

6: City of Split

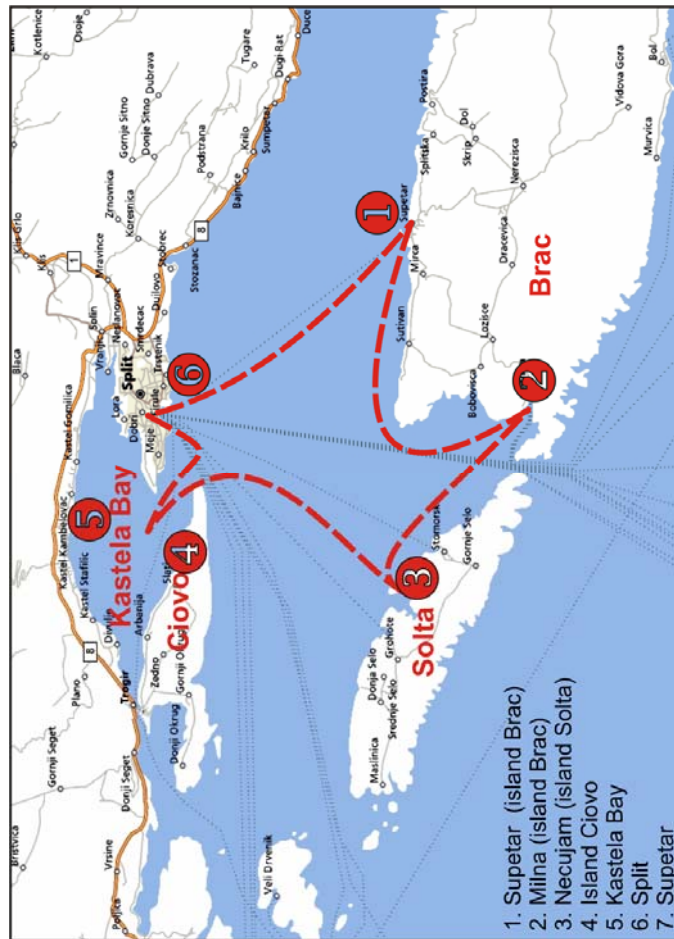
The city of Split is situated in the warmest region of the northern Mediterranean coast, in the very centre of the Adriatic eastern coast and in the immediate vicinity of the rivers Jadro and Žrnovnica that have been watering it for 1,700 years. Its mild climate, with 2,700 sunny hours per year, makes it an oasis where, sheltered from the wind, one can enjoy the sun even in wintertime. The site was first settled when, at the end of the 3rd century AD, the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his palace here. The importance of Diocletian's Palace far transcends local significance because of its level of preservation and the buildings of succeeding historical periods built within its walls, which today form the very heart of old Split. Numerous historical and cultural buildings museums, the National Theatre, old churches and other archaeological sites in the Split region make it an important cultural attraction.

Split's growth became particularly rapid in the 7th century, when the inhabitants of the destroyed Greek and Roman metropolis Salonae (present-day Solin) took refuge within its walls. In the Middle Ages, Split was an autonomous commune.



The city went on remaining the centre of this part of the coast till our day. This mixture of historic layers brought some clumsiness and some things done too fast, but today all that makes a part of its originality.

With about 250,000 inhabitants, Split is the second largest town in Croatia. It is the economic and administrative centre of Middle Dalmatia. Split is a busy port, with an international airport and regular ferry services with the nearby islands, the north and south Adriatic, Italy and Greece. In addition, the city has large chemical works, metallurgy plants, and workshops for the production of solar cells. The fertile fields around Split represent a good base for agriculture, while cultural monuments, superb landscapes and unparalleled seascapes make it a tourist's wonderland. Split is also a university seat and host to numerous scientific institutions.



Itinerary:

1. Supetar (island Brač)
2. Visit to the tuna farming site (Western side of Brač)
3. Tourism development at Solta (Village of Nečujam)
4. Sewage tunnel across Čiovo (Eco Kaštela project)
5. Kaštela Bay
6. Sightseeing of Split (a guided tour)



Conference on Marine Spatial Planning

STUDY TOUR

Saturday, September 22, 2007
8:30 – 17:00

Departure:

by boat at 8:30 from the port of Supetar

Lunch on the boat.

Departure from Split:

16:00 hours

Return to Supetar:

at 17:00 hours



This project is co-funded by the European Union



2: Tuna farming

A tuna farming site will be visited on the western side of the island of Brač.

The first tuna farms in Croatia appeared in 1996. During the last five years, bluefin tuna (BFT) farming reached around 2,500 tonnes per year of harvested fish. The industry consists of six commercial companies using nine lease sites. It was based on fishing BFT by purse seine and growing them in the 50 m diameter cages for a few months up to a couple of years. The BFT are fed small pelagic fish by hand, six days per week, twice per day. Farm mortality is about 3% to 5% per year, while stress-related mortality during the adaptation period is around 2%. Daily feed consumption was in average around 5% of biomass, within the temperature range from 18 to 24°C. Some poorly planned and managed BFT operations had negatively impacted natural environment.



