

Sea Kayak the Islands of Central Dalmatia

12 days, 6 -17 September 2020



Discover the delights of the central Dalmatian coast and the allure of the Adriatic on a journey that will treat you to some of Croatia's most beautiful places to explore by sea kayak.

DALMATIA: a significant strip of Croatia's Adriatic coastline reflecting a special mix of geographic and cultural influences. Our kayaks will provide us with the platform to appreciate what this unique location has to offer in a way unavailable to most.

We will be paddling in a region influenced by many different cultures. Over the centuries Croats, Greeks, Romans, Venetians, Ottomans and Slavs, to name a few, have left their individual marks. These are reflected in the forts, castles and cathedrals we will see in the historic harbour towns that we visit. Away from the vestiges of settlement, we will have plenty of time to enjoy the natural beauty of the Dalmatian coastal region: crystal-clear waters; quiet, secluded beaches and coves; shorelines studded with sea caves, stacks and rock gardens.

This tour of a maximum group size of 12

accompanied by an experienced local English-speaking guide and your ProKayaks host, is designed for kayakers comfortable with paddling up to 25 kilometres a day on inshore coastal waters which, at times, may be exposed to moderate wind conditions. No lengthy crossings in kayaks are involved. Starting at a "civilised" hour, the daily paddling program is mostly broken into three stages with breaks taken in an assortment of environments including isolated beaches and small seaside villages. At the conclusion of each day's paddle we will have time to soak up the local flavour of the day's destination before settling into our overnight accommodation and tucking in to our evening meal.

The tour provides numerous opportunities for participants to opt out of daily paddles should they feel the need for a rest or prefer to take up other activities that may be available along our route.

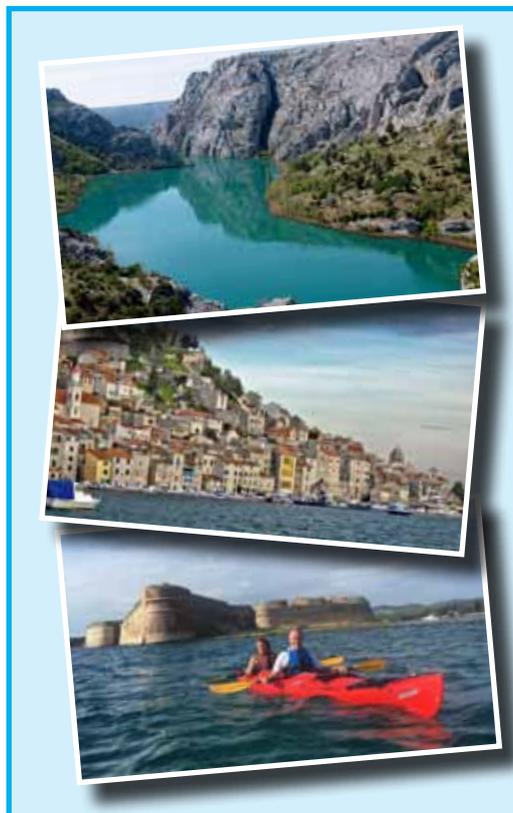
Itinerary

Day 1: We assemble in Split at the Hotel Peristil adjacent to Diocletian's palace – a major historical attraction. As most participants will be arriving in Split at different times no formal activity is programmed for the evening. However your ProKayaks host will be on hand to greet you and assist you with checking in to the hotel from mid-afternoon and into the evening.

Day 2: We'll gather as a group in the hotel soon after breakfast to meet our local guide, do a quick overview of the whole trip and cover the plans for the day. We then transfer by mini-bus to the pretty riverside town of Skradin (one of the oldest settlements in Dalmatia), about an hour's trip.

Here we fit out our kayaks and paddling kit, load and launch. Our route today takes us along the verdant shorelines of the Krka River canyon, to the historic seaside port of Sibenik, passing below the imposing St Nicholas's fortress as we venture into the Adriatic Sea and the Sibenik archipelago consisting of 249 islands. Our destination today is the "car-less" island of Zlarin, famous for its red corals; a place to which the nobles of Sibenik

escaped to avoid the plague of the mid-1600s. Paddling distance approximately 23kms. B,L,D



Days 3 and 4: We base ourselves on Zlarin for the next two days and do some round trips exploring nearby islands that are part of the archipelago. First we head to the north west and visit both Prvic, with its two medieval villages, and the heavily-wooded island of Tijat, virtually unpopulated and offering some delightful opportunities to swim and snorkel. Our paddling the next day is to the west of Zlarin visiting the sparsely populated island of Kaprije (translates to Capri of Dalmatia) and tiny Zmajan which we are likely to have to ourselves. Here the scenery is dominated by a mix of wooded hills, vineyards and olive groves. Our shore breaks will provide more opportunities for swimming and snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters of isolated coves and beaches. Paddling distances are close to 24kms each day. B,L,D

