

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

May 6-12
May 21-27
June 4-10
Sep 18-24
Oct 2-8
Oct 12-18

2013

May 5-11
May 20-26
Jun 3-9
Sep 17-23
Oct 1-7
Oct 11-17

Custom trips available
and can start any date.
Call or email for details

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Dubrovnik/Split

Activity Level:

Moderate
40-60 km (25-37 miles)
daily with some hills
each day

Croatia, Biking

From Dubrovnik to Split via Mljet, Korcula, Hvar & Brac

Imagine the Mediterranean *the way it used to be*, in a country that has all the essential elements for the perfect cycling vacation- quiet roads, an abundance of historical sites and now, wonderful hotels and restaurants to enjoy. We've created a trip that takes in both Dubrovnik and Split, and the exquisite Dalmatian islands including Mljet, Korcula, Hvar and Brac, each unique and ideal for active travel (and relaxation).

Only Great Explorations:

- Small groups, extraordinary guides, and authentic experiences.
- A ride you will never forget: a recently discovered newly paved road on one of the islands that will leave you breathless.
- Cooking course at the home of a local chef in Hvar.
- Private boat transfers between Mljet, Korcula and Hvar.
- Order off the menu at restaurants you won't find in guidebooks.
- We design and operate our own trips so there are only good surprises.

**Robbin McKinney, founder of Great Explorations will be guiding the October 3 departure.



Itinerary

Getting there:

Dubrovnik - Our trip begins in the historical city of Dubrovnik, now a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the great cities of Eastern Europe. The historical center is well-protected by its fortified walls, making it a wonderful place to stroll. With its strategic position on the Adriatic, Dubrovnik makes for an ideal place to begin our trip.

DAY 1:

Pomena - After meeting in Dubrovnik, we'll make our way to the port and cruise to the verdant island of Mljet; cycling from Polace, you'll have a chance to explore Mljet National Park, and two saltwater lakes, one with an islet that secrets a 12th Century Benedictine monastery.

DAY 2:

Brna - From Mljet, cruise to the magical island of Korcula, lush with pine forests, vineyards and olive groves. Reputed to be the birthplace of Marco Polo, Korcula town is filled with great restaurants and cafes. We'll cycle to one of the island's best vineyards and be hosted to a private tasting.

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Terrain:

Moderate with some hills

Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2950

Includes 6B/4L/5D

Single Supplement:

US \$400

Bike Rental:

US \$160

Pre-trip option:

US\$450 includes 2 nights at Hilton Dubrovnik



DAYS 3 +4:

Hvar Town - From Korkula, continue to the island of Hvar island. Hvar town has been compared to Cannes, where yachts line the harbor and well-preserved Venetian buildings, a hill-top castle and Europe's oldest theatre make for a charming town; the countryside is covered with lavender and the north coast between Jelsa, Vrboska and Stari Grad is especially well-suited to cycling. For those preferring

to relax on white sandy beaches, boat shuttles are available to a nearby chain of islets known as the Resin islands for idyllic swimming.

DAYS 5+6:

Bol - Another day, another island, this time to Brac, and the iconoclastic beaches of the Golden Cape. Brac is covered in a white, supple karst rock, used to build Split and Dubrovnik. We'll stay 2 nights at a newly renovated 4-star hotel in Bol, steps from the most beautiful beach in Croatia.

DAY 7: Transfer to Split for onward travel.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights lodging in 3-4 stars hotels
- all breakfasts, 4 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- cooking course in Hvar with a local chef
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

The pre-trip extension includes 2 nights hotel with breakfast daily, 1/2 day walking tour with local guide, and 2 dinners at Dubrovnik's best restaurants.

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



Hotel Odisej, Pomena

This 3-star hotel has a favorable seaside location overlooking a tranquil harbor in the heart of Mljet National Park. The modest rooms have sea-view balconies and there is a beach-side lounge bar where you can enjoy sun-downers. Pomena is tranquil hamlet with a few casual restaurants and pleasant atmosphere.



Hotel Feral, Brna

This 4-star sea-side hotel is newly renovated and chic in design. All rooms are air-conditioned and boast sea views. The large terrace-top outdoor swimming pool also has lovely views and there is a fitness room for guests. Dip your toes in the sea from the hotel's own pebble beach. Brna is a quaint fishing village where you'll sleep in peace.



Hotel Podstine, Hvar

This 3-star sea-side hotel boasts outstanding views, terraced gardens and decks leading down to the sea and private beach. Situated in an arboretum full of palm and citrus trees and centenary pines, Podstine boasts a newly opened spa offers massage and wellness services on site. The contemporary restaurant has an extensive menu with regional cuisine.



Grand Hotel Elaphusa, Bol

Renovated in 2006, this 4-star hotel is located in a pine forest along a walking promenade midway between Bol and Zlatni Rat, Croatia's most beautiful beach. The hotel's spa, outdoor pools and other amenities make it a favorite. Bol, approximately 10 minutes walk along a sea-side path has many excellent restaurants and charming center.