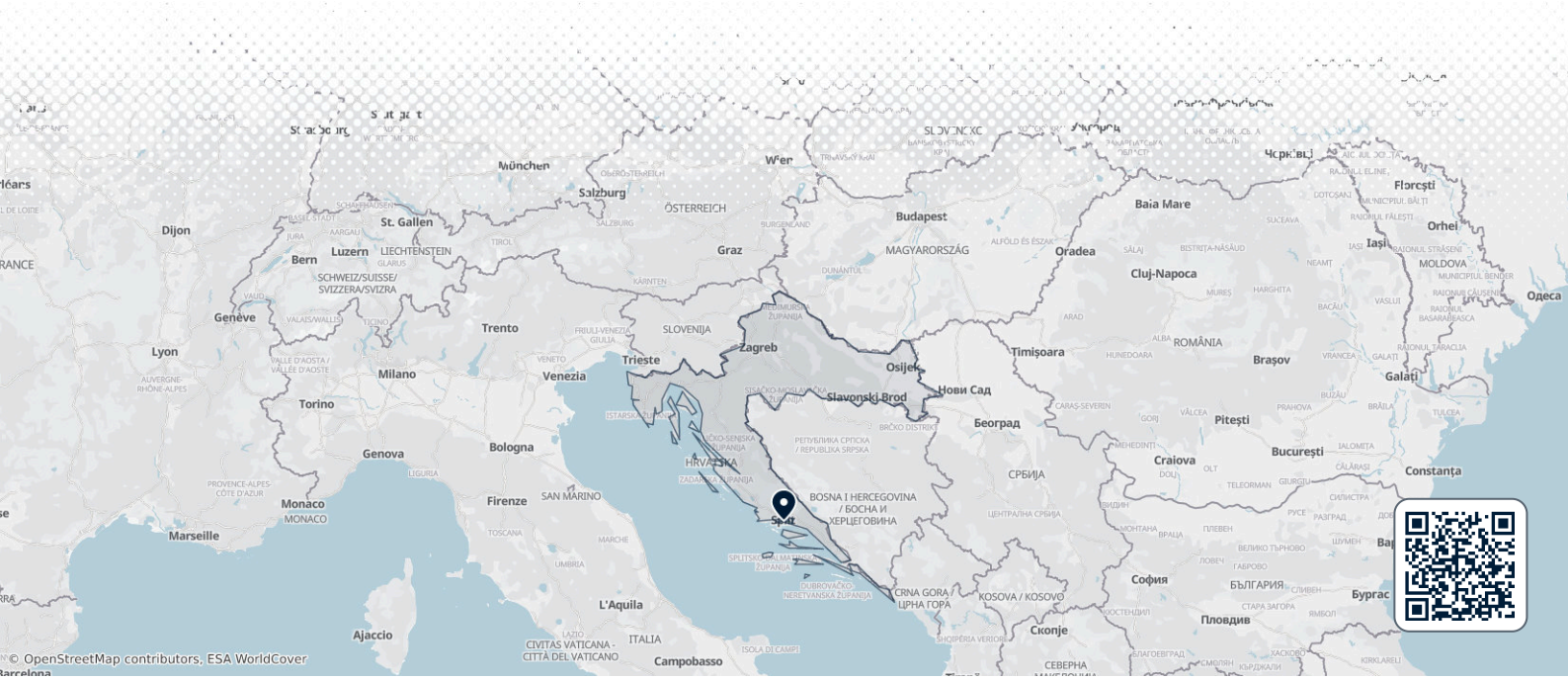


Split

Split-Dalmatia County · Croatia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Split is Croatia's second-largest city, built around and inside the ruins of a Roman emperor's retirement palace. Unlike most historic centers that grew up near ancient ruins, Split's old town **is** the ruins — houses, shops, and cafes fill the walls of Diocletian's Palace, still lived in after more than 1,700 years. The result feels less like a museum and more like a working Mediterranean city that happens to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Split suits travelers who want beach time, boat trips to nearby islands, and a compact, walkable old town, all in one stop. It works well both as a short city break and as the main hub for exploring the Dalmatian coast and islands. The sculptor *Ivan Meštrović*, Croatia's best-known 20th-century artist, lived and worked here, and the city remains proud of the connection.

When to visit

Summers are hot and dry, spring and autumn are mild, and winters are cool and rainy. Late spring (May, June) and early autumn (September) give the most comfortable weather for both sightseeing and swimming, without the peak-July crowds.

