



Share the Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

CROATIA SAILING TRIPS

Hi, thank you for choosing to holiday with Topdeck! We certainly appreciate your decision to travel with us and rest assured that everyone at Topdeck will be doing their utmost to ensure you have the holiday of a lifetime.

We have prepared the following pre-departure information which we trust will assist you in planning your trip. Some points should be taken as a *guide only* - after all, everyone is different! For instance information such as daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next, so please bear this in mind. However, we are sure you will find the information in general to be very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

BAGGAGE & SUGGESTED CLOTHING LIST

We recommend small soft bags or frameless backpacks, as many Croatian boats do not have adequate space in the cabins to accommodate large suitcases.

As a general rule, **pack light!** Passengers invariably bring more than they need. Remember also that during your trip you are bound to find items that you may wish to buy, so leave room in your luggage for additional purchases.

The following clothing list is suggested, based on our experience:

- 1 pair of shoes / trainers
- 1 pair thongs / jandals / flip-flops
- 2 pairs shorts / skirts
- 4 shirts / t-shirts
- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 warm jacket
- Underwear and socks!

General things to pack:

- Swimming costume & towel
- Toiletries inc. toilet roll
- Basic medical kit (inc. plasters, aspirin etc)
- Torch
- Insect repellent

SLEEPING BAGS

On Croatia Sailing trips full bedding is always provided. Sleeping bags are not necessary.

INSURANCE

It is **compulsory** for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance before the trip departs covering cancellation, medical expenses including repatriation, loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and public liability. Topdeck can issue travel insurance, please refer to our website www.topdeck.travel, click on 'Travelling with Topdeck' and then 'Travel Advice' for more information. You must bring a copy of your travel insurance policy with you on the trip.

Your Topdeck Representative will make a record of your basic travel insurance details at the start of your trip, e.g. the name of the insurance company, the 24 hour emergency telephone number, and your policy number. These will be faxed back to our London office to ensure that if you lose your policy details, they can be easily retrieved.

VISAS AND PASSPORT INFORMATION

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the last day of your trip. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to gain entry to Croatia. **It is your responsibility to obtain this prior to the departure of the trip.** Please consult your travel agent to check your visa requirements, or if you need any advice or assistance. Visa requirements change periodically and you should check the requirements before travelling.

Remember that visas can sometimes take up to six weeks to obtain, so do not leave it until the last minute. Also bear in mind that the validity of the visa often runs from the date of issue rather than date of entry into the country.

HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

If you suffer from any kind of medical condition you must advise Topdeck at the time of booking, or at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip. No vaccinations are currently compulsory for entry into Croatia. Please reconfirm vaccination requirements before you leave as conditions could change.

If you require regular medication, you must have an ample supply of medication before your trip departs, as it can be difficult to obtain in some places. You must be able to administer your own medication, as your Topdeck Representative will not be able to administer it, and there are no guarantees that there will be anyone with first aid training in the group.

CURRENCY

The currency in Croatia is the Kuna. The exchange rate to the Euro is *roughly* 7 Kuna to 1 Euro. It is generally always possible to exchange money in to Kuna after arriving in Split or Dubrovnik, but the easiest way to obtain it is to make a withdrawal from a local ATM.

Some optional dinners and excursions can be paid for in Euros (see below), so it is useful to carry some with you. The €20 local visitor's tax and port fees must be paid in Kuna (at time of printing this was approximately 7 Kuna to 1 Euro but this may vary during the season).

SPENDING MONEY

Automatic Teller Machines (**ATMs**) are available in most towns and islands and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash.

Most well known **credit cards** are accepted in Croatia. We recommend that you bring your credit card along in case you see something special, which you haven't budgeted for. Credit cards **CANNOT** be used for optional excursions.

Based on past experience, we recommend the equivalent of around €50-€60 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses including sightseeing, small souvenir shopping and non-included meals. If you wish to purchase expensive souvenirs, you will need to budget for more, or use your credit cards for these purchases. Remember, this is a *guideline* figure and can vary greatly between individuals according to your overall personal budget and spending habits!

BUDGETING & OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On Croatia Sailing trips there are some costs that are not included in the overall price of your trip and must be paid locally in cash. The following taxes, entrance fees and Optional Excursions apply on our Croatia Sailing trips, with **approximate** prices, though they may be subject to change. Ask your Topdeck Representative for details.

- **Visitors' tax and port fees:** €20 (compulsory for all passengers and must be paid in Kuna)
- **Entrances to National Parks:** from €10 - €15 each.
- **Optional dinners:** 1 or 2 are offered during the week on board the boat. Approx. €15-€25 each.
- **Optional River Rafting excursion:** Approx. €30.
- **Day trip to Mostar:** Approx. €68.
- **Day trip to Montenegro:** Approx. €55.

The optional excursions are not operated by Topdeck, and do not form part of your contract with Topdeck for your trip. Should you participate, your contract will be with the local supplier of the excursion, and their conditions will apply.

The Day trip to Mostar can be arranged for the departure day of your trip from either Split or Dubrovnik. The Day trip to Montenegro can be arranged for the departure day of your trip from Dubrovnik. Minimum numbers apply to both excursions. If you are interested in these day trips your representative will arrange it for you when you are there so please book your flights accordingly but please do keep in mind that minimum numbers will apply.

