling cruise include the UNESCO listed town of Trogir, Primošten, Šibenik with its famous cathedral, Zadar, National Park Krka-waterfalls and the Kornati Islands.

Cycling begins after a hearty breakfast each day. At midday we meet the ship at a harbour for lunch. In the evening the ship will be waiting in the next harbour, so that we can enjoy fantastic cuisine as the sun sets, followed by a stroll through a historic harbor town.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Fitness requirements (level 2):

These cycling routes require a basic level of fitness, which you should have acquired by occasional or daily cycling. The routes can reach an altitude of 100 – 300 meters. The daily routes, of 15-50 km, covers hilly terrain and can be completed without time constraints.

You will encounter some rather steep climbs but the roads are mostly sealed and there is little traffic outside of holiday periods. You can decide each day for yourself, whether you would like to cycle individually, using the maps provided, or join one of the tour guides (or individual participants).

Bike helmets are required on all cycle tours – they are available on board in limited number (reservation requested) but we suggest you bring or buy your own.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 (Sat) Trogir – Šolta (approx. 20 km by bicycle)

Arrive at Trogir (near to Split airport). After checking in on the motor yacht with lunch on board, our first cruise begins heading for Maslinica on the Island of Šolta. Walled fields, numerous olive groves, locust bean and fig trees line the roads. The herb smells of lavender and rosemary will accompany us along our tour of this island leading us to the village Grohote.

Day 2 (Sun) Rogoznica – Primošten – Šibenik – Vodice (approx. 15 km by bicycle)

In the morning we cycle from Rogoznica to Primošten. Our motor yacht will then take us through a narrow passage to Šibenik. After visiting the famous cathedral and the old town, our ship will cruise towards Vodice, where we stay this night

Day 3 (Mon) Vodice – Murter – Telašćica (approx. 30 km by bicycle)

In the morning we cycle from Vodice to the island of Murter, which is connected with the mainland by a lift bridge. We meet the ship for dinner in a romantic quiet harbour. In the afternoon we go on a cruise through the national park of the Kornati islands, an archipelago of crystal clear waters known for its diverse flora and fauna. In the peaceful atmosphere of the Telašćica nature park we go for a walk along the impressive cliffs of the island.

Day 4 (Tue) Island of Dugi Otok (approx. 35 km by bicycle)

Our cycling begins in Telašćica Nature Park along a virtually traffic-free road. Along a panoramic road, we ride across the island and are treated to countless unforgettable vistas of the nearby islands. We meet our ship in the harbour of Savar and have lunch.

The ship cruises to Zadar, which, for centuries, was the political, cultural and spiritual centre of Dalmatia. Our tour guide takes us on an extensive walk through the lanes of the lively old centre. 3000 years of history have left their stamp on the character of this town and there are many things to be admired such as the mighty fortified walls with their bastions, the loggia and the early Romanesque St. Donatus basilica. Overnight in the harbour of Zadar.

Day 5 (Wed) Islands of Pašman and Ugljan – Krka National Park (approx. 30 km by bicycle)

After breakfast, our ship cruises to the island of Ugljan at the Zadar Canal. We cycle along the east coast and cross a bridge to reach the island of Pašman. In the afternoon, the ship takes us further up the Krka River and in the evening we arrive in Skradin, from where we'll explore the magnificent waterfalls of Krka in the national park of the Canyon of Krka. Here the Krka meanders for the first 10 km through a flat region, followed by 40 km through canyons and then 20 km past lakes connected with the Adriatic.

Day 6 (Thu) Skradin – Island of Zlarin (approx. 30 km by bicycle)

Today we explore the Krka National Park on our bikes. Through wooded valleys we ride to Lake Visovac. On an island in the lake is the Visovac Monastery, which was settled by Augustinian monks with a small monastery and church dedicated to the Apostle Paul in the 14th century.

After a break for a swim we cycle back to Skradin through quiet villages. In the late afternoon we sail to the coral island of Zlarin where, in the peaceful atmosphere of the island, we spend a relaxing evening.

Day 7 (Fri) Island of Zlarin – Trogir (approx. 20 or 45 km by bicycle)

In the morning we cruise to Rogoznica where we have a choice of a short or longer route. We can do a circuit along the bay or cycle to Trogir through small villages in the hinterland on roads with little traffic where the final descent offers us a grand view of the coastline of Split.

In the afternoon we can relax or explore the local culture with a stroll through the narrow alleys of the old town.

Day 8 (Sat) Departure

Tour ends after breakfast (9 am).

Boats & accommodation:

Pictured: Romantica, Adonis, Otac Nikola, Kapetan Jura



Ship ROMANTICA (all cabins with shower/toilet)

The Romantica was launched only in May 2007. The ship is 32 m long and 7,6 m wide. This elegant ship offers 17-comfortable, well-equipped cabins each of @ 9-10 square meters. The far sundeck offers couch mats for sunbathing and relaxing. A stern platform is ideal for those going swimming.

KAPETAN JURE (all cabins with shower/toilet)

The Kapetan Jure is a 27-metre-long and 7-metre-wide comfortable and spacious wooden motor yacht that was built in 2000. 11 of the 15 cabins are on deck. 10 of these are furnished with the two beds arranged side by side, while one cabin has bunk beds. The remaining 4 cabins are below deck, and are furnished with a French bed (140 cm wide) and a porthole. Captain Anton and his crew form an experienced team, which knows how to pamper their guests with delicious specialties. The cabins have simple, but functional equipment

and are furnished with two beds and a small wardrobe or an open shelf. Due to the shape of the ship's hull, the size of the cabins may vary. However, a price differentiation is made only with respect to cabins "on deck" and "below deck".

OTAC NIKOLA (all cabins with shower/toilet)

The newly built Otac Nikola is a new addition to our Adriatic fleet. The stylish two-masted motor yacht measuring 21 m by 7 m has a steel hull painted a brilliant white that attracts attention in every harbor.

The Otac Nikola can accommodate a maximum of 30 guests in 13 tastefully furnished cabins. Five double cabins are located below deck, four three-bed-cabins on the main deck and four more double cabins on the upper deck. The spacious sundecks on two levels are equipped with comfortable chairs and sun beds. The ship has a bathing platform at the stern that makes it very easy for swimmers to get in and out of the water.

ADONIS (shower/toilet in every cabin)

The Adonis is a 24-metre-long and 6-metre-wide two-masted yacht that was built in 1975. Captain Tihomir offers 10 cabins, 8 on deck, each of which has a door that opens to the outside. Two of these cabins have a French bed with a single bunk bed above it ideal for triple share or families. There are two cabins below deck, and each has a porthole and two bunk beds. The front sundeck has a size of 40 m²; the rear deck is covered by an awning and measures 45 m². A limited number of deck chairs are available to the guests.

Catering:

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and two warm meals a day. The itinerary starts with the lunch on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.

Services included:

- 8-day-trip on a motor yacht with a crew of four
- 7 nights in a double/twin cabin with shower/toilet
- Full board as described on the ship
- Bed linen and towels
- English & German speaking tour guide
- 7 guided cycling tours as described in itinerary
- Entrance fees to the National parks & maps of the single cycling trips

Not included:

- Visitor's tax and local charges 20 Euro (to be paid to the captain)
- Drinks on board (tally sheet)
- Flight to Split
- Taxi transfer Split airport – ship in Trogir (one way 20 Euro)
- Tips for crew and tour guides

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. Inn-to-inn 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