

# Split & Central Dalmatia



Central Dalmatia is the most action-packed, sight-rich and diverse part of Croatia, with dozens of castles, fascinating islands, spectacular beaches, dramatic mountains, quiet ports and an emerging culinary scene, not to mention Split's Diocletian Palace and medieval Trogir (both Unesco World Heritage sites). In short, this part of Croatia will grip even the most picky visitor.

The region stretches from Trogir in the northwest to Ploče in the southeast. Split is its largest city and a hub for bus and boat connections along the Adriatic coast. The rugged 1500m-high Dinaric Range provides the dramatic background to the region.

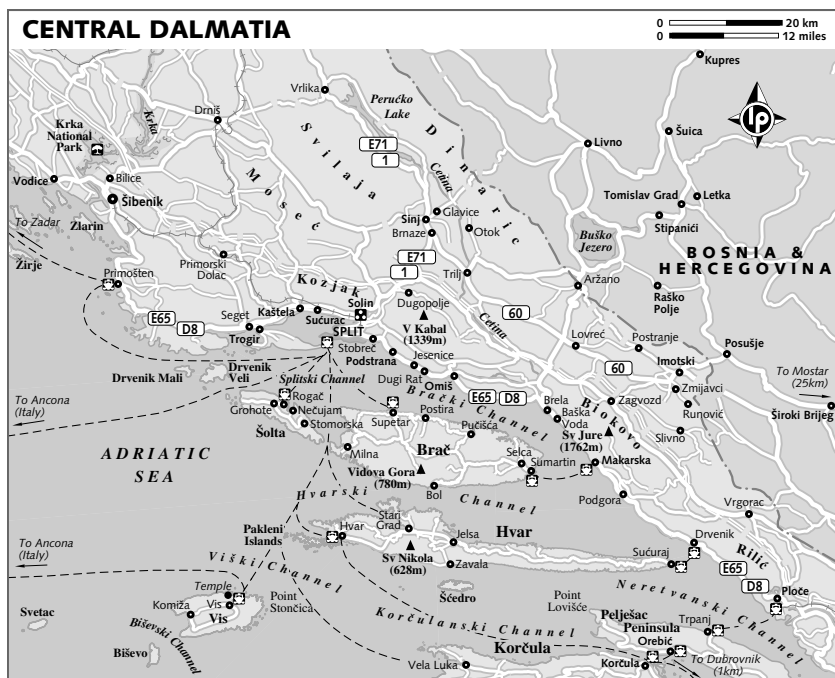
Diocletian's Palace is a sight like no other (a Roman ruin and the living soul of Split) and it would be a cardinal Dalmatian sin to miss out on the sights, bars, restaurants and general buzz inside it. The Roman ruins in Solin are altogether a more quiet, pensive affair, while Trogir is a tranquil city that's preserved its fantastic medieval sculpture and architecture. Then there is Hvar Town, the region's most popular destination, richly ornamented with Renaissance architecture, good food, a fun atmosphere and tourists – who are in turn ornamented with deep tans, big jewels and shiny yachts.

Let's not forget the coastline: you can choose from the slender and seductive Zlatni Rat on Brač, wonderful beaches in Brela on the Makarska Riviera, secluded coves on Brač, Šolta and Vis, or gorgeous (and nudie) beaches on the Pakleni Islands off Hvar. Best of all is that Dalmatia is always quite a bit warmer than Istria or the Gulf of Kvarner, and you can plunge into the crystalline Adriatic from the beginning of May right up until the end of September.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discovering the wonders and nightlife in Diocletian's Palace in **Split** (p220)
- Getting to know **Vis** (p240), Croatia's most remote island
- Stretching out on Croatia's sexiest beach, Zlatni Rat, in **Bol** (p247)
- Taking in the glamour in **Hvar Town** (p251) and getting into your birthday suit on the beaches of the **Pakleni Islands** (p254)
- Hiking up dramatic **Mount Biokovo** (p237) and getting views of Italy from the top





## SPLIT

pop 173,700

The second-largest city in Croatia, Split (Spalato in Italian) is a great place to see Dalmatian life as it's really lived. Free of mass tourism and always buzzing, this is a city with just the right balance of tradition and modernity. Step inside Diocletian's Palace (a Unesco World Heritage site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments) and you'll see dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thriving amid the atmospheric old walls where Split life has been going on for thousands of years. Split's unique setting and exuberant nature make it one of the most delightful cities in Europe. The dramatic coastal mountains are the perfect backdrop to the turquoise waters of the Adriatic and you'll get a chance to appreciate the gorgeous Split cityscape when making a ferry journey to or from the city.

Split is often seen mainly as a transport hub to the hip nearby islands (which, indeed, it is), but the city has been sprucing itself up and attracting attention by renovating the old Riva

(seafront) and replacing the former cement strolling ground with a shiny, new marble look. Even though the modern transformation hasn't pleased all the locals, the new Riva is a beauty. The growing tourist demand also means that Split's city authorities are under pressure to expand the city's transport resources, and there's talk that in the near future the currently very handy bus station may be moved further out to make way for the harbour expansion (for big, shiny yachts and monstrous cruisers?) and luxury hotels.

## HISTORY

Split achieved fame when the Roman emperor Diocletian (AD 245–313), noted for his persecution of early Christians, had his retirement palace built here from 295 to 305. After his death the great stone palace continued to be used as a retreat by Roman rulers. When the nearby colony of Salona (now Solin) was abandoned in the 7th century, many of the Romanised inhabitants fled to Split and barricaded themselves behind the high palace walls, where their descendants live to this day.

First the Byzantine Empire and then Croatia controlled the area, but from the 12th to the 14th centuries medieval Split enjoyed a large measure of autonomy, which favoured its development. The western part of the old town around Narodni Trg, which dates from this time, became the focus of municipal life, while the area within the palace walls continued as the ecclesiastical centre.

In 1420 the Venetians' conquering of Split led to its slow decline. During the 17th century, strong walls were built around the city as a defence against the Ottomans. In 1797 the Austrians arrived; they remained until 1918, with only a brief interruption during the Napoleonic Wars.

## ORIENTATION

The bus, train and ferry terminals are clustered on the eastern side of the harbour, a short walk from the old town (see Map p220). Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda – commonly known as Riva (the waterfront promenade) – is your best central reference point in Split. Most of the large hotels and the best restaurants, nightlife and beaches lie east of the harbour along Bačvice, Firule, Zenta and Trstenik Bays. The wooded Marjan Hill (123m) dominates the western tip of the city and has many beaches at its foothills.

See p293 for more information on the use of street names in Split.

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

**Algoritam** (Map p220; Bajamontijeva 2; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) A good English-language bookshop.

**International Bookshop** (Map p220; Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda 21; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) Doesn't really sell any books but it has international magazines and periodicals.

### Cultural Centres

**Alliance Française** (Map p220; ☎ 347 290; Mar-montova 3; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) The centre of French cultural life in Split.

### Internet Access

**Internet Games & Books** (Map p220; ☎ 338 548; Obala Kneza Domagoja 3; per hr 25KN; ☎ 9am-7pm) Also sells used books, offers luggage storage and provides information for backpackers.

**Mriža** (Map p220; ☎ 321 320; Kružičeva 3; per hr 20KN; ☎ 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 9am-4pm Sun)

## Laundry

**Modrulj** (Map p220; ☎ 315 888; www.modrulj.com; Šperun 1; ☎ 8am-8pm Apr-Oct, 9am-5pm Mon-Sat Nov-Mar) A sparkling laundrette with coin-operated washing machines (wash/dry 25/20KN), which also has internet access (5KN per 15 minutes).

## Left Luggage

**Garderoba** bus station (Map p220; per hr 3KN; ☎ 6am-10pm); train station (Map p220; per hr 3KN; ☎ 6am-10pm)  
**Internet Games & Books** (Map p220; ☎ 338 548; Obala Kneza Domagoja 3; per day 10KN; ☎ 9am-7pm)

## Medical Services

**KBC Firule** (Map p219; ☎ 556 111; Spinčičeva 1) Split's hospital.

## Money

You can change money at travel agencies or the post office. There are ATMs around the bus and train stations and throughout the city.

## Post

**Main post office** (Map p220; Kralja Tomislava 9; ☎ 7am-8pm Mon-Sat, 8am-1pm Sun)

## Telephone

There's a telephone centre at the main post office.

## Tourist Information

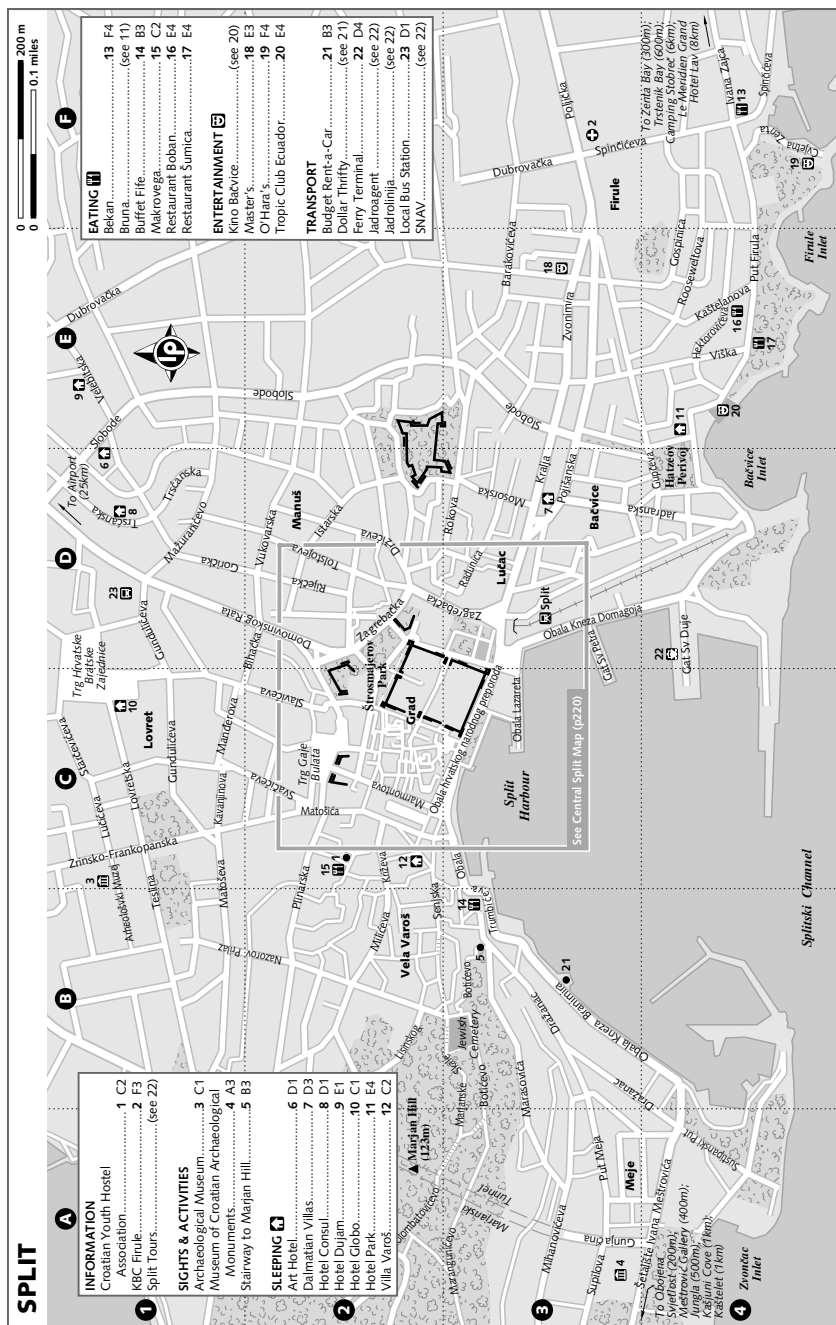
**Croatian Youth Hostel Association** (Map p219; ☎ 396 031; www.hfhs.hr; Domilijina 8; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) Sells HI cards and has information about youth hostels all over Croatia.

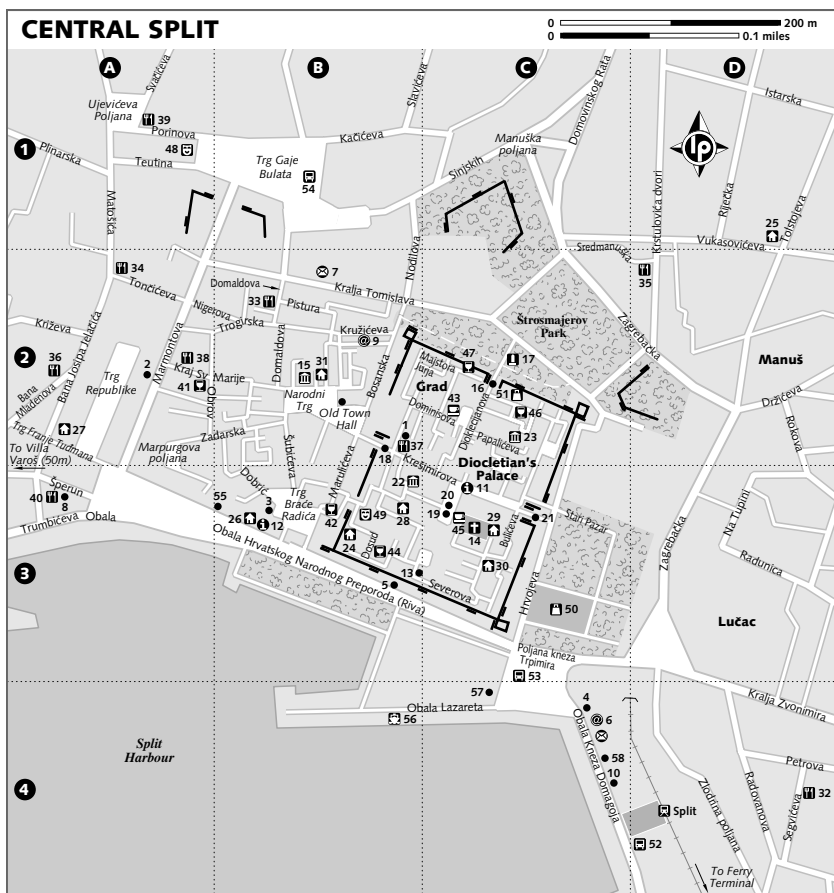
**Internet Games & Books** (Map p220; ☎ 338 548; Obala Kneza Domagoja 3; ☎ 9am-7pm) Information for backpackers. Also has used books, internet connection and luggage storage.

**Tourist office** (Map p220; ☎ /fax 342 606; www.visitsplit.com; Peristil; ☎ 9am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 8am-1pm Sun) Has information on Split and sells the Split Card (36KN), which offers free and discounted admissions to Split attractions.

### SPLIT CARD

Not a bad deal at all – get the Split Card for 36KN for one day and you can use it for three days without paying anything extra. You get free access to most of the city museums, half-price discounts to many galleries, and tons of discounts on car rental, restaurants, shops and hotels.





**Turist Biro** (Map p220; ☎ /fax 342 142; www.turist-biro-split.hr; Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda 12; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) Best for arranging private accommodation; sells guidebooks and the Split Card.

### Travel Agencies

**Atlas Travel Agency** (Map p220; ☎ 343 055; Trg Braće Radića 6; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) Also the American Express representative.

**Daluma Travel** (Map p220; ☎ /fax 338 484; www.daluma.hr; Obala Kneza Domagoja 1; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat) Arranges private accommodation.

**Split Tours** (Map p219; ☎ 352 553; www.splittours.hr; Gat Sv Dujje bb; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) In the ferry terminal, it handles tickets between Ancona (Italy), Split and Hvar, and finds private accommodation.

**Touring** (Map p220; ☎ 338 503; Obala Kneza Domagoja 10; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) Near the bus station, it represents Deutsche Touring and sells tickets to German cities.

### SIGHTS

#### Diocletian's Palace

Facing the harbour, Diocletian's Palace (Map p220) is one of the most imposing Roman ruins in existence and the place you'll spend most of your time while in Split. Don't expect a palace though, nor a museum – this palace is the living heart of the city, and its labyrinthine streets are packed with people, bars, shops and restaurants. The narrow streets hide passageways and courtyards, some deserted and eerie, others thumping with music from bars and cafés, while the local residents hang out their washing to dry

<b>INFORMATION</b>		Town Museum.....	23 C2	Café Shook.....	42 B3
Algoritam.....	1 B2	Vestibule.....	(see 19)	Galerija.....	43 C2
Alliance Française.....	2 A2	<b>SLEEPING</b>		Ghetto Club.....	44 B3
Atlas Travel Agency.....	3 B3	B&B Kaštel 1700.....	24 B3	Le Porta.....	(see 47)
Daluma Travel.....	4 C4	Hostel Split Mediterranean		Luxor Bar.....	45 C3
International Bookshop.....	5 B3	House.....	25 D1	Mosquito Bar.....	(see 43)
Internet Games & Books.....	6 C4	Hotel Adriana.....	26 B3	Red Room.....	46 C2
Main Post Office.....	7 B2	Hotel Bellevue.....	27 A2	Teak Caffè.....	47 C2
Modrulj.....	8 A3	Hotel Jupiter.....	28 B3	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
Mriža.....	9 B2	Hotel Peristil.....	29 C3	Croatian National	
Touring.....	10 C4	Hotel Vestibul Palace.....	30 C3	Theatre.....	48 A1
Tourist Office.....	11 C3	Split Hostel Booze & Snooze.....	31 B2	Puls 2.....	49 B3
Turist Biro.....	12 B3	<b>EATING</b>		<b>SHOPPING</b>	
<b>SIGHTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>		Black Cat.....	32 D4	Diocletian's Cellars.....	(see 13)
Basement Halls.....	13 B3	Burek Bar.....	33 B2	Market.....	50 C3
Bronze Gate.....	(see 13)	Galiija.....	34 A2	Zlatna Vrata.....	51 C2
Cathedral of St Domnius.....	14 C3	Kod Jože.....	35 D2	<b>TRANSPORT</b>	
Diocletian's Palace Entry.....	(see 13)	Konoba Hvaranin.....	36 A2	Bus Station.....	52 D4
Ethnographic Museum.....	15 B2	Konoba Trattoria Bajamont.....	37 B2	Buses to Airport.....	53 C3
Golden Gate.....	16 C2	Konoba Trattoria Bajamont.....	37 B2	Buses to Solin (Salona).....	54 B1
Gregorius of Nin.....	17 C2	Noštro.....	38 A2	Croatia Airlines.....	55 B3
Iron Gate.....	18 B2	Supermarket.....	39 A1	Ferry Terminal (Passenger	
Papalić Palace.....	(see 23)	Šperun.....	40 A3	Lines).....	56 B4
Peristil.....	19 C3	<b>DRINKING</b>		ITR.....	57 C4
Protiron.....	20 C3	Buža.....	41 A2	Jadrolinija Stall.....	58 C4
Silver Gate.....	21 C3	Café Puls.....	(see 42)		
Temple of Jupiter.....	22 B3				

overhead, kids play football amid the ancient walls, and grannies sit in their windows watching the action below. It's an enchanting place.

Although the original structure was modified in the Middle Ages, the alterations have only served to increase the allure of this fascinating site. The palace was built from lustrous white stone from the island of Brač and construction lasted 10 years. Diocletian spared no expense, importing marble from Italy and Greece, and columns and sphinxes from Egypt. A military fortress, imperial residence and fortified town, the palace measures 215m from east to west (including the square corner towers) and is 181m wide at the southernmost point. The walls at their highest measure 26m and the entire structure covers 31,000 sq metres.

Each wall has a gate named after metals: at the northern end is the **Golden Gate**, while the southern end has the **Bronze Gate**; the eastern gate is the **Silver Gate** and to the west is the **Iron Gate**. From the eastern to the western gate there's a straight road (Krešimirova; also known as Decumanus), which separates the imperial residence on the southern side, with its state rooms and temples, from the northern side, once used by soldiers and servants. The Bronze Gate, in the southern wall, led from the living quarters to the sea. Two of the gates, the Bronze and Golden, are fronted by city landmarks: **Meštrović sculptures** of literary scholar Marko Marulić and the medieval bishop Grgur Ninski.

There are 220 buildings within the palace boundaries, home to about 3000 people as well as housing shops, cafés and restaurants. Each street has small signs at its beginning and end marking what you'll find upon it – bars, cafés, restaurants, shops, museums. It makes moving around much easier, though one of the best things you can do is get lost in the palace – it's small enough that you'll always find your way out easily. In any case, once you enter the palace, forget about street names.

The best way to see the palace's main sights is to follow our Walking Tour; see p222.

