



## TRIP NOTES SWIMMING CROATIAN ISLANDS

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### Basic information

Croatia's Dalmatian coast is an area of outstanding natural beauty and boasts some of the cleanest waters in the Mediterranean.

We are based on the small island of Krapanj, a unique setting in the Sibenik area (located in between Split and Zadar). The island has one of the lowest populations in the Adriatic Sea and is completely traffic free - a swimmer's paradise!

Sibenik archipelago is surrounded by Kornati and Krka National Parks, providing us a fantastic gateway for our daily swimming adventures.

This trip has something for everyone. We hop from island to island, swim along the coasts of uninhabited islands, explore historical sites, fortress, submarine tunnel and swim down the Krka River.

This tour is suitable for all levels of swimmer (see our Faqs information regarding the trip expected swimming speed), with three separate escorts for the safety and enjoyment of all guests.

### Map



### Summary

**Country:** Croatia (EU)  
**Duration:** 7 Days (6 Nights)  
**Tour Type:** Island Hopping and Coastal Swims  
**Accommodation:** Hotel (4\*) on the Island  
**Average Daily Distance:** 4 km  
**Level:** All level swimmers  
**Escort:** 3 boats, kayak, 2 swimming guides  
1 local boat pilot  
**Water temperature:** 20-25 (°C)  
**Air temperature:** 24-32 (°C)

### Highlights

- swim around Dalmatian uninhabited islands and enjoy the laid back environment
- explore the islands of the Sibenik archipelago and the surrounding beautiful turquoise sea
- swim through Hitler's Eye submarine tunnel
- enjoy the relaxed life style on a small and car-free Krapanj island

### Included in the price

Fully guided tour with comprehensive safety escort (3 boats, 2 swimming guides, 1 local boat pilot), swim coaching, technique & stroke analysis, 6 nights accommodation, all breakfasts, all lunches and 2 dinners at the hotel. **Non swimmers** can use our kayaks and follow their friends or partners while they swim.

Equipment usage. We have limited wetsuits, fins and other swimming gear available on each tour. Each guest receives a swim hat and Strel towel. Water bottles are provided while you swim.

### Additional cost

Travel to and from the start of the tour, 4 evening meals, entry to National Park Krka (if we go there).

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Meet at Hotel Spongiola, Krapanj island at 6.30pm for the pre-trip briefing, followed by a welcome dinner.

### Day 2

Before breakfast, we do a short 400m acclimatisation swim in front of our hotel.

Following breakfast at the hotel, we depart by boat for a day of swimming and exploring. Our first swim begins on the western side of Zlarin island and we swim for about 2km heading northwards. We drive to Zlarin harbour for lunch and a little break off the boat. Zlarin is the island of corals and is well known for its tradition of coral diving. You have a chance to visit a coral museum or walk around and explore the scenic port and village.

The early afternoon is dedicated to stroke improvement, where we will film your stroke before we do the afternoon swim alongside the eastern side of Zlarin going southwards. Boat ride back to our base at Krapanj island. Before dinner, our swim guides will analyse the video footage of your stroke (if you want!) and offer you tips on how to improve your technique.

### Day 3

Today we travel to Tijat and Prvic islands. Our morning swim starts at Tijascica bay and we swim for about 2.5km along the eastern side of Tijat.

Boat ride to Prvic for a lunch break. Prvic island, with its two settlements, Sepurine and Prvic Luka, offers a great stop for a little stroll around many beautiful stone houses. There is also the Memorial Centre of Faust Vrančić who was one of the famous and important Croatian inventors. He is mostly associated with the invention and use of the first parachute. Our afternoon swim takes us along the other side of Prvic from Sepurine towards Zlarin. This area is shallower and you can often spot several colourful sea urchins, clams, shells, starfish and other beautiful creatures on the sea bottom. Drive back to Krapanj.

