

Day 2 Our arrival Sept 15, 2018

This year our tour will run from Sept 14 through Sept 30. We begin our tour in Dubrovnik, once known as The Republic of Ragusa. You will find many families (most of them in Bosnia) whose names, RAGUZ or RAGUS, which are taken from old Ragusa.

The city of Dubrovnik (Latin: *Ragusa*) was built on maritime trade. In the Middle Ages it became the only city-state in the Adriatic to rival Venice. Supported by its wealth and skilled diplomacy, the city achieved a remarkable level of development during the 15th and 16th centuries. Furthermore, Dubrovnik was one of the centers of the development of the Croatian language and literature and home to many notable poets, playwrights, painters, mathematicians, physicists and other scholars.

Today Dubrovnik ranks among the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. Known as the Pearl of the Adriatic the old walled city is considered the most beautiful towns in the Mediterranean. Dubrovnik used to be an independent republic, surviving mostly on trade. It managed to survive many centuries, with constant threats to its territory, particularly from the mighty Ottoman Empire and Venice. As early as 19th century, it was discovered by celebrities as a place to be seen. George Bernard Shaw once said that "*those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik and find it*". Royalty, presidents and diplomats have all favored the city. The late Pope John Paul II was a fan of Dubrovnik and was even made an honorary citizen. Out of the 23 top luxury hotels in Croatia, 12 were located in Dubrovnik.

Dubrovnik is steeped in stunning architecture and sculptural detail, and boasts spectacular churches, monasteries, museums, and fountains. A multitude of typical towns and excursions include: The Elaphiti Islands, the attractive town of Cavtat, the Konavle valley, Mljet Island, Korčula Island, Ston and Peljesac Peninsula.

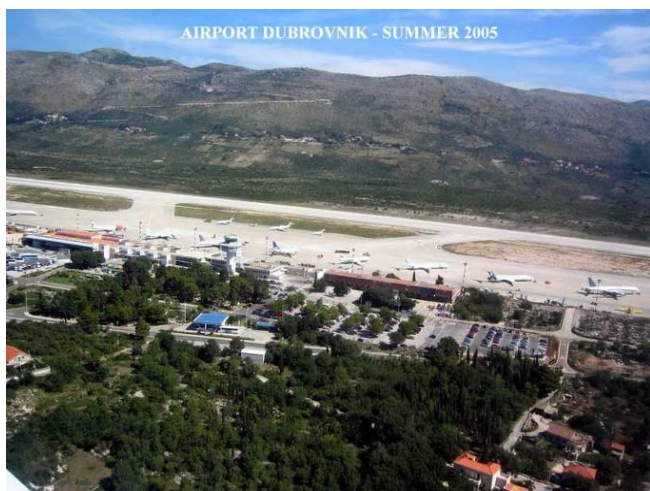
Ragusa was said to be the first to recognize American Independence in 1776.

Being one of the most enlightened cultural, artistic and commercial centers in its time, it produced many famous people. These include well-known comedy playwright and poet Marin Držić, who wrote the play "Dundo Maroje". Ivan Gundulić was another well-known poet, from Dubrovnik. Marin Getaldić (Getaldus) is another famous citizen of Dubrovnik, the physicist and mathematician – his famous parabolic mirror is today kept in the Maritime Museum in Greenwich. One of the first books on world economic literature, "On Trading and the Perfect Merchant", was written in mid 15th Century by Benko Kotruljević, in Dubrovnik. This early microeconomic scientific dissertation is in use even today – he was the first to establish the double-entry bookkeeping.

In Ellis Island records one will find at least 681 immigrants declaring Dubrovnik as their "former residence". The name changed to Dubrovnik sometime after WW I, prior to that it would have been called Ragusa. However if you check Ellis Island for everyone coming from Ragusa you will also find places by that name in Italy. Also when our ancestors listed their former residence, often times it would be the municipal or parish center and not the actual village they were born in. For instance my Grandfather listed Ozalj as his former residence, which was the municipal and parish center, but he was actually from a tiny village called Vini Vrh, Grape Hill.



We fly one of the new Croatia Airlines Airbuses, landing in Dubrovnik at the new airport facility.

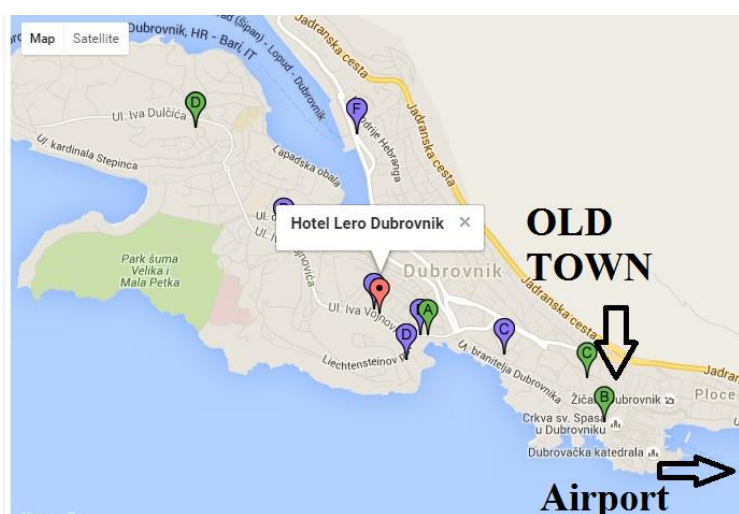


The airport is located approximately 9 miles from Dubrovnik city centre, near Cilipi. The airport is the second largest in Croatia in terms of passenger numbers and with the longest runway.

Once we land we will be greeted by our very capable tour guide **Alen Miocevic**. We have arranged for you to be transferred from the airport to The Hotel Lero. After our arrival we will have time to freshen up,,, or if you wish you may just want to walk around the area. This evening we meet for a welcome dinner, where we can “meet and greet”. Alen will also discuss tomorrow's plans and answer any questions you may have. Hotel Lero will be our base for the next 4 nights.



Our group meets Alen, our guide, last year in Dubrovnik



The Hotel Lero is convenient to the Old Town



Hotel Lero



Hotel Lero typical room



Tomorrow we begin our day with a guided tour of Dubrovnik old town