Discover Split!

the what to see, where to go, what to do newspaper for tourists

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exclusive, inside

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HISTORICAL / CULTURAL PLACES OF INTEREST

The Palace itself was begun around 298AD and took ten years to complete. Typically Roman, it is rectangular in shape, ‘705’ x ‘590’. Its two main streets, Cardo, now Dioklecijanova Ul. and Decumanus, now Poljana Kraljice Jelene, run N-S and E-W and create four quarters. Each main gate is located in the center of each outside wall. Many of the sites below have small signs on the wall that fully explain their historic details.

NORTH WALL / GOLDEN GATE

The entire length of the outside wall of the Palace is preserved, which allows you to visualize the overall dimensions of the original structure.

The Golden Gate of all the four entrances to the palace this one is architecturally most elaborate and was probably the main entrance, it is where Dioklecijanova St. begins.

Church of St. Martin 5th/6th C / Majstorija Juraj / built in a guard passage above the gate, (notice three small windows of the church with stone rails turned to the defensive yard). The Dominican Convent here is 14thC.

Golden Gate Palace late 15th C / Majstorija Juraj / the courtyard. One of the most beautiful late medieval facades in Split, designed by the workshop of Juraj Dalmatinac.

Fountain. 1880 / Carrarina Poljana / in the rear of the courtyard. The water is safe to drink.

Split City Museum / Papalica ulica / inside the Larga Papalica Palace. 15thC. Explore the courtyard free.

Gargoyle / Dioklecijanova ul. / at the corner of Papalica and Dioklecijanova look half way up at the corner wall.

Manuli Palace, 15th C / Papalica ulica / probably the home of Marko Manuli, the father of Croatian literature.


Cardo / The name of the original N-S main Roman street.

Roman column and drain / Poljana krakiju Jelene / go inside the Splitucks Banka office. Built around a Roman column with an original drain at its base, standing here allows you to see how wide the original Roman principal street Decumanus was.

Cindro Palace 17thC / Dominisova ulica

WEST WALL / IRON GATE

Mostly pulled down or incorporated in new buildings.

Iron Gate / The principal link between the Palace and the new medieval suburb (Varoš) to the west.

Iron Gate palace, mid 15th C / Bajamontiyea ulica

Church of Our Lady of the Bell Tower - Municipal Clock, 6th C. church / Bajamontiyea ulica / The church was built in a guard passage above the interior gate. For a great view of an 11thC bell tower, go up the stone stair-case. To see the magnificent 14thC arch, turn right through the arch into the courtyard. Now look up behind you.

Split Synagogue, 16thC Synagogue / Open M. F. 10-12 for tours. Donations gratefully accepted. Tel: +385 21 345 - 672

Meddilis Islamic Center, Open M- F 9-12, and Sunday 10-12. +385 21 345 581. You may ask to visit the Mosque.

Fountain / The water here comes from the ancient Roman aqueduct – it is perfectly safe to drink.

Moor’s head / Dominisova ul. / An interesting sculpture on the side of the building opposite the garden courtyard.

Sphinx head / Dominisova ul. / An amusing sculpture.

EAST WALL / SILVER GATE

E. Vidovic Gallery / Poljana krakiju Jelene

Split City Tourist Office / in the Church of St. Roche, 15thC, multi-lingual staff ready to help!

Grisogono Cci Palace (with later additions) / A fine example of how the Peristil became transformed over the centuries. The Grisogono family lived here for seven hundred years. The upper floor is 16th C Renaissance.

Peristil / The colonnaded central open courtyard whose original purpose was to allow access to the Emperor’s apartments, mausoleum and temples.

Medieval loggia / Temple of Venus / inside the Atrium, a well preserved medieval loggia. The base of a Temple of Venus is marked by a circular marble floor just as you enter.

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Split is full of shopping surprises. It’s where the cravat (tie) was born or the city with more shoe stores per capital than anywhere on the planet. The place where you can find everything from world-class, brand-name fashion to chic boutique and Sunday flea market bargains. From designer sportswear, sunglasses and jewelry to great deals on consumer electronics, Split has it all! And don’t forget to take home some of the world’s best wine and olive oil!

Rent a car and discover the rest of Dalmatia; enjoy a day cruise to the islands, take a wine tour—Split is the perfect jumping off point for great day trips. Less than two hours away you can be in unspoiled nature, on top of a centuries old fortress, wandering around a two thousand old archeological site or sailing in a private yacht to a blissed out island. With so much so close, you can experience some of the most beautiful, fascinating places on the planet.

Our exclusive, copyrighted map shows every street in the actual Palace! It’s the most complete list (we update it every year) of shops, restaurants, ATM’s, historical sites, museums and more. Each business, museum and important historical site is clearly identified with a number and a color. On the back page of the map, each place has it’s own color and number. You can also access our mobile Palace / Old Town Directory anywhere there is a Zzzzapp Wi Fi hotspot.

