

M/Y Tarilian

Boating in Croatia 2014

Around Central and North Dalmatia including Istria

CRUISE LOG Part 1: June 2 to 14, round trip Rogoznica to Piran

[Click [links](#) in text to see location on Google Maps]

[Latitude/longitude data, where given, are camera position]

For our first boating trip in 2014 we arrive from London on May 31st; the boat is at marina Kremik where it has been serviced and should now be ready to go.

On Sunday June 1st we take Tarilian to its home berth at [marina Frapa](#) and spend the rest of the day checking the boat and preparing for the journey ahead.

The weather forecast for the next days seems to be slightly more favourable for the northern Adriatic sea than the southern, so we want to start the season with a trip towards the Istrian peninsula and Slovenia.

June 02 Monday Frapa to [Zut](#)

A clear day, wind N and NW 4 forecast, 22 deg C during the day. We leave berth at 11:20. First stop, for lunch, is Uvala Stupica mala on Zirje; note there is poor holding ground in places.

Leave anchorage at 14:00 and continue in northerly direction towards the Kornati island and in particular Zut, which we find pleasant and well developed for the boater.

In the afternoon the NW wind whips up swell of up to 1m, getting calmer after 16:00; sun and light cloud.

Leaving Island Zut to port, passing small cove Zmara; there is a choice of restaurants, these are in addition to those 4 in Zut cove itself.



Cove Zmara N43°52'10.19" E15°19'44.57"

Berth in Zut cove at restaurant Sandra's pier by 17:15. (Sandra offers not only good food but also free moorings).

We are currently the only boat here, in the neighbouring ACI marina there are only about seven yachts, and none on the buoys are in use, a pre-seasonal scenario. 42.5 nm logged.

Pleasant evening, but a bit cool which is not helpful for outdoor dining - the fish gets cold too fast!

Morning at Konoba Sandra in Zut cove

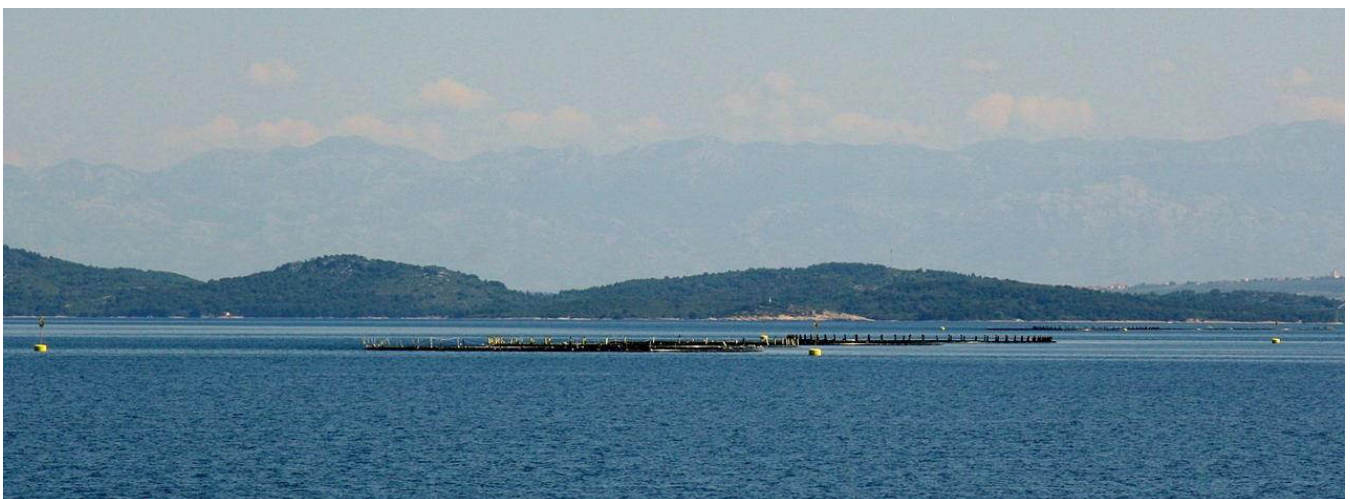


N43°52'49.45" E15°17'13.33"

June 03 Tuesday **Zut to [Silba](#)**

A fine day is forecast, NW 4 in the afternoon, day max 19 to 24 deg C.
Leave berth at 9:45, in sunny and completely calm weather.

Leaving island Lavdara to port and heading for Iz we spot a couple of new large fish farms to our North, between Dugi Otok and Ugljan/Pasman. They are marked by yellow buoys.



N43°57'10.76" E15°11'58.07"

The large tuna farms west of Iz are charted and mentioned in the cruising guides.

