

Bicycle Tours in Croatia: Bike and Boat: Cycling Croatia's Islands


OVERVIEW


Croatia's Dalmatian Coast and its islands have been a favorite seaside destination among Europeans for over a century. Join us as we explore this spectacular limestone coastline by bicycle AND boat! Arrive early to explore Split, where you'll see Diocletian's 3rd century palace (still inhabited by descendants of the Romans who settled this area!). We'll board our luxury gulet (traditional Mediterranean wooden sailboat) in Split and head off on an aquatic adventure, sleeping on board the ship. On our tour, we pedal three of the Mediterranean's most picturesque and well-known islands - Brač, Hvar and Korčula – and also visit smaller, more out of the way islands like Vis and Solta. If you decide you want a break from the bike there will be ample opportunities to explore tiny fishing villages, swim in the sea or even stand up paddle boarding from our boat.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sleeping aboard a luxury gullet, Ancient cities of Split, Korčula Island and Town, Hvar Town and Island, Dalmatian Islands, Secluded and Scenic Beaches, Swimming in the Adriatic, Paddle boarding off the boat

TOUR FACTS

Includes	The usual plus... 8 days, 7 nights accommodation on a luxury boat, 7 dinners with wine, 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, visit to a local honey producer, a stone cutting school visit, pick up from Split; and the usual (see below).
Countries	Croatia
Begin/End	Split/Split
Arrive/Depart	Split/Split (SPU airport code)
Total Distance	168 - 286 Kms (104 -178 miles)
Avg. Daily Distance	28 - 48 km (17 - 30 miles) per riding day
Tour Level	3.0: Due to the topography on the islands, climbing is inevitable as these islands all start at sea level and have mountains. Easier rides and shuttle options allow this trip to be level 1.5.
More Photos	 https://experienceplus.smugmug.com/gallery/109210636_Xm9jgh
Keep in Mind	<p>We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour.</p> <p>In the event of bad weather or rough seas the itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of our boat captain. Cabin space is limited so consider the size of your luggage. WiFi may be sporadic on-board.</p> <p>For more questions about the boat check out our Bike & Boat FAQ</p>

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the  [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/croatia/croatia-bike-and-boat>

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DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
📅 Jun 14-21, 2020	USD\$4750	USD\$1100 - Will Share option not available.
📅 Sep 27-Oct 4, 2020	USD\$4750	USD\$1100 - Will Share option not available.

*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

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ARRIVAL INFO

Note:

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, [check with us](#) if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#). The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

We recommend flying into the Split Airport.

Our meeting hotel is the [Hotel Peristil](#), meeting time on Day 1 is 2 P.M.

How to get to the Hotel Peristil:

- Taxi, available outside the airport or call +385-(0)21-895-237 (30 min, HRK 300)
- Buses, available shortly after the arrival of incoming flights, organized by the Pleso prijevoz bus company in cooperation with Croatia Air (45 min, HRK 40)
- **Note:** The Hotel Peristil is located in the old city, which is inaccessible to vehicle traffic. Taxis and buses will drop you outside the city walls. [View map](#)

We will be glad to arrange your pre- and post-tour stay at the Hotel Peristil for you upon request. Note that we will not sleep there as a group and the stay there is not covered by the tour price.

DEPARTURE INFO

This tour ends at the port of Split at around 9 a.m.

Tour Leaders can assist with pointing you to taxis and other means of transportation to make your way to the Split airport, or back into town.

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Meet In Split

Highlights Medieval center of Split, easy test ride, Marjan peninsula, cruise to Brač island

Arrive in seaside Split early to enjoy the stunning beaches, medieval passageways and Diocletian's expansive palace (built at the turn of the 3rd century A.D.). We'll meet in the afternoon for a bike fitting and easy bike ride around the town's Marjan peninsula (the Central Park of Split) and finish at the dock to board our gullet, the Tajna Mora - our floating home for the next week. Enjoy the scenery as we cruise to the island of Brač where we will dock for the night.

Bike ride on Brač island

Highlights Scenic views on the ride to Pucisca, visit the stone cutting school in Pucisca, enjoy the beach at Zlatni Rat

How much island riding would you like? Pedal by the sea from the dock to tiny Pucisca with time for a coffee before visiting the stone cutting school or artisan workshop in Pucisca, which is famous for its white stone (it most famously appears in the White House). Those wanting a small challenge can continue up and over the island to a height of 440 meters above sea level to enjoy a smooth descent into beautiful Bol (others can take a shuttle there). Take time to explore the coast near Bol, especially the famous long white beach at Zlatni Rat. Return to our boat for the night, enjoy the view of the island you've pedaled while lounging and enjoying dinner with a view.