Discover Split thanks to Lidija Lolić for this great photo. Here is her website: www.lidijazizic.com
Walk in the footsteps of a 4thC Emperor, see some of the greatest art and sculpture from the 20thC, bike in a forest, enjoy a seaside picnic!

The Tourist Office on the Riva and in the Peristil have the places to start for all sorts of reliable info. Whether it’s the ferry schedule, how to get to the airport or re-cement that tooth. They are open every day. And they also have free maps of the wider city, so you can venture out further than the historic core. While the crown jewel of Split is the 1,700-year-old Palace of Diocletian, there are some wonderful museums in the palace proper: Split City Museum and the Ethnographic Museum. A short walk away is the Archeological Museum, the excellent new Gallery of Fine Art and the world-famous Meštrović Gallery. If you are here three days or more, get a Split Card FREE from your hotel for reduced admissions and discounts at local shops. The Tourist Office also sells them. Use the tall bell tower of the Sv. Duje Cathedral, which can be seen from most points in the city, as your compass. It’s in the center of the Peristil in Diocletian’s Palace. From the Peristyle the basement of the Palace leads directly to the Riva, the waterfront promenade. This is where the Riva begins. At the beginning of the Riva are two small ferry ticket booths and where the taxis are. The road curving along the harbor takes you to the main Jadrolinija ferry terminal (local and international) as well as where the cruise ships dock. The bus terminal (local and international) is opposite the Ferry terminal. The airport buses also leave from here. Behind the bus station is the train station, with trains to Zagreb. Opposite the head of the Riva is the Green Market. Great place to buy everything you need for a picnic. And in front of the Green Market is one of the city’s major bus stops. Tickets on board are 11kn, or save money and buy them at the kiosk. In the summer you can take a water taxi to the walled town of Trogir, another UNESCO site, starting at 9:45AM and continuing all day. Let’s begin with a walk through the Palace. Do it yourself by using our exclusive pull-out map of the actual streets; or if you have a smartphone, use the new Palace/Old Town Mobile Directory that’s available on any Zzzzapp Wi-Fi hotspot. You can also join a group tour offered by many agencies here or hire your own professional guide at the Sightseeing/Guide Bureau. To reach them, ask at the Tourist Board office at the Peristil or the Riva. At the end of the Riva is Sv. Frane Church (with a clock in its tower). The surprise inside is a well-preserved Romanesque monastery from the early 14thC. Continue walking up the street just to the right of the church. This is the Varoš section of the city, old, wonderful streets and interesting stone houses, ancient churches and more. When you get to the top in about 20 minutes, make a left, up a short staircase and you will be at an outdoor café high up on Marjan Hill for a fabulous city/sea overlook. Next to the actual café building is one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Europe. To visit, just ask the café staff for the key. The third oldest Jewish synagogue in Europe is in the Palace itself. If you want to continue your walk, a steep path up from the café will take you to some ancient tiny churches and hermits caves. Back down at the Riva, diagonally across from the Sv. Frane Church, is a bus stop. You can’t miss it, there’s a bus shelter with a small newsstand next to it. The bus marked “Bene” runs 10 minutes before every hour from 9 to 22. For a few dollars (11kn), you can take a gorgeous 20 minute bus ride out to Bene where you can swim, enjoy a cool forest, even play tennis on clay courts! Or rent a bike right on the Riva. On the way back get out at the Meštrović Gallery and enjoy the gorgeous garden and gallery of Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962). The Rodin Museum in Paris had a retrospective of his work this year, his 130th anniversary. Great gift shop too! Also near the end of the Riva is the Prokudative, a handsome square designed by an Italian architect to remind him of St. Mark’s in Venice. The wide street before this square is Marmontova (perpendicular to the Riva). It’s the most popular pedestrian shopping street in Split and just up on your right, if you get there before noon, is the bustling Split Fish Market.
More than 120 high quality stores, restaurants & bars, a seven-screen movie theater, free playroom for kids, karting track, more than 2,700 parking spaces... City Center one is larger than just numbers. It also offers great shopping experience.

City Center one – the largest shopping center in Dalmatia.
With more than 120 high quality stores, restaurants & bars and a seven-screen movie theater, City Center one is the largest shopping center in Dalmatia. But City Center one is larger than just numbers, since it has been named the best price to quality ratio shopping center by the prestigious Best Buy Award and Qudal - quality medal. City Center one also holds the Superbrands title, which makes it part of the family of the best brands in Croatia.