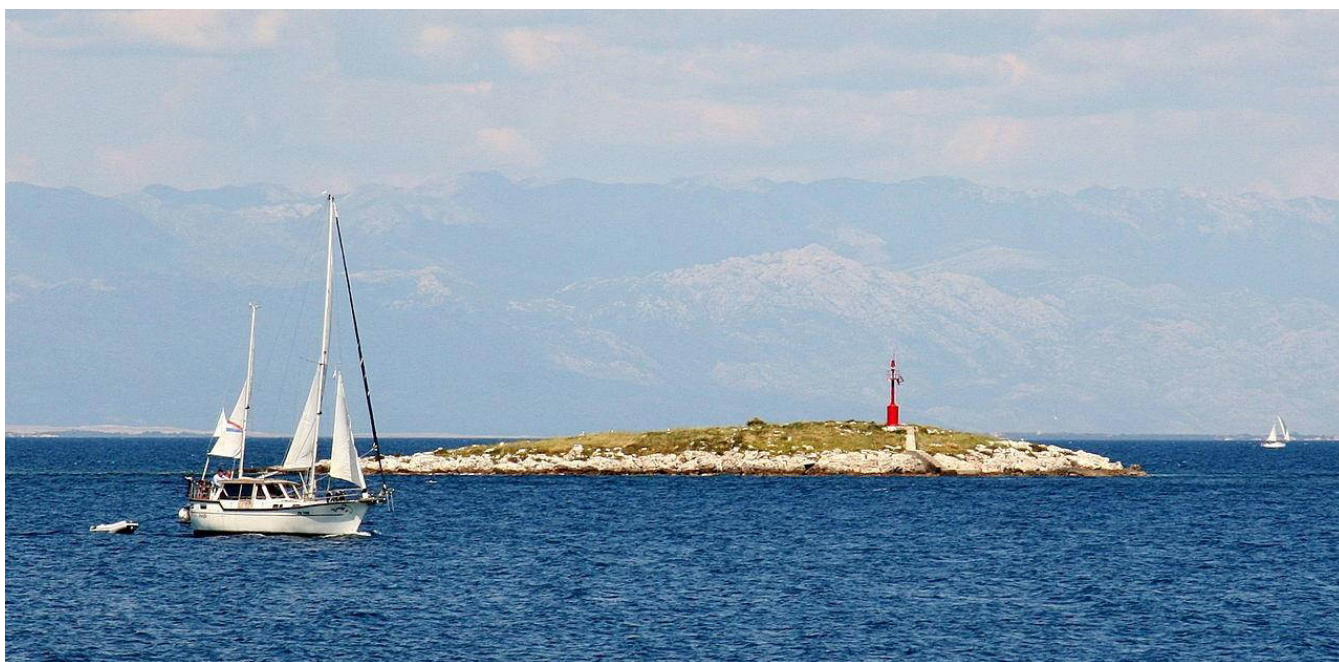
Anchor at 12:35 in Uvala Sabusa on Molat in 5m depth. It is too cool to try a swim, water temperature still less than 20 deg C. The large cove is a beautiful spot to anchor for lunch, with blue green water and partly sandy bottom. It does, however, provide shelter only from westerly and northerly swell.



U. Sabusa N44°12'26.69" E14°54'11.30"

At 15:00 we weigh anchor and proceed towards Silba.

View towards the Velebit mountain ranges on the mainland, on a clear day.



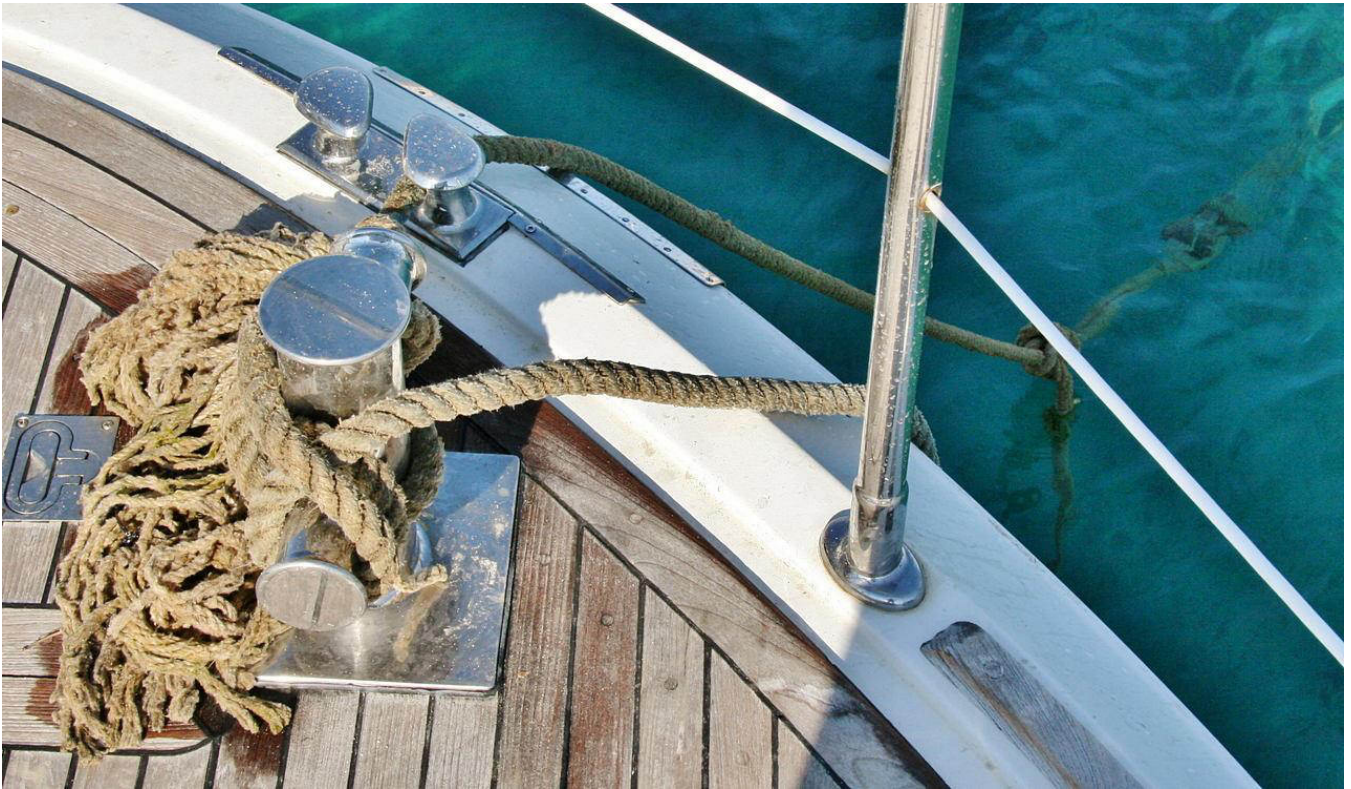
N44°13'1.97" E14°54'32.61"

Berth at the Silba east harbour at 16:30

We know the island of Silba from previous holidays, and found it pleasantly low key and remote. A nice place to stop on the way from central to north Dalmatia, or vice versa.

