



"All those who seek paradise on earth should come to Dubrovnik".

This quote from George Bernard Shaw could refer to the whole of Croatia's Dalmatian coastline. The eastern Mediterranean's take on the French Riviera, it is a compelling cruising ground unto itself, particularly when explored by yacht

—
by Miriam Cain

Discover Dalmatia



THE SOUTHERN DALMATIAN COAST HARBOURS A HOTCHPOTCH OF CULTURES ASHORE, WITH ROMAN RUINS AND HISTORICAL SITES FROM ITS VENETIAN AND OTTOMAN CHAPTERS IN HISTORY

Croatia is for those who want to see from their yacht and not be seen; a place to simply just be on the water, amble along cobble-stoned streets, sit on ancient promenades and enjoy the tranquil Adriatic Sea. From Split southwards to Dubrovnik, the southern Dalmatian coast harbours a hotchpotch of cultures ashore, with Roman ruins and historical sites from its Venetian and Ottoman chapters in history. Equally impressive, northern Dalmatia includes the stunning Kornati archipelago, home to a national marine park consisting of a chain of tranquil islands with unspoilt beaches and shallow bays. Many of the best bays are too deep for smaller yachts to anchor and so on board a superyacht you might find you have the bay to yourself.

Ashore

The fortified city of Dubrovnik is a survivor: a huge earthquake in the 17th century destroyed the majority of its Renaissance architecture, and it was rebuilt in the baroque style that remains today. The walled city of Split has much in common with Dubrovnik and is where you will find the Palace of Diocletian, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In stark modern contrast, the Riva waterfront promenade runs the whole length of the old town.

Markets are very much a feature of Dalmatian life. Olive oil, lavender, honey and wine are all reminders that you are in the Mediterranean, while traditional embroidery found on everything from table linen to headaddresses are indicators of Dalmatia's Balkan influence. In Dubrovnik, Gundulićeva Poljana is the site of a daily fruit and vegetable market, and Dubrovačka Kuća is where you will find glassware and ceramics, paintings and souvenirs. In Split, a market selling everything from fruit to clothes runs daily on the eastern side of Diocletian's Palace.

Aboard

The waters that lap the Dalmatian coastline and its 1,200 islands and islets are warm, reaching the low 20s in late summer. This, combined with the top class marinas and quaint moorings around

RECOMMENDED ITINERARY

Foreign flagged yachts are not permitted to both embark and disembark charter guests in Croatian waters, so charters either begin or end from Venice in the north or from Montenegro in the south. From Split southwards to Dubrovnik is the true Dalmatian Coast and so to explore the coastline our experts at Camper & Nicholson's recommend beginning your charter in Montenegro's Kotor, and cruising to Dubrovnik then exploring the islands as far north as the Kornati archipelago before cruising back to Montenegro for disembarkation.

Day 01

Porto Montenegro, Montenegro

The pristine, developing Balkan destination of Montenegro is regaining favour among an international elite that values privacy over glitz. Touted as the new St Tropez, the tiny country is the perfect gateway to Croatian waters. Spend a few days exploring the preternaturally gorgeous landscape, which ranges from gorges, glacial lakes and hiking country to the glassy fjord of Kotor before stepping aboard your yacht berthed in the dazzling Porto Montenegro.

Days 02 + 03

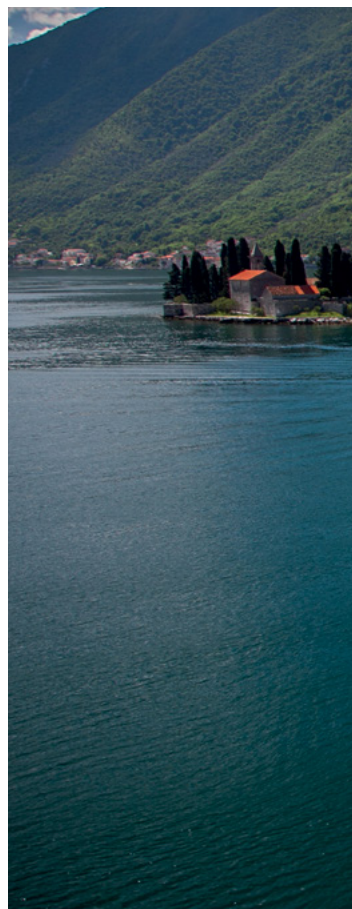
Kotor, Montenegro to Dubrovnik

42 nautical miles
Clear customs at Cavtat and cruise through the shimmering waters of the Adriatic Sea to the old town of Dubrovnik. Referred to as the Pearl of the Adriatic, this baroque city nestles behind its huge ramparts. Take a stroll around the ancient city walls for an overview of the Old Town and discover Dubrovnik's many historic and cultural treasures that have earned it the designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the major attractions including the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries, and Sponza Palace.