Excellent selection of clothes and footwear, drugstores and perfumery, accessories and jewelry – City Center one is the best fashion destination on this part of the Adriatic coast. H&M, PeekClopenburg, C&A, Mango, s.Oliver, New Yorker, Modiana, XYZ, Ann Christine, Tom Tailor, OVS, Orsay, Monsoon and Takko Fashion are just some of the stores which will delight you with their assortment of clothes. You can find footwear at Humanic, Pittarello, Bata, Aldo, Deichmann or many other popular shoe stores, while lingerie and hosery is available in Intimissimi, Tezenis, Triumph, Tezenis, Lisa, Palmers or Penty shop. Two well-known drugstores, dm and Müller, offer a wide assortment of cosmetics and household items.

The hypermarket Interspar at City Center one is the best choice for buying groceries and supplies during your vacation in this part of the coast. In more than 3,500 square meters, you will find more than 25,000 items. If you need manicure or hairdressers services, Michelle Hairdressers Salon and open nail bar Lully will provide great hair and nail treatment at a good price.

After nice shopping reward yourself with delicious meal and great coffee in City Center one bars and restaurants. Domestic cuisine of Lapad restaurant, fast bites in To Go bar, great sandwiches and bakings in Bobis and Bimita bakery along with fine beverages won’t let you down. You can also enjoy the best ice cream and cakes in Cukarin patissiere. If you can’t imagine having your coffee without enjoying a cigarette there are coffee bar terraces and special bars that allow smoking.

City Center one offers free Internet connection. Bring your laptop, smartphone or tablet device and enjoy on-line activities while walking around the Center. For detailed information please visit Center’s Information desk on the ground floor.

A fully digital 3D movie theater, exceptional image quality on the big screen, 7 comfortable theaters and an abundant selection of the most famous movies to suit everyone’s taste guarantee an unforgettable movie break during your vacation. The Cineplexx movie theater can be found on the Center’s second floor. All speed lovers, adrenaline junkies, and adventure seekers are welcome to visit the largest go-kart track in Dalmatia covering impressive 2500 m2 and located on -1 level of City Center one.

In order to enjoy your shopping, you can exchange your cash at favorable rates at Erste Bank office on the Centre’s ground floor, as well as the Exclusive Change currency exchange office situated next to the hypermarket entrance. For safe, quick and easy access to money during your vacation, use cash machines situated on the ground and second floor of the City Center one. If you are a foreign citizen shopping in City Center one stores, ask for your Tax Free cheque and you will get a refund of value added tax for any goods bought in stores participating in the global Refund System.

Kid’s Jungle play area is where our little friends have time of their lives. Free children’s play area spread over an area of 500 square meters is the largest one in Dalmatia, and is located on the 2nd floor of the Center next to the entrance 2B. Children aged 3 to 12 years are welcomed to play here under professional supervision. In addition to climbing facilities, toys, table hockey and table football, your child can also enjoy in different creative arts and crafts.

City Center one also offers numerous services that have been created especially for families with children, as for example baby room and family parking. We have provided a quiet environment for diaper changes on the first floor of the Center. There, moms can devote themselves entirely to the care of their babies in several separate rooms for diaper changing and breastfeeding. In order to make the arrival to the Center as comfortable as possible for you and your family, we have provided family parking spots adjusted for families with children in prams.

Monday – Sunday
City Center one
09:00 – 21:00*
Interspar hypermarket
08:00 – 21:00*
Movie theaters Cineplexx
15:00 - 23:30

*SUMMER WORKING HOURS - until 22:00 hours (from 1st June till 25th August)
One of the great things about Split is finding such a terrific variety of top quality clothing, jewelry and more in and around the many small, charming Palace shops. If you have a smart phone, try using The Palace/Old Town Mobile Directory and type in what you are looking for in the search box anywhere Zzzapp Wi-Fi is offered—or the map and list of shops on page 16.

And if you want a shiny new mall, full of brand name shops and first run movies in English, head for Center One—just take the #18 bus from the end of Marmontova street right to the door in 30 minutes!

Let's start in the Palace with Diesel, the global brand for what's happening in jeans and sportswear, Diesel struts its stuff on Kresimirova!

Diesel struts its stuff on Kresimirova!

Croata's sumptuous ties are the perfect gift

One of the quintessential Split gifts for men are sumptuous ties from Croata, diagonally opposite the Tourist office in the Peristil and in Voci trg just off the Riva, where the statue of Marko Marulić is.

The history of the cravat and Croatia dates back to the 1600's when fashion-conscious Parisians fell in love with the gaily colored neck wear worn by Croatian soldiers who came to the aid of the French king. It wasn't long before cravats were all the rage.

Another must stop for men (especially Americans!) is Havana, the best cigar shop in the city on Zadarska (just outside Narodni Trg where the old City Hall is) with humidors full of world-class brands that are always a big thrill to get as a gift for people who love a great cigar. They also have accessories.

And if you're looking for an adapter, great camera, or portable hair drier because yours is on the fritz, Robot is where locals go for great deals on best brand consumer electronics. It's just 5 minutes from the end of Marmontova st. where it meets the National Theatre.

