

Cycling Safaris

CROATIA Dalmatian Islands 2017 - From Dubrovnik by bike with an excursion to Mostar

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 158 km/99 mi | 7 nights / 8 days



Popular with sailors from all over the world, Croatia boasts over 1000 islands dotted in a spectacular turquoise sea lapping along a breathtaking landscape of mostly untouched coastline. Our tour by bike and boat is the perfect way to experience the numerous inlets, bays and medieval towns set against a magnificent mountain backdrop.

If you would like to experience the region of South Dalmatia thoroughly, not wanting to do without Dubrovnik and its amazing city walls, this sail and cycle trip would be an excellent choice. Accompanied by our charming, floating accommodation, you get to know this sparsely populated part of Croatia. Breathtaking natural features and cultural highlights lined up close together. The highlights of the trip are the town centre of Dubrovnik as well as Mostar (situated in Bosnia and Herzegovina) which are listed as UNESCO's world heritage. With its imposing city wall and narrow alleys it's definitely worth a visit. You cycle the islands of Korčula, Mljet, Lastovo and experience the interaction of sea and land, culture and nature at limited space.

Another highlight is the excursion to Mostar, widely known by the bridge that was destroyed during the Balkan war, has meanwhile been restored and is today the symbol of peaceful coexistence of different ethnic groups. This Plus-cruise is offered parallel to our MTB-cruise „Dalmatia from Dubrovnik“ on the same boat. One tour guide leads the trekking & e-bike bike group while the other one takes care of the mountain bikers.

Due to changing wind and weather conditions the tour may also be operated in reverse.

TOUR ITINERARY

1st day (Sun) Embarkation at Dubrovnik – Šipán Island

Individual journey to Dubrovnik. **Check-in on board starts between 2.00 and 2.30 pm at Gruž, the town port.** At 4.30 pm, a guided tour through Dubrovnik is offered, where we hear some interesting details of the town's history and visit the most important sites, such as the Roland, the city walls or the Franciscan monastery. The boat will spend the night in Gruž offering the guests an opportunity to experience Dubrovnik's nightlife.

2nd day (Mon) Šipán and Mljet (approx. 7 + 16 mi./11 km + 25 km)

A pleasant cycle trip takes us after breakfast past some sumptuous villas and further on past a fertile valley framed by a limestone range of hills. Afterwards we cruise to the green and forested island Mljet - known as the honey island. It is with 70 % of woodland one of the best wooded islands in the Mediterranean area. Homer mentioned this lovely island in his epic poem "Odyssey". He made it a home for the Nymph Calypso and the legendary Greek king Odysseus, whom could not resist Calypso and stayed on Mljet for seven years. In the afternoon we cycle across the island from the ferry harbor Sobra to Pomena. In the afternoon we explore the Mljet national park by bike and spend the night in Pomena.

3rd day (Tue) Lastovo Island (approx. 18 mi./28 km)

Our ship takes us early in the morning to Lastovo Island. The island of Lastovo is one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Adriatic Sea. Already Emperor Augustus appreciated the mild climate, and in Roman times it was even named "Augusta Insula" after him. The barely more than 1,000 inhabitants still live today mainly from fishing the extremely rich waters, agriculture and viticulture. The gold-coloured white wine "Marastina", known even beyond Croatia's borders, is grown here. Our today's cycle tour takes us in a large circle across the beautiful island.

4th day (Wed) Islands of Korčula and Gradac (approx. 12.5 mi. /20 km + opt. 16 mi/25 km)

After the days first crossing over to Korčula Island we cycle from Vela Luka to Prigradica, where we meet our ship. We lift the anchor and make our way o the mainland. There is enough time to enjoy a lengthy swim stop on anchor. Our destination is the harbour of Gradac quiet close to the delta of the Neretva River, which is the most important one in the Herzegovina region.

