



TERRAFICIONADOS
TRAVEL SOCIETY & JOURNEYMAKERS

Dartmouth Alumni Travel
Croatia: A Multi-Sport Adventure
September 17-25, 2016





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PREFACE AND ITINERARY OVERVIEW:



The Republic of Croatia is at the crossroads of Central Europe, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean. Its capital and largest city is Zagreb. With more than a thousand islands off the Adriatic coast, Croatia is a “Jewel” in the Mediterranean region.

Croatia is an ideal active and adventure destination with its beautiful National parks, untouched clear rivers, dislocated canyons, rural households hidden in the beautiful Croatian hinterland and mild Mediterranean climate.

Greek, Roman and other Mediterranean specialties, which prominently feature various seafood, vegetables and pasta, olive oil and garlic, influence

the local cuisine.

Over the past decade Croatian wine has exploded onto the scene, providing yet another reason to visit this stunning destination.

This multisport ‘soft-adventure’ itinerary is designed to immerse you into the many wonders of Croatia in an engaged and active way. The mix of destinations, experiences and activities will both stimulate and enlighten you as you explore this wonderful place, set so beautifully at an important cultural crossroad of Europe!

Trip Highlights

- Biking in along the lake in Zagreb
- Beautiful cascading lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice National Park
- Rock climbing on Velebit
- Rafting on the emerald river Cetina
- Discovering the hinterland of Konavle region
- Sea kayaking around island “Lokrum” near Dubrovnik
- A meeting with a representative from Kosovo (in Dubrovnik) to learn about a range of important educational and development initiatives Dartmouth has been involved with in that country since 1999

Dartmouth Host: Dan Parish (D’89)



After working in the field of college admissions for more than two decades, Dan Parish ’89 joined the Alumni Relations team as Director of the Dartmouth for Life program in October 2012. Dan started his career in admissions in 1991 at Dartmouth and subsequently worked at Phillips Exeter Academy and Connecticut College before returning to Dartmouth in 2000. In his current role, Dan oversees programs and events that encourage lifelong learning and lifelong engagement





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among Dartmouth alumni.

Dan is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, skiing, mountain biking, and running on the trails near Dartmouth and Mount Moosilauke. Dan's father, Ben Parish '60, taught Dan at a very young age how to paddle a canoe. Dan's grandfather and great uncle were both members of the Class of 1930 and were active in the Ledyard Canoe Club. Dan and his wife Ellen, who is a member of the class of 1992, live in Lyme, NH with their two children.



