

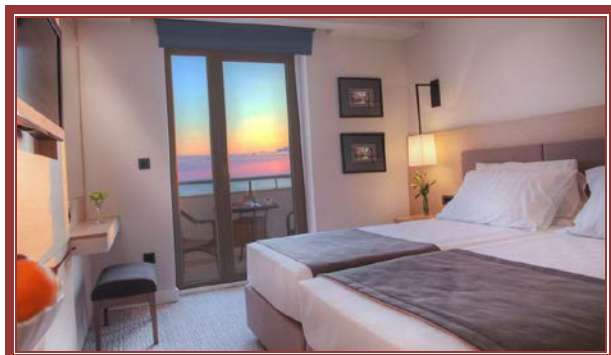
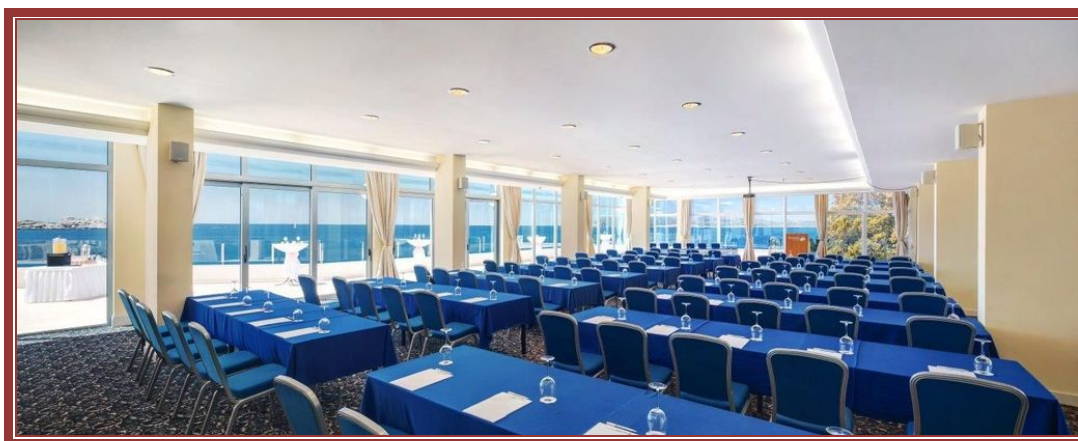
## **Conference Guide**

## Conference Venue

Conference Location: Neptun Hotel

Neptun Hotel - the ideal starting point

Hotel Neptun is the ideal choice for travellers looking for a truly memorable vacation in the sun, while enjoying the pristine and clean seaside, as well as the beauty and history of Dubrovnik. Hotel Neptun is located on a Blue Flag beach and is the ideal choice for your vacation needs. Newly renovated, Hotel Neptun is situated on Babin Kuk and boasts spectacular views overlooking the sea and the Elaphite Islands. Guests will be sure to enjoy the tastefully decorated, bright and modern decor Hotel Neptun has to offer, including 91 guest rooms and suites all of which offer a variety of amenities.



Address: Kardinala Stepinca 31 Dubrovnik, 20 000, Croatia

Tel: 385 20440100

E-mail: [reservations@importanneresort.com](mailto:reservations@importanneresort.com)

URL: <http://www.hotelneptundubrovnik.com/>

## History of Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik is a Croatian city on the Adriatic Sea, in the region of Dalmatia. It is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the Mediterranean Sea, a seaport and the centre of Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Its total population is 42,615 (census 2011). In 1979, the city of Dubrovnik joined the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. The prosperity of the city was historically based on maritime trade; as the capital of the maritime Republic of Ragusa, it achieved a high level of development, particularly during the 15th and 16th centuries, as it became notable for its wealth and skilled diplomacy. The beginning of modern tourism is associated with the construction of the Hotel Imperial in Dubrovnik in 1897. Although it was demilitarised in the 1970s to protect it from war, in 1991, after the breakup of Yugoslavia, it was besieged by the Serb and Montenegrin soldiers gathered in the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) for seven months and suffered significant damage from shelling. Historical lore indicates that Dubrovnik was founded in the 7th century on a rocky island named Laus, which is said to have provided shelter for refugees from the nearby city of Epidaurum. The refugees from Roman Epidaurum built their new settlement on the small island (some sources say peninsula) of Lausa off the shore while other populations (primarily Croats) settled along the coast in the following centuries, directly across the narrow channel, and named their settlement Dubrovnik. Initially the populations were skeptical of each other. Over time they grew closer and finally in the 12th century the two settlements merged. The channel that divided the city was filled creating the present-day main street (the Stradun) which became the city centre. Thus, Dubrovnik became the Croatian name for the united town.



