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# About

## About

Hvar is a beautiful island located in the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Croatia. Known for its sunny climate, crystal-clear waters, and breathtaking scenery, Hvar has become a popular destination for tourists from around the world. The island is home to some of the most stunning beaches in Europe, including Dubovica, Zarace, and Mekicevica, which boast crystal-clear waters and soft white sand.

In addition to its beaches, Hvar is also known for its vibrant nightlife, with many bars, clubs, and restaurants lining the streets of its main town. Visitors can also explore the island's charming villages, picturesque vineyards, and stunning natural parks.

1. Carpe Diem Beach Club: Located on the nearby island of Stipanska, Carpe Diem Beach Club is known for its lively atmosphere and all-night parties. They often feature international DJs and have a restaurant and bar on-site.
2. Hula Hula Beach Club: This popular beach club is located just a short walk from Hvar town and is known for its sunset parties. They have a great selection of cocktails and often have live music and DJs.
3. Kiva Bar: This underground bar is located in the heart of Hvar town and is known for its energetic atmosphere and late-night parties. They often have themed nights and a variety of cocktails and beers.
4. Pink Champagne Hvar: This champagne bar and nightclub is located in the center of Hvar town and is popular among the younger crowd. They often have special events and theme parties.
5. Veneranda Club: This open-air club is located in a former monastery in Hvar town and is known for its unique atmosphere and great music. They often have international DJs and a variety of events throughout the summer.

One of the most popular activities for tourists in Hvar is hiking, as the island is home to several hiking trails that lead to some of its most stunning natural attractions. Visitors can hike to the summit of Sveti Nikola, the highest point on the island, for panoramic views of the surrounding coastline, or explore the lush green forests of the Pakleni Islands.

1. Hvar Fortress: This historic fortress is located on a hill above Hvar town and offers stunning views of the town and the surrounding islands. It was built in the 16th century to protect the town from invaders.
2. Stari Grad Plain: This UNESCO World Heritage site is located in the town of Stari Grad and is the oldest continuously cultivated plain in the world. It dates back to the 4th century BC and is still used for agriculture today.
3. Pakleni Islands: These beautiful islands are located just off the coast of Hvar and are a popular destination for boat tours and water sports. They offer stunning views of the Adriatic Sea and secluded beaches.
4. Franciscan Monastery and Museum: This historic monastery is located in the town of Hvar and houses a museum with exhibits on the island's history, culture, and art. The monastery itself dates back to the 15th century and has a beautiful garden and cloister.
5. Hvar Cathedral: This historic cathedral is located in the heart of Hvar town and dates back to the 16th century. It features a beautiful bell tower and a collection of religious art and artifacts.

Hvar also has a rich culinary tradition, with many local restaurants serving up delicious seafood dishes made with fresh catches from the Adriatic Sea. Overall, Hvar is a must-visit destination for anyone looking to experience the beauty and culture of the Mediterranean.

1. Gariful: This seafood restaurant is located in the heart of Hvar town and offers a beautiful view of the harbor. They have a wide variety of fresh fish dishes, and their lobster spaghetti is particularly popular.
2. Dalmatino: This restaurant is also located in Hvar town and offers a mix of Mediterranean and Dalmatian cuisine. Their seafood dishes are excellent, but they also have great meat and vegetarian options.
3. Konoba Menego: This traditional Croatian restaurant is located in the small village of Vrbanj and offers a rustic atmosphere with outdoor seating. They specialize in grilled meats and homemade pasta.
4. Zori Restaurant: Located in the town of Stari Grad, Zori Restaurant offers a more upscale dining experience with a focus on seafood and local ingredients. They also have a great selection of Croatian wines.
5. Passarola: This restaurant is located in the town of Jelsa and offers a menu with a modern twist on traditional Croatian cuisine. They use locally sourced ingredients and offer a great selection of Croatian wines and craft beers.

# History

## History of Hvar

Since prehistoric times, people have lived on the island of Hvar. Archaeologists discovered life traces on the island of Hvar dating back to 3500 BC. Kr. According to the findings in the Grapeva and Markova caves, the Hvar culture (3500 - 2500 BC) was a distinct prehistoric culture.

The island of Hvar entered written history in 385/384 BC, when Greeks from the Aegean Sea's island of Paros established a colony there on what is the site of today's Old Town (Pharos).

However, a year after the Pharos colony was founded, the natives attacked the young Greek colony. Together, they left for Pharos after calling for assistance from the locals of the nearby country. The Greeks, unable to defend themselves, turned to Lissos, the capital of Dionysius' governorship, for assistance.

