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PLACES OF INTEREST

The Roman Palace was erected by the Emperor Diocletian the 4th century. What began as an imperial residence and fortified camp is today an intriguing maze of narrow cobblestone streets, where pre-Romanesque churches live alongside Gothic chapels, history-filled museums, art

galleries, restaurants and bustling cafes. The substructures of the Palace are very well preserved and offer an interesting glimpse into how the Palace was organized in ancient times. The palace was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

Peristyle Square is the main open square within Diocletian's Palace and a central meeting place for citizens. The impressive space is surrounded by a colonnade of six columns to the eastern and western sides and an arch decorated with garlands in the center.

Cathedral of St. Dujce is built inside the remains of the mausoleum of the Roman emperor Diocletian and is supposed to be one of the oldest in the world. The cathedral with its famous bell tower is located on the eastern side of the Peristyle Square. The cathedral is the symbol of the city.

Temple of Jupiter and the mausoleum of Diocletian were located in courts of the imperial section of the palace. The Temple was transformed into a baptistry and a campanile was added later in the Romanesque period. The mausoleum was converted to a cathedral in 653 by the first bishop of Split and is famous for the frescoes, pulpit, and Romanesque carvings.

Beyond Split

Hvar is the longest of all the Croatian islands and is home to three towns. The largest of these, also named Hvar, served as an important harbor for Venice's Adriatic fleet from the late 12th century through most of the 18th century. Hvar sports a thick-walled fortress overlooking the harbor and, in the very heart of the port, a large Arsenal. The Arsenal, an imposing building built in 1611 was the site of Europe's oldest community theatre which was established in 1612. Long before it was the fashion, this theatre allowed the masses to buy seats in the pit, while the landed gentry sat in slightly raised boxes at the back. The same democratic spirit pervades the rest of the town, whose streets and people converge onto an expansive Piazza, the largest in all of Dalmatia.

Trogir is situated on a small island squeezed in between the mainland and the larger island of Ciovo. Except for the green parks, the entire island is occupied by stone-houses, palaces, churches, monasteries, towers, and old city walls. The streets are narrow and they truly give a feel of how life might have been in the old days. Dominating the town skyline is the 13th century Cathedral of St. Lawrence. The cathedral is of unusual construction with three naves and three semi circular apses.

Solin is the site of the ancient Roman settlement of Salona. At the time of its greatest prosperity during the 3rd and 4th century, Salona had approximately 40,000 inhabitants. Archaeologists have excavated remains of temples, amphitheatres, early Christian churches, burial grounds and baths. Solin is the most important excavation sight from the Roman times in Croatia.

Sibenik was founded by Croats more than a thousand years ago with first records dating from 1066. Sibenik has an important place in Croatian heritage with its well preserved historical town center and numerous architectural monuments. Sibenik is surrounded by its ancient fortress walls and is home to the gothic-Renaissance Cathedral of St. Jacob. The massive cathedral is one of the finest Renaissance sacral monuments in Dalmatia.

Krka National Park is one of 7 National Parks in Croatia. Running through the park is The Krka River, which is a distinctive phenomenon due to its formation of travertine barriers. The unusual formations help to create the famous Krka River Waterfalls. The Skradinski Buk is one of the highest falls in Europe. Above the falls is a large plateau that offers spectacular views. The whole area is rich with endemic species-vegetation as well as birds and fish. Due to very strong laws on natural preservation this extraordinary area has been preserved in its original form.

Bol is located on the island of Brac which is located between the island of Hvar and the city of Split. Bol, the town and harbor on the south side of the island is one of the oldest towns on Brac and of the most well known places on the Adriatic. The little town is characterized by scenic beauty, historical monuments, and numerous pebble beaches. One of which, Zlatni Rat is very famous and among the most beautiful beaches on the Adriatic coast.

- Admission charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Split and its surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Most shops have set prices. Bargaining is not a custom in Croatia.

Tippling: It is customary to tip waiters, drivers, guides and other service personnel. 10 to 15% is a good guideline.

Local Cuisine: The Adriatic Coast excels in fresh seafood dishes ranging from scampi, shellfish, and Dalmatian brodet (fish stewed with rice), all cooked in olive oil and served with boiled vegetables. Italian pizza and pasta are also good options on the Dalmatian Coast.

Drink Specialties: It is customary to have a small glass of brandy before a meal and to accompany the food with one of Croatia's fine wines. Ask for a local regional wine. Croatia is also known for its wine as well as plum brandies, herbal brandies, cognacs, and liqueurs such as maraschino, a cherry liqueur made in Zadar. Italian style espresso coffee is also a local favorite.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shopping opportunities can be found throughout the city but most are concentrated in the Old Town district. There you can find many small boutique shops featuring everything from clothing to antiques. This is also where you will find many restaurants. Shopping hours are generally from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday thru Saturday. There may be some tourist-oriented shops that stay open later. Most small shops are closed on Sunday.

Items of interest include; Neckties, clothing, fine lace from the Dalmatian islands, handmade embroidery, woodcarvings, ceramics, woolen and leather items, filigree jewelry, art, handicrafts and souvenirs.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid. However, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.