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Yachting in Croatia - Jewels of the Adriatic

*Yachting, Walking, History and Culture along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast
9 Days/7 Nights Aboard a 105' Yacht and 1 night's hotel*

**June 6 – 14 & June 27 – July 5, 2014
September 12 – 20 & September 26 – October 4, 2014**

The Adriatic coast of Croatia, known as Dalmatia, is a colorful blend of old Europe, abruptly rising coastal mountains and golden strands of beach. The numerous islands and extensive coast beg to be explored by boat. Here are Renaissance villages hidden in idyllic coves and others that sit like beacons to wandering seafarers. The islands and coast have seen many conquerors, each of whom have left their architectural influences behind. The Illyrians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Venetians all left their mark. The island towns are replete with red-tiled roofs, narrow streets of white limestone, elegant carved balconies, windows and portals. Weaving this rich tapestry together is the warm Adriatic Sea, beloved among those of the Mediterranean. It sparkles with a rare clarity and, according to NASA astronauts, shows as the bluest sea in the world when viewed from space. The salty waters invite the body and soul for soothing swims.

2014 will be ROW's 22nd year in Croatia! No other adventure travel company has the breadth or depth of experience in Croatia as do we at ROW. In 1988 and 1989, long before Croatia became the new darling of travelers, we were leading trips and learning her charms. We had to pause as Yugoslavia broke apart and the various Republics won their independence. We resumed operations in 1998 and have returned every year since, leading the way for others to follow. Croatia today is a peaceful country excited about its future and on the path to become a member of the EU. It has much to offer the traveler - the UNESCO World Heritage City of Dubrovnik, miles of beaches, isolated swimming coves, charming towns, a rich culture and friendly locals. With a Croatian guide, Croatian ship owner and crew, this trip gets you fully immersed into the local culture and history as no other can. Our primary ship, the Romanca, is in a class of its own and one of the finest on the Dalmatian Coast. 105' in length, made of solid Slavonian oak with teak decks, the crew is professional, friendly and gracious. Food aboard is excellent, carefully prepared and artfully presented by a talented Croatian chef.

We begin the actual yacht cruise in Split and from there set forth into the Dalmatian islands. There are over a thousand islands along the Croatian coast, but only 66 are inhabited, home to small towns, vineyards, olive groves and fishing hamlets. Our journeys include visits to the best of these treasures with visits to red-tiled villages, hidden coves and beautiful natural wonders. We'll have plenty of time to swim and snorkel in the warm waters of the Adriatic. There are several optional hikes of varying difficulty. In the small towns we encounter we'll visit with local Croatians we know to gain a more intimate understanding of Croatia's history and people.

The Yachts: We travel aboard the Romanca, a 105' traditional Croatian-made motor/sail vessel completed in July of 1998. She is one of the finest ships on the Adriatic coast, offering comfortable accommodations in double bed cabins, each with its own bathroom. You will find her to be spacious and elegant with large amounts of deck space, and beautifully fitted. Our guests have said of the Romanca ***“the photos on your website do not do her justice. This is much more beautiful than we anticipated.”***

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Setting the High Watermark for Outdoor Adventure

The atmosphere aboard is casual and some people may enjoy sleeping on the deck under the starlit sky. The captain and crew provide the best of service and prepare delicious, traditional meals from the finest ingredients. Meals are prepared from an array of fresh fruits, vegetables and meats as well as freshly caught seafood. All meals and drinks (excluding hard liquor) are served on the yacht and are included.

Croatia has a long tradition of making quality wines, and during the course of the trip you'll have plenty of opportunities to taste many of these. There are hearty reds, delicate whites and some made from grapes grown nowhere else. Under the tutelage of your guide, you'll learn about the tradition and methods of wine making in Dalmatia. You'll visit vineyards as well as wineries and most likely, return home with a favorite bottle or two stashed in your luggage.

One reason our guests enjoy these trips so much is that they offer many of the advantages of travel with a group without compromising any person's individuality. Along the way there is as much room for solitude as there is opportunity for creating lasting friendships. You'll find plenty of time to mix with the natives and enjoy a wonderful balance of structured and free time.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Friday: Arrive in the beautiful historic city of Split and check into your hotel. Depending on your arrival time you may want to enjoy a stroll around the city and start to absorb the atmosphere of this amazing country.

Day 2 – Saturday: In the morning you are met by our guide for a brief orientation meeting, followed by a guided walking tour of Split including the beautifully preserved Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian that has become a part of the town with houses within the ancient walls. The temple of Jupiter and Diocletian's mausoleum which is now the cathedral are two of numerous ancient monuments. Split is an active town with a colorful street market, friendly cafes and a traditional bayside promenade. About 2:00 PM we transfer to the yacht in the harbor for lunch and to get settled into our cabins. We may begin our journey to the Island of Brac or stay in Split harbor. B,L,D.

