



ZADAR *ARCHIPELAGO*

***Islands that
Tell Stories***

300 Islands, 300 Experiences





ARCHIPELAGO

Discover the beauty and tranquillity of the green islands of the Zadar archipelago

The stunning city of Zadar captivates with its beauty, rich history, vibrant atmosphere, and streets that feel like an open-air museum.

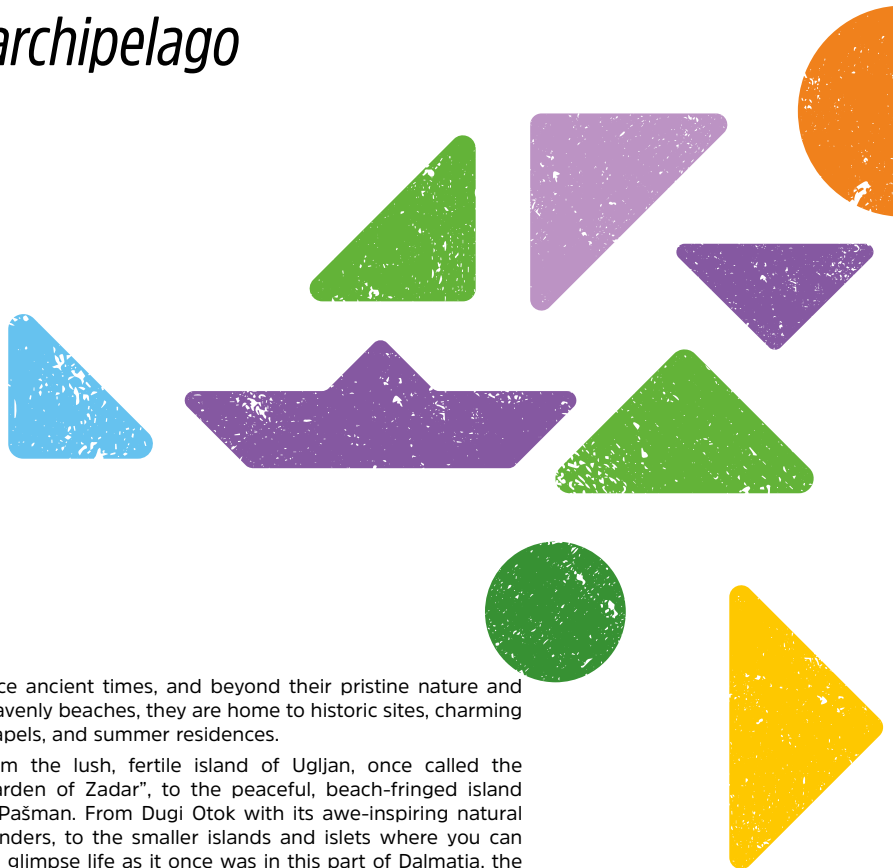
The stunning city of Zadar captivates with its beauty, rich history, vibrant atmosphere, and streets that feel like an open-air museum. Brimming with historic landmarks, museums, attractions, and exciting beaches, Zadar also serves as the perfect starting point for exploring its breathtaking surroundings, especially some of the most beautiful islands in the Adriatic. The islands of the Zadar archipelago are like pearls, adding a special sparkle to the city, and each one tells its own unique story. So set sail into the open sea and experience a vacation unlike any you've had before!

The Zadar archipelago is incredibly indented, with three larger and seven smaller islands packed into a relatively compact area. Dotted among them are countless islets and rocky reefs, some uninhabited or home to only a few residents, making every journey through these waters an adventure. Other than in Croatia, this kind of landscape can only be found in Greece. These islands have been inhabited

since ancient times, and beyond their pristine nature and heavenly beaches, they are home to historic sites, charming chapels, and summer residences.

From the lush, fertile island of Ugljan, once called the "Garden of Zadar", to the peaceful, beach-fringed island of Pašman. From Dugi Otok with its awe-inspiring natural wonders, to the smaller islands and islets where you can still glimpse life as it once was in this part of Dalmatia, the Zadar islands are sure to leave a lasting impression. Easily reached by ferry or catamaran from Zadar's Old Town or the Gaženica ferry port, these islands are ideal not only for a full summer holiday, but also for a quick day trip during your stay in Zadar.

Let's begin the journey through the beauty of the Zadar archipelago. Once you discover these islands, you'll fall in love and always want to return!



DID YOU KNOW...

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE ZADAR ARCHIPELAGO

Zadar's islands have captivated some of the worlds' biggest stars

Ošljak Is the Smallest Inhabited Island in Croatia

In addition to Dugi Otok, Pašman, Ugljan, Silba, Molat, Premuda, Iž, Ist, Olib, Rava, Zverinac, Sestrunj, and Rivanj, did you know that the Zadar archipelago is also home to the smallest inhabited island on the Croatian coast? It's called Ošljak, only around ten people live there and most of them share the same surname: Valčić. Covering just 0.3 square kilometres, Ošljak lies in the Zadar Channel and is known for its beautiful park forest and crystal-clear sea. It's also notable as the site of Croatia's first artificial reef. Locals also call the island "Lazaret" because in the 17th century, it served as a quarantine hospital for those suffering from the plague.

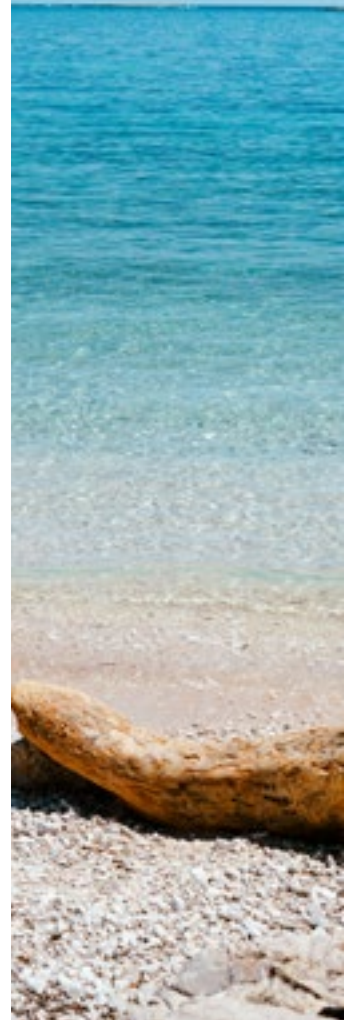
The Washing Women of Preko

Until the 1960s, lavandijere (washerwomen) from Preko on Ugljan washed clothes for Zadar's wealthy citizens, supporting their families in the process. They did so using traditional methods: soaking the laundry in lušija (a mixture of ash and warm water), rinsing it in fresh spring water at Vrulja (a place where brackish water springs), then drying and ironing it. The clean laundry was delivered to Zadar by boat. A great tragedy occurred on All Souls' Day, November 2, 1891, when 16 of these women - girls, elderly women, even pregnant women - drowned in capsizing during a storm near the islet of Galevac. Almost every family in Preko lost someone that day. Their memory is honoured to this day with a sculpture called "Our Mother" by artist Anselmo Dorkin, located at Vrulja.

Galešnjak Captivated Beyoncé, and Bon Jovi Loved Ist

The tiny heart-shaped island Galešnjak, though uninhabited, caught global attention in 2008 when Google Earth highlighted it as a natural phenomenon. In 2020, pop icon Beyoncé chose Galešnjak to celebrate her 39th birthday. Nestled in the Pašman Channel, this untouched gem with its wild, pebbled beaches is perfect for a peaceful day trip. Another star-struck moment came when Jon Bon Jovi vacationed on Ist, a fairytale island shaped like a butterfly when viewed from the sky.

Premuda Island





Ugljan's Romeo and Juliet

Along the seafront between Preko and Kali on Ugljan stands a small stone monument dedicated to a tale of forbidden love. A young woman named Dumica, the most beautiful girl in Preko, fell in love with a boy from Kali. The locals disapproved, and a group, including Dumica's brother Frane Lovrić, ambushed the young man wanting to stop him from ever coming back to Preko. The confrontation turned violent, and Frane was killed. This tragic event, which took place on Christmas Day in 1867, ended the love story. They never got married and Dumica was forced to marry another man from Preko, but she died shortly after, never having stopped loving her first fiancé. The young men from Preko were punished, but the true instigator was never revealed.

A Legendary Shipwreck near Gnalić

Near the islet of Gnalić, off the coast of Pašman, the Venetian merchant galley Gagliana Grossa crashed into rocks and sank in 1583 while sailing from Venice to Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). It was carrying luxury goods and materials to renovate the harem of Ottoman Sultan Murad III, grandson of Suleiman the Magnificent. This was one of the largest shipwrecks of the 16th century. Its treasure remained hidden beneath the sea for nearly 400 years, until fishermen from Murter discovered it by chance in 1967.

The English King Who Swam at Molat

Molat was a destination chosen by King Edward VIII of the United Kingdom in 1936 as part of a cruise through the Adriatic with his partner, Wallis Simpson. Just a few years later, during World War II, the island would become the site of a notorious concentration camp run by Italian fascists, where around 20,000 people were imprisoned.

