

September 2006

newsletter



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The Mediterranean as it once was

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Highlands Vacation

All-Day Recreation In The Fresh Air



New trends in tourism, and certainly also the Zagreb – Rijeka highway, have opened even greater potential for the development of the tourist offer in the Gorski kotar highlands. The offer is, admittedly already quite diverse, and given the announcements of the construction of numerous new tourist facilities and attractions, tourists will already as of next year have much more to choose from. The proximity of the seaside and ski centres has opened the possibility of developing high quality year-round tourism. This has been recognised by many local entrepreneurs who are already in preparations for the construction of a dozen new family hotels, while those already involved in this business sector are announcing expansion and further investments into existing capacities.

The new hotels, mostly bearing four-star ratings, should be built in the coming period in Fužine, Šije, Vrbovsko, Ravna Gora and Tuk near Mrkopalj. Along with accommodation facilities, the entrepreneurs of Gorski kotar are setting up new tourist attractions to further enrich the active holiday offer, which is, considering the highland landscape, wide expanses of forests and many rivers, lakes and caves, the basic orientation of their tourist offer.

Of the latest developments in this year, the creation of numerous new cycling routes stands out. Just in the Mrkopalj and Ravna Gora areas there are some three hundred kilometres of cycling routes, and the combined lengths of all cycling, hiking, walking and tourist trails that traverse Gorski kotar would certainly add up to a dizzying amount. If we add rafting, canoeing, mountain climbing, speleology courses, paintball, sailing, numerous wintertime activities (among which bobsledding will soon find its place), the cultural, religious and historic points of interest, and the many other attractions to this, it is easy to conclude that Gorski kotar offers everything a modern tourist could desire.



Gorski kotar

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Split-Dalmatia County

Village Homesteads On The Rise



Growth has been seen over the past several years in the Split-Dalmatia County area in the development of village homesteads as tourist destinations, and a growing number of tourists are opting for this new experience off the coastal belt. Staying in an old stone house on a village homestead, meeting animals that can nowadays be seen in urban areas only in books and zoos and the not-to-be-missed rural cuisine are a real draw for the modern tourist. Some 50 village homesteads are registered across the county as tourist destinations, dispersed evenly across the Dalmatian "Zagora" hinterland and on the islands, and some of them are true miniature pictures of indigenous villages.

The Škopljanac family out of Radošići, a small village situated in the Kaštel hinterland have plans for the future of constructing a real ethno village.

Of the ten stone houses that surround a small square forming the core of the future ethno village, only a few have been renovated up to now. A traditional Dalmatian "konoba" (tavern) has been made in a former stable that sits about 50 guests and offers the indigenous specialities of the region – bread baked under a baking lid ("pod pekom"), spit-roasted lamb and many more.

There is quite a large ethno collection of folk costumes, tools and antiques used both in work and play in the konoba such as gusle and diple - old musical instruments. Rooms that sleep about 15 guests have been built in the attic of the konoba and next to it a house has been renovated in which a romantic village hearth forms the centrepiece on which various specialities are prepared under a baking lid. In the plan for the coming period are six more apartments and another konoba.

Along with the classic offer of wines and cuisine the Škopljanac family offers tourists plenty of "village entertainment". Anybody who wants to can try their hand at ploughing and hay mowing and working on their farm with its wild rabbits and other domestic animals. Near the complex is a large grounds with numerous attraction for amusement and the infrastructure needed to organise one-day excursions.

The family will soon launch the construction of a small grain mill and they also plan to acquire five riding horses.



