ESSENTIAL DALMATIA
A PRIVATE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TOUR OF DALMATIA
Featuring Extraordinary Experiences:
Private Oyster Tasting in Ston
Private Wine Tasting in Konavle

Itinerary at a Glance:

Day 1  | Arrival in Split, Croatia
Day 2  | Split & Trogir
Day 3  | Hvar Island Day Trip
Day 4  | Split – Ston – Dubrovnik
Day 5  | Dubrovnik
Day 6  | Dubrovnik
Day 7  | Dubrovnik – Onward
**Why Exeter International?**

**Our Knowledge & Experience**
At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting custom-designed journeys for 27 years. We are a team of specialists committed to providing the best travel experiences in our destinations. Each of our experts has either travelled extensively on reconnaissance trips, or has lived in their area of expertise, giving us unparalleled first-hand knowledge. Because we focus on specific parts of the globe, we return to the same destinations many times, honing our experience over the years.

**Hand-Selected Guides**
We know that guides are one of the most important components of any travel experience. That is why we only use local experts who have a history of working with our guests and whom we know personally. We are extremely particular in selecting our guides and are confident that they will be one of the most memorable aspects of any of our trips.

**Authentic & Extraordinary Experiences**
Our Extraordinary Experiences are different, unusual, and not something easily googled. We also know how important it is to remain authentic. Going beyond the obvious is becoming increasingly important to our guests, and we focus on developing experiences that enrich and enhance both head and heart. We also recognize that the obvious sights are still popular, and we make every effort to skip lines whenever possible, therefore maximizing time in each destination.

**Original Custom Programs, Meticulously Planned**
Our experts speak your language both literally and culturally. Our advice and recommendations are impartial, honest, and always have the individual in mind. We save valuable time in pre-trip research and offer smooth and effortless touring in each destination. Our planning is detailed, and we think of everything, including restaurant reservations. You will also have complete peace of mind on the ground with 24-hour local support.

**Quality Vehicles**
We use late-model luxury vehicles, often Mercedes, Audi, BMW, or Volkswagen, depending on the size of the vehicle you need. The only exception to this is in some Central Asian countries that use vehicles predominantly from Japan.
DAY 1

**Split**

Arrive into Split, where your driver will meet you just outside customs and baggage claim. Please note that no airfare is included in your trip cost. Transfer to your luxury hotel.

The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure.

Split, the second largest city in Croatia, is a busy maritime and shipbuilding center, but also the home of the Diocletian Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 3rd Century and covering an enormous area in the heart of Old Town.

**Exeter Services**

Arrival Transfer

**Hotel**

Briig
This morning, your guide will meet you in the hotel lobby to take you for a walking tour of the Old Town Split.

The Diocletian Palace, facing onto the Split harbor, is one of the most impressive Roman architectural monuments in existence and is protected as a UNESCO Heritage Site. The Roman Emperor Diocletian, noted for his persecution of early Christians, was supposedly a native of nearby Salona before rising through Roman military ranks before finally being appointed as emperor by his legions. He ruled for 20 years before abdicating and retiring to this palace. After his death, the palace was gradually abandoned until the 7th century when refugees from the surrounding areas, fleeing foreign invasions, sought shelter within the palace’s protective walls. In the following centuries, the castle’s population outgrew its capacity and the town sprawled outside the walls.

You will have the chance to explore more than 200 buildings within the boundaries of the Diocletian Palace complex, many of which are still homes, while others house cafes, restaurants, and shops. Like a typical Roman fort, in its original form the palace had a roughly square layout and was surrounded by a thick wall with gates and watchtowers. Some of the best-preserved sites you can visit are the Vestibule, the Temple of Jupiter, the Peristyle, and Diocletian’s Mausoleum – now the Cathedral of St. Dominus.

Later today, your guide and driver will take you to visit the gallery of Ivan Mestrovic - the most celebrated Croatian artist of the 20th Century. Even as a child in rural Croatia, Mestrovic demonstrated a unique talent for molding clay. This talent was later honed in Zagreb and Vienna from which emerged an exquisite artist whose brilliant creativity translated itself into sculpture. He was a colleague and friend of the famous French sculptor Auguste Rodin in Vienna. During World War II, Ivan Mestrovic was imprisoned but later freed when the Vatican intervened on his behalf and he later came to the United States to teach and sculpt until his death in 1962. He is buried in a mausoleum that he designed himself. The artist was known for immortalizing womanhood in pieces such as Maternity and the History of Croatia. The gallery in Split was the original residence of the artist.