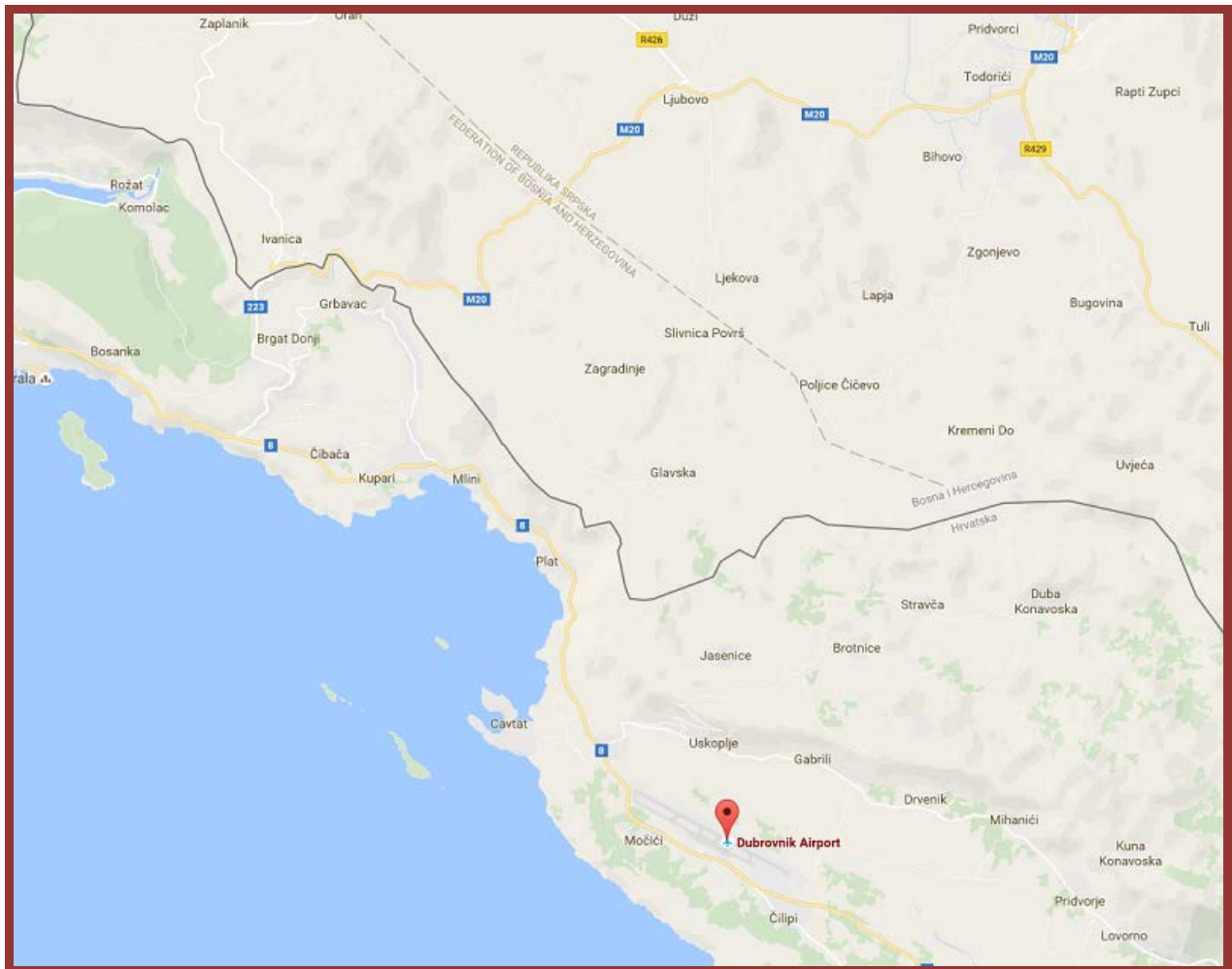
Another theory appeared in 2007, based on new archaeological excavations. New findings (a Byzantine basilica from the 8th century and parts of the city walls) contradict the traditional theory. The size of the old basilica clearly indicates that there was quite a large settlement at the time. There is also support in the scientific community for the theory that construction on the site Dubrovnik took place before the Common Era. This "Greek theory" has been boosted by recent findings of numerous Greek artifacts during excavations in the Port of Dubrovnik. Also, drilling below the main city road has revealed natural sand, contradicting the theory of Laus (Lausa)

