

Cruise Croatia - Frequently Asked Questions

VESSELS

Q: What are the vessels like?

A: All our vessels are motorsailers built of wood or steel in different sizes and shapes. Some wooden ships are more than one hundred years old, but that refers only to their name and shape, in reconstructions they have been renewed to the tiniest parts. In the past, the wooden boats have been used to carry cargo and supplies along the coast and to the remote islands.

Q: Who owns the vessels?

A: Captains are usually the vessel owners, for whom this job is part of a family tradition. It's not rare that the crewmembers all belong to one family, or that one family owns a few boats.

Q: How many crew members are there?

A: Usually five -- depending on the vessel -- captain, chef, waiter and sailors.

Q: How do we communicate with crew?

A: At least one crewmember is able to communicate in English. You will be introduced to all crewmembers upon arrival when the line representative welcomes you.

Q: How often boats use their sails?

A: Although we call them motorsailers, the vessels usually use motor in a way to carry out the given itinerary, and sails are hoisted at least once during the cruise, depending on weather. Please note that some of our steel boats don't even have sails ("Princess", "Tuna" ...)

Q: What is the difference between A+ and A, and B category?

A: A category vessels have ensuite bathrooms, and in most cases are bigger and more comfortable than B category boats. B category boats have common bathrooms/toilettes on deck to be shared by all passengers, and cabins have only bunk beds. A category ships also have some bunk beds, however lower bunks are usually double size (these are triple bed cabins).

Newly built A + category ships are larger, more spacious and more comfortable than A category ships. Cabins are more spacious, with either twin or double beds (no bunks), and accommodations are fully air-conditioning throughout. The power is limited when there is no electrical access from shore, vessel generators then run in port only till midnight. A+ category ships and cruise they provide also include two additional services: free sightseeing of old town Dubrovnik, with English speaking guide, and a Captain's Dinner.

Q: Which category should I choose?

A: Those who seek more privacy and comfort should choose A+ or A category boats. B category boats are intended for young people, groups of friends or different interest groups, like alpinists and bikers who don't mind sharing a small space for 7 days.

Q: How many passengers do the ships carry?

A: The number varies from 20 on smaller wooden boats to approx. 40 on larger modern vessels.

Q: What kind of fellow passengers should I expect?

Our passengers vary in age and nationality. English-speaking guests are predominant. B category boats have younger passengers like backpackers, while on A category vessels we have a mix of age groups, singles and couples and groups of friends. If you have a preference to be accommodated with a specific age group or nationality, we kindly ask you to make a note while making your reservation. We do our best to group passengers according to age and language.

Q: Is there warm water on the vessel?

A: Electricity and water are available, but in a limited capacity. Vessel generators make some noise, so we turn them off during the night or while the boat is docked in a peaceful bay. Water tanks have capacity that matches numbers of cabins, actually numbers of beds, so there is always enough water for everyone, even if the tanks are not refilled each day, assuming that everyone uses water rationally. There is also a central boiler providing warm water.

Q: Are there security measures on the vessel?

A: All the vessels are equipped with life boats and life jackets (placed under the beds in cabins or in wardrobe on deck or in the salon. If you are a non-swimmer, we kindly ask you to inform the captain and our office before departure. During the whole cruise you need to pay attention to the following: steps are much tighter and sharper, one must be cautious climbing up or down; decks can be slippery when wet or in humid mornings, so it's necessary while you are walking on deck in those conditions to hold to the fence. Climbing the mast, jumping off the deck while the vessel is under way or swimming far from the boat at a swim stop, is not allowed. It's also important to remember to close the porthole and prevent rain or sea spray from entering the cabin. During the high season, harbors can be crowded and boats often docked alongside next to each other, so we kindly ask you to be careful when walking across from one boat to another.

Q: Is there a night silence onboard?

A: These vessels are very acoustic, there is no sound isolation, and it's necessary to act accordingly. Silence on board officially begins at midnight. Please note that we cannot take responsibility for the noise coming from the harbor or other ships.

Q: Can the route be changed?

A: The Captain can change the planed route in case of unfavorable weather or conditions in harbors. Nevertheless, you are assured to see all planned destinations if at all possible, may be just in a different order. It is also necessary to realize that captains are not always in a position to please all guests' wishes, for example enter at specific harbors, earlier or later than planned. Guests are obligated to check the notice board every time they go out and return on board by the time required.