For women who love shoes, Split is heaven. Everywhere you look there seems to be another shoe store—it's been said that Split has more of them per capita than anyplace on the planet.

Robot is home-appliance heaven

With more than 2,000 hours of sunshine here each year, sunglasses are not just necessary, they are a year round fashion accessory for most Splittanis! Ghetaldus, named after the famous 16thC Croatian scientist who invented the parabolic mirror, has been a family optical business for more than 50 years. Excellent prices on Ray Ban and other brand names, a trio of shops, their own lab and optician to offer new glasses in just 2 hours! Now let's look at jewelry. Croatia has a long tradition of filigree craftsmanship—fixed on Krešimirova, just steps from the Peristil. Always well-stocked with the up-to-the-minute style. Whether it's a pair of great-fitting jeans or a terrific sportswear, Diesel is ahead of the curve.

Zeiss optics, Ray Ban's and other global brands plus contacts or regular glasses in just 2 hours! woven silver. An ancient technique, it's still practiced by family-run jewelry shops here and the range of filigree earrings, bracelets, brooches and other styles is vast. Here in Split, you can find custom filigree sterling (and gold) jewelry--pins, and other classic images, at Ispod Jure Zlatar, a tiny shop literally built into the West (Iron) Gate opposite Bobis bakery. For souvenir shopping, the gauntlet of stalls just outside the East (Silver Gate) parallel to the Green Market has hats, T-shirts, luggage, bags and just about everything else you are looking for. Some if it is made here, too. Like made in Split 100% cotton tops with the checkered Croatian flag pattern and others with dark or light blue horizontal stripes for men, women and children.

Besides clothing, shoes and jewelry, Split is also a great place to buy food as a gift. Dalmatian olive oil, wine and other goodies are all here and packaged to go for the folks back home. Natura Dalmatica, on Dioklecijanova from the Peristil, has a great selection.

Discover Split/Split shopping

Biggest selection and best prices!

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SAMSUNG
Panasonic
Rowenta
LG
BRAUN
Remington
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ZEISS optics, Ray Ban's and other global brands plus contacts or regular glasses in just 2 hours!

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Discover Split/Split shopping

Stadium

From designer sportswear, sunglasses and jewelry to great deals on consumer electronics, Split has it all!
Calender of events

Split is a celebration of culture, the performing arts, sports and film — no matter what the month, there’s always something going on!

JUNE
15-27.06 Festival of Street Performers / www.visitsplit.com / Riva, Marmontova st., Peristil and Voćni trg square
21.-28.06 European University Basketball Championship (28 teams) / WHERE
23.06 The Wall - Roger Waters concert / Poljud stadium, Split

22.06 Croatia Reggae Festival / Baćvice beach
24.-30.06 Radunica Days / www.visitsplit.com / Radunica neighborhood (Radunica Association)
15.06 World Picigin Championship (local sport) / www.picigin-bacvice.com / Baćvice beach
June - September
Mornings with a'capella groups [09.00 am -01.00 pm] / www.visitsplit.com / Peristil
June - September
Changing of Diocletian’s Guard daily at 12 / www.visitsplit.com (08.00 am - 08.00 pm) / Peristil, Croatian National Theater

JULY
03.-04.07 Sustipan Night Dream / Rade Serbedžija, Urban &4 / Sustipan
05.-07.-07.07 2013 Split Pop-music Festival / www.splitskifestival.hr / Prokurator square
08.07. Little Split - Children’s Song Festival 2013 / www.srdelice.hr / Prokurator square, Mali Split
12-13.7 Ultra Festival / www.ultraeurope.com / Poljud stadium Split
12.-14.07 Jazz Festival / Waterfront Riva
15.07 Montenegro Independence Day with guests from Macedonia / Waterfront Riva

19-20.07 Salona Ethno Ambient Festival / www.solin-info.com / Salona
21.-28.07 European University Basketball Championship (28 teams) / WHERE
23.07 The Wall - Roger Waters concert / Poljud stadium, Split

July - August
28.06.-27.09 Various concerts (Mon., Fri., Sat.) / www.visitsplit.com / Waterfront Riva
03.-25.09 A'capella singing evenings (Wednesdays) / www.visitsplit.com / Riva, City Tourist Board
02.07-26.09 Folklore evenings (Tuesday, Thursday) / www.visitsplit.com / Riva, City Tourist Board
14.07-14.08 59th Annual Split Summer Festival / www.splitsko-ljeto.hr / Croatian National Theater

AUGUST
02.08. ILINDEN -Macedonian Independence Day / Riva
02.-10.08. Romance in Salona / www.solin-info.com / Salona
09.08. Fishermens Festival / Stobreč
10.08. St. Lawrence Day / Stobreč
10-18.08. 3rd International Open Chess Tournament / Riva
16-19.08 Days of Diocletian / www.visitsplit.com / Riva, Peristil, Palace substructures, Splitski krug mladih

