



Croatia - An Island Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Croatia

BROCHURE CODE: 4047
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Based on the island of Sipan, in Croatia's beautiful Elaphiti Islands, this exciting activity holiday will see you island hopping most days. As a family you will sea kayak to hidden coves and uninhabited islands, take in Sipan by bike, visit the magnificent city of Dubrovnik and enjoy active fun and games, all whilst exploring the archipelago.

Our Opinion

“ This holiday encapsulates some of the best Croatia has to offer. The whole family can explore some of the lesser-known, but equally stunning Croatian islands in an active way. The combination of water and land-based activities means you cover the islands from all angles and enjoy a variety of experiences. You also get to visit landmark destinations such as Dubrovnik to enjoy the sights, before heading back to your more peaceful island base. The short ferry transfers are all part of the fun (and they are part of everyday life in this region) and add to the experience as you hop between islands and the mainland. ”

Andy Marshall



What's included?

- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' guesthouse accommodation
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** sea kayaking on the Elaphiti Islands, cycling in Šipan, hiking in Lopud with treasure hunt, day trip to Dubrovnik and sea kayaking at Koločep with water games **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

Croatia's Elaphiti Islands are little-known gems for family holidays. They are some of the greenest in Croatia, covered by forests and edged by sandy beaches, hidden coves, reefs, pines and palms, all just waiting to be explored. You'll be based on the island of Šipan in a family-run guesthouse and situated on the edge of a stunning bay, but on most days you will hop between islands and explore further afield during your activities.

The whole family can get involved in this itinerary as activities can be tailored to accommodate those as young as six years old, whilst still maintaining the adventure for older kids. You will enjoy sea kayaking, hiking and biking as you journey around, up, over and between the islands. The activities tend to last for between three and five hours (including breaks), so there is a great balance between adventure and free time. We also include a day in the magnificent city of Dubrovnik as one of the activities, a highlight of any holiday in Croatia.

Your transfer will take you to the ferry terminal for your scenic ride to the beautiful island of Šipan (only 40 minutes away). Your guesthouse home is in the quaint seaside village of Šipanska Luka which offers easy access for paddling, swimming and snorkelling.

Sea kayaking is one of the best ways to explore the islands and we will kick things off in style as you paddle to some of the tiny uninhabited islands to explore their coastlines. The pace will be leisurely and there will be plenty of time for swimming and enjoying the warm waters. Throughout the trip, your guides will try and aim for the least crowded spots, where only small boats or kayaks can gain access.

A cycling adventure is next on the agenda and you will travel through traditional sleepy villages on carefully selected routes with very little traffic. You'll get out and about in the stunning scenery, enjoying the views, sights and beauty of the island.

You will take day trips to nearby Koločep for sea kayaking and beach-based games and to Loud where a treasure hunt hike provides staggering views.

For a taste of Croatian culture, you will then visit the walled city of Dubrovnik back on the mainland. This spectacular city is sure to captivate grownups and children alike as you explore the ancient old town with its narrow limestone paved streets and incredible battlements.

Overall, this holiday provides island hopping activities, a delightful location and the chance to explore some of the most stunning spots in Croatia as a family. What could be better!

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, WELCOME AND FERRY TO ŠIPAN

On arrival in Croatia, you will be greeted and transferred to the ferry terminal. This ferry is the most scenic holiday transfer we offer anywhere and lasts around 40 minutes. It is the ideal way to start your holiday in Croatia as you can really enjoy the views of the islands and the mainland from the water.

On arrival in Šipan, you will be taken to the picturesque fishing village of Šipanska Luka. This tranquil spot is a favourite for mooring yachts due to the stunning palm-lined bay. Here you will check in to your welcoming guesthouse accommodation and enjoy a relaxed evening before the fun begins tomorrow. Meals will be served in a nearby local restaurant or cafe throughout your stay.

