

## Trip Dossier for Croatia – Active Croatia

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Based near the magical city of Dubrovnik, you'll sea-kayak along its city walls to a nearby island, then hike to the top of Mt Srdj with its breathtaking views. Explore off the beaten track by mountain bike through orchards and vineyards, or perhaps take some optional trips – a jeep safari to Molunat for a leisurely lunch, try a rafting trip or pay a visit to Mostar in Bosnia to see the rebuilt Bridge and browse the bazaars. There is lots to do in your hotel, time to relax and chill by the pool, or wander around the village streets of Mlini and sit on a terrace overlooking the sea with a cappuccino.

### Day 1 Fly to Dubrovnik

Take a morning flight to Dubrovnik, arriving early afternoon. You will be met and driven to your hotel in Mlini, 8kms south of Dubrovnik. The rest of the day is at leisure to settle in to your hotel which is ideal for families because it is situated right on the beach. Its spacious grounds offer ample room in which to relax or you can explore the local village of Mlini with its promenade lined with pine trees, a string of cafes and restaurants, all within easy walking distance (approximately 5 minutes walk along the promenade to the village). Mlini was traditionally an agricultural and fishing area. Its mild southern Mediterranean climate, pebbly beaches, green landscapes and only 8km from Dubrovnik's rich cultural heritage made it into a popular resort. The ribbons of small rivers were once used by village mills to grind flour (Mlini translated into English means mill), nowadays you can see flocks of playful ducks inhabit these waterways.

**Hotel with swimming pool – 6 nights (breakfast and dinner)**

### Day 2 Walk up Mount Srdj

Mount Srdj looms over the north of Dubrovnik and a walk to the top will give you amazing views over the Old City. You'll follow a winding path (aptly called the Serpentina) and when you reach the top you will be rewarded by a panorama that stretches down the whole coast and an old Napoleonic fort to see. The climb is easy to moderate but don't forget to take lots of water if it's hot! Return to your hotel for a leisurely afternoon on the beach.

### Day 3 Sea Kayaking around Dubrovnik

After breakfast, you will drive to the magical medieval town of Dubrovnik for your sea kayaking adventure. After some instruction, you will paddle along the magnificent city walls offering unique views of Dubrovnik from another perspective. Continue paddling to the nearby island of Lokrum, a nature reserve and reputedly, where Richard the Lionheart was shipwrecked. Visit the sea caves where the water is translucent blue and green, then carry on to Bettina Cave, a perfect spot for swimming and snorkelling. Your adventure finishes entering the awesome Old City port with its backdrop of monumental stone fortresses and red roof tiles. There will be time to wander in the Old City – perhaps for an ice cream or a family photo in front of the Rector's Palace.

### Day 4 Mountain biking through orchards of Konavle

This morning you will be equipped with mountain bikes and bicycle helmet for a trip through the Konavle area, a strip of land sandwiched between the mountains and the coast. The landscape is crisscrossed with a maze of pathways through the valleys and vineyards, dotted with stone village houses and surrounded by green hills. It's a great opportunity to learn about nature and life in the countryside as you bike through orchards and vineyards past little streams. You'll visit an old water mill and enjoy some welcome refreshments by the river, then stop at a country house to sample some local wines and taste the dried figs. Return to the hotel in time for a late lunch and the rest of the day is free.

### Day 5 Day at leisure; optional rafting trip or day trip to Mostar

Today you will be able to choose from a variety of optional activities or simply relax at the hotel. However if you are feeling adventurous take the family on a rafting trip (at extra charge). You'll pass through the most amazing scenery through deep canyons and pine clad mountains. Enjoy your picnic lunch and a refreshing swim. Alternatively, you might like to take a day trip across the border to Bosnia and visit the historic Ottoman town of Mostar, a town where East meets West, and see the famous Old Bridge that became such a symbol of the recent war but has been faithfully rebuilt to the exact same specifications. Browse through the bazaar and visit a mosque and an old Turkish house. Please take your passport with you as you. Closer to home you could take the local bus from Mlini to Dubrovnik which departs every half an hour or hotel courtesy mini bus and soak up some more of the sights in this stunning city.



## Day 6 Optional Jeep Safari

This is an opportunity to explore off the beaten track in the Dubrovnik region and find out what life here is all about and how the farmers manage to make ends meet. The ride is full of diversity as you drive through tall green cypress trees up bumpy hills and along the beach to Molunat where you can have a swim. At Ljuta you'll enjoy an appetising village lunch of meat and potatoes prepared in a traditional way – under a bell! The food is placed on an oval baking tray on a bed of charcoal, covered with a bell and then with more charcoal so that it all cooks evenly and is truly delicious. All in all this is an action-packed day full of surprises. This activity can be booked and paid locally. Alternatively relax around the pool or take a leisurely walk from Mlini by the sea along a shaded path to the neighbouring village of Srebreno, which boasts golden sandy beaches, excellent for a relaxing day of swimming, snorkelling and sunbathing.

