

DAY 3 - Sunday, Sept 16, 2018



ABOVE is a map of the Dubrovnik area

After breakfast at the Hotel we begin with a walking tour of Stari Grad (Old Town) Dubrovnik. We will visit the Franciscan Monastery, housing one of the world’s oldest pharmacies, the old harbor, St. Laurence Fortress, the Sponza and Rector’s Palaces and other points of interest in this well preserved European walled city. The rest of the day is at leisure.

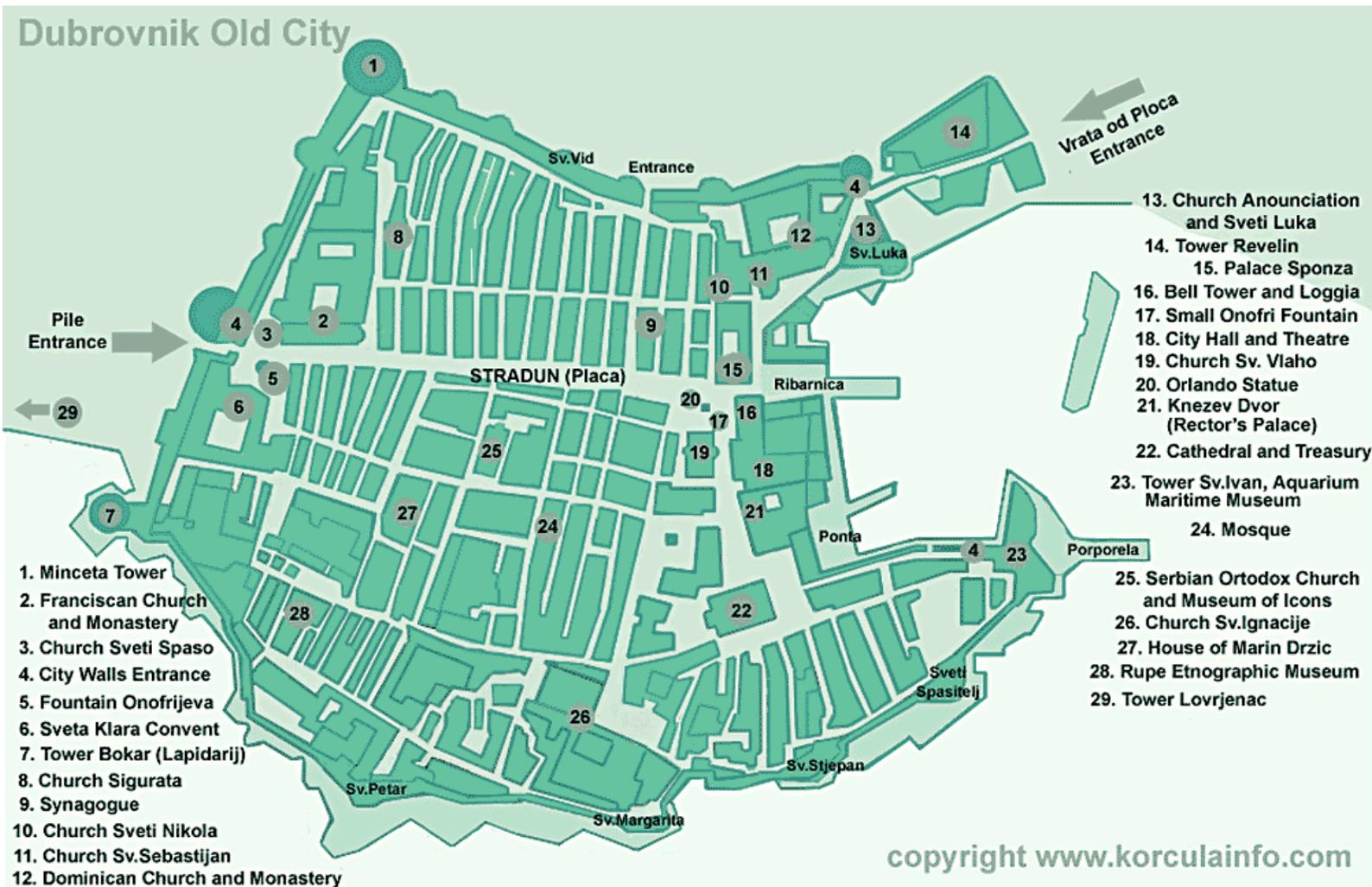


The Old and New city combined have about 50,000 inhabitants, which can swell by over 10,000 during the summer tourist season. So we being there in September has its advantages: fewer tourists, swimming season lasts until the end of October, and daily temperatures range from a low of 65 F to a high of 77 F.

