



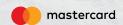
Explore fortresses of Šibenik

Where history meets technology

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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Like all, you know, sane people, we can't get enough of Šibenik. Sure, it might not get the attention of more celebrated cities to the north and the south, but that is just how this place likes it. Šibenik is ready and waiting to become your personal slice of paradise, an architectural jewel with the cultural heritage to back it up. Šibenik comes alive when the weather improves, yet it remains gorgeously serene all the while. That takes some doing, but Sibenik gets the job done.

After all, pretty much the entirety of the city is an open-air museum, the ups and downs of the old town providing what feels like a never-ending supply of historic buildings and secret stories. Juraj Dalmatinac's cathedral stands imposingly in the heart of it all, a UNESCO World Heritage site that very much deserves the name, while the two fortresses above provide protection and beauty in equal measure. Those views, seriously, those views.

Šibenik's culinary offer is improving all the time, and we're pretty sure we'll never tire of devouring the meat on offer at Broznin. We're getting a little hungry just thinking about that, so time to start exploring everything that Šibenik has to offer. We look forward to hearing from you, be it through email, social media or in-between bites of magnificent meaty morsels. Seriously, so, so good.

ON THE COVER



This year's magnificent cover was made in collaboration with Marko Babić, otherwise known as Artplakata, What is Artplakata? A tremendously creative love letter to the neglected aspects of daily life in our cities, that's what. Artplakata aims to breathe new life into ignored pieces of architecture and the rest through art, and we're happy to say that Artplakata more than succeeds.

Photo: Marko Babić

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Summer Events

WHERE TO FIND LOCAL ART EVENTS?

SUMMER IS PERFECT TIME TO TRAVEL, TO VISIT NEW PLACES AND GAIN NEW EXPERIENCES. TRAVELLING 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 Jack Savoretti July 30, King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard Aug 3, and well-renowned Croatian and other bands, including **Nipplepeople i Buč** Kesidi June 11. Matiia Cvek & The Funkensteins, Hladno pivo June 15. Amira Medunianin June 30, Urban July 1, Bajaga i instruktori July 7 and Josipa Lisac Aug 9 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 here.

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 14-17), Kanal Fest (July 29-30) and Membrain Festival (Aug 4-7, Blast Fest (Aug 12-14).

This year, two new festivals are presented on Martinska: **Šibenik Guitar Festival July 8-9** and the **Seagull Festival**

July 22-23 that will nostalgically revive the atmosphere from '78', Bossa Nova, Italo Disco. old soul & funk.

Punk music lovers will roam the Kanal Festival on Martinska Beach from July 23-24, while **Project Hangar 303** (June 24 & Aug 19) at the Šibenik army barracks will definitely intrigue the underground techno music fans. For more details on the latter event, check their website

The Garden Resort and Barbarellas Club in Tisno, near Šibenik, organize summer festivals. The season opens on 13 July Love International and continues, 21 July with Suncebeat Festival, with Outlook on 28 July, Defected on 4 August, Dekmantel Selectors on 25 August, and Dimensions as the closing event on 5 September - all experiences to remember!

Vodice Jazz & Blues festival from July 16 - 18 in the nearby town of Vodice is another music lovers' must this summer.

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

FILM

Barone Fortress will once again host a film event "Moving Night". 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 presticious 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 18 - 22.** Locations and the program can be viewed here

LOCAL ART FAIRS

As a proud city very much in touch with its history, Šibenik throws itself into its **Heritage Day** celebrations like few other places. With Mala Loža (the Small Lodge) as its headquarters, expect gastro tours telling the story of Šibenik cuisine, plenty of traditional crafts, creative corners for children and a wide variety of artistic exhibitions from all manner of art associations. The whole thing kicks off on **July 7** and runs every Thursday until the end of August (the food tour starts at the **Green Market** and runs until September 15).



18.06-02.07 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Established in 1958, this event bridges the city of Šibenik with its youth. The festival is famous not only for its performances but also for its creative dimension, encouraging kids to get involved with different art forms: drama classes, puppetry, musicals and theatre, film, literature and painting. During the two-week festival, the youngest audience, their parents, grandparents and friends will enjoy approximately 80 theatre performances, 33 workshops with over 500 participants, a rich film and music program, a Spanish labyrinth on the Main Town Square and a handful of events that will spread throughout Šibenik streets and squares. MDF is one of the oldest festivals of this kind in Europe that nurtures and encourages children's creativity. A must in the memories of childhood! ▶ D-4, Cathedral of St James, Trg Republike Hrvatske 1, www.mdf-sibenik.com.



VESNA PARUN

This year Croatia will be celebrating the centenary of the birth of Vesna Parun, one of the nation's greatest twentieth-century poets, and a much-loved author of children's stories.

Parun was born on the island of Zlarin, near Sibenik, on April 10 1922, and it is on Zlarin that many of the key celebrations will be taking place.

A monolith, engraved with the words of Parun's famous line devoted to her native island, "Zlatin, little island of broom and immortelle (*Zlarin,mali otok brnistre i smilja*)," was unveiled on the centenary itself. There are also plans for a Vesna Parun corner which, will direct visitors towards locations on the island mentioned in Parun's works. There will also be a string of events throughout the summer involving readings and music.

Although born on Zlarin, Parun lived in many different parts of Croatia and is arguably one of the most Croatian of poets, having experienced its many landscapes and lived through its most dramatic epochs.

She spent her childhood years in Zlarin, Split and Šibenik, and spent some of her school years on the island of Vis. She enrolled at Zagreb University in 1940, and spent the war years in Sesvete

near Zagreb; her brother died fighting with the Partisans.

Published in 1947, her first collection Dawns and Whirlwinds was attacked by critics for not being in tune with the communist-approved socialist realism of the time. She subsequently developed as a leading lyric poet, with love and sensuality among her key themes. She was also a highly prolific children's author, celebrated among other things for her characters Džingiskan and Miki Trasi, two cats from Zlarin. Džingiskan leaves the island because he wants to see the world, an archetypal case of someone who leaves a small town for the big wide world but still yearns for its home comforts.