Up until around 235 BC, Pharos led a free life before coming under the control of the state of Illyria. The city was taken over by the Romans in 229 BC Kr. during the First Illyrian War and placed under the rule of Demetrius Hvaranin, a former Illyrian general. In 219 BC the Romans began the Second Illyrian War against him, during which Demetrius fled to Macedonia under Philip V after being defeated at Pharos.

Late antiquity saw no habitation of the modern town of Hvar; it was only during the Middle Ages that Stari Grad was displaced as the capital of the island and Hvar became its principal settlement.

The inhabitants of Hvar decided to submit to Venetian rule in February 1278, following the lead of the nearby towns.

Hvar Island rejoined the Croatian-Hungarian state in the middle of the fourteenth century.

The last of the aforementioned was even crowned Croatian king in Zadar in 1403, but in 1409, after concluding that further resistance was pointless, he sold his rights to Dalmatia to Venice. Dalmatian cities began to accept Venetian rule one by one in 1420.

However, a Turkish fleet commanded by Uluz-Alija and Karakoca attacked the city on August 19, 1571. With 73 ships, the Ottomans arrived in front of Hvar. In addition to all the churches and monasteries.

The majority of homes and public structures were destroyed or damaged. However, Hvar bounced back from the devastation at the end of the 16th century.

The Republic of Venice was in decline. Napoleon Bonaparte completed it with his victories in northern Italy in 1796. On July 26, 1797, Austria took control of Hvar.

Hvar was governed by Austria after being ruled by the Venetians for centuries. The island was ruled by the French from 1806, though, until 1813, when Austrian rule was restored. Until the end of World War I, Austria ruled the island.

The island was occupied by the Italians in 1919, and they held it until the Rapala Agreement was signed in 1921, when it passed into the control of the newly established Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which later became the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Hvar, along with the rest of Croatia, became a part of communist Yugoslavia following World War II. Between 1945 and 1991, Hvar saw the construction of a number of hotels, as well as improvements to the town's water and sewage systems. Hvar did not experience enemy shelling during the Homeland War.

Hvar welcomes the new millennium with renewed optimism for the future. As a result, Hvar once again rose to the top of Croatia's tourist destinations.

# Places

The lovely island of Hvar. It is renowned for its breathtaking natural scenery, pristine waters, and important historical sites. The Pond of Petra Hektorovic, a historic fish pond from the 16th century, is one of the must-see sights on the island. It is a tranquil haven surrounded by luxuriant vegetation and provides a window into the island's rich cultural history. The Fortica fortress, which is located atop a hill overlooking the town of Hvar and offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surroundings, is another attraction open to visitors.

Humac, Dubovica, Jelsa, Pokonji Dol, and Vrboka are just a few of the charming villages and towns that can be found on the island of Hvar in addition to its stunning natural surroundings and important historical sites. The picturesque stone houses of Humac, the idyllic beach of Dubovica, the charming harbor of Jelsa, the rugged coastline of Pokonji Dol, and the picturesque waterfront of Vrboka are just a few of the places that make up this list. Anyone looking to experience the natural beauty and rich culture of Croatia's Adriatic coast will find Hvar to be a wonderful destination because of its wide variety of activities and attractions.

## PH pond

The most well-known structure and a representation of the Old Town is Peter Hektorović's fortress, his fortified summer home and the place where he wrote Fishing and Fishermen's Complaining, the first realistic epic of the Croatian Renaissance.

This fortress was carefully constructed by the Christian thinker and poet of the Renaissance, and it was just as important to him as his most important piece of writing. Hektorović's vision of constructing a microcosm a small enclosed world where all of God's creations fish, birds, plants, and people had space to live was accomplished by the construction of Tvrdalj.

The most recognizable part of Tvrdalj is the pond, which is surrounded by a porch and contains free living fish “mullet” and a small tower with pigeon and sparrow nests made of stone. The pond was probably built on the ruins of some old swimming pool or harbor structure and behind it on the south is a well kept lawn with plants that his friends sent to him.

In addition the pond is covered with inscriptions, the largest of which conveys a message of transience “Remember that nothing can save you from death, not even fame, fortune or aging”.

A small but fascinating ethnographic collection of objects from everyday island life and those connected to the economy. Particularly wine and olive growing, can be found in Hektorović's Tvrdalj western wing. Many of the original pieces, many of which are still present today as an essential component of a typical Dalmatian tavern, were preserved and used to create the collection in 1964.

## Fortica

The fortress, also known as Fortica or Španjola, is a symbol of Hvar, located on a hill above Novigrad. The same location previously held an Illyrian fortress built between 2000 and 1000 BC, followed by a Roman tower that was rebuilt in the early 13th century and gave Novigrad its first name, Castrum Novum.

