

**SPRING
2024**



HVAR - WORLD HERITAGE ISLAND VOLUNTOUR THE ART OF DRY STONE WALLING

by:



in cooperation with:



HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainability Focus

Immerse yourself in a sustainable program that values environmental responsibility and community engagement.

Rich Historical and Cultural Heritage

Explore the rich tapestry of history and culture as you delve into the ancient roots of Stari Grad and its surroundings.

Authentic Cuisine

Indulge in the flavours of authentic Dalmatian cuisine, savouring local delicacies that showcase the region's culinary traditions.

Local Encounters

Connect with the heart of the destination by engaging with locals, fostering meaningful interactions, and gaining insights into their way of life.

World Heritage Sites

Discover World Heritage Sites, uncovering the historical significance and architectural marvels that have withstood the test of time.

Outdoor Activities

Enjoy outdoor adventures, from dry-stone wall reconstruction to biking and trekking, embracing the natural beauty of Hvar.

Participation in Local Customs

Immerse yourself in the daily life of traditional Dalmatian workers, experiencing the genuine hospitality of the community.

BRIEF ITINERARY

DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY	MEALS
DAY 1	19.5.2024.	Arrival Day / Presentation of our programme	D
DAY 2	20.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling/ Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 3	21.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Stari Grad & Tvrđalj Castle	BLD
DAY 4	22.5.2024.	OPTIONAL: Bike & Trekking Adventure / Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 5	23.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Visit the city of Hvar	BLD
DAY 6	24.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 7	25.5.2024.	Trip to Split with an expert-led guided tour of Diocletian Palace	BLD
DAY 8	26.5.2024.	Free day	BLD
DAY 9	27.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 10	28.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 11	29.5.2024.	Trip to Pitve & Sveta Nedilja / Chocolate & Wine Pairing / Leisure Time	BLD
DAY 12	30.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / OPTIONAL: VW Beetle Sunset off the beaten path Tour	BLD
DAY 13	31.5.2024.	Art of dry-stone walling / Farewell dinner experience	BLD
DAY 14	1.6.2024.	OPTIONAL: Hvar Sailing School Experience / Leisure Time	BD
DAY 15	2.6.2024.	Departure Day	B

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Welcome to our fully-blooded Dalmatian island program. By participating in this program, you have chosen to experience true “islandness” while asserting that no man is an island. Our host – the island of Hvar – is the longest, sunniest, and best-known Croatian island. Its hills captivate with their stone-laced landscapes overgrown with fragrant lavender and olive groves, much as the coastline intoxicates with its sunlit beaches and crystal-clear Adriatic Sea. In addition to boasting of its natural beauty, Hvar can rightly be called a World heritage island, given that as many as six UNESCO cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, rooted themselves here. Such heritage is noticeable through the religious Procession *Za Križen* (“following the cross”) and the traditional agave lace, to the art of dry-stone walling that derives from ancient and Early-middle ages. However, the star is Hora - the most preserved monument of the ancient Greek land division in the Mediterranean, dating back to the 4th century BC.

This programme offers the opportunity to participate in preserving the latter two by restoring the collapsed dry-stone walls and fields within the only remaining ancient Greek landscape in the Mediterranean, with exciting tours and activities, selection of optional activities, educational content and plenty of leisure time available for trying out hotel’s facilities, spending time with loved ones or regenerating through peace and solitude. As the tangible intertwines with the intangible cultural heritage on this island, we could develop our islandness by participating in the cultivation of vines, grape picking (*jametva*) or olive picking with locals, depending on the part of the season in which the program takes place.

When it's less crowded, enjoy learning about Hvar's sights accompanied by local connoisseurs, exploring the island on foot and by bicycle, going off the beaten path and above all, experiencing *fjaka* - a time for relaxation and leisure, a state of physical and mental vacation. All these threads make our program unique and utterly different from all the others on the market.

TECHNICALITIES

PERIOD:	19 th of May – 02 nd of Jun 2024
NUMBER OF DAYS:	15 days / 14 nights
STARTING LOCATION:	Split / Dubrovnik / Zagreb
ENDING LOCATION:	Split / Dubrovnik / Zagreb
TOUR PACE:	Energetic to Intensive
TOUR STYLE:	Active tour with calm evenings
ACCOMMODATION:	Hvar Places Hotel 3*

ABOUT STARI GRAD

Discover the Timeless Charm

In this text, we wish you a virtual welcome to Stari Grad, a jewel nestled on the sun-kissed island of Hvar. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of history and natural beauty that defines this enchanting town.



- **Historic Marvels:** Stari Grad, meaning "Old Town," boasts a history dating back to ancient times. Wander through its labyrinthine streets, where medieval buildings and charming squares reveal stories of the past. More about the history you can find listed beneath the programme.
- **Quaint Harbor Vibes:** Meander along the picturesque waterfront adorned with vibrant fishing boats and lively cafes. Feel the gentle sea breeze as you take in the panoramic views of the Adriatic. Stari Grad's harbour is not just a port; it's a gateway to tranquillity and seafaring tales.
- **Cultural Treasures:** Step into the Stari Grad Museum to delve into the town's fascinating heritage. From archaeological artefacts to local art, every exhibit tells a tale of Stari Grad's enduring cultural significance.
- **Culinary Delights:** Indulge your senses in the culinary wonders of Stari Grad. From authentic Dalmatian cuisine in family-run *konobas* to sipping local wines in charming vineyards, every meal is a celebration of local flavours.
- **Nature's Embrace:** Surrounded by lush vineyards and olive groves, Stari Grad is a haven for nature lovers. Take a leisurely stroll through fragrant lavender fields or embark on a hiking adventure in the nearby hills – nature's beauty awaits at every turn.
- **Your Journey Begins:** Stari Grad invites you to be a part of its story, where the past meets the present in perfect harmony. Join us on a journey through time and beauty as we uncover the secrets of this captivating town on the island of Hvar.
- **Stari Grad: Where History, Beauty, and Culture Unite.**



ABOUT THE HOTEL – PLACES HVAR

The Places Hotel: A Coastal Oasis in Stari Grad

Welcome to The Places Hotel, where modern luxury meets the tranquillity of the Adriatic coast. Completely renovated in 2020, our hotel is a haven situated right on the beach promenade, a mere 50 meters from the crystal-clear sea.



