

VILLAGE LIFE: A WAY OF LIFE ALONG THE DALMATIAN COAST

Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast is one in a unique series of *Village Life* programs designed for inveterate travelers who know that the vibrant character of a country is best found in the provinces, on the backroads, and around the local market squares. It offers a cultural and educational experience like no other. **For an exceptionally attractive fare, *Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast* provides a unique focus on the fascinating history and cultures as well as the rich artistic and architectural heritage of the Adriatic Sea and the Dalmatian Coast. For one full week, you will come to know the history and romance of Venice and discover the marvelous medieval towns that line the Dalmatian Coast and are seldom visited by North American travelers.**

You will stroll through the massive palace of a Roman emperor and delight in a colorful town market that now occupies its quadrangles. You will step inside churches dating from the Dark Ages, become enchanted by Byzantine mosaics and meet with local residents to learn about the region.

In Venice, a **UNESCO representative** will share his expertise about efforts to preserve the city’s architectural heritage and a **leading expert from the Institute for the Reconstruction of Dubrovnik** will provide key insights into the rehabilitation of one of the world’s most treasured Renaissance cities.

The **intimate M.Y. MONET** has been specially selected for this program as it features comfortable accommodations, and is able to dock near medieval town centers inaccessible to large ships.

Unpack once! This is an exceptional travel opportunity inclusive of all accommodations, meals and exclusively arranged excursions for an incredibly attractive price. Come experience a special way of life: *Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast*.

VENICE

From the grace of the Bridge of Sighs to the grandeur of the Basilica di San Marco and the gondolas gliding up and down its legendary canals, Venice offers an unmatched combination of romance, history and beauty. A powerful trading port and city state throughout the Middle Ages, Venice established a prosperous empire based on commercial relations. By virtue of its wealth, openness and beautiful natural setting Venice was an ideal location in which culture and the arts could flourish and like Rome and Florence, Venice was a primary focal point for the Italian Renaissance. Its fascinating history, magnificent array of architectural styles and unrivaled collections by Italian masters have garnered it a reputation as a paradise for historians and art lovers alike.

RAVENNA

As the barbarian hordes moved toward Rome in 402 A.D., Emperor Honorius transferred the seat of Roman imperial power to Ravenna on the more easily-defended Adriatic coast. This fostered the development of Ravenna as a primary center of art and culture for more than a thousand years. Most famously, it is home to some of the finest and most elaborate Byzantine mosaics in the world. Dante, in the *Divine Comedy*, described as “a symphony of color” the dazzling, golden hues of Christian iconography on the interior walls of such monuments as Sant’ Apollinare in Classe, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Basilica of San Vitale and Sant’ Apollinare Nuovo; featured on an included tour of Ravenna.

SPLIT

Split became renowned as a port and resort town in 305 A.D. when the Roman emperor Diocletian built a vast retirement palace for himself there. Today, the entire historic city center teems with life within the very foundations and structures of Diocletian’s Palace. Step over ancient chariot ruts and walk through monumental archways to a lively commercial district and a colorful open-air market where shoppers and merchants haggle over products from clothing to fresh seafood just as they have

for centuries. Learn about Croatia’s most accomplished sculptor, Ivan Meštrović, during an exclusive tour of the Meštrović Gallery, a mansion he built in the 1930s. Artistically influenced by Michelangelo and Rodin, Meštrović was known for his world-class skill and later emigrated to the United States to become an artist-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame.

KORČULA

Your ship will dock near the original 13th-century city walls of this immaculately preserved town of the Middle Ages. Marco Polo would easily recognize his medieval birthplace where you will walk its unique herringbone-patterned streets, visit the historic Cathedral’s Abbey treasury and enjoy a traditional Korčulan dance performance.

DUBROVNIK

Deemed “the pearl of the Adriatic” by Lord Byron, Dubrovnik fiercely resisted Venetian domination. Its dramatically situated walls and well preserved medieval fortifications make it home to some of the finest Renaissance architecture in Europe. For its incomparable beauty and historic treasures, the entire city has been named a World Heritage Monument, and, until recently, was the world’s largest UNESCO restoration site. If you stroll along the *Placa*, the main boulevard, on a moonlit night, the ancient limestone pavement – smoothed by centuries of footsteps – shimmers like liquid marble.

ZADAR

This beautiful town developed into one of the most important Adriatic cities during the Middle Ages and a formidable bastion of Slavic culture. St. Donatus Church is a soaring, stalwart classic of Old Croatian architecture that dates back to the ninth century; its nave includes an ancient pagan altar from an older Roman forum that was incorporated into the church’s design.