SEPTEMBER

04.09.-08.09 EUROFLEURS European Flower Festival / www.parkovi-st.hr
European championship of young florists / Substructures of Diocletian’s palace, Riva, Meštrović Gallery
until 27.09 Concert program (Fridays) / www.visitsplit.com / basement of Diocletian’s palace
until 25.09 A'capella evening concerts (Wednesdays) / www.visitsplit.com / Waterfront Riva, Town Tourist Board
until 26.09 Folklore evenings (Tuesday, Thursday) / www.visitsplit.com / Waterfront Riva
15.09 Lady of Prizidnica Day / Slatine, island of Ciovo
18.-20.09 Softcom, International convention on software, telecommunication and computer networks / www.fesb.hr / Split, Primosten
18.-29.09 29th Meeting of Croatian Landscape Artists Old City hall

OCTOBER
05.06.-10.06 Mrduja Regatta, cruiser regatta / www.solin-info.com / ACI Marina to Mrduja between Brac and Solta islands and back
18.-20.10 Vis Regatta / www. jklabud.hr / To Vis island and back
23-27.10 SASO 2013, Trade fair / www.sajamsplit.hr / Zrnjan
01.-24.10 VI Annual Splitgraphic - International Graphic Biennale (juried competition featuring graphics from around the world) / www.splitgraphic.hr / Old City hall Adria Art Annale / www.adriaartannale.blogger.hr / Substructures of Diocletian’s palace

November / December
29.11.-01.12 Cro Patria / www.glazbenamladezsplit.com / Croatian National Theater
Christmas and New Year concerts / www.visitsplit.com / Croatian National Theater
Traditional photo exhibition / www.fotoklubsplit.hr / Photo Club Split
31.12 New Year’s Eve Party / Waterfront Riva

Connect to Zzzzapp Wi-Fi
Split’s only mobile Old Town/Palace Directory, with tourist info, DiscoverSplit’s map and Kolektiva’s “Deals of the Day”
Wining and dining

From simple family-owned konobas to stylish bistro
Split's new restaurant scene is making waves

Let's start with the best of the new restaurants like Chops Grill Steak & Seafood restaurant, opposite the bronze coffee cup sculpture near Zara on Marmontova. Great for juicy grilled steaks, fabulous fish, fresh pastas, creative salads and an outstanding wine list that doesn't just sit at the back of the menu, it's been paired with entrees to let you enjoy great Croatian wine without worrying about what to order. Close by, just behind the National Theater at the end of Marmontova is Paradox, a stylish new wine and cheese bar that has quickly earned a loyal following for its wide selection of great wines, now more than 100 and still growing, plus a wonderful selection of artisan cheeses. In addition to a comfy interior with exposed stone brick walls, this year they have added an outdoor patio. They also have a charcuterie and delicatessen. The past few years has seen a major transformation in Split’s dining scene. Joining the traditional family-run konobas that really know how to cook local are a growing number of bistros that have added a new twist to Dalmatian cuisine. One thing they all have in common however, is a focus on fresh. The sheer variety of such terrific local produce, fish, poultry, game, fruit and more—food we all take for granted but somehow intersecting streets as well as inside tables for two or more inside. Salads and fish here are superb and they do breakfast, lunch and dinner! Around the corner, in the Pjaca, the square just outside the West Gate of the Palace, is Konoba Pjaca. With the Fish Market so close by, it’s no wonder the focus here is on the catch of the day. Sitting under the white umbrellas watching the parade of tourists and locals going by is people watching at its best. Now let’s see what’s cooking on the Riva waterfront. Although there are a few places to pick up a meal, the Riva is mostly a terrific coffee/bar scene that’s a great place to simply sit and enjoy a drink, watch the ferries come and go and take in all that Mediterranean ambiance. But if you walk up to the head of the Riva, where the bronze map is on the right hand side, keep walking on the street straight ahead and there are a pair of standout’s here. The first is Grill Pizzeria Luna. Can’t miss their daily blackboard specials outside. They won this year’s Discover Split “Best Egg Breakfast.”

Grill Pizzeria Luna on the waterside, where the Riva begins Daily 8-24 / MC/VISA

Konoba Pjaca cool outdoor seating in the historic Pjaca Daily 8-24 / MC/VISA

Aged beef, fabulous fish and great wine!

Enjoy hand-cut beef, aged 8 months; Split’s freshness seafood, salads and more at both of our restaurants. We proudly serve Croatia’s best wine! Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Grill Pizzeria Luna on the waterside, where the Riva begins Daily 8-24 / MC/VISA

Konoba Pjaca cool outdoor seating in the historic Pjaca Daily 8-24 / MC/VISA

Aged beef, fabulous fish and great wine!

