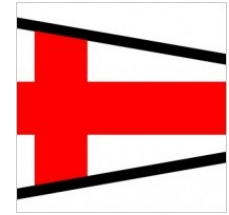


Island Hopping by Private Yacht Along the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia

May 7 - 15, 2011
For Dancers and Non-Dancers alike



The sun-kissed coastline of the ancient Adriatic Sea shelters some remote island - towns that have a claim to being the most charming in the Mediterranean region. These coastal island towns of Croatia are descended from old world colonies from Greek and Roman times, including Venetian's, the Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Turks and all the way through to the Austrian Empire and post WWII Yugoslavia. Traditional stone buildings front small harbors of working fishing boats, small shops serve a few tourists and supply visiting sailboats from around Europe, and a lazy ambience is obvious upon casual observation. The connection with the physical remnants of the past has a charm that can not be re-created by modern builders and the residents have a cultural continuity of lifestyle that pre-dates the current world culture.

The islands are no longer quite as isolated as they once were, but even now, in our 'modern times', they are still out of the way and hard to reach, and visiting them by boat is a great adventure. Indeed, the anticipation of arrival by one's own small boat to an island that can not be accessed by cruise ships and their mobs draws intense emotions and curiosity. For a great adventure you need a great boat, and that is precisely why I am



chartering the "Barbara" for the 3rd consecutive year.

The simple elegant motor-yacht "Barbara" and her talented Croatian crew change this journey from just a plain vacation into a special experience. She is of modern state-of-the-art construction (2006) built for a Croatian sea-faring family who knew what would please their guests. The owner-Captain grew up sailing among the islands and he takes great pride in knowing where to sail. He is flexible and he has been able to add short unplanned stops on both previous cruises. The crew is superb and they do their jobs earnestly and professionally; the cabins are always clean and the chef prepares outstanding meals. The "Barbara" is a large yacht rather than a small ship, and it's beauty was much admired by tourists on other less attractive boats when we were in Ports. The crew has to maintain a guard to keep curiosity-seekers from wandering on board! Travelling

Musicians and Callers who pre-registered for this trip allow me to plan for the following:
English Dancing with Calling by Annie Laskey
Dance Music & Jam Sessions:
Mary Lea & David Mostardi
One Scottish Dance session Led by Alan Twihigg
Plus Waltzes & Croatian Folk Music

Dancing while sailing is not allowed, so due to the sailing times & sightseeing schedule there will be no more than 3 or 4 dance sessions at most - however there is no limit on how often you can enjoy music sessions!

on the "Barbara" feels like a special experience...*because it is.*



We visit at least two islands that are National Parks

Al fresco dining is a delightful option



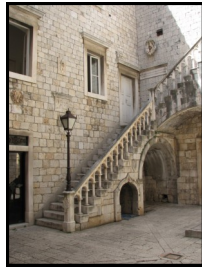
Trip Overview Summary:

The trip begins in Split, at the Northern end of the coastal islands. We have a 'Welcome and meet each other dinner' and an overnight stay at the charming old world style Park Hotel in Split, then we spend a week zigzagging between islands headed in a South-easterly direction. Six days later we arrive in Dubrovnik and stay overnight on the Barbara there. The following morning we disembark and either fly home, stay over in Dubrovnik, or continue travels elsewhere.

A closer look:

You will need to depart the US no later than May 6th in order to arrive in Split on May 7th. I am arranging to have a coach collect people at 1:30 pm from the Split Airport and then go to the beautiful Medieval town of Trogir for an afternoon visit. (If you arrive at our hotel early, you can ride the coach from the hotel to the airport to meet people and then we all continue as a group to Trogir.) Trogir is a very special little place, separated on all sides from land by canals and a bay, protected in places by old city walls, it's a classic medieval town with tiny labyrinthine streets. The old central plaza has an impressive small Romanesque Cathedral (with exceptional original stone carving) on one side, and historic city buildings and private shops around the other sides. The cathedral bell tower is available to climb, and there are restaurants for lunch, shops, gelato stands and an ambiance that is very conducive to exploration on foot (the tiny streets do not accommodate vehicles.)

Scenes from *Trogir*: medieval streets, formal staircase, Rosehip gelato, tonsured priest carving, lion at the cathedral



In the late afternoon of *May 7th* we leave Trogir and return to the Park Hotel in Split, where you get checked in, have free time to clean up, and eventually we all have dinner in the hotel restaurant. I predict an early evening since some people might be tired from travelling. You can mitigate fatigue by arriving in Split a day or two earlier; I can request extra nights from the hotel for you.

