

instant

DUBROVNIK

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Summer 2011



Introducing Dubrovnik

The pearl of the Adriatic is set to shine this summer for Dubrovnik really is a rarity in terms of architecture and history. Indeed your first glimpse of the town, especially when descending along the airport road can easily turn out to be a heart-stopping, love-at-first-sight experience.

These striking ancient walls that you see in front of you have guarded the city's Renaissance churches, fortresses, palaces, stone alleyways and ports for centuries. And as you meander through the Old Town, and possibly twinkle your fingers by gasping, 'all I need is my Prince Charming to arrive on his horse,' you come to the realisation that this is not a dream but reality.

Indeed with the tourist numbers growing exponentially so are the cultural and gastronomic offers that wait. One of the latest attractions is the Dubrovnik Cable Car which takes you 778m to the top of Srd Hill. The ride offers breathtaking views of the Old Town, stunning coastal sights and magnificent sunsets. Perfect for panoramic snaps to add to the memoirs!

For that hi-tech touch, the new Multimedia Museum offers projections which take visitors through an inventive view of Dubrovnik's past and present via 5D technology and futuristic holographic screenings.

This year is also the 300th anniversary since the birth of Ruder Bošković, a great scientist, philosopher, astronomer, diplomat, poet and theologian of his time. He is one of the city's greatest sons and his hometown is organising a grand exhibition in celebrating the occasion.

Amongst all the things to do and see including the fever pitch days with tourists and temperatures soaring until the sun fades and evening arrives. Take the time to stroll and embrace your stay, get in with the lingo as 'dobar dan' and 'dobro večer' become a part of you for at least a short time.

Transport
Restaurants
Nightlife
Sights
Hotels

and a whole host of other useful information

Customs

All major items brought into the country (laptops, boats, sauna equipment) must be declared; to do so ensures you will be allowed to take them back when you leave. Keep your receipts (500kn minimum on one receipt) in order to qualify for a VAT refund at all border customs offices. To breeze through customs you can import up to 200 cigarettes, 1 litre of strong alcohol and 2 litres of wine, liqueur or champagne. There are no limits on export; however it does depend on the country you're flying into from Croatia. Any Croatian art or cultural works must receive export approval before departure. It is issued by the conservatory department of the Ministry of Culture at C. Zuzorić 6 (C-3, Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Tel. 020 32 31 91). For further details www.carina.hr or call 01 610 23 25 / 01 610 24 61.

Electricity

The electricity supply is 220V, 50hz, so visitors from the United States will need to use a transformer to run electrical appliances.

Health & Safety

The Dalmatian coast is safe and secure, but a cautious eye should be kept on one's belongings at all times, nevertheless. The Police (*policija*) are generally helpful in times of crisis; keep in mind that they also perform occasional checks of identity documents, so keep some identification on you at all times.

Money

There are plenty of exchange offices around Dubrovnik, as well as an abundance of ATMs that operate twenty-four hours a day. Many restaurants, bars and cafés accept credit cards, but not all, so be sure to have a reasonable amount of cash on you. If you're planning a trip to one of the islands in the area, you should definitely plan ahead and carry the amount of cash you think you'll need for the trip, as finding places that let you put it on plastic could be a problem.

Toilets

Public toilets are few and far between - a far better option is to take the excuse to pop into a cafe for a drink and avail yourself of their facilities. There is a public toilet in the street Iza grada, just behind the city walls near the Pile gates. They're Turkish style (squatty) but clean - and free.

Roads

If you're under 24 years of age, the 0.0% alcohol rule applies to you. If you are, however, over that age, a limit of 0.5% applies to you, effective June 1, 2008. Once again, we'll leave it to others to debate the pros and cons of this change, but given the mountainous terrain along the coast, this law will probably save lives. And the police are enforcing it. Speed kills more people on Croatian roads than alcohol does. Speed traps are common along the Adriatic highway and speed patrol cars have been introduced on the motorways. The speed limit in urban areas is 50kph unless otherwise marked; 80kph on secondary roads and 130kph on highways. On the spot fines are payable for offences. If you are stopped for any reason, you will be expected to show your driving licence, car registration papers and insurance certificate, so make sure to always keep them with you.

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Tipping

Generally, Croatian people are not overly concerned about tipping, but seeing how you're a visitor to the country and all, you can practice some small-time diplomacy and throw a bit of goodwill to your server. Croatian people typically round their bill up to the nearest whole number when they want to tip, but leaving 10% for the staff's efforts seems like a classy thing for a visitor to do, doesn't it?

Water

Tap water is absolutely safe for drinking.

Take a hike!

In Dubrovnik, the first walk you have to take is around the city walls, but that's for babies, only two kilometres. After that, a favourite walk is around the Lapad peninsula, or to the top of one of its highest points, Velika or Mala Petka. Very much more demanding is a walk up Mount Srd (412m) - a two hour climb, but with the prospect of the city laid out at your feet as your reward. Konavle has some good walking routes taking in villages, peaks, remains and coastal vistas: pop into the tourist office in Cavtat for a map.

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Instant Dubrovnik

In Your Pocket Instant guides are part of a series of European destination guides published by the In Your Pocket publishing group. For more information about our products, take a look at the web site, www.inyourpocket.com.

Dubrovnik In Your Pocket is published by

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Tourist information

Tourist Information Centres



Gruž I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 32, tel. (+385-20) 41 79 83, ured.gruz@tzdubrovnik.hr, www.tzdubrovnik.hr.
 ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00.
Lapad G-2, Šetalšte kralja Zvonimira 3, tel. (+385-20) 43 74 60, ured.lapad@tzdubrovnik.hr, www.tzdubrovnik.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00.

Pile C-2, Brsalje 5, tel. (+385-20) 31 20 11, ured.pile@tzdubrovnik.hr, www.tzdubrovnik.hr. ▶ June, September Open 08:00 - 20:00. July, August Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Tourist Boards

Dubrovnik-Neretva County Tourist Board I-3, Vukovarska 24, tel. (+385-20) 32 49 99, info@visitdubrovnik.hr, www.visitdubrovnik.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Dubrovnik Tourist Board D-2, Brsalje 5, tel. (+385-20) 32 38 87, info@tzdubrovnik.hr, www.tzdubrovnik.hr. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

By boat

There are two harbours in Dubrovnik - the centuries old harbour snug against the walls of the Old Town, and the commercial port at Gruž. The Jadrolinija ferry office and quay are at Gruž, a ten minute bus ride from the Old Town. Many grumble it's not the most attractive place in the world, but there are plenty of amenities for weary travellers. Hotel Petka right behind the quayside has great food, good accommodation and you can take a bath or shower there. There's a fruit market, a large Konzum supermarket, and loads of small shops and travel agencies etc. The port looks onto the Lapad peninsula, where many of Dubrovnik's hotels are located. **Getting to town:** hop on an orange bus number 1A, 1B or 8. A ticket for a single trip costs 8kn if you buy it from a news kiosk, 10kn if you buy it on board. Tickets must be cancelled in the machine next to the driver immediately on boarding.