Hvar Island riding

Highlights Ride narrow Hvar island, ridge top cycling, evening in medieval Korčula

We'll pedal due east today, starting with a gentle climb over 12 km to then ride along the central ridge of Hvar island to its eastern most tip. If this first stretch of climbing seems a bit much, hop a shuttle and start cycling after the climb. Our highest point today is 350 meters above sea level before a long and gentle descent brings us back to the sea and the Sucuraj port where we will meet our boat and cruise to Korčula island. Allow ample time to soak in the old town of Korčula, the capital of the island that shares the same name. Founded as a Greek colony in the 4th century and controlled mostly by Venice from 1000 AD until 1797, Korčula retains the 14th century fortress style bestowed upon it by Venice.

DAY 1

Distance 18 km (11 mi)

Meals Dinner

Lodging  Tajna Mora Sail Boat

DAY 2

Distance 48 km (30 mi)

Gain 1437 m (4713 ft)

Terrain Very Hilly

Level 4.5

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Tajna Mora Sail Boat

DAY 3

Distance 51 km (32 mi)

Gain 983 m (3224 ft)

Terrain Rolling

Level 3.0

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging  Tajna Mora Sail Boat

Bicycle Tours in Croatia: Bike and Boat: Cycling Croatia's Islands

Cycle or Sail Korčula Island to Vela Luka

Highlights Seaside vistas, quaint towns and picturesque wide bay and coves at Vela Luka

If you want an easier day today, depart Korčula for a shorter route through pine, olive groves and sandy vineyards to the quaint seaside town of Lumbarda and then back to Korčula to continue north to another small town where you can jump back on the boat for a leisurely cruise to the town of Vela Luka. If you crave more time on the bike, summit the island at 500 meters after the town of Pupnat and continue a scenic and quiet ride along Korčula Island to the small port town of Vela Luka to meet the boat. Depending on time and weather, we'll sleep near Vela Luka or continue to the next island, island of Vis.

DAY 4

Distance 47 km (29 mi)

Gain 702 m (2303 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 3.0

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Tajna Mora Sail Boat

Loop ride on Vis Island

Highlights Island loop ride on Vis, swimming from the boat, Peka dinner

If we cruise this morning to the Island of Vis it will be a leisurely morning. In Vis we'll enjoy lunch on the boat before taking a short loop ride on the rarely visited but exceptionally beautiful small island of Vis. Ride the east side for a shorter loop and plenty of time to jump in the sea (even from the boat!) or ride around the whole island for a more challenging ride. On the island we'll enjoy a special peka dinner in a local konoba— fish, meat or a vegetarian meal cooked under a unique iron bell. Pozdrav!

DAY 5

Distance 39 km (24 mi)

Gain 797 m (2614 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 3.0

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging  Tajna Mora Sail Boat

Boat ride to Hvar Town then ride or boat to Stari Grad

Highlights Boat ride to Hvar Island, Hvar Town, UNESCO World Heritage site Stari Grad, oldest town on Hvar

We're back to Hvar Island today, visiting the capital itself —Hvar Town. Settled by colonists from the Greek island of Paros in the 4th century BC, Hvar Island was dominated for centuries by the Venetians. Enjoy this trendy town! Those wanting a challenge can cycle up and over the narrow island through cultivated vineyards and abandoned lavender fields surrounded by stone walls and panoramic views of the coastline. Those opting for a more leisurely ride can cruise around the western side of the island on the boat and then take a loop ride on the north side of the island. Our destination is the town of Stari Grad, the oldest on the island and one of the oldest towns settled on all the Adriatic islands. Enjoy a walk and/or drink around the tiny

DAY 6

Bicycle Tours in Croatia: **Bike and Boat: Cycling Croatia's Islands**

medieval streets before returning to the boat for a swim and dinner on board.

