



Elaphiti Islands Active Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Croatia

BROCHURE CODE: 5551
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Split between Croatia's land and sea, this trip includes three nights sailing the Adriatic by catamaran and four nights based in the dreamy Šipanska Luka Bay. You'll visit the Elaphiti Islands, Mljet and the Pelješac Peninsula for striking views and historical sites, as well as enjoying activities such as hiking and kayaking.

Our Opinion

“ If you don't already believe in love at first sight, you will once you experience this trip! Visiting the islands of the Adriatic has always been one of my travel highlights. Each bay you stop at seems to be more picturesque than the last and the scenery really is spellbinding. The balance of activities included in this holiday really works perfectly too. You get to go paddle boarding, cycling, sea kayaking and hiking but every day also leaves time for some exploring and relaxation. The combination of spending time at sea and on an island base means that you experience the very best of this region. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Accommodation:** 3 nights on board a catamaran and 4 nights in a double or twin room in a 3-star Guesthouse in Luka Šipanska on Šipan Island
- **Meals:** 6 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** 3 days sailing between islands, paddle boarding, cycling, snorkelling, sea kayaking, hiking (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- **The following destinations are visited during the holiday:** Koločep, Lopud, Šipan, Mljet, Žuljana, Ston, Broce. Dubrovnik can be visited with ease during your stay on Šipan.
- Fully qualified skipper
- Equipment, training, and supervision for all activities with expert local guides

Please note: there is now a mandatory 80 euros per person fee to be paid locally and in cash, before the start of the trip. This fee covers fuel, water, moorings and boat maintenance.

Please note: flights and transfers are not included in this trip because just about everybody wants to add a day, days or even a week in Dubrovnik before, and/or after, the holiday. We will be delighted to arrange accommodation and transfers around the flights you choose to book for you. Please just ask one of our Travel Experts for suggestions and prices.

Each trip starts at 10 am from Komolac Marina. The marina is approximately 15 minutes by road from Dubrovnik and, given the morning departure, we recommend staying in the city the night before. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' tab for more details.

Trip Overview

From lovers of The Great Outdoors to history buffs, culture vultures to architecture admirers, sun-worshippers to activity-lovers, this trip has something for absolutely everyone.

Spending the first three nights on a catamaran, this trip will see you sailing the Elaphiti Islands, stopping at Koločep and Šipan as well as Mljet. We promise you crystal clear waters, traditional harbours and breath-taking views at each destination, and your crew will take you paddle boarding,

snorkelling and cycling from idyllic spots along the way. What's more, all equipment is free for you to use in your spare time during the cruise, so you can independently explore the stunning coastal landscape and the peaceful surrounding waters.

Your base on dry land is in the idyllic bay of Šipanska Luka on Sipan, where hiking, cycling, sea kayaking, and a relaxing beach day are all included in the itinerary. The castles, chapels and monasteries, and the romantic ambience of the bay all add to the tranquil nature of the island, providing the perfect spot for the remainder of your holiday.

Another great thing about Sipan is that its location makes it so easy to visit other destinations. Regular ferries to Dubrovnik and Lokrum mean that you can use your free time to take a day trip, and your itinerary includes a short ferry ride to Lopud for a hike through the island's picturesque walking trails. Please note that visits to Dubrovnik from Sipan are optional and are not included in the price of your holiday.

During the week, you will have two different bases. The first is a catamaran, with a spacious sunbathing deck, complete with steps for lowering yourself into the sparkling waters of the Adriatic.

On dry land, you will stay in a 3-star traditional Guesthouse, in Šipanska Luka on Sipan Island. This means beautiful sunsets behind the harbour's swaying palm trees, fantastic views of the azure bay and the beach on your doorstep.

Image Credits: Ivo Biocina and Croatian National Tourist Board, Huck Finn Adventure Travel

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, KOLOČEP, LOPUD AND SIPAN ISLANDS

You'll be setting sail from Komolac Marina which is just a few miles outside Dubrovnik. The arrival time is 10 am so we strongly suggest booking a night or two in Dubrovnik before the trip commences. We can arrange flights, accommodation and transfers to suit your preferences so please discuss the options with one of our Travel Experts.

