



Natural Croatia

Your Adventure in Nature!

Hike and Culinary Adventure in Undiscovered Dalmatia

Guided Walking and Cooking Tour

Hike epic and undiscovered Via Dinarica trail in Dalmatia! Taste the adventure, wilderness and touch of native experience while cooking with locals in the old stone house in Biokovo Mountain. Adventure for your body, mind and taste, 8 days – 6 guided activities – 5 gastro specialities to taste! One day hike high above the sea, having the sea and islands view getting better with every step you make, and second day learn how to cook in Croatian way! A day of cultural Blaca hike on Island Brač finishing with a magnificent view on famous Bol and delicious lunch with a view on Biokovo trail just hiked a day before!

Every day awaits new activity combined with another Croatian speciality. Explore cuisine and nature of Dalmatia starting from Split, with famous Diocletian palace, continuing to Makarska Riviera (the nicest beaches in Croatia!) and finishing in Dubrovnik, the gem of Adriatic! Accommodation is all the time in magnificent villa on the beach, with sea view from every room!

There is a chance to meet snakes, wild chamois and make the best-ever pictures with a views on the most beautiful beaches in the world. Ideal chance to taste frog or eel, Dalmatian "peka" or roasted lamb. Ride in a classic old boat "Neretvanska lađa", hike to Red and Blue lakes and tour in magic UNESCO site of Mostar - adventure is on menu every day!

Highlights

- Split & Dubrovnik!
- Hiking Biokovo!
- Island Brač
- Cooking in stone house
- Red & Blue lake hike
- UNESCO Mostar
- Neretva river with *Lađa*

Includes

- 7 breakfasts
- 6 delicacy lunches
- 2 picnic meals
- 6 organized activities
- 7 nights at Villa Ban
- All transfers
- Old wooden boat ride

In Short/Days

1. Split arrival
2. Biokovo Hike
3. Island Brač Blaca hike
4. Cooking in stone house
5. Blue / Red lake hike
6. Mostar walking tour
7. Neretva photo safari
8. Dubrovnik & goodbye

Day 1 Split arrival

Single airport transfer from Split airport to Split. Depending on arrival time free day in Split, late transfer to Tučepi. Accommodation in magnificent Villa Ban near the sea, with sea view from every room!

Day 2 Biokovo Hike

Transfer to the starting point of hiking to one of the peaks of Biokovo (Makar). Climb to Vošac (1422 m/4665 ft.) is strenuous hike, with 3-4 hours of ascent, and 8 km (4mi) long - but it is worth it in every way! Biokovo is the largest and highest mountain in Dalmatia, with its beauty and wilderness hardly comparable to any other. Magic is in its wilderness and unforgettable panoramic sea views. The

higher you climb more islands you see: Brač, Hvar, Korčula, peninsula Pelješac and large part of Dalmatian coast. Depending on how lucky you are, you can see the snake (high hiking shoes and long pants obligatory!) or wild chamois, there is also an option to meet wild boars and other wild species.

Climbing the steepest ascent in Croatian mountains at dawn, you will be surprised to learn that the people of Biokovo once used the same trails to carry hay and potatoes or drive their livestock to pasture.

After a climb, we reach mountain house Vošac, have a lunch-break (picnic), relax and admire the scenery. We head our way back the same trail, and as a reward of the day, we have our taste adventure in typical Croatian "konoba", that serves



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mouth-watering classic Croatian meals! **(B, P, L)**

Day 3 Brač - Blaca monastery hike, Zlatni rat panorama view

Early start today to catch the ferry to island Brač, with great views of Makarska and Biokovo from the sea (1h ferry drive). Hermitage Blaca is our second tentative list UNESCO World Heritage site. With its fascinating history you will see how Glagolitic monks that lived there created a monastery from the cave, were passing the ownership of monastery and their knowledge from generation to generation. Fascinating is how much they were self-sustaining, producing their own wine, olive oil and even honey! With all that, they were well-known astronomers, owning few telescopes, their own library, and school for kids in villages nearby.

11:00 hike to Blaca monastery; guided tour in Blaca, and hike back to starting point (1,5 h walk).

After Blaca it is time for Vidova gora panoramic view, one of the best views on Croatian coast! Vidova gora is the highest peak of all islands in Adriatic, and imagine the panoramic view right above beautiful famous beach in Bol - "Zlatni rat".

After enjoying "Vidova gora", we hurry to lunch to have taste adventure of the day on Brač! We enjoy our delicious lunch in magnificent restaurant with view on Split, and at 17:00 it is time to go back and board a ferry to Makarska.