Day 5: Today we leave Zlarin and paddle down the Dalmatian coast weaving our way through small inshore islands including charm-laden Krapanj, the lowest inhabited island in the Adriatic standing only

seven metres above the sea at its highest point. Our paddling destination today is the coastal town of Primosten, built on a small island now connected to the mainland by a causeway and dominated by the parish church of St George built in 1485. On reaching Primosten we will be transferred by mini-bus to our accommodation for the next two nights in nearby Seget Vranjica. Paddling distance approximately 21kms. B,L,D

Day 6: Our put-in today is Vinisce, a short mini-bus ride from our accommodation. Our paddle will be a circumnavigation of Drvenik Veli Island, a mix of traditional settlement and stunning natural beauty which includes the Blue Lagoon, arguably the best-known bay in the whole of the Adriatic. The island is dominated by pebble stone beaches but has isolated nooks and crannies offering great opportunities for swimming and snorkelling or just chilling out. Our pull-out today is close to our accommodation in Seget Vranjica. While in Seget Vranjica your free time can be used to visit the nearby historic UNESCO heritage-listed port of Trogir, famous for its Venetian architecture dating back to the 13th century. Paddling distance approximately 25kms. B,L,D

Day 7: We paddle out of Seget Vranjica and head further down the Dalmatian coast. Our destination today is the port of Split. Our route will take us along the mostly uninhabited southern shoreline of the island of Ciovo, a refuge for those escaping an invasion by the Turks in the 15th century but nowadays given over to the growing of grapes, almonds, figs and citrus fruits. Rocky cliffs punctuated by the occasional beach dominate most of our route to the eastern end of the island before we make the short crossing to Split, where we will be staying overnight. Split is vibrant seaside port with a broad esplanade conveying a strong café culture. Use your free time here to visit Diocletian's palace built in the 4th century AD as the Roman emperor's retirement home but now repurposed as a modern-day centre for boutique shopping, restaurant dining and diverse cultural experiences. Paddling distance today approximately 23kms. B,L,D

Day 8: Accompanied by our mini-bus and kayaks, we take the ferry from Split to the outer island of Vis. Our paddling today will start in Vis Town and head around the eastern shoreline of the island to the small township of Rukavac. Our passage has us paddling in between Vis and the smaller islands just to the east. The largely unspoilt coastline features many coves offering

the opportunity for a shore break, swim and snorkel. Our mini-bus will transfer us from Rukavac to our overnight accommodation in the pretty fishing village of Komiza, our home for the next three nights. Paddling distance approximately 16kms. B,L,D

Day 9: We return to Rukavac by mini-bus to paddle west along the southern coastline of Vis Island to Komiza. Our path today will provide the opportunity to explore some sea caves (natural and man-made!) as well as Stiniva Beach, found inside a deep cove and a spot favoured by the locals. Paddling distance approximately 22kms. B,L,D

Day 10: This will be a special day of paddling. We board a boat to take us and our kayaks across to the ruggedly beautiful island of Bisevo. The island has many natural attractions, sea stacks, rock gardens, but the

most outstanding is 100-metre-deep Medvidja sea cave – it's so deep that head torches need to be worn in order to negotiate the twist and turns that lead to a sandy beach at the end of the cave – this is a truly rare photo opportunity! Conditions permitting, we'll complete a circumnavigation of Bisevo before taking the return boat journey to Komiza. Time has been allowed for a visit into Bisevo's famous Blue Cave to which access is restricted to licenced boat operators (no entry for kayaks). Taking up this option will be at an extra cost which can be paid directly to the boat operators. Paddling distance approximately 15kms. B,L,D

Day 11: Today we leave Komiza and complete our circumnavigation by kayak of Vis Island arriving in Vis Town in time to catch the ferry back to Split and return to the Hotel Peristol.

Tonight we celebrate our travels by kayak around the islands of Central Dalmatia with a special end-of-tour dinner at which we will bid farewell to our local guide. Paddling distance approximately 21kms. B,L,D

Day 12: This is the last day we are together. The ProKayaks trip concludes after breakfast when we will say our goodbyes and wish each other safe travels until we meet again. Where required, group transfer to Split Airport by mini-bus can be arranged as part of the tour package. B

Note: the above itinerary represents a fair description of what is being offered. However, we reserve the right to alter it should conditions, such as unsuitable weather, require. Concern for participants' safety and comfort will be the guiding influence on any changes made to the plan.





Adrian Clayton
your ProKayaks' host in Croatia

Adrian, a committed kayaker for over 20 years, holds numerous qualifications under the Paddle Australia Award Scheme and has been responsible for guiding or instructing more than 10,000 people in either commercial or recreational club environments – in Australia and further afield. He has been working with ProKayaks for the last six years.

