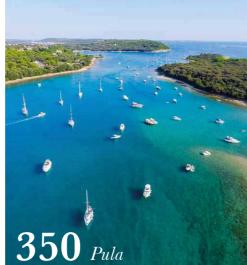


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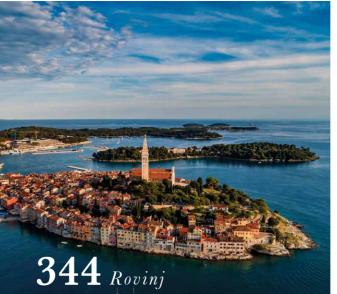
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# Adviatic Sea

#### **Adriatic Sea**

More than any other arm of the Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic Sea insinuates itself into the continental Europe. Indeed, it is right here in the Panzano Bay in Monfalcone that the Mediterranean achieves its most extreme northern latitude. Greek traces are everywhere. Greeks founded the first coastal cities on the sites of Neolithic villages: Adria, Ancona, Trogir, Split, Vis. Right from the start, the history of the Adriatic Sea was identified with sailors and merchants. The Illyrians who inhabited it to the north and east were very active on the sea, great navigators, shipbuilders, and fearsome pirates. Illyrians and Liburnians gave the Roman fleets and armies a hard time, and intervened decisively to put a stop to the pirate activities which were disrupting regular maritime traffic. The Roman era was a time of great prosperity for the Adriatic, the only time when all its shores were united under the same state and, together, they were progressing

collapsed, divisions, wars, and devastations began, which, at alternating times, have continued to the present day. It was not until the year 1000 that the Adriatic began to flourish again. In the meantime, pirates and adventurers travelled the length and breadth of the Adriatic. Arabian fleets came as far as Grado. Venice emerged from the mists of the northern lagoons, an extraordinary, dreamlike city

which for almost a millennium was the mistress of the Adriatic Sea. It never managed to unify all the coasts like the Romans, but its control over the water was complete. The centuries in which Venice ruled were also the only time when the Adriatic was ruled by a city of its own and not by distant capitals. Venice directly controlled the northern coast, Istria, the islands, and the main towns of Dalmatia. On the eastern coast to the north, there was a long-standing Croatian and Hungarian presence, followed by Hapsburgs. Whereas to the south, Turks came to conquer many parts of the Dalmatian and Montenegrin coast and all of Albania. To the west, in Romagna