A Beach Favoured by Priests

Back to more peaceful stories! Premuda is such a haven of serenity that one of its beaches is called Popova škrača, or "Priest's Cove." Located just south of Loza port, legend has it that priests once bathed here regularly, hence the name.

A Place for Idleness or "Fjaka"

And finally, let's go to Sali on Dugi Otok, home to a one-of-a-kind spot called the "Linčarnica". This is a designated place where people lie down, sit, rest, or even nap – to sum up, they enjoy the Dalmatian *fjaka*!

The Yellow Lighthouse of Dugi Otok

Veli Rat on Dugi Otok also hosts an interesting fact – a lighthouse, the tallest in the Adriatic (42 meters high). It owes its unique yellow colour to a surprising ingredient. As much as 10,000 egg yolks were used to achieve the warm hue of its façade during construction!

Kali, Home of "Blue Gold" and Fishing

The village of Kali on Ugljan is often described as Croatia's most fishing-oriented town. Out of its 1,600 residents, nearly 400 are professional fishermen. They're responsible for about a quarter of all small blue fish caught in Croatia and are pioneers in tuna farming – the "blue gold" of the sea. Tuna from Kali is now exported across Europe, but mostly to the distant Japan. Because of overfishing, tuna has become endangered species and is now raised in sea cages. The first tuna farm in Europe was established in Kali, where fish are fed with sardines, not artificial feed, keeping true to traditional methods.

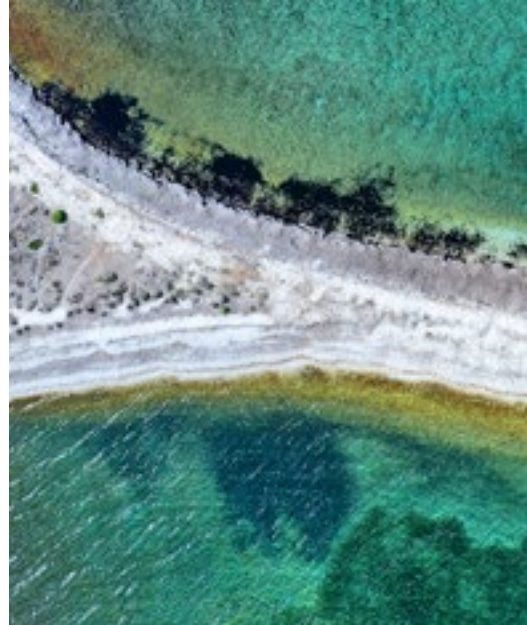


BEACHES

From the “Croatian Caribbean” to a horseshoe-shaped cove: the Zadar islands hide some of the Adriatic’s most beautiful beaches

Thousands of pages could be written about the charms of the Zadar archipelago islands, but trying to pick just one beach and call it the most beautiful? Now that’s a real mission impossible. Each beach has its own unique magic, and that’s exactly why we love them all.

Sandy, rocky, or pebbled, secluded or just steps away from a beach bar playing soft music... the options are endless. All you must do is find your favourite.





Lopata, Dugi Otok

An Island You Can Swim To

Strong contenders to Dugi Otok include Šotorišće, a sandy beach on the island of Silba, and the island of Olib, often called the king of sandy beaches in the Adriatic. Its dreamy, shallow coves, Slatinica and Slatina, are perfect for enjoying the sea, and with over 30 kilometres of coastline, you won't have trouble finding other beautiful swimming and sunbathing spots.

If you're a fan of sandy beaches, Ugljan has a surprise in store! The Jaz Beach in Preko. It's a playground for kids, while adults can enjoy a game of beach volleyball or try the popular local game picigin.

Just off Jaz Beach lies the charming little island of Galevac (Školjić), so close to the shore you can swim there. Besides beautiful beaches, in the heart of this tiny gem, you'll find a 15th-century Franciscan monastery and the Church of St. Paul the Hermit, as well as a museum collection showcasing Croatian cultural treasures, with a special focus on Glagolitic heritage. If you're already on Školjić, take on the fun challenge of finding the replica of the Lourdes shrine!

Also worth a visit are the magical Južna Luka (South Harbor) in the village of Ugljan and Mala Sabuša in Kukljica, where you'll find Jelenica Bay, the only naturist beach on Ugljan.

A Slice of Paradise on Dugi Otok

The magnificent Sakarun Beach on Dugi Otok, with its soft white sand and turquoise waters, has earned the flattering nickname "Heaven on Earth." This protected landscape has even been named one of the 25 most beautiful beaches in the world.

Also on Dugi Otok is Veli Žal, a stunner located on an uninhabited part of the island with an uninterrupted view of the open sea. Its perfect blend of pebbles, limestone rocks, sand, and crystal-clear water will leave you speechless.

A Horseshoe-Shaped Beach

The northern coast of Pašman is home to many sandy beaches kissed by crystal-clear sea. Around the village of Tkon alone, there are six coves, Vruljica, Južna, Ugrinić, and Mrvsko are just a few of the breathtaking swimming spots.

Soak up the sun and sea at other beautiful beaches like Studenac, Bartovica, and Sovinje — the latter is a well-known naturist oasis that also hosts a campsite.

The island of Premuda boasts one of the Adriatic's most unique beaches, Parapet – Stara luka Krijal, built in the shape of a horseshoe, with two stone arms ending in piers. The southern arm is reinforced with rocks perfect for diving into the deep sea, and the stone parapet offers a sunbathing platform beloved by locals and visitors alike.

The harbor of Krijal is protected from large waves by nearby reefs, Hripa, Plitka Sika, Bračić, and the most famous, Masarine. On the northern side of Masarine, you'll find a beautiful pebble beach, while the western side drops off sharply into waters 60 meters deep — a true hotspot for divers.

GASTRONOMY

The flavours of Zadar's islands will completely win you over

Local olive oil, fresh seafood, fragrant fruit and vegetables...



Island Gastronomy

When you're on the islands, tasting the local delicacies is simply a must. Of course, fresh fish and seafood are essentials. You can buy them directly from local fishermen and prepare them yourself, or enjoy them in one of the many traditional Dalmatian taverns.

In Tkon on the island of Pašman, try kunjke (turkey-wing shells) prepared na buzaru (in a white wine, garlic and parsley), or manaštrun with cuttlefish -a comforting, spoonable dish made with rice or pasta, often enriched with fresh broad beans during the season. On the island of Rava, treat yourself with the fruit which the island is famous for: juicy oranges, peaches, blueberries, blackberries, plums... the choices are endless! And in this fairytale-like corner of the Zadar archipelago, no meal is complete without local olive oil, wine, and cheese.

If you find yourself on Olib, many taverns will serve you delicious local lamb. The islanders have a long tradition of sheep farming, so it's no surprise that lamb is one of Olib's signature dishes.

Another island that deserves special mention is Ugljan, particularly the village of Kali which is known as one of the most dedicated fishing communities on the Adriatic. Fishermen from Kali, renowned for their small family-run fish processing factories, produce top-quality goods like marinated anchovies and sardines, which can be found even in some of the best restaurants across Europe. The tuna they catch and farm is so well-known that it's even exported to Japan for use in high-end restaurants.

Brudet from the Iž Lopiž

A truly special culinary experience awaits on the vibrant island of Iž. Here, seafood is still cooked over an open flame in the traditional iški lopiž, a unique ceramic dish crafted on this Adriatic gem. Treat your tastebuds to a fantastic brudet, a rich fish stew whose ingredients vary from place to place, but the result is always finger-licking good!

Chunks of premium fish, crabs, onions, garlic, parsley, tomatoes, wine, olive oil, salt, pepper... Brudet may include scorpionfish, conger eel, octopus, dogfish, mullet, squid, sardines, anchovies, mackerel, or sea bream. And then there's the šug, the thick, flavourful sauce that's perfect for mopping up with homemade bread, leaving not a drop behind. Iž, like the island of Premuda, is also known for the grmalj

(warty crab). Its exceptionally strong claws are packed with delicious meat. This crab lives in shallow waters, hiding in rocky crevices, and skilled fishermen catch it at night using spears or by hand. It's a common ingredient in local brudet, too.

Sardines on a Skewer

If you're visiting Dugi Otok, don't miss the chance to try skewered sardines. The village of Sali is especially proud of its recipe for this seafood delicacy. The fish are skewered on sticks made from strawberry tree wood and arranged closely together - the tighter, the better. They're then grilled over a gentle fire of grapevine twigs. The result? You guessed it, mouth-wateringly delicious!

Foodies will also enjoy Pašman, an island rich in fish, shellfish, crabs -and, of course, homegrown fruit and vegetables. One of its most famous dishes is the traditional peka, also known as čripanja. Food is placed in a metal or clay dish, covered with a heated dome, buried in embers, and left to slow-cook for hours. The wait is more than worth it, your tastebuds will thank you.

Octopus in Every Way Imaginable

Another star of the Zadar islands' cuisine is the octopus. This tasty delicacy is prepared in countless ways: grilled over coals, slow cooked under the peka, simmered in brudet or served cold in salads with potatoes and onions. Many locals even boil it, press it, and freeze it to later serve as a delicious cold cut, naturally, drizzled with a few drops of local olive oil.