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Novi Vinodolski

Water Attractions And Popular Evergreen Hits



The former Zagori tourist resort, whose name has been changed following large investments in renovations and the construction of new facilities, to Novi Resort, opened its doors to tourists this summer with new attractions that also await those who prefer a seaside vacation in the autumn. The new complex was completed in July and features two large swimming pools, a restaurant, bar, pizzeria and info point. The pools are different in shape and together cover an area of about 700 square metres. To keep swimming at the level of the four-star standard, the pools are outfitted with numerous attractions that satisfy the wishes of all types of guests. Hydro-massage water jets have been built into the pools, and two smaller hydro-massage pools have been constructed next to the two larger pools so that up to 500 bathers can get the best out of the pool complex at any given time. The entire ambient exudes elegance and functionality and the impression is completed by the gentle tones of popular evergreen hits that are piped out to all parts of the complex. There are terraces with sunshades and deck chairs, walk-in pool bars and massage tables hidden in white tents. The pools are heated, with the water's temperature at about 27 degrees Celsius, which is ideal for swimming even off the main summer season. On offer for the kids is a children's town with six attractive children's facilities. Guests looking for additional amusement can enjoy the adrenalin park where paintball, net soccer, beach volleyball courts, sumo wrestling and boxing rings and free rock climbing are available. The construction of this complex marks the end of the second phase of large-scale investment in Novi Resort. Phase one covered the renovation of existing and the construction of new apartment complexes with which the resort now has a total of some three hundred apartments and about 200 rooms, all at the four star standard. Phase three of the investment, scheduled to kick off with the end of this year's peak tourist season, will include an even more detailed improvement plan and the construction of a 7,000 square metre wellness centre, a central square with four restaurants, a pastry shop, café & bar, wine bar, exclusive shops and an amphitheatre.

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Dubrovnik

Banje Beach Third Most Beautiful In The World



In its summer issue US women's magazine Marie Claire has declared Dubrovnik's Banje beach to be the third most beautiful beach in the world. Ahead of it are only Dreamland beach on Bali's Bukit peninsula and Anse Victorin beach on the Seychelles. This exceptional recognition in the category of the ten most beautiful beaches in the world comes thanks not only to the beach's exceptional attractiveness, but also to all-night parties organised there. The article points out that Banje offers the best view on the Mediterranean – it looks directly at Croatia's most beautiful tourist pearl – the old town core of Dubrovnik. There really is a stunning view that shoots out from Banje on to the well-known walls of Dubrovnik, especially since photos taken from Banje beach are probably the best-known panoramic pictures of Dubrovnik that go out to the world. Besides this recognition, Banje beach and the East West Club located on it this year made the annual "Beach Clubs" publication's prestigious top forty clubs in the world list. The East West Club offers an excellent offer of cuisine and many diverse programs – music, entertainment, night and daytime events... And while during the day it functions like a typical beach with an offer of deck chairs and baldachins whose deck chairs, veiled by curtains, offer comfort for two, at night the East West Club becomes a place for a real after-hours outing. This year the co-owners of the club have fitted the lower part of the exterior with exotic leather coverings and numerous pillows, and the good vibrations will again this year be accompanied in the late hours by two attractive female dancers. The list of world famous celebrities who have sipped their cocktails on Banje is long, the nephew of the Swedish king, soccer player Rio Ferdinand, actress Tara Reid, Swedish top-model Carolin, pop star Ulf Ekberg from the famed band Ace of Base and many other stars have enjoyed themselves on the beach.

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Umag

Garden Istra Officially Opens



July saw the official opening of Umag's new tourist pearl – the Garden Istra resort, into whose construction over 30 million Euros have been invested over the past few years. Umag now has its fourth tourist complex boasting a four star standard of quality.

This hotel complex stretches across 60 thousand square metres and has 500 accommodation units; of which about 300 are in the hotel itself and a further 200 in three separate buildings. All of the buildings are connected by vaulted gardens that lead the guest to an Istrian Village from whose entertainment and catering facilities a view shoots out over the water park.

