

Discover Dubrovnik!



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Join the daily parade of locals and visitors on the Stradun

The Stradun is the Old Town's main promenade, a 300 meter long limestone-paved walkway that connects the city's two main gates--Pile and Ploče

It's hard to believe that in the 13thC this grand avenue was just a marshy channel separating a small island from the mainland forest settlement of Dubrava. Stradun's more uniform 17thC façade was created following the devastating 1667 earthquake that destroyed most of city's buildings to better protect residents and their dwellings. Overflowing with history, Stradun is the heart and soul of Dubrovnik's resilience in the face of great hardship.



St. John's Fort, the strong silent protector of the city's Old Port

Begun in 1346, St. Johns Fort was completed in the 16thC, it now houses the Aquarium, the Maritime Museum and one of the entrances to the walls

One of the most important forts within Dubrovnik's defensive complex is the Fortress of St. John. Located on the southeastern side of the Old Town's port and started in 1346, you can still see the original outline on its western wall. The overall design--to protect the port and allow direct, gated passage into the city, took 200 years to finish--eventually merging Gundulić and Dock forts, and their bastions into a single, dominating symbol of Dubrovnik's power.



Dubrovnik's iconic city walls --an indelible legacy to the world

Surrounded by a moat on three sides and the sea on the fourth, the city walls include five fortresses and sixteen majestic towers

Started as part of a fortress defense to protect the eastern part of the city in the 9thC, between the 13th and 17thC Dubrovnik builders created the massive walls we marvel at today--5' to 16' thick and in some places, 85' high! Stretching for almost 1 ¼ miles and remarkably intact, they not only symbolize resilience and independence but also a bygone era where the clash of swords and whispers of diplomacy shaped the destiny of this fiercely independent maritime city-state.

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Walk through history

With such magnificent beauty in such a small space, Dubrovnik's landmarks echo a sublime past, here's just a glimpse of what awaits you—use the map on page 2 to enjoy them all!

The heart of the Old Town —the Placa or Stradun

Locals and tourists alike love this bustling 300-meter limestone-paved promenade! Overflowing with history and culture, every step echoes the marvelous marriage between contemporary restorations that celebrate ancient traditions, framed by steep warren-like staircases that lead to museums, private residences, shops and more—enjoy a gelato, an espresso, a splash of cool water from the city's many fountains, like waterspouts feeding **Onofrio Fountain** that brought fresh water in 15th century, from a spring 12 km away.

Walk the City Walls

Dating back to the 12thC, Dubrovnik's majestic defensive stone walls integrate Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance elements. Give yourself at least 90 minutes to complete the entire 1.9 km circumference. While there are three entrances, we suggest beginning at **Pile Gate**, to trace the thick walls back in time, and end through **Ploče Gate's** tranquil arches. Soak up the astonishing sea views from **Fort Lovrijenac**. For a soldier's perspective, don't forget to walk down to the Counterwall towers whose rounded structure were ingeniously designed to deflect **Ottoman cannonballs**. The walking level enters inside the towers and forts here hide bars tucked into caverns and mini museums well worth exploring, while the higher vantage points showcase mighty bastions and sublime perfections, like **St. Ignatius Church**. The crown



Enjoy the stunning view of the stone bridge between the majestic Revelin Fortress and the Ploče Gate



The Large Onofrio Fountain, with its 16 masked waterspouts, fill your bottle, it's safe to drink!



The glorious Sponza Palace is one of the most sublime edifices in the Old Town

jewel? Our vote goes to **Fort Minčeta**. Standing at the city's highest point, it's not just historically significant but served as a shelter for more than 700 years—including the 1990's Homeland War.

The intricate beauty of Rector's Palace

One of the Old Town's most celebrated sites is Rector's Palace which dates back to the 13thC. The grandeur of this once-powerful palace is everywhere you look—from intricately carved capitals crowning the entrance and cloistered arches

overlooking the inner courtyard's Gothic cistern to its rooftop loggias. As you climb the smoothed **stone steps circling the atrium, once used only by the Rector**, stop to admire the elaborate details. As you pass beneath intricately-patterned doors and towering ceilings, it's easy to imagine these elegant staterooms (some of the authentic artifacts are still here) and recreated aristocratic chambers filled with important emissaries all courting for Dubrovnik's vast political and economic largesse. The museum

within the Palace offers a window into the life and times of the city's aristocracy.

Franciscan Monastery, a religious and artistic treasure

The stunning 14thC Franciscan Monastery, with its Romanesque and Gothic cloisters, is an authentic glimpse into medieval life. Inside you will see vivid Spanish murals honoring its patron St. Francis as well as the **third oldest continuously-operating pharmacy in the world**, now a mini museum brimming with medieval medical texts and instruments. Before wandering through the inner courtyard, enjoy the ornate well.

Sponza Palace, Gothic-Renaissance beauty

With its elegant arches and detailed stonework, Sponza Palace is a masterpiece of Gothic-Renaissance artistry and design. It played a significant role in the city's cultural and political life serving as its custom house, mint and market. The Latin inscription on its main wall is a marvelous testament to why Dubrovnik's was such a trusted mercantile partner: FALLERE NOSTRAVETANT; ET FALL PONDERE: MEQVE PONDERO CVM MERCES PONDERAT IPSE DEUS (*"We are forbidden to cheat or falsify measures, and when I weigh goods, God himself is weighing them with me!"*) Sponza also houses the Memorial Room of Dubrovnik Defenders, commemorating the 1990's Homeland War and

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Dubrovnik residents who lost their lives defending the city.