Key Features:

- **Prime Location:** Nestled on the Northwestern side of Stari Grad, our hotel enjoys a privileged beachside location, just 800 meters from the Old Town. An attractive 5-minute boat ride connects you effortlessly to the vibrant centre of Stari Grad.
- **Immersive Mediterranean Lifestyle:** The essence of our hotel lies in immersing you in the local Mediterranean lifestyle. We offer an authentic experience that showcases the specialities of the sunniest local islands.
- **Scenic Double Rooms:** Enjoy the comfort of our Double Rooms, each adorned with a terrace that offers breathtaking sea views. Revel in the beauty of the pine tree surroundings that create a serene atmosphere.
- **Inclusive Dining Experience:** Indulge in a culinary journey with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included in the price. Our on-site dining options bring you the flavors of the region, curated to enhance your stay.
- **Entertainment and Relaxation:** The Places Hotel goes beyond accommodations. Immerse yourself in our after-beach music program featuring DJ sets and live performances during the summertime. Unwind by the outdoor swimming pool, stroll along the private beach, or relax in the sun lounge relaxation zone.
- **Smart Technology and Contactless Services:** Every room is equipped with a Smart TV offering streaming options, ensuring entertainment at your fingertips. Experience convenience with high-speed Wi-Fi, contactless check-in, and contactless payment using a bracelet available at the reception.
- **Sustainability at Heart:** Embracing an eco-friendly approach, The Places Hotel adheres to sustainability standards, ensuring that your stay contributes positively to the environment.
- **Pet-Friendly Accommodation:** Your furry companions are welcome to join your coastal retreat, as we offer pet-friendly accommodation.



Discover a coastal oasis that blends modern comfort with the timeless charm of Stari Grad. The Places Hotel invites you to experience the allure of the Adriatic in style.

Your Escape Awaits at The Places Hotel.

2024.

(SUN)
19.05.

DAY 1



Arrival Day - Stari Grad

- -- : -- Arrival / Meet & greet / Hotel Transfer
- -- : -- Check-in @ the hotel / Leisure Time
- 6:00 PM Programme overview
- 7:00 PM Welcome dinner @ the hotel / Free Time / Overnight

After landing at Split Airport, you will be welcomed by our representatives and transported to Split Harbor, where a ferry or catamaran will take you to the island of Hvar, a trip of approximately two hours.



Immediately upon arrival at Stari Grad port, a brief transfer to the hotel follows along with a quick check-in.

You will stay at Hvar Places Hotel - a recently redecorated hotel located in the pine-forestry area above the beach in the bay of Stari Grad town, just across from its centre. It offers a delightful refuge from the crowds and excellent connections to all attractions. This location is ideal for a more relaxing, remote stay, especially during summer. Buffet breakfasts and dinners will be served daily at the hotel.

After a short break, our expert team will introduce the programme. Information needed will be presented and this area's heritage (briefly) as it relates to this sustainable project. Upon finishing of the overview, dinner is available within the hotel facilities, and free time reserved for relaxation and rest.



2024.

(MON)
20.05.



Stari Grad

DAY 2

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site
- --:-- Introduction to the art of dry-stone walling / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

The first day of fieldwork / program begins with assigning the teams as presented yesterday evening at the introduction.

Under expert supervision, you will partake in reconstructing the Hora's dry-stone walls that collapsed through the centuries. Nominated by multiple Mediterranean countries, as of 2018, the art of dry-stone walling has its place on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.



The meticulous reconstruction of these stone walls is scheduled from Monday to Friday, with the exception of Wednesdays. Amidst the natural surroundings, an outdoor catered lunch will be provided, fostering camaraderie among team members.



Dry stone walls, distinguished by their mortarless assembly, endure the test of time through precise stacking and the gravitational force of the earth. This venerable craft serves multifaceted purposes, from shielding against strong winds and heavy rains to curbing soil erosion, cultivating stonecrops, and, notably in Stari Grad, delineating land divisions.

Beyond the restoration of dry-stone walls, tasks may encompass terrain preparation for agriculture, including cleaning and educational initiatives for locals on cultural methods, irrigation, pesticides, and more. Your participation contributes not only to the preservation of heritage but also to the enrichment of community knowledge and sustainable practices.



Stari Grad

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to hotel
- 5:00 PM Visit to Stari Grad & Tvrđalj Castle
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

Following the fulfilling fieldwork and a leisurely break, immerse yourself in the 2500-year-old history of this coastal town. Accompanied by an archaeologist / historian deeply acquainted with the city, embark on a journey through its storied past, traversing secluded stone streets, monasteries, and Renaissance castles. Engage in conversations with vibrant locals, delving into customs and absorbing the genuine traditions and vibes that define this unique locale.



The exploration culminates in a visit to one of Stari Grad's premier attractions—the Tvrđalj Castle, the summer residence of Petar Hektorović, a renowned Croatian Humanist writer. Hektorović, a local noble, dedicated a substantial portion of his prolific life to fortifying his abode. For him, this meticulously preserved Renaissance edifice was akin to a book etched in stone, holding equal significance to his literary masterpieces.



Post-tour, unwind along the promenade, indulging in the authentic delight of *paprenjak* (gingerbread), a traditional cookie crafted with local honey and spices. This serves as a delectable precursor to the evening's hotel dinner, encapsulating the rich flavors and cultural nuances of Stari Grad.

**Stari Grad**

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Leisure time / OPTIONAL: Bike & Trekking Adventure
- 1:00 PM Lunch at a local tavern
- 4:00 PM Return to hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

Amidst the week's fieldwork, relish a day of rejuvenation with a biking and trekking adventure, unveiling Hvar's abandoned stone villages, many constructed with the same dry stone wall technique. Tailored to accommodate all, the route provides an e-bike option, ensuring inclusivity across ages and activity levels.



As you traverse the island's elevated terrain, soak in the breathtaking panorama of the surrounding archipelago. Explore the remnants of Hvar's stone villages, absorbing insights into the medicinal herbs that line the path. Pause to engage with local "shamans" and delve into their wisdom regarding folk medicine, while mapping and logging both visible and concealed trails.

The journey includes a mid-day food savouring break, known as *marenda* — a cherished tradition originating from Dalmatian farmers and peasants, now embraced in urban settings for its Mediterranean flavors and conviviality. The second part of *marenda* unfolds at a host's tavern, concluding the adventure in Jelsa. Here, it's recommended to unwind and reflect on the day's impressions while sipping an espresso along the picturesque promenade.




Stari Grad - Hvar
DAY 5

- -- : -- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to hotel
- 5:00 PM Visit the city of Hvar with the private guided tour
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight



After getting back to the established fieldwork routine, besides learning about the art of dry-stone walling and agricultural methods, an outdoor lunch, a.k.a. *marenda* will be available every day, as is the custom in the life of traditional Dalmatian workers. Apart from new insights and the visible results of your efforts, which will endure for centuries, the pleasure of working in the field also resides in socializing over food, an integral aspect of the *marenda* (field brunch).