On *May 8th* you begin with a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Park Hotel, and there is a delightful outdoor terrace if you want to enjoy some sunshine while you eat and *after breakfast you are free to explore Split on your own*. The best known site is Diocletian's Palace. The enormous palace reflected the glory of the Roman emperors when it was built, and the size is unbelievable: it would have been a small city within itself. After the fall of Rome the roofed areas fell, but locals found protection by building their tall, thin, homes right inside the palace walls and even now several thousand people live within the palace walls. There are stores, restaurants, catacombs, plazas, churches: an entire small city.

At mid day on the 8th you will need to be checked out of your room and we will be transferred with our baggage to the Barbara, where there will be a small welcome buffet of Croatian appetizers and wines set out for your enjoyment, and before very long we will set sail for an island town not very far from Split where we will have a full dinner.

On *May 9th through 13th* we'll be sailing through the islands. On May 14th we finish in Dubrovnik and have some time to explore it, and our last overnight on the Barbara is May 14th. Unlike large cruise ships that must sail on an exact schedule, the small Barbara has no pre-set itinerary so she can sail an itinerary that is best suited to each day and the entire week. There are some islands that I feel must be included because they are such wonderful places, but the order can change, and there is the delightful possibility of inserting unplanned short visits to other small islands as we sail. On the first two cruises that was one of the best-liked aspects of the cruise: impromptu deviations done in the same way it might be done if you were exploring by yourself on your own private vacation (except that you don't have to think or decide, the extra stops are taken care of for you.)

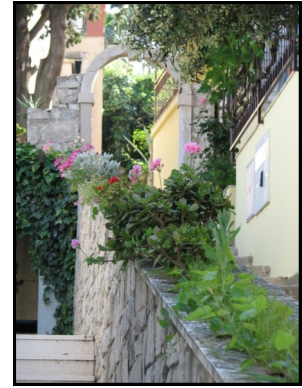
In general we do not set sail before breakfast and we are always in our nighttime port before dark. The distances are not so great as they are in Greece or other larger island groups so there is more time for exploring on shore in each place. While there is some similarity between the islands, there is just enough physical difference between them to give a sense of individual identity. Photos of Hvar island / town.



Here are brief descriptions of some of the islands that have been included the last two years:

Hvar: It's close to the mainland, and it's wealthy lifestyle has attracted the attention of the jet-set and the yachting set. One advantage to being here early in May is that neither of those groups will have arrived for "the season" yet, and we should be able to enjoy a fairly quiet visit with no discos or nightclubs blaring music. The city has a beautiful harbour ringed with attractive homes, some medieval period 'back streets', and a fortress that towers above the whole place. Locals enjoy swimming in crystal clear water pretty close to the harbor. There is an attractive town square with a Baroque cathedral and bell tower, cafes overlooking the square, and steep steps leading to quieter hillside neighborhoods (and some level walks for those who don't do steep.)

Photos: Distant islands - tall thin houses - narrow Medieval streets - Garden with the space you have available!



Korcula: It occupies an entire small peninsula jutting into the sea, ringed with medieval defensive walls punctuated with large guard towers and a small protected harbor. Marco Polo's family was from here (not Italy) and you can still see their family home. Korcula is a classic town with a great atmosphere and a limited number of ship visitors (large cruise ships must moor in the channel and tender in using small boats.) There are small shingle beaches near town, as well as bicycles for rent. At an elevated point in the center of the town is the main church, public square and buildings that now house local museums. The architectural building style has been playful ever since medieval times; here are some gargoyle faces from the home of an important family and the landward city gates:



Vis and Lastovo: These two islands are the furthest removed from the mainland and you can observe the isolated feeling that comes from living there. The very well protected harbor at Vis has an entire street of happily derelict old shops hidden behind the waterfront, probably some centuries old, which are begging to be fixed up by new occupants. Vis also has a church and graveyard in one of the most dramatic settings I've ever seen on a small spit sticking into the harbor, and a Roman era cemetery of sarcophagi tumbled over centuries of land shifting. Functioning fishing boats jockey for berthing space along the short waterfront, and there are only a few stores. Lastovo has the remains of a small secret submarine base once maintained by Tito when he was Prime Minister of the former Yugoslavia. The base has long since been abandoned, neglected, and is now a National Park and the territory of birds and small mammals; there are excellent walking trails. The isolation and seclusion make it a good place for an evening dance.