and Le Marche, Papal control was long and



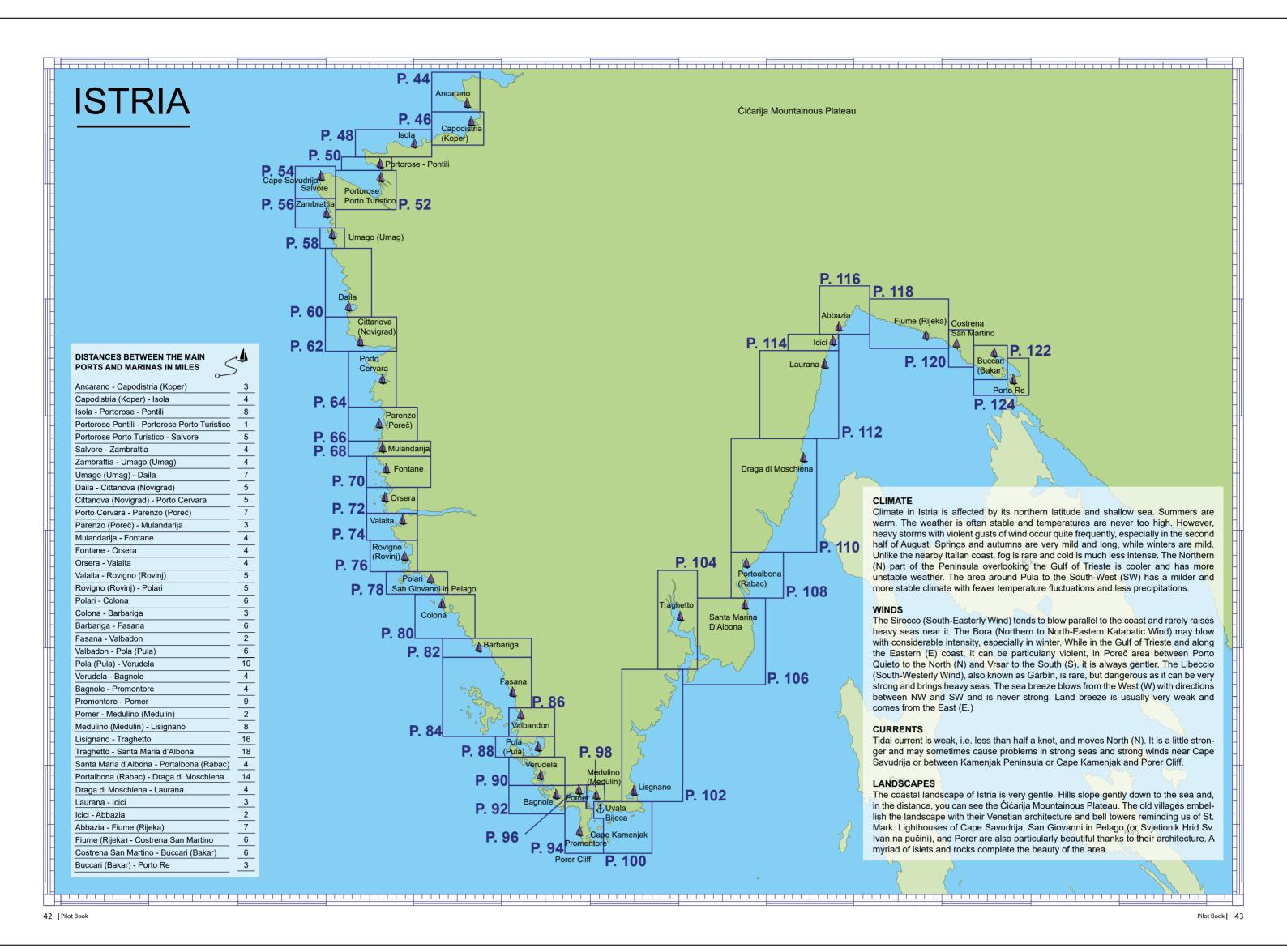
continuous, while further south, Normans, Angevins, Aragonese, and Bourbons followed one another. All this has left traces in the architecture, the landscapes, the culture. All the souls of Europe have merged here to give something special. Despite millennia of strong human presence, nature has preserved itself from the assaults of the last two centuries. Areas invaded by massive and often, unfortunately, deleterious industrial development, such as Marghera, testify to mistakes, but alongside these, extraordinary natural areas survive which we are learning more and more to respect. From Torre Guaceto to Miramare, there are many fine stretches of coastline. A cruise along Italy's Adriatic Coastline allows you to enjoy this, alternating between nature and cities of art in a succession of the most diverse landscapes, ranging from the sunny and snow-white little towns of Apulia to the mists and dreamy visions of the lagoons and marshes of the north. Rising from the abyssal depths of the Ionian Sea and proceeding through the Strait of Otranto, which has a threshold of about -800 metres in its central part, the seabed drops out again, reaching depths of about -1,200 metres in the wide basin of the Southern Adriatic, located off the coast of Apulia. Continuing further to the North-West (NW), this plain rises abruptly, giving rise to a steep continental slope, reaching an altitude of about -200 metres, then the ascent continues to the shallow depths featuring the Northern Adriatic Sea. This long continental shelf is only interrupted by the presence of the Fossa di Pomo or Pomo Pit, a depression off the coast of Pescara, which reaches depths of about -240 metres. The Pomo Pit, due to its physical features and position, is an excellent natural laboratory for the study of many oceanographic phenomena. In its northernmost portion, i.e. the one which lies north of the straight line between Ravenna and Pula, the Adriatic Sea never reaches depths greater than 40 metres. To be more precise, the only point in this area achieving a 50-metre depth is, incredibly, within the Venice Lagoon.

#### Currents The general surface sea circulation is featured by a cyclonic regime, i.e. counterclockwise, with water entering the Adriatic Sea through the Strait of Otranto from the eastern side, moving up the whole eastern coastline, reaching the northernmost portion of the basin, and then descending along the Italian coasts. This general pattern is enriched by other circulation vortices which occur at different times of the year. Strong winds are able to modify this pattern, either by increasing or decreasing the intensity of currents. In wintertime, the Adriatic Sea presents a temperature gradient between two well differentiated zones: the northern zone, with colder waters and temperatures between 10 and 12°C, and the southern part with warmer waters around 15°C. Off the coast of Apulia, there is a cyclonic vortex, with slightly colder water at its centre and a tail extending as far as the Strait of Otranto. This vortex reaches speeds of over 25 centimetres

