

## CROATIA – DALMATIA HIGHLIGHTS: DUBROVNIK TO SPLIT or v.v. 8-days / 7-nights moderate cycling **PREMIUM PLUS E-BIKE TOUR**



Explore the unique villages and beautiful islands of Southern Dalmatia – the smallest and most sparsely populated region in Croatia – on this one-way tour from Dubrovnik to Split or vice versa. We visit the splendid island of Korčula with its picturesque old township, the lavender-covered island of Hvar and the artists' colony at Stari Grad. Sail and cycle with an experienced tour guide on the 'honey island' of Mljet and unspoilt, remote Vis Island. A highlight is the visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed walled city of Dubrovnik.

Our moderate graded cycling tours require a good level of fitness, and regular cycle training beforehand. Tours range up to a height of 400-700m above sea level. The daily itineraries of 25 - 60km will take you through hilly, sometimes mountainous terrain without any time constraints. There may be long and steep climbs but there is plenty of time to stop for a rest or photos too. E-bikes are an ideal way to neutralise the steeper hills, though of course you will still be pedalling. We cycle mostly on quiet sealed roads and each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join the group and guides. And there is plenty of time each day to swim or relax on board the boat.

Cruise onboard a stylish motor yacht, with 16 spacious air-conditioned cabins with ensuite. Meals are served in the large, airy saloon, or eat and unwind with a drink in the shaded open-deck terrace. There is plenty of space to relax and soak up the sun on the expansive sundeck.

**Premium Plus cruise from:** **\$3575** per person (twin share lower deck)  
**Upper deck Supplement:** \$440 per person  
**Single cabin supplement:** Lower deck: \$1160 Upper deck: \$1545

**Departs from Split:** 12, 26 April; 10, 24 May; 7, 21 June; 5, 19 July; 2, 16, 30 August;  
13, 27 September; 11 October 2024

**Departs from Dubrovnik:** 19 April; 3, 17, 31 May; 14, 28 June; 12, 26 July; 9, 23 August;  
6, 20 September; 4, 18 October 2024

**Mid/High season supplements:** \$175 - \$350 per person  
Applies 10 May to 21 June and 16 August to 27 September 2024

**Includes:** 7 nights in comfortable cabins with shower/toilet; 2 days full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and 5 days half board (breakfast and either lunch or dinner); English speaking tour guide, guided cycling tours as per itinerary; **hire of E-Bike**; city tours of Dubrovnik, Korčula & Split; overview-maps for the daily tours (available on board).

**Not included in tour:** Personal expenses, gratuities, local fees, drinking water and port taxes (approximately €60 per person paid to captain), helmet, bicycle insurance (available for additional cost), meals taken ashore on half-board days, drinks, transfers to/from Split/Dubrovnik Airports. Ask about additional nights in Dubrovnik or Split before or after the cruise.

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**Suggested itinerary:** *Cruising and cycling are subject to change at the discretion of the captain and cycle tour guide depending on weather and local circumstances. **Tour operates in reverse on alternate weeks.***

#### **Day 1: Arrive Dubrovnik**

Make your way to Gruž, the main port of Dubrovnik harbour, to board the boat between 2.00pm and 2.30pm. At around 4.30pm take a guided tour through Dubrovnik to learn of the town's history. The boat spends the night in Gruž offering an opportunity to relax or experience Dubrovnik's nightlife.

#### **Day 2: Dubrovnik - Šipan - Mljet**

**cycling @ 11km + 25km**

In the morning we sail to nearby Šipan, the largest of the Elaphiti Islands, though still humble in size, making it a perfect spot for our first bike tour and to get used to riding in a group. After cycling around Šipan we re-join the boat and cruise to Mljet, known as the Honey Island. With 70% of its landmass covered by woodland it is the most forested island in the Mediterranean. In Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey* this was home to the nymph Calypso and the legendary Greek king Odysseus, who could not resist Calypso and stayed on Mljet for seven years. From Pomena harbour we cycle a loop through Mljet National Park.

#### **Day 3: Pelješac Peninsula & Korčula**

**cycling @ 25km**

As we breakfast the ship sails to the harbour of Trstenik on the Pelješac Peninsula. From afar we sight the rugged Sveti Ilija peak dominating the skyline of the peninsula. Pelješac is a locally renowned wine region; Plavac and Dingač wines originate from small villages of the same name. Vineyards are planted on the steep mountainside; during harvest grape-pickers are strapped into harnesses on some of the steepest fields. We cycle largely along the coast to Orebić where we meet the boat. Over lunch we cruise to Korčula, where we moor in Korčula town. This picturesque town competes with Venice to claim the honor of being the birthplace of the famous explorer Marco Polo. A guided city tour will give you an overview of the city and the opportunity to wander through the narrow laneways and soak up the vibes of this stylish town.

#### **Day 4: Korčula Island**

**cycling @ 60km**

We ride across charming Korčula Island to the sheltered bay at Vela Luka. The mild Mediterranean climate allows for a variety of landscapes, including vineyards, pine forests and terraced olive groves. Our route follows the coastline in sections, with ascents and descents as we climb passes and hills. Take your time, and stop to enjoy the view over the deep blue sea and neighboring islands. We spend the night in quiet Vela Luka.

#### **Day 5: Vis Island**

**cycling @ 35km**

We bid farewell to Korčula and over breakfast we cruise to the island of Vis; if time permits we may stop for a swim before arrival. Vis is the farthest inhabited island from mainland Croatia. The island was variously controlled by the Greeks, the Republic of Venice and the Austrian Empire, and during WWII Marshal Tito's Partisan resistance movement was headquartered here. Due to its strategic location in the Adriatic Sea it was a military zone until 1995 and prohibited for foreign tourists. In the afternoon we explore this unspoilt island by bicycle. From Vis town we circumnavigate the island with a stop for refreshment at the harbour of Komiža.

#### **Day 6: Hvar Island**

**cycling @ 40km**

The day starts with a relaxing cruise to Hvar town on the eponymous island. There should be time to stroll through the city before our cycle tour. Standing on the magnificent Renaissance Square you can enjoy a view up to the Spanish Fortress towering above the city. From Hvar town we cycle steadily upwards through small villages and lavender fields, then descend to the harbour town of Jelsa on the other side of the island. The descent offers breath-taking views. After ice cream and coffee in Jelsa, we continue through the picturesque town of Vrboska and through the ancient Greek plains, now a protected UNESCO heritage site, to the artists' village of Stari Grad where our boat awaits our arrival. We overnight in Stari Grad.

#### **Day 7: Brač Island**

**cycling @ 40km**

In the morning we cruise to the island of Brač, known for its radiant limestone that was used for parts of the White House in Washington as well as the German Reichstag building in Berlin. We cycle from Milna to the picturesque harbour town of Pučišća. We ascend to a pass with spectacular views across the Dalmatian coast. Along the way we take time to interact with locals before continuing along the coastline from Postira to Pučišća where our boat awaits us for lunch and the final cruise of the week to the UNESCO world heritage city of Split. On a guided city tour, we get the opportunity to see inside the former Palace of Emperor Diocletian and learn about Split's transformation into the city it is today. In the evening we celebrate the wonderful week with a farewell dinner on board the boat.

#### **Day 8: Departure day**

Tour ends after breakfast in Split – ask about additional accommodation or transfers at extra cost.

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**Inn-to-inn cycling tours**, guided in groups or self-guided with luggage transfers, are available in most destinations in Europe, China, Japan, Canada, the USA, in South Africa and in New Zealand - ask for details.

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

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