island. Dr Antun Ničetić, in his book *Povijest dubrovačke luke* (History of the Port of Dubrovnik), expounds the theory that Dubrovnik was established by Greek sailors. A key element in this theory is the fact that ships in ancient times travelled about 45–50 nautical miles (83–93 km; 52–58 mi) per day, and required a sandy shore to pull out of water for the rest period during the night. The ideal rest site would have fresh water sources in its vicinity. Dubrovnik has both, and is situated roughly halfway between the two known Greek settlements of Budva and Korčula, 95 nautical miles (176 km; 109 mi) apart from each other. Dubrovnik (pronounced [dǔbrovnik]), also known as Ragusa, is a city on the Adriatic Sea coast of Croatia, positioned at the terminal end of the Isthmus of Dubrovnik. It is one of the most prominent tourist destinations on the Adriatic, a seaport and the centre of Dubrovnik-Neretva county. Its total population is 42,641 (census 2011). In 1979, the city of Dubrovnik joined the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Dubrovnik is nicknamed "Pearl of the Adriatic".

## How to get to Dubrovnik

### By Plane:

**Dubrovnik Airport (IATA: DBV)** is located about 20 km southern of the city. Croatia Airlines operates buses between the airport and the main bus station in Kantafig (35 kn, 45 min), which is 2.5 km northwest of the old town. Taxis from the airport to the centre will cost 320 kn. Going to the airport a bus aims to leave the main bus station 2 hr before each international flight, and costs 35 kn. Departure times are also displayed in the tourist information office at Pile Gate. The bus passes close to the Old Town en route to the airport and you can board this bus at the bus stop on Petra Kresimira 4 just above the Old Town, by the lower cable car station. Make sure you wave furiously otherwise the driver may not stop.



### By Bus:

The main bus station is in Kantafig, near Port Gruz and the Tadjman bridge, 2.5 km northwest of the Old Town. Local bus 7 operates between this station and Babin kuk, and bus 1 serves Old Town. Direct buses run to/from Zagreb (205-234 kn, 11 hr, 7 daily), Korcula (100 kn, 3 hr, 1 daily), Mostar (100 kn or €16, 3 hr, 2 daily. 10:30 and 15:00 ), Orebic (100 kn, 2.5 hr, 1 daily),

Rijeka (400 kn, 12 hr, 3 daily), Sarajevo (160 kn, 5 hr, 1 daily), Split (100-150 kn, 4.5 hr, 14 daily), Zadar (200 kn, 8 hr, 7 daily). In the high season, there is also a daily bus leaving at 11AM going to the Montenegro cities of Herceg Novi, Bar, Kotor, and Budva. And at 15h to Prijedor and Banja Luka (10h) in Bosnia. A one-way trip to Budva costs 128 kn, or €15. The return tickets are much cheaper and advisable, just look out for the choice of the choice of the bus company.

### **By Train:**

There is no train to Dubrovnik. A narrow gauge line used to link Dubrovnik to Sarajevo but was closed in 1976. The closest rail station is at Ploče, less than 2 hr by bus from Dubrovnik. From there, you can connect to trains to Mostar and Sarajevo. Trains to points north can be boarded at Split, a 4 hr bus ride from Dubrovnik.