On Silba clocks are still going slow. Although some work seem to be done to the harbour, there is still no water nor electricity available to yachts.

The mooring ropes are in a pretty rough state, possibly getting battered by the Bora blowing straight into the harbour.



Knotty mooring ropes at Silba east harbour



Silba east harbour entrance, looking from NE, N44°22'36.24" E14°42'14.58"

Whilst the breakwater on the right side seems to have been extended, it is obvious that the Bora and its swell can still hit the yacht quay head-on.



But tonight there is peace.



Tarilian berthed in Silba east harbour

We like the “remote island” feeling of the harbour, and walk up to the village and across to the west harbour.

Compared to earlier visits we note many holiday villas in Silba village, most in good condition or newly updated; the new cafe near the belfry appears to be a bit modern and too large.

There is a choice of restaurants, we eat at Villa Velebita.



Silba west pier

June 04 Wednesday Silba to [Mali Losinj](#)

The weather forecast is N and NW 3, sun and cloud, and day maximum 20-24 deg C, another fine day for motor cruising.

We leave the harbour at 11:05 in sunny weather, make lunch stop at 12:15 in the uninhabited cove Parzine at the south side of Ilovik island, anchoring at 3m. Again a useful and pretty anchorage which offers some shelter from the prevailing NW wind.



U. Parzine N44°26'45.40" E14°33'34.63"

Today's destination, Mali Losinj, one of our favourite harbours in north Dalmatia, is not far; we leave the anchorage at 15:35 and berth at Mali Losinj town (Yacht Club marina) at 17:00.



Opening bridge across the narrow passage to the North, Mali Losinj bay. N44°32'24.86" E14°27'27.58"

The marina has been improved and now offers a strong wave breaker pontoon against the NW swell. The quays around the harbour have also been newly renovated, and present very well.



Berthed in Mali Losinj yacht club

Tarilian's electronic chain counter has stopped working. After emailing the supplier in UK it seems it will require replacing the sensor.

For the time being I need a solution. I get the chain out on the deck and fit temporary markers every 10 meters using gaffer tape. Later on I will get those colourful plastic chain markers which may last longer.

The extended weather forecast lets me hope for settled weather over Istria in the next days, so we are going to continue our journey to Northwest.



View north, a nice evening sun gives us hope for continued fair weather

June 05 Thursday Mali Losinj to [Pula](#)

Today we are going to cross the Kvarner bay towards Istria, and berth in Pula for a visit of the town's antiquities.

Crossing the Kvarner - although only 18nm wide - is, for me, a little emotional: This stretch of water, which is infamous for its treacherous northerly gales from the Velebit mountains, is the only place where I have ever been sick on a boat (touch wood...). That incident was back in 1993 during an Austrian sailing training course; I will never forget the horrible feeling, the low point in an overall unpleasant experience. But, that's a different story.

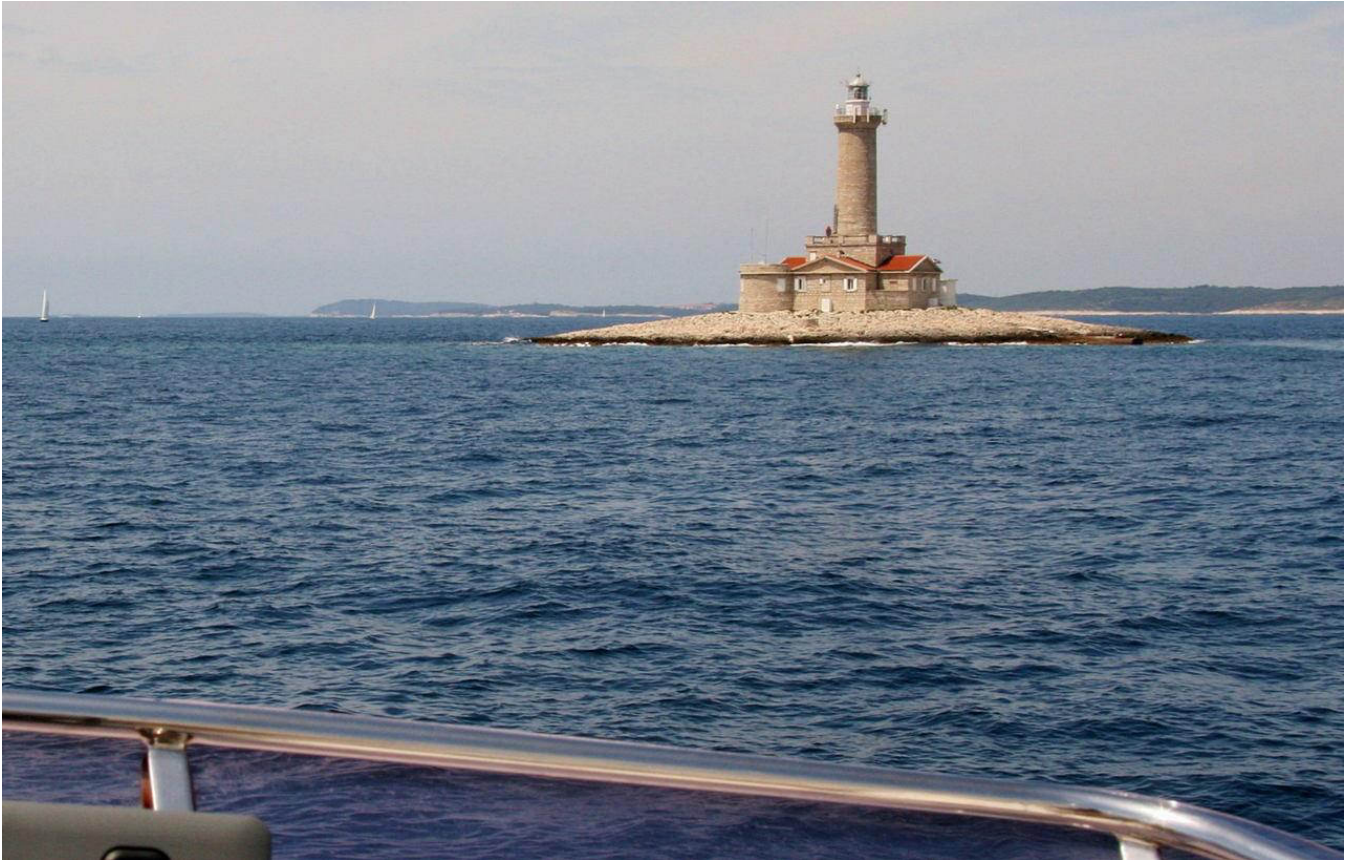
For today, the forecast is West 3, sun with clouds, and slight risk of rain in the morning. This should not affect a calm journey; we leave the Mali Losinj berth at 11:00 in hazy sun.



