



Dubrovnik and the Elaphiti Islands Highlights



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Croatia

BROCHURE CODE: 5549

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Based on Sipan Island, this seven-night holiday is an active way to explore Croatia and the breathtaking Dalmatian Coast. Discover three Croatian islands, Lopud, Koločep and Sipan during kayaking, cycling and hiking. There's also plenty of time between activities to relax, explore and delve into the local history and culture and even visit the spectacular city of Dubrovnik.

Our Opinion

“ My wife and I spent our honeymoon in Croatia. Every evening was spent at a harbourside restaurant, chomping away at delicious seafood while the sun descended slowly into the sea. The entire western skyline turned myriad shades of pink and orange as the burning globe sank into the darkening waters of the Adriatic. If there is a better way to relax after an active day then we'd dearly like to know about it.

”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Transfers:** return transfers from airport to Gruz harbour, return ferry transfers from Gruz harbour to Sipan and all required transfers between islands and Dubrovnik for included activities
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in a double or twin room at a 3-star Guesthouse in Luka Šipanska on Sipan Island
- **Meals:** 6 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** cycling in Šipan, stand-up paddle boarding, sea kayaking on the Elaphiti Islands, visit Lopud and Koločep island (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

* **Flights:** 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 flights, and accommodation for you. Please just ask one of our Travel Experts for suggestions and prices.

* Hotels in Croatia charge a tourist tax of €2.65 per person per night; this must be paid locally on check in. Children under 12 are free of charge.

Trip Overview

There are few stretches of coastal waters as stunning as that of Dalmatia. This trip combines the three "main" islands of the Elaphiti Archipelago, Sipan (pronounced "Shipan"), Lopud and Koločep ("Koločep").

Sipan is the largest of the Elaphiti Islands and will be your base for the week. You will be staying in the charming and archetypically Croatian fishing village of Šipanska Luka.

After an active day, dining outside on fresh seafood, fish and traditional Croatian fare could not be a more enticing prospect. Fortunately, there are several local restaurants close to your guesthouse, including some fantastic dining terraces, which are only a peeled prawn shell's throw from the gently

lapping water of the Adriatic.

The sunsets here are unforgettable so why not linger a while with a glass or two of the local wine while the burning orange ball descends slowly into the Adriatic?

From your base on Sipan, our guides will help you to explore Lopud, Koločep and Sipan itself during a fun-filled activity week. All the necessary equipment is provided so there's no need to worry about anything other than listening to the guides' instructions and having a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

You'll find yourself exploring the smaller Elaphiti islands by sea kayak and paddleboard as well as cycling on Sipan, hiking on Lopud, and sea kayaking the waters that surround Koločep.

In the summer months, Dubrovnik is a very busy place and so this holiday is based on a small island less than an hour's ferry journey from the city, but we do thoroughly recommend visiting on your free day.

The old town of is imposing and magnificent. It's little wonder that this coastal fortress has provided many a backdrop for historical or fantasy-based television (think Game of Thrones). You could spend day after day exploring the maze of streets, alleys and squares, the honey-coloured and red roof topped buildings, the cafes, bars and restaurants and, best of all, the utterly captivating views earned by walking the walls that protect this fortified city.

Credit: Huck Finn Adventure Travel, Ivo Biocina and Croatian National Tourist Board, Zeljko Kelemen

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFERS AND ACCOMMODATION

After arriving in Dubrovnik, you will take your transfer from the airport to Gruz Harbour to catch a ferry across to Sipan at approximately 4pm*. The crossing is less than an hour during which the Dalmatian Coast will begin to reveal its barely believable beauty.

Once you have settled into your accommodation there may be time to stroll through the village or enjoy a swim and a spot of sunbathing before a free evening.

*We recommend arriving in Dubrovnik by 3pm in order to take the ferry transfer at approximately 4:30pm. If you arrive after this time, you may miss the welcome orientation briefing and it is likely that a private transfer or night in Dubrovnik (at an additional cost) may be required.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

CYCLING ON SIPAN ISLAND

After breakfast, you'll be sized up for your bike before heading out onto Sipan's one and only meaningful road which links Sipanska Luka with Sudjuradj. The lack of roads means that there is very little traffic making for some lovely, relaxed cycling and it's a mere 3 miles between the two villages so easily within the capabilities of just about anybody.

The morning does start with a rise as you head away from the coast and, if you are struggling, then simply put the bike in the easiest gear and take as much time as you want to get to the top. It's more than worth the effort when you arrive at a hilltop farm surrounded by olive groves and the best vantage point on the whole island.

From the farm, it's easy riding for the 2.5 miles to Sudjuradj, so enjoy the lovely countryside and keep an eye out for churches, chapels and monasteries. There are also quite a few holiday villas here owned by wealthy residents of Dubrovnik. It's hard not to be envious!

The final descent back to the hotel is just fantastic fun and people have been known to go back up just to do it again! The activity lasts about two hours so there'll be plenty of time to relax, swim, snorkel or explore before another splendid sunset fills the sky.

You will see throughout that lunches are not included as standard in this holiday but fear not, there are some wonderful options available each day. Things are designed to be flexible so the guide can make suggestions based on the group's preferences and you can choose where you would like to eat on each day.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

ELAPHITI ISLANDS PADDLEBOARDING

Early risers might want to take advantage of the relatively cool morning by strolling under the palm tree-lined seafront as the village slowly rouses itself ahead of another day.