Parun lived in Bulgaria from 1962, socializing with actors and writers and translating the best of Bulgarian poetry into Croatian. Expelled as a spy in 1967, she returned to Zagreb. Parun's love letters to Bulgarian actor Veli Čaušev, rediscovered and published in 2016, were a literary sensation.

Due to ill health Parun moved to the spa town of Stubičke Toplice, where she died on October 25 2010. She was buried in Grohote on the island of Šolta, her mother's native island.

Where to use your



Discover more Šibenik for less money!

THE CITY THAT HOSTS TWO **UNESCO HERITAGE SITES**

MUSEUM AND LANDMARKS - FREE ADMISSION

Katedrala sv. Jakova St. James Cathedral

Trg Republike Hrvatske 1. Šibenik +385 22 214 448 (Tourist info center) A UNESCO World Heritage site, St.James Cathedral is a masterpiece that took a century to build. On its facade are 71 different



Gradski muzej Šibenik Šibenik City Museum

Jlica Gradska vrata 3. Beautifully designed inside Rector's Palace, the fascinating collection dates the end of the Venetian

Aquarium & Terrarium Šibenik

+385 99 212 5819 An unforgettable experience for the whole family - discover the world of Adriatic fish and plants as well as tropical

4 Civitas Sacra Museum iralja Tomislava 10,

+385 22 668 522 Interactive museum

that tells its visitors tales of the

construction of the St. James cathedral that was revolutionary for its

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



Tvrđava Barone **Barone Fortress**

Put Vuka Mandušića 28. Šibenik 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"!



Kružna brodska tura Circle Boat Line

Šibenik waterfront Avoid the crowds on city with a wind in your hair and a refreshing drink in your hand while travelling by boat!

ATTRACTIONS

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Tvrđava sv.Nikole St. Nicholas Fortress

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This famous landmark of Šibenik is a unique monument of Renaissance fortification architecture, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2017.

www.sibenikcard.com







ESSENTIAL ŠIBENIK

CATHEDRAL OF ST JAMES (KATEDRALA SVE-TOG 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

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. Jurai 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 Jurai 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 baptistery (krstionica) in the cathedral's corner, which features a beautifully carved ceiling, and plump cherubs cavorting around the base of the baptismal font. ▶ D-4, Trg Republike Hrvatske 1. Open 10:00-19:00; Sun 13:00-19:00. Monday - Saturday Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sunday 13:00-19:00. Unified ticket for Cathedral and Civitas Sacra Centre 30kn.

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.kanalsvetog-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 Sibenik'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; Sat 10:00-20:00; closed Sun. Open 08:00 - 20:00. sub 10:00-20:00. Admission 30kn, kids by the age of 12 have free entrance.

THE MEDIEVAL MONASTERY MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN OF ST LAWRENCE (SREDNJOVJEKOVNI 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.svlovre.com/. Open 09:00-24:00.





The Church of the Most Holy Redeemer

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FORTIFICATIONS

BARONE FORTRESS

Today's smart devices are virtual time machines. Don a pair of augmented reality (AR) device sand step 370 years in to 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 Degen feld, a hero in the story of the cities

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

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 For-

tress. The goal of the project was to provide the visitors of the fortress with a cultural attraction and incorporate high-tech innovative services. Utilising AR technology, the stories of the past can now become the attractions of the

A visitors quipped 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.

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 Venetancontrolled Dalmatia was engaged in a bitter struggle to

providing any number of ideal angles for defensive artillery fire. Even today it is a stirring sight, its angular jutting bastions surrounded by outcrops of limestone and spindly evergreen trees. Getting here from the centre of town is fairly easy: from the main Kralia 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 Stiepan 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.

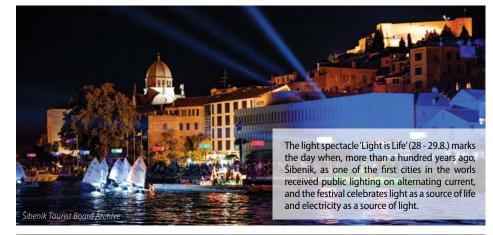
Sightseeing

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. Also, the two underground cisterns from the 15th century have been turned into time machines that take you through the centuries of Šibenik. Witness the most important events from the creation of the city until today, thanks to 3D mapping technology. Be sure to check their website and social media for updated working hours. ▶ C-2, Zagrađe 21, tel. (+385-) 091 497 55 47, www.tvrdjavakulture.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 Sammicheli 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 and turn it into a museum centre. You can visit St. Nicholas' Fortress, organised by Priroda (Nature) a public body in Šibenik-Knin County. You leave by boat from the Krka berth on the Sibenik waterfront. Schedule and prices can be found at www.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.



Sightseeing Local Flavour



CURIOSITY

AMOR DI CANI

Wandering the streets you'll come upon two stone containers jutting out of a wall and one has the chiseled inscription, 'Amor De Cani' (for the love of dogs). Historically, animals suffering from rabies often had a fear of water and locals could then identify those who'd keep distant, these days they serve as a healthy pit stop for cats and dogs wanting some water.

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.

ŠUBIĆEVAC 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 southeastern 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, Subićevac.

WIND ROSE WATERSPORT CENTRE

Looking to get the blood pumping while on holiday? Get yourself to the Wind Rose Watersport Centre, pronto. Found inside the Amadria Park resort, they offer everything from SUP to windsurfing for total beginners and experts alike, with brand new equipment and a truly infectious enthusiasm. Excellent stuff. > Hoteli Solaris 86, tel. (+385-) 099 470 39 89, www.windrose.surf/.

SIP & SAVOR

When it comes to gastronomy the **Šibenik** region is as rich and varied as they come. There are significant variations from one locality to the next; and each place nurtures **specialities** that they feel are unique. We've divided the region into four areas to help you discover its culinary superlatives.