### **By Boat:**

#### **Cruise ships**

Many cruise ships come to this port of call, typically docking at the Port of Dubrovnik (Port Gruz) across from the main bus station, 2.5 km northwest of the walled old town. The easiest and cheapest way to get from the main bus station to the Old Town is by using the local buses number 1, 1A and 1B, which circulate almost constantly. Some cruise ships anchor offshore just east of the Old Town and tender the passengers directly into the Old Port. Ferries “Jadrolinija”

- From Rijeka

Ferries run up and down the coast. Calling at Split, Stari Grad, Korčula and Sobra on the way. Journey time is up to 20 hr, so consider getting a cabin. The restaurant serves up some decent food at surprisingly reasonable prices, but bear in mind that the +23% tax is not included on the menu. While the journey is scenic there is nothing in the way of entertainment. Come prepared with a good book or just sit on the deck and watch the Adriatic Sea go by. This is more than enough entertainment for an afternoon.

- From Bari in Italy

The dull engine vibration or the swaying of the boat from high winds are likely to keep you awake. Cabins are strongly recommended. Although you can sit comfortably enough inside with the cheaper deck pass, interior temperature hovers at 60°F or below and makes for a chilly night even in the height of summer. Sadly this ferry seems quite overpriced: two adult single tickets plus a noisy, small interior 2-berth cabin cost 168,00



### **By Car:**

The trip from Split along the coastal road (Jadranska magistrala or D8) is a beautiful scenic journey through small, quaint villages and other tourist destinations. Just know that in the summer months the trip is likely to take several hours longer than anticipated. What looks like a short trip on a map can take 6 hr. A much faster way of simply getting from Split to Dubrovnik by car is to take the A1 highway to Vrgorac and then continue via Staševica, Opuzen and Neum to Dubrovnik.

### **Car Hire:**

In the off season, rates can be negotiated down by contacting the company in advance. You will get a better rate doing this than booking online directly. Local companies generally have cheaper rates than the multi-nationals.

- A Marker Car Rental (Airport Shuttle Service Dubrovnik), tel: +385 91 739 75 45
- Kompas Rent a Car, tel: +385 20 436 541
- EasyRent, tel: + +385 98 1952 114
- Oryx, tel: +385 20 420 030

#### **Dubrovnik Airport (DBV)**

**Tel.:** +385 20 773 110

**URL:** <http://www.airport-dubrovnik.hr/index.php/en/>

For more details: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Dubrovnik>

## **Transportation in Dubrovnik - How to get from the Airport to the Hotel**

The Old Town can be comparatively difficult to navigate on first appearances, as it really is a warren of little streets. There are however signs at the entrances to many of these streets advertising what businesses, shops, restaurants and accommodation are to be found in that direction. That being said, some of these signs appear to be either intentionally misleading or woefully out of date. For example, there is no office of any bus company within the Old Town, despite what the signs may say. The city is completely pedestrianised and easily small enough to get around on foot, some of the streets are a little steep though.