After a short break in the hotel during the afternoon, you will travel across the island to visit and explore the city of Hvar. The private, expert-guided tour will start at the town's top - Fortica, a fortress with a beautiful panoramic view of Hvar and the nearby archipelago called the Paklinski Islands.

Slowly descending the stone streets towards the charming port, the tour covers the visit to St. Stephen's Cathedral, located on and sharing the name with the biggest town square in Dalmatia, the 13th-century arsenal with one of the oldest European theatres, the city loggia and some other hidden corners of this vibrant city, a world-renowned jet-set destination. The tour is followed by a 30-minute drive to the hotel, where dinner awaits and the surrounding tranquility of your accommodation in the quiet bay of Stari Grad.



2024.

(FRI)
24.05.



Stari Grad

DAY 6

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to the hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

One could say that stone is part of the Dalmatian faith; ever since the indigenous Illyrian population built their hillforts with dry stone walls, quarries have been the literal sources of our cities and a record of time, standing witness for the art of dry-stone walling - a particular skill you will master in your fieldwork. Since the walls are built without any mortar to bind them together, each stone is a foundation for the next one.



After the *marenda* and completing the work in Hora, indulge in the hotel facilities or chill out on the beach. The hotel offers excellent leisure facilities, whether you're looking for activities or relaxation.

**Stari Grad - Split****DAY 7**

- -- : -- Breakfast
- 9:15 AM Meet up / transfer to Hvar port
- 10:15 AM Catamaran ride to Split
- 11:15 AM Arrival to Split / Expert-led guided tour of Diocletian Palace & Old Town
- 1:30 PM Lunch at a local tavern / Leisure Time
- 5:00 PM Return to Hvar - catamaran ride
- 7:00 PM Arrival @ the hotel & Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

This day, however, differs entirely from the previous ones as you will hop on a journey that bridges the treasures of Hvar Island and the historic allure of Split. This adventure begins with transportation from the hotel to a nearby port, followed by a one-and-a-half-hour sailing to Split, setting the stage for a day of exploration.



Upon arrival to Split, follow an expert-led tour of its glories. Split, the second biggest city in the country, is a living monument of antiquity intertwined with early Christian, Byzantine and Medieval architecture and art, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1979. This walking tour traces the city's golden chain – the ancient Decumanus street, stretching west to east, and then across through Cardo, from the Golden Gate to the Imperial cellars – you will learn about Emperor Diocletian and hear some interesting bits from the rich history of the place.



As the tour concludes, a delectable lunch experience awaits at a local tavern, tantalising your taste buds with authentic flavours. Leisure time lays at hand as the lunch finishes, offering the option of free exploration of the area or relaxation. At 4:30 PM it's time to head back to Hvar. Meet your guide and walk towards the port to board the catamaran. As you arrive at Hvar port a transfer awaits to take you to the hotel. Free time in the evening enables you to include more personal interests into this programme, so take advantage of what it has to offer, its maximum potential.

2024.

(SUN)
26.05.



Stari Grad

DAY 8

- -- : -- Breakfast / Leisure Time
- 1:00 PM Lunch @ the hotel / Leisure time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

In adherence to Dalmatian customs, Sundays are revered as sacred, meant for familial bonding and repose. This day remains intentionally unstructured, granting you the liberty to shape it as you wish. Partake in the local Sunday service, immersing yourself in the serene ambiance of the church. Embrace this cultural touchpoint for reflection and connection.



Blend in with the locals and take this time to unwind and regenerate. Devote this day to personal rejuvenation amidst the tranquil surroundings. Whether through meditation, yoga, or the spa services within the hotel, find solace and renewal.



Sunday unfolds as a canvas for personal choices and serene moments, allowing you to craft an experience harmonious with Dalmatia's rich cultural and spiritual tapestry.

2024.

(MON)
27.05.



Stari Grad

DAY 9

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to the hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight



Feeling brand new after the weekend of low-intensity activities and plenty of time for relaxation, it's time to get back to the fieldwork. Use the energy gained for maximum productivity and proudly stand upon your creation of reconstructed walls. Amid the fieldwork, enjoy a picnic lunch on the site, sit back, relax, and observe the untouched nature of the place. Finish the fieldwork for the day after lunch and greet afternoon and evening hours left at your disposal for leisure time or personal entertainment choices.



**Stari Grad**

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to the hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

As the usual routine follows, it's time to meet with the leader for transportation to the site after breakfast. By now, you have grasped the art of dry-stone walling, so proudly implemented your new skills while helping preserve World heritage. Midway through the fieldwork for the day, delight in an outdoor catered lunch and free time to regain the energy for more fieldwork. As fieldwork ends, transport takes you to the hotel, where free time is available for personal needs before we start including afternoon activities tomorrow.



2024.

(WED)
29.05.



**Stari Grad – Pitve – Sveta Nedilja
- Vrboska**

DAY 11

- -- : -- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up / Trip to Pitve & Sveta Nedilja / Local village experience
- 1:00 PM Lunch @ a local tavern / Leisure Time
- 4:00 PM Chocolate & Wine Pairing @ Vrboska village
- 6:00 PM Return to the hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight



The day starts with a trip to the nearby villages of Pitve and Sveta Nedilja. These villages stand as portals to a preserved local culture and traditions. Each cobblestone and terraced vineyard carry a unique story that an expert will share through this educational and fun tour. As the morning part of the tour ends, relish in new tastes during lunch prepared at a local tavern, perhaps even by your own hands during a brief cooking lesson. Afternoon continues with exploration of the new surroundings before pairing the premium local wines with locally produced chocolate pralines. After another island-immersive day, a transfer will return you to the hotel, where dinner is served, and free time is available for relaxation.



**Stari Grad**

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 2:30 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to hotel
- 5:00 PM OPTIONAL: VW Beetle Sunset off the beaten path Tour
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight



Now, as an experienced art dry-stone waller, as you roll up your sleeves and get into the fieldwork, witness how your newly-gained knowledge transpires in your productivity. Take advantage of the free time available after lunch for rest and interaction with others. Upon finishing the fieldwork for the day, a return to the hotel takes place, and free time or an optional beetle sunset tour is available for enjoyment. This tour starts in front of the hotel and revolves around driving in a Volkswagen Beetle, a convertible car that can comfortably fit four people. Uncover new horizons on this off-the-beaten-path tour, driving on the old, abandoned pathways, through the scantily settled villages and explore new surroundings. The tour ends in front of the hotel, and dinner awaits. Re-energize through the leisure time and prepare for the upcoming day.