## Archaeological Museum

Although it's north of the town centre, the **Archaeological Museum** (Arheološki Muzej; Map p219; ☎ 329 340; www.mdc.hr/split-arheoloski; Zrinsko-Frankopanska 25; adult/student 20/10KN; ☎ 9am-2pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun) is worth the walk. The emphasis is on the Roman and early Christian period, with exhibits devoted to burial sculpture and excavations at Salona. The quality of the sculpture is high, and there are interesting reliefs based on Illyrian mythical figures. There's also jewellery, ceramics and coins on display.

## Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments

This museum (Muzej Hrvatskih Arheoloških Spomenika; Map p219; ☎ 323 901; www.mhas-split.hr, in Croatian; Stjepana



## PICIGIN

For a bit of fun, join the locals at the beach and play the very Dalmatian sport of *picigin*. The rules are simple: stand in the water up to your knees/waist and pass a small ball (the size of a squash ball) to other players at a rather high speed by whacking it with the palm of your hand. The idea is to keep the ball from falling and touching the water's surface. It is imperative to throw yourself about and into the water as much as possible. It's also advised to splash all the people standing around you and display your sporting vigour freely.

Check out the *picigin* 'headquarters' page at [www.picigin.org](http://www.picigin.org) (in Croatian only, but the photos should be illustrative enough) or the several YouTube videos demonstrating *picigin* techniques (which vary between Split, Krk and other parts of the coast). Have a go at the special New Year's eve *picigin* game if you think you're tough enough.

Gunjače bb; adult/student 10/5KN; ☎ 9.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) concentrates on medieval Croatian rulers, with inscribed stone fragments, parts of altars and furniture, late medieval tombstones, swords and jewellery. Captions are in Croatian, however, which makes it difficult to identify the exhibits.

## Ethnographic Museum

In the centre of town is the mildly interesting **Ethnographic Museum** (Etnografski Muzej; Map p220; ☎ 343 108; [www.etnografski-muzej-split.hr](http://www.etnografski-muzej-split.hr); Narodni Trg 1; adult/student 10/5KN; ☎ 9am-2pm & 5-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat Jun-Sep, 9am-2pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat Oct-May), which has a collection of photos of old Split, traditional costumes and memorabilia of important citizens. Captions are in Croatian.

## Meštrović Gallery & Kaštelet

Split's finest art museum is the **Meštrović Gallery** (Galerija Meštrović; off Map p219; ☎ 358 719; Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića 46; adult/student incl Kaštelet 30/15KN; ☎ 9am-2pm Tue-Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun). You'll see a comprehensive, well-arranged collection of works by Ivan Meštrović, Croatia's premier modern sculptor, who built the gallery as a personal residence from 1931 to 1939. Although Meštrović intended to retire here, he emigrated to the USA soon after WWII.

Don't miss the nearby **Kaštelet** (off Map p219; ☎ 358 185; Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića 39; admission by Meštrović Gallery ticket or adult/student 20/10KN; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sun mid-May-Sep, 9am-4pm Tue-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun Oct-mid-May), the fortress that Meštrović bought and restored to house his powerful *Life of Christ* wood reliefs.

## ACTIVITIES

A flourishing beach life gives Split its aura of insouciance in summer. The most popular

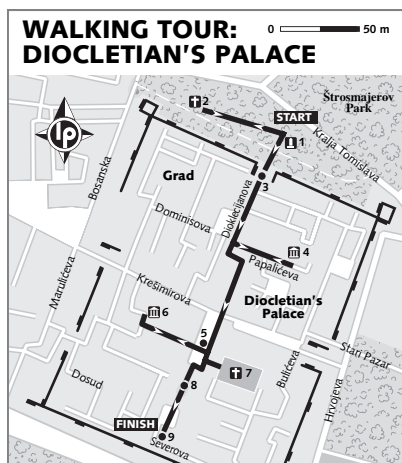
beach is **Bačvice** – awarded with a Blue Flag – on the eponymous inlet. It's a biggish pebbly beach with good **swimming** and a lively ambience, and is where you'll find *picigin* games galore (see above). There are showers and changing rooms at both ends of the beach. Bačvice is also a popular summer bar and club area, so head out here at night-time, too. The other choice is to follow Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića west, past the Meštrović Gallery, to the quieter **Kašuni cove**.

From the Meštrović Gallery it's possible to hike straight up **Marjan Hill** (123m). Go up Tonča Petrasova Marovića on the western side of the gallery and continue straight up the stairway to Put Meja. Turn left and walk west to Put Meja 76. The trail begins on the western side of this building. Otherwise, you can start the walk closer to the centre, from the stairway that sits less than 100m west of Buffet Fife (Map p219), on Dražanac. Marjan Hill offers **trails** through the forest, **lookouts** and old **chapels**.

## WALKING TOUR: DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE

Begin the walk just outside the palace at the imposing statue of **Gregorius of Nin** (1; Grgur Ninski), the 10th-century Croatian bishop who fought for the right to use old Croatian in liturgical services. Sculpted by Ivan Meštrović, this powerful work is one of the defining images of Split. Notice that his left big toe has been polished to a shine – it's said that rubbing the toe guarantees that you'll come back to Split.

To the west of the statue you'll see the well-preserved corner tower of the palace. Between the statue and the tower are the remains of the pre-Romanesque church of St Benedict with the 15th-century **Chapel of Arnir** (2). Peer through the protective glass and you'll see the altar slab and altar sarcophagus carved by the early Renaissance master Juraj Dalmatinac.



### WALK FACTS

**Start** Statue of Gregorius of Nin

**Finish** Basement Halls

**Distance** 1km

**Duration** Two hours

The statue is right outside the **Golden Gate** (3; Zlatna Vrata or Northern Palace Gate), which was once the starting point for the road to Solin. From the fragments that remain, it's possible to visualise the statues, columns and arches that once decorated the gate. Turn left at Papaličeva and at No 5 is **Papalič Palace** (4) with a courtyard, loggia and external staircase. Built by Dalmatinac for one of the many noblemen who lived within the palace in the Middle Ages, it is considered a fine example of late-Gothic style with an elaborately carved entrance gate that proclaimed the importance of its original inhabitants.

The exterior of the palace is closer to its original state than the interior, which has been thoroughly restored to house the **Town Museum** (Muzej Grada Splita; ☎ 341 240; www.mdc.hr/splitgr; Papaličeva 5; adult/concession 10/5KN; 🕒 9am-9pm Tue-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun Jun-Sep, 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun Oct-May). Captions are in Croatian, but wall panels in a variety of languages provide a historical framework for the exhibits. The museum has three floors, with drawings, heraldic coats of arms, 17th-century weaponry, fine furniture, coins and documents from as far back as the 14th century.

Return to Dioklecijanova, turn left and you'll see the Peristil, the ceremonial entrance court to the imperial quarters, measuring 35m by 13m and three steps below the level of the surrounding streets. The longer side is lined by six granite columns, linked by arches and decorated with a stone frieze. The southern side is enclosed by the **Protiron** (5), which is the entrance into the imperial quarters. The square has an outdoor café and the ancient stones provide handy seats to relax and people-watch in this popular meeting place.

Turn right (west) onto the narrow street of Kraj Sveti Ivana, which leads to what used to be the ceremonial and devotional section of the palace. Although the two temples that once flanked the streets have long since disappeared, you can still see parts of columns and a few fragments. At the end of the street is the **Temple of Jupiter** (6), later converted into a baptistery. The temple once had a porch supported by columns, but the one column you see dates from the 5th century. The headless sphinx in black granite guarding the entrance was imported from Egypt at the time of the temple's construction in the 5th century. The walls of the temple support a barrel-vaulted ceiling and there's a decorative frieze around the other three walls. Below the temple is a crypt, which was once used as a church.

Returning to the Peristil, go up the eastern stairs to the **Cathedral of St Domnius** (7; Katedrala Svetog Duje; ☎ 342 589; Kraj Svetog Duje 5; adult/student incl Treasury 10/5KN; 🕒 7am-noon & 4-7pm), originally built as Diocletian's mausoleum. The original octagonal form of the mausoleum, encircled by 24 columns, has been almost completely preserved. The domed interior is round with two rows of Corinthian columns and a frieze showing Emperor Diocletian and his wife, Prisca.

The oldest monuments in the cathedral are the remarkable scenes on the wooden entrance doors from the life of Christ. Carved by Andrija Buvina in the 13th century, the scenes are presented in 28 squares, 14 on each side, and recall the fashion of Romanesque miniatures of the time.

Notice the right altar carved by Bonino da Milano in 1427 and the vault above the altar decorated with murals by Dujam Vušković. To the left is the altar of St Anastasius (Sveti Staš; 1448) by Dalmatinac, with a relief of *The Flagellation of Christ*, which is one of the finest sculptural works of its time in Dalmatia. The



main altar dates from the 13th century and the vault is ornamented with paintings by Matija Pončun.

The choir is furnished with 13th-century Romanesque seats that are the oldest in Dalmatia. Cross the altar and follow the signs to the **Treasury** (☎ 8am-noon Sun Jul & Aug, 10am-noon Sun Jun & Sep, 11am-noon Sun Oct-May), rich in reliquaries, icons, church robes, illuminated manuscripts and documents in Glagolitic script.

Part of the same structure, the Romanesque **belfry** (admission 5KN; ☎ 7am-noon & 4-7pm Jul & Aug, 8am-noon Jun & Sep) was constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries and reconstructed in 1908 after it collapsed. Notice the two lion figures at the foot of the belfry and the Egyptian black-granite sphinx dating from the 15th century BC on the right wall. South of the mausoleum, there are remains of the Roman baths, a Roman building with a mosaic and the remains of the imperial dining hall in various stages of preservation.

Immediately to the west of the cathedral are the massive steps leading down through the Protiron into the **vestibule (8)**, which is the best-preserved part of the imperial residence. The circular ground floor is topped by a cupola once covered in mosaics and marble, although the centre of the dome has disappeared. Today, the cellars are filled with stands selling souvenirs and handicrafts. To the left is the entrance to the **basement halls (9)**; adult/concession 6/3KN; ☎ 10am-6pm) of the palace. Although mostly empty, the rooms and corridors emit a haunting sense of timelessness that is well worth the price of the ticket. The cellars open onto the southern gate.

## TOURS

Atlas Travel Agency (p220) runs excursions to the waterfalls at Krka National Park (p212) and Zlatni Rat beach (p247) on the island of Brač, as well as other day trips. If you're after more of a party kind of tour, check out Split Hostel Booze & Snooze (opposite) for booze cruises (120KN) and more sober rafting (280KN) and Krka National Park (280KN) tours.

Also check if your hotel organises excursions and activities.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Most festivals in Split take place along the Riva. The tourist office can give you more info about all the festivals listed here.

The traditional February **Carnival** sees locals dressing up and dancing in the streets; it's great fun. There's also the **Feast of St Duke (7 May)**, otherwise known as Split Day, when there's much singing and dancing. There is a **Flower Show** in May, and from June to September a variety of evening entertainment is presented in the old town, usually around the Peristil. The four-day **Festival of Popular Music** is held around the end of June. The **Split Summer Festival** ([www.splitsko-ljeto.hr](http://www.splitsko-ljeto.hr), in Croatian), from 14 July to 14 August, features opera, drama, ballet and concerts on open-air stages. The summer concert season usually starts off with the **Split Jazz Festival** in late July. Split also has a **Film Festival** ([www.splitfilmfestival.hr](http://www.splitfilmfestival.hr)), which focuses on new international films and lots of art-house movies. It's held from 13 to 20 September.

## SLEEPING

Good budget accommodation is quite thin on the ground in Split, unless you're looking to sleep in dorms. Private accommodation is the best option and in the summer you may be deluged at the bus station by women offering *sobe* (rooms available). Make sure you are clear about the exact location of the room or you may find yourself several bus rides from the town centre. The best thing to do is to book through the Turist Biro (p220) or Daluma Travel (p220), but there is little available within the heart of the old town.

Expect to pay between 145KN and 220KN for a double room where you will probably share the bathroom with the proprietor. If you have your own wheels and don't mind staying out of town, you will find a wealth of *pensions* (guest houses) along the main Split-Dubrovnik road just south of town.

Also consider **Dalmatian Villas** (Map p219; ☎ 340 680; [www.dalmatinskevile.hr](http://www.dalmatinskevile.hr); Kralja Zvonimira 8; r low-high per week €250-450, apt €350-1000), where you can rent rooms or apartments in renovated stone villas. It has accommodation on the islands, too, and rents both rooms and apartments on a daily basis out of the high season.

## Budget

**Camping Stobreč** (off Map p219; ☎ 325 426; [www.camping.split.com](http://www.camping.split.com); Sv Lovre 6, Stobreč; per adult low-high €3.60-4.60, site €2.90-4.50; ☎ Apr-Nov; ☑) This is a great place to pitch your tent and enjoy Split and Solin (it's around 6km away from each), as well as the beach. It's a well-equipped place, with two

**KLAPA YOUR HANDS!** *Vesna Marić*

There won't be a visitor to Croatia who hasn't heard the dulcet tones of a *klapa* song. This music involves a bunch of hunky men in a circle, singing tear-jerkers about love, betrayal, patriotism, death, beauty and other life-affirming subjects in honeyed multitone harmonies (see p46 for more on *klapa*).

I happened upon a *klapa* rehearsal in the midst of Diocletian's Palace one spring evening. After listening for a while and being overcome with a multitude of emotions, which this macho-yet-sensitive music often inspires, I seized an opportunity to talk to the first tenor, Branko Tomić, a man whose high-toned voice complements the basses and baritones that accompany him.

'I've sung with the Filip Devič *klapa* for 35 years,' he says. 'It's a passion of mine. I started singing in high school and I loved it.' I wonder how someone who grew up in the 1960s, with all the rock'n'roll and free love, opted to sing in a *klapa* rather than a rock band. 'We sing about so many different things: we serenade, we sing traditional songs, sentimental songs about missing your family or your home town. It's a gentler, more companionship-based experience, though the new generations are starting to prefer our covers of pop songs. That's a really big thing in Croatia nowadays.' Apparently, though, the tourists still like the traditional stuff. 'I don't mind,' he says, 'as long as we can carry on singing and someone is listening.'

With this he has to leave – their performance in a local club is about to start. A few seconds later, all that's left on the old street is the sound of their voices and me, reminiscing about love and life as I order an ice cream.

beaches (one sandy and great for kids), three bars, a restaurant, shop, internet café, you name it. You can also organise excursions from here, and a gazillion activities are on offer, including horse riding and rafting. If you don't have a tent of your own, you can rent one.

**Hostel Split Mediterranean House** (Map p220; ☎ 098 987 1312; www.hostel-split.com; Vukasovićeva 21; dm from 100KN; 🚻) It's a 10-minute walk from the Golden Gate and Grgur Ninski to this friendly, family-run hostel set in a lovely old stone building. There are two six-bed dorms and some newer en suite three-bed dorms. You get to use a kitchen and the lovely courtyard. Check-in is between 9am and 8pm.

**Split Hostel Booze & Snooze** (Map p220; ☎ 342 787; www.splithostel.com; Narodni Trg 8; dm low-high 110-180KN; 🚻) A great new addition to Split's backpacker scene, this hostel is run by Aussie Croats and does exactly what it says on the tin. It's a party place, with 23 beds to snooze in and a nice terrace, and it's right in the centre of town. The two women who run the place are super-friendly, and, of course, English-speaking. They organise several tours around town, including a 'booze cruise', more liver-friendly day trips to Krka National Park and rafting on the Cetina River. It's the backpackers' favourite in the city.

**Hotel Jupiter** (Map p220; ☎ 344 801; www.hotel-jupiter.info; Grabovčeva Širina 1; r per person low-high

200-250KN; 🚻) Hotel Jupiter advertises itself as 'the cheaper place to stay in Split' and while this is vaguely the case, it's also very frill-free for the price. All the bathrooms are shared, the beds are low, the lighting is weak and dreary, and the service is torpid at times. The best things about it are the location, the air-con and, well, the price.

**Midrange**

**our pick B&B Kaštel 1700** (Map p220; ☎ 343 912; www.kastelsplit.com; Mihovilova Širina 5; s low-high 290-510KN, d 400-660KN; 🚻 📺) Among Split's best value-for-money places, this is right by the Southern Gate, within the palace walls. It's near the bars, overlooks Radičev Trg and has sweet and tidy rooms and friendly, efficient service. There are also triples, and apartments have small kitchens. Book in advance.

**Hotel Dujam** (Map p219; ☎ 538 025; www.hoteldujam.com; Velebitska 27; s low-high 370-490KN, d 500-660KN; 📺) A bit of a hike out of the centre (a 20-minute walk), Hotel Dujam sits in an apartment block of a quiet residential area. The carpeted rooms are clean and bright with en suite bathrooms, air-con and satellite TVs. If you don't fancy walking, take bus 9 from the port.

**our pick Villa Varoš** (Map p219; ☎ 483 469; www.villavaros.hr; Miljenka Smoje 1; d high-low 400-500KN; 🚻) Midrangers are getting a better deal in Split nowadays with places such as Villa Varoš

around. Owned by a New Yorker Croat, Villa Varoš is central (in the Varoš neighbourhood), the rooms are simple, bright and airy, the three apartments are excellent (with a well-equipped kitchen) and the price is most commendable.

**Hotel Bellevue** (Map p220; ☎ 345 644; www.hotel-bellevue-split.hr; Bana Josipa Jelačića 2; s low-high 513-610KN, d 703-830KN) The Bellevue is an atmospheric old classic that has sure seen more polished days, but it still remains one of the more dreamy hotels in town. It's all regal patterned wallpaper, dark-brown wood, art deco elements, billowing gauzy curtains and faded but well-kept rooms. Don't stay here if you want modern-day luxury, but do spend a night if you fancy feeling like you're stepping back in time.

**Hotel Adriana** (Map p220; ☎ 340 000; www.hotel-adriana.com; Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda 9; s low-high 550-650KN, d 750-900KN; 🍷) Good value, excellent location. The rooms are not massively exciting, with their navy curtains and beige furniture, but some have sea views, which is a real bonus in Split's old town. If you're catching a bus/ferry/train out of town in the evening, you can rent a room here for the day at 50% of the normal price. The downstairs restaurant is popular with local families for big celebratory lunches or dinners.

**Hotel Consul** (Map p219; ☎ 340 130; www.hotel-consul.net; Tršćanska 34; s low-high 620-650KN, d 850-920KN; 🍷) The Consul is a good 20-minute walk from the centre, with rooms that have worn-out green carpets and little in the way of decoration save for some flat-screen TVs. Still, it's quiet, there's a large leafy terrace and some of the rooms have jacuzzis. This place may suit travellers with their own wheels who want to spend one night in Split. If you're on foot, go up Držićev Prilaz off Ulica Domovinskog Rata.

## Top End

Split is getting some very swanky hotels indeed. If you fancy lazing in a jacuzzi or an aromatic wellness centre after you've been lazing by the Adriatic all day long, well here's your chance.

**Hotel Globo** (Map p219; ☎ 481 111; www.hotelglobo.com; Lovreška 18; s low-high €98-107, d €119-135; 🍷) Renovated in 2007 and geared towards business travellers, this is a lovely, swish four-star hotel with elegantly decorated rooms, high ceilings and luxurious beds. The spacious

bathrooms have baths. It's a 15-minute walk from the centre of town.

**our pick Hotel Peristil** (Map p220; ☎ 329 070; www.hotelperistil.com; Poljana Kraljice Jelene 5; s low-high 700-1000KN, d 900-1200KN; 🍷 🍷) The loveliest hotel in Split also has the best location: it overlooks the bell tower of the Cathedral of St Domnius and the Peristil, gazes at the square where people sip coffee and souvenirs are sold, and is basically at the heart of it all, in the midst of Diocletian's Palace. The owner, Mile Čaktaš, is proud of his co-op set-up, where all the staff have a share in running the hotel, so you'll find the service sincerely warm. The rooms are absolutely gorgeous – all have wooden floors, antique details, smooth linen and good views. Room 304 even has a small cove in the corner with a bit of the palace's ancient wall exposed *and* it overlooks the Peristil. A roof terrace was being built at the time of research, to be completed by 2009, so expect to have the most spectacular future location for eating breakfasts and sighing over sunsets.

**Hotel Park** (Map p219; ☎ 406 400; www.hotelpark-split.hr; Hatzeov Perivoj 3; s low-high €113-137, d €143-189; 🍷 🍷 🍷) The Park has been one of Split's top upmarket hotels for years and its popularity isn't waning. This must be thanks to the good, comfy rooms, the central location (behind Bačvice), the gorgeous palm-fringed terrace, the wellness centre and amazing buffet breakfasts. The hotel's restaurant, Bruna (p228), is a coveted place to splash out on supper.

**Art Hotel** (Map p219; ☎ 302 302; www.arthotel.hr; Ulica Slobode 41; s/d from €119-160; 🍷 🍷 🍷) In a renovated factory building, the Art Hotel sits between boutique and business, with plush beds, pretty rooms, a gym and aerobics classes.

