

VENUE

About HOTEL CROATIA

The Conference will take place in Hotel CROATIA Cavtat (5* *deluxe*), Cavtat, Croatia. The hotel is located on the pine-forested peninsula overlooking unspoilt Cavtat Bay, in the vicinity of Cavtat port, with sea and private beaches on both sides of the hotel and with “*Lungomare*” – a several kilometer promenade along the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

[Web link: Adriatic luxury hotels](#)





ABOUT CAVTAT

20 km down the coast from Dubrovnik and only 10 minutes by taxi from Dubrovnik airport, the charming harbor town of Cavtat is one of Croatia's best-kept secrets. Originally the Ancient Greek settlement of Epidaurus, Cavtat perches on an Arcadian wooded peninsula set between two brilliant-blue bays. A wide promenade, fringed with palm trees, arches around the harbor front bordered by beaches on one side and delightful bars from which to watch a glorious sunset on the other. Backing away from the shimmering seafront is the colorful Old Town, with its cobbled streets and traditional red-roofed houses, revealing a wealth of predominantly Renaissance treasures, including the 16th-century Rector's Palace and an intriguing 15th-century Franciscan monastery complex.

Cavtat is the largest and the only urban centre in Konavle that has been built up deliberately. Located on the Rat peninsula, which, together with the Sustjepan peninsula, surrounds the well protected and accessible bay. In its harmonious architecture, one can observe the centuries-old natural, spiritual and material ties to the Dubrovnik Republic.

Cavtat, known as Epidaurus in antique times, was an important Roman colony in this region. After Slavic and Avarian numbers in the area rose the colony expired, forcing its inhabitants to flee to the nearby settlement Laus-Rave-Ragus, the very settlement that is the foundation of Dubrovnik. Some ancient sources mention Cavtat under the name of Ragusa Vecchia, indicating a strong connection between the two cities. During the Dubrovnik Republic, Cavtat was seen as a very important sea port, trade and administration hub in the Republic, second only to Dubrovnik.

Places that offer so much to visitors are a rare find. Even the most demanding tourist will find something suiting their wishes: the beautiful scenery, rich cultural and historic heritage combined with a wide range of services make this town a very attractive destination on the Adriatic coast. Cavtat itself is located between Dubrovnik and Konavle: one can still feel the spirit of times past and experience the old traditions permeating the area to this day. By all accounts it's an ideal holiday resort, with something for everyone, be it exploring and enjoying hidden coves in peace, spending the day enjoying long walks along the seaside or even participating in sports and watching one of many entertaining cultural programs.

History

Cavtat (from the Latin Civitas), while being established by the Illyrians, had a turbulent record of rule and possession: it was under Greek and Roman rule, it was seized by different powers, ravaged by invading Avars and Slavs. It had part of its population flee to the islet of Laus which later became Dubrovnik. Early on in the 15th century, Cavtat became a part of the Dubrovnik Republic when the western part of Konavle was taken over from Bosnian magnate Radoslav Pavlović.

Many famous Croats were born in Cavtat: the lawyer Baltazar Bogišić, painter Vlaho Bukovac, politician Frano Supilo to name a few. The Rector's, or rather Captain's, Palace is a Renaissance structure dating from 1555-1558. This is home to the Bogošić library, archive, museum and stone monument collection (including two inscriptions by the Roman Governor Dolabelle from the 1st century) and a graphical collection with over 10,000 pages compiled by Bogišić. The Baroque Church of St. Nicholas, in its current appearance from 1732, contains eight paintings of the old masters and paintings by Vlaho Bukovac in its vault. The Church of Our Lady of Snow and the Franciscan monastery with its Renaissance cloister date back to 1483. From the church, a trail heads through the pine woods to the peak of a nearby hill where the graveyard is located, and which is dominated by the Račić family mausoleum (architecturally designed and sculptured by Ivan Meštrović in 1920-1922). The Kaboga Palace also dates back to the time of Dubrovnik Republic.

Legend on the origin of the name of Cavtat

There is an interesting legend concerning the town name, as it states that two suitors asking the beautiful Cavtislava's hand in marriage (the daughter of the Epidaurian ruler). Her father would give his approval to either suitor, depending on which one performed the bigger task. One of the suitors, a commander named Stjepan, was required to bring aquaviva from the Vodovađa source in Konavle, while the other, a knight and seafarer, was required to bring a ship brimming with silk from the far

corners of the known world. On the day of the festivities, commemorating the opening of the Epidaurian viaduct, the beautiful Cavtislava was to first drink water from a golden jar, but before she could do so a big lizard jumped out of the water, landing directly onto the girl's lap. Cavtislava's heart failed her and she died immediately. According to tales in the common tongue, the unfortunate seafarer, whose ship was sunk by a huge storm directly in front of Epidaurus, and who therefore was not able to fulfill his task, put the lizard into the viaduct since he could not bear the loss of the girl. In memory of the beautiful Cavtislava arose Cavtat to replace the ravaged town of Epidaurus, destroyed in an earthquake.