### **By Car:**

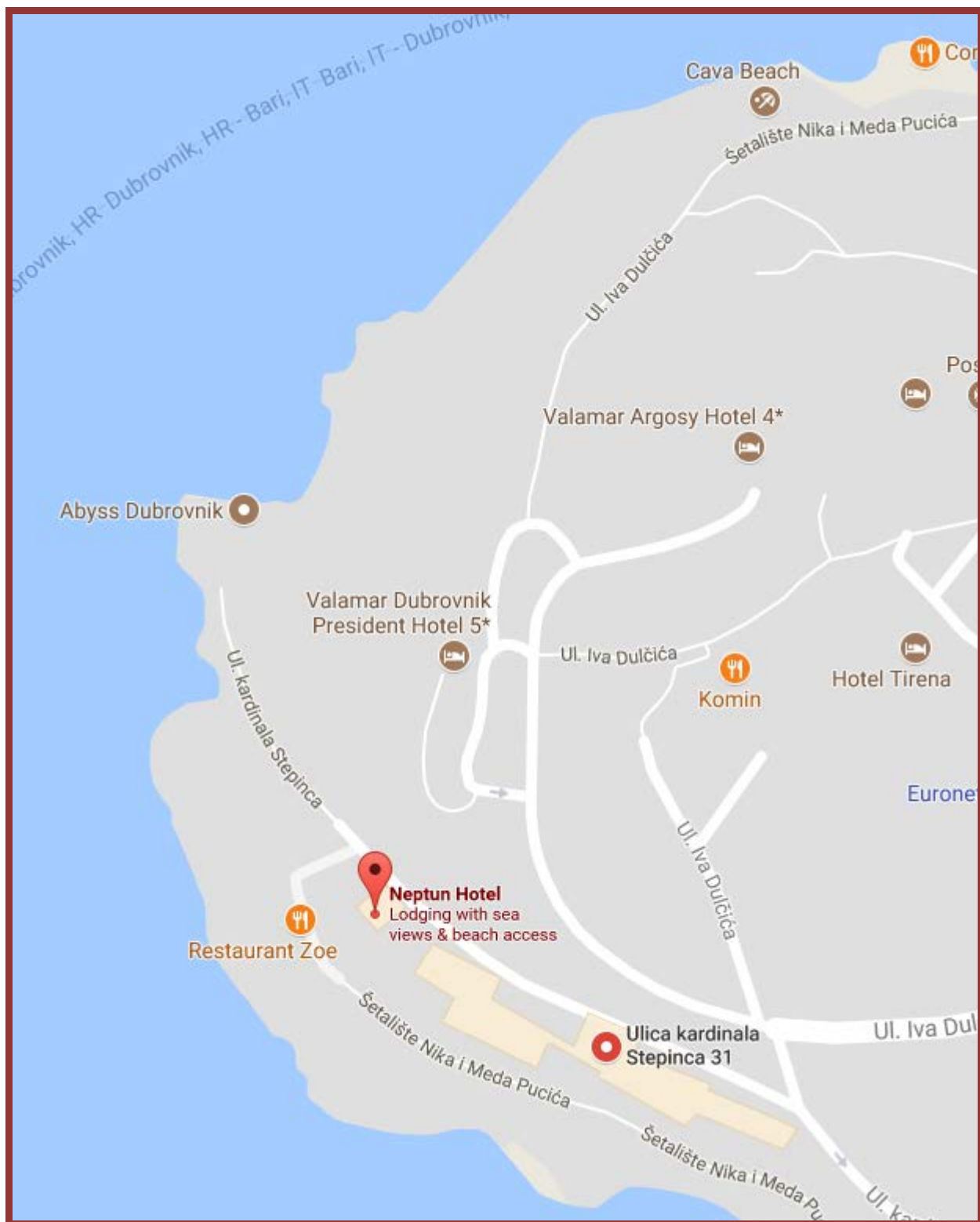
The Neptun Hotel is located in a very accessible location at the Kardinala Stepinca 31 str., 24.3 km from the airport, about 30 minutes drive from the airport to the hotel. You may find the exact directions to get there, by visiting the site of the hotel.

### **By Public Transportation:**

#### **Taking the BUS**

If you are not staying in Old Town, it's relatively simple get there by bus, as just about every one leads to the Old Town. However, it might be advisable to get a timetable just in case. It costs 12 kn (just over €1) for tickets bought at any kiosk, or 15 kn bought on the bus; ticket valid for 1 hr. At selected kiosks (including the international bus station) you can purchase a day pass for 30 kn. This pass is valid for 24 hr of unlimited travel on the city bus network, starting from the first validation. The easiest way to get from the Main Bus Station to the Old Town is by using the (mostly modern and A/C equipped) buses number 1A, 1B, 1C which circulate almost constantly. These buses can be boarded from the bus stop just outside the Main Bus Station. Apart from this, there is another bus service which comes inside the bus station and drops you directly at the Old Town. Schedules are available at the information counter of the Main Bus Station.





## PLACES TO VISIT

### Franciscan Monastery/Old Pharmacy Museum

One of the oldest pharmacies in Europe is, quite remarkably, still a working chemist's for locals, and in the complex of the Franciscan Monastery where beautiful cloisters lead to the Old Pharmacy Museum by a pretty courtyard. There you'll find disturbingly large grinders and implements used by the medical profession in the Ragusan era.