Cathedral of the Assumption, a spiritual jewel

Dubrovnik's main Cathedral, officially the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was built between 1671 and 1713. It replaced a previous Romanesque basilica, which was **destroyed by an earthquake in 1667**. Extensive excavations revealed architectural elements ranging from the Late Antiquity to the Baroque; including more than 700 coins from the 3rd C B.C. Inside, its stunning altarpieces, frescoes and collection of sacred relics, include **Titian's iconic painting** above the main altar. Underneath its floor are the remains of a Romanesque cathedral and the oldest Byzantine basilica.



Assumption Cathedral, destroyed in the 1667 earthquake, was rebuilt between 1671-1713

Dominican Monastery and Art Museum

The 13thC Dominican Monastery was also **the city's first hotel** as foreigners were not allowed to stay in the city overnight. It's a glorious example of Gothic-Renaissance architecture and is one of city's most celebrated landmarks. Its gorgeous, ornamented atrium is often used for recitals and poetry readings. The Monastery also has a museum which houses an exceptional art collection as well as a library with priceless incunabula, illustrated manuscripts and documents.

Large Onofrio Fountain, a symbol of Dubrovnik's resilience

Completed in 1438 and standing proudly at the western entrance to the Old Town, this fountain is not just decorative, but an integral part of the city's sophisticated aqueduct system—the first of its kind in Europe and still today, **after 600 years, still bringing fresh water into the Old Town!** With long, hot, dry summers, Dubrovnik had to import water via boats so it decided to tap the source of a spring nearly 12 kilometres away from the city

The Old Port Harbor, now filled with pleasure craft was once the maritime lifeline of Dubrovnik's power

Ploče Gate and Revelin fortress: gateways to history

Constructed in the 14thC, Ploče Gate, located on the eastern side of the Old Town, is a grand entryway. An outstanding example of defensive architecture, it features a **stone bridge**, a **wooden drawbridge** and a complex system of inner and outer gates—all designed to protect the city from invaders. Just in front of the City Walls, the name Revelin comes from "rivelino"—a fortification

to protect the weakest points of the city or certain city gates.

Dubrovnik's Old Port, a nautical chronicle

Nestled within the city walls, first used by the Greeks and Romans, the Old Port during the time of the Ragusa Republic was the lifeblood of



The Franciscan Monastery is one of the favorite sites here—be sure to see its ancient pharmacy!



The Lazareti, keeping the Old Town safe

Located next to the Ploče Gate are the Lazareti, **the world's first government imposed quarantine station (1377) designed to keep the plague and other diseases from spreading** by keeping sailors housed outside the city walls for 30 days. During the 17thC, these long, narrow, high walled buildings were the largest quarantine stations in the Adriatic.

Dubrovnik cable car, the view from Mt. Srđ

The 400 meter cable car ride up the dizzying slopes of Srđ Mountain takes less than 4 minutes. The coastal vistas awaiting you when you arrive at the top are stunning. Take the cable car back or why not hike downhill? The old Austro-Hungarian stone paths will take you to 19thC Napoleonic-era fortifications like Fort Imperial as well as to the Exhibition Center, which was the last stronghold of Dubrovnik defenders during the Homeland War. If you want some adrenaline adventure, just ride the Zipline or take the buggies that awaits you outside the cable car station.

The Synagogue and Jewish Museum

Although Jews were in Dalmatia during Roman and Middle ages. The biggest population came in 16th C when Sephardic Jews were expelled from Spain and Portugal. The Jewish municipality was founded in 1539. In 1546 that the Dubrovnik Republic issued an official decree allowing them to settle within the city ramparts and gave them a set of houses on Žudioska street (Žudio means Jew in Dubrovnik dialect). The synagogue dates back to 1408, making it **the world's oldest Sephardic house of worship still in use today** and the second-oldest synagogue building in Europe.

Dubrovnik's economy for centuries. It facilitated not only local trade but also international commerce, connecting Dubrovnik with Balkan and later Ottoman countries to Italy, Spain and other western kingdoms and cultures. While no longer a center of commercial trade, it remains a picturesque and vibrant part of the city, filled with leisure boats and lined with quaint cafes and restaurants.

Welcome to Dubrovnik, a captivating city where history whispers from every corner! Whether you're meandering through ancient streets, hopping on a local ferry, or taking a scenic cable car ride, Dubrovnik promises a journey filled with wonder at every turn. Exploring Dubrovnik's Old Town on foot is like stepping into a living, breathing museum. **Start your journey on the Stradun, the pulsating main artery of the Old Town.** This famed limestone-paved street stretches from the majestic Pile Gate to



Dubrovnik's main entrance gate, Pile, thru which Napoleon entered the city in 1806

the historic Ploče Gate, flanked by a vibrant array of shops, cafes, and landmarks. Pause to admire Onofrio's Fountain, a masterpiece of Renaissance engineering, and don't miss the chance to peek into the side streets. The city walls, a symbol of Dubrovnik's resilience, offer a walking path with panoramic views. As you navigate these ancient ramparts, absorb the breathtaking vistas of the Adriatic Sea on one side and the terracotta rooftops on the other. **Along the way, discover hidden forts and towers.** Beyond the main thoroughfares, Dubrovnik's backstreets are a treasure trove of discoveries. Find the Rector's Palace, a blend of Gothic and Baroque

architecture, and the Baroque masterpiece that is the Church of St. Blaise. Venture into Široka street, lined with quaint shops and eateries, offering a peek into the daily life of locals. As you meander, you'll stumble upon small squares like Gundulić Square, buzzing with local life and markets.

Public transit—the electric 8A!