At Komolac Marina you will be met by the crew, introduced to your shipmates and be given a safety briefing. Then, without any further ado, you'll be aboard the 10-berth catamaran and heading out to sea and the first Croatian Island of your stay, Koločep.

There is plenty of room on deck to relax, watch the shoreline recede and enjoy the stunning views of the mainland mountains, the red roof topped towns and villages, and the islands shimmering in the Adriatic haze.

Koločep is one of the smallest inhabited islands that make up the Elaphiti Archipelago and with rocky

inlets and sandy bays, it's ideal for some pre-lunch water-based activities. The crew will dish out the paddle boards and you'll have your first shot at this rapidly growing sport. The clear blue Adriatic waters are ridiculously enticing and there is plenty of marine life visible using only a snorkel. Grab one and simply watch Fishy World going about its business below you.

All this activity should, by now, have created quite an appetite and you'll be well rewarded with the chance to enjoy lunch at one of the best fish restaurants on the islands (lunch is not included in the price).

With your appetite satiated by the bounty of the Adriatic, it's time to work off a few more calories with a short walk under the cover of fragrant pine trees to admire Koločep's impressive rocky shoreline.

There'll be time for some sunbathing on deck and even a post-lunch snooze as the catamaran heads towards the islands of Lopud and Sipan this afternoon. This evening, the skipper will make anchor in a lovely bay around Sipan which is again ideal for swimming. Dinner is at your own convenience and we recommend asking a member of the crew for recommendations.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

MLJET ISLAND AND PELJEŠAC PENINSULA

If there is a more alluring island anywhere in the world than Mljet then we really need to know about it, please. When Mother Nature created Mljet she was on absolute top-notch form.

As you approach by sea, Mljet appears to be little more than a long grey rock, topped with lush green pine forests. However, as you draw ever closer, the island begins to reveal its secrets, especially at the North West tip. It is here that the forces of nature have combined to create two inland saltwater lakes, one of which, has its very own small island that is home to a 12th-century Benedictine monastery.

The catamaran will weigh anchor and you'll have the opportunity to cycle to the lakes from where you can take a small boat over to the monastery. Please note that an entrance fee is payable to enter the Mljet National Park (not included in the holiday cost).

If you don't fancy visiting the monastery and the lakes (inevitably, such a marvellous spot can get very busy) then why not enjoy some more activities? Paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming and hiking are all possible before you set sail towards the mainland and the Pelješac Peninsula. You'll spend the night moored in a very pleasant bay close to Žuljana village. Again, the crew will be happy to suggest places to eat.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

PELJEŠAC PENINSULA

Pelješac is less accessible than the popular coastal resorts and has not witnessed the same upsurge in tourist numbers as elsewhere. Indeed, it is best known for winemaking, salt harvesting and its oyster

farms.

The towns, villages and beaches also remain largely untouched so today you will be privy to what might be considered "normal" rather than "touristy" life on the Dalmatian Coast.

After breakfast, there will be plenty of time to swim, snorkel and paddleboard in Žuljana's bay before sailing south towards Broce and Ston.

Ston is a delightful old town and the best vantage points are to be gained from the city walls (entrance fee payable locally). Once you've done that, why not wander the narrow streets, grab a bite to eat or linger in one of the cafes and watch the locals go about their business?

Don't get too relaxed though. We would strongly recommend visiting the salt pans and trying out the delicious local mussels and oysters. Once that has all been achieved, it will be time to sail to this evening's base at Broce.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

ELAPHITI ARCHIPELAGO AND SIPAN ISLAND CYCLING

After breakfast, you'll sail east, enjoying fabulous views of the coastline and the Elaphiti Islands until you return to Sipan where the sailing part of your activity week ends.

You'll be taken to your new base, a charming guesthouse in the fishing village of Šipanska Luka. The village is what Croatian island living is all about. Situated in a quiet and secluded bay, the seafront is lined with palm trees and old stone buildings with those archetypical red roofs. There's nothing better than strolling along the seafront and stopping for a drink in one of the waterside cafés.

