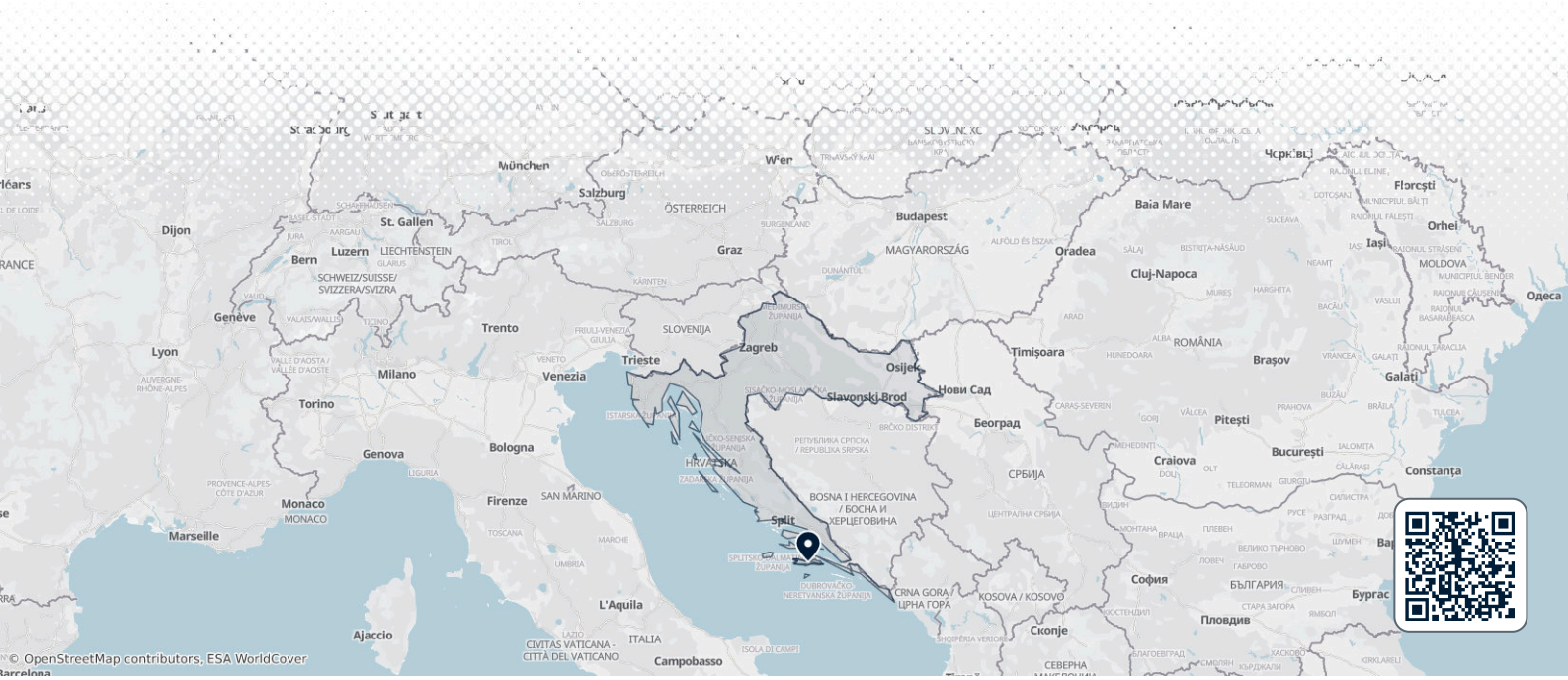


Korcula

Dubrovnik-Neretva County · Croatia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Korčula is a long, green island in the Adriatic, about 47 km from end to end. Pine forests and olive groves cover the hills. Small harbours and pebble coves line the coast.