Dubrovnik's public transportation is an integral part of the city's vibrant tapestry, offering glimpses of the town that are both intimate and panoramic. **New this year** and a Croatian first, are 22 passenger **electric buses on the 8A circle line** that runs from Viktorija/Pile/INA (Pod Dubom)/Ilijina Glavica/Viktorija. Operated by Libertas Dubrovnik, buses connects all the key points of interest. Major routes like the No. 1, 3, and 6 offer frequent service to the Old Town's gates. A little insider tip - **buying tickets at kiosks is more pocket-friendly than purchasing them on the bus.** And if you're planning to explore extensively, opt for a 1-day or 3-day pass for unlimited travel. Check the latest schedules posted at bus stops. For the complete map with all the routes: www.dubrovniktravel.net/bus/dubrovnik-bus-map/.

Bicycle and scooter rentals

For those who love a dash of thrill and a breeze in their hair, renting a bicycle or a scooter is the ticket to an exhilarating adventure. Sprinkled throughout the city are several rental shops offering bicycles and

Getting around

Dubrovnik's Old Town is a walker's paradise--the Stradun, magical staircases, backstreets and glorious walkable walls

scooters. You'll find these near major tourist spots and along the bustling Gruž harbor. Look out for places like 'Dubrovnik Wheels' or 'Scooter Rent Dubrovnik'. For a serene escape, ride to the tranquil Babin Kuk area. If you're on a scooter, venture a bit further to the charming town of Cavtat or the rugged beauty of the Konavle region. **A Note of Caution:** While exploring Dubrovnik on two wheels, remember that the city's terrain can be hilly and the streets often narrow. Always wear a helmet, and respect traffic rules. Most importantly, pause now and then to soak in the stunning vistas that Dubrovnik generously offers.

Ferries, water taxis and private boats

Dubrovnik's allure extends beyond its walls, with a sprinkle of enchanting islands nearby. The best way to embrace this maritime wonder is through the city's extensive ferry services and captivating boat tours. The gateway to these aquatic escapades lies at Dubrovnik's Gruž cruiseship/ferry port, where regular services transport you to idyllic



The picturesque Old Town harbor is located on the eastern edge of the Old Town and it's here where you catch the water taxi to Cavtat and boats to Lokrum and nearby bays.

destinations like Lokrum, Mljet, and the Elaphiti Islands. Companies like Jadrolinija and Krilo offer daily trips. **Our favorite trip is to National Park Mljet, Croatia's greenest island,** with great walking and cycling trails, its own lake to swim, crystal clear sea, gentle sandy shoreline and on St. Mary's Island in the middle of Veliko Jezero lake, there is a wonderful old Benedictine monastery to explore. For a taste of untouched beauty, hop over to the Elaphiti Islands, where sandy beaches and sleepy villages await. For those seeking a more personalized sea experience, Dubrovnik's boat tours are a perfect choice. Private charters elevate this experience, giving you the freedom to tailor your sea journey. You can book these aquatic adventures at numerous stands along the Old Town port or at Gruž harbor. Dubrovnik's Old Town harbor is on the eastern edge of the Old Town itself and it's here where you can catch water taxis to Cavtat and enjoy a fabulous sea view of the walls and frequent boats to Lokrum island and nearby bays.

Dubrovnik from above

For an unforgettable view of the city's famous red tile roofs, a cable car journey is a Dubrovnik must. Starting near the Old Town, the cable car swiftly whisks you up to the peak of Mount Srđ. In a mere four minutes, you are transported from the hustle and bustle to a serene mountaintop, offering a bird's eye view of Dubrovnik's terracotta rooftops, undulating walls and the endless blue sea.

Travel back to the childhood with Red Ball Tour!

You don't have to wonder how it was to be a kid inside The Walls of Dubrovnik – you can now be one. **Travel back to the time of childhood in Dubrovnik**, time without the internet, crowded streets and full of local people living inside the City Walls. Explore Dubrovnik playgrounds and hoods, learn to play street games, just follow the Red Ball!



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The Ragusa Republic

The fascinating saga about how a tiny coastal enclave in the southern Adriatic became the Ragusa Republic, rival to the mighty Venetian Empire

Dubrovnik's story begins in the 7thC, when refugees from nearby Epidaurum (today's Cavtat) fled the wreckage of the Roman Empire by Avar and Slav barbarians. Drawn to Dubrovnik's natural harbor, surrounding sheltered bays, mountain protection and the sea, they settled on the island at the foot of Mt. Srđ and called it *Laus*, the Greek word for "rock precipice". Later, Slavs developed their own settlement under the name of Dubrovnik (from "dubrava" – an oak tree). Separated by a channel that later became the Stradun after it was filled in during the 12thC, the two settlements became united and started to erect defensive walls.

What's in a name

The name Dubrovnik was first recorded in the 1189 Charter of Ban Kulin, but it didn't come into use alongside Ragusa until the 14thC. The name Ragusa probably evolved from *Lausa* to *Rausium* and *Rhagusium*. Surprisingly, it was only after World War 1 that the name Ragusa was officially changed to Dubrovnik.

Creating a maritime legacy

Building on such an ideal environment for shipbuilding and maritime trade, Dubrovnik's founders also realized that its unique strategic position between the Ottoman and Venetian empires was a lucrative opportunity—Dubrovnik is the first island-protected Adriatic port on the maritime route going from East to West. For more than 250 years, reaching its height in

the 15th and 16C, merchants from the East and West flocked to fill Dubrovnik's vast storerooms with silks, spices and other coveted goods, the profits from which paved the polished limestone streets seen today. While skilled shipbuilders and merchant fleets were crucial to securing Dubrovnik's status as a major trading power, as the city grew more prosperous, its leaders also invested in knowledge and culture, establishing schools, libraries and centers of learning to educate its citizens. This emphasis on civic enrichments and humanist ideals for all society was rare among merchant cities at the time.