19:30, transfer back to Tučepi. **(B, P, L)**

Day 4 Cooking in old stone house on Biokovo

After breakfast, a trail starts right from the accommodation in Tučepi. It is a cultural trail going up the hill through old villages of Gornje Tučepi and connecting to Stara Podgora.

On the way follows view on islands, and there is huge possibility to observe Mediterranean plants, old churches, stone houses and olives. Interesting is information that only a half century ago people actually lived here in old villages and not on the coast where they feared pirates!

In one of the stone houses in Biokovo Mountain, cooking class will be held,

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giving you the opportunity to learn how this delicious food is prepared and try it out yourself!

Depending on the time of the year, there will be a possibility to visit small terraces where vegetables are grown and pick-up the vegetables for cooking!

Starting lunch with homemade liquors is typical Croatian custom, followed by olive oil tasting.

After lunch, a short walk to olives from which the oil was made and olive - story awaits.

Walking back to accommodation will actively finish the day. **(B, L)**

Day 5 Blue and Red lake hike

After breakfast, transfer to Imotski. Here starts a beautiful and hike down to Blue lake (*Modro jezero*). Legend says that blue lake created an angel when he saw the beauty of Red lake and dropped a tear - a blue tear that created Blue Lake.

It does look like made by angels! After hike to Blue Lake, another hike awaits to see the red lake, called red because of its steep red walls.

After hiking, a local speciality of the day waits!

After lunch, transfer to Tučepi. **(B, L)**

Day 6 Mostar walking tour

After breakfast, transfer to Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A tour through old town of Mostar and a chance to admire beauty of UNESCO protected bridge "Stari Most", from where the city got its name Mostar (hr. *most*).

These days bridge also divides two cultures, so it is interesting to observe the differences while visiting the city.

Delicious lunch in one of the local restaurants, and rest of the day free to explore and immerse yourself in the spirit of the city.

Late afternoon transfer to Tučepi. **(B, L)**

Day 7 Neretva river on *lađa*

After breakfast, transfer to Vid, to visit new and modern archaeological Narona museum Narona was the second largest Roman city this side of Adriatic, and exhibited is the roman temple Augusteum excavation site. It is also the first Croatian



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in situ museum – located on the site of excavation!

After museum visit is safari - boat trip on Neretva, also known as "lađa", the traditional boat of the Neretva valley. Boarding "lađa", tasting delicious cheese, ham and "rakija" (strong alcoholic drink, traditionally homemade, can be made with herbs or with sour cherry).

On our ride, there is an opportunity to see many kinds of birds that live in this ontologically rich area and the water is so cold that you would not dare to jump in not even in the middle of the summer!

We return for traditional taste adventure of a day served right near the river. Your chance to try frogs and eel! **(B,L)**

Day 8 Dubrovnik & goodbye

After breakfast, transfer to Dubrovnik, our third UNESCO World Heritage site,

INFO

Min No of persons: 2

Max No of persons: 8

Availability: from 1.April – 10. June & 1.September – 15. November (depending on weather conditions)

Included

- 7 nights in Villa Ban
- All transfers
- All meals noted in program (B – breakfast, P-picnic, L-Lunch)
- Professional guides
- Water for tours
- Tickets and entrances

Not included

- Meals not stated in program
- Optional activities
- Gratuities (optional)

arrival around 12:00 free time to explore this unique city and goodbye.

Dubrovnik, by the locals called also "Grad" meaning "the City" is famous for its walls that surround the city as a gem in an oyster! It is possible to walk the walls of Dubrovnik all the way, having magnificent views on the city and surroundings, as well as experiencing the walls and fortresses itself!

After a must-have walk around the walls, you can feel the city inside, walk the stone streets, drink from fountain, squeeze through tiny narrow streets or have a lunch in one of them. If you are staying a day longer, there are many options to visit nearby island Lokrum, have a swim on Banje beach – with a view on Dubrovnik, find "Buža" (Eng. Small hole) bar and beach or to go above the city with cable car!

Gear checklist

- High trekking shoes for Biokovo and Blaca
- Hat and Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Small packable raincoat
- Long hiking pants
- Backpack (available on request)
- Photo camera

NOTE

Please check your visa requirements for Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the tour, we are passing BIH border, please keep also in mind for any visa requirements!

IMPORTANT

All activities are performed outdoor, and are subject to weather conditions. If your guide evaluates that there is too high risk to perform activity, the schedule might change, or activity might be cancelled if impossible to replace.