

The Best of the Dalmatian Coast

Tour Style: European walking holidays

Destination: Croatia

Trip code: BVLCL

2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The warm waters of the Adriatic lap the southern coast of Croatia and the 1,000 or so islands which lie just offshore. From our base in the small coastal town of Brela, enjoy marvellous walking options along the mainland coast, on the delightful island of Brac, and around the yawning chasm of the Cetina Gorge. There's also a boat trip to the coastal town of Omis and walks in the foothills of the Biokovo Mountains.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full programme of guided walks led by local HF Holidays Leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable accommodation
- Half-board (breakfast and evening meal)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Air-conditioned transport
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Walking through the Cetina Gorge
- Taking a boat trip to the town of Omiš
- Stopping at charming coastal resorts for a dip in the Adriatic Sea
- Outstanding beachfront accommodation in Brela
- The option to visit Split or Trogir on your free day

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 3 graded Activity. Easier walks: 5 to 7 miles (8 to 11km) generally on good paths and tracks. Up to 1,100 feet (330m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 7 to 10 miles (11 to 16km) on steeper and rougher terrain. Up to 2,200 feet (660m) of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to the Dalmatian Coast. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Hillside Villages To Makarska

Today's walks use panoramic elevated paths in the foothills of the Biokovo Mountains. The views along the coast and across to the islands are superb throughout. Both walks will visit Vepric Shrine, a wooded Catholic pilgrimage site, before following the coastline along promenade to finish in Makarska.

Option 1 - Hillside Villages And Makarska

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

Total descent: 1800 feet (540m)

In summary: Starting at the village of Bast we ascend through the village before contouring south east on a wide path with good views over the coast. Then our descent takes us through scattered pines and olive groves to reach Vepric Shrine. After a short visit we will be transported to Makarska for refreshments and an optional walk around the peninsula.

Highlight: Explore the bustling harbour of Makarska.

Option 2 - Bast Village High Tracks And Makarska

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1,500 feet (450m)

Total descent: 2450 feet (740m)

In summary: Starting at Bast, this walk gradually ascends on a higher broad track on the flanks of the Biokovo mountains, initially in shaded forest before the views open out over Makarska. We can see the locations of walks earlier in the week on Brač and high above Makar before descending to Vepric Shrine and onto Makarska to join the easier group at the harbour.

Highlight: Superb views down to the coast and across to the islands.

Day 3: The Island Of Brač

The island of Brač lies approximately four miles offshore from the mainland, and is about the same size as the Isle of Wight. The island's coastline has a series of attractive harbour villages, two of which will be visited on our walks. We travel to Brač by boat from Baška Voda harbour. We will arrive at Sumartin harbour and from here walk to a secluded cove and through olive groves to the equally attractive harbour at Povelja. Here our boat will be waiting for the return trip.

Option 1 - Island Coast And Harbour Villages

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 450 feet (140m)

Total descent: 460 feet (140m)

In summary: After time to explore or enjoy a relaxed morning coffee in Sumartin, we ascend out of the town and enjoy a wide track above the east coast of the island with stunning views across to the mountains on the mainland. At the hamlet of Rasotica we see how the local inhabitants collect water where there are no natural springs, before a possible swim in the nearby picturesque cove. A good track leads us to lunch in the shade of an olive grove before walking to the north coast of the island with its basilica and harbour.

Highlight: The island's beautiful coastline with its attractive harbour villages.

Option 2 - Island Coast, Terraces And Harbour Village

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 450 feet (140m)

Total descent: 460 feet (140m)

In summary: This coast to coast walk starts by following the route of the easier group with an ascent to a col for our picnic lunch before continuing to Povelja. We will have time to explore the Basilica, before taking a new route on good paths to the small harbour of Ticqa Luka, where in the past, boats moored to load stone from

the adjacent quarry. The route continues around the headland with good views of the mainland before returning to Povelja, where we can perhaps enjoy a swim before catching our boat back.

Highlight: The boat journey from Baška Voda harbour to Brač

Day 4: The Foothills Of The Biokovo Mountains

Both walks will start at the village of Makar, which sits on the hillside not far from Makarska, commanding superb views of the coast below, making their way via differing routes to Tučepi.

Option 1 - Above Kotišina Via Villages To Tučepi

Distance: 6 miles (9½km)

Total ascent: 500 feet (150m)

Total descent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In summary: On mostly good paths, this gentle paced walk reveals the contrasts between the traditional life at the base of the Biokovo range and the welcoming facilities of an attractive coastal resort. We visit old churches and small villages with an option to visit the Veliki Kaštel, a 17th century fort built into the cliffs, and recently renovated as a small interpretation centre.

Highlight: Admire the view out to the islands of Brač and Hvar.

Option 2 - Into The Biokovo Mountains

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 2200 feet (660m)

Total descent: 2120 feet (650m)

In summary: The most challenging walk of the week ascends on a remarkably constructed former mule track before contouring in welcome shade high above the coast. A slightly rougher descent takes us to a traditional café.

Highlight: An exhilarating mountain day with spectacular views.

Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently or visit local places of interest. Some options for your free day may include:

Makarska: A relaxing option is to walk along the coast to Makarska. This is a generally straightforward walk, taking around two hours, with plenty of opportunities for swimming along the way. In Makarska you may want to have lunch in one of the waterfront cafés, before returning to Baška Voda on one of the regular local buses.

Split: Split is the capital of the region and is located 50km northwest of Baška Voda. The city can be reached by local bus, and the initial approach to the city through rows of dilapidated apartment blocks appears unpromising. At its heart, however, is an enthralling old town of narrow streets and ancient buildings. The principal sights are the cathedral of St Domnius and the remains of Diocletian's Palace with its spectacular gates, museum and temple. It is popular to combine this with a visit to Trogir. Your leaders will organise this if there is sufficient interest.

