



TRIP NOTES

SIPAN ISLAND-DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

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Basic information

Imagine swimming along high, dramatic cliffs in an ocean so blue that it blends into the sky. Crystal clear waters and islands covered with lush Mediterranean vegetation, the unique **Elaphiti islands** have a stunning, unearthly beauty. Immerse yourself in island life and discover Sipan, an island in the Elaphiti archipelago and the base for our swimming adventure.

Sipan is easily accessible by daily ferries from **Dubrovnik town**. Back in times it was a popular retreat for the Dubrovnik nobility in the 16th century and is now a perfect destination for adventurers looking for an idyllic holiday haven.

Tour appeals to all levels of open water swimmers (please check our FAQs for swimming speed) looking for sea swimming adventure of island hopping in Southern Dalmatia.

Non swimmers are welcome to join and stay on our main boat while others swim. At least one of our guides is local and has a great knowledge of the region.

Map



Summary

Country: Croatia **Duration:** 5 Days (4 Nights)
Tour Type: Island Hopping and Coastal Swims
Accommodation: Hotel based on the island
Average Daily Swimming Distance: 5 km
Level: All level swimmers (see our FAQs for speed), Non-swimmers can join and spend time on boat
Escort: 2-3 boats, 2 swimming guides, 1 boat pilot
Water temp: 24 (°C), **Air temp:** 28-30 (°C)

Highlights

- great hotel location on Sipan island
- varied island to island swims in clear, warm Mediterranean sea
- scenic boat rides on a comfortable boat
- relaxed walks to great vista points on Elaphiti islands
- visit to southern Mljet national park

Included in the price

Fully guided tour with comprehensive safety escort (3 boats, 2 swimming guides, local boat pilot), swim coaching, technique & stroke analysis, 4 nights accommodation, all breakfasts, all lunches. Each guest receives a swim hat and towel to use. Wetsuits, fins, rash vests and other swimming gear are limited and we advise to bring your own if required.

Recommended to bring: water bottle.

Additional cost

Travel to and from the start of the tour, evening meals, drinks. Single room supplement: 100 EUR.

Itinerary

Day 1

We meet at the hotel at **6.30pm** for welcome and safety briefing. Following safety briefing we take dinner in the hotel restaurant overlooking the beautiful harbour of Šipanska Luka.

Day 2

Before our breakfast we jump in for a short acclimatisation swim, ie. 400m. After breakfast we head off with a short 20 min boat ride to get to the northern tip of Šipanska Luka bay.

Our first 2km swim is from the small island of Misnjak to the lighthouse of Cape Tiha. We swim coastal along two beautiful and quiet bays (Uvala Danici and Uvala Tihi). Boat ride to our lunch spot in Sudurad (southern part of Šipan island).

You have a chance to explore the town and visit some local sights. Afternoon 3km swim is on the western side of Šipan island. We start at the Blue cave and swim north towards the Jakljan island. Return to hotel.

Day 3

Today is a true island hopping trip. We start off our morning 3km swim along Jakljan island where we follow the archipelago of little islands - Kosmer, Golec, Crkvina, Tajan.

Once we reach the end of Jakljan island we base ourselves at Olipa island Bay. We walk up to the hilltop to see where you just swam. Lunch in the bay. Video analysis filming.

In the afternoon we do our crossing swim between Cape Plogrin to the end of Olipa island. Boat back to the hotel.

Day 4

Today is our Mljet island exploration day. We drive across the Mljet channel to get to the southern part of the island named Saplunara.

Our morning coastal swim takes us from the Luka Saplunara to Mali Skolj island on the other side. Lunch base in the bay.

We walk up the hill to see the stunning view of the entire Elaphiti islands including Dubrovnik and Northern Mljet national park.

Afternoon swim is one of the most breathtaking as we swim along the high cliffs of the outside part of Jakljan island. Return back to the hotel.

Day 5

Before we say goodbye we do a final morning 2km swim from our hotel beach to the exit point to the Mljet channel and back.

Trip finishes at around **10.30am**. You can catch the 11.55 am ferry from Sudurad to Dubrovnik. Arriving into Dubrovnik at 13.05.