### Day 4

Today is our real island hopping day. We start the morning 2.5km crossing swim between islands Drvenik - Rakitan - Oblik. On this swim you will experience how to sight properly to reach a finish point. We swim in groups and you can see others around.

We base ourselves for lunch in the Grebastica bay which is a good spot for our afternoon hike along the ruins of the 15th century Wall of Ostrica. The Turks started raiding this area as early as a late 15th century and the people of Grebastica could afford a construction of an impressive wall that would protect them from the Turks. It is about 10 metres (about 30 ft) high and about 1 metre (about 2 ft) wide running across the entire narrow neck of Ostrica peninsula. Great views await for us at the top.

We do an afternoon 2km swim along the northern side of Ostrica peninsula which is usually sheltered from any outside wind.

Sibenik town. We explore the impressive old town architecture followed by a dinner. The smell of pine trees and sounds of local birds make it even more interesting along the way.

Return back to our base. On this day we usually go out for an evening meal to Sibenik town. We explore the impressive old town architecture followed by a dinner.

### Day 5

Today we leave the sea behind and travel inland by boat up the estuary of mighty Krka River in Sibenik. Our first swim starts right at the Hitler's Eye submarine tunnel. U-Boat shaped tunnel from WW2 is about 250m long and it takes about only a few minutes to get through. There are no lights inside and this makes our adventure even more exciting! We continue the 2.3km swim down towards the St. Nicolas fortress where we stop for lunch. After our lunch, we explore the fort. St. Nicholas fortress was built in the mid-16th century at the entrance to Sibenik - Krka canal for defence against attacks from the sea. It is entirely surrounded by sea and only a very narrow path links it with the mainland. It was designed by the Venetian engineer Michiel Sammichella.

On the way back we do an afternoon swim either along Drvenik or south Zlarin island.

**Note:** In case of bad weather or difficult sea (wind, etc.) we may occasionally go all the way up the river to Krka National Park. Upon arrival at Skradin village, we start our 4.5 km hike along the river to the waterfalls. On this day we only do one afternoon swim down the Krka river from Skradin. In High Season (July, August) we prefer not to go to Krka National Park because it becomes extremely busy and crowded.

### Day 6

Today we return to the open sea for more island hopping swimming. Our morning crossing is from the Big Sister to Little Sister and further to Obonjan (The island of Youth), a distance of 3km. We continue with our boat to Kaprije island for lunch and a little hike over the stunning village of Kaprije. The views on top of the hill back on Sibenik archipelago are impressive. For those who like a great coffee or ice cream, Kaprije offers a great choice!

On the way back in the afternoon we either swim along Kaprije or we go to Zmajan (Dragon) island and enjoy the crystal clear water in shallow bays.

Boat trip back to Krapanj island. This evening, we get together for a goodbye dinner at the hotel.

### Day 7

We conclude this amazing Croatian islands adventure by swimming around our Krapanj island. The entire swim is 3.4km, but you can skip part of it if you want. It is a wonderful swim to finish the week's trip! The trip finishes around 11am.

### Itinerary Changes

Please note that our itinerary is subject to change depending on the weather and sea conditions. Our guides and boat captain will check the weekly and daily weather forecasts and will change the swims around to ensure that you have the best swimming conditions day to day.

### Open Water Swimming awareness

Please visit and read our website for the safety elements of open water swimming.

## General Information

**Start Point:** Hotel Spongiola, Krapanj Island  
[www.spongiola.com](http://www.spongiola.com)

**Start Time:** 6.30pm on 1st Day

**Finish Point:** Hotel Spongiola, Krapanj island

**Finish Time:** 11am on 7th Day

**Group Size** Up to a maximum of 15 people

### Passports and Visas

Croatia is a EU member, 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 will need enough money to cover the evening meals which are not included in the tour price. An average dinner (including a glass of wine) costs around 150 Kuna (20 Euro).

### Currency

The local currency is Croatian Kuna. Krapanj island does not have an ATM so it is advisable to draw currency before departing the mainland where there are many ATMs and banks. The hotel will also exchange money up to limited amount. Bear in mind that the tour takes place in a remote setting and credit cards are not always accepted.

