



## TRIP OVERVIEW

This introductory swimming holiday in Croatia explores the country's idyllic Dalmatian coastline as we swim between the 40 islands of the Šibenik archipelago. With a combination of island hopping and coastal swims, there is no shortage of spectacular places to discover in this beautiful corner of the world.

Croatia's Adriatic coastline is dotted with more than 1,000 islands, and we base ourselves for this trip at the junction of the breathtaking Šibenik archipelago. Combining dramatic coastlines with superb water quality and beautiful islands, this really is an ideal location for an island hopping swimming holiday.

During the tour you will visit some of the most isolated islands in the Adriatic Sea including Zlarin which has been inhabited for 700 years and where cars are still banned today. Many of the islands visited on the tour are uninhabited and their natural beauty is untouched.

If you would like to explore this part of the world, but are looking for slightly longer swimming distances, please check out our [Dalmatian Coast](#) or [Dalmatian Coast Long Swims](#) trips.

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## WHO IS THIS TRIP FOR?

This trip is designed for swimmers who are looking for a combination of both island-hopping and coastal swims with shorter daily swim distances. The trip is ideal for swimmers with a little less experience in the open water or who are looking to enjoy some additional time out of the water. Swimmers should have a basic understanding of open water swimming and be capable of completing the average daily swim distance of around 3km prior to the start of the trip.

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## LOCATION SUMMARIES

### **Prvić Luka (near Šibenik)**

This car-free island contains two beautiful traditional Mediterranean towns. Almost invisible from the mainland, they have preserved their peace and original appearance for generations.

### **Šibenik**

This UNESCO World Heritage listed city is beautiful to explore. St James Cathedral towers over Šibenik's water frontage and terrapins bathe in the fountain in front of the Church of Our Lady.

### **Žirje**

Inundated with bays and coves and the furthest-out island of the Šibenik archipelago, Žirje is a real gem. Popular with sailors, it has a real maritime feel about it.

## TRIP SCHEDULE

<b>Start Point</b>	Hotel Maestral, Prvić Luka <a href="http://www.hotelmaestral.com">www.hotelmaestral.com</a>
<b>Start Time</b>	17:00 on Day 1
<b>Finish Point</b>	Hotel Maestral, Prvić Luka
<b>Finish Time</b>	11:00 on Day 7

### Daily Itineraries

Please note that the below daily itineraries are an example of the swims that may take place during the course of your trip, however, actual swim locations and distances will vary according to local weather and sea conditions. Your SwimTrek guides and local boat pilot will determine the most suitable swim locations each day and will communicate the plan with all guests as soon as possible.

#### Day 1

We meet in the late afternoon where you will have a chance to relax before meeting for our pre-trip briefing and acclimatisation swim. In the briefing we will discuss in detail the plan for the upcoming week.

#### Day 2

Following breakfast we have a short journey to the start of a relaxed coastal swim along the Prvić Luka coast. It's a great opportunity to get used to swimming both in a small group and in the open sea. After our coastal swim the guides video your swim technique above and below the water for a technique advice and video playback session later in the evening over drinks. The second swim of the day is our first chance to tackle an island crossing. We take on the short crossing to and from the Island of Lupac.

#### Day 3

Today is all about the Island of Tijat. We walk from the hotel to Prvić's other town of Šepurine where we start our crossing to Tijat. The sheltered cove of Tijat is the perfect base for a swim technique session with the guides, before lunch. We have some time to explore Tijat's forest trails by foot before heading to the eastern side of Tijat for a coastal swim with a short hop to Kamencia Island.

#### Day 4

It's up early as we make our way out to the remote island of Žirje, the largest of the Šibenik archipelago. The water here is the clearest of anywhere that we swim during the week. The first swim is a coastal along Žirje's North coast followed by a short island hop to the tranquil island of Mažirina. After lunch in Stupica Bay, we carry out a coastal swim, this time along Žirje's southern shore.

## Day 5

Starting from Obonjan island, watch the change of depth as we island hop across to the uninhabited island of Sestrica. On reaching Sestrica, we complete a full circumnavigation of its coastline with its shallow coral and rock formations before finishing back at Obonjan. We head to the island of Zlarin for a relaxed lunch and an optional walk up to the lookout tower and battery, used during the war of independence in the 1990s. From here there are stunning views over the week's swim routes. Zlarin's curved eastern coastline and sheltered coves are the perfect location to fine tune your technique on our afternoon swim.

## Day 6

Today, we head to the eastern side of Tijat to start our first crossing of the day to Zmajan, also known as Dragon Island. After a hearty lunch and a chance for some rest, we will do our second crossing of the day, from Zmajan to Kaprije. After the swim we have a chance to explore the island of Kaprije by walking across it to the main village for a coffee or an ice-cream or just to relax.

## Day 7

A relaxed start, as we make our way to a remote beach, where we will have a short swim to end a fantastic week of swimming.