A typical 1487 sailing vessel that brought trade and connected Mediterranean and Adriatic travelers

Embracing cultural diversity

Although Venice and Dubrovnik were bitter rivals for domination of the Adriatic and Mediterranean sea

trade, they were also partners in facilitating the complex mercantile networks between Europe and the Middle East. Though dwarfed by Venice's reach, Dubrovnik capitalized on the cultural influences arriving at its ports from Byzantine and Islamic architecture and design to Chinese porcelain. The sheer lavishness of visiting merchants and their vessels left an indelible mark on civic and religious edifices, especially when Christianity became entrenched, with beautiful Romanesque arches and decorative columns blending European and Eastern motifs. Dubrovnik's fondness for mixing these richly diverse styles also bore fruit in the sublime Gothic architecture that came to define 14thC palaces and cloisters. As the Republic of Ragusa rose to prominence, the city's soaring spires and intricately ornamented cathedrals reflected its new artistic heights.



This 16thC painting portrays a ceremony of Ottoman grand viziers

Liberty, freedom and women's rights

In 1358, the Ragusa Republic decided it had enough of Venice's harsh rule and appealed for protection under the Hungarian Crown. With

its autonomy secured, the Republic quickly enacted anti-Venetian edicts, becoming one of the first European states to ban slavery, which was rife in Venice. Ragusa not only achieved its independence, but also created many social freedoms not enjoyed by other Europeans. Women, for example, were allowed to own businesses and property and even trade their jewelry which became a lucrative export industry.

"Non bene pro toto libertas venditur auro"

Liberty is not sold for all the gold in the world
-- Dubrovnik's city motto

The rise of the Republic

By the mid-15thC Dubrovnik had fully transformed, embarking on its golden age as a maritime power and admired epicenter of culture and diplomacy, signing treaties with both the Hungarian and Ottoman empires. Over the next three centuries as the Republic of Ragusa, Dubrovnik enjoyed substantial autonomy even as other empires rose and fell in the surrounding region. Propelled by extensive trading networks and diplomatic outposts across the Mediterranean and beyond, the Republic reached its peak economic vibrancy. Ragusan traders called on ports as far as Spain in the west, Egypt to the south and the Levant in the East. It maintained consulates in dozens of countries throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Elites and commoners alike became discerning patrons of the lively arts, literature,

and scholarship, imbuing the Republic with a rich humanist spirit. Wealthy Ragusan families sponsored city-wide cultural events and many acclaimed luminaries during this Ragusan renaissance moved here. The city became a noted hub for playwrights, artists and even proto-feminist writers. Libraries brimmed with philosophical and scientific manuscripts aimed at uplifting the whole citizenry through arts and knowledge. This astute, combined embrace of merchant capitalism and civic benevolence also enabled great public works projects like the aqueduct system. Construction flourished as aristocrats, merchants and a vibrant middle class filled the city's houses, opulent mansions and vibrant centers of culture and learning.



The flag of Dubrovnik features the image and initials of Saint Blaise, its patron saint. Since the year 972, on Feb. 3 Saint Blaise's day has been celebrated to commemorate the legend of his appearance to warn residence about an impending Venetian attack.

Sophisticated strategic diplomacy

Isn't it remarkable that a republic ruled by twenty-four noble families—about 100 people in total—with just 4,000 citizens, had a merchant fleet larger than those of Venice or Prussia!? How Dubrovnik built and kept its long-lasting autonomy, commercial and political success for so long is a tale of skill, diplomacy and benevolent governance. By judiciously maneuvering between Ottoman and Christian spheres of influence, without overly antagonizing either, Dubrovnik maintained its coveted

neutrality. And its willingness to make tactical concessions protected its trading interests across shifting Balkan politics. With such extensive connections throughout Europe's royal courts, Dubrovnik also fashioned itself the perfect intermediary at the crossroads of colliding empires. Ragusa's success was not just its sophisticated mercantile and political acumen. Its government, for example, was rare. The rector, the Republic's governor, was elected for only a one month term and couldn't run again for at least two years! The effect not only limited individual power, but also reduced corruption and kept the focus on the needs of citizens and maritime trade. This sustained balancing act preserved Dubrovnik's independence and prosperity well into the 17th century. However, the catastrophic earthquake of 1667 you'll read about next marked a turning point after which the Republic struggled to regain its former might.

Disaster strikes

On April 6, 1667, a colossal 7.2 earthquake destroyed almost the entire city and killed thousands. The quake and accompanying fires destroyed many important cultural and religious landmarks. The blast was so enormous, it caused severe damage up to 500 kilometres away! Yet like a phoenix rising, Dubrovnik recruited renowned architects and stonemasons from Italy and Greece to transform rubble into new Baroque grandeur. Stone by stone, architects reconstructed palaces and facades, woodcarvers re-gilded altars while masons repaved and polished limestone streets. Although the extensive damage to infrastructure and trade networks disrupted Dubrovnik's Golden Age, its political and cultural advances made over centuries as the battlement-lined outpost of liberty on Europe's edge would color



This painting was done by an unknown artist just a year before Dubrovnik's devastating earthquake in 1667.

Dubrovnik's identity long after the Republic's dissolution.

Two centuries of foreign subjugation

By 1808, Napoleon's forces had conquered the Adriatic coast, abruptly ending Dubrovnik's centuries of autonomy. Overnight, the liberties upheld by the Republic of Ragusa evaporated as Napoleon claimed the city for his expanding French Empire. Swept into Europe's tumultuous 19thC events as a mere provincial satellite, over the next century of recurring sieges, occupation and unrest, Dubrovnik's prestige and prosperity rapidly deteriorated. After a brief interlude of French administration the Austrian empire took complete control. As regional rivals steadily marginalized the once-mighty port city, now on the neglected periphery of empires preoccupied with Central Europe, Dubrovnik's trade and shipbuilding declined even further.