The island suits a slow trip of several nights. Spend time in the walled old town of Korčula, taste local wines in the villages and swim in quiet bays. Vela Luka and Lumbarda are good bases for a calmer stay.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times for a balanced trip. The sea is warm enough for swimming from June to October. July and August are the busiest and sunniest months. Winter is mild but wet, and many restaurants and boat lines close.

Plan around the Moreška sword dance, which has regular performances from late April to mid-October.

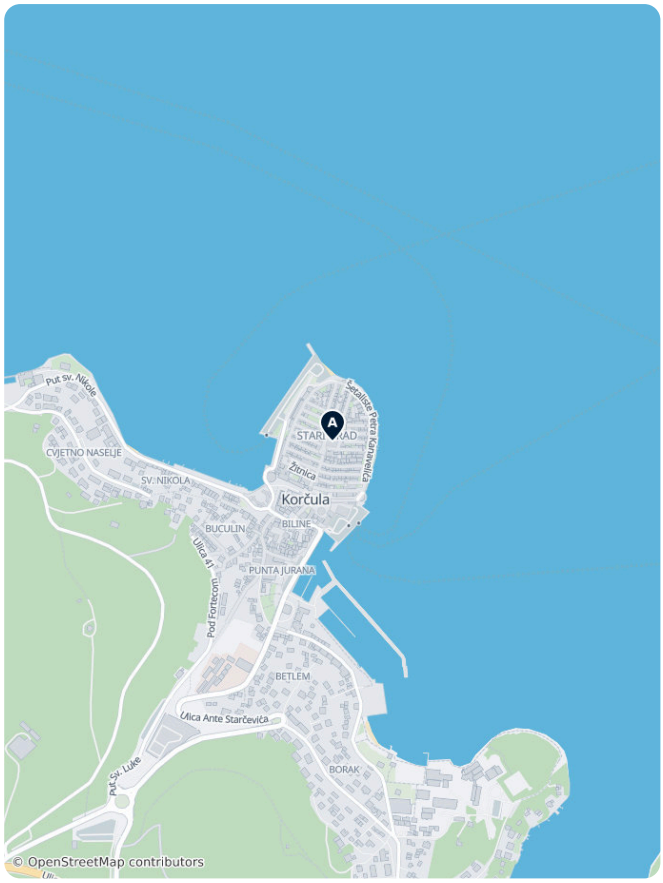
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 14° Feels like 5°	7° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 14° Feels like 5°	7° / 1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	12° / 15° Feels like 7°	9° / 4°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	11° / 7°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 22°	15° / 12°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	19° / 15°	Humid air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 27°	22° / 19°	23 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	22° / 19°	22 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	19° / 15°	
October	Great Great for hiking	18° / 22°	15° / 11°	Dry air
November	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 19° Feels like 10°	12° / 6°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 15° Feels like 6°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Cathedral of St. Mark stands in the highest part of the old town. This Gothic and Renaissance church is the main landmark of Korčula.
- Marco Polo House is linked by tradition to the explorer *Marco Polo*. Many historians doubt that he was born here, but the story is part of the town's identity.
- Korčula Town Gate is the main entrance to the old town. Steps and a defensive tower lead up to the streets inside the walls.
- Korčula Town Museum shows the history of the island in a historic town house. It is a good first stop to understand the town.
- Moreška Exhibition explains the Moreška sword dance, the island's best-known tradition.
- Large Governor's Tower is one of the old defensive towers. It shows how strongly the town was fortified.
- Panorama Korčula is a viewpoint above the old town, with views over the roofs and the channel to the mainland.
- Vela Spila is a large cave above Vela Luka. People lived here for thousands of years, from the Stone Age.
- Medvinjak Beach is a pebble beach within walking distance of Korčula town.