Unije lighthouse N44°36'49.65" E14°14'12.52"

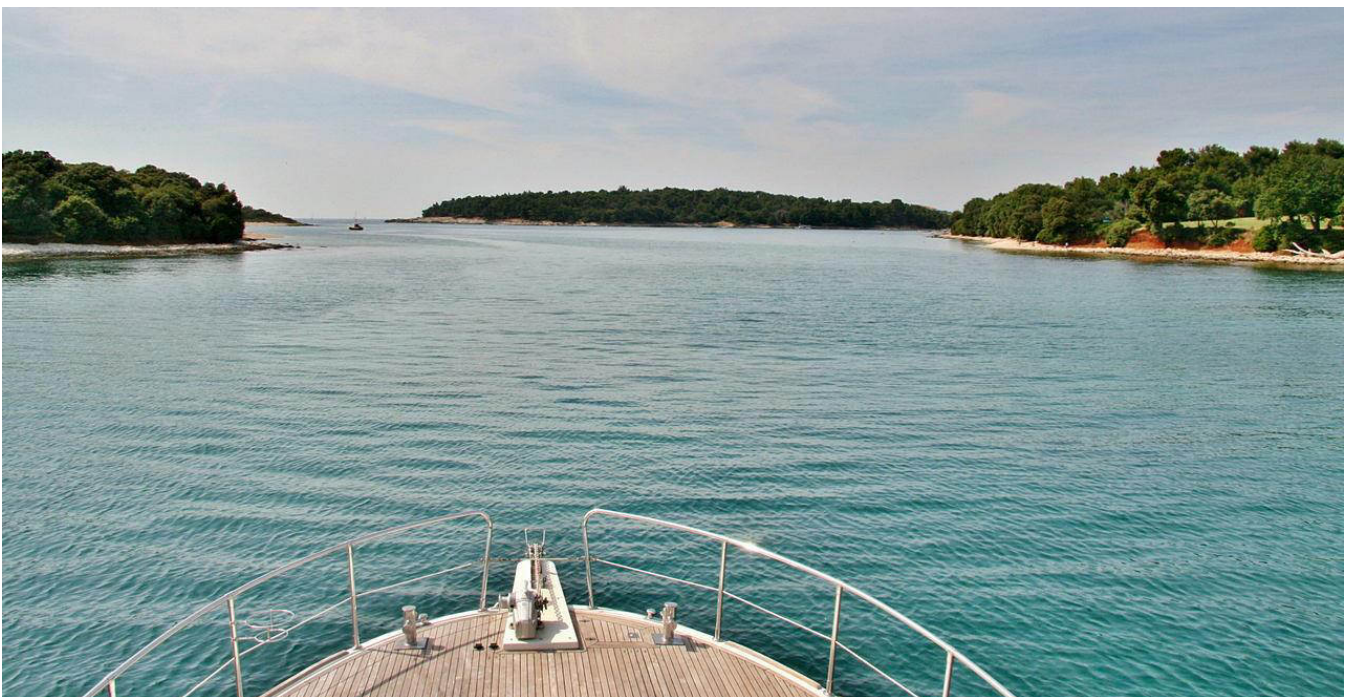
At 12:18 passing the lighthouse on the SW end of the unspectacular little island of Unije, the most westerly outpost of the islands south of the Kvarner.

The westerly wind is light but there is swell of up to 1m which causes some rolling, getting less as we proceed. Visibility is nearly 18nm; the Porer lighthouse soon becomes visible, a comforting sighting.



Approaching the Porer lighthouse on a NW course, $N44^{\circ}45'16.34''$ $E13^{\circ}53'33.08''$

At 14:35 we anchor for a late lunch at cove Cinitera. This cove is set between islets and mainland and is both protected and convenient for anchoring. I expect it will be crowded in high season. The water seems warmer here, and I go for a short swim.



Anchored in Uvala Cintinera $N44^{\circ}49'15.54''$ $E13^{\circ}50'55.58''$

Leave anchorage at 16:10 and proceed towards Pula harbour.