Garden Istra is being promoted on the market as a sport & family resort with numerous recreation facilities for all ages. Besides a water park and indoor pool, a wellness centre with saunas, massage parlours and fitness room, guests are offered the possibility of playing numerous sports – there are soccer, handball and basketball courts, a horseback riding centre, 14 outdoor and two indoor tennis courts and a tennis school, water sports, mini golf, beach volleyball and badminton courts, table tennis, and a trim track. All of this is located in the Sport Art centre where animation programs are organised daily for children and adults along with thematic entertainment for the whole family.

There is a diverse gastro offer with three different restaurants in the resort –Istrian, Mediterranean and international. The hotel will be open year-round so that, besides a tourist offer, it also caters to business guests.

The basic characteristic of this resort lies not only in a quality offer but also in an exceptionally attractive appearance where, through fragments of architecture and traditional construction materials – stone and wood, a real Istrian atmosphere dominates.



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The Concrete Oscar

Croatian Projects Among The Best In The World



Two of the best structures in the world constructed during the past two years are located in Croatia. The first is the suspension bridge at Skradin and the second is the Sea Organ that is already famous far and wide and has become one of the symbols of the city of Zadar.

These are, admittedly, only nominations in various categories for the CEMEX Award, the so-called "Concrete Oscars". Which structures will become award winners will be known in early November when an international panel of judges in the Mexican city of Montevideo will announce the best projects in the individual categories.

The Skradin bridge is located on the newly constructed Zagreb – Split highway and is running in the category of infrastructural structures, while Zadar's Sea Organ, already winner in Barcelona of the prestigious European award for urban public areas, is competing in the public areas category.

The "suspension" bridge in Skradin features a massive concrete arch stretching across some 200 metres and is very attractive because of its exceptional location and because of the unbelievable view that shoots out from it – to one side of the green canyon of the Krka River and the city of Skradin itself, and to the other side of Lake Prokljansko, which has made the bridge the chief viewpoint in the area.

Unlike the bridge, which is a type of structure that appears around the world, the Sea Organ is something quite different. This is a real organ built into a staggered concrete waterfront. It are about 70 metres long with a total of 35 pipes in the concrete through which air flows playing a melody that is dictated by the activity of the sea and wind and can be enjoyed day and night by people out for a stroll on the waterfront.

Zadar's waterfront has, thanks to this original project, become a new meeting place for both tourists and the people of Zadar itself.



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City of Zadar Tourist Board

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Krk

The “Golden Island” By All Terrain Vehicle




The city of Krk, on the Kvarner area island of the same name offers tourists, as of recently, an original and truly unusual adventure program – all-day packages featuring all terrain vehicles.


As part of the program visitors to the island of Krk will, through a kind of photo safari, have an opportunity to get better acquainted with an island they do not have a chance to experience every day. All of the programs are, namely, based on all-day excursions in all terrain vehicles so that the routes they pass are mostly in quite inaccessible areas, which gives them a special charm.

Besides on the island of Krk, the same agency organises one-day tours in Gorski kotar, Istria, the Učka National Park and the Northern Velebit National Park.

All of the mentioned points are conceived to bring tourists closer during the ride to the real picture of “wild” nature by not only driving through otherwise inaccessible routes, but also by organising routes on which they will have an opportunity to get acquainted with some of the original heritage of the region through which they are passing. These are mostly smaller sacral structures, architecturally indigenous structures and the historic and cultural heritage... precisely the points of a photo safari at which tourists can take a break and immortalise their memories of the “wild” side of Croatia. Besides all terrain vehicles, the agency also offers the ever more popular “quads” that, with the assistance of expert guides, are used to tour carefully chosen points of interest and viewpoints.

And since these are all-day affairs there are gastro “breathers”, the highlights of which are selected traditional specialities and wines. In the case of the island of Krk this includes the renowned Vrbnička žlahtina wine and specialities based on seafood and the fruits of the earth, the abundance of which in the antiquity earned Krk the moniker “Golden Island”.

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Jadranovo

Villa Vacation In A Mediterranean Setting



A new elite hotel, the Villa Anda, was recently opened on the Crikvenica Riviera in the settlement of Jadranovo. The hotel's offer is at the four-star level but, given the ambient, it offers much more than the classic offer in that category.