EMBARKATION

Q: Where do we find our vessel?

A: Vessels are docked in Opatija harbor, Gruž harbor in Dubrovnik and in Split alongside the pier -- approx. one kilometer long -- from ferry terminals to the Harbor Office which is located right in front of the Diocletian Palace. Our representatives (port agents), dressed in white Katarina Line shirts, will be waiting for you on the piers in respective harbors with a list of guests and vessel name, to direct you to the vessel and cabin number. They will stand available for all information during embarkation. You'll get the representative's telephone number with your ticket.

Q: When can we get on board?

A: Embarkation is on Saturday till 1 p.m., except in Dubrovnik Sundays from 12 p.m. till 6 p.m. Cabins are ready for guests at about 12:00 although it is possible to come even earlier during morning and leave baggage on the boat while the cabin is still being prepared. After a welcome on board and introduction of crewmembers, lunch (dinner in Dubrovnik) is served and the vessel sails out.

Q: When the cruise ends?

A: The arrival back to Split and Opatija is on Friday afternoon (in Dubrovnik on Saturday afternoon). Guests disembark after breakfast, latest by 9 a.m. on Saturday (Sunday in Dubrovnik). The crew then starts preparing the vessel for new guests, arriving in a couple of hours.

Q: Is there a place to park a car for 7 days?

A: We can offer our help with parking. In Opatija our staff will take your car at the parking and charge you for 7 days. In Split we can recommend you a garage not far from the harbor. Our representatives in harbor Split will give you instructions how to get to the parking, after you have left baggage on the boat. We kindly ask you to inform us while making a reservation that you are coming by car.

FOOD & DRINKS

Food onboard is similar to traditional Croatian food. Continental breakfast consists of tea and coffee, fruit juice, bread, butter, jam, and ham and cheese. English breakfast, can be ordered when making your reservation, or once you get on board. Lunch is traditionally plentiful. It consists of soup or pasta as a starter, main dish of fish, meat or chicken with vegetable and salads on the side and desert or fruit. Dinner is not included -- we encourage you to do your sightseeing freely and explore local restaurants and specialties.

Captain's Dinner is organized once during the week to offer a chance for guests and crew to gather in a more "ceremonial" atmosphere. It can be ordered and paid for with your reservation, or once you get on board. On the A+ category cruises, the Captain's Dinner is included in the fare.

Q: Do you provide food for people with special dietary needs?

A: Unfortunately it is not possible to accommodate special dietary needs because of limited space in the kitchen. If you are a vegetarian you will be served more side dishes and salads instead of meat. We kindly ask you to advise us while making a reservation.

Q: Can we bring our own drinks on board?

A: It is not allowed to bring and to consume your own drinks on the ship. You can get drinks at the ship's bar, which forms part of the lounge-restaurant. The bar is equipped with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. If you'd want some specific drinks, kindly make a request at the time of reservation.

Drinks will be noted in your account kept at the bar, and settled at the end of the cruise.
Prices are similar to the ones in coffee bars, taverns and restaurants ashore.

LUGGAGE

Q: What shall I bring with me?

A: We suggest lighter clothes, shorts, T-shirts, bathing suits, sandals and similar, and a few long sleeve shirts, long pants or wind breakers for a possible colder and breezy day. Don't forget your hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, beach towel and, if you travel on a B category boat, personal towels. If you forget something, it is possible to buy summer clothes and equipment in most ports visited.

Q: Is there some fishing equipment on boat?

A: There is no fishing equipment on boats. You are welcome to bring your own, however you must obtain a special fishing license from the harbor master.

Q: What to do if I have a large suitcase?

A: If you are traveling for extended period, we can help you with storing of your additional baggage. In Opatija we can put your baggage in our office, while in Split and Dubrovnik we can recommend storage places in harbor. We would recommend that you check your cabin before deciding whether you need to store your baggage. There is usually enough space under your bed to leave a suitcase.

Q. Shall I bring a sleeping gear?

A: Yes, if you would like to spend some nights sleeping on deck under the stars. It is not allowed to take mattress or bed sheets out of cabin.

Information provided by the KL Cruise Line - for additional information, please contact:

Maris Freighter and Specialty Cruises

www.freightertravels.com