Šibenik

Despite being surrounded by the riches of the Adriatic Sea, Šibenik has developed an urban cooking culture strong on stews, schnitzels and other filing lunches. Partly this is due to the city's historical status as a regional centre in both Venetian and Austrian Empires, both of which brought culinary habits in their wake. Particularly well-developed in Šibenik is the culture of the marenda, the warm meal traditionally eaten in the middle of the working day, somewhere between breakfast and lunch. The homely restaurants which specialize in marende are still a major feature of the city. They usually chalk up their menus on a board from day to day, although certain dishes are almost certain to be on the list - sarma (cabbage leaves stuffed with rich tasty mincemeat). tripice (tripe stew), punjene paprike (stuffed peppers), and pasta fažol (bean stew with pasta) are iust some of the things that Šibenik folk eat on a daily basis.. You also get old-style dishes which rarely feature in the more tourist-oriented restaurants, like yummy tripe stew and finger-licking lamb's liver. Other Šibenik specialities that might be more appealing include luganiaa. a herb-flavoured pork sausage of Italian origin, and, when in season, the delectable dish that is artichoke with green beans.

The islands

The waters around the islands of the Sibenik region are among the clearest in the Adriatic, and it's hardly surprising to discover that it yields a cornucopia of culinary riches. The sea around the Kornati archipelago is a particularly good hunting ground for white fish, lobster, prawns and everything else that swims and wrigqles its way through

the great Adriatic blue. Traditionally local cooks stick to simplicity - olive oil and a shake of salt is very often all that these noble sea creatures need before being tossed on the grill. There's an increasing number of high-quality seafood restaurants on the Kornati catering for yachting folk, most of which rely on the fresh catch rather than what they got in the cash-and-carry.

Fishing culture - and the need to make the best of your catch whatever you come back into port with - means that mixed-seafood brodet or stew is another staple. Every household has their own recipe - indeed the island of Zlarin has an annual competition to see who cooks up the best. Squid as always features strongly in the local diet: one speciality you won't se so often elsewhere is black polenta, made with the squid and its ink.

The Interior

North and east of Šibenik maritime culture merges with inland pursuits such as animal-rearing, wine-making and crop-growing. Straddling both cultures is Skradin, a town that has developed a distinct culinary profile of its own. Well served with fish, shellfish, frogs and eels (the latter feature in an eel brodet that is often eaten cold). Skradin cooks also have access to the *cokalica* a tasty small fish that lives on the boundaries of the fresh-water and salt-water zones. Another thing unique to Skradin is skradinski rižot. a slow-cooked beef-based risotto flavoured with aromatic spices (and which, according to tradition, takes 8-9 hours to cook and can only be made by men).

Elsewhere inland, it's the meat that dominates the menu, with pork, veal and occasionally rooster slowbaked under a metal lid known as a *peka* - which is regularly sprinkled with hot ashes from a roaring hearth. Localmarket centre Drniš is known all over Croatia for its *pršut*, which is reckoned to be the best in Dalmatia. The town's other claim to fame is *sir iz mišine*, a distinctively tart sheep's cheese matured in sheepskin bags - it is best consumed with a good red wine. The other local dairy product is *škripavac* ("the squeaky one"), a mild cow's cheese with a pleasantly rubbery texture.

Along the coast

Coastal settlements running up the coast from Šibenik have a long tradition of sea-fishing, but also grow vegetables and pulses in their gardens. Seafood staples like squid are often paired with lentils, chickpeas or green beans. Succulent prawns and protein-rich sardines and anchovies make up the bulk of the local catch, and it's the salted and marinated 'blue' fish from these coastal villages that make up one of the true joys of the region's cuisine. One of the foodstuffs most specific to the region is the mussel, grown in the Krka estuary near Šibenik and also in the Murter Channel, between Pirovac and the island of Murter, Always present in the wild, mussels have been farmed as a food product since the 1980s, turning the Šibenik region into one of the prime sources of mussels in Croatia - whereever you are along this stretch of shore, mussels will be one of the treats you simply musty try.

Tribunj, Murter and Prvić Luka are still working fishing communities, with anchovies and sardines making up the biggest share of the catch. Salted and marinated fish are true joys, adria stall on tribunj market is one of the best places to pick them up.



Where to buy local fish products?

The Adriatic Sea is full of natural bounty. It is filled with fish, crustaceans, and weird things with tentacles, and it is not surprising that a traditional culture of fishing, seafaring, and seafood-based gastronomy has grown up around its shores. However that doesn't always mean that fishing is an easy trade from which to make a living. Fish stocks are not what they were, and the food retail industry is increasingly dependent on big global supply chains rather than the local catch.

One response to the challenges faced by today's Adriatic communities is the Adria Fishing Cooperative in the village of Tribunj, a typical seafaring village just west of the tourist resort of Vodice. Founded in 2007, the cooperative comprising thirteen fishing boats operated by local families, and a modern processing plant right on the harbour for storing, processing, packing and marketing the catch.

A certain amount of fresh fish goes direct to the local market, although most of cooperative's catch is frozen, salted, or smoked in Adria's state-of-the-art smoking machine. The cooperative is particularly proud of its shrimps, particularly succulent because they have soft small bodies suited to the shallow coastal waters.

The cooperative's impressive catch of red mullet, a fish underrated by local chefs, and is largely exported to Italy, where it is a firm favourite in the peninsula's kitchens. The cooperative plays an important social role in a village like Tribunj: fishing is deeply rooted here, and there is hardly a single local family which isn't somehow involved in the industry in some way. The cooperative's members mostly fish in local waters, stretching from from the Šibenik area in the south to the Kornati islands in the northwest. Fishing often follows a seasonal pattern, with mackerel and shrimps more plentiful in the summer, hake in winter. Trawler fishing is suspended at certain times in order to allow stocks to be replenished.

Visitors will be stirred by the sight of a working fishing harbour squeezed between yachting marinas and holiday beaches, and might get to see the catch being unloaded if they're around at the right time.

To get your hands on Adria's high-quality, locally-fished and locally-packed products, head for the glass-enclosed Adria stall at Tribuni market, where a tempting range of shrimp, smoked fish, and beautifully tangy jars of salted anchovies are arrayed for your inspection. The cooperative's Facebook page (www.facebok.com/rzadria/) may be in Croatian, but provides a seductively colourful insight into what might be on the shelves.

You can learn more about the Adria cooperative at www.rzadria-tribunj.hr.