Itinerary changes

Please note that our swims are carried out in the natural environment and we rely on the current weather conditions. As a consequence, sometimes on-trip day-to-day changes in the planned itinerary are required.



Swimming distances & locations

Sipan island is ideally located between many islands which gives us a great gateway to swim out to different islands every day.

Swims

Distances

Sipan Bay acclim. swim	400 m
Misnja island - Cape Tiha	3 km
Blue cave - North end Sipan	2.6 km
Island hopping: Jakljan-Golec-Tajan	3.2 km
Crossing Cape Pologrin - Olipa	3.4 km
Saplunara - Mali Skolj	2.5 km
Outside Jakljan cliffs	3 km
Sipan Bay coastal	2.2 km

Swimming Information

Month	Water Temp. (°C)	Air Temp. (°C)
June	23	28
July/Aug	25	30
September	24	27

* Temperatures are indicative and can slightly change from year to year.

Keep in mind that you can skip any of the swims you want and relax on the main boat.

Walking

The walking on the trip is easy and it is on recognised paths and in towns. In order to enjoy your walks when we go off the boat, please bring comfortable light walking shoes and suitable clothes for summer temperatures.

Walking distances

Sipan island - 1 km, Jakljan island or Slano - 1km

Essential Equipment To Bring

In addition to normal items, we recommend the following: at least 2 swimming costumes, at least 2 pairs of swimming goggles (one clear and one tinted recommended), sweater/fleece, sun hat, small daypack, waterproof sun cream and jacket, light walking shoes and sandals or aqua shoes. Optional/recommended: Water bottle, rash vest.

Swimming awareness

Your safety is of utmost importance to us. In the event of adverse weather conditions at any of our swimming locations, we may need to adapt our itinerary. Our team always includes local guides who know the safest and most picturesque places to swim, so rest assured you won't be missing out!

Swimming in the open sea amongst natural wildlife is a unique experience, but you may come across certain marine life such as jellyfish, coral and sea urchins from time to time. There are very few jellyfish along the Dalmatian coast and so the risk of any unfortunate encounters with them is low, and we will always show you the safest areas to swim. If you are stung by a jellyfish and are unable to carry on swimming, you will never be far from an escort boat where one of the guiding team will be able to treat the affected area immediately. If you suffer from Anaphylaxis or any other allergic reactions it is important to inform us at the time of booking

Accommodation

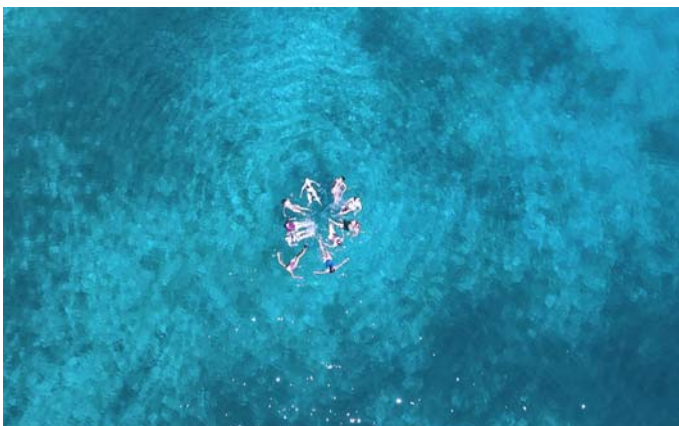
Hotel Sipan is located at the front of a 3 km long stunning bay in the charming fishermen's village of Šipanska Luka. Sipan is the largest island of the Elaphiti Islands (Sipan, Lopud, Koločep). It has its own a sandy beach about 500 from the hotel.

The island is only 15km away from Dubrovnik and is easily accessible by local ferry every day.

Rooms are based on twin-share and double-share with en-suite facilities. Double rooms for solo use are available. Please specify your preferences (including any other guests you would like to share with) at the time of booking.