For those who wish there will be time to attend mass in Dubrovnik, below is the Dubrovnik Cathedral



Below is a map showing main points of interest in the old walled city



Dubrovnik has gained notoriety for being used as a setting in many of the Game of Thrones TV episodes



Dubrovnik, Italian Ragusa, port of Dalmatia, southeastern Croatia. Situated on the southern Adriatic coast, it is usually regarded as the most picturesque city on the Dalmatian coast and is referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Dubrovnik (derived from *dubrava* in Croatian, meaning "grove") occupies a promontory jutting into the sea under the bare limestone mass of Mount Srđ. The port's sea fortifications rise directly from the water's edge, and the massive round tower (completed 1464) of the Minčeta Fortress dominates the city on the landward side. The old city of Dubrovnik was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.



Ragusans were the best builders of Galleons in the Mediterranean by Bartolomeo Crescentio, author of "La Nautica Mediterranea". And they are even mentioned in two Shakespeare's plays: "Merchant of Venice" and "Taming the Shrew". And at least 2 Ragusans accompanied Columbus to America.

The city was founded about 614 as Ragusa, or Ragusium, by Roman refugees fleeing the Slav and Avar sack of Epidaurus, just to the southeast. A colony of Slavs soon joined the Romans there, and from an early date the city formed a link between two great civilizations. After the fall of Rome, Dubrovnik was ruled by the Byzantine Empire. From the 9th to the 12th century Dubrovnik defended itself against foreign powers, and in the period 1205 to 1358 it acknowledged Venetian suzerainty, though it retained much of its independence. The city-republic was liberal in character, affording asylum to refugees of all nations—one of them, according to legend, was King Richard I (the Lion-Heart) of England, who landed on the offshore island of Lokrum in 1192 on his return from the Crusades—and abolishing the slave trade in 1418, and by means of treaty and tribute it enlarged its territory along the Dalmatian coast. In 1272 the city received a statute that incorporated Roman and local practices. Situated at the seaward end of overland trade routes to Byzantium and the Danube region, it became a great mercantile power. Ragusan land trade flourished throughout the Balkans.

In 1420, when Dalmatia was sold to Venice, Dubrovnik remained a free city in all but name. For centuries the people of Dubrovnik were able to preserve their city-republic by skillful maneuvering between East and West. A strategic treaty with Turkey protracted Dubrovnik's liberty and maintained the opportunity for a major trading role between the Ottoman Empire and Europe. In the 16th century Dubrovnik traded with India and the Americas (the republic was among the first to recognize the independence of the United States in the late 18th century), and the city contributed ships to Spain in 1588 for the abortive invasion of England.

A great flourishing of art and literature, in the 15th–17th century, earned it the title of "the South Slav Athens." For the first time in the history of the South Slavs, the language of the people was introduced into literature. The city's literary history, however, never compared to its maritime and mercantile achievements.

In 1667 an earthquake destroyed parts of the city, including the cathedral and many monasteries and palaces, and killed as many as 5,000 residents. The republic did not regain its prosperity until the Napoleonic Wars. From 1800 to 1805, as the only neutral Mediterranean state, it secured a large share of the carrying trade. Napoleon I subjugated Dubrovnik in 1808, and the Congress of Vienna (1815) gave Dubrovnik to Austria; in 1918 it was incorporated into Yugoslavia. Many of Dubrovnik's historic buildings suffered damage in 1991–92 during Croatia's struggle for independence, but much of the old city has since been restored.



Our guide for our entire land tour is our friend Alen Miocevic

We always do a photo shoot with the "heart man" at the well

The city walls, mostly a double line, have long been a source of pride for Dubrovnik. The walls were erected by the 16th century and run a course of about 6,365 feet (1,940 metres) in length, encircling most of the old city, and reach a maximum height of about 80 feet (25 metres). Along its course and within the walls lie several towers and fortresses, as well as numerous historic monuments. Beyond the walls are many villas surrounded by gardens. The basic city plan dates from 1292, when the port was rebuilt following a fire. The Stradun, or main street, with beautiful late-Renaissance houses on each side, runs along a valley that, until 1272, was a marshy channel dividing the Latin island of Ragusa from the forest settlement of Dubrovnik. No motor vehicles are allowed inside the walls, and, except for the Stradun, the old city is a maze of picturesque narrow streets, many of them steep and twisting. Two 14th-century convents stand at the ends of the city; the Franciscans guarded the western gate, while the Dominicans kept

the eastern. The Rector's Palace, dating from the 15th century and built in the late Gothic style, was the seat of government of the Dubrovnik Republic and is a masterpiece of Dalmatian architecture. Other notable structures include numerous fortresses (such as Lovrijenac, which sits atop a cliff); a 16-sided fountain and bell tower, both of which originally date from the 15th century; and a 15th-century Jewish synagogue that is among the oldest in Europe. The island of Lokrum is famous for its gardens and orange groves, and it also includes a fortress and monastery.