Distance 46 km (29 mi)
Gain 711 m (2332 ft)
Terrain Very Hilly
Level 3.5
Meals Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging 🏠 Tajna Mora Sail Boat

Bicycle Tours in Croatia: Bike and Boat: Cycling Croatia's Islands**Pedal Solta Island**

Highlights Quaint Solta Island, Tvrđić Honey Farm visit, traverse an island, small villages

After breakfast, our boat will take us to the tiny, picturesque island of Solta, whose economy is largely sustained by olives, fruit, fishing and some beach tourism. This small island just off the larger and more well-known island of Brač boasts rocky beaches, harbors and inlets, and quiet villages. Our ride today includes a stop at the Tvrđić Honey Farm where you can enjoy lunch and a visit to this family hobby turned profession. Continue on across the island to the other towns or return to our boat for a shorter ride. Prepare for a celebratory dinner together!

DAY 7

Distance 37 km (23 mi)

Gain 465 m (1525 ft)

Terrain Rolling

Level 2.0

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  [Tajna Mora Sail Boat](#)

Tour ends in Split

Highlights Cruise and visit Split

Our tour ends after breakfast this morning and one final boat ride together from Solta to the bustling port in Split. If you didn't have a chance to explore the fascinating Roman city of Split, take the opportunity now as it has a few incredible sites not to be missed. Or head on to your next adventure. Whatever your travel plans from here, thank you for joining us!

DAY 8

Meals Breakfast

INCLUDED**BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

- Traveler Services: Assistance with arrival and departure, booking extra nights at your starting and ending tour hotels.
- Bicycle Tour Training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Tour Planning tips on what to pack, reading and movie lists, hotel recommendations and many other helpful tips.
- A complimentary gift of your choice.

ON YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Superb tour leaders who are great fun and also bilingual, bicultural experts, and avid cyclists. They're experienced to help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- Comfortable lodging in 3-4 star hotels located in or near the town square with easy access to your favorite café (bar, gelato, espresso) of the day, always with a private bath.
- All breakfasts & at least half of your dinners each featuring multi-courses, fresh, seasonal specialties and wine or beer for dinners. See specific tour itineraries for details.
- On many tours we also have 1 or 2 lunches - see specific tour itineraries for details.
- Use of a high quality Titanium road bike, hybrid, or an aluminum tandem (aluminum road bikes or hybrid bikes in South America), geared specifically to cruise the flats and help ease you over the mountain. Our bikes come with an odometer so you can track your miles, an expandable rear rack pack to carry your stuff, and one water bottle that's yours to keep. Refer to our bikes page for full details.
- Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists!

- Special events like wine tastings and cultural visits as described in the trip itinerary.
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.
- Unique and scenic routes, marked with our signature chalk dust arrows that ensure that you won't get lost and have the freedom to travel at your own pace.
- Daily mileage options—for those folks who just can't get enough cycling, we'll suggest optional routes off our marked course.
- Detailed route map, and informational sheets each day that tell you more about the area where you will be riding.
- All the fun (and more) that you expect from your vacation.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel.
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the safest fit.
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity (with the exception of Expeditions)

AFTER YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Deeply discounted tours with our Re-Cycle Program. Your fifth tour with us will be discounted by 50% of the average price of your previous four tours; your tenth tour will be discounted by 100% of the average price of your previous nine tours!

**LEVELS**

Travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. Our tour levels fall on a scale of 1 - 5. In addition to the overall tour level we have developed daily level summaries to provide an even more detailed look at what kind of cycling you can expect from each day on tour. You'll find all of the details including mileage, elevation gain, terrain and level for each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

LEVEL 1 - 1.5

This day will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 30 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 15-30km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb..

LEVEL 2 - 2.5

This day is ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge, or for individuals who desire shorter days on the bike. On average, level 2 - 2.5 bike tours will ride 30-50 km per day on mostly rolling terrain.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-50km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

LEVEL 3 - 3.5

Level 3 - 3.5 tours are for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis) with the desire to cover longer daily distances on the bicycle. These tours are a great workout when you're riding as you will average 50-70 km daily with total gain of 2,000-2,800 ft. There will be multiple 4-6% climbs throughout the tour.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

LEVEL 4 - 4.5

Level 4 - 4.5 tours are for passionate cyclists or very active individuals. This level tour is great for cyclists looking to stay in shape and pedal hard they travel across regions or countries. Level 4 - 4.5 tours cover 70-90km daily with 2,800-3,600 ft of gain. Cyclists on a level 4 - 4.5 bicycle tour can expect multiple climbs, some climbs might be short and steep (6-8% for 1-3 km) while others may be sustained (6+ Km) at a 4-6% grade.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 - 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITIONPLUS!)