By bus

The city has a new coach station close to the Gruž harbour. Sparkling clean, it's a short walk from the ferry terminal at Gruž with all its amenities. **Ticket office:** open 05:30 - 21:00, tel. 060 30 50 70 for information. **Changing money:** head east for Gruž harbour, where there are ATMs and exchange bureaux. **Toilets:** inside the terminal, cost 3kn. **Left luggage:** the *garderoba* works 04:30 - 22:00, 5kn per hour, every next hour you pay 1.5kn. **Public phones** are on the platform. **Shops and cafes:** there is a news kiosk, plus a large Konzum supermarket next door (Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 08:00 - 14:00). **Getting to town:** buses to town stop right outside the station, take line 1A or 1B. Tickets cost 10kn from the driver or 8kn if you buy them in a kiosk or in a ticket office. **Taxis** wait by the platform, or call 0800 09 70.

By car

For the time being, there is no motorway to Dubrovnik. Considering how narrow non-motorway roads are, you're safest sticking with the motorway as far as Split. Do be aware that during weekends approaching August, all roads become catastrophically busy, especially at borders, motorway toll booths and tunnels. Avoid weekends! To approach Dubrovnik, you can either travel:

Via Split: From Split, follow signs for Dubrovnik leading you inland. (Avoid the coast road passing through Omiš, a terrible bottleneck). Just south of Metković you pass through a corridor belonging to Bosnia and Herzegovina, so keep your passport or ID card handy.

Via Bosnia and Herzegovina: You can enter "BiH" from the A3 (E70) heading east from Zagreb, or one of the roads heading south from Hungary. Of the possible routes, Bosanska Gradiška - Banja Luka - Jajce - Mostar is probably quickest, but you may wish to take a detour through the fair city of Sarajevo. When you get into Dubrovnik, a one way system leads east and west of the Old Town - try to have a map handy! Check out the Croatian Automobile Club website at www.hak.hr for traffic information.

By plane

Čilipi Airport is located 20km southeast of Dubrovnik. It's small, clean and functional. There is a restaurant and café, plus information, exchange offices and ATMs, a post office and car hire facilities are all to be found in the arrivals hall. Parking costs 40kn for the first 24 hours, and 2kn per hour thereafter. The pay machine for the car park is in the arrivals hall and accepts credit cards. **Getting to town:** Scheduled flights are met by an Atlas bus which trundles into town (35kn one-way), dropping off at Pile Gate (main entrance to the Old Town) before proceeding to the ferry port and the bus station. Municipal buses no. 11 and 27 also connect the airport to the town centre (14kn), but only run a few times a day. A taxi ride into town will cost 200 - 250kn.

Dubrovnik Airport, Čilipi, Konavle, Flight info tel 77 33 33, www.airport-dubrovnik.hr.

By train

Although Dubrovnik was once served by a scenic narrow-gauge railway, avid train-spotters will be dismayed to learn that the track was pulled up long ago. Those who are determined to travel by rail can still catch a train to either Split (services from Zagreb), or Ploče (services from Zagreb, Sarajevo and Mostar) before continuing their journey by bus.

Basic data

Population: Croatia (April 2001): 4,437,460
 Dubrovnik Neretva County: 122,870
 Dubrovnik (April 2001): 30,436
Territory: Croatia's land territory takes up 56,542km². It borders with Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and there is a sea-border with Italy.
Dalmatian coast: The coast is the main tourist attraction for good reason - the crystal clear waters are some of the most beautiful on the planet and were just named some of its most pure!
Dubrovnik Neretva County: Dubrovnik Neretva County measures 1,783km², of which roughly half is sea.
Islands: An amazing 1,246 islands lie off the Dalmatian coast, 47 of them inhabited.
Climate: Mediterranean
Local time: Croatia is part of the Central European Time Zone (GMT+1): when it is noon in Dubrovnik it is 12:00 in Berlin, 11:00 in London, 06:00 in New York, 14:00 in Moscow, and 21:00 in Sydney.

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Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Non-smoking areas	Guarded parking
Casino	Animal friendly
Internet	Outside seating

Croatian

Dubravka A-2, Brsalje 1, tel. (+385-20) 42 63 19, nautika@du.t-com.hr, www.dubravka1836.hr. Enjoy your breakfast while the sun rises over the walls of Dubrovnik, or steak, seafood, sweets and shakes throughout the day. Dubravka shares the pretty, shady plaza Brsalje with Nautika (both restaurants have the same owners as Proto, Mimoza and Konavoski Dvori), and has a splendid view of the Lovrjenac, Miričeta and Bokar fortresses, and a peek of the deep blue beyond the walls. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (55 - 150kn).

Mimoza J-3, Branitelja Dubrovnika 9, tel. (+385-20) 41 11 57, mimoza@esculap-teo.hr, www.esculap-teo.hr. In a courtyard across from the Hilton Imperial Hotel, 100 meters from the Pile Gate, Mimoza is big enough to handle your tour group and several others simultaneously, seemingly without a blink. There's a dining room, but the terrace, shaded partly with a grape arbour, is a pleasant place to dine on meats and fish, pizzas and pasta and vegetarian dishes. Delivery is available. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. (80 - 120kn).

Orhan K-3, Od Tabakarje 1, tel. (+385-20) 41 41 83/ (+385-) 091 725 51 09, info@restaurant-orhan.com, www.restaurant-orhan.com. Definitely check out the tiny harbour at Pile - it's like something out of a pirate movie set in an intimate huddle of houses beneath sheer cliffs. Orhan's terrace is, therefore, a great spot. Decent quality, classic Croatian cooking at reasonable prices. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (50 - 150kn).

Taverna Nostromo I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 38 (Hotel Petka), tel. (+385-20) 41 05 24/(+385-20) 41 05 25, info@petka.hr, www.croatia-vacation.com. The food here is the subject of much praise among Dubrovnik's citizens, and the service is fantastic. The taverna has a casual feel while the restaurant upstairs is the essence of modern refinement. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. (60 - 120kn).

