



TOUR UPDATE

The Newsletter of mikesworldtour



Tour Highlight:

October 2025
Dubrovnik, Croatia



Climbing City Walls and Rock Cliffs

Contributed by Michael Davis



A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

After medieval kingdoms ruled present day Croatia, its modern political rule started with Yugoslavia in 1918. It included many different present nations, but Croatian nationalism was prevalent at the time. The Germans and Italians occupied Croatia during WWII, but resistance groups of antifascists formed to liberate the region. In 1945, it became a part of the Socialist Federalist Republic of Yugoslavia under Tito. Yugoslavia was communist but broke relations off from the USSR and was ruled under a single party. In the 1980s the system broke down and the Croatian Democratic Union under Franjo Tudjman won the 1990 elections. After declaring independence in 1991, the Yugoslavia army attacked Croatia and violence broke out in Serb enclaves in the country. Dubrovnik was bombarded by Yugoslavia warfare. In 1995 Croatia regained territory, but did not control its current borders until 2002. It joined NATO in 2009 and the EU in 2013

Dubrovnik, Croatia



Some quick tips for Dubrovnik :

- Cars are not allowed inside the walls so if Ubering make sure to go to the right gate
- Walk the walls early in morning to avoid the influx of crowds from cruise ships
- Restaurants in the old town do not have many tables and require reservations

FOOD

BANJE BEACH CLUB

I forgot to take picture of the inside which was a mistake. The atmosphere here is great, located right on the beach with lots of windows. In the Summer they do dinner outside and the vibes are even better. Also the food was really good and not too pricy. I got Tuna Steak for 20 Euros which is a great deal. They also have a really extensive selection of drinks. Perfect for a dinner for a larger group.



KOPUN

Located in the old town, Kopun is a solid meal if you are looking for a place. We did not make a reservation so we had to sit inside (kinda a vibe killer). The food was good, not anything special but they did have local orange wine on their menu which I always appreciate. It is pretty reasonably priced (17-25 Euros) for a meal, but you can see in the picture the portions leave a lot to be desired.



YES YES FOCACCIA SANDWICH BAR

Located right outside the city walls, they have super late hours on the weekend. We went here right after Revelin (more on that later) and it was so good. Being hungry at 2am definitely made it taste better, but I would also go during the day for lunch. They have giant sandwiches that you can walk around with or eat at one of the piers nearby and have many options to choose from.



Had to use a picture from google because I did not take any (for obvious reasons)

Dubrovnik, Croatia

GRADSKA KAVANA ARSENAL

If you want breakfast or lunch with the best view in Dubrovnik, this is the spot. The food was also really good and reasonably priced (10-15 Euros) for a meal. You really are paying for the view and we got seated without a reservation. Make sure to ask to sit on the back patio to have the ultimate European lunch while you sip your coffee and watch the waves.



EXPERIENCES AND SITES

Most of the activities in Dubrovnik are centered around the Old City and most things you have to pay to see. Everything that we saw was worth it, and it was cool to learn about the history behind the city. Although many tourists come here for the Game of Thrones tour, none of us had seen it and did not want to spend half a day on the tour (sorry but not really).

SPONZA PALACE

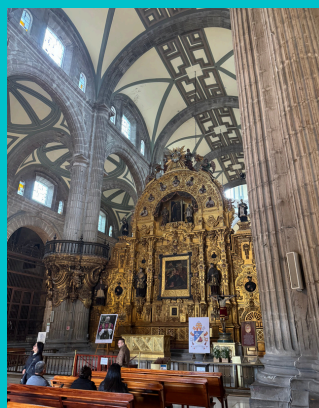


Built in the 16th Century, its name comes from the latin word for rainwater collection. It was built in the Gothic and Renaissance style and was a customs office, armoury, treasury, bank, and school. A cultural center was established here during the 16th century. For 5 euros you can explore the palace and it also has a memorial for fallen soldiers during Croatia's war for independence in the 1990s. The second floor is home to the State Archive with documents over 1000 years old (sadly you can't go up there).



RECTOR'S PALACE

This served as the seat for the government official (rector) from 14th century to the 1800s. Originally it was built for defense, and the style of the building has changed over time as it got damaged and had to be rebuilt. It costs 17 Euros to enter and we decided against paying to enter and admired it from the outside.



STRADUN

This is the main street in the old town with shops & restaurants. It was damaged in an Earthquake in 1667 and during the siege of Dubrovnik in 1991-92 and was subsequently repaired after these events.. In 2010 they even played a tennis match on the street.



Dubrovnik, Croatia

MARIN DRŽIĆ STATUE

Born in 1508 in Croatia, Držić was a famous Renaissance playwright who was also an ordained priest. His statue is in the center of the Stradun, and everyone touches his nose. He is famous for his plays and poetry which his comedies are known as some of the best ever.



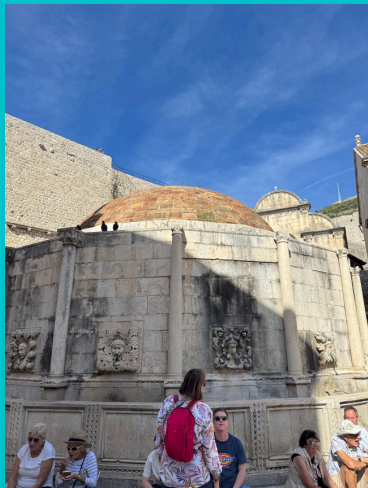
BELL TOWER

Built in 1444 (wow old), it was demolished in 1928 and rebuilt in 1929 due to leaning issues. The bronze bell bell that rings was cast in 1506. They use replicas today to preserve the original parts of this super historic clock tower.



