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Summer 2021

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THE CITY THAT HOSTS TWO
UNESCO HERITAGE SITES

MUSEUM AND LANDMARKS - FREE ADMISSION

Katedrala sv. Jakova St. James Cathedral

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448 (Tourist info center)
A UNESCO World
Heritage site, St. James
Cathedral is a
Renaissance
masterpiece that took a
century to build.
On its facade
are 71 different
sculpted
faces!



3 Gradski muzej Šibenik Šibenik City Museum

Ulica Gradska vrata 3,
Šibenik
+385 22 213 880
Beautifully designed inside
Šibenik's 17th century
Rector's Palace, the
fascinating collection dates
from pre-history through
the end of the Venetian
period.



3 Aquarium & Terrarium Šibenik

Stube Petra Kaera 1,
Šibenik
+385 99 212 5819
An unforgettable
experience for the whole
family - discover the world
of Adriatic fish and plants
as well as tropical varieties.

4 Civitas Sacra Museum

Kralja Tomislava 10, Šibenik
+385 22 668 522
Interactive museum that tells its
visitors tales of the construction
of the St. James cathedral that
was revolutionary for its period.

Tvrđava sv. Mihovila St. Michael's Fortress

Zagrađe 21, Šibenik
+385 91 497 5547
One of a ring of forts built to protect
Šibenik, the view from its ramparts of
the archipelago, islands and the
medieval town are spectacular!



6 Tvrđava Barone Barone Fortress

Put Vuka Mandušića 28, Šibenik
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Fortress on the hill above the
city, built in 1646, now
marvelously restored. Using your
smart device or AR glasses, you
can experience its history „live“!

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www.sibenikcard.com

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of Renaissance fortification architecture, inscribed on the
UNESCO World Heritage List since 2017.



Prodajna mjesta Points of Sale

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Interpretacijski centar katedrale Sv. Jakova „Civitas Sacra“/
Civitas Sacra, Interpretation Centre of the Cathedral of
St. James
Kralja Tomislava 10, Šibenik
00385 22 668 522

Amadria Park Šibenik
Souvenir shops in Amadria Park hotels
Ured T2 grada Šibenika/ Turističko informativni centar
Šibenik - Tourist Board office, Tourist Information
Center
Fausta Vrančića 18, Obala palah omladinaca 3, Šibenik
00385 22/212-075

Diskont Vinoplođ Vinarje Šibenik – Discount shop
Vinoplođ Winery
Veljimir Škorpica 2, Šibenik
00385 22/334-011
Trokut Šibenik – Coworking i poduzetnički prostor /
CoWorking space – Trokut Šibenik
Veljimir Škorpica 7, Šibenik

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Šibenik is a town on the upswing; a real architectural jewel and yet not as exposed as Zadar and Split. It has its own unique atmosphere: relaxed and carefree.

It's a city that has been — and continues to be — used as an inspiration for countless musicians, composers and songwriters. Its charm lies in the cobblestone streets and the inevitability of interacting with locals. There's no specified tourist zone, as the whole city is a museum that begs to be explored. And topping things off is the fabulous Cathedral built by Juraj Dalmatinac, a UNESCO world heritage site. The city's fortresses provide breathtaking views that relieve stress, while an afternoon swim at either Jadrija or Banj beach is a good way to prepare for a night whilst cruising the town's many cafes. Speaking of night, in recent years Šibenik has been dubbed with the slogan 'the city is a stage' due to so many gigs and events taking places in and around city streets and corners through to fortresses and squares.

Then of course, if you need a little more adventure on your holiday, the surrounding area is filled with national parks and islands that are waiting to be discovered.

No matter what you choose, we wish you an extended and warm summer holiday in the hope that you will take advantage of everything this grand city has to offer!

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Snap, camera, action

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**CONTEMPORARY ART:
LANA STOJČEVIĆ**

One of the most thrilling Croatian artists to emerge in recent years is the Šibenik-born Lana Stojčević. Her photographs direct an ambiguous and unsettling gaze towards an Adriatic coast that we normally associate with happy beach holidays. Nominated for the prestigious Radoslav Putar art prize in 2021, Stojčević has become celebrated for a series of works that provide oblique commentary on the uncontrolled growth of vacation houses along the shore. In her 2018 series *Fasada* she photographed herself wearing an outlandish pink costume made in imitation of a coastal holiday villa. It continued a theme visited in earlier projects *Villa Rosa* and *Parcela*, in which modern apartment developments were reimagined as models, toys or cakes. Stojčević has already been feted by the foreign media for *Sunny Side*, an arresting series of photographs involving the futuristic swimming pool of the Hotel Zora in Primošten. Using both the real pool and models of it reconstructed to look like a flying saucer, Stojčević's photographs suggest a sci-fi scenario that plays eloquently on the modernist aspects of the Adriatic landscape.



WHERE TO FIND LOCAL ART EVENTS?

Summer is a perfect time to travel, to visit new places and gain new experiences. Traveling is also a great way to learn about local art.

MUSIC

Seize the opportunity to enjoy a number of fantastic concerts at **St Michael's Fortress** this summer! Some big names in the world of music, such as **Asaf Avidan** and well-renowned Croatian bands, including **Daleka Obala, Let 3,** and **Neno Belan** to name just a few, will perform in this unique setting. Given that the number of seats is limited, make sure you check their website: www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/hr/program/2021/ for more information.

Electronic music fans will surely choose to stop by **Martinska Beach**, located on a peninsula opposite the Old Town, that has a circular ferry connection (running in July and August). Dance to the beat of the electronic music at **SeaSplash Festival (July 15-18)** and **Slurp Festival (July 30-31)**. **Punk music** lovers will roam the **Kanal Festival** on **Martinska Beach** from **July 23-24**, while **Project Hangar 303 (July 24-25)** at the Šibenik army barracks will definitely intrigue the underground techno music fans. For more details on the latter event, check their website: [//projectvojarna.com/](http://projectvojarna.com/).

The Garden Resort and Barbarellas Club in **Tisno**, near Šibenik, organize 5 summer festivals. The season opens on **22 July** with **Suncebeat Festival** and continues, with **Outlook** on **29 July**, **Defected** on **5 August**, **Dekmantel Selectors** on **26 August**, and **Dimensions** as the closing event on **2 September** - all experiences to remember! Every Thursday at 8.30 p.m. from 8 July until 2 September, **Mala Loža** (Small Lodge) in the **Šibenik Old Town** will echo with the original klapa (a capella) music.

The **Azimut Club** which serves some of the best coffee in town,

offers a great summer program packed with various events and concerts. For more information, check out their website www.azimut.art.

Vodice Jazz & Blues festival from **July 17-19** in the nearby town of Vodice is another music lovers' must this summer.

FILM

Barone Fortress will once again host a film event "*Wednesdays around the World*". The program has been created in cooperation with various festivals in Croatia which promote the independent & art films industry. The film selection has been made from the film titles shown recently at both domestic as well as prestigious foreign film festivals.

Don't miss out on the **International Festival of Animated Film and Comics Supertoon** that will take place in the Old Town of Šibenik from **July 19-23**. Locations and the program can be viewed at: www.supertoonfestival.com.

LOCAL ART FAIRS

Make sure to visit the **Heritage Day** at the **Mala Loža** (Small Lodge) on Thursdays from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m., from **July 8** until the end of August. Here you can try some of the local products, visit the handicraft fair, and see the demonstration of creating the traditional *Šibenski botun* at the **Civitas Sacra Museum** at **6 or 8 p.m.** (Silver botun, or buton as we say, which once adorned the male folk costumes, today can be found and purchased in the form of various jewellery pieces such as earrings, rings, pendants, pins for a tie, brooches, necklaces and so on. Also available at **Krka National Park gift shop** (Trg Ivana Pavla II 5).

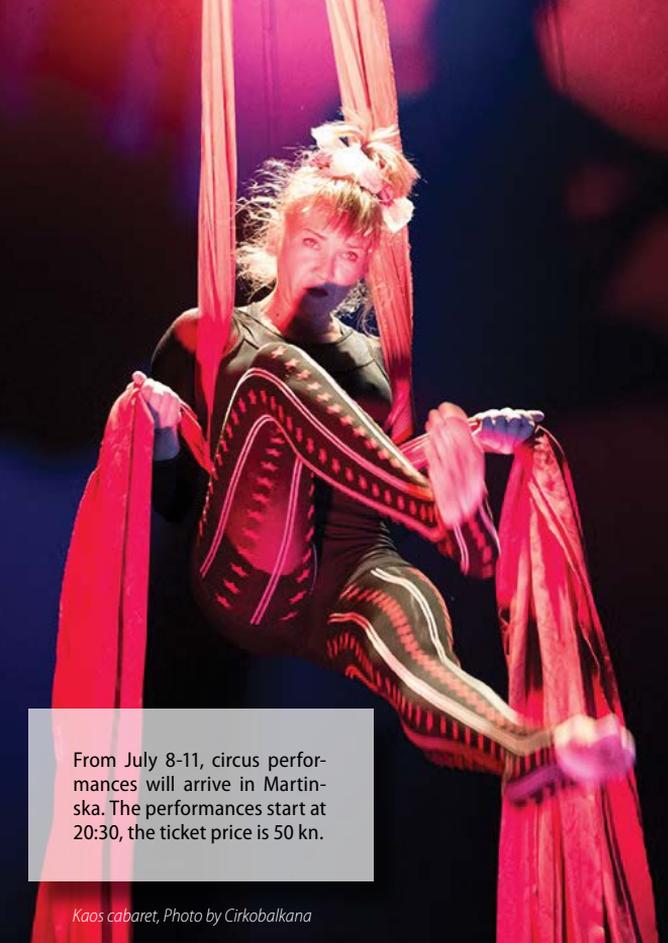
Check at the **Municipal Museum** for the workshop schedule on making of the traditional *Šibenska kapa*. (You might see on your travels in the Šibenik area a distinctive orange-red skullcap worn as a part of folk costume or used as a motif for local restaurants and products. It's part of the rich folk heritage of this part of the world and is decorated with black wool and silk motifs.)

Take the opportunity to meet local people and to try some of the **local specialties** by joining a guided tour every Thursday at 7 p.m. Visit the **Green Market** which is open daily, (except Sunday) from 7.00 am to 12.00 pm until 31 August to enjoy sampling high quality local products.

The **Art & Craft fair** at **Azimut** will host more than a dozen artists from Šibenik between **15 July and 15 August**.



Martinska, Photo by Membrain festival



From July 8-11, circus performances will arrive in Martinška. The performances start at 20:30, the ticket price is 50 kn.

Kaos cabaret, Photo by Cirkobalkana



Photo by Fanni Tutek Hajnal, Šibenik Dance Festival

IVO BREŠAN

Playwright and screenwriter **Ivo Brešan (1936-2017)** was a towering figure in the cultural life of Šibenik, serving for many years as the artistic director of the Šibenik Cultural Centre and also as director of the globally renowned Šibenik Children's Festival. Brešan has now been honoured with the opening of an Ivo Brešan Memorial Room in the foyer of the National Theatre in Šibenik, containing photographs, videos and mementos of a man who left a profound mark on Croatian drama. A master of satire who used the sharp wit and teasing humour of his native Dalmatia to delight theatre audiences throughout Croatia and the former Yugoslavia, Vodice-born Brešan was made famous by his play *A Performance of Hamlet in the Village of Mrduša Donja* (*Predstava Hamleta u selu Mrduša Donja*), which was premiered in Zagreb's Teatar ITD in 1971. Involving attempts by communist-era bureaucrats to organize a Shakespeare performance in a small Dalmatian village, it made

savage fun of the absurdities of one-party rule and became a success-de-scandale as a result. Despite hostility from the Croatian communist party, it was made into a highly successful film in 1973 (featuring outstanding actor and heartthrob Rade Šerbedžija in the lead). The original play went on to become one of the most frequently-performed productions in Croatian history. While continuing to work in the cultural institutions of Šibenik, Brešan went on to enjoy a highly successful career as a writer for film, completing several critically-acclaimed screenplays for his cinema-director son, Vinko Brešan.

Brešan actually got its own small museum that can be seen throughout the day from June 19 to July 3, and after that the memorial room of Ivo Brešan will be open for viewing by agreement with the Croatian National Theater in Šibenik.

Can you picture top dance performances performed in medieval fortresses, Venetian squares and a 150 year old National Theatre? Then head to Šibenik on **July 19 at the Fortress of St. Mihovil**, within the Šibenik Dance Festival, the ensemble of the Ballet of the Croatian National Theater Ivan pl. Zajc from Rijeka, will perform "**Flaming Water**", one of the key projects of the Rijeka 2020 program - European Capital of Culture, renowned European and world choreographer Andonis Foniadakis. The opening ceremony at the Fortress of St. Michael on July 19, and you can follow the entire festival until July 25.