**Stari Grad**

- --:-- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Meet up & transfer to the site / Fieldwork
- 1:00 PM Catered lunch / Leisure Time
- 3:00 PM Continue fieldwork
- 4:00 PM Return to the hotel / Free Time
- 7:00 PM Farewell dinner experience / Free Time / Overnight

On the culmination of the last day of fieldwork, apply the honed skills acquired during this transformative experience. Witness the unveiling of a meticulously restored dry-stone wall, a treasure rediscovered through your collective efforts. Share in the joy of accomplishment with your teammates, basking in the pride of your achievements. Take a reflective moment to look back at the journey's outset, breathing in the significance of your contributions that will endure for centuries. This is a well-deserved celebration!



As the fieldwork concludes, return to the hotel, where free time awaits for relaxation. Acknowledge the significance of this concluding day by indulging in a farewell dinner prepared at a nearby or local tavern / restaurant. Delight in the flavors of local delicacies, creating a unique atmosphere for this special dining experience. Let the night resonate with the harmonies of a local acapella group, inviting you to join in and sing along to melodies cherished across the region. Embrace the opportunity to learn from locals, making this farewell dinner an unforgettable celebration of shared experiences and newfound skills.





Stari Grad

- -- : -- Breakfast / Leisure Time
- 1:00 PM Lunch @ a local tavern / Leisure Time
- 3:00 PM Free Time / OPTIONAL: Hvar Sailing School
/ Return to the hotel
- 7:00 PM Dinner / Free Time / Overnight

As your time on the island and in Stari Grad draws to a close, savor the last day with relaxation, rest, or engaging in activities aligned with personal preferences. For an immersive experience, consider an optional tour of the Hvar Sailing School. This unique activity offers the opportunity to learn sailing skills while navigating the picturesque Paklinski islands, providing moments for swimming and snorkeling. Experienced skippers are ready to guide you through a sailing adventure in the Hvar archipelago, allowing you to tailor the experience to your preferences.



Alternatively, if you choose free time, we encourage exploration of the nearby surroundings. Dive into the local cuisine by trying a new dish, engage with new people, and unwind as the departure day approaches. Embrace the freedom to shape the final moments of your stay according to what resonates most with your senses.



2024.

(SUN)
02.06.

DAY 15



Stari Grad – Destination

- -- : -- Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Check-out @ the hotel
- -- : -- Organized Group Airport Transfers / End Service

Ensuring a seamless departure for everyone is our goal for this day, and our dedicated staff will be available to assist with check-out or any additional needs you may have. An organized transfer will be ready in front of the hotel, ready to take you to your next destination or the airport.



The closest airport is in Split; initially, a catamaran or ferry ride from the island brings you to Split port, followed by an organized transfer to Split airport. The entire journey typically takes 2 hours, contingent on traffic and road conditions.



While all good things must come to an end, the compelling experiences and newly forged friendships will linger indefinitely. As orchestrators of this distinctive experience, we sincerely hope to have contributed to a lasting and meaningful impression in your minds and hearts. Safe travels on your onward journey!



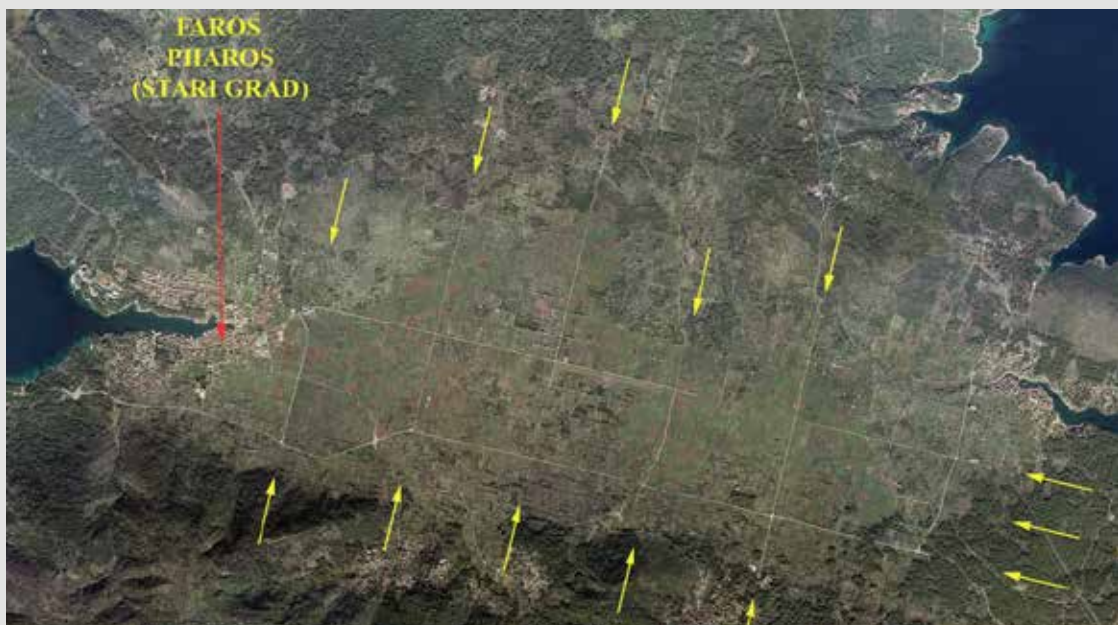
ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

The field is the biggest flat on all the Croatian islands, slightly sloping towards the sea, where the Stari Grad town is situated. Due to the size of the field and the condition of the dry walls, the terrains are scattered all around since significant part of the field still requires restoration of the walls. Because the site is in the open, there will be mobile toilets distributed onsite. The programme entails daily physical work under challenging conditions. Climate change effects are present daily and can be witnessed during the programme from the heat of many sunny days. We welcome any volunteer, eco-conscious individual, or culture enthusiast to join in on this heritage preservation journey and learn about those matters. As mentioned beforehand, the process of restoring and preserving such treasures is a challenging act, yet it's very achievable – no wonder there's a saying stating teamwork makes the dream work.

LAND DIVISION & DRY STONE WALLS

The plotting (parcelizacija) of Stari Grad field represents one of the masterpieces of Greek culture in the Mediterranean. Despite turbulent historical events over the centuries and multiple subsequent land divisions within the field, its basic structure given by the Greek parcellation 2400 years ago remained practically intact.

The Greek hora is well preserved in the dry-stone walls that mark the boundaries of the parcels. All subsequent divisions of the country (Roman, medieval, modern) always took place within the basic Greek units and were physically marked similarly - by creating larger or smaller stone walls built in the dry-wall technique. Hence, the spotlight of this program shines on them, their restoration and preservation for future generations.



ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

The Stari Grad field throughout its history has retained its agrarian character. It contains layers of all cultures that built their existence on the fact that they were once in its possession, and the field hides almost 120 archaeological sites (from prehistory to the Middle Ages).

Therefore, the significance of the Stari Grad Plain as an archaeological area was recognised as early as 1993, when it was protected as an archaeological zone.