Adria Tribunj Archive









INTERNATIONAL

BISTRO BAVA

Smart, white-cube bistro on a cute piazza between the seashore and the Od Town, serving a shrewd mix of seafood and modern Mediterranean fare. Sea bream comes in the form of an imaginatively garnished fillet rather than a whole grilled fish; the oven-baked octopus tentacles wrapped in bacon are worth a try if you want something slightly different. There is also a pasta dish or two, a signature Bava burger, and a couple of very fine risottos. The interior is bright and welcoming, the music soulful and jazzy; tables spread out into the piazza in summer. ► Zlarinski prolaz 1, tel. (+385-22) 33 26 01. Open 12:00-23:00. (85-180kn). cc 1

BRONZIN

Everything about Bronzin works to a tee. There is plenty of space, for a start, although don't be surprised to see this place packed from open to close. The cleavers on the walls give an indication as to what to expect, meaning a whole host of excellent meat-based dishes practically cooked in front of you in the open kitchen. That venison burger, oh baby. ▶ B/D - 4, Obala palih omladinaca 5, tel. (+385-) 091 602 34 21, www. bronzin.net/. Open 10:00-24:00. (70-250kn). cc 1

GALBIANI

With a show-stopping location on the roof of the Civitas Sacra Museum, Galbiani could be forgiven for thinking that the job was done. Not these guys though, and there is a commitment to quality here that shines through the menu and makes the views

an accompaniment rather than the main event. Fish and meat dominate that menu, and the staff are pretty darn good at combining the food with the perfect wine. **E-3, Ivana Pribislavića** 3, tel. (+385-) 099 389 49 00, www.restaurant-galbiani.com/. Open 17:00-23:00; closed Sun. (70-220kn). cc

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 13:00-23:00; Sat, Sun 12:00-23:00. (45-180kn). CC (♣ 🔾 🖈 🗇 🗗

QUICK EATS

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 07:00-16:00; closed Sun. (19 -



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-) 095 442 25 55. Open 08:00-23:00. (80-250kn). ☑ ↑

TRADITIONAL

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, pašticada (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). € ② ④ ↑

JADRAN RESTAURANT & BAR

Smack bang in the heart of Šibenik's darling waterfront promenade, Jadran is all about the tastes of Dalmatia and the Mediterranean. Cocktails and local wines too, with frequent live music nights to boot. Everything you could want from dinner and drinks in Šibenik, to cut a long story short. ▶ E-4,

Obala Franje Tuđmana 52, tel. (+385-) 098 38 40 45, www. restaurant-jadran-sibenik.business.site/. Open 07:00-23:30. (75-450kn).

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.nostalgijasibenik.com. Open 18:00-22:00; closed Sun. (69-109kn).

PJAT

TERRA MARE

Enjoying an enviable quayside position, Terra Mare is a traditional Dalmatian restaurant that has been given a modern makeover, surrounding diners with soothing fawn hues and smart furnishings rather than the usual nautical trinkets. The grilled fish and meat dishes are unlikely to disappoint, and the seafood pasta dishes are excellent. Fe-4. Obala dr. Franie

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 (*grdobina*) in white wine sauce or grilled sea bass (*brancin*) are particularly good. ▶ C-2, Trg pučkih kapetana 1, tel. (+385-) 098 870 080. Open 12:00-16:00;18:00-22:00; Sun 18:00-22:00. (90-190kn). € (③ (7)

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). ◎ ※ ※ ↑ ◎ ▲

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 will be grilled, baked or stewed according to your wishes. With light jazzy music in the background, it's the ideal place for a qual-

ity 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. From September 01 Open 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (100-350kn). @ ② ↑ P

UPSCALE

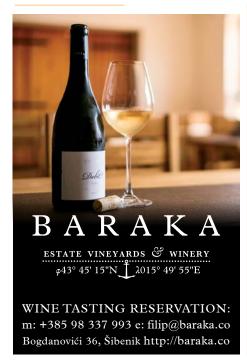
PELEGRINI (MICHELIN 2021)

VEGETARIAN

O.DA BAR

We all need to be a little healthier in our lives, so the more time spent at places like O.DA the better. This darling cafe on the fringes of Šibenik's old town is further proof to the pud-





ding that health-centric food is flippin' delicious, meaning you can pop in for a clean lunch and leave with a smile on your face. Yes, a smile in your stomach too, although that is quite a strange thought. Trg Ivana Gorana Kovačića, tel. (+385-) 091 592 36 07. Open 09:00-15:00; closed Sat, Sun. (50-60kn).

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 Srima 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 12:00-19:00; closed Sun. July & August Open 12:00 - 19:00, Fri & Sat 12:00 - 21:00.

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. 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.superbexperience.com/. Open 11:00-18:00; Sat, Sun 11:00-19:00; closed Mon.

NA.MA.LO COFFEE & WINE BAR

A wine bar with world's biggest collection of wines from Šibenik area, and some from other parts of Croatia as well. Their cocktail list puts local flavours into world classics, and their coffee game is strong with beans lightly roasted in Croatia's capital. If you are more of a beer lover, make sure to check out their local craft selection. ▶ E-3, Don Krste Stošića 2, tel. (+385-) 099 827 88 93. Open 09:00-24:00; Fri, Sat 09:00-01:00; closed Sun. From June 15 Open 09:00 - 24:00. Sunday 17:00 - 01:00. ☑ 🐼 🏖 🗍 💿 🛚

RAK WINERY

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. ☑ € ③ ⑤

OUT OF TOWN

ISLANDS

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. Open 13:00-22:00. (100-240kn). € []

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. (160-550kn).

www.inyourpocket.com

DONJE POLJE

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/restoranvicko. Open 08:00-23:00; closed Mon. (80-200kn). © ⊕ ⊕ ↑ P

KONJEVRATE

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, Konjevrate, tel. (+385-22) 77 87 50/ (+385-) 098 979 34 10, www.konobavinko.hr. Open 12:00-22:00; closed Mon. (120 - 250kn).

