

Discover Korčula!

the island, the people, the experience

FREE COPY!

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Korčula Old Town

Discovering this marvelous walled old city and its narrow herringbone streets is a delight
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Old Town/Island maps

There's a lot to see and do on Korčula and it's easy to bike, bus or drive around!
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History and culture

From a 3rdC B.C. Greek stone tablet to the Moreska sword dance, Korčula's cultural heritage is unique.
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Discover Lumbarda

This seaside hamlet, surrounded by vineyards, is famous for its beaches and wines
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Discover Smokvica

Rugged and wildly beautiful; stone houses, idyllic streets and Pošip, Korčula's signature white wine
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Discover Blato

Blato has history, charm and 40km of gorgeous coastline
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Discover Vela Luka

Korčula's "Big Harbor", framed with magnificent hills, 100,000 olive trees and a mysterious 20,000 year old cave!



20,000 years of history

Korčula's history is extraordinary. Let's begin with Vela Spila ("Big Cave") overlooking Vela Luka where archeologists have discovered human artifacts dating back more than 20,000 years! Lumbarda's treasure is its Psephisma, a 3rdC BC stone tablet in Greek, the oldest written record in Croatia! In 1214, Korčula Old Town established a Statute abolishing slavery—making it the first town in the world to do so (only the cities of Venice and London did so earlier).

One amazing island!

A fabled history, rich cultural traditions, gorgeous bays, lovely villages, a rugged, wild interior and some of the best wine anywhere on the planet make Korčula a unique jewel among Mediterranean islands. There's so much to see and do it really doesn't matter where you start. Whether you arrive by ferry or sailboat to the island's western port, Vela Luka; or land at Korčula Town, almost 50 km away, the marvelous physical beauty here is evident everywhere.

Eat, drink and be Korčulanin!

Gastronomy is a quintessential part of being here. Breakfast is just espresso. But come mid-morning, it's *marenda*, a sort of early lunch. The main meal is mid-afternoon. Families gather to enjoy garden veggies, their own olive oil, grilled meat or fish, wine--heaven! Try *brodet*, a great fish stew; *pohana hobotnica*, fried octopus, goat cheese in oil, lobster, anything grilled, slow-cooked *peka*. Grk, Rukatac and Pošip --the island's terrific whites, or Plavac its red. *Živjeli* ("to your health!")

The seaside village of Brna, 4 km southwest of Smokvica





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Korčula Old Town

the legendary birthplace of Marco Polo is a world of its own



The 14thC Revelin tower and grand entrance to the Old Town

To experience what it must have been like to enter the Old Town during the grandeur of its Venetian rule just walk up the **splendid 19thC staircase**, over what used to be a drawbridge and through the majestic **14thC Revelin Tower**. Emblazoned with the coat of arms of the Venetian doge and local Korčulan governors, this stunning entrance, flanked with **stone walls mostly from the 15thC** that



Fresh oysters at LD Restaurant

surround the entire city, was symbolic not just of Korčula's importance but how privileged its inhabitants were to live within. As you begin your walk (use the map on page 3!) notice how the streets on the left, western side are steep? This draws cool sea breezes into the center during the hot summer-- while the streets on your right are purposely *curved* to take the chill out of the cold northeast winds! Built on its own, compact oval-shaped peninsula, the entire Old Town is a **remarkable ensemble of churches, museums and public and private buildings** beautifully decorated with friezes and many other adornments. Both artistic and whimsical, the sheer **diversity of stone carvings** and masonry is wonderful. Look up, around, under and inside--doorways, courtyards, staircases and more to enjoy all of this frozen beauty. Even the city's tourist board, located outside the



Laura Vadjon will perform at this year's Festival

walls near the sea entrance to the Old Town, enjoys an historical past. It's inside a **16thC loggia** once used as a covered rest area as well as place for public meetings and other gatherings. OK, let's continue. As you pass through the Revelin Tower, keep walking straight until you come to a small hill—it's **the Old Town's main square**, called **Pjaceta** where the town's most famous church is, the **15thC Sveti Marko (St. Mark's Cathedral)**, built from Korčula limestone by Italian and local masters. The lovely ballustrated bell tower with its ornate cupola as well as the ciborium above the main altar are the supreme works by Korčulan **Marko Andrijić**. Inside are not only works by **Tintoretto** (*The Three Saints*, St. Mark, St. Jeremy and St. Batholomew) but modern