On a typically fine day in Croatia, everything will be blue. The sky will be blue, the sea will be blue, and the distant islands appear as shimmering bluey-grey protrusions interspersed around the Adriatic. It's almost hypnotic, just sitting there looking out to sea while sipping an early morning coffee but don't linger too long because breakfast will be waiting before the active fun begins.

Today is your opportunity to try paddleboarding, a sport whose popularity is very much on the increase. Don't worry if you fall into the crystal-clear Adriatic water, everybody does it and it's lovely and warm.

You'll head out from a tranquil beach in Sudurad, just a short transfer from your guesthouse. From here you can enjoy beautiful views of the neighbouring island of Lopud and, if weather permits, the group can explore Sipan's glorious green cave on SUPs.

The activity lasts around two hours allowing plenty of time to relax or swim back at Sipanska Luka.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

SEA KAYAKING

If sea kayakers could design the perfect place in which to indulge their passion the Elaphiti Islands would likely be as close to perfection as you can get!

This archipelago of small islands with its rugged coastlines, hidden coves and secluded sandy beaches are ideal for exploring. The calm waters of the Adriatic make sea kayaks the perfect mode of transport too as you head for three uninhabited islands, Jakljan, Tajan and Olipa. Only accessible by small boats the beaches are quiet and the marine life largely undisturbed. You'll take full advantage of these glorious spots by taking breaks to swim and snorkel in these unspoilt bays along the Croatian coastline.

The kayaking will last for approximately 3 hours.

Should you fancy a change from sea kayaking, there will be snorkelling equipment available. It's well worth taking to the crystal-clear Adriatic as these waters are a such a rich source of marine life.

Following the day's adventures, you'll return to your guesthouse for some time to relax.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

DAY AT LEISURE ON SIPAN - OPTIONAL VISIT TO DUBROVNIK

Today, you have the option of relaxing on your wonderful island base or if you feel like another adventure, we thoroughly recommend a day exploring Dubrovnik at your own pace.

There are regular ferries scheduled from both the harbours at Luka and Sudarad, for the short crossing to the mainland. Tickets are very reasonable and available for sale right up to departure on the day of travel, so you have the flexibility to decide when you would like to go and for how long. Your local guides can assist you if you need any further information on making your booking.

There is an abundance of clichés which can be used to describe tourist destinations but, in Dubrovnik's case, *"The Jewel of the Adriatic"* is richly deserved.

Dubrovnik is the stuff of legend. A coastal fortress with myriad streets, alleys, squares, red-roofed buildings and more history – both ancient and modern – than you can shake a stick at.

The absolute best way to see the city in all its magnificent grandeur is by walking the city walls. Slap on the Factor 50, wear a wide-brimmed hat and take plenty of water because the walls are exposed to the sun, but the lofty views are more like CGI film sets than real life.

Standing on the easterly wall gives the very best panorama across the tiled red roofs and higgledy-piggledy stone buildings to the glistening Adriatic with its white-sailed yachts and the islands beyond.

For a different perspective, why not take the short journey from the harbour to Lokrum, “The Cursed Island”? The views of Dubrovnik’s city walls from the boat are spectacular and the island itself yields plenty of reward in the form of a monastery, a small lake, a fort and a botanical garden.

You’ll find that culture, history, gastronomy and architecture are all at the centre of Dubrovnik’s powerfully beating heart. It truly is a wonderful, wonderful city.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

DAY AT LEISURE ON LOPUD ISLAND

This morning, you’ll set off on our bikes once again, embarking on a leisurely ride across the island to Sudjuradj. Accompanied by your knowledgeable guide, you’ll receive tickets and insights into the enchanting island of Lopud, which you’ll have the pleasure of exploring at your own pace today.

Lopud offers a wealth of picturesque walking trails, weaving from the shoreline to the island’s summit and back. The summit reveals stunning views of the Adriatic coast.

The island’s charm lies in its hidden gems: tiny, historic churches and an ancient fort perched high above. Once a crucial lookout and defensive post, this fort provides a fascinating glimpse into the island’s storied past.

Make your way down to Sunj, a natural sandy beach that’s perfect for unwinding. Here, you can relax in seaside restaurants or sway gently in sea swings and hammocks nestled in the forest—a serene setting to savour the island’s peaceful ambiance with a refreshing drink in hand.

In the afternoon, hop on a ferry back to Sipan and enjoy a scenic bike ride back to Luka Sipanska.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
7

DAY AT LEISURE ON KOLOČEP ISLAND

Today, another island adventure awaits. A scenic 40-minute ferry ride will take you to Koločep, the smallest of the inhabited Elaphiti Islands. Your guide will join you on the journey, ensuring you’re well-prepared with tickets and fascinating insights before setting you free to uncover the island’s treasures at your own pace.

Koločep (pronounced “Koloceph”) is a haven of natura beauty, boasting dramatic landscapes with rocky beaches, soaring cliffs, turquoise bays, and vibrant reefs. With no cars on this peaceful little island, you can relish a tranquil stroll through its charming villages, soaking up the unspoiled beauty and serene atmosphere.

In the afternoon, you'll return to Šipanska Luka by ferry, just in time to enjoy your final evening in this idyllic setting.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

It is time to say farewell to Šipán and catch the ferry back to Gruz Harbour. We recommend booking flights from 10am onwards today; earlier departures can be accommodated but may be subject to a supplement.

If you are considering a longer stay in Croatia, then why not look at our other trips or discuss extending your time in Dubrovnik with one of our Travel Experts?

Included Meals: None

Included Accommodation

Šipán Island Guesthouse (Nights: 1-7)



During your stay on the laid-back island of Šipán, 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

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 Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

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

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>