This afternoon, your driver and guide will take you a short distance outside of Split to Trogir - a treasury of cultural and historical monuments dating as far back as the 4th Century BC. Set on a small island just off the mainland, Trogir was first settled by the ancient Greeks, before falling under the Romans and later the Byzantines. Destroyed by the Saracens and abandoned in the 12th Century, thanks to its strategic location the town was soon revived and became an artistic and cultural center under the Austro-Hungarians and later the Venetians. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Old Town Trogir is surrounded by a fortress wall with two gates and is connected to the mainland by a bridge.
Your guide will show you the Gradska loza (the Old City Hall) from the 15th Century, the city walls, and the Kamerlengo Castle, which was once the residence of the Venetian governor. On the sea-side of the island, you may see the Sea Gate, which was built in the 16th Century, and the nearby old fish market, located in an open loggia, surrounded by a colonnade.

Enjoy some time at your leisure to browse the small shops and cafes in Trogir, before heading back to Split.

**Exeter Services**
Guide (8 Hours); Vehicle & Driver (4 Hours)

**Hotel**
Briig
This morning your guide will meet you at your hotel for the transfer to the marina, where your private motorboat will be waiting for you. Today your motorboat will take you to explore the neighboring island of Hvar. Through the course of history, Hvar Town has been a melting pot of cultures and influences and is still bursting with history, art and culture, and the home of Europe’s oldest municipal theater, which was built in the early 17th century over an arsenal in a peace-making attempt by the then ruler of Hvar.

You will start from Hvar’s main square, right next to the harbor, which is dominated by the Renaissance Cathedral with its distinctive bell tower dedicated to St. Stephen. The square is surrounded by buildings dating from the 16th – 17th centuries when the town was an important Venetian trading and seafaring center. Also, in this part of town, you may wish to visit the Benedictine Convent, where the nuns spend their lives praying and weaving elaborate laces from the fibers of the agave plant.

This afternoon, utilize your boat to see some of the coast of Hvar as well as the neighboring Pakleni Islands. These islands face the town of Hvar and are uninhabited and mostly woodlands. They feature a myriad of small secluded beaches. It may be too cold to swim, but the beaches themselves are gorgeous and great for a stop for a snack or to relax. Some of these are nude beaches, so please do let your guide and skipper know if you would like to avoid this.

Note: A visit to Hvar can also be arranged via public catamaran (lowering the cost of the program).

**EXETER SERVICES**
Guide, Private Motorboat & Skipper (8 Hours); Two Port Transfers

**HOTEL**
Briig
DAY 4

**SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK**

Today you will continue your journey with a private transfer to Dubrovnik.

**EXETER INTERNATIONAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE**

En route, you will drive to the Peljesac Peninsula, which, similar to other coastal settlements, was first colonized by the Greeks, later by the Romans and Byzantines, and in the Middle Ages often changed hands between the Venetian and Ragusan Republics. The peninsula is known for its fine vineyards and the best oysters in Dalmatia, farmed in the town of Ston.

Upon arrival in Ston, you will enjoy a 45-minute private boat tour. You will head to the oyster banks and see how these rare oysters and mussels are being cultivated in the region.

Afterwards, join your oyster farmer on his little private island for a picnic lunch hosted by his family. You’ll have an oyster tasting and a light lunch of local specialties, along with local wine.

Late afternoon arrival into Dubrovnik and the remainder of your evening is at leisure.

**EXETER SERVICES**
Transfer Split – Dubrovnik via Ston

**HOTEL**
Excelsior
DAY 5

DUBROVNIK

This morning, your guide will meet you at your hotel for an overview walking tour of the historic center of Dubrovnik, which is protected as a UNESCO Heritage site.

Begin in Dubrovnik’s main square - the Loggia Loza, situated at the eastern extremity of the Stradun – the centuries-old promenade which runs through the walled city from East to West. Your guide will take you into the Rector’s Palace. The Rector was the highest authority in the city and his palace now houses the Museum of Dubrovnik. Over 15,000 works are on display documenting the economic and cultural history of the city. You can also visit the Dubrovnik Cathedral and its treasury famous for the ancient relics including a fragment of the ‘true cross’ on which it is believed that Jesus was crucified.

