ARTISAN TRAVEL

Cruise the Islands and Cities of the Dalmatian Coast



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Croatia

BROCHURE CODE: 5521
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Step aboard for a seven-night small-ship cruise holiday to see some of the most beautiful islands and towns in Croatia such as Split, Hvar, Korčula and Mljet. Sailing from one charming spot to another, you can bask in the sun and enjoy a swim in the blue shimmering waters along the way.

Our Opinion

"The south Adriatic islands and towns are filled with history, culture, beauty and tranquillity. Island hopping aboard a small-ship cruise allows you to visit some incredible places and enjoy the freedom of the open sea. With amazing coastline, beautiful islands and inviting waters, this is an idyllic holiday."





What's included?

- **Travel worry-free** - fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers (Split airport)
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' accommodation in an en-suite cabin with double twin, or bunk beds, standard boat category, lower deck
- **Meals and drinks:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners. (Drinks and water are not included)
- **The following destinations are included in the holiday:** Split, Hvar, Pomena (Mljet Island), Dubrovnik, Korčula, Brač and Trogir (order subject to change)
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Split city tour, Dubrovnik city tour, Trogir city tour (the order of activities is subject to change)

Please note: a mandatory tourist and harbour tax is payable locally in cash when you board the boat. This costs approximately 42 euros per person for the week. Additionally, entrance to Mljet National Park is not included and must be paid for locally (approximately 25 euros per person).

Please note: flights are not included as some clients like to add a stay in Split before or after this holiday. We will be delighted to arrange flights, accommodation and transfers around the sailing trip. Please just ask one of our Travel Experts for suggestions and prices

Trip Overview

The Croatian islands that are dotted along the Adriatic Coast are home to beautiful beaches, secluded coves and charming towns and villages. You will sail from the ancient and beautiful town of Trogir (or Split if arriving later) to a variety of islands and towns filled with history, culture and beauty. The pace of this Croatia cruise holiday is relaxed and you are free to sit back and unwind on the deck or head out to explore the sights that you will be visiting along the way.

Sailing through the Adriatic and along the coast of middle Dalmatia, the vistas are simply stunning. With jagged mountains, rolling hills and pine-covered islands, this is an idyllic part of the world. You'll get to visit places such as Korčula, supposedly the home of the great explorer Marco Polo, and home to one of the finest medieval walled towns in Croatia. Another stop on the way is Mljet Island, a

national park and home to a variety of flora and fauna, as well as a former Benedictine Monastery. The island is so beautiful that it is believed to be one of the islands that Odysseus is stranded on in Homer's epic.

Bursting with history and legend, this part of Croatia is also home to some incredibly cosmopolitan towns and cities that are filled with vibrant restaurants, cafés and bars. You'll be visiting Hvar and Dubrovnik, which have some of the most buzzing atmospheres in Croatia and are great places to soak up the culture, unwind and relax.

On top of all this, Croatian food is delectable: fresh seafood, gorgeous salads and flavoursome local wines and beers help to make this one of the most enjoyable destinations on offer, so get those deck shoes at the ready!

Image credits: CNTB, Aleksandar Gospic, Ivo Pervan, Denis Peros, Julien Duval, Zoran Jelaca

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL, TRANSFER TO SHIP AND SPLIT CITY TOUR

After arriving into Split airport, you will be transferred to the nearby harbour at the port town of Trogir where you will board your small ship and meet the Captain and crew, as well as your fellow passengers, before setting sail for Split. The ship will be your home and sleeping quarters for the next seven nights.

For passengers boarding the boat after 2pm, you will be transferred from the airport to Split port and board the ship there.

Later this evening (at approximately 6pm), you will be taken on a guided city tour of Split, Croatia's second-largest city. Surrounded by imposing mountains and crystal-clear waters, the stunning city of Split is famous for its picturesque views, as well as its well-preserved Roman architecture, including Diocletian's Palace, part of Split's old town UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tonight you will be dining on-board and the boat will be docked in Split, so you will have the evening free to further explore this beautiful Mediterranean city, if you wish.

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.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 SPLIT TO HVAR

Following breakfast on board, today you will set sail for the island of Hvar. Once a centre of the Venetian Republic, Hvar was considered one of the most important harbours in Dalmatia. Today it is a cultural hub, filled with vibrant cafés, restaurants and bars and home to some incredible architecture, such as the Franciscan monastery and the amazing citadel fortress.

