



It's three o'clock P.M. as we cast off our lines from the dock in Trogir, Croatia aboard the ship Princeza Diana to explore the Dalmatia Islands by boat and E-Bike. The brisk wind blows against 32 of us Space City Ski and Adventurers as we motor out of the windward side of the harbor watching ships and sailboats pass us. We're spending one week living life in luxury with 16 state of the art cabins, a Chef, a Captain, bike guides and a crew navigating and managing the 180 foot motor yacht through the Adriatic Sea. Three hours goes by and we anchor in Island Zlarin. I learn later that everyone here works for the Mafia. Eight of us sit at one of the four tables in the plush Galley to eat fresh food purchased at the local market hours earlier. We will come to know the daily question of "Do you want meat, fish or vegetarian at your next meal?" Our wine steward pours wine as we eagerly talk about our epic adventures in arriving to the ship. Slowly, our past dissolves, as we sip an aperitif and introduce ourselves to the group. I learned that every one of us is well



traveled: insatiable! Our guides, Dini and Eugene, tell us how our week will go. As we saunter back to our bed rooms, weary from our trip, we drift off to a deep sleep.

Climbing the stairs up to the Galley at 7:30 A.M. on June 24, I smell the coffee. Trays of cold cuts, eggs, fruit, pastries, lure me over to the buffet table. During breakfast, Eugene tells us about our day of cycling from Vodice to Slanica. On the ride, I listen to Allen say, "if it weren't for the E-Bike, I wouldn't be here." Barry says, "Did you notice how I passed everyone without using my E-Bike?" Juliet says, "I'm sold!"

What's an E - Bike? It's a four-speed electronic drive-train powered by a battery pushing my bicycle along as I pedal it at over 15 miles per hour up to 42 miles. As a result of this, our group is homogenous and we feel like we are Tour De France cyclists. The biggest surprise today is when Joan Waddill shows up in Betina, Murter Island. She had the most travel hiccups than any of us in getting to Croatia when she says, "I waited for an hour-and-a-half in a sea of humanity in security in Spain. I missed my flight." Rita and Leyla are close rivals to her, they lost their baggage for a few days before the trip and had to go to the airport the day we left on the Princeza to pick up their bags. Most of





us could share some unpleasant moment on the journey of what it took to get to Central Europe in the height of tourist season. John Zavala saves the moment before we depart for the last few kilometers to E-Bike to our ship to ask us, "Did you taste the Gelato?"

The flat easy bike ride is now over and we're all sitting down to a Mediterranean lunch as we strike anchor and motor over to a national park Dugi Otok. On the hike to the rim, I look out to the south over the Adriatic. I walk to the north down to a lake to listen and watch Barry Casper, the geologist. He's down on his knees, scratching the rock with his index finger pointing out the fossils and teaching us, saying something along the lines of "Since the island is limestone, it has underground tunnels that come out underwater on the coast....so sea water is pushed up these orifices and thus we have a lake that rises and falls with the sea action."

Aboard the ship, after dinner all of us tell an ice-breaker story about our favorite T - Shirt.

At seven - thirty A.M. Monday, June 25, Jim Hodges hears, "Charlie, Charlie!" He walks to the door, says something and Beverly screams, "Go get Charlie, tell him I'm locked in the bed room... Go get CHARLIE!" Later at breakfast, I ask Charlie about this and he says, "I locked the door when I left and I knew when I went back to let her out... I was in trouble again."



Good morning Croatia! We're off on a 25 mile E-Bike ride on Dugi Otok island along the ridge line seeing the Dalmatian Islands live up to its name. Island dots are everywhere on the horizon with channels flowing between them. I see the Princeza steaming toward Bozava. In the afternoon after another colorful Mediterranean lunch, Matthew says, "I recorded music for this trip for everyone." We liked it so much all of us danced on the stern deck as we leave port. I'll remember the colorful homes and butterflies.

On Tuesday the 26th, during the busy 17 mile ride on the Island of Pasman, Allen Simpson says, "It's fun, I like it," Grant says, "It's a little breezy". In the afternoon, we motor into the old Roman town of Zadar to dine on seafood and pasta then wander over to the sundial, shop along the quay and spend the evening listening the locals in their red checkered jerseys whoop and holler while Croatia plays Spain in the World Cup. It was a beautiful, scenic sunset.

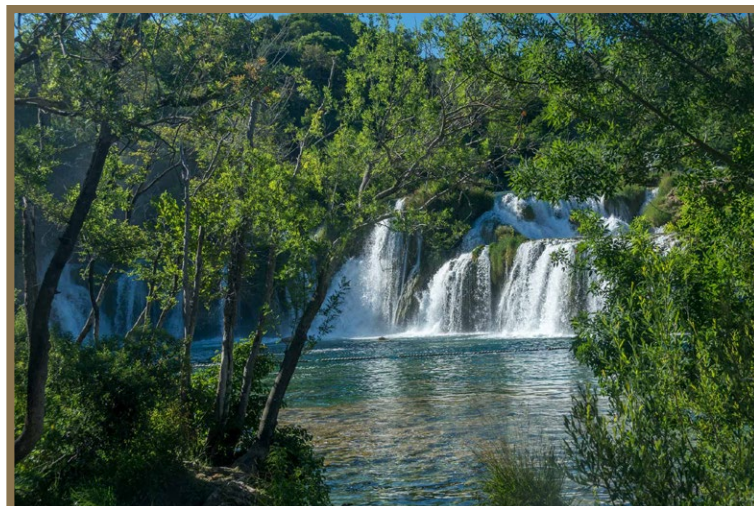




We went to see Krka National Park with its beautiful waterfalls on Thursday the 28th. It's a lush flourishing hideaway among the dry Croatian countryside. In the afternoon, we motor over to Sibenik, Croatia and hike up to the St. Michaels Fortress and have a lemon beer and gelato. Later that night, Rita, myself, Leyla, Grant and as many as we could fit, go into the Hot Tub for a soak.



Wednesday, June 27th, the trip is half over by now and we're on another long E-Bike ride from Vodice to Skradin speeding in Turbo mode over curvy hilly roads passing vineyards and old Croatian towns. We had a lovely dinner in the town and enjoyed milling about.



Friday, June 29 is our last day of E-Biking. We cycle up to the summit which overlooks Trogir. The most exciting part of the ride is leading Rita, Marina and others on a long steep hairpin E-Bike ride down to town. Marina says to me, "I'm glad you were leading." At the Farewell dinner, each of us talks about what was the most special moment of the week. I remember comments like, "It



was getting lost,” “playing the piano”

The week Island Hopping in Croatia is like being on a merry go round seeing something different every moment. The E-Bikes help us stay fresh after every ride so we can keep adventuring for the young and old alike. One of the Best Trips...

