Cruise Croatia 16 – 23 June 2001

Marina Kremik/Primosten - Stomorska/Solta - Vrboska/Hvar - Sucurai - Lovisce/Peljesak - Korcula marina/Korcula - Palmizana Marina/Sv Clement - Pakleni islands - Osibova/Brac - Rogac/Solta - Drvenik – Kremik
Total logged: 188.15 nm

Thursday June 14th

We travel to Croatia 2 days before the start of our cruise. We fly out of Gatwick to Split, starting 5ish. Arrive in Split and take taxi (10-15min) to Trogir Old Town. We stay in hotel FONTANA for a couple of nights before taking the boat over. The hotel is close to the historic quayside, just up in an alleyway. Lovely and interesting walled Old Town built on a 'island', with a main square with cathedral and fortifications around. It would be possible to go round in a dinghy.


Trogir Old Town gate


Cruise ships (gulets) rafted up on the quay awaiting tourists

Medieval town, Marina across a bridge on the Ciovo side of the channel. Many restaurants both inside town and on quayside. Must be a pretty and pleasant weekend holiday place for locals.

Friday June 15th

Go to Split by taxi, passing the airport. The modern town of Split is heavily industrial, offices, high rising blocks etc. The Old Town is situated basically within what is called the Diocletian Palace. An amazing eclectic mix of architecture from various ages starting with the Romans.




Around Diocletian’s palace on the seafront of Split Old Town





We walked up to the Natural History Museum/zoo and Marajan hill, from where there are incredible views to the islands and beyond. Pleasant villas and Mediterranean vegetation.

In recent years appear to be more and more second/holiday homes built out of Split in the direction of Trogir and beyond, all along the coast which is getting built up.

Saturday June 16th
Spent in **Trogir** exploring old town market and quayside. A huge, apparently brand-new sailing yacht 'Surama' from London sits alongside the Riva and seems to wait for its owners to arrive.



Trogir's Riva, the quay is currently under refurbishment



Then the taxi - the same we used in the last both days- brings us to **Marina Kremik**, and the guy hands us a bottle of red as a thank you(!). He seems to think that Split is the place to be, with all life going on, and does not care much about Trogir; just the opposite of what we tourists feel.

Take over the boat, PORAT III, a Sea Ray 300 sports cruiser of about 10m loa, with twin Mercruiser 220HP diesels. Roughly the same specs as Ileana our own boat.

Stock up on provisions and have a fresh fish meal in the marina restaurant - simple but good and inexpensive. Quite a breezy night. We need to set up an improvised black-out screen to keep the early morning light out of the cabin.
The boat seems modern and comfortable.

Sunday June 17th
Buy more provisions and set off just before noon. Sea state choppy with waves heights up to 1m, we sneak between islands and along **Solta** for a calmer ride. Moor in a bay off N coast, most Easterly, **Stomorska**, for lunch.
There is a small settlement with a quay, but we anchor just outside main inlet, have lunch, and sunbathe, and have a swim (water cold, fresh breeze, sun hot). Surprised by a massive attack of sand flies who seem to be after our blood, we leave in a hurry with only minor punctures to the skipper, and head for **Vrboska** on Hvar.

Enter the sheltered bay, passing by Jelsa village on the port side, and arrive in Vrboska marina, where we tie up, initially, close to fuel station, but find this noisy and smelly, and go to the other end, under pine trees (berth 99), where we spend a quiet night. Rain in the early hours, luckily we had put up the awnings (apparently not so usual in Croatia).
[47.1 nm]

Monday June 18th
By the morning the wind had got fiercer, and we decide not to venture out on the advice of a neighbouring similar boat. We watch how the wind develops and at 5pm it still does not look good, plus tales from arriving yachts of strong winds and heavy seas in the main channel.



'Porat III' moored at ACI Vrboska, old town in the background

By 6pm the sun comes out again, we decide to stay for the night and have a lovely dinner in the restaurant up the stairs from the marina office, with wonderful views of the harbour, the town, and the sunset.