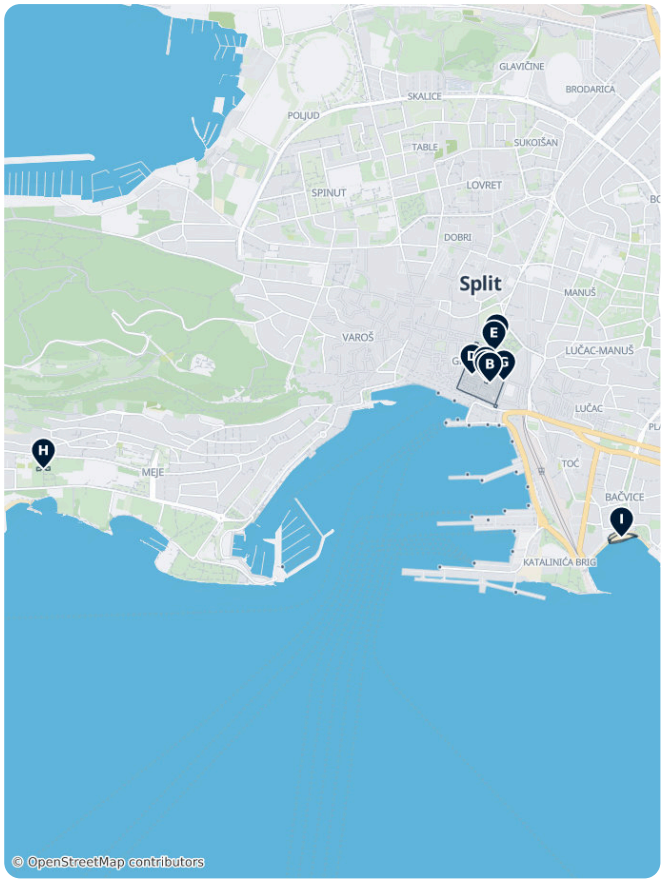
Plan around **Ultra Europe**, a major electronic music festival held over three days in July at the city's Poljud Stadium. It draws tens of thousands of visitors from across Europe, so book accommodation well ahead if attending, or expect higher prices and busier streets that week even if you are not.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 15° Feels like 7°	4° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for hiking	11° / 16° Feels like 8°	4° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for hiking	14° / 19° Feels like 11°	6° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	17° / 22°	10° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	14° / 10°	Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 32°	18° / 14°	Humid air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for watersports	29° / 33°	21° / 17°	23 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for watersports	29° / 34°	21° / 17°	22 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 29°	17° / 12°	Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	13° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 20°	9° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 16° Feels like 8°	6° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

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

Top sights



A Diocletian's Palace is the reason to visit Split. Built as a retirement residence for the Roman emperor Diocletian around 305 AD, it now forms the entire core of the old town, with the cellars, squares, and walls open to wander freely.

B Cathedral of Saint Domnius, built from Diocletian's own mausoleum, is one of the oldest cathedrals in the world still standing in its original structure. Climb the attached C Bell tower of Saint Domnius for a view over the palace roofs and the harbor.

D Jupiter's Temple, a small but well-preserved Roman temple tucked into a side street, shows how tightly the ancient and the everyday overlap here.

E Golden Gate was the palace's ceremonial northern entrance. Just outside it stands F Gregory of Nin, a towering bronze statue by Ivan Meštrović; touching its raised big toe is a popular local superstition for good luck.

G Silver Gate opens onto the old green market and is the easiest route between the palace and the rest of the city center.

H Ivan Mestrovic Gallery displays the sculptor's own home, studio, and collection, set in gardens west of the center.

I Bacvice Beach, a curved sandy beach five minutes' walk from the old town, is where locals actually go to swim.

Marjan Forest Park, the wooded hill west of the center, has walking trails, viewpoints, and small pebble coves for a break from the old-town crowds.

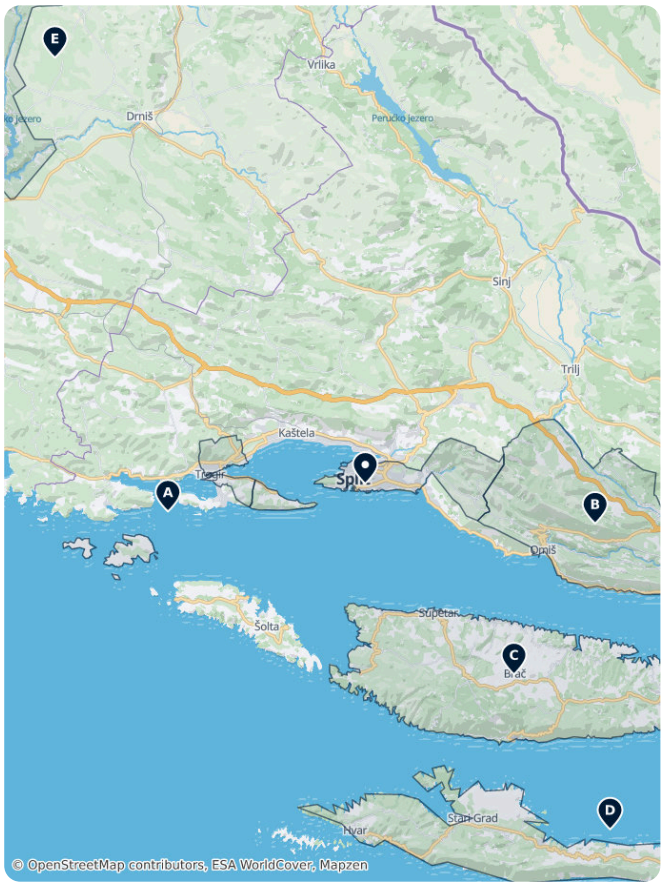
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3M+ downloads · **4.6 stars** · **15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
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What to experience