Whether instructing or guiding, Adrian regards himself as one of those very fortunate individuals who are paid for what they love doing. His enthusiasm for kayaking as an activity for all ages (from the young to the young-at-heart) is infectious.

Sea Kayak the Islands of Central Dalmatia will be the third time Adrian has paddled in Croatia.

Information you need or may want to know

Getting there

Split is connected by air services from various European capitals to which major airlines fly directly from most Australian capital cities. Taxis and buses supply a service from Split Airport to the city.

Kayaks

Our kayak fleet will consist of Prijon brand double and single sea kayaks – all with rudders and comfortable, padded seating. The mix of kayaks will be determined by individual preferences expressed at the time of booking. It is possible that those opting for singles may, on one or two occasions only, be required to paddle in a double.

Paddles

We will be paddling with 2-piece straight-shaft carbon touring paddles which allow for length and feather adjustments to suit individual needs. Customers are welcome to bring their own paddles if they wish.

Accommodation

- Apart from the first and last nights of the package where we will be staying in the Hotel Peristil in Split, our accommodation will mostly be in guest houses or home-stay.
- All accommodation is based on twin-share rooms with ensuite bathrooms.
- Single supplement, if required, is available at an additional cost of \$965.

Meals

Breakfasts will be western style – muesli, yoghurt, fresh fruit, toast, cooked eggs, toast, tea/coffee.

Lunches will be picnic style -- sandwiches, wraps, etc with fresh fruit.

Dinners – mostly eaten at local restaurants with a varied selection of local fare including fish, chicken, steak, pasta, risottos, pizza, etc. The occasional home cooked fish or meat barbeque is likely to be on the agenda.

Special dietary requirements can be catered for.

What you'll need to bring

Unless requested beforehand, this information will be provided to participants on receipt of their booking.

What is included in this offer

- Eleven nights' accommodation (see itinerary)
- 10 days use of either a single or double sea kayak with related kit including carbon touring paddle, life jacket, spray skirt, two dry bags and snorkel.
- Experienced local English-speaking guide assisted by PaddleAustralia-qualified Sea Instructor/Sea Guide.
- All meals other than on the first day of the offer (refer itinerary).
- Mini-bus transfers, where necessary, between accommodation and put-in points/pull-out points and accommodation (refer itinerary).
- Ferry and hire boat transfers (refer itinerary).
- Local VAT related to the activity.

What is not included in this offer

- Drinks (other than water).
- Optional tours/excursions (e.g. wine tastings, visit to the Blue Cave, Bisevo)
- Travel costs to/from Split at the start/finish of the package.
- Travel insurance.
- Tips and items of a personal nature.

Deposit/Payment policy

Payments will be required in 3 separate instalments. Or paid in full (at time of booking).

- **Deposit/ Payment 1:** A non-refundable deposit of \$995 per person is required at the time of booking. This deposit is only refundable in the event of insufficient bookings being received (i.e. the trip is not going ahead for want of numbers). The trip will proceed with as few as eight bookings.
- **Payment 2:** A progressive payment of \$2000 per person will be required by 31 March 2020.
- **Payment 3:** The final amount of \$2000 per person (twin share) or \$2965 per person (single) will be required by 15 July 2020.

Disclaimer

Exchange risk: Price of tour has been calculated with the exchange rate at the time of October 2019. As this adventure takes place in Europe all our costs will be in Euros. Due to the fluctuating value of the Australian Dollar versus the Euro your overall price may vary up or down slightly.

Cancellation Policy

1. Non- refundable deposit of \$995 will only be refunded in the event of cancellation of the trip by Pro Kayaks due to want of numbers, if the trip is overbooked (i.e if the maximum of 12 bookings are received) or other extenuating circumstances
2. Cancellation received before 15th July 2020: will receive a full refund less any third-party cost obligations (either paid or unpaid) and the \$995 non-refundable deposit.
3. Cancellation received after the 16th July 2020 and before the 21st August 2020: will receive a 50% refund less the non-refundable deposit and any third-party cost obligations (either paid or unpaid).
4. Cancellations less than 15 days before departure receive no refund.

Travel Insurance

Participants will be required to have their own travel insurance covering this trip.

How to secure your place

Download the booking form found at <http://www.prokayaks.com.au/paddle-croatia-in-2020/> and once completed either post or, alternatively, scan and email to us as per details on the form.

A booking deposit of \$995 needs to be either paid via EFT to the account indicated on the booking form or, alternatively, by phoning us on (02) 9970 7020 with your credit card details (Visa or Mastercard acceptable) soon after the booking form has been submitted.



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