Fresh, home-made, delicious breakfast, lunch, dinner, late inside, tables for two (or more) or al fresco on the steps

Discover Split / Wining and dining

A juicy grilled steak at Chops

Paradox has Split's best selection of artisan cheeses

Paradox has Split's best selection of artisan cheeses

Aged beef, fabulous fish and great wine!

Discover Split / Wining and dining

Aged beef, fabulous fish and great wine!
Wining and dining

and the other facing the Palace. At night, the place is hopping with live music and lots of parties that go on til the wee hours! As you head out towards Bačvice beach from the Riva, there’s a whole other restaurant/cafe world.

Make your first stop Bistro Toć, with its own outdoor shaded patio, the menu here is a tasty mix of domestic and Mexican-inspired fare.

Bistro Toć's cool outdoor patio.

Fab desserts too. Like Feral, the family that owns it is also in the kitchen and out for making sure everything runs smoothly.

Next up, on the waterfront promenade just past the sandy beach at Bačvice is Karaka Beach Pizzeria and Pub. Look for their wooden chef statue. Aile and her husband Josip are another hardworking couple who own and run the place. The menu runs the gamut from salads to grilled fish and pizza. Sitting steps from the sea, munching on one of their burgers and enjoying a beer is just perfect. Free Zzzzapp Wi Fi too.

Burgers and salads are king at Karaka.

For something really different, Split is home to Dalmatia’s only authentic Chinese restaurant, Biser Orijenta. They have a zillion items on the menu, but our favorites are their tofu cooked ma po style, spicy! and their terrific home-made noodles with vegetables. Their Pannacota is a cool, creamy Split dessert.

Fast food Split

Split is a city where everyone eats pretty much all the time. Whether it’s a burek (fluffy pastry filled with cheese or meat) or a pizza, how they all stay so thin and look so gorgeous is still a mystery. And boy do they love pizza.

By the slice, we go to Pizza Cut (especially with rukola) on Marmontova where it meets the Riva. For ultra-thin crust, wood-fired beauties it’s Bakra, the first right on Kralja Zvonimirova, the main street going up the hill from the Green Market. Their lasagna is also killer.

We also like Ko-go, Split’s first take-out shop of fully-cooked yummy local grub sold by weight, behind the National Theatre up the street and on your right. Split’s best sandwiches are at Rizzo, the closest one in town is their tiny shop next to Chops on Marmontova, opposite the large sculpture of a coffee cup.

Divine Croatian wine

After winning a slew of medals, Croatia is finally on the world stage for its outstanding wine. Hvar and Pelješac are two of the best growing areas as well as Ilok, Istra and Slavonia. Restaurant house wine can be very good. In shops, expect to pay 70-200kn or more for the best quality (the label will say vrhunsko).

The city’s best wine shop is the Art of Wine, (first left after the Villa Diana if you walk up Kralja Zvonimira from the Green Market). This year they recommend: White: Fango, Kameleon, Sauvignon Iuris, Malvasija dubrovačka, Kujundžuša Grabovac. Red: Paradox, Plavac Milos, Crćenak Krolo, Babić Lore, Cabernet sauvignon Vučković.

Local food and customs

Every restaurant in Split has their own version of local. These include fish, vegetable and cream soups, fish and meat stews, grilled, baked or fried main courses of lamb, chicken, beef or seafood and desserts that run the gamut from ice cream to cream filled pastry.

One of the best ways to sample something authentic is to enjoy marende, the Croatian version of brunch. Since folks here start their day early with little more than a cup of coffee, the first real meal of the day is around 10 or 11AM. And it sure looks strange to see a gaggle of

A vertical menu for Karaka's beachside location.

Discover Split / Wining and dining
Wining and dining

locals chowing down on a full course meal when the rest of us are thinking about a bowl of cereal or bacon and eggs. Just look for small cafes with blackboard signs that say marende and go in, sit down and enjoy. And if you want to know why so many stores catering to tourists close all afternoon and don’t reopen until 17 or 18PM it’s because shopkeepers and staff all go home to eat with the family. This mid afternoon meal is the big meal of the day. And it’s another reason why “dinner” is the day. And it’s another reason why

It’s a great way to see what’s what for it. It’s a

And of course you can’t go wrong with a fat, sharp toothed head is chucked into the soup pot, but its firm, white yummy tail is delicious grilled. Some restaurants even wrap it in ham or prsut. When you see the sign for brancin and orada; these fish are both farm-raised and wild that are white, light and delicate. If you like mackerel, the local variant is called skuša. The most expensive fish and arguably the tastiest here is San Pietro (John Dory) which is flat with a tell tale large black spot on its flank. Some restaurants put their catch of the day under glass, chilled on ice, for you to pick out. If you see a red, mean-looking scaly critter, go for it. It’s a scorpion fish and it is yummy. Enjoy flounder and other white flat fish? See if they have fisk. And of course you can’t go wrong with shrimp and larger shrimp, which are called škampi here. For meat lovers, the choice is more simple. The Dalmatian equivalent of filet mignon—it’s always fork tender and delicious—is for some strange reason called biftek, the American equivalent of chopped hamburger! Ramstek is more like sirloin. The...
Great day trips

Sailing, gastronomy, history, adventure
--Split is in the center of everything!