The motto of the hotel's proprietor is – “an experience all the time”, and this is evident not only in the relationship with the guests but also in the harmoniously arranged hotel gardens, parks and other horticultural aspects of its exterior.


The entire complex, in which tourists have eight luxury apartments and a range of other attractions at their disposal, is arranged to the smallest detail so that tourists are offered truly quality rest and vacation time in a Mediterranean setting. The offer, adapted to the most demanding guests, includes relaxing in a Mediterranean garden that surrounds the entire complex. On the about 20 thousand square metres that the garden covers, guests can enjoy shady areas under trees, comfortably settled in chairs and deck chairs. A staggered terrace leads from the garden to the seaside and beach. If guests prefer not to take the 454 steps to the beach every day, they can refresh themselves in the hotel's indoor-outdoor pool.

Each of the apartments offers a view of the sea, the Kvarner islands and the beach on which there is a bar and large “aquagun”. Besides this, there are a range of sports and recreation activities organised for the guests on the beach and in the sea such as scuba diving and sailing lessons and boat rides, and for those who prefer not to tie their pastimes to the sea there are tennis courts, soccer pitches, basketball courts and table tennis on offer.

There is a special playground for children so that everyone can truly relax and enjoy themselves as they desire.

The owners of the hotel organise frequent boat and bicycle excursions and numerous entertainment events so that guests have the opportunity to get to know the area in which the hotel is situated.

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Vukovar

A Floating Restaurant On The Danube River



Vukovar will in mid September get a new tourist attraction in the shape of a large restaurant boat that will enrich the overall tourist offer of this eastern Slavonian city. There is strong growth in the tourism sector in Vukovar that has seen two hotels opened over a relatively short period of time. As the city is located on the Danube River there has been a boom in river cruising tours over the past few years. The ship housing the floating restaurant will be a sort of multimedia centre for the city of Vukovar. It will feature an info desk with tourist information and a souvenir shop with original hand-made articles typical of eastern Slavonia, a terrace on the deck, a dance bar, cafe & bar and a restaurant with local and international cuisine. Visitors who visit the ship can cool off with ice cream, read local and international newspapers and surf the Internet. The owners have made an effort to meet the highest standards of modern tourism, indicative of this is the fact that rentals are available of bicycles, scooters and automobiles with which visitors can tour Vukovar and its environs. Everyone can enjoy this new offer – from the people of Vukovar and classic tourists to those coming to the city on river cruisers. The floating restaurant is sure to have many visitors as soon as it opens as it is located at the Vukovar passenger terminal through which 111 passenger ships sailing the Budapest – Bucharest line passed last year alone with over 14 thousand, mostly foreign, tourists. The river cruiser season runs from the start of April to mid October so that tourists who stop in Vukovar during their trip on Danube after the summer will be able to visit this new tourist attraction.

City of Vukovar Tourist Board

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The Floating Restaurant

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Vinkovci

Jubilee 40th Vinkovci Autumn



The third weekend in September will see the start of the jubilee 40th Vinkovci Autumns in the town of Vinkovci, situated in the heart of the continental region of Slavonia. The event has for years now presented the treasure of traditions, folklore and customs of Slavonia, Croatia and of neighbouring countries and as such is the largest folklore show in this part of Europe.

The Vinkovci Autumn has grown over the past 40 years into a true institution and in doing so has linked the past and present, daily and tourist life in Slavonia in the best way possible. Besides its role as an event the Autumns have also led to the founding of the Community of Amateur Culture & Arts Activities whose aim it is to preserve and advance traditional culture in Vukovar-Srijem County, gather folklore societies, establish new ones and assist them in their work.

Along with folklore groups from the Slavonia and Baranja area, some 30 culture & arts societies from across Croatia and the Croatian emigrant communities also appear at the Vinkovci Autumn after having passed the selection procedure before evaluating juries at regional and county folklore reviews.

