

Croatia Family | Dalmatian Coast Family Vacation



Trip Summary

Once overlooked, Croatia has quickly reclaimed its reputation as one of Europe's must-see destinations. Renowned for its crystal-clear coves, wooded islands, vineyard-clad hills and picturesque harbor towns, the Dalmatian Coast is an adventurer's paradise.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hvar Town

We meet in the morning in Split before we ferry to beautiful Hvar Island, disembarking at the quaint harbor town of Stari Grad, home to the fortified Tvrđalj castle, the impressively restored Bianchini Palace and a Dominican monastery • Mount up and pedal to Jelsa, admiring the octagonal Renaissance Church of Saint John and the turquoise, pine-fringed waters of Mina Bay and Grebišće • Continue on to Vrboska, also known as "Little Venice" for its plethora of small bridges • Explore the 16th century church of Saint Mary of Charity and the Renaissance works of Veronese and Bassano at the Church of Saint Lawrence • Finish your ride in Hvar, whose long waterfront promenade, yacht-lined quays, traffic-free marble streets and tasteful harbor-front bars and cafés offer the perfect retreats for relaxing and people-watching • Explore beautifully ornamented Gothic palaces, a Franciscan cloister and a historic Arsenal before climbing to a Spanish Fort for spectacular views of the city at sunset • This evening we gather for a festive welcome dinner • *Overnight at Hotel Adriana (L, D)*

Day 2: Hvar Town

This morning we set off to explore the peaceful Pakleni Otoci Islands by sea kayak • Scattered off the southwest coast of Hvar and blanketed in low pine forest, the archipelago originally derived its name from the native *paklina*, a pine resin once used as a ship sealant • Paddle the idyllic bays of Marinkovac Island and savor the ubiquitous scent of pine, lavender and rosemary as you coast along the sandy beach at Sv Klement Island • This evening enjoy a cooking class and dinner at a local restaurant, and try your hand at a Croatian specialty such as *čevapčići* (spiced sausages) with ajvar sauce, mussels and black risotto • *Overnight at Hotel Adriana (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Korčula Town

Travel by private boat from Hvar Town to Vela Luka on Korčula Island for a day of biking • Set on a tiny peninsula on the Pelješac channel, Korčula was first home to Slavic pirates who used the island as a base from which to attack passing ships; in the year 1000 it was taken over by Venice, marking the start of an 800-year on-and-off Venetian rule • Today, the island is renowned for its gorgeous, white quarried stone, countless secluded bays, small, uninhabited islands and breathtaking views • Make a stop in Smokvica to enjoy lunch as a group • Explore several small villages on today's ride, which culminates in the medieval walled town of Korčula, whose Old Quarter boasts a harmonious mix of 15th century Gothic and 16th century Renaissance trimmings • Visit the home of Marco Polo, Saint Mark's Cathedral with paintings by Tintoretto, the Town Museum, and the Byzantine Icon Museum • Feast on some fresh and authentic Croatian seafood tonight at Restaurant Riblji • *Overnight at Hotel Liburna (B, L, D)*



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Day 4: Korčula Town

Travel by private boat to Pelješac Peninsula, home to two of Croatia's best wines, the hearty Dingač and Postup reds • Hike the trails and forests along the narrow peninsula, affording fine views of the crystal-clear, blue-green waters of the sea bordered by cypresses • Visit the fifteenth century Franciscan Monastery and admire the votive gifts which for centuries were donated by sailors after being saved from shipwreck, storms or pirates • Fuel up at a group lunch in a very special place before descending into the town Orebič for our boat ride back to Korčula • Why not swim in the Adriatic from the beach near the hotel? • Dinner this evening is on your own • *Overnight at Hotel Liburna (B, L)*

Day 5: Korčula Town

Today we start with an exciting buggy safari heading for Lumbarda beach • Follow your guides along the coastal gravel roads above Lumbarda and Žrnovo villages, pausing to admire the spectacular views and to swim and snorkel in two hidden bays • Admire the tranquil waters and look for wildlife as you enjoy lunch on the boat • The adults can enjoy a wine tasting before making your way back to Korčula Town by bike • This evening we gather for a delectable farewell dinner • *Overnight at Hotel Liburna (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Dubrovnik

Enjoy one last breakfast before you are transferred to the Dubrovnik airport or Dubrovnik town • Most will opt to spend a night in Dubrovnik to explore its picturesque town center which has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site • *No overnight (B)*

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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Activities

Biking: 8-31 miles, moderate to challenging terrain

Walking/hiking: 1-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain

Kayaking: Calm waters, no experience necessary

Other activities: Swimming, snorkeling, buggy driving, cooking class, wine tasting

Discovery: Renowned for its crystal-clear coves, wooded islands, vineyard-clad hills and picturesque harbor towns, the Dalmatian Coast is an adventurer's paradise. Explore the sun-drenched town of Split, a treasure trove where you can discover which walls date back to Roman times. Its palace was built for the Roman emperor Diocletian as a retirement home. Marvel at Hvar Town's magnificent Venetian architecture, including the Arsenal which once served as a repair station for war galleons and in 1612 the Renaissance Theater was built on top of it. Sea kayak the peaceful waters around the Pakleni Otoci islands. Climb the historic walls of the ancient port city of Dubrovnik, which for so many centuries, was an independent republic and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you look closely, you will discover damage from the mortar shells during the recent Yugoslavian civil war (1991-92).

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels.

Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: Adriana

Perched on a marina overlooking the city center of Hvar, the Hotel Adriana is Croatia's first and only member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World. Deluxe rooms, a rooftop salt-water pool, spectacular lounge, garden terraces and Sensori Spa make the Adriana a perfect place to unwind after an active day.

Nights 3 – 5: Hotel Liburna

Recently renovated, the four-star Hotel Liburna on the island of Korcula boasts an outdoor pool, tennis courts, wellness center and fitness center. Spacious, comfortable and a short stroll from the center of town.



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Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner during trip.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.