## Accommodation

[Hotel Spongiola](#) is a beautiful four star property located right on the beach. Most rooms have a view of the sea and with air-conditioning and free internet access. The hotel boasts an indoor pool, sauna and hot tub, as well as a fitness centre for those guests who still have energy to spare at the end of the day! The hotel also has its own diving centre with high quality diving equipment and pool available. [See Trip Advisor reviews online.](#)

Rooms are based on twin-share, double and en-suite facilities. Single supplements are available. Please specify your preferences (including any other guests you would like to share with) at the time of booking. The picturesque island of Krapanj has the lowest number of inhabitants of any island in the Adriatic Sea. It lies only 400 m from the mainland and is completely traffic free. Traditionally its inhabitants were fishermen and sponge harvesters, which is how the hotel got its name. The island's location provides a perfect spot for guests to relax and unwind, and its proximity to the mainland is ideal for those who wish to explore further field in the evenings.

### Extended stay

Strel Swimming guests receive discounted rates. Please contact hotel directly quoting Strel Swimming. [info@spongiola.com](mailto:info@spongiola.com), Tel: +385 22 348 900

### Accommodation in transit

If you require accommodation near Split or Zadar airport, all Strel Swimming guests receive discounted rates at the following places:

#### Apartments in Trogir (7 km from Split airport):

1) [www.apartments-parcina.com](http://www.apartments-parcina.com),  
[miropa19@gmail.com](mailto:miropa19@gmail.com), Ph: +385 91 921 0536

2) [www.trogirapartment.com](http://www.trogirapartment.com),  
[ante.bilic.k@gmail.com](mailto:ante.bilic.k@gmail.com), Ph: +385 91 885 9735

#### Hotel in Primošten (40 km from Split airport):

[www.restaurant-kamenar.com/en](http://www.restaurant-kamenar.com/en),  
[info@restaurant-kamenar.com](mailto:info@restaurant-kamenar.com),

**Zadar:** [www.hotelmediteran-zd.hr](http://www.hotelmediteran-zd.hr),  
[info@hotelmediteran-zd.hr](mailto:info@hotelmediteran-zd.hr), Ph: +385 23 337 500

**Zadar:** Hotel Kolovare: [www.hotel-kolovare.com](http://www.hotel-kolovare.com),  
[info@hotel-kolovare.com](mailto:info@hotel-kolovare.com), Ph: +385 23 211 017

## Swimming Information

Month	Water Temp. (°C)	Air Temp. (°C)
June	22	24
July	24	28
August	25	32
September	24	27

Swim	Distances
Zlarin South West	2.2 km
Zlarin North East	2.3 km
Tijat East	2½ km
Sepurine - Prvic	2.2 km
Drvenik - Oblik Crossing	2.6 km
Grebastica peninsula	2.4 km
Krka river-St. Nicholas Fort	2.3 km
Zlarin South Bays	2.5 km
Big Sister - Obonjan Crossing	3.2 km
Kaprije South East	2.5 km
Hitler's Eye Submarine Tunnel	0.2 km
Around Krapanj island	3.4km

Keep in mind that you can skip any of the swims you want and relax on our escort boats.

### Walking Conditions

The walking on the trip is easy. In order to enjoy your walks on the islands please bring comfortable walking shoes and suitable clothes for summer temps.

### Essential Equipment

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, towel, sun hat, small daypack, waterproof sun cream and jacket, walking shoes and sandals or aqua shoes. We also provide water bottles, swim hats and limited fins.

## Travel

To get to Krapanj island, you can fly into either Zadar or Split. There are a number of flights to Split (SPU) & Zadar (ZAD) from various International cities. From UK Easyjet and Croatian airlines fly to Split, Ryanair flies to Zadar. For further details, including other international airlines, please visit Split Airport and/or Zadar Airport websites.