## TRIP INFORMATION

### Equipment Checklist

In addition to your daily non-swimming clothes, we also recommend that you bring the following items:

✓	Item	✓	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Costume (x 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Goggles (x 2)*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweater / Fleece
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun Hat and Sunglasses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof Jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof Sun Cream & Insect Repellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking Shoes / Sandals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Daypack	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aqua Shoes / Sandals

\*Try to bring one clear lens and one tinted lens for different light conditions.

Please note that SwimTrek will supply swim hats and provide water and electrolyte drinks in shared water bottles on your safety boat. If you prefer to use your own drink bottle, please feel free to bring one along. If you would like to use a wetsuit, rash vest or fins during your swims, please ensure that you bring these with you.

### Swimming Conditions

Swimming in the sea is a fantastic experience, however you should be aware that certain marine life such as sea lice, jellyfish, sea urchins and coral could be present during the swims. In all cases we will work on reducing your contact with these creatures, however if you suffer from anaphylaxis, please consult the office prior to booking.



## Swimming Distances

Swim	Distance	Swim	Distance
Prvić Luka Coastal	1½km	Prvić - Lupac	1½ km
Prvić Luka - Tijat	1½km	Tijat Coastal	1½km
Zlarin - Mažirina	1½km	Žirje Coastal	2km
Island hopping	2½km	Zlarin Coastal	1km
Tijat - Zmajan	1½km	Zmajan - Kaprije	1½km

Please note that these swims are an example of the what may take place during the course of your trip and should be used as a guide only. Actual swim locations and distances will vary according to local weather and sea conditions.

## Walking Distances

There are two optional 2 km walks that you can choose to take part in. These take place on the islands of Tijat and Zlarin and offer spectacular panoramic views from both islands.

Most other walks take place on recognised paths and tracks, however, there may be cases where we walk along trails or other unsealed surfaces and care should be taken in these areas.

## Temperatures

Month	Water Temperature*	Air Temperature*
June	20-23°C / 68-73°F	22-26°C / 72-79°F
July	23-25°C / 73-77°F	26-30°C / 79-86°F
August	23-26°C / 73-79°F	27-30°C / 81-86°F
September	21-24°C / 70-75°F	25-28°C / 77-82°F

\*Please note that these temperatures are indicative and should be used as a guide only.

## Weather Caveat

For safety reasons, we rely on decent weather conditions when carrying out our swims. As a consequence, open water swimming holidays require a certain degree of on-trip flexibility which can result in changes to the planned itinerary. These changes often add a touch of uniqueness to your trip and will be communicated to you by your SwimTrek guides as quickly as possible.

## Group Size and Boat Support

This trip has a maximum group size of 15. The group will be split into a maximum of three groups, based on speed, with each group being accompanied by their own safety vessel/escort.

Boat support on this trip includes one main boat and two inflatable boats to be piloted by your SwimTrek guides and a local boat pilot. Please note that this boat support is subject to change without notice and cannot be guaranteed.

## GETTING THERE

The easiest way to get to Prvić Luka is to fly into Split airport and take the private transfer which is organised through the Hotel Maestral. There are a wide range of airlines serving both Split and Zadar airports from various British and European cities and you can take a private transfer from either airport to your accommodation. For further details on all airlines that fly into Split & Zadar airports please visit the following websites:

- [www.split-airport.hr](http://www.split-airport.hr)
- [www.zadar-airport.hr](http://www.zadar-airport.hr)

Whilst we have outlined various travel options below, they are subject to change and should be used as a guide only. We suggest that you use the following websites to search for alternative flight and ferry options for this trip.

**Flights:** [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net)

**Ferries:** [www.croatiaferries.com](http://www.croatiaferries.com)

Whichever route you choose to take, we recommend confirming your flights and other travel arrangements as early as possible in order to avoid price rises and availability issues.

### Option 1: Getting There via Split

To search for available flights into Split, please visit [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net).

### Private Transfer from Split Airport to Prvić Luka

To arrange a private transfer from Split Airport to your accommodation at Hotel Maestral, please contact the hotel directly by emailing your arrival information to: [info@hotelmaestral.com](mailto:info@hotelmaestral.com). This service includes a car and taxi boat transfer, with a journey time of approximately 1 hour 15 minutes, dependent on traffic. The rates are indicated below and are payable on location.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	PRICE PER PASSENGER (CROATIAN KUNA)	PRICE PER PASSENGER (EURO)
1	720 HRK	96 EUR
2	360 HRK	48 EUR
3	320 HRK	43 EUR
4	300 HRK	40 EUR
5+	270 HRK	35 EUR

### Public Transport from Split Airport to Šibenik

Public transport from Split Airport to Šibenik involves catching two different buses. Please note that the information below should be used as a guide only and is subject to change.