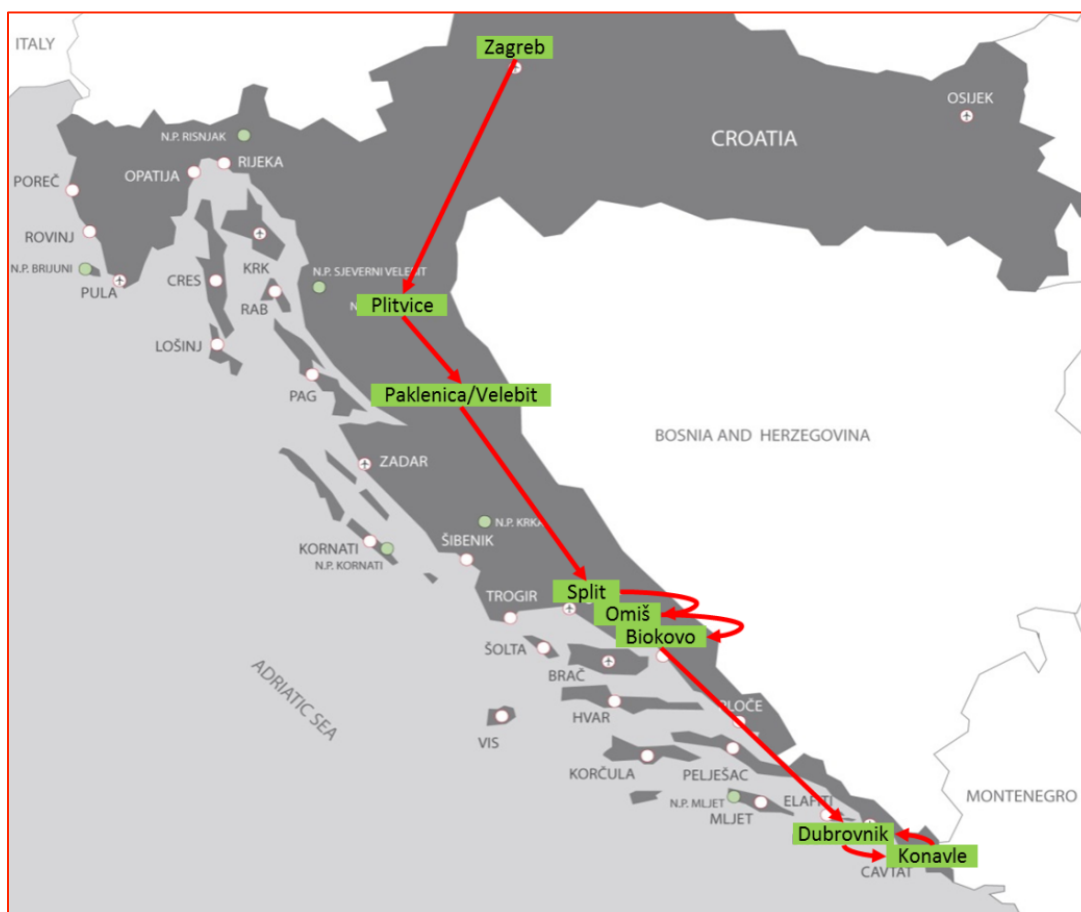


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Route profile and Destination map

Route	Zagreb - National Park Plitvice - National Park Paklenica/Velebit - Split - Omiš (River Cetina) - Biokovo - Dubrovnik - Konavle
Duration	9 D / 8 N
Level	3: Moderate: 3 to 5 hours of activity a day and/or elevation gain, higher altitude, longer distance, uneven terrain.
Season	September, 2016
Max altitude	1,762 metres (5,780 feet)
Total activity distance	70 KM (50 miles)
Total activity time	32 Hours





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DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1 (Saturday, September 17 2016): Arrive in Zagreb

Arrive in Zagreb, capital of Croatia. You will be met by your driver and guide and transferred to your hotel. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner!

Accommodation	Zagreb: Hotel Dubrovnik
Meals	Dinner
Transfer time	1 Hour

Day 2 (Sunday, September 18 2016): Zagreb adventure

Begin your day with a tour of Zagreb.

Zagreb is an old Central European city. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now of commerce and industry as well. It lies on the intersection of important routes between the Adriatic coast and Central Europe. When the Croatian people achieved their independence in 1991, Zagreb became a capital - a political and administrative centre for the Republic of Croatia. Zagreb is also the hub of the business, academic, cultural, artistic and sporting worlds in Croatia. Many famed scientists, artists and athletes come from the city, or work in it. Zagreb can offer its visitors the Baroque atmosphere of the Upper Town, picturesque open-air markets, diverse shopping facilities, an abundant selection of crafts and a choice vernacular cuisine. Zagreb is a city of green parks and walks, with many places to visit in the beautiful surroundings.

After a tour of Zagreb, you'll have the opportunity to taste a traditional dish, called "štrukli", which is typically served in households of Hrvatsko Zagorje and north Croatia. You will experience how traditional "štrukli" is prepared. During this demonstration you'll find out recipe details and few 'secrets'. At the end of this presentation, you can taste fresh baked or cooked "štrukla" and enjoy this traditional cuisine of the region!

In the afternoon we'll drive towards lake Jarun (a beautiful and well known lake in Zagreb) or Park Maksimir for a scenic and relaxing bike tour. **For those who may choose not to partake in the biking, you can continue to explore Old Zagreb at leisure*

Dinner this evening will be at a lovely local restaurant in Zagreb!





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Accommodation	Zagreb: Hotel Dubrovnik
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	2 Hours
Activity time	5 Hours
Altitude	1,033 m
Activity distance	12 km

Day 3 (Monday, September 19 2016): National park Plitvice

Transfer from Zagreb to Plitvice National Park, Croatia's first national park, established in 1949. Plitvice is famous for its cascade of 16 interconnecting lakes, separated by natural limestone dams.