Day 04

Dubrovnik to Mljet

34 nautical miles
Continue to enjoying the delights of the Dalmatian coast as you cruise to the island of Mljet. The island is a national park of forested hills and two teal-coloured inland lakes. With water temperatures of around 25°C, these saltwater pools offer a balmy swimming playground that can be reached by tree-shaded cycle and walking trails. Cruise to the northern side of the island for a peaceful anchorage near the village of Polače.





Jo

Length 50m (164')

Guests 12

Prices from €175,000 per week



The Snapper

Length 37m (121'5")

Guests 10

Prices from €120,000 per week



Atlantic Goose

Length 45m (147'8")

Guests 10

Prices from €85,000 per week



Hana

Length 43m (141')

Guests 10

Prices from €135,000 per week



remote islands make for an ideal cruising ground. Some of the islands are big – Brač, Hvar and Korčula are the most popular. Hvar is perhaps Dalmatia's most established holiday island and very lively in high season. The nearby Pakleni archipelago is a world away from the bustling island and with the islands' sandy beaches and turquoise waters, has a Maldivian feel. The island of Brač boasts more sandy beaches that give way to vineyards, olive groves and fragrant pine forests inland. Hvar is awash with a heady scent of lavender that grows throughout the island's interior, whilst the old town has long attracted the yachting crowd to its fantastic coastal restaurants and nightlife.

To the south, Korčula also has vineyards and quaint, sleepy fishing villages such as Lumbarda. The beautifully preserved Korčula Town is like a miniature version of Dubrovnik's old town, with baroque buildings, narrow alleys and fortified walls. There are several islands that surround the popular three, all of which share the laid-back pace that the Dalmatian coastline is known for. *For further information on any of the yachts cruising Croatia this summer, or for a more detailed itinerary, contact your nearest Camper & Nicholson's charter broker, see page 8.*





EAT, DRINK, EXPLORE

Where to dine...

- + Kamenice, Dubrovnik
- + Nautika, Dubrovnik
- + Lokanda Peskarija, Dubrovnik
- + Café Buza, Dubrovnik
- + 360°, Dubrovnik
- + Apetit, Split
- + Palace de Paladinis, Hvar
- + Bonj 'les bains' (lunch), Hvar
- + Bako, Vis

Where to drink + dance...

- + Carpe Diem, Hvar
- + Adriana, Hvar
- + Hula-Hula, Hvar
- + Carpe Diem Beach, Stipanska
- + Café Bar Massimo, Korcula
- + Gil's, Dubrovnik

What's good to eat...

The Dalmatian Coast is known for its olives and olive oil, pršut (Croatian prosciutto), figs, Croatian 'lamb under the bell' - baked in a furnace - and, of course fish. There are some 400 varieties of edible sea creatures in this part of the Adriatic, from sea bass, tuna and bream to giant langoustines and squid.

What's good to drink...

Croatian wines mainly comprise punchy reds and sweet whites. The popular and graceful white wine of Croatia is Posip; and the bold red is Plavac Mali. Thanks to the likes of winery Korta Katarina's Reuben's Private Reserve Plavac Mali, which achieves the highest rating of any Croatian wine at 90 (on a 100-point scale) from Wine Enthusiast, Croatian wines have scored wins at wine competitions throughout the world and are starting to appear all over the world. Chief stewardess aboard the 40.5m (132'1) Nameless, Maja Hadnadjev recommends the following wines to accompany a charter along the Dalmatian Coast. "Among the reds, Madirazza Plavac Mali Barrique 2001 from Dalmatia is popular, as is Cabernet Sauvignon Roxanich 2007 from Istria. The white grape Grasevina is a local grape that pops up in aromatic wines and dessert wines. Some of the best whites come from Hvary. Try Zlatan Posip 2008 and Slatan Ostatak Bure 2009."