Korčula Cathedral

pieces by **Ivan Mestrović**, Croatia's most famous sculptor (1883-1962). Just off the square are **16thC decorative pillars** (and another in front of Korčula Town Hall). Designed as city ornaments, they include coat of arms carvings of some of the town's most families. Other notable buildings here are the **17thC and 18thC Opatska Riznica or Abbey Treasury**, in the **Bishop's Palace**, with its collection of 12th to 15thC religious paintings, coins, pottery, manuscripts and more and



The Gradski muzej or Town Museum, opposite St. Mark's in the Gabrieli's palace, a famous Korčula family representing the cultural, social and economic past of this historic town. And of course, there's **Kuća Marka Pola or Marco Polo's House**. Whether or he was a famous explorer or a legend, Korčula proudly claims to be his birthplace. Surrounded by the sea, with such splendid architecture and history; cafes, art galleries and shops, picture perfect Korčula Old Town is a world of its own!

KORKYRA

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The Tourist Board of Korčula welcomes you!

For the Korčula Town calendar of events, please go to www.visitkorcula.eu



History and culture

from Stone Age flints, sword-dancing and unique gastronomy
to a world-class international festival of baroque music



The Moreska sword dance

Korčula is still discovering its rich historical past. At Vela Spila (“Big Cave”) in the hills above Vela Luka, archeologists have unearthed the **oldest figurine ceramics in southern Europe**, more than 20,000 years old! In **Lumbarda**, a **3rdC BC tablet** was found that describes the founding of a **Greek colony** there, the **oldest written record discovered in Croatia!**

Because of its strategic nautical position, Korčula was always a prize—first the **Greeks**, who ruled this part of the Adriatic from their stronghold on Issa (present day Vis); then **Romans** who displaced them; the **Ilyrians**, the **Byzantines**; and beginning in the **7thC**, the **Croats**, **Slavs**, **Avars** and **Neretva tribes**. The next formative period came when the Venetian princes of the **Zorzi family** governed Korčula

during the tumultuous Middle Ages. It was during this time that the **"Statute of the town and the island of Korčula" of 1214** was written.

A remarkable document that not only prohibited slavery but defined the very nature of Korčulan citizenship and the independent spirit of the island and the town. But with **the growing Ottoman onslaught**, even Venice wavered. In one of the many heroic battles still recorded here, the Korčulans rallied men, women and children to **defeat an Ottoman naval armada in 1571**, aided by a serendipitous shift in the wind that wreaked havoc on the Turkish fleet. After a brief period of **Hungarian-Croatian kings**, Venice returned triumphant to rule here and throughout Dalmatia until the



Tramonto's lovely courtyard

wars with Napoleon and **the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797**. After Napoleon, the Habsburgs, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Sloveninas and Socialist Yugoslavia, Croatia finally became an independent state in 1991. It's no wonder the culture of the island reflects both the successive imprint of its many rulers and the indefatigable spirit of its natives.

KORČULA ISLAND EVENTS

See and download the Korčula island events calendar at:
<http://www.visitkorcula.eu/download.html>

JUNE

June 4, 11, 18, 25 (Thursdays) / Summer Moreška sword dance performances / Korčula town
June 19 Sword Dance Festival / Korčula town
June 20 Omiš Festival Klapa / Blato
June 27 Lađa (traditional boat) Regatta /Kneže / Korčula town
June 29 St. Peter's Day / Čara / Kumpanija sword dance
June 30 Masked Celebration of the Half of the New Year / Korčula town

JULY

July 6,9,13,16,20,23,27,30 (Monday and Thursday) / Summer Performances of the Moreška sword dance / Korčula town
July 7,14,21,28 (Tuesdays) / Classical music concerts / St. Mark's Cathedral / Korčula town
July 7 Blessed Marija Petković Festivity Kumpanija Sword Dance / Blato
July 12 and 26 Grk Festival / Lumbarda
July 16-18. XX. Marco Polo Festival Wine & Song Festival / Korčula town
July 19 Korčula Wine Festival / "Black Island White Wines" / Korčula town
July 19 Black Island White Wines / Korčula town
July 25 St. Jacob/Our Lady in the Čara Field festivity / Čara / Kumpanija sword dance
July 25-August 25th Annual POŠIP DAYS / Čara and Smokvica (open wine cellars)
July 26 - Aug. 2 Pošip days (open wine cellars) / Čara and Smokvica
July 27 St. Theodor's Day / Patron saint of Korčula town / Korčula town