- Join a game of **picigin** at Bacvice Beach on a summer morning — a local paddleball game played standing in shallow water, invented on this beach and now a point of civic pride.
- Take part in the **špica**: on Sunday mornings, locals dress up and gather for coffee along the Riva waterfront before lunch. Join a café terrace and watch the city pass by.
- Walk up Marjan Forest Park in the early evening for sunset over the harbor and the islands, then follow the trail back down to a swim at one of the small coves.

Day trips

Split sits at the center of central Dalmatia, with historic towns, a national park, and some of Croatia's best-known islands all within reach.



- **Klis Fortress** — ≈25 min by car or local bus. A medieval fortress on a pass above the city, held in turn by Croatian dukes, Ottoman forces, and the Venetians who recaptured it; also a filming location for *Game of Thrones*.
- **A Trogir** — ≈30 min by car or bus. A small walled island town with its own UNESCO-listed old core, easy to combine with a half day at the beach nearby.
- **B Omis** — ≈40 min by car or bus. A former pirate stronghold at the mouth of the Cetina River gorge, good for river rafting or a short gorge walk.
- **C Brac** — ≈50 min by ferry. Croatia's third-largest island, home to the famous Zlatni Rat beach near Bol.
- **D Hvar** — ≈1 hour by fast ferry. A lavender-scented island known for its nightlife, vineyards, and a hilltop Venetian fortress above the main town.
- **E Krka National Park** — ≈1.5 hours by car or organized bus tour. Turquoise river pools and waterfalls, with boardwalks through the park to the main Skradinski Buk falls.

Where to explore

Split is the capital of Split-Dalmatia County, a stretch of coast and islands that most visitors explore from here as a base.

- Along the coast, Trogir and Omis make easy half-day or full-day trips, while Makarska anchors the beach-lined Makarska Riviera further south.
- Offshore, Hvar, Brac, and Solta are all reachable by regular ferry from Split's harbor, each with a different character, from Hvar's nightlife to Brač's beaches to Šolta's quieter villages.
- Inland, Sinj is known for the *Sinjska Alka*, a centuries-old knights' jousting competition held every August.

Getting there

- **By air**: Split Airport (SPU) is about 20 km northwest of the city, near Kaštela. A shuttle bus runs to the main bus station near the harbor in about 30–40 minutes; a taxi takes about 25 minutes and costs roughly 30–40 €.
- **By train**: Direct trains connect Split to Zagreb (around 7–8 hours). There is no rail line south along the coast, so towns like Dubrovnik are reached by bus instead.
- **By bus**: Split's main bus terminal, next to the ferry port, has frequent long-distance connections along the whole Adriatic coast, including Zagreb, Zadar, and Dubrovnik, plus international routes.
- **By ferry**: Split's harbor is the main hub for ferries to the Dalmatian islands (Hvar, Brač, Vis, and more) and for seasonal international ferries to Ancona, Italy.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: City buses (Promet Split) cover the areas outside the old town, which is itself closed to most traffic. Buy tickets from the driver, at kiosks, or through the operator's app; a route planner is available at Promet Split.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and Bolt both operate in Split alongside metered local taxis.
- **On foot**: The old town and waterfront are entirely walkable and largely pedestrian-only; a car is not useful for sightseeing inside the palace walls.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and waterfront are flat, compact, and largely pedestrian-only, making Split very easy to explore on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling works well along the flat coastal promenade, but the old town's narrow stone streets and steps are better explored on foot.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not inside Split itself — the old town is pedestrian and parking is scarce. A car is useful for exploring the wider Dalmatian coast and inland Krka at your own pace.
- **Parking**: Paid garages and lots ring the old town and harbor (metered street parking and the Bačvice and Sukoišan garages); pay by app, meter, or ticket machine.
- **Restrictions**: The historic core inside Diocletian's Palace is closed to general traffic, with access limited to residents and deliveries.