On the marina approach at Pula harbour you pass a lot of in-use and disused industrial installations, with the leisure facilities in an inner corner of the large bay, in dirty water



But on the final approach to the marina a postcard view of Pula's Roman amphitheatre offers itself. When taking photos keep being mindful of the shallow patches near the approach...



Berth in Pula ACI marina at 17:30. Distance logged today 41.4 nm.

The marina is quite busy, they have just one berth left that suits our boat, on the innermost pontoon, where the water is even more murky than on the outside - but I don't mind, no swimming here.

Harbour views are varied.



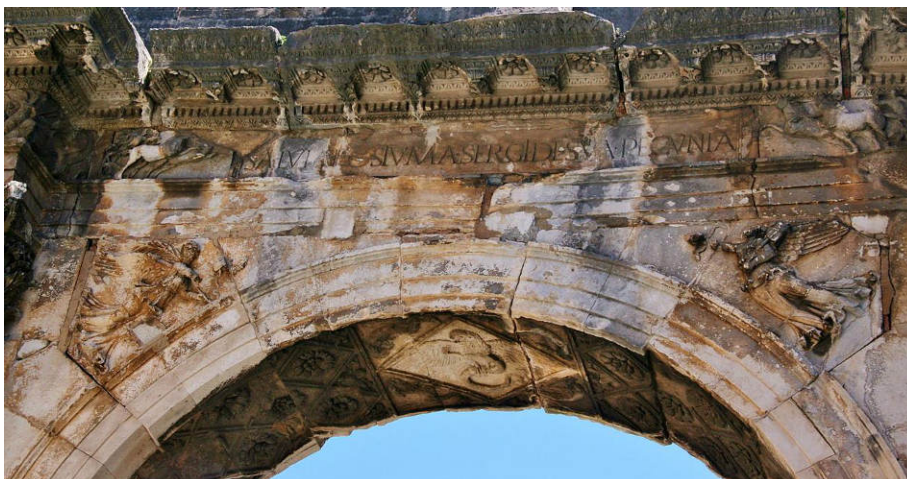
Architecture from the Austrian Hungarian monarchy days

contrasts with building from socialist Yugoslavia (here a block of flats for army officers)



June 06 Friday Sightseeing in Pula

Pula is a busy town, not a tourist resort. Although it has a harbour and a long sea frontage there is no picturesque pleasure “riva”, rather purposeful docks and shipyard moorings all along. However, once inside the town, it holds not just the spectacular and well restored amphitheatre but also pleasant squares and avenues, and several interesting churches and further Roman antique sites to marvel at. A day well spent; a little city break within a boating trip which I would recommend to all visiting boaters. James Joyce was here too.



Arch of the Sergii (detail)



Forum: Augustus temple and Town Hall



Cathedral of the Assumption of the Holy Mary



Café James Joyce

Jun 07 Saturday **Pula to [Porec](#)**

Settled weather, a forecast of NW wind up to 3, day temperature up to 27 deg C. Ah, high summer is arriving!

Leave berth at 10:15 and make our way out of Pula harbour and between the mainland and the small islets to North, leaving Brijuni to port.

I have read about prohibited access, anchoring bans, and excessive prices in touristic Brijuni with its small national park and Tito memorial, so that I am not too keen to explore it in detail.

Passing Brijuni's only "access permitted" small harbour it that does not appear to be busy.

For our lunch and swim stop, in sunny weather, I try to anchor around the small islets just outside Rovinj, where we find already quite a few other boats around us.



Anchored off Sv Andrije with its large hotel. N45°3'23.68" E13°37'42.91"

At 15:00 we leave the anchorage and have a quick peek towards Rovinj.

Quite obviously, we have arrived in main tourist land, and that is not surprising. Even the fishing net markers outside Rovinj seem to look a bit posh ...



We decide to stay overnight in Porec, where are a town quay, a marina and buoys to choose from. That's going to turn out an unfortunate mistake, and we will learn it the loud way.

Arrive Porec at 16:30; marinero on town quay yells to us we "must anchor". I interpret it as an instruction to try elsewhere, i.e. anchor in a cove; maybe those few berth left on the quay are reserved. Later I learn that he meant we should dock using our own anchor instead of the mooring, because he felt the moorings were too short for our boat.



Porec Town Quay moorings

Anyhow, we turn to the marina and are kindly offered to try berthing; but the available berth is far too small and inaccessible for our boat. After a precarious manoeuvre I manage to get out with no damages caused; the marinero apologizes. Here we go, one marinero overestimates the size of our boat, the other one underestimates it.

So, we are going to one of the nice buoys just outside the marina, which is picked up without a problem. I launch the dinghy for later, and go for a swim; we look forward to dinner in town and a good sleep.





On buoy in Porec harbour

For dinner we choose a restaurant directly on the seafront, which looks attractive, but find their service a bit careless and the food of only mediocre quality.

When it gets dark, strange thumping noises start to be felt from afar, from the other side, across the village, which is situated on a peninsula.

As the evening progresses it becomes obvious that there is some outdoor pop event going on; an intrusive thumping rhythm is all over the water, and even felt in our master cabin. It does not stop by midnight but goes on into the morning hours; ear plugs and pulling a pillow over one's head cannot fully shut out the nuisance. I am furious and outraged by an aggressive tourist industry's total ignorance of visitors' right to enjoy a rest.

We have heard of such experience from places like Turkey, but never experienced anything like that in Croatia, and find it completely out of character. Looking at the Porec tourist website I find that they had proudly announced a "start of season" weekend with an "all night beach party". We had become a captive audience.

Lesson learned: Should you intend to visit any of the large tourism resorts in Istria, and desire peace at night, check out their "events" carefully, in particular regarding weekends.