ONOFRIO'S FOUNTAINS

So important that Dubrovnik decided they needed a large and small fountain for Onofrio (small one on the right and large one on the left). They were built in the 15th century and are named after an Italian architect who designed the waterworks in the city. The large fountain has a statue of the dog on top of the fountain. The small fountain is featured in the play *Novela od Stanca* by Marin Držić (wow connecting landmarks!) You can drink from the water in the fountains!



WALLS OF DUBROVNIK

The entire old town of Dubrovnik is surrounded by walls and you can only enter and exit old town through the Pile, Ploče, or Buža gates. It costs 40 euros to walk on top of the walls which is expensive but worth the price. You get great views of the whole old town and the ocean. It is also cool to see how immense they are and how they protected the city for so many years. The walls were built between the 13th and 17th centuries and run over 6,000 feet long. There used to be a moat that ran outside the walls and it had over 120 cannons to protect residents. Most of the old walls are a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site.



Dubrovnik, Croatia

LOVRJENAC FORTRESS



The fortress outside the western wall of the old town was key in resisting Venetian rule for the city. The Venetians tried to build a fortress at this same spot, but failed which allowed the city to survive. The fort was built between 1018 to 1038, and the first record of the fort was in 1301. It was built in only three months and then constantly reconstructed. Today the fortress is used for the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series in Croatia.



MOUNT SRD CABLE CAR & HOMELAND WAR MUSEUM

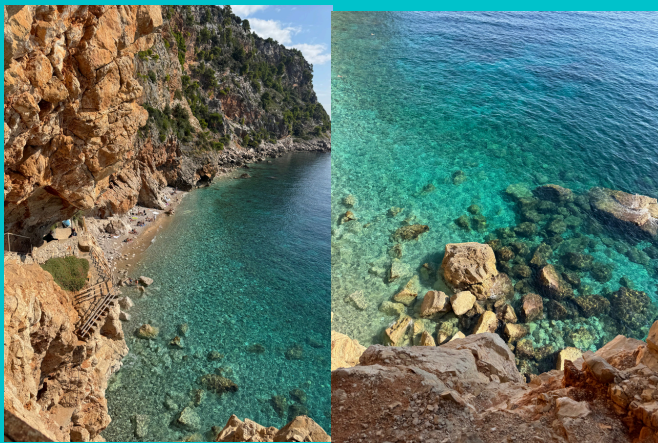
For 27 Euros you can take a cable car to a mountain overlooking the old town and ocean. Although it is a little expensive the views are awesome and you can spend a lot of time on top of the mountain. This includes the Homeland War Museum which costs 5 Euros (cash only) but is a great way to learn about Croatia and the Homeland War fought from 1991 to 1995 that enabled Croatian independence. The museum was where the defense for Dubrovnik was headquartered during the war. It explains how Croatia had to defend itself from Serbian-Montenegrin aggression after Yugoslavia broke up.



ACTIVITIES

I wanted to share a few non-historical activities and sights. Dubrovnik is a really cool place because you can see historical sights was also going to beautiful beaches and bars with insane views. If you have friends who are less history inclined these activities are perfect.

PASJAČA BEACH

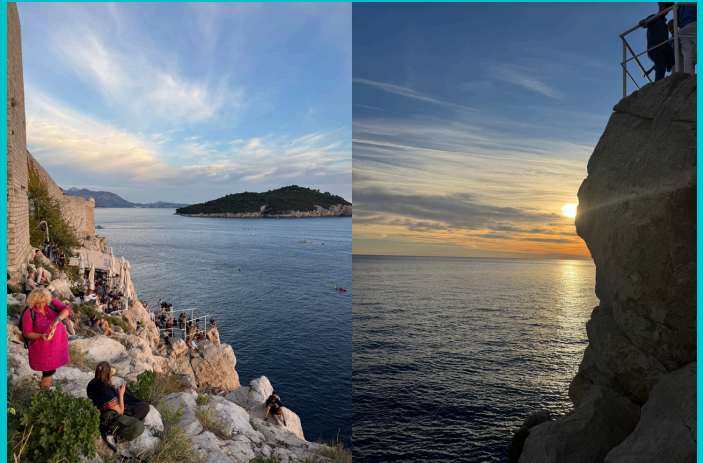


Only a 40 minute Uber ride away this beach is absolutely paradise. You have to hike down to the beach, but it is super easy and cool to walk down. There is no cell service on the beach so it is a great way to disconnect and get some peace and quiet. Even in October there were still people enjoying the ocean and it was not super crowded. Highly recommend for a secluded spot.

Dubrovnik, Croatia

BUŽA BAR

This is one of the coolest bars that I have been to. It is always super crowded, but there is always a space to chill and hangout. We came here almost every day since it is inside the walls overlooking the ocean. They have tables to sit and you can also climb up onto the rocks if there is no seating. The beers are kinda expensive, but you really are paying for the awesome vibe and the views. Bring your bathing suit, there are rocks that you can jump off of into the ocean. I was really scared to do it at first, but it ended up being a lot of fun.



PORPORELA PIER

Located right outside of the old town this is a great place to watch the sunset. You can also jump into the ocean and swim here. It gets crowded at sunset so try to go earlier in the day. We brought food to eat here after going to Revelin and it was a great place to end the night.



REVELIN CLUB

We went during closing weekend so it was not as crowded, but this place is so cool. It is a club inside an old castle and they have major EDM artists come to perform. It is right outside the city walls and we could walk there. This is a great place to go to for a night out with friends.



BLUE CAVE TOUR

If you are looking for something more aquatic and want to enjoy the ocean, this is a great activity. It was 75 Euros per person and you get to visit and swim in three caves and spend an hour on island off the coast of Dubrovnik. One of the caves is the famous blue cave where you can see shining light blue water inside the cave. You can also jump off rocks during the stops at the caves.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!