



# KAYAK CROATIA

## Split to Dubrovnik

**12 days – September 24 to October 5, 2021**

Experience two of the Mediterranean's most historic cities and the coast, villages, beaches and islands that separate them



*This Freedom Outdoors destination offers thousands of years of history, amazing wild and untouched nature, big cliffs, lonely bays, cultural sites, traditional fishing villages, easygoing islander lifestyle, unique local specialties, world class kayaking and all the fun you can handle! The classy vessel Otac Duje will be our convenient base and take us and our kayaks to the best locations.*

**Bryon Merzeo, part of our guiding team since the beginning, is keen to show you the best of Croatia's 1,185 islands, incredible history, limpid sapphire waters, traditional fishing villages, eight National Parks, astounding architecture - plus Split and Dubrovnik. He knows Croatia well – it's one of his favourite destinations.**



Seize the day and join Bryon on an epic adventure that will take 12 days from September 26. We have chartered the motor vessel *Otac Duje* to take us and our quality double kayaks with rudders to magical places. This itinerary is exclusive to Freedom Outdoors and cannot be repeated in 2021 - so secure your spot now. Bryon will host the trip for Freedom Outdoors. He is well known as an organiser of our

day trips and has led many weekend and longer trips, including to Ningaloo Reef. He is a fully qualified kayak guide and will be accompanied by outstanding local professional, English speaking guides. You are in good hands.

The trip will include paddles, walks, snorkeling and cycling. All activities are optional (take a day off at any time) and a motorboat will accompany each paddle, so you can opt out if you've had enough. Optional familiarisation paddles will be held in Sydney prior to our departure.

*Otac Duje* is a well-appointed vessel with air conditioned ensuite cabins and an attractive restaurant. She is one of a number of similar vessels available to us. If for any reason *Otac Duje* is not available, a vessel of similar quality will be substituted. The following itinerary should be taken as a guide only.

Our objective is to deliver the best possible experience for you and better options may present themselves as we go. Paddles each day will last from 2.5 to 5 hours and include breaks. Pace dictated by the group. This is our second visit to Croatia – our first sold out and got rave reviews.



**Only \$6,495pp twin share/double – a deposit of \$1,500 secures your place.  
Single supplement \$990.**

**Every day is different ... every day is special**

### **Friday September 24 – welcome to Split**

Arrive in Split from Sydney. Many airlines service the route, including Qantas, Singapore Airlines, Thai and the Middle Eastern Carriers. The journey involves two stops. Skyscanner's current cheapest and most convenient combination is Qatar via Doha and Belgrade for \$1,276 return (fares vary all the time). Overnight at the beautiful 4-star *Cornaro Hotel*, in the heart of Split and steps from the Diocletian's Palace. Check in is from 2pm. Bryon will meet you on arrival at the hotel. As we'll all be arriving at different times, no group dinner is planned for tonight. Split is a fascinating place and great for exploration. If you'd like to arrive before September 26, we can arrange additional nights for you at the *Cornaro* - \$348pp per night twin share, \$498 single per night. A couple of extra nights will enable you to recover fully from jet lag before the paddling starts.

## Saturday September 25 – in Split

Breakfast at your hotel. Group will gather in hotel lobby after 10am for a briefing and transfer to a nearby beach where your kayaks will be waiting. You will be fitted with a PFD and your kayak set up for you. Then we'll go for a warm-up paddle around forested Marjan Hill. You will also see the city beaches and cliffs. Paddle will finish at our home for the next 12 days – the motor vessel *Otac Duje*. Enjoy a special *Welcome Aboard* dinner, meet the captain and crew and get to know our local guides. After a short boat ride, *Otac Duje* will overnight on Brac island. Our kayaks travel with us.



B, L, D.

