

#### **CROATIA**

# Discover Croatia and its charming character

With a mixed cultural and religious heritage, the many islands along the Dalmatian coast play host to historical secrets and some incredible architecture. From UNESCO World Heritage sites to National Parks of international acclaim, this itinerary from Dubrovnik to Zadar takes in some of Croatia's greatest accolades.

This serenely beautiful region of Croatia has a distinct and charming character. The main attraction being, that it seems completely unaware of being so. The islands have a somewhat regal yet understated and subtle style.

The area has risen in popularity as a Mediterranean holiday destination in recent years and can become busy during peak summer months. Thanks to the warm and reliable climate, however, visits any time from April to October are sure to delight.







Voyage times in this itinerary are calculated at 13 knots.

ROUTE MAP  $\bigwedge_{\mathbf{N}}$ ZADAR TELASCICA CROATIA **BOSNIA AND** HERZEGOVINA KORNATI SKRADIN TROGIR BRAC SOLTA **HVAR** ADRIATIC SEA MONTENEGRO DAY 6 DAY 1 DAY 2 DAY 3 DAY 4 DAY 5 DAY 7 DAY 8

TROGIR

SKRADIN

KORNATI

TELASCICA

ZADAR

SOLTA

SPLIT

HVAR

BRAC











# **SPLIT**

## Split lies on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea and is the second largest city in Croatia

Anchor in the harbour, which is edged by a palm-tree lined promenade and backed by the picturesque old town. Explore Diocletian's palace and wander through the cosmopolitan streets.

Come sunset, the town has a dynamic atmosphere and there are plenty of dining options. For fresh local fare with an international twist, we suggest Bokeria - the wine list features Croatia's finest and, depending on the day, there's live jazz to accompany your meal.







#### **HVAR**

Split - Hvar: 23.2 nm, 1 hr 47 minutes

### Spend an afternoon exploring the islands of the Pekleni archipelago

Beautiful Hvar is as well known for its friendly locals as it is for its myriad of historical and cultural sights. In the 16th century fortress, which overlooks the town from its hilltop perch, you'll find a collection of ancient amphorae and objects from the middle ages. Hvar is also home to the Hanibal Lucic Benedictine Art Collection, the Franciscan Art Collection - housed at the Franciscan Monastery, and a Renaissance Cathedral with its original tower. Opposite the town lies the Pakleni island chain. Comprising about twenty islets, this archipelago is a particularly attractive part of the Hvar Riviera and has numerous small bays with crystal clear waters, perfect for swimming, diving and water sports. Hvar is not without its restaurants, beach bars, spas and clubs but the secluded beaches, quaint villages and expansive fields of lavender give Hvar a distinctly different feel to other locations on the Dalmatian coast.







## **BRAC**

Hvar - Brac: 9.1 nm, 42 minutes

Holding an imposing position on the Dalmatian coast, the beaches of Brac attract people in their droves

You'll spot Brac easily on your passage from Split - it's the largest island in Dalmatia and has the highest peak in the Adriatic.

The island is famous for its radiant white stone, used to construct both the Diocletian's Palace in Split and the White House in Washington, DC.

Water sports and snorkelling are best off Zlatni Rat beach near the town of Bol in the southern part of the island. The beach extends out into the sea, perpendicular to the shore, forming a sandy point. It's a favourite spot for surfing and kite surfers and, as you'd expect, gets busy during the peak summer season.







### **SOLTA**

Brac - Solta: 15.5 nm, 1 hr 12 minutes

### The land of honey

The hilly island of Solta lies close to Split and is a desirable anchorage from which to explore both locations.

Its close proximity to Split has made it something of a holiday destination among the locals and many residents of Split keep second homes here.

Solta is famed for its honey, with the herbs and shrubs that carpet the island creating the perfect habitat for beekeeping. The same traditional production methods are used today as in centuries old, and there are many opportunities to learn about these, and that for producing olive oil, on the island. If you choose to venture off on a culinary tour, make sure it includes one of the vineyards, which make a superb red wine from the island's indigenous grapes.







### **TROGIR**

Solta - Trogir: 9.2 nm, 42 minutes

## A UNESCO World Heritage Site and the jewel of Dalmatian coast

Trogir is a town of extraordinary architectural beauty. Sitting atop a small island just off the Croatian mainland, it is truly a jewel of the Dalmatian coast.

The original town of Tragyrion was founded by the Greeks in 380BC, later becoming Tragyrium under Roman rule in 78AD. During the middle ages, Trogir formed part of the Byzantine Empire but it was destroyed by the Saracens and then abandoned. Later, under the Kings of Hungary and then Venetian rule through the 15th century, the town experienced an artistic growth and period of popularity.

Trogir is also home to the Kornati National Park – a group of more than a hundred islands that are perfect for exploring by tender.







#### **SKRADIN**

Trogir - Skradin: 23 nm, 1 hr 46 minutes

#### Dating back to 33BC, this is a town for historians, nature lovers and wine enthusiasts

Often overlooked, Skradin is something of a rough diamond. Located on the Krka river at the entrance to the Krka National Park, this small V-shaped town benefits from all the scenic beauty of the area without the tourist footfall, many of whom simply pass through on their way to the Park. Much of the town's development owes itself to the Romans and the ruins of the hilltop fortress in the centre of town are a reminder of the area's ancient prominence.

As with any waterfront town, one of the greatest enjoyments is a refreshment at one of the local establishments whilst you take in the view. Other highlights include the antique car museum, the Krka bridge, various churches and we recommend a stop at the extremely chic Bibich Winery, which is in the nearby village of Plastovo.







## **KORNATI / TELASCICA**

Skradin - Kornati: 23.7 nm, 1 hr 49 minutes

### A labyrinth of islands

The Kornati National Park comprises 89 uninhabited islands and lies in the northern part of the Dalmatia region. It is a verifiable labyrinth of islands that are the perfect destination for those seeking peace, tranquility and natural splendour. The marine life includes 185 species of fish, 61 species of coral, and both turtles and dolphins are a common sight.

Within the park are three stand-out attractions:

**Strunac Bay** - found on the island of Zut, in the heart of the Kornati archipelago.

**Telascica National Park** - on the island of Dugi Otok, abundant with sea life and nature.

Levrnaka Bay - Levrnaka is an island with a peak of 117-metres, offering a great view.







### **ZADAR**

Telascica - Zadar: 14.1 nm, 1 hr 5 minutes

#### One of Croatia's coolest cities

For two thousand years Zadar was the most powerful town on the eastern shores of the Adriatic. Today, it is a cosmopolitan city that, charmingly, has avoided becoming overcrowded with tourists.

The town is best known for its Roman and Venetian ruins, and boasts many churches and historical monuments - the most famous being the Cathedral of St. Stosija and the Church of St. Donat.

Alongside the historical sites are two icons of modern Zadar: The Sea of Organs – an amazing feat of engineering and ingenuity that creates an incredible sound as well as being a sight to behold; and The Greeting to the Sun - an exceptionally impressive light show to the rhythm of the waves, orchestrated by three hundred glass plates equipped with photo-voltage solar modules.

