Between the mountains and the forests of beech, spruce, and fir trees, the waterfalls and the multitude of streams and rivers, you will find the lakes and its crystal clear waters. The colors of the water come in a range of spectacular greens and blues, depending on the mineral content and sunlight.

We will hike throughout the park with plenty of time to take in the spectacular vistas along the way!

Following an exploration of Plitvice, continue onward to the Dalmatian coast and the lovely town of Starigrad.





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Accommodation	Starigrad Paklenica: Hotel Alan
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	3.5 Hours
Activity time	4 Hours
Activity distance	8 km

Day 4 (Tuesday, September 20 2016): National park “Paklenica” and Velebit

From Starigrad, we will explore the Velebit Mountain Range and National Park Paklenica.

Velebit is the largest though not the highest mountain range in Croatia. Its highest peak is the Vaganski vrh at 1757 m. The range forms a part of the Dinaric Alps and is located along the Adriatic coast, separating it from Lika in the interior.

Velebit begins in the northwest near Senj with the Vratnik mountain pass and ends 145 km to the southeast near the source of the Zrmanja River northwest of Knin. We will hike along the trail “Premužićeva staza“ which leads through the northern and middle parts of Velebit. This 50km trail was built between 1930 and 1933 connecting northern and southern Velebit. Our hike will be approximately 4 hours before we break for lunch, and will focus on the most beautiful stretch of this trail.

National Park Paklenica, where our hike will take place, is situated in Starigrad, northern Dalmatia at the southern slopes of Velebit Mountain. It is home to the most important rock climbing center in Croatia. For those who are inclined, we’ll get a chance to climb some of the many routes here.

The park also features two impressive canyons: Mala (Small) and Velika (Big) Paklenica. In the afternoon, we’ll hike through Big Paklenica canyon with striking vertical cliffs rising 700 metres overhead until we reach “Anića Kuk” rock (approx 3 hours.).

Following a full day of exploration in National Park Paklenica, we will continue onward to the beautiful and ancient seaside town of Split.





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**For those who may choose not to partake in the hiking today, you can enjoy a return transfer to the town of Zadar and explore at leisure*

Accommodation	Split: Hotel Cornaro
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	3 Hours
Activity time	6 Hours
Activity distance	15 km

Day 5 (Wednesday, September 21 2016): City tour of Split and rafting on Cetina River

After breakfast, we'll travel to the small town Omiš for the start of our rafting adventure. Omiš is located at the confluence of the Cetina River below the cliff tops of Mosor and Dinara mountains.

The section of rafting is through fairly calm waters with little physical preparation required. During this phase, we'll pass through one of Croatia's most beautiful canyons and through the small village of Slime.

The more adventurous part of the route is next, with abundant rapids, obstacles, waterfalls and lush vegetation that creates "live" tunnels, leaving you feeling invigorated, and deeply immersed in the wild nature of rural Dalmatia! In this segment of the rafting excursion, we'll take a short break to visit the wonderful cave beneath the "Studenci" falls revealing diverse flora and fauna and a unique phenomenon of the Dalmatian karst. **For those who may choose not to partake in the rafting, enjoy a morning at leisure in Split.*

Following the conclusion of our rafting excursion, we will enjoy lunch and then return to Split for a waling tour of the old town. Split with a population of 200,000, is the economic and administrative center of Middle Dalmatia.

Split is an important historical and cultural city, with numerous museums, churches, theatres and other archeological treasures throughout. Certainly the most impressive is the massive structure of Diocletian's Palace, built by the Romans in the fourth century. The palace and its many buildings inside was designated a UNESCO Heritage Site in 1979.





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Enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure.

Accommodation	Split: Hotel Cornaro
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	1.5 Hours
Activity time	4 Hours
Activity distance	10 km

Day 6 (Thursday, September 22 2016): Nature Park Biokovo

Biokovo is the second-highest mountain range in Croatia with the highest peak reaching 1762 m. Today, we will hike up this beautiful coastal mountain!

The 196 km² Biokovo area is a protected nature park, located along the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic Sea, between the rivers of Cetina and Neretva.