THE ART OF DRY STONE WALLING

Known as "umijeće suhozidne gradnje" in Croatian, is the skill of constructing stone structures without the use of binding materials. In a narrower sense, it involves laying broken stones with minimal or no processing, and in a broader context, it may include the placement of stone pavements and coverings, as well as the construction of engineering structures using hewn stone without the use of binders. This skill has been practiced in the Adriatic-Dinaric region of Croatia from prehistoric times to the present day. Its prevalence, technical achievements, and importance to the community are linked to population density, economic activities, and the methods of transforming rocky terrain for agricultural production.

On the bare karst landscape, dry stone walling is an indispensable manual technique for creating shelters, paths, and barriers, particularly for adapting rocky terrain to agriculture. The majority of construction primarily occurs during the initial and most labor-intensive phases of claiming new land—during enclosure, clearing land of stones, constructing terraces, and building simple stone shelters for temporary use. In later stages of site exploitation, the skill is utilized for maintaining and repairing structures, storing excess stones unearthed through processing, functional modifications, and more. The most skilled dry stone masons are well-known and respected within their communities, with the level of specialization and professionalism depending on circumstances.



In addition to smaller structures for various purposes, a distinctive product of dry stone construction is the "suhozid" (also known as "*gromača*," "*međa*," "*mocira*," "*mocir*," "*masiera*," "*redina*," "*prizid*," "*zid*," "*mrtvi zid*," "*mrtvi mir*," and more), which appears in various forms across the entire Adriatic-Dinaric karst region, strongly characterizing its landscape.*

*Croatian Ministry of Culture

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

Archaeological and architectural heritage of the field

Starogradsko polje, rich in archaeological sites, boasts nearly 120 registered sites. One of the more significant sites is the Greek tower located at Maslinovik in the northern part of the field. During the 1st century BCE, the Greek Faros transformed into the Roman Farija (Latin: Pharia), and the field continued its existence but now under a different name - Ager Pharensis. Strige, or plots of land, began to be divided into smaller parcels, and many rural villas (villae rusticae) were constructed.

One of the most notable sites from this Roman period is the villa rustica situated at Kupinovik. Archaeological findings indicate that during the late antiquity period, the field was densely populated. However, the early Middle Ages, specifically the time of the arrival of the Slavic population, is the least documented period. Despite this, it can be presumed that the field continued to be cultivated and maintained; otherwise, it wouldn't have been preserved or detailed in the Hvar Statute.



In addition to its archaeological richness, Starogradsko polje is abundant in architectural heritage. Alongside roads and dry stone walls, characteristic small stone houses, trimi and teze, as well as numerous field chapels and churches, contribute to the landscape. Among the oldest are the 15th-century chapels of St. Kuzma and Damian and St. Helena.

PROTECTION - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The significance of Starogradsko polje was recognized in 1993 when it was protected as an archaeological zone. The next level of protection was established in 2005 when it was preemptively safeguarded as the cultural landscape of Starogradsko polje.

In 2008, Starogradsko polje, along with the historic core of Stari Grad, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, acknowledging its cultural and historical importance.

The exceptional universal value of Stari Grad Plain is recognised in the following:

- The system of dividing the land of Stari Grad field into parcels dates to the 4th century. BC testifies to the spread of the Greek geometric model of the division of agricultural land in the Mediterranean area. (Criterion II)
- Stari Grad field is in continuous use as an agricultural area. It has been planted with the same crops for 2400 years, which testifies to the continuity and durability of the function over the centuries. (Criterion III)
- The agricultural area of Stari Grad is an example of an ancient traditional landscape that is now threatened by modern economic development, especially due to the depopulation of villages and the abandonment of traditional land cultivation. (Criterion C)

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

By entering the List, commitment to preserve the landscape inherited has started and universal value has been recognized for future generations. This is extremely difficult under the pressures of economic progress and changed business circumstances. It is precisely for this reason that the Public Institution for the management of Stari Grad field was recently established, whose primary task is to reconcile different interests (farmers, land owners, entrepreneurs, archaeologists, conservationists, spatial planners and local communities) and direct them to a common goal - the revitalisation and sustainable development of Stari Grad field.

PARTNERS OF THE PROGRAMME

The Public Institution Agency for Stari Grad Plain is an institution whose founders include members of the Ministry of culture, agriculture, fisheries, and economy of the municipality Jelsa and Stari Grad town. The goal of this agency is the preservation, improvement, and tourism evaluation of Stari Grad field, which in 2008 came under the protection of UNESCO. Following the placement on UNESCO's cultural heritage list, the agency focuses on the different interests of farmers, landowners, entrepreneurs, archaeologists, conservationists, spatial planners, and local communities – with the primary objective of revitalising Stari Grad Field under sustainable tourism principles.



ABOUT STARI GRAD AND THE PLAIN HISTORY

Stari Grad, situated on the island's northern side, is the oldest town within one of the deepest bays on all Croatian Islands. The preserved land division structure showcases its rich heritage. Greek colonies around 385 B.C. / 2 400 years ago divided the land into approximately 180 x 900 meters parcels, each bearing an owner's name. The fertile farms with built tanks and gutters supported the cultivation of grapes, olives, and vegetables for the community and trade – a practice that remains today.

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

GREEK COLONIZATION OF PHAROS

During the 8th to 5th century BC, around 700 Greek colonies emerged across the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Adriatic, sparsely colonized until the 6th century BC, became a focal point for Greek settlement by the 4th century BC. Notable settlements dotted the Albanian coast and the Athenian-Etruscan Spina in the north Adriatic.



Nikola Solarić

The western Adriatic, with its fertile coast, engaged in robust trade with native communities. In contrast, the barren eastern coast and over 1,000 islands, governed by Illyrian tribes like Histri and Liburni, beckoned Greek attention. Hvar, the largest and agriculturally rich among the Adriatic islands, enticed settlers, possibly due to its climate and size relative to Paros.

The Parani inhabited Hvar's fertile northern-central region around Starograd Bay since the early Neolithic era. Evidence of hillforts, burial mounds, and Attic black-figure vases suggests pre-existing settlements. Xenophanes of Colophon, a prominent philosopher, noted fish fossils on Hvar, influencing his belief in Earth's submerged history.

+The foundation of Pharos by the Parani, documented by Diodorus in the 1st century BC, unfolded amid alliances, prophecies, and conflicts with Illyrians. The Greeks' choice of Hvar remains intriguing, possibly rooted in agreements with Dionysius, as suggested by archaeological findings and the need for considerable investment.



Inscription from Pharos commemorating Pharans' triumph over the Jadasins and allies in the 4th century BC.

