



TRAVEL MATTERS - PUTOVANJA NA ŠESTU

HIKING HOLIDAYS
MLJET + KORČULA

2 ISLANDS

COASTAL HIKES IN CROATIA

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS
FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED

This trip starts with your arrival at Dubrovnik Airport and finishes with your departure from Dubrovnik Airport.

Each day, you will take part in a guided hike on quiet trails, with the Adriatic Sea as a constant background. All hikes are graded 'moderate'. You'll hike a total of seventy kilometres, which are split over six days of hiking, with some days being a mere six kilometres and others being approximately fourteen kilometres. You'll hike light, carrying only a daypack with what you need for the day.

There are daily ascents and descents, with climbing time on the ascents ranging from about twenty minutes to one and half hours. The footpaths we take vary from uneven rocky trails to smooth trails covered with pine needles. Sometimes the trails are exposed to sun.

DAY 1 - * DUBROVNIK AIRPORT - STON

Please advise us of your flight schedule, and we will meet you at Dubrovnik Airport. You need to arrive by 5.00 pm at the latest. Upon arrival, we'll be transferred to Ston, a tiny town located 55 kilometres northwest from Dubrovnik. A scenic drive along the jagged coast with the views of Dubrovnik Old Town and the Elafiti Islands will have you uttering 'wow' every few minutes. After getting settled in a family-run hotel situated in an ancient mansion in Ston, we'll gather for a welcome dinner to savour the first of many delicious meals the southernmost region of Croatia has to offer.

Dinner is included on this day.

DAY 2 - * STON - MLJET NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, we'll check out and embark on our first tour around the fortified town of Ston. We'll clamber up the walls which extend from one side of the Pelješac Peninsula all the way to the other. You'll be bombarded by stunning views, and you'll also exercise your leg muscles. There will be time to recover during the transfer to nearby Prapratno Bay from where we'll take a 45-minute public ferry to Mljet



Island. Another short transfer takes us to the village of Babino Polje, in the middle of the island. From here, we'll take a short hike to see the Odysseus Cave. Legend has it that after surviving a shipwreck, Odysseus found shelter in the cave which bears today his name. This hike is steep with a lot of jagged rocks. After seeing the cave and the waves breaking on the rugged south coast, we will retrace our steps - uphill. Like the greatest Homeric hero, you will be mystified by this place. Then we'll take a transfer to Polače, a seaside hamlet with Roman ruins, where we'll enjoy a homely, late lunch. The Mljet National Park includes two inlets which, due to their extremely narrow links to the sea, are regarded, and indeed are called, lakes: the Great Lake and the Small Lake. In the afternoon, we'll hike to the Great Lake and there we'll take a boat to St. Mary's Islet which boasts the 12th century Benedictine Monastery. During the time of Yugoslavia, the monastery was turned into a hotel. After the visit of the Romanesque Church of St. Mary, we'll take a boat to the Small Bridge for another short hike around the Small Lake. You'll be struck by the colour of the water. Emerald green! When have you ever seen a green sea? Exactly. The hike will end in Pomena, a seaside hamlet at the western tip of the island. After checking into our private accommodation, we'll tuck into a fisherman's dinner.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 10 km

Ascent: 250 m

Descent: 250 m

DAY 3 - * MLJET NATIONAL PARK - KORČULA TOWN

After breakfast and check out, we begin our hike in the direction of the village of Govedari, the oldest village within the park. There we'll discover old threshing floors used for threshing wheat and beans. Our hike will continue towards Veliki Gradac Hill. It won't be long before we find ourselves on the bare slope of the hill with an amazing view over the Great Lake. The path is quite steep and uneven, but the view is definitely worth every effort. Further on, we'll proceed towards Montokuc Hill, meandering on a smooth path through the pine forest. The view from the top encompasses the whole National Park, the Pelješac Peninsula and the islands of Korčula and Lastovo. After taking a break, we'll hike down a rocky path flavoured with sage plant. The path descends steeply to the Soline Straits where the Great Lake meets the open sea. There are several houses on the Soline Straits, one of which is our restaurant... Suitably replenished, we'll head towards the Great Bridge which was built recently on the site of the old one, and the old one was demolished in 1958 by Tito to enable his yacht to pass into the Great Lake. Then it's a hike along the Lakes to Pomena from where, in the late afternoon, we'll catch the catamaran ferry to Korčula Town. Time to check into our boutique hotel and enjoy a relaxing dinner.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 14 km