Trogir: A little further away is the equally impressive city of Trogir. Built on an island, this beautiful walled city has a maze of narrow medieval streets, elegant waterfront cafés, a wide waterfront promenade and dramatic fortifications. The city is also the best example of Croatian cultural life on the Dalmatian coast. The magnificent

cathedral inspired UNESCO to name the town a World Heritage Site in 1997.

Krka National Park: The Krka River and its wonderful waterfalls define the landscape of Šibenik-Knin country and are the focus of the Krka National Park. The Krka waterfalls are a Karstic phenomenon. Your leaders will organise this if there is sufficient interest.

Day 6: Villages And Coast Around Baska Voda

Today our walks start and finish at the hotel to enjoy the foothills of the Biokovo Mountains which rise above the village. After exploring the foothills, both groups will descend to the coast. We will then follow the coastline on a promenade through small beach resorts with the opportunity to pause for a drink or swim on our way back to Brela.

Option 1 - Villages, Views And Promenade

Distance: 6 miles (9½ km)

Total ascent: 1100 feet (330m)

Total descent: 1060 feet (320m)

In summary: We explore the mainly abandoned Dalmatian village of Topici before continuing northwest, parallel to the coast, walking through small tourist resorts en route back to Brela. On wide paths with wonderful views this is a popular walk with numerous places to stop after lunch for a swim in the brilliantly clear waters of the Adriatic.

Highlight: Take a dip in the crystal clear waters of the Adriatic.

Option 2 - Napoleon's Road, High Col And Promenade

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1900 feet (570m)

Total descent: 1900 feet (570m)

In summary: The harder walk will ascend to a high mountain col. Using a part of the extraordinary Napoleon's Old Road we ascend to one of the best lunch spot of the week with views in every direction. A stony descent takes us to the coastal promenade for a delightful return to our hotel.

Highlight: The stunning Napoleon's Road

Day 7: Cetina Gorge

The Cetina Gorge is an impressive natural feature that has been carved through the limestone of the Biokovo Mountains. We start inland at the village of Kostanje, behind the coastal mountain range.

Option 1 - In To The Gorge

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

Total descent: 1400 feet (440m)

In summary: Enjoying contrasting scenery to the coastal region, an easy morning through quiet villages takes us to a dramatic lunch spot with views to the Cetina River below. From here we follow a well-graded path through trees leading us to our boats which take us to a historic mill for refreshment, and through the gorge to

Omiš on the coast.

Highlight: The delightful boat journey through the gorge to the coastal town of Omiš.

Option 2 - Above The Cetina Gorge

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (260m)

Total descent: 1550 feet (460m)

In summary: We will take an alternative route to the easier route to visit a church for lunch with distant views high above the morning's path, and then rejoin the path down to and into the gorge.

Highlight: Marvel at the Cetina Gorge; an impressive natural feature that has been carved through the limestone of the Biokovo Mountains.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

Bluesun Hotel Marina (2024), Brela - Dalmatian Coast

Nestled between the trees on the edge of a sandy bay, the newly renovated Bluesun Hotel Marina is perfectly placed for both relaxing by the beach and exploring the beautiful Biokovo Mountains. This 4-star retreat has a warm and welcoming bar and restaurant area, alfresco seating, plus bright, fresh guest rooms that come in a clean modern style. You'll be just steps from the beach and there's a flat seafront promenade that will lead you into nearby Baška Voda in around 1.8 miles (3km) walking distance.

Rooms

The hotel has approx. 280 en-suite bedrooms, many with superb views.

The facilities in each room include:

- Air-conditioning
- Hairdryer
- Mini-bar
- Safe deposit box
- Telephone
- Satellite TV

About Your Stay

The hotel has a good range of facilities and public rooms, including a lounge bar perfect for meeting fellow guests.

There's an attractive restaurant which takes full advantage of the sea views and opens onto a terrace where meals can be taken in good weather.

Bluesun Hotel Marina offers a fitness centre and sauna.

The hotel also has internet access.

Food & Drink

Our holidays at Bluesun Hotel Marina are on a half-board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

Drinks

The hotel has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and spirits.

Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our guided walking holidays continues into the evening.

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer whilst finding out more about the next day's walks. We'll enjoy a leisurely evening meal, and you may also like to join your leader for an evening stroll along the seafront promenade. Visit one of the local bars or enjoy a boat trip along the beautiful Adriatic Coast.

Your leader will also keep you informed of any local events going on nearby. Alternatively, you may like to relax on the terrace or in the bar, with a drink and chat with your fellow guests.

Hotel Villa Bacchus (2025), Baška Voda

Nestled between the trees on the edge of a stunning stretch of the Dalmatian Coast, the newly renovated Hotel Villa Bacchus is perfectly placed for both relaxing by the sea and exploring the beautiful Biokovo Mountains. This 4-star retreat has a warm and welcoming bar and restaurant area, alfresco seating, plus bright, fresh guest rooms that come in a clean modern style. You'll be just steps from a stunning Blue Flag beach and there's a flat seafront promenade that will lead you into the centre of Baška Voda in just 200m.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

*Subject to availability

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

Useful Information

The local language is Croatian. English is spoken widely in shops and tourist attractions.

Tap water is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Croatian number 00385

To dial a Serbian number 00381

To dial a Bosnian number 00387

To dial a Montenegrin number 00382

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

Local Currency

The local currency is currently Euro.

Electricity

220 - 230 Volt AC with round two round pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

ATM Availability

There are several ATM machines in Baška Voda where you can obtain money.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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