***Itinerary Note:** The exact itinerary is subject to weather conditions and may vary. Wind conditions are quite variable, but the seas are usually calm. In order to maximize the time available for explorations we normally travel under motor power. While the sails may go up once or twice, this should not be considered a sailing trip but rather a cruise on a motor-sail yacht.*

Day 3 – Sunday: Split to Jelsa. We cross the channel to the island of Brac where the white limestone of the United States Whitehouse was quarried. Our first stop is the stone cutting school to see this rock up close and learn about the importance of this tradition in Croatia. We then continue to the small town of Pucisca with a stop along the way. We begin our first shore excursion, driving into the center of the island to visit a quaint and information museum of local history and culture. From there we continue to the highest point of the island for views over the Adriatic. We then start a hike of around three miles to visit a hidden monastery in the mountains, one of the trip's highlights. (In late 2011 the Monastery was closed to the public in order to do some restoration, we have no date for it re-opening yet. The hike is still spectacular). By late afternoon we meet the Romanca in a small bay, board and cruise to the lovely town of Vrboska. Or we may choose to anchor out in a quiet bay. B,L,D.

Day 4– Monday: Vrboska to Starigrad. In the morning we visit the village of Vrboska. Vrboska is a charming town with narrow streets, ancient churches and houses, situated at the head of narrow bays surrounded by lovely pine forests and vineyards. It also is the home of a fortified church which houses a magnificent collection of paintings, including some by the school of Titian. There is also a fun "Museum of the Sardine Fishermen" that tells the history of fishing from this town. Once upon a time the Adriatic was a world producer of sardines, tuna and other fish. Starkist Tuna Company was started by Croatians who emigrated to San Pedro, California years ago.

After visiting the town, we offer a hike of about four miles on level ground, through fields, olive groves and vineyards, across a part of the island of Hvar. We meet the boat for lunch in Starigrad. Starigrad is the home of Petar Hektorovic, one of Croatia's most loved poets. We visit his 16th century home, uniquely built within a Turkish fort. There is also another excellent museum housed in a monastery and streets with small cafes. Enjoy a stroll amid Renaissance era architecture and narrow streets and perhaps see the so - called "Cyclopean walls" built of gigantic blocks of stone dating from the Illyrian Period. We will tie up at the wharf or perhaps move into the bay for more privacy. Enjoy dinner on the boat. B,L,D.

Day 5 – Tuesday: The ancients considered Hvar one of the “Isles of the Blessed”. Today we have a couple of options. One option is to simply enjoy a peaceful cruise around the island to the town of Hvar. For the more energetic traveler, we offer a rugged hike of six to eight miles (depending how far we can drive) over a mountain range reaching about 2000’ (500 meters) above sea level. The views are superb and from the summit we descend back to the inviting waters of the Adriatic.

Either way, we end up in the town of Hvar after lunch. Flower-filled gardens, palms, lemon and orange groves add a fragrance lovely enough to match the visual appeal of this sun-drenched island beauty. Visit the theatre of 1506, Benedictine Monastery, the town square and ancient stone houses. At the end of the main square is the 16th century cathedral with impressive Christian paintings of the Madonna. Or, hike to the 16th Century Venetian Citadel for fabulous views over the town and sea. Depending on conditions we may tie up on the wharf, anchor in a quiet bay, or if weather permits, cruise to the island of Vis in the late afternoon. B,L,D.

Day 6 – Wednesday: If we didn’t make it to Vis yesterday, we’ll try today. It is about a two-hour sail and we’ll hope to make a swim stop en route. Our cruise may take us to the town of Vis, or direct to the beautiful blue grotto on the island Bisevo, just a few miles off Vis. On the island of Vis we’ll stroll through the enchanting seaside town of Komiza and visit one of the two best wineries on the island. Tito set up headquarters for his Partisan operation during WWII on this wild and remote island and the island’s history of war and occupation is fascinating. It was only opened to tourism in 1989 and is still off the beaten track. B,L,D.

Day 7 – Thursday: Vis to Korcula. More exploration of Vis and with cooperating weather, we begin the journey south to the island of Korcula. The town of Korcula is one of the most dramatic medieval walled towns of Europe. The stone palaces and churches are a magnificent display of architectural style ranging from 14th to 16th century and house excellent collections of religious art. Korcula lays claim to being the birthplace of Marco Polo and in September there is a reenactment of the famous battle between Genoa and Venice where he was taken captive, thrown in prison in Genoa and thereby wrote his now-famous *Travels*. We are joined here by our Korculan friend and guide who shares his unique knowledge of the town’s rich legacy. Here, or on Hvar, we sometimes hear local “Clappa” singers carrying on this beautiful tradition of accapella singing. B,L,D.