Food & drink

Split's kitchens lean on the same Dalmatian staples as the rest of the coast: fresh grilled fish, black risotto, and slow-cooked pašticada, usually paired with local wine.

For the best mix of everyday eating, head to the market area around Silver Gate, where the open-air green market (Pazar) sells fruit, vegetables, and street food each morning, with the covered fish market a short walk toward the harbor. Restaurants filling the palace's old cellars and courtyards charge a premium for the setting; a few streets back from the Riva usually costs less for the same quality.

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

Split is a safe city for tourists, with violent crime rare. The main risks are petty ones: pickpocketing on crowded buses and around the ferry port, and bag theft on the beach at Bacvice Beach and other busy swimming spots. Keep valuables with you rather than left on a towel.

Agree on a taxi fare or confirm the meter is running before you set off, particularly from the airport or ferry terminal, where overcharging tourists is the most commonly reported complaint.

History

Split exists because a retired Roman emperor wanted a palace by the sea. Diocletian's Palace was built around 305 AD for *Diocletian*, who spent his final years here after voluntarily stepping down from power, an almost unheard-of act for a Roman emperor.

The palace's second life began in the 7th century, when Slavic and Avar raids destroyed nearby Salona, then the Roman capital of the province. Survivors fled into the abandoned palace walls and simply moved in, adapting its halls and passages into homes, a pattern still visible today. Diocletian's own mausoleum was converted into Cathedral of Saint Domnius, an ironic twist given that Diocletian was one of the last Roman emperors to persecute Christians.

Centuries of Venetian, then Habsburg, then briefly French and Italian rule followed, each leaving traces in the city's architecture, before Split became part of Yugoslavia and then independent Croatia in 1991.