The improvement of the environmental performances in BFT farming is of the highest importance for this industry in Croatia. It is needed to reduce the environmental pressures to the companies involved and to avoid further conflicts with other coastal users. It is a general option that zoning for tuna culture and development of an offshore technology is needed to facilitate environmental compatibility of BFT farming industry. Rapid and innovative low cost EIA programme, as well as, an acceptable environmental monitoring based on key environmental performance indicators will be highly beneficial to the future BFT farming programme. A multidisciplinary approach focused on growth, nutrition, environmental issues and full control of reproduction may lead to the sustainability of BFT farming industry and decrease of pressure on the natural stocks.

Croatia is a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and EUROFISH. Also, Croatia is a member of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and ratified the autonomous budget for this organisation.

3: Tourism development in the island of Šolta

Tourism in Croatia is a well-developed industry as Croatia is an attractive tourist destination, particularly because of its extensive coastline and well-preserved coastal Renaissance towns. One reason that the Croatian coastline is so beautiful is that it contains more than one thousand dazzling islands. The coast is extremely indented, with high mountains in the immediate hinterland.

The island of Šolta is one of the Middle Dalmatian islands located to the west of the island of Brač. The islands of Brač and Šolta form the Split gate - an entrance into the Split area from the sea side. Owing to Split gate, this area is naturally protected from the open sea. In comparison with Brač, Šolta is less populated. The population of Šolta is traditionally oriented to agriculture.

The youngest village of the island, founded by building summer houses but also by planned hotel building, is Nečujam. According to some, it is the most beautiful cove of the island. Nečujam is the centre of the island's tourism and it offers a pleasant holiday to different types of tourists and a lot of them are traditional visitors for decades. The village provides a great potential for development of nautical and day-trip tourism.

On the other hand, with its apartment village Nečujam is a negative example of the growing new type of building, which should be stopped in the future. Besides, growing, but non-harmonised tourism activity in the island of Šolta poses a constant threat to island's natural resources. In order to improve the present situation, a Master Plan of tourism development in the island of Šolta has been initiated. This strategic document is based on the Programme of sustainable development of tourism in the island. In the Master Plan tourism is determined by a carrying capacity of the island, namely, by a maximum use of island's space without degrading the physical, economic and socio-cultural environment. Efforts are made to harmonise the new building into the existing traditional architecture. Since recently, there are also attempts to revitalise villages in the hinterland of the island.



By the beginning of 2010, a superior hotel resort is going to be built in the cove of Livka, on the south-eastern part of Šolta. This tourist settlement in Livka will be part of Amanresorts known for its luxury properties all around the world. According to the investors, the old olive-groves and drystone walls will be preserved and incorporated into the hotel resort.

4 and 5: Kastela Bay and Eco Kaštela Project

Kaštela Bay is located at the central part of the Croatian coast on the eastern part of the Adriatic Sea. The main entrance into the Bay is between the Split peninsula and the island of Čiovo, while a smaller one is between the island of Čiovo and the mainland in Trogir.

In mid eighties it became one of the largest and most widely known pollution "hot spot" areas in the Mediterranean region. Development of chemical and heavy industry (steel and cement factory) in less than four decades turned the area from a pristine area of high tourist potential into an area with highly degraded natural ecosystems, inadequate economic structure, as well as a number of demographic and social problems.



In order to assess the actual state, its causes and possible solutions to the problems, a number of studies have been prepared, the most important of which are the CAMP "Kaštela Bay" implemented by PAP/RAC, and the national project on natural resources management. The World Bank's METAP project was associated with the above programmes some time after initiation. Lately, as a result of the above studies and other activities, an integrated ecological project for the infrastructure development was launched. The CAMP "Kaštela Bay" project proved very useful for the local community in resolving the crucial problems relevant to wastewater and sewage collection and disposal.

On the basis of the project results, after its completion in 1993, the local and national authorities established an implementing agency (the "Eco Agency"), to implement the wastewater management project and water supply. Six years ago, the Croatian Government, in collaboration with the World Bank and European Bank, decided to invest approximately 150 million Euro in water supply and sewage systems that would address the sea quality issues in the whole Bay, such being the largest undertaking in the Adriatic, and among the largest ones in the Mediterranean. Since there are some 300,000 inhabitants in the area, large-scale infrastructure undertakings were commenced in 1996 at the sewage systems, comprising a network of pipelines, pumping stations and a tunnel with treatment plants and submarine outfalls, as well as other infrastructure facilities, with a definite objective of resolving the major infrastructure by 2006, and subsequently its secondary network.