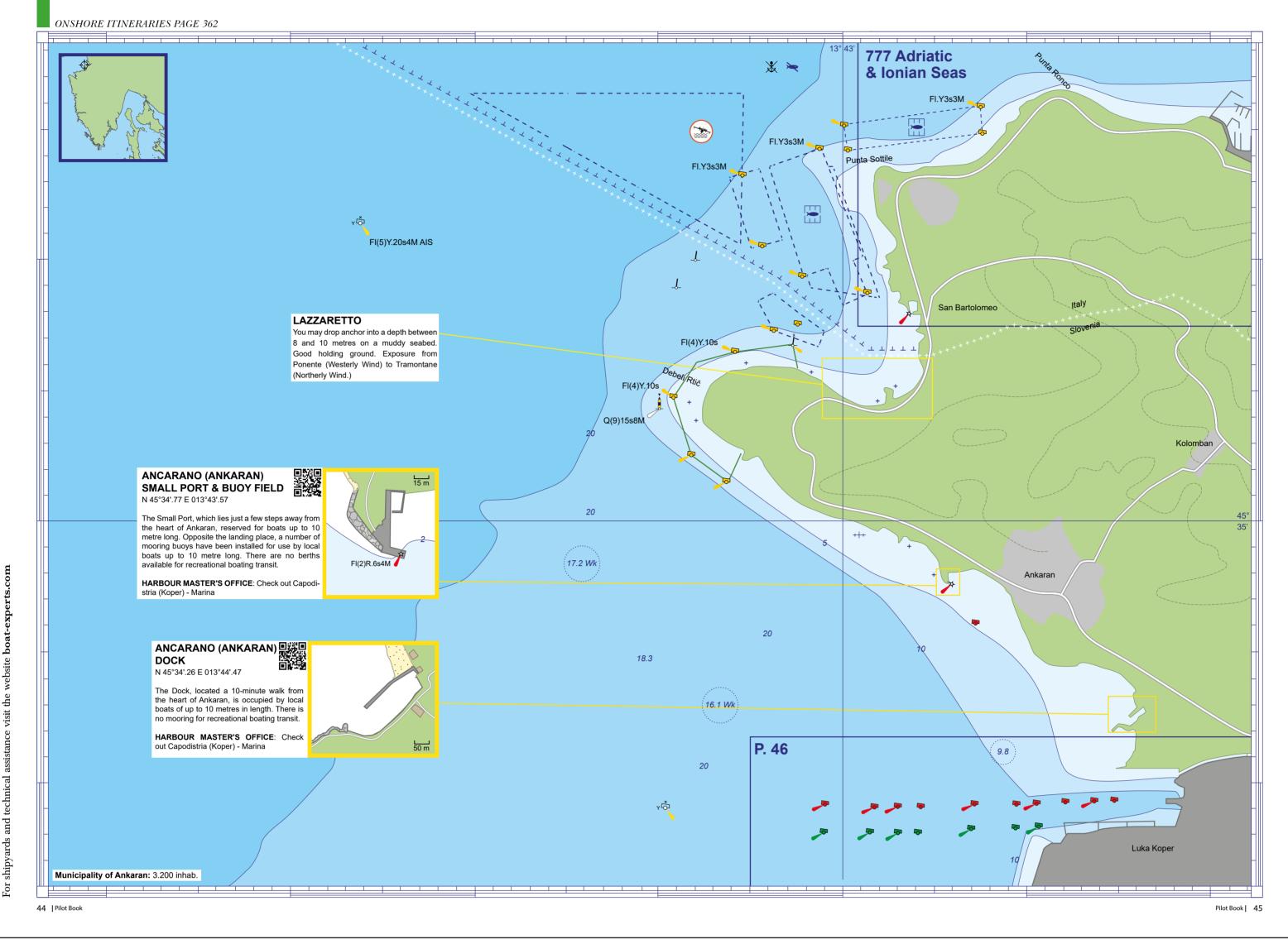
per second (cm/s), while in the rest of the sea, speeds remain below 10 centimetres per second (cm/s). In February, and then in March, due to more severe weather conditions, there is a decrease in surface temperature of a couple of degrees centigrade compared to the beginning of the year. The cold water which can be seen along the coast of the Marches largely comes from the Po River. In April, with the onset of the surface warming