## Day 7 Return to London

This morning you will be picked up and driven to the airport for your return flight to London

## Dubrovnik Extension

### Days 7 to 8 Dubrovnik

It is well worth it to spend a few extra days to explore Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll be picked up from your hotel and taken to Dubrovnik where you will be at leisure to make your own plans. Your hotel is right on the beach with a bus stop outside for the short ride into the Old City. One of the first things you should do is walk right round the city walls to get a feeling for the medieval and baroque wonders of this 'jewel of the Adriatic' as described by George Bernard Shaw. With its stone ramparts reaching right down into the clear blue Adriatic Sea, the old town was completed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is virtually unchanged. One of the pleasures of Dubrovnik is to sit at one of the many cafes and watch the world go by. **Hotel (breakfast)**

### Day 9 Return to London

This morning you will be picked up and driven to the airport for your return flight to London

*This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.*

*Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.*

### Optional Activities

Rafting trip	HRK 690 / €95 per person, half price children
Mostar day trip	HRK 400/€55 adult, half price children
Diving	HRK 500/ €68
Waterskiing	Pay locally
Parasailing	Pay locally
Jeep safari (including lunch)	HRK 650 / €90 per person, half price children

*All prices are approximate*

**Climate** The weather in Croatia on the coast is a Mediterranean type of climate with warm sunny summers and mild winters. Average monthly temperatures are given below for Dubrovnik.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Max °C</b>	12	13	14	17	21	25	29	28	25	21	17	14
<b>Min °C</b>	6	6	8	11	14	18	21	21	18	14	10	8
<b>Rainfall (mm)</b>	139	125	104	104	75	48	26	38	101	162	198	178

**Accommodation** Our hotel in Mlini is three star comfortable family friendly hotel, overlooking the pebbly beach. The shallow entrance into the sea allows those who may not be such strong swimmers to equally enjoy bathing in the clear Adriatic Sea. All the en-suite bedrooms are air-conditioned with a balcony and sea-side. The buffet style restaurant serves international cuisine as well as Croatian speciality dishes (breakfast and dinner is included in

the rate), and in the evening you can relax in the Piano Bar or lounge areas. The hotel has a large indoor sea-water swimming pool, a games room with table tennis and pool table. On site, there is a gym, sauna, massage and hairdresser and close by is a children's play ground and a Dive and Watersports Centre (hire and dive courses are extra and payable locally). Close to the hotel, there are restaurants, shops, bank and local doctor. Please be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

**Is this right for your family?** You'll be based in a hotel right on the beach 10kms south of Dubrovnik with a large indoor swimming pool. The activities are undertaken by the close supervision of our qualified instructors and all safety equipment is provided.

**Lone Parents** Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country [www.fco.gov.uk/travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/travel)

**Currency** The unit of currency is the Croatian Kuna (HRK). At the time of writing UK£1 = 8.53 HRK and Euro 1 = 7.34 HRK (August 2009). We recommend that you change money at the airport. Credit cards are accepted in larger hotels and some souvenir shops. ATMs (bank cash dispensers) can be found in town centres but there may be a bank fee for using this service.

#### Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.50
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£0.75
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.50
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.10
A bottle of beer	£0.75
A fast-food meal – excluding drinks	£4.00
A three course meal – excluding drinks	£14.00

*\*Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.*

**Tipping** is a recognised part of life and, although at your discretion, you will be expected to reward service. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. We recommend £2 per day per person for your tour leader.

**Language** The official language is Croatian, however most younger Croatians will understand some English; German and Italian are widely spoken on the coast.

**Security** Whilst the vast majority of travellers never experience anything untoward it is worth taking precautions particularly in urban areas. You should take sensible precautions in crowded areas such as street markets and airports, where pick-pocketing is common, and keep clear of any street disturbances. Don't wear jewellery, never leave your bags unattended, keep large amounts of money, cameras and mobile phones out of sight when walking in town centres, and avoid walking in city centres after dark. Keep copies of important documents, including passports, in a separate place to the documents themselves, together with details of credit cards. Leave copies at home with a friend too. Safeguard valuables, important documents and cash and deposit them in hotel safes, where practicable.

**Time** Croatia is GMT + 1 hour or GMT +2 hours (March-October)



# FAMILIES

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**Packing List** Please refer to our separate "packing list"

## Clothing & Equipment List for Croatia – Active Croatia

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Trainers or sandals	1 pair		Soft-sided bag 50 litres	
Waterproof jacket	1 – lightweight		Daypack 20 - 25 litres	
T-Shirts/ Polo shirts	3		Sunglasses	
Long trousers	2		Personal First Aid Kit	
Shorts	1		Torch and batteries	
Fleece or sweatshirt	1		Camera, memory cards	
Hat / Baseball Cap	1 - recommended for sun protection		Washing Kit – wet wipes, dry anti-bacterial handwash are useful	
Casual wear	For evenings		Sunscreen	
Swimwear	1		Insect repellent	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Credit Cards / Cash		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
Insurance Documents		Guide Book	
Trip Information and Itinerary			
Money Security Belt/Pouch		Binoculars (optional)	

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit [www.baa.com](http://www.baa.com)