Ascent: 400 m

Descent: 400 m



DAY 4 - * SOUTHEASTERN SHORE OF KORČULA ISLAND

After breakfast, we take a short transfer to Žrnovo village, located inland, just 4 km from Korčula Town. From here, we'll start to follow an ancient path that goes up passing small dry stone houses before heading over into a delightful undergrowth. When the bushes become more sparse, the path bends left and leads southeastwards, offering a magnificent view of Lastovo Island. Further on, we'll continue downhill on a shady path carved out by rainwater. Our objective is to reach some of the most remote beaches on the island the locals like to keep for themselves. Of course, you can jump into the sea and swim for as long as you want... After taking a dip in the turquoise sea, we'll have lunch in a tavern that appears out of nowhere. You'll meet a local family that grows their own vegetables, makes their own olive oil and cultivates vineyards. Their place is stunning! We'll sit on the terrace, with a nice breeze, away from the rest of the world, and enjoy locally grown food prepared in a traditional way. You couldn't wish for more. But seriously, there is more - our other bite of the cherry is a fairytale beach with almost no-one on it. From the tavern, we'll need about half an hour to get there. After stretching out on the beach, we'll hike uphill amongst dense vegetation. The ascent is strenuous and magical at the same time. Just one hour more, and you'll be rewarded with the breathtaking view over the open sea. The hike ends in Žrnovo from where we'll be transferred to an organic farm for honey tasting. We'll meet a local beekeeper and learn about the life in a beehive, different jobs the bees are doing, how they make honey and why they are always busy as bees. Return to the hotel where you'll have some free time, before we take a short transfer to a rustic tavern for a finger-licking good dinner.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 12 km

Ascent: 360 m

Descent: 360 m

DAY 5 - * THE PELJEŠAC PENINSULA

Breakfast today is followed by a private boat transfer across the channel from Korčula Town to Kučište, a small village on the Pelješac Peninsula that will surprise you with its big houses. At the end of the village, we'll start to climb a steep path, and further on, we'll come out onto the main road. From here, we'll continue on a narrow path that gains height gradually through the arid rocky landscape. The path leads to the Franciscan Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels, offering stunning panoramic views across to Korčula Island. If you look downwards, you'll see woods of pine trees and cypresses... In no time, our hike will take us to the Church of Our Lady of Carmen. From here, we'll start the descent towards Orebić, a town of sea captains, at the foot of Mount St. Elias. From Orebić, we'll take a private boat to visit Korčula's Archipelago consisting of nineteen islets. They lie close to the Old Town, to the east, strewn like pearls from a divine bracelet. We'll have lunch in a restaurant on Vrnik, the only inhabited islet. The population stands at around three people. Return



to Korčula Town by boat for some traditional sweet pastries tasting. Having satisfied our sweet craving, we'll transfer back to the hotel for some free time. In the early evening, we'll take a guided walking tour through the medieval streets of the Old Town which are laid out in a fishbone pattern. Marco Polo? Of course, you'll see the birthplace of Marco Polo. If you don't believe that he was born here, it's fine by us. After you hear our story, you'll believe it anyway! Dinner in the Old Town.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 10 km

Ascent: 180 m

Descent: 180 m

DAY 6 - * KORČULA ISLAND

Breakfast today prepares us for a 30-minute transfer to Blato, an intriguing inland settlement where the streets have numbers instead of names. First, we'll hike up to Kom Peak, the second highest peak on Korčula Island, then we'll have a homely lunch, and finally we'll explore Blato as the cherry on the cake. At the beginning, the path to Kom Peak climbs fairly steeply upward. After a few zigzags, we'll emerge out of dense vegetation, catching the first sight of the slender Hvar Island. Just, wow! A little bit further on, the path becomes smooth, the green of the forest mellow, and our steps cheerful. This beautiful ascent is in fact short, with a total length of about two kilometres. Before the top, there's a place with rough-and-ready benches where we can rest for a while. And after a total elevation gain of 360 metres, we'll reach a spacious summit, with plenty of comfortable stones to sit on and from which to absorb the amazing vistas over Korčula's undulating forested interior. Let's see if you can name all the nearby islands... After taking a break, we'll hike down a rocky path, exposed to sun and flavoured with aromatic plants. The path descends steeply, then swings right across the slope, and suddenly enters into a pine forest. From here, we'll follow an amazing path covered with pine needles. The hike ends where Blato village starts. The name of the village in Croatian translates as 'mud' in English. But in Blato, there's no mud. We'll have a homely lunch in a local tavern. After lunch, we'll meet the Barilo family and visit their rich ethno collection of household implements and accessories. And we won't leave without tasting some local brandies. Later on, we'll be transferred to Smokvica village for tasting of Korčula's iconic white wine - Pošip. Back in 1967, Pošip wine was the first white wine in Croatia with a denomination of origin. This wine tasting will give you undeniable evidence that the Pošip grape is one of the world's best grape varieties. Honestly, it's the cream of the crop! Joyful, we'll return to Korčula Town where the remainder of the day is at your own leisure.