MIRI OVIĆ ZAGORA

KONOBA CAMPANELO

Now, this is the life. Located in the darling village of Unešić, Konoba Campanelo is committed to intimacy and community, both in its atmosphere and its food. This is a family farm with an emphasis on the word 'family', with everyone chipping in to ensure the whole thing runs smoothly and yes, that includes 93-year-old gramps. Much of the menu is cultivated on-site, ensuring freshness unlike any other, and the dishes themselves are that blend of tradition and modernity that always excites the taste buds. The kitchen is designed so that guests get to watch the action, in an old restored smokehouse that has been in use for over a century. If there's a heaven, you might just find it in Unešić. ► Sučići 6, Mirlović Zagora, tel. (+385-) 095 857 23 38, www.campanelo.hr/. Open 12:00-23:00; closed Tue. 4-course menu 435kn. [©]

MURTER

BOB/

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



Restaurants

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 - 15:30; 18:30 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (180 - 280kn). @ ※ ※ ★

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-) 098 86 46 19, www.tictac-murter.com. Open 15:00-23:00. (120-250kn). 爾 இ

PRIMOŠTEN

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

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 12:00-24:00. (100-200kn).

SKRADIN

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 includes regional favourites such as shellfish, grilled eel and local lamb. A warmly atmospheric interior features exposed stone and brick with

RESTORAN CC A

A BOULD BELLEVIS

A B.C. local guide (55 reviews on G) After many recommendations we finally visited this cult restaurant. I have never eaten such a fine, tasty, soft and simply perfect lamb anywhere. Additionally, the bread under the oven is just fabolous. Staff are kind and professional, and the place is clean and tidy. See you soon again!

D.B. (22 reviews on G) Top quality lamb in a very pleasant environment with exemplary serving service.

a better lamb!!! All recommendations!

M.M.S. local guide (106 reviews on G) It can be named any how but it's simply a cult place for all real lamb lovers and domestic oven bread.

TAKE ME TO VICKO

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). @ ◎ ⑤ ↑ ◎ ▲

CANTINETTA

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. (150-300kn). €

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 13:00-22:00. (200-350kn). @ 🖟 🗂

VODICE

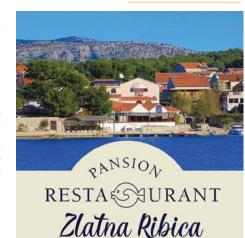
STEAK HOUSE BY GUŠTE

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 essential in season.

► Mirka Zore 34b, Vodice, tel. (+385-) 095 908 36 70. Open 18:00-24:00. (90-250kn). (2010 □ ○ □ ○ □

TDI DIDI INI

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! ▶ UI. Pave Roce 5, Vodice, tel. (+385-) 091 576 77 51, www.konobatripiruna.com. Open 17:00-23:00. (100 - 270kn). [© □



Restaurants







TUDIĆ d.o.o.

Krapanjskih Spužvara 46, 22 010 Brodarica, Šibenik,Cratia

tel.: +385 22 350 695, +385 22 350 300 fax.: + 385 22 351 877 e-mail: info@tudic.hr www.zlatna-ribica.hr



COFFEE

BARONE BAR

A bar within Barone Fortress with beautiful panoramic sea views, where visitors can pop in for a morning coffee or something a little stronger throughout the day. Barone stocks wines from small local producers such as Maraština, Babic, Debit, Plavina, and more, which is good news for oenophiles. Keep an eye on the schedule and time your visit for one of the frequent live music shows or movie nights. Be sure to check their website and social media for updated working hours. F-1, Put Vuka Mandušića 28, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/. Open 09:00-21:00.

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; 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-worlde 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 09:00-01:00.

HENDRICK'S BAR

A contemporary bar with an urban Mediterranean feel that is hot on the heels of 'drink it up'. They also offer an assortment of freshly squeezed juices, an even larger selection of 'more beer, more beer' and other alcoholic beverages to get your evening going. On Friday nights enjoy open air concerts. ▶ E-3, Božidara Petranovića 16. Open 07:00-01:00; Sun 07:00-14:00; Fri, Sat 07:00-02:00. July & August open 07:00 - 01:00; Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00; Sun 08:00 - 23:00.

SREDNJOVJEKOVNI SAMOSTANSKI MEDITER-ANSKI 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 habitar 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. ☑ 🚱 🖺

CAKES

CASTRUM COFFEE & MORE

KA GROM

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 07:00-22:30. 图 1

Coffe & Cake of the best-known songs by the Sibenik-

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 07:30-24:00. € 🖺 🗇

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. া



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Hangin' Out

AZIMUT CLUB

This is the main actor of the Šibenik alternative scene. Situated inside now-dry wells, built in 1453, it's is 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. \blacktriangleright C-3, Obala palih omladinaca 2, www. azimut.art. Open 09:00-01:00; Fri, Sat 09:00-02:00.

BAR CODE

A cocktail bar best known for the use of local ingredients in making a fusion of modern to original cocktails and other beverages. With live DJs, artists and bands lined up, Barcode is definitely a place worth visiting as the sun sets and the moon rises. ► E-4, Trg Pavla Šubića 3, tel. (+385-) 098 942 37 80, www.facebook.com/barcodesibenik. Open 09:00-01:00; Fri, Sat 09:00-02:00. @ ※ ★ ↑ ◎

DOMINO

This functional water-front rectangular space is rendered rather welcoming and homely by a combination of low-key lighting, garden-style wicker furnish-

EN VOGUE BEACH CLUB

This chic and stylish beach club delivers superb views of the Šibenik archipelago from its own private beach. It's the place where glam people and influencers come to mingle, seeking the sun, VIP guest service and live DJ sets churning out tunes. A designer menu and premium beverages keep hunger and thirst at bay. No doubt, En Vogue Beach Club is the place to be seen − this could be you! ► Amadria Park, Hoteli Solaris 86, tel. (+385-22) 36 10 01, www.envoguebeachclub.com. Open 11:00-19:00.