Octopus is especially flavourful when dried in the sun and sea breeze - an old tradition that's still carefully preserved across the Zadar islands. This clever mollusk cleverly hides in underwater holes and crevices and is caught with spears. At night, fishermen search for it in the shallows using strong lights, a technique known as "na sviću", as that's when octopus comes out to feed.

When the Bura Does Its Work

But octopus isn't the only thing that's being dried. The picturesque island of Ist has preserved its centuries-old tradition of drying and preserving fish, mainly sardines and anchovies. The fish are first well salted, then left out in the open to dry, from there, the mighty Dalmatian bura (north wind) does the rest, much like with Dalmatian pršut (prosciutto).

Imagine life on the islands before refrigerators and freezers... Everything was dried -from squids to sharks, catfish, and rays. These preserved foods were then transported and sold on the mainland, helping many families to survive. That's why every plate of food on the Zadar islands is more than just a meal, it tells a story of rich history and

ancient traditions that are deeply woven into the identity of this central Dalmatian region.

One of the most sought-after ingredients in fish dishes is definitely the potato, and you'll find the best homegrown varieties on Premuda and Molat.

Molat's Sweet Surprise

Aside from its typical seafood specialities, Molat also boasts a magnificent dessert that has become the island's culinary signature, the carob cake, affectionately called its greatest gastronomic secret.

This cake is made with a shortcrust base and a rich cream of ground carob, milk, semolina, butter, vanilla sugar, eggs, and lemon or orange zest. Some recipes even include fig jam. If you have a sweet tooth, this treat will sweep you off your feet. Carob was once a very popular ingredient in the Zadar region. With nearly 60% natural sugar and a taste reminiscent of cocoa or chocolate, this legume is especially beloved in winter and during the Christmas season.



Iški Lopiž, Iž Island

NAUTIC

The magical coves of the Zadar archipelago are best explored by boat

Croatia has long been at the top of the world's sailing destinations, and the Zadar archipelago is becoming increasingly popular among lovers of the Adriatic.

Its island beauty is truly breathtaking, and its hidden, often wild and still-undiscovered coves are a tempting invitation that's truly hard to resist. Ask any seasoned sailor, and they'll agree on one thing – nothing beats the feeling of freedom that comes from sailing the endless open sea.

There's no end to the hidden gems of the Zadar archipelago, whichever island you choose, you won't go wrong. Here's a quick overview of some of the top sailing spots.

Telašćica Nature Park,
Dugi Otok





A Cove in Telašćica Nature Park

Dugi Otok is home to numerous excellent anchorages, but the most popular ones are in Pantera Bay and the Telašćica nature park. Pantera is ideal thanks to its 100 or so mooring buoys and protection from all sides, although it's best avoided during bura or strong tramontana winds. Telašćica, on the other hand, lies within the Nature Park itself, and just west of it you'll find 25 other enchanting coves. The most visited among them are Mir and Tripuljak, known for their excellent shelter from all winds.

The popular Marina Veli Rat is also located in Pantera Bay, on Dugi Otok's northwest coast. Positioned at a comfortable distance from the busy coastal cities, it offers 200 berths protected from winds and currents. Once ashore, you'll find different services such as car and bike rentals, a mini market, a café, and more.

But the undisputed number one on Dugi Otok is the 10-meter-deep Sakarun Bay, fully exposed to southern winds and home to one of the most beautiful beaches on the Adriatic. Sailors anchor in the sandy seabed, and around 20 mooring buoys are available.

Another must-visit for sailing enthusiasts is the port of Sali, with around 70 berths. It's considered a gateway to the stunning Kornati Islands and the equally magnificent Telašćica.

Then there's Božava in the Božavčica Bay, a safe haven for all who love to sail. On one side, it soaks up the sun; on the other, it's naturally protected from the often dangerous bura wind.

The Safest Shelter in the Central Adriatic

Brgulje on the island of Molat, with its spacious bay, is a favourite among sailors. It boasts the highest number of mooring buoys in the entire Zadar County. No wind – except perhaps a strong jugo – poses a real threat here, making it one of the safest harbours for boats in the central Adriatic. Sailors also appreciate the port of Jaz, which is well protected from southern and eastern winds but exposed to bura and tramontana, so it's best avoided in such conditions.

Premuda and its main harbour, Krijal, are shielded by a chain of low reefs that form a scenic lagoon 5 to 10 meters deep. About 60 mooring buoys are available for sailors, along with a dozen more in the peaceful Premuda Bay. Nearby, Nozdra Bay is surrounded by holm oak forests and faces the north-western winds.

Though small, even the island of Rava has 15 buoys for mooring in the village of Mala Rava, along with a few more in the spacious, well-sheltered bays of Paladinica and Grbavac.

A Marina in the Heart of Preko

The island of Ist is also known for its anchorages in Široka and Mljake bays. Široka offers around 40 mooring buoys and is ideal for anchoring in sand – though it's best avoided in southern winds. The uninhabited yet enchanting Mljake Bay also provides a mooring field with around 20 buoys.

On Ugljan, more and more sailors are choosing Preko, thanks to Marina Preko, located right in the town centre and offering around 80 berths. The harbour in Kukljica is also popular, with four piers and roughly 90 berths. Off the scenic hamlet of Muline, in the bay of the same name, you'll find a perfect sandy-bottom anchorage with buoys and a dock offering 15 transit berths. When the maestral or tramontana picks up, the nearby bays of Pavlešina and Prtljug – though open to the south – offer good shelter from western and northern winds.

Olive Island Marina, a charming family-run marina in the well-protected bay of Sutomišćica on Ugljan, is another standout. This newly opened club-style marina offers guests a relaxed atmosphere with a pool, sun deck, beach, bar, and a terrace with a sea view. There's even a playground for the kids. The diverse culinary selection at Olive Garden restaurant offers traditional Dalmatian dishes with a modern twist. The laid-back vibe, beautiful surroundings, and friendly staff have earned Olive Island Marina multiple awards as the best small marina in the Adriatic.

Mala Lamjana in Kali – the largest bay on Ugljan – faces south and is a beloved anchorage for many sailors. The Poforča mooring field offers 24 buoys, and the bay is a perfect rest stop for those sailing toward Kornati or continuing their island-hopping through the Zadar archipelago. The western part of the bay is urbanized, while the eastern side remains completely untouched and uninhabited. From Mala Lamjana, there is an easy access to land, with scenic olive paths, beautiful beaches, and cozy beach bars for food and drinks. Also, it's just a 20-minute walk to the village of Kali.

A Sandy Paradise for Sailors

While docking at Silba's main passenger pier is only allowed for short stops, sailors can enjoy the well-sheltered coves of Sv. Ante and Porat, or drop anchor in Paprenica Bay, which offers 10 mooring buoys.

The port of Pašman is always buzzing with fishing and tourist boats, as it provides protection from all winds. Although, sailors should be cautious when stronger maestrals blow. On the southwestern side of the island are the bays of Soline and Landin, which feature mooring fields with buoys for anchoring boats.

And near the island's southernmost point, Cape Gnalić, you'll find the magical sandy cove of Zaklopica. With around 10 buoys and a deep anchorage, it's a favourite among sailors looking for a safe stop.

OUTDOOR

The Zadar islands are made for the outdoors: explore them on foot, by bike, or dive into the magical underwater world



Spending time outdoors, soaking up the warm sun and swimming in the healing sea, ...

... is one of the best ways to restore balance to the body. The islands of the Zadar archipelago are a true paradise for active holidays and enjoying the untouched nature. Hiking, cycling, diving, climbing, swimming, running... the options are endless. Here's just a taste of ideas to help you make the most of your stay in this stunning corner of Dalmatia.

Exploring on Foot

The islands of Ošljak, Rivanj, and Sestrunj are perfect for exploring on foot. Ošljak is car-free, its coastal path stretches around two kilometres, and its highest point (89 meters) is an easy climb. The entire island is a protected forest park and home to many rare bird species. Take pictures near the 18th-century windmills, the early Christian Church of the Assumption of Mary (6th century), or the WWII bunkers and take home memories that will last a lifetime!

Shaped like a mountain rising from the sea, Sestrunj is 80% covered in forest. The hiking trail Compass of St. Peter will lead you through four bays (Muline, Hrvatín, Triluke, and Kablin) and to the island's only settlement, perched on a hill.

Rivanj, known for its pristine nature and rich marine life, invites you to climb its highest peak, Lokočina (112 m), visit the 19th-century Church of St. Jelena, explore the remains of the medieval Church of St. Barbara, and the ruins of Liburnian hillforts (Vela Glava), placed on the elevated part of the island.