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

The Conquest of Pharos

Diodorus, a Greek historian from Sicily in the 1st century BC, provides the sole ancient account of Pharos' foundation and the subsequent events involving the Parian colony. In his 15th book of Universal History (Bibliothèque historique), Diodorus recounts the exploits of Dionysius the Elder of Syracuse, a formidable Mediterranean tyrant during the late 5th and first half of the 4th century BC.

During Dionysius' alliance with the Molossians and Illyrians in Epirus, the Parani, influenced by prophecy, established a colony on the Adriatic island of Pharos in collaboration with Dionysius (XV, 13, 4). Around 384 BC, amidst significant historical events, the Parani on Faros permitted barbarians on the island to remain in a heavily fortified position while they founded and fortified a city by the sea. Subsequently, tensions escalated, leading the barbarians to seek aid from Illyrians on the mainland.

The conflict unfolded with over ten thousand Illyrians crossing to Faros, attacking the Greek settlers. Dionysius, through the appointed governor of Lisos, intervened with a fleet of triremes, resulting in a substantial victory that saw the drowning, capture, and death of thousands (15:14, 1-2).

Diodorus' account highlights an initial agreement between natives and Greeks for peaceful coexistence, later disrupted, possibly due to changed circumstances or Greek reconsideration. It underscores regional identity, showcasing the natives' ability to seek mainland assistance. Dionysius emerges as a dominant Mediterranean force, emphasizing the significance of the conflict, prompting Diodorus to document it centuries later.

The motive behind Dionysius aiding the Parani settlement on Hvar remains unclear, sparking speculation about factors such as distance from the mother island, potential obligations, or financial agreements. Archaeological evidence suggests substantial investments were required for city walls, land division, and defense towers. The minting of Faros' own currency at its inception further hints at financial backing from Paros. The conflict, common in Greek colonization, resulted in severe punishment for the natives, with the precise location of the well-fortified place, mentioned by Diodorus, remaining uncertain, though modern-day Hvar is a probable candidate.

HORA – LAND DIVISION

Hora (Gr. ΧΩΡΑ) is a territory that was under the administration of an ancient Greek city (polis), and as the primary economy of Greek cities is agriculture, Hora means agricultural area, in contrast to the city center which was called asti (Gr. ΑΣΤΥ). There is also an area outside the hora that was used by settlers and natives, the so-called ESCHATIA, a buffer zone between them. It was used for game hunting, grazing, honey production and firewood procurement.

The stone boundary marker with the name Mathios, son of Pytheos, carries a sense of history and connection to the land. Kept in the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb

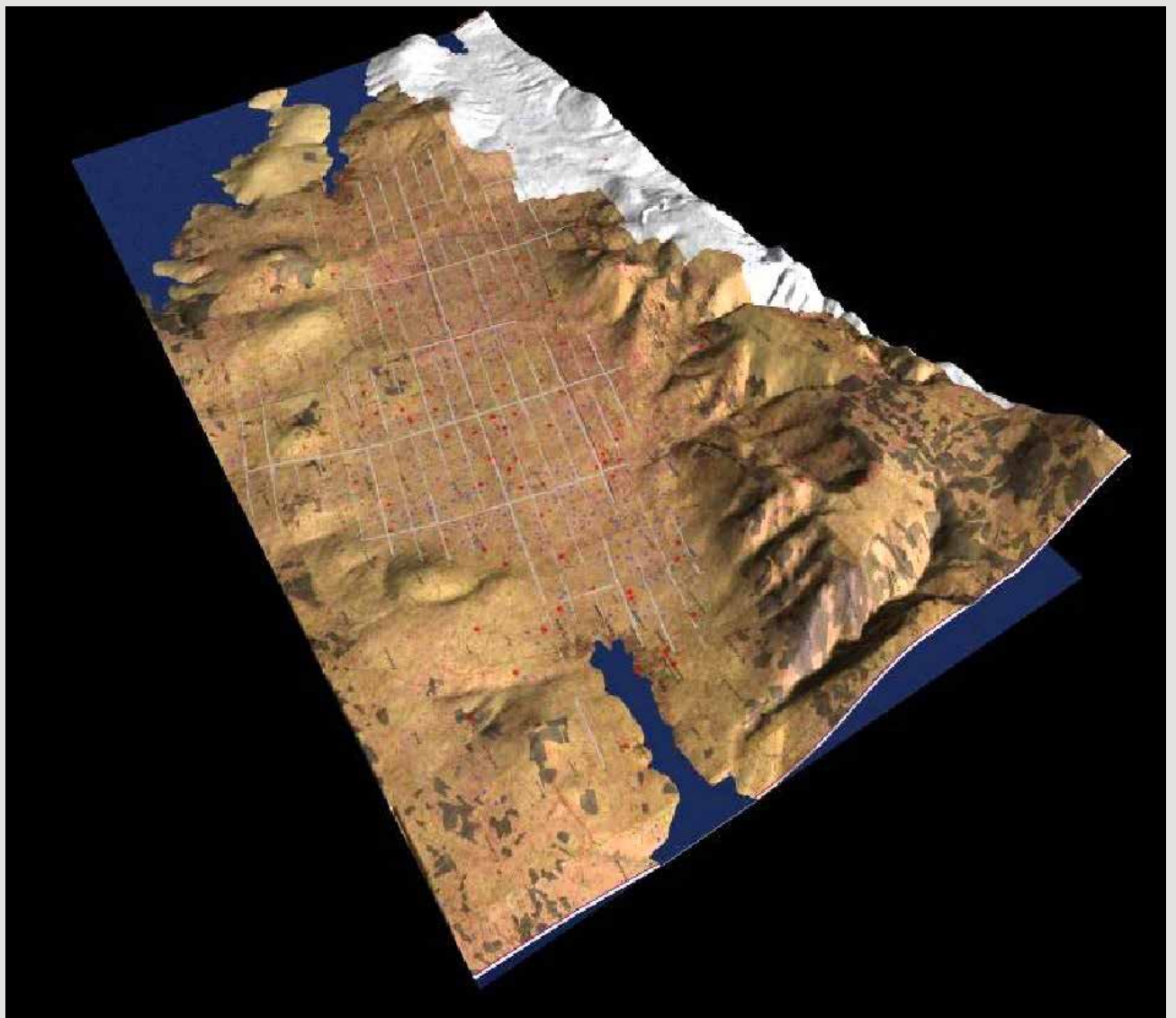


ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERING SITE AND THE WORK INVOLVED

Hora and asti represent the city-state or polis (Gr. ΠΟΛΙΣ). We assume that the Faroese polis with the city center in Stari Grad encompassed the area of all today's settlements around the fields up to Jelsa and Pitve.