E&E

Length 42m (138')

Guests 10

Prices from €130,000 per week



Griffin

Length 41.45m (136')

Guests 10

Prices from €140,000 per week

Day 05

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Mljet to Korcula

20 nautical miles

Said to be the birthplace of Marco Polo, Korcula boasts crooked medieval streets, and elegant squares which are flanked with palaces of old nobility. Safe, sandy beaches and a harbour-front selling just caught fish and towns with beautiful Venetian architecture make the island a fine anchorage. Stroll through olive groves and vineyards, potter around the medieval streets of Korcula Town, and take the tender to explore the isolated bays that dot the coastline.

Days 06 + 07

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Korcula to Hvar

24 nautical miles

Hvar has fast become the party island of the Dalmatian coast and Hvar Town is the Cannes of New Europe – a wide promenade runs around a horseshoe-shaped harbour dotted with palm trees and fringed with bars that open out of elegant Venetian mansions. The Renaissance architecture around the main square gives Hvar its belle époque feel, while the yachts and stylish cocktail bars create a hip vibe. Early evening dine on the freshest fish at one of the many seafood restaurants that line the harbour before heading to the island's exclusive nightspot, Carpe Diem, for an evening cocktail. The following day you can party at its sister venue Carpe Diem Beach, located on the neighbouring island of Stipanska. Spread over a huge area of pine forest and beach, the club has a number of bars, terraces, restaurants and pool. For those in search of a dose of culture, the Stari Grad Plain on Hvar is Croatia's most recent addition to UNESCO's World

Heritage list. The cultural landscape has remained almost intact since it was first colonised by Greeks in the 4th century BC.

Day 08

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Hvar to Brac

13 nautical miles

After a busy few days partying in Hvar cruise to the quieter island of Brac. Take in the views along the beach at Bol as you approach the island's southern coast. The narrow strip of sand is probably Croatia's most famous beach and is an ideal location for a spot of windsurfing.

Day 09

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Brac to Split

10 nautical miles

Split is one of the better-known destinations in Dalmatia, not least because of the attraction of the three main islands of Hvar, Brac and Vis that lie just off the coast, but also because of the old town which has also become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you will find the stunning Diocletian's Palace around which the city grew. The waterfront residence is made up of three hectares of towers, fortifications, vaults and apartments that have been turned into a warren of cafes, restaurants and shops.

Days 10 + 11

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Split to Kornati Islands

59 nautical miles

The Kornati archipelago is the densest group of islands in the Mediterranean. A protected national park area, the 152 islands, islets and rocks are wild and generally deserted. Anchor outside the archipelago at Telascica Bay on Dugi Otok, renowned for being one of the most beautiful anchorages in Croatia, and explore the national park area by tender.



Sultana

—
Length 25.8m (84')
Guests 8
Prices from €33,000 per week

**WARM WATERS,
1,200 ISLANDS
AND ISLETS,
TOP CLASS
MARINAS
AND QUIANT
MOORINGS,
MAKE FOR AN
IDEAL CRUISING
GROUND**



Day 12

—

Kornati Islands to Vis

57 nautical miles

Following a few days exploring the Kornati archipelago, cruise south and take in the remote island of Vis. The Croatian equivalent of Capri, complete with its own blue grotto, the island has a dense interior of olive groves and vines, while the coastline is made up of relatively deserted beaches.

Day 13

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Vis to Dubrovnik (overnight)

110 nautical miles

As you wend your way towards Montenegro for disembarkation rediscover your favourite anchorages or head straight to Dubrovnik for one last dose of Croatian culture.

Day 14

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Dubrovnik to Kotor, Montenegro

42 nautical miles

Clear out of Croatia at Cavtat and cruise into Montenegro. Anchor off Boka Kotorska for a spot of lunch before coming in to disembark at Porto Montenegro.



Metsuyan IV

—
Length 36m (118')

Guests 10

Prices from €98,000 per week



Sunlider II

—
Length 36.45m (119'7")

Guests 10

Prices from €88,000 per week

