



The Croatian Coast by Private Yacht - Indulge Yourself!

Expanded Itinerary

Jul 25 Fly Detroit/ Dubrovnik, Croatia

Meet your fellow travelers this afternoon and begin your adventure with an overnight flight to Europe.

Jul 26 Dubrovnik

We will arrive in Dubrovnik this morning and make the short transfer to the Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik at the city gate. Our rooms may not be ready when we arrive at the hotel. We suggest you plan to spend this afternoon and evening today in the walled city of Dubrovnik as our time in Dubrovnik will be limited to today and tomorrow morning.

Jul 27 Korcula (included breakfast, lunch)

We will embark the *MV Maritimo* late this morning, and enjoy lunch as the ship sails at 1:00 pm. Our ship will sail during the daytime so that we can enjoy the coastal scenery from the Sun Deck and spend overnights in the ports. Our first port of call is Korcula, the birthplace of famed explorer Marco Polo. Covering much of the island are pine forests so dark that Korcula is nicknamed "the Black Island". Korcula town center is like a small Dubrovnik, also encased by medieval stone ramparts and towers. The famous Moreska sword dance-fight is thought to have come to the island when the Moors raged through this region and there are regular performances of the Moreska. On our walking tour we'll see the old town where tiny streets are designed in a fish bone pattern—our guide will tell us the story. We overnight in Korcula so as you walk you'll want to keep an eye out for a charming restaurant for tonight's dinner!

Jul 28 Metkovic (included breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Today we discover one of the last remaining wetland deltas in Europe as we cruise to Metkovic on the banks of the river Neretva, after which the delta is named. Here, mandarin oranges grow by the water channels and we'll take a barge ride to explore the groves, the flora and fauna, wild birds and the traditional way of life of the Neretva people. There's a delightful "time warp" feeling like nowhere else on the coast. The Narona archeological museum in Vid, which we'll visit, opened in 2007 as the first "in situ" museum in Croatia. It exhibits the remains of a Roman temple called Augusteum; seventeen marble statues in various stages of completeness are a highlight of the visit. Tonight's onboard Captain's Dinner will feature live entertainment.

Jul 29 Split (included breakfast, lunch)

This morning we cruise to Split, the capital of Croatia's Dalmatia region, the second largest city in Croatia, and site of Diocletian's palace, a UNESCO protected heritage site where the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his retirement palace. We'll take a guided walk through the historic old town and to the market.

The heart of the city lies within the walls of Diocletian's palace, which was built in the 3rd century AD. Diocletian, born in the nearby Roman settlement of Salona in 245 AD, achieved a brilliant career as a soldier and became emperor at the age of 40. In 295 he ordered his vast palace to be built and when it was completed he stepped down

from the throne and retired to his beloved homeland. Upon his death he was laid to rest in an octagonal mausoleum, around which Split's magnificent cathedral was built.

Jul 30 Sibenik (included breakfast, lunch)

Wine and waterfalls! We cruise north toward Skradin and then board a coach for a drive into the countryside. First stop is the Bibich winery for wine tasting and a light tapas lunch. Back in Skradin we'll walk through the Krka Waterfalls National Park and visit "Skradinski Buk". There are 17 waterfalls, with cascades up to 328 feet wide, and the Krka River tumbles 150 feet. It's mid-summer, so if swimming under the falls appeals to you, bring your swimsuit and enjoy the clear, fresh water.

Sibenik is in the center of Croatia's Adriatic coast and is our afternoon destination. Explore the glorious old town and waterfront, the cultural monuments and the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of St. James. We overnight in Sibenik, so you can go ashore for dinner and night life!

Jul 31 Zadar (included breakfast, lunch, tasting)

After breakfast we sail for Zadar, the oldest university town in Croatia, which is famous for its rich historical heritage. Discover the town's Roman Forum which dates to the 1st century AD and St. Donat Church from the 9th century (it's a medieval basilica and the symbol of the city). The mighty city walls enclose the Old Town, and be sure to see the city gate built in the 16th century. Among many museums, the Museum of Ancient Glass is notable. Housed in a 19th century mansion, the museum contains an important collection of Roman glassware, and a cornucopia of goblets, jars and vials retrieved from archaeological sites across Dalmatia. There are also over 30 churches and majestic family palaces and villas to be seen in town. On the waterfront the award winning Sea Organ and "Greeting to the Sun" light installations show the funky side of Zadar.

Aug 1 Rab (included breakfast, lunch, tasting)

We sail this morning to Rab, an island just off Croatia's coast. Ancient walls encircle an Old Town of the same name which is recognized by four elegant bell towers rising from the ancient stone streets. Our walking tour includes the medieval walls, the famous four towers (and maybe a chance to climb one) as well as palaces, churches and squares. The Old Town has a bit of a Montmartre feel, with many artists painting and exhibiting on the streets. Legend has it that local nuns created a special Rab cake for a visiting Pope and we will sample this after the tour—the recipe remains forever secret. We overnight in Rab.

Aug 2 Opatija (included breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Our destination today is Opatija, which was a fashionable resort for the Austro-Hungarian elite during the 19th century Austro-Hungarian Empire. This is evidenced by the many handsome belle-epoque villas that the period bequeathed to the town. Opatija's promenade, the Lungomare, snakes along the coastline and offers views of the town and neighboring islands. The 1800s Villa Angiolina, set in a garden of exotic plants, houses the Croatian Museum of Tourism. On our walking tour we'll enjoy the views, learn the town's history, and walk the Lungomare to the fishing village of Volosko. Tonight's onboard Farewell Dinner will be accompanied by live entertainment.

Aug 3 Fly Opatija/Detroit

Our Venice to Detroit flight leaves around noon, so we'll have an early morning departure time for the three-hour drive to Venice, Italy from Opatija.