There are lots of travel agencies in the Palace ready to help you plan your trips. Some, like Portal, whose office is in Trg Republike, the square at the end of the Riva, even offer small group speedboat tours to Vis and the magical Blue Cave, custom tours created together with a local guide as well as classic tours to Plitvice Lakes and Krka. This year Split finally has its first adventure-focused agency, CroAdventures, (2A yellow on the map on page 2). Vese and her crew offer a smorgasbord of adventure trips like canyoning, sea kayaking and more as day sailing right from Split on one of their private yachts or how about renting a car to do some exploring on your own? Easy driving, great roads, air-conditioning! Our pick for service, cars and best rates (go online, it’s cheaper!) is NOVA, with offices in the harbor and at the airport. Yes, you can rent one-way! And the toll highway up the coast to Zadar (less than 90 minutes!) and down to within an hour of Dubrovnik is very fast and never busy. But we still prefer the local coastal road that winds its way along the sea for splendid views and the ease of simply stopping for a quick swim or to enjoy one of the many towns along the way, like Omiš. It’s where the best rafting is, not to mention great canyoning and rock climbing. And for the family, Omiš has fine pebbled beaches and Dino Park, Croatia’s first dinosaur-themed amusement park for the kids.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday with free snorkel gear, lunch and unlimited beverages included for a bargain 55€. (And on Thursdays you can sail Summer Blues to Hvar and zoom back by catamaran). The Islands! Go! All except Vis are easy day trips by ferry or catamaran (Vis requires an overnight). Less than an hour is Brač, famous for its marble and Zlatni Rat beach which changes its tongue-like shape with the tides. Hvar, dating back to the first millennium BC, is considered by many to be the jewel of all the Adriatic islands. For true pristine beauty, it’s Vis, just 60 miles off the Italian coast. Only 45 minutes away is the "island of olives, honey and wine Šolta, a wonderful refuge for those who want to experience the sun and sea surrounded by unspoiled nature instead of people. Travel inland a bit and it’s Sinj and Trilj for a fascinating taste of countryside Croatia with unique festivals and food. For history, Salona, the ancient Roman capital of Dalmatia, is on the way to the airport less than 30 minutes by bus or car. Still a mostly un-earthed archeological site it has enough vestiges of its former glory to make a visit very worthwhile. Klis Fortress. Perched impossibly high on a rocky butte 20 minutes from Split, Klis was the last stronghold against the Ottoman onslaught. Standing on the ramparts, looking across olive groves and vineyards to distant Split and the offshore islands, the views are stunning. Kaštel, the coastal stretch of seven different castels (castles) between Split and Trogir, was first settled in the 7thC and later became the bastion of Croatian nobility. Next, it’s Trogir. Unlike Roman Split, Trogir’s heritage is Greek. Its partially-walled Old Town has a rare ensemble of Romanesque, Gothic Renaissance and Baroque buildings that have made it a UNESCO World Heritage site. The centerpiece is the astonishing 1280 Cathedral of St. Lawrence. Less than an hour from Trogir is Krka National Park, where you can swim under the waterfalls! Further away is Croatia’s most-visited national park another UNESCO site, Plitvice Lakes with a spectacular setting and a profusion of marvelous waterfalls. Day trips from Split, what a terrific choice of experiences!
Split’s best
--we only have room for ten, but with a city as special as Split
the list could be endless!

It’s Dinko Bašić, looking sauve in his red cummberbund! It’s what makes dining at the venerable Konoba Varoš so satisfying year after year. Gracious, kind, smart, Dinko is the kind of waiter you wish you had every time you dined out!

Kruščić, a tiny slice of a store behind the fish market to your left, is a daily cornucopia of bread marking art. Unusual flour, intriguing seeds, there’s always something new being baked up by the gentle folks that run the place.

Igor Beroš’ The Art of Wine. The best from Croatian boutique and “major” winemakers by the bottle, by the glass or enjoy tastings with Dalmatian delicacies. And this year they have their own wine tours!

The Split-Trogir water taxi from the Riva. A little over an hour along the coast to Trogir for under 5E. Great way to get to the beach in Slatine on Ciovo, the first stop, or get off at Trogir, a spectacular UNESCO World Heritage site—walk around, eat lunch, take the afternoon boat back!

Grill/Pizzeria Luna, on the waterside of the Riva, where the parking lot is, has fabulous, fluffy 3 egg omelets, good coffee and freshly-squeezed juice.