In the Greek agrarian colonies, and Faros was such a colony whose mother city was Paros on the island of the same name in the Aegean Sea, the division of agricultural land among the colonists was a key operation to be carried out during establishment. This happened in 385/4. years before Christ. The network of assigned plots was always geometric (the very concept of geometry is related to land measurement: gr. ΓΕ = land).

In Strari Grad, such a network of Greek parcels is the best preserved in the entire Mediterranean, thanks to the dry walls that have been constantly built and renovated for 2400 years! It is therefore not unusual that UNESCO recognized Starogradsko polje as a cultural landscape of exceptional importance and included it in the World Cultural Heritage List.



Useful information

Agent 24/7 support:

Agent emergency phone number **+385 (0)98 436 041**

– Robert Bralić (Mobile/WhatsApp/Viber)

Please do not hesitate to call your emergency agent first.

He is your best help while at the destination.

Arrival to destination - Sustainability

While we know how little influence we can have on your choice of transportation arrangements to your travel destination, if you find it possible and appropriate, we kindly advise using more sustainable travel solutions such as trains, ships or busses. In the case of flying, we recommend airlines with clear sustainability plans and management. More info here.

Sustainability - traveler code of ethics

This is a shortened version of the UNTWO Global Code of Ethics for travelers.

Carbon offset

The displayed carbon footprint overview is calculated via Carmacal, an online tool for measuring the carbon dioxide emissions per each traveler per product.



IMPORTANT: For the travelers who have purchased our travel programme, our guides have received clear instructions and education on how to guide travelers in a more sustainable way while at the destination.

- Travel with a genuine desire to learn more about the people of your host country. Acquaint yourself with local customs and be aware of other people's feelings, thus preventing what might be intrusive behaviour on your part.
- Your pre-trip research can be continued by asking questions while you are there. Any attempt to learn even a few words of the relevant language will make your trip a more rewarding experience for all involved.
- Realize that often the people in the country you visit have time concepts and approaches different from your own.
- Don't treat people as part of the landscape; they may not want their picture taken. Put yourself in their shoes, ask permission first, and respect their wishes. Many people love to see images of themselves, so if you are somewhere remote with your digital camera, show the locals the pictures you have just taken of them with your camera!
- Do not make promises to people in your host country unless you can carry them through.
- Ensure that your behaviour has no impact on the natural environment. Avoid picking flowers, removing seeds, damaging coral, and even buying souvenirs such as shells and skins. Understand that there can be no guarantees for wildlife; all sightings are a bonus.

Useful information

- Try and put money into local people's hands: drink local beer or fruit juice rather than imported brands and buy and eat locally produced food. When shopping, even where bargaining is expected, do inject humour and remember that a low price almost certainly means a lower wage for the maker.
- If you want to take gifts, make sure they are appropriate (for example, there are few dentists in remote communities, so sweets are not recommended).
- If you really want your experience to be a 'home away from home', it may be foolish to waste money on travelling!

Documents:

Scan copies of all your IDs and other important documents and email them to yourself in a password-protected document before you leave. Also, have copies in a safe place back home that someone can access if necessary. Make sure all electronic devices are password protected. You can also keep credit card numbers, bank contact info, and passport details on an encrypted storage app like ewallet (iPhone, iPad) or the android version [here](#).

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your re-entry date.

Border crossings

The Republic of Croatia applied the Schengen regime on 1 January 2023 entirely. This means that border checks on all internal land and sea borders of the Republic of Croatia were abolished. More specifically, there are no more border checks on the borders with the Republic of Slovenia, Hungary and the Italian Republic.

Border checks at airports will be abolished on 26 March 2023, for flights within the Schengen area, so if your arrival schedule connects through any of the EU countries after this day, it will be treated as domestic. If your trip includes any of the non-EU countries, cues are to be expected on entry to Croatia. For more information, visit our Ministry of Internal Affairs webpage [here](#).

Credit and Debit Cards:

Call your banks and credit card companies to advise them of your travel dates so they don't shut down your cards when "unusual charges" occur. Most banks charge AT LEAST 1%, as well as a per-use convenience fee, for the use of ATM machines in Europe. Still, we feel that withdrawing money from an ATM machine as needed is the best way to access cash. Withdraw at least the equivalent of €200 upon arrival in Europe (all the airports have ATM machines) and then more as needed. Remember that many European ATM keypads only have numbers, not the corresponding letters. So, memorize your access code in numbers if you haven't already. Do not fall prey to the money exchange vendors found in the airports – they offer terrible rates!

Useful information

Dollars are not accepted, and travelers' checks are rarely used anymore. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, AMEX less so. You will incur at least a 1% transaction charge for all credit and debit card purchases, unless you have one of the few credit cards that do not charge this fee. Note that Croatia, like most of Europe, has moved to the more secure "chip technology" on their credit and debit cards. Some US cards still have the magnetic stripe and may not be widely accepted. Please verify with your bank that your credit card is usable in Croatia. Most US banks are now issuing "chip and signature" cards, and you are advised to obtain one before traveling in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

WARNING NOTICE!

Avoid Euronet and so-called "Commission-free" ATMs and use ONLY ATMs of banks that have their offices in Croatia, such as: (Zagrebačka Banka (The Bank of Zagreb), PBZ (Economic Bank of Zagreb), HPB (Croatian Postal Bank), Raiffeisen Bank, Erste Banka, OTP Bank.

Currency – Croatia

As of 1 January 2023, the euro (EUR) is the Croatian currency and the sole legal tender in Croatia, replacing the previous Kuna. Banknotes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 euros, while coins of 1 and 2 euros and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents are in use. There is also a 500 euro banknote in circulation, which was discontinued in 2019, but is still legal tender.

Tips – general information

In Croatia, it is customary to leave a tip only if you are satisfied with the level of delivered service. The usual amount for tipping per service/day ranges around 15 % of the provided service.

*On request, we provide customized tipping suggestions as per your itinerary and service providers

Travel Documents and Visas

The travel document one requires to come to Croatia is a valid passport or another internationally recognized document, and an ID card (a document that proves the holder's identity and citizenship) for citizens of some countries.

Foreign visitors normally do not require a visa to enter Croatia – to confirm this information, check the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Those who require a visa need to obtain it before entering the country. This cannot be done at any of the Croatian border crossings.

Embassies

To see the list of foreign embassies and consulates in the Republic of Croatia, please see the following link of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Useful information

Customs Regulations

Customs regulations in the Republic of Croatia are harmonized with the regulations of other EU countries. For more information, see the following link.

Shop Working hours and Public Service Operating Hours

Most stores are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on workdays, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays (even longer during summer). On Sundays, most stores are closed depending on the time of the year. Public services and business offices usually work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

What To Bring With You?