## Sunday September 26 – Brac Island

Breakfast on board and a short boat cruise to southern part of Brac island. Then enjoy a relaxed morning paddle to the southwestern shore of the island and its numerous uninhabited small bays with turquoise water and little pebble beaches. Midday we'll take a break for lunch and walk to the Blaca desert, where we'll see a monastery founded by the Glagolitic priests from Poljice, when they were fleeing from the Turks around 1550. The monastery was turned into a museum in 1963 (entry included in your package). While taking a boat ride to Bol, the island's oldest settlement, you'll see luscious grapes waiting to be picked. Overnight in Bol and one of the best-known beaches in Europe, Zlatni rat. It changes shape with the winds and tides and juts out into a perfect azure sea. Bol has a vibrant nightlife with lots of great restaurants and bars. Take a wander and find a nice place to eat (guides will provide recommendations).

B, L.



## Monday September 27 – Hvar Island

Breakfast and short boat ride to Jelsa on Hvar Island. You may cycle across the island (E-bikes must be prebooked with Freedom Outdoors before you leave Sydney). Alternatively, a coach will be provided, or you may stay on the boat. Bike through beautiful countryside to Ager Fields, a UNESCO World Heritage site where there are tranquil small villages like Pitve, Vrisnik and Svirce, surrounded by olive tree farms,

lavender fields and vineyards. Then to the town of Stari grad founded 2400 years ago by Greek explorers (coach will stop for an hour here) and the village of Brusje, with its spectacular view of the open sea and surrounding islands. You will have around two hours to spend in Hvar town and to grab lunch. Our boat picks us up for a kayaking tour around Pakleni Islands, adjacent to Hvar island. The islands were the main source of resin for local shipbuilders and are still covered with thick pine. The archipelago has numerous narrow straits, between small islands with hidden small pebble beaches for swims, snorkelling and relaxing. Overnight anchored on Pakleni Islands or in Vis Harbour.

B, D.

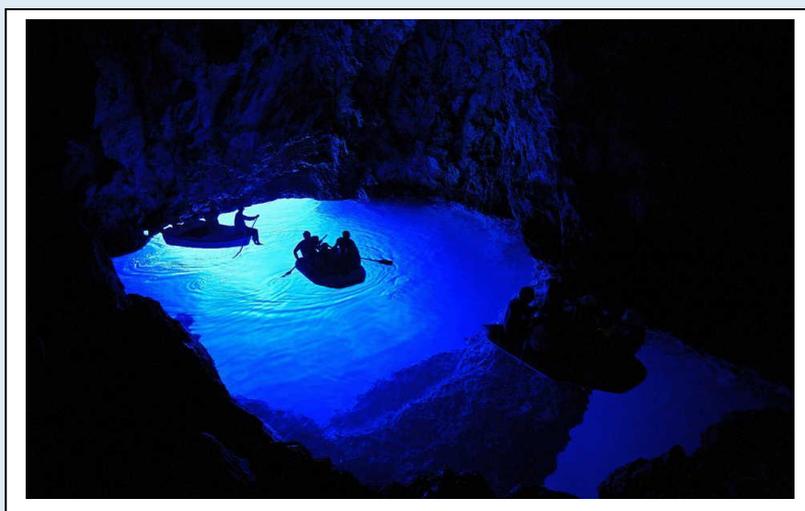
## Tuesday September 28 - Bisevo Island

*Otac Duje* takes us to the islands of Bisevo, known for amazing caves, cliffs and sandy beaches. Firstly, we will visit spectacular 6m high Blue Cave, one of the most famous natural attractions in Croatia. Sunbeams reflect from the white bottom floor, coloring objects in the water silver. Afterwards we jump into our kayaks to experience another highlight - the Medvidja Cave, named after the Mediterranean monk seal that may be found here. After late lunch and if weather allow us, take a snooze on one of the sandy beaches on the west coast of the island or, if you want something more active, join us on a short hike to meet some of the only 15 inhabitants still living on the island. Evening will see us at one of the most picturesque spots on the coast – the fishing village of Komiza, the last real fishermen’s village in the Adriatic. Slide into the easy rhythm of what the islanders call “pomalo” and enjoy delicious food and wines with the locals. Overnight stay aboard *Otac Duje* in the town of Komiza.

