



Sailing the islands of Croatia

By Chloe De Landcraft

Flew out of London late Friday night on a Croatian Airlines flight, which I thought were fine for a full service airline although they didn't have TVs or any sort of entertainment system.

We arrived at around 2am into Dubrovnik after being delayed nearly 2 hours due to rain (apparently Heathrow isn't quite equipped to deal with that!). We took a taxi which have set rates if you're taking them from the Airport, Port or City Centre and are very clean and lovely (a lot of the time Mercedes too) to our hotel near Dubrovnik Gruz Harbour. We stayed at Hotel Adriatic which was just a 2 star hotel but we had an ocean-view room and breakfast so not too bad for the night.

We started our Topdeck Sailing Trip the next day and my sister and I got an ensuite cabin on deck. The boat could only hold a maximum of 18 people (9 cabins – 4 on deck and 5 below) and all rooms were ensuites however as they don't have fans or air-conditioning it was definitely an advantage being on deck as we got the breeze through our rooms as they get very stuffy.

We had a tour guide, captain, steward, chef and waiter so lots of staff onboard, which is quite reassuring.

The first place that we cruised to was called Sipan - with a swim stop in the middle of nowhere on the way. The town was tiny and only had 2 restaurants so we had dinner at one of them and cocktails at one of the bars.

The following day we sailed off to Korcula, which is apparently the birthplace of Marco Polo so everything from an ice-cream shop to chairs have been named after him. I found this particular island really beautiful and we went to a cocktail bar in a 15th century tower where they bring drinks up via a pulley system.

Onto Hvar the following day which is the most popular and biggest of the Croatian Islands – and a party island. We had a walking tour of the town which took us to a lovely look out spot before dinner and followed by more cocktail bars.

We departed late the next day to the island of Trstenik. Only 160 people live there, but there is a nice beach to sunbake and swim at. We did a wine tasting tour and ate dinner at a restaurant right on the water watching the sunset.

Onto the next destination which was Mijet, another small town but famous for its national park that has a huge salt lake with an island and an old monastery. We walked to the lake which took us about 45 minutes and then took a boat across to the island and after exploring the old ruins had a swim and took a van back to the town centre.

It was then back to Dubrovnik where we got a walking tour of the old city on arrival. The following day we had free so a group of us walked the city walls which gave us an amazing view over the city and stretch 1940m long (although I admit we only walked half), it also gave us a real insight into how much the town has suffered from the Civil War, which I didn't really know a lot about before coming here.

Took an early morning flight back to London with Wizzair, another low cost airline, but I found to be quite good and would prefer to fly with than Ryanair or Easyjet.