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

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

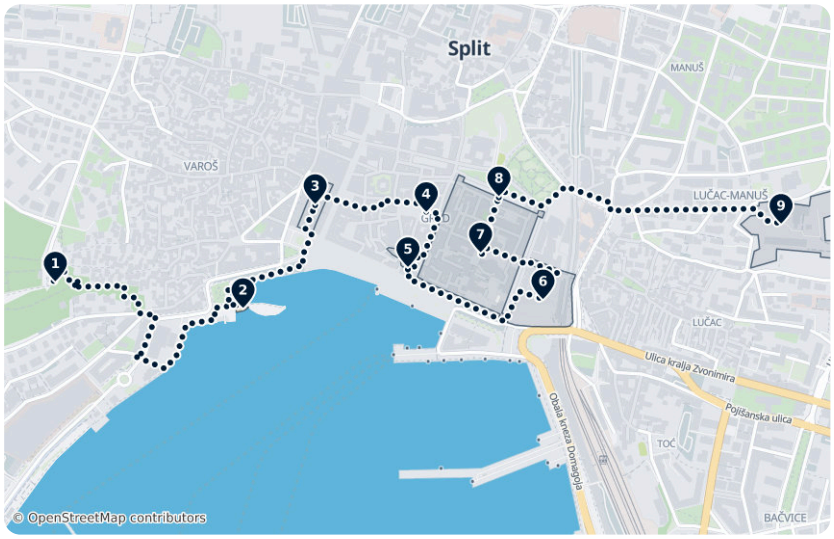
Best of Split

1h 30min · 2.8 km · 9 stops



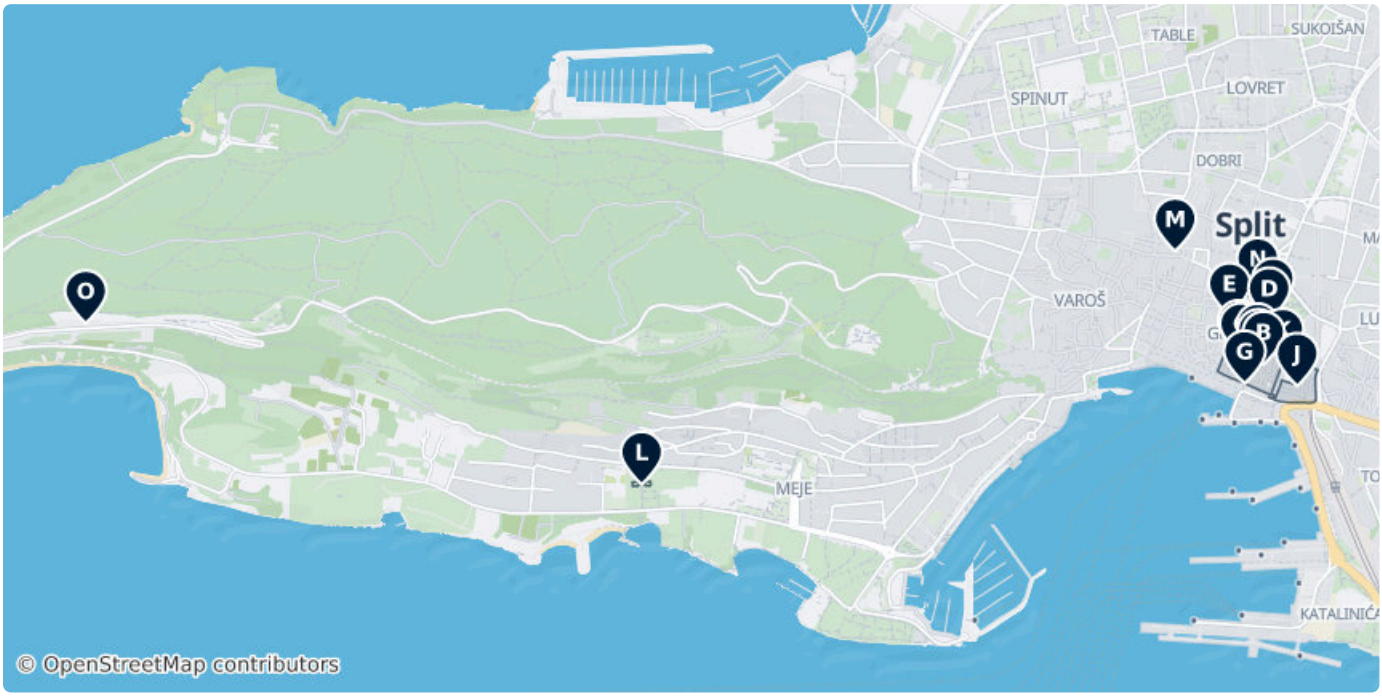
1. Marjan Viewpoint
2. Matejuška Harbour
3. Republic Square
4. People's Square and Old City Hall
5. Fruit Square
6. Pazar Market and the Silver Gate
7. Peristyle and Cathedral of St Domnius
8. Golden Gate
9. Gripe Fortress

Walk through the heart of Split, the city that grew inside a Roman emperor's retirement palace. You start high on Marjan hill with the whole harbour spread out below, walk down to the old fishing harbour, cross the squares of the medieval town and stand in the Peristyle beside the cathedral, then leave through the Golden Gate and finish at the Gripe Fortress. The walk begins at the Marjan viewpoint, a short climb above the western end of the waterfront.



Grad Split Essentials

This collection centers on the 4th-century Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site that forms the living heart of Split. The list covers the palace's four monumental Roman gates, the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, and specialized cultural sites like the Ivan Meštrović Gallery and the Game of Thrones Museum. Beyond the Roman ruins, it includes the vibrant Green Market and the Marjan peninsula, which offers limestone climbing routes and forested trails overlooking the Adriatic Sea.





A Diocletian's Palace

Ancient Roman palace built for Emperor Diocletian, featuring ruins, fortifications, and architectural elements from Roman, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. It is a UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site and a notable filming location.

8 Krešimirova, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50825, 16.44023)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

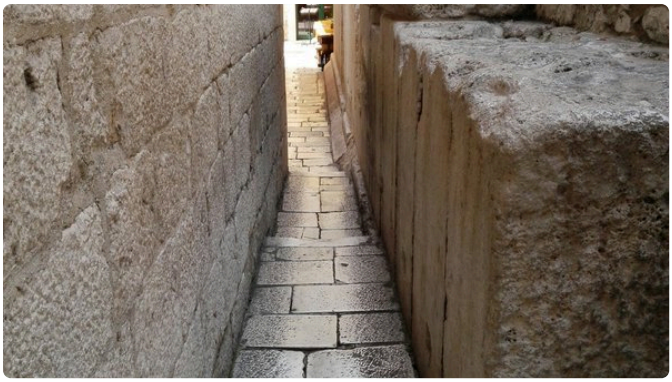
diocletianspalace.org



B Cathedral of Saint Domnius

The Cathedral of Saint Domnius, known locally as the Sveti Dujam or colloquially Sveti Duje, is the Catholic cathedral in Split, Croatia.

Kraj Sv. Duje 5, Split, Croatia (43.50804, 16.44045)



C Let Me Pass street

Historic street located within the Old Town area near Diocletian's Palace, regarded as a hidden gem of the city's cultural landscape.

2 Kraj svetog Ivana, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50825, 16.43962)



D Golden Gate

The primary northern entrance to Diocletian's Palace, originally known as Porta Septemtrionalis. This ornate Roman gate was used by the Emperor and leads toward the ancient ruins of Salona.

17 Majstora Jurja, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50918, 16.44065)

visitsplit.com/en/521/the-golden-gate



E Game of Thrones Museum Split

A hidden treat for Game of Thrones fans despite its relatively small size, there's a lot of detail in each exhibit.