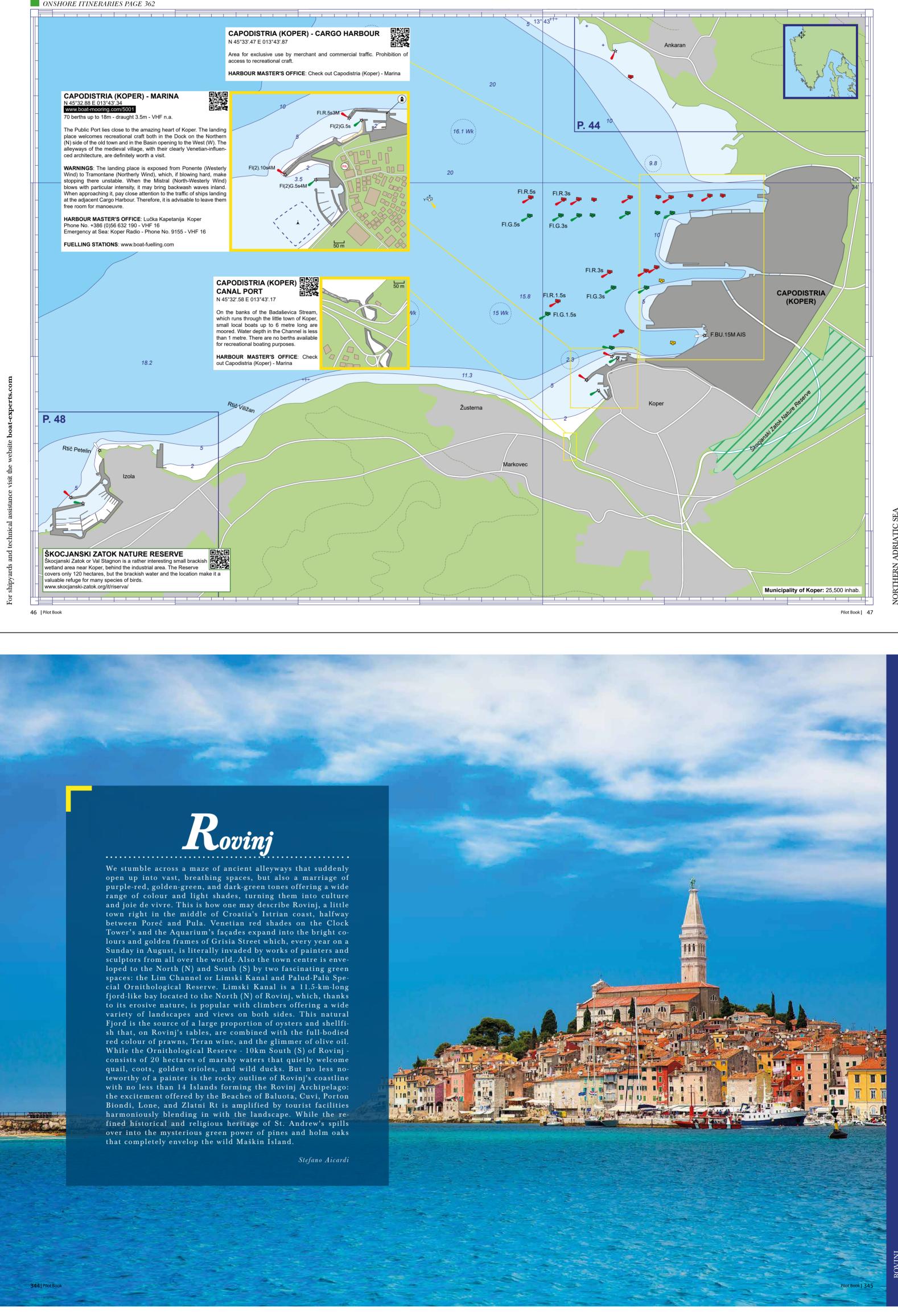


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and developing. When the Roman Empire





NORTHERN ADRIATIC SEA

NORTHERN ADRIATIC SEA



from the heart of Rovinj, towards the

Southern (S) part of the Harbour basin,

entirely dedicated to recreational boating

purposes. There are numerous facilities

for boaters in transit. The old town centre

of Poreč and Pula.

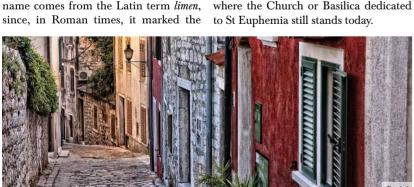
# HARBOUR

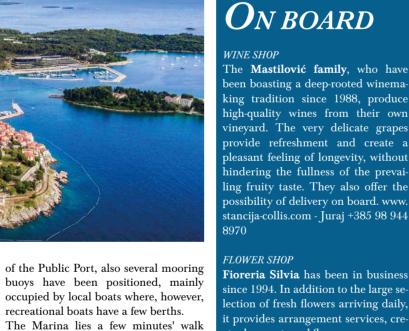
ROVINJ

The Harbour complex has been built all around the charming little town of Rovinj On the North-Western (NW) shores lies the Commercial Port, where mainly tourist boats and ferries dock. While on the Southern (S) shores, within the more protected basin, there is the Public motorboats and fishing boats. However, alleys, small squares, panoramic views, a few berths are available for recreational and romantic atmosphere. boating purposes. To the South-East (SE) The cosy Uvala Lon Bay, which opens transit.