Hike the Trails and Discover the Underwater World

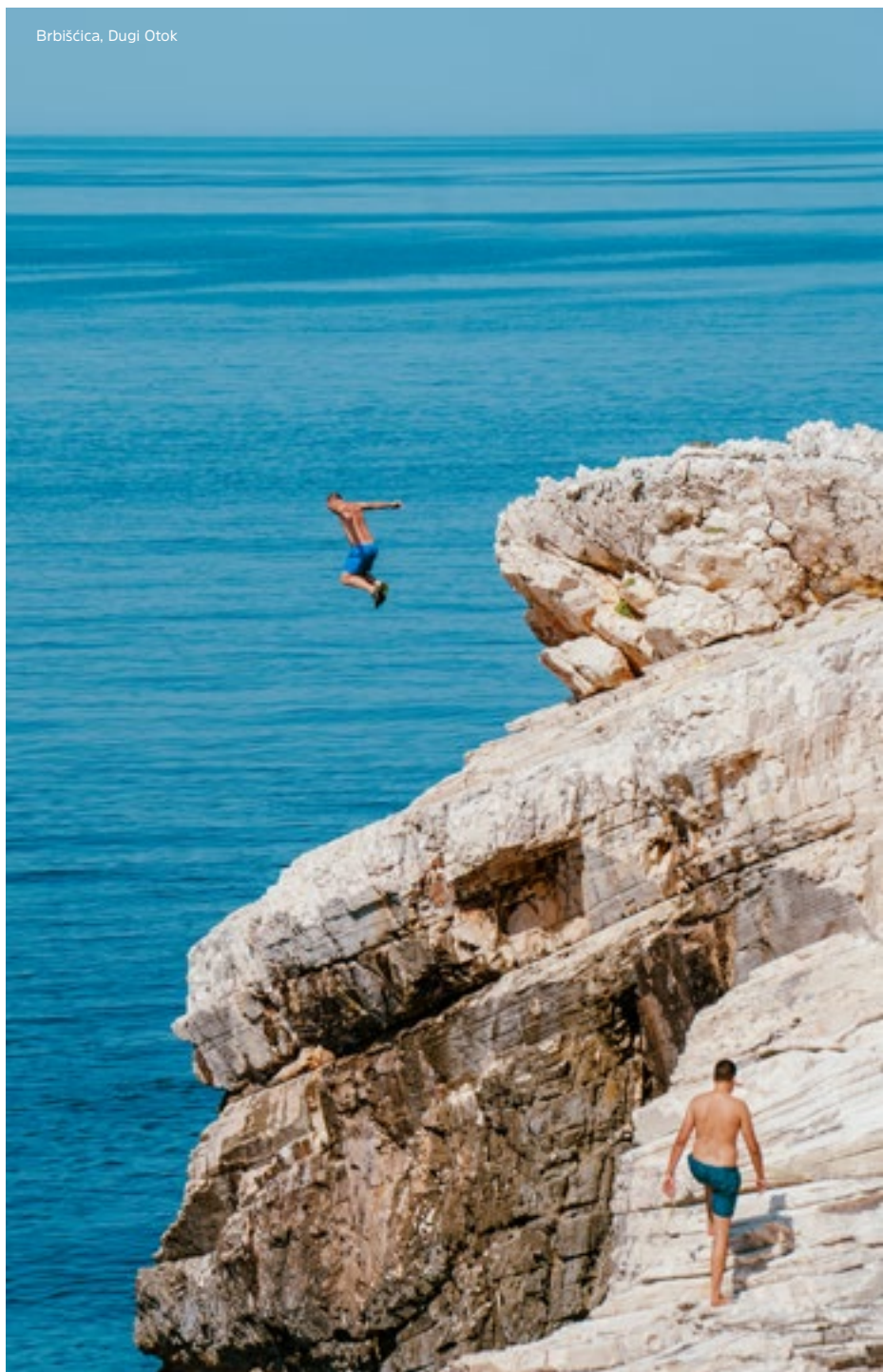
Premuda is made for walking, it's the best way to uncover its hidden charms. Most trails begin in the village centre, and one of the most interesting is the Path to Loza. If you're into diving, you'll love Premuda's Sea Cathedral, a majestic underwater cave system with white-sand floors. Another standout site is Zad Masarin, where sheer cliffs drop steeply into waters over 60 meters deep. Also notable is the wreck of the Szent István battleship, which can be explored with special permission from Croatia's Ministry of the Sea.

Don't miss the Rivanj Channel between the islands of Rivanj and Sestrunj. This striking site features a sandy seabed dotted with boulders entirely covered in sponges, moss animals, and corals, the most prominent being the red and yellow gorgonians. Seagrass (*Posidonia oceanica*) grows on the rocks, forming lush underwater meadows, a true feast for the eyes. But beware, due to strong currents, this site is suitable only for experienced divers.

Another exciting diving spot is Ledenik, about 60 meters off the northern coast of Sestrunj. This is the site of the 70-meter-long wreck of the ship Ledenik, which sank in 2008 and now serves as an artificial reef, with its hull covered in algae and sponges.

Idula, northwest of Ugljan, is home to clean and healthy *Posidonia* meadows and rocky seascapes teeming with life, algae, sponges, corals, tunicates, and a rich variety of fish species.

Brbišćica, Dugi Otok



The Only Natural Climbing Spot

Between Luka and Savar on Dugi Otok lies Stara Kava, a sports climbing area. This relatively low limestone cliff (up to 11 meters) is somewhat fragile in parts, so helmets and extra caution are advised. Still, it's suitable for all skill levels, with 13 climbing routes available, two of which are more advanced.

A true paradise for walkers, the islands of Ugljan and Pašman offer unforgettable hiking experiences. One of the highlights is Đirada on Pašman, a fantastic recreational race and walk that brings together many nature and movement lovers. You'll also be instantly impressed by the hike up to St. Michael's Fortress on Ugljan, which offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding area. Also, near the crystal clear sea, on the southwestern side of the fortress, lies Željina, the only natural rock climbing area in the Zadar archipelago, with 40 routes, many of which are beginner-friendly.

Don't miss the "Gremo na Šćah" event, a guided hike to the highest point of Ugljan. The trail, that is available when the weather is nice, starts in the village of Turkija and is suitable for all ages. Created by Zadar archaeologist Martina Dubolnić-Glavan, this educational excursion is usually held in spring.

Ugljan also offers a perfect blend of activity and learning. Walk its cultural-historical trails! Strada publica is a Roman-era road from the 1st century and part of the heritage complex Trpinjin. It also showcases traditional dry-stone architecture and was previously covered in arable land. The path, once used to drive livestock between Mali and Veli Lukoran, is now marked and leads from the De Ponte summer house, across the Vrulje spring in Mali Lukoran, to the Borelli summer house in Veli Lukoran.

Running on Sharp Rocks

Neighboring Pašman boasts two breathtaking viewpoints, Straža and Pustograd, from which you can see the Kornati Islands and the Velebit mountain range. The island's pride is the Škraping race – a unique trekking event run over sharp coastal rocks known as škrape. Anyone can participate, with four levels to choose from depending on your fitness: Ultra (47 km), Challenger (25 km), Active (12 km), and Light (6 km).

Both Ugljan and Pašman are crisscrossed with excellent cycling trails that pass ancient olive groves and weave through impressive networks of traditional dry-stone walls – what better way to experience authentic Dalmatia?





A Legend of Fairies and the Fearsome Cave

Dugi Otok, with its Telašćica Nature Park, offers a wealth of outdoor activities. Explore hiking and trekking trails, try kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding, or go sailing along cliffs that rise up to 100 meters high. Dive to the wreck of the sunken cargo boat Michelle, which rests at a depth of just 6 meters on the island's northern side.

One of the top attractions is Golubinka Cave, reachable only by sea. Once you swim in it, you'll be greeted by a surreal sight – sunlight reflecting off the rocks creates a dazzling play of green, turquoise, and violet hues will leave you speechless.

Then there's Strašna peć (The Fearsome Cave), a cave whose entrance lies at 70 meters above sea level and offers stunning sea views. Inside, stalactites and stalagmites form a natural space resembling Gothic cathedral vaults. Legend has it the cave was formed when fairies tried to split Dugi Otok in two. They dug and dug, but dawn caught them before they could finish, and Strašna peć remains as a silent witness to their enchanted labour.

Basketball and Swimming for Everyone

The island of Ist is a great destination for basketball lovers. Every last Saturday in July, the Ist Youth Association hosts the Island Basketball Tournament at the "Bratski dvor" court next to the elementary school. This sporting tradition has been held since 1976 and brings together residents from all over the archipelago. Street ball tournaments are also held during the summer in Kali (on Ugljan) and on Ošljak, open to basketball fans of all ages.

One of the oldest swimming marathons in the Adriatic is the Preko-Zadar race, held since 1972. This 5-kilometer swim from Preko's waterfront on Ugljan to the Kolovare swimming pool in Zadar now takes place on August 5, Croatia's Victory day and Homeland Thanksgiving Day.

Ist also hosts its own swim race, Around Benušić, organized every August by the Maratonist club. Participants swim 4,200 meters from Pocrkvo beach to the islet of Benušić and back.

There's no doubt that the old saying "A healthy body is a healthy mind" takes on its full meaning among the islands of the Zadar archipelago!





SILBA

*The gateway to
Dalmatia hides some
of the Adriatic's most
beautiful beaches*



Mosaic, Silba Island



***A pedestrian island
with some of the most
stunning beaches in
the Adriatic - that's
just one of the glowing
descriptions often
used for Silba, a
magical oasis of peace
also known as the
“Gateway to Dalmatia.”***

Surrounded by the islands of Olib, Ist, Premuda, and Škarda, Silba lies on an ancient sailing route connecting Zadar with Istria, the Gulf of Trieste, and Venice.

