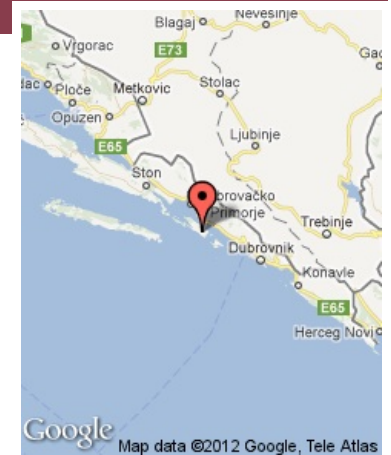


Family Sea Kayaking Holiday in Dubrovnik



Highlights

A family holiday for water lovers, available for children aged 6 and upwards. Spend the week exploring the Elaphite Islands off Dubrovnik by sea kayak. With an itinerary designed specifically for families, there is an ideal mix of paddling, snorkelling and playing on the beach.

The Elaphite Islands, North West of Dubrovnik, are formed out of ten small islands of which only a handful (Lopud, Kolocep and Sipan) are inhabited. With a rocky coastline, interspersed with white sandy beaches, they offer a perfect destination for those wanting to combine sea kayaking and snorkelling with some beach time. Inland, the islands have pretty villages and hills dotted with pine forests and vineyards.

You will be based on the Island of Lopud for your entire holiday, taking daily excursions to explore all the island has to offer and also to visit the neighbouring island of Kolocep. Your guide will lead you on your daily expeditions, when you can expect to spend on average 2 - 3 hours paddling per day. The rest of the time will be spent exploring locally by foot, snorkelling and relaxing on the beaches. To ensure a balanced itinerary, and to give weary arms a rest, two rest days are built in to the itinerary, when you will have a chance to go banana boating as well as visit neighbouring Dubrovnik - a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Is it for me?

This is a family holiday and whilst no previous sea kayaking experience is required, all members of the family should be happy in or around the water. There are around 3 - 6 hours of daily activities in the itinerary (including swimming and snorkelling, as well as paddling)

Double and single kayaks are both available.

The suggested minimum age for this trip is 6.

Number of participants: min 4 - max 20
Guide to kayakers ratio 1/8

Accommodation

Accommodation is in self-catering apartments owned by local families. The rooms are simple but clean and licensed for tourists.

All Breakfasts and some of the dinners are included in the price of this holiday. Breakfasts are taken with the group at one of the cafes over-looking the sea. Lunch is at your own expense - you will usually stop at local taverns, but you can also pick up sandwiches from the island shop if you prefer picnics. Food is typically Mediterranean - seafood, garden grown vegetables and is prepared simply without heavy spices.

You can expect to pay around £8 for a lunch in a tavern and more like £20 for a three course meal in the evenings.

Prices from

600 GBP (8 days) per person

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Day 1: Arrivals

You will be met at the airport by a representative and will then leave your bags and have the rest of the day free, to wander around Dubrovnik and enjoy an ice cream in the World Heritage City. You will meet back with your guide at around 7.30pm and will then catch a ferry to the island of Lopud where you will be welcomed by your local host. The island of Lopud is delightful, with rich vegetation, a mild Mediterranean climate and two splendid sandy beaches. With the exception of some bikes, there is no traffic on the island. Two 16th century castles, along with lovely stone houses, add to the charm of the island.

Welcome dinner -you will have the chance to meet the other participants and have an informal briefing from your guide over dinner.

Lopud: dinner and overnight

Day 2: Kayaking around Lopud

After breakfast, which is served on the terrace of the local restaurant, you will meet at the beach and start your briefing in a shallow protected bay: your guide will explain safety procedures and give tips on paddling techniques.

After the briefing, you will paddle along the outer scenic side of Lopud to the sandy beach of Sunj - which is on the other side of the island. There you will stop for lunch and then have an afternoon playing on the beach and snorkelling.

