

The Best of the Dalmatian Coast

Trip style: Guided Walking Holidays

Destination: 📍 Croatia

Trip code: BVD07-LCL09

Trip Walking Grade: ul 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 790kg CO2



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 Baska Voda, 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 YOU'LL LOVE

- 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
- Welcoming hotel on the Makarska Riviera
- Exploring the coves on the island of Brač

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers (flights available from other airports – price may vary)
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- Local Tour Manager who leads walks and sightseeing
- 7 nights' accommodation in Baška Voda
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

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, with descent up to 1800 feet (540m). 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, with descent up to 2450 feet (740m).

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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 Povlja. 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 Povlja. We will have time to explore the Basilica, before taking a new route on good paths to the small harbour of Ticao 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 Povlja, 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 - 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.

Option 2 - 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.

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. Later this afternoon (approx 1500), we will offer an included boat trip to Makarska, so you can relax and enjoy the views, with some time to explore before getting back to Baska Voda in time for our evening meal.

Some alternative options for your free time today may include:

Makarska: Walking 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.

Split: Split is the capital of the region and is located 50km northwest of Baška Voda. At its heart 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. 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.

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 Baska Voda.

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 Baska Voda. 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.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Bacchus, Baška Voda

Set on the stunning Dalmatian Coast, the charming Hotel Villa Bacchus is perfectly placed for both relaxing by the sea and exploring the beautiful Biokovo Mountains. This welcoming property has a cosy bar and stylish breakfast restaurant with alfresco terrace seating, as well as a small indoor pool, Jacuzzi and sauna. Just steps from a Blue Flag pebble beach and a short promenade walk into the centre of Baška Voda, this is a wonderful retreat for our stay in Croatia's Makarska Riviera region. In the evenings, our group will walk together to a nearby restaurant, where we will enjoy dinner.

Useful Holiday 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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

Trip Information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.

We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.

British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Tripnote validity

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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