Off the Beaten Track

HUM
Istria has many gorgeous walled hilltop towns, but what’s particularly charming about Hum is its tiny size (basically one street) and tucked-away location.

PLEŠIVICA WINE ROAD
Tour past wee red-roofed villages, stopping at family-run wineries along the way. This route is located in the countryside west of Zagreb, 20km south of the town of Samobor.

STARA BAŠKA
It’s nice to know that even the busy island of Krk has quieter coves, such as this pebble-and-sand stretch accessed from a minor road heading south from Punat.

OLIVE GARDENS OF LUN
With a name worthy of a fantasy novel, this area near the northern tip of the island of Pag has marked walking trails through the groves and signs pointing out significantly venerable trees.

SILBA ISLAND
An obscure choice among the multitude of Adriatic islands, Silba nonetheless has ferry services, beaches and a legendary tower.

VRANSKO LAKE NATURE PARK
Although it’s Croatia’s largest natural lake, Vranksko Jezero doesn’t register on many travellers’ radars – unless they happen to be birdwatchers, then it’s a must-visit attraction.

VRBOSKA
A little-visited gem on the popular island of Hvar, this wee town has a smattering of interesting attractions, including an unusual fortress church, a canal and a winery.

LONJSKO POLJE NATURE PARK
An expanse of little heritage villages set around a wildlife-rich swamp, right on the edge of Slavonia.

BLACA HERMITAGE
This fascinating former monastery, hidden in a remote valley on the island of Brač, can only be approached by a narrow, rocky track.

KONAVLE
A verdant border region of green fields hemmed by mountains and punctuated by cypresses, hiding a gorgeous beach, a remote castle and excellent rural restaurants.