Before departing, we warmly recommend checking whether you have brought the following:

- Passports or another valid travel documents to enter Croatia
- Health insurance card
- Driver's licence (in case you intend to rent a car in Croatia)
- Airplane or other tickets to enter Croatia
- Insurance policy (We recommend that you purchase one before your departure)
- Visa (if required)
- Credit cards or cash
- Mobile phones, cameras and chargers
- Power adapter – converter for an EU type electricity wall-plug (if needed)
- Working shoes (for the excavations*)
- A set of sneakers, walking or hiking shoes for the excursions and walking tours
- Clothing suitable for physical work, outdoor activities and even swimming (consider weather conditions from hot and sunny to rainy and chilly)
- A light raincoat for possible rainy and windy days
- Wide brim hat for the field work
- Medication - It is not necessary to bring over-the-counter medicine since you can buy all common types in Croatia (e.g. aspirin and anti-insecticides, sunscreen/tanning lotion, etc). It is recommended, however, that you bring any prescription medicines to last for the duration of this field school

A good attitude for work, fun, learning

*It is not necessary to bring any tools for archaeological field work.

Water

Tap water is potable throughout Croatia. On site, there is enough water from the tap, so a glass bottle would be advisable while on site.

Useful information

Country Code

The country code for Croatia is **00385**

Time Zone

GMT +1 during winter, and GMT +2 during summer.

Electricity

Power grid – 220V, frequency: 50HZ. Visitors from the USA need to use a transformer, while visitors from Great Britain need to use adapter for the Continental Europe grid in order to be able to use their electronic devices.

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency number of your agent: **+385 98 436 041** (Robert)

General emergency number: **112**

Ambulance: **194**

Fire Department: **193**

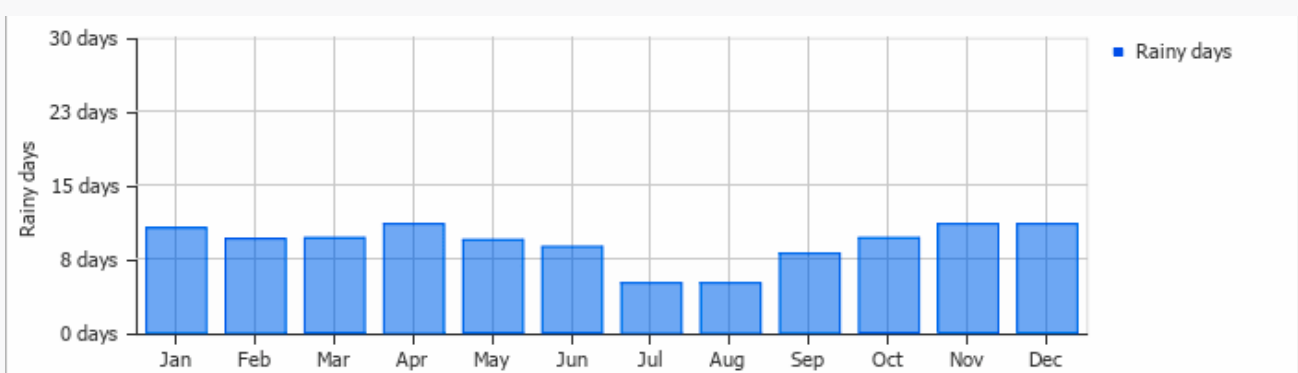
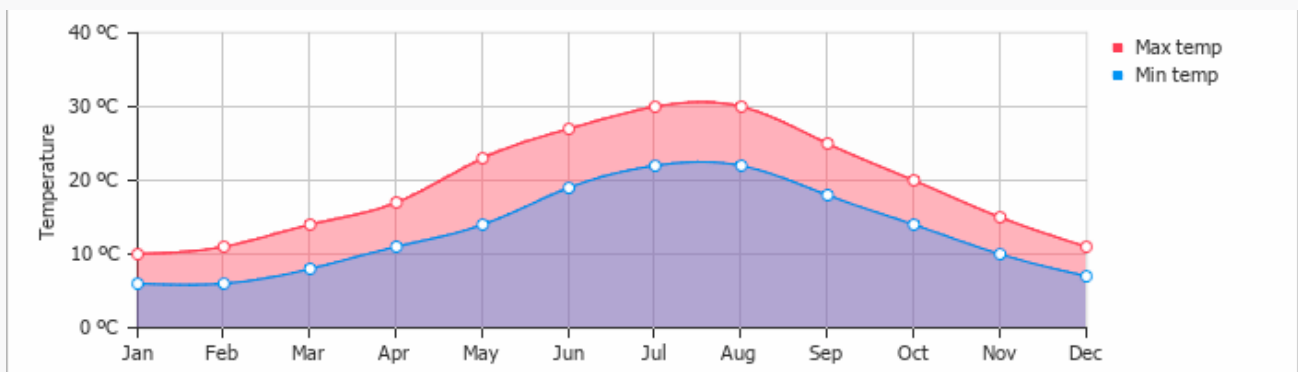
Police: **192**

Roadside Assistance: **1987**
(If you are calling from abroad, dial **+385 1 1987** or **+385 1 4693 700**)

Croatian Automobile Club (HAK) **072 777 777**
Traffic conditions: (If you are calling from abroad, dial **+385 1 4640 800**)

Climate – Adriatic Coast

Mediterranean climate (with dry and warm summers and wet and mild winters). With some average of 2600 sunny hours per year, the Adriatic coast is one of the sunniest in the Mediterranean, with sea temperatures ranging from 25°C to 27°C during summer.



Language and Communication

Here are some of the most frequently used words and expressions which will facilitate your communication in Croatia

ENGLISH		CROATIAN
HELLO	_____	ZDRAVO
GOODBYE	_____	DOVIĐENJA
GOOD MORNING	_____	DOBRO JUTRO
GOOD DAY	_____	DOBAR DAN
GOOD EVENING	_____	DOBRA VEČER
GOOD NIGHT	_____	LAKU NOĆ
YES	_____	DA
NO	_____	NE
PLEASE	_____	MOLIM
THANK YOU	_____	HVALA
YOU'RE WELCOME	_____	NEMA NA ČEMU
EXCUSE ME	_____	OPROSTITUTE
SORRY	_____	PARDON
HOW?	_____	KAKO?
MY NAME IS...	_____	ZOVEM SE...
WHERE IS THE...?	_____	GDJE JE...?
WHAT TIME IT IS?	_____	KOLIKO JE SATI?
TODAY	_____	DANAS
TOMORROW	_____	SUTRA
YESTERDAY	_____	JUČER
HOUR	_____	SAT
DAY	_____	DAN
WEEK	_____	TJEDAN
MONTH	_____	MJESEC



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