Dubrovnik's lasting cultural legacy

The 20thC proved no kinder. After a fleeting period of Italian occupation, Dubrovnik was ceded to the newly-formed Yugoslav republic after World War 1. The pressures and privations during WW1 and WW2 only compounded the erosion of the city's spirit and importance. Tragically, the Homeland War in the early 1990s ushered in yet

another wave of destruction to the lives, homes and monuments barely spared from prior cycles of violence. Yet with each assault suffered across two centuries of foreign subjugation, the living heritage of Dubrovnik's past has endured - battered but unbroken. Like a museum curating the finest creative achievements across the centuries, Dubrovnik's architectural fabric still reflects the urban medley of medieval, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque influences. Thanks to careful ongoing preservation and restoration efforts, the authentic spirit of the city endures. Through vigilant safeguarding of its heritage, honoring crafts like sail making, jewelry-smithing and stone carving through business incentives and cultural programs, Dubrovnik has sustained its creative wellspring. Strict building codes maintain the Old City's scale and aesthetic harmony, while business permits aim to keep traditional Croatian restaurants, galleries and shops thriving amidst the overwhelming demands of global tourism. Building on its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Dubrovnik's architectural and cultural treasures finally gained the global recognition they so richly deserved. Welcome to the Pearl of the Adriatic!



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Arts, crafts, treats

From filigree to street markets: discovering Dubrovnik's shopping surprises

From elegant filigree jewelry to artisanal ceramics, Dubrovnik offers a treasure trove of unique locally-made products. As you stroll the ancient streets of the Old Town, you'll discover tiny boutiques filled with fashionable designs, galleries showcasing local artists, market stalls brimming with foodie treats, and ateliers crafting traditional handicrafts. This magical walled city is a shopper's paradise! **You'll find all kinds of authentic mementos to bring home** - maybe an iridescent glass ornament, a bar of aromatic olive oil soap, a silk scarf in an intricate pattern, or a bottle of full-bodied Dingač from nearby Pelješac. Or for a truly special souvenir, choose shimmering silver or gold filigree jewelry, Dubrovnik's iconic art form. The shops, galleries, markets and artisans here provide so many opportunities to pick up beautiful, locally-produced crafts infused with the city's rich culture and heritage. Let's explore where to find them! Whether you're looking for wearable art, something delicious, traditional handicrafts, or modern designs, Dubrovnik offers something special to commemorate your visit.

Filigree and finery: jewelry shop gems

Dubrovnik is renowned for its delicate, intricate filigree jewelry, an art form that has been practiced here for centuries but likely originated from artisans in Syria and Turkey. Skilled artisans twist fine threads of silver or gold to create elaborate lace-like designs



The tradition of gold filigree jewelry in Dubrovnik started in the 13thC and reached its zenith in the 14th and 15thC. Earrings, called *rečini*, and decorative buttons, are each made starting with a single strand of either sterling silver or gold and then intricately woven and pressed into forms to create unique works of art.

that echo both Byzantine and Arab influences in their intricate wirework motifs. The results are unique and stunningly beautiful earrings, pendants, rings and more. As you walk down the limestone-paved Stradun, Dubrovnik's main street, **you'll find a number of family-run boutiques showcasing their filigree masterpieces.** Visiting the jewelers along the Stradun feels like stepping back in time. The jewelers will proudly share their traditions and explain the filigree-making process as they help you find something exquisite to remember your magical visit here. In addition to filigree, many shops also sell jewelry made with Dubrovnik pearls, coral and semi-precious stones. Most jewelry stores are open daily from 9am til late.

Traditional techniques: handicrafts and heritage

In addition to filigree, Dubrovnik's artisans produce many other traditional handicrafts. Potters

create vibrantly painted ceramics like platters, mugs, and vases decorated with floral and geometric motifs. The intricate patterns take inspiration from Dubrovnik's landscapes, architecture, and textiles. **The Dubrovnik region is also known for its glasswork**, including beautiful blown-glass vases and ornaments in shades of blue and green. Artisans shape and hand-paint the molten glass using centuries-old techniques to create colorful glass beads fashioned into gorgeous necklaces and earrings. Intricately carved wooden items are another local specialty – from decorative boxes and jewelry cases to ladles and cheese boards. And for something simply perfect, pick up a sachet of dried Dubrovnik lavender. You can find lavender products like soaps, linens, and even **satin pillows embroidered with delicate needlework.** Be sure to call ahead to arrange visits to artisan workshops, as hours are often flexible. Visiting these traditional workshops also lets you meet the artisans and watch them practice their crafts through demonstrations. It's a perfect way to take home a piece of Dubrovnik's heritage.



Beautiful textiles from the Konvale region, just 20km from the Old Town are just some of the memorable crafts that you will see as you browse the many family-run crafts shops here

Fashion forward: boutique designer finds

In addition to local-craft items, Dubrovnik also boasts many boutiques selling chic fashions and accessories from Croatia and across Europe. **On St. Dominic st**, which connects the Old Town with its eastern entrance, you can **discover designer clothing.** The alcoves of the Old Town are also filled with boutiques selling leather goods, from wallets to hand-crafted embroidered purses at family-owned shops like Tilda. For gorgeous silk ties with authentic historic motifs and scarves, be sure to visit Croata.



Lace-making requires infinite patience and skill. You will find everything from art pieces to casual everyday tablecloths.

