Cruise Log Dalmatian Islands Vis, Sv Klement, Lastovo, Brac
September 1-8, 2007

Crew: Jane, Peex, Wilhelm

Boat: "Commodore", Ocean Alexander 44, about 45 ft, planing motor yacht, 2x 425hp Cat diesels, built 1992. Chartered from Offshore Boote (www.offshore-boote.at).
Charter base: Marina Kremik near Primosten.

Total logged: 195 nm. Diesel consumption 1174lts or 6.0 litre/nm
Itinerary: Kremik – Komiza (Vis); Palmizana/Sv.Klement (Hvar) – Uvala Gradina (Korcula) - Uvala Zaklopatica (Lastovo) – Milna (Brac) – Krknjas (Veli Drvenik) – Kremik.

Saturday Sept 1nd : Taking over the boat

We had flown from London to Split the night before and stayed in Primosten at Villa Koza. Saturday starts as a warm and sunny day, we have a pleasant walk around the small resort town, where I start practising with my new digital SLR camera.
The taxi takes us to Kremik at 14:00, where we receive a friendly welcome by the Offshore Boote team; our boat had been out the previous week so it's still being prepared. By about 16:00 the boat is ready, but after the usual check-in procedure and catering from the local mini-market it's already 17:30 so we decide to stay in Marina Kremik over night; have a meal in the unremarkable but reliable and reasonably priced marina restaurant and set off Sunday morning.

Sunday Sept 2rd : Kremik to Komiza on Vis

We leave Kremik in bright sunny weather with light NE winds at 10:00 and head for Vis. Anchor at about 12:00 in the middle finger of **Gradac** cove on the North coast of Vis for lunch, a nice bay but open to the Northerlies.
The bright weather continues but from 14:30 the Bora blows strongly into the cove and threatens to offset the boat so we weigh anchor. The East finger of Gradac and the tiny Okljucna cove do not offer any shelter, so we head for **Komiza** our destination for this night. Once round the W tip of Vis island the wind is much less felt; we moor on the quay at Komiza harbour by 15:30.
The rest of this pleasantly sunny afternoon is spent with a walk to Sv Nikola church on the top of vineyards; after returning we feel ready for drinks on the flybridge soaking up the atmosphere of this picturesque harbour.
Have exquisite dinner at fish restaurant Jastozera, opposite side of the harbour.

Monday Sept 3rd : Vis to Pakleni islands/Hvar

During the obligatory engine check in the morning I notice that the port stern gland is excessively leaky; not too much of a worry, but, the onboard toolset being inadequate, I go into the village and purchase a cheap set of spanners just in case I needed to work on this issue.
We leave Komiza by 11:00 for Bisevo, hoping to get a view of the famous blue cave. However, the small anchorage in Mezuporat is pretty full with sailing yachts, the only space would be close to the pier with its trip boats; a charted anchorage South of the cave appears

to be non existent, there are several yachts circling around obviously waiting for visitors of the cove to return.
We decide to give it a miss, and carry on to Budikovac island, SE of Vis. We anchor in the uninhabited cove N of Budikovac, very nice and spacious, and have a pleasant sunny midday and afternoon in sheltered conditions.
The weather forecast for Tuesday and the following days has been for increasing bora and worsening weather, so we decide to stay in the protected Palmizana marina over night.
We cover the short distance to the Pakleni islands, passing through the Marinkovac anchorages, (threatened by one quite shallow passage) and arrive at the marina **Palmizana** at 17:30. Plenty of spaces still available this afternoon; again we enjoy sundowner drinks on the flybridge, and then an excellent (but expensive) meal at one of our favourite restaurants, Meneghello's.

Tuesday Sept 4th : Palmizana Marina Sv Klement

The forecast strong winds have started, the weather is overcast and does not invite to leave the marina, which fills over the day – no space after about 3pm. We take the opportunity to wait for an engineer to attend to the stern gland. He does a careful job, but - alas - a day's trip later the gland leaks just as before.
At 6pm we go to Hvar by ferry boat, to spend the evening "in town". We notice that there are no yachts moored on Hvar town quay, obviously chased away.
It has clouded over and the walk up to the castle is grey and windy. Anyhow, after this walk we enjoy a meal at a nice konoba in a side road; from about 8pm heavy showers start and continue. Closer to 10pm the visitors from Palmizana huddle together in a quayside bar hiding from the downpour as close as possible to the expected landing spot of their ferry boat; they are eventually taken to the marina, in appalling weather conditions but spirits are restored.

Wednesday Sept 5th : Palmizana to Lastovo

Cloudy but calmer weather, cooler as well. We leave for the W end of **Korcula**, very few boats out, most heading the other direction to Split. The Bora has brought clearer weather, but raises seas on the last few miles towards the W tip of Korcula; we anchor in the large Gradina cove, as the only boat there (!). For some reason the anchor does not appear to hold well in the squalls, but good enough for a lunch break.
The weather now looks clearer, with high visibility. In the afternoon we decide to go to **Lastovo** and stay at restaurant Augusta in Zaklopatica bay.
The seas are fine at first but near to Lastovo the North wind raises unpleasant large quartering seas; the mooring at the restaurant is also affected by the Bora swell, but there is only one other yacht, a sail boat, so we arrange lines to keep boats in good distance for a quiet night.
We walk up to Lastovo village (30 min walk), and then all the way up to the castle and metrological station which offers good coastal views over the Lastovo archipelago and towards Korcula and Peljesak.
We find the historic village a picturesque but spooky and lifeless place; like a ghost town with half of the abandoned buildings being derelict or in ruins.
Back to the boat; then we have dinner at Augusta restaurant; we learn from the skipper of the sailing yacht that they are on their way to Dubrovnik.
The weather is quite windy and has cooled down further, we have a chilly night with low temperature around 11 degrees.