Dubrovnik is home to many fine museums. The Museum of Dubrovnik, sited in the Rector's Palace, contains extensive collections of furniture and uniforms. The inventory of Dubrovnik's old pharmacy (founded in the 14th century), jewelry, embroideries, and paintings are displayed in the Franciscan monastery. The Maritime Museum, established in 1941 and located in a former fortress, chronicles the city's seafaring past. The Dubrovnik State Archives, with manuscripts in numerous languages and some dating to 800 years ago, are located in the Sponza Palace (formerly a mint). There are also archaeological, ethnographic, and theatrical museums. A summer arts festival featuring theatre and music and other annual festivals attract many tourists to the scenic city. Pop. (2011) 42,641.



A birds-eye view of Dubrovnik can be had by taking the new cable car to the top of Mt. Srđ



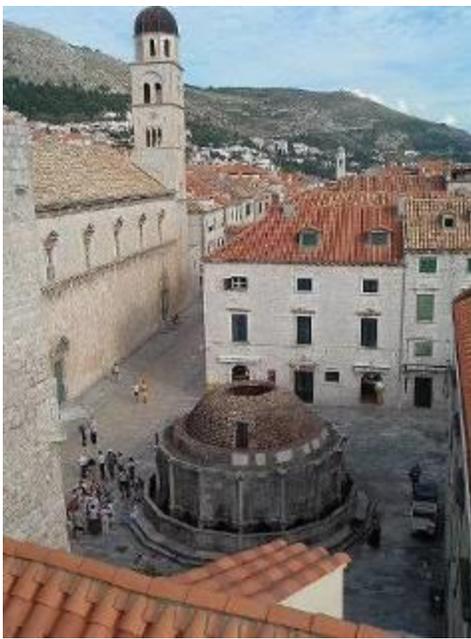
Red tile roofs of Dubrovnik



Quaint Dubrovnik Street



St Blaise Dubrovnik protector



Onofrio Well



Lady making bobbin lace



Stradun is the main street of old town



Dubrovnik Folkdress



Old Dubrovnik Synagogue



Lady doing embroidery



Dubrovnik fisherman's sheds



Dubrovnik Calico I saw last year



Guide gives tour of Dubrovnik (1) oldest apothecary in Europe in Dubrovnik



We have had the pleasure of seeing the folklore group Lindjo on several of our visits to Dubrovnik



For those of us love the old architecture Dubrovnik will not disappoint

After our guided tour we may wish to enjoy some free time in Dubrovnik, during which we can enjoy lunch or do some shopping for gifts to take home. There are many souvenir shops which offer the typical tourist “stuff” such as T-shirts and other items. But be on the lookout for jewelry shops which offer great prices on gold items. Highly recommended for authentic Croatia gifts is Medusa which is located at Prijeko ulica 18, in the heart of the old town <http://www.medusa.hr/>



Medusa Gifts Prijeko ulica 18



Gifts which reflect Croatian History



Hand embroidered items found at Medusa



Handmade soaps and bath items

We have a wide variety of places to have lunch. Of course being near the sea the seafood could not be fresher



Frances and Catie enjoy a seafood lunch



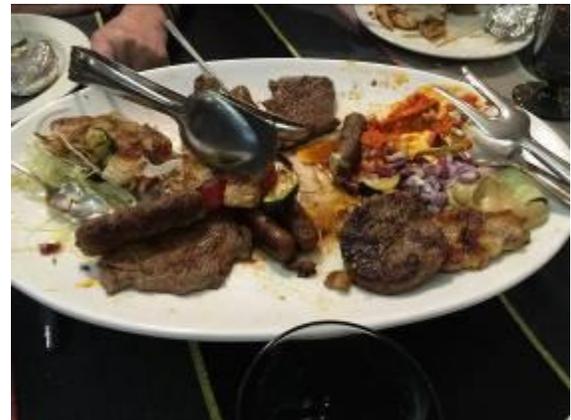
And if you like vegetarian this is a good place



Three friends at lunch



Cave Bar More, for a unique setting in a cave



Taj Mahal Bosnian food last year

And of course you may prefer a lighter snack such as the delicious Croatian Sladoled (Croatia's version of gelato) my favorite is the Kiwi or the Bajadera, below left. Or if you really like your coffee, Croatia is well known for its coffee. But you must be warned it is not the watered-down, colored water we Americans call coffee.



Map showing restaurants and gift shop

Tomorrow we are off on an excursion to the Konavle region south of Dubrovnik where we visit an artist who not only does silk embroidery but raises her own silk worms