## **CURIOSITIES**

The intricate landscape of the two shores of the Lim Channel, an erosive fjord North (N) of Rovinj, has also influenced local devotion and European folk literature. One of the caves dotting the Fjord was used for religious ceremonies by the Medieval Christian hermit St Romuald in the 11th century, while the main character in Jules Verne's novel Mathias Sandorf (1885) uses the intricate landscape of the Lim Fjord to escape the pursuit of Hapsburg troops and play dead. It should also be noted that the Channel's ry the sarcophagus by himself up the hill





will enchant you with its narrow streets, Port that mainly accommodates tourist houses with characteristic chimneys, up about 2.5 kilometre drive South (S) of the heart of Rovinj, hosts several mooring buoys for recreational boating

. . . . . . .

ates bouquets and flower arrangemen

ts for all occasions and the like. It also

offers an on-board delivery service.

Milka +385 91 790 2823

#### threshold or border between the towns **E**VENTS

Rovinj's Patron-Saint, St Euphemia, was born to a well-known patrician family The event that has made Rovinj popular from Chalcedon and was martyred under worldwide is undoubtedly the Collective Emperor Diocletian in 304. According to Exhibition that, since 1967, on one of the tradition, St Euphemia's relics, originally Sundays in August, has been turning Grikept in Constantinople, arrived in Rosia Street Cascading Stone Stairs into vinj at dawn on 13th July 800, carried by an open-air atelier: on this occasion, the a storm and enclosed in a large marble façades and doorways of Rovinj's housarcophagus. In spite of their efforts, Roses are decorated with works of art of all vinj's people were unable to carry the sarkinds. This is followed by a final award cophagus along the town beach. But the ceremony for the most popular works. Saint appeared to a local boy, who, to the Between June and August, Rovinj Sumamazement of everyone, managed to carmer Music Festival sees international pop-soul stars perform on Porton Bion-

> di Beach - North (N) of the town centre - and on the Island of Sveti Andrija, which, alongside its twinned Otočić Maškin Island, forms the Island of Crveni Otok or Red Island. Since 1991, Agrorovinj's Craftsmen Association has been arranging Antonja Festival, held in January in Rovinjsko Selo - 5km away from the town centre - dedicated to local wine and olive oil, with tastings and quality competitions. For some years now, Antonja has been accompanied by the Istrian Supa Festival, with educational trails for children.

#### **T**HINGS to SEE

Trg Maršala Tita is the main Square and Croatian schools. Grisia Street's lumes. Another landmark for all those of the Istrian town of Rovinj, offering cobblestones and stairs continue in a wishing to explore Rovinj's history is a view over the Port waters whose Northern side is bordered by the Balbi Arch, built in 1679 on one of the old town gates and named after the then before the 10th century and was dedica- Dedicated to the batana, Rovini's tra-Mayor Daniele Balbi. The Arch is fea- ted to St George. In 1654, the Venetians ditional wooden fishing vessel, it comtured by the sculptures decorating the built the Bell Tower (61m high) based bines historical documentation with a keystones: the outer one is the head of on the model of St Mark's Basilica's programme of gastronomic and spora Turk, while the inner one is the head Bell Tower in Venice. The structure was ting events such as a historical regatta, of a Venetian. The **Clock Tower** (12th century), originally the Southern tower the new body of the Church, built on a en spaces, the best known is the Punta of Rovinj's walls and later used as a pri- hillside. The three-nave interior, behind Corrente or Zlatni Rt Forest Park, son, also stands out in the same Square. the main altar, hosts a 14th-century Sar- located on a land purchased at the end If you take the North-West (NW) corner cophagus containing Saint Euphemia's of the 19th century by the Triestine diof the Square as a reference point and relics. The second most important pla- plomat Georg von Hütterott with the proceed Northwards (N), you will find ce of worship in Rovinj is the Franci- intention of turning it into a pioneering the Civic Museum a short distance scan Monastery. Its first nucleus was resort. Although Hütterott's death in away. While moving North-West (NW), built in the 14th century on St John of 1910 stopped the project, the area has you will get to Grisia Street area. Sin- Capistrano's initiative on Crveni Otok been converted over time into a vast ce 1954, the Museum has been housed or Red Island, just 2km South (S) of and popular forest of holm oaks, pines, in the 17th-century Baroque Palace of Rovinj's Marina. The present structu- and cedars, well equipped for walks and

**H**ISTORY

Rovinj's name may come from the Latin term Rubinum, indicating that, in ancient times, the limestone rocks forming the local coastline were rich in bauxite. have indeed suggested various Latin names such as Rubinium, Mons Rubineus, Castrum Rubini, and Arupinum: the Roman castrum would have developed in the area of the present Church of St Euphemia around 180 BC, when the