June 08 Sunday Porec to [Novigrad](#)

Despite having had a bad night, I do want to use the opportunity to visit Porec town and see the famous byzantine mosaics at the Euphrasian basilica.

We get there during Sunday mass and catch a few glimpses.

Porec is a pretty old town with some ancient building.

It is set up to serve its only business of today, to maximise revenue as a (mass) tourist resort.

Last night's noise nuisance was in so far not simply a co-incidence.

In Porec one finds tourist shops, ice parlours, 'all day breakfast' places, booze outlets with English sounding names etc etc, one next to the other, even fast food is on offer, which is outlandish in Croatia.



Euphrasian basilica



Porec street view

Temperature up to 29 deg C has been forecast and it's really getting hot; after walking around town in the sun we relax with coffees on the water front, near the custom pier where I enquire regarding the current (EU) procedure to check out.



Custom pier at Porec

At 12:50 we leave the buoy and head for a nearby anchorage. Anchor at 13:20 in uvala Sv Martin, at 5m. The landscape is very flat, a large camp site is on the north shore.

After last night I want to berth in a proper marina, and also be in a spot with easy access for check-out of Croatia, to go to Slovenia the following day.

Leave anchorage at 16:10 and berth at Novigrad's marina nautica at 17:00

The fairly new Marina Nautica gives me a good impression, professional friendly service; and set in a nice environment in close walking distance to small Novigrad town.



View from Novigrad's new marina towards old town.

Everything here seems smaller and of more personal touch than in the large resorts.

We have dinner in restaurant PepeBianco right on the seafront, and are very pleased with choice and quality of the food and their friendly service, a sophisticated contemporary venue. A marked change from the indifferent tourist style found the day before.

June 09 Monday Novigrad to [Piran](#)

Walk around Novigrad town and do some catering in the morning.

Having built a new marina and leaving the old inner town harbour to local craft, has made Novigrad a pleasant place.



Novigrad old fishing harbour

With a harbour quay and several mooring buoys in the outer harbour and north of the marina, it offers space for visiting yachts which do not wish to berth in the marina.

After coffee in the town square we embark on the checkout procedure.

Croatia is part of the EU but still not part of the Schengen zone. Whilst a crew list is not needed any more within the country, one is needed when leaving. It has to be filled out at the harbour office, reviewed and stamped by the harbour captain.

There is only one yacht ahead of me today, but in high summer I imagine there could be a queue.

After that, the boat has to be taken to the custom pier for police checkout (in other words, the passport control).

The police person does not really look at my paperwork and asks me to go to the harbour captain first, where I have just been. It appears impossible to explain that.

Luckily there are only a few steps from the custom pier to the harbour captain's office.

So I go there and get, of course, instantly sent back to the police. Now the police have seen me do the walk they expect to see; there is no further delay. We leave the custom pier at 13:10

Light and variable winds have been forecast, and temperature climbing to 30 deg C

At 13:40 we anchor a Dajla cove at 5m for lunch. A wide useful anchoring cove surrounded by low lying land with several holiday developments. For the first time we spot a few small jellyfish, of a white and reportedly harmless species. This does not deter me from swimming; it's really getting hot.



looks more threatening than it is

At 14:40 we lift anchor and proceed towards the north end of Istria.

Passing Umag harbour entrance, the marina is seen to the left, the town harbour to the right.



Umag harbour entrance N45°26'34.91" E13°29'55.84"

Passing lighthouse Savudrija at the NW tip of Istria, before turning NE towards Slovenia.



N45°29'33.69" E13°29'9.03"

With the Slovenian guest flag hoisted, ready to enter Piran harbour.



Piran harbour entrance (Slovenia)

First thing to do is to go to the custom quay for check-in!

At 16:00 we arrive, but - where is the custom jetty? It has been dismantled and is being refurbishment, just at the beginning of the summer yachting season.



Custom quay at Piran, June 2014

We need to berth temporarily one of the moorings spaces on the jetty behind; there is no one to assist with the lines; luckily someone from a nearby yacht passes along and is willing to give a hand.

To carry out the Slovenian check-in procedure I approach the harbour office, which is locked but there is a bell. I ring and - maybe?- disturb the officer during his siesta. He shows up after a while, and takes it easy.

Jane isn't pleased with the berthing manoeuvres required here; it's a laid back harbour not a polished well organized marina with staff.

Anyhow, we must not stay at the customs mooring and need to get a space on the quay for visiting yachts on the opposite side of the harbour. It's unclear who manages those moorings (even a local guesses wrongly); so we just go across and wave at a guy under a sun umbrella who turns out to be the mariner, easy enough.

At 16:40 we have moored up safely.



View from custom pier; visiting yachts are moored along the breakwater on the other side. Note the old mooring post standing on a concrete block, one of four in the harbour.



Berthed in Piran harbour



Piran is still a working fishing harbour for small boats



A fishing boat is going out in the evening. The long (curving) jetty in the background is reserved and occupied by local craft.



Piran's inner harbour, for small local boats; Tartini square in the background. Note the outrageous roof structure on the house to the right; what kind of "fees" for planning approval might that have cost?

For dinner we walk to the busy seafront where one restaurant sits next to the other. Each of them is fighting for custom. Anyhow, we find the setting and their services pleasant enough.

The busy journey over the last days, plus the early onset of summer heat, have started taking their toll. We are feeling a bit tired and decide to make Piran the furthest point of our trip, and to return to Croatia from here.

June 10 Tuesday Piran to Novigrad

In the morning we visit Piran's nautical museum, which overlooks the harbour. It has interesting, but not overly exciting exhibits, a bit of local history.

On the other side of the harbour breakwater lies the seafront with its restaurants (where we had dined last evening).