Another legend says that Cavtat derives its name from the Old-Croatian verb 'captiti' – 'to blossom', referring to the yellow juniper, a widespread sparkling plant with a sunny aura. The legend relates its doom to the catastrophes after which the indestructible Cavtat would come back to life again and anew. "... down there, there's something adorned with gold blossoming in the reef..."

[Web link: Dubrovnik and surroundings](#)





ABOUT DUBROVNIK

Known as the Pearl of the Adriatic, it lies in the extreme south of Croatia, basking in glorious Mediterranean sunshine for much of the year. A fairytale fortress of beautiful Baroque, Gothic and Renaissance churches, aristocratic palaces, red-roofed townhouses, magnificent monasteries and fascinating history, it is almost impossible to feel anything but uplifted and inspired here.

Wander the bustling boutiques, markets and bars, savour freshly-caught seafood while gazing out to sea at sunset; walk along the iconic walls or take a cable car up to Mount Srđ for the most spectacular views in all of Dubrovnik. Today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Old Town and its towering walls rise above a 13th-century main street that literally sparkles in the sun. No wonder so many consider Dubrovnik a precious gem. In fact, the origins of the Croatian language and its classic literature can be traced back here, and the city remains an epicentre of culture, art, music and science. All this, and surrounded by a brilliant-blue seascape, pretty beaches and idyllic islands.

There are many beautiful places in the world, however the people of Dubrovnik claim their city to be the most beautiful. A warm southern climate, spacious blue skies, emerald green and dark blue crystal-clear sea touching the rocky shore and spilling into numerous coves and bays, onto sandy beaches and steep reefs decorated with the lushest Mediterranean and subtropical flora.

Under the mild Mediterranean climate, Dubrovnik is bathed in a sea of sun, blossoms and ripe orange and lemon tree fruit, even in the winter months. There are more than 250 sunny days per year, the average annual temperature is about 17°C, with the mean winter and summer temperatures being 10°C and 26°C respectively. The average summer sea temperature is about 21°C. The swimming season in the sea begins as early as April, sometimes even earlier, and lasts until late October, while swimming in indoor hotel pools is available year-round. Dubrovnik and its surrounding areas cover the southernmost region of the Republic of Croatia and its Dalmatian province, from Neum in the west to Sutorina and Ponte Ostre in the east. The region borders with the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the north and the Republic of Montenegro to the east. This long, narrow coastal belt under the Dinaric mountains and low mountain peaks spreads to the east in the Konavle Polje (Fields), and includes Sniježnica Mountain and its mountainous region, it being its most inland point. One side borders with Herzegovina, the other with Montenegro, with the border line following the mountain peaks and at certain points coming to within a few hundred metres of the sea (such as at Duboka Ljuta).

History

The City of Dubrovnik is under UNESCO protection. According to records, the area around Dubrovnik was first inhabited somewhere between 6000 and 2000 BC. The existence of the city was lost in the cloudy course of history, with legend and historical facts being meshed together. The lack of any preserved documents makes the whole pinpointing process harder, and the few historians that are researching this topic are left with the task to distinguish fact from fiction.

What is certain is that Dubrovnik is an old city, persevering on its stony cliffs for at least 14 centuries. An even older city, Epidaurum, predates Dubrovnik, being located where the city of Cavtat now lies, about 18 kilometres southeast of Dubrovnik. At the time of its destruction it had endured for at least 10 to 12 centuries. Again, historians cannot be sure. Some believe that the Greeks founded the colony around 600BC. With the city destroyed, a number of its inhabitants fled to neighbouring regions (today's Župa Dubrovačka), where the fortified cities of Spilan and Gradac (Burnum) were inhabited, as well as the rocky islet of Laus, which became the first city core of old Dubrovnik.

The rapid settlement of Laus resulted in the development of a new city, today's Dubrovnik (in the 7th century) which would, on that small rocky area, grow deep roots and build a glorious and heroic history in the stormy centuries to follow. During the 7th century, the Slavic tribes, with Croats being one of the superior ones, had already set up permanent residences along the majority of the eastern Adriatic coast, with the exception of a few fortified Roman cities, which were becoming cut off from the rest of the empire in the wake of this rapid Slavic population. In comparison to the development of cities with

a Roman population, a settlement was developing near Ragusium, at the foothills of Mount Srđ, which received the Croatian name Dubrovnik. The name came from the oak forests which even today are called “dubrave” today. During the 10th and 11th century, the sea strait between the two settlements became shallower due to alleviation, drying up completely at the end. When the two settlements, already joined together, were fortified and strengthened within the same city walls at the end of 12th century, the result was the Old Town of Dubrovnik, an urban centre preserved to the present day.







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