JACK RABBIT SLIM'S

Šibenik's most stylish spot is a world away from the tourist-focused offer of many other places, a confident cocktail-heavy charmer with swagger in spades. Jack



Rabbit Slim's is the sort of place that has people planning return trips to Šibenik, be it for another colourful concoction or simply a sunshine-filled afternoon coffee on the terrace. Excellent stuff. ▶ D-3, Trg pučkih kapetana 2, www.instagram.com/jack_rabbitslimsbar/. Open 09:00-23:00; Fri, Sat 10:00-01:00; closed Sun. € ↑

PUB&WINE BAR SCALA

Enter into a monopoly of wines and beers beautifully placed for customers to choose from as they are lit up behind the illuminating lights surrounded in stone behind the bar. This rustic venue has a lot of pluses in terms of vibe and character. Live acts perform often, a great set list of local and broader beverages on hand; seasonal specials in terms of food are on offer too. Coffees of all sorts available! ▶ Put gimnazije 5, tel. (+385-) 099 437 83 55. Open 07:00-24:00; Fri, Sat 07:00-01:00; Sun 17:00-24:00. ↑ P

REBUS BAR

Escape the heat and grab a beverage at Rebus, morning coffee to evening cocktails, Rebus is open all day long. Not to be missed are the evening live music sessions (Thursdays and Friday or Saturday) with a great variety of beer, local wine, and mega list of cocktails, including signature Rebus cocktail recipes. The exquisite interior fuses oriental tones with an industrial feel, and it is well worth a visit! F-3, UI. Svetog Nikole Tavelića 3. Open 08:00-23:00; Sat 09:00-24:00; closed Sun.

ROOF BAR BY MOËT & CHANDON

You know what you're getting from a place called 'The Roof Bar', and any time Moet & Chandon are involved you know you're in for some serious quality. The two combine with stunning elegance at D-Marin Mandalina, serving up exquisite views of Šibenik in the process. When the sun is setting, there is no more romantic spot in the entire city. ▶ Obala Jerka Šižgorića 1, tel. (+385-022) 33 14 52, www. dresortsibenik.com/. Open Fri, Sat 20:00-24:00. Open from June 10th.

VINTAGE BAR

Opened in the summer of 2016 with attention to detail paid to the interior's green walls, nature walls, earthy shades and more. The Vintage Bar offers super cool cocktails, hot coffees and teas. As it is located in the heart of the city, it's the perfect breather or time-out between sightseeing. ▶ F-3, Prolaz Bože Dulibića 4, tel. (+385-) 098 942 37 80. Open 08:00-01:00; Fri, Sat 08:00-02:00; Sun 16:00-01:00.

www.inyourpocket.com



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BARONE SHOP

So you've just tried a glass of wine in the bistro and your tonsils are tingling; what next? Head into the shared space of the Barone bar and explore its shop, where you can buy wines as well as other original products by Croatian designers. A great way to take a piece of Sibenik home with you. Be sure to check their website and social media for updated working hours. F-1, Put Vuka Mandušića 28, tel. (+385-) 091 619 65 67, www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/en/. Open 09:00-21:00. [EE]

BOBIS

A Split institution, Bobis has been providing Croatian citizens with delectable eats since 1950. In Šibenik's store you can choose some sweet pastry or a pre-wrapped one to take with you for your hike around the town. ▶ Miminac 2, www. bobis.hr. Open 07:00-21:00.

BRKIĆ

Cutting and vacuuming ham domestic production. ► Hrvatskih boraca 62, Vodice. Open 07:30 - 14:00, 17:00 - 22:00, Sun 08:00 - 13:00.€

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 Domincian 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. [©]

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. [☑]

GRACIN

A small shop selling a variety of honeys, including sage, rosemary, and the unusual bramble honey (*med od drače*), plus advice on the amber elixir's medicinal properties. ▶ Put murve 4, Primošten, tel. (+385-) 091 510 08 19. Open 17:00-22:00. € ③

I-PAK

A family-run dairy with its own herd of sheep, and a shop selling cheese - including 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

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. & Sun. Closed. |©□|

NIRA DELICIJE

When in Dalmatia, eat Dalmatian! Enter and rejoice in local delicacies such as the prestige Drniš 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. [©]

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

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/.

VINOPLOD

A shop at the winery gates sells bottles at discount prices – a good opportunity to pick up a bottle or two of Babić. ▶ Velimira Škorpika 2, Šibenik, tel. (+385-) 091 265 512 11, www. vinoplod-vinarija.hr. Open 08:00-20:00; closed Sun. €

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.



5 Magical Islands With No Cars

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, Sepurine 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 maguis, 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 Sibenik 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 Leroi (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 (Crkvica sv. Šime) 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 (Gospe 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.





Burnum, NP Krka Archive





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 maguis. 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 strongpoint 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 archeological 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 strongpoint 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

THE IVAN MEŠTROVIĆ MUSEUMS - THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RE-**DEEMER - 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.

ETNOLAND

Set out on a journey, into the heart of Dalmatian culture. Starting in serene Pakovo Selo, you can take a 1 hour award-winning tour (guided or self guided) through the Etnoland where you will listen to ancient tales, see and learn about Dalmatian customs and traditions, walk through authentic stone houses, and experinece much more. According to your wishes, a traditional dinner or lunch is provided with roast under the "peka", grappa, wine, and prosciutto tasting (price from 18,5€). The tour is arranged by appointment and please visit www.etnoland.com for more information and booking options. Awarded the best tourist attraction offer in continental Croatia, 2012 and best interpretation of cultural heritage in Croatia 2016. ▶ Put Čikole 4, Pakovo Selo, tel. (+385-) 099 220 02 00, www.etnoland.com. Open by prior arrangement. Tour price with included tastings starting from 18,5€.





 2 Unesco Sites
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www.dalmatiasibenik.hr









Šibenik Surroundings

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 handsome 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 maguis. 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

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 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 Katunarić 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.

A relatively tranguil 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

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

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, passing shrines marking the Stations of the Cross on the way. There are splendid views of the coastline from the sum-

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 Sibenik 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 Ćorić 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.