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What to experience

- Watch the Moreška sword dance in Korčula town. Two groups of dancers fight a symbolic battle to music. Performances are weekly in summer at the open-air Ljetno kino. Buy tickets in advance in July and August.
- Look for a village festival in spring or summer. Several villages, such as Blato and Čara, keep their own sword dance called Kumpanija.
- Taste wine at a family cellar in Lumbarda, Čara or Smokvica. Many producers welcome visitors by appointment.
- Take a water taxi to Badija island or a boat trip to the Pelješac coast.
- Walk the quiet roads and trails through olive groves and pine forest between the villages.

Day trips

Korčula is a good base for island hopping. Boat times depend on the season, so check the schedule before you go.

- A Hvar: about 1 hour 10 minutes by fast boat. Hvar has a lively port town and lavender fields.
- B Mljet: a seasonal fast boat to Pomena takes about 35 minutes. Mljet is known for its national park with two saltwater lakes.
- C Lastovo: about 1 hour 15 minutes by boat. Lastovo is a quiet, green island with little tourism.
- D Pelješac: Orebić is about 20 minutes by ferry. Continue by car to wine villages and the town of Ston.
- E Dubrovnik: about 2 hours by fast boat. A full day is short, so consider an overnight stay.



Where to explore

Mljet, Lastovo and Pelješac are covered under day trips. Lastovo Islands Nature Park lies south of Lastovo.

Getting there

- **By air**: The island has no airport. Most visitors fly to Dubrovnik or Split. From either city, continue by boat or by bus and ferry. From Dubrovnik you can take a fast boat or a bus to Orebić and then the ferry.
- **By fast boat**: Catamarans link Korčula town with Dubrovnik (about 2 hours), Split (about 2 hours 20 minutes) and Hvar. Foot passengers only. Most lines run in summer. Some lines run all year.
- **By car ferry from the mainland**: The shortest crossing is from Orebić on the Pelješac peninsula to Dominče, next to Korčula town. It takes about 20 minutes and carries cars.
- **By car ferry from Split**: Car ferries from Split reach Vela Luka, on the west of the island, in about 2.5 hours. This is the best option if you bring a car and stay in the west.

Book car spaces early in summer. Check schedules and tickets on Jadrolinija and the Korčula Tourist Board.

Getting around

- **Buses**: A few buses cross the island between Korčula town, Blato and Vela Luka, and to Lumbarda. Services are sparse, especially on Sundays and in winter. Check times locally.
- **Taxis and boat taxis**: Taxis are useful for beaches and late returns. Small water taxis link Korčula town with the island of Badija and nearby coves in summer.
- **Rental cars and scooters**: The best way to reach villages and beaches outside the main towns.
- **On foot and by bike**: Korčula old town is small and walkable. Rolling hills make cycling around the island tiring, but quiet roads and trails suit confident cyclists.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Korčula old town is compact and walkable. Elsewhere on the island, villages and beaches are far apart and hilly.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills and winding roads make cycling tiring. Quiet roads suit confident riders.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Yes, if you stay outside Korčula town. Beaches, wine villages and Vela Luka are far apart and buses are sparse.
- **Distances**: The main road runs along the island. Vela Luka is about 40 km from Korčula town.
- **Parking**: The old town is closed to cars. Use the car parks outside the walls. Spaces fill quickly in July and August.
- **Roads**: Many side roads are narrow and winding. Drive slowly.

Food & drink

Seafood, olive oil and wine define the local table. Look for grilled fish, octopus and shellfish, and for dishes cooked in a *peka*, a metal dome covered with embers. Order peka in advance. Local specialties include *žrnovski makaruni*, a hand-rolled pasta served with meat sauce.

Island wines are the main reason to visit a cellar. **Grk** is a white wine from the Lumbarda area. **Pošip** is a white wine from Čara and Smokvica. Many konobas, the traditional family taverns, serve their own wine and oil.

For eating, walk the lanes of Korčula old town and the harbour fronts of Lumbarda and Vela Luka. Smaller villages often have a konoba with a short, seasonal menu.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Ćevapi · Ćevapčići
Grilled minced-meat sausages, usually served in flatbread with onions and ajvar.