Artistic treasures: galleries and museums

With its rich cultural history, Dubrovnik has long been an inspiration for painters, sculptors, and other artists. As you explore, you'll find galleries filled with their diverse creations. The Uje Gallery is set in a 15th-century palace and represents contemporary Croatian creatives. Catch rotating exhibits by local painters, sculptors, and photographers. Other standouts

include the Dulčić Masle Pulitika Gallery, which opened as a venue where the public could appreciate the works of three important Dubrovnik artists – Ivo Dulčić, Antun Masle and Đuro Pulitika. **Don't miss the gift shop at Rector's Palace**, built in the 1400s as the headquarters of the Ragusa Republic. Dubrovnik has been an artists' haven for centuries, from Renaissance painters to modern masters. Discussing local art history with a gallerist really brings Dubrovnik's art history and the cultural impact of landmarks like the baroque Cathedral of the Assumption to life. Since gallery hours vary – some close as early as 2pm while others stay open late-- check individual schedules.

Edible gifts: tasty specialty shops

Dubrovnik offers many delicious edible treats and local products that make tasty souvenirs. **Pick up some aromatic Dubrovnik sea salt, jars of orange marmalade, candied figs, lavender sachets and**



Dubrovnik's majestic stone walls are known all over the world, so it's only fitting that a city built of stone has a rich legacy of stone masonry and jewelry. Whether it's a mortar and pestle or a festive Christmas ornament, it's the perfect gift to remind you of the Old Town

even caramels from the medieval Dominican monastery opposite the monastery at the Dubrovačka kuća shop. Local olive oil from Uje and boutique brands like Dunka, sold in decorative ceramic bottles, make great gifts. Or opt for honey

produced on nearby island farms, available at stalls in the open-air markets. **Dubrovnik is surrounded by wine country** - the perfect place to find quality bottles of our full-bodied reds and fresh whites from Pelješac Peninsula vineyards just north of city. You can also find soaps and lotions made with local ingredients like rosemary, lavender,



From delicious arancini, traditional snacks made from boiled, dried, and sugared orange peels and toasted, sugared almonds to homemade liqueurs made from fruits and flowers, brandy with herbs, local edibles made right here are wonderful gifts to take back home and share with friends.

honey and olive oil. For an edible treat from the islands, bring home mandarins or dried figs from Mljet or Korčula. For one-of-a-kind edible souvenirs, book a traditional Marin Držić cake decorating workshop and learn how to recreate the intricate sugar flowers and symbols.

Markets and bazaars: hunting for hidden gems

Dubrovnik has several bustling markets where you can browse stalls and hunt for local finds. **Every morning, small producers and**



Hand-painted lavender bags at Dubrovačka Kuća

fishermen come to the open-air market at Gundulić Square to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, cured meats, and the day's catch. This lively spot puts you close to the sights and flavors of the city. For picnics as well as gift shopping, head to the covered market at Gruž harbor, where you can shop for artisanal foods like dried fruits, spices, sweets, wines, and olive oils. On weekends, Lapad Bay has a market with stalls selling fresh produce, housewares, arts, crafts and souvenirs. **And don't miss the open air Lapad Handmade Market** near the marina on summer nights, where local artisans sell their wares in an intimate, magical setting. You can also sometimes find impromptu antique or flea markets in the Old Town, with vendors spreading out their treasures and curiosities streetside—helpful hint: bring small bills and coins and be prepared to haggle!

Bringing the seven Kingdoms home: Game of Thrones souvenirs

As all GOT fans know, Dubrovnik was King's Landing, one of the main locations where many episodes were

filmed, so it's the perfect place to take home truly authentic souvenirs! You can even **get your picture taken sitting on a replica throne at the Game of Thrones shop** here. Inside you'll find T-shirts, coffee mugs, keychains and other memorabilia emblazoned with imagery from the popular early seasons of Game of Thrones filmed here.

Euros, ATMs and credit cards

The only official currency in Croatia is the Euro. If you have dollars, most Exchange offices do not charge commission, but use the central bank rate for that day and the conversion rate clearly posted so you can compare. Banks also exchange money. While many shops and restaurants take credit cards, check for potential foreign transaction fees with your bank. If you need to use an ATM to get Euros, there are lots of ATMs around the city. For the best rates, look for machines that are affiliated with local Croatian banks like PBZ or Zagrebačka Banka. Euronet, Aurus Gold and other non-bank branded ATMs may have higher charges.



Just about an hour from the Old Town is the Pelješac peninsula, where Croatia's most famous reds are grown on steep southern slopes--Plavac, Dingač and Postup. Dubrovnik's white wine treasure, Mahvasija, also called the nectar of the gods, is grown in the Konavle area. All are available in shops here as well as some really wonderful wine-tasting tours!



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Great day trips

Whether it's a 10 minute ferry to Lokrum island or an all-day adventure to Sarajevo, make your stay here even more memorable with these great day trips

Konavle

Just a half hour away, Konavle is Dubrovnik's "Golden Valley". For centuries it was the Republic's main granary, with numerous mills along the Lula River. **From horseback riding, exploring Fort Sokol to enjoying the area's many wineries** (Malvasia is the luscious white produced here) and traditional restaurants, Konavle is an authentic rural experience.

Kupari

If you enjoy off the beaten path discoveries, take the #10 local bus in the direction of Cavtat—the bus stop in Kupari is a few minutes walk. **The entire bay here is surrounded with abandoned luxury hotels** that date back to the 1950's. All were badly destroyed during the 1990's Balkan War. There are no guards so you are free to wander around and be amazed. The once majestic Gorgina and Pelegrin hotels are now demolished and the plan is to create elegant new ones.