Zoe F-2, Kardinala Stepinca 31, tel. (+385-20) 44 04 84, www.importanneresort.com. Located on the rocky south-western tip of the Babin kuk peninsula (and a pleasant 15-minute walk from Lapad bay along the coastal path), Zoe is an excellent place at which to sample choice local food on a lovely sea-facing terrace. As well as grilled fish pure and simple there's a healthy sprinkling of traditional country recipes, such as roast duck breast, or stewed frogfish with sage. Starters like breaded frogs' legs or risotto with boletus mushrooms will probably suffice as a lunchtime main course. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (80 - 120kn).

International

Cantina Mexicana Chihuahua E-1, Hvarska 6, tel. (+385-20) 42 44 45/(+385-) 098 58 28 46. This rather pleasant Mexican sits eccentrically just uphill from the Ploče gates and serves up all the usuals: sizzling fajitas, burritos, tacos and chimichangas, plus ribs and wings, steaks and pasta. Try the piquant sausages and a black pancake to finish off with! ▶ Open 17:00 - 23:00. (50 - 100kn).

Domino Steak House B-3, Od Domina 6, tel. (+385-20) 32 31 03, domino@du.t-com.hr, www.steakhousedomino.com. A serious convention centre for carnivores, with steaks done in a multitude of styles. The outside seating in a sheltered courtyard just south of Stradun is especially lovely in hot weather. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (80 - 140kn).

Gil's E-2, Sv.Dominika bb, tel. (+385-20) 32 22 22, info@gilsdubrovnik.com, www.gilsdubrovnik.com. Swanky gourmet dining in an extravagant location, with tables pressed into the battlements of Dubrovnik's sea walls. Sit in the main courtyard and observe goings on in the open kitchen, or reserve one of the barrel-vaulted gun apertures in the depths of St Luke's bastion. Classic French main courses, lovingly prepared and presented, will set you back between 250-400kn, but you're unlikely to be asking for your money back. The staggering wine list provides plenty of additional opportunities for splashing out large style. For cocktails, chill-out music and romantic views of the Old Town's port, head for the Pop Lounge on the bastion's castellated upper level. ▶ Open 12:00 - 14:00, 19:00 - 23:00. (190 - 350kn).

Spaghetteria Toni B-3, Nikole Božidarevića 14, tel. (+385-20) 32 31 34. Their slogan is *The best pasta in town!* And who are we to argue? This cute trattoria, clean and simple, is indeed a good place to enjoy all kinds of pasta dishes prepared by the chef/owner and served by friendly staff. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (50 - 75kn).

Taj Mahal C-3, Nikole Gučetića 2, tel. (+385-20) 32 32 21/(+385-) 099 323 22 12, kucaedo@du.t-com.hr. You guessed it, the Old Town's only Bosnian restaurant, where you can enjoy good grilled meats including *ćevapi* - shish kebab. Try one of the *pite* pies (we love the spinach one). Sweet tooths will love *baklava*, others will fall into a sugar-induced coma! ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. (40 - 115kn).

Konoba

Blidinje H-2, Lapadska obala 21, tel. (+385-20) 35 87 94. You feel that 'Dalmatian' sparkle here with its old stony walls embellished by ancient artefacts. The restaurant is casual and snug, whilst the terrace offers picturesque views of the Gruž harbour, bay and surrounding hills. Situated in the heart of the Lapad peninsula, the meat and seafood dishes are local delights, and here they are baked under a metal bell, covered with hot ash which produces a delectable roast. Reasonably priced and nicely spiced! ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00. (40 - 95kn).

Lokanda Pesharija D-2, Na Ponti bb, tel. (+385-20) 32 47 50, www.meaculpa.hr. Delightfully old-fashioned in a seafaring style, Lokanda, right on the old Ploče harbour, offers simple fish dishes at low prices. Don't miss the fried small fish or the black squid ink risotto, and be prepared to wait for a table. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00. (61 - 83kn).

Pjatanca L-5, Koločepska 2, tel. (+385-20) 42 09 49. Head towards Hotel Excelsior east of the Old Town and you come to this simple family run establishment. Seek their advice and you might just get something a little out of the ordinary - real home cooking. Try succulent lamb baked under an iron bell. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (50 - 110kn).

Pupo C-2, Miha Pracata 8, tel. (+385-20) 32 35 55. Compact and bijou, this *konoba* offers a limited menu of well-prepared home style fish dishes and steaks, fresh and good value for money. Apart from the Old Town location, the guitar in the corner helps add to the cosy, jolly atmosphere. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. (60 - 180kn).

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Bars

Arsenal D-3, Pred Dvorom 1, tel. (+385-20) 32 10 65 / press 1/(+385-) 098 983 08 31, sales@mea-culpa.hr, www.mea-culpa.hr. This huge space is a former repair workshop for wooden galleys. Plonk yourself at one of the pirate-sized wooden tables and chow down on great seafood (served by midnight), have a drink or three, take in a live band and indulge in a spot of shimmying on the dancefloor - in any order or combination. Spectacular. ▶ Open 10:30 - 23:00. ☺☺☺☺

Buza D-4, Outside the city walls near St. Stephen's tower, tel. (+385-20) 32 40 53/(+385-) 098 36 19 34. What a place to sit - rocky terraces overlooking the open sea south of the Old Town. There's no running water here so bottled drinks only - which are pretty pricey - but the laid back music and hedonistic mood make up for everything. ▶ Open 08:30 - 02:00. ☺

Capitano K-3, Između vrta 2, tel. (+385-) 098 36 64 70. This bar is usually empty before the witching hour, after which it transforms into a scene of drinking, dancing and shenanigans which go on 'til the wee small hours. Commercial dance, occasional live bands and hormone-fuelled youth dressed to kill. ▶ Open 20:00 - 04:00. ☺☺

Mirage C-3, Buničeva poljana 3. On a fine square near the Cathedral, this café slash bar has great outside seating to rival Troubadour's. The inside isn't bad either (not that you'll need it, we hope) and beer and cocktails are well priced. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. ☺☺

None Nina D-3, Pred Dvorom 4, tel. (+385-) 098 915 99 09, info@nonenina.com, www.nonenina.com. A perfect spot for people-watching on comfy loungers right opposite the Rector's Palace - you can see people climbing about on the city walls. This place does coffees by day and shakes the cocktails by night. The toilets are designed for the fairy people. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. ☺☺☺☺

Rock Caffe Exit C-2, Boškovičeva 2. Bar on the first floor of a small building, just off the Stradun, not visible but audible from the outside. It has very good acoustics and friendly staff. Has one computer which is free to use. Altogether a good atmosphere to start the night out. ▶ Open 18:00 - 02:00. ☺