Lopud: dinner & overnight

Daily activity:

aprx. 1 hour of instructions 2 hours of paddling 2 hours of snorkeling & swimming

Paddling distance: 7.5km

Day 3: Kayaking Kolocep - Lopud

After breakfast, you will either catch a boat or kayak to the island of Kolocep. Once on the island, you will explore the shore, with stops made for relaxing and exploring the scenic village of Donje Celو, with a lovely sandy beach. Free time for lunch.

The afternoon is reserved for beach games like volleyball and the traditional local game 'picigin' which your guide will be happy to teach you.

Lopud: dinner & overnight

Daily activity:

Aprx. 3 hours of paddling 3 hours of snorkeling and swimming

Paddling distance: 10 km

Day 4: Kayaking: Kolocep - Lopud

Today you paddle along the outer side of Kolocep Island passing green forests touching clear water, breathtaking steep cliffs, stunning blue caves and rock formations. You will be amazed by Kolocep's stunning coastline; the island has two completely different sides- the quiet inland side with a romantic village and sandy beach; and the wild dramatic coast facing the open sea.

Lopud: overnight

Daily activity:

Aprx. 3 hours of paddling 3 hours of snorkeling and swimming

Paddling distance: 15 km

Day 5: Kayaking Lopud - Sipan

After breakfast, you will spend the morning paddling to Sudjuradj - on the island of Sipan. Sometimes called the Golden Island, Šipan is the largest and most populated of the Elaphite Islands. Much of the island is overgrown with Mediterranean maquis, but it is also rich in vineyards and olive groves. The charming fishermen village of Sudjuradj is will delight you with its old traditional limestone houses and Renaissance castles.

Lopud: overnight

Daily activity:

Aprx. 2 hours of paddling 3 hours of snorkeling, swimming and walking

Day 6: Fun Activities & Dubrovnik

This day is reserved for fun activities. You will be taken for a fun banana and tube ride. It is a great adventure that both adults and children will enjoy!

The afternoon is reserved for a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Dubrovnik. Free time for sightseeing and shopping.

Lopud: overnight

Daily activity: 3 hours of swimming, snorkeling fun banana & tube ride

Day 7: Lopud - Free Time

Day at leisure You might decide to walk up to the ruins of the fortress on the island of Lopud, or perhaps go out for some self-guided kayaking, or just spend the day relaxing and playing on the beach. Your guide will be able to give you some ideas of what you can do.

Day 8: Departure

Transfer from the island of Lopud to Dubrovnik airport

Getting there

You will need to fly to Dubrovnik (DBV). Your holiday will start on a Sunday and you can arrive at any time during the day. The airport is serviced by several airlines in the UK.

- From the South East - you can reach Dubrovnik from Stansted (Easyjet), Luton (Wizzair) or Gatwick (Easyjet, British Airways, Thomson, Monarch)
- From the Midlands - you can fly from Birmingham (Monarch, FlyBe and Thomson) and from EMA (BmiBaby)
- From the North - you can fly from Manchester (Thomson and Jet2), Leeds Bradford (Jet2) and Newcastle (Jet2)
- From Scotland - you can fly from Edinburgh with Jet2.

Joining Instructions

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- From Scotland - you can fly from Edinburgh with Jet2.

Joining Instructions

You will be met at the airport and transferred to Dubrovnik, your bags will be looked after allowing you to spend the day exploring the City before meeting up again to catch the evening ferry over to the Islands. Depending on your arrival time it is possible to put you on an earlier ferry on request.

For planning flight times:

OUTBOUND FLIGHT TIMES ON SUNDAYS:

From 1 - 29 June and 3-30 September, the only ferries from Dubrovnik run at 09:30, 19:00 and 20:30. Please make sure your flight arrives in good time to catch one of these ferries. The group usually heads over on the 19:00 ferry, but if you are late you can catch the 20:30 ferry.