B, L.

## Wednesday September 29 – Vis Island

We’ll paddle the famous south side of Vis Island and take in more natural beauty. From Komiza Bay, we will cruise along cliffs, coves and beaches sculptured by the waves over thousands of years. Lots of intriguing nooks and crannies to explore. We will visit Srebrna beach and Stiniva cove, where we will break for lunch and optional snorkeling. Tonight is reserved for wine tasting in the unusual Lipanovic winery, cleverly housed in a cave, that was an army installation during the Tito era. The story of the island’s isolation makes the winery a must-visit. You will taste and learn about Vis Island’s indigenous white grape. Eat ashore then overnight aboard.



B, L.

## Thursday September 30 - South Hvar and Scedro island



After a cruise on the *Otac Duje*, we start today’s kayaking tour from the secluded, picturesque Milna Bay. Gorgeous views of Dubovica. In Sveta Nedjelja, there is an optional visit and tasting at a unique underwater wine cellar (tasting at extra cost). Go for a swim if you prefer water to wine! Finally to the charming island of Scedro. It is a protected nature park with sweet aromas of lavender, rosemary and sage. Cameras out - the island offers a spectacular sunset. Enrich it with a glass

of Hvar’s famous wine. Overnight stay anchored on Scedro.

B, L, D.

## Friday October 1 - Neretva River Canyon

Early morning, we will leave Scedro and sail towards a very different kayaking experience – the green delta of the river Neretva. The whole valley of 20,000 hectares, spreading from Bosnia Herzegovina over the Croatian border to the Adriatic, is full of narrow channels. The valley is rich with juicy oranges and watermelons which are sold all over Europe. Numerous animal species live in the valley including more than 300 types of birds. We'll paddle through the lush green delta lakes, narrow river channels, forests of reeds, lagoons, sandbanks and river branches covered in aquatic plants. Later anchor at Peljesac with dinner aboard.

B, L, D

## Saturday October 2 - East Korcula archipelago of 19 islets

Cycling over the peninsula of Peljesac, famous for its wines and beautiful scenery. To the Dingac vineyards and village of Potomje before descending to the town of Orebic where we will be picked by our boat and cross the channel to the island of Korcula. Often called "Little Dubrovnik", the town of Korcula is a historic fortified town with a gothic and renaissance cathedral and town hall. Just off the coast are 19 small islets known as the Skoji Islands, in the Korcula archipelago. We'll kayak Badija with its Franciscan monastery built in the fifteenth-century and the birthplace of Marco Polo. You'll have free time in the evening to sightsee the town of Korcula. Overnight stay aboard our boat in the town of Korcula. Eat at a local café.

B, L.

## Sunday October 3 - Mljet island

If another wonder could be added to the Seven Wonders of the World, then the magnificent island of Mljet would certainly be on the shortlist. Mljet is the most forested island in the Adriatic. Natural



coves, sandy bays, vertical cliff drops, mystic caves and crystal-clear sea. We will paddle into the Mljet National Park and its two salt lakes, kayak around St Mary's island where the oldest church complex in the Adriatic is placed.

Then to egg-shaped Odysseus Cave, named after the legend of Odysseus who was allegedly shipwrecked near the cave and remained imprisoned by nymph Calypso, who ruled the island. The cave can be entered from the sea by swimming or by kayaking through the entrance which is about 4-5 meters wide. The tunnel cave is about 20m long and the sea depth is 10m.

B, L, D

## Monday October 4 - Elafiti islands and Dubrovnik

Our last day of kayaking, around the Elafiti archipelago. Starting from Lopud's big sandy beach Sunj towards island Kolocep and then cross a channel to Dubrovnik. We'll see vast sandy beaches, natural sea caves, monuments and cypress, lemon, orange, pine and palm trees. Medieval Renaissance and Baroque churches and chapels. Late afternoon we arrive in



Dubrovnik, a stunning city with wonderful architecture, sculptures, churches, monasteries, museums and fountains (visited by over a million people every year).