Tuesday June 19th

Much colder in the night with rain - (puts our thermal wear to good use!). Calmer, then wind from NE by 7am. Weather forecast is not good, changing, cloudy skies for the next 3 days getting better by Friday… The harbour guy suggests if we wanted to head South, we should leave now, we do.

Along the coast of Hvar to E, around the point at **Sucuraj** and across the channel to the lighthouse point **Lovisce** NW end of Peljesac island, and round the point and to South. Fairly rough 2 hours' ride, not too bad but not really pleasant. Anchor in **Luka bay** for lunch. Then on to **Korcula marina** for the night. NE gusts and choppy seas so we are happy to be moored up safely.

Revisit the town and have excellent dinner at Adio Mare restaurant, similar to last time.
Have coffees and grappa in a little café in an old cobbled road to the West side, watching the sunset - pink skies, maybe the weather is going to be kinder tomorrow?
[91 nm]

Wednesday June 20th

Gale force gusts in the night wake us up. Have breakfast early; it's Jane's birthday today.

Given the weather forecast we must ditch earlier ideas to go South to Mljet and Dubrovnik. I decide to venture back to Hvar and the **Palmizana marina**. Strong winds expected in the afternoon, so we set off against moderate waves in the channel.
We head for Scedro island, chop is increasing in the Korcula channel. Seeking more protection by getting closer to Hvar, but not much shelter here either.
Just past Scedro an engine alarm goes off and does not stop - there is no apparent cause for it. I talk to the support man, he recommends to disconnect it, I do so (seems to be a false alarm triggered by damp ingress in the electrics).

In the meantime, the wind has freshened further making the remaining 13nm to Palmiziana marina more difficult; against 2m waves towards the final part we must slow right down.



Unpleasant weather outside Palmizana marina

Finally tied up safely we relax, knowing - though it's still raining - we are in a lovely spot, the **Pakleni islands**, and not too far from Kremik.

After 6pm the rain finally stops and we walk around the rocks, then have fresh scampi and fish carpaccio in a brilliant place, Meneghello's, up the hill facing the south bay.
[127.15 nm]


In the evening the rain clears. At Vinogradisce bay

Thursday June 21st

Much brighter morning, still windy but improving. Leave about 10:30 am, and around E end of **Sv. Clement** to a bay (Stari Stani) on the S side, E of **Tarsce**, where we anchor in the E side cove. The W part seemed deeper and better protected but was already occupied.

Enjoy the day at anchor, having lunch, swimming etc. and leave 5pm going round the W end of Sv.Clement, through passage between Parzanj and Borovac. Find that there is still heavy swell from NW so we decide to go back to **Palmizana** for the night.
Cannot resist to go to the same restaurant again, where we indulge ourselves in seafood risotto and the lobster house speciality - great meal but on the rich side.
At 4am a further false alarm goes off (bilge pump), apparently due to previous rain or condensation - had to disable it.
[137.9 nm]



‘Porat III’ anchored at Sv. Clement island

Friday June 22nd

Finally a beautiful sunny day with light S winds. Set off to have a look at bays on the SW end of Brac, S of Milna. Still some swell but much better ride. Bays disappoint: Maslinova had fish farms in it, Lucice is quite built up, **Osibova** too, but we could anchor there; then went on to **Milna** and have coffee on old town quay N side of marina.



Milna harbour





Milna harbour in Old Town

Then onto bay of **Rogac on Solta**, anchored at 9m depth on E side opposite ferry port. Spent the rest of this beautiful afternoon here, till 6pm.

Set off towards Dvenik, and between Kosmac/Arkandel and the mainland towards Primosten. Hit some SW swell around Rt Ploca.
Finally anchor in the tiny cove/inlet opposite entrance of Kremik marina to watch the sunset, before going back to our berth in Kremik.
[188.15 nm]

Saturday June 23rd

We check out of our boat, and leave Kremik by taxi to the airport.

Wind pattern has now changed (summer/ thermal winds). Wind gets up about 10:30am and goes on till about 6pm. Ideal time for motoring with small boat would therefore be in earlier mornings and late afternoon.



At Marina Kremik, view from restaurant / reception



Fine weather ahead but we have to leave…(!)