Romans took over from the Histrians, the Indo-European pirates who first colonised the region. The barbarian invasions caused the population of the hinterland to disperse among the Croatian Istria Islands. Rubinum benefited from this, as it was still an island at the time would remain as such until 1763, when the Channel separating it from the mainland was filled in. Venetian rule over Istria, which began in the late 13th century after a long and bitter dispute with the Patriarchate of Aquileia, stabilised the region and ensured a fair amount of economic development for Rovinj, whi-

ch became one of the busiest ports in the

region: a growth slowed down from the

18th century onwards by competition

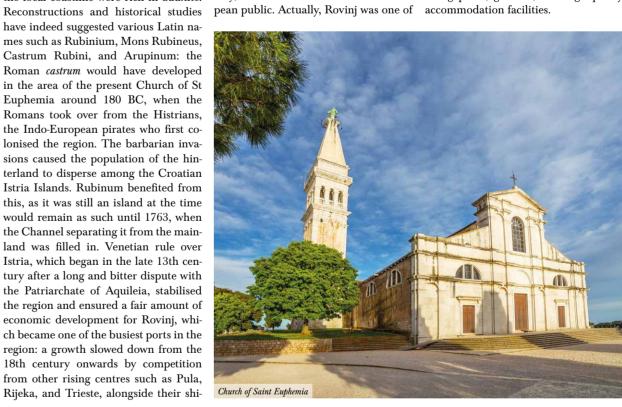
from other rising centres such as Pula,

Rijeka, and Trieste, alongside their shi-

North-West (NW) direction towards Ro- the Batana Eco-Museum in Obala vinj's largest Church of Saint Euphe- Pina Budicina, which, after undergoing mia whose first nucleus dates back to expansion, was reopened in June 2020. completed in the following century with held in June. Rovinj has numerous gre-

the Counts of Califfi and is spread over re is completed by a Baroque Church, sports activities.

pyards. Accordingly, Rovinj turned its the pioneering tourism centres in Istria, attention to alternative sectors such as thanks to figures such as Ignaz Milewski tobacco production (the former tobacco and Georg von Hütterott, aristocrats factory, opened in 1871, is currently a who purchased uncultivated lands on venue for cultural events) and especially the uninhabited Islands of St. Andrew



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Plastic Bottle. 450 years.





Curated by Stefano Aicardi, Giulia Borin | 777

3 floors: besides extensive ethnological built between 1702 and 1710, which and photographic documentation on boasts a valuable collection of works the Istrian history, the Museum exhi- of art (about 250, mostly from the Babits an art collection with Renaissance roque period) and liturgical objects, as and Classicist works of the Venetian well as a library with 15 thousand vo-

to tourism, which, during the 20th cen- or the Red Island and St. Catherine butury, turned towards the Central Euro- ilding parks, gardens, and high-quality



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# 1) THE EUPHRASIAN BASILICA'S MOSAICS IN POREČ

The Euphrasian Basilica complex in Poreč is the Christian symbol of Croatia. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, the Istrian Basilica is named after the local bishop who had it built in 553 on the oratory dedicated to Saint Maurus of Parentium, a martyr under Emperor Diocletian and the first bishop of Poreč. Euphrasius, holding a model of the Basilica in his hand, and Saint Maurus are portrayed in the extremely valuable Byzantine mosaic cycle in the central apse, second only to St. Vitale's in Ravenna in terms of historical and artistic importance.

# 2) OPATIJA'S FIN-DE-SIÈCLEOPULENCE **KVARNER GULF**

Opatija, alongside its ever-present tropical flowering plants, still exudes Middle-European Grandeur. The pioneer of local tourism was Rijeka's we-



built the over-the-top Biedermeier-style Villa Angiolina (1844). Thanks to the opening of the Vienna-Trieste-Rijeka Austrian Southern Railway in the 1870's, Opatija was endowed with many other treasures, such as the 12-km-long Franz-Joseph-Waterfront Promenade, the Juraj Šporer Arts Pavilion (originally a pastry shop), and the Kvarner Hotel (opened in 1884).

#### 3) CRES: THE ISLAND OF **GRIFFON VULTURES**

Cres, connected to the smaller Island of Losinj by a bascule bridge, is the main Island within the Kvarner Gulf. Alongside the tranquillity of cosy villages such as Lubenice, there are signs of the Roman and Venetian presence, recalled by the gates and coats of arms adorning the historic buildings of Cres Town and Osor. Cres is also an island of great scenic variety, from the serene Beaches of Sveti Ivan and Mali Bok, to Lake Vrana, and the oak forests on the northern slopes of Tramuntana, where the superb Eurasian Griffon Vulture of Kvarner takes its flight.

#### 4) LAND ART ON ZADAR'S **WATERFRONT**

Zadar's Obala Kralja Petra Krešimira IV Seaside Promenade features two magical Land Art installations by Croatian architect Nikola Bašić. The Sea Organ is a staircase with stone steps, under which 35 polyethylene pipes have been inserted: water seeping through cracks in the steps generates a ceaseless natural concert. The Sun Salutation - just 200m away is a glass disc with a 22-m-diameter: under the plate are photovoltaic panels that, at night, release the light energy accumulated during the day in trails of changing colours.