DINNER

Pašticada
Beef slow-braised for hours in a rich wine, vinegar, and prune sauce, traditionally served with gnocchi; a classic Dalmatian celebration dish.

Black Risotto · Crni rižot
Risotto colored and flavored with cuttlefish ink, a Dalmatian coastal staple.

Istrian Truffles · Tartufi
Both white and black truffles are foraged in inland Istria and served shaved over pasta, eggs, or steak.

Peka
Meat, seafood, or octopus slow-roasted with vegetables under a metal dome covered in embers; usually needs ordering in advance.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Burek
Flaky filo pastry filled with minced meat or cheese, a common breakfast or on-the-go food.

Dalmatian Prosciutto · Dalmatinski pršut
Air-dried, lightly smoked ham cured along the Adriatic coast, often served with local cheese and olives.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Fritule
Small fried dough balls, often studded with raisins and citrus zest, especially popular around Christmas and Carnival.

DRINKS

Rakija
A strong fruit brandy (often grape, plum, or herb-infused) commonly offered as a welcome drink.

Pelješac and Istrian Wine · Vino
Plavac Mali reds from the Pelješac peninsula and Malvazija whites from Istria are Croatia's best-known wine styles.

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Safety & health

Korčula is very safe for visitors. Petty crime is rare. Keep valuables out of sight in crowded summer ports.

- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Sea urchins live on rocky shores. Wear swim shoes in rocky coves.
- Summer sun is strong and shade is limited on many beaches. Bring sun protection and water.
- Health centres and pharmacies are in the main towns. Call 112 in an emergency.
- Strong winds can cancel boats. Allow spare time before flights.

History

People lived on Korčula for thousands of years. Finds in Vela Spila date from the Stone Age. Greek settlers later reached the island.

In the Middle Ages, Korčula town grew into a walled port. Venice ruled the island for centuries. You can see its influence in the Korčula Town Gate and in the old defensive towers such as Large Governor's Tower. The island was known for shipbuilding and for stonework, and the old town was built of local stone.

Local tradition says *Marco Polo* was born here. Scholars doubt it.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Croatia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



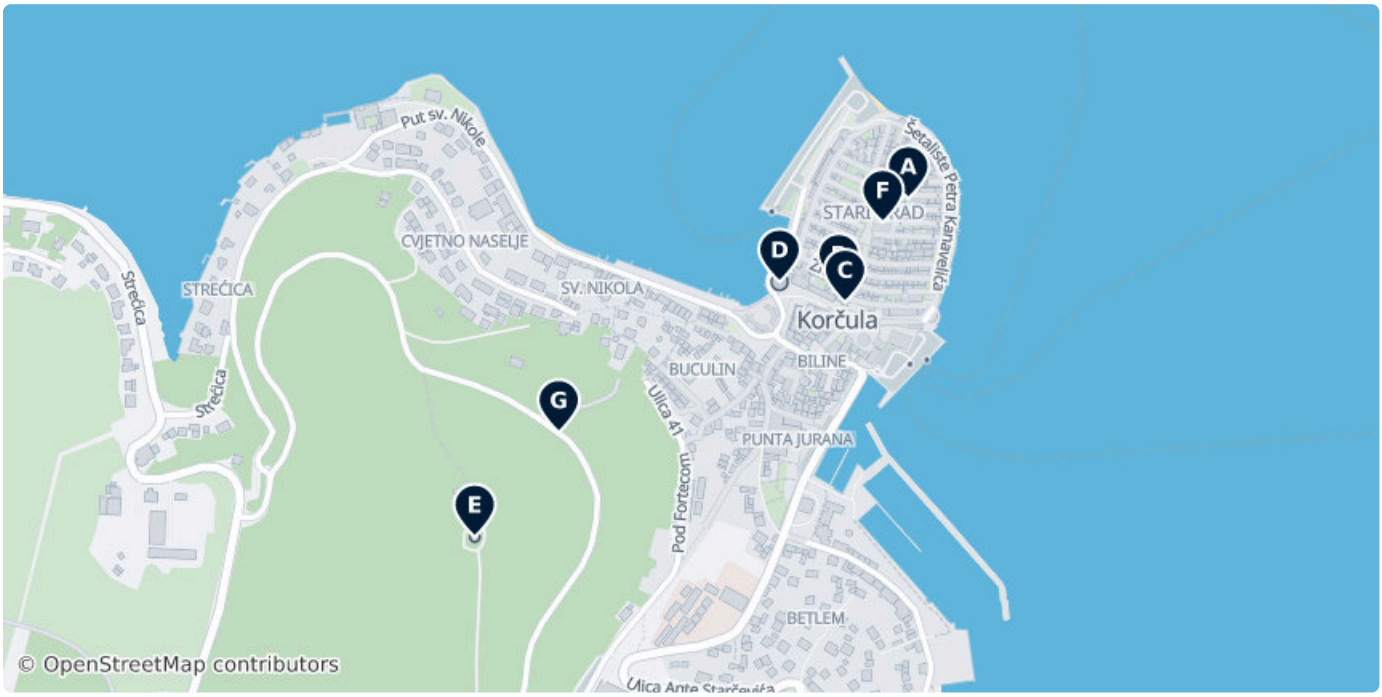
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Croatian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Korčula: Essential Landmarks and Historic Charm