On the way to Hvar, you will stop for a swim in a secluded bay, before anchoring in the port of Hvar, surrounded by the beautiful collection of offshore islands known as "Pakleni otoci".

Lunch is served on-board and you will then have the afternoon and evening free to explore this buzzing town and take in the stunning sights. Walk through the charming cobbled streets and soak up the culture and history as you weave your way through the maze of buildings.

You will remain docked here for the night (or in a nearby cove).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 HVAR TO POMENA (MLJET ISLAND)

Following breakfast on the boat, you will set sail to Pomena (or Polače), a port on the secluded island of Mljet, a protected national park. Along the way, you will stop for a refreshing swim in a secluded bay.

Mljet is said to be one of the islands featured in Homer's epic 'The Odyssey' where Odysseus is shipwrecked and becomes stranded. You'll have the chance to explore the island and the legend, walking through the trails of this stunningly-beautiful national park. Head through the forest of pine and oak towards the two saltwater lakes that are on the island; one even includes a former Benedictine monastery on its own private island, which can be reached via small boat. Alternatively, go swimming from the boat into one of the many secluded swimming spots dotted along the shores of the island. Lunch will be served on board today. Entrance fees to the park are payable locally (depending on the season between approximately 10-25 euros per person).

For dinner tonight, why not head into Pomena or Polače, both of which house a few local restaurants serving delightful food and drink.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 MLJET TO DUBROVNIK, AND CITY TOUR

After your night anchored by the shores of Mljet you will have breakfast on-board and then set sail for Dubrovnik. You will stop along the way for a swimming break at the gorgeous Elaphiti Islands, before reaching the port of Gruz, near Dubrovnik at approximately 4pm.

A short bus ride (payable locally, approximately 2 euros per person, per one-way journey) will get you to Dubrovnik's old town where you will enjoy a guided city tour. With its medieval walls, terracotta-tiled buildings and crystal-clear waters, you can understand why Dubrovnik is often referred to as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic'.

After the city tour, be sure to take in some of the local cuisine as you walk by the ancient walls and discover its local museums, galleries and shops. The city is renowned for its vibrant and charming atmosphere and its guests are sure to fall in love with it. The bus back to the port departs roughly every 10 minutes.

You will spend the night docked in Dubrovnik before your sailing adventure continues tomorrow.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 DUBROVNIK TO KORČULA

Following breakfast on-board, you will set sail towards the island of Korčula. You will make a stop along the way for another dip in the ocean before heading on to the island.

The main town, named after the island, is supposedly the birth place of the legendary traveller Marco Polo and is also home to some of the finest medieval fortifications in Croatia.

Inside the medieval walls lie a myriad of historical and cultural delights, including medieval squares, churches, and stone buildings and an enchanting Old Town. From around mid-June through to September, it is not uncommon for mini-festivals to line the streets, which can mean art exhibitions, musical and dancing performances, fishermen's evenings and folklore evenings.

You will have the day and night to savour your surroundings, as you remain docked overnight. With a fortified, cobbled headland, filled with restaurants and bars that look out to sea, this is a simply stunning location. Dive into the sea from the local beach, or swimming platforms and then pop into a wine bar to sample some local wines and cured meats. Or, head up into one of the turrets to watch the sun go down with a cocktail in hand. Authentic pizzas, pasta and fresh seafood are plentiful here and you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to picking somewhere for dinner tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 KORČULA TO BRAČ

Today, you will head towards the island of Brač, sailing past the biggest peninsula in Dalmatia, Pelješac Peninsula, renowned for its shaded slopes, which are the beginnings of some of the country's most famed wine exports. Another stop will be made along the way for a swim in the sea.

Brač is one of the largest Croatian islands and its steep cliffs, pine forests and crystal-clear waters create a stunning landscape to enjoy. It's also famous for it's striking white limestone, which has been used in buildings, such as the White House in Washington and the Reichstag in Berlin.

You will anchor in one of the lovely towns or coves along the northern part of the island; the perfect place to enjoy tonight's Captain's Dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 BRAČ TO TROGIR, AND CITY TOUR

This morning you will set sail towards Trogir, first stopping for a swimming break in a bay on the island of Čiovo.

Trogir is a beautiful, small town, rich in history and packed with things to see. The superb mixture of Romanesque, Renaissance and baroque architecture create a stunning sight, and it's easy to see why its old town area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will enjoy a guided city walk through the winding streets, and past the fortifications and churches.