Mljet: Another National Park; the photo on the front page of this brochure is of the main lake on Mljet. There is an ancient monastery on an island in the lake. Getting there is what one does on Mljet! It's about a 1 mile walk through a pine & conifer forest from our dock to the edge of the lake. A small steam powered boat holding about 25 people travels a circuit around the lake (which is rather large) and collects people to go to the island, where you can enjoy walking through and around old monastery ruins, and then have a gelato or beverage afterwards. The boat returns and you return to the port from the lake's edge. Mljet is likely to be the last island on our route, and it is an easy sail to the beautiful coastal city of *Dubrovnik* from there.

Dubrovnik: I can not praise the beauty of Dubrovnik enough, nor as succinctly as Lord Byron, who described it as "the pearl of the Adriatic." One really has to see it to appreciate it. Some of the most impressive city walls in all of Europe surround Dubrovnik, and a massive Seagate tower dating from renaissance times still protects the small inner harbour. A pedestrian boulevard paved in marble dissects the main area, with charming side streets that cross it leading to courtyard restaurants, covered walkways, and of course good shopping. There are Baroque era buildings, other open plazas, interesting museums, a cathedral and smaller neighborhood churches, an old Jewish quarter, and plenty of nooks and crannies to explore. The residents are zealous in taking care of their

unique home. Dubrovnik is also home to the best folk dance and music ensemble I have ever seen in my travels around the world. It is multi-generational, spirited, talented, brilliant, professional, authentic and a joy for any dancer or musician to attend. (Thanks to



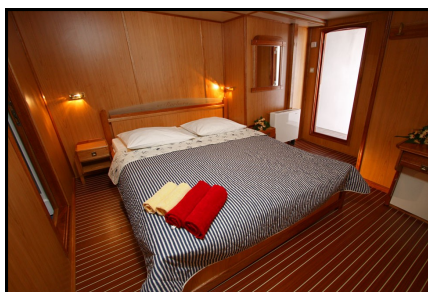
Meyer Billmers from the May 2009 trip for permission to share these photos.)

We finish in Dubrovnik on May 14th and there should be a performance that evening. We'll have an early dinner on the Barbara and I'll arrange for transportation from the Barbara to the Show for those who want to go (the cost of tickets and transportation is not included in this tour price.) The past two years two musicians from the folk ensemble have joined us on the Barbara and played for a lively end of the trip party, which could include music and dancing of all sorts. If the Captain is feeling chipper he might even do a Croatian folk dance for us (he requires a little coaxing to overcome his natural shyness; we can recruit some ladies to act as *sirens* to get him on the floor...) Whatever and however this unfolds, I think you'll long remember this jolly finish of the cruise.

May 15th: After breakfast we must disembark from the Barbara so that they can prepare for another charter. I strongly encourage you to stay over in Dubrovnik on your own. It is helpful to book yourself close to the old city; there are many places which advertise on the internet that are quite a long way from the old city, which is where you want to be based. I will supply some suggestions and give advice to people who register for this trip.



Photos of the Barbara: The indoor dining salon, a twin bed cabin, double bed cabin, and the forward wood deck (which is cleared for dancing.) Fresh fruit is always set out for snacking.



Meals and dining: This trip includes 3 meals a day on the Barbara, including a lavish buffet of Croatian regional and national foods on the last night, and fresh fruit and snacks always available in the dining salon. The meals can be served on the outdoor afterdeck (pictured on the 1st page of this brochure) or the indoor dining salon shown above. Miracles are worked in a small Galley by the Chef and his assistant and you will enjoy a cuisine that combines elements of Italian, Mediterranean and Croatian ethnic foods. Seafood is often offered (and alternatives for people allergic to seafood.) Vegetarian food is also available, however no other special diet can be guaranteed; any special dietary requests must be clearly stated on the Trip Registration Form and they are subject to confirmation and availability. Breakfast is a small buffet of cereals, toast & croissants, fruit, yogurt, eggs, meats, coffee, tea, milk and juice. Coffee and Tea are always available self served at the service bar in the Dining Salon. The main meal is typically 4 courses, and lunch is usually slightly smaller. With the exception of lunch on May 8th (your free day in Split before we sail) all meals are included from Dinner on May 7th to Breakfast on May 15th.

Cabins: The cabins are located on two decks. All the cabins have either portholes or small windows, private bathrooms with showers, flush toilets, closets, a small writing desk, drawers and storage space, and they are spacious for a yacht size vessel. Please advise whether you prefer one bed or two beds when registering; the number of beds might determine which cabin you are assigned.