**Le Meridien Grand Hotel Lav** (off Map p219; ☎ 500 500; www.lemeridien.com; Grijevačka 2A; r from €120; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) The daddy of all Split hotels, this five-star giant sits 8km south of Split, at Podstrana, with 800m of beach, four interlinking buildings and 381 beautifully designed rooms. Think lots of reds, whites and blacks, endless sea views, the longest swimming pool in history, luscious gardens, a new marina for your yacht, a diving centre, an amazing restaurant and free access to Split's art collections. It really is something else. Check out its excellent internet weekend rates.

**Hotel Vestibul Palace** (Map p220; ☎ 329 329; www.vestibulpalace.com; Iza Vestibula 4; s low-high €120-160, d €140-390; 🍷 🍷) The poshest in the palace, with

seven stylish rooms, all with exposed ancient walls, leather and wood.

## EATING Budget

**Burek Bar** (Map p220; Domaldova 13) Just down from the main post office, Burek Bar serves a good breakfast or lunch of *burek* (pastry stuffed with ground meat or cheese) and yoghurt for about 12KN.

**Black Cat** (Map p220; ☎ 490 284; Segvićeva 1; mains from 20KN) If you get tired of Croatian food and crave a taco, quesadilla or any other Mexican delight, head straight for this little bistro, five-minutes' walk from the seafront and bus station. There's lots for vegetarians and the chef does some excellent homemade desserts. The little terrace is covered and heated in winter.

**Galija** (Map p220; Tončićeva 12; pizzas from 26KN) Galija has been the most popular place on Split's pizza scene for several decades now. It's the sort of joint that locals take you to for an unfussy but good lunch or dinner, where everyone relaxes on the wooden benches with the leftovers of a *quattro stagioni* or *margherita* in front of them and several emptied carafes of wine.

**Kod Joze** (Map p220; ☎ 347 397; Sredmanuška 4; mains from 40KN) A die-hard faction of locals keeps this informal *konoba* (simple family-run establishment) alive and kicking. It's Dalmatian all the way – ham, cheese and green tagliatelle with seafood.

**Makrovega** (Map p219; ☎ 394 440; www.makrovega.hr; Leština 2; mains from 40KN; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat; ☒) What a difference a decade makes! Vegans and vegetarians were an unknown species in Croatia some years ago, forced to eat the potatoes on the side of the lamb shank, but this is no more. Makrovega is a meat-free haven with a clean, spacious (nonsmoking!) interior and delicious buffet and à la carte food that alternates between macrobiotic and vegetarian. Choose from wild rice with vegetables, pea and mint soup and excellent cakes.

**Buffet Fife** (Map p219; ☎ 345 223; Trumbićeva Obala 11; mains around 40KN) Dragomir presides over a motley crew of sailors and misfits who drop in for his simple, home cooking, especially the *paštica* (beef stew with wine and spices), and own brand of grumpy but loving hospitality.

**ourpick Konoba Trattoria Bajamont** (Map p220; ☎ 091 253 7441; Bajamontjeva 3; mains from 50KN) This is possibly Split's most characterful *konoba*,

and we mean that literally: the number of local characters who hang out in this tiny place within the palace walls make it one of the most authentic places to drop in and eat. It's a one-room joint with four or five tables on one side and a heavily leaned-on bar on the other; there's no sign above the door and the menu is written out in marker pen and stuck in an inconspicuous spot by the entrance. The food is excellent and the menu usually features things such as small fried fish, squid-ink risotto, octopus salad and *brujet* (fish/seafood stew with wine, onions and herbs, served with polenta; called *brodet* elsewhere in Croatia). It's all fresh and made on a daily basis. The loyal bar-proppers bring a guitar from time to time and everyone gets merry and sings along.

## Midrange

**Restaurant Boban** (Map p219; ☎ 543 300; Hektorovića 49; mains from 60KN) This has been Split's favourite restaurant since 1973, and you'll know why when you sink your teeth into the fresh seafood and juicy fish that's seared and served with some imaginative sauces. It's a family-run place that likes to innovate and keep its reputation high. In the Firule area.

**Šperun** (Map p220; ☎ 346 999; Šperun 3; mains from 70KN) A sweet little restaurant decked out with rustic details and exposed stone walls, Šperun is a favourite among the foreigners – possibly because the waiters seem to speak every language under the sun. The food is classic Dalmatian, with a decent *brujet*, fresh mussels in a tomato and parsley sauce, or grilled tuna with capers. There is also a good buffet and daily menu.

**Bekan** (Map p219; ☎ 389 400; Ivana Zajca 1; mains from 70KN) Bekan serves an array of seafood prepared Dalmatian style. It's not cheap (unless you order the spaghetti with seafood for 52KN), but you can sample a savoury shrimp *buzara* (a sauce of tomatoes, white wine, onions and breadcrumbs) on an airy terrace overlooking the sea.

**Restaurant Šumica** (Map p219; ☎ 389 897; Put Firula 6; mains from 70KN) For a splurge you can't do better than this place. Homemade pasta is combined with salmon or other fish in imaginative sauces. The grilled scampi is perfection, but you pay a steep 380KN per kilogram. Before your meal you'll be served a dish of homemade fish pâté with bread to whet your appetite. Meals are served on an open-air terrace under pine trees with a view of the sea.

**Konoba Hvaranin** (Map p220; ☎ 091 767 5891; Ban Mladenova 9; mains from 70KN) A mother-father-son business that feeds Split's journalists and writers, the Hvaranin is a long-standing favourite of the city's creatives. Mum and dad cook great fish and seafood, bake their own bread and stew their own tomato sauce, and the regulars adore their traditional basics such as *pašticada* and risottos. This is a good place to try *rožata* (Croatian crême brûlée) – it's fresh and homemade.

## Top End

**Noštro** (Map p220; ☎ 091 405 6666; www.restoran-noštro.hr; Kraj Sv Marije 10; mains from 80KN) Sitting on the side of the fish market, Noštro is one of Split's poshest restaurants. The locals love it because it prepares fish bought daily at the market and because tradition is all; there are no culinary surprises, just fresh, well-prepared and wonderfully presented food and delectable wines.

**Bruna** (Map p219; ☎ 406 425; Hatzeov Perivoj 3; mains from 80KN) This is Hotel Park's (p226) restaurant and a place that's kept its head chef and excellent reputation for the last 30 years. It's all seasonal produce here; depending on when you're around, you can choose from truffles, wild asparagus or mushroom dishes.

## Self-Catering

The vast **supermarket** (Map p220; Svačićeva 1) stocks a wide selection of meat and cheese for sandwiches and nearly everything else you might want for a picnic. Sit around the square and eat your goodies.

## DRINKING

Split is great for nightlife, especially (or more so) in the spring and summer months. The palace walls are generally throbbing with loud music on Friday and Saturday nights, and you can spend the entire night going around the mazelike streets, discovering new places. Note that palace bars close at 1am (as people live within the palace walls). The entertainment complex of Bačvice has a multitude of open-air bars and clubs that stay open till the wee hours. Daytime coffee sipping is best along the Riva or on one of the squares inside the palace walls.

**Buža** (Map p220; Priora Petra 7) Every Dalmatian town has a place named 'Buža' (literally 'Hole') and they are usually of a similar nature: simple, basic and friendly. Split's Buža is in a

small palace courtyard and it plays rock'n'roll, fast and slow.

**Teak Caffe** (Map p220; Majstora Jurja 11) On a busy square, the Teak's terrace is super-popular for coffees and chats during the day. It's busy in the evenings, too, and a great place to check out the locals.

**Le Porta** (Map p220; Majstora Jurja) Next door to Teak Caffe, Le Porta is renowned for its cocktails. On the same square – Majstora Jurja – are Kala, Dante, Whisky Bar and Na Kantunu, all of which end up merging into one when the night gets busy, so remember your waiter!

**Galerija** (Map p220; Dominisova 9) Parallel to Majstora Jurja is Dominisova, another street that's full of fun bars. Galerija is quieter than others, catering to smooching lovers or those wanting to catch up with friends without blasting music drowning out the conversation. The interior is granny-chic, with pretty floral sofas and armchairs, paintings on the walls and little lamps dotted everywhere. Try any of the many types of tea.

**Mosquito Bar** (Map p220; Dominisova) If you've had enough tea at Galerija, head next door to Mosquito Bar, where you can sit on the big terrace, grab a cocktail, listen to music and hang out with the Splićani.

**Ghetto Club** (Map p220; ☎ 346 879; Dosud 10) Head for Split's most bohemian bar in an intimate courtyard amid flowerbeds, a trickling fountain, great music and a friendly atmosphere.

**Luxor Bar** (Map p220; Kraj Sv Ivana 11) Having coffee in the courtyard of the cathedral may be the most touristy thing to do, but it's also one of the best: little cushions are laid out on the steps, you've got Sv Duje on one side, the Peristol on the other, people are snapping photos all round, and the locals are going about their business.

**Red Room** (Map p220; ☎ 459 231; Carrarina Poljana 4) Tropical colours, a leopard-spotted bar and the DJ music here drag young Splićani in by the hundreds. Open till midnight and a great pre-clubbing spot.

**Café Puls** (Map p220; Mihovilova Širina) and **Café Shook** (Map p220; Mihovilova Širina) are pretty much indistinguishable late on Friday or Saturday night, when the dozen steps that link these two bars are chock-a-block with youngsters. It's an area that's hard to miss if you enter the palace from the Riva, and its popularity hasn't waned in a decade. Great for people watching and cocktail drinking.



## ENTERTAINMENT

### Nightclubs

After all the bars go quiet at 1am, head over to Bačvice for some clubbing under the stars. The best sources of information about Split's clubs are [www.clubbing-scene.com](http://www.clubbing-scene.com) and the *Splitski Navigator* or *Scena* brochures (both available in tourist offices). Alternatively, look out for flyers in any of the late-night bars.

**Obojena Svjetlost** (off Map p219; ☎ 358 280; Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića 35) Tons of live and DJ music, a wide seafront terrace and a massive interior make Obojena Svjetlost (Coloured Light) one of the best places to go out in Split. It's by Kasuni beach so you can watch the sunrise while dipping your toes in the sea.

**Master's** (Map p219; ☎ 536 983; Osječka) Split's most popular club and the one where most big-name DJs head – this is where you, too, should go if you want a proper night's clubbing. It's 60KN to get in when big names are booked.

**Tropic Club Ecuador** (Map p219; Bačvice bb) Palm trees and fruity cocktails, DJ house music, the lapping of the Adriatic, hanging out at the beach under the stars – top ingredients for a top night out.

**Jungla** (off Map p219; ☎ 091 571 3099; Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića bb) Jungla fell on hard times for a while but is fortunately up again, hosting good electro nights for a young, fun crowd.

**O'Hara's** (Map p219; ☎ 098 364 262; Cvjetna Zenta 3; ☹ Jun-Sep) A waterfront terrace means alfresco clubbing in the summer months. Head here if you're a house-music fan.

**Puls 2** (Map p220; Buvinina 1) Hip and sleek, this bar pulsates on summer nights. Friday night is live music and Saturday is disco night.

### Cinemas

**Kino Bačvice** (Map p219; ☎ 091 500 214; Bačvice bb) The after-dark entertainment zone of Bačvice is a perfect venue for the open-air cinema that runs nightly in summer.

### Theatre

**Croatian National Theatre** (Map p220; ☎ 515 999; Trg Gaje Bulata) During winter, opera and ballet are presented here. The best seats cost about 60KN and tickets for the same night are usually available. Erected in 1891, the theatre was fully restored in 1979 in the original style; it's worth attending a performance for the architecture alone.

## SHOPPING

Shopaholics will find their habit hard to kick in Split – this is the place with the most shoe shops in Croatia. The Diocletian Palace walls are packed with shops – small boutiques and international chains alike. Marmontova is equally popular among the locals for shopping.

Diocletian's Cellars (Map p220) is part of the palace's basement halls (p224). It is a market for crafted jewellery, reproductions of Roman vessels, silver cigarette cases, candlestick holders, wooden sailing ships, leather goods and other odds and ends. Prices aren't too steep and you might find the perfect lightweight item to fulfil back-from-a-trip, gift-giving obligations.

There's a daily market (Map p220) above Obala Lazareta where you can buy fruit, vegetables, shoes, confectionery, clothing, flowers, souvenirs and other products. If you can't find what you're looking for in this market, the chances are it doesn't exist in Split.

**Zlatna Vrata** (Map p220; ☎ 360 122; Carrarina Poljana 1) Antiques and junk lovers will delight in the knick-knacks at Zlatna Vrata – old Yugoslav clocks, antique ceramics, vintage socialist phones and who knows what else can be found with a bit of digging around.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

**Croatia Airlines** (Map p220; ☎ 362 997; [www.croatiaairlines.hr](http://www.croatiaairlines.hr); Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda 9; ☹ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) operates one-hour flights to and from Zagreb up to four times a day and there's a daily flight to Dubrovnik.

**Easyjet** ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)) has started flying to Split, too, making flights from the UK more affordable.

The airport is 25km west of town.

### Boat

**Jadrolinija** (Map p219; ☎ 338 333, 355 399; Gat Sv Dujbe bb), in the large ferry terminal opposite the bus station, handles the coastal ferry line that runs from Rijeka to Dubrovnik, stopping at Stari Grad on Hvar (92KN, 1½ hours) and Korčula (102KN, five hours). However, the local car ferry is cheaper (38KN, 1½ hours), and there's a fast passenger boat, the **Krilo** ([www.krilo.hr](http://www.krilo.hr)), that goes to Hvar Town (40KN, one hour) daily in July and August (four to five times a week from September to June) and then on to Korčula, as well as a passenger boat



(22KN, two hours) that goes on to Vela Luka (27KN, 3¼ hours).

The schedules and tickets for all lines from Split to Italy are available from **Jadrogent** (Map p219; ☎ 338 335) in the ferry terminal. At **SNAV** (Map p219; ☎ 322 252; 🕒 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat), also in the ferry terminal, you can book a four-hour connection to Ancona and Pescara in Italy. For more on boats to Italy, see p310.

Car ferries and passenger lines depart from separate docks; the passenger lines leave from Obala Lazareta (Map p220) and car ferries from Gat Sv Duje (Map p219). You can buy tickets from either the main Jadrolinija office in the large ferry terminal opposite the bus station, which handles all car ferry services that depart from the docks around the ferry terminal, or at one of the two stalls near the docks (Map p220). In summer it's usually necessary to reserve at least a day in advance for a car ferry and you are asked to appear several hours before departure. There is rarely a problem obtaining a ticket off-season, but reserve as much in advance as possible in July and August.

## Bus

Advance bus tickets with seat reservations are recommended. There are buses from the main **bus station** (Map p220; ☎ 060 327 327; www.ak-split.hr, in Croatian) beside the harbour to the following destinations, among others:

Destination	Fare (KN)	Duration (hr)	Daily services
Dubrovnik	105-166	4½	12
Makarska	60	11½	12
Međugorje*	120	3	5
Mostar*	120	2-4	4
Pula	331	10	1
Rijeka	250-380	7½	10
Sarajevo*	200	7	11
Zadar	120	3	8
Zagreb	195	5-9	27

\*Bosnia & Hercegovina

Bus 37 goes to Split airport and Trogir (15KN, half hourly), also stopping at Solin; it leaves from a local bus station on Domovinskog Rata, 1km northeast of the city centre, but it's faster and more convenient to take an inter-city bus heading north to Zadar or Rijeka.

Note that Split-Dubrovnik buses pass briefly through Bosnian territory, so keep your passport handy for border-crossing points.

## Car

If you want to rent a car in Split, try one of the following:

**Budget Rent-a-Car** (Map p219; ☎ 345 700; www.budget.hr; Hotel Marjan, Obala Kneza Branimira 8)

**Dollar Thrifty** (Map p219; ☎ 339 000; Hotel Marjan, Obala Kneza Branimira 8)

**ITR** (Map p220; ☎ 343 070; Obala Lazareta 2)

## Train

There are two fast trains a day between Split **train station** (Map p220; ☎ 338 525; www.hznet.hr; Obala Kneza Domagoja 9) and Zagreb (175KN, six hours) and one overnight train (168KN, 8½ hours). From Monday to Saturday there are six daily trains between Šibenik and Split (60KN, two hours) and four trains on Sunday. There are also seven trains a day from Split to Zadar (82KN, 4½ hours).

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

The bus to Split airport (30KN) leaves from Obala Lazareta 3 about 90 minutes before flight times, or you can take bus 37 from the local bus station on Domovinskog Rata (15KN, 50 minutes). Croatia Airlines buses meet all Croatia Airlines flights; passengers on other flights are also welcome to take them. A taxi will cost about 125KN.

## Bus

Local buses connect the town centre and the harbour with outlying districts. A one-zone ticket costs 9KN for one trip in central Split and buses run about every 15 minutes from 5.30am to 11.30pm.

## AROUND SPLIT Šolta

This lovely, wooded island (just 59 sq km) is a popular getaway for Split inhabitants escaping the sultry summer heat. The island's only entry point is Rogač, where ferries from Split tie up in front of the **tourist office** (☎/fax 654 491; www.solta.hr; 🕒 8am-7pm Mon-Sat Jul & Aug, 8am-3pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun) on the edge of a large bay. A shady path leads around the bay to smaller coves with rocky beaches and a small road leads uphill to a market. **Nečujam** is 7km from Rogač; set on a curving beach, it has a hotel, snack bar and outdoor shower. There is only one ATM on the island, in Stomorska, so bring enough cash.

Three to five daily car ferries run between Split and Rogač (28KN, one hour).

## Solin (Salona)

The ruins of the ancient city of Solin (Roman Salona), among the vineyards at the foot of mountains just northeast of Split, are the most archaeologically important in Croatia.

Although Solin is today surrounded by noisy highways and industry, it was first mentioned in 119 BC as the centre of the Illyrian tribe. The Romans seized the site in 78 BC and under the rule of Augustus it became the administrative headquarters of the Roman Dalmatian province.

When Emperor Diocletian built his palace in Split at the end of the 3rd century AD, it was the proximity to Solin that attracted him. Solin was incorporated into the Eastern Roman Empire in the 6th century, but was levelled by the Slavs and Avars in 614. The inhabitants fled to Split and neighbouring islands, leaving Solin to decay.

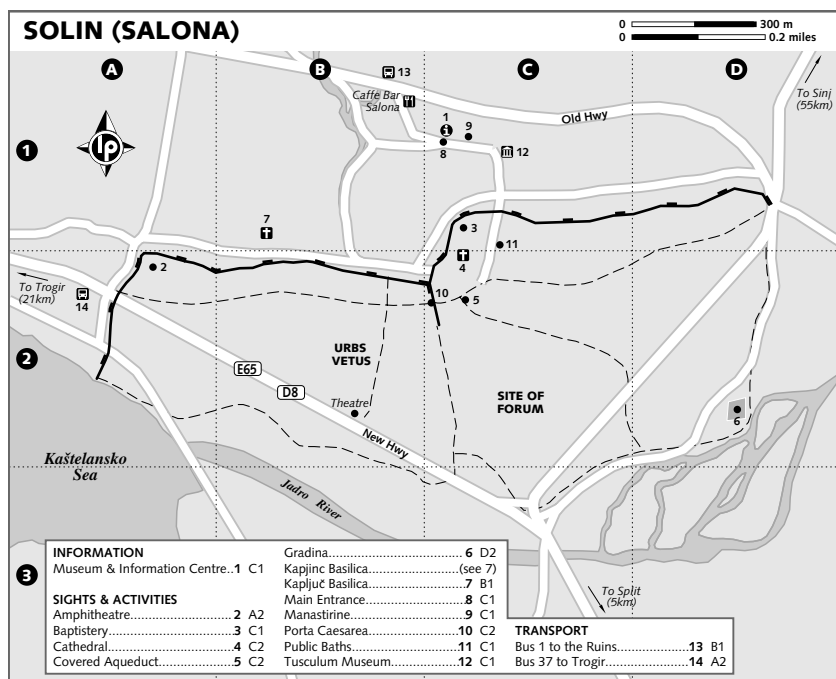
### SIGHTS

A good place to begin your visit to the city is at the main entrance near Caffe Bar Salona. There's a small **museum & information centre** (☎ 211 538; admission 10KN; 🕒 9am-6pm

Mon-Sat Jun-Sep, 9am-1pm Mon-Sat Oct-May) at this entrance. **Manastirine**, the fenced area behind the car park, was a burial place for early Christian martyrs prior to the legalisation of Christianity. The excavated remains of **Kapljuč Basilica** – one of the early Christian cemeteries in Salona and the place where cemeterial basilicas were built – and the 5th-century **Kapjinc Basilica** that sits inside it are highlights, although this area was outside the ancient city itself. Overlooking Manastirine is **Tusculum Museum**, an archaeological museum with interesting sculpture embedded in the walls and in the garden.

The Manastirine/Tusculum complex is part of an **archaeological reserve**. Pick up a brochure at the information centre if it's open at the time of your visit.

A path bordered by cypresses runs south to the northern city wall of Solin. Notice the **covered aqueduct** located south of the wall. It was probably built around the 1st century AD and supplied Solin and Diocletian's Palace with water from the Jadro River. The ruins you see in front of you as you stand on the wall were an early Christian site; they include



a three-aisled, 5th-century **cathedral** with an octagonal **baptistry**, and the remains of **Bishop Honorius' Basilica** with a ground plan in the form of a Greek cross. **Public baths** adjoin the cathedral on the east.

Southwest of Solin's cathedral is the 1st-century eastern city gate, **Porta Caesarea**, later engulfed by the growth of the city in all directions. Grooves in the stone road left by ancient wheels can still be seen at this gate. South of the city gate was the centre of town, the forum, with temples to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva, none of which are visible today.

At the western end of Solin is the huge 2nd-century **amphitheatre**, destroyed in the 17th century by the Venetians to prevent it from being used as a refuge by Turkish raiders. At one time it could accommodate 18,000 spectators, which gives an idea of the size and importance of this ancient city.

The southeastern corner of the complex contains the **Gradina**, a medieval fortress around the remains of a rectangular early Christian church.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

The ruins are easily accessible on Split city bus 1 (15KN), which goes directly to Caffe Bar Salona (look out for the yellow bus shelter on the left-hand side) every half-hour from Trg Gaje Bulata. Alternatively, you can catch most Sinj-bound buses (15KN, 10 daily) from the main bus station to take you to Solin, or catch the 37 that leaves from Split's local bus station on Domovinskog Rata.

From the amphitheatre at Solin it's easy to continue on to Trogir by catching a westbound bus 37 from the nearby stop on the adjacent highway (buy a four-zone ticket for 15KN in Split if you plan to do this). If, on the other hand, you want to return to Split, use the underpass to cross the highway and catch an eastbound bus 37.

## TROGIR & AROUND

### TROGIR

pop 1600

Gorgeous and tiny Trogir (formerly Trau) is beautifully set within medieval walls, its streets knotted and mazelike. It's fronted by a wide seaside promenade that's lined with bars and cafés, and luxurious yachts in the summer. Trogir is unique among Dalmatian towns

for its profuse collection of Romanesque and Renaissance architecture (which flourished under Venetian rule); this, along with its magnificent cathedral, earned it World Heritage status in 1997.

Trogir is an easy day trip from Split and a relaxing place to spend a few days, taking a trip or two to nearby islands.

### History

Backed by high hills in the north, the sea to the south and snug in its walls, Trogir (Tragurion to the Romans) proved an attractive place to settlers. The early Croats settled the old Illyrian town by the 7th century. Its defensive position allowed Trogir to maintain its autonomy throughout Croatian and Byzantine rule, while trade and nearby mines ensured its economic viability. In the 13th century sculpture and architecture flourished, reflecting a vibrant, dynamic culture. When Venice bought Dalmatia in 1409, Trogir refused to accept the new ruler and the Venetians were forced to bombard the town into submission. While the rest of Dalmatia stagnated under Venetian rule, Trogir continued to produce great artists who enhanced the beauty of the town.

### Orientation

The old town of Trogir occupies a tiny island in the narrow channel between Čiovo Island and the mainland, just off the coastal highway. Most sights can be seen on a 15-minute walk around this island. The nearest beach is 4km west at the Hotel Medena.

The heart of the old town is divided from the mainland by a small channel, and is a few minutes' walk from the bus station. After crossing the small bridge near the station, go through the North Gate. Turn left (east) at the end of the square and you'll come to Trogir's main street, Gradska. Trogir's finest sights are around Trg Ivana Pavla II, straight ahead. The seafront, Obala Bana Berislavića, is lined with bars, restaurants and cafés, overlooking Čiovo Island. The old town is connected to Čiovo Island to the south by a drawbridge.

### Information

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ 881 374; www.atlas-trogir.hr; Obala Kralja Zvonimira 10; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) Arranges private accommodation and runs excursions.

**Garderoba** (per day 13KN; ☎ 9am-10pm) Left-luggage office in the bus station.



A sign informs you that you must be 'decently dressed' to enter the cathedral, which means that men must wear tops (women too, of course) and shorts are a no-no. You can even climb the 47m cathedral **tower** (if it's open) for a delightful view. To be sure of getting into the cathedral, it's best to come in the morning. Its hours can be irregular and it is often closed in the afternoon.

Before leaving the square, look at the 15th-century **town hall** opposite the cathedral, with a Gothic yard decorated with coats of arms and a stone head. Next to the cathedral is the **Čipiko Palace**, with its stunning carved triforium, the work of Firentinac and Aleš.

Southeast of the cathedral, look at the magnificent carved portal on the **Church of St John the Baptist** representing the mourning of Christ. Inside, you can see 14th- to 17th-century paintings and statues in the gallery.

Walk along the waterfront and notice the portal and courtyard of the Renaissance **Lučić Palace**, next to the Fontana Restaurant. If you keep walking you'll come to the **Kamerlengo Fortress**, which looks exactly as a medieval fortress should. Once connected to the city walls, the fortress was built around the 15th century. At the furthest end, you'll see an elegant gazebo built by the French Marshal Marmont during the Napoleonic occupation of Dalmatia, where he used to sit and play cards amid the waves. At that time, the western end of the island was a lagoon; the malarial marshes were not drained until the 20th century. The fortress is now an **open-air cinema** during summer, showing movies at 9pm.

## Festivals & Events

Every year from mid-June to mid-August, Trogir hosts a **summer music festival**, with classical and folk concerts presented in churches and open squares. Posters advertising the concerts are all around town.

## Sleeping

Atlas Travel Agency (p232) can arrange private rooms from 220KN a double, studios for 440KN, and two-, three- and four-room apartments. Check out the offerings at [www.trogir-online.com](http://www.trogir-online.com).

**Seget** (☎ /fax 880 394; [www.kamp-seget.hr](http://www.kamp-seget.hr); Hrvatskih Žrtava 121, Seget Donji; per adult low-high 24-33KN, per site 80-115KN; ☹ mid-Apr–Oct) Closer to Trogir (2km)

than the Vranjica camping ground, Seget is also smaller. There's a small shingle beach and a cemented diving point. It offers tennis, cycling, windsurfing and numerous other activities.

**Vranjica Belvedere Camping** (☎ 894 141; [www.vranjica-belvedere.hr](http://www.vranjica-belvedere.hr); Seget Vranjica, Seget Donji; per adult low-high €4-5; ☹ mid-Apr–Oct) Lying just off the highway to Zadar 5km west of Trogir, this camping ground offers tennis, biking, windsurfing, water-skiing, sailing and horse riding. Take bus 24 from the bus station.

**Villa Tina** (☎ 888 305; [www.vila-tina.hr](http://www.vila-tina.hr); Arbanija; d low-high €30-46; ☎ ☹) Tastefully decorated, with spacious and bright rooms, Villa Tina is excellent if you want to relax and swim. It's about 5km east of Trogir, right on the coast, near the beach. Enjoy the views from the terrace as you wind down.

**Concordia** (☎ 885 400; [www.concordia-hotel.net](http://www.concordia-hotel.net); Obala Bana Berislavica 22; s low-high 400-450KN, d 550-680KN; ☎ ☹) Right on the seafloor, the somewhat faded rooms here are clean but pretty basic, though the service and location are lovely. Try to get a room with sea views, as this may mitigate the lacklustre decoration.

**Hotel Tragos** (☎ 884 729; [www.tragos.hr](http://www.tragos.hr); Budislaviceva 3; s low-high 450-600KN, d 600-800KN; ☹ closed Nov-Feb; ☹ ☹) This medieval family house has been exquisitely restored, its sleek, beautifully decorated rooms outfitted with satellite TV, minibars and internet access. Even if you don't stay here, come for the wonderful home cooking served in the hotel restaurant (mains around 80KN).

**Villa Sikaa** (☎ 881 223; [www.vila-sikaa-r.com](http://www.vila-sikaa-r.com); Obala Kralja Zvonimira 10; s low-high 520-600KN, d 550-650KN; ☹ ☹) Villa Sikaa has lovely rooms with fantastic views of the old town – it's on Čiovo Island. The seven large rooms have big bathrooms, double-glazed windows and satellite TVs, while some are equipped with a sauna and massage shower.

**ourpick Hotel Pašike** (☎ 885 185; [www.hotel.pasike.com](http://www.hotel.pasike.com); Sinjska bb; s low-high 550-600KN, d 700-800KN; ☹ ☹) The most gorgeous hotel in Trogir (and wider Dalmatia), Hotel Pašike has eight rooms full of 19th-century furniture, while the hotel itself is in a 15th-century house. The rooms are painted in vivid colours that beautifully set off the heavy walnut and wrought-iron beds (covered with antique knitted throws). The friendly and professional staff wear traditional outfits, you get a satellite TV and wi-fi in each room, and there is a

lovely two-table roof terrace. A potent glass of *rakija* (brandy), champagne and lemon awaits each guest upon arrival, sweetened by *rafjoli*, a traditional Trogir almond cake. Book in advance. If you're here in October or from November to April, you get a 20% or 30% discount respectively. The restaurant is also good.

### Eating

**Čelica** (☎ 882 344; Obala Kralja Zvonimira; mains 65-100KN) This boat-restaurant offers a highly agreeable ambience on the channel. The menu centres on seafood, of course.

**Fontana Restaurant** (☎ 884 881; Obrov 1; mains around 80KN) When locals want to have a night out they usually head to the Fontana with its large waterfront terrace. You can get almost anything here, from inexpensive pizza and omelettes to pricier grilled fish and meat, but the speciality is fish.

**Alka** (☎ 881 856; Bl Augustina Kažotića 15; mains around 80KN) Alka is another popular choice with similar prices to Fontana Restaurant; it also has an outdoor terrace.

### Getting There & Away

Southbound intercity buses from Zadar (130km) and northbound buses from Split (28km) will drop you off in Trogir. Getting buses from Trogir to Zadar can be more difficult, as they often arrive full from Split.

City bus 37 from Split leaves half-hourly throughout the day, with a stop at Split airport en route to Trogir, but it leaves from the local bus station and takes longer than the intercity bus. You can buy the four-zone ticket from the driver in either direction.

There's also a ferry once a week from Split (11KN) that docks in front of the Concordia hotel.

### AROUND TROGIR

Although there are beaches to the west of Trogir, it's a much better idea to head to the beaches on Drvenik Mali and Drvenik Veli islands, an easy boat trip from town. Boats leave from the ferry terminal in front of the Concordia hotel. Both islands are sparsely inhabited and idyllic getaways.

In addition, there is the beautiful Kaštela area, with seven ports and several castles built by the Dalmatian nobility some 500 years ago.

### Drvenik Mali & Drvenik Veli

The smaller island, Drvenik Mali has olive trees, a population of 56 and a sandy beach that curves around the cove of Vela Rina. Drvenik Veli has secluded coves and olive trees plus a few cultural highlights to get you off the beach: the **Church of St George** dates from the 16th century and houses baroque furniture and a Venetian altarpiece. Outside Drvenik Veli village is the unfinished 18th-century **Church of St Nicholas**, whose builder never quite got past the monumental front.

To get to the islands from Trogir, get on a **Jadrolinija ferry** ([www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr)). These cost 13KN and take one hour to get to Drvenik Veli, and one hour 20 minutes to Drvenik Mali. Three ferries operate daily; from Monday to Saturday they leave Trogir at 9am, 3pm and 8.30pm, returning from the islands at 6am, noon and 7pm. On Sunday the times are 9am, 6pm and 9pm from Trogir, and 7am, 4pm and 7.20pm from the islands. Always check Jadrolinija's website or with the local tourist office for up-to-date schedules, especially in the off-season months. If you're interested in spending more time on the islands, the tourist office in Trogir can find you private accommodation.

### Kaštela

If you're looking to snuggle down in safety, you can't do much better than have the mountains behind you and the sea in front of you. At least that's what the Dalmatian nobility thought when they looked at the invading Ottomans in the 15th and 16th centuries. The 20km stretch of coast between Trogir and Split, backed by long, low Kozjak hill, looked like the perfect place to relax in a well-fortified castle. One after the other, rich families from Split filed down to Kaštela bay to build their mansions. The Turks never reached them and the castles remain today.

Kaštela is the name given to the seven little ports around these coastal fortified castles and visiting it is a delightful day trip from Split or Trogir. Starting in the west, from Trogir, you'll come first to **Kaštel Štafilić**, a castle on an islet connected to the mainland by a drawbridge. There's also a Renaissance church in town. Next is **Kaštel Novi**, built in 1512, and then **Kaštel Stari**, built in 1476 and the oldest in the bay. An arcaded cloister stands in the middle. Further on is the **Kaštel Lukšić**, the most impressive of all. Built in a



transitional Renaissance-baroque style in 1487, it now houses municipal offices, a small museum and the tourist office of the region. It's also the site of a rather involved tale of thwarted lovers who were married and buried here. Continue east to the **Kaštel Kambelovac**, the only purely local castle, and then on to **Kaštel Gomilica**, built by Benedictine nuns and surrounded by shallow, sandy beaches. Finish at the **Kaštel Sućurac**, then take the path that runs past the cemetery, climbing to the refuge at Putalj (480m) where you can climb to the ridge of Kozjak.

For details on accommodation in Kaštela, contact the **tourist office** (☎ 227 933; www.dalmacija.net/kaštela.htm; Kaštela Lukšić; 🕒 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 8am-1pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun).

To get to Kaštela, take bus 37 from Split to Trogir (15KN, half-hourly) – this bus stops in all the towns along the bay. You can also go on the faster but less regular Kaštela buses – there are four daily to Kaštel Novi and Kaštel Štafilčić (6am, noon, 2pm and 4pm) and seven to Kaštel Stari (6am, 7am, noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm). These buses leave from the main bus station on Obala Kneza Domagoja.

## MAKARSKA RIVIERA

The Makarska Riviera is a 50km stretch of coast at the foot of the Biokovo Range, where a series of cliffs and ridges forms a dramatic backdrop to a string of beautiful pebble beaches. The foothills are protected from harsh winds and covered in lush Mediterranean greenery, including pine forests, olive groves and fruit trees.

### MAKARSKA

pop 15,000

Makarska is a pretty port town, with a limestone centre that turns a peachy orange at sunset. It's an active place – there's an abundance of hiking, climbing, windsurfing and swimming opportunities – and it has a spectacular natural setting, backed by the gorgeous Mt Biokovo (peaking at 1762m at Sveti Jure). There is a long pebbly town beach, filled with a feast of activities, from beach volleyball to screaming children's games. Makarska is favoured by tourists from neighbouring Bosnia and Hercegovina, who descend upon the town in huge numbers during July and August. The high season is pretty raucous and a lot of fun for those with children. If

you're after hanging around beach bars, playing beach volleyball and generally lounging about with perfect beach bodies, you'll like Makarska. Outside the high season, things are pretty quiet.

Being the largest town in the region, Makarska has very good transport connections, making it a good base for exploring the coast and neighbouring Bosnia and Hercegovina. Don't miss venturing up Mt Biokovo.

### History

Makarska owes its name to the Roman settlement of Muccurum, which probably existed in the village of Makar about 2km north of Makarska. Excavations on Sveti Petar Peninsula, however, revealed that there was another linked settlement along the coast, called Inaronia, that served as a way station between Solin (Salona) and the important trading town of Narona down the coast. Both settlements were allegedly destroyed in 548 by Totila, king of the Eastern Goths.

The region was populated by migrating Slavs in the 7th century who eventually set up a booming piracy business that disrupted Venetian shipping. The Venetian warships that sailed into Makarska in 887 were severely trounced in battle and the Venetians were thereafter forced to pay for the right to sail past the settlement. In the 11th century, Makarska came under the rule of the Croatian-Hungarian kings, which lasted until 1324 when it fell to the Bosnian ruler Kotromanić. In 1499, the town was taken by the Ottomans who were pushing against the Venetians for control of the Adriatic coast. During the 150 years that Makarska was under Turkish rule, it became an important port for the salt trade from Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The Venetians took over the town in 1646 and held it until the end of their empire in 1797. Trade prospered and a new aristocracy built baroque mansions to the east and west of the town. After the fall of Venice, Makarska was then subject to Austrian, French and Austrian rule again before becoming part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

### Orientation

Makarska is located on a large cove bordered by Cape Osejava in the southeast and the Sveti Petar Peninsula in the northwest.

The bus station is on Ante Starčevića, about 300m uphill from the centre of the old town. Take Kralja Zvonimira from the bus station downhill to Obala Kralja Tomislava and you'll be on the main promenade of the old town with travel agencies, shops and restaurants.

The long pebble town beach stretches from the Sveti Petar park at the beginning of Obala Kralja Tomislava northwest along the bay. This is where you'll find most of the large hotels. The southeastern side of town is rockier – and the rocks are often inhabited by nudists – but it's a good place to swim.

## Information

There are many banks and ATMs along Obala Kralja Tomislava and you can change money at the travel agencies on the same street.

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ 617 038; www.atlas-croatia.com; Kačićev Trg 8; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat) at the far end of town; finds private accommodation.

**Biokovo Active Holidays** (☎ 679 655; www.biokovo.net; Kralja Petra Krešimira IV 7b; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat) A fount of information on Mt Biokovo and organises hiking, biking, rafting and kayaking trips.

**Garderoba** (per day 15KN; ☎ 6am–10pm) Left-luggage at the bus station.

**Internet Club Master** (☎ 612 466; Jadranska 1; per hr 30KN; ☎ 9am–10pm) Internet access; behind Hotel Biokovo.

**Mariva Turist** (☎ 616 010; www.marivatourist.hr; Obala Kralja Tomislava 15a; ☎ 9am–7.30pm Mon–Fri, to 3pm Sat) Has money exchange facilities and books excursions and private accommodation along the whole Makarska coast, including in Brela.

**Post office** (Trg 4 Svibnja 533; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat) You can change money, make phone calls or withdraw cash on MasterCard.

**Tourist office** (☎ /fax 612 002; www.makarska-info.hr; Obala Kralja Tomislava 16; ☎ 7am–9pm Jun–Sep, 7am–2pm Mon–Fri Oct–May) Publishes a useful guide to the city with a map that you can pick up here or at any of the travel agencies.

**Tourist Biro** (☎ 611 688; www.touristbiro-makarska.com; Obala Kralja Tomislava 2; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 4pm Sat) Finds private accommodation and books excursions.

**Zagrebačka Banka** (Trg Tina Ujevića 1) Has an ATM.

## Sights

Makarska is more renowned for its natural beauty than its cultural highlights, but on a rainy day you could check out the **Town Museum** (Gradski Muzej; ☎ 612 302; Obala Kralja Tomislava 17; admission free; ☎ 7am–3pm Mon–Fri, 9am–noon Sat), which traces the town's history in a less-than-gripping collection of photos and old stones.

More interesting is the **Franciscan monastery** (Franjevački Samostan; Franjevački Put 1; ☎ Mass only), built in 1400 and restored in 1540 and 1614. The single-nave church is worth visiting for the **shell collection** (☎ 611 256; admission 15KN; ☎ 11am–noon) in the cloister and a painting of the Assumption by the Flemish artist Pieter de Coster (1760). The 18th-century **St Mark's Church** (Crkva Svetog Marka; ☎ 611 365; Kačićev Trg; ☎ Mass only) features a baroque silver altar from 1818 and a marble altar from 18th-century Venice.

## Activities

The roads and trails that criss-cross the limestone massif of Mt Biokovo are irresistible to hikers. Rising behind the city, the mountain, which is administered and protected by **Biokovo National Park** (☎ 616 924; Trg Tina Ujevića 1; park admission adult/student 30/15KN; ☎ 8am–4pm Apr–mid-May & Oct–mid-Nov, 7am–8pm mid-May–Sep), offers wonderful hiking opportunities. If you're hiking independently (ie not part of an organised hiking excursion), you have to enter the park at the beginning of 'Biokovo Rd' – basically the only road that runs up the mountain and impossible to miss – and buy an admission ticket there.

**Vošac peak** (1422m) is the nearest target for hikers, only 2.5km from the city. From St Mark's Church on Kačićev Trg, you can walk or drive up Put Makra, following signs to the village of Makar, where a trail leads to Vošac. From Vošac, a good marked trail leads to **Sveti Jure** (four hours), the highest peak at 1762m, from where you can get spectacular views of the Croatian coast, and, on a clear day, the coast of Italy on the other side of the Adriatic. Take plenty of water, sunscreen, a hat and waterproof clothes – the weather on top is always a lot colder than by the sea.