#### 5) PAG ISLAND: A PERFECT **BLEND OF GREEN, SALT &** WIND

**ONSHORE ITINERARIES** 

Sailors are explorers and by nature curious and adven-

turous, and they long to see the world from different perspectives. Besides their love of the sea and its secrets, sailors also enjoy exploring the places where they stop.

electricity, but can be the starting point for visi-ts inland. With this in mind, we have gathered the information in the following pages to help you explore the hinterland and to recommend the at-

From extensive on-site research and with advice from locals, we have selected the places, museums, archaeo-logical sites, villages, parks, festivities and events that we believe best reflect the real essence of the island.

Where appropriate, we have also picked a few trustwor-thy professionals, connoisseurs of the territory, who can introduce you to some of the treasures of the island and meet your needs and requests. Besides providing useful information about locations and how

to get to them, they can usually arrange transport, with a private driver if needed. You can also request a tour guide to organize and accompany you on your trips.

We divided the territory in different zones and provided suggestions about: old villages and castles, archaeologi-cal sites and museums, nature and sport, food and wine,

tractions that we enjoyed most.

Like most of the islands in northern Dalmatia, Pag is an Island of protean faces and landscapes. Rocky scenery and gentle sandy beaches are connected each other by immense valleys over which the incessant Bora (North to North-Eastern Wind) carries salt from the coast, thus creating the conditions for the birth of the renowned sheep's milk cheese Paški Sir or Pag Cheese. Similarly, the springtime quietness and concentration necessary for traditional lace making spill over into the great Pag Town's Carnival and the brilliant summer nightlife of Novalja and Zrće Beach.

# 6) SPLIT: VOICES FROM DIOCLETIAN'S HOMETOWN

Split's days and nights revolve around the Palace that Emperor Diocletian had built from 293 onwards, where he spent the last 8 years of his life. Diocletian's Palace - a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979 - is a colossal 215mx180m rectangular-shaped building and 30m high walls, within which the nucleus of the future Split was built in the 6th century AD. Its heart is the Peristyle (the courtyard leading to private flats and reception halls), currently turned into a square bearing witness to the serene atmosphere of Croatia's second largest town.

## 7) BRAČ: THE MOST MYSTERIOUS ISLAND **IN DALMATIA**

Every corner of the Dalmatian Island of Brač is pervaded by an enigmatic sense of divine presence, which is hard to put into words. From Bol, it is easy to get to the places that most express this sense: Zlatni Rat Beach, also referred to as the Golden Cape (considered to be the most beautiful Beach in Croatia), where the wind and wave action constantly changes its profile. And the Hermitage of Blaca on the slopes of Vidova Gora or Mount St. Vid, with its expanses of black pine trees that make it the most mysterious peak in Croatia and the Adriatic Sea.

# 8) DUBROVNIK'S RED ROOFTOPS

Since the 14th century, Dubrovnik, declared a UNE-SCO World Heritage Site in 1979, has been the head of an independent Republic, able to stand up to Venice and the Ottomans with diplomacy and arms. Still today, Dubrovnik is loved worldwide for its instantly recognisable landmarks: the red-roofed houses, the uniformity of doors and windows on the Stradun main street, and the jutting stone which its inhabitants



challenge each other to keep their balance on, and the pride exuding from the historic architectures restored after the devastation caused by the Civil War.

#### 9) LOKRUM ISLAND: **Á TRIUMPH OF GREEN IN DALMATIA**

The splendid Lokrum is one of the most-visited destinations on the Elaphiti Islands in southern Dalmatia, only a 10-minute boat ride from Dubrovnik. From the star-shaped Fort Royal (1806), built by the French on the highest point of the Island, you may admire its magical landscape of pine forests, olive groves, and subtropical plants. Lokrum, declared a Protected Nature Reserve (1964) and a Special Forest Vegetation Reserve (1976), also offers a Saltwater swimming Lake called Mrtvo More or Dead Sea, and Maximilian von Habsburg's summer residence built in 1859.

# 10) ZAGREB: A CITY OF IMAGES & SOUNDS

The Croatian capital weaves art and history together in an uninterrupted story of sounds and images. The story unfolds in dozens of museums and art galleries, in St Mark's Church (including 15 effigies in the Gothic portal's niches and the coats of arms of Zagreb and the Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia formed from the polychrome glazed roof tiles) and in the capital's most beautiful vantage points: the Medvedgrad Fortress (with the Altar of the Fatherland, built in 1994) and the Lotrščak Fortified Tower (containing a cannon fired every day to mark 12 midday).