Cavtat

For a fabulous view of Dubrovnik's walls from the sea, **take the 45 minute water taxi to Cavtat** from the Old Port inner harbor. Dating back to the 4th century BC, the town even has Illyrian remains. Its tree-lined waterfront promenade is surrounded with very good restaurants and nearby is Rector's Palace, a Renaissance mansion with a museum, the baroque St. Nicholas Church and other sites. Bring your swimsuit and swim shoes—lots of rocky outcrops to enjoy a cool plunge!

Trsteno

World-famous for its arboretum, Trsteno is also just 45 minutes away. With over 300 kinds of exotic plants and lush vegetation, its parks are designed in different styles—from Gothic-Renaissance to the Baroque,



Korčula Town, filled with stunning architecture

with a fountain sculpture of Neptune. For Game of Thrones fans, Trsteno was the palace gardens to Kings Landing. In Season 3, it's here where Sansa Stark reveals secrets about King Joffrey to Lady Olenna.

Elaphite islands

For a day on the sea exploring some of the nearby islands, why not book a full-day Elaphite island's trip. With lunch and even unlimited drinks, you can spend the day sightseeing on and off the boat with everything included. Enjoy **Koločep's** citrus groves and forests; Sipan's churches and 15thC manor house ruins; **Lopud's** great Sunj beach.

Korčula

The legendary birthplace of the famous traveler Marco Polo. Korčula is a wonderful day trip by

catamaran or by minivan to Orebić that connects to a ferry. **Korčula Town is a walled Renaissance wonder** whose streets are laid out like fish bones to tame the bitter winter winds and enhance cooling summer breezes. You can walk



around it via a seafront promenade in 30 minutes. Filled with gorgeous architecture, churches and more, the town also has excellent restaurants, including LD, with a Michelin star. Famed for its white pošip and Grk wines, Korčula is long (50km) and narrow, with deep valleys, rolling hills, lots of beautiful coastline and sandy beaches, like Pupnatska on the southern shore, Pržina in Lumbarda and Sveti Nikola in Korčula town. In Vela Luka, be sure to climb the Blue Path to see the famous, open-air, 20,000 year old Vela Spila cave.

Pelješac Peninsula

A little more than an hour away is the Pelješac peninsula. **This is wine country**—luscious, full-bodied Dingač particularly—where the best mussels and oysters on the planet are and a nature-lovers paradise. Orebić—the ferry port to Korčula

town, in the shadow of Mt. Sv. Ilija mountain. Lots of pine forests and citrus groves. Trpanj - on the north coast, a great place to nature walk. Ston - home to the **world's second longest city wall** (only the Great Wall of China is longer), built in the 14thC to protect its salt pans (still in use today, since Roman times!) and further defend the Republic of Ragusa. Definitely walk these walls and of course, visit the salt pans and buy some Ston salt as a memorable reminder! The town is also **famous for its mussels and oysters**. You can even book a small boat experience with an oysterman who will bring them up and shuck them so you can enjoy with a glass of champagne!

Mljet National Park

The Adriatic's greenest island, Mljet is part of Croatia's National Park system. Experience the island by bicycle or foot, swim in the sea or in beautiful lakes, explore an ancient monastery and more. Organized day trips or come by catamaran to enjoy this naturalist paradise.

Mostar, Kravice waterfalls, Kotor and fascinating Sarajevo

These spectacular sites are long, but incredibly worthwhile day trips. It's a rare chance to experience East meets West in this part of Europe. A fascinating day of history, culture, religion that shouldn't be missed if you have the time!

Wining and dining

Dubrovnik's culinary scene is a rich mosaic, from fresh grilled seafood to slow-cooked veal and chicken peka, a true feast for the senses

Unique and delicious seafood

Dubrovnik is renowned for its exquisite fish and seafood dishes. Enjoy the simple yumminess of fresh **grilled sardines**—just a few minutes over the flame with a sprinkle of coarse salt—the authentic flavors of the Adriatic! **Mussels à la buzara**, with olive oil, garlic, parsley, a sprinkle of fine bread crumbs and a splash of wine. **Octopus salad**, rich yet refreshing, with diced potatoes and tomatoes, olive oil and Mediterranean herbs and spices for added zest. **Black risotto**, infused with cuttlefish or squid ink, is a must-try dish. **Oysters from Mali Ston** enjoyed with a splash of lemon, are just spectacular. The region's **eel and frog brodetto** is another culinary highlight.

Herbs and spices, the flavors of Dubrovnik

Often grown in backyard gardens, aromatic herbs and spices are an essential part of Dubrovnik cuisine. **Rosemary**, with its heady pine and citrus notes, is used in grilled meats and fish. **Laurel** (bay leaves) is the silent backbone of Dubrovnik's most cherished recipes, like its iconic **pašticada**, a slow-cooked beef (and sometimes tuna) stew. **Sage**, with its peppery undertone, is a favorite in seafood dishes and risottos. Its presence in **black risotto** marries the brininess of seafood with the earthy richness of the land. Then there's local **garlic**, lending its warm, pungent aroma to marinades, sautéed vegetables, or simply rubbed onto crusty bread.

From vine to glass, Dubrovnik's wines

Let's start with whites: **Malvasija Dubrovačka**, beloved since 1424, in dry to sweet versions. **Pošip**, from Korčula, a fruity, elegant taste. **Rukatac** or **Maraština**, adds a



Slow cooked "under the bell" peka is fabulous



Dubrovačka rožata dates back to the Middle Ages and was first mentioned in 1300 as "friar's pudding".

refreshing taste to seafood, salads and pasta. **Grk**, another Korčula specialty, is a dry wine with fruity and citrus notes, ideal for seafood and white meat. For reds: **Plavac Mali**, robust **Dingač** and **Postup**, are renowned for their deep color and high tannins—perfect for hearty meat dishes. **Tribidrag** offers moderate tannins and also pairs excellently with meat.