Extended stay

If you require additional nights' accommodation before or after the tour, please book directly with the hotel, quoting Strel Swimming group. Hotel contact info: www.hotel-sipan.com, reservations@hotel-sipan.com, Tel: + 385 20 361 902



General Information

Start Point: Hotel Sipan, Sipan island
Start Time: 6.30pm on the 1st Day
Finish Point: Hotel Sipan, Sipan island
Finish Time: 11am on the 5th Day

[Google Map Location](#)

Passports and Visas

You require a full passport to enter Croatia. Please check whether you require a visa. Most nationalities, including EU, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens, do not require a visa to enter Croatia but please check before you travel.

Vaccinations

There are no specific vaccinations required for Croatia, but you should ensure that your tetanus and polio vaccinations are up to date.

Extra Expenses

You need some extra cash for evening meals (cca 12-15 Eur per meal), drinks and other personal items. Supermarket is nearby.

Currency

The local currency is Croatian Kuna. Sipan island has an ATM so you can get cash there on location. It is advisable that you bring some Euros or Kunas with you. Restaurants prefer cash while hotel services can be paid all by card.

Group size

Up to a maximum of 16 people, with 2 swimming guides, local boat pilot and 2 boat escorts.

Travel

[See getting there PDF file](#)

1) To get to **Sipan (Šipan) island**, you can fly into **Dubrovnik airport**.

2) From there you can take a **local bus** going into Dubrovnik town for 40 kuna (6 Euro). You go off at the last stop at main bus station in Gruz. Info: <http://www.atlas-croatia.com/arrangement/dubrovnik-airport-shuttle-bus/>.
Travel time: cca 45 min in total.

3a) **FERRY LINE JADROLINIJA**. From Gruz bus station (Dubrovnik), you can walk to the main ferry port and take a ferry to Suđurađ (Sipan Island). Cost: 23 Kuna (3 Euro). Ferry stops at Koločep and Lopud islands before reaching Sipan island. Travel time: cca 1h 15min in total.

You can book a ferry online: <http://www.jadrolinija.hr/>.

GETTING THERE -

Ferry Schedule from Dubrovnik - Sipan island (Suđurađ):

MON-SAT: 10.00, 14.00, 16.30, 20.00

SUN: 9.00, 11:45, 18:15, 21:00

LEAVING THE ISLAND -

Ferry Schedule from

Sipan island (Suđurađ) - Dubrovnik:

MON-SAT: 6.00, 11:55, 15:20, 18:30 (Should you plan to leave on the 5th-last day, you can get on the 11:55 ferry), SUN: 7:30, 10.20, 17:00, 19:35

[PDF file of ferry times from Dubrovnik - Sipan island \(Suđurađ\)](#)

For updated year-to-year ferry schedule see the Jadrolinija ferry line website:

www.jadrolinija.hr/en/sailing-schedule

3b) CATAMARAN (HYDROFOIL) DAILY LINE:

GETTING THERE: Dubrovnik - Sipanska Luka (Hotel Sipan location). Every day at 19.10, Arrives to Sipan at 20.00. Cost: 35 Kuna (5 Euro).

LEAVING THE ISLAND: Sipanska Luka - Dubrovnik. Every day at 06.50, Arrives to Dubrovnik at 07.35, Except TUE and THU at 06.35, Arrives to Dubrovnik at 07.20. Cost: 35 Kuna (5 Euro).

You can buy tickets on the location 30 min prior departure or online at

<http://gv-line.aktiva-info.hr/> More info online at <http://www.gv-line.hr/>

[PDF file of camaran line Dubrovnik - Sipanska Luka \(Hotel Sipan\)](#)

4) **Local bus** from **Suđurađ** ferry port to **Sipanska Luka** village.

Cost: 10 Kuna (1.5 Euro). Travel time: 10 min.

Total travel time: cca 2.5hrs depending on stops in between. Total cost: 73 Kuna (10 Eur).

You can also book a night in Dubrovnik and take a ferry the next day.

Flight search engine: www.Skyscanner.net

Door-To-Door Airport - Hotel Transfer

You can also book an advance transfer from the airport to the hotel directly. Please see details at:

<http://www.hotel-sipan.com/transfers/>

See you at Sipan Island, Croatia...

Updated: May, 2018