SkyBar C-3, Marojice Kaboge 1, tel. (+385-) 091 220 20 94, bradley@du.t-com.hr. Administering a much-needed dose of urban eating and drinking culture to the Old Town, this newly opened café-cum-diner and lounge bar has settled quickly into its own niche. Expect to find both local beer and Erdinger on tap, a mind-boggling array of spirits, and an attractively-priced list of cocktails. There's an excellent choice of upscale pub fodder in the shape of salads, burgers and steaks. Blending slate grey, soothing whites and mood-enhancing purples, the interior is smart and sleek without being overdone. If the delightfully dotty abstract mosaic on the back wall starts revolving in front of your eyes, though, it's probably time you were in bed. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. ☺☺☺☺

Troubadour Hard Jazz Cafe C-3, Buničeva poljana 2, tel. (+385-20) 32 34 76. It's hard to beat a warm evening spent here toe-tapping to mellow jazz (live acts too), with your super-size view onto the Cathedral. A near-perfect experience, so we'll forgive the significantly above-average prices. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 02:00. ☺☺☺



Orlando Club

Casinos

Golden Sun Casino H/I-3, Liechtensteinov put 3 (Hotel Rixos Libertas), tel. (+385-20) 63 85 88, marketing@major.hr, www.goldensuncasino.hr. Feeling lucky? Then visit Golden Sun Casino in Five Star Rixos Libertas Hotel. It offers fun winning opportunities to suit all pockets, from the newest slot machines, roulette, and card tables, to Texas Holdem Poker Tournaments & cash games held every night from 8 'til late. Kick up your heels with fresh beverages and lounge bar music. The Casino's free shuttle bus will pick you up and take you home in comfort. ▶ Open 15:00 - 03:00. ☺☺

Clubs

Culture Club Revelin D-2, Sv. Dominika bb (Fort Revelin), tel. (+385-) 098 946 89 61/(+385-) 091 250 25 88, cultureclubrevelin@gmail.com, www.clubrevelin.com. Back in the day, the 16th century Revelin Fortress used to protect the city from robust invaders, nowadays it is home to the vivacious Revelin nightclub. Its two floors are often jam-packed with punters dancing to local and international music. The terrace is a great escape for some fresh air and its seaside views. Open to early morning hours on most nights. ▶ Open 23:00 - 06:00.

Eastwest beach club L-5, Frana Supila 4, tel. (+385-20) 41 22 20, info@ew-dubrovnik.com, www.ew-dubrovnik.com. The Barje beach at Ploče is where posers come to perfect their tans, since East West rents out funky loungers and screens to protect one's privacy from the hoi polloi. This bar churns out cocktails and keeps 'em dancing 'til The Man says go home. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. ☺☺☺

Fuego A-2, Brsalje 8, tel. (+385-20) 31 28 70, clubfuego@gmail.com, www.dubrovniknightclub.com. A proper little club on Pile. As the name suggests, you'll often find a Latin theme down here, but other nights mainstream rock, dance, the odd live band... And on hot summer nights when you're full of cocktails and joie de vivre, who really cares? ▶ Open 23:00 - 06:00. ☺☺☺

Ginja Lounge Club Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Na moru 1, Orašac, tel. (+385-20) 36 15 00, www.radissonblu.com/resort-dubrovnik. Night owls will devour the Radisson Resort's evening club venue featuring a lounge, restaurant area with show kitchen, DJ and dance floor. Innovative Indian fusion dishes can be washed down with some signature cocktails, champagne by the glass and healthy juices. Then step out onto the outdoor terrace and dance floor for some mingling and partying 'til the early morning hours. ▶ June - August Open twice a week 20:00 - 03:00. No further information available at time of going to print.

Lazareti L-2, Frana Supila 8, arl@du.htnet.hr, www.arl.hr. These superb stone spaces in the former quarantine house are given over to happenings of an arty/underground nature, including quality DJs spinning electronica. An international multimedia festival is held here, which includes independent, cutting-edge music, theatre, dance and more. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00.

Orlandinjo Club F-3, Masarykov put 20 (Hotel Dubrovnik Palace), tel. (+385-20) 43 00 00, info@dubrovnikpalace.hr, www.dubrovnikpalace.hr. The Palace is one of the grooviest corners of Dubrovnik, practically exploding with contemporariness, and urbanites will find the nightclub is no exception. Live jazz acts go down nicely with excellent wines and cocktails, but be aware you do pay for your fancy surroundings! ▶ Open on request and by prior arrangement. ☺☺

Orlando J-3, Branitelja Dubrovnik 41, klub_umo@yahoo.com. A multi-talented organisation organising excellent live bands, DJ appearances, film screenings, workshops, exhibitions and much much more, leaning towards the alternative stream of culture. Check out the club's Facebook page for what's on. ▶ Open 16:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun.



Dubrovnik justifiably invites hyperbole - every corner in the Old Town, in its entirety a UNESCO World Heritage site, has spellbinding charm and tells many a story. Although the city dates back to the 7th century, many buildings were devastated in a terrible earthquake in 1667, and were rebuilt resulting in the rather harmonious style you see today. The architects of Dubrovnik included the best of the Croatian masters, including Juraj Dalmatinac (also responsible for the cathedral at Sibenik and the entire town of Pag) in combination with masters from Venice, Dubrovnik's main rival and trading partner. Architectural beauty is perhaps a cause of a deep immersion in the arts that manifests itself in galleries and festivals.

Essential Dubrovnik

Dominican Monastery (Dominikanski samostan) D-2, Sv. Dominika 4, tel. (+385-20) 32 14 23. The Dominican order was established in Dubrovnik in the 13th century, and with the building of their monastery a century later, they became an important part of the city's defences - the monastery is at a strategic corner of the Old Town, vulnerable to attack from land and sea. Graceful stone steps lead up to the complex - notice that the balustrades have been filled in to prevent rogues from looking up devout ladies' skirts! As befits the monastery's strategic position, from the outside it is fairly austere, but inside hides a jewel of a gothic and renaissance cloister (1456-1469), with a thick carpet of grass in the centre. The interior of the monastery church is delightfully simple, with a sweeping wooden roof and some fine stone furniture. The Dominican monastery, like the Franciscan, holds an important library and collection of art including a painting of Dubrovnik before the great earthquake by local master Nikola Božidarević that has been invaluable to historians in reconstructing the look of the Old Town, as well as important works by Titian, Paolo Veneziano and Vlaho Bukovac of neighbouring Cavtat. Mass: 07:00 and 19:00, Sun 08:00, 09:00, 11:00 and 19:00. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 20kn.