The Gusii-Kurjakovii nobles of Lika-Krbav reconstructed the fortress at the end of the 13th century (1282) to protect their property near Novigrad. In 1386, the Bosnian Ban Stjepan II and his daughter Elizabeth, the widow of King Ludovic I of Anjou and mother of the Hungarian-Croatian Queen Marija, were imprisoned here by the Kotromanić.

The Republic of Venice seized Novigrad in 1409, and the fortress was significantly transformed into a castle. The fortress was nearly impenetrable from the early 16th century to the mid-17th century. However, in 1646, the Turks took control of it for nine months before it was recaptured and placed under Venetian rule. The fortress was last reconstructed in 1708 but was abandoned entirely in 1797, following the fall of the Venetian Republic. One day walking to the fortress sounds wonderful, the amazing site on the top, fresh air. You should definitely visit!

## Humac and Grapceva cave

Humac, a deserted pastoral village located 7 kilometers east of Jelsa in Hvar, is a popular tourist destination due to its magical atmosphere, picturesque ruins, and stunning views of the sea.

Despite the lack of basic amenities such as electricity and running water, the village attracts a significant number of tourists in the summer and locals from nearby Vrisnik. The village is at its liveliest on June 26th, the day of Saints John and Paul, when islanders come together for a celebration.

Humac is also home to a top-notch restaurant, which serves as the launchpad for excursions to Grapeva cave, the oldest site in the area dating back to the Neolithic era. The cave, which is surrounded by chambers and contains dominant stalactites and stalagmites, is an amazing sight when lit by candles.

The Archaeological Museum in Hvar displays various artifacts from that era, including flint knives, hammers, arrows, bones of both human and animal origin, and pottery. The cave's seclusion and tranquility make it a perfect setting for introspection.

Things to do at Humac

1. Visit the Ethno-Eco Village: Humac is home to a unique Ethno-Eco Village, where you can learn about the traditional way of life in Dalmatia. The village features restored stone houses and a museum with exhibits on traditional crafts, such as weaving, pottery, and olive oil production.
2. Hiking and Walking: Humac is surrounded by beautiful nature, and there are many hiking and walking trails that you can explore. You can take a leisurely walk through the vineyards and olive groves, or take a more challenging hike to the nearby peaks for stunning views of the island.
3. Taste Local Wines: Humac is located in the heart of Hvar's wine country, and there are many small wineries in the area where you can taste the local wines. The wines are made from local grape varieties such as Plavac Mali, Bogdanuša, and Pošip, and many wineries offer guided tours and tastings.

## Pokonji dol

Pokonji Dol, a small islet with a lighthouse from 1872, is located just two kilometers from the town of Hvar and has become a popular subject for artists due to its unique appearance. The islet is only 150 meters wide but has several hundred meters of coastline, making it an interesting destination for both domestic and international visitors. Pokonji Dol serves as a starting point for sailors traveling to Korula, Lastovo, and Mljet, and a beacon of safe leeward on their return voyages.

Originally, the lighthouse was just a harbor light but became automated over time. Pokonji Dol is part of the Pakleni or Hellish islands, which are named after pine resin used to protect wooden boats and ships. It is the easternmost point of the islands, with Veli Vodnjak to the west, Cape Močiguzica to the north on Sveti Klement, and the Islet of Stambedar to the south. Visitors can easily spot the islet while walking along the seafront promenade in Hvar and can even reach for it as it appears to be very close.

Things to do at Pokonji dol:

1. Swimming and Sunbathing: Pokonji Dol is a beautiful pebble beach with crystal-clear waters that are perfect for swimming and sunbathing. You can relax on the beach, rent sun loungers and umbrellas, or enjoy water sports such as kayaking, paddleboarding, and snorkeling.
2. Take a Boat Tour: There are many boat tours available from Pokonji Dol that take you to nearby islands and hidden coves. You can take a half-day or full-day tour and explore the beautiful Adriatic Sea, swim in secluded bays, and see some of the stunning coastal landscapes.
3. Visit the Franciscan Monastery: The Franciscan Monastery is located just a short distance from Pokonji Dol and is worth a visit. The monastery features a beautiful Baroque church, a museum with exhibits on local history and culture, and a picturesque garden with views of the sea.

## Dubovica

Dubovica is a pebble beach located near Milna and Zara, which is about a ten-minute drive from Hvar. It is a popular destination for those looking to avoid the crowds. However, the parking lot near the beach can fill up quickly, so it is best to arrive early. To get to the beach, visitors must navigate a ten-minute descent over rocky and slightly wild terrain.