Two legends are tied to the island's name - one says Silba comes from the Greek word silbon, meaning “sand,” while the other claims it comes from the Latin silva, meaning “forest.”

Sotorišće Beach





Sandy Shores and Turquoise Seas

Though it spans only 15 square kilometres, Silba's single village, also called Silba, is anything but small. Every winding, picturesque alley leads either to the village centre or to one of the island's breathtaking beaches. There are no cars on Silba, only service vehicles for water delivery and a few mopeds and bicycles, though even those are banned during peak tourist season. Silba is a place of total freedom, where nature takes centre stage - best experienced on one of its dreamy beaches.

By far the most popular beach is Šotorišće, with its bright sandy seabed and surreal turquoise water. But don't stop there - the island offers many other beauties worth discovering: Ugljanica, Vele Stene, Slatina, Carpusina, Žalić, Dobre Vode, Pernastica, and the naturist beach Mavrova. Near the bay of Pocukmarak, archaeologists discovered valuable sarcophagi from the 5th and 6th centuries.





Toreta, Tower of Love

A Monument to Love

The only village is located in the centre, narrowest part of the island, just 700 meters wide, so you can enjoy a peaceful stroll from the west to the east coast in about ten minutes.

Perhaps the island's most famous landmark is Toreta, a 15-meter-high stone tower with a spiral staircase, built in the 19th century. Known as the Monument of Love or Marin-ić's Toreta, it is said to have been built as a tribute to the romance between the sailor Petar Marinić and a local woman, Antonija Mauro.

Old Captain's Homes

"Silba was once famed for its brave seafarers and wooden ships, (...)"

The oldest church on the island is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and dates back to the 15th century. From there, it's just a minute's walk to the heart of the village, where you'll find shops, a bakery, cafés, restaurants, and more.

Silba was once famed for its brave seafarers and wooden ships, and their spirit still lives on in the island's old captain's houses, scattered throughout the village. Today, only about 300 people live on Silba year-round, but the island has been inhabited since Illyrian times. Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus even mentioned it in the 10th century under the name Selbo.



Jedrille Monument

An aerial photograph of a tropical island. The island is covered in dense green vegetation and has a long, narrow white sandy beach that curves along the shoreline. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and a white sailboat with a tall mast is visible in the lower right corner. In the background, there are blue mountains under a sky with scattered white clouds.

OLIB

*An island of heavenly
beaches, a haven of
peace and delicious
local food*



A Sailing Paradise, Island of Olib



Slatinica Beach



Imagine over 30 kilometres of coastline lined with sandy, shallow beaches, hidden coves surrounded by holm oak forests, and quiet evenings free of noise and crowds, all under a starlit sky -that's what awaits you on Olib, an island nestled between Silba to the west and Pag to the east.

This hidden treasure of the Zadar archipelago is said to boast the most beautiful sandy beaches on the Adriatic. The undisputed queen among them is Slatinica, on the island's eastern side, where you can also find the port of Samotvorac. From here, you can take in a magnificent view of Pag Island and the distant Velebit mountain range -a scene worthy of the most beautiful postcard!

On the southern coast lies Južna Slatina Bay, and on the northern side, there's Draga Bay, accessible via a walking path. All of the Olib's bays can also be reached by boat..

A Tower Against Pirates

Although you can arrive on Olib by car, driving is not allowed on the island. So take the opportunity to explore it on foot or by bike, discovering its picturesque coves, enjoying the authenticity of Olib, and immersing yourself in a peace that soothes both body and soul.

The island's only settlement, which also happens to be its largest bay and harbour, is called Olib and is located on the west coast. At its heart stands the striking Kaštel Tower, built in the 16th century to protect the island from pirate attacks.

The Island of Glagolitic Heritage

“Although small, Olib doesn’t lack attractions (...)”

Today's Olib, once known as Aloip and located on the elevated site of Gradina, was first mentioned by Strabo, a geographer and historian of ancient Greece, suggesting the settlement existed as far back as the Illyrian period. The island's rich history is also reflected in the restored churches of St. Anastasia (Sv. Stošija) and St. Roch (Sv. Roko).

Although small, Olib doesn't lack attractions - in the enchanting Banjve Bay, you can explore the remains of a Roman-era settlement, as well as the ruins of a three-nave church dedicated to St. Paul and a former hermit monastery, abandoned in the late 12th century.

There's also the equally lovely St. Nicholas Bay with its namesake chapel. This location is sheltered from most winds, making it an ideal anchorage for all types of boats.



Kaštel Tower

A Heaven for Active Travelers

One of Olib's unique features is its ponikva (a sinkhole or natural depression formed by the dissolution of limestone and dolomite), enclosed by a massive dry-stone wall and stairways, resembling an amphitheatre in shape.

Olib is one of the lowest-lying islands in the Zadar archipelago -climbing to its highest peak, Kalac, is no challenge at all, as it rises just 74 meters above sea level. If you're a fan of active holidays, don't worry: Olib offers excellent opportunities for diving, fishing, windsurfing, and cycling.



Active Vacation



Olib Island



An aerial photograph of a harbor on Premuda Island. The water is a vibrant turquoise blue, revealing a rocky seabed. A curved stone pier with a tiled roof extends into the water. Two small boats are moored at the pier: one is white with a red canopy, and the other is white with a blue canopy. A larger boat is visible in the lower left corner. The island's edge is composed of large, light-colored rocks.

PREMUDA

*An island of
peace, tranquillity,
and an exciting
underwater world*

Harbor, Premuda Island



Church of St. Quiricus

Premuda, the westernmost island of the Zadar archipelago, is a serene haven of holm oak, low Mediterranean vegetation, olive trees, and turquoise sea. So small you can walk across it in about an hour, Premuda is one of those rare places where every inch will leave you breathless..

Just 9 kilometres long and barely 1 kilometre wide, with a total area of about 9.2 square kilometres, Premuda is a place like no other. Time seems to stand still here, the atmosphere radiates calm, and the stress of daily life feels like a distant memory.

This tiny island with a big heart is home to only around 60 residents, but that number doubles in summer. And those who visit once often find themselves coming back.



Backyard



Fishing

Rocks as Shields

You can reach this coastal gem by boat from Lošinj or Zadar. As you sail into Krijal Port on the southern side of the island, you'll be greeted by the stunning sight of rocky outcrops -Masarine, Hripa, Plitka Sika, Bračić, and Mala Sika, which shield Premuda from the open-sea swells. To the north lies the port of Loza, and between it and Krijal, tucked into the hillside, is the island's only village, sharing its name with the island itself.

There are no cars on Premuda, and although the uphill walk to the village can be a bit of a challenge, it's more than worth it for the opportunity to soak in the island's natural beauty at every step.

A Wreck Dive

Premuda also offers a challenge reserved for the most experienced divers, the spectacular wreck of the Austro-Hungarian battleship Szent István, which was sunk in 1918. The wreck lies at a depth of 66 meters, resting upside down on the seafloor, its deck facing the seabed and its keel pointing skyward. It is often referred to as the Titanic of the Adriatic or the Adriatic's Mount Everest.

Few places on the Adriatic can boast such a rich underwater world. No wonder Premuda is beloved not just by divers, but also by sailors who find freedom and tranquillity in its wild yet majestic beauty. The best place to take it all in? Garbica Viewpoint, a former Yugoslav military lookout.

A Seabed 'Cathedral'

In the heart of this picturesque village stands the Church of St. James the Apostle, dating back to 1610. Another church, dedicated to St. Cyriacus and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is located in Krijal port, where local fishermen dock and sell fresh catch straight from the sea. The village has two shops (one of which operates only during summer), a post office, a handful of restaurants, and a café.

In addition to sandy and pebbled coves, Premuda is known for its incredible diving spots and the breathtaking system of underwater caves called the Cathedral, a must-see for diving enthusiasts.

An aerial photograph of a butterfly-shaped island with lush green vegetation. The island is surrounded by clear, turquoise water. A small town with red-roofed buildings is visible on the right side of the island. In the background, there are more islands and a clear blue sky. The text "IST" is prominently displayed in large, white, bold letters, followed by a descriptive sentence in a smaller, italicized font.

IST *A butterfly-shaped
island where the
most beautiful
memories are made*







Ist Island

Small in size but rich in beauty - Ist is a true Adriatic gem of untouched nature, a place where the hospitality of the locals will make you feel at home, and where you'll create the most beautiful memories.

This tiny island in the Zadar archipelago resembles the shape of a butterfly, its delicate wings edged with breathtaking beaches that dip into crystal-clear waters shimmering in every imaginable shade of blue. With an area of just 9.73 square kilometres and a single village, also called Ist, home to fewer than 200 year-round residents, the island is so full of charm and wonder that will make you wish you could stay forever.

Far from the Crowds

Ist is accessible by ferry or catamaran from Zadar, around 40 kilometres away. There are no cars there, only the sounds of waves and the songs of cicadas to wake you up in the morning. Everything you need for a perfect summer escape can be found in the island's two small shops, and there are some cozy spots for coffee or dinner, all far from the crowds and away from the hustle of mass tourism. This is a true little paradise on earth, loved by sailors, anglers, and divers alike for its rich underwater world.