ACCOMMODATION

Your Croatia Sailing trip uses twin share cabins on motor cruising boats. If you are travelling solo, you will be sharing a cabin with someone of the same sex. Cabins are generally quite small, as there is limited space on the boat.

MEALS AND DRINKS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'What's Included' section on the trip pages in our brochure and on your detailed Trip Itinerary. Breakfasts and lunches are included every day on board. Evening meals are not included, although there will be 1 or 2 optional dinners offered during the week, at the discretion of the local crew. These may require minimum numbers.

You are not able to take any drinks on board the boat with you. They must all be purchased on board, including water. There is an optional €20 per week you can pay locally for a daily drinking water supply.

TOILETS

In Croatia you may have to pay a small amount to use public toilets in some towns. It is a common practice in Europe and should be regarded as a form of 'tipping', as the money goes to the people who clean and/or maintain the facilities.

Toilet paper is occasionally not provided, so it is useful to carry a toilet roll or pack of tissues in your bag.

CLAIM YOUR FREE TOPDECK GLOBAL SIM CARD BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR YOUR TRIP

All our travellers are entitled to claim a free TopDeck global SIM card to use while on their Topdeck trip! Just follow this link to claim yours: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - use your Topdeck "Booking Reference" and purchase a minimum of \$20 calling credit.

The Topdeck SIM is a "roaming free" SIM card just drop it into your mobile and enjoy savings of up to 90% on calls while travelling throughout Europe.

Every SIM card includes the ekit Travel Journal. The Travel Journal automatically updates your location to Google maps on a daily basis. This allows you to keep track of where you've been, and with the option to publish this on facebook and twitter you can easily show-off your travels to friends and family. Not only does this provide a hassle free way of keeping in contact, but you can text in your own journal updates or photos for an even more detailed record of your holiday!

- Free Global SIM card and US \$5 bonus call credit, when you purchase \$20 of call credit
- Coverage in 150 countries including all TopDeck destinations

* Fast low-cost 1st class shipping to Australia, UK, Europe, USA and Canada

* You can upgrade your SIM card's calling plan for even better international rates:

- Passport Plus – International rates from just USD \$0.29 per minute
- Passport SIM / Home & Roam SIM – Free to receive calls in over 60 countries

To redeem your FREE SIM card and \$5 credit before you travel visit: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - and use your Topdeck "Booking Reference". For more information visit the above URL or phone our dedicated 24/7 Customer Service on: **(AUS)** 1800-795-252, **(UK)** 0800-376-2370, **(USA)** 1-888-513-8804, **(CAN)** 1888-513-8804

SECURITY

Use eKit's travel vault and avoid hassles along the way. You can securely store all your important documents online, passport number, insurance and visa information and travellers cheques details. Refer to the eKit brochure or visit www.topdeck.ekit.com

DEPARTING ON YOUR TRIP

FROM SPLIT

From Split Airport it will take approximately 30 minutes to Split Harbour by taxi or by bus (depending on the traffic). The bus station in Split is located in the very centre of the city, right next to city harbour and railway station.

Check-in is from 11am for a 1.00pm departure from Split harbour. This is the main ferry harbour where the central bus and train terminals are. We cannot provide the dock number as ships are arranged differently each week according to directions from the Port Authority. Your ship's name is the **Vrgada / Novi Dan / Senia**. Your ship will have its name written on it as well as a sign – "**TOPDECK**" or "**KATARINA LINE**".

Our representative will meet you there and help you with the check in procedure as well as parking for your car (if necessary). If you are running late you can call our local operator Ana on +385 915196814 or Daniela on +385 911321858.

FROM DUBROVNIK

Check-in is from 11am for a 1.00pm departure from Dubrovnik Gruz harbour. We cannot provide the dock number as ships are arranged differently each week according to directions from the Port Authority. Your ship's name is the **Senia / Stoncica**. Your ship will have its name written on it as well as a sign – **“TOPDECK” or “KATARINA LINE”**.

If you are running late you can call our local operator Almira on +385 917647615.

FINISHING YOUR TRIP

All Croatia Sailing trips finish after breakfast on the final day. You will have stayed in the destination the night before, making it possible to arrange onward travel arrangements for the date your trip finishes.

GREAT DEALS ON OUR FESTIVALS AND SHORT BREAK PACKAGES!

Did you know Topdeck also run a great range of festival and short break packages all year round?! These include:

- Oktoberfest
- Pamplona – Running of the Bulls
- Las Fallas
- Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Christmas and New Years Trips
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Trips
- Anzac Day
- Venice Carnival
- Ski packages and MORE

For further details, dates and prices, or to book, please visit our website www.topdeck.travel

PAST PASSENGER DISCOUNT

Thinking about booking another trip, festival or short break with us? As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim the following discounts on your next trip!

- 5% off any Topdeck trip departing in 2011.

****Terms & Conditions apply – please see the website for full details****

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Passport
- Airline tickets (Where applicable)
- Insurance Policy (You must bring this with you)
- Visa if required
- Camera, Batteries
- Sense of excitement!

We trust you have found this information useful, and we sincerely hope that you have a fantastic holiday with Topdeck! Thanks again for choosing to travel with us.

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel