

Croatia Bike & Boat: Split & the Dalmatian Islands by Yacht

Bike Vacation Only

Island hop across Croatia's Dalmatian coast on an elegant private ship. As you glide through serene Adriatic waters, exploring hidden beaches known only to locals, you'll congratulate yourself for choosing VBT's Bike & Boat cruise and skipping the ferry queues. Cycle a new island each day—discovering a world-famous winery on the Pelješac Peninsula, an olive farm on Korčula, and medieval village on Hvar. While cycling along the shores of the Pelješac Peninsula, you'll experience its natural beauty from all angles. Finish each day with a dinner of local specialties prepared by your ship's crew—and discover the art of Croatian cooking during a demonstration with your ship's chef. Through it all, you'll enjoy the ongoing support, companionship, and local expertise of the VBT trip leaders who call these islands home.

Cultural Highlights

- Explore the tiny village of Komiža on the island of Vis and enjoy a delicious seafood risotto for lunch.
- Cycle into historic cities central to the past and culture of the Dalmatian Islands: Korčula, Hvar, Jelsa, Stari Grad, Postira, Pučišća.
- Learn some Croatian cooking tips during a demonstration with your onboard chef – and savor the results for dinner.
- Visit one of the last remaining stonecutters' schools on the island of Brač.
- Taste unique Dalmatian wines in one of the well-known local wineries.

What to Expect

This tour offers a combination of rolling terrain and moderate-to-challenging hills and is ideal for everyone from energetic beginners to experienced cyclists. Our VBT support vehicle is always available for those who would like a break from riding.

Average Daily Mileage: 4 - 28 miles

Average Cycling Time: 00:30 - 03:30

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

May 71°/56°, Jun 79°/63°, Jul 85°/67°, Aug 84°/67°, Sep 78°/61°, Oct 69°/54°

Average Rainfall (in.)

May 2.4, Jun 1.9, Jul 1.1, Aug 1.7, Sep 2.6, Oct 3.4

DAY 1: VBT Bicycling Vacation begins / Sail to Vis Island / Welcome reception and dinner

Meet your VBT trip leaders at the ship at 2:00 p.m. The *Maritimo*, will be moored at the St. Peter pier, next to the Jadrolinija Ferry Port in Split. Please note that you cannot embark before this time, as the barge is being prepared for your arrival. If you prefer, you can meet your group at Cornaro Hotel in Split at 10:00 a.m., hand your luggage to your VBT trip leaders, and join a guided walking tour of Split. Your trip leaders will be wearing VBT staff garments.

After the walking tour and lunch on your own, meet your trip leaders again in town and walk together to the ship. Please contact the ship or the Hotel Cornaro in Split to advise of any travel delays or changes, and the staff will pass your message on to your VBT trip leaders.

After the embarkation, check into your cabins, while the ship sets sail towards Vis Island. Enjoy a rest onboard before joining a safety and bike-fitting session, and probably a short warm-up ride if time allows. Later, gather for a welcome cocktail and dinner on board.

Today's Ride Choices

Afternoon: Warm-up — 7 km (4 miles)

What to Expect:

An easy out and back ride along the coast outside the town of Vis, with one minor hill to climb.

Cumulative Distance Range: 7 km (4 miles)

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2: Loop island ride in Vis / Lunch in Komiža

You have the entire day to discover Vis, the farthest island from Croatia's shore inhabited by locals. The fishing heritage is rich here as Vis has long been isolated from other sources of livelihood. Today, an active viniculture also thrives on this relaxed, low-key island. After enjoying the first breakfast on board, pedal along on a beautiful, scenic route to the old fishing village of Komiža, set between dramatic green hills and the shimmering ocean.

Stroll the seaside promenade past the fishing museum for a glimpse of the region's rich past and seafaring ways. Enjoy a delicious lunch in one of the local restaurants, located directly at the picturesque marina. After lunch, ride back to your ship over scenic hills, taking in breathtaking Adriatic vistas. If you prefer, get a lift from the shuttle and explore the town of Vis, perhaps visiting the Notre Dame Church or strolling to admire Renaissance summer houses built by the nobility. Or walk to the nearby rocky beach for a refreshing dip in the Adriatic. This evening, enjoy dinner on board. You moor overnight in Vis.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Vis to Komiža — 30 km (19 miles)

Afternoon: Komiža to Vis — 11 km (7 miles)

What to Expect:

Ride quiet and fully paved country roads. The route features a couple of hills, especially during the afternoon ride. The support vehicle is available back to the ship if you prefer to pass on the afternoon ride.

Cumulative Distance Range: 30 – 41 km (19 – 26 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: Cycle Korčula Island / Visit olive farm

A three-hour sailing this morning delivers you to Vela Luka (meaning "big harbor") on the splendid island of Korčula. Not only is this one of the most beautiful Dalmatian islands; it is also beloved for the golden-hued Grk wine produced at its vineyards. Your morning ride leads you into a stunning landscape of karst hills to one side and glittering Adriatic waters to the other. Some hill climbing brings you to spectacular lookout points. Your destination is a working olive farm, lush with gnarly olive trees that have grown here in the Adriatic sun for generations. Pause to visit with the owners and enjoy a tour of its ethnographic

collection of olive presses, learning about the island's long tradition of harvesting. Later, you stop for a traditional Croatian lunch at the family-owned Konopica restaurant. Sample the homemade Uštipci bread and enjoy a local *peka*, a traditional dish slow-cooked under a cast-iron dome-shaped baking lid.

After lunch, continue cycling to Grad Korčula, the island's cultural center and alleged birthplace of Marco Polo. This fascinating town was laid out in a herringbone configuration on a scenic promontory. The resulting grid allows for easy air flow and protects its citizens from strong mistral winds in the warm summers. All its narrow streets are stepped, except the Street of Thoughts, so called because there's no need to watch your footing as you stroll.

This evening, enjoy a dinner on your own in town. You're sure to find the ideal spot in Grad Korčula, affectionately called "mini Dubrovnik" for its authentic medieval atmosphere. Your ship docks in Grad Korčula tonight.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Blato to lunch — 23 km (14 miles)

Afternoon: Lunch to Korčula — 22 km (14 miles)

What to Expect:

Today all paved country roads with limited traffic. The VBT support vehicle is available should you need assistance throughout the day.

Cumulative Distance Range: 23 – 45 km (14 – 28 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: Cycle the Pelješac Peninsula / Wine tasting

Sail this morning to the mainland and the scenic Pelješac Peninsula. This finger of land pointing into the Adriatic has been compared to Tuscany for its wine production. Upon arrival, you join a shuttle to Donja Banda to begin a magnificent morning of cycling amid dramatic landscapes. You first stop in the village of Kuna at a donkey farm, to take some photos with its long-eared residents.

Continue to the world famous Grgić Winery to spend an unforgettable hour enjoying a wine tasting,

before returning to the ship for lunch on board.

Time to lift the anchors and set sail to one of the smaller islands nearby Korčula. Leave your bicycles on shore and have the afternoon at leisure to swim, paddleboard, or simply just relax with a book on the sun deck. This evening, join a cooking demonstration on board to learn from the chef how to prepare a favorite Croatian dish that you savor for dinner. You moor tonight on the anchor (weather permitting).

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Donja Banda to Trstenik — 30 km (19 miles)

What to Expect:

Upon docking on the mainland, take a short van shuttle to skip the busy traffic and uphill climbs. The remainder of the ride follows mainly flat or downhill routes on quiet and paved country roads. There is no biking in the afternoon.

Cumulative Distance Range: 30 km (19 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: Ride the coast of Korčula / Sail to Hvar

This morning enjoy a short sail toward the end of Korčula Island to Lumbarda. Back on this spectacular island, you disembark for a scenic ride along the breathtaking coastline. Your ride will finish in Račišće, a pretty fishing village, where you return to the ship to enjoy an onboard lunch.

Back on board, you cruise to Hvar. Celebrated as the most beautiful island in the world, it is a wonderland of lavender fields, fruit orchards, fragrant pine forests, and superb beaches. You'll have the chance to take it all in when you cycle among its pristine vistas tomorrow. For now, you moor in one of the scenic bays outside Hvar Town and enjoy dinner onboard.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Lumbarda to Račišće — 22 km (14 miles)

What to Expect:

Ride along well-paved country roads today. The area around Grad Korčula can be busy with traffic during the main tourist season, but most of your ride follows quiet and scenic roads along the seacoast. The support vehicle is available should you need assistance throughout the day.

Cumulative Distance Range: 22 km (14 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Explore Hvar Town / Cycle to Stari Grad / Captain's farewell dinner

Disembark after breakfast for a short walk across Hvar Town, a medieval Croatian settlement with a strong Venetian influence dating back to the 16th century. Take in the expanse of Saint Stephen's Square, the largest Adriatic square after Saint Mark's in Venice. And see the Arsenal, built in 1612 as Europe's oldest and perhaps smallest municipal theater.

After, ride past Hvar's stunning panoramas of fertile fields filled with flowers and herbs and dramatic, sparsely inhabited landscape crisscrossed by stone walls. You can admire views across the sea to neighboring islands and the mainland. The road into Stari Grad, a charming Dalmatian town situated at the end of a narrow bay, is a glorious four-mile (6.5 km) downhill coast. Originally founded in the fourth century BCE, Stari Grad (literally "old town") features a main square which offers a number of options for lunch on your own. Get acquainted with this gem of a town during the free time to explore on your own.

Continue biking a pleasant road into Jelsa, passing vineyards and olive groves. Your ship meets you in Jelsa at day's end and will remain moored here tonight. There is still an important event in store – celebrate the week onboard during the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Hvar to Stari Grad – 22 km (14 miles)

Afternoon: Stari Grad to Jelsa – 18 km (11 miles)

What to Expect:

Today's ride starts with a steady climb of about four miles out of Hvar Town. Follow coastal roads to Stari Grad, where trip leaders point out choices for lunch on your own. In the afternoon, continue riding to Jelsa on mostly quieter country roads. Two moderate hills reward you with splendid views. The support

vehicle is available should you need assistance throughout the day.

Cumulative Distance Range: 22 – 40 km (14 – 25 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Cycle Brač Island / Visit stonecutter's school / Sail to Split / Private farewell dinner

This morning, cruise into the beautiful bay of Pučišća. This tiny enclave on the island of Brač is considered one of the prettiest villages in Europe. Disembark here and visit one of the world's few remaining stonecutting schools. The stone that is carved here, quarried from nearby Skrip, has been used to build some of the world's most famous buildings, including Diocletian's Palace in Split and the White House in Washington, D.C. This is a unique opportunity to see students' work and learn about a near-forgotten craft.

After an enlightening visit, cycle the northern coast of the island across the 14th-century village of Postira, nestled between the ocean and hillsides. On the way, you pass centuries-old olive and pine groves. Continue to Supetar, the island's main port, where you meet your ship for lunch on board. After lunch, you sail back to Split, where your trip began. This evening, join your VBT trip leaders for a special farewell dinner in a typical, local restaurant, recounting your favorite moments from your cycling adventure among the magnificent Dalmatian Islands.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Pučišća to Supetar — 28 km (17 miles)

What to Expect:

Today's ride starts in Pučišća and follows the north coast of Brač to Postira and Supetar, passing ancient groves of olive and pine trees. Meet your ship in Supetar for lunch, before sailing back to Split.

Cumulative Distance Range: 28 km (17 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: VBT Bicycling Vacation ends

After breakfast, your biking tour ends in Split. Our trip leaders will help you to arrange a taxi to the nearby

airport or to continue with your own travel plans.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Maritimo (Days: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)

Built in 2017, the Maritimo is a Deluxe Superior small ship, offering guests an intimate and relaxing setting for their Adriatic cruise. Elegant décor graces the laid-back dining room, which extends to an outdoor lounge. Guests can relax with a cocktail after an exciting day of cycling, recline on a comfortable chaise on the sundeck, or soak tired muscles in the hot tub while watching the scenery float by. Bright, air-conditioned cabins boast a modern design that's spacious and functional. Guests will find their rooms well-appointed with luggage storage, nightstands, wardrobes, and desks. Cabin en-suites feature hydro-massage showers, bathrobes, and comfortable slippers.