Photo by Membrain festival



Brešan Room, Photo by HNK Šibenik

Photo by St Michael's Fortress Archives



**MURA INCOGNITA:
UNKNOWN FORTIFICATIONS OF ŠIBENIK
AND ITS SURROUNDINGS**

(Research 2017 - 2021)

June 26 - September 27, St Michael's Fortress

ARSEN DEDIĆ

Many Croatian popular singers have gone down in history as national treasures but when it comes to songwriting brilliance and long-lasting legacy few can compare with Šibenik-born **Arsen Dedić**. Born in 1938, Dedić was an accomplished poet and gifted composer as well as a popular crooner who enjoyed mass appeal, crafting some of the most sophisticated, contemplative and moving songs in the Croatian canon.

Moderately successful as a writer, arranger and solo performer while still a student at Zagreb's Academy of Music (where he graduated as a flautist), Arsen Dedić's first big break came with his performance of the intoxicatingly melancholic ballad *Moderato Cantabile* at Zagreb fest 64, an appearance which established him as a gifted chansonnier with a uniquely poetic touch. He quickly became a regular at the annual song festivals central to Croatia's popular-culture boom of the 1960s, although he didn't make his first LP record until 1969's *Čovjek kao ja* ("A Man Like Me"). It was certainly worth waiting for, a wistful collection of lushly orchestrated ballads that immediately became a classic and is still rated by many to be the best Croatian popular-music album ever made. The follow-up *Arsen 2* and the double-album *Homo Volans* continued to deliver complex, high-quality, ambitious pop that hid sophisticated writing behind a deceptively easy-listening veneer. tantalizingly, a planned album of Croatian-language Leonard Cohen covers was wiped by mistake by hapless technicians at the *Jugoton* record label.

As well as pursuing a solo career that never showed any signs of slowing down, Dedić went on to work with pretty much everyone in the business who mattered, his longest-lasting musical collaboration being that with the popular singer **Gabi Novak**, who also became his wife. Dedić also wrote the soundtracks to over 30 films, and produced incidental music for over 100 theatre plays. He was writing and performing right up until his death aged 77 in 2015.

Art House Arsen

June 2021 saw the long-anticipated opening of Šibenik's **Art House Arsen** (*Kuća umjetnosti Arsen*), a state-of-the-art cultural centre that provides the city with a much-needed, multi-purpose venue for concerts, theatre, art exhibi-



tions and film showings. The building itself is that of the former Odeon cinema, a modernist masterpiece from the mid Fifties that was renovated at great expense after standing empty for twenty years. It gets its new name from the Šibenik-born singer-songwriter Arsen Dedić, a figure who looms larger than most in the history of Croatian popular music. Presiding over the lobby is a bust of Dedić by sculptor Boris Leiner, himself a musician of great renown having served as the drummer of legendary new-wave band Azra. Somewhat appropriately, the Art House Arsen's first full concert featured Arsen Dedić's wife, popular singing star Gabi Novak; and his award-winning jazz-pianist son, Matija Dedić. Also featuring in the centre's first weeks of operation was a programme of movies for which Arsen Dedić wrote the soundtracks. Equipped with state-of-the-art auditorium, exhibition space and a chic new café, the centre looks set to become a compelling new cultural hub.

The Girl from Back Home

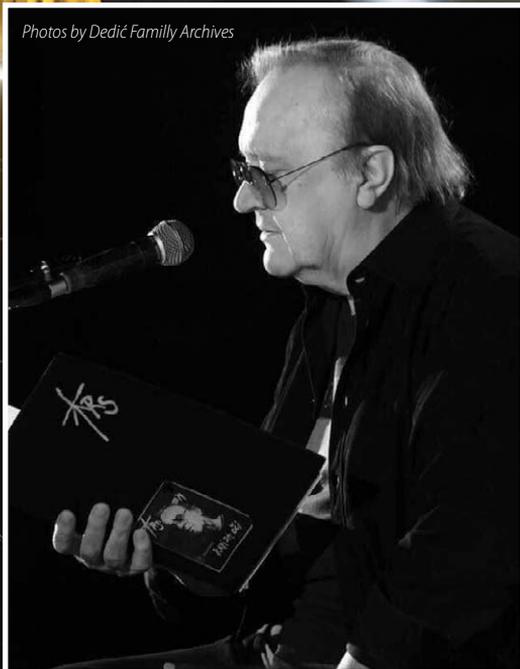
Djevojka iz moga kraja (The Girl From Back Home) is the title of a fascinating exhibition at Šibenik's **Azimut club** featuring the best submissions to a photography competition organized by the Kolektiv 4B cultural association. Entrants, both amateur and professional, were invited to send in photographs inspired by the romantic themes covered by the music of Šibenik-born Arsen Dedić, a singer-songwriter whose poetic, wistful songs delved insightfully into the world of human emotions. The title of the exhibition itself comes from one of Dedić's best-loved songs, apensive account of a Šibenik girl travelling by train towards the big city (and, judging by the ambiguous lyrics, possibly heading towards disappointment and disillusion). The opening date of the exhibition, **July 28**, was chosen to coincide with what would have been the much-missed Dedić's 83rd birthday.

21.08 » ŠIBENIK CHANSON FESTIVAL

This ancient city has chanson music carved in its very stones and the schedule is proof of that. The first, is an evening of international music and the second evening is a dalmatian chanson. All artists will perform live, together with the festival orchestra and ensembles. ▶ www.sansona-sibenik.com.



Photos by Dedić Family Archives



ESSENTIAL ŠIBENIK

CATHEDRAL OF ST JAMES (KATEDRALA SVETOG JAKOVA)

With its pale stone dome rising above the city like a gargantuan crocus bulb, Šibenik's magnificent Cathedral exerts a dominating presence over the huddled buildings of the Old Town. In a sense the church here is as old as Šibenik itself, although it is the century-long campaign of rebuilding initiated in 1431 that produced the imposing edifice that can be seen today.

Frequently halted by lack of funds, construction took place in installments, and the new-look cathedral wasn't officially consecrated until 1555. However it brought together many of the Adriatic's finest craftsmen, foremost among them being the visionary architect Juraj Dalmatinac, and his successor Nikola Firentinac. It was they who were responsible for the cathedral's most innovative features, the barreled roof and massive cupola both built from interlocking stone slabs.

Quite apart from its status as a marvel of construction, the Cathedral is also a hugely entertaining as a gallery of late-Medieval and early-Renaissance sculpture. The north portal is framed by endearingly primitive statues of Adam and Eve (both portrayed covering their private parts in embarrassment) standing on pillars which rest on the backs of lions. They are thought to be the work of Bonino of Milan, a craftsman from Lombardy who was brought in to work on the cathedral at an early stage but who died before the reconstruction really got going. Much more refined in style are the sculptures and reliefs around the outside of the apse, where Juraj Dalmatinac provided a frieze of 71 stone heads – which appear to pop out of the wall just above human height. Thought to be modeled on Šibenik characters of Dalmatinac's acquaintance, they are uniquely lifelike examples of Renaissance sculpture and have served as something of a trademark for the city of Šibenik ever since. Above the frieze, a pair of stone cherubs unfurl a scroll of parchment bearing the name of the artist, Juraj Dalmatinac. You'll have to crane your neck upwards to catch sight of the statues grouped around the central cupola, all the work of Nikola Firentinac. A winged St Michael is portrayed spearing a dragon facing the main square, while St Mark faces the sea, and St James faces east. Standing at roof level at the western end of the cathedral is an Annunciation scene, also by Firentinac, featuring Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin.

Inside, look out for a sarcophagus of Bishop Juraj Šižgorić with an effigy of the reclining bishop carved by Juraj Dalmatinac. The Altar of the Holy Cross bears a late Gothic crucifixion carved by Juraj Petrović, fifteenth-century Canon of Split Cathedral. Dalmatinac's greatest masterpiece is the baptistry (*krstionica*) in the cathedral's corner, which features a beautifully carved ceiling, and plump cherubs cavorting around the base of the baptismal font. Mass: June - August 09:00 and 20:00, Sun 09:30, 11:00 and 20:00. September, October, April, May 09:00 and 19:00, Sun 09:30, 11:00 and 19:00. November

- March 09:00 and 18:00, Sun 09:30, 11:00, 18:00. ▶ D-4, Trg Republike Hrvatske 1. Open 09:30-18:30. Admission 25kn.

SAINT ANTHONY'S CHANNEL - PROMENADE

See one of the most amazing entrances to a city from the sea. Saint Anthony's Channel is a 4.4km new promenade surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation and offers stunning panoramic views of the Šibenik archipelago. Attractions include the ruins of a 16th century tower, a sublime several hundred meter long marine tunnel built for military purposes, beautiful coves that lay at the end of the channel and are perfect for a swim or quick dip, and in the vicinity sits the old port and a cave that housed a small church dedicated to St. Anthony. Organised tours, walking, jogging and cycling are your best options for a very scenic outside-in view of Šibenik! ▶ J/K-5, www.kanal-svetog-ante.com.

ŠIBENIK CITY MUSEUM (MUZEJ GRADA ŠIBENIKA)

A narrow alley, behind the apse of the cathedral, leads to the 17th century Rector's Palace, from where the representative of the Venetian Republic would watch over Šibenik's affairs. It is now home to the City Museum which only reopened its door for permanent displays after a demanding 22 year break for renovations. Exhibited artefacts are divided into four periods: Prehistory, Antiquity, Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. ▶ D-4, Gradska vrata 3, tel. (+385-22) 21 38 80, www.muzej-sibenik.hr. Open 08:00 - 20:00. Admission 30kn, kids by the age of 12 have free entrance.

THE MEDIEVAL MONASTERY MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN OF ST LAWRENCE (SREDNJO-VJEKOVNI SAMOSTANSKI MEDITERANSKI VRT SV. LOVRE)

Laid out by landscape architect Dragutin Kiš and maintained by children from a local high school, the Mediterranean Garden has become one of Šibenik's most popular attractions since opening its gates in 2007. Occupying an oblong terrace just above the belfry of St Lawrence's church and surrounded by stone walls, the garden aims to provide an accurate impression of what a medieval monastery garden would have looked like, and is a marvellously soothing spot in which to enjoy a few moments of retreat. The collection of plants is laid out in neat geometric beds and reveals how monastery gardens such as these were highly practical affairs, cultivating the herbs and shrubs that were both useful in the kitchen and in medieval medicine. Fruit trees and roses help to provide additional colour. There is also a café with outdoor seating on a garden-side patio, a restaurant and a souvenir shop. If you have ambitious plans for a herb garden at home, this is the perfect place to come for horticultural inspiration.

▶ D-3, Strme stube 1, tel. (+385-22) 21 25 15/(+385-) 098 34 11 98, www.sv-lovre.com/. Open 09:00-24:00.



The Church of the Most Holy Redeemer

THE MEŠTROVIĆ
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FORTIFICATIONS

BARONE FORTRESS

Today's smart devices are virtual time machines. Don a pair of augmented reality (AR) devices and step 370 years into the past, to the 1646 Ottoman siege of Šibenik. The defence of the city by the citizens of Šibenik is told through an exhilarating audio and video experience taking the viewer right into the centre of the action. The siege takes place on Barone Fortress, a fortification hastily built in just under two months lying on the hills overlooking the city. The fortress was part of the defence system of Šibenik which included three other fortresses and together they served as the last line of defence against the invading Ottomans. While the other three fortresses were named after sacred buildings, this one was named after Baron Degenfeld, a hero in the story of the city's defence. The fortress soon fell into a state of disrepair after the Ottoman invaders were repelled. It was several hundred years later, in the early 20th century that the city of Šibenik purchased the fortress and its surrounding land. It eventually gained use as a viewpoint overlooking the city's marina and archipelago, and as a recreational space for hiking. It was only recently that the city of Šibenik began looking at restoring the centuries old structure. In June of 2014, with the financial backing of the European Regional Development Fund, an almost €1.4 million project was undertaken by the city of Šibenik to renovate Barone Fortress. The goal of the project was to provide the visitors of the fortress with a cultural attraction and incorporate high-tech in-

novative services. Utilising AR technology, the stories of the past can now become the attractions of the future. A visitor equipped with AR device is greeted at the entrance to the fortress – the use of device is included in admission ticket price. This, alongside other eye-witness accounts of the siege help to comprise a unique educational experience that would never have been possible otherwise. In January of 2016, Barone Fortress was finally reopened to the public. The opening ceremony celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the city of Šibenik and marked the 950th anniversary of the first written mention of the city's name. The fortress is now a unique and new attraction among many in Croatia. It brings from the past a pivotal event in the region's history and lets visitors immerse themselves in its intricacies using the exciting AR technology. ► F-1, Put Vuka Mandušića 28, tel. (+385-91) 619 65 67, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/en/. Open 09:00-21:00. Admission 40/25kn (family 90kn). Another option is unified ticket valid for seven days, for visiting both, St.Michael's and Barone fortresses: 70/45kn (family 160kn).