**Address:** Stradun 2 (Area Old Town)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 9am-5pm

**Information:** +385 20 321 410

**Admission:** 30kn



### Homeland War Museum

The Homeland War is the Croatian term for the conflict of the 1990s that broke up Yugoslavia and gained Croatia its independence. The setting here is apt: a Napoleonic Fort, bravely defended by locals in 1991, now easily accessible by cablecar. Go straight up the two flights of stairs to the top terrace of the fortress in which the museum is housed and take in the view. The fort was built by the French in 1806-1812 then extended by the Austrians. Inside you see examples of the ammunition used to shell Dubrovnik, maps of the damage it caused, all manner of memorabilia and a video recoding of Dubrovnik as it was being shelled.

**Address:** Imperial Fort, Srdj (Area Srdj)

**Transport:** Cablecar

**Opening hours:** Apr-Oct 8am-6pm daily.

Nov-Mar 9am-4pm daily

**Admission:** 20kn



## Orthodox Church & Icon Museum

Right in the heart of the Old Town, built in the late 19th century, this Serbian church is one of the plainer ones, inside and out, of those in the region. The fact that it is here at all, intact, after the horrors of 1991, speaks volumes about Dubrovnik. You can find a more colourful collection of icons a couple of doors down at a modest two-room museum accessed up a flight of stairs through the entrance to the jewellery shop Djardin. One room contains a hotchpotch of icons, Balkan and Russian, from varying centuries; in another, there's a series of portraits of eminent local Serbs by Vlaho Bukovac.

**Address:** Od Puča 8 (Area Old Town)

**Transport:** All buses to Old Town

**Tel:** +385 20 323 823

**Opening hours:** Church 9am-4pm daily. Museum 9am-2pm Mon-Sat

**Admission:** 10kn



## Rupe Ethnographic Museum

Rupe, or 'holes', refer to those dotting this spacious granary that once fed Dubrovnik. Today it houses a modest ethnographic museum on the top floor, containing peasant costumes and items depicting life in the countryside. Most of all, it offers a fabulous view of the Old Town, complemented by the sea on one side and mountains on the other. It's two minutes up from Stradun, a handy diversion from the sights and crowds below. This former granary, opened in 1590 after 42 years of work, sits up a hill -- high means dry. The Rupe was where grain was stored in 15 large wells hewn from rock, coated with impermeable mortar. It held 1,200 tonnes of grain, the centre of the local food administration system, ensuring the rapidly rising population could all be fed. Grain was dried and aired in the upper floors then channelled down huge chutes to the stores below, then sold to the public. The Ethnographic Museum shows how locals used to live. This remit makes it more down to earth than rector's robes and angelic madonnas. There are

mosaics of boats, lions and doves. A floor dedicated to traditional farming tools and techniques shows olive-oil grindstones, wicker baskets, rusty guns and old hoes. There are festive peasant costumes, painted eggs and a selection of weird lute-like instruments. It's all quite fun before you step outside again to take in that breathtaking view - and all the crowds that come with it.

**Address:** Od Rupa (Area Old Town)

**Transport:** All buses to Old Town

**Tel:** +385 20 412 545

**Opening hours:** Summer 9am-6pm daily. Winter 9am-2pm Mon-Fri

**Admission:** 35kn, 15kn reductions

### Natural History Museum

The beginnings of natural science activity in Dubrovnik go back to 1872, when the Dubrovnik Museo Patrio was founded. In addition to the Chamber of Trade and Crafts Collection, the museum was founded on the private natural science collection of the apothecary and ship-owner Antun Drobac. Exhibits at the Dubrovnik Natural Science Museum include part of the Museum collection from the very beginnings of the Museum in the late 19th century, thus reviving the Natural Science Office of the time.