Even though they are every year both different and unrepeatable, the Vinkovci Autumn from year to year has its constant content, various shows like the Evenings of Folklore, the Children's Vinkovci Autumn, the Opening Ceremony, the "Šokački divani", the Review of Original Croatian Folklore, the Gala Pageant, the Review of Horse Drawn Carts and the Vinkovci Autumn Closing Ceremony. These are joined each year by accompanying events – book fairs, expert symposiums, literary evenings, concerts, tourist events, commercial events and workshops, sport events, fairs like the Rakija fair (rakija is a strong fruit-based alcoholic beverage) or a competition for the best kulen – Slavonia's best-known speciality.

Indicative of the importance the Vinkovci Autumn has for tourism in the region and all of Croatia is the fact that this event two years ago received a top European tourism award – the 2004 tourism charter for merit, and the Vinkovci Autumn has this year received the Croatian National Tourist Board's top award, awarded to them in the best groups in Croatia category.

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Zagreb

International Festival Of Puppet Theatre



From September 1 to 8 the city of Zagreb will play host to the 39th International Festival Of Puppet Theatre with the focus of this years event, as each year is dedicated to a different country, on Slovakian puppetry.

The festival was in 1968 established by members of the Zagreb Student Esperanto Club. The name of the festival in Esperanto is Pupteatra Internacia Festivalo, from where its popular acronym – PIF – comes from. The main festival organiser is the MČUK International Centre for Culture Services.

Over 400 puppet theatres from every continent have appeared up to now at the PIF, and this year some twenty puppet theatres from ten European countries, Israel and Canada will participate. All of the participants of this year's festival have been chosen during a selection process based on applications to a participation tender.

The Festival will be held in several Zagreb theatre halls – in both halls of the Zagreb Youth Theatre (Zagrebačko kazalište mladih / ZKM), the Zagreb Puppet Theatre and at the Komedijska theatre. As in previous years some of the plays will be performed in other cities, this year in Sisak and Čakovec.

Two exhibitions will be held, besides the theatre plays, as a part of the festival – the Italian Cultural Institute will feature an exhibition of the puppets of Maria Signorelli, while Zagreb's Mimara Museum will have exhibits of the works of students of set design at the Bratislava Academy of Music and Theatre Arts. The Mimara exhibition will also feature a complete presentation of the Academy.

Besides the mentioned programs, the festival will also have a series of accompanying events in which both visitors and participants can take part.



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PIF Festival

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MČUK International Centre for Culture Services

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Split

Split Film Festival



Split will from September 25 to October 1 play host to the 11th Split Film Festival. This is an international festival of new film that has been held in Split since 1996 and that features film productions outside of the mainstream cliché of classic film and video production.

The festival is always held at the end of the summer and the festival program is divided into several different categories. Awards are conferred in film, video, new media and focus categories, which is not the case with the forum and picture programs. Besides its role as a forum for presentation, the festival, a member of the European Coordination Of Film Festivals, also has the role of promoting moving pictures with a somewhat different author's and research approach.

The festival is open to all new, creative, personal, experimental, radical and subversive productions in the film, video and new media forms and deviating from the ruling canon of film and video production regardless of whether traditional film techniques or the latest electronic picture technologies are being used.

A screening of selected works and a retrospective of local and foreign authors will be held as a part of the festival, there will be a presentation of Internet projects, interactive installations and performances, and a special program is on the program that includes lectures, workshops and topical discussions.

According to the organisers all works created in this year are eligible for participation at the festival, and there are no limits to how short or long any of the individual works may be, so that in the combined competition in the film category one can find works lasting three and half minutes and those up to two hours in length, while in the video category there is an effort to keep the time frame within certain limits.

Besides awards in the mentioned categories, the best works receive special awards, there is a People's Choice Award for the best work in the special program and monetary prizes.