ST JOHN'S FORTRESS (TVRĐAVA SVETOG IVANA)

Built in 1646 at the time of the Candia War (when Venetian-controlled Dalmatia was engaged in a bitter struggle to ward off Ottoman encroachment) this is a typical example of 17th-century military architecture, its star-shaped plan providing any number of ideal angles for defensive artillery fire. Even today it is a stirring sight, its angular jutting bastions surrounded by outcrops



The light spectacle 'Light is Life' (28 - 29.08.) marks the day when, more than a hundred years ago, Šibenik, as one of the first cities in the world, received public lighting on alternating current, and the festival celebrates light as a source of life and electricity as a source of light.

Photo by Šibenik Tourist Board Archives

of limestone and spindly evergreen trees. Getting here from the centre of town is fairly easy: from the main Kralja Zvonimira take Težačka then turn left into Zadarska Street, before turning right onto the steeply ascending Put V. Mandušića. Alternatively, drive as far as Barone (see below) and take the footpath from there. Once you're here, the access path to the fortress itself leads through a stepped gateway and out onto a grassy plateau, where there are remains of barrack blocks, powder stores, World-War-II gun positions and a modern radio mast. The views, taking in St Michael's Fortress and the Šibenik Channel, are well worth the uphill walk. ▶ L-2, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr.

ST MICHAEL'S FORTRESS (TVRĐAVA SVETOG MIHOVILA)

One of the first things that visitors see when entering Šibenik by road is the silhouette of St Michael's Fortress, which crowns the pyramidal hill above Šibenik's Old Town. Its importance to the Croatian state is illustrated by the number of times that 11th-century Croatian kings brought their court here – Petar Krešimir IV in 1066, Zvonimir in 1078, and Stjepan II in 1080. It was during Krešimir's visit that Šibenik was first mentioned in official documents, which explains why the city is sometimes known to this day as "Krešimir's Town". Its floor plan has the shape of an irregular rectangle. There are two square towers on its eastern side whereas two polygonal towers sit along its northern front. Throughout history, the fortress had been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt, and it experienced its greatest suffering in 1663 and 1752. Archaeological investigations inside the monumental complex have found numerous remains of material culture dating from prehistoric times to the late Middle Ages. Running downhill from the fortress towards the seafront are a crenellated set of double walls built in

the 15th century to provide access to the sea. Centuries on and despite its majestic yet turbulent past, St. Michael's Fortress stands proud as a true landmark of the city, an unavoidable destination of cultural tourism and of utter national significance. Nowadays and after extensive reconstruction, the fortress serves a different purpose; it has become a summer stage for various cultural and in particular musical events thanks to its natural beauty and location. ▶ C-2, Zagrade 21, tel. (+385-) 091 497 55 47, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/en/. Open 09:00-21:00. Admission 60/40kn (family 140kn). Another option is unified ticket valid for seven days, for visiting both, St. Michael's and Barone fortresses: 70/45kn (family 160kn).

ST NICHOLAS' FORTRESS (TVRĐAVA SVETOG NIKOLE)

Jutting out into the St Anthony's Channel, the narrow neck of water that leads from the Šibenik Channel to the open sea, the smooth-pointed triangle of St Nicholas's Fortress is one of the most elegant military buildings anywhere in the Adriatic. It was built by Venetian military engineer Gian Girolamo Sarmacchelli in the mid-16th century to protect Šibenik from Ottoman naval attacks. In 2017, it was included in UNESCO's World Heritage List making Šibenik only one of five cities in the world with two ancient buildings listed. There are long-term plans to restore the fortress. You can visit St. Nicholas' Fortress, organised by Priroda (Nature) a public institution of Šibenik-Knin County. You leave by boat from the Krka berth on the Šibenik waterfront. Schedule and prices can be found at tickets.kanal-svetog-ante.com and the cost includes travel (20 minutes either direction), admission to the fortress (45 minutes sightseeing), tour guides, and multilingual materials. Total time approximately 2 hours. ▶ www.kanal-svetog-ante.com.

CURIOSITY

THE ŠIBENIK REBUS

Dobrić is one of the narrow stepped streets that zig-zags its way down from the Kalelarga towards the Riva, passing a small piazza about half-way down. High up on the façade of one of the piazza's houses is Šibenik's most enigmatic sight, the Rebus or riddle. It basically consists of an oblong stone relief bearing five symbols – bird's wings, crossed scythes, two wine flagons, a trio of gaming dice, and a human skull. The artisan who carved the Rebus was obviously delivering a mischievously morbid message, although opinion differs as to precisely what this is: a cautionary tale about the dangers of drinking and gaming seems to be part of the explanation. Whatever the Rebus is warning you about, it seems certain that you will be quite dead at the end of it. ▶ E-3, Dobrić.

PARKS

PERIVOJ ROBERT VISIANI

Named after the Šibenik-born 19th-century botanist, this stretch of park was laid out in the 1890s, and a section of the medieval town wall was demolished to make way for it. A high proportion of evergreen trees and shrubs ensure that the park retains its colour all year round, while plantings of lavender, rosemary and sage provide waves of pleasantly herby scent. The garden was once the site of a bronze statue of Nikola Tommaseo (1802-1874), the

Šibenik-born Italian-language novelist and critic who had a profound interest in local Dalmatian culture. It's now the site of a statue of King Petar Krešimir IV. ▶ G-3.

ŠUBIČEVAC PARK

For a taste of the arid Mediterranean landscape that characterises central Dalmatia head for this large wooded area uphill from the centre, where a mazy network of paths leads up and down boulder-strewn knolls covered in a mixture of wiry shrubs and evergreens. There's a kids' playground near the entrance, and good views over the south-eastern end of the city from the park's higher reaches. It's also a good start or finishing point for those exploring the nearby fortresses of St John and Barone.

▶ F-1, Šubičevac.



Aquarium

Upon entering this old stone house situated 50m from the Cathedral, embark on a journey which brings to life the local residents of the Adriatic Sea. This aquarium-terrarium is a small zoo where you can experience the depths of sea, rivers and lakes and meet various interesting fish and reptiles.

www.aquariumsibenik.com

Open
May and June Check their Facebook page.
From July Open 10:00 - 22:00.

Price/Additional Info
Admission 40/30 kn, additional discounts for family.

Terrarium Šibenik

In a country renowned for its diversity of culinary culture, the Šibenik region offers a wealth of gastronomic attractions. As well as the best of Adriatic cuisine, there is a profusion of distinctive local delicacies too.



Photo by Valerio Baranović, Šibenik County Tourist Board Archives

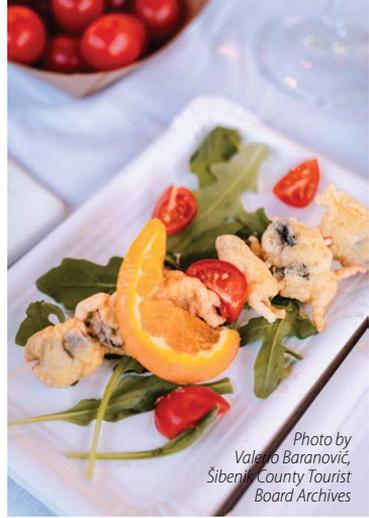


Photo by Valerio Baranović, Šibenik County Tourist Board Archives

Channel St. Anthony, Photo by Šibenik Tourist Board Archives



Cathedral of St. James, Photo by Šibenik Tourist Board Archives



Photo by Valerio Baranović, Šibenik County Tourist Board Archives



LOCAL DISHES

Fish and shellfish

The waters of the Adriatic are packed with all manner of fish. Fine white fish such as John Dory (*kovač*), Sea Bass (*brancin*) or Sea Bream (*orada*) is usually grilled and served whole (complete with head, tail, skin and bones) - using knives, forks, fingers and teeth to prize away all of the white meat is an essential part of the experience. Fish on restaurant menus is usually priced by the kilogramme - a fish that weighs about 300g-400g is usually sufficient for one person. Many restaurants do however serve individually-priced fish fillets, aware that foreign visitors often find the whole fish-ordering process a bit confusing. The standard accompaniment for fish is mangold (*blitva*), a green vegetable full of healthy minerals.

Cheaper varieties of fish such as anchovies (*srdale* or *inčuni*) are often marinated in oil and serve as excellent snacks or as an accompaniment to a round of drinks.

Squid (*lignje*) is one of the most popular items on local restaurant menus, served grilled or fried in breadcrumbs.

The Šibenik-Skradin area in particular is famous for its shellfish, and if you are crossing the bridge over the river Krka you will see bobbing floats on the surface of the water marking the oyster beds. Due to the Krka's clear waters the local mullet (*cipalj*) has a more delicate taste than elsewhere in the Adriatic and is a common feature of restaurant menus as a result. Moving only slightly upstream, the Krka is also famous for its freshwater trout. Another real delicacy of the Skradin-Krka area is the eel (*jegulja*, known locally as *bižot*), which is lighter in texture and taste than the more fatty eels found in the Neretva delta further south.

Roast meats

The maquis-covered hinterland of central Dalmatia provides ideal grazing land for sheep, which can be seen nibbling away on grasses and herbs on the plateau between Šibenik and Knin. Roast lamb on a spit is a popular local dish, and roadside restaurants on the main out-of-town routes frequently entice travellers to pull over by roasting a whole animal in the yard outside. Roast lamb is served by weight with on-the-bone cuts frequently included in each portion - so don't be too shy to use your hands. Lamb is usually served with several shoots of spring onion.

The other traditional way of preparing local lamb and veal is under a bell-shaped metal lid known as a *peka*. The method requires a big open hearth, with a log fire to generate the heat. Meat and potatoes are placed in a fire-side pot and covered with the *peka* lid, which is then covered in hot ashes. The ashes are periodically renewed as the first lot start to cool. The whole process takes about two hours, and results in a wonderfully tender and succulent meal.

Skradin specialties

Veal is also a basic ingredient in *Skradinski rižot* (Skradin risotto), with the meat cooked slowly for twelve hours (or two days according to some purists) and the rice being added only at the end. Traditionally this is a ritual dish, cooked by the men of the town on the eve of a major feast day. Nowadays you will find it on restaurant menus in Skra-

adin - although you should stick to the best Skradin restaurants if you want to eat a version of *Skradinski rižot* that has been authentically slow-cooked.

Skradin is also famous for the *Skradinska torta*, a cake that looks like a traditional sponge cake but has a totally different kind of succulence, largely due to the fact that it is made without any flour - the cake's texture comes instead from the ground almonds and walnuts that form its prime ingredients. Flavoured with orange peel, honey and rose-petal brandy, it's a mouth-wateringly delicious culinary discovery for those who haven't had the good fortune to visit Skradin before. You'll find it on the dessert menus of most of the town's restaurants.

Sheep's-milk cheese

Typical of the Drniš area is *sir iz mišine*, a sheep's-milk cheese that is matured while hanging in a tube of sheep's gut. The smooth-textured cheese has a distinctive aroma and taste, and should definitely be sampled if you see it advertised on the menus of local restaurants.

Olive oil

The whole of Šibenik county is covered in olive plantations. Olive groves that were allowed to run wild in the latter half of the 20th century have been returned to cultivation, and new saplings can be seen sprouting from stony slopes all around the region. Murter is a major centre of olive oil production, although most production is on a small family-farm level and it is difficult to find locally-bottled oil in shops. Many of the locals sell their oil on souvenir stalls in the centre of Murter town in the summer months.

The Zlatna Ribica restaurant in Brodarica produces oil which is hot-pressed rather than cold-pressed (so it doesn't qualify for the 'extra virgin' label) but it does have a smoother taste and texture as a result, and is very good for general kitchen use. It is sold at their own oil press (*uljara*) on the island of Krapanj.

Wine and spirits

Šibenik county is a major wine producing region, with vineyards spread out across the hills all along the coast. The most common local wine is the outstanding red Babić, although imported vine strains such as Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon also flourish here. The best Babić comes from Primošten, although good-quality Babić is also cultivated along the whole of Šibenik county's coast. Biggest local winery is the Šibenik-based cooperative Vinoplod, which produces top-quality Babić alongside mid-price wines like Plavina (red) and Debit (white), and inexpensive table wines.

