



The Olive Odysseys
Croatia & the Dalmatian Coast
By Land & By Sea
with Prague & Budapest
September 3-15 2018

Day Eleven September 13
Island of Korcula

This morning we are off to the island of Mljet by private launch, for a look around.*

Mljet is a national park and the home to the largest pine forest in the Adriatic. We will also be stopping the boat to jump in for a swim and later lunch together on board.

In the afternoon, join us back in town as we head to some of the lovely small villages of Korcula. We will have a local guide that will take us around so that we can see the highlights that this island has to offer. There might be some wine drinking on our travels.

All in all a great day for exploring.

Breakfast/ Mljet National Park for boat tour/ An afternoon of exploring Korcula with a local/ Overnight Korcula
**Weather permitting. If high seas or high winds kick up, the coast guard may close the port, forbidding any ships to move.*

Mljet, with 75% of its territory completely covered by dense vegetation and forest, is a Biosphere Reserve since 1960. It is about 37 kilometers long and only 3 kilometers wide, and there are some vineyards and cultivated fields around its National Park.

The legend says that Mljet served as inspiration for Greek poet Homer (8th century BC) when he was creating the island of *Ogigia* in his masterpiece 'The Odyssey', an island where Ulysses was held for seven years by the nymph goddess Calypso. Be that as it may, Mljet has long been a shelter for sailors and settlers, and its name comes from the word that the Greeks used back then, 'Melita' (from 'honey') due to the amount of honeybees in the island.

The National Park of Mljet consists of two large saltwater lakes, the *Malo Jezero* (small lake) and the *Veliko Jezero* (big lake). The pristine turquoise blue color of its waters attracts a lot of attention and invites to dive in any of the small "beaches" or zones qualified for swimming that there are around both lakes. These lakes are surrounded by an asphalted track and in very good conditions, perfect for biking or strolling (motor vehicles are not allowed inside the premises). There are also numerous dirt trails perfectly indicated for those who prefer a more direct contact with the essence of the park and its raw nature.

The *Veliko Jezero* (big lake) is connected to the sea by the channel *Soline* and also hosts a small islet where there is a Romanesque Benedictine convent original from the 12th century and the church of *Crkva Svete Marije* (St. Mary - Our Lady of the lake), which currently houses a restaurant. The monastery was abandoned in 1869, but the mill served as offices to park rangers until 1941. In the 1990s it was ravaged by war.

Pomena and Polace, both by the waterside, are the main towns, albeit small, near the National Park and have many amenities for visitors as well as ferry docks.

September 12 & 13 **Island of Korcula, Croatia** Hotel Fabris ☒Lastavica d.o.o. Pelavin mir 1, 20260 Korčula, Croatia GSM: +385 98 997 6353 Tel: +385 20 716 755

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