For **rock climbers**, Makarska has a decent climbing area on Osejava, to the east of the centre, just behind Šetalište Fra Jure Radića. It's popular in the summer months.

Another popular destination is the **Botanical Garden** (near the village of Kotišina), which can be reached by a marked trail from Makar that passes under a series of towering peaks. Although once a major regional highlight, the garden has fallen into decay.

Biokovo Active Holidays (left) is an excellent source of hiking and other information about Mt Biokovo. For diving, try **More Sub** (☎ 611 727; Hotel Dalmacija, Kralja Krešimira bb).

## Tours

Biokovo Active Holidays (p237) offers guided walks and drives on Mt Biokovo for all levels of physical exertion. You can go part of the way up the mountain by minibus and then take a short hike to Sveti Jure peak, take a 5½-hour hike through black pine forests and lush fields, or enjoy an early drive to watch the sun rise over Makarska.

## Sleeping

There's a rather overwhelming blandness to Makarska's hotels, so be prepared for nothing special, though comfortable beds and good views are reliable in the more upmarket spots.

All of the travel agencies listed on p237 can find private rooms. Count on spending from 200KN to 300KN for a double room. There are plenty available in the centre of town as well as on the outskirts.

**Baško Polje** (☎ 612 329; per adult/tent 40/60KN; ☹ May-Oct) Between Makarska and Baška Voda, this is a lovely autocamp, close to town and on the beach, amid thick pines.

**Hotel Makarska** (☎/fax 616 622; www.makarska-hotel.com; Potok 17; s low-high €42-47, d €70-78; P ☹) A bit like what you might get if you stay with a very welcoming local family, Hotel Makarska has fluffy linen, long net curtains and friendly hosts. It's in town, about 200m from the beach, and the rooms are comfortable, with satellite TV and minibars.

**Hotel Dalmacija** (☎ 615 777; www.hoteli-makarska.hr; Kralja Krešimira bb; s low-high €49-72, d €98-144; P ☹ ☹) A huge block of a hotel with 190 rooms and an enclosed private beach. As you may expect, it's not the cosiest of places, but many like it for its range of facilities. The rooms are comfortable but bland.

**Hotel Biokovo** (☎ 615 244; www.hotelbiokovo.hr; Obala Kralja Tomislava bb; s low-high €60-96, d €90-134; P ☹) Swanky Hotel Biokovo is regarded as one of the better hotels in town. The rooms are spacious (all have balconies) and the beds comfortable. It's right in the centre, on the promenade, and if you get a sea-view room you'll have excellent views of the town and all the summer buzz. Fortunately, the double-glazed windows keep out noise at night.

**Hotel Meteor** (☎ 602 600; www.hoteli-makarska.hr; Šetalište Donja Luka 1; s low-high €62-86, d €120-164; P ☹ ☹) This three-star hotel 400m west of the town centre on a pebble beach is the most luxurious. Each of the 280 rooms is

## RIDING THE RAILS TO MOSTAR

A great way to beat the crowds and do something different is to take a train from Ploče to Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The train is a slow and huffy thing that leaves Ploče twice a day (29KN, 70 minutes, 6am and 5pm), travelling through the gorgeous Dalmatian and Herzegovinian landscape, often tracing the upstream flow of the Neretva River. All Dubrovnik-bound buses that stop in Makarska pass Ploče (around 50KN). EU, US, Australian and Canadian citizens don't need visas to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina; other nationalities should check with their relevant embassy.

air-conditioned and has a balcony with a sea view. There are indoor and outdoor swimming pools, shops and tennis courts. Don't expect much of a discount in room rates outside the high season.

**Hotel Porin** (☎ 613 744; www.hotel-porin.hr; Marineta 2; d low-high €90-117; P ☹) A decent choice in the town centre. The soundproofed rooms have good beds and satellite TVs, though little in the way of cosiness or decoration. The price goes down around 10% for stays over two nights.

## Eating

**Pizzeria Lungo Mare** (☎ 615 244; Obala Kralja Tomislava bb; pizzas from 30KN) Next to the Hotel Biokovo, this place serves hearty pizzas and there's a comfortable outdoor terrace.

**Riva** (☎ 616 829; Obala Kralja Tomislava 6; mains 40-90KN) A lovely restaurant just off the main drag, in a quiet leafy courtyard. The food is decent, with the usual choice of fish, seafood and meat. Some of the pasta dishes can be too creamy and heavy, so try a risotto or a fish and seafood platter.

**Susvid** (☎ 612 732; Kačićev Trg; meals from 45KN) Right on the main square and massively popular, Susvid claims to be a 'health food' restaurant, which may simply mean that pleasure is good for your health. There are excellent vegetarian and fish dishes.

**Ivo** (☎ 611 257; Starčevića 41; mains around 60KN) Away from the main drag and the beach, Ivo is a true find. Fish and meat dishes are cooked to perfection and expertly seasoned.

Picnickers can get supplies at the fruit and vegetable market next to St Mark's Church or at the **supermarket** (Obala Kralja Tomislava 14).

## Entertainment

**Grotta** (☎ 091 569 4657; Sveti Petar bb) On Sveti Petar Peninsula just after the port, this popular disco tucked into a cave welcomes local DJs plus an array of jazz, blues and rock bands.

**Deep Night Bar** (Osejava bb) What is it about caves and Makarska? Here's another one at the other end of town. This one attracts a super-trendy set to sip cocktails, with a DJ spinning the latest beats in the background.

## Getting There & Away

In summer there are three to five ferries a day between Makarska and Sumartin on Brač (30KN, 30 minutes), reduced to two a day in winter. The **Jadrolinija stall** (☎ 338 333; Obala Kralja Tomislava) is near the Hotel Biokovo.

From the **bus station** (☎ 612 333; Ante Starčevića 30) there are 10 buses daily to Dubrovnik (129KN, three hours), 11 buses daily to Split (64KN, 1½ hours), three daily to Rijeka (307KN, nine hours) and 10 a day to Zagreb (110KN to 142KN, eight hours). There's also a daily bus to Mostar (100KN, three hours) and Sarajevo (160KN, six hours) in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

## BRELA

The tiny town of Brela, 14km northwest of Makarska, has the longest and loveliest coastline in Dalmatia stretching through it. Six kilometres of pebble beaches curve around coves thickly forested with pine trees and largely unmarred by ugly tourist developments. The sea is beautifully clear and the sunsets are fantastic. A shady promenade lined with bars and cafés winds around the coves. If you're after a week's lounging on a beach and 100% relaxation, Brela is the perfect place.

## Orientation

The bus stop (no left-luggage office) is behind Hotel Soline, a short walk downhill to Obala Kneza Domagoja, the harbour street and town

centre. Beaches and coves are on both sides of the town, but the longest stretch is the 4km coast west of the town centre. The best beach is **Punta Rata**, a stunning pebble beach about 300m southwest of the town centre.

## Information

**Bonavia Travel Agency** (☎ 619 019; www.bonavia-agency.hr; Obala Kneza Domagoja 18; ☎ 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Finds private accommodation, changes money and books excursions.

**Tourist office** (☎ 618 455, 618 337; www.brela.hr; Trg Alojzija Stepinca bb; ☎ 8am-9pm mid-Jun-mid-Sep, 8am-2pm Mon-Fri mid-Sep-mid-Jun) Provides a town map and a cycling map for the region. Has an ATM outside.

## Sleeping

The closest camping is at Baško Polje (opposite). For private accommodation you'll pay from 100/190KN a single/double.

There are no cheap hotels in Brela, but much of the private accommodation on offer from the tourist office or travel agencies is really small *pensions*. The four large hotels are managed by **Blue Sun Hotels** (☎ 603 190; www.bluesunhotels.com).

**Hotel Berulia** (☎ 603 599; Frankopanska bb; s 257-684KN, d 514-1236KN; ☎ ☎ ☎) About 300m east of the town centre, this four-star hotel has spacious but quite bland rooms. It is a little more secluded than the other Blue Sun hotels, but not as luxurious as Hotel Soline, the other four-star place in town.

**Hotel Marina** (☎ 608 608; s low-high 287-625KN, d 442-1088KN; ☎ ☎) The Marina is the most affordable of the Blue Sun hotels, with basic but comfortable rooms and a wall of pine trees that separates the hotel from the luxurious Brela beach.

**Hotel Soline** (☎ 603 207; s low-high 316-750KN, d 544-1368KN; ☎ ☎ ☎) A four-star luxury hotel with plush, spacious rooms overlooking the beach. There's a fragrant wellness centre and

## RAFTING ON THE CETINA RIVER

The Cetina is the longest river in central Dalmatia, stretching 105km from the eponymous village. It flows over the Dinara mountains, through the fields of Sinj and gathers steam until it pours into a power plant around Omiš. It is an extraordinarily scenic journey as the limpid, blue river is bordered by high rocky walls, thick with vegetation. Rafting is possible from spring to autumn, but the rapids can become quite fast after heavy rains. Rafting in the summer is best for inexperienced rafters. It usually takes three to four hours to raft the Cetina. To organise a trip, try **Biokovo Active Holidays** (☎ 679 655; www.biokovo.net; Kralja Petra Krešimira IV 7b, Makarska; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat), which organises a day's rafting, canyoning or canoeing on the Cetina for €54.

if you're here in winter, you can swim in the indoor pool. Soline is close to the centre.

## Eating & Drinking

**Konoba Feral** (☎ 618 909; Obala Domagoja 30; mains from 40KN) Every Dalmatian place has its *konoba*, and this is Brela's local. It's friendly, with wooden tables and good seafood and fish. The line-caught squid (280KN per kg) is deliciously grilled with garlic and parsley. Combine it with a summer salad and some crisp local white wine and you've got heaven on your table.

**our pick** **Southern Comfort Beach Bar** (Ikovac Beach) Apart from fabulous beaches, Brela hides one of Croatia's best beach bars, too. Southern Comfort prepares killer cocktails (the Margaritas are divine) plays good music, has comfy chairs by the sea and torch light at night, and stays open pretty much all day and night. To get here, walk past Hotel Berulia, towards Baska Voda. The bar is around 200m down – you'll spot the torches.

## Getting There & Away

All buses running between Makarska and Split stop at Brela, making it an easy day trip from either town.

# VIS ISLAND

pop 5000

Of all the Croatian islands, Vis is the most mysterious – even to the locals. The furthest of the main central Dalmatian islands from the coast, Vis spent much of its recent history serving as a military base for the Yugoslav National army, cut off from foreign visitors from the 1950s right up until 1989. The isolation preserved the island from tourist development (and development in general) and drove the work-seeking population of Vis to move elsewhere in Croatia, leaving it underpopulated for many years.

But as has happened with impoverished islands across the Mediterranean, Vis' lack of development has become its very drawcard as a tourist destination. International and local travellers alike flock to Vis nowadays, seeking authenticity, nature, peace and quiet, and, gourmet delights. Vis produces some of Croatia's best known wines – *vugava* (white) and *plavac* (red) – and you'll see miles of vineyards across the island. You'll also taste

some of the freshest fish here, thanks to a still thriving fishing tradition.

Vis is divided between two small towns at the foot of two large bays: Vis Town (in the northeast) and Komiža (southwest). The rugged coast is dotted with gorgeous coves, caves and a couple of sand beaches. The island's remnants of antiquity displayed in the Archaeological Museum and elsewhere around Vis Town are a fascinating additional insight into the complex character of this tiny island.

## History

Inhabited first in Neolithic times, the island was settled by the ancient Illyrians who brought the Iron Age to Vis in the 1st millennium BC. In 390 BC a Greek colony was formed on the island, known then as Issa, from which the Greek ruler Dionysius the Elder controlled other Adriatic possessions. The island eventually became a powerful city-state and established its own colonies on Korčula and at Trogir and Štobreč. Allying itself with Rome during the Illyrian wars, the island nonetheless lost its autonomy and became part of the Roman Empire in 47 BC. By the 10th century Vis had been settled by Slavic tribes and was sold to Venice along with other Dalmatian towns in 1420. Fleeing Dalmatian pirates, the population moved from the coast inland.

With the fall of the Venetian Empire in 1797, the island fell under the control of Austria, France, Great Britain, Austria again and then Italy during WWII as the Great Powers fought for control of this strategic Adriatic outpost. The island was an important military base for Tito's Partisans. Tito established his supreme headquarters in a cave on Hum Mountain, from which he coordinated military and diplomatic actions with Allied forces and allegedly made his legendary statement: 'We don't want what belongs to others, but we will not give up what belongs to us.'

## Getting There & Around

Vis Town is best reached by daily car ferry from Split, but note that day trips outside of the summer season are basically impossible due to boat schedules aimed at commuters and not tourists. In July and August, however, there are boats (47KN, two hours 20 minutes) departing at 9am on Friday,



Saturday and Sunday, coming back from Vis at 6pm. Other days the ferry leaves at 9.30am from Split but doesn't come back in the afternoon.

The local **Jadrolinija office** (☎ 711 032; www.jadrolinija.hr; Šetalište Stare Isse; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) is in Vis Town. For connections to Italy, see p310.

The only island bus transport connects Vis Town with Komiza. The bus meets the Jadrolinija ferries at Vis Town and leaves for Komiza. The connections are prompt in July and August, but you may have to wait off-season.

## VIS TOWN

On the northeastern coast of the island, at the foot of a wide, horseshoe-shaped bay, lies the ancient town of Vis, the first settlement on the island. In only a short walk you can see the remains of a Greek cemetery, Roman baths and an English fortress. Ferry arrivals give spurts of activity to an otherwise peaceful town of coastal promenades and crumbling 17th-century buildings.

## Orientation

The town is on the southern slope of Gradina hill and is a merger of two settlements: Luka on the northwestern part of the bay and Kut in the southeast. The ferry ties up at Luka and a harbourside promenade runs from Luka to Kut. Most beaches are along this promenade, while the ancient ruins and another beach in front of the Hotel Issa are a short walk north along the coast.

## Information

You can change money at the bank, post office or any travel agency.

**Bilba** (☎ 717 475; Radojevića Prolaz 1; per hr 20KN;

☎ 8am-10pm Mon-Sat) Internet access.

**Hospital** (☎ 711 633; Poljana Sv Duha 10)

**HVB Splitska Banka** (Obala Svetog Jurja 34) There's an ATM.

**Ionios Travel Agency** (☎ 711 532; fax 711 356; Obala Svetog Jurja 36; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) Finds private accommodation, changes money, rents cars, bikes and scooters, and runs excursions.

**Post office** (Obala Svetog Jurja 25; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat)

**Tourist office** (☎ 711 017; www.tz-vis.hr; Šetalište Stare Isse 2; ☎ 8am-1pm & 6-8pm Jul & Aug, 8am-noon Mon-Fri Sep-Jun) Right next to the Jadrolinija ferry dock.

## Sights & Activities

The **Archaeological Museum** (Arheološki Muzej; ☎ 711 729; Gospina Batarija Fortress, Šetalište Viški Boj 12; adult/child 10/5KN; ☎ 9am-1pm & 5-7pm Tue-Sun Jun-Aug, 9am-1pm Tue-Sun Sep-May) has extensive archaeological exhibitions, but it also has a healthy ethnographic collection, including the lowdown on the island's fishing, wine-making, shipbuilding and recent history. The 2nd floor has the largest collection of Hellenistic artefacts in Croatia, with Greek pottery, jewellery and sculpture, including an exquisite 4th-century bronze head of a Greek goddess that could be either Aphrodite or Artemis. A leaflet gives an overview of the exhibits, the history of Vis and a useful map showing the locations of the ruins around town.

Walk north from the dock about 100m and, behind the tennis court, you can see remains of a **Greek cemetery** next to remains of **Greek walls**. A few metres further along the coastal road, you'll see remains of **Roman baths** behind a fence – the site is still being researched. During their four-year rule over the island through the Napoleonic Wars (1811-15), the British built several **fortresses** on hills around the bay; the one on the northern corner is the most prominent.

Scenic **coastal roads** with dramatic cliffs and hairpin turns make it worth renting your own wheels for a day. You can hire scooters/mountain bikes for 300/100KN a day (12 hours), or 200/50KN per half day (six hours) from Ionios Travel Agency (left) in Vis Town or Darlić & Darlić Travel Agency (p242) in Komiza.

**Diving** is excellent in the waters around Vis. Fish are plentiful and there's a **wreck** of an Italian ship dating from the 1866 naval battle between Austria and Italy. **Dodoro Diving Centre** (☎ 711 913; www.dodoro-diving.com; Trg Klapavica 1, Vis Town) and **Issa Diving Centre** (☎ 091 201 2731; www.scubadiving.hr; Hotel Biševo, Komiza) have extensive diving programs.

## Tours

The island and its surroundings are best appreciated by boat. Ionios (left) and Darlić & Darlić (p242) travel agencies both offer boat trips that visit the Blue Grotto (p242), the Green Grotto and other great spots.

## Sleeping

There are no camping grounds in Vis Town and only a few hotels, but you should have no trouble finding private accommodation,



either rooms or apartments. **Navigator** (☎ 717 786; www.navigator.hr; Šetalište Stare Isse; ☎ 8am-10.30pm) can find private accommodation. You'll pay between 150KN and 200KN per person for a room with shared bathroom and between 350KN and 400KN for a small studio with a kitchenette and bathroom.

**Hotel Tamaris** (☎ 711 350; www.vis-hoteli.hr; Svetog Jurja 30; s low-high €36-62, d €54-110; (P) ☎) The Tamaris is a good deal; its 54 rooms are comfortable, with air-conditioning, phones and TVs. It is set in an attractive old building and is only about 100m southeast of the ferry dock.

**Hotel Paula** (☎ 711 362; www.hotelpaula.com; Petra Hektorovića; r per person low-high 359-572KN; (P) ☎) A gorgeous and original little hotel, the Paula is family-run, with individually decorated rooms, some with kitchenettes. The hotel is in Kut, the old part of Vis in the southeastern area of the bay. It also houses an excellent seafood restaurant, and a wine bar, too.

**our pick Kuća Visoka** (☎ in the UK 44-7944 315 949; www.thisisvis.com; house low-high €85-130; (P)) An entire house, just for you. The UK-owned Kuća Visoka is a renovated stone house with wooden beams, four floors, three tasteful, airy and bright bedrooms, two bathrooms, a gorgeous ground-floor kitchen, a spacious living room, a verandah, and a DVD and stereo room. It's absolutely perfect for a longer stay, which is just as well since there's a four-day minimum on rentals.

## Eating

**Restaurant Val** (☎ 711 763; Don Cvjetka Marasovića 1; mains from 50KN) The Val (Wave) is set in an old stone house, and its shady terrace overlooks the sea. The seasonal menu has an Italian twist; try the offerings of wild asparagus in spring time, wild boar and mushrooms in winter, and lots of fish and fresh, sunny vegetable dishes in summer.

**Villa Kaliopa** (☎ 711 755; V Nazora 32; mains from 65KN) In the exotic gardens of the 16th-century Gariboldi mansion, Villa Kaliopa is an upmarket restaurant full of yachting enthusiasts. Palm trees, bamboo and classical statuary provide the setting for a menu of Dalmatian specialities that are pricey but manageable if you choose carefully.

## KOMIŽA

On the western coast at the foot of Hum mountain, Komiža is a captivating small town

on a bay, with sand and pebble beaches on the eastern end. Narrow back streets lined with tawny 17th- and 18th-century houses twist uphill from the port, which has been used by fisher folk at least since the 12th century. East of town is a 17th-century church on the site of a Benedictine monastery, and at the end of the main wharf is a Renaissance citadel dating from 1585.

The bus from Vis stops at the edge of town next to the post office and a few blocks away from the citadel. Walking all the way around the harbour, you'll come to the municipal **tourist office** (☎ /fax 713 455; www.tz-komiza.hr; Riva 1; ☎ 8am-7pm Jul & Aug, 9am-noon Mon-Fri Sep-Jun).

## Sleeping & Eating

Next door to the tourist office, **Darlić & Darlić Travel Agency** (☎ 713 760; www.darlic-travel.hr; Riva Svetog Mikule 13) can find private accommodation.

**Villa Nonna** (☎ 098 380 046; www.villa-nonna.com; Ribarska 50; d low-high €35-70; ☎) A lovely old town-house with seven renovated apartments, each with wooden floors, kitchens and some with balconies. The owners also have a gorgeous old house, Casa Nono, that can sleep six to nine people (from €80 to €200 per day), with a lovely garden and self-catering facilities.

**Hotel Biševo** (☎ 713 095; modra.spilja@st.t-com.hr; Ribarska 72; s/d from 370/610KN; ☎) Facilities are modest, but it's right near the beach. Try to get one of the renovated rooms.