Based near Skradin, the Bibich winery produces excellent mid-price autochthonous wines such as red Plavina, dry white Debit, as well as innovative barrel-aged blended wines, and international strains such as the quality red Sangreal Shiraz.

Spirits specific to the Skradin area include *rakija od ruža* (rose-petal *rakija*) and *liker od žižula* (liqueur flavoured with berries from the jujube tree).



BARAKA
ESTATE VINEYARDS & WINERY
φ43° 45' 15"N λ15° 49' 55"E

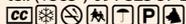
WINE TASTING RESERVATION:
m: +385 98 337 993 e: filip@baraka.co
Bogdanovići 36, Šibenik <http://baraka.co>

WINE TASTING

BARAKA WINERY

Baraka Winery is a relatively new chapter in Croatia's always-impressive wine story. Established just over 3 decades ago, this is a tale of the love of fine wine, and dedication to the grapevine. This family run business can be found on the Srma peninsula, near Šibenik and Vodice, and it has almost 12,000 vines across 4 hectares of land. Their wine follows the same principles of those days when the family made wine for themselves and friends in their own cellar at home – no herbicides are used. ▶ **Bogdanovići 36, tel. (+385-) 098 33 79 93, www.baraka.co.** Open by prior arrangement to +385 98 33 79 93.

BIBICH TASTING ROOM

In the little village of Plastovo near beautiful Skradin there is a hidden jewel which has even had the famous TV food icon Anthony Bourdain visit not so long ago. The Bibich family have been producing wines for generations and these can be found in the finest restaurants across the US and Europe. With prior reservation, the course meals are on offer for the entire wining and dining experience, not to mention the stroll through their serene winery. ▶ **Plastovo, tel. (+385-) 091 323 57 29, www.bibich.net;** closed Mon. 

VINA RAK TASTING ROOM

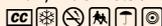
Fancy a drop! Visitors and tourists alike can taste and sample the domestic production of authentic Šibenik wines such as Babić, Maraština and Rose, better known as Opol in the Dalmatian region. ▶ **Rakovo selo 98, Dubrava, tel. (+385-) 099 724 15 68, www.vina-rak.hr.** Open 11:00-20:00. 

FINE DINING

PELEGRINI (MICHELIN 2020)

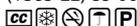
Occupying a renovated medieval building, just up the steps from Šibenik Cathedral, a Michelin Star owner Pelegrini offers a winning blend of bare-stone historical authenticity and contemporary design cool. They create personalised high-end gastronomic experiences, rich with flavours and aromas of gastronomic heritage. Dishes are made using local ingredients and fresh seafood, while sommeliers create daily wine selections to best fit the season and condition of each wine. Menu is 4 courses. Tasting menu is available upon request. New in Summer 2020, Pelegrini offers its stellar take on street food with **Pupa by Pelegrini**. The ingredients are secret, the taste is irresistible and the view of the cathedral is second to none.

▶ **C-3, Jurja Dalmatinca 1, tel. (+385-22) 21 37 01, www.pelegrini.hr.** Open 12:00-14:00; 18:30-21:00; Mon, Tue 18:30-21:00; closed Sun. (760-895kn).



BARUN

Based in a large family house midway between Brodarica and the Solaris complex, Barun has a big first-floor dining room with views towards the green olive plantations surrounding Solaris's bay, and outdoor seating in a garden planted with palms and lush Mediterranean plants. Local fish and shellfish form the mainstay of the menu, although it's the pasta dishes that bring many in-the-know Šibenik diners out this far. ▶ **Podsolarsko 66, tel. (+385-22) 35 06 66.** Open 12:00 - 23:00. (140 - 530kn).



BUFFET ŠIMUN

Inexpensive Dalmatian fare in a startlingly orange eatery near the train station, with hearty soups like *bob* (beans) augmented by grilled meats, breaded squid, *paštica* (beef stewed in prunes) and other Croatian lunchtime standards. ▶ **Fra Jeronima Milete 17, tel. (+385-22) 21 26 74/(+385-) 098 174 32 88.** Open 08:00-22:00; closed Sun. (40 - 60kn). 

GASTRO ITALIANO

With over 20 pizzas to choose, you can't lose! For over 15 years this eatery has prepped dishes with quality and carefully selected foods along with their 'old school' cooking recipes. Seafood and meats pack the menu with gems like chicken filled with prosciutto in shrimp sauce and homemade croutons. Tuna and salmon steaks on the grill are popular not to mention the homemade bread served for free with every meal ordered. ▶ **Podsolarsko 78 (next to Amadria Park), tel. (+385-22) 35 04 94, www.gastro-italiano.hr.** Open 13:00-24:00; Sat, Sun 12:00-24:00. (40 - 150kn).



KONOBA NOSTALGIJA

It's a family affair and you'll feel like you're part of the Ujević kin soon. Oozes Mediterranean with a diverse and affordable menu for either lunch or dinner with local ingredients and local wine top on the list! Quality overrides quantity here and the rustic interior is grand.

► F-3, Biskupa Fosca 11, tel. (+385-22) 66 12 69/ (+385-) 091 587 25 06, www.nostalgija-sibenik.com. Open 13:00-22:00; closed Sun. (70 - 130kn).    

MARENDA

A tiny room selling fishy snacks of the anchovy, pilchard and mackerel variety, with the odd bit of squid or hake thrown in for good measure. There is a small table inside and a wooden bench on the alley outside. Locals frequently call in for a glass or two of red wine served from the barrel. And don't be surprised if they suddenly start singing. ► E-2, Nove crkve 9, tel. (+385-22) 33 60 77. Open 07:00-23:00; Sat 07:00-16:00; closed Sun. (19 - 50kn).      

MENDULA

If you're close the Cathedral then Mendula is nearby. Choose to dine in or out with an undercover terrace available. The cuisine is typically Mediterranean with seafood hot on the menu; octopus under the iron bell and the grilled shrimps are a treat. Other delights include various pastas, salads and meats. The perfect location for a break from sightseeing! ► D-4, Kralja Tomislava 15a, tel. (+385-) 099 212 58 19, www.mendulasibenik.com/. Open 09:00-23:00. (65 - 200kn).      

NO 4

"The Foursome" is an engagingly offbeat and intimate eatery housed in a cube-like stone building with a café on one floor and a four-table restaurant above. Food ranges from pasta to steaks, while low-key lighting, houseplants and an unobtrusive indie-rock soundtrack create a laid-back vibe that's rather different to central Šibenik's other feeding stations. In summer tables are set out in a tiny square with the Renaissance Church of the Holy Spirit as a backdrop. ► D-2, Trg Dinka Zavorovića 4, tel. (+385-22) 21 75 17. Open 12:00 - 23:00. (40 - 110kn).   

PJAT

With a smashing Dalmatian cuisine, the daily classic menu includes the likes of tuna pâté, tartar tuna steak, homemade pasta dishes, local fish dish *gregada* and sea bass fillet. Dine in or out on the terrace with friendly staff ready to take your order. ► E-4, Trg Pavla Šubića 13, tel. (+385-) 098 942 37 80. Open 12:00-23:00. (95 - 250kn).   



TUDIĆ d.o.o.

**Krapanjskih Spužvara 46,
22 010 Brodarica, Šibenik, Croatia**

tel.: +385 22 350 695, +385 22 350 300

fax.: + 385 22 351 877

e-mail: info@tudic.hrwww.zlatna-ribica.hr

www.inyourpocket.com

Restaurants

SHE BIO BISTRO & ROOFTOP BAR

The bistro's philosophy is admirable. To love and respect the land, the farmers that cultivate it, and of course the food that comes forth. Each season sees a different menu of fusion cuisine. Bread is baked in-house daily, and several dietary needs can be accommodated. Speciality teas, coffees, and cocktails are part of the offer, and you can make this venue ideal for any time of day. An intimate rooftop bar has also opened upstairs, perfect for that gracious sundown cocktail to go with the beautiful sea view.

► E-4, Zlarinski prolaz 2, tel. (+385-22) 21 59 57, www.shebenik.com. Open 09:00-23:00. Open 09:00 - 23:00, bar 18:00 - 02:00. (80 - 100kn). ☑

TINEL

Up a short flight of steps opposite St. Chrysogonus's Church, Tinel has a broad menu of meat and seafood that covers most Adriatic culinary bases. The frogfish (*gradobina*) in white wine sauce or grilled sea bass (*brancin*) are particularly good. ► C-2, Trg pučkih kapetana 1, tel. (+385-) 098 870 080. Open 12:00-22:00; Sun 18:00-22:00. (80 - 160kn). €☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑

TOMASEO

A decent and unpretentious place, at Tomaseo you can unwind and enjoy a good meal on the terrace while taking in the view of the Šibenik Channel. Mains and desserts are well-prepared and reasonably priced. ► E-4, Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana 3, tel. (+385-22) 21 92 54. Open 12:00-23:00. (70 - 220kn). ☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑

OUT OF TOWN

ALDURA

Facing the ferry jetty, Aldura is the obvious last port of call for coffee when you are waiting for the Šibenik-Vodice boat to come steaming round the headland. It is also a fine restaurant, serving up seafood pastas, grilled chops and fresh fish in an atmospheric old building that preserves plenty of its original stone and timber. ► Zlarinska obala 8, Zlarin, tel. (+385-22) 55 36 28/(+385-) 091 175 59 75. Open 08:00-23:00. (120 - 240kn). €☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑

BOBA

Boba's large contemporary-style dining room still has a homely feel, with cookery books crammed into a shelf in the corner and an open hearth on which food is prepared – delivering a blast of deliciously charcoal-scented grill-smoke to your nostrils as you await the fish or steak that you ordered earlier. There are good risotto and pasta choices too, and lamb or octopus dishes. Must reserve in advance. ► Butina 22, Murter, tel. (+385-22) 43 45 13, www.konobaboba.hr. Open 13:00-23:00; closed Mon. (140 - 240kn). ☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑☑

BONACA

Skradin's emergence as one of Dalmatia's leading gastronomic destinations owes a great deal to Bonaca, which has a reputation for nurturing local culinary traditions and only using the freshest ingredients – the owner is himself a keen fisherman. Classic seafood pasta dishes kick off a menu that also



Konoba VINKO

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includes regional favourites such as shellfish, grilled eel and local lamb. A warmly atmospheric interior features exposed stone and brick with nautically-themed pictures on the walls, and there's an outdoor terrace looking down towards Skradin marina. ▶ **Rokovača 5, Skradin, tel. (+385-22) 77 14 44. Open 12:00-23:00. (130 - 350kn).**

BROŠČICA

A traditional Dalmatian tavern with bare-stone interior, wooden benches and checked tablecloths, and a covered conservatory-style frontage looking out towards the waterfront. The menu ranges from inexpensive pizzas to fresh fish and steaks, with cheap 3-course deals and daily specials offering excellent value for money. ▶ **Put Brošćice 12, Tisno, tel. (+385-22) 43 81 11. Open 14:00-22:00. (65 - 150kn).**

CANTINETTA

This family restaurant set in a walled courtyard has earned an enviable culinary reputation on the back of locally-influenced dishes such as roast lamb. The fish and shellfish are also top class. Cantinetta is so devoted about the authenticity of its notoriously slow-cooked *skradinski rižot* (risotto with veal) that you are advised to order it at least a day in advance. Since the process of cooking is so complex, they require orders by a minimum of 10 people. ▶ **Aleja skradinskih svilara 7, Skradin, tel. (+385-) 091 150 64 34, www.cantinetta.hr. Open 12:30-24:00. (80 - 150kn).**

KAMENAR

An old stone house with a smart modern interior, Kamenar offers a tasteful combination of traditional home cooking and fine contemporary dining. A range of imaginative seafood pastas and risottos will suit the light-lunchers, while steak, lobster and fresh white fish (either grilled whole or served in the form of pan-fried fillets) provide ample excuse to linger over a substantial and stylish dinner. Local Babić wine goes well with the red meats, while dry white Pošip from Korčula is the ideal accompaniment to the finest fish. ▶ **Rudina biskupa J. Arnerića 5, Primošten, tel. (+385-22) 57 08 89/(+385-) 098 33 62 46, www.restaurant-kamenar.com. Open 08:00-24:00. (80 - 200kn).**

KONOBA VINKO

One word says it all – homemade! Visit this wonderful family-owned *konoba* situated on the main road from Drniš to Šibenik. They breathe local dishes including famous Drniš prosciutto, Velebit cheese, rotisserie and baked dishes under the iron bell to local wines, various *rakija* (grappa), craft beers, and homemade cakes – all can be found at this beautiful local tavern. ▶ **Uz cestu 57, Konjeverate, tel. (+385-22) 77 87 50/(+385-) 098 979 34 10, www.konobavinko.hr. Open 12:00-22:00; closed Mon. (80 - 200kn).**

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Buffet Šimun



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MEDITERAN

A walled courtyard with an open kitchen, Mediteran is the ideal spot for a relaxing evening, with grilled fish or steak the main culinary crowd-pleasers. It's also an intimate spot for a drink, with high stools set up on the side of the dining area for those who just want a glass of the house wine - Babić from the family's own vineyard. ▶ Put briga 13, Primošten, tel. (+385-) 098 44 59 45/(+385-22) 57 17 80, www.mediteran-primosten.hr. Open 13:00-24:00. (120 - 250kn).

OPAT

Located in a stone house above the shore in Kornat island's Opat bay, this is another well-known port of call among the yachting fraternity, and you might have to call early in the day if you want to reserve a table for the evening. Expect the best in traditional Adriatic fare seafood, with shellfish, risottos featuring whatever seafood has been caught that day, and baked-fish mains. ▶ Otok Kornat 183, Uvala Opat - Kornati, tel. (+385-) 091 473 25 50/(+385-) 091 224 78 78, www.opat-kornati.com. Open 09:00-24:00. (150 - 500kn).

STEAK HOUSE BY GUŠTE

In a stretch of coast full of outstanding grills, this is one of the best, cooking up steaks in an open kitchen with wooden tables spread out across the paving stones. A cult restaurant with a solid following - reservations are essen-

tial in season. ▶ Mirka Zore 34b, Vodice, tel. (+385-) 095 908 36 70. Open 18:00-24:00. (80 - 160kn).

TIC TAC

The closest that Murter comes to a cult restaurant, Tic Tac was one of the early innovators in the Adriatic gastro scene, adding a modern European culinary twist to Croatia's traditional seafood repertoire. Fish, shellfish and lobster are the main attractions on an extensive menu, although Tic Tac also produces some awesome steaks. With outdoor seating in a narrow passageway and on the nearby seafront it's an atmospheric place for evening dining, although it can be difficult to find a table in season.

▶ Hrokešina 5, Murter, tel. (+385-22) 43 52 30/(+385-) 098 86 46 19, www.tictac-murter.com. Open 13:00-23:00. (120 - 250kn).

TORKUL

Located at the mainland end of the causeway, Torkul offers a familiar mixture of wooden benches and stone walls hung with an enjoyable jumble of bric-a-brac (including among other things nautical photographs, a life belt, and a tuba). Grilled fish, squid and shrimps are among the highlights, although dishes baked under a *peka* (notably octopus with potatoes) are well worth trying if you have the time to call in and order it in advance. ▶ Crnica 1, Primošten, tel. (+385-) 098 33 75 15, www.konoba-torkul.com. Open 10:00-24:00. (70 - 150kn).

TRI PIRUNA

Local delicacy with a fine track record! Enter a typical Dalmatian tavern (*konoba*) with some great food on offer. High on the 'recommendation list' is tuna steak, Florentine steak, black risotto... Sea food is also hot on the menu! Wines are local and the service advice is at the right price. The music and the décor all fit the experience! ► **Ul. Pave Roce 5, Vodice**, tel. (+385-) 091 576 7751, www.konobatripiruna.com. Open 17:00-23:00. (100 - 270kn).

VICKO

This Šibenik institution is on the Split road that leads through Boraja. You can choose succulent lamb *peka* style, or a crispier version roast on a spit, but don't miss the home made bread or excellent soups. ► **Donje Polje 61, Donje Polje**, tel. (+385-22) 56 57 48, www.superba.hr/hr/naslovna/restoran-vicko. Open 08:00-23:00. (60 - 150kn).

VIDROVAČA

Located in a cove south of Skradin and almost underneath the bridge of the Zagreb-Split motorway, the dramatically-situated Vidrovača is well-nigh inaccessible unless you have a boat. Luckily it has its own private jetty beside a small pebble beach, and is very popular with passing yachtsfolk as a result. Principal culinary attractions include shellfish, scampi and squid. Local meats (including kid goat) baked under a *peka* are also on the menu, although they should be ordered a few hours in advance. ► **Vidrovača bb, Bilice-Skradin**, tel. (+385-) 098 75 72 81, www.vidrovaca.com. Open 12:00-24:00. (100 - 300kn).

ZLATNA RIBICA

Long considered one of the best seafood restaurants in the region, this is a roomy and rather plush location decked out in welcoming pinky-red hues, with potted indoor trees and a sprinkling of cacti. The big sea-facing terrace offers wonderful views, with the island of Krapanj putting in an appearance just across the water. The finest fish (weighing in at around 400kn per kilo) will be grilled, baked or stewed according to your wishes. Otherwise you can opt for grilled tuna steaks or simple fillets of white fish from around 75kn each. With light jazzy music in the background, it's the ideal place for a quality meal in relaxing, romantic surroundings. ► **Krapanjskih spužvara 46, Brodarica**, tel. (+385-22) 35 03 00/(+385-22) 35 06 95, www.zlatna-ribica.hr. Open 12:00-23:00. (70 - 250kn).

ZLATNE ŠKOLJKE

A cosy restaurant set back slightly from the seafront, the Golden Seashell shelters in a timber-beamed dining room decked out with pictures of local beauty spots. A high-quality menu brims with seafood pasta, fresh fish and shellfish, alongside traditional local dishes such as the slow-cooked, veal-based *skradin* risotto. Be sure to leave room for the owner's own-recipe *skradinska torta*. ► **Grgura Ninskog 9, Skradin**, tel. (+385-22) 77 10 22. Open 12:00-23:00. (100 - 250kn).



VICKO
RESTORAN



EX TORCIDA



Donje polje 61, Šibenik
+ 385 (0)22 56 57 48
info@superba.hr

AZIMUT CLUB

This is the main actor of the Šibenik alternative scene. Situated inside now-dry wells, built in 1453, it's a home to urban culture. Here you will find various contemporary exhibitions, several fascinating art installations, all part of Azimut's atmosphere and underground world. Topped with live concerts and music, its shaded terrace is a place you'll want to visit to relax, where you can hang out while sipping a cool glass of culture. ▶ C-3, **Obala palih omladinaca 2**, www.azimut.art/. Open 09:00-01:00.



BARONE BISTRO

Cafe style bistro within the Barone Fortress with beautiful panoramic sea views where throughout the entire day visitors can pop in for coffee, but also for those a bit more peckish they can try small fine snacks of marinated seafood or local meat delicacies such as prosciutto and *šokol*. Sample wines from small local producers; Maraština, Bab-ic, Debit, Plavina... ▶ F-1, **Put Vuka Mandušića 28**. Open 09:00-22:00.

CASTRUM COFFEE & MORE

Right on the fortress of Saint Michael, this café offers scenic views of the Adriatic whilst choosing from coffee or freshly squeezed juice amongst other beverages. The bake their own fresh cakes and have a variety of types and flavours on offer. Cold salads and platters can also be ordered. Castrum is the right place for a little break from sightseeing. ▶ C-2, **St. Michael's Fortress, Zagrade 21**, tel. (+385-) 099 445 90 11, www.castrumsibenik.hr. Open 10:00-21:00.

GIRO ESPRESSO

One of central Šibenik's best options for quality coffee is also one of the most niftily decorated, decked out in a contrasting palette of slate greys and rich reds - including some fetchingly scarlet plastic-bucket seats. It's one of the most popular places in town for a midday caffeine-fuelled chinwag. Free wifi brings in a laptop-toting crowd. ▶ E-3, **Zagrebačka 2**, tel. (+385-22) 31 01 66. Open 07:00-23:00; Fri 07:00-01:00; Sat 07:00-23:00; Sun 08:00-14:00.

GRADSKA VIJEĆNICA

With outdoor seating underneath the arches of Šibenik's Renaissance town hall, this is the place where locals and visitors alike love to sit and absorb goings-on in the main square, with the city's cathedral providing a grandiose backdrop. Inside, salmon-pink décor and bronze-painted ceilings convey an aura of olde-world style. Tea is served old-school-style in a pot, and it's always worth trying out the cake of the day. ▶ D-4, **Trg Republike Hrvatske 3**, tel. (+385-22) 21 36 05. Open 09:00-23:00.

KA GROM

Escape the heat at 'Ka Grom', an ice-cream parlour that will hydrate at a fast rate. With a growing reputation as one of

the town's best, the range of flavours here is hard to beat. Whether you like creamy, chocy, fruity, nutty, peachy, waffly, or crunchy, and from classic to premium ice-creams, there's something for everyone! ▶ F-2, **Trg Kralja Držislava 1**, tel. (+385-) 091 318 43 20. Open 10:00-23:00.

KAVANA LIFE PALACE

Located within a Renaissance building which is a stunning hotel, the ground floor houses a café and pastry shop like no other. Around 20 fresh cakes are on offer each day which enhance the ritual of sipping on coffee. Choose from the beautiful terrace or stunning palace like interior. Must see place for an all-round relaxing rendezvous! ▶ E-3, **Trg šibenskih palih boraca 1**, tel. (+385-22) 21 90 05, www.hotel-lifepalace.hr. Open 08:00-22:00.

MODERATO COFFEE & CAKES BAR

Named after one of the best-known songs by the Šibenik-born melody-master Arsen Dedić, this roomy café is something of a classic in its own right, with a big outdoor terrace and a range of stylish but comfortable spaces within. After recently receiving a face lift, the elegant interior fits perfectly with the concept of recharging batteries over a brew. The landscaped terrace is spacious and picturesque. They serve fantastic homemade cakes! ▶ G-2, **Stjepana Radića 1**, tel. (+385-22) 21 20 36, www.moderato.hr. Open 06:30-22:00; Sun 07:00-13:00.

SLASTIČARNICA CALIMERO

Only minutes from the main bus station, Calimero is heaven for anyone with a sweet tooth. This patisserie/cake shop will leave your taste buds tingling with their large array of homemade cakes on offer. Cheesecakes, croissants, macaroons, pies and much more to choose from! Naturally, all the finest coffees and teas will help settle the tummy after such indulgence. ▶ G-3, **Vladimira Nazora 49**, tel. (+385-22) 21 48 18. Open 07:00-00:00.

SREDNJOVJEKOVNI SAMOSTANSKI MEDITERANSKI VRT SV. LOVRE CAFÉ&RESTAURANT

If you value your daily coffee break as your personal moment of nirvana, there could be few better surroundings than these monastery gardens. A true oasis of tranquility, the gardens are filled with the scent of old-fashioned roses, and you can see capers in their natural habitat rather than floating miserably in a pickle jar. ▶ D-3, **Strme stube 1**, tel. (+385-22) 21 25 15/(+385-) 098 34 11 98, www.sv-lovre.com. Open 09:00-23:00.

YUM PASTRY SHOP

Attention to detail can be seen on almost every cake or pastry made here, and the combination of flavours aligned with seasonal goodies really do make a difference. This artisan pastry shop, has already touched the hearts of locals with its simple interior, colourful cakes, super service and combo of new meets traditional sweets that are served. ▶ E-2, **Božidara Petranovića 8**, tel. (+385-) 099 684 95 75. Open 08:00-22:00; Sun 09:00-14:00.

BARONE SHOP

So you've just tried a glass of wine in the bistro that's tingled the tonsils, then head into the shared space of the Barone bistro and enter its wine shop, here you can buy wines as well as original products by Croatian product designers. ▶ F-1, Put Vuka Mandušića 28, tel. (+385-) 091 619 65 67, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/en/. Open 09:00-21:00. 

CHARLIE DESIGN

Our friends' favourite shop because it is classy, elegant, sophisticated with beautiful clothing materials. ▶ E-3, Mesarske Stube 3, tel. (+385-22) 21 62 57, www.charlie-design.hr. Open 09:00-20:00; Sat 09:00-13:00; closed Sun.  

COFFEE, WINE & TOBACCO

Devotees to fine coffee, tea and wine will fall in love with this wonderful store that sells homemade teas, as well as over 100 different varieties of coffee and tea from around the world. Supremo coffee from Columbia or Santo Domingo from the Dominican Republic are just some of the specialties. Here, one can also find local Croatian souvenirs and products. ▶ E-3, Stjepana Radića 71, www.kupikavuicaj.com. Open 08:00-20:00; Sat 08:00-14:00.  

ČIVLJAK

This little jeweller is famous for *puce* and *bagatin* – filigree buttons traditionally worn as a part of folk costume, often elaborate in design. ▶ F-2, Kralja Tomislava 1, tel. (+385-22) 21 20 64. Open 08:00 - 13:00, 17:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. 

DELIKATESE VUKŠIĆ

This lovely deli shop at the city market is stocked with an abundance of local delicacies such as prosciutto, cheese, olive oil, *rakija* and honey, as well as famous Slavonian *kulen* and homemade jams. A real treat for anyone's tingling taste buds! ▶ Ante Starčevića (green market), tel. (+385-) 098 66 83 73. Open 07:00-13:00; closed Sun. 

DENI DESIGN

Original jewellery hand-made from Adriatic coral and stones. ▶ E-3, Trg Ivana Pavla II bb (Fausta Vrančića 1),

MARKET**PIJACA**

The allure of asparagus, the charm of chard. Cheeky tomatoes, apricots as soft as a baby's bum: who can resist a Mediterranean open air market? Šibenik's marketplace is not to be missed: it's full of colour, local produce and crazy characters. Why buy plastic fruit from the supermarket when you can buy the real thing and enjoy some friendly banter into the bargain? ▶ G-2/3, Stankovačka 9. Open 06:00-13:00; Sun 07:00-10:00.

tel. (+385) 091 530 10 00. Open 09:00 - 12:30, 17:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. 

GALERIJA SV. KRISTOFOR

A majestic place of holy and sacral objects that include rosary beads, paintings, sculptures, natural cosmetics and other religious items. ▶ D-3, Sv. Luce 2, tel. (+385) 092 105 91 64. Open 09:00 - 12:00, 15:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

GRACIN

A small shop selling a variety of honeys, including sage, rosemary, and the unusual bramble honey (*med od dračje*), plus advice on the amber elixir's medicinal properties. ▶ Put murve 4, Primošten, tel. (+385-) 091 510 08 19. Open 17:00-22:00. 

I-PAK

A family-run dairy with its own herd of sheep, and a shop selling cheese - using local speciality *sir iz mišine*. ▶ Put Čikole 3, Pakovo Selo, tel. (+385-) 92 304 85 36, www.siranaipak.eu/. Open 08:00-20:00; Sun 07:00-13:00. €

JURAJ DALMATINAC GALLERY

In a beautiful setting that exudes the Mediterranean, you will find works of art by academic painters, jewellery and pieces of clothing by Croatian designers, and authentic souvenirs handmade and autochthonic to this area. ▶ E-3, Don Krste Stošića 14, tel. (+385-) 099 362 13 39. Open 10:00-22:00; closed Sun. 

LANAART

A gallery presenting the work of Lana herself, as well as other artists from Šibenik and all over Croatia. ▶ E-2, Fausta Vrančića 3, tel. (+385-) 098 87 98 03. Open 10:00 - 13:00, 18:00 - 20:30, Sat 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. 

NIRA DELICIJE

When in Dalmatia, eat Dalmatian! Enter and rejoice in local delicacies such as the prestige Driš prosciutto, pancetta, cheese, honey, honey products, wines, cranberry, orange and lemon *rakija*. They will pack and slice meat products for you. Take out only! ▶ L-3, Stjepana Radića 8, tel. (+385-) 099 252 75 01. Open 07:00-14:00; Sat 07:00-13:00; closed Sun. 

NP KRKA SOUVENIRS

Traditional souvenirs made by local artisans. ▶ E-3, Trg Ivana Pavla II 5, tel. (+385-22) 20 17 77, www.npkрка.hr. Open 07:00-20:00. 

SKRADINSKE DELICIJE

As well as running a highly recommended restaurant, this family business produces its own wine, *rakija*, *skradinska torta* and a delicious fig jam that is not too sweet and has a uniquely smooth and succulent feel. They have a little kiosk in the car park during the summer months where you can buy their unusual and mouthwatering comestibles. ▶ Aleja Skradinskih svilara 8, Skradin, www.skradinske-delicije.hr. June - September Open 08:00 - 22:00.

SWAN ATELIER/ GORI DOLI

Drifting from the big brands and venturing into a world of true originality, the Swan Atelier is a platform for authentic Croatian designers and their fashionable clothing products, accessories, jewellery and more. Be sure to find that special piece to take home and add to your wardrobe as a memento of Šibenik! ▶ E-4, Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana 12, tel. (+385-) 091 545 64 70, www.facebook.com/swanateliersibenik/. 

5 Magical Islands With No Cars

KAPRIJE

Named after the locally abundant caper (*kapar* in Croatian), Kaprije is a blissfully unspoiled island with no roads and hardly any motor vehicles of any sort (officially it's a car free island, although there are a few old wrecks dotted around the place that got here somehow). The small village of Kaprije caters for the hundred-or-so permanent inhabitants. Private rooms and apartments cater for a summer influx of tourists, although the island is never in danger of being overrun. Kaprije's uniquely sheltered bay is an increasingly popular anchor-dropping point for yachtsfolk exploring the nearby Kornati, while the island's numerous coves are ideal for a spot of secretive bathing.

KRAPANJ

Lying only 300 metres off the shore of Brodarica, the low-lying island of Krapanj was once famous for being the centre of the Adriatic sponge industry, with most of the island's male population devoting their time to sponge-diving. Nowadays Krapanj is a relatively quiet but undoubtedly attractive spot, with a line of stone houses along the mainland-facing waterfront, and a handful of souvenir shops selling sponge-themed gifts. Slightly inland from the shoreline is the Franciscan Monastery, founded in 1435 when monks from Bosnia were gifted the island by local nobles. The monastery museum contains religious artworks, including an extraordinarily expressive 15th-century crucifix carved by Split-based priest Juraj Petrović. The walled graveyard next door contains several family tombs honouring one-time sponge divers, many pictured in relief form wearing their large spherical deep-sea helmets. Head to the basement of the nearby Hotel Spongiola to find a small but entertaining display of exhibits connected with the local sponge-harvesting industry, including a lead-booted diving suit, and early 20th-century air pumps. ► www.visit-krapanjbrodarica.com.

PRVIĆ

In many ways Prvić is a smaller version of Zlarin, a verdant and unspoiled island with plenty in the way of traditional Mediterranean architecture. It has two main settlements - Prvić Luka at the eastern end, and Šepurine at the west - Prvić has a slightly larger permanent population and is marginally more lively as a result. Prvić was traditionally the summer retreat of Šibenik's leading families, and remains associated with one great Šibenik name in particular - priest, diplomat and scientist Faust Vrančić (1551-1617). Vrančić was buried in Prvić Luka's parish church. Educated in Padua, Vrančić served at the Habsburg court in Prague before devoting himself to his writings. His Latin-Italian-German-Hungarian-Croatian dictionary (published in 1595) was a landmark in Croatian language study. His more famous *Machinae Novae*, published in Venice in 1615, contains 49 copper-plate engravings of machines and inventions, in conscious homage to the inventions of Leonardo da Vinci published several decades earlier. Most famous of the illustrations is *Homo Volans*, which pictures a man descending through the air attached to a square canvas parachute.

English clergyman and scientist John Wilkins, writing some 30 years later, claimed that Vrančić actually tested the parachute himself by jumping from the belfry of St Mark's Cathedral in Venice.

A narrow lane leads over the brow of a hill from Prvić Luka to the island's other settlement, Šepurine. A hive-like village of stone houses, Šepurine is centred on a parish church whose distinctive bulbous belfry is topped by an extravagant weather vane. ► www.vodice.hr.

ŽIRJE

Of Šibenik County's permanently populated islands, Žirje is both the largest, and the furthest out to sea. With a scattering of private accommodation but no hotels (and, like Kaprije, virtually no motor transport), it is something of a Shangri-la among tourists for whom the phrase "getting away from it all" really means what it says. Most of the island is covered in maquis, although vines, olives and figs make up an important part of the landscape. Newly marked bicycle- and footpaths provide an ideal means of exploring the island.

ZLARIN

Lying right opposite St Anthony's Channel, the narrow waterway that connects Šibenik with the open sea, Zlarin is a green island covered in olive groves and wild shrubs. Zlarin has got the longest island promenade in Croatia (127.50m). Saint Fortunato is the protector of the island Zlarin so the most frequent names on the island are Srećko, Nato and Refortunato! Coral fishing has been associated with the island ever since the 15th century, when the raw coral was exported to Dubrovnik and other cities to be processed into fashion accessories. During the 1950s coral fishing went into decline due to depleted stocks, although at least one coral-processing workshop still exists on the island, and several souvenir shops open up in summer to sell coral bracelets and earrings.

Zlarin village is a beautiful settlement of stone-built houses arranged around a bay. Key landmark is the impressive clocktower built in 1829 and known as the Leroj (local version of the Italian word for clock, *orologio*), crowned by an attractively spindly weather vane. Slightly uphill to the west is the 18th-century Church of the Assumption, worth a peek on account of the hairy-looking gargoyles gazing down from either side of the pediment.

Occupying a stone house at the eastern end of town, Zlarin Museum displays finds from a shipwrecked Roman galley found by marine archeologists just off the Šibenik coast, and an "ethnographic room" containing domestic utensils and traditional costumes. The upper floor of the same building houses the Zlarinka coral workshop, where coral is cut, burnished and made into jewelry. You can admire all manner of necklaces, bangles and baubles in the Zlarinka shop, and take a peek at the polishing process in the work-room next door. Further east, the Chapel of St Simon (*Crkva sv. Sime*) has a small collection of church treasures, open in the summer months.

Continue along the road past the chapel and you'll arrive after 10 minutes at the Church of Our Lady of Raselj (*Gospo od Raselje*), a church of medieval origins that contains a miracle-working image of the Virgin. Inside, model ships hang from the ceiling as a gesture of thanks from devout sailors. ► www.tz-zlarin.hr.



- 2 Unesco Sites • 2 National Parks • 11 Medieval Fortifications
- 230 Cultural Monuments • 300 Islands • 600 Archaeological sites



Dalmatia | Šibenik

www.dalmatiasibenik.hr



Foto: I. BIOČINA



Foto: I. BIOČINA

CROATIA
Full of life

BETINA MUSEUM OF WOODEN SHIPBUILDING

The village of Betina on the island of Murter has a centuries-long tradition of wooden shipbuilding which is still well and truly alive today. Learn more about this fascinating craft through modern technology which helps visitors vividly sense the cultural background to the story behind this age old tradition. You can buy beautiful, authentic and eco-friendly souvenirs in the museum shop and FYI; it was recently awarded the '2018 Best European Museum that works with its local residents'. ▶ **Vladimira Nazora 7, Betina, tel. (+385-22) 43 41 05, www.mbdb.hr. Open 10:00 - 14:00, 17:00 - 21:00. Admission 30/20 kn.**

KORNATI NATIONAL PARK

An archipelago comprising roughly 150 islands, the largely uninhabited Kornati are famous for exuding a barren, bleak mystique. Most of the islands are arid affairs, with a thin covering of tawny-brown grass punctuated by limestone outcrops and spiky shrubs. Many of the islands on the western side of the archipelago feature spectacular cliffs, rising some 80 metres above sea level in the case of those on the island of Klobučar, while man-made features include the dry-stone walls that streak across age-old pastures. Lapped by clear seas, the islands constitute an area of extraordinary natural beauty, and 89 of them fall under the protection of the Kornati National Park, founded in 1980.

Eighty percent of the Kornati are privately owned by families from Murter, who use the islands to graze sheep, plant olives or harvest honey. The islands have no permanent population, although parts of the archipelago are seasonally inhabited by Murter shepherds, marina staff serving the summer influx of yachting folk, or tourists seeking complete seclusion. The church of our Lady of Tarac on the island of Kornat is still the focus of an annual pilgrimage on the first Sunday of July, when the population of Murter heads for the island in a festive flotilla of boats.

Boat tours of the Kornati islands are available throughout the summer, most departing at around 09:00 and returning towards 18:00. Most of the tourist agencies from Zadar to Primošten offer these trips. ▶ **Butina 2, Murter, tel. (+385-22) 43 57 40, www.np-kornati.hr. Entrance tickets cost 150 - 14 000kn depending on the size of the boat and period of the year (price list is on the web site).**

KRKA NATIONAL PARK

Much of the landscape inland from Šibenik is shaped by the Krka, the 72.5km-long river that rises in the arid karst near Knin before flowing towards the Adriatic via a spectacular series of rugged canyons, azure lakes and tumbling waterfalls. The valley's most dramatic stretches, between Skradin and 3.5km downstream of Knin, fall under the protection of the Krka National Park (Nacionalni park Krka), which is visited by an average of one million people a year.

About 90% of these visitors never get any further than Skradinski buk (the most dramatic of seven sets of rapids within the park), whose foaming waters are reproduced on the cover of many a tourist brochure. However there

is much more to the Krka than Skradinski buk, especially in the upper (northern) reaches of the park, where visitor facilities and trekking routes are recently being developed. Fauna in the park includes roe deer, wild boar, and the more elusive wolves and badgers. The rocky sides of the valley play host to various communities of bats, who play an important role in eating mosquitoes and other irritating waterside insects. It's also an area rich in historical resonances, with ruins of fortresses recalling the region's erstwhile status as a disputed borderland between warring empires, and waterside monasteries providing evidence of a rich spiritual culture.

