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PORT EXPLORER



ZADAR CROATIA

Zadar is an ancient city...a beautiful city set upon a coastal peninsula that juts out into the azure blue waters of the Adriatic Sea. Numerous countries and cultures, both welcome and unwelcome, have come together over the centuries to make and mold Zadar into what you see today.

Zadar's role over the generations has been that of a great port and center of trade, at times flourishing while at other times fighting for its very survival. Since its foundation the people of the city have been witness to and affected by the great events of history that have shaped this region of Europe.

Zadar began to grow in importance following the establishment of a Roman colony, the evidence of which can be seen to this day. Through trials and tribulation the city matured until it became one of the richest and most influential ports on the Adriatic Sea, the coveted desire of emperors and kings, powers and principalities. From its wealth in silver and gold blossomed the riches of culture, political authority and scholarship. The Universitas Iadertina was founded in Zadar in 1396. Its direct modern-day descendent is the University of Zadar.

When visitors explore the narrow streets of the city or stand in wonder and gaze upon its ancient treasures of art and architecture ... when visitors relax in the peace of its beautiful parks that grace the historic and formidable bastions ... when they look out upon the same waters that brought great merchant fleets and mighty ships of war to its very gates ... it is easy to imagine the lives of the people whom over so many generations struggled to build, defend and ultimately preserve so fine a city as this gem upon the Adriatic ... this jewel in the crown of Croatian ... this precious Zadar.



HISTORY

The Dalmatian coast of present day Croatia has been inhabited since the Stone Age. Historians believe that the ancient town of Zadar may have been founded as early as 900 BC by a people known as the Liburnians. From its beginning the town has been an important trading center on the Adriatic Sea.

During the days of the Roman Empire Zadar grew and thrived. As Rome declined and eventually succumbed to northern invaders, Zadar shared in its fate. The eastern Germanic Ostrogoths followed the Romans. Over the next 2,000 years Zadar changed hands many times, alternating between prosperity and privation as kings and kingdoms, empires and earthquakes, principalities, plagues and pirates swept through the region. How Zadar survived at all is a historic wonderment.

By the mid 500s Zadar was under the rule of the Byzantine Empire. During this period many Slavs and Avars from the eastern steppes migrated into the region. The fortifications surrounding Zadar were continually strengthened. In the 800s Venice, on the northwest coast of the Adriatic, was beginning to rise as a mighty military and trading power. At times Zadar would ask Venice to come to its aid against marauding pirates...at other times Venice came to Zadar as conqueror. Zadar finally rebelled against the Venetians and sought protection from the Hungarian king. Venice was angered and had a long memory.