Piran seafront with restaurants and hotels



View from the museum over the inner harbour and Tartini theatre.

In Tartini square. The lion of San Marco still rules, official languages are Slovenian and Italian (maybe some German too, but little English)



After our museum visit and coffees we are ready to leave, but before we leave Slovenia can we have to do the customs check out.

By that time the sun has really got hot. We dread the chore of moving out of our berth and mooring up again on the opposite side, next to the customs office, just for bureaucracy.

I walk to the harbour office, armed with all documents I can think of, and persuade the officer - in my best Italian - to let us go without taking the boat to the customs mooring.

He agrees, based on the promise that we are gone within the hour. No paperwork required at all, we can just leave.

By 12:50 we leave our berth and are on our way to Croatia.

We decide to return to Novigrad and to spend the night on a buoy in the harbour this time.

But, for checking into Croatia I choose Umag which lies half way. This allows us to have a quick look at Umag harbour.

At 14:00 we tie up at Umag customs pier.

It's the same procedure again, mooring at the customs quay (no helpers); attending to the police; then attending to the harbour master.

No problem really, but I will be pleased once Croatia becomes part of the Schengen area and the need for those inconvenient stops and delays becomes a matter of the past.



Umag, harbour office in the building to the right

At 14:55 we anchor at nearby uvala Potocina, near camping site Finida; leave at 17:30 in calm seas.

By 18:20 we are tied up on a buoy outside the swimming area in front of pretty Novigrad old town.

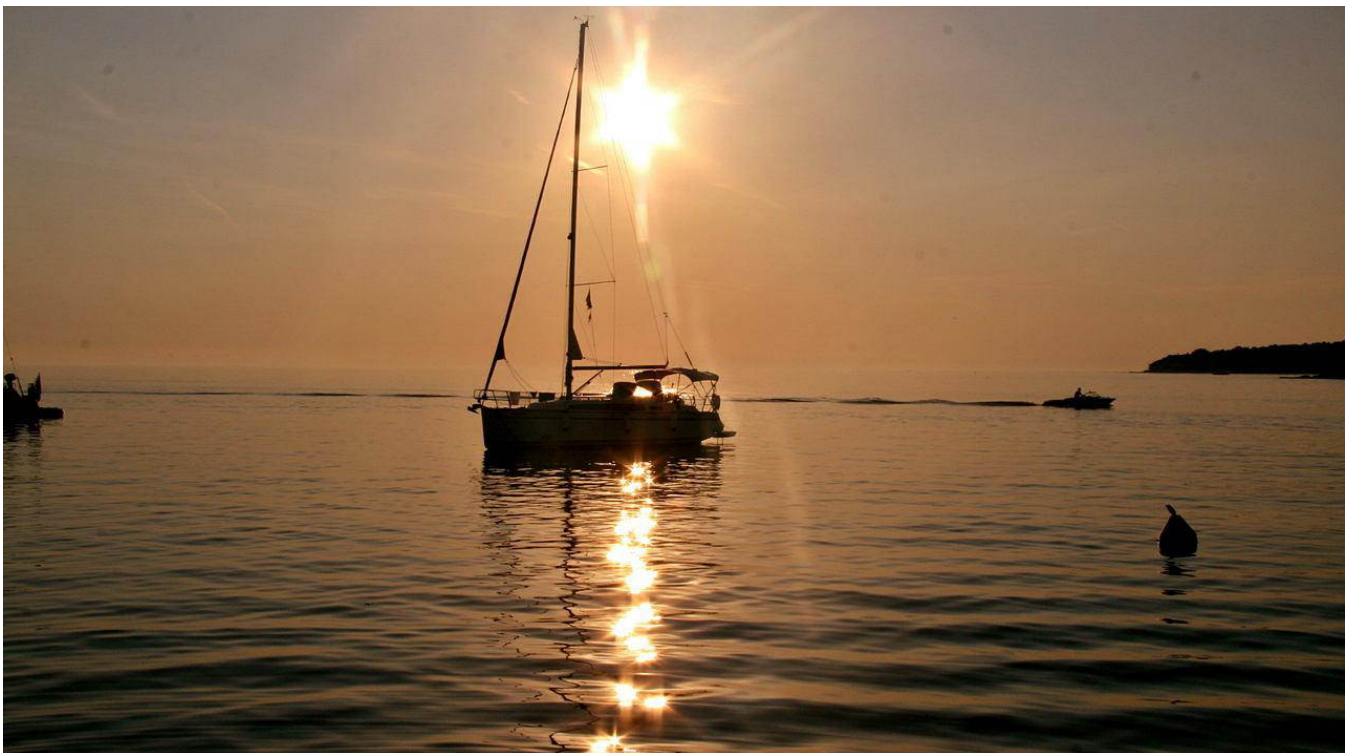


Tied up on a buoy at Novigrad



Novigrad seafront restaurants

Time to get the sundowners ready...



Have dinner at the same restaurant as last time, very pleased again.

June 11 Wednesday Novigrad to [Rovinj](#)

The summer weather continues, light NW wind, sunny and hot at 30 degC. But the end of the fair weather period is in sight (that's why we have started our way back early).

On our way to Piran we hadn't stopped at Rovinj, so we want to catch up with this picturesque and ancient port town tonight.

Leave berth at 11:00 and anchor for lunch and swimming at 12:05 just south of the small islet of Frzital at 10m depth. A beautiful spot in perfect settled weather, and obviously within a main tourism zone.



Fair weather anchorage, N45°11'23.46" E13°34'31.63"

We set out our new anchor buoy, for the first time. Works well!