PULA

According to legend, Pula, “the eternal heart of Istria,” was founded by Jason and Medea after they absconded with the Golden Fleece in one of Greek mythology’s most famous tales. In fact, its 3000-year history makes it one of the most ancient

towns located along the eastern Adriatic Sea, but its pride rests in its wide array of Roman monuments, built during the city’s occupation by the Roman military. Most impressive is the marvelous Arena, erected in 27 B.C. After Rome’s Colosseum, it is arguably the finest and most intact Roman amphitheater in the world. Michelangelo and Piranesi took inspiration from the nearby Triumphal Arch of the Sergii, a unique and bold monument distinguished by its coffered archways and winged Victory statues. The noble Temple of Augustus, still remarkably intact after 2000 years, displays a beautiful collection of intricate friezes.

M.Y. MONET

The M.Y. MONET is a 30-cabin vessel, tastefully appointed and designed for cruising to the smaller ports along the Adriatic Sea. Each air-conditioned outside cabin offers twin or double beds, private facilities, color satellite TV, VCR, hair dryer, in-house safe and private telephone.

Meals are served daily in the Nymphaea Restaurant at a single seating—buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, dinner and late-night snack. Local wine and beer are included with lunch and dinner.

Public spaces feature a piano bar, offering musical entertainment nightly, and two sun decks.

VILLAGE LIFE DAY BY DAY....

Day 1

Depart the U.S.

Day 2

Arrive in Venice, Italy. Embark the M.Y. MONET. **Captain’s welcome champagne reception.**

Day 3

Venice: Fragile White Swan of Cities

Excursion

Walking tour of Venice. ***Exclusive Enrichment***

A representative of UNESCO will discuss the preservation efforts in Venice. Enjoy a special Venetian Dinner.

Day 4

Ravenna – Byzantine Mosaics

Excursion

See the great mosaics of Ravenna’s churches.

Overnight cruise across the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy an Italian Themed Dinner.

Day 5

Split – Roman Emperors and Croatian Citizens

Excursion

Walking tour of Split, featuring Diocletian’s Palace. Cruise to Korčula.

Korčula walking tour and visit to the Cathedral’s Abbey Treasury.

Exclusive Enrichment

Specially arranged folklore performance of the “Klapa.” Cruise to Dubrovnik.

Day 6

Dubrovnik – Pearl of the Adriatic

Excursion

Walking tour of Dubrovnik’s marvellous 14th- and 15th-century structures, including the Rector’s Palace. ***Exclusive Enrichment***

Lecture by an expert from the Institute for Reconstruction of Dubrovnik.

Day 7

Zadar: Capital of Slavic Culture

Cruise to Zadar through the Kornati Islands National Park.

Excursion

Walking tour of Zadar.

Overnight cruise to Pula.

Exclusive Enrichment

Enjoy a specially arranged talk on religion in Croatia with a local nun.

Day 8

Pula – Crossroads of the Adriatic

Excursion

Walking tour of Pula, featuring the Arena. Captain’s Farewell Champagne Reception and Special Dalmatian Theme Dinner. Overnight cruise to Venice.

Day 9

Disembark and return to the U.S.

THIS VILLAGE LIFE TRAVEL PROGRAM INCLUDES:

◆ Seven-night cruise from Venice, Italy aboard the intimate M.Y. MONET, with port calls at Ravenna, Italy and Split, Korčula, Dubrovnik, Zadar and Pula, Croatia.

◆ Welcome and farewell champagne receptions hosted by the ship’s Captain.

◆ Meals each day—buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, full-service dinner and late-night snack—featuring special Dalmatian and Italian traditional dishes and local seafood. Local wines and beers complimentary with lunch and dinner.

All tours and excursions listed in the itinerary, led by experienced local guides:

◆ Half-day walking tour of Venice including the the Doge’s Palace and St. Mark’s Square.

◆ Visit to Ravenna’s four greatest Christian sanctuaries to see their world-famous mosaics.

◆ Tour of Split, featuring Diocletian’s Palace.

◆ Walking tour of Korčula with a visit to the Abbey Treasury.

◆ Walking tour of Dubrovnik, including the Rector’s Palace.

◆ Zadar walking tour, featuring the ninth-century Church of St. Donatus.

◆ Walking tour of Pula, featuring the Roman Arena.

Plus a full program of educational and cultural enrichment including:

◆ Exclusive presentation about Venice—its preservation efforts and the effects of a dwindling Venetian population—presented by a UNESCO representative.

◆ Specially arranged, authentic “Klapa” folklore performance.

◆ Exclusive address by an expert from the Institute for the Reconstruction of Dubrovnik.

◆ Specially arranged discussion with a local nun in Zadar about the role of religion in Croatian life.

And to ease your travel experience, we will also provide:

◆ All transfers and luggage handling abroad for passengers traveling on group flights.

◆ A hospitality desk aboard the ship.

◆ The services of an experienced travel director throughout the program.

◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information for each passenger.

◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance for each passenger ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

◆ All port taxes and fees.

◆ Gratuities to drivers and guides on included excursions.

NOTE: Itinerary and other information subject to change without notice.