NB: Ideally flights should arrive before 3 pm to ensure you are on the island in time for dinner. Any arrivals after 6 pm may need a private taxi boat transfer supplement.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SEA KAYAKING AND SNORKELLING

After a leisurely breakfast, you will meet your experienced guide for your first activity, a sea kayaking adventure around the shores of Šipan and some of the neighbouring Elaphiti Islands. This is perhaps one of the most idyllic Croatian Archipelagos for sea kayaking with hidden coves and secret beaches dotted around the pine and palm-lined coastline. You will paddle towards Jakljan, Tajan and Olipa which are all uninhabited islands. There will be plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling during the

day and it is the ideal way to relax into your island holiday. If you have younger children, then they can share a kayak with their parents. The kayaking will last for approximately 2-3 hours today, not including breaks.

Lunches and dinners are typically not included in the holiday as there are normally several options each day (e.g. a local restaurant, a shop where you can purchase a picnic, etc.) so you can choose the option which best suits your family. You should also carry plenty of water with you throughout each day.

After completing your sea kayaking trip, you will return to Šipanska Luka. For dinner, you can either head to the nearby Guesthouse Dubravka, or sample one of the other restaurants in the village.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

CYCLING IN ŠIPAN

Enjoy breakfast overlooking the Adriatic before setting off on your cycling tour of Šipan. The island's quiet roads provide the perfect routes and your guide knows all the best viewpoints. You will pass through olive groves and traditional villages, enjoy hilltop views and look out across the glistening sea. In total, you will travel between 10-15km today (the island is only 9km long in total!) and there will be plenty of rest breaks. Should you have younger children in the family, they can ride in a bike seat with one of their parents.

This tour normally takes between 1.5 and 2.5 hours (depending on stops) and you can spend the rest of the day relaxing or possibly hiring the bikes for the afternoon if you wish to continue exploring independently (subject to availability, must be booked and paid for locally).

After completing your tour, you will return to the guesthouse for some time to relax.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

HIKING ON LOPUD ISLAND AND TREASURE HUNT

Today you are island hopping once more as you take the short (around 15 minutes) ferry ride to nearby Lopud Island after breakfast.

Lopud offers some of Croatia's most picturesque walking trails, starting from the sea and heading into the hills where the island's true treasures are hidden. To add an extra angle to the day, the guides have set a treasure hunt, so families must follow the clues throughout the hike to find the 'treasure'. Small churches and an impressive fort are located at one of the island's highest points where you can enjoy amazing views of the Elaphiti Archipelago and Mljet island. The route is approximately 10 kilometres, but there will be plenty of rest breaks and time for fun and games in between. The activity will last for around 3 hours today.

In the evening, you will return to Šipanska Luka for a relaxing evening and dinner is included tonight

at a local restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
5

DAY AT LEISURE

Today your time is your own and you can spend it as you wish. Most families tend to take advantage by having a day at the beach, enjoying an independent swim in the warm waters and some family time together. If you would like to include more active exploits, then optional tours may be available locally (subject to availability).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

VISIT TO DUBROVNIK

You will enjoy your beachside breakfast today before setting off for a day exploring Dubrovnik on your own.

Taking the short ferry ride to the mainland will give you views of the ancient citadel as you head towards the port. It is a striking city and is great fun to explore. The sense of history and adventure is all around you as you walk the polished limestone paved streets and take in the city walls with their cannons pointing out to sea. It is easy to see why this city is so often used in film and television. There are shops and cafes galore and we also recommend seeking out one of the ice cream parlours – always a family favourite!

Your guide will accompany you on the 30-minute walk from the port to the city and then you will have free time to explore the sights at leisure before returning to Sipan later in the day. If you would rather take the bus from the port to the city, this can be paid for locally.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
7

SEA KAYAKING IN KOLOČEP AND WATER GAMES

Following breakfast, you will begin your sea kayaking trip to the sleepy island of Koločep. Of all the Elaphiti Islands, Koločep is certainly one of the prettiest and the best suited to sea kayaking. The island boasts numerous secret caves, coves and beaches which are only accessible from the water and are just waiting to be explored. Snorkelling equipment will be available for you too, so you can look at the world under the azure blue sea.

During the day, everyone can also take part in a traditional Croatian water game known as 'picigin', which is played in shallow water with a small ball and provides great family fun. The aim is to keep the ball out of the water without ever catching it – kind of a net-less version of volleyball but with the added bonus of splashing about in the sea.