Bosanska 9, 21000 Split (43.50930, 16.43921)



F Gregory of Nin

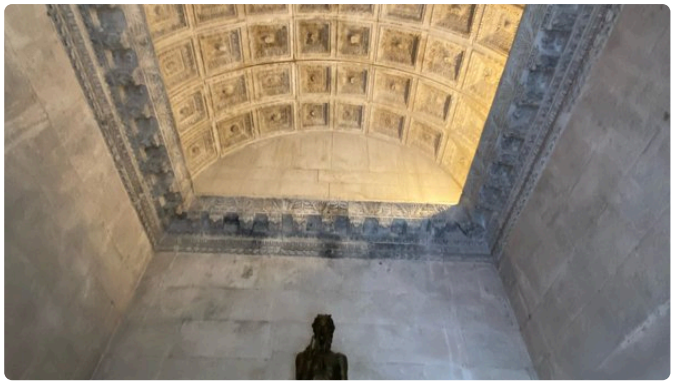
A monumental bronze statue by Ivan Meštrović depicting the 10th-century bishop who introduced the national language into religious services. Rubbing the statue's polished big toe is a local tradition for good luck.

19 Kralja Tomislava, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50943, 16.44079)

G Brass Gate of Diocletian's Palace

The Bronze Gate, or "the Southern Gate", is the smaller of the four principal Roman gates into the stari grad of Split.

22 Obala Hrvatskog narodnog preporoda, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50753, 16.43976)



H Temple of Jupiter

A Roman temple dedicated to the king of the gods, constructed at the end of the 3rd century. It was later converted into a Christian baptistery and features an ancient Egyptian sphinx at its entrance.

1 Kraj svetog Ivana, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50833, 16.43955)

Mo–Sa	08:00–19:00
Su	12:30–18:30

visitsplit.com/en/526/temple-of-jupiter



I Saint Domnius Bell Tower

A 57-meter Romanesque bell tower built between the 13th and 16th centuries. It offers panoramic views of the city and harbor from its upper deck, following a major reconstruction in 1908.

2 Peristil, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50809, 16.44027)



J Pazar

A bustling open-air market located east of Diocletian's Palace. It is a central hub for Dalmatian produce, offering seasonal fruits, vegetables, local honey, and cheeses from the surrounding region.

Pazar, 21102 Split, Croatia (43.50747, 16.44166)



K Silver Gate

The eastern entrance to the Roman palace, historically called Porta Orientalis. It stands adjacent to the Green Market and was restored to its current state after sustaining damage in World War II.

4 Hrvojeva, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50811, 16.44114)



L Ivan Meštrović Gallery

Ivan Meštrović Gallery, is an art museum in Split, Croatia dedicated to the work of the 20th-century sculptor, Ivan Meštrović.

Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića 46, Split (43.50488, 16.41794)

mestrovic.hr, +385 21 340 800



M Croatian National Theatre, Split

The Croatian National Theatre in Split is a theatre located in Split, Croatia.

Trg Gaje Bulata 1, 21000 Split, HR (43.51100, 16.43725)

hnk-split.hr, +385 21 344999



N Gallery of Fine Arts, Split

The Museum of Fine Arts, is an art museum in Split, Croatia containing works from the 14th century up to the present day providing an...

Ulica kralja Tomislava 15, 21000 Split, HR (43.50996, 16.44024)