Day 8 – Friday: After breakfast we leave Korcula to walk the hills along the Peljesac Peninsula starting at the small village of Viganj and ending at Orebic. This hike covers about five miles and takes around three hours, walking through pines, pomegranates and enjoying sweeping views across the water to the island of Korcula. We visit a small maritime museum before returning to the yacht. We cruise north to our final anchorage for the night. B,L,D.

Day 9 – Saturday: After breakfast we say an early farewell to the captain and crew and begin a fun day of exploration of the Peljesac Peninsula. We drive to Ston, a site of historic salt production and acres of oyster and mussel farms. We’ll taste superbly fresh oysters and continue to Dubrovnik, arriving mid-afternoon. Here we will transfer you to a hotel of your choice and you are free to explore the beautiful old town of Dubrovnik.

Exact routes are determined by weather and wind conditions and the itinerary may vary from that printed above. We do our best to visit all sites mentioned, but sometimes in a different order. A flexible attitude is requested.

After arrival in Dubrovnik we recommend an extra day and night to fully explore this Mediaeval walled-city, one of the finest in all of Europe.

Land Cost Traditional: Based on Romanca (Maximum 16 guests):

(11-16) guests; \$4190/person (6-10); \$4590/person

Single Supplement: \$295 hotels only. Must share accommodations on the yacht.

*All prices based on cost per person sharing double room. Singles willing to share the top-deck bunk cabin with a same sex roommate are welcome to join the trip at no extra charge. For singles that want to share accommodations at the hotels before and after the yacht portion of the trip, we will match you with a roommate if one is available. If none is available, or you prefer a single room at the hotels, then you must pay the single supplement fee.

ROW can arrange custom charters for groups of four or more on any date requested ranging from one to three weeks. Please inquire.

Note on Invoicing: We will initially invoice you at the higher trip price, and refund the difference depending on the final number of paying passengers once the trip has departed.

Includes:

- Meals as noted including all meals on yacht.
- First night hotel in Split
- All drinks on yacht excluding hard liquor, but including wine with meals in moderation.
- Coffee and or tea (Espresso/Cappuccino is available at an extra charge)
- Yacht with experienced captain and crew.
- Expert leadership.
- All ground transportation for any excursions taken during the yachting trip.

Does not include:

- International or domestic airfare.
- Transfers to/from airports at start and end of trip (private transfers are available by request at extra cost).
- Items of a personal nature such as: laundry, optional gratuities for the guide(s) and yacht crew, etc.

Travel Documents: US and Canadian citizens need only a valid passport, which should be valid for at least 6 months after arrival.

Weather and Climate: Our trips are timed to enjoy the finest weather of the Dalmatian Coasts while also avoiding the throngs of European tourists that come to play in August. Average daytime temperatures will range from 64 - 75F in May to 70 - 80F in June and September. Sea temperatures are in the 60's in May and rise as the sun heats up the water, reaching the mid 70's in September. Evenings see moderate drops in temperature. Weather is of course variable and our packing list will help you prepare.

Yacht M.Y. Romanca Specifics



8 Double Bed Cabins
All cabins with WC, Shower, hot water
Large Salon / Living Area w/TV Stereo System
Inside Dining, Wireless Internet
Bar, Espresso machine
Outside Dining on rear deck
Large upper sun deck with chairs and pads
Air Conditioning
On-deck shower
Teak decks
Dinghy with outboard
Wave Runner (extra charge applies if used)
Year Built: 1998 Hull: Slavonian Oak
LOA: 115' Beam 25' Draught: 11'
Water Tank: 22 tons Fuel Tank: 9 tons
Engine:Caterpillar570 HP Speed: 10 mph

GENERAL INFORMATION

How To Sign Up - Early reservations are recommended as space is limited to 12-16 persons per departure. While it may be possible to join a trip on short notice, we recommend that you sign up at least four to six months in advance. To reserve your place, please call our office for a trip application. Once completed, mail this along with a deposit of \$500. For immediate confirmation phone us at 1-800-451-6034 and charge the deposit to your Visa, Mastercard or Discover card. The balance of the land cost must be paid by check. Upon receipt of your reservation, we will send you complete information about what to bring, a suggested reading list, and other pre-trip information.

Payment Schedule :

At time of reservation	\$500
120 days prior to departure	\$500
90 days prior to departure	Balance

All payments are non-refundable.

Final details including instructions about the exact meeting place of the group, a mail/phone contact abroad and any other needed details will be mailed to you three weeks prior to departure.

Waiting Lists: If you wish to be wait-listed for a full trip, the normal deposit is required. If an opening occurs on the trip, you will be informed and automatically transferred to the trip roster if you wish to join the trip, subject to the normal cancellation policy should you accept the slot. Otherwise, your deposit will be refunded in full.