Surrounded by rocky outcrops and small islands, Ist's closest neighbours are Škarda and Molat. For a spectacular view of the open sea and Velebit mountain, as well as Dugi Otok, Kornati, Olib, and Silba, be sure to climb to the island's highest point - the 175-meter Straža peak.

Perched proudly on this same hilltop is the lovely stone chapel of Our Lady of Health (Gospe od Zdravlja), built in the 1800s. Locals also know it as the Church of Our Lady of the Snow (Gospe od Sniga). In the center of the village of Ist, located in the island's narrowest part, you'll also find the Church of St. Nicholas.





St. Nicholas Church

A Name Wrapped in Mystery

“(...) a bit wild, and overgrown with dense shrubs (...)”

The island's enchanting sandy coves are perfect for swimming. Since Ist has two main beaches, Široka and Kosirača, you can enjoy a different one each day. The 20-kilometer-long coastline is rugged, a bit wild, and overgrown with dense shrubs – a true playground for nature lovers and adventurers looking for an active holiday and are not afraid to explore the unknown.

And the island's best-kept secrets? You'll hear them straight from the source -in a friendly chat with the ever-welcoming locals, who will proudly tell you that their island was first mentioned back in 1311 under the name Ost, and later as Isto, Gist, Esto, and Jist... The name is of Illyrian origin, but its true meaning remains a mystery to this day.

And finally, the island's greatest pride is an athlete Dina Levačić -the first Croatian woman to swim across the La Manche channel and who put this small island of Ist on the global map of big achievements.



Arrival in the Harbor, Molat Island



MOLAT

*A honey-sweet
island with over
2,500 hours of
sunshine a year*

If you're looking to visit an island often called one of Croatia's hidden treasures, then Molat should definitely be your next destination.

With more than 2,500 hours of sunshine annually, this gem of the Zadar archipelago will enchant you with its lush greenery, indented coastline, secluded coves, and beautiful beaches.

Besides, it's no wonder people affectionately call it a "North Dalmatian sweet treat" – the name Molat comes from the Latin words mel and mellitus, meaning honey and honey-sweet.



Rich Gastronomy



Lučina Harbor



Podgarbe Bay

Inland Villages ***One of the Greenest Islands***

Located between the islands of Dugi Otok and Ist, with the Vir Sea on one side and the open Adriatic on the other, Molat is connected to Zadar by regular ferry and catamaran lines.

Though small, covering just 23 square kilometres, cars do operate on the island, but luckily, there's never any traffic jam. Surrounded by dense Mediterranean shrubland and pine forest, this peaceful haven offers the perfect chance to slow down, reconnect with untouched nature, and experience the true charm of authentic Dalmatia.

The picturesque villages of Molat, Zapuntel, and Brgulje are nestled inland and together are home to fewer than 200 people. Zapuntel lies in the north, Brgulje in the centre, and Molat in the south. All three have their own harbours, and the northern tip of the island is just about 100 meters away from the neighbouring island of Ist.

The rich history of the magical island of Molat dates back to the Old Stone Age. Several valuable flint tools from that time have been discovered near Ledenice, close to the Zapuntel harbour, in the Zapuntel field, and to the east of the village of Molat.

During the Middle Ages, when wealthy nobles from Zadar and Venice owned the island, Molat lost a vast forest of holm oak due to overharvesting. Fortunately, this slice of paradise remains one of the greenest islands in the Adriatic even today.





Brgulje, Molat Island

The Most Beautiful Sandy Beach

“(...) excellent protection from nearly all winds, (...)”

Molat, a small fishing village, is the largest settlement on the island. Stroll through its vibrant little streets, stop by the central square Trzno, visit the local museum, and get to know the interesting customs of this Adriatic gem!

One of Molat's biggest points of pride is the gorgeous Lučina Bay, while nearby you'll also find the sandy beach of Jazi, one of the island's most beautiful beaches and an ideal spot for swimming.

Zapuntel, in fact, is a large natural harbour, while Brgulje stands out for its layout: the older part of the village sits on a hill about a kilometre inland, while the newer settlement lies right by the main ferry pier in Brgulje Bay. Loved by sailors for its excellent protection from nearly all winds, this little village once had a playful tourism slogan: “Brgulje – hard to say, nice to stay.”



Sakarun Beach, Dugi Otok



DUGI OTOK

*An irresistible
island of stunning
nature and long
tradition*



Dugi Otok, as its name suggests, stretches about 45 kilometres in length and spans between one and just four kilometres in width.

Steep cliffs, peaceful coves, a saltwater lake, a touch of breathtaking nature and charming fishing villages... This beauty blends seemingly opposite elements, and that's exactly what makes it perfectly irresistible.

And then there's Telašćica Nature Park -with its vertical cliffs, known locally as "stene", 25 bays and five islets, the famous salt lake Mir which is connected to the sea through underground channels, and the flat, unusually shaped islet known as Taljurić... On top of that, Dugi Otok is home to one of the most beautiful beaches in the Adriatic - the turquoise Sakarun - which has captured thousands of hearts and graced the covers of the world's most prestigious magazines.

The island has around 1,500 residents living in 11 villages and is also the resting place of the oldest known Dalmatian, affectionately named Šime by the media. In 2011, the remains of a human skeleton estimated to be 11,000 years old were discovered in Vlakno cave. The island's rich history is also reflected in the many Glagolitic inscriptions found here.

The Tallest Lighthouse on the Adriatic

The heart of this Adriatic paradise is the picturesque village of Sali, known for its deep-rooted fishing tradition. Every summer, it comes alive with a three-day celebration called Saljske užance, which features the legendary *Tovareća mužika* (Donkey Music). Sali even boasts a reading room with books in several world languages, and locals take great pride in the Saljsko polje, an olive grove with trees up to 700 years old.

At the northernmost point of the Dugi Otok lies the village of Veli Rat, nestled in the Čuna Bay. It's famous for the Punta Bjanka lighthouse, standing 42 meters tall, the highest on the Adriatic. It also offers apartment accommodation for those seeking solitude - a dream getaway guaranteed!

Also in Čuna Bay is the fairytale-like village of Verunić, a peaceful oasis where you'll feel like you've stepped into a storybook. That feeling is thanks to the warm hospitality of the locals, who live off fishing and farming, treat guests like family, and are always happy to serve delicious local specialties that few can resist.

Then there's Zaglav, a must-stop for sailors who come for the fuel station but find it hard to leave after being charmed by the village. Local landmarks include a Franciscan monastery of the Third Order Glagolites and the Gothic Church of St. Michael, the patron saint of Zaglav.





Dugi Otok's Jurassic Park

"Whether you swim or kayak inside, you'll be greeted by a spectacular sight (...)"

A similar cultural heritage can be found in Brbinj, where Glagolitic priests once lived, preserving and promoting literacy through the long history of the village. The village has two magical coves, Jaz and Lučina, ideal for anchoring, and nearby is the breathtaking Brbinjšćica Bay, surrounded by dramatic cliffs and enchanting caves. It's lovingly called Dugi Otok's "Jurassic Park" due to its wealth of sedimentary rocks in which an ample of fossils have been found.

Close to Brbinjšćica is the natural phenomenon known as the Dragon's Eye (Zmajevo oko), a rock pool formed by the erosion of limestone. If you're brave enough to dive in, you can swim through the passages all the way to the open sea. Another unforgettable experience is visiting Golubinka Cave nearby. Whether you swim or kayak inside, you'll be greeted by a spectacular sight - the combination of sea, stone, and natural light streaming through the open ceiling reveals the richness of the underwater fauna and an impressive spectrum of colours rarely seen.

The magical village of Savar, nestled in its own bay, even has a tiny islet connected to the mainland by a causeway. You'll be enchanted by the pre-Romanesque Church of St. Peregrine, and by the fact that stone from Savar was used to build Zadar's Forum, palaces and churches in Rome and Venice, and even the United Nations building in New York.



Golubinka Cave

Ancient Salt Pans and Fertile Fields

The village of Luka, located in the bay of Zlatna vala, features a charming promenade dating back to the 14th century. Towering above it is the island's highest peak, Vela Straža, rising 338 meters, while the nearby Boka Bay is known for its mud with healing properties.

Božava's main draws are its paradise-like cove, and four hotels tucked into a fragrant pine forest. Just across from it lies the islet of Zverinac, accessible by ferry. It is a perfect opportunity for a day trip and for soaking in the beauty of Zverinac!

Be sure to visit Soline in the Solišćica Bay, named after ancient salt pans, and the village of Žman in Žmančica Bay, known for its fertile fields. And last but not least, there's Dragove -surrounded by the islets of Tatišnjak, Veliki and Mali Planatak, and Magarčić. Its area has been inhabited since ancient times, as shown by Roman remains found at the foot of the Dubravica hill. Nearby is also the Veli Žal beach, from which you can enjoy a magnificent view of the islet Mežanj and the open sea.