5th day (Thurs) Excursion to Mostar

In the morning a transfer bus takes us across the Bosnian border to Mostar. A guided tour familiarizes us with the location and the town's world-famous landmark, the bridge across the River Neretva, which was destroyed in 1993 through heavy shelling. It reopened in 2004 and is UNESCO protected since. Grab the chance to stroll through the old town of Mostar, a symbol of National heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On our return trip we stop in Počitelj with its well-preserved fortress (or we stop at the Kravica waterfall if the weather is very warm and sunny) before continuing to Gradac. Back at the ship we end the spectacular day relaxing by having a nice glass of wine.

6th day (Fri) Korčula Island (approx. 23 mi./37 km)

A nice morning cruise takes us to Brna at Korčula Island, which is said to be the most beautiful Dalmatian island. We explore the east part of the island by bicycle. Our cycle tour takes us from Prigradica to Korčula town. We enjoy the view into the deep-blue water of Pupnat bay on our ride. This beautiful bay is the favorite scene for photographers on this tour. In the late afternoon, we reach the island's capital Korčula town, which competes with Venice for the honour of being the birthplace of the famous explorer Marco Polo. We have ample time in the evening to wander through the fabulous old town and its narrow lanes laid out in a herringbone pattern.

7th day (Sat) Mainland Prapratno - Slano - Dubrovnik (approx. 19 mi./30 km)

A longer crossing on board hugs the beautiful coastline of the Peljesac peninsula on your way to the small ferry harbour of Prapratno. The tour takes you from Prapratno to Ston with its famous city wall, which is the longest intact fortification wall in Europe and often compared to the Great Wall of China. The tour takes you further to the small harbour of Slano on the mainland. The boat awaits you here for your last boat cruise to the city of Dubrovnik. A cheerful evening meal on board the boat gives you time to celebrate the success of the week with fellow travellers and tour guides.

8th day (Sun) Dubrovnik (Disembarkation)

After breakfast disembarkation until 9am for individual departure.

Alterations:

We reserve the right to make alterations to the planned route due to changing wind and weather conditions, and where required by organizational necessities. Should it be the case, for example, that the harbours on the above mentioned tour sequence are overcrowded, the tour will operate in reverse.

2017 TOUR DATES

Sunday start:

April 30*

May 7*, 14*, 21, 28

June 4, 11, 18, 25

July 2, 9, 23, 30

August 6, 13, 20, 26

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 8*, 15*, 22*, 29*

***€100 low season discount on April 30, October 8, 15, 22 & 29**

2017 TOUR PRICE

€1,370.00 per person sharing cabin below deck.

€1,520.00 per person sharing cabin above deck

Single cabin - on request, subject to availability:

€1,870.00 below deck

€2,070.00 above deck

***low season discount of 100€**

Reduction of 50% of the basic tour available for the third / fourth person in a cabin. Contact us for more information: info@cyclingsafaris.com

If you wish to bring your own bike there is a reduction of €80

A limited number of E-bikes are available at a supplement of +€80

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 8 Days onboard a motorized yacht with crew
- 7 nights accommodation in a double cabin with bathroom
- 4 x full board & 3 x half board
- Bike hire – 21-speed hybrid bike with pannier bag
- Towels (shower and hand towel)
- Overview maps of the daily tours (on board)
- Guided sightseeing in Dubrovnik (incl. entrance fee to historical buildings)
- Excursion to Mostar (guided sightseeing in Mostar and Pocitelj; entrance fee to mosque)
- English speaking guide cycling with the group

Not included in the tour price:

- Journey to Dubrovnik
- Visitor's tax and local charges, water flat rate €40 (to be paid to the captain) for children up to 16 years €20
- Drinks onboard (Tally sheet to be paid to the captain)
- Meals ashore
- Lunch during excursion to Mostar
- Taxi from airport to Dubrovnik (approx €40 one way)
- E-bikes available for a supplement of €80
- Insurance against theft and damage of the rental 21-speed hybrid bike €10 / per week or rental E-bike €20 / week (not insured deliberate damages)
- Tips for tour guides and crew
- Entrance fees for sights not included in the tour price

THE BOAT – Deluxe Boat Harmonia

At 38 x 8.3 m the MY Harmonia is an elegant, pearly-white motor yacht. This two masted beauty meets the highest expectations with her 16 luxurious guest cabins including tiled bathrooms with shower cabins/WC, The salon and numerous sun mats and beds on deck are at the guests disposal. With the bathing platform at the stern, taking a dip in the sea is uncomplicated – unrestricted bathing fun is guaranteed. The Harmonia is the second boat of the Serka family that enriches our deluxe fleet. The experienced crew and the captain offer a warm-hearted and considerate service, leaving no wish unattended.