Lokrum Island L-3, tel. (+385-20) 42 72 42, www.lokrum.hr. You don't have to travel far to experience the tranquillity of island life: The island of Lokrum is a mere 15 minute boat cruise. It's one of the best spots for a swim. The island's shores are rocky, but the peace and the racket of crickets are something else, there's a tiny saltwater lake which is perfect for kids, and there's a naturist beach to the east of the jetty. Thick pine forests have been complemented by cultivated gardens first begun by Benedictine monks - the monastery here was founded in the 11th century, apparently by grateful citizens after being spared from a great fire in Dubrovnik. Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph built a summer house and formal gardens here, and a botanical garden was founded in 1959 - Lokrum is now a Nature Reserve. Lokrum's hills are topped by a star shaped fort built by the French in 1806, from which you have great views. ▶ Boats leave every 30 or 60 minutes depending on the season, the amount of visitors and weather therefore we suggest you contact the office for further information. A return ticket costs 50kuna.

Stradun, Placa B/C-2. When talking about finding your way around town, you'll often hear people referring to *Stradun*, which you won't see on any street signs. It's the unofficial name for the main street Placa that joins the two main entrances to the Old Town at Ploče in the east and Pile in the west. The name comes from the Italian *strada*, meaning street. With its shining limestone flags and the uniform baroque buildings that line it, it is itself one of the best known sights of Dubrovnik. It's the place people bump into and chat with friends on their daily business, and dress up for a stroll in the evening or at coffee time. Stradun marks the dividing line between the earliest settlement and the parts of the city that followed. This first settlement was on the land south of Stradun, and was then named *Laus*, Greek for rock, since it was originally an island. From the name *Laus* came *Raus*, *Rausa* and then *Ragusa*. Although *Laus* has probably been inhabited by Illyrian peoples since the 4th century, it was colonised in the 7th century by Greco-Roman refugees from Cavtat fleeing Slav incursions. Later, Slavs settled the land across the narrow, marshy channel - this settlement was called *Dubrava*, from the Slav word for "oak tree". The channel was filled in during the 12th century, thus creating Stradun, and the two towns integrated and began to build the city walls.



Stradun by Marin Speranda

The Church of St Blaise (Crkva sv. Vlaho) D-3, Luža 3. Named after the saint protector of Dubrovnik, this is perhaps the church most beloved of the city's people. Sitting four square on Stradun, its stained glass windows by local artist Ivo Dulčić (1971) lit up at night make a wonderful show. A church has stood on this spot since 1368, but following a fire, the present church (1717) was built in Baroque style by Venetian architect Marino Gropelli, who was also sculptor of the statue of St Blaise standing above the entrance to the church, protectively holding a scale model of the Old Town in his hand. The church's front steps are the setting for some of the most important events of the life of the city, including New Year's Eve and the opening night of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, which always used to include a concert by legendary renaissance-pop group and Eurovision contestants The Troubadours. Mass in foreign languages can be arranged by appointment. ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:00, 16:00 - 18:00, August 08:00 - 12:00, 16:00 - 24:00. No admission.

The City Walls, Bastions and Pile & Ploče Gates (Gradske zidine, tvrđave, gradska vrata Pile, Vrata od Ploča), www.citywallsdubrovnik.hr. Almost two kilometres in length, Dubrovnik's city walls are among the best preserved and most attractive on this planet, and a walk along them is an absolute must. The defences were built between the 8th and the 16th centuries. The fact that on the land side they are almost 6m thick in places shows their primary purpose as defence against attack from the mountainous hinterland - the Ottoman Empire, for example, lay just a few kilometers inland. The walls were strengthened by myriad towers and bastions, and were never breached - the Republic of Dubrovnik only fell after Napoleon's armies were invited in on condition that they would respect its independence. Two further fortresses, Revelin to the east and Lovrjenac, on a headland just west of the Old Town, provided additional strategic defence. Revelin is a venue for concerts during the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. Lovrjenac is one of the most atmospheric venues of the festival, with traditional performances of Hamlet taking place under the stars. Your ticket to the city walls includes entrance to Lovrjenac, and it's well worth visiting. It was for some time used as a prison, and is surrounded by delightful parkland with some of the best views of the city, a great picnic spot. The Minčeta fort, just north of the Pile gate, with its stylized battlements, is one of the symbols of the city, and St John's fortress houses the Maritime Museum and Aquarium. Apart from the fortresses, each of which has its own story and character, the Pile and Ploče gates are also masterpieces. From these gates, you now access the Old Town over stone bridges ending in drawbridges spanning the moat, now filled with park benches and orange trees. Above the gates you'll see reliefs of St Blaise, protector of the city. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00. Admission 30 - 70kn.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Friars Minor and the Old Pharmacy (Franjevački samostan i stara apoteka Male braće) B-2, **Placa 2**, tel. (+385-20) 32 14 10, mala.braca@du.t-com.hr, www.malabraca.hr. The Romanesque cloister of the Franciscan monastery is an absolute delight, decorated with the remnants of old frescoes, and with delicate pillars surrounding a garden where orange trees grow. The monastery is most famous for its pharmacy, among the oldest in Europe and the oldest one still working. The monastery houses a museum where you can see original items from the pharmacy, plus an extensive library with precious incunabula, manuscripts, a large collection of musical notations and a treasury of artworks.

Outside the Church of the Little Brothers on Stradun you'll find a lovely relief of the Pietà, and, on a lighter note, a gargoyle below knee height. The trick is to stand on it facing the wall - it's the test of a real man! Mass: 07:00 and 19:00, Sun 07:00, 09:30, 11:00 and 19:00. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 15 - 30kn.



The Rector's Palace

The Rector's Palace (Knežev dvor) D-3, Pred Dvorom 1, tel. (+385-20) 32 14 97. One of the loveliest buildings in the city and the seat of the Rector, the figurehead of the Republic elected within the nobility, whose term lasted for just one month confining him to these quarters which he could only leave on official occasions and religious holidays. The building changed its appearance after two explosions of gunpowder stored here, and its current appearance is mainly thanks to the renaissance designs of Juraj Dalmatinac of Zadar and Michelozzo Michelozzi of Florence in the 1460s. Alterations were added in baroque style in the 17th century following the earthquake, and since the original building by Onofrio della Cava, creator of the city aqueduct and fountains, was in gothic style, the result is a blend of styles which is timeless romantic. The palace's frontage has a delightful colonnade with choir style decorative stone benches. Inside, a beautiful courtyard is the venue for recitals and concerts. The palace is now a museum where you can view the richly appointed offices and quarters of the Rector, plus the arsenal, courtroom and prison cells. Artworks, costumes and domestic objects of the period are all on display. ▶ Admission 20 - 40kn.