Korčula's historic center is defined by its Venetian-era fortifications and Gothic-Renaissance architecture. This collection highlights the island's defensive heritage, including the 14th-century Veliki Revelin gate and the 19th-century Fort of St. Blaise. Landmarks such as the Cathedral of St. Mark and the purported birthplace of Marco Polo showcase the town's cultural significance. These sites offer a focused look at the military engineering and religious history of one of the Adriatic's most well-preserved medieval walled cities.



A Marco Polo house

Traditional stone residence and tower believed by local tradition to be the 13th-century birthplace of the explorer. The site includes a museum and an observation tower offering views over the Old Town's rooftops.

(42.96187, 17.13649)



B Grad Korčula

A 16th-century Renaissance building located on the main square. It features a loggia with stone columns and served as the administrative heart of the city during Venetian rule.

Knežev prolaz, 20260 Grad Korčula, Croatia
(42.96101, 17.13555)

korcula.hr, +385 20 711 143



C Korcula Town Gate

A 14th-century defensive tower serving as the main southern entrance to the walled city. It features the winged lion of St. Mark and connects to the historic stone stairs leading into the center.

1 Ulica dobrotvornosti, Korčula 20260, Croatia
(42.96086, 17.13564)

D Large Governor's Tower

A massive 15th-century cylindrical fortification built to protect the town's western harbor. It represents a key element of the Venetian defensive system designed to withstand artillery fire.

1 Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana, Korčula 20260, Croatia
(42.96106, 17.13476)

E Tvrđava sv. Vlaha

A stone fortress built on a hill above the town by the British military in 1813. It offers strategic views of the surrounding archipelago and the Pelješac Channel.

36 Ulica Bernarda Bernardi, 20260, Croatia
(42.95855, 17.13067)

F Cathedral of St. Mark

The Cathedral of St. Mark also called Korčula Cathedral, is the Roman Catholic cathedral of Korčula, Croatia.

3 Trg Svetog Marka, Korčula 20260, Croatia
(42.96164, 17.13614)

G Panorama Korčula

An elevated observation point providing a wide-angle view of the medieval Old Town, its surrounding defensive walls, and the neighboring Pelješac Peninsula.

(42.95958, 17.13180)

DATA SOURCES

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Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

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- Korcula Town Gate — "Veliki Revelin" by miss dawn Sandra foulkes, CC BY-SA 4.0

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