Search for flights: [www.skyscanner.com](http://www.skyscanner.com)

Croatian airlines: [www.croatiaairlines.com](http://www.croatiaairlines.com)

Easyjet: [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Ryanair: [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

### Detailed Travel To Krapanj Island near Sibenik

From either airport, make your way to Brodarica town (near Sibenik) where is the ferry line to Krapanj island. Krapanj is only 400 m away from the mainland, so you will clearly see it from the mainland. Our hotel provides a free boat ferry transport from Brodarica to the hotel for all our guests 24 hours a day.

#### 1) From Split airport

To make your way from Split airport to Brodarica, you have 2 options:

##### Transfer from the airport

To book a taxi - transfer in advance, please contact us directly at [info@strelswimming.com](mailto:info@strelswimming.com) for a fixed rate 65 Eur/one person plus 5 Eur extra for each additional person. Paid in cash. You could of course share this cost with other tour members.

##### Catch a bus

Once outside the airport terminal, walk about 100 m straight ahead across the car park and wait at the yellow bus shelter on the near side of the main road. **Bus no. 37** from here goes to Trogir every 20 minutes (a 10 minute journey, cost is 12 Kuna-1.5 Euro). The bus terminates at the main bus station in Trogir.

Long distance buses from Trogir to Brodarica/Sibenik go from the same bus station, usually **stand 9**. This is the stand nearest the main road (but still part of the bus station), set apart from stands 1 to 8. It's only about 20 metres from where you get dropped off from the airport bus. Best is to check and tell the bus driver that you want to get off at **Brodarica-ferry line for Krapanj island**. In Croatian it is called "Trajekt linija Krapanj". Near there is a restaurant "Zlatna Ribica".

Bus fare from Trogir to Sibenik is around 45 Kuna (6 Eur). The journey follows the coast and takes about 1 hour and 5 minutes.

If for some reason you forget to get off in Brodarica or the driver does not stop, do not worry, get off in Sibenik main bus station and contact hotel or local taxi to pick you up.

#### 2) From Zadar airport

To make your way from Zadar airport to Brodarica, you have the 2 below options. When catching a taxi from the airport, the distance/cost to Sibenik is similar as from Split.

##### Taxi/Hotel transfer

To book a taxi - transfer in advance, please contact us directly at [info@strelswimming.com](mailto:info@strelswimming.com) for a fixed rate 70 Eur/one person plus 5 Eur extra for each additional person. Paid in cash. You could of course share this cost with other tour members. This is all the way to the hotel ferry departure point. If you want to travel by taxi from the airport to Zadar town first or to the bus station, the usual rate is 70-80 Kuna (10 Eur).

**Catch a bus** Once outside the terminal, the bus stop is immediately on your right. Bus timetables match up with flight arrival times. Buses have a sign 'Zadar' and the fare is 25 Kuna (3 Eur). The trip takes about 20 minutes and drops you off at the main bus station in **Zadar town**.

At **Zadar bus station**, look for lines to **Split and Dubrovnik** which are on platforms 1 or 2. Long distance buses to Split/Dubrovnik are timed with the buses coming from the airport, so you should not have to wait long; otherwise they depart every hour throughout the day. All buses to Split stop at **Brodarica** (first station after **Sibenik**). Best is to check and tell driver that you want to get off at **Brodarica-ferry line for Krapanj island**.

The current fare from Zadar to Brodarica is 60 Kuna (8 Eur). The journey mainly follows the coast and takes about 1 hour and 35 minutes. The bus stops at many stations along the way, so watch out for Sibenik which is a bigger central bus station in the city centre - the next station is your departure point.

We recommend you to have local currency Kuna with you when paying local transportation.

##### **Car Park**

Hotel has a safeguarded car park for those arriving by car or motorcycle. It is free of charge for hotel's guests. Please contact the hotel on your arrival and they will show you where to park your car.

**See you in Croatia!** Updated: November, 2018

