



Dubrovnik (Croatia)

POP 28,500

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pantarul (p133)
- ➔ Restaurant 360° (p136)
- ➔ Nishta (p134)
- ➔ Shizuku (p133)
- ➔ Amfora (p136)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Karmen Apartments (p132)
- ➔ Villa Klaić (p133)
- ➔ Hotel Kompas (p133)
- ➔ Villa Dubrovnik (p132)
- ➔ Hostel Angelina (p132)

Why Go?

Why have we included a Croatian city in a book on Montenegro? The first reason is practical: many travellers to Montenegro fly into Dubrovnik airport, which is, after all, only 17km from the border. More importantly, it seems inconceivable that you'd come this close and not visit one of the most beautiful cities in the entire Mediterranean, if not the world. Its proximity to the Bay of Kotor makes at least a day trip practically obligatory.

Dubrovnik is simply unique; its beauty is bewitching, its setting sublime. Regardless of whether you are visiting Dubrovnik for the first time or the hundredth, the sense of awe when you set eyes on the remarkable old town, ringed by its mighty defensive walls, never fades. Indeed it's hard to imagine anyone becoming jaded by the city's marble streets, baroque buildings and the endless shimmer of the Adriatic.

When to Go

- ➔ May and June offer warm sunny days, without the scorching heat or crowds of midsummer.
- ➔ Sate your cultural appetite during Dubrovnik's prestigious Summer Festival in July and August.
- ➔ September and October are still warm enough for swimming and the beaches aren't as crowded.

History

After the Slavs wiped out the Roman city of Epidaurum (site of present-day Cavtat) in the 7th century, survivors fled to the safest place they could find – a rocky islet separated from the mainland by a narrow channel. By the end of the 12th century the city they founded, Ragusa (later called Dubrovnik), had become

an important trading centre on the coast. It came under Venetian authority in 1205, finally breaking away from its control in 1358. Through canny diplomacy, the Republic of Ragusa maintained good relations with everyone – even the Ottoman Empire, to which it began paying tribute in the 16th century.



Dubrovnik Highlights

1 City Walls & Forts (p128) Revelling in the most fascinating and touristy of activities: seeing Dubrovnik from the vantage point of its venerable walls.

2 Lokrum (p131) Taking the short ferry ride out to the beaches, forest, monastery and gardens of Dubrovnik's island playground.

3 Cable Car (p132) Catching a ride up Mt Srd for breathtaking views of Dubrovnik from above.

4 War Photo Limited (p128) Visiting this affecting gallery and putting recent Balkan history in perspective.

5 Rector's Palace (p129) Wandering the rarified confines of Dubrovnik's most significant civic building and learning about the unique republic it once served.

6 Lapad (p131) Swimming in the crystal-clear waters of the bays scattered around the peninsula.