

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP ▶ Clifftop panorama

The view from the top of *Kliff Grpašćak* is simply spectacular, with the southwest coast of Dugi otok rising impressively from the sea in a huge wall of rock → p. 39

INSIDER TIP ▶ Swim among ancient ruins

Ugljan's idyllic *Vela Luka* beach is surrounded by Roman archaeological sites, which are unfortunately not signposted – but it's fun to hunt them down! → p. 44

INSIDER TIP ▶ Life with a Latin twist

The rainbow colours and relaxed atmosphere of *Abuela's Beach House* in Brela lend a Caribbean touch to the Makarska Riviera → p. 64

INSIDER TIP ▶ An island for explorers

Šipan is the most diverse of the Elaphiti Islands, and yet small enough to discover on foot (photo above) → p. 89

INSIDER TIP ▶ Seaside games

Split's city beach *Bačvice* is a meeting point for *picigin* players – get involved! → p. 69

INSIDER TIP ▶ Go kayaking among God's tears

Grab your paddle and let *Kornati Adventures* show you the most beautiful islands in the fascinating Kornati archipelago – not to mention the best konobas! → p. 35

INSIDER TIP ▶ Relax with snacks and wine

Šibenik's latest culinary trend is Croatian tapas, which you should order at *Vino i Ino* with a nice glass of wine → p. 30

INSIDER TIP ▶ Herbs and salt

The lagoons around Nin have a long tradition of salt production, and the salt works *museum shop* sells delicious herb-infused salt → p. 51

INSIDER TIP ▶ The Roman age, reloaded

Zadar's *Archaeological Museum* takes visitors on an exciting and gripping journey back through the centuries to when the Romans ruled Dalmatia → p. 46

INSIDER TIP ▶ The white city

Pučišća on the island of Brač is built out of the island's famous marble; even the souvenirs here are made of stone (photo below) → p. 56

INSIDER TIP ▶ Ride a sea kayak into the sunset

Take to the water with *Hvar Adventures* on a guided paddle tour of Hvar's old town for an unusual perspective on this jet-set hot spot → p. 60

INSIDER TIP ▶ Pitch your tent on a terrace

Camp Grebišće in Jelsa on the island of Hvar is located on a deep and exceptionally idyllic cove, with a wonderful beach of fine shingle → p. 61

INSIDER TIP ▶ Art Nouveau in Cavtat

An unusual *lunette* can be found in the *Gospe od snijega* church in Cavtat; painted by an unknown artist and featuring Art Nouveau motifs, it depicts the Madonna looking out over the town's skyline → p. 76

INSIDER TIP ▶ A capon in Dubrovnik

The restaurant *Kopun* doesn't just enjoy a thoroughly romantic location – it also serves specialities from other parts of Croatia, such as capon → p. 84

INSIDER TIP ▶ Paradise cove

It admittedly takes a lot of effort to make it down (and then back up again) into this secluded bay on the island of Vis – but the shingle cove of *Uvala Stiniva*, with its bright turquoise waters almost completely encircled by high cliffs, is absolutely stunning → p. 105



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● **Art in white stone**

Visit the *Galerija Jakšić* in Donji Humac on Brač to see how generations of Croatian artists have worked and continue to work with the island's precious marble; viewings are free of charge → p. 56

● **Monastic treasures in a beautiful location**

Most monasteries on the Croatian coast charge admission fees. The Benedictines of *Sv. Kuzma i Damjan* near Tkon are still not charging an entrance fee to show off their beautifully situated abbey and Gothic church, whose portal bears Glagolitic inscriptions → p. 45

● **Underwater museum**

There is no admission fee to view the sarcophagus submerged off the coast of Silba, which dates from late antiquity – all you need to visit this *underwater museum* is a diving mask and snorkel → p. 51

● **A promontory of ancient buildings**

There is currently no admission fee to visit the foundations of a Roman bath and the cemetery of a *Greek necropolis* located on the peninsula by the town of Vis, on the island of the same name → p. 73

● **Medieval picture book**

You could spend several hours gazing at the portal of *Trogir Cathedral* without running out of new discoveries. The Old and New Testaments were chiselled into the stone, as if in a frenzy. They can be seen perfectly well from the square without paying a cent (photo) → p. 71

● **Well-maintained lido with a view of Zadar**

The municipal authorities of Preko on the island of Ugljan take the comfort of their guests very seriously, and when renovating their *public lido* they even thought of adding showers, sun loungers and access ladders down to the sea – all of it free of charge → p. 44



●●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY IN DALMATIA

Unique experiences

● **No boundary between land and sea**

The fact that the Dalmatian island world consists of peaks whose mountains were submerged is nowhere so palpable as on the island of Dugi otok, especially if you take to the *panoramic road* with your mountain bike → p. 37

● **A beach with a monastery**

The shingle beach of *Martinšćica*, near Bol, lies just behind Brač's famous Golden Cape, on a gently curving bay with crystal-clear waters and an idyllic monastery located on the peninsula. A typical Dalmatian scene → p. 54

● **Get out onto the water**

Make sure you see the *old town of Korčula* from the water too. From this perspective, its typically Dalmatian ensemble of buildings – with a cathedral, an episcopal palace and their surrounding rows of houses – really comes into its own → p. 90

● **Sweet sounds**

When the people of Dalmatia sing, then they usually do so a cappella and with many parts. In July, the best *klapa choirs* go head to head in the town of Omiš → p. 122

● **A district with an authentic ambience**

The *Varoš* quarter of Zadar's old town has avoided the tourists and souvenir shops that fill the rest of the city. This district of bakeries, hairdressers, original boutiques and neighbourhood cafés transforms into a nightlife hot spot after dark (photo) → p. 48

● **Island hopping**

Everything that the people living on the Elaphiti Islands need is brought in by ferry – from letters and parcels to chickens and washing machines. Climb aboard too to gain an *insight into everyday island life in Dalmatia* – including a rest stop on the sandy beach of Lopud → p. 121

● **Breathtaking panorama**

The reward for the steep climb from Hvar's *Pjaca* up to the *Španjola Fortress* is a typically Dalmatian panorama: at your feet, the houses of the old town, the harbour speckled with boats, beyond them the green dots of the *Pakleni otoci* floating in the blue of the Adriatic → p. 58



ONLY IN

DISCOVERY TOURS

1

DALMATIA AT A GLANCE



START: ① Zadar
END: ② Split

11 days

Driving time (without stops) 26–36 hrs depending on ferries

Distance:

→ 1,170 km/727 miles

COSTS: approx. 9,900 kuna (petrol, ferries, fees, room & board)

WHAT TO PACK: swim gear and water shoes, sun protection

IMPORTANT TIPS: during the peak season, expect long waits for the car ferries! Don't forget your car registration because you will need it to cross the border near Neum (Bosnia and Herzegovina)! Dubrovnik–Lokrum ferries depart daily from April–Nov every half hour from 9am to 6pm, the trip takes approx. 10 min.; book your rafting tour in Cetina Canyon 1 to 5 days in advance (www.rafting-cetina.com)



Every corner of the earth has its own special charm. If you want to explore all the many different facets of this region, head off the beaten track or get tips for the best stops, breathtaking views, hand-picked restaurants or the best local activities, then these customised discovery tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

Follow this tour south along the Dalmatian coast to some of the most attractive harbour towns and national parks. You'll visit world-famous cultural landmarks and pretty bays with beaches where you can take a refreshing swim. On the way back north from Dubrovnik, hop from one island to the next on the ferries and experience the magic of this stretch of coastline.

DAY 1

① Zadar

[30 km/18.5 mi]

② Biograd na Moru