Our ExpeditionPlus! tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages means limited van support so we recommended these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

REMEMBER

It is almost always possible to adapt the day's ride to how you are feeling either by taking advantage of the support van, or asking tour leaders for additional mileage.

Need More Miles? On just about every day of every tour it is possible to add miles to the day. Just talk to your tour leader about the options.

Need Fewer Miles? If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

Chalk Dust Arrows. Remember, no matter what level of tour you choose ExperiencePlus! uses chalk dust arrows to mark our routes so riders can take the day at their own pace! Whether you prefer to stop at every gelateria, take a hundred photos a day, or push to achieve a new personal best you'll be happy on our tours.

WHAT TO EXPECT**BICYCLES**

Your bike will be equipped with: a men's or women's saddle, a quick release style seat post adjustment, rear rack and expandable pack, pump, patch kit, spare tube, cable lock, cyclometer, rear lights, a water bottle cage (or two) and a water bottle (or two) and a bell. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so—your tour leaders will install them during the bike fitting. We have flat pedals with or without cages available. For safety and hygiene reasons we recommend you bring your own helmet.

Daily Routine (Procedures and Logistics)**DAYSHEETS**

Each day you'll receive a daysheet with information on the day's activities, meals and ride, which will be discussed during a briefing. The Daysheets also include Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information about sites that you may want to stop and see along the route. Your Tour Leaders will also post daily announcements in the hotel lobby with information about sightseeing in town or restaurant recommendations for dinners on your own as well as important information about breakfast, luggage down and "arrows down" time.

NAVIGATING ON TOUR

Daily we provide you with a highlighted route map. Of course, we also mark the route every day with our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map! The arrows also allow you to ride at your own pace. There is no need to "keep up" with the group—this is your ride!

But what if it rains? What happens to the arrows? In a light rain, the arrows actually "set up" and become more permanent. In a heavy rain, they do wash away. If that happens, we'll re-group to cycle together for those who want to continue cycling while those who prefer to stay dry can shuttle.

For the tech-loving riders out there we offer the opportunity to download GPS tracks of most tour routes to your personal GPS device using RideWithGPS.com.

VAN SUPPORT

Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists!

HOTELS

We have carefully chosen all of our accommodations for their charm and location. They are typically small, family run hotels that offer you a glimpse into the local culture. We prefer hotels near interesting sites in the center of town located along the best cycling route in the area. Because many of the hotels are small not all of the rooms will be exactly the same. We keep this in mind and do our best to distribute rooms fairly by the end of the tour. Our itinerary lists our primary hotels. On rare occasions, listed hotels are subject to change.

MEALS AND RESTAURANTS

Breakfasts: we work hard to arrange complete breakfasts but some hotels still serve continental style breakfasts; cycling is energy intensive so we do recommend you plan for a morning or mid-morning snack on the road at a local café or market.

Water is OK in almost all hotels and in country fountains; if there is a problem, we will advise you.

We'll recommend lunch locations en route and most itineraries include a few group picnics. We limit the number of picnics so you don't feel pressured to be at a certain place in the middle of your ride.

Dinners together are often pre-planned and pre-ordered. We'll ask you if you have special dietary requirements. Pre-planned meals allow us to provide a variety of regional specialties and facilitate efficient service. Water, wine and beer are included.

TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this for the entire tour leader team, not each Tour Leader. If you'd like to show your gratitude for your Tour Leaders' excellent service you can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your Tour Leaders did not quite meet your expectations, then we would like to know about it. You will also have the opportunity to leave your comments in our evaluation survey which we email to you after your trip.

PHOTOS

By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or taken by our guides or travelers free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you on tour, you must inform



CHECKLIST

TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

- Read through your Reservation Confirmation Email, it has important information to help you plan your trip!
- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
- Complete the Customer Information Form: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/>
- We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/>
- Download the bicycle training program: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>
- Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Check the online itinerary of your trip and review the arrival and departure information under the "Travel Information" tab to see meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, and other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
- 12 weeks before your tour begin your training program <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>.
- Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie List you'll find on the country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists on our website at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/>.
- We'll email your Hotel Itinerary, the Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders and other important departure information about 30 days prior to departure.

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on. See you soon!