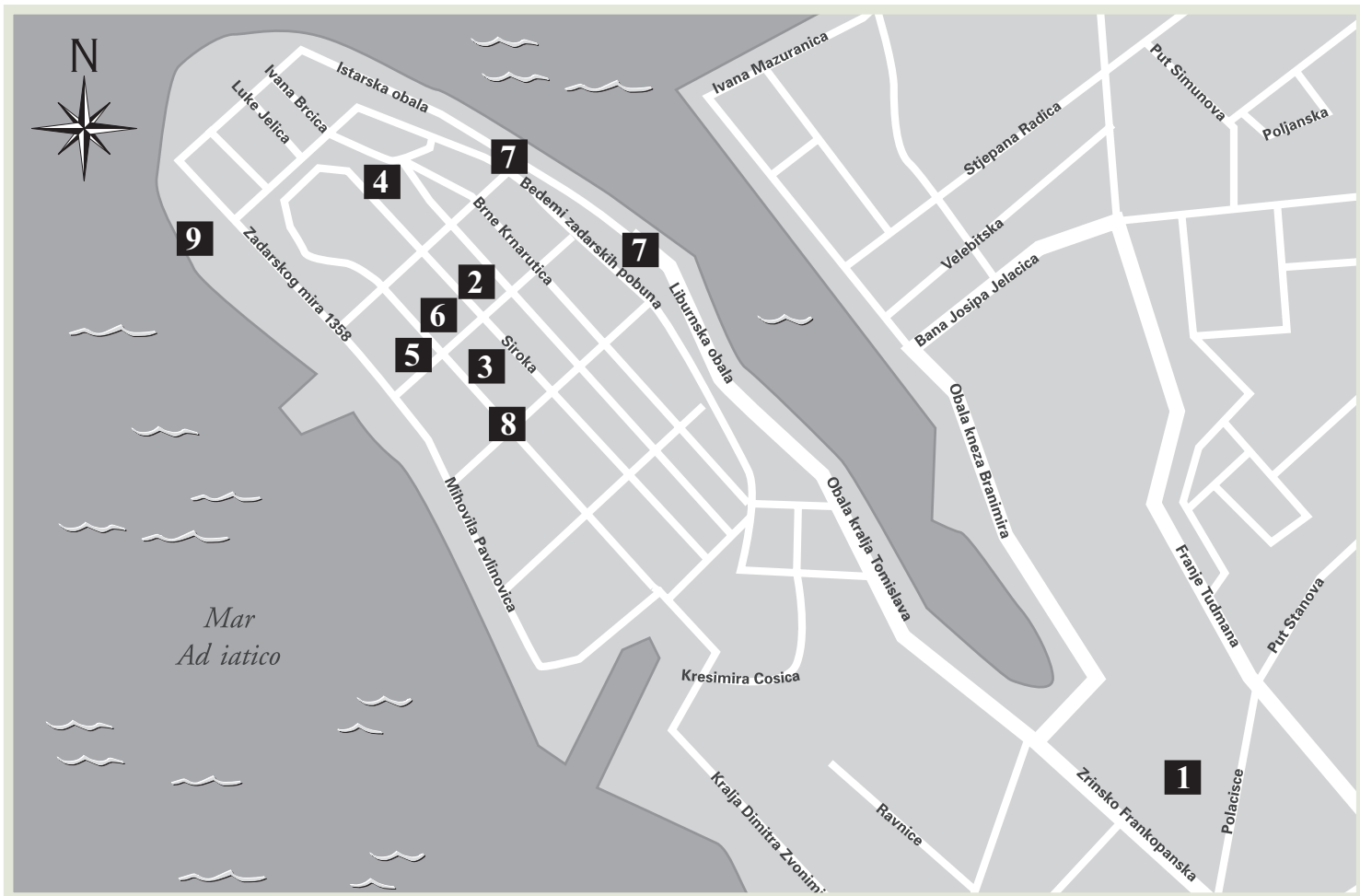
On November 2, 1202, while on their way to retake the Holy Land, a Venetian fleet of 200 ships carrying Catholic knights and soldiers of the 4th Crusade detoured in order to first attack the Catholic city of Zadar. Pope Innocent III was enraged. "They are supposed to be liberating Jerusalem from the Muslims...how could this be happening?" The answer to his question was simple...money. The Venetians were in business and cared about the crusade only as it

related to a great profit. Consequently, despite the fact that that Pope had assured them that they were “God’s army”, when the crusaders could not pay for the Venetian ships... the two sides struck a deal. The Catholic crusaders paid their fare by pillaging and plundering Zadar then giving it back to the Venetians.

A century and a half later Zadar would again revert to Croatia, but not for long. In the early 1400s the Venetians bought the city. The plague swept the region in the 1500s and 1600s. The plagues would be followed by the Ottoman Turks who in turn were followed by the Austrian, Napoleonic French and

the Austrians again. When the Austro/Hungarian Empire collapsed following World War I, as a member of the victorious Allies, the Italian army marched into Zadar. They would return with their German Axis partners again in World War II. Allied bombs fell upon the city in that same war following which Zadar was joined to the patchwork that became Yugoslavia.

Today, after literally centuries of war and conflict, ending with the war for the independence of Croatia in the early 1990s, peace has returned to Zadar. The beautiful city deserves a welcomed respite.



ZADAR PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Old Town Market** is a colorful place filled with wonderful sights and smells. Vendors and shoppers have been gathering here since the Renaissance. The site was expanded after Allied bombing in World War II destroyed numerous buildings in the vicinity. The market is a great place to stroll about and get a feel for the community.

2 The **Cathedral of Saint Anastasia** was built in the Romanesque style in the 1100s. The sanctuary has a number of beautiful mosaics and frescoes as well as an interesting stone sarcophagus. From the top of the free-standing bell tower visitors can look out over the city.



3 The **Municipal Loggia** was the former meeting place for the town council. It was built in the Italian Renaissance style in the mid 1500s. The building was also the city’s courthouse and library. Today the loggia is used as an exhibit hall.

4 The **Church of Saint Simeon** is said to hold the remains of the saint, at rest in a finely crafted silver casket that was designed and created by local silversmiths. Carved into the casket are scenes relating to the life of the saint as well as historical events that shaped the town’s history up to that period. The wife of King Ludwig I provided the funds for the casket in the late 1300s.

5 The **Roman Forum** remained hidden for centuries until it was unearthed in the 1930s. The site once had a temple dedicated to some of the Roman gods together with shops

and meeting places for public business.

6 The **Church of Saint Donatus** is believed to have been built in the pre-Romanesque style upon the foundation of an earlier Roman temple some time in the 800s. Originally known as the Church of the Holy Trinity it was renamed after Bishop Donatus in the 1500s. Today the church is the symbol of Zadar.