**Bako** (☎ 713 008; Gundulićeva 1; mains from 50KN; ☎ dinner Jun-Sep) Bako has a fabulous seaside terrace and excellent food – try the lobster *brodet* (seafood stew with polenta) or the very local *pogača* (fish-filled, homemade bread). The cool stone interior contains a fish pond and a collection of Greek and Roman amphorae.

**Konoba Jastožera** (☎ 713 859; Gundulićeva 6; mains around 100KN) Scaly delicacies are cooked to perfection here. Meat dishes complete the menu at this unique restaurant where you eat on planks over the water.

## AROUND KOMIŽA

### Biševo

The tiny islet of Biševo has little other than vineyards, pine trees and a spectacular **Blue Grotto** (Modra Špilja). Between 11am and noon the sun's rays pass through an underwater opening in this coastal cave to bathe the interior in an unearthly blue light. Beneath the crystal-blue water, rocks glimmer in silver and

pink to a depth of 16m. The only catch is that the water can be too choppy to enter the cave outside the summer months or when the *juga* (southern wind) is blowing. When the tourist season is at its peak in July and August, the cave can be woefully crowded and the line of boats waiting to get in discouragingly long. Outside of the high season, you may be able to swim here. There's a regular boat from Komiža to Biševo (30KN) that leaves daily throughout July and August at 8am, returning at 6pm, or you can book an excursion through one of the travel agencies. Another alternative is to rent a boat from one of the agencies and go on your own (admission 20KN).

**our pick Natural Holiday** (☎ 098 173 1673; www.bisevo.org; Salbunara Bay; bungalows per week low-high €466-728) is one of the best places to stay in this part of Croatia. This is an eco-friendly and luxury camping ground that doesn't feature tents; instead it has bungalows, of sorts, though the owners call them 'shelters'. They are basically like Bedouin tents, only with super-comfy beds inside, an outdoor area and a private bathroom with 50L of water per shelter. It's great for socialising or being alone, there's a communal kitchen and you can spend hours swimming and exploring the island. As good as it gets.

## BRAČ ISLAND

pop 13,824

Brač is famous for two things: its radiant white stone, which Diocletian's Palace in Split and the White House in Washington DC (oh, yes!) are made from, and Zlatni Rat, the long pebbly beach at Bol that sticks out lasciviously into the Adriatic and adorns 90% of Croatia's tourism posters. It's the largest island in central Dalmatia, with two towns, several sleepy villages and a dramatic Mediterranean landscape of steep cliffs, inky waters and pine forests. The interior of the island is full of piles of rocks – the result of backbreaking labour of women, who, over hundreds of years, gathered the rocks in order to prepare the land for the cultivation of vineyards, olive orchards, figs, almonds and sour cherries.

The tough living conditions on the island have meant that a lot of people moved to the mainland in search of work, leaving the interior nearly deserted. Driving around and exploring Brač's stone villages is one of the loveliest experiences. The two main centres,

Supetar and Bol, differ greatly from one another: Supetar has the appearance of a transit town, while luxurious Bol revels in its more exclusive appeal.

### History

Remnants of a Neolithic settlement have been found in Kopačina cave near Supetar, but the first recorded inhabitants were the Illyrians, who built a fort in Škrip to protect against Greek invasion. The Romans arrived in 167 BC and promptly set to work exploiting the stone quarries near Škrip and building summer mansions around the island. Slavs settled the island in the 9th century, gathering in the interior to escape the notorious Dalmatian pirates. During the four centuries of Venetian rule (1420–1797), the interior villages were devastated by plague and the inhabitants moved to the 'healthier' settlements along the coast, revitalising the towns of Supetar, Bol, Sumartin and Milna. After a brief period under Napoleonic rule, the island passed into Austrian hands. Wine cultivation expanded until the phylloxera epidemic at the turn of the 20th century ravaged the island's vines and people began leaving for North and South America, especially Chile. The island endured a reign of terror during WWII when German and Italian troops looted and burned villages, imprisoning and murdering their inhabitants.

Although the tourism business took a hit in the mid-1990s, it has rebounded well and the island is crowded in summer.

### Getting There & Away

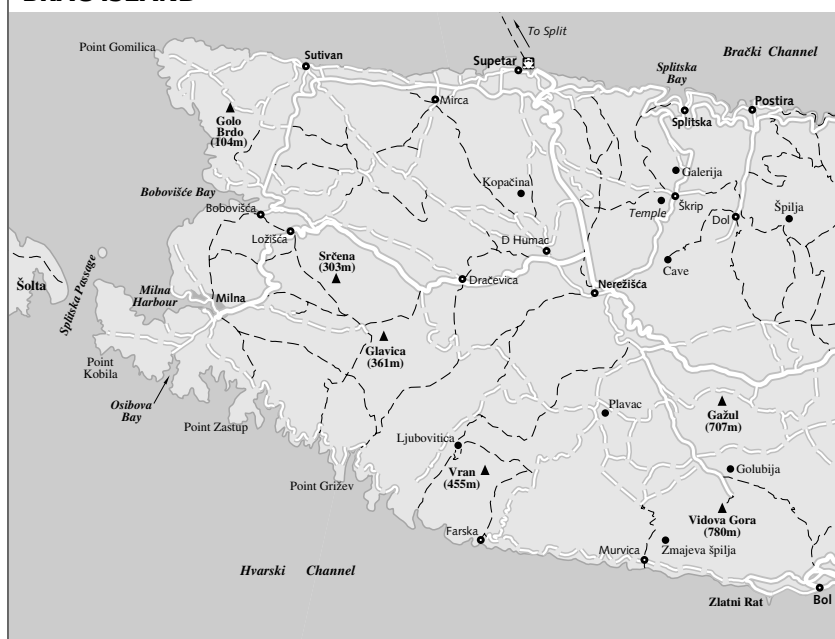
#### AIR

Brač's **airport** (☎ 631 370; www.airport-brac.hr) is 14km northeast of Bol and 32km southeast of Supetar. There are weekly flights from Zagreb to the Brač airport from April to October, but there's no transport from the airport to Supetar so you'll need to take a **taxi** (☎ 098 522 4379, 098 781 377), which costs about 300KN.

#### BOAT

There are 13 car ferries a day between Split and Supetar in summer (30KN, one hour) and seven a day at other times of the year. The ferry drops you off in the centre of town, only steps from the bus station. Make bookings at **Jadrolinija** (☎ 631 357; www.jadrolinija.hr; Hrvatskih Velikana bb, Supetar), about 50m east of the harbour.

## BRAČ ISLAND



There's a Jadrolinija catamaran in summer between Split and Bol (50KN, 50 minutes) that goes on to Jelsa on Hvar. There are also three to five daily summer car ferries between Makarska and Sumartin (30KN, 30 minutes), reduced to two a day in winter. Note that you may have to wait an hour or two in Sumartin for a bus connection to Supetar (see below for bus times).

### Getting Around

Public transport to the island's highlights is sparse so you may wish to have your own wheels if you want to see a few sites in a short time. You can hire cars from travel agencies on the island or bring them from the mainland.

Supetar is the hub for bus transport around the island. There are several buses running Monday to Saturday that connect Supetar with Bol (40 minutes); these leave Supetar at 5am, 10.25am, 12.40pm and 3.15pm, returning from Bol at 6am, 11.20am and 4.35pm. There are only two services on Sunday. Four buses a day (only two on Sunday) connect Sumartin and Supetar (1½ hours), leaving Sumartin at 5.45am, 7.55am, 12.50pm and 3.50pm.

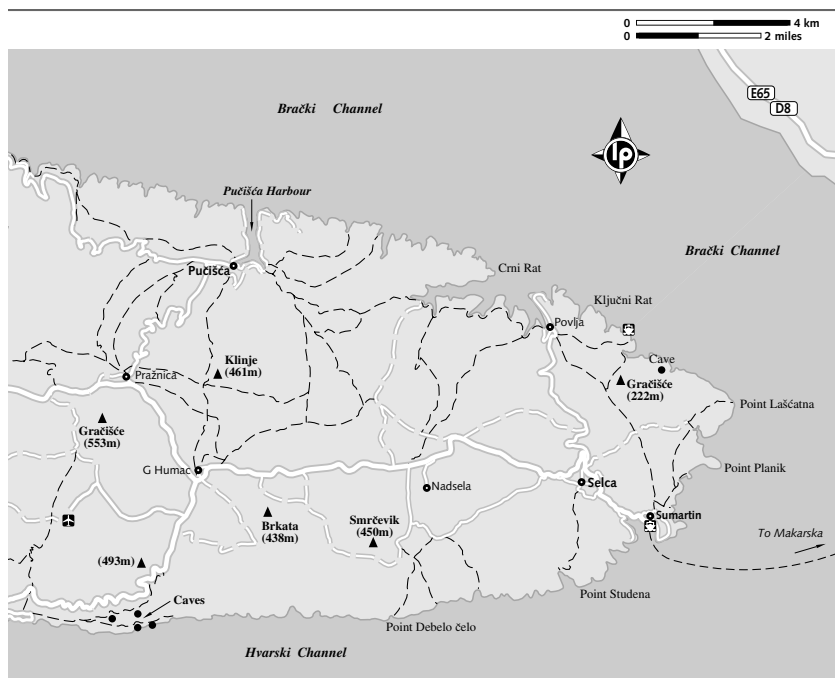
### SUPETAR

Supetar is not a great beauty – it feels more like a transit town than a living place in itself. However, it's a great hub for transport and a short stroll around the town will reveal some nice stone streets and a pretty church and square.

The pebbly beaches are an easy stroll from the town centre and there are a couple of good restaurants here, too.

### Orientation

Supetar is easy to navigate since most offices, shops and travel agencies are on the main road that radiates roughly east–west from the harbour. Called Porat in the east and Vlačica on to Put Vele Luke as it travels west. There are five pebbly beaches on the coast. Vrilo beach is about 100m east of the town centre. Walking west, you'll come first to Vlačica then Banj beach, lined with pine trees. Next is Bili Rat, site of the water-sports centre, then if you cut across St Nikolaus Cape you come to Vela Luka beach. The bus



station (no left-luggage office) is next to the Jadrolinija office.

## Information

There's an ATM outside Privredna Banka Zagreb (at the dock) and another outside the Jadrolinija office.

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ /fax 631 105; Porat 10; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) It's near the harbour and holds mail for Amex clients.

**Hospital** (☎ 640 000; Mladena Vojdonovića)

**Maestral** (☎ 631 258; www.travel.maestral.hr; Kovačića 3; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Finds private accommodation.

**Main post office** (Vlačica 13; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) You can change money or withdraw cash on MasterCard.

**Supetar Travel** (☎ 631 520; Bračka 2; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) Finds private accommodation, books hotels and changes money.

**Tourist office** (☎ /fax 630 551; www.supetar.hr; Porat 1; ☎ 8am-10pm Jul & Aug, to 4pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun) Only a few steps east of the harbour, it has a full array of brochures on the activities and sights available in Supetar, as well as up-to-date bus and ferry timetables.

## Sights & Activities

The baroque **Church of the Annunciation** (☎ Mass only), west of the harbour, was built in 1733. Although the exterior is plain, except for the semicircular entrance staircase, the interior is painted in cool, minty pastels and contains an interesting set of altar paintings, particularly the painting of the Annunciation from the school of Giambattista Pittoni.

The cemetery is at the tip of St Nikolaus Cape and you can't miss the monumental **Mausoleum of the Petrinović family**. The sculptor Toma Rosandić from Split incorporated elements of Byzantine style into this impressive structure dominating the tip of the cape.

The best diving on the island is found off the southwestern coast between Bol and Milna, making Bol a better base for divers, but you can book dives, take a diving course and rent equipment at **Hotel Kaktus** (☎ 631 133; www.watermanresorts.com; Put Vele Luke 4) in Supetar.

## Festivals & Events

The **Supetar Summer Cultural Festival** lasts from June through to September, when folk music, dances and classical concerts are presented

several times a week in public spaces and churches. Tickets to festival events are usually free or cost very little, and there are also frequent art exhibitions around town.

## Sleeping

Most of the big hotels are in a tourist complex a few kilometres west of the port on Vela Luka bay. For a sprawling development of this kind, the landscaping is surprisingly pleasant, with pine trees, shrubbery and a nearby beach.

During the summer, women often meet the ferries offering *sobe* (rooms) at a good price but without the quality control of an agency. Travel agencies can find you good-quality rooms, often with private bathrooms. Check [www.supetar.hr](http://www.supetar.hr) for details of rooms and villas available.

## BUDGET

**Camping Supetar** (☎ 630 088; [www.camp-supetar.com](http://www.camp-supetar.com); per adult low-high 20-22KN) A mid-sized autocamp about 300m east of town, which has access to a small rocky beach.

**Pansion Opačak** (☎ 630 018; Šibnja 15; per person low-high 120-146KN; 🍴) Simpler than Pansion Palute (and without TVs) but also pleasant and family run. Breakfast is 45KN extra.

**Pansion Palute** (☎/fax 631 541; [palute@st.t-com.hr](mailto:palute@st.t-com.hr); Put Pašika 16; per person 160KN; 🍴) Open year-round, this is a small, family-run *pension* with clean and tidy rooms, wooden floors, TVs, balconies and a voluble proprietor. Outstanding homemade jam is served with breakfast. Walk all the way down Put Vele Luke (15 minutes) until you get to 1 Svibnja; turn into 1 Svibnja and you'll see Palute on the corner.

## MIDRANGE & TOP END

**Hotel Villa Britanida** (☎ 631 038; [www.supetar.hr/britanida](http://www.supetar.hr/britanida); Hrvatskih Velikana 26; per person low-high €41-55) This is a small hotel and restaurant on the eastern end of town across the street from the Autocamp Babura and a narrow, rocky beach. All rooms are pleasantly furnished in a Mediterranean style with phones and satellite TV. Try to get one of the rooms facing the sea for the view and cool breeze.

**Velaris Tourist Resort** (☎ 606 606; [www.velaris.hr](http://www.velaris.hr); Put Vele Luke 10; per person low-high 330-540KN; 🍴 📺) This resort complex is spread out in a series of small buildings. Some rooms have balconies, and park-view rooms are cheaper (low-high season 285KN to 482KN per person), but all are near the sea.

**our pick Hotel Amor** (☎ 606 606; [www.velaris.hr](http://www.velaris.hr); Put Vele Luke 10; per person low-high 365-585KN; 🍴 📺 📺) A new development and part of the Velaris Tourist Resort, Amor is a small four-star, 50-room hotel that specialises in everything that is comfortable. The rooms have lovely wooden floors and are decked out in yellows, olives and bright greens, and there's an opulent spa area, a pool and wi-fi. It's surrounded by peaceful olive and pine woods, the service is super-friendly and it's also close to the beach.

**Hotel Villa Adriatica** (☎ 343 806; [www.villaadriatica.com](http://www.villaadriatica.com); Put Vele Luke 31; per person low-high 365-610KN; 🍴 📺 📺) This pretty hotel with palm trees and a garden is only 100m from the beach. All of the artfully decorated rooms have balconies and the hotel restaurant has good vegetarian platters. It's not as good as Hotel Amor when it comes to value for money, although it is closer to the centre of town.

**Hotel Kaktus** (☎ 631 133; [www.watermanresorts.com](http://www.watermanresorts.com); Put Vele Luke 4; s low-high €54-121, d €92-158; 🍴 📺 📺) Plush and all in virginal white, with a wellness centre, and indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Great for major relaxing.

## Eating

**Bistro Palute** (☎ 631 730; dishes 32-47KN) On the harbour next to Atlas Travel Agency, Bistro Palute specialises in grilled meat, but the fish dishes are also good. Dining is casual.

**Restaurant Punta** (☎ 631 507; Punta 1; mains from 50KN) This is a fabulously located restaurant, with a beach terrace overlooking the sea. Choose from excellent fish and seafood, dive into some meat or just have a pizza as you watch the waves and windsurfers play around.

**our pick Vinotoka** (☎ 630 969; Jobova 6; mains 60KN) One of the best places in town, Vinotoka is inside a renovated traditional stone house, decorated with simple, marine-inspired pieces. The food is excellent – go for a fish or cuttlefish *brodet*, one of the yummiest you'll try anywhere and best accompanied by some local white. Fresh fish starts from 350KN per kilo.

## Entertainment

**Summer Club Luna** ([www.summerclubluna.hr](http://www.summerclubluna.hr); Sv Roka; admission 40KN; 🎶 Jul-Oct) is a new summer venue where you dance under the stars, while **XXL** (☎ 630 699; Put Vele Luke) is an old favourite, by the beach and near to the centre.

## AROUND SUPETAR

One of the more interesting sites is the village of **Škrip**, the oldest settlement on the island, about 8km southeast of Supetar. Formerly a refuge of the ancient Illyrians, the fort was taken over by the Romans in the 2nd century BC, followed by inhabitants of Solin fleeing 7th-century barbarians and eventually early Slavs. Remains of the **Illyrian wall** are visible around the citadel in the southeastern corner. The most intact Roman monument on the island is the mausoleum at the base of **Radojković's tower**, a fortification built during the Venetian-Turkish wars; the tower is now a museum. Sarcophagi from the early Christian period are near **Cerincs citadel**, with a nearby quarry containing a relief of Hercules from the 3rd or 4th century. You can catch an early morning bus here from Supetar and an early afternoon bus back.

The port of **Milna**, 20km southwest of Supetar, is the kind of lovely, intact fishing village that in any other part of the world would have been long ago commandeered by package tourists. The 17th-century town is set at the edge of a deep natural harbour that was used by Emperor Diocletian on the way to Split. Paths and walks take you around the harbour, which is studded with coves and rocky beaches that are usually deserted. Besides the picture-perfect setting, there's the 18th-century **Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation**, with a baroque front and early-18th-century altar paintings.

The **Illyrian Resort** (☎/fax 636 566; www.illyrian-resort.hr; apt low-high €68-125; P ♿ ♿ ♿), right on Milna beach, provides an extraordinary level of modernity, style and comfort. There are plenty of water sports on offer if lazing around the pool becomes too soporific.

Milna is an easy day trip from Supetar, with a morning bus to the town and an afternoon bus back to Supetar. During the summer, the early evening hydrofoil from Bol stops at Milna before going on to Split.

## BOL

pop 1480

The old town of Bol is popular and attractive, with small stone houses and winding streets dotted with pink and purple geraniums. Bol's real highlight is Zlatni Rat, the seductive pebbly beach that 'leaks' into the Adriatic and draws crowds of swimmers and windsurfers in the summer months. A long coastal promenade, lined with pine trees,

connects the beach with the old town, and along it are most of the town's hotels. It's a great, buzzing place in summer – one of Croatia's favourites.

## Orientation

The town centre is a pedestrian area that stretches east from the bus station. Zlatni Rat beach is 2km west of town and in between are Borak and Potočine beaches. Behind them are several hotel complexes, including Hotel Borak, Elaphusa and Bretanide.

## Information

There's an ATM outside both banks. There are also many money changers in the port area and you can get cash advances on MasterCard and change money at the post office.

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ 635 233; fax 635 707; Rudina 12; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) Here you can rent a boat, scooter or bike, and book private accommodation.

**Bol Tours** (☎ 635 693; www.boltours.com; Obala Vladimira Nazora 18; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) Books excursions and finds private accommodation.

**HVB Splitska Banka** (Riva Frane Radića)

**Interactiv** (☎ 092 134 327; Rudina 6; per hr 30KN; ☎ 10am-1pm & 4.30-7pm May-Nov) A dozen fast computers. The only place to check your email on the island.

**Post office** (Uz Pjacu 5; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) You can make phone calls here.

**Tourist office** (☎ 635 638; www.bol.hr; Porat Boskih Pomoraca; ☎ 8.30am-10pm Jul & Aug, 8.30am-2pm & 5-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-noon Sun Sep-Jun) A good source of information on town events.

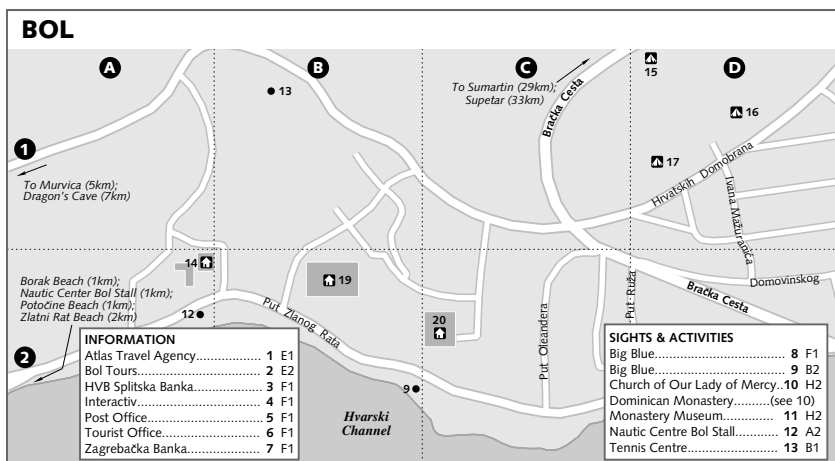
**Zagrebačka Banka** (Uz Pjacu 4)

## Sights

Most people come to Bol to soak up the sun or windsurf at **Zlatni Rat** beach, which extends like a tongue into the sea for about 500m from the western end of town. It's a gorgeous stretch, made up of smooth white pebbles, and the shape of the tip is shuffled by the wind and waves. Pine trees provide shade and rocky cliffs rise sharply behind the beach, making the setting one of the loveliest in Dalmatia. Note, though, that it does get packed in the high season.

