Cruise Croatia 18 May – 25 May 2002

Marina Kremik/Primosten - Tatinja (Solta) - Vela Garska (Hvar) - ***Palmizana ACI marina*** (Sv Klement, Pakleni is.) - Pomena (Mljet) - Sunj (Lopud) - ***Dubrovnik Marina*** - Sipanska Luka (Sipan) - Prapratno bay (Peljesac) - ***Korcula town ACI marina*** - Lovisce (Scedro) - ***Palmizana ACI marina*** - Necujam bay (Solta) – **Marina Kremik**

[total trip 255 nm] (*Bold italics* are overnight stays)
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A collection of photos follows the texts
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Sat May 18th
We leave from Vienna taking a short hop with a charter flight to Brac, very pleasant. Take a taxi to the ferry from Supetar to Split (50min ride) and from Split by taxi to Kremik marina.

Sort out provisions and receive instructions for this year's boat, STAR FOUR, a trawler style semi-displacement yacht of 13.1m (43 feet) with twin 200HP Volvo diesels, (built ca.1988). It is the first time we try cruising a flybridge yacht. She offers excellent space on deck and under deck, compared to previous years. During the week it will turn out a really good live-aboard.
Sorted out little teething problems, passarella, dinghy pump, etc assisted by the helpful staff of the charter company.
Stay in marina for the first night, and have lovely dinner at the marina restaurant.

Sun May 19th
Leave about 10:00 and head for **Solta** and cove **Tatinja,** where we anchor in the East part which we find quite narrow. Noticed 5 yachts in the West part, some with landlines to trees ashore. Had lunch and tried a swim - chilly water due to the early season. A benefit, on the other side, is the absence of swarms of insects and hungry wasps…
Decided to visit **Vela Garska** bay on the S coast of Hvar. Then across to **Palmizana marina,** which is uncrowded at that time. We moor up for the night and have wonderful meal at Meneghello's restaurant in the woods. (Mussels in white wine busara, barbecued sticks of scampi and fish etc.)
[37.5 nm]

Mon May 20th
Leave marina about 9:30 and head past Scedro island to Uvala **Przina,** a bay on the SW tip of **Peljesak** peninsula. No other boats around. We listen to music, have lunch and relax. The weather has been better than promised, but some (storm?) clouds are gathering.
We leave around 4pm and head for **Mljet** island - town and cove of **Pomena** on NW end of island. Incredibly beautiful spot with a large bay protected by various islets with a hotel (modern) on one side and 3-4 restaurants on the others, with moorings in front. Seems to be a stopover for Gulets as well. Had very good prosciutto and fresh grilled fish dinner. The neighbouring yacht, with a local crew, start producing loud music and seem to have a kind of party. Fed up with this, I make the point that we had come to have a good night's rest here - before leaving early tomorrow - and not a disco; after some debating the music gets turned down, but still this is our loudest night in Croatia so far. Obviously, outside a regulated marina environment people can do what they like. The restaurant owners are not to blame, but local louts using outside speakers on their yachts. We decide it may be better not to moor up right in front of a restaurant in future. After this, we have a good night's sleep, still.
[88.9 nm]

Tues May 21st
We slip away quietly at 8am and head South. The weather is beautiful and seas calm. Our auto helm has packed up, but the boat is easy to steer, cruising and sunbathing on the fly-bridge can be done simultaneously. 3 1/2 hours later come to island of **Lopud** and anchor in the open bay to the SE, **Sunj**. Popular spot but lovely, had a swim and looked at the anchor, sea slightly warmer than previously.

Leave for Dubrovnik. Meet some clouds and rain, we so we motor from the inside helm for the first time, no problem just a little more noise and stuffier. Pass under the huge bridge at the entrance and motor up the Dubrovacka river to the **Dubrovnik marina** Miho Pracat.
Great marina with good facilities, though swimming pool not yet filled up. After lunch on board we get on a bus to **Dubrovnik Old City.**
Amazing fully walled ancient town restored to perfect condition mostly. It goes without saying, that this is a World class tourist spot and the highlight of any journey. Many of the major sights are on the main W-E street, a parallel street to the N is narrow with touristy restaurants lined up crying out for your custom. We make the 2km tour of the battlements all around the city with incredible views of the town and sea. We find the restaurants (Nautical club) neighbours had recommended to us, a smart club type arrangement. We feel a bit shabby for a proper posh place, but have a very nice meal - though one could argue that some of the fish specialists on the islands, such as Meneghello's, are even better. Get away with £70, not cheap (compared to other, simpler, places) but value considering the location and the views.
Back to the boat around 11pm and have a good night in the very pleasant marina, the only noise being chatty swallows, which are both in the city squares and in the woods around the marina.
[126.6 nm]

Wed May 22nd
After breakfast set off without problems, get fuel from the marina's fuel station.
Motor round Lopud and along S of **Sipan** island, turning around the promontory and into **Sipanska Luka** bay. A beautiful sheltered harbour and anchorage. We are looking out of for the house and restaurant of a friend of friends, but cannot identify it. Anyway, it's very quiet just now, hard to see how one can make a good living from tourists.
Leave for **Prapratno** cove on the S coast of the Peljesac peninsula. Beautiful scenery on the way, passing islands such as Olipa. Anchor in the bay which we have to ourselves, very few boats around here at this time. Spent time swimming (me) and rowing around in dinghy (Jane). One can inspect the anchor and interesting rock formation under water, just using goggles. Finally, Jane braved the waters too, after a conditioning shower on the bathing platform.
We then head for Korcula in sunshine with blue skies and no winds, arrive and moor up in **Korcula town ACI marina**. Have dinner at the original Adio Mare, and then for coffee to a café on the W side walls, with sun set views over the bay. Slightly funny tummy but ok the next morning.
[178.3 nm]