It's even better in the evening when the sunsets. Croatian sunsets are unforgettable. You might want to grab a good vantage point at least once during the week to witness the entire western skyline turn to pastel shades of pink, red and orange. All the while, the giant orb of the sun seems to slowly sink into the Adriatic until it finally disappears entirely and darkness falls.

However, today, there is the small matter of the afternoon to fill before you can start thinking about sundown (and sundowners). Sipan is the largest of the Elaphiti Islands and the best way to explore is undoubtedly by bike.

There are very few roads on the island and, consequently, very little traffic, so you'll be cycling today on what we might laughingly call "the main road" to Sudjuradj. The island is littered with castles, monasteries, churches and some seriously envy-inducing villas, so keep an eye out as you are riding along.

It's only a few miles between the villages and those miles start with a short and steady climb out of Sipan. This is not a race so just find the easiest gear and the elevation gain is worth the effort as it brings you to a hilltop farm surrounded by olive groves, and with the best views of the island.

Enjoy the run into Suđurađ and take some time to explore the village's narrow streets and lovely

seafont (by now you will know the score: sleepy, quiet, palm trees, gently lapping water, stone-built houses.....it's a tough way to live!).

Back in Šipanska Luka, why not take advantage of one of the guesthouse restaurants with their seafont locations and wonderful views of the setting sun? There are worse ways to end the day!

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

FREE DAY OR VISIT DUBROVNIK

There is nothing planned for today but that doesn't mean that you don't have choices. You might just fancy a lazy session on the beach with the occasional dip in the crystal-clear water of the bay. Alternatively, there are regular ferries over to Dubrovnik or Lokrum which goes by the somewhat sinister alias of "The Cursed Island" (ferry costs are not included in the holiday price).

Sinister or not, Lokrum, with its monastery, its watchtower hillfort, its small lake (known as "the Dead Sea" – what happened on this island?) and botanical garden, is well worth exploring.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

LOPUD ISLAND HIKING

A short ferry hop takes you from Sipan to Lopud, yet another in a seemingly endless stream of picturesque, pine-topped islands.

Of course, from sea level, everything is up, but your gentle hike today is through shady pine forest before you reach one of the island's highest points. There is a strategically placed watchtower fort which is a testament to more turbulent times but, the reason it was placed here is immediately evident. The views of Mljet and the Elaphiti Islands are simply gobsmacking and it's fun to try and trace your sailing route from earlier in the week.

Back on Sipan, the evening is free to enjoy Šipanska Luka.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
7

SEA KAYAKING

The placid waters of the Adriatic are ideal for sea kayaking and, not surprisingly, it has become a hugely popular pastime here. The Elaphiti Archipelago provides everything a sea kayaker could wish for in the form of small islands with rocky coves, inlets and quiet sandy beaches which are just begging to be explored.

You will be heading for three of the islands, Jakljan, Tajan and Olipa all of which are uninhabited and

can only be reached by small boat or kayak. There are none of the large cruise ships or packed tourist boats, so the beaches are secluded and, provide the perfect platform for some fascinating snorkelling in search of the local marine life.

Alternatively, today, if you would like to spend some time in Dubrovnik, it is possible to enjoy a morning of kayaking and then head to the Old Town for the afternoon. It's well worth admiring imposing fortress walls before spending an afternoon exploring the streets that they protect. Please speak to your guide today for further information; you will need to pay for the return ferry to Dubrovnik if you wish to travel there.

Sadly, that concludes the scheduled activities for the week. This evening will be your last on Sipan so make sure you enjoy that favourite dish one more time whilst watching the sun descend into the Adriatic.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8	DEPARTURE
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Today, you will be transferred by ferry from Sipan to Gruz Harbour, on the outskirts of Dubrovnik. If you need airport transfers to be arranged, please speak to our Travel Experts for further information. If you are departing today, flights should be booked from 10am onwards; earlier departures can be accommodated, but a supplement will be payable.

If you want to extend your stay in Croatia and/or Dubrovnik please let us know your plans and our Travel Experts will be delighted to offer advice and suggestions.