Telašćica Nature Park



St. Nicholas Chapel, Veli Rat



Basket Weaving, Rava Island



RAVA

*A peaceful island
in the “centre
of the world,”
scented with
fruit, pines, and
the sea*

Tucked between Dugi Otok and Iž, the island of Rava is a perfect blend of deep blue sea and lush green landscape.

With the scent of figs, carob, almonds, peaches, plums, blackberries, blueberries, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, mandarins, walnuts, and sorb apples in the air, this charming, authentic, and slightly sleepy little island is made for a dream holiday – especially if you're looking to escape the crowds, leave stress behind, and reconnect with nature at its finest.

Rava is known for its stunning beaches and crystal-clear waters. Though it covers just 3.63 square kilometres, its incredibly indented coastline hides no fewer than 15 secluded coves: Dražice, Golubovac, Martinica, Grbavač, Tanko, Vališina, Ivanoševica, Pavajsko, Pestehovac, Grbačina, Marnjica (Marinica), Paladinjica (Paladinica), Vičabok, Lokvina, and Za Grbicu.





Mala Rava and Vela Rava



Rava Island

Endless Swimming Spots

“The island itself was first mentioned in the 13th century (...)”

About 100 people live on Rava today, in the two villages of Vela Rava and Mala Rava. The island itself was first mentioned in the 13th century in historical documents that referenced the noble Zadar family Raua, who owned land on Rava. Many believe the island got its name from them.

Picturesque Mala Rava is located in the northwest of this central Dalmatian gem, while Vela Rava, the island's main hub, lies in the centre, surrounded by the coves of Marnjica, Grbačina, and Grbavač, with Ivanoševica and Pavajsko not far off. You'll never run out of swimming options! In the older part of the village, perched at 82 meters above sea level, you'll find the parish church, an olive mill, and the local school, though it sadly no longer has any students.



Mala Rava



Terraced Fields of Fertile Soil

Over the centuries, the people of Rava have built traditional dry-stone walls across the island's hilly terrain, giving its landscape a distinct look. While cultivating the land, they carved magnificent terraces into the slopes, fertile fields that sustained them for generations.

Rich in history, surrounded by unspoiled nature, and home to locals who will welcome you with open arms - could there be a better invitation to visit Rava? Come, experience it, and fall in love!



Fertile Fields



An Authentic Dalmatian Scene



"Centre of the World" Mark

The "Centre of the World"

The heart of local life in Vela Rava is the central square Kolečće, marked as the "Centre of the World" (Centar Svita). According to ancient legend, Rava lies at the very centre of the Earth, where great underground wheels turn and set the entire world in motion. It's no wonder the islanders love to say: "Who hasn't seen Rava, hasn't seen the world."

The newer part of Vela Rava stretches along Marnjica Bay. Here you'll find a small grocery store, a post office, a restaurant, and the island's dock, where the boat from Zadar arrives.



IŽ

*A peaceful fishing
island that still crowns
its “King” every year*







A true oasis of peace and quiet nestled between Ugljan and Dugi Otok - meet the island of Iž, home to warm-hearted locals whose identity has long been shaped by the traditions of fishing, seafaring, farming, winemaking, fruit growing, and olive cultivation.

Today, around 400 people live in the island's two villages, Mali Iž and Veli Iž, but Iž has been inhabited since prehistoric times. This slice of paradise in the Zadar archipelago is 12.5 km long, 2.7 km wide, and covers a total area of 17.59 square kilometres.



King of Iž



Veli Iž

The Crowning of a King

Surrounded by ten small islets, the largest of which is Knežak, Iž is a beloved destination for sailors, divers, and nature lovers alike, drawn to its dreamy coves and crystal-clear sea that shimmers in stunning shades of blue.

Iž is also known as the “royal island”, and with a good reason. Every year on July 29, the island hosts the Iška fešta, a traditional island celebration. Locals dress in folk costumes, perform their old dances and songs, and the highlight of the event is the crowning of the King of Iž, who holds the title for one year. This medieval European custom was once widespread across Croatian islands, but today it survives only on Iž, specifically in the village of Veli Iž, the island's centre.

A Breathtaking View

BThe picturesque hamlets of Mućel, Makovac, and Porovac sit atop three hills and form the vibrant community of Mali Iž, which is surrounded by the stunning coves of Knež and Komoševa. In the Makovac area, not far from the Church of the Assumption of Mary, built by local parishioners in the 19th century, you'll find the charming pre-Romanesque rotunda of St. Mary, dating from between the 9th and 11th centuries.

From the island's highest point, Mount Korinjak (168 meters), you'll be rewarded with a breathtaking view of the surrounding area. And as the perfect ending to your island adventure, you can take a short trip to the islet of Rutnjak. Just 300 meters off the Iž coast, this little green oasis is arranged as a park -making it ideal for a peaceful day trip and a true escape from the mass tourism.

Authentic Island Pottery

In Veli Iž, you'll find a marina, local taverns, restaurants, cafés, Hotel Korinjak, a grocery store, post office, and a medical clinic. The village's historic centre is dominated by the Church of St. Peter and Paul, and a true historical treasure awaits at the Ethnographic Collection of Veli Iž. Here you'll discover authentic iška pottery and the tools once used to make it. This permanent exhibition offers a glimpse into daily life on the island in the past -from a traditional kitchen and weaving tools to handmade items crafted from wool, linen, and cotton. Step back in time and learn about the religious and folk customs that have characterized and shaped this Central Dalmatian island.

By far, the island's most famous souvenir is the *iški lopiz* - a clay dish used for cooking. Pottery-making was once a defining skill of the Iž residents, who became well known for it throughout history. In fact, the first written record of Iž pottery dates all the way back to 1530. Pretty impressive, right?



Nika Petrovic Grlic, Making of the *iški Lopiz*



Olive Grove, Ugljan Island



UGLJAN

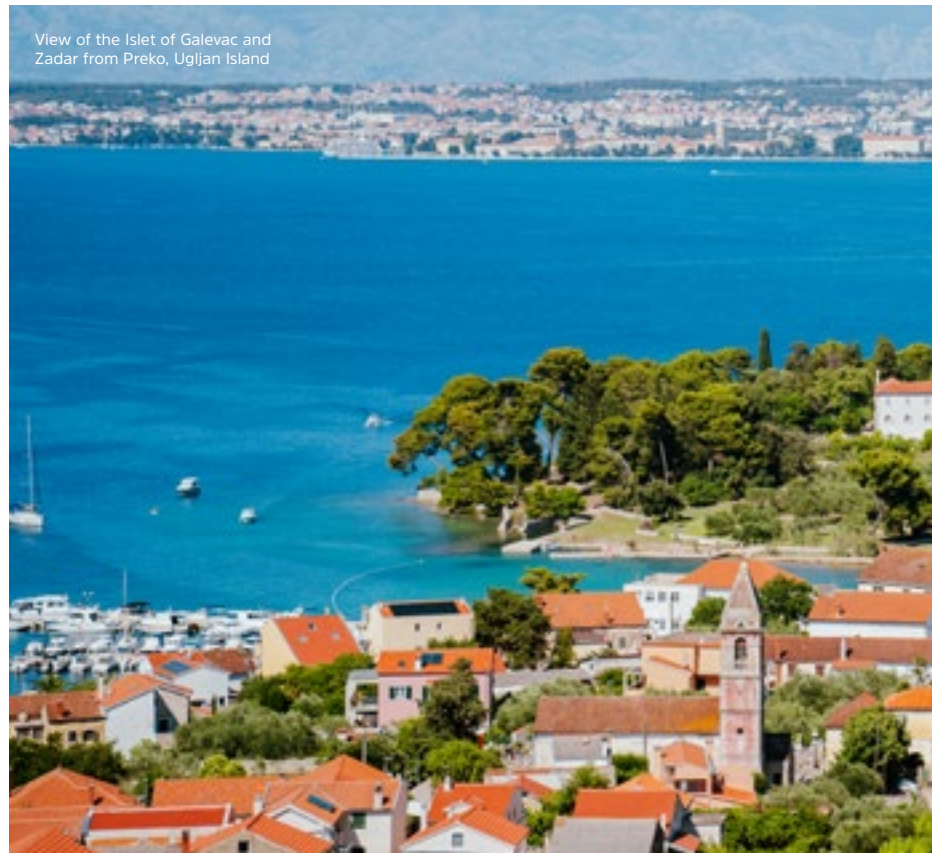
*The green island:
a haven of history,
olives, and active
vacation*



The island of Ugljan is a small paradise overflowing with the rich scents of Mediterranean herbs: lavender, immortelle, myrtle, rosemary, broom, figs, and grapes. Home to olive trees over 2,000 years old, it's no wonder Ugljan is affectionately known as the "Green Island."

Spanning 50 square kilometres, Ugljan is made up of seven picturesque villages: Preko, Kali, Ugljan, Kukljica, Lukoran, Sutomišćica, and Poljana with around 7500 residents. Together with the nearby islands of Ošljak, Sestrunj, and Rivanj, they form a community under the Municipality of Preko.