When the weather is very clear, it is possible to see Monte Gargano in Italy from the top of Biokovo, some 252 km away! We'll keep fingers crossed for clear skies as we will trek from the city of Makarska (50 km from Split) to the highest peak, "Sv. Jure," a 4 hour hike.

**For those who may choose to forgo the hike, explore coastal Markaska at leisure and take the vehicle to the top of Biokovo to meet the group for lunch*

We will enjoy a rest and a meal at the top of the mountain, just behind the peak. After lunch our vehicle will meet us at the top and collect us for our onward transfer to the spectacular medieval coastal town of Dubrovnik.

Accommodation	Dubrovnik: Hotel Neptun
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	4 Hours
Activity time	6 Hours
Altitude	1762 m
Activity distance	15 km





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Day 7 (Friday, September 23 2016): Dubrovnik and Konavle region

This morning we'll head back on the water, this time by sea kayak along the Adriatic coast, beginning beneath fort Lovrjenac in the small port of Pile. Accompanied with instructors, we'll set off to explore the caves, nooks, and crannies of Lokrum Island until we reach a hidden cave beach called Betina, where we'll break for snorkeling and snacks.

Upon our return, we'll explore Dubrovnik from the seaside and later we'll get a closer look of the famous and beautiful old town, by foot.

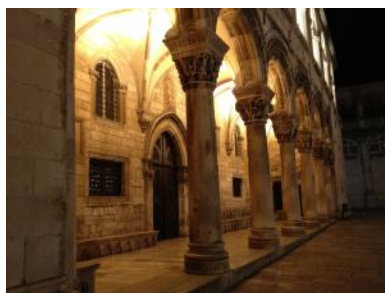
In the afternoon we'll visit the nearby small, picturesque villages of the Konavle region. Throughout the centuries, the Konlavle region has managed to maintain a traditional rural lifestyle. The area is dotted with many charming chapels, cloisters and summerhouses that once hosted Dubrovnik's high-class lords.



Accommodation	Dubrovnik: Hotel Neptun
Meals	Breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Transfer time	1,5 Hours
Activity time	7 Hours
Activity distance	10 km

Day 8 (Saturday, September 24 2016): Explore At Leisure – Dubrovnik

Today you are free to relax along Dubrovnik's beautiful coast, venture along its narrow cobblestone streets, or enjoy whatever else might strike your fancy in this gorgeous seaside city.





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Later today, we will meet with representatives and learn about Dartmouth's links to the nearby country of Kosovo dating back to 1999. Dartmouth initiatives in Kosovo have included curriculum design, gender research, collaborative scholarship on human rights, medical education and exchange, entrepreneurship, and a \$30 Million USAID leadership program.

Overnight in Dubrovnik (Hotel Neptun).

Day 9 (Saturday, September 25 2016): : Departure

Transfer to airport for onward international flights.

Meals	Breakfast
Transfer time	1 Hour

~ End of services ~

PRICING:

\$3,987 USD per person, double occupancy.
Single supplement \$1,915 USD

Included

Accommodation and meals:

- Single, double or triple accommodation upon request
- Most meals (as indicated in the itinerary) in a selection of local restaurants
- Refreshments and water on the road

Equipment, logistics and personnel details:

- Transfer in mini-van or mini bus
- Bicycles and helmets
- Climbing gear: climbing shoes, rope, harness, helmet/NP Paklenica (for those who choose to try rock climbing)
- Rafting gear: Neoprene suit and shoes, helmet, lifejacket and paddle
- Trekking sticks if needed
- Head lamp if needed
- Sea kayak and paddle

Head Guide





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Other items:

- Entrance fees: NP Paklenica, NP Plitvice, Park Biokovo, Park Medvednica
- 24 hour service hotline

Excluded

- Tips, personal expenses, personal gear, international flights.
- Beverages during meals & refreshments

BOOKING TERMS:

To confirm your space on the trip, we require a 20% non-refundable deposit. Once we have processed your deposit, we will issue a Booking Statement as confirmation. Please note that final payment is due 60 days prior to departure and cancellation / refund terms are as follows: cancellation 60 days or more prior to departure - loss of deposit; cancellation 60-31 days prior to departure - 50% penalty; cancellation 30 days or less prior to departure - non-refundable.