If you like, you may visit Dubrovnik’s Sephardic Synagogue. The synagogue was established in the 15th century, survived earthquakes and wars, and is still in service today. Make sure to see the Franciscan monastery of the “Order of Minor Friars” (Ordo Fratrum Minorum) which includes one of the three oldest pharmacies in Europe, still serving customers. Part of the Franciscans’ mission was to take care of the health of the local residents, so they opened the pharmacy in 1317 and it has been in operation ever since. The monastery contains numerous medieval pharmacists’ tools and medical books which belonged to the English kings’ physicians, as well as 10th-Century manuscripts.

Later, we highly recommend a walk into town and a walk atop the fortress walls surrounding the Old Town. Just over a mile long, this stroll will help you get your bearings and enjoy the splendid views of the historic Dubrovnik and the sea. The fortification includes several bastions, the tallest of which is the Minceta Tower, located just near the Pile gate in the north-western part of the town.

The remainder of your afternoon is at leisure. You can stay in the city to enjoy the shops and cafes or return to your hotel and indulge in the spa.

*Note: All touring today is on foot on cobbledstones. Please wear appropriate footwear.*

**Exeter Services**
Guide (6 Hours)

**Hotel**
Excelsior
Dalmatian Countryside

This morning, your driver and guide will take you farther south along the Dalmatian coast to the town of Cavtat. This historic town dates back to the 6th Century BC and was first a Greek colony and later a Roman town called Ephidaurum. When Slav tribes invaded the area in the 7th century, the local population sought refuge up the coast where they established Ragusa, which later expanded to become today’s Dubrovnik. Today, Cavtat is one of the most charming towns on the coast and retains a small town, laid-back ambience. Of historic interest here is the Baltazar Bogisic Collection, which includes many fine paintings and works of art and is housed in a 16th century Count’s Palace. You will also see a Franciscan monastery from the 16th century and a monument designed by Mestrovic.

Later, you will continue your drive through the southern Dalmatian countryside and the region known as Konavle. This is Dalmatia at its most traditional, where people still maintain the old customs and authentic costumes and cultivate olives and vineyards.

Exeter International Extraordinary Experience
This afternoon you will visit the winery of Niko Karaman, a local enologist who is quickly making a name for his tiny operation. He is known for dry wines and exquisite sweet Prosek (dessert wine) that he makes from rare indigenous grapes. His wines have already been awarded the title of World’s Best Dessert Wine in 2009. Konavle is also known for its excellent cuisine and we recommend having lunch at the restaurant Konovaski Dvori, a traditional southern Dalmatian restaurant located on the banks of the Ljuta River. (Cost of lunch is not included).

Later this afternoon, your driver and guide will take you back to Dubrovnik. The rest of the evening will be at your leisure.

Exeter Services
Vehicle, Driver & Guide (6 Hours)

Hotel
Excelsior
This morning you will meet your driver for your transfer to the airport to board your departing flight onward.

**Exeter Services**
Departure Transfer
We invite you to end your journey in the utmost of luxury, while experiencing true Montenegrin history. Just a short drive from Dubrovnik is the most extraordinary resort on the Adriatic: Aman Sveti Stefan in Montenegro. This 13th century fishing village is now one of the most exclusive resorts in the world. Spend the night where Tito entertained Sophia Loren! Sveti Stefan is the perfect place to relax and reflect on your journey before heading home.

Alternatively, you may choose to stay at the brand new Iberostar Grand Hotel Perast, conveniently located in the heart of the Bay of Kotor and a few minutes away from the fortress town of Kotor. This boutique hotel is made up of three separate buildings ranking from the 13th century, to a former garment factory from 1930 to the newest extension.

During your time in Montenegro, we recommend you spend some time exploring the bay on board a private boat. A local olive oil and wine tasting in the Montenegrin countryside are also highlights, as well as a walk atop the fortress for our most active guests.
## Cost of the Program

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All pricing is per person and based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included.
Montenegro Extension

Including:
- Two nights with breakfast at Hotel Iberostar Grand Perast
- Arrival and Departure Transfers
- Half-Day tour in Kotor

Please inquire about cost for upgrades to Aman Sveti Stefan.

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All pricing is per person and based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included.