The sea kayaking will last for approximately 3 to 3.5 hours, not including breaks.

At the end of the day, you will return to Šipanska Luka and enjoy an evening farewell meal hopefully watching yet another sunset from your accommodation.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Enjoy a final breakfast before your transfer back to Dubrovnik Airport for the flight home. To ensure that you avoid the need for private taxi boat transfers, flights should be booked to depart no earlier than 10 am.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Villa Lela (Nights: 1-7)



Villa Lela is in Šipanska Luka, a village in the northern part of the delightful island of Sipan. Šipanska Luka is a small fishing village and so accommodation is typically in small family-run guesthouses such as Villa Lela. This option is ideal for families with younger children who need to share with their parents.

Close to the waterside, the location is perfect for families, being just a stone's throw from the sandy beach and tranquil palm-lined shore where you can swim and paddle to your heart's content during your stay.

ROOM TYPE

It has just six bedrooms across three floors, but some are larger so are more accommodating for

parents and children sharing.

The two double rooms are suitable for two people with space for a third on a sofa bed.

For larger families, there are four further bedrooms with the option to connect two rooms, which can be closed off by a lockable door. Hence, these rooms can be made into a much larger space, one with two double beds and the other with a double bed and two single beds. These connecting rooms come with the bonus of a kitchenette.

All the rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite facilities.

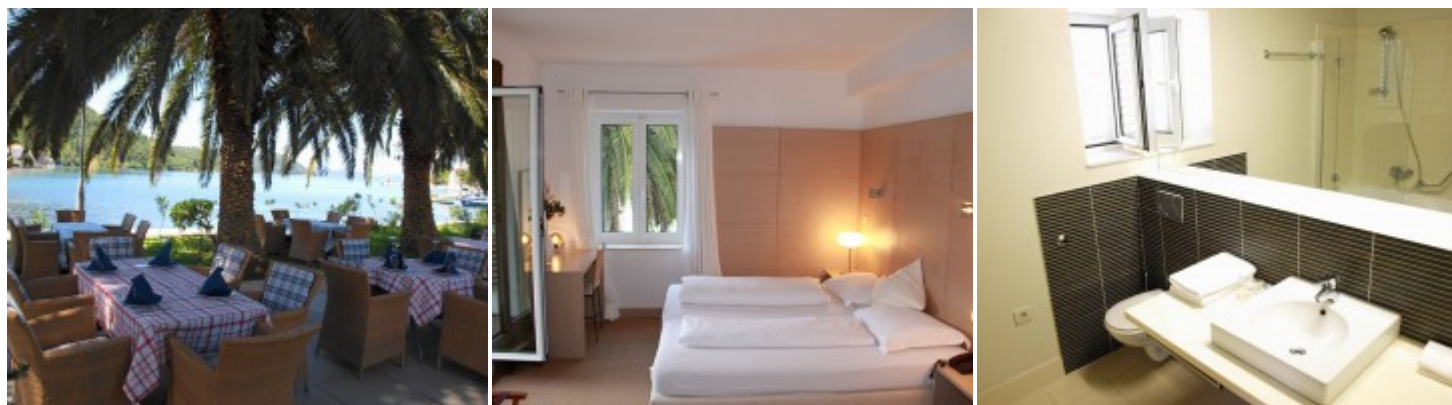
Please note: The images above show both the smaller and larger bedroom options.

Image credit: Villa Lela

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Guesthouse Dubravka



Depending upon availability at Villa Lela, Guesthouse Dubravka is an alternative option and is available for an additional supplement. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quote. Built at the beginning of the 20th century, it offers six traditional rooms. Snorkelling equipment is also available to borrow from the guesthouse, so you can explore independently should you wish.

ROOM TYPE

Standard twin/double: the six rooms at the guesthouse are traditionally decorated, villa-style rooms with a double bed or twin beds. Each room contains an en-suite shower room with amenities, TV and air-conditioning. Whilst rooms sleep a maximum of two people, we can, of course, request adjacent rooms for families where possible. Some rooms have access to small balconies/terraces, so they are

not suitable for unsupervised young children. Please look at Villa Lela for alternative accommodation.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 and maximum 16 persons (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed

itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>