There are plenty of fabulous restaurants to enjoy fresh, local cuisine.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 DEPARTURE

After breakfast, you will sadly have to disembark and say farewell to your ship and the crew. After seven days of travelling, you'll no doubt be sad to leave, but perhaps you can start planning your next adventure out on the Adriatic!

You will be transferred to the nearby airport of Split for your flight home. Alternatively, why not extend your stay and explore the charming cities of Trogir or Split some more?

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Extend your stay in Split or Trogir

If you would like to add pre or post nights to your cruise, we can easily arrange for you to stay in hotel accommodation in the towns of Split and Trogir. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for further details.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Mirabella or similar (Nights: 1-7)







During your cruise along the Dalmatia coastline, you'll stay aboard a vessel boasts a length of 30 meters, providing plenty of space to relax. You will be told the exact name of your ship upon arrival. All ships on offer will be equally high in quality and offer similar size amenities. The Mirabella offers a spacious sun deck for indulging in the Croatian sunshine. Whether gazing at the rugged mainland, the traditional red-roofed towns or the islands' lush greenery against the backdrop of the azure Adriatic Sea, these panaromic views will create an experience to remember

Notably, all ships will include twin/double cabins and triple cabins, ensuring comfort and convenience. All cabins across all ships will come equipped with ensuite facilities, and air conditioning. With the blend of history, modern amenities, and thoughtful design, your ship will offer a unique and comfortable experience.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

MY Vilma or similar





During your cruise along the Croatian Coast, you'll stay aboard a small ship which can accommodate approximately 28-38 passengers. The size of the vessel means you'll visit exclusive places that big cruise ships simply can't reach. You'll explore national parks as well as the historical cities of Trogir, Korčula, and Dubrovnik.

You will receive the exact name of the ship by our local representatives upon arrival at the port for embarkation. MY Vilma is an example of the ships that are used and the images shown are from the various different boats available, the exterior, interior and décor vary between them. However, the standard remains the same across each option.

There is an on-board bar and dining area, as well as a sun deck to relax and really enjoy the best of the Croatian weather. Just make sure you're looking out at the sights around you. The views are fabulous regardless of whether you are looking at the mainland or the islands. Inland, there's a formidable backdrop of the towering coastal mountains which give way to verdant vegetation then red-roofed towns and villages then the perfectly blue Adriatic.

Cabin accommodation

You will stay in a lower deck, two or three-bed cabin equipped with private shower, toilet and air conditioning (the air conditioning will not always be on, depending upon mooring location and power consumption). Some cabins have double beds and others have twin beds.

There is also the option to upgrade to a main or upper deck room, as well as a deluxe boat category, depending on availability. Please ask at the time of booking to secure your place.

Each guest is provided with 2 bath towels on arrival; beach towels are not provided.

Card payments are not accepted on-board, only cash (euros and US dollars). Cash machines and banks are available at most ports along the journey and you can open a cabin tab on board, paying for drinks, incidentals and the tourist and harbour tax when you disembark. There is onboard WiFi, however, reception can be intermittent.

Please note: due to specific requirements in some of the harbours, it is possible that ships will be tied

sideways to each other and that passengers will need to transfer from one ship to another in order to get to shore. Please be careful when transferring from ship to ship and should you need assistance, the crew members will be delighted to help. All boat routes are dependent on the weather and may be changed at the Captain's discretion.

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.

MY Solaris or similar





During your cruise along the Dalmatian coast, spoil yourself with an upgrade and travel on board luxury ships like the MY Solaris; a newly constructed 44-meter yacht which combines style and comfort, elevating your Adriatic cruise with a touch of elegance. You will find out the exact ship you will call home upon arrival but rest assured standards will not differ across the available ships. All ships accommodate up to 40 passengers and boast modern design, spacious cabins, and a lavish sun deck providing ample space for relaxation. Enjoy a refreshing drink as you experience a sophisticated and comfortable voyage along the stunning Croatian coastline.

Photo Credit: Gulliver Travel by James Hamilton

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 1*; maximum 40 people (approximately)

*Our cruises are subject to a minimum number of participants, which is necessary for the trip in question to take place (approximately 22 people). Should it become apparent that the minimum number of participants required to carry out the cruise for a ship is not reached, we will inform you at

least 30 days before the start of the cruise. Of course we will offer you at the same time – subject to availability – a replacement ship and, if necessary, an alternative route without any extra charge.

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