

## The Top 5 Beach Holidays in Croatia

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Our experts' pick of the top five beach and seaside holidays in Croatia for 2016, including the best spots for families, watersports and relaxation, in destinations such as Dubrovnik, Brac and Hvar.



For more general advice on booking a holiday in Croatia, see our Croatia summer holidays guide. Our guide features expert recommendations for beach, villa, culture, food and drink and activity holidays.

### 1. **Paradise Beach Retreat, Brac**

The Dalmatian island of Brac is best known for its stunning south coast beach, Zlatni Rat in Bol, backed by the rugged heights of Vidova Gora mountain. Just a 10-minute drive from Bol, close to the village of Murvica, Paradise Beach Retreat is a romantic stone cottage, set amid vineyards, on a hillside above its own secluded pebble beach. Tastefully furnished, it has a living room with fireplace and sleeps five. Out front, there's a lovely covered stone terrace with a barbecue, dining table and stone sink. Nearby activities include snorkelling, scuba diving, windsurfing, hiking, cycling and wine tasting. There's also a good restaurant in Murvica, if you don't feel like cooking.



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## **2. Palmizana, near Hvar**

Hvar is Dalmatia's most glamorous island destination, but sometimes it's good to escape the crowds. A 20-minute boat-ride from Hvar Town, on the car-free islet of Sveti Klement, Palmizana is a complex of seven small villas and six bungalows, set in densely overgrown, centuries-old botanical gardens. The owner is an art collector, so all the villas and bungalows are decorated with colourful and slightly eccentric contemporary paintings and sculpture. Best of all, Palmizana overlooks a sheltered cove with a pebble beach and two excellent open-air restaurants, popular with yachters who put down anchor in the bay at night. Bungalows (sleeping 2-3) from £550 weekly; villas (sleeping 4) from £1,100 weekly (00 385 21 717 270; palmizana.hr).

## **3. Mulini Beach, Rovinj**

Croatia's first Design Hotel, the minimalist-chic five-star Hotel Lone, opened in 2011. Situated on the coast, a 10-minute walk from Rovinj's old town, with 248 stylish rooms and suites, three restaurants and a vast wellness centre, it seemed to have everything – except a beach. That was fixed in June 2014, when the Mulini Beach in Lone Bay opened. The work of Zagreb-based architects 3LHD (3lhd.com), who also designed the hotel, it is approached along an elegant waterside promenade, running from the ACI yachting marina to the bay. The bathing area, backed by lush Mediterranean planting, combines a pebble beach with a pavilion housing a beach bar, a space for open-air concerts, and decks for sun beds and parasols.

## **4. Radisson Blu, near Dubrovnik**

Combine Dubrovnik's history and culture with a beach holiday by staying at the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Dubrovnik Sun Gardens, a fully integrated five-star resort set amid landscaped grounds, just a few miles up the coast from the medieval city. Besides its 408 rooms, suites and residences, luxurious spa and choice of restaurants and bars, the resort has a natural pebble beach bordering the turquoise waters of the Adriatic. Here you'll find a range of water sports facilities, including sea kayaking, scuba diving, waterskiing, jet skis and banana boat rides, as well as sunbeds and umbrellas, making it ideal for families with active kids.

## 5. Camping in Peljesac

For a total back-to-nature experience, try camping. Croatia has more than 300 registered campsites (camping.hr), most of which lie along the Adriatic coast. One of the nicest has to be Prapatno, located in a deep, sheltered bay with calm, clear sea, overlooked by a fine pebble beach and backed by olive groves and rocky slopes. Facilities include bathrooms with hot showers, a communal kitchen, a restaurant, shop, and tennis, volleyball and basketball courts. Nearby Ston is known for its medieval fortification system, linking it with the village of Mali Ston, and its restaurants specialising in fresh oysters. A daily bus service covers the 30-mile route from Dubrovnik to Ston.



Tent pitch from £2.57 per night, and £2.85 per person (00 385 20 754 000;duprimorje.hr).

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/hotels/11238372/The-top-5-beach-holidays-in-Croatia.html>