Accommodations

Split
Three (3) nights at the Briig Boutique Hotel; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

The Briig Boutique hotel, located centrally in Split, is a boutique hotel that boasts a distinctive concept, integrating Mediterranean living with contemporary architecture. Situated across from the only sandy beach in Split, the hotel has 62 spacious, contemporarily furnished rooms. There are 15 rooms on each floor, and 6 rooms feature wall-to-wall panoramic windows. All rooms have a magnificent sea view to the south and a green park view to the north. On the top floor, you will find the deluxe rooms and two luxurious apartments with a terrace and jacuzzi.

The restaurant on property, the Median, offers international cuisine which you can enjoy inside or on the terrace. There is also the BarCaffeBar, that serves local drinks as well as world brands that you can enjoy on the green terrace or in the Cigar Room.

The spa is located on the top floor and offers a gym, sauna, rooftop pool, and massage rooms.

Superior Double Sea View Rooms: Offering approximately 366 square feet of space and accommodating a king size bed, these rooms boast magnificent views of the Adriatic Sea. Bathrooms have either a walk-in shower or a bathtub.
Dubrovnik

Three (3) nights at the Excelsior; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

Hotel Excelsior is a luxury 5-star beachfront hotel. With a total of 158 rooms and suites, the Excelsior is located just a few steps from the Dubrovnik Old Town and overlooks the Adriatic Sea. First opened in 1913, the hotel was completely refurbished and renovated recently. Rooms in the original, former royal Villa Odak have been renovated and redesigned and feature a more traditional décor. Rooms in the Tower feature clean lines and contemporary décor. Hotel Excelsior is the closest cliff-side hotel to the Old Town, and many rooms offer superb views of the Adriatic and the quintessential view of Old Town Dubrovnik.

There are several restaurants on property. Prora Restaurant is their beach-style restaurant that serves local seafood and meat dishes with Mediterranean infusions. The fine-dining restaurant, Sensus, offers modern Mediterranean cuisine, and guests can relax in the Abakus Piano Bar. Both restaurants offer an outdoor terrace with stunning views over the Adriatic. Hotel Excelsior also offers luxury wellness and spa facilities, as well as a pool.

Tower Deluxe Sea View Balcony Room: Deluxe Rooms offer approximately 310 square feet of space and feature sea view and a balcony. They can accommodate a king bed or two twin beds.

Meals
No meals included, other than breakfast as described above. Your final documents will include our top recommendations. *Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.*

Services
Private vehicle, driver and guide at your service as described. A full day is generally eight hours in duration. A half-day is generally three hours in duration. The timing for each day is noted in your program.

Exeter International’s local offices are available for your assistance 24 hours per day while you are traveling. Our local staff may also assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater and museum tickets at your request.

Transportation
All transfers to and from airports are included in the program. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have limited English-speaking skills. Evening transportation is not included unless specifically noted in your itinerary. Timing for each day is noted in your program.

Guides
Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

Tickets
All entrance tickets as described in the program.

Exeter International Travel Information

BAGGAGE
The vehicles reserved for your itinerary can accommodate up to two medium-sized suitcases per person. If you intend to travel with additional luggage, please advise your travel consultant so appropriate arrangements may be made. In general, we schedule a sedan for parties of two, a minivan for parties of three to four and a minibus for parties of five or more.
SIGHTSEEING
Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES
Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

GRATUITIES
Gratuities are not included in your tour price. Gratuities are at your own discretion. We recommend $15-$20 per person, per day for your guide and $5 - $10 per person, per day for your driver. For your airport or station transfer, a gratuity of $5 - $10 is customary, based on service. Dollars, Euros and any local currency are all accepted.

DINING WITH YOUR GUIDE
On days when dinner and lunch costs have not been included in your itinerary (or in your tour cost), you may, at your discretion, choose to invite your guide to dine with your party. You are under no obligation to do so but, if you do extend such an invitation, the guide is your guest and you will be responsible for the cost of his/her meal.

Booking Conditions
PAYMENTS
Exeter International must receive a deposit of 25% of the total program cost before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received. All deposits are nonrefundable.

CANCELLATION
Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost
- 59-14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost

REFUNDS
We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

INSURANCE
Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.
PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS

Once an itinerary is finalized and final payment has been made, a $100 revision fee will be charged if the itinerary is changed.

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2019. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International does not breakdown costs involved in any Small Group or Individual Travel Program.

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.

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