Traditional recipes

Reflecting the city's connection to the sea is fresh **grilled fish**, often sea bass or bream, with olive oil, garlic, and a squeeze of lemon—order it

with a side of **blitva** (Swiss chard with potatoes). **Peka**, slow-roasted veal and chicken, or octopus, cooked under a bell-like dome in open-air backyard hearths as well as in traditional konobas (traditional restaurants), is made with potatoes



Brodetto, traditional fish stew is a literal "taste of the sea"



and herbs. For seafood lovers, preparing a traditional **brodet** is a must-try. This fish stew, made with a variety of fish and shellfish, tomatoes, garlic, and a dash of white wine, is typically served with polenta, to soak up the rich, savory broth.

Sweet Delights: Dubrovnik's Desserts

Krokant, a simple dessert made with sugar, peeled almonds, and water, is a rich and delightful sweet treat.

The **lumblija** of Korčula, made with walnuts, almonds, raisins, lemon, orange, and various spices, is an authentic island cake. **Kotonjata**, a sweet jelly made with quince, is a testament to the traditional flavors of southern Croatia. **'Arancini'**, candied orange peels made from homegrown, unsprayed oranges, are sweet with a slight bitterness, often coated in sugar or dipped in dark chocolate. Arancini are a popular souvenir, embodying the essence of Dubrovnik in a bite-sized delicacy. **"Ston Cake"** (or "Stonska Torta") is another unique dessert, originating from the nearby town of Ston. This intriguing cake is made with macaroni pasta, almonds, lemon, and a mixture of spices, encased in a crisp pastry. Another classic is **"Dubrovačka rožata"**, a flan or crème caramel like dessert, flavored with rozalin (rose liqueur), giving it a distinctive Dalmatian twist.

Seasonal and festive holiday food

In spring, it's time for dishes like **rizi-bizi**, a simple yet flavorful combination of rice and fresh peas; **wild asparagus omelets** and enjoying **tender lamb on the spit**, a dish particularly associated with Easter celebrations. Summer in Dubrovnik means it's time for **salata od hobotnice** (octopus salad) and the beginning of sardine season—enjoyed grilled, marinated, or salted, **slane sardale**. Autumn's arrival brings a shift towards heartier fare, like peka, rich stews served with blitva and potatoes. And winter in Dubrovnik is a time for comforting, rich dishes like **pašticada** and at Christmas, prikle (**fritule**), a type of doughnut flavored with citrus zest and raisins, and kotonjata, a quince jelly.

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Cultural history museum

The mission of Dubrovnik Museums is to preserve, protect, present and interpret the local identity, history and culture of Dubrovnik

■ About Museum

The origins of the Museum go back to 1872, when the Patriotic Museum was founded, for in its holdings it had a small collection of artworks of a cultural history character. More systematic collection of material began after World War II, thanks to the urging of the curator and first manager of the cultural history department, Dr Božo Glavić, to whom the credit goes for moving the collection into the Rector's Palace and setting up the first in situ display, opened to the public in 1950. During the course of time, the collection turned into first a distinct department of the Dubrovnik Museum, and then into the Cultural History Museum, a component of Dubrovnik Museums. The holdings of the museum consist of material of a distinctly cultural, historical and artistic value, with about twenty thousand objects created over a time span, from the middle of the 14th century to the beginning of the 20th century. It has been systematised into fifteen collections featuring painting, printmaking, furniture, textiles, ceramics, metals, icons, glass, photographs and photographic materials, miscellanea, documents, postcards, the writer Ivo Vojnović, old weaponry and numismatics. The permanent display is housed in the Rector's Palace, and has been in part handled environmentally and most of all presents the artistic and historical heritage of the last period of the Dubrovnik Republic. It also conjures up the authentic space of historical events, representing the state offices, the court room

and the jail on the ground floor, the chapel, the reception rooms and the rector's own apartment with his study, the central space and bedroom on the first floor. The exhibitions Dubrovnik coins, medals, seals, coats of arms and measures, Armoury, Goldsmithing in Dubrovnik and Inventory of Domus Christi, the state apothecary presented in the mezzanine rooms supplement the



The Museum's holdings consist of material of distinct cultural-historical and artistic value, with about ten thousand objects created in the period from the end of the 15th to the beginning of the 20th century...

themes handled in the permanent display.

■ Collection of Miscellanea

The most important objects in the collection are two Renaissance bronze statues, automata, the Green Ones, as they are called, or bronze jacks, which used to strike the hour on the city bell tower. They were cast around 1478, most probably in the Dubrovnik workshop of Michele di Giovanni of Fiesole.

A special place in the collection is taken by several other sculptural works created in local workshops. The major part of the collection consists of some sixty clocks made from the 17th to the early 20th century, as well as a small number of musical instruments produced at the end of the 18th and in the 19th century. These artworks are mainly of foreign provenance.

During the centuries, the palace's fabric underwent a good deal of serious damage from gunpowder explosions and tectonic events, most of all during the catastrophic earthquake of 1667. Numerous repairs and renovations brought in new styles, but there was always an endeavour to retain the basic characteristics of the Onofrio design. As it is today, the Rector's



Decorative vase - cantharus, beginning of the 18th century, faience

Palace is a two-storey building, with portico and atrium, in which the Gothic-Renaissance form is skilfully blended with the Baroque interventions.

Cultural History Museum

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cast bronze, wrought iron
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