Slastičarna Tradicija is the oldest ice cream shop in town (on Bosanska, halfway up the street to the right just as you leave the #18 bus at the end of Marmontova st. in front of Prima and it takes you right to the door (it’s the last stop). Excellent shopping, good pet shop for the kids (from rabbits to big parrots), first run movies in English, comfy seats (big screens and great sound); lots of places to eat too.

The Bene Train (actually a motorized tug tricked out to look like a train, with open wagon cars behind it), leaves from the end of the Riva every few hours and chugs along all the way to Bene where you can swim, play tennis, have a picnic lunch and more. It’s the nice and easy way to see the street view of the city.

Zrno Soli’s outdoor terrace on top of the ACI Marina at the end of the newly-opened Western Promenade and Kadena overlooking the Firule marina are classy with great harbor and a sea view.

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The City Vision open air bus is also worthwhile, and you can also add a walking tour of the city. Their big buses park along the piers where the catamarans come in.

The Split’s Fine Arts Museum near the Post Office (just walk to your left as you pass the monumental statue of Grgr of Nin outside the Golden Gate). Bright and airy, wonderful art, sculpture and sometimes even video installations. And the Galerija cafe is just inside. Mall and movies at City Center One—just get on the #18 bus at the end of Marmontova st. in front of Prima and it takes you right to the door (it’s the last stop). Excellent shopping, good pet shop for the kids (from rabbits to big parrots), first run movies in English, comfy seats (big screens and great sound); lots of places to eat too.

Split’s best RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES

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Discover Split / Split’s best

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Feeling good

Whether it’s street theater, outdoor adventure or clubbing all night, Split’s “feel good factor” is what makes it such a great place to visit.

Summer is when Split is at its best. The festival scene kicks off in June with the annual Blues Festival, the Street Performers Festival and regattas and moves into July and August with the Ultra Festival, Pop Musical Festival, Split Summer Festival and Days of Diocletian. In September it’s the Split International Festival of New Film, the oldest in Croatia and one of the few where movies are actually made during the week long event.

For lovers of classical music, drama, opera and ballet, the National Theatre, the city’s performing arts center whose home is the majestic yellow edifice at the end of Marmontova, offers a rich season of events. The ballet company is especially fine and the theatre itself is absolutely gorgeous.

To get your adrenaline pumping, go sea kayaking, canyoning or rent a mountain bike and zip up to Marjan for a great workout. And for nature lovers who like to walk rather than run, Marjan and Bene offers miles of easy hiking and walking through a cool forest surrounded by a rocky seaside; perfect for a picnic, too.

And finally after a hard day of sightseeing, swimming, hiking or riding, there’s nothing better than to slip into a Jacuzzi or get a great massage. The most sublime spa, a five minute walk from the beach at Znjan is Filomena, an oasis of calm beauty, that offers free pick up anywhere in the city.

When it comes to food for the mind, Split has an unusually rich collection of museums for a city of just over 200,000. In the Palace proper is the splendid City Museum, housed in the Papal Palace on Papalicaeva and the Ethnographic Museum a few steps behind the Vestibul. To the left of the Silver or East Gate as you enter the Palace, you’ll find the Emanuel Vidovic Gallery, dedicated to the work of this brilliant artist. Just outside the Golden Gate, the left of the famous statue of Grgr of Nin is the city’s wonderful new Gallery of Fine Art on Tomislava. A short walk north on Zrinsko Frankopanska is the Archeological Museum with a fascinating outdoor colonnade filled with Roman artifacts. A bit off the beaten track, but well worth visiting is the Collection of the Franciscan Monastery at Poljudsko satale, the Croatian Maritime Museum in Gripe and the Museum of Croatian Archeological Monuments on the same road where Ivan Mestrovic’s gallery is. The Mestrovic Gallery is a global landmark as the home, studio and sculpture gardens of the most important sculptor since the Renaissance, Ivan Mestrovic. His Kastelet, full of rich sacral art, is also nearby. It’s a marvelous place to spend an afternoon among such sublime work. Remember, with the Split Card, entrance to all the museums in Split proper is FREE!

The after dark action in Split can be relaxed or intense. Intown, the cool scene is in the Ghetto, the area near the Slavija Hotel. After enjoying the scene here, head over to the Riva to Caffe where the party starts at sundown and keeps going with live DJ’s, congas drums, big crowds and good times.

Over at Bavice Beach, the action doesn’t even start until midnight and lasts until morning with half a dozen bars and clubs all along the beach and beyond. And if you are up to it, night swimming at Bacvice is pretty fabulous since the water is well lit, very shallow with a clean sandy bottom. Swimming under the stars is fun as well as romantic and a great way to cool off after a hot day. The big clubs that bring in live bands, European DJ’s and other acts all have posters around town, so check them out and if you like the

First run English language movies at Joker or City Center one—both easy to get to and blissfully air-conditioned!