Thurs May 23rd
Lovely morning, just a little hazy and clouds but seem clearing. SW wind gets up a bit, which should not be too disturbing for our cruise, we get under way to the NW. We try **Manastir** bay N coast of Scedro island for a lunch stay but find swell and wind uncomfortable, so go to the next bay, **Lovisce** bay, and anchor in the E most of the 3 arms. There is no swell here, we decide to sit out the wind, have lunch and drinks and enjoy the nice secluded and protected bay. Leave at 4:30 towards NW and find wind and sea state again in the more open part of the channel. So, we decide to stay over night in **Palmizana marina**. Have another amazing meal at Meneghello's. On the walk back to the marina we notice strong gusts, it could be a bit of a stormy night, so I tighten up bimini and other loose bits on board.
[215 nm]

Fri May 24th
Set off at 11:30. Sea state looks ok initially, but gets rougher as we round Rt Pelegrin (W tip of Hvar) and turn N towards Milna/Brac across the Hvarski kanal. Need to secure loose table and chairs on aft deck. Suddenly poor visibility caused by heavy rain.
Finally passing between Solta and Brac, the swell gets less, we anchor in **Necujam** bay on N side of Solta. Still raining, have lunch inside. Leave at about 3:30pm. I find it better to steer from the flybridge as soon as the rain stops. Have a bit rough ride back to **Kremik**, arrive around 6pm.
Fill the diesel tanks up and finally return her to her berth.
[255 nm]

In summary, the week has been good for generally pleasant weather and value; not too hot, no sun burns, not many insects, and not many boats around; cheaper charter rates than later in the season, too.

The larger STAR yacht has proven much superior to smaller boats we had had before, much quieter and more relaxed to drive. This type of boat however tends to roll with waves from abeam, so you need to consider wind directions when planning your course.

PHOTO SECTION



Supetar harbour, on the ferry to Split



'Star'Four's salon



Approaching Korcula enroute to Mljet



Passing a rock, Grebeni lighthouse near Dubrovnik in the distance



Dubrovnik Old Town harbour







Dubrovnik Old Town (as seen from the walls)



Stradun, the main thoroughfare



Luza square, Sponza palace in the background



Olando's column and St Blaise's church



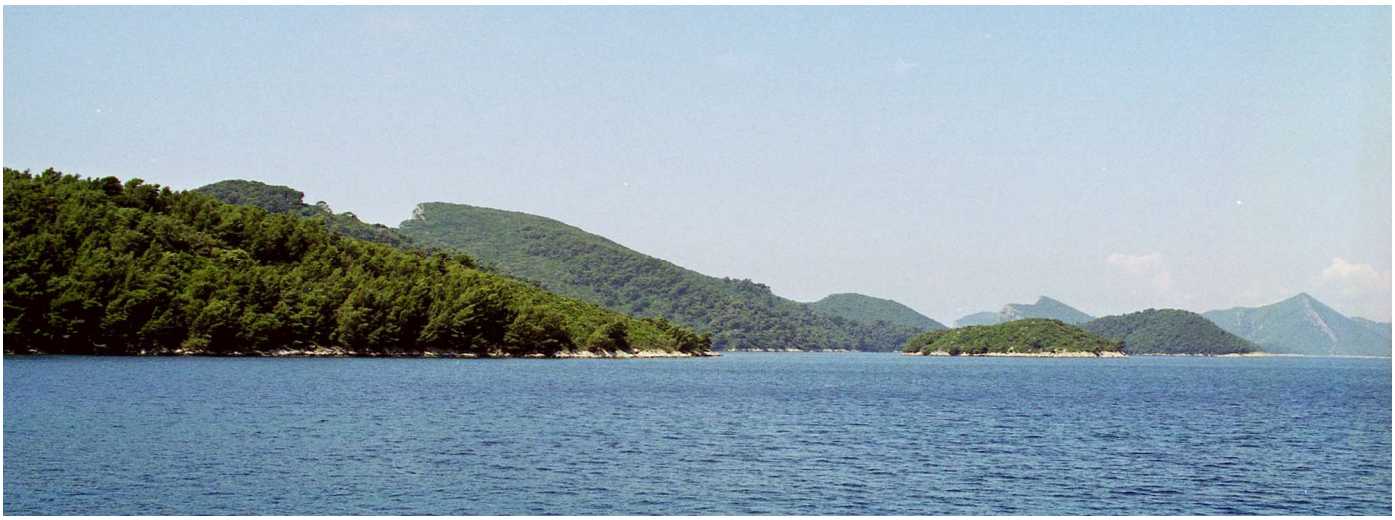

Franciscan monastery church tower and court yard



Fuel station at ACI marina Dubronik on the Dubrava river



Visting Sipanska Luka enroute to Korcula



Beautiful landscapes cruising along Sipan island to Peljesak



‘Star Four’at anchor near Prapratno cove, Peljesak











Approaching Korcula from the South

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