AUGUST

August 2 Pošip night / Brna
August 3,6,10.13,17,20,24,27 (Monday and Thursday) / Summer Performances of the Moreška sword dance / Korčula town
August 5 Our Lady of Snow / Pupnat / Kumpanija sword dance
August 5 Dubrovnik Neretva County Klapa Festival / Blato
August 6 Battle of Giča 1571/reconstruction of the historic battle / Blato
August 7, 14, 21, 28 (Tuesdays) / Classical music concerts / St. Mark's Cathedral / Korčula town
August 9 Makarunada / Žrnovo
August 9 Grk Festival / Lumbarda
August 11 Korkyra Jazz Festival / Korčula town
August 15 Moštra Sword Dance & Klapa / Žrnovo
August 15 Blato Folklore Festival during July and August/Thursday Kumpanija performance, Blato

SEPTEMBER

September 3, 10, 17, 24 (Thursday) / Summer Performances of the Moreška sword dance / Korčula town
September 5-12 4th Annual Korkyra Baroque Festival / Korcula town

OCTOBER

October 1, 8, 15 (Thursday) / Performances of the Moreška sword dance / Korčula town



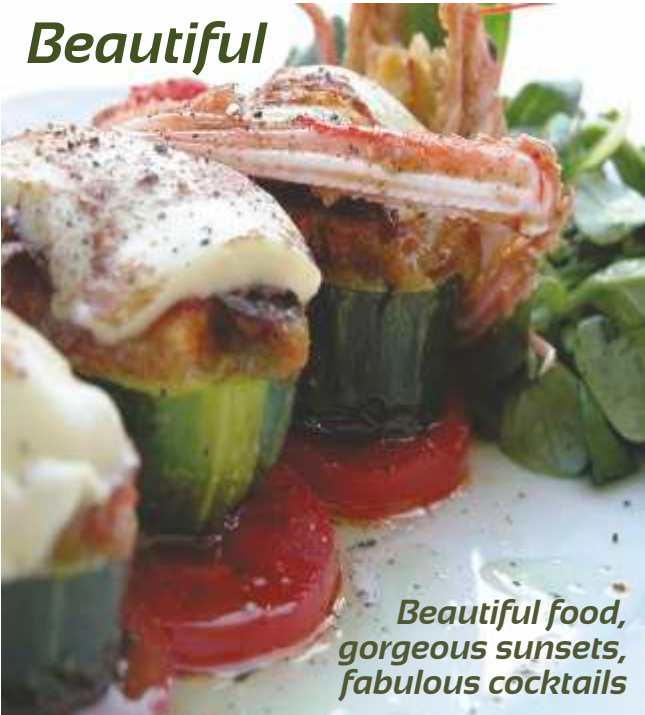
Wonderful local seafood at Konoba Komin

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Discover Lumbarda

great beaches, rich history and Grk and Plavac wines



Lumbarda's picture-perfect setting, surrounded by vineyards

Lumbarda, just fifteen minutes from Korčula town, is exactly the kind of laid back seaside village that makes it a perennial favorite with vacationers from abroad, with a picture perfect landscape, crystal clear waters and sandy beaches.

During the Venetian era, **bishops and nobles built their estates here**, lured by the beautiful countryside and life at a far slower pace. Today, it's the **sandy beaches at Vela Pržina, Bilin žal and Uvala Tatinja** that lure vacationers and locals alike to enjoy the waterside cafes, volley ball and other sports and splendid views of the Peljesac channel and the Korčula archipelago.

For those who love their beaches isolated and wild, head for **Lenga Brendana Beach** which runs all the way from Bilin žal beach to the eastern end of the island. And **its rich history**, beginning with the

Psephisma of Lumbarda, a 3rdC BC tablet written in Greek documenting the founding of the settlement, the oldest human written record discovered in Croatia; **folk traditions and fabulous wine and gastronomy** also makes it a **perfect day trip** no matter where you are on the island. The town is also a **walking and bicycling paradise** with a half a dozen walking paths through lovely countryside and vineyards; past old chapels and even the ruins of a 1stC BC Roman *villa rustica*.

The views along the way are spectacular. A trio of bicycle routes include sweeping views from **highest point in the area of Baruža**, south of Lumbarda, as well as through olive groves and along charming village sea roads. And after all that walking, cycling, sun and fun, get ready to enjoy **some of the island's best food and wine**. The local green gardens produce a delicious array of vegetables, best

enjoyed grilled with terrific local fish or even lobsters. And what wine connoisseurs already know is that Lumbarda is where **Grk**, an **excellent white wine** produced from the indigenous grape of the same name, is grown. Lumbarda also hosts its own **Summer Festival**, a weekly series of events that celebrates its customs, dances, songs, crafts, artists, food and wine—be sure to check with the tourist office website for what's happening when you are here!



Lumbarda Medieval tower



Grk Wine Festival



LUMBARDA

TURISTIKA ZAJEDNICA



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GRK

LUMBARDA



GRK WINE FESTIVAL LUMBARDA 2015.