Cancellations and Refunds: Cancellation dates are determined by the date of our receipt of written cancellation notice. Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including insufficient sign-up or logistical problems which may impede trip operations. The refund of all land payments received shall release Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. from any further liability. A trip cancellation due to insufficient sign-up would occur no later than 30 days prior to departure.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. must normally make substantial payments to its suppliers far in advance of scheduled departures. If a trip is canceled due to *force majeure* (acts of God, war, labor strikes, flooding, earthquake, etc.), Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. will promptly refund the portion of the trip cost not advanced to suppliers and use its best efforts to recover and refund the balance as promptly as possible. However, Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. does not guarantee recovery of any or all of the advance payments made, and our use of best efforts to recover these payments will not include the institution of any legal proceedings in foreign jurisdictions.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for a cancelled trip (e.g. visa fees, equipment, nonrefundable advance purchase air tickets, etc.) or for any additional arrangements should the trip member have embarked prior to the scheduled group departure date.

Tier Pricing: Our trips are budgeted for full or near full sign-ups which enables us to offer trips at the lowest possible price. Because of numerous fixed costs, it is more expensive to operate a trip for a small group. Therefore, in order to avoid having to cancel a trip, we have a "tier-pricing" system to avoid canceling a trip with a low number of sign ups. We have found that most people also prefer this alternative to having a trip cancelled. Thus, you will note on our trip prices there is a different price for 8-9 people versus 10-11, etc. Please note that we need a minimum of 6 paid spaces in order to run this trip as stated above.

Tier pricing is calculated on the number of full revenue passengers. Trip physicians, staff, or guests of Remote Odysseys Worldwide (travel writers, trip leaders-in-training, and office staff) are not included in the tier pricing structure. Trip costs quoted are based on foreign exchange rates current at the time of this printing. We reserve the right to raise the trip fee if there are exceptional cost increases beyond our control.

Insurance: We strongly recommend that you protect yourself and your equipment through the purchase of a short-term travelers' insurance policy, covering baggage, accident/life and trip cancellation. Baggage is carried entirely at owner's risk, and Remote Odysseys Worldwide accepts no responsibility whatsoever for loss, damage, or delayed property. Remote Odysseys Worldwide assumes no liability regarding provisions of medical care. Participants should realize that hospital facilities for serious problems may be remote and evacuation prolonged and expensive. Participants are urged to check their medical coverage to be sure it is adequate. You may purchase reliable coverage through our office. You will receive a policy application along with your deposit. You should purchase cancellation insurance soon after signing up, as the policy will cover any deposits paid if you need to cancel for health reasons.

Limitation of Liability: These paragraphs define our responsibility with respect to all our trips. Please read carefully. Payment of deposit represents an acceptance by the tour member of these terms and conditions.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide, Inc. dba ROW Adventures- gives notice that services provided in connection with its itineraries, including transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other services, are purchased from various independent suppliers who are not affiliated with Remote Odysseys Worldwide Although it endeavors to choose the best suppliers possible, Remote Odysseys Worldwide has no right to control their operations and therefore makes these travel arrangements upon the express condition that Remote Odysseys Worldwide and its own agents and employees shall not be liable for any delay, expense, mishap, inconvenience, bodily injury or death to person, or damage to property occasioned through the conduct or default of any company or individual engaged in providing these services. Each of these passenger conveyance companies, hotels, tour companies, restaurants, etc. is subject to the laws of the state or country where the service is provided.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide shall not be liable for bodily injury or property damage for any reason, including but not limited to acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulation, discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide reserves the right to substitute hotels and leaders and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable, as well as to substitute the scheduled yacht with one of similar or higher quality.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide reserves the right to take photographic or film records of any of our trips and may use any such records for promotional and/or commercial purposes.

Remote Odysseys Worldwide reserves the right to decline to accept- or restrain from further participation- any person whose actions or deportment impede trip operations or rights, welfare or enjoyment of other trip members. A refund based on cost of unused land services is the limit of Remote Odysseys Worldwide Inc.'s responsibility.

Trip Member's Responsibility: Trip members have the responsibility to choose a trip appropriate to their abilities and interests. We are happy to discuss this with you. Trip members are held responsible for being in sufficient good health to undertake the trip and for preparing for the trip by studying the itinerary and predeparture information sent by Remote Odysseys Worldwide.

**Please call if you have any questions or would like any references! 1-800-451-6034 or 208-765-0841
8:30-5:00 Pacific Time.**

I can't think of anything that excites a greater sense of childlike wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost everything. To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted.

- Bill Bryson

All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware. - Martin Buber

When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable. -Clifton Fadiman