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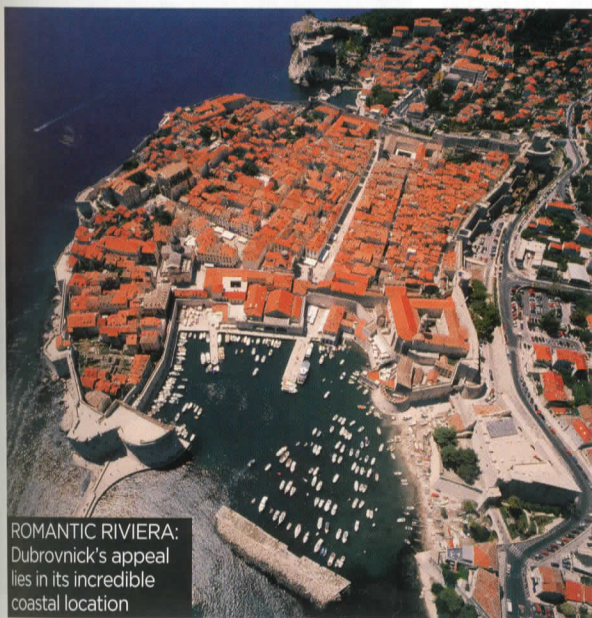
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CROATIAN CHARM



ROMANTIC RIVIERA:
Dubrovnik's appeal
lies in its incredible
coastal location

European honeymoons don't get more spectacular than visiting the serene seaside city of Dubrovnik, says Anisha Vasani

Ensconced on the Adriatic coast beside crystal clear waters, Dubrovnik in Croatia, is an idyllic picture-postcard town with beautiful beaches, charming medieval streets, and impressive architecture. Blessed with year-round warm and sunny Mediterranean air, it's a honeymooner's paradise for couples who like their culture as much as their luxuries. From wandering arm in arm through the romantic Old Town where you can sample fine wines and attend classical open air concerts to exploring the remote islands that lie off the coast of this seaside destination, it offers a scenic and special place in which to celebrate your union. Known as 'The Pearl Of The Adriatic', Dubrovnik is a true hidden gem. Less crowded than the usual honeymoon destinations but just as worthy a choice; you can enjoy urban comforts, relaxation and outstanding areas of natural beauty all in one magical place...

ISLAND HOPPING:
Visit the Elafiti
Islands of Kolcep,
Lopud and Sipan



WONDER WALL:
Feel inspired by the
legends that surround
the walls of Ston



TOUR TIME:
Explore the Iconic
Old Town city walls



Island Hopping:

Dubrovnik is in easy reach of several neighbouring islands, which are perfect for exploring together. For a fun trip, hop on board an island cruise aboard the traditional Galleon Tirena, arranged by Elite Travel. The pirate inspired wooden ship adds to the historical theme of the sea tour which includes on board activities and a live soundtrack performed by local Croatian musicians, while tucking into delicious Croatian grilled fish and local wine. The Galleon sails you to The Elafiti Islands, three of the most beautiful archipelago islands. Make a stop off at Kolocep, where you can savour the architecture and history of intimate old churches. Or if you prefer some traditional beach relaxation, top up your tan on the sandy beaches that line the lush islands of Lopud and Sipan, where you can explore fertile hillside fields covered in olive groves and vineyards as well as take in the lovely sea shore landscapes.

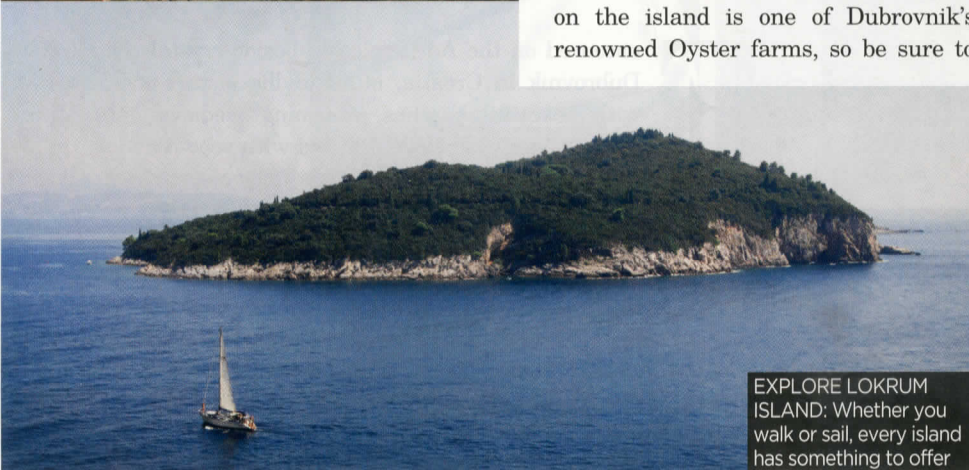
The island of Ston is a particular highlight offering breathtaking coastal views as well as being home to the second longest wall in the world. Also located on the island is one of Dubrovnik's renowned Oyster farms, so be sure to



sample nature's finest gastronomic aphrodisiac at Vila Koruna Restaurant.