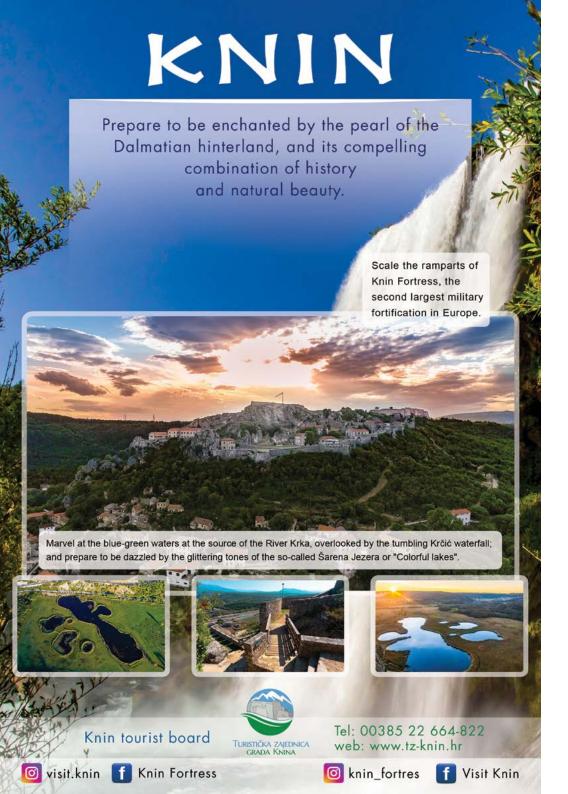
The town of Vodice is a tourist centre famous for its lively and various tourist offer and pleasant people.



TOURIST BOARD VODICE

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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 ovalshaped 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 stoneroofed 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 muchloved 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

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 maguis-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 become 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.

NATURE WONDERLAND

KRKA NATIONAL PARK

Much of the landscape inland from Sibenik 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.

Visiting the park

There are **five** main **entrance points** to the park. The first is the town of Skradin (Open 08:00 - 18:00 July, August Open 08:00 - 20:00) where the National Park Information Centre sells tickets, provides brochures, and contains an educative audio-visual display detailing the flora and fauna of the park. There is also a boat service (hourly in season) from Skradin to Skradinski buk. The second is Lozovac (Open 08:00 - 18:00 July, August Open 08:00 -20:00), on the plateau above the Krka, from where you can descend to Skradinski buk either on foot (20min) or via shuttle bus. The third is Roški slap (June - August Open 09:00 - 20:00), although the road is narrow and there is not much parking space. The fourth is at **Burnum** (Open 10:00 - 18:00 July, August Open 09:00 -20:00) on the road from Kistanje towards Knin and the last one is Kistanje (Open 10:00 - 18:00 July, August Open 10:00 - 20:00). (During the other months please check the Park's Web site or give them a call to check opening hours.)

Daily tickets (June 110/80kn, July and August 200/120kn)





and three-visit tickets (June 230/180kn, July and August 320/200kn) that includes three visits to the Park within a one week period from the date of purchase and can be bought at Skradin branch office or at the entrance points described above. The ticket price includes rides on the national park's shuttle boats from Skradin to Skradinski buk, but does not include travel on excursion boats heading further north into the park - these must be paid for separately.

Skradinski buk

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. This is very much an ongoing process, with Skradinski buk's travertine barriers growing and changing shape at a rate of 1-2mm per year. The travertine at Skradinski buk has created 17 principal falls, each of which is made up of multiple cataracts. The place gets its name from the Croatian word buka ("racket"), a

reference to the noise generated by the water rushing over the rapids. Skradinski buk was once a milling settlement at which the rushing waters of the Krka were harnessed to power a variety of machines. Some of the stone mill buildings have been restored, and visitors can see working examples of flour and fulling mills, alongside displays of traditional costumes and agricultural implements.

Just below the mills is the Imperial Belvedere (Carski vidikovac), a small balustrade lookout point built for visiting Habsburg monarch Franz Joseph I in 1875.

A little further downstream are the ruins of Jaruga 1, the hydroelectric power station built by Šibenik mayor Ante Supuk and brother Marko Supuk in 1895. It was the second AC-generating hydroelectric project in the world, the Forbes dam on the Niagara Falls having been completed just months previously. The Šupuks formed a private company in order to build and manage the power station, the first of its kind in Dalmatia. When Supuk died in 1904, the whole of Šibenik's electric lighting was switched off in his honour. Immediately downstream from Jaruga 1 is a wooden bridge that crosses a wide pool of river water right below the biggest of Skradinski buk's waterfalls. This broad stretch of shallow water is Skradinski buk where you are allowed to swim, although a barrier of plastic buoys prevents bathers from getting right up close to the waterfall itself. On the other side of the river is a network of trails leading up and down the hillside beside many of Skradin's tumbling streams, many on raised wooden boardwalks built on stilts to keep your feet dry during bouts of seasonal flooding.

Ključica

Hovering above the river Čikola, which flows into the Krka just upstream from Skradinski Buk, Ključica Fortress is part of the fortification system developed by the medieval Nelipić family, who controlled the trade routes between Šibenik and Bosnia and levied duty on goods transported in both directions. The Nelipić clan's tight grip on commerce was much resented by others in the region, and Ključica was sacked by forces from Šibenik in the mid-14th century. Subsequently occupied by the Ottomans, it fell into disuse when they were driven out by the Venetians in 1684.

Visovac Monastery

Boat trips from Skradinski buk head up the river into the so-called Visovac Lake, a stretch of the Krka which measures 800m from shore to shore at its widest points. Greygreen hills rise steeply on either side. Main destination for the excursion boats is Visovac Monastery, picturesquely located on an island 7km upstream from Skradinski buk. A Franciscan foundation has existed on this site since at least the 14th century, although the church we see today was built in 1576. Long a centre of Catholic Christianity in the region, it nowadays holds a seminary, as well as being the site of a much-visited church. A decree issued by Ottoman Sultan Mehmet IV, returning Visovac to the Franciscans in 1674, is held in the monastery treasury. Upstream from Visovac, the ruins of Kamičak fortress can be seen on the



cliffs above the eastern shore. Again built by the Nelipić family in the 13th century, it was demolished by the conquering Ottomans after 1522.

Roški slap

Excursion boats continue from Visovac to Roški slap 5km north, a barrier of foaming waterfalls and cataracts that marks the northern end of Visovac lake. Roški slap is also accessible by car from the west (via minor roads from Devrske) or the east (via minor roads from Pakovo Selo), although parking space is limited when you get there. As at Skradinski buk, there is a restored millers' settlement beside the river, with displays of milling and weaving techniques inside.

Krka Monastery and beyond

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.

Roughly opposite the monastery is another of the Nelipić cliff-top **fortresses, Bogočin**.