Mo	11:00–16:00
Tu–Fr	11:00–19:00
Sa	11:00–15:00

galum.hr, +385 21 35 01 12

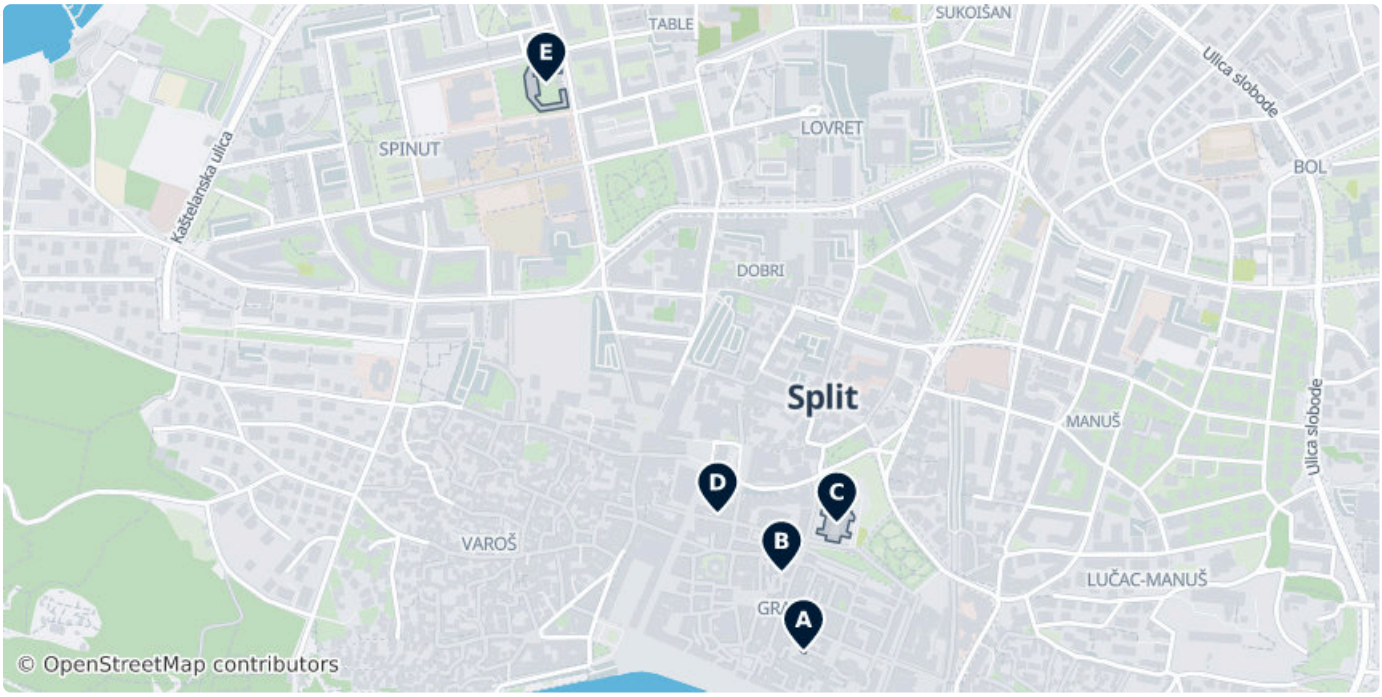
Marjan

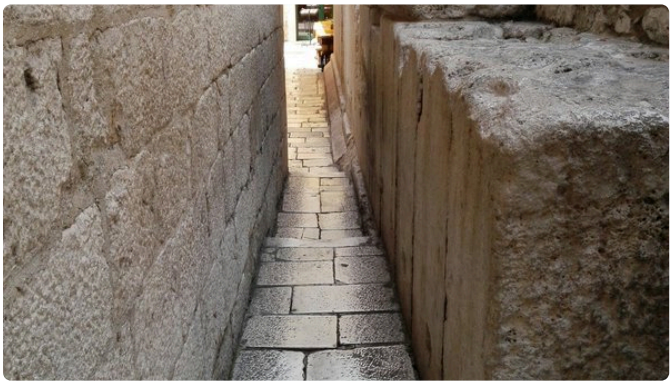
A forested hill and park on the western tip of the Split peninsula. It features Mediterranean pine forests, medieval hermitages, and limestone cliffs used for rock climbing and hiking.

132 Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića, Split 21000, Croatia
(43.50911, 16.39783)

Hidden Gems

Beyond the walls of Diocletian's Palace, Split's lesser-known sites offer a mix of quirky taxidermy and ancient history. This collection includes Let Me Pass street, one of the narrowest alleys in the city, and Froggyland, which displays over 500 taxidermy frogs in human-like dioramas. For cultural depth, the Gallery of Fine Arts spans seven centuries of Croatian art, while the Archaeological Museum houses early medieval monuments. Fans of cinema can also find detailed props and exhibits at the dedicated Game of Thrones Museum.





A Let Me Pass street

Historic street located within the Old Town area near Diocletian's Palace, regarded as a hidden gem of the city's cultural landscape.

2 Kraj svetog Ivana, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50825, 16.43962)



B Game of Thrones Museum Split

A hidden treat for Game of Thrones fans despite its relatively small size, there's a lot of detail in each exhibit.

Bosanska 9, 21000 Split (43.50930, 16.43921)



C Gallery of Fine Arts, Split

The Museum of Fine Arts, is an art museum in Split, Croatia containing works from the 14th century up to the present day providing an...

Ulica kralja Tomislava 15, 21000 Split, HR (43.50996, 16.44024)

Mo	11:00–16:00
Tu–Fr	11:00–19:00
Sa	11:00–15:00

galum.hr, +385 21 35 01 12

E Archaeological Museum, Split

The Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments located at Meštrovićevo šetalište 18, Split, Croatia, is the only museum in the country...

Zrinsko-Frankopanska 25, 21000 Split, HR (43.51586, 16.43486)

Mo–Sa	09:00–14:00, 16:00–20:00

mdc.hr/split-arheoloski/eng/index.html, +385 21 329 340

D Froggyland

This bizarre collection of over 500 frogs that are stuffed and put into human-like scenarios.