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Split Film Festival

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Istrian Villas

Tradition And History For An Elite Vacation




Old traditional stone houses located in the Istrian interior have been a real hit among tourists for several years now but also for architects that see in these historic buildings, often dating from the beginning of the 19th century, an excellent opportunity to achieve their own dream designs.

One such building today definitely deserves a "hats off", both from tourists on the waiting list for a vacancy and from design and architectural experts who simply have no objections. The Villa Perunika is located in the village of Ročko Polje, situated between two important Istrian centres of the Glagolitic alphabet – the settlement of Roč and Hum, well known as the smallest city in the world.

Villa Perunika was built in 1860 and is today, thanks to its fairy-tale setting, the only five-star villa in the area. What is special about it is the excellent combination of interior and exterior. Indicative of the care taken in arranging the grounds and garden is the fact that Croatian florists have awarded it as one of the most beautiful in Croatia.

Water lilies, marshland plants, grasses, lilies, cypress trees, thujas and cedars that create an unforgettable atmosphere in the winter, are only a small part of the flora that is drawing tourists from all corners of the world. Besides an attractive exterior, Villa Perunika offers its guests two small and luxuriously appointed houses – one for two and the other for three persons between which there is a seven-metre outdoor pool and a smaller massage pool. Guests are delighted by the fact that they can hire a chef and babysitter at the villa, which allows them to truly relax. To make the vacation all the more memorable the owners of the villa suggest using the garden grill in the evening hours, around which guests can enjoy themselves late into the night.

A large number of tourist capacities are on offer across all of the Istrian interior presented on the county tourist board's web site under the agro-tourism heading – 120 rural vacation houses, 23 Bed & Breakfasts, 33 stancijas (stancija is the local name for a large homestead or manor), 26 village tourist homesteads, two eco-tourism points, eight rural family hotels and numerous apartments and rooms in villages and on the wine roads of Istria.

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Cruise Idea Number 6

Heading Out From Split Maslinica, Komiza, Vis, Hvar (Palmizana), Stari Grad, Milna (island of Brač)



Alternatively: The bays of Šolta (Nečujam), Stončica, Šćedro, Vrboska, Jelsa, Bol, Lučice Bay.
Special moments: the fisherman's town of Komiza, the Blue Grotto on Biševo, Budihovac and other Vis islets, the Paklinski (Pakleni) islands, the bays of Hvar and Brač.
What to look out for: a strong mistral on the sea around Vis and the Hvar channel, the shallows and reefs along the southeastern shores of Vis.

It is not easy to suggest a seven-day voyage through the central Dalmatian islands; one could enjoy wandering three or four days just around Vis and Biševo or just along the bays of Šolta or just around Brač, and then to the Bol - Jelsa - Vrboska - Stari Grad triangle. Then during the next three days tour the stunning coves of the Paklinski islands or Šćedro... To say nothing of the beauty of the southern coast of Korčula or the challenges of Lastovo... Two weeks would not suffice for a true central Dalmatian tour! We will limit ourselves, therefore, to only one of the possible proposals.

On day one it will be enough to sail the 19 miles from Split to Maslinica on the island of Šolta (only 9 miles from Trogir). The islets off Maslinica from the western cape on Šolta form a very nice group. Directly neighbouring Maslinica is Sešula Bay. (Maslinica is easily confused with a destination closer to the coast, Nečujam Bay with its five or six well-protected branches. Roman Emperor Diocletian's fishpond was located in the southernmost branch – a wall from it has been preserved 1.5 metres under the present sea level.

Head out on the open seas on day two – its 25 miles of open water to Komiza (29 miles from Nečujam); with the mistral blowing off your starboard side it should be a pleasant sail. Off Cape Barjaci on Vis you'll be awaited by somewhat larger waves as the mistral picks up strength. In Komiza, if you find a free berth, draw in behind the breakwater where there are moorings, electricity and water available. Evening in Komiza will pass quickly, and if you get into a conversation with one of the older locals about Palagruža, the falkuša sailboats, the Komiza pogača pastry and salted anchovies, you'll hear wistful tales of the glorious history of fishing and how fishing is holding up these days, still almost the only source of income in this place, reminiscent of southern seas. (The food and ambient is excellent at the Bako and Jastožera restaurants).