Thursday Sept 6th : Lastovo to Milna

Rain, cold and bora. We have never experienced such low temperatures in Croatia in summer before.
After having breakfast and carefully studying latest forecasts and wind charts from the Met office on the laptop, we leave at 12:00 for Korcula/Vela Luka, and anchor in Gradina cove. The weather is overcast with black clouds around. The cove is blustery, again we are much on our own and the anchor does not seem to hold securely. Sadly, there is no option for a swim given those uncomfortable conditions.
At 15:00 we decide that the weather looks ok to go on to Hvar, so we can get closer to the mainland and home port, and need not cross between the islands on Friday, when stronger N-NW winds are expected.
Crossing the Korcula Channel is easy, we pass Hvar and carry on to **Milna on Brac**, arriving 18:00. Both Vlaska marina and ACI marinas are chock-a-block with sailing yachts obviously seeking shelter; we anchor in the North part of the harbour, incidentally saving marina fees. The evening is totally calm but chilly, with dramatic rain clouds around but remaining dry. All restaurants are full, there are no spaces anywhere inside; we have to eat outside, with a shiver, but at least under a cover. Quiet night.

Friday Sept 8th : Milna to Kremik

Leave Milna at 10:00

The day starts with heavy clouds but getting a little brighter, and NW wind.
We go along the leeward (South) side of Solta and anchor in Tatinja cove in the West finger at 11m, we are on our own there. It's a narrow cove with amazing rocky surroundings, and clear views to the South; sheltered against the bora, but I find it too cold for a swim.
Our next stop is Krknjas bay on the East side of Veli Drvenik, an ample cove with turquoise waters and green islets which must be lovely in warm weather. It's getting a little warmer but still cold wind. I brave a short swim. We leave at 16:00.
Homeward bound, to Kremik, we hug the South sides of the small islands, hiding before the Bora. Finally, however, having avoided as much of the rough as possible, we are met by fresh or strong NW winds and some 2+m waves in the open around Rt Ploce.
The boat performs well, I can keep her on the plane at 15+kn; in contrast to the skipper shouting warnings, the crew finds it an exhilarating fun ride (!).
Arrive at Kremik at 17:30.
This evening we have again dinner at the marina restaurant, this time inside.

Sat Sept 8th: Checking out and returning of the yacht

Checking out goes smoothly and without any problems; waiting for the taxi to the airport later in the day we take the opportunity to inspect the Offshore Boote fleet and to choose the "ideal" yacht for our next year's turn.

In summary: Despite atypically cold, wet and windy weather conditions, plus light illness, we have covered an interesting itinerary, have had many enjoyable experiences and did a safe trip.



CROATIA

9/'07





Around Primosten + Kremik marina





















Komiza harbour (Vis), 2.9. '07











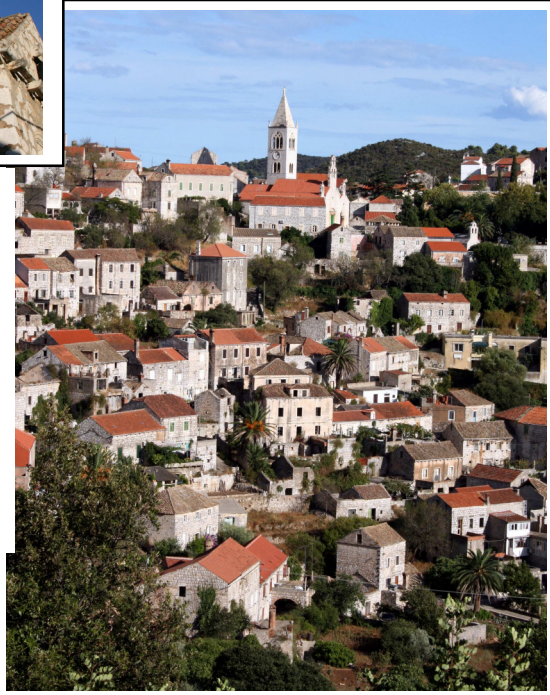


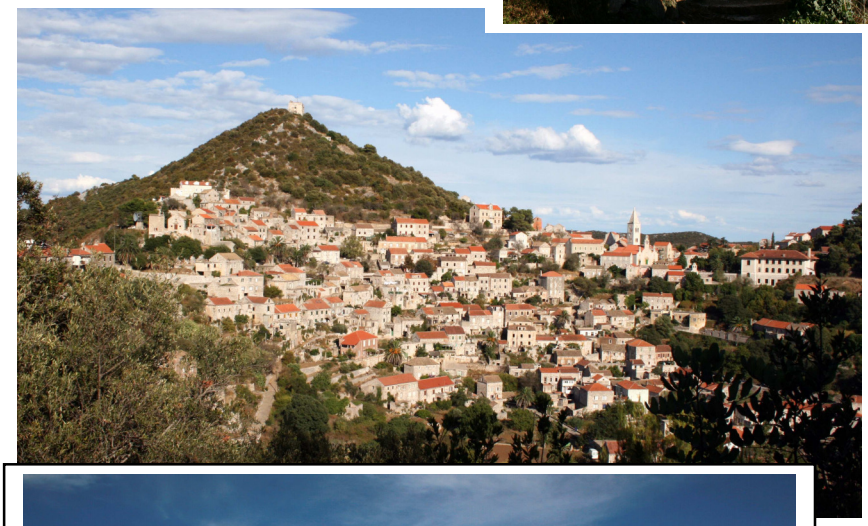


Lastovo village 5.9.'07























Anchored in Milna harbour (Brac) 6.9.'07





< Tatinja cove (Solta), 7.9.'07

Krknjas cove (V.Drvenik)