Sunday, July 12th
Sunday, July 26th
Sunday, August 9th
8 - 11 PM



Discover Smokvica

hidden beauty and glorious nature waiting in the foothills



The Church of Blessed Virgin Of Purification with the bell tower and the lodge from 1700 dominate the village

Smokvica, located in the very center of the island, is hidden in the foothills of Vela and Mala obala. It's here where Korčula spreads out to reveal all of its glorious nature—deep valleys, soaring hills, meticulously planted vineyards, endless olive groves and narrow, winding lanes lined with stone houses—all the charm and magic that makes this part of the Mediterranean so compelling. **One of the island's five oldest settlements**, humans have lived in Smokvica since prehistoric times. But despite its bucolic surroundings, the threat of attack was ever present for centuries. To keep watch over all the main roads leading to the village, Smokvica's most important church, the **14thC St. Michael's**, was purposely built on a

rocky butte and heavily fortified. To commemorate its many battles, mainly against the Ottoman Turks. The Smokvica guards even created their own **Knight's Sword Dance, the Kumpanjija**, which like the *moreska*, is still performed even today. And don't miss **Smokvica's Pošip Days** which will be organized from July 26th to August 2nd and the **Traditional Brna Festival** on August 15th in Brna bay--lots of fun with a rope pulling competition and donkey races. Village life here is still all about the land—from producing some of the best **olive oil** on the planet and **Pošip**, one of the most famous Croatian white wines, to growing **Smokvica Princes**, a **delicate, thin-shelled almond** whose blossoms welcome every Spring. Besides

Pošip, be sure to enjoy **Rukatac**, an elegant dry white, and **Prošek**, a sweet dessert wine made from dried Pošip grapes and best enjoyed cold. The gastronomy focus here is on fresh—not just terrific seafood from squids, fish, octopus, clams and crabs cooked or grilled, or in risotto; but delicious local vegetables like **blitva** (like swiss chard) mixed with potatoes, broad beans, cabbage, **gruda** (a mix of wild edible herbs) and cherry

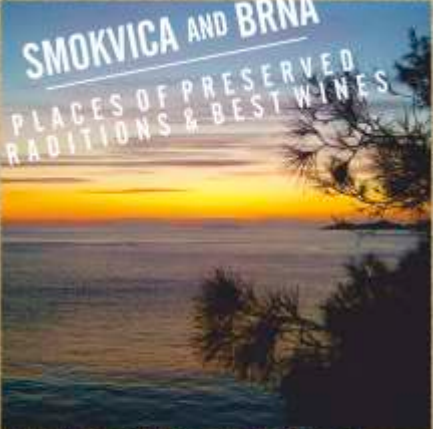
tomato sauce seasoned with olive oil. All exquisitely seasoned with fresh herbs!

Brna
No mention of Smokvica is complete without Brna, a pretty little seaside town just 4km south. It was specifically developed in the 19thC as **the port for Smokvica** so growers could export their wine, olive oil and pine logs for ship building and fire wood throughout the Adriatic. Today it's a magnet for **wind surfers** and nature lovers who enjoy its bays and surrounding pine forests as well as those who come for its **famous mud baths**.



Antique wine-making tools, part of the Toreta Winery tasting room in Smokvica





Brna bb. 20272 Smokvica
Island of Korčula, CROATIA
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Wine tasting at Toreta!

A marvelous experience surrounded by authentic traditional tools of the wine making craft and the vineyards of one of Korčula's most celebrated wineries. Taste the best Pošip on the island, grown right here in Smokvica, where the varietal originated. Our family-run winery has been producing delicious wines for generations. Come taste, enjoy and bring your favorites back home to enjoy!

Smokvica Center
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Tel. 385 98 178 2645



Discover Blato

the essence of vibrant Mediterranean life



Dreamy sunny days under the shade of the second largest linden alley in Europe

With almost 4,000 residents, Blato, on the main inland road between Korčula town and Vela Luka, is a real surprise—all the charm of a small Mediterranean village with the style and substance of a much larger town. And what a stately entrance—a **1km long main street lined with century-old linden trees!** With town boundaries that include **40km of gorgeous coastline** on the island's southern and northern sides--no wonder Blato attracts so many vacationers! The fertile valley between the town and Vela Luka that was once an enormous lake helped Blato become a highly-successful mercantile center, which is reflected by its wonderful ensemble of public and private buildings and churches. **The oldest structures** are the **graveyard Church of the Holy Cross** and the **14thC church of St. Jerome**, Originallly from the 15thC, the

