

Cycling Safaris

CROATIA 2018 Kvarner Bay

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 175 km/109 mi | 7 nights / 8 days



Guarded by the towering Velebit mountain range in the east and hugged by the Istria Peninsula in the northwest lie the Kvarner bay islands. Quiet coves of crystal clear water surround the dramatic landscapes of the Kvarner bay islands; green hills and rocky moon landscapes give way to small harbour towns rich in history and culture. Discover the charm of the Adriatic Sea for yourself by bike and boat on board one of our romantic motor yachts.

Each day begins with a well-rounded breakfast leaving you fit to explore the diversity of the Kvarner bay islands on a guided bike tour. Be it the medieval city of Rab, the car-free road in the sky on Dugi Otok or the contemplative life of the dwellers on the flower island of Molat, each day brings with it new discoveries. Evenings are mostly spent in picturesque harbour towns with winding alleyways where a great range of bars and cafes stand host for a relaxing evening.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 (Sun) Omišalj (Embarkation) – Cres

Individual arrival in Omišalj, a nice little harbor village on the island of Krk. If you're planning to arrive by car, we will organize a safe parking space for you. Check-in on the motor yacht between 2 and 2:30 pm. At ca. 3 pm the ship takes us to the island of Cres in about four hours. On Cres we take a walk through the Venetian old town in the evening.

2nd day (Mon) Islands of Cres and Lošinj (approx. 14 mi./23 km)

In the morning our ship takes us to Martinšćica. From there we cycle on the east side of the island among pine, fig and laurel trees to Osor, an artist town, where we have lunch on the ship. Afterwards there is time for a swim in the bay with its crystal clear water. In the afternoon we leave Osor on board the boat and navigate our way to the island of Lošinj. After a comfortable cruise and a refreshing swim stop the ship brings us safely into the large harbour of Mali Lošinj. The clear climate of this wellness retreat with its colourful captain's houses and an abundance of cafes welcomes us for a relaxing evening, enabling us to unwind and recuperate.

3rd day (Tues) Islands of Lošinj and Molat (approx. 12 + 6 mi. /20 + 10 km)

We cycle along the seaside promenade to the south of Lošinj and visit the picturesque small harbour town of Veli Lošinj before we meet the ship for lunch. In the afternoon we cross over to the island of Molat where we can do another short cycling tour. Finally we stay overnight in the quiet harbour of Molat.

4th day (Wed) Island of Dugi Otok (approx. 20 mi. /32 km)

During breakfast the ship leaves and takes us past many small islands to the "spice island" of Dugi Otok. Our bike tour starts in the bay of Božava which is surrounded by pine woods, agaves and tamarisk trees, and we ride on a road almost free of traffic. Our tour leads us at first to the northern most point of the island where the light house of Veli Rat stands proudly since 1849 fulfilling its duty in guiding sailors safely on their way. A ride along the islands "Road in the Sky" brings us to the peaceful harbour of Savar. The boat awaits us here with a replenishing midday meal and we start our cruise in the direction of the island of Pag. The longer crossing offers us a great opportunity to take a lengthy and refreshing swim stop on anchor.

5th day (Thurs) Island of Pag – Rab (approx. 12 mi. /20 km)

In the morning we reach the island of Pag. In the harsh but delightful landscape of the island we come across many fig and olive trees. Over the centuries the inhabitants have built numerous stone walls for protection against the wind. Starting from Novalja we cycle on the narrow peninsula until we reach the sea from where the ship takes us to Rab. The island of Rab is one of the sunniest places in Europe. The town of Rab, the fortified capital of the island, was built in the Middle Ages on a wedge shaped headland and marks one of the highlights of the trip. The four famous bell towers are the symbol of the adorned beauty of the town. After dinner we can explore the narrow alleys with numerous cosy cafes.

6th day (Fri) Island of Rab (approx. 15 mi. /25 km)

We cycle along the coast to the east side of the island, an area with virtually no vegetation, which's rough and cliffy rocks remind us of a lunar landscape. The road leads us to a bay with a sandy beach which is rather atypical for the islands of the Kvarner Bay. At lunchtime the ship awaits us in the harbour directly in front of the old town of Rab. After a swim-break the ship takes us over to the neighbouring island of Krk where we spend the evening in the historical town of Krk.