**Address:** Androviceva 1 Str.

**Tel:** +385 20 324 888

**Opening hours:** 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, on Sundays and holidays closed





## City walls

Walk on the walls around the old town, great views. It is highly recommended to visit the walls during the early morning hours or the late afternoon hours during mid-summer months as it can become hot. Dubrovnik is surrounded by City Walls which are 2 km long and for which it is famous all around the world. Through the history City Walls were protection from the enemy, today Dubrovnik City Walls brings the visitors from the whole world who want to see this city-museum. There are 3 entrances to the City Walls: on Stradun by the Pile gate, by fort Saint John's and at the Custom's House gate. Within the City Walls you will see Fort Minceta and Fort St. John's on the south-eastern side. Also, within the City Walls are Fort Lawrence at Pile and Fort Revelin at Ploce. The main entrance to the City Walls is by the Inner Pile Gates. Minceta Fort is one of the most beautiful cultural attractions in Dubrovnik. It is situated on the northwest side of the city inside the City Walls. It was built according to the design of Renaissance builder Juraj Dalmatinac. St. Luke's Tower you can see walking along the landward side of City Walls up to Ploce Gate. St. Luke's Tower has protected the entrance to the Dubrovnik harbour throughout the history of the city. St. John's Fort was constructed in 16th century and it is really worth of visiting- on its ground floor you can visit the Aquarium, and on first and second floor you can visit Maritime Museum. (more about it at the end of the page). Bokar Fort is situated on the seaward of City Walls. It was designed by Florentine architect Michelozzi in the 15th century.

**Opening hours:** 8.00am-19.00pm

**Admission:** 70 kn for adults, 30 kn for children and students with an ISIC.



## **BEACHES**

### **Banje**

Banje, the most famous Dubrovnik beach seems like providence. This divine pebble and sandy beach is located not more than an eye wink of The Pearl of the Adriatic offering a graceful heavenly view. Banje Beach is the closest beach to the Old Town, just beyond the 17th-century Lazareti (a former quarantine station) outside Ploče Gate. It is a sensational place to relax and to be seen and has quickly become the hippest place in Dubrovnik. The Banje Beach restaurant lounge & club day beach soirees are just as infamous. What makes this sandy oasis complete is perfect relaxation on the lounge chairs and exotic bamboo beds with baldachines sipping the cocktails or enjoying the body massages. Swimming into the crystal-clear sea of the Adriatic is the perfect chill out. Although many people rent lounge chairs and parasols from the nearby EastWest Club, there's no problem with just flinging a towel on the beach.



### **Lapad**

Lapad peninsula makes up for a larger part of Dubrovnik. Lapad is located to the west of the Old Town of Dubrovnik and encompasses several major suburbs of Dubrovnik. The beaches on Lapad are mostly concentrated in a bay called Sumratin bay, aka Lapad bay, or in Croatian "Uvala Lapad". The Lapad bay features an amazing promenade that protrudes all the way to the seaside and connects directly with Lapad bay beaches and a seaside walking path that takes you all the way to the end of the Lapad peninsula to the most serene view of the islands in the Dubrovnik archipelago, the Elaphite islands. A fair amount of coffee bars, pastry and

confectionery shops, and ice cream venues found their place on this lovely Lapad promenade with thier terraces luring in the walkers to sit and simply enjoy the view. Lapad bay promenade is one of the favourite leisure spots of Dubrovnik community. Many of the Dubrovnik hotels are also located close to the promenade and the nearby beaches making the whole area quite lively and touristic. The beaches in the Lapad bay are mostly a mixture of pebble area, rock area, and artificial concrete parts. Only the main beach called simply "Uvala" or in English "Bay beach" is sandy bottomed while the beach part is pebbles. Lapad beaches offer something for everyone as the beaches deeper in the bay are more popular and visited, the beaches on the outskirts of the bay, going out more to the end of the peninsula tend to be less crowded and offer more intimate atmosphere.

### **Sv. Jakov**

Sv. Jakov beach is located further uphill from Banje Beach. Once you pass Banje Beach just keep walking for another 15-20 minutes. Sv. Jakov beach is located very close to Hotel Villa Dubrovnik, a superb 5-star hotel. Being further from the old town, this beach is much less crowded than Banje Beach. You can still get a very nice view over the old town, and the island Lokrum. The beach is pebble and rocky. There are lots of stairs to take to reach the beach. If you like a less crowded beach and you don't mind to walk a bit further, this is a nice beach in Dubrovnik to spend a day at. Don't forget to bring a lunch (you don't want to climb those stairs twice :). Kayak and jet ski rental available on the beach.





