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Under Armour

Princessa Diana

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CUBE

HVAR

Beautiful Croatia

Rob Keating of UTracks, recently embarked on an incredible 5-day southern Dalmatia adventure, sailing the coastline of Croatia, exploring quaint towns and cycling through the stunning countryside.

In October last year I was privileged to be invited on a bike and sail tour in beautiful Croatia. The 5-day southern Dalmatia itinerary was effectively a shortened version of the immensely popular Croatia Bike & Sail tour.

After a pre-tour night in Split, I caught a coach to Trogir, the historic island town that would be the starting point for my island hopping adventure. I checked in

with the friendly crew who escorted me to my accommodation for the week – the beautiful ‘Princeza Diana’. The Princess Diana is a 40 metre, first class deluxe motor yacht. The affectionately named ‘Princess’ offers 16 spacious guest cabins, all with air conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The ship boasts numerous areas on the upper decks where you can lounge with a drink or sunbathe as you watch the world go by.



The communal interior spaces are tastefully furnished and there is a bar, piano and large outdoor seating areas ideal for getting to know your new ship mates. There is even a spa pool and sun loungers on the fore-deck for guests to use in the summer.

As we slowly glided out of the port that evening, I knew that this trip was definitely going to be ‘my thing’.

I grew up on yachts and each summer my family would spend weeks exploring islands and coastlines in the far north of New Zealand. I love being on and in the water, so the thought of sailing around the beautiful islands of Southern Dalmatia in the sun and cycling through quaint little towns was my idea of the perfect active holiday.

The following two days consisted of cycling on the rosemary island of Šolta

and the lavender island of Hvar. The cycling is done at a leisurely pace and there are plenty of opportunities to stop for photos along the way. The 50 kilometer cycle over the hills of Hvar was also made easier by the use of an e-bike.

We made stops at a honey farm and an olive oil factory – two of the island’s famous exports, and enjoyed a delicious spit roast lunch at a restaurant high on the ridge of the island, before descending down to meet the ship in the town of Jelsa. This beautiful harbour town is picture perfect and is the ideal place to indulge in a cool gelato after your cycle.

That afternoon we set off for the next port – Pučišća on the island of Brač, where we would spend the night. The next day included a choice of pre-selected activities in Omiš, of which I chose white water rafting - rafting is an optional extra.



Our crew was very informative and briefed us each night before dinner on the following day's itinerary. As they took care of everything from meals to bike setup, we really were in good hands. We enjoyed three generous meals a day which included a stunning array of freshly prepared dishes. It's fair to say there were no complaints from anyone in the food department!

On the fourth day we enjoyed our final cruise back to Split with lunch en route, followed by a final group dinner and drinks to celebrate the end of the summer season.

The tour culminated with breakfast the next morning where we would bid farewell to our new found friends, crew and guides and, of course, our beloved Princeza Diana.

If you love the sound of Rob's Sail Croatia itinerary and would like to replicate it, or look at a bike & sail adventure elsewhere in the world, speak to us today!



DO YOU HAVE A CYCLE TRIP PLANNED?

Invest in some padded cycling pants. It sounds strange, we know, but the padding will help a LOT on those longer bike rides!

A stainless steel, keep cool drink bottle also won't go a miss.