Most popular part of the park is Skradinski buk, where the Krka flows over a series of waterfalls and rapids formed by the gradual build up of dam-like barriers of travertine, the limestone sediment that settles on branches, grasses and moss to form a solid substance.

Located on the western bank of the Krka about 10km north of Roški slap (and accessible via minor road from Kistanje), the Monastery of the Archangel Michael is arguably the best known of Croatia's handful of Orthodox monasteries. It was founded in 1345 thanks to an endowment by Princess Jelena, a sister of the Serbian Tsar Dušan who married a Croatian prince of the Šubić family. Famous for its Romanesque bell tower and arcaded cloister, the monastery is also known for its early-Christian catacombs – although they are not always open to visitors.

THE FAUST VRANČIĆ MEMORIAL CENTRE

Venice, 16th century, Vrančić takes the plunge and makes it! You are looking at the first formal inventor of the parachute. Being a polymath, he was born in Šibenik and was buried on the island of Prvić, home to this centre where you can see drawings, book collections, models and prototypes of his numerous inventions. Includes multimedia displays and educational games for youngsters! ▶ **I Ulica 1a, Prvić Luka, Prvić Island, tel. (+385-22) 44 81 28, www.mc-faustvrancic.com. Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission 30/15 kn (family 60kn).**

THE IVAN MEŠTROVIĆ MUSEUMS – THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY REDEEMER – THE MEŠTROVIĆ FAMILY MAUSOLEUM

Ten kilometres east of Drniš, the sleepy village of Otavice is celebrated for the domed grey Church of the Holy Redeemer that squats on a low hill on the fringes of the village. It was built in to serve as a family mausoleum by the sculptor Ivan Meštrović, who spent much of his childhood here before pursuing a long and fruitful artistic career in Vienna, Zagreb then the USA. Begun in 1926, the building contains some of Meštrović's most haunting reliefs, with an ethereal Crucifixion flanked by serene portrayals of the Evangelists. Mass is only held here once a month, but the church is open as a tourist attraction during whole year. ▶ **Otavice, Ružić, tel. (+385-) 098 40 75 38, www.mestrovic.hr. Open 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun, Mon. 20/15kn.**

Šibenik County (or Šibensko-kninska županija as it is known in Croatian) offers a huge amount of variety, with swanky yachting marinas and party-till-sunrise tourist resorts rubbing shoulders with archaic villages and large tracts of sun-parched Mediterranean maquis. The Krka and Kornati national parks are the two must-do daytrips, although with islands, coves and stony hillsides in abundance, you're unlikely to be stuck for natural beauty spots.

Inland from Šibenik

DRNIŠ

Hugging the high ground above the Čikola river, Drniš was a medieval fortress town before falling to the Ottoman Turks in 1522. Nowadays it is an important market centre midway along the main road from Šibenik to Knin.

Ruins of the medieval fortress poke up from the Gradina, the rocky hill above town. Little remains of this medieval stronghold save for a stark portion of the southern tower, which pokes up from the hill like a bad tooth. Nearby is a minaret dating from around 1500, all that's left of an Ottoman-era mosque. Thanks to a new lighting system installed in December 2010, these ruins are dramatically illuminated at night.

Occupying pride of place in the town itself is St Anthony's Church, a 16th-century mosque that was converted to Catholic use in the 1670s by Franciscan monks from nearby Visovac. Housed in the former home of Drniš politician Nikola Adžija (1875-1972), the Municipal Museum has archaeological and ethnological displays alongside a collection of works by Croatia's greatest sculptor Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962), who spent his early years in nearby Otavice. Adžija was one of the early supporters of the young Meštrović, helping to raise money that paid for the promising local lad's studies.

KNIN

Sprawled across a green plain overlooked by the bleak Dinara mountains, Knin has long been a town of crucial strategic importance, controlling the medieval trade routes linking Dalmatia with the Balkan interior, and in more recent times the location of a major railway junction. It's most famous sight is Knin fortress, an impressively well-preserved agglomeration of crag-hugging walls and towers that hovers above the winding Krka river. An important stronghold from the 10th century onwards, Knin became the capital of Croatia under King Zvonimir (ruled 1076-1089), a status it retained until 1097 when Croatia accepted the rule of the Hungarian crown. Knin remained a much-coveted military prize, falling to the Ottoman Turks in 1522, who were in turn turfed out by the Venetians in 1688. Knin served as the headquarters of Serbian-occupied territory during the 1991-1995 war, and the raising of the Croatian flag over Knin fortress in August 1995 brought a highly symbolic end to hostilities.

Central Knin is not a wildly exciting place, and it's best to make your way straight to the fortress. The steep climb is

Drniš - Ključica Fortress and Čikola River Canyon
Photo by Stanko Ferić



rewarded by superb views of the surrounding countryside, with the mountains of the Dinara range filling the northern horizon. The fortress itself is an extensive and highly evocative complex of fortifications constructed at different stages, filled with a maze of cobbled alleys, ramps and stairways beneath ivy-covered walls. Spearing up from the highest point of the fortress is a flagpole hung with an unusually large Croatian tricolor, a reminder of Knin's highly significant place in the history of modern Croatia. In the eastern part of the fortress, a former barrack building houses an ethnographic collection displaying costumes and agricultural implements from the Knin region. Nearby, the fortress's former hospital plays host to an archeological museum.

SKRADIN

Squeezed into a sheltered bay near the point where the river Krka flows into the Prukljansko Lake, Skradin was a flourishing settlement in the Illyrian and Roman periods (when it was known as Scardona), and subsequently served as the 13th-century power-base for the Šubić princes of Bribir, one of Croatia's leading aristocratic clans. Skradin fell to the Ottomans in 1522 and most of its population fled to Šibenik, although it was regained by the Venetians in 1684. Nowadays it is an important stepping-stone for tourists bound for the Krka National Park, and an important inland stopping-off point for yachtsfolk touring the Adriatic coast. Skradin is increasingly well known as a gastronomic destination, too, boasting a handful of restaurants offering superb seafood and some unique regional treats. Lapped by the waters of the Krka, Skradin's Old Town is centred on the triangular Trg Male Gospe, site of a hand-

Šibenik Surroundings

some Baroque parish church with a free-standing belfry. From here a pedestrianized main street heads north, with an atmospheric sequence of arched alleyways leading off on either side. Constantly busy with fishing vessels and yachts, Skradin's waterfront is also the departure point for shuttle-boats into the Krka National Park (see p.44).

North of Šibenik

MURTER

Although joined to the mainland by a short and stumpy bridge, Murter is technically an island and still feels like a self-contained world of its own. Relatively low on large-sized package hotels, Murter has developed a regular clientele of independently-minded tourists who sleep in the island's plentiful supply of private rooms and apartments, and - although it can be busy in summer - it has a more laid-back atmosphere than the mainland towns.

Murter is also a beautiful, relatively unspoiled parcel of Adriatic nature, made up of a sequence of rocky hillocks, pines and tamarisks, and acre upon acre of olive trees - many growing wild amid thorny Mediterranean maquis. Piles of stone heaped up on the hillside recall the times when local villagers cleared the rocky ground to create small patches of cultivable land, collecting the spoil into thick dry-stone walls that have slowly collapsed with time, creating the enigmatic cones and pyramids seen today.

Over to the west are the alluring profiles of the Kornati islands, and it is Murter's status as main gateway to the Kornati National Park that brings a constant stream of nautically-inclined visitors.

Tisno

Tisno is Dalmatian dialect for 'narrow', which is an accurate description of the town's location, hugging both shores of the narrow strait that divides the island of Murter from the Croatian mainland.

There is an engaging huddle of old buildings in the historic core of the town on the south side of the bridge, where the 18th century Katunaric Palace contains a small history display including finds from a Roman villa at nearby Plitka Uvala bay. The rock-and-pebble beaches at Lovišča (southwest) and Jazina (northwest) are ideal for a family-oriented splashing-around holiday.

Jezera

A relatively tranquil port sprawling around a broad bay, Jezera ("the Lakes") gets its name from the seasonal ponds that used to appear on the outskirts of the entrance to the village. One of them, called Lokva ("Puddle"), still exists behind the Parish Church and fills with water in rainy periods of the spring and autumn. The best beaches are a long walk (or short drive) south of the village, in coves such as Podjasenovac and Kromašna. The rural tracks linking Jezera with these and other bays forge their way through olive groves and are ideal for cycling.

Murter

With a cluster of stone houses at its core and an extensive suburban spread of modern villas, Murter constitutes a relaxing blend of Dalmatian history and easy-going modern vacations. Most Murter families were granted farm land on the nearby Kornati islands in the past, which explains why most of the houses in Murter face out to sea, with a small jetty and boat mooring serving as some kind of aquatic front door.

Everything in Murter revolves around the irregular-shaped, café-lined town square, Trg Rudina, which opens out towards a palm-lined seafront promenade at its northern end. Stroll west from here along the narrow alleyway known as Luke to enjoy a taste of Murter's traditional stone architecture. One of the most atmospheric parts of town is Selo, grouped around a cone-shaped hill 800 metres south of the seafront.

Most popular of Murter's beaches is Slanica, 1.5km west of the main square, a part-shingle part-sand beach that gets crowded in summer. There are bars and a pizzeria behind the beach, and coastal paths that lead to rockier (and potentially more secluded) parts of the coast in either direction.

Betina

Over on the northeastern side of the Gradina headland (and within easy walking distance of Murter), the village of Betina used to be a major ship-building centre and part of the seafront is still taken up by small repair yards catering for yachts and local fishing boats. At the centre of the settlement is a kasbah-like maze of narrow alleys grouped around the Parish Church of St Francis (Crkva svetog Frane), famous for its distinctive octagonal belfry topped by a bulbous red dome and spindly weather vane.

PIROVAC

Occupying a semicircular peninsula 23km north of Šibenik, Pirovac centres on a palm-splashed sea front bordered by a tidy agglomeration of modern houses and holiday villas. A gate in a surviving stretch of town wall leads through to the historic centre of town, a cluster of ancient stone houses and cobbled alleys grouped around a 16th-century parish church.

TRIBUNJ

Thirty minutes' walk along the seafront from Vodice, Tribunj is a relatively calm fishing village centred on a thumb-shaped island joined to the mainland by a bridge. There's a tight cluster of old houses on the island itself, and a large yachting marina on the opposite side of the bay.

Overlooking the bridge on the mainland side is the Parish Church of Our Lady (Crkva velike Gospe), a 19th-century building containing a cluster of neo-Baroque altars and a shrine to Saint Nicholas (the patron of sea-farers) that features an intricate model ship. For those who need to stretch their legs, a path leads up behind Tribunj's parish church towards the hilltop chapel of St Nicholas, pass-

VODICE

moje misto

The town of Vodice is a tourist centre famous for its lively and various tourist offer and pleasant people.



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ing shrines marking the Stations of the Cross on the way. There are splendid views of the coastline from the summit.

To the west of Tribunj, Sovlja is a small settlement resting on a shallow inlet, with a rock-and-pebble beach that's a peaceful alternative to those in nearby Vodice.

Tribunj's other main claim to fame is the festival of donkey races that takes place every year in the first week of August. The traditional local affection for the four-legged braying beast is nurtured by the Tribunj-based Hrvatski Tovar ("Croatian Donkey") organization, formed in 1999. There is a donkey reserve on the island of Logorun just offshore to the southwest.

VODICE

Twelve kilometres north of Šibenik, Vodice is the most-visited tourist resort in the region, with modern hotel developments on either side of its broad bay and a large and well-equipped yachting marina in the middle. There is a small nucleus of historic buildings and narrow streets in the centre of Vodice, surrounded by a pleasantly low-rise sprawl of family houses and tourist-oriented apartment buildings. Vodice has over 6 km of well maintained, mostly pebble beaches. There you'll find all kind of activities, bars, restaurants and other facilities that will make your days at the beach fulfilled and special. Also, with its three dog beaches, Vodice is an ideal destination for vacationing with pets.