Start the next morning by making the 5 miles out to Biševo; try to drop anchor off the entrance to the Blue Grotto, and if you don't succeed in this, have the crew make trips in turns to the cave – someone should always be on the boat. If you can swim into the cave the experience will be all the more exciting! The fantastic effect of the play of light in the cave depends on the position of the sun and is best around 11 o'clock or at noon. The Mediterranean monk seal used to live here and is still seen from time to time in the Adriatic. After the beauty of the Blue Grotto, and before casting off to sail the southern shores of Vis, round Biševo to its other side to Salbunare Bay or to Porta (Biševo ports). When sailing along the cliffs of the Vis coast find Stiniva, a natural phenomenon featuring a beach set between the rocks. Right next to it is Mala Travna in which local Vis poet and environmentalist Senko Karuza sells his wine and cooks in the local style during the summer. Be sure to drop anchor if only for a short stop off the islet of Budihovac: you'll find clear water in shallow lagoon that can be entered only from the south. You'll anchor under the vineyards where one of the island's finest plavac wine grapes is maturing.

Round the northeastern cape of Vis by evening and make for the Vis harbour (or alternatively: drop anchor off beautiful and gentle Stončica; there is an excellent restaurant there owned by the Lincir brothers where, besides fish, you can order goat meat). In Vis just as in Komiza there are equipped berths on a long waterfront. There is also a gas station here; right were the waterfront of Issa was in the antiquity. You can also berth in Kut, the oldest and best-looking part of the harbour on its southeast. There are two culinary rarities here, the Vetrica and Pojoda restaurants, the latter a top-notch affair owned by Zoran Brajčić. That will bring the days total to about 23 miles.

On day four it is already time to start heading back, for a start definitely to Hvar (14 miles). Its your choice whether to make for the crowds in Hvar's harbour itself, the greenery of Palmizana marina on the Paklinski islands or the peace of one of the ten or so bays along their southern coasts; from the marina you can take their boat across to the city of Hvar. Hvar is simply Hvar – you have to experience it. Squeezed into a small area is an ancient patrician city with a wealth of history that is justly a favourite with many tourists. In the bays of restaurants you can find excellent eating at the Bracanović family's Luvij wine konoba or at the Lukulusu.

Round Cape Pelegrin next morning towards Stari Grad (15 miles). You can stop for a swim on your way in the nice coves on the northern coast or in the dozen inlets of port Tihina under the northern cape of Stari Grad Bay. In this deep and wide bay you will discover Hvar's other face: a town of fishermen, farm hands and narrow streets in the midst of which Petar Hektorović's 16th century Tvrđalj, a fortified villa, proudly stands with its renowned fish pond as a centrepiece. Like on Vis, here too you will find equipped berths with moorings and an abundance of cosy restaurants on the beautiful narrow streets. You have sailed into the island's oldest settlement, an ancient Greek colony.

Day six should be used to wander with your boat to the numerous bays towards Vrboska, Jelsa and on to the east, but if you do not want to leave too many miles ahead of you on the last day, point your prow towards Milna on the island of Brač (15 miles from Stari Grad). You will find two marinas there. (If you have the time, before passing through Splitska vrata on your way to Milna, take a swim in one of the many inlets of the wonderful and densely forested Lučice Bay, only two miles from Splitska vrata to the southeast.)

For tomorrow's return to Split you have only some ten miles to cross (18 to Trogir), so that there is time for another swim in one of the bays on your way, either those on Brač (near Bobovšćica) or on Šolta (Stipanska, Lestimanova or Krusčica).

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