## **Betina Cave Beach**

Betina Cave Beach is a small cave beach. This beach is a real gem. It's only reachable from the sea. The cave makes it nice and cool even during the hot summer days (this beach gets only few hours of sun a day). The pebbles are nice and rounded. The best way to explore this beach is to book one of the kayaking tours that stops here for swimming and relaxation. Although I must say kayaking tours have made this beach much busier than it used to be (and destroyed a bit of its charm).

## **Dance**

Dance Beach is very popular among the locals. This is the oldest beach in Dubrovnik. You'll often see locals playing water polo at the beach. It's located close to the Pile Gate, 200 m from the old town. The beach is mostly rocky. There is a nice monastery above the beach. The nuns ring the bells for all the ships that pass by.



**For more information:**

<http://www.frankaboutcroatia.com/dubrovnik-beaches/>

## **Local cuisine – what you should taste in Dubrovnik**

There is a wide range of restaurants in the Old Town, mostly offering a very similar menu of local seafood and some meat dishes. The cuisine may not be very imaginative, but it is usually of good quality and very fresh.

Restaurants can be crudely separated into (slightly) cheaper tourist-trap places, and more expensive but first class gastronomic restaurants. There are a few pizzerias, mostly wood-fired and quite acceptable. The Kras chocolate sold at stores is delicious.



Dubrovnik cuisine is characteristically not very spicy and is famous for traditionalism. Many popular meals are characteristic of Dubrovnik such as Zelena Menestra (it is the name for many sorts of cabbages and other vegetables with meat).



Pasticada is a stewed beef dish cooked in special sauce, popular in Croatia. It is often called Dalmatinska paštica because it originates in Dalmatia. It requires long and meticulous preparation, which includes marinating the beef in vinegar, lemon and rosemary for at least 24 hours. The marinated beef is then cooked with carrots, cloves, nutmeg, red wine and diced prosciutto for two hours, depending on the amount of meat. It is usually served with gnocchi or wide noodles.

## Where to eat in Dubrovnik

### Konoba Pjatanca

Traditional Dalmatian kitchen, nice atmosphere, fresh fish every day and only restaurant with local specialties, domestic Smoked ham and Cheese in oil and most wanted dish Baked lamb or veal under the bell "Peka".

**Opening Hours:** 10:00 am - 00:00 am

**Address:** Koločepska 2 (near the public beach Banje and hotel Excelsior, out of the tourist crowd, you pass the Ploče gate)

**Tel:** 385 20 420 949

**E-Mail:** [rase.pavo@du.t-com.hr](mailto:rased.pavo@du.t-com.hr)



### Lady Pi-Pi

Worth the climb for magnificent views over the old town from the restaurants' terrace and presumably taking its name from an ancient water feature just outside the restaurant (not for the prudish). Grilled fish with vegetables 110 kn, grilled chicken with fries about 70 kn, salads etc. Be prepared to wait for a table with a terrace view as it is very popular with locals - alternatively arrive before 8 in the evening to avoid the busiest times. Beware of wasps!

**Address:** Antuninska ul. 21, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Tel:** +385 20 321 288

## La Luna

Really good pizza with fresh ingredients. Only pizza is served before 17:00, for pasta or other dishes you will have to wait until 17:00. 45 kn/medium pizza.

**Opening Hours:** 09:00am -00:00am

**Address:** Ul. Andrije Hebranga 60, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Tel:** +385 20 419 736



## Taj Mahal

Offers a variety of Bosnian/Eastern cuisine such as Cevapcici u lepinji, baklava, and tufahi. The wait can be quite long, and vegetarian options are often sold out.

**Address:** Ulica Nikole Gučetića 2 (within the old city)

**Tel:** +385 20 323 221

**URL:** <http://www.tajmahal-dubrovnik.com/>

More options to dine in Dubrovnik:

<http://marcopolo-dubrovnik.com/>

<http://www.meaculpa-pizzeria.com/>

[http://www.nishtarestaurant.com/index\\_en.html](http://www.nishtarestaurant.com/index_en.html)

<http://www.poklisar.com/>

<http://www.restaurant-orsan-dubrovnik.com/?restorandubrovnik=orsan&lan=en>

<http://www.bota-sare.hr/?restaurant=dubrovnik-old-town>

<http://amforadubrovnik.com/>

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<http://www.atlas-croatia.com/>