The town gets its name from the many sources of drinkable water in the area (voda is Croatian for "water"). Indeed the city of Šibenik was supplied by ship with drinking water from Vodice right up until the 1870s, when its own piped water system was constructed. Grandest of the old buildings in the centre is the Čorić Tower, sole surviving remnant of fortifications built in the 15th century to defend the town against the Ottomans. A solid-looking townhouse nearby holds the Vodice Aquarium, which contains an entertaining and educational display of Adriatic sea creatures, which – featuring sea bream, sea bass and dentex – looks rather like a 3-D menu for the seafood restaurants you might be eating in later. Upstairs is a fine collection of antique amphorae salvaged by underwater archeologists, and an impressive collection of model boats from all ages and countries – they range from traditional Croatian fishing vessels to the 17th-century Swedish warship *Wasa*, that famously sank within twenty minutes of its launch.

South of Šibenik

PRIMOŠTEN

Catching sight of Primošten from the coastal road is one of the many love-at-first-sight experiences that the Croatian Adriatic has to offer. An attractive old town is squeezed onto an thumb of land jutting into a turquoise sea, while the wooded peninsula of Raduča sprouts off to the north, fringed by a large and splendid gravel beach.

Primošten's origins go back to the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia in 1463, when the Croatian-speaking population of the interior increasingly sought refuge on the Adriatic coast. The oval-shaped island known as Gola Glava ("Bare Head") was one of the places they settled. A wooden bridge was constructed to join the island onto the mainland, and the resulting town became known as Primošten (which might be loosely translated as "the place with a bridge across"). As the Ottoman threat receded, the wooden bridge was replaced by a stone causeway, turning Primošten into the peninsula town that visitors see today.

On the landward side of the causeway is the dainty stone-roofed Chapel of St Rock (1680), beside which is a statue of Don Ivo Šarić (1915-1944), who attempted to protect the local population against atrocities by both Italian and German occupiers during World War II, before finally being murdered by the latter. In front of the statue stretches a typically sweet-smelling Adriatic garden filled with lavender bushes, rosemary, and a clutch of palm trees. Presiding over the causeway to the Old Town is a much-loved piece of sculpture depicting a local fisherman accompanied by wife and donkey. At the opposite end of the causeway, an arched gate leads through a stretch of crenellated wall into the Old Town, where a tangle of narrow streets surround the 15th-century parish church of St George.

Much favoured by Hollywood director Orson Welles (who had a summer villa here), the beaches of Raduča are packed with bathers in summer.

Inland from Primošten

Occupying the high ground uphill from Primošten is an enchanting area of maquis-choked villages and country lanes lined by dry stone walls. Densely planted with olives and vines, this was the agricultural heartland of the region until tourism took off and the working lives of the locals became focused on the coast. All of the villages here have suffered rural depopulation, and once profitable crops have been left to go to seed – although an increasing number of local families are returning to their ancestral properties and revitalizing the olive groves.

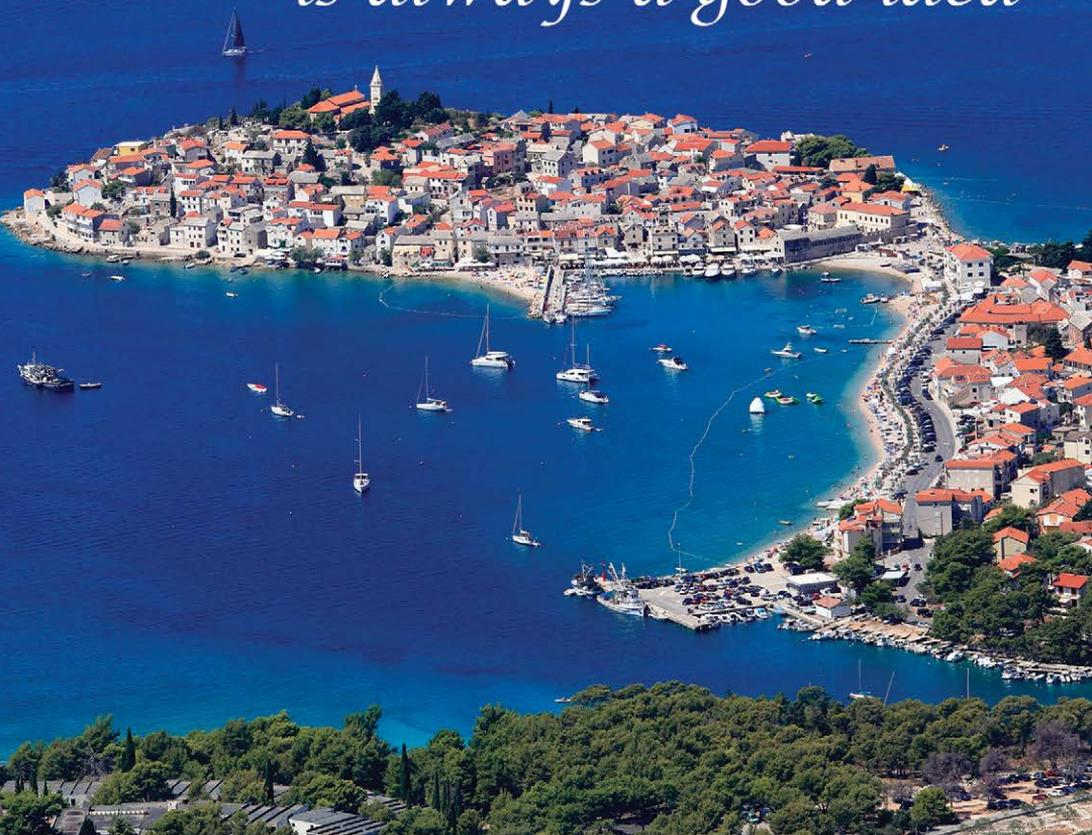
ROGOZNICA

Southernmost of Šibenik County's seaside resorts is Rogoznica, an attractive island village joined to the mainland by a 100-metre-long bridge. With a huddle of stone houses rising above a palm-splashed Riva, it's an undeniably attractive spot, and the Frapa marina on the opposite side of the bay has made it a hugely popular destination with the yachting crowd.

Situated on the western fringe of the village, Frapa is open to outsiders, with a central semicircular building holding restaurants, bars and a nightclub. Just behind the marina is Zmajevo Oko ("Eye of the Dragon"), a crater-like salt-water lake surrounded by grey cliffs. North of the marina is the Gradina peninsula, boasting a significant stretch of pebble beach backed by dense pines.

Primošten

is always a good idea



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► G-2, Draga 14, tel. (+385-) 060 36 83 68.

MAIN TRAIN STATION

► L-3, Fra Jeronima Milete 24, tel. (+385-22) 33 36 99, www.hzpp.hr.

TAXI

The easiest way to get a cab is to call **City taxi (Gradski taxi)**: (+385-99) 33 32 777; otherwise you'll find them at ranks outside the bus station or on the Poljana square just outside the Old Town. The start-up fare is 40kn which includes the first five kilometers, followed by 10kn per kilometre, 5kn per baggage item. We recommend that you check beforehand if waiting is included in the price for the first 5km.

BIKING

Although the infrastructure for cycling is almost non-existent, it is of course possible to rent-a-bike to at least see the city landmarks and monuments, or beach hop from one to another of course. There are a few bike stores around town that charge around 100kn per day and if you choose to rent for a few days in a row, the price is then discounted.

Option two is the Nextbike system where you can rent a bike (standard, e-bike or tandem) at any of the six city locations. Once you download the application, you may put 10 kn or more credit for your city rides (standard bike – 5 kn for a 30 min ride; e-bike/tandem – 10 kn for a 30 min ride). There is a special offer for 7-day use (100 kn, unlimited number of rides up to 30 minutes). More information at: www.nextbike.hr.

BIKE AND HIKE

Website with lots of information about exploring Šibenik Knin County on bike. It has routes, maps, cycling events, stops offs, tours, service spots and much more. ► www.bikeandhike.hr.

FERRIES

Šibenik is the perfect place to indulge in a bit of island hopping, with 2-3 daily Šibenik-Vodice ferries (4-5 in summer but watch out for reduced services on Sunday) sailing via the enchanting islands of Zlarin and Prvić. The trip is a scenic wonder, taking you through the Šibenik canal and offering fantastic views of the St. Nicholas sea fort as you pass. Journey times are short, with the whole Šibenik-Vodice journey taking just over one hour.

Further offshore, the islands of Kaprije and Žirje are linked to the mainland less often and take slightly longer to get to, but still represent an eminently accessible day out from the city. Note that almost all of these services are for passengers and bicycles only - you can't take a car on board unless travelling on selected Žirje services.

The departure point for these ferries is the jetty pier on the seafront right below the city centre. Tickets should be bought before boarding the boat from the Jadrolinija office diagonally opposite the jetty.

The island of Krapanj, just off the shore opposite the settlement of Brodarica, is reached by hourly passenger boat from the Brodarica waterfront (pay on board).

Elsewhere, the Kornati islands are not linked to the mainland by regular ferry, and are only accessible via the tourist excursions operated by travel agencies or with your own yacht.

JADROLINIJA

Boat lines to Kaprije, Prvić, Vodice, Zlarin and Žirje. ► F-4, **Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana 7**, tel. (+385-22) 21 34 68/ (+385 -22) 20 06 24, www.jadrolinija.hr. Open 05:15-19:30. Sun 06:15 - 11:30 and 18:00 - 21:00.

PARKING

Šibenik has both street parking and pay car parks. Street parking is split into four zones where parking is charged 1 June – 1 October at rates ranging between 3kn/hour and 10 kn/hour depending on the zone. You can also buy day tickets at 48 – 160 kn.

There are car parks in two zones: the one in the Draga district and at the railway station are in Zone A, while the car park in the Poljana district is in Zone B. Prices are 3 – 10kn/hour.

Beware of parking in dodgy places where your car might get towed away by the city authorities and impounded at the address Velimira Škorpika 5, at a place euphemistically named "Služba za premještanje vozila" – the "Service for relocating vehicles." How benign! They will kindly return your vehicle to you in return for your payment of the sum of 400 kn plus 50 kn for each day spent in the pound. The pound is open on working days **07:00 – 21:00, Sat 07:00 – 14:00. Closed Sun.** If you spot the car catchers in the act of loading your iron steed onto a terrible vehicle known in Croatian as the pauk, or "spider", you might get away with a fine of just 200kn. More information on tel. **022 218 459, 091 120 08 23** or pauk@gradski-parking.hr.

GRADSKI PARKING

► Draga 14, tel. (+385-22) 21 22 05, www.gradski-parking.hr.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Šibenik's municipal bus service is operated by Autotransport Šibenik, with buses operating from around 06:00 to 22:00. Most important routes for visitors are the **no. 3** (which runs from the city centre uphill to Šubićevac, passing the 16th-century fortress on the way), the **no. 6** (to the Solaris hotel complex), and the **no.5** (to Brodarica, jump-off point for the island of Krapanj). Best place to catch these buses is the stop right beside the main market (*tržnica*), where there is a kiosk (Open 07:30 - 14:30, Sat 07:30 - 13:30. Closed Sun) selling tickets and a timetable detailing departures (watch out for reduced services on Sundays). Single tickets on most lines cost 10kn, some longer routes 11kn - 13kn.

AUTOTRANSPORT D.D.

► G-2, Draga 14, tel. (+385-22) 21 64 44, www.atpsi.hr.



ŠIBENIK

plan stare gradske jezgre
old city center map



- 1 Katedrala sv. Jakova *St. James Cathedral*
- 2 Crkva sv. Ivana *St. John's Church*
- 3 Crkva sv. Frane, samostan i muzej *St. Francis's Church and Monastery*
- 4 Crkva sv. Krševana *St. Grisogonu's Church (Krševan)*
- 5 Nova Crkva *New Church*
- 6 Crkva sv. Duha *Church of the Holy Spirit*
- 7 Crkva sv. Nikole *St. Nicholas's Church*
- 8 Crkva sv. Barbare *St. Barbara's Church*
- 9 Crkva sv. Križa *Church of the Holy Cross*
- 10 Crkva Svi Sveti *All Saint's Church*
- 11 Crkva Uspenje Bogomaterne *Ascension Church*
- 12 Crkva sv. Dominika *St. Dominic's Church*

- 13 Crkva sv. Grgura *St. Gregory's Church*
- 14 Crkva sv. Lovre *St. Lawrence Church*
- 15 Crkva Gospe vanka Grada *"Gospe Vanka Grada" Church*
- 16 Crkva sv. Nediljice *St. Nediljica Church*
- 17 Gradska vijećnica *The Town Hall*
- 18 Palača Rossini *Rossini Palace*
- 19 Palača Foscolo *Foscolo Palace*
- 20 Palača Pellegrini *Pellegrini Palace*
- 21 Palača Gogala *Gogala Palace*
- 22 Benediktanski samostan sv. Luce *St. Luce Benedictine Monastery*
- 23 Crkva sv. Spasa *St. Savior Church*
- 24 Civitas Sacra - interpretacijski centar *Interpretation center*

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