01.07 - 15.10 From the Dubrovnik Art Gallery Collection, Vlaho Bukovac, Adio, 1903.

Museums

Bukovac House (Kuća Bukovac) Bukovčeva 5, Cavtat, tel. (+385-20) 47 86 46, muzej@kuca-bukovac.hr, www.kuca-bukovac.hr. See works by Vlaho Bukovac (1855-1922), one of the most famous modern Croatian painters, in the setting of his charming Cavtat home. Part of the house is devoted to exhibitions of works by young artists, offering an invigorating counterpoint. ▶ Open 09:00 - 13:00, 16:00 - 20:00, Sun 16:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission 20kn.

www.inyourpocket.com



Dubrovnik Natural History Museum (Prirodoslovni muzej) C-4, Androvičeva 1, tel. (+385-20) 32 48 88. Although newly opened, the collection dates back to 1872 when the Museo Patrio (Native Museum) was founded with a donation from the Chamber of Trade and Crafts and the private collection of pharmacist and ship-owner Antun Drobac. The collection of 100-year-old taxidermy specimens may not appeal to everyone, but kids will probably love it and learn a lot too, and the museum is not so big as to keep you on foot for hours. Other rooms are used for temporary exhibitions which currently include photography by the Croatian Biopaleontological Society of the cave life of the Dubrovnik region. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Thu 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free.

Ethnographic Museum Rupe (Etnografski muzej Rupe) B-3, Od Rupa 3, tel. (+385-20) 32 30 13. "Rupe" is named after the pits which were hewn out of living rock in this granary, which was used for drying and storing imported grain for the city's people. Built in 1590, this is a fascinating building in itself, and the exhibits showcase the economic, cultural and spiritual development of Dubrovnik. The folk costumes and textiles give the best flavour of the region where folk culture is still celebrated. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Tue. Admission 20 - 40kn.

Maritime Museum (Pomorski muzej) E-4, St. John's fortress (Tvrđava sv. Ivana), tel. (+385-20) 32 39 04. Considering how vital sailing and shipbuilding were to the growth of the Dubrovnik Republic, this is one of the city's most important museums. The display of models of the fine galleons that were once built here is the stuff of fairy tales - they, along with blueprints from the archives, were used for building the replicas that you might glimpse in the Gruž harbour today. Along with the Aquarium, the Museum is housed in the massive St John's fortress on the old harbour. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 20 - 40kn.

Modern History Museum (Muzej suvremene povijesti) B-2, Poljana Paska Miličevića 1, tel. (+385-20) 32 48 56. The Museum's work focuses on gathering documentation on contemporary history since World War Two, including memoirs and photography. From time to time you can see all their exhibitions in the Rector's Palace. The museum doesn't have a permanent display but occasional exhibitions.

The Archeological Museum (Arheološki muzej) D-4, Braće Andrijića 7, tel. (+385-20) 32 40 41, arheoloski.muzej@du.htnet.hr. The Archeological museum currently does not have a permanent residence, and some of its collections are still under preparation, but you can see objects dating back to prehistoric times excavated from the Old Town, including fragments of early Romanesque churches featuring the attractive plaitwork typical of Dalmatia. A prehistoric ceramic pot and female bust were found on the Peješac peninsula. The museum doesn't have a permanent display but occasional exhibitions.

The Birthplace of Marin Držić (Dom Marina Držića) B-3, Široka 7, tel. (+385-20) 32 32 42/(+385-20) 32 32 96, www.muzej-marindrzic.eu. This picturesque gothic town house is the place where Marin Držić was born. Držić only became accepted as one of the greats of Croatian literature after his death, as he was a bit too much of a wild card. His many exploits included sending a series of letters to the Medici family in Florence, seeking their help in overthrowing the Dubrovnik government, convinced that it was run by elitist autocrats. He is best loved for his satirical plays, and he is regarded as one of the greats of European renaissance literature. His birthplace has been transformed into an in situ exhibition of the playwright, whose comedies are regularly performed at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 10 - 20kn.

The Synagogue and Jewish Museum (Sinagoga i židovski muzej) D-2, Zudloska 5. The Synagogue (1352, the second oldest in Europe after Prague) and Jewish museum are set in a building which could be reached from within the surrounding houses in what was once the Jewish ghetto. A permanent Jewish community here was founded at the end of the 15th century following the exodus from Portugal and Spain. The community flourished and included respected doctors, merchants and state representatives. Jews in Dubrovnik enjoyed relative freedom, but there were some restrictions on their activities at certain points in history. The Synagogue is tiny and delightful, with heavy velvet drapes and a richly painted, midnight blue ceiling. The museum contains valuable menorahs and Torah scrolls, alongside information on the history of the Jewish community in Dubrovnik. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission 20kn.



Symbol key

 Air conditioning	 Credit cards accepted
 Casino	 Conference facilities
 Child friendly	 Facilities for the disabled
 Internet	 Guarded parking
 Fitness centre	 Non-smoking rooms
 Restaurant	 Nearest metro station
 Sauna	 Swimming pool
 Animal friendly	

Cream of the crop

Bellevue J-4, Pera Čingrije 7, tel. (+385-20) 33 00 00, fax (+385-20) 43 08 35, reservations@alh.hr, www.alh.hr. Renovated with more than 81 rooms that provide spectacular balcony views of the Adriatic and a minimalist interior equipped with all the necessities. Indulge in local art works, à la carte restaurant Vapor, a private cinema, spa centre, indoor pool, a private beach and more. Only minutes from the town centre. ▶ 91 rooms (77 doubles €232 - 800, 13 suites €495 - 1200, 1 Presidential Suite €2900 - 3200). 

Dubrovnik Palace F-3, Masarykov put 20, tel. (+385-20) 43 00 00, fax (+385-20) 43 08 35, reservations@alh.hr, www.alh.hr. Hits the spot if you have contemporary tastes and take your surroundings seriously. A great pool and beach area, spa facilities and cool reception complete with arty waterfall and gallery. The soothing rooms are complete with Gharani Strok toiletries - this is Daddy Strok's hotel, after all. ▶ 330 rooms (22 singles €161 - 320, 271 doubles €180 - 540, 12 suites €630 - 1600, 24 Junior Suites €300 - 940, 1 Presidential Suite €3420 - 3800). 