North of the monastery lies the most dramatic stretch of the river, a narrow winding canyon with sheer sides.

Perched on cliffs on either side of the canyon are two of the park's most dramatic **fortresses**, **Nečven** to the east, and **Trošenj** immediately opposite to the west. Trošenj once served as the power base of the Croatian Šubić family, although the Ottomans subsequently turned it into a gaol. It was notorious as a place of execution - throwing offenders from high windows being the favoured form of capital punishment.

Burnum

Just outside the park's western boundary, the road from Kistanje to Knin forges across maquis-covered karst, passing the site of Burnum, the 1st-century Roman legionary camp that subsequently developed into a civilian settlement. On the western side of the road lie the remains of an amphitheatre, while further up to the east are the remaining two arches of the former military command post. An educational hiking trail goes from Burnum to the Manoilovac viewpoint.

Puljane Eco Campus

Two kilometres north of Burnum, a turn-off to the east twists its way down into the canyon of the Krka, crossing the river at Brljansko lake and climbing up onto the plateau on the opposite side. A signed exit leads to an Archeological display devoted to finds from nearby Burnum opened in 2010. There is also a look-out point affording fine views of the canyon. • Šibenska bb, Skradin, tel. (+385-22) 49 35 40, www.np-krka.hr. Open 08:00 - 19:00. From June Open 08:00 - 20:00. September Open 08:00 - 19:00.



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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 (+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. **\rightarrow** www.bikeandhike. hr/.

FFRRIFS

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 sea-

Arrival & Getting Around

front 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 05:30-19:30. Sun 08:30 - 11:30 and 19:00 - 19.30.

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 Poliana 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.gradskiparking 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.

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17 buntovnika	C-2
A. Zorčića	C/D-3
Andrije Kačića	C-2
Antuna Vrančića	F-3
B. Fulgosi	D-2
Biskupa Fosca	F-3
Blajburskih žrtava	G-1/2
Bonnina iz Milana	E-2
Božidara Petranovića	E-2/3
Braće Polić	D-1/2
Bregovita	B/C-1

Buta Har. Bilinića	B/C-3/4
Crnica	A-1
Dobrić	E-3
Dolac	B-3
Don Krste Stošića	D/E-3
Dragojevićeve stube	D-3
Eugena Kvaternika	G-3
F. Dismanića	D-3
F. Divinića	D-3/4
Fausta Vrančića	E-2
Fra Nikole Ružića	F-3



Jurja Šíšgoníca F-3 Kriniska D-2 Kralja Tomislava E/F-3 Kralja Zonimira C/G-3 Kralja Elene F-2 Krste Štoška D/E-3 M. Kolunica C/D-3 Mali prolaz C-3 Mesarske stube E-3 Mulo Krie G-4 Mulo Krie G-4 Nikole Teisle I/G-1	Nikol Nove Obala Obala Obala Paške Pekar Periv Petra Pod t Polja
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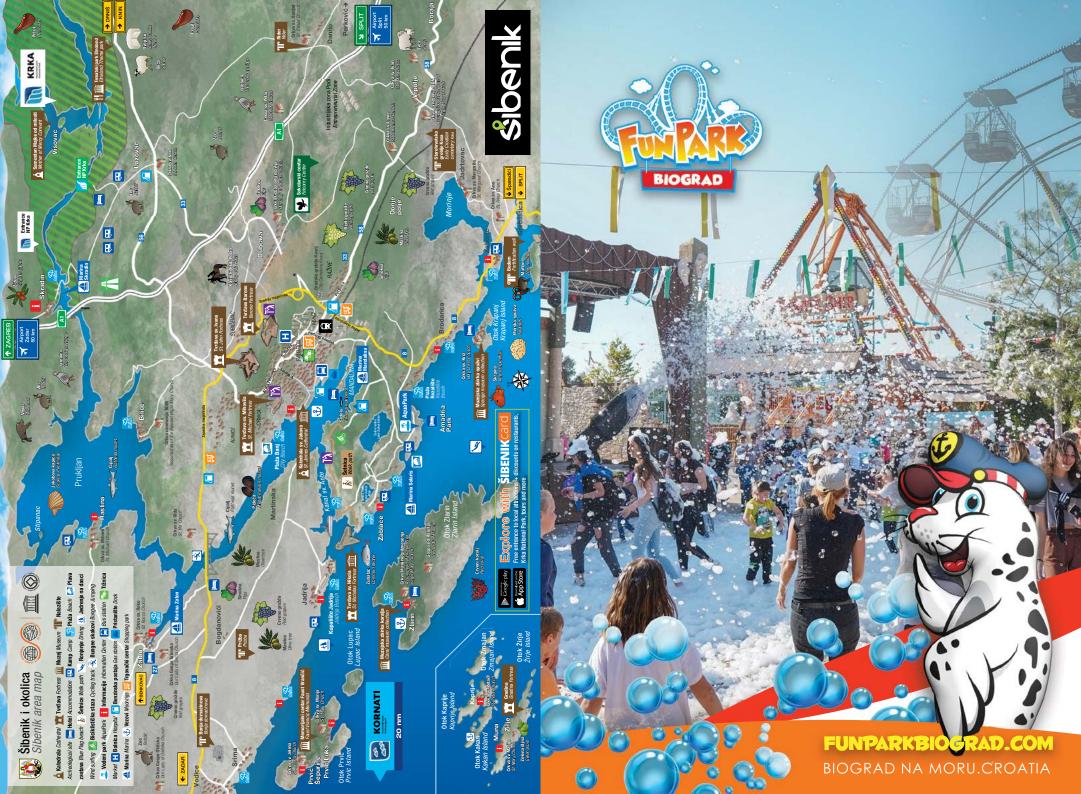
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Put Splita F-2
Put Tanaje C-1
Put tvrđavama D-1
Put Vuka Mandušića E-1
Riječka F/G-2
Sarajevska G-3
S. Culinovića D-3
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Splitski put G-3
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St.P.Kaera D-4
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Starog kazališta E/F-2
Strme stube D-3
Stube A. Medulića D-3
Sv. Julijana E-3/4
Sv. Križa A-2
Sv. Luce D-3
Sv. Nikole Tavelića E

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