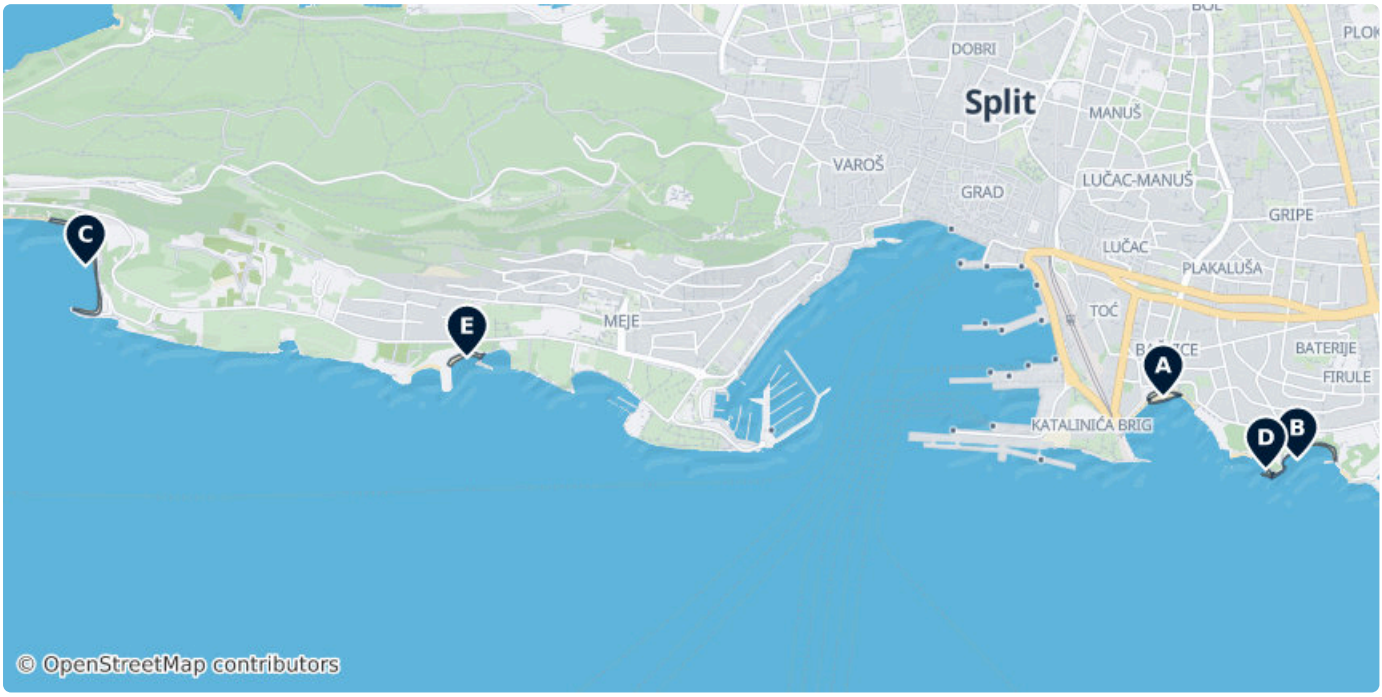
Ulica kralja Tomislava 5, 21000 Split (43.51009, 16.43803)

Mo–Su	10:00–21:00

froggyland.net

Coastal Retreats

Split's shoreline ranges from the shallow sandy bays of the eastern city center to the rugged pebble coves at the foot of Marjan Hill. Bačvice is the city's primary sandy beach and the birthplace of picigin, a traditional ball game played in the shallow water. Further east, Firule and Ovčice provide sheltered sandy shores and calm waters. To the west, Ježinac features stone piers and historic columns, while Kašjuni offers a deep, pebble-lined bay surrounded by pine forests and steep cliffs.





A Bacvice Beach

Split's main beach and a major party spot with many clubs and bars. Well-equipped with many facilities and good for children.

Bregovita ul. 11, 21000, Split, Croatia (43.50237, 16.44708)

B Firule

Sheltered sandy beach with shallow waters, located in a natural bay east of Bačvice.

10 Put Firula, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50039, 16.45293)

C Kasuni Beach

Pebble beach situated at the foot of Marjan Hill, featuring a deep bay and surrounding pine forests.

Croatia (43.50651, 16.40010)

D Ovčice

Small pebble and sandy bay located between Bačvice and Firule, featuring concrete sunbathing platforms.

9 Put Firula, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50009, 16.45156)

E Beach Jezinac

Pebble beach and stone paved area featuring historic stone columns, located near the Meštrović Gallery at the base of Marjan Hill.

35 Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića, Split 21000, Croatia (43.50362, 16.41673)

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