Excelsior M-5, Frana Supila 12, tel. (+385-20) 35 33 53, fax (+385-20) 43 08 35, reservations@alh.hr, www.alh.hr. Completely renovated, this luxurious landmark has 141 bedrooms and 17 suites with every amenity possible. Delightfully furnished with state of the art facilities. Set near the heart of the Old City with splendid terraced views, fine dining with Dalmatian and international cuisine, an indoor pool, wellness and beauty centre, private beach entry and more. ▶ 158 rooms (2 singles €218 - 340, 139 doubles €218 - 790, 16 suites €675 - 1300, 1 Presidential Suite €3750 - 4050). 

Grand Villa Argentina L-2, Frana Supila 14, tel. (+385-20) 44 05 55, fax (+385-20) 47 57 93, reservations@gva.hr, www.gva.hr. Something of a Dubrovnik classic, the Argentina has been receiving high-rollers ever since its 1920s heyday. Located ten minutes' walk from the Ploče Gate, many of the hotel's sea-facing rooms boast classic views of the town's medieval fortifications. Rooms in the main building are supremely comfortable, and there is more secluded apartment-style accommodation in the four villas in the terraced gardens. With both indoor and outdoor pools and a private beach, you're spoilt for choice when it comes to taking a dip. ▶ 165 rooms (1 singles €150 - 300, 158 doubles €160 - 600, 6 Junior Suites €400 - 850). 

Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik K-3, Marijana Blažiča 2, tel. (+385-20) 32 03 20, fax (+385-20) 32 02 20, sales.dubrovnik@hilton.com, www.dubrovnik.hilton.com. Refurbished and reopened in 2006 amidst a blaze

of imperial glory, this grandmamma of a hotel, dating back to 1897, is near the Pile gate. Suites have fantastic views, and the terrace and piano bar are fine spots to unwind, as is the elegant indoor pool with natural sunlight. ▶ 147 rooms (139 singles €380, 139 doubles €420, 139 triples €460, 7 suites €630 - 880, 1 Presidential Suite €1670). 

Importanne Resort Kardinala Stepinca 31, tel. (+385-20) 44 01 00, fax (+385-20) 44 02 00, info@importanneresort.com, www.importanneresort.com. Experience Dubrovnik's first resort. Choose from two hotels, Neptun (4 stars) or Ariston (5 stars), or Importanne suites (5 stars) that are nestled along the sea. Wellness facilities, sports and recreation, private car park, personalised services and a buffet restaurant that embraces the finest cuisine along with a noteworthy selection of wines. Dine on the terrace or walk along the seaside boardwalk. The natural surroundings are ideal and the resort is only a 10 minute drive from the Old Town. Special offers are available online as well as state of the art facilities for corporate functions. ▶ 236 rooms (206 doubles €73 - 300, 30 apartments €190 - 800). 

Kazbek H-2, Lapadska obala 25, tel. (+385-20) 36 29 99, fax (+385-20) 36 29 90, info@kazbek.hr, www.kazbekdubrovnik.com. This newly-opened hotel was built in 1573 by the noble family Zamanja as their summer castle. It was renovated in 2008 and still maintains its original beauty. The hotel has 12 double rooms and one suite. All rooms are of the highest quality with air-con, SAT & PAY TV, wireless internet and other features; perfect for guests seeking privacy and culture combined with modern facilities. 20 min from Old Town! ▶ 13 rooms (12 singles €253 - 344, 12 doubles €288 - 393, 1 suites €390 - 519). 

More F-2, Kardinala Stepinca 33, tel. (+385-20) 49 42 00, fax (+385-20) 49 42 40, sales@hotel-more.hr, www.hotel-more.hr. This cliff-hugging establishment on the quiet side of Lapad bay offers the facilities of a blockbuster hotel but with a significantly more intimate feel - here at least you are unlikely to be stamped by hundreds of other holidaymakers whose faces the hotel staff can never quite remember. The décor is slightly more individualistic too, with mood-enhancing squiggly blue-green carpet motifs and bronzy-coloured bedspreads. All rooms come with a trouser-press, a comforting luxury to have by your bedside even if you only treat it as a toy rather than using it properly. There is a small kidney-shaped pool on one of the sea-facing terraces - too small to seriously swim in but a nice touch nevertheless. Breakfast in the café-restaurant on a lovely sea-facing terrace. ▶ 37 rooms (5 singles €145 - 190, 29 doubles €205 - 340, 3 suites €450 - 800). 

Rixos Libertas Dubrovnik G-4, Liechtensteinov put 3, tel. (+385-20) 20 00 00, fax (+385-20) 20 00 20, libertas@rixos.com, www.rixos.com. This grandiose cliff-side hotel, once a Dubrovnik trademark, was totally ruined during the 1991-95 war and stood derelict for ages before finally receiving the full makeover the place deserved. With full-sized trees in the lobby and cool minimalist design throughout, it's an impressive place. Rooms are decked out in subdued beiges and whites, many featuring glass walled bathrooms (so you can look seawards while showering). The wellness centre covers pretty much everything from a Turkish bath to chocolate massage and a Jacuzzi that can be filled with milk - if you've always dreamed of acting out your Anthony-and-Cleopatra fantasies then you'll never have a better chance. The hotel's impressively large congress halls are situated right next door to the 24hr casino - is this a metaphor for the close relationship between corporate culture and the one-armed bandit? ▶ 253 rooms (226 doubles €255 - 320, 1 Presidential Suite €2000, 10 Deluxe Suites €360, 9 Spa Suites €750, 7 Executive Suites €750). 

The Pucić Palace C-3, Od Puća 1, tel. (+385-20) 32 62 22, fax (+385-20) 32 62 23, reception@thepticpalace.com, www.thepticpalace.com. A breathtaking hotel in a real live palace in the heart of the Old Town. So beautifully decked out in period style, it will awaken the blubbery romantic in the most hardened cynic. The staff knocked us off our feet with their friendly and helpful approach. ▶ 19 rooms (1 singles €295, 16 doubles €455 - 550, 1 suites €955, 1 Junior Suite €675). 

Upmarket

Dubrovnik President F-1, Iva Dulčića 39, tel. (+385-20) 44 11 00, fax (+385-20) 43 56 00, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. A shining white Toblerone on the tip of the Babin kuk peninsula, this remarkable modern edifice has oceans of glass offering unimpeded views of the sea, the islands and the Blue Flag beach outside. All rooms have sea views, the superior rooms being particularly smart. Price for apartment is available upon request. ▶ 181 rooms (180 doubles €139 - 209, 1 apartment). 

