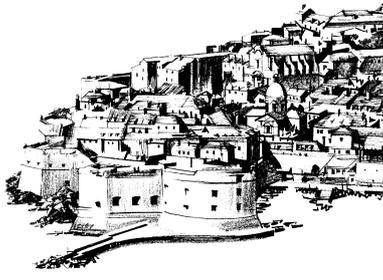


High Weald Decorative and Fine Arts Society

# Hidden Treasures of Croatia



Sunday 02 – Saturday 09 October 2011

## Sunday 02 October 2011

Transfer by coach from Cranbrook to Gatwick Airport, and depart on a scheduled British Airways flight to Dubrovnik, due to depart at 09.10 and arrive in Dubrovnik at 12.55 local time. (Please note that flights **are not included** in the tour price. Passengers are required to arrive at the airport two hours in advance). You will be met on arrival by a local coach and your guide who will be with you throughout, and will travel to **Cavtat**, where **tea/coffee** will be served. Located some 20 kilometres south of Dubrovnik, Cavtat started life as a small fishing village and has since developed into a pretty coastal village, which has become a magnet for tourists, although the old town still preserves its charm. Continue to **Dubrovnik** where you will check in to your hotel, the 4 star **Dubrovnik President Hotel** (or similar), for 2 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation.

After some time to rest you will meet your guide and enjoy a **short walking tour** to include the Baroque **Cathedral**, designed by Bufalini of Urbino during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. You will then return to the hotel for **dinner** and overnight accommodation.

## Monday 03 October 2011

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full morning of visits on foot in **Dubrovnik**. The city's mercantile wealth attracted numerous artists who flocked here during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, creating a flourishing cultural scene, and as a result it was during this period that many fine civic projects were undertaken. Today the historic heart of the city is preserved as a UNESCO site and although it was besieged and bombed heavily during Croatia's struggle for independence in the early 1990s, little evidence remains of Dubrovnik's turbulent recent past. Visits will include the **Franciscan Monastery**, with its remarkable Romanesque cloister, and the **Rector's Palace**, which once housed the major offices of state. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon you will enjoy an **afternoon walk along the city walls**, which are still very much in evidence today and afford spectacular views of the city. The walls were commissioned during the city's heyday in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, although this largely medieval city was redesigned by Baroque planners after an earthquake during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure.

### **Tuesday 04 October 2011**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel by coach to the island of **Korcula**, and on to the city of the same name, considered one of the most attractive medieval cities in the Mediterranean. Encircled by its impressive walls and criss-crossed by a labyrinth of narrow streets, the city enjoyed its heyday between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries under the rule of the Venetians, who left their mark on local culture and architecture. Exploring the historic heart of Korcula is a sheer delight, and during the day you will visit the **Cathedral of St Mark** and the **Bishop's Treasury**. The Treasury houses one of the finest small collections in the entire country, with works by Carpaccio, Bassano, Tiepolo and Raphael, as well as lesser-known local artists. Further visits include the **City Museum** and the **Museum of Icons**, which exhibits works looted from Cretan churches, notably a 15<sup>th</sup> century triptych of the Passion. **Lunch** will be served in a local restaurant.

During the afternoon you will return by ferry to the mainland for your onward journey by coach to Split. You will stop en route in a local restaurant for **dinner**, before continuing to your hotel, the 4 star **Radisson Blu Hotel** (or similar), and checking in for 2 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation.

### **Wednesday 05 October 2011**

After breakfast at the hotel you will embark on a day of visits in **Split** and the surrounding area, beginning with a **walking tour** of the town itself. Due to its central position on the eastern coast of the Adriatic, central Dalmatia has always played an important role in the culture and history of the region. As early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC Greek colonists founded their settlements nearby and subsequent civilisations laid the foundation of the modern day city of Split. The entire region abounds in cultural monuments, the most notable being the **Palace of the Emperor Diocletian**, which you will visit during the morning. Born in Dalmatia of humble origins (he was the son of slaves), Diocletian rose to become Roman Emperor at the age of 29 and after commissioning the building of the palace he moved here in 303 AD. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon you will visit the archaeological ruins at **Salona**, once the capital of Roman Dalmatia and the likely birthplace of the emperor Diocletian. The best-preserved site here is the amphitheatre, which is believed to have once accommodated some 18,000 spectators. Your final visit of the day will be to the **Mestrovic Gallery**, which is located on the outskirts of Split. The important 20<sup>th</sup> century Croatian sculptor, Ivan Mestrovic, was a close friend of Rodin and the gallery houses a number of his seminal works, including 86 statues carved from various materials: marble; stone; bronze; wood; and gypsum. The collection also contains drawings, a stone crucifix and a series of wooden reliefs. The gallery was designed by Mestrovic and he actually lived in the palace during the 1930s with his family. Should it be possible we will also visit the **Mestrovic Chapel**. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

### **Thursday 06 October 2011**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel by coach to **Trogir**, and enjoy a **walking tour**. Situated on a tiny island, which has been inhabited since prehistoric times, the town of Trogir, with its skyline broken only by towers and steeples, gives the appearance of a castle floating on water. Its 13<sup>th</sup> century **cathedral** is justifiably considered as one of the finest in the whole of the Adriatic, the most distinctive feature being the west portal carved by the Slav mason master, Radovan, and his successors. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon you will continue to Plitvice, and check in to your hotel, the 3 star **Jezero Hotel** (or similar), for the evening. After time to freshen up, **dinner** will be served in a local restaurant.

#### **Friday 07 October 2011**

Check out of your hotel after an early start and enjoy a morning exploring the **Plitvice Lakes**. An area of outstanding natural beauty, Plitvice consists of sixteen lakes stretching over an area of eight kilometres. These stunning lakes are hemmed in by a thick carpet of forest and the water falling from upper to lower levels creates a series of spectacular waterfalls. A light lunch will be served in a local restaurant.

This afternoon you will transfer by coach to Opatija, and check in to a centrally located 4 star hotel for **dinner**, bed and breakfast accommodation.

#### **Saturday 08 October 2011**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast and spend the day exploring the Istrian Peninsula, a picturesque wine growing area. You will head south along the coast road to **Pula** where you will visit the famous Amphitheatre. Pula sits at the southernmost tip of the peninsula and from here you will head north, once again along the coast road, to **Rovinj**, a delightful coastal town where there will be free time for lunch. Should time allow you will also visit **Porec** en route to **Portorose**, your base for this evening.

You will check into a centrally located 4 star hotel in Portorose for **dinner** and overnight accommodation.

#### **Sunday 09 October 2011**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel to Trieste for a **guided visit** of the **Revoltella Museum** (subject to availability). Following the visit you will continue by coach to Ljubljana for the return flight with Easyjet which is scheduled to depart at 17.05 and arrive in London Stansted at 18.15 (please note that flights **are not included** in the tour price). A local coach will be on hand to transfer you to your original pick up point in Cranbrook.

N.B. As this tour has been planned several months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.

Price £1,085 per person sharing a twin/double room  
Single supplement £200

**Please note that the tour price DOES NOT include flights which are not expected to exceed £250.00 per person, but will be confirmed prior to booking**

**Further details and booking forms available from**

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