Our sunset kayak arrival takes us under the 15<sup>th</sup> century medieval city walls, near the Lovrjenac fortress standing under a 40m cliff, before crossing a channel to the island of Lokrum. This is our last night together. As is traditional on Freedom Outdoors adventures, we will have a big, final dinner to bid each other farewell and relive the highlights of a wonderful time together. Overnight on the *Otac Duje* in Dubrovnik harbour.

B, L, D.

## **Tuesday October 5 – Anchored in Dubrovnik**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to your accommodation in the city if you are staying on or to the airport (airport transfer approx. 20 Euros). This concludes your Freedom Outdoors Kayak Croatia adventure.

## **Sign up for this great adventure – just \$6,495**

Email Tony at [tonycarr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tonycarr@ozemail.com.au) or call 0417 502 056 to register.

**A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to secure your place. Balance payable by July 26, 2021. Single supplement: add \$990.**

Cancellations advised in writing within 2 months of the trip start date will be charged at 50%. No refund after August 15. Participants **must** arrange their own travel insurance. Include cover for the cancellation charges noted above, personal injury, emergency medical treatment, evacuation and transport costs, itinerary changes, delays, interruptions, and loss of or damage to personal items. While we are confident that demand for this trip will be strong, if fewer than 10 people register, Freedom Outdoors may choose to change the trip or not to proceed. All payments made, including the deposit will then be refunded, less any cancellation fees levied by our suppliers. This also applies if we need to cancel the trip because of Covid-19. Transfer deposit to the following Westpac account, with your name in the message field: Freedom Outdoors BSB 032 123 Account 22 32 86. If you do not bank electronically, payment may be made at any Westpac branch or by cheque (add \$5 for cheque processing). Allocations strictly in order of deposits received. The price includes guides/drivers throughout, all transfers and vessel travel from the Split to Dubrovnik. 11 nights' accommodation at sea and in a hotel in Split (twin/double rooms with ensuites). 11 x breakfasts, 9 x lunches and 6 dinners (wine available at cost). Guided kayaking trips including all necessary equipment and National Park passes. Our guides do not expect tips. Excludes Sydney/Croatia return airfares.

### ***... and other things you should know.***

Itinerary and trip details correct as at May 31, 2020 but are subject to change. If currency fluctuations exceed 5%, the final price of the trip will be adjusted. Should you decide to voluntarily alter your travel arrangements after the commencement of your trip, Freedom Outdoors is not responsible for any additional costs you may incur. Your personal safety on the water is always our top priority - it may be necessary to alter, substitute or abandon planned itineraries without advanced warning. The programme may not be carried out in the order suggested. If conditions on the water are not suitable for kayaking, we may substitute walks. All paddlers must wear PFDs (supplied) while on the water. Trip guides will decide on safety matters, coordinate the group and advise changes. No compensation will be paid should changes be necessary. Guides will carry a first aid kit and have first aid experience, however no doctor will accompany the group. You should be in sufficiently good health and of at least average fitness. Guides cannot provide prescription medication. Please advise any specific dietary requirements. Inappropriate behaviour will result in you being required to leave the trip without compensation. We strongly recommend you undertake at least three Freedom Outdoors day paddles leading up to the trip and that you attend one of the company's Skills Workshops. The fitter you are and the more aware you are of paddling technique, the better you will enjoy the trip. No children under 14 years. All participants will be required to sign the standard Freedom Outdoors Risk Waiver document and complete a confidential personal information form. Freedom Outdoors is not a travel agency. From the monies transferred by you to us, we pay the companies providing the services in Croatia and retain an amount to cover the administration of your booking in Sydney.

**Questions? Just email [tonycarr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tonycarr@ozemail.com.au). Concept & contents copyright 2020 Freedom Outdoors**