Lapad H-2, Lapadska obala 37, tel. (+385-20) 45 55 55, fax (+385-20) 45 55 51, sales@hotel-lapad.hr, www.hotel-lapad.hr. A grand old hotel that has recently received a thorough dose of refurbishment, with rooms kitted out with a fresh lick of paint and swanky new bathrooms. The main nineteenth-century building is the kind of place in which you can imagine Hercule Poirot tracking down high-society murderers, although the modern annexe tacked on to the back of the building is significantly less atmospheric. Located opposite Gruž harbour, it is conveniently close to Lapad beach. ▶ 163 rooms (10 singles €67 - 151, 147 doubles €98 - 226, 4 suites €192 - 358, 2 Junior Suites €164 - 318). 

Mid-range

Aquarius G/H-2, Mata Vodopića 4a, tel. (+385-20) 45 61 11, fax (+385-20) 45 61 00, sales@hotel-aquarius.net, www.hotel-aquarius.net. Recently given a makeover, this three star hotel includes four apartments and a further twenty rooms that have been garlanded with all the necessities. Eat out on the restaurant terrace, relax in the bar and choose from the diverse local and international cuisine. It is only 350m from the beach and a mere 3km from the historical city. ▶ 24 rooms (16 singles 567 - 841kn, 16 doubles 810 - 1160kn, 4 triples 1134 - 1624kn, 4 suites 1030 - 1382kn). 

Argosy F-1, Iva Dulčića 41, tel. (+385-20) 44 61 00, fax (+385-20) 43 55 78, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. This airy low-rise has a discreet modern theme, and is only a pebble's throw from popular Copacabana beach, with a water slide and beach restaurant to keep big'uns and little'uns happy. Or take in the view from the Argosy's pool with an ice cold beer... mmmm! ▶ 308 rooms (308 doubles €80 - 139). 

Berkeley J-2, Andrije Hebranga 116a, tel. (+385-20) 49 41 60, fax (+385-20) 49 41 70, reservations@berkeleyhotel.hr, www.berkeleyhotel.hr. A small hotel with super comfy rooms and we suggest you request the wonderful sea view rooms. Fully furnished, modern in style, free internet, breakfast includes a cold buffet not to mention excellent lattes to get your day going. The hotel is located close to Gruž port so you can catch ferries out to the islands; it's a 10 minute bus ride from the Old Town. ▶ 24 rooms (13 doubles €130 - 165, 4 apartments €180 - 200, 7 Studio Rooms €140 - 160). 

Kompas G-2, Šetalšte kralja Zvonimira 56, tel. (+385-20) 35 20 00, fax (+385-20) 43 08 35, reservations@alh.hr, www.alh.hr. This smallish hotel close to the centre of Lapad is delightfully appointed in a clean and tasteful style in keeping with its modern design. The indoor and outdoor seawater pools (weather permitting) are excellent, and guests have unlimited free use of the gym, sauna and Jacuzzis. ▶ 115 rooms (7 singles €80 - 150, 108 doubles €95 - 270). 

Lero I-3, Iva Vojnovića 14, tel. (+385-20) 34 13 33, fax (+385-20) 33 21 23, booking@hotel-lero.hr, www.hotel-lero.hr. This complex is perfectly located between the Old Town and Gruž Cove. It's a five minute bus ride to the centre and the beach is a mere 150m walk. All 155 rooms include air-conditioning, SAT-TV, shower, and toilet facilities. Breakfast and dinner packages are available as Tavern Nava and the Aperitif Bar are all in-house. ▶ 155 rooms (155 singles €85 - 130, 155 doubles €110 - 180). 

Petka I-2, Obala Stjepana Radića 38, Gruž, tel. (+385-20) 41 05 00/(+385-20) 41 05 03, fax (+385-20) 41 01 27, info@hotelpetka.hr, www.hotelpetka.hr. This functional-looking four-storey pile right opposite the ferry port feels much better inside than it looks on the outside, with neat en-suite rooms decorated in blood-orange hues. Those facing the port offer an absolutely fascinating panorama of comings-and-goings in Gruž harbour, and if you like downtown hotels with a sense of urban bustle then Petka is no mean choice. The hotel's Taverna Nostromo offers a solid range of local food. Laptop users rejoice: wifi coverage extends throughout the building. ▶ 104 rooms (8 singles €80 - 115, 96 doubles €120 - 180). 

Stari grad B-2, Od Sigurate 4, tel. (+385-20) 32 22 44, fax (+385-20) 32 12 56, info@hotelstarigrad.com, www.hotelstarigrad.com. This little antique treasure is hidden in a street just off Stradun in the Old Town. The eight rooms are small but perfectly formed, and breakfast on the roof terrace is one of the highlights of a sunny day. ▶ 8 rooms (4 singles 992 - 1313kn, 4 doubles 1415 - 1767kn). 

Tirena F-2, Iva Dulčića 22, tel. (+385-20) 44 51 00, fax (+385-20) 43 56 02, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. The jury is out - seventies eyesore or modernist delight? But the rooms are lovely, and the best bit is the bar in the middle of the pool where you can cool down from without and within simultaneously. Loads of sports and the famous Copacabana beach nearby. ▶ 208 rooms (208 doubles €76 - 139). 

Valamar Club Dubrovnik F-2, Iva Dulčića 18, tel. (+385-20) 44 71 00, fax (+385-20) 44 76 03, reservations-dubrovnik@valamar.com, www.valamar.com. 338 rooms and only 150m from the beach. All you need is on site, including restaurant services, pool facilities, entertainment programmes, car parking, washing facilities and more. 22km from the airport and 150m from the bus stop. Ideal for a family holiday. ▶ 338 rooms (338 doubles €130 - 179). 

Vila Micika G/H-2, Mata Vodopića 10, tel. (+385-20) 43 73 32/(+385-20) 43 73 23, fax (+385-20) 43 71 62, info@vilamicika.hr, www.vilamicika.hr. Whether you're travelling solo or in a large group, Vila Micika in Lapad can cater from two to twenty. It has both rooms and dorms that are clean and tidy. Rooms are equipped with air-con, TV, showers and toilets. Travellers have free internet access and it's a measly 200m walk to the beach. Bars, restaurants and a shopping center are all nearby. This is budget accommodation at its best! ▶ 7 rooms (5 doubles €42 - 76, 2 triples €63 - 114). 