town's old loggia, was replaced by a new one, built in 1700. Besides a **renaissance-baroque citadel** there are several **baroque mansions** of Korčula noblemen and in hamlets around Blato, early 13thC churches as well as an intriguing one-nave **12thC Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damian** in the outskirts of town. Blato also has unusually rich traditions. Today there are 15 different cultural societies and associations. Most prominent is **the Chivalrous Society "Kumpanjija"** (Companions). Their chivalrous game called **"kumpanjija"**, regularly takes place on the 28th of April, on St. Vicenza's Day (the town's patroness). The Kumpanjija is also a part of the **Blato Summer Festival**, which includes a re-enactment of the **1571 Battle of Giča against the Turks** at nearby Giča. Another colorful event at the beginning of Lent is the **Blato Carnival** and the

"munde" – festive carnival dance parties where exceptionally good female dancers get an orange from their partners and if a dancer dances so vigorously that he breaks the wooden floor he gets a new pair of shoes!

To enjoy Blato's seaside, the most beautiful view is from the road leading to the southern coast and the picturesque coves of **Gršćica, Prizba, Karbuni and Potirna**. In front of them is a group of islands with beautiful beaches. On the northern coast, be sure not to miss lovely **Prigradica Cove**.



Blato's fascinating ethnic museum



Enjoy Blato's many beaches



The old loggia - where Blato's nobility and common people used to gather



Blato's Kumpanjija

Explore, swim, bike, play, dine, shop, enjoy Blato!

Discover our fascinating cultural and historical heritage; experience our many festivals; enjoy the smell of pine and the sea along one of our hiking or bicycle trails; swim in a gorgeous cove; taste our wonderful food and wine!



The Tourist Board of Blato

Trg Dr. Franje Tuđmana 4
(the big white stone building,
town center next to PBZ bank)

tzo-blato@du.t-com.hr / www.tzo-blato.hr



/Blato Korčula Tourist Board,



/Visit Island Korcula

Tel: 00 385 20 851/850, Fax: 00 385 20 851/241



Discover Vela Luka

the islands center of art, music and sword dancing!



One of the reasons Vela Luka is such a popular nautical and tourist destination is its beautiful location nestled at the end of a well protected, deep bay framed by magnificent hills; dotted with red tile roofs; endless olive groves and lush pine forests.

And this year, you can arrive not only by ferry and catamaran, **but by scheduled seaplane service!**

As the "western" point of entry for ferries from Split and other locales, the harbor is also humming with pleasure craft and fishing boats. **In the center of town is St. Joseph's** but it's just one of more than 15 churches here for you to discover. And for a great experience and unforgettable view, take the **Blue Path** from the center of town and winds its way all the way up to **Vela Špilja**, the "big cave" a continuously human habitated site more than 20,000 years old. The walk is terrific,

with lots of places to rest and spectacular views of those red tiled roofs and the shimmering sea in the distance. If biking is your thing, in September the town will host a series of cycling races from 15-40km for youth and adults, as well as a trekking competition. Just 5 km. from the town are **some fine beaches** like **Gradina**, whose well protected beach is perfect for children. Even closer is **Gabrica** and **Picena** and the lovely, **secluded beach on Proizd island**. On the wild side is **Martina bok**, a rocky beach with big waves and a nearby camp where you can play tennis and other sports. Vela Luka is also **the island's artists and musicians colony**. Along with graphics, paintings and stunning archeological treasures, **the town's Center for Culture** also has a pair of sculptures by Henry Moore. Two of Croatia's most popular singers also hail from Vela Luka, **Oliver Dragojević** (so famous



Vela Spila, at the end of the BluePath, is 20,000 years old and still being explored!

that his albums and performances are just called Oliver) and **Jasna Zlokić**. Another treat is **Vela Luka's Summer Program**--over 50 nights of cultural and entertainment!

Highlights are the **Kumpanjija Folklore group**; sword dancing and *klapa* singing on Wednesday; classical music concerts in the Atrium center and traditional fisherman's nights on Friday in the town center. On weekends there are

exhibitions by renowned artists, drama evenings and music concerts by famous Croatian artists. In the beginning of August, there is a traditional **Carnival night, Eco-etno evening** and an **International Jazz Festival**. It's no wonder the town is full of song, theater and dance throughout the year. Vela Luka is the perfect bookend to Korčula's Old Town - a lively place filled with people who love living here and sharing it with visitors!

Lovely Proizd island beach



Welcome to Vela Luka, a celebration of culture and history!

A nautical paradise,
a mysterious 20,000 year old cave,
the island's center for art,
music and sword dancing.

Vela Luka Tourist Board
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