Catering:

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and two warm meals a day. The catering consists of 4x full board and 3x half board. It starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.

BIKE & FITNESS



Bike hire is included in the tour package.

- **Frames** - Our bicycles are available in four different frame sizes; 2 ladies (for up to 160cms (5 ft. 3 in.), and above that) and 2 men's (up to 6 ft., and above) to cater for all body heights.
- **Wheels** - Very stable 28 inch hollow chamber rims with Continental Top Touring tyre (easy turning and solid).
- **Gear change** - 21-gear derailleur, Alivio
- **Further Equipment** - Shimano V-brakes with strong "bite", partly inclination-adjustable stem, carrier, very stable chainstays stand (HEBIE), comfortable touring saddle of Selle Royal, safety mudguards with releasing mechanism.
- **Please Note:** You can bring your own saddle (without the post) or your own click pedals, and the tour guide will attach them to your rental bicycle.

The Bike tours require basic level of fitness from participants, which they should have acquired from steady cycling. The day tours from 20 – 60km will take you through hilly and mountainous terrain and may be completed without any time constraints. Participants will also need to master long and steep climbs during which they are, however, also permitted to push their bikes. You are free to set aside a half or full day swim or spend on board the boat, instead of taking a planned bike tour. We will traverse mostly asphalted roads, which are rarely travelled on outside the holiday seasons. Each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join the two tour guides and other participants.

Helmet use is mandatory on all bike tours in Croatia. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well fitted) helmet. Rental Helmets are available on board in limited number (reservation requested).

WHAT TO BRING

Specialised cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ leggings
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- good shoes
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume
- extra towel for swimming
- soap/ insect repellent/ sunscreen
- own helmet

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

On this tour there will be a guide cycling with the group.

There is no support vehicle available on this tour, but there is no time pressure to finish the stages. Our tour guides will inform you beforehand of the nature and difficulty of the tour so you are able to decide if you want to cycle with or rather relax on board. If you would like to cycle on your own, we can provide you with maps and tips for routes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meals

The cook that travels along is a member of the crew and prepares breakfast and two warm dishes a day which take into account the requirements of active cyclists. The ample breakfast comprises bread, butter, jam, cheese, sausages, coffee, and tea as well as some extras.

For lunch, the cook will generally prepare a light meal and for dinner you can expect an great menu of several courses that often includes fish or seafood as its central dish. Please let us know beforehand if there are any foods you may or will not eat, and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes and to provide alternatives.

Electricity, water and telephone on the ship

Electricity and water are available on board, of course, but within limits. All ships have a generator for 220V, which will however not work around the clock, e.g. to ensure your night's rest it will be switched off overnight.

The plugs are ordinary flat European plugs with two round pins of 4.8 mm in diameter.

The water tanks are large enough to provide sufficient cold and warm water for washing and showering for everyone, if it is used with consideration, i.e. if you turn it off while soaping, and do not leave it on unneeded.

All countries have access to a local GSM 900 mobile telephone network that you can log into if your phone is GSM compatible.

Arrival to tour start

- It is possible to fly to Dubrovnik Airport, which is about 15 km from your port of embarkation. From the airport you can take a taxi to the ship (Harbour Dubrovnik, approx. 15 km/40 euro).
- Other possible airport is Split (distance to Dubrovnik: 4,5 hours)

Dubrovnik airport is easy accessible from Dublin Airport and London. Aer Lingus fly direct from Dublin and British Airways provide a direct service from London Gatwick Airport.

When arriving to Dubrovnik Airport you can take a bus all the way to Gruž Harbour where the ship is docked. Bus journey time is approx. 30 minutes. The ship is situated close to the central bus station of Dubrovnik and only 3 km away from the historical Old town.