East of the town centre on the Glavica Peninsula is the **Dominican monastery** (Dominikanski Samostan; ☎ 635 132; Anđelka Rabadana 4; ☎ Mass only) and the **Church of Our Lady of Mercy** (Crkva Gospe od Milosti; ☎ 635 132; Anđelka Rabadana 4; ☎ Mass only).





The monastery and church were built in 1475 on the site of a 12th-century Episcopal palace. The late-Gothic church is notable for a late-16th-century altar screen, as well as ceiling paintings by the Croatian baroque painter Tripo Kikolija. The church is partly paved with tombstones, some of which have initials of various monastic orders or inscriptions in Glagolitic script.

Nearby is the **Monastery Museum** (☎ 635 132; Andelka Rabadana 4; admission 10KN; 🕒 10am-noon & 5-8pm Apr-Oct), presenting prehistoric items excavated from the Kopačina cave, a collection of ancient coins, amphorae and church vestments. The highlight of the collection is the altar painting *Madonna with Child and Saints* attributed to Tintoretto, for which the museum retains the original invoice of 270 Venetian ducats.

You can go by foot to **Dragon's Cave**, an extremely unusual set of reliefs believed to have been carved by an imaginative 15th-century friar. Carved angels, animals and a gaping dragon decorate the walls of this strange cave in a blend of Christian and Croat pagan symbols. First you walk 5km to Murvica, and from there it's a one-hour walk to the cave. The cave is closed to the public but the tourist office occasionally organises guided excursions at a cost of 100KN.

## Activities

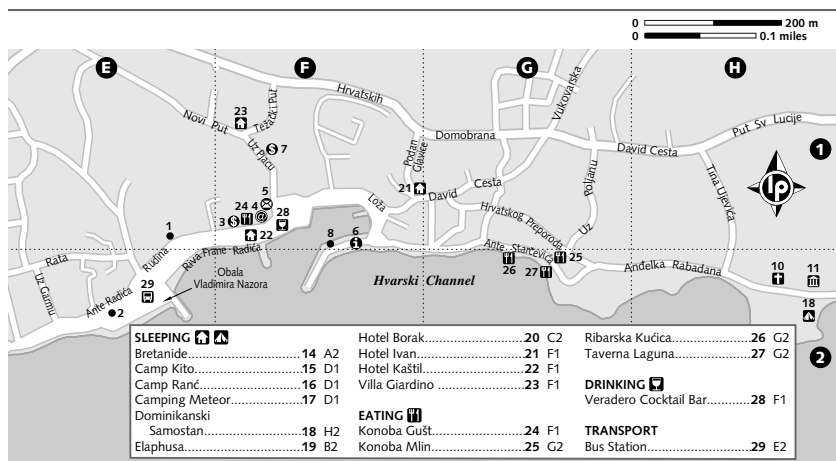
Bol is undoubtedly the **windsurfing** capital of Croatia and most of the action takes place at Potočine beach, west of town. Although the *maestral* (strong, steady westerly wind)

blows from April to October, the best time to windsurf is at the end of May and the beginning of June, and at the end of July and the beginning of August. The wind generally reaches its peak in the early afternoon and then dies down at the end of the day. **Big Blue** (☎ /fax 635 614; www.big-blue-sport.hr) is a large operation that rents windsurfing boards (€50 per half-day) and offers beginners' courses (eight hours €150). It is situated next to the tourist office.

You can dive (from €45) with another company named **Big Blue** (☎ 306 222; www.big-blue-diving.hr; Hotel Borak, Zlatni Rat) – the two Big Blues used to be one company but have parted ways, though both, confusingly, still use the same name. There are no wrecks to dive but there are some coral reefs at 40m and a large cave; boats go out regularly during the high season. The Hotel Borak Big Blue rents **mountain bikes** (per hour/half-day €3/8) and **kayaks** (per hour/half-day €4/10), too.

There are professional-quality clay tennis courts at the **Tennis Centre** (☎ 635 222; Zlatni Rat; per hr low-high 40-60KN) along the road to Murvica. Depending on the time of day, a tennis pro can help you work on your serve (or whatever) for 90/130KN per one/two people per hour. Rackets and balls can be rented.

You can rent boats from the **Nautic Center Bol stall** (☎ 098 361 651; www.nautic-center-bol.com; Potočine beach; per day from €60), which sits opposite the Bretanide hotel during the day. In the evening you can find the stall at the harbour, where it moves to attract more customers.



If you fancy hiking, a good two-hour walk is up to **Vidova Gora** (780m), the area's highest peak. The local tourist office can give you the basic info on this hike.

## Festivals & Events

There's a **Summer Cultural Festival** in Bol during which dancers and musicians from around the country perform in churches and open spaces. The festival is held in July and August.

The patron saint of Bol is Our Lady of Carmel; on her **feast day** (5 August), there's a procession with residents dressed up in traditional costumes, as well as music and feasting on the streets.

## Sleeping

The camping grounds are near town and are relatively small. There are few small hotels but several large tourist complexes, which, surprisingly, blend in well with the landscape. Several hotels are 'all-inclusive'. Reservations for most hotels are handled by **Blue Sun Hotels** (☎ 306 206; [www.bluesunhotels.com](http://www.bluesunhotels.com)).

Bol Tours (p247) finds private accommodation at around 150KN per person with private bath. A four-person equipped apartment costs around 600KN in the high season and there are other sizes available.

## BUDGET

Camping grounds in Bol are small and familial. West of town and near the big hotels you'll find **Camping Meteor** (☎ 635 630; Hrvatskih Domobrana; per adult/site 42/45KN; ☽ May-Oct), **Camp**

**Ranč** (☎ 635 635; Hrvatskih Domobrana; per adult/site 45/35KN; ☽ May-Oct), which is behind a restaurant of the same name, and **Camp Kito** (☎ 635 551; [kamp\\_kito@inet.hr](mailto:kamp_kito@inet.hr); Bračka Cesta; per adult/site 53/30KN; ☽ mid-Apr–mid-Sep). They are all well kept and placed in scenic spots.

Another camping ground, **Dominikanski Samostan** (☎ 635 132; Anđelka Rabadana; per adult/site 40/44KN; ☽ May-Oct), is east of town near the Dominican monastery. The tourist office can direct you to a few others.

## MIDRANGE

**Hotel Borak** (☎ 635 210; [www.bluesunhotels.com](http://www.bluesunhotels.com); Zlatni Rat; r per person half-board low-high €37-90; 📞 📺 📶) Close to Zlatni Rat beach and the sporting activities, this four-star place lacks character

## TOP FIVE CENTRAL DALMATIAN BEACHES

- Zlatni Rat (p247) – the famous beach finger that appears in nearly all of Croatia's publicity
- Brela (p239) – a string of palm-fringed sandy coves
- Pakleni Islands (p254) – rocky islands near Hvar with clothing-optional coves
- Šolta (p230) – quiet, rocky coves not far from noisy Split
- Milna (p247) – usually deserted beaches on the busy island of Brač

thanks to its size. It is, however, a comfortable place to relax after your windsurfing, diving, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming (we could go on).

**Hotel Kaštil** (☎ 635 995; www.kastil.hr; Riva Frane Radića 1; s low-high 330-710KN, d 480-1040KN; P ♿ ♿) All rooms have sea views in this lovely central hotel. The decor is crimson, the bathrooms granite-coloured and paintings adorn the rooms.

**Villa Giardino** (☎ 635 286; villa.giardino@st.t-com.hr; Novi Put 2; d low-high €89-98; P) An iron gate opens onto a luxuriant garden at the end of which is this old white house. The tastefully restored rooms are furnished with antiques and some overlook the garden. It's an oasis of peace.

**Hotel Ivan** (☎ 640 888; www.hotel-ivan.com; David Cesta 11a; apt from 850KN; P ♿ ♿ ♿) In a spruced-up stone building with a large pool at the front, the Ivan has small studios and big apartments, all in whites and blues; a number have balconies and sea views. There's also a spa downstairs that has dozens of therapeutic options.

## TOP END

**Elaphusa** (☎ 635 210; www.bluesunhotels.com; Zlatni Rat; r per person half-board low-high from €50-65; P ♿ ♿ ♿) Enormous and glistening, this four-star hotel feels like the inside of a cruise ship. It's all smooth interiors, glass partitions, salt-water pools, big conference halls and slick rooms. If you like your accommodation to be glam and glitzy (and quite soulless), this is it.

**Bretanide** (☎ 740 140; www.bretanide.com; Zlatni Rat; s low-high €66-121, d €96-160; P ♿ ♿) Sitting on the hill, Bretanide is the closest to Zlatni Rat beach and offers a comprehensive sport and wellness program. Certain beauty and wellness treatments cost extra, but even if you just use the basic services you'll emerge beautiful and well.

## Eating

Bol's restaurant scene is good thanks to the healthy competition between establishments. Expect fresh fish and creative cooking.

**Konoba Gušt** (☎ 635 911; Riva Frane Radića 14; mains 48-90KN) This restaurant offers good, informal dining in a setting of burnished wood, old photos and knick-knacks. The seafood and meat dishes are prepared simply but well; try the fried calamari with vegetables and potatoes.

**Konoba Mlin** (☎ 635 376; Ante Starčevića 11; mains from 50KN; ☎ 5pm-midnight Jun-Nov) A summer

affair next to a 19th-century mill, this place has a lovely leafy terrace above the sea. The chef griddles the seafood local style.

**Taverna Laguna** (☎ 635 692; Ante Starčevića 9; mains from 65KN) This place is in a romantic spot next to a quiet lagoon that would make the restaurant a stand-out even if the food was mediocre. The pasta and seafood dishes are far better than average.

**Ribarska Kućica** (☎ 635 033; www.ribarska-kucica.com; Ante Starčevića bb; mains from 90KN; ☎ Jun-Nov) A lobster extravaganza is in order at this seaside restaurant (A Fisherman's Little House), where you sit above the water under straw sun umbrellas and gorge on top-class seafood.

## Entertainment

**Veradero Cocktail Bar** (Riva Frane Radića; cocktails 45-55KN; ☎ May-Nov) An open-air cocktail bar on the seafront where you can sip coffee and fresh OJ during the day and come back in the evening for fab cocktails, DJ music and lounging on wicker sofas and armchairs.

## SUMARTIN

Sumartin is a quiet, pretty port with a few rocky beaches and little to do, but it makes a nice retreat from the busier tourist centres of Bol and Supetar. The bus station is in the centre of town next to the ferry, and there are a number of *sobe* signs around the tiny town if you decide to stay.

Sumartin is the entry point on Brač if you're coming from Makarska. See Boat on p243 for information on ferry connections between the two towns, and Getting Around, p244, to find out about bus times between Sumartin and Supetar.

# HVAR ISLAND

pop 11,459

Hvar is the number-one carrier of Croatia's superlatives: it's the most luxurious island, the sunniest place in the country (2724 sunny hours each year) and, along with Dubrovnik, the most popular tourist destination. Hvar Town, the island's capital, is all about swanky hotels, elegant restaurants, trendy bars and clubs, posh yachters and a general sense that, if you care about seeing and being seen, this is the place to be. Stari Grad and Jelsa are the cultural and historical

centres of the island and make up the more quiet and discerning spots.

Hvar is also famed for its verdancy and lilac lavender fields, as well as other aromatic plants such as rosemary and heather. You'll find that some of the really luxe hotels use skin-care products made out of the gorgeous smelling herbs.

## History

The island was first settled by the Illyrians, who fought numerous battles with Greek colonisers in the 4th century BC. The Greeks won and established the colony of Faros on the site of present-day Stari Grad. The Romans conquered the island in 219 BC, but it was not an important outpost for the Romans and there are few remains from that period. With the collapse of the Roman Empire, Hvar came under Byzantine rule. In the 7th and 8th centuries Slavic tribes settled the island, and in the 11th century it became part of Croatia under King Petar Krešimir. After several centuries in which Venice, Byzantium and Croatian-Hungarian kings ruled the island, in 1331 it opted for the most powerful of the lot – Venice – as protection against the notorious pirates of Omiš. The island staged several serious rebellions that were ruthlessly crushed by Venice's superior forces.

## Getting There & Away

The local car ferry from Split calls at Stari Grad (42KN, 1½ hours) three times a day (five times daily in July and August). **Krilo** ([www.krilo.hr](http://www.krilo.hr)), the fast passenger boat, travels five times a day between Split and Hvar Town (22KN, one hour) in the summer months; it also goes to Korčula (33KN, 1½ hours). You can buy tickets at **Split Tours** (Map p219; ☎ 352 553; [www.splittours.hr](http://www.splittours.hr); Gat Sv Duje bb) in Split, **Marko Polo Tours** (Map p284; ☎ 715 400; [www.korcula.com](http://www.korcula.com); Biline 5) in Korčula or **Pelegrini Tours** (Map p254; ☎/fax 742 250; [www.pelegrini-hvar.hr](http://www.pelegrini-hvar.hr); Riva bb) in Hvar.

There are at least 10 shuttle ferries (fewer in the off-season) running from Drvenik, on the mainland, to Sućuraj (13KN, 25 minutes) on the tip of Hvar Island. The **Jadrolinija agency** (☎ 741 132; [www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr)) is beside the landing in Stari Grad.

Besides the local ferries that run from Split to Hvar, there are connections to Italy (see p310) in the summer season. The Jadrolinija ferries that operate between Rijeka and Dubrovnik call at Hvar twice

a week during winter and four times a week from June to early September, stopping in Stari Grad before continuing on to Korčula.

## Getting Around

Bus routes meet most ferries that dock at Stari Grad and go to Hvar Town (15KN, 50 minutes) and Jelsa. There are six buses a day between Stari Grad and Hvar Town in the summer months, but services are reduced on Sunday and in the low season. A taxi costs from 150KN to 200KN. **Radio Taxi Tihi** (☎ 098 338 824) is cheaper if there are a number of passengers to fill up the minivan. It's easy to recognise with a picture of Hvar painted on the side.

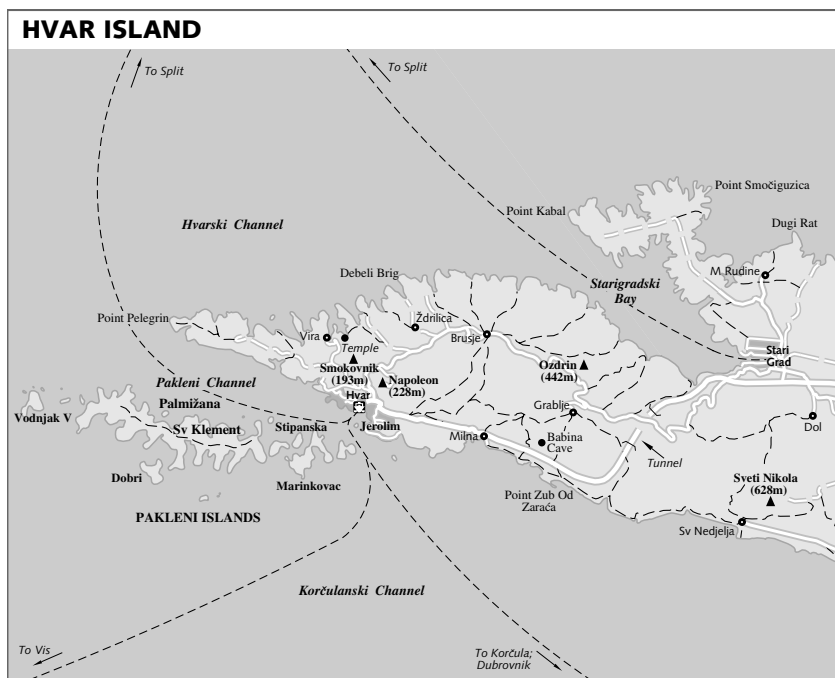
If you're driving from Stari Grad to Hvar Town, be aware that there are two routes: the scenic route, which is a narrow road winding through the interior mountains, and the direct route, which is a modern roadway (2960) that gets you to town rapidly.

## HVAR TOWN

The island's hub and busiest destination, Hvar Town is estimated to draw around 30,000 people a day in the high season. It's odd that they can all fit in the small bay town where 13th-century walls surround beautifully ornamented Gothic palaces and traffic-free marble streets, but fit they do. Visitors wander along the main square, explore the sights on the winding stone streets, swim on the numerous beaches or pop off to get into their birthday suits on the Pakleni Islands, but most of all they party at night. There are several good restaurants here and a number of great hotels, but thanks to the island's penchant for well-heeled guests, the prices can be somewhat astronomical. Don't be put off if you're on a lower budget though, as private accommodation and a couple of hostels cater to a younger, more diverse crowd.

## Orientation

Hvar is such a small, easily manageable town that it doesn't even use street names. The main street is the long seaside promenade, dotted with small, rocky beaches, sights, hotels, bars and some restaurants. The town square is called Trg Svetog Stjepana and the bus stop is minutes away from here. On the northern slope above the square and within the old ramparts are the remains of some palaces that belonged to the Hvar aristocracy. From the bus station



to the harbour, the town is closed to traffic, which preserves the medieval tranquillity.

## Information

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ 741 670; www.atlas-croatia.com; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) On the western side of the harbour, this travel agency finds private accommodation and books excursions.

**Clinic** (☎ 741 300; Sv Katarine) Medical clinic about 700m from the town centre, past Hotel Pharos.

**Fontana Tours** (☎ 742 133; www.happyhvar.com; Riva 16) Finds private accommodation, runs excursions and handles rentals.

**Garderoba** (per day 15KN; ☎ 7am-midnight) Left-luggage facilities are available in the bathroom next to the bus station.

**HVB Splitska Banka** (Riva) Has an ATM.

**Internet Leon** (☎ 741 824; Riva; per hr 42KN; ☎ 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun) Internet access next to the Hotel Palace.

**Pelegrini Tours** (☎ /fax 742 250; www.pelegrini-hvar.hr; Riva bb; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-noon Sun) Also finds private accommodation.

**Post office** (Riva; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-noon Sun) You can make phone calls here.

**Privredna Banka** (Fabrika) Changes money.

**Tourist office** (☎ /fax 742 977; www.tzhvar.hr; ☎ 8am-1pm & 5-9pm Mon-Sat, 9am-noon Sun Jun-Sep, 8am-2pm Mon-Sat Oct-May) On Trg Svetog Stjepana.

## Sights

Don't organise your stay around the opening hours of the museums and churches as they tend to be highly irregular. The hours given following are for the summer season, which runs roughly from June to September, as well as the week between Christmas and New Year and Holy Week. Off-season, Hvar's highlights are open mornings only.

The centre of town is the main square, **Trg Svetog Stjepana**, which was formed by filling in an inlet that once stretched out from the bay. At 4500 sq metres, it's one of the largest old squares in Dalmatia. The town first developed in the 13th century to the north of the square and later spread south of the square in the 15th century. Notice the **well** at the northern end of the square, which was built in 1520 and has a wrought-iron grill dating from 1780.

On the southern side of the square is the **Arsenal**, which was built in 1611 to replace a previous building destroyed by the Ottomans.



Mentioned in Venetian documents as ‘the most beautiful and the most useful building in the whole of Dalmatia’, the Arsenal once served as a repair and refitting station for war galleons. The northern side of the building was used to store food, and in 1612 a **Renaissance theatre** was built that is reported to be the first theatre in Europe open to plebeians and aristocrats alike. The theatre remained a regional cultural centre throughout the centuries, and plays were still staged here right up until 2008 when it was decided the old building was too unstable to support crowds; it was being thoroughly refurbished at the time of research.

Another landmark building in Hvar Town is the **Cathedral of St Stjepan** (Katedrala Svetog Stjepana; Trg Svetog Stjepana; ☎ twice daily, 30min before Mass), which forms a stunning backdrop to the square. The bell tower rises four levels, each more elaborate than the last. The cathedral was built in the 16th and 17th centuries at the height of the Dalmatian Renaissance on the site of a previous cathedral destroyed by the Turks. Parts of the older cathedral are visible in the nave and in the carved 15th-century

choir stalls, but most of the interior dates from the 16th and 17th centuries.