One of the largest islands near Dubrovnik is Mljet. This spectacular island is home to luscious rich forests and surrounding lakes that feature small wood roads and discrete pathways, perfect for enjoying a romantic walk, hike or take a bike ride together. The woods gently descend into the crystal clear waters and white sand, allowing you and your partner to relax and unwind in your own, secluded and tranquil space. If you're feeling peckish dine at Bourbon in Polace, a restaurant, which floats on the tranquil waters or enjoy a small boat ride to a St Mary's island where you'll stumble on a picturesque 12th century church, which still holds wedding ceremonies. Don't forget to purchase fresh olive oil and traditional Grappa Liquor to take back home as souvenirs.

Finally be sure to make a trip to Lokrum Island. Home to beautiful ruins and botanical gardens its rich in history and romance. Take a stroll through this ancient island where peacocks roam freely adding to its magical charm. A small lake known as the Dead Sea located on the island offers a calm, crystal clear beautiful setting to bathe and rest. If you become tired of walking, you can also book your own romantic private yacht tour around the island to soak up the breathtaking views on offer.



EXPLORE LOKRUM ISLAND: Whether you walk or sail, every island has something to offer



SAIL THE SEAS:
The Galleon tours include local cuisine and traditional music

Image: Elite Travel Agency

Dubrovnik-Old Town

One of the most popular places to visit in Dubrovnik is the picturesque Old Town. Take full advantage of a guided tour of the city where you'll encounter grand 7th century walls, amazing architecture and historic landmarks set against cobbled alleyways. Have your picture taken in front of Onofrio's Fountain and if you're lucky you may even stumble on a traditional wedding taking place inside St Saviour's church. There are also numerous museums to stop off in where you can witness some of the ancient treasures of the region. At the Old Port you'll find the fortresses, one of Dubrovnik's major sights. For a truly unforgettable dining experience, stop off at Kopun Restaurant in the



main Square for an outdoor alfresco experience. In the evening head up to the coastal mountains where you can witness a stunning sunset aboard cable cars and can take in breath-taking aerial views over Dubrovnik and of course the surrounding island. At the peak you'll find The Panorama Restaurant where you can catch your breath over a glass of Champagne overlooking the Old town and coastline - momentous experience.

Wine tasting experiences are offered on the near by island of Cavtat where you can also enjoy a relaxing dinner in a traditional hut in the middle of the river.

Dubrovnik is a truly unforgettable destination and one that will appeal to all kinds of couples. There is something of interest for everyone, whether you prefer activities, appreciate history or simply want to go somewhere that's more than just a beach destination. Whether you decide to stay on the mainline or embark on an island-hopping adventure, the accommodation and honeymoon packages will ensure your stay is one of the most memorable holidays of your life.

• **Find out more about Croatia and Dubrovnik at www.croatia.hr**



Radisson Blu Hotel Resort & Spa, Dubrovnik Sun Gardens

Combining beautiful contemporary design and outstanding comfort, The Radisson Blue is more than a resort; it's a little slice of heaven. The hotel offers a luxurious 'Hassle Free Honeymoon' package that includes accommodation for five nights in a beautiful junior suite. Couples are welcomed with chilled champagne, scrumptious chocolates and a fresh fruit platter that you can enjoy on your balcony, where a private breakfast can also be served. Radisson Blu offers an array of restaurants serving different types of cuisine and local specialities. Once you've had your fill, book in for a pampering treatment at the hotel's award-winning OCCO Spa which offers a VIP couples treatment in the exclusive spa suite. The spa has three outdoor pools, seven steam and sauna rooms and an open roof Jacuzzi which is the perfect spot in which to unwind. Afterwards indulge in a four-course romantic candle lit dinner with a bottle of wine prepared by a wine sommelier, on your balcony. The chef will prepare a personalised menu while a butler will be there to host the experience. The resort also has ample shopping opportunities from boutiques to local patisseries and there are a host of fitness facilities. Courtesy of the hotel you can also embark on a two-hour chauffeur-driven panoramic sightseeing drive to ensure you see the best of what Dubrovnik has to offer.

• www.radissonblu.com/dubrovnik



Rixos Libertas Hotel

With suites that face the sea offering spectacular views of the Picturesque Lokrum Island, The Rixos is a luxurious hotel that was built with honeymooners in mind. The Rixos' honeymoon package includes all the luxuries you'd expect; welcoming champagne, fruits and sweet treats served inside your own spa suite room with a private Jacuzzi and balcony with sun beds. As Rixos is a Turkish brand they know how to pamper their guests with authentic treatments that take place inside the Royal Spa. Enjoy a Hammam or dip in the Turkish baths and outdoor coral swimming pool. For a memorable experience Honeymooners are treated to a sunset candlelit dinner prepared by your very own private chef overlooking the sea under an elegant metal gazebo where you can watch the sun set on the horizon. The hotel also offers couples flavoured shisha pipes for you to enjoy on your balcony creating an intimate space for the couples to relax. • www.rixos.com/en/rixos-libertas-dubrovnik-hotel