7th day (Sat) Island of Krk, (approx. 28 mi. /45 km)

We cycle over the ridge of the island which is covered by fragrant macchia to a valley of vineyards and then onwards to the small museum town of Vrbnik in the northeast. The town built on a 50-meter-high cliff and surrounded by vineyards is the home of the famous white wine Zlahtina. Another peculiarity that Vrbnik has to offer is the second narrowest alley in the world. The way leads us across the island through old villages and rich vegetation to Omišalj. On our way we have a chance to swim in the bay of Soline. The last evening aboard takes place traditionally and includes the communal dinner and a last get-together in a cosy atmosphere with crew and tour guides.

8th day (Sun) Omišalj (Disembarkation)

After breakfast disembarkation until 9 am and individual trip home or extended stay in Croatia.

We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary, depending on wind and weather conditions or organizational requirements.

2018 TOUR DATES & COSTS

Comfort Boat Linda (Departs - Sundays)

April 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20

June 3, 10, 17, 24

July 1, 8, 12, 22, 29

August 19, 26

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14

€1070 per person sharing cabin below deck

€1170 per person sharing cabin on deck

€1370 per single cabin below deck

€1470 per single cabin on deck



THE BOAT

Comfort Boat Linda (all cabins with shower/toilet)

The ship is a spacious wooden motor yacht and being 31 metres long and 6 metres wide the MY Linda is among the larger ships in the Croatian fleet. The large saloon can accommodate 32 guests and the middle sundeck is constructed in a way that meals can also be served outside. The ship has 14 en suite cabins: 10 cabins are on deck, 4 are below deck. Captain Damir and his crew look forward to making your vacation an unforgettable one.

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Services included:

- 8-day-trip on a motor yacht with a crew of four
- 7 nights in a double cabin with shower/toilet
- 4 x Full Board & 3 x Half Board
- Bike rental – 21 speed trekking bike with pannier
- Bed linen and towels (shower and hand towel)
- English-speaking tour guide
- 7 guided cycling tours as described in itinerary
- Maps of the single cycling trips

Not included in the tour price:

- Journey to Omišalj
- Water flat rate & Visitor tax and local charges: €40 per adult or €20 for children up to age 16 (to be paid to the captain)
- Drinks onboard (Tally sheet to be paid to the captain).
- Meals ashore
- Entrance fee to attractions (individual visits)
- Tips for crew and tour guides

Optional extra's

- 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)



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, Ortlieb pannier
- **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.

Requirements (Level2-3)

The cycling routes require a basic level of fitness, which you should have acquired by steady cycling. The routes can reach an altitude of 200 to 500 meters. The daily routes, of 20 - 60 km, cover hilly and mountainous terrain and can be completed without time constraints. You will also come across some longer and rather steep climbs, where walking your bike is of course permitted. The tour guides will inform you about the course of the tour in due time. You can also choose to skip a bike tour and spend a day sunbathing on the ship instead. The roads are mostly asphalted and there is little traffic outside of holiday periods. You can decide every day for yourself, whether you would like to cycle individually using the maps provided, or join one of the tour guides (or other individual 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
- 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 on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and and or two warm meals a day. The catering consists of 4 Day x full board and 3 Day x half board. Catering starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day. The ample breakfasts comprise of 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 a 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.

Bringing Children:

We believe that only children in a good physical condition and of a minimum age of 10 and previous bicycle tour experience are able to master the bike-tours on their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1, 20 m (4ft.)

Arrival to tour start

- Kvarner Bay: it is possible to fly to the airport of Rijeka, which is close to port of embarkation Omisalj, on the island Krk. We can organize (taxi) transfers between Rijeka airport and boat in Omisalj (on day of embarkation/disembarkation only): 15 euro person/way. Reservation required. Please let us know your exact flight details.
- Another possible airports is Zagreb (transfer time to Omisalj: 2 hours) or Zadar (transfer time to Omisalj: 3 hours)
- Or also Split, (transfer time to Omisalj: 3.5 hours) There are no direct flights from Ireland to Split, but we suggest you use www.skyscanner.net to find the most convenient route for you.