Despite the challenging terrain, the beautiful views of the sea make the journey worthwhile. The area's popularity is evident in the presence of the Kasandri family's country home from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Dubovica Tavern is located on the beach and offers a variety of seafood dishes made from net-caught fish.

1. Relax on the Beach: Dubovica is known for its beautiful pebble beach with crystal-clear waters that are perfect for swimming and sunbathing. You can also rent sun loungers and umbrellas from the beach bar and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.
2. Explore the Surrounding Countryside: Dubovica is surrounded by beautiful vineyards, olive groves, and fields of lavender, which are all worth exploring. You can take a leisurely walk along the scenic trails or rent a bike and cycle through the countryside.
3. Visit Dubovica Chapel: Located just above the beach, Dubovica Chapel is a beautiful historic chapel that dates back to the 17th century. It features a simple white facade with a beautiful Baroque altar and offers stunning views of the bay and the surrounding landscape.

## Jelsa

Jelsa is a charming and welcoming town located in the center of the island of Hvar. The surrounding hills and peaks provide a picturesque setting for visitors to enjoy. The island has a rich history of tourism dating back to ancient times and the Middle Ages. The Hygienic Society of Hvar was established in the 19th century, marking the beginning of organized tourism. The city's oldest hotel, Hotel Jadran, opened in 1911, and since the 1960s, there has been a rapid development of tourist facilities, including hotels, guesthouses, and restaurants. Visitors can enjoy scenic walks along the seashore, through pine forests, and picturesque villages with preserved rural architecture. Jelsa has a lot to offer in terms of food and music, making it a perfect destination for travelers.

Things to do at Jelsa:

1. Explore the Old Town: Jelsa has a beautiful historic center with narrow streets and charming old houses. You can stroll through the town and admire the local architecture, visit the St. Mary's Church, and see the old fortress walls.
2. Visit the Jelsa Wine Cooperative: Jelsa is known for its excellent wines, and the Jelsa Wine Cooperative is a great place to learn about the local wine production. You can take a guided tour of the vineyards and the winery and taste some of the best wines of Hvar.
3. Go Cycling: Jelsa is surrounded by beautiful countryside, and cycling is a popular way to explore the area. There are many bike rental shops in the town, and you can choose from a variety of routes that take you through vineyards, olive groves, and small villages. One popular route is the scenic coastal road that takes you to Vrboska, a picturesque fishing village located a few kilometers away.

## Vrbovska

Vrboska, the smallest town on the island of Hvar, is renowned for its beautiful location in a bay surrounded by dense pine forests, cultural landmarks displaying Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles, and architecture scattered throughout the town's winding streets. It is also known as "Little Venice" due to the lovely islet in the middle of the bay connected by bridges.

The town has a rich history as a fishing community that has grown into a charming tourist destination. The area's unique charm is contributed by the typical Mediterranean folk architecture, distinguished old town houses with Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque features, the sacred spirit of old church buildings, and opulent modern villas.

Vrboska offers beautiful pebble and sand beaches, clear blue sea, clean air, and unspoiled nature, including a nudist island called Zeevo. Accommodation options such as apartments, family pensions, restaurants, and campgrounds with shops and buffets are located near the beaches.

Visitors can also take daily boat trips from Vrboska to the famous Zlatni Rat beach on the island of Bra. Vrboska's extensive fishing heritage is reflected in the local cuisine, with healthy food from nearby fields and fresh-caught fish, homemade olive oil, and aromatic spices. It pairs well with Hvar's renowned wines. In terms of lodging options, visitors can choose from private boarding houses, the Nudist Camp with a nudist beach and other amenities, or the ACI Marina Vrboska, which is open to boaters year-round.

Three things to do at Vrbovška:

1. Visit the Vrboska Fisherman's Museum: Vrboska has a long history of fishing, and the Vrboska Fisherman's Museum is a great place to learn about the local fishing traditions and see the tools and equipment used by fishermen in the past. The museum is located in a historic building in the center of town and features exhibits on the history of the town and the fishing industry.
2. Rent a Boat and Explore the Harbor: Vrboska is a picturesque fishing village with a beautiful harbor that is perfect for boating. You can rent a boat from one of the local rental shops and explore the harbor, visit nearby coves and beaches, and enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding landscape.
3. Walk the Vrboska Promenade: Vrboska has a lovely promenade that runs along the harbor and is lined with palm trees and colorful fishing boats. You can take a leisurely walk along the promenade, enjoy the sea breeze, and admire the local architecture, including the 16th-century Church of St. Lawrence and the Venetian-style houses.

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