



# GENESIS RESEARCH TRUST SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK

CROATIA • CYCLE • YELLOW 1

## ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The Dalmatian coast of Croatia, with its many Adriatic islands, is known for its beautiful scenery. Rugged mountains, lush hills dotted with vineyards and olive groves, and crystal-clear water provide an adventure playground with an appealing Mediterranean climate - this is a wonderful challenge destination for all seasons. This combination of island cycling and short hops by ferry makes for an unforgettable adventure along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. Hilly in places, this is a challenging ride steeped in Mediterranean culture. Surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea, we are never far from picturesque villages, olive groves and vineyards; there are chances to stop for tastings. Reaching the wonderful city walls of Dubrovnik is an unforgettable highlight. Staying in hotels in picturesque towns, there is plenty of time to discover the local culture and relax after your cycling efforts – a perfect combination!

## GENESIS RESEARCH TRUST SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK – DALMATIAN COAST • 8 DAYS

### Day 1: Fly UK – Split

Arrive in Split, Dalmatia's largest city, and transfer to hotel, where we can relax for the rest of the day. We also ensure our bikes are comfortable and prepare our kit for tomorrow, before dinner and a full trip briefing. Night hotel.

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### Day 2: Split – Brač – Split

This beautiful island is a short ferry ride from Split, but it will feel as though we have travelled back in time to a quieter pace. We enjoy a day of riding on quiet picturesque roads, through tranquil stone villages, conifer forests and orchards of cherry and fig trees. The terrain is hilly, but the views more than recompense as we are rewarded with varied scenery, from beautiful beaches to dramatic sheer cliffs and olive groves. The famous white limestone of the island has been used in magnificent buildings from Split's Diocletian Palace to the White House in Washington DC. A wonderful day to kick off our adventure! Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 50-60km

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### Day 3: Split – Hvar

This morning another private ferry crossing will take us to the picturesque island of Hvar. We will begin cycling from Stari Grad, which means 'Old Town', a reference to the fact that it was founded in 384BC by the ancient Greeks. From here we cycle to the small harbour town of Jelsa, passing abandoned ancient hamlets, vineyards and the lavender fields that the island is famous for. After a lunch stop in Jelsa, we will ride on to the island's capital, Hvar Town, a glamorous destination with upmarket hotels and restaurants. The historic Venetian influence can be seen in the town's architecture. We will end our day with wine tasting in a local winery, a perfect end to a great day of cycling. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 50-60km

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### Day 4: Vela Luka – Korčula

Once again, we take a private morning ferry across to our next island destination, Korčula, which is steeped in history and long-standing traditions. From our first stop in Vela Luka we cross the island, cycling through vineyards, olive groves, small villages, holm oak and Mediterranean pine forests, as we make our way to the medieval walled town of Korčula. Upon reaching Korčula Town, we will enjoy sampling olive oil at one of the local producers. The island's vast olive groves and dense forest is why the Greek settlers came to call the island Korkyra Melaina (Black Korčula). This evening, we can enjoy the historic old town and take in the atmosphere. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 56-66km

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### Day 5: Korčula Loop

From the old town of Korčula, today's cycle will loop around the magnificent landscape of the island, passing the quiet coves and small sandy beaches of the southern coastline. We will cycle on a variety of country lanes, trails and both on and off road routes, once again passing the picturesque vineyards, olive groves, fields and beautiful coastline as we ride. According to claims, the famous traveller Marco Polo was born on the island of Korčula. As we arrive back in to the old

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town, we will have the option to visit the Marco Polo Exhibition. If time permits, we will also enjoy a display of the traditional sword dance of Moreška. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 50-60km

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### **Day 6: Korčula – Ston**

After enjoying a hearty breakfast in Korčula, we will depart the island on a short ferry crossing to the Pelješac Peninsula and the historic captain town of Orebić. Our cycle today takes us for here to the idyllic town of Ston, via a pleasant ride on gently undulating terrain, through enchanting pine and cypress forests. The Pelješac Peninsula is famous for its wine production, so we will take the opportunity to stop along the way. As we approach Ston, the impressive 5km medieval town walls will greet us. The 14th-century walls are now fully restored and can be walked for long stretches, offering spectacular views back across the peninsula. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 60km

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### **Day 7: Konavle**

Our cycle this morning will take us from the dry and rugged coastline around Dubrovnik, to the lush fields and vineyards of the Konavle Valley, in Croatia's southernmost tip. This little known area is stunningly beautiful, with pine and cypress forests, vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees including tangerines, figs and mulberries. Later that day, we will enjoy a city tour of Dubrovnik, taking in the medieval city walls and striking limestone streets. Dubrovnik's beautiful old town is positioned next to the shimmering Adriatic Sea and provides a perfect setting to celebrate our achievements from the past week. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 40km

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### **Day 8: Fly to London**

Transfer to airport for flight home. (Lunch not included if not in-flight)

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## **CHALLENGE INFORMATION**

### **DETAILED INFORMATION**

#### **Trip Safety**

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with communication devices (eg phones, radios and/or emergency satellite phones), medical kit and other safety apparatus appropriate to the destination. Our leaders always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. They are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary, should local conditions dictate. Pre-trip administration - such as medical questionnaires and travel insurance as appropriate - is all done with your safety in mind.

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## PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

### Clothing

We plan our trips around the optimal weather conditions, but could still be exposed to bad weather at any time. It is vital you are prepared for all conditions. We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, as well as details on useful discounts you are entitled to as a Discover Adventure customer. We are always available if you need advice.

### BUY YOUR KITBAG

**Only £42** - designed to deal with the rigours of your challenge.

Easier for accessing gear than a rucksack (especially when camping) this is probably the most cost-effective way to take your luggage on a Discover Adventure challenge!

### GRADE | YELLOW

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **YELLOW** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions (see icon) are also taken into account.

[Trip grading explained](#)



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Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 26 Jun 2019, and the challenge is subject to change.