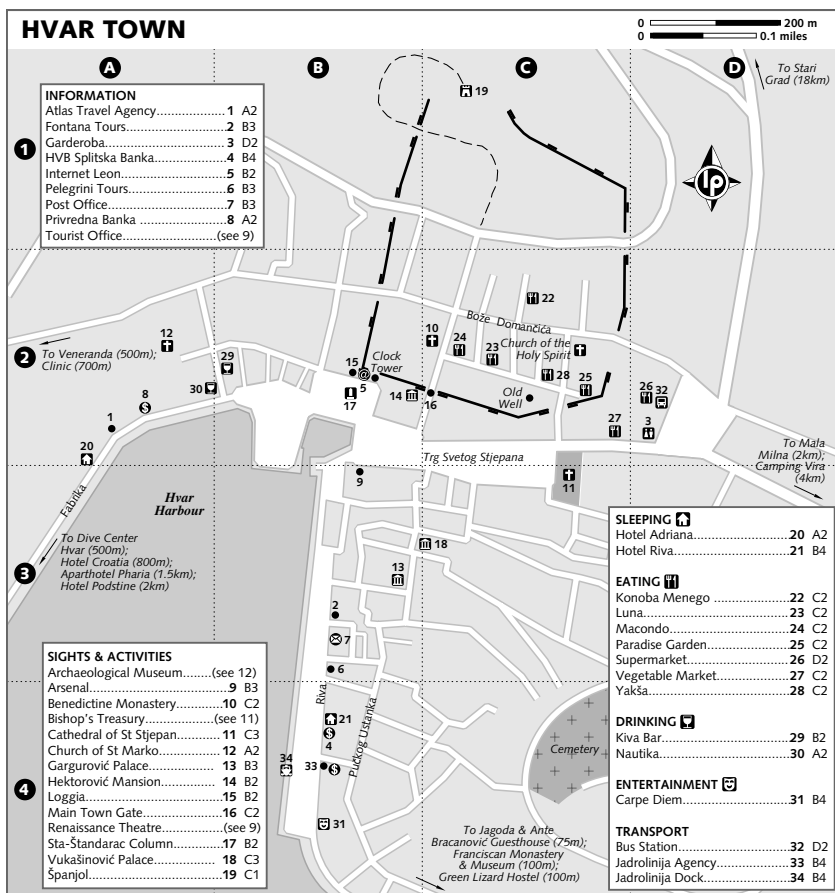
The **Bishop’s Treasury** (Riznica; ☎ 741 269; admission 15KN; ☎ 9am-noon & 5-7pm), behind the tower and adjoining the cathedral, houses the cathedral treasury of silver vessels, embroidered Mass robes, numerous Madonnas, a couple of 13th-century icons and an elaborately carved sarcophagus.

Northwest of the square is the unfinished Gothic **Hektorović Mansion**. Go up a few stairs to the **Benedictine monastery** (☎ 741 052; admission 10KN; ☎ 10am-noon & 5-7pm), which has a re-creation of a Renaissance house and a collection of lace painstakingly woven by the nuns from dried agave leaves. Nearby is the 16th-century **loggia** in front of the Hotel Palace. In front of it is an 18th-century column **Štandarac**, from which governmental decisions used to be announced. The same road will take you to the remains of the Dominican **Church of St Marko**, which was destroyed by the Turks in the 16th century. In the apse there is a small **Archaeological Museum** (☎ 741 009; admission 10KN; ☎ 10am-noon Jun-Sep), which has some Neolithic weapons and ceramics on display.

The **Main Town Gate**, northwest of the square, leads to a network of tiny streets with small palaces, churches and old houses. From there you can climb up through a park to the **Spanjol** (☎ 718 936; admission 15KN; ☎ 8am-midnight Jun-Aug), a citadel built on the site of a medieval castle to defend the town from the Turks. The Venetians strengthened it in 1557 and then the Austrians renovated it in the 19th century by adding barracks. Inside is a tiny collection of ancient amphorae recovered from the sea bed, and the view over the harbour is magnificent.

Back in town, visit the 15th-century **Franciscan monastery & museum** (☎ 741 193; admission 15KN; ☎ 10am-noon & 5-7pm), which overlooks a shady cove. The elegant **bell tower** was built in the 16th century by a well-known family of stonemasons from Korčula. The Renaissance cloister leads to a **refectory** containing lace, coins, nautical charts and valuable documents, such as an edition of Ptolemy’s *Atlas*, printed in 1524. Your eye will immediately be struck by *The Last Supper*, an 8m by 2.5m work by the Venetian Matteo Ingoli dating from the end of the 16th century. The cypress in the **cloister garden** is said to be more than 300 years old. The adjoining church, named **Our Lady of Charity**, contains more fine paintings such as the three





polyptychs created by Francesco da Santacroce in 1583, which represent the summit of this painter's work, and the *Cruxifixion* by Leandro Bassano on the altar. Below the altar is the tomb of Hanibal Lučić, the 16th-century author of *Female Slave*, the first nonreligious drama in Croatia. The Renaissance relief over the portal, *Madonna with Child*, is a small gem created by Nikola Firentinac in 1470.

After your visit, stroll through the old streets and notice the **Vukašinović Palace** with its seven balconies and monumental entrance, and the 15th-century **Gargurović Palace**.

## Activities

In front of the Hotel Amfora, **Dive Center Hvar** (☎ 742 490; www.divecenter-hvar.com) is a large

operation that offers a certification course, dives and all sorts of water sports (banana boating, snorkelling, waterskiing), as well as hotel packages. You can rent scooters at **Pelegrini Tours** (☎ /fax 742 250; www.pelegrini-hvar.hr; Riva bb) for between 250KN and 300KN per day.

There are coves around the hotels Amfora and Dalmacija for swimming, but most people head to the **Pakleni Islands** (Pakleni Otoci), which got their name from Paklina, the resin that once coated boats and ships. Taxi boats (15KN, 30 minutes) leave regularly during the high season from in front of the Arsenal to the islands of **Jerolim** and **Stipanska**, which are popular naturist islands (although nudity is not mandatory), and then continue on to **Ždrilica** and **Palmizana**, the latter being a sandy beach.

## Tours

Atlas Travel Agency (p252) and Pelegrini Tours (p252) organise tours of the island, trips to the surrounding islands and rafting excursions.

## Festivals & Events

Hvar's **Summer Music Festival** includes classical concerts in the Franciscan monastery and occasional concerts at Camping Vira.

## Sleeping

As Hvar is one of the Adriatic's most popular resorts, don't expect many bargains. Most Hvar hotels are managed by **Sunčani Hvar Hotels** (☎ 750 750; www.suncanihvar.hr) and many have undergone a total transformation.

Accommodation in Hvar is extremely tight in July and August even though many, many houses have been renovated or constructed to accommodate the crush of tourism. Try the travel agencies (p252) for help. If you arrive without a reservation, you will be offered rooms at the ferry dock and there are many *sobe* signs in town. If you rent a room or apartment from someone at a dock, make sure that their house sports a blue *sobe* sign. Otherwise, they are renting illegally and you'll be unprotected in case of a problem. Get a business card if possible. It is amazingly easy to get lost in the warren of unnamed streets hanging over and around the old town and you may need to call the owner for help. Expect to pay from 250/400KN per single/double with private bathroom in the town centre. Outside the high season you can negotiate a much better price.

## BUDGET

**Camping Vira** (☎ 741 803; www.suncanihvar.hr; per person low-high €6-8) Belonging to Sunčani Hvar and therefore of a predictably high standard, this camping ground is located on a beautiful, wooded bay and is one of the best in Dalmatia. There's a gorgeous beach, a lovely café and restaurant, and a volleyball pitch, and the facilities are well kept and good quality.

**Mala Milna** (☎ 745 027; per adult/site 66/100KN; ☽ May-Sep) The closest camping ground to town is this site, 2km southeast of the centre. It's small but beautifully situated on Milna Bay and it's best reached with your own wheels, as there are few buses.

**Jagoda & Ante Bracanović Guesthouse** (☎ 741 416, 091 520 3796; www.geocities.com/virgilye/hvar-jagoda

.html; Poviše Škole; s low-high 100-120KN, d 190-220KN) The Bracanović family has turned a traditional stone building into a small *pension*. Rooms come with balconies, private bathrooms and access to a kitchen, and the family goes out of its way for guests. It's a great deal for the price.

**Green Lizard Hostel** (☎ 742 560; www.greenlizard.hr; Lučića bb; dm 110KN, d per person 135KN; ☽ Apr-Nov) This privately run hostel is a welcome and most necessary budget option on Hvar. Rooms are simple and immaculately clean, there's a communal kitchen and there are a few doubles available with private and shared facilities.

## MIDRANGE

**Hotel Croatia** (☎ 742 400; www.hotelcroatia.net; Majerovica bb; per person low-high 245-575KN; Ⓟ) Only a few steps from the sea, this medium-sized, rambling 1930s building is among gorgeous, peaceful gardens. The rooms are simple and fresh, many with balconies overlooking the gardens and the sea.

**Aparthotel Pharia** (☎ 778 080; www.orvas-hotels.com; Majerovica bb; s low-high 280-460KN, d 506-844KN, apt 595-992KN; Ⓟ ☽) This sparkling complex is only 50m from the water in a quiet neighbourhood slightly west of the town centre. All the rooms and apartments have balconies, some with views over the water. For a small hotel, you couldn't do better.

## TOP END

**Hotel Podstine** (☎ 740 400; www.podstine.com; s low-high 550-2050KN, d 600-2150KN; ☽ ☽) Just 2km southwest of the town centre on the secluded Podstine cove lies this family-run hotel (yes, that means not part of the Sunčani Hvar empire) with its own private beach. The landscaping and decor are cheerful and the hotel has regular transfers to and from town, or you can rent a bike, scooter or motorboat. The cheapest rooms have no sea view.

**Hotel Riva** (☎ 750 750; www.suncanihvar.hr; Riva bb; slow-high €176-380, d €187-391; ☽ ☽ ☽) Now the luxury veteran on the Hvar Town hotel scene, the Riva is a picture of success. The 100-year-old hotel has rooms that play with blacks, reds and whites, with glass walls between the bedroom and bathroom, and each room features large B&W posters of movie stars. The location is right on the harbour, perfect for watching the yachts glide up and away.

**our pick Hotel Adriana** (☎ 750 200; www.suncanihvar.hr; Fabrika bb; per person from €300; ☽ ☽ ☽ ☽)

Opened in June 2007, this is Croatia's only place classified by The Leading Small Hotels of the World, which gives you some idea of the world of comfort you'll find here. All of the glorious rooms overlook the sea and medieval town, and there's a comprehensive spa, a gorgeous roof-top heated pool next to the roof-top bar, wi-fi, a plush restaurant, excursions, you name it.

## Eating

Hvar's eating scene is good, though as with the hotels, restaurants often target affluent diners.

**Paradise Garden** (☎ 741 310; mains from 50KN) This eatery, up some stairs on the northern side of the cathedral, serves up a memorable spaghetti with seafood, as well as the usual excellent assortment of grilled or fried fish. Tables are outdoors on an enclosed patio.

**Konoba Menego** (☎ 742 036; mains from 70KN) On the stairway and steep street above the Church of the Holy Spirit, this is a rustic old house kept as simple and authentic as possible. Everything is decked out in Hvar antiques, the staff wear traditional outfits, the service is unobtrusive but informative, and the marinated meats, cheeses and vegetables are prepared the old-fashioned Dalmatian way. Try the cheese and fig desserts and some local wine.

**Luna** (☎ 741 400; mains from 70KN) With its brightly painted walls and 'stairway to heaven' (you have to guffaw) to the rooftop terrace, Luna is a slightly wacky place, which is a refreshing change from all those traditional and high-class Hvar restaurants. The menu is good, with dishes such as gnocchi with truffles, and seafood and wine pasta.

**Yakša** (☎ 277 0770; www.yaksahvar.com; mains from 80KN) This top-end restaurant is where many come not just for the food but also for its reputation as the place to be seen in Hvar. There is a lovely garden at the back and the food is excellent, with lobster (250KN) being a popular choice.

**Macondo** (☎ 741 851; mains from 90KN) In a narrow alley over the main square, Macondo turns out wonderful fish dishes. The cold mixed plate offers two fish pâtés, octopus salad and salted anchovies, which makes either a tasty opening to the main meal or a good light meal in itself.

Self-caterers can head to the supermarket next to the bus station, or pick up fresh supplies at the next-door vegetable market.

## Drinking & Entertainment

Hvar has some of the best nightlife on the Adriatic coast, mostly centred on the harbour.

**Nautika** (Fabrika) With the latest cocktails and nonstop dance music – ranging from techno to hip hop – this place is an obligatory stop on Hvar's night-crawl circuit.

**Kiva Bar** (Fabrika) Just up the street, the place to chill out and talk between dance numbers.

**Carpe Diem** (☎ 742 369; www.carpe-diem-hvar.com; Riva) Look no further. You have arrived at the mother of Croatia's coastal clubs. From a groggy breakfast to late-night cocktails, there is no time of day when this swanky place is dull. The music is smooth, the drinks aplenty, and there's lots of dancing on the tables in bikinis.

**Veneranda** (☎ from 9.30pm) A former fortress on the slope above Hotel Delfin, Veneranda alternates star DJs with live bands, while the punters groove on a dance floor surrounded by a pool.

## Shopping

Lavender, lavender and more lavender is sold in small bottles, large bottles or flasks, or made into sachets. Depending on the time of year, there will be anywhere from one to 50 stalls along the harbour selling the substance, its aroma saturating the air. Various herbal oils, potions, skin creams and salves are also hawked.

## STARI GRAD

Stari Grad (Old Town), on the island's northern coast, is a more quiet, cultured and altogether sober affair than its stylish and stunning sister. If you're not after pulsating nightlife and thousands of people crushing each other along the streets in the high season, head for Stari Grad and enjoy Hvar at a more leisurely pace.

## History

Road signs around Stari Grad note a secondary name ('Faros'), a reference to the Greek colony that was founded here in 385 BC. The local population resisted Greek rule but the Greek navy from Issa (present-day Vis) defeated the islanders in one of the oldest historically confirmed naval battles. The Romans ousted the Greeks in 219 BC, and razed the town. Later, Slavs settled it and it became the political and cultural capital of the island until 1278, when the bishopric moved to Hvar Town.

The town occupied itself with navigation and shipbuilding, and in the 16th century the poet Petar Hektorović built a mansion here, which has become the highlight of a visit to Stari Grad.

## Orientation

Although most ferries connecting the island to the mainland list Stari Grad as their port of call, the town is, in fact, a couple of kilometres northeast of the ferry dock. Stari Grad lies along a horseshoe-shaped bay with the old quarter on the southern side of the horseshoe. The bus station (no left-luggage office) is at the foot of the bay and the northern side is taken up by residences, a small pine wood and the sprawling Helios hotel complex.

## Information

**HVB Splitska Banka** (Riva 12) ATMs.

**Post office** (Trg Tvrdalj; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri, to noon Sat) On the main square.

**Tourist office** (☎ /fax 765 763; www.stari-grad-faros.hr; Noa Riva 2; ☎ 8am–10pm mid-Jun–mid-Sep, to 2pm Mon–Fri mid-Sep–mid-Jun) Distributes a good map and has ATMs outside.

## Sights

**Tvrdalj** (☎ 765 068; Trg Tvrdalj; admission 10KN; ☎ 10am–noon Jun–Sep) is Petar Hektorović's 16th-century fortified castle. The leafy fish pond reflects the poet's love for fish and fishermen. His poem *Fishing and Fishermen's Chat* (1555) paints an enticing portrait of his favourite pastime. The castle also contains quotes from the poet's work inscribed on the walls in Latin and Croatian.

Another highlight of Stari Grad is the old **Dominican monastery** (Dominikanski Samostan; admission 10KN; ☎ 10am–noon & 6–8pm Jun–Sep), which was founded in 1482, damaged by the Turks in 1571 and later fortified with a tower. In addition to the library and archaeological findings in the monastery museum, there is a 19th-century church with *The Interment of Christ* attributed to Tintoretto, and two paintings by Gianbattista Crespi.

## Sleeping

The only agency finding private accommodation is **Mistraltours** (☎ /fax 765 281; Grofa Vranjicanija 2), near the bus station, which will find singles/doubles with private facilities for 150/250KN in July and August.

**Kamp Jurjevac** (☎ 765 843; Predraga Bogdanića; per adult/site 37/80KN; ☎ Jun–Sep) Near swimming coves off the harbour just east of the old town.

**Helios** (☎ 765 865; www.hoteli-helios.hr; s low-high €35–60, d €50–90; ☎) This modern two-star hotel is part of a large complex that has commanded the northern wing of the town. There are also apartments available.

Other hotels situated in the Helios complex are the three-star **Arkada** (☎ 765 555; s low-high €45–70, d €65–105) and **Lavanda** (☎ 306 330; s low-high €45–70, d €70–110).

## JELSA

Jelsa is a small town, port and resort 27km east of Hvar Town, surrounded by thick pine forests and high poplars. Although it lacks the Renaissance buildings of Hvar, the intimate streets and squares are pleasant and the town is within easy reach of swimming coves and sand beaches. Hotel accommodation is cheaper than in Hvar Town and the town has become the island's most popular second choice.

## History

Jelsa emerged in the 14th century as a port for the inland village of Pitve and spread around the churches of Sts Fabian and Sebastian and St John in the Field. In the 16th century a fort was erected over the town to protect it from the Turks and by the 19th century Jelsa had grown into a prosperous fishing village.

In the middle of the 19th century the marshes around the coast were drained and the town gradually spread out. In 1868 the public library became the first public reading room in the Dalmatian islands, and in 1881 it became the centre of Matica Hrvatska, a celebrated Croatian literary circle.

## Orientation

Jelsa is wrapped around a bay with several large hotels on each side and the old town at the foot of the harbour. A promenade stretches from the west end of the bay and rises up the hill on the eastern side leading to a sandy cove. The bus station is on the edge of the main road leading into town (no one bothers with street names). As you proceed into town you'll come to the post office.

## Information

You can change money at any travel agency and there's an ATM at Privredna Banka on the main square.

**Atlas Travel Agency** (☎ 761 038; [www.atlas-croatia.com](http://www.atlas-croatia.com); Riva bb; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) At the harbour. Helps find private accommodation.

**HVB Splitska Banka** (Trg Tome Gamulina) On the eastern side of the harbour.

**Tourist office** (☎ 761 918; [www.jelsa-online.com](http://www.jelsa-online.com); Riva bb; ☎ 7.30am-noon & 6.30-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-noon Sun) Across the street from Atlas and along the quay. Also helps find private accommodation.

## Sights & Activities

In the **Church of Sts Fabian & Sebastian** (Crkva Sv Fabijana i Sebastijana; ☎ Mass only), 30 minutes before a service, you can see a 17th-century baroque altar by wood carver Antonio Porri and a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary brought by refugees from the village of Čitluk, near Sinj, who were fleeing the Turks in the 16th century.

In addition to the **sand beach** near the Hotel Mina, there is a daily taxi boat (25KN) to the naturist beaches of **Zečevo** and **Glavica**, or you can rent wheels and head across the hill to the coves surrounding the village of **Zavala**. The hair-raising road is superbly scenic and takes you through the tiny village of **Pitve**, before descending to a number of isolated coves.

The **Island Travel Agency** (☎ 761 404; [www.hvar-jelsa.net](http://www.hvar-jelsa.net)) on the road to Mina rents out scooters

for 240KN a day and motorcycles for 300KN a day.

For diving, the place to go to is **Dive Center Jelsa** (☎ /fax 761 822; [www.tauchinjelsa.de](http://www.tauchinjelsa.de); Hotel Jadran).

## Tours

Atlas Travel Agency (left) offers more or less the same program as in Hvar Town (see p255), but the prices sometimes differ.

## Sleeping

Atlas Travel Agency finds private rooms from 120KN per person in the high season.

**Grebišće** (☎ 761 191; [www.grebisce.hr](http://www.grebisce.hr); per adult low-high €4.40-4.60; ☎ Apr-Sep) A camping ground 5km east of Hotel Mina, Grebišće has access to a beach. There are also a few four-person bungalows available for rent (€75 to €90 depending on the season).

**Pansion Murvica** (☎ /fax 761 405; [www.murvica.net](http://www.murvica.net); r per person low-high €25-30; ☎) This lovely little *pension* is on a side street that runs parallel to the main road leading into town. The comfortable studios are attractively decorated and the shady terrace restaurant serves up delicious meals.

**Hotel Hvar** (☎ 761 122; [www.dalmacia-holiday.com](http://www.dalmacia-holiday.com); d low-high €65-175) Part of a three-hotel resort, this is a 206-room place with pleasant rooms with balconies, some of which overlook the sea. It's close to the beach, too.

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