Please note: very occasionally, the itinerary and order of activities may be subject to change at short notice in response to local conditions and/or logistics. Your safety has to be our first consideration and, in the unlikely event that we do have to make changes, our partners' decisions in Croatia must be accepted.

Included Meals: None

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Extend your stay in Dubrovnik

In order to ensure the smooth-sailing (pardon the pun) of your trip, we suggest spending at least one night in Dubrovnik at the start of your holiday, so you are ready and waiting to meet the boat at the set embarkation time on Day 1.

Komolac Marina is only a few miles from Dubrovnik, where awe-inspiring architecture, ocean views and ancient city walls are only a few of many reasons to leave yourself with some time here. With extensive knowledge of the area, our travel experts can suggest the best hotel

and airport transfer options to suit your budget and preferences.

So, simply give us a call, speak to a member of our sales team, then relax and leave the rest to us.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Game of Thrones Filming Locations

If you're a fan of HBO's phenomenally successful fantasy show Game of Thrones and you fancy extending your stay in the Dubrovnik (which we highly recommend), then this is the tour for you.

This jaw-dropping city has been used in many a film and TV show but GoT has really put it on the map. You'll see all the most famous locations which are used in the show whilst also gaining a full appreciation of the beauty of Dubrovnik.

Image credit: Ivo Biocina And Croatian National Tourist Board



Dubrovnik food and wine

If you decide to spend some extra time in Dubrovnik (we cannot recommend doing this strongly enough) and you're a fan of food and drink, then this is the tour for you. Whilst you can, of course, explore independently, a tour such as this five-hour food and wine experience offers the chance to delve deeper than you could do on your own.

With a local expert, you will explore the flavours of Croatian cuisine and sample some of the region's wines. You'll visit some hidden gems and sample delights as you

go. Lunch is included in this tour.

Of course, this is also a city tour and so your guide will also show you the iconic locations within this UNESCO World Heritage Site's city walls.

Image credit: Boris Kacan and Croatian National Tourist Board



Private Sightseeing Tour of Dubrovnik

For the ultimate guided experience in Dubrovnik, we highly recommend this private tour. You will be shown some of the city's most famous landmarks as well as some of the hidden gems.

You will walk the cobbled streets with your guide, learning about the city's most famous residents and incredible past and incorporating architectural, artistic, cultural and historical highlights.

Image Credit: Ivo Biocina And Croatian National Tourist Board

Included Accommodation

Catamaran (Nights: 1-3)



The catamarans we use are all similar in size and layout, with slight variances in their design and extra bed capacity. The usual vessel layout consists of four double rooms all of which are en-suite. One of the double rooms also has an overhead single bed space, which can be accessed above the double bed. There is an additional single room which is occupied by the skipper and, one of the doubles can become a triple. Hence, the maximum people sleeping on board is ten and it's most likely that it will be 8 or less passengers plus the skipper. Occasionally, two additional passengers will sail with the boat but stay in guesthouses rather than onboard.

You will doubtless spend more time on deck than you will below. With this in mind, the catamarans are designed with plenty of space for sunbathing as well as a seating area and a kitchen/galley (useful for cold drinkies!). Two sets of steps at the rear of the boat make it nice and easy to climb back on board after a refreshing swim or snorkel.

Very occasionally, the itinerary and duration of sailing and activities may change according to local conditions, events or guest preferences. Your skipper and his crew will make these decisions based first and foremost on your safety. In such cases, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice.

Please note that the images shown are from the various different catamarans available.

Šipan Island Guesthouse (Nights: 4-7)



During your stay on the laid-back island of Šipan, you'll stay in a locally-owned guesthouse for a wonderfully authentic stay. Most of the guesthouses are situated close to the beaches or just a short walk from the seafront where you can dine on some of the traditional food of the Dalmatian islands.

Our local experts have inspected the majority of guesthouses in the area but your final accommodation will be confirmed at the time of ticketing. The locally-owned guesthouses are likely to include double or twin en-suite rooms, air-conditioning and Wi-Fi. Examples include but are not limited to Villa Lela (displayed) or Guesthouse Dubravka for a supplement.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 people; maximum 10 people

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum travellers 10, Maximum travellers 20