From 30 June to 2 September, there are ferries from Dubrovnik that run at 09:00, 11.45, 18:15, 19:00 and 20:15. If you are arriving on an early flight it is possible to request an earlier ferry over to the island

RETURN FLIGHT TIMES ON SUNDAYS:

From 1 - 29 June and 3-30 September, ferries return to Dubrovnik at 07:35 (arrives Dubrovnik at 08:50), 17:30 (arrives Dubrovnik at 18:45) & 19:00 (arrives Dubrovnik at 20:15), so it is usually fine to book flights from 11.30am onwards.

From 30 June - 2 September, ferries return to Dubrovnik at 07:35 (arrives Dubrovnik at 08:50), 10:15 (arrives Dubrovnik at 11:30), 17:00 (arrives Dubrovnik at 18:05), 19:00 (arrives Dubrovnik at 20:15), 19:30 (arrives Dubrovnik at 20:45), so it is usually fine to book flights from 11.30am onwards.

Price includes

- 7 nights guesthouse on the island of Lopud
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners in local restaurant
- Sea kayaking guide service
- All of the activities on the tour
- All transfers by local boat
- Transfers to and from Dubrovnik airport by van
- All applicable taxes

When is best

The Dubrovnik region and Elaphite islands enjoy a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, sunny summers and mild winters. Rainfall is low but cannot be ruled out any time of the year

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

Foot wear

Cotton socks: 1-2 pairs Medium thickness

Wet shoes: 1 pair - These can be a pair of thick soled dive boots, an old pair of trainers or reef-type sandals.

These are to protect your feet against sharp rocks and sea urchins when you are getting in and out of the kayaks. Hiking shoes: 1 pair - These don't need to be heavy duty, but some of the pathways are rocky and will be

more comfortable to walk on with supported shoes

Sandals / Flip flops: for leisure

Clothing

We recommend layered clothing

Trousers: 2 pairs

Shorts: 1 – 2 pairs. We recommend comfortable lightweight shorts that dry quickly. Swimming shorts are best

Long-sleeved top - to protect against wind and sun

Lightweight jacket: we recommend a windproof and waterproof jacket

T-shirt: 2-3

Long Sleeved shirt: 1 light weight long sleeved travel/sun shirt

Bathing suit: 1-2

Head & hands

Sun hat - a baseball cap or a wide brim sun hat

Paddling gloves: 1 pair - optional (recommended if you have soft hands and are prone to blisters)

Miscellaneous required items

Sunscreen and lip balm: SPF at least 20

Insect repellent

Sunglasses: 1 pair. Glasses should transmit no more than 10% visible light and should be at least 95% UV protected.

Towel: 1 - We recommend a small size pack towel for beach

Snorkeling gear - If you are an avid skin diver or want to spend a lot of time in the water we recommend that you bring your own mask, snorkel, fins, neoprene booties and gloves.

Casual Travel Wear - No fancy clothing is needed for dinners. Your travel pants, skirt, a T-shirt or a blouse will do fine. Some travelers have commented that a torch is useful as the islands are very dark at night.

Dry bags are provided for storing valuables in whilst out paddling. Dicapac camera cases are great if you want to use your camera when you are paddling.

Spending Money

You will need to pay for most of your lunches and some of your dinners, as well as incidentals along the way.

Approximate costs for guidance only:

Coffee/tea ... £1.10

Soft drink ... £1.70

Medium beer ... £1.70 - £2.70

Sandwich ... £2

Medium ice cream ... £1.10

Loaf of bread in grocery store ... £0.80

Snack lunch in local tavern (fried /grilled calamari, pasta, risotto) ...£6.50

Portion of fresh fish in local tavern ... £8 - £12 (depending on the sort of fish)

3-course dinner ...£20

*the above costs refer to reasonable mid-range restaurant and may vary according to location and type of the restaurant Please note that the local currency is the Croatian Kuna