This gem of the Zadar archipelago is one of the largest and most populated Croatian islands. Human presence dates back to prehistoric times, with the Liburnians as the island's first known inhabitants. Traces of Liburnian hillforts can still be seen on Sestrunj and Rivanj. During Roman times, the island saw the development of agricultural estates and many villae rusticae, and the Roman centuriation of Ugljan's farmland remains visible to this day. In the Middle Ages, Croatians settled the island and have built numerous small churches.



View of the Islet of Galevac and Zadar from Preko, Ugljan Island



A Well, Mali Lukoran



Fruits of the Earth and Stone Lacework

“Locals have always lived in harmony with the sea (...)”

The island's lovely bays and charming harbours, where generations have lived by the rhythms of seafaring and fishing, are a true magnet for visitors seeking peace and natural beauty. You can reach Ugljan by ferry or catamaran from Zadar, with the main port located in Preko. Blessed with a mild climate and extremely fertile soil, Ugljan is rich in produce like lemons, oranges, mandarins, pomegranates, loquats, artichokes, and wild asparagus, all staples of a healthy diet and highly sought-after at Zadar's green market.

Locals have always lived in harmony with the sea and the land. Their remarkable dry-stone walls, known as stone lace, stretch for kilometres, enclosing roads, fields, and olive groves. Alongside them, you'll find bunje - small stone shelters used for storing tools and produce and for protection from the elements.

Idyllic Beaches

One of the greatest attractions of this tourist mecca is its crystal-clear sea and abundance of stunning beaches, both sandy and rocky. Among the most popular is Južna Luka, a peaceful sandy cove shaped by nature into beautiful stone formations.

Top beaches for families include Jaz in Preko, Velika Sabuša and Mala Sabuša in Kukljica, Mostir in Ugljan, and Otrič, Batalaža, and Mala Lamjana in Kali. Other gorgeous swimming spots include the coves of Kostanj, Svitla, Čeprijanda, Gduće, and Sušica.





Remains of Windmills, Ošljak Island



Muline, Ugljan Island



Enviably Cultural and Historical Heritage

*"Liburnian olive oil was
among the most prized in
the Roman Empire."*

In the charming village of Muline, you'll find the remains of a late Roman villa rustica from the 1st century, a rural estate that included an olive mill which operated until the 4th century. Liburnian olive oil was among the most prized in the Roman Empire.

During the Middle Ages, islanders built many small votive churches using local stone that are preserved to this day. On Ošljak, the Church of St. Mary dates back to the 6th century. In Preko, the Church of St. John was built in the 11th century and still holds regular Mass.

According to a legend, a sailor who survived a shipwreck and found safety on the coast of Ugljan, built the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damian on the very spot where he was saved.

One of the oldest Glagolitic manuscripts from the Adriatic islands, "Libar godov," is kept in the Church of St. Lawrence in Kali.

Just off the coast of Preko lies the islet of Galevac (Školjić), a popular cultural attraction. In the 15th century, Zadar nobleman Milanja gifted it to the Franciscans, who built a sacred retreat. Today, visitors can explore the Church of St. Paul the Hermit, the monastery, and a museum showcasing rich Glagolitic heritage, all open during the summer months.

In Ugljan village, the Church and Monastery of St. Jerome are among the finest examples of 15th-century island architecture. The monastery's 16th-century cloister hosts summer concerts with a magical ambiance.

A Fortress with a View

St. Michael's Fortress was built on the site of an earlier 6th-century fort with a Benedictine monastery and a 12th-century chapel dedicated to St. Michael. The fortress was expanded over the centuries and played a key role in the conflicts between Zadar and Venice. Thanks to its strategic location, it was considered impregnable!

Today, the fortress is a beloved symbol of the island, popular with both locals and tourists. It's also one of the best places to watch the sunrise or sunset! From the top of the fortress, you can hike to Šćah (286 m), the island's highest peak and former Roman-era lookout.





Summer Home Lantana, Sutomišćica

Renaissance Summer Homes

Many noble families have built countryside villas on Ugljan in the 15th century, those were tranquil retreats surrounded by nature. One of the best preserved is Crnica in Preko, featuring a lush Renaissance garden with holm oak, laurel, and pine. It was built by Venetian captain Vuko Crnica in the 15th century.

In Sutomišćica, you'll find the Lantana family countryside castle, inspired by Venetian villas. Historically, this was where the Provveditore (Venetian governor) of Dalmatia and Montenegro was ceremonially received.

Come, explore, experience, and fall in love with Ugljan. You won't regret it!



Church of Our Lady of Loreto, Summit of Mali Bokolj



PAŠMAN

*An island with a soul: a place
of peace, heavenly beaches,
and priceless heritage*



Passage through Kaleta (Narrow Street), Nevidane



View of the Islet Garmenjok, Barotul, Mrljane

Sandy beaches, paradise coves, and hidden bays, the island of Pašman will win you over at first sight. With its laid-back atmosphere, free of noise and crowds, it's a winning combination for a perfect holiday.

If you're a fan of Robinson-style getaways and solitude, head to the less-inhabited southern part of the island, where you'll discover the untamed beauty, authenticity, and untouched nature of Pašman in its purest form.

This enchanting island is separated from Zadar and Biograd by the Pašman Channel, where the sea currents change direction every six hours, one of the reasons the waters here are considered the cleanest in the Adriatic. The channel is also home to the kunjka shellfish (turkey-wing shell), a prized local delicacy that has long been a food staple in the charming, picturesque town of Tkon.



Unforgettable Fishermen's Nights

"(...) the perfect chance to mingle with locals and visitors (...)"

In addition to Tkon, the island spans 63 square kilometres and includes the villages of Ždrelac, Banj, Dobropoljana, Pašman, Nevidane, Mrljane, Barotul, Mali Pašman, Kraj, and Ugrinić. Pašman is home to about 3,100 residents and is connected to neighbouring Ugljan by a bridge at Mali Ždrelac passage.

The island's highest point, Veliki Bokolj (272 m), offers a spectacular panoramic view of the Kornati Islands and nearly the entire Zadar archipelago. An unbeatable spot to enjoy the sunset!

The island has plenty of cafés and bars, and there's even a nightclub in Ugrinić. During summer, several villages host traditional events, including Fishermen's Nights with live music, local delicacies, and lively entertainment - the perfect chance to mingle with locals and visitors who arrive at the magnificent Pašman from all around the world.



Plazine Beach, Tkon

A Gothic Crucifix from the 15th Century

A cultural monument of the highest category and once an important Glagolitic centre is the Benedictine Monastery of Sts. Cosmas and Damian from the 12th century, located on Čokovac hill near Tkon. Within its church is a stunning Gothic crucifix from the early 15th century.

To fully immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of Tkon county, visit the Interpretation Centre of Maritime Heritage. There, you can discover the tools and skills that shaped the island's past. From boat-building and fishing to farming and everyday life. Through multimedia displays, story panels, old photographs, and preserved artifacts, you'll get a vivid picture of tradition and life on Pašman in days gone by. In Ždrelac, you'll find another interpretation centre dedicated to fishing, a "museum of fishing stories" created to preserve this vital part of local heritage.

The 14th-century Franciscan Monastery of St. Domnius in the village of Kraj features beautiful arcades and a museum with historical artifacts, including an extremely valuable painting of the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child and John the Baptist.

Every stone house and narrow street on Pašman has a story to tell, this is truly an island with soul. And once you visit, one thing is certain: you'll want to come back!

Pašman's Longest Promenade

While you're here, don't miss the opportunity to taste fresh-caught fish, brought in each morning by hardworking locals at the lively village docks.

It's hard to pick the best beach on Pašman because every stretch of its coastline offers stunning views that will tempt you to jump into the sea. The beach in Mrljane connects to Barotul Beach, and together they form the island's longest beach and promenade.

One of Pašman's special features is that nearly all of its beaches have sandy seabeds, and most of them are shallow, making them perfect for families with small children. In Tkon, Sovinje Beach is known for a natural phenomenon of constant sand accumulation that creates stunning landscapes. Meanwhile, the sandy beaches of Jasenice and Lučina in Pašman village are surrounded by crystal-clear sea.



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Islet of Galešnjak

A Heart-Shaped Island of Love

Don't miss the unique little island of Galešnjak, a heart-shaped and one of the Zadar archipelago's most famous landmarks. You can reach it by rented boat or jet ski or join one of the organized excursions. This gem of the Pašman Channel, located between Pašman and the mainland town of Turanj, is often called the Island of Love. It first appeared on world maps over 200 years ago, thanks to the cartographers of the great French general Napoleon Bonaparte.

Pašman's rich history dates back to prehistoric times, as evidenced by numerous archaeological finds -remains of hillforts, mosaics, country villas, stone inscriptions, forged coins... Throughout history, the island was frequently attacked by pirates, and in the 6th century, locals sought refuge from their raids at the Pustograd Fortress near Tkon, now a valuable archaeological site.

The island's symbolic guardian is the stone statue of St. Michael, dating back to the 12th century. It stands in the church of the same name, which belongs to the Nevidane - Mrljane parish. According to legend, the first church on Pašman was the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mentioned as early as the 9th century.



Cokovac

ZADAR
ARCHIPELAGO

ZADAR REGION

CROATIA
Full of life