From Split Airport, you will need to take the number 37 bus to Trogir, which takes approximately 10 minutes. From Trogir, you will need to board another bus to Šibenik, which takes approximately 1 - 1.5 hours. For up-to-date schedules, availability and the latest route options for this journey please visit:

- Split Airport to Trogir: [www.promet-split.hr/vozni-red/urbano-podrucje/linijaid/1974](http://www.promet-split.hr/vozni-red/urbano-podrucje/linijaid/1974)
- Trogir to Šibenik: [www.arriva.com.hr/en-us/home](http://www.arriva.com.hr/en-us/home)

## Ferry from Šibenik to Prvić Luka

The ferry ticket office is just 50m from Šibenik bus station, to your left when facing towards the sea. The journey time is approximately 30 minutes and Prvić Luka is usually the second stop, however, we recommend you check this locally. For up-to-date schedules, tickets and further ferry information, please visit: [www.jadrolinija.hr/en/ferry-croatia](http://www.jadrolinija.hr/en/ferry-croatia).

## Option 2: Getting There Via Zadar

To search for available flights into Zadar, please visit [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net).

## Private Transfer from Zadar Airport to Prvić Luka

To arrange a private transfer from Zadar Airport to your accommodation at Hotel Maestral, please contact the hotel directly by emailing your arrival information to: [info@hotelmaestral.com](mailto:info@hotelmaestral.com). This service includes a car and taxi boat transfer, with a journey time of approximately 1 hour 15 minutes, dependent on traffic. The rates are indicated below and are payable on location.

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1	720 HRK	96 EUR
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3	320 HRK	43 EUR
4	300 HRK	40 EUR
5+	270 HRK	35 EUR

## Public Transport from Zadar Airport to Šibenik

Public transport from Zadar Airport to Šibenik involves catching two different buses. Please note that the information below should be used as a guide only and is subject to change.

From Zadar Airport, you will need to take the airport bus to the main bus station in Zadar city centre, which takes approximately 20 minutes. From Zadar city centre, you will then need to take another bus to Šibenik, with a journey time of approximately 1.5 hours.

For up-to-date schedules, availability and the latest route options for this journey please visit:

- Zadar Airport to Zadar: <https://getbybus.com/en/blog/airport-bus-zadar/>
- Zadar to Šibenik: [www.buscroatia.com/bus-station-zadar/](http://www.buscroatia.com/bus-station-zadar/)

## Ferry from Šibenik to Prvić Luka

The ferry ticket office is just 50m from Šibenik bus station, to your left when facing towards the sea. The journey time is approximately 30 minutes and Prvić Luka is usually the second stop, however, we recommend you check this locally. For up-to-date schedules, tickets and further ferry information, please visit: [www.jadrolinija.hr/en/ferry-croatia](http://www.jadrolinija.hr/en/ferry-croatia)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Accommodation

Our accommodation for this trip is in Hotel Maestral, one of the region's finest locally-owned hotels.

The hotel is perfectly situated directly on the waterfront and offers a range of twin-share rooms with en suite facilities. There are a limited number of single supplement rooms which can be reserved during the booking process, subject to availability.

If you require any additional nights' accommodation before or after the trip, this can be arranged directly through the Hotel Maestral.

**Email:** [info@hotelmaestral.com](mailto:info@hotelmaestral.com)

**Tel:** +385 22 448 300

## Meals

All breakfasts and lunches are included in your trip price, however, dinners are at your own expense. This gives you a fantastic opportunity to explore and experience the local cafes and restaurants of your choice over the course of your trip. The average cost of dinner in a local restaurant is around 225 Kn. Throughout the course of the trip you will have to opportunity to join us for optional group dinners at locally recommended restaurants.

## Extra Expenses

You should bring extra money with you to cover such items as dinners, souvenirs, entertainment, etc. The local currency is Croatian Kuna (Kn). There is one ATM available in Prvić Luka where you can draw local currency out, it is located 100m down the road from our hotel. It is advised to draw local currency out before arriving on the island, you can exchange currency at the post office and there is a cash machine in Šibenik.

## Passports and Visas

Croatia is part of the European Union. Non-residents of Croatia require a full passport to enter the country, which should be valid for six months beyond the expected length of stay. Citizens of most countries, including all E.U. member states, U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand do not require a visa to enter Croatia. Please note that visa regulations are subject to change and we advise that you check your own visa requirements prior to travel.

## Health Information and Recommended Vaccinations

For comprehensive health information for people travelling to Croatia, including all recommended and required vaccinations, please visit [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries). Please note that this information is subject to change and you should re-check this site regularly prior to your trip.

## Travel Plugs & Electricity

For a useful source of information on the different electrical outlets, electrical plugs, and electric sockets, please visit [www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plug-voltage-by-country/](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plug-voltage-by-country/).

## Other Information

If there is any further information that you require before your trip, or if you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us using the contact details at the bottom of these Trip Notes.