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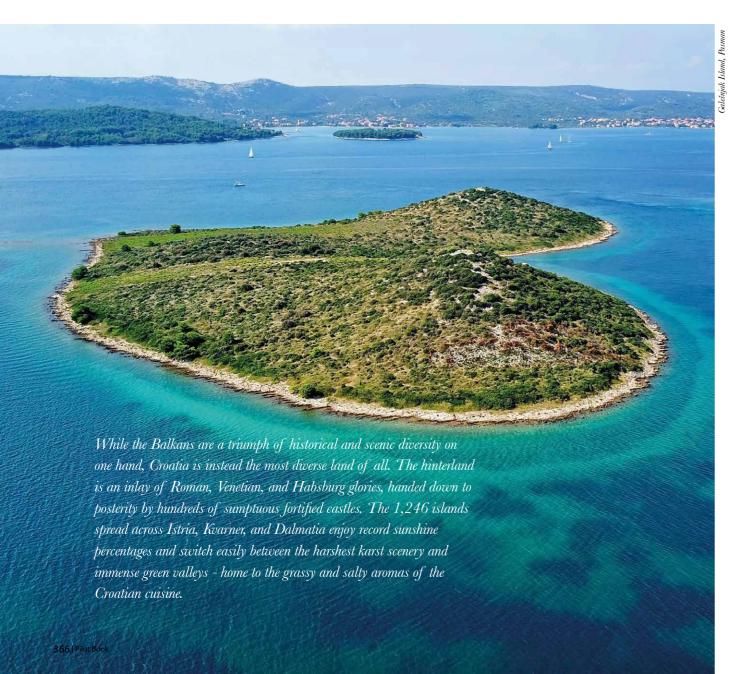
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#### **CROATIA'S TOP BITES & SIPS**

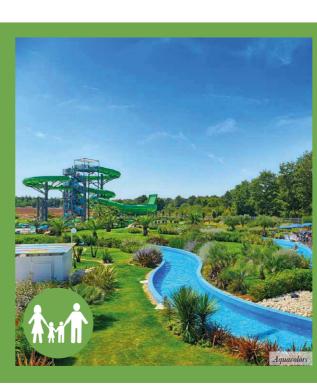
The common thread running through Croatian cuisine is a passion for lamb meat, rigorously grilled under a metal baking dish with a bell-shaped dome lid called *peka*. Differences between coastal, island, and inland cuisine lie in the aromas and seasonings chosen for first and second courses. In the northernmost regions, lamb and fish are stewed with garlic, herbs and white wine, while grated truffles add earthy notes to homemade pasta (Istrian-Dalmatian fuži and mlinci, and Kvarner Šurlice). Potato dumplings and polenta crown Dalmatian fish stew brudet and Split Pašticada: marinated and cooked beef with onions and plums. In the south and the rugged landscape of the Kornati Islands, salty cheeses are the stars, while inland and east, paprika & pickles define the strong flavour of kulen sausages and čobanac rustic meat stew. Croatians are very fond of homemade



syrups and liqueurs, such as rakija pomace brandy and Zadar Maraschino (made from Marasca cherries). Beers are generally preferred to wines whites such as Vrbnička Žlahtina from Kvarner and the reds Teran from Istria and Dingač from Dubrovnik



area.



Central Dalmatian Island

**FUN FOR KIDS & ADULTS: ACTIVITIES FOR THE** WHOLE FAMILY For a relaxing day or family fun, here are our top tips: **AQUACOLORS:** Poreć is home to the largest Water & Amusement Park in Croatia: a 100,000sqm surface area with 13 giant slides, a 500m long lazy river, swimming pools, sports fields, entertainment areas, and 5 restaurants. **UNDERWATER PIRATE PARK:** Punat's waters, on the Kvarner Island of Krk, offer a pleasant underwater walk among colonies of fish, underwater plants,

MEDIEVAL PARK: Plunge yourself into the historical roots of Istria and enjoy reconstructions of towns, markets, parades, and battles arranged at the 20km east of Rovinj. Hungary Stovenia Serbia Kvarner Gulf Island Bosnia and Herzegovina Dua Northern Dalmatian Adriatic Sea

Southern Dalmatian Islands

Lokru

**ONSHORE ITINERARIES - CROATIA** 

Montenearo

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curiosities and traditional events for each province over-

To this end, we have divided the territory areas: on each page we have marked all the Visitor Friendly ports with a yellow boat, i.e. those ports with visitor berths. In the

top-right corner of each page we have added useful con-tacts for exploring inland.

In order to make our Pilot Book easier to use while fol-

lowing your route on the chart, find the page number

with the corresponding itinerary at the upper left corner

Old Village & Castles

Mature & Sport

Food & Wine

Archaeological Sites & Museums

Curiosities & Traditional Events

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Points of interest & Places of worship

looking the sea.

of the page.

Key to

symbols

VISITOR FRIENDLY Moorings ava for transit