7 The **City Gates** are beautiful as well as functional. At one point in its history massive fortified walls completely surrounded the city. Built in 1543 near the small harbor, Land Gate was the primary entrance to the city in its day. The newest of the four gates was cut into the wall in the 1930s by the Italians.

8 The **Church of Saint Mary** was built in the 1500s. The bell tower, built in the Romanesque style, dates back to the 1100s. The convent houses a fine collection of religious art and artifacts from the 700s through the 1700s. Perhaps most notable is the exhibit of exceptionally crafted pieces of silver and gold.

9 The **Sea Organ** is a uniquely designed instrument that uses the wave action of the sea to compress air into nearly three dozen pipes that have been laid under stone steps that make their way down to the water's edge.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Zadar and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: In shops and boutiques prices are usually set. Many vendors in the open markets will bargain with visitors.

Tipping: A 10% tip is standard in restaurants and cafés. Tipping your taxi driver is not customary however it is always appreciated.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Numerous empires and conquerors have controlled the coast or swept through the interior of the Balkans over the centuries. The Venetians, Turks and Austro-Hungarians, to name a few, brought their tastes with them and eventually contributed to what is now considered traditional cuisine. Along the Adriatic Sea the cuisine is influenced by the Italian/Mediterranean style. Some favorite Croatian dishes include: Čevapčići are small sausages that have been grilled with onions then served on pita bread and covered with a roasted red pepper relish known as ajvar. Punjena paprikas are bell peppers stuffed with spiced pork and beef mixed with onions and rice...baked and topped with a dollop of sour cream. Janjetina sa ražnja is whole lamb slow-roasted on a skewer over an open fire. Lambs from the nearby island of Pag are among the favorite due to the sheep's diet of wild herbs. Češnovka is a spicy sausage made with garlic and pork. Paški sir is a wonderful hard cheese from sheep or goat's milk. Also made on the island of Pag, the wild herb diet of the animals gives the cheese a distinctive flavor. Posedarski prsut (Posedarje dried ham) has a unique taste due to the method of drying the meat in the wind. It goes well with regional red wines. Salted sardines and anchovies have been harvested from the surrounding waters for thousands of years. They are usually served as appetizers. Those that have been salted in wooden barrels are said to be the best.

The Romans were not the first to plant vineyards in Croatia but they did bring their grape-growing skills that created a better crop and therefore a better wine. Most wine making was brought to a halt when the Ottoman Turks took over the region in the late 1400s. With control of Croatia passing to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 18th century wineries revived. In the early 1990s and the break up of Yugoslavia, many of the vineyards and wineries in the interior of Croatia were damaged or destroyed. Those along the coast fared a little better. Graševina and Malvazija grapes are popular in coastal vineyards while Cabernet, Plavac and Merlot are among the most popular wine of the region. Sljivovica is the famous plumb brandy. It is commercially produced throughout the Balkans. If, however, you can find a bottle of Sljivovica that was homemade by someone's grandfather...there is no comparison. Turkish coffee is very popular throughout the region. If you have never tried Turkish coffee and you enjoy coffee in general this is your chance to taste it. Be careful though, the coffee is so good you might end up buying a "cezve" (the little copper brew pot) to take home and make your own. Maraschino is a wonderful dessert liqueur that has been produced in Zadar for centuries. It is often pored over ice cream.

SHOPPING

Beautifully handmade lace and fabrics are popular items in Zadar. The regional artisans are also known for their finely blown glass and sculpted ceramics.

The City Galleria is located in the centre of Zadar where the Old Town on the

peninsula meets the new.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The official unit of currency in Croatia is the Kuna (HRK). There are 100 lipas to the Kuna. Notes are available in the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 Kruna. Coins are available in 1, 2, 5, 10, and 50 lipas and 1, 2, and 5 Kuna denominations. ATMs are available and major credit cards are widely accepted.

POST OFFICE

There is a Post Office located at #1 Kralja S Drzislava Street.

TRANSPORTATION

The Old Town area of Zadar is pedestrian only. Car rentals and taxis are available outside the city walls.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Tourist Information Center/Zadar Tourist Board is located at #1 Mihovila Klaića Street, in the center of Old Town.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The language is part of the South Slavic diasystem and is widely spoken, in one form or another, throughout much of the Balkans. Many of the young people speak English, especially in tourist centers, but it is always nice to give a warm greeting in your host country's language.

hello - zdravo
yes - da
no - ne
how are you - kako ste
please - molim
good morning - dobro jutro
good afternoon - dobar dan
good night - lako noc
good bye - dovidenja