It takes no more than 10 minutes until a couple approaches in a small rent-a-boat dinghy who feel that this was a useful mooring buoy for them and try to tie up (although it's clearly marked with our boat name and a 'non-anchoring' sign).

At 15:30 we lift the anchor and approach Tribunj. The view of the old town and its tall church tower are impressive.

First we check out the yacht quay north of the old town. There are buoys in front to tie up, rather than mooring ropes. No boats are here at that time; water and electricity posts appear to be missing.

We prefer to go the ACI marina on the south side of the old town, and berth at 16:20



Berthed in the ACI marina with Rovinj Old Town in the background.

On our way to explore the beautiful old town with its Venetian buildings we pass along the busy harbour, there are lots of trip boats and fishing vessels.



Strolling along Tribunj town harbour

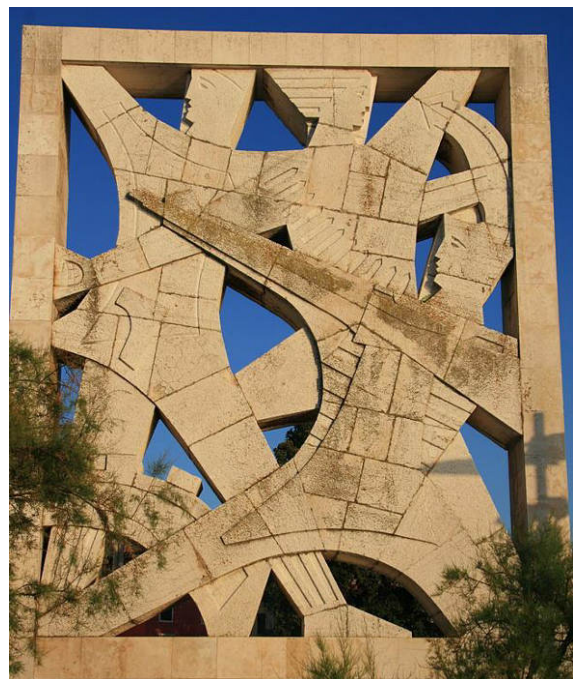
The walk up to the church with its impressive campanile is easy. Literally every crevice in old town is used for tourist purposes, filled with souvenir and craft stalls, converted to shops, tiny galleries, wine bars, ice parlours, konobas, one next to the other.

With all traders outside and canvassing, the walk can feel like running the gauntlets, something I find uncomfortable.

In summary, Rovinj's ancient port town of Italianate character is lovely and well kept, and, again, busy and completely touristy. Have dinner in a harbour side trattoria, Sidro.



... feels almost like Tuscany



... and back to Yugoslavia

June 12 Thursday Rovinj to Mali Losinj

Forecast for today are light NW and W, hot and sunny, up to 33 degC.
But during the following days increasing cloud, then rain and later thunderstorms are expected.

We decide to continue our way back to base, and leave berth at 9:50.

Two hours later, though calm seas, we anchor for lunch behind islet Frasker, near Soline bay and the camping Indie, close to where we had stopped on the way north.



Anchorage by islet Frasker N44°49'29.60" E13°50'39.13"

At 13:30 we lift anchor and continue, across the Kvarner bay, in calm seas.

Passing Unije, in a distance.



Unjije village, the only settlement on small Unije island. N44°37'26.02" E14°12'49.36"

Berth at Mali Losinj yacht club marina at 17:00.



In Mali Losinj yacht club marina, many more boats than in the earlier week

June 13 Friday Mali Losinj to [Zadar](#)

Forecast is NE to NW wind 3, in the afternoon cloudy and risk of isolated showers/thunder along the coast.

We leave at 10:00 in sunny weather, very light NW. Towards SE, with Ilovik and then Silba to port, and leaving the rocks of Greben, which remind of the back of a huge half submerged crocodile, to starboard.



Passing the string of Greben rocks N44°18'50.86" E14°44'46.35"

We then pass the NE side of island Ist, towards island Molat, and anchor at 13:10 in uvala Przina, which is part of the Jazi bay on island Molat, to the north of Molat village.

This anchorage is for short stops only, it's open to N and E; but seems to have good sandy holding ground and nice blue water.



Anchored in Jazi cove (Molat) $N44^{\circ}13'34.71''$ $E14^{\circ}52'9.95''$. View northeast to islet Tovarnjak



Securing the anchor back on deck

Leave anchorage at 15:00 and berth at Zadar town marina at 16:30. Can only get a space outside at the end of a T-pontoon.

Anyhow, skies are still blue, the rain has not shown up yet.



In Zadar town marina

June 14 Saturday Zadar to Frapa/Rogoznica

Forecast is N to E 2-3, rain and risk of thunder.

We leave berth by 11:50, and make the 50 nm to our home berth in light winds and light rain.
Berthed Frapa at 17:00

June 15- 19 spent in Marina Frapa

The weather has deteriorated and offers a mix of grey clouds, rain, thunderstorms and strong winds during the following days. No point in going out with the boat for pleasure.

On June 18 we do a “test drive” to marina Kremik and back. The purpose is to demonstrate to the service company some vibrations which the boat is producing at certain revs; those are minor but had not been noticed in the past. We arrange that Tarilian will be lifted and the port side shaft and prop examined during the time we are away.

During a window in the rain we do a walk round marina Frapa and enjoy views from the adjacent hill.

We return to London June 20th.



Marina Frapa pontoons and Rogoznica village

Total mileage between June 1st to June 15th: 399 nm

Cruising speed on this trip: Between 9 and 11 kn.

‘Tarilian’ is a Trader 535 Signature, semi-displacement flybridge cruiser with aft cabin and aft deck.
Loa 54 ft/16.5m. Engines: 2x Volvo diesel TAMD73.

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