Breakfast and lunch are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 12 km

Ascent: 360 m

Descent: 440 m

DAY 7 - * KORČULA - DUBROVNIK

We'll check out after breakfast, and before we catch a 15-minute public ferry to cross the channel between the island and the mainland, we'll bid Korčula Old Town goodbye from a scenic viewpoint. Then we'll drive through the vineyards, the serene



hamlets, and the ravishing landscapes of the Pelješac Peninsula. We'll pass Ston and continue directly to Dubrovnik. And here we'll take a normal walking tour with a local guide, although nothing can be described as normal in Dubrovnik. You'll walk within the walls of the Old Town as if you're walking in a museum – the whole of the Old Town is a living museum. You'll see all the major sights, and some minor sights as well. You'll learn about the history of Dubrovnik Republic, and particularly about its multifaceted ingenuity. We'll have lunch in a restaurant in the Old Town, followed by a tour of the Dubrovnik Walls. We guarantee you an experience you won't get anywhere else, and delight which will grip you for days... Later in the afternoon, our hike will take us 412 metres above Dubrovnik Old Town. We'll reach the top of Mount Srđ which towers above Dubrovnik as a natural rampart. From the top, the stunning panoramic view stretches as far as the eye can see. To descend, we'll make a loop, and you'll see the Old Town from several different angles. Then it's a short walk to the hotel for our final night's check in. The evening in Dubrovnik is at your own leisure.

Breakfast and lunch are included on this day.

Hiking distance: 9 km

Ascent: 412 m

Descent: 412 m

DAY 8 - * DUBROVNIK

After breakfast, sadly, it's time to check out and say our farewells. You will be transferred to Dubrovnik Airport where we will wish you a pleasant flight, and hope to see you again in the not-too-distant future. Cheerio!

Breakfast is included on this day.

HIKING PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- transfers from and to Dubrovnik Airport, and all transfers in-between as in the itinerary
- accommodation for 2 nights in a private room or apartment
- accommodation for 4 nights in a charming boutique hotel
- accommodation for 1 night in a luxury hotel
- daily breakfast
- 6 lunches and 5 dinners in hand-picked restaurants and taverns
- honey tasting
- wine tasting
- traditional sweet pastries tasting
- entrance ticket to the Walls of Ston
- entrance ticket to the Mljet National Park
- entrance ticket to the Barilo ethnographic museum
- entrance ticket to the Walls of Dubrovnik
- private boat for the Korčula's Archipelago visit
- local English-speaking hiking guide with you throughout the trip



- local English-speaking guide for the sightseeing tour in Korčula
- local English-speaking guide for the sightseeing tour in Dubrovnik

HIKING PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- flights or other transport from your home base to Dubrovnik Airport
- lunch on day 1 and day 8
- dinner on day 6, day 7 and day 8
- drinks with the included meals
- personal expenses
- travel insurance

HIKING PACKING LIST

Here you will find a packing list with the basic clothing and equipment for your hiking holiday:

- daypack to carry what you need for the day
- waterproof daypack liner
- hiking shoes, ideally waterproof - please ensure that you have worn them a few times before the start of your holiday to avoid blisters
- waterproof jacket with a hood
- warm fleece jacket
- quick dry hiking trousers
- quick dry hiking shorts
- T-shirts
- hiking socks
- two water bottles of 1l or one water bottle of 2l
- sunglasses, sun cream and a sun hat
- swimsuit and towel
- sandals or flip-flops
- personal first-aid kit
- insect repellent
- headlamp or handheld torch
- camera
- binoculars - if you so wish
- rubbish bag to leave no trace
- toilet paper

Please note that hiking sticks are available at no extra cost.

Please note that there will be times when you will have to carry your own luggage short distances, for example, on and off ferries and catamarans, and while checking into your accommodation.



We reserve the right to rearrange or alter itineraries and departure times, or to cancel any of the hikes outlined in the itinerary should we deem it necessary in the interests of protecting your safety.

We reserve the right to refuse participation to hikers who are dressed inappropriately or with inappropriate footwear since this will put the well-being and safety of the group at risk.

Organiser: Travel Matters – putovanja na šestu, Cvjetno naselje 44, 20260 Korčula, Croatia

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