

## THE CENTRE OF THE ADRIATIC

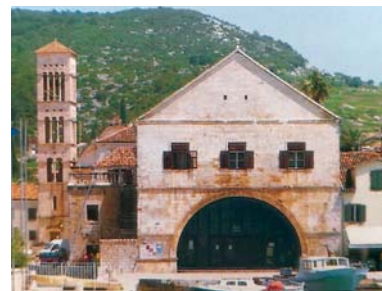
The western part of the island of Hvar is situated in the centre of the Adriatic, at the point of crossing of the main coastal routes and the transversal route linking the Croatian and Italian coasts. Here is also the Grapčeva Cave, where people lived 5,500 years ago. In the cave found is ceramics with the oldest image of a vessel in Europe, showing a larger vessel that sailed into the Adriatic Sea, indicating that trading connections with far lands existed as early as then. One of the first Greek colonies was founded in 384 BC at the place of the present day Stari Grad. The colonists arrived from the island of Paros in the Aegean Sea, who named their colony **Pharos**. They pushed away and conquered the indigenous Illyrians. They also exemplarily subdivided the 6 km

long and 2.5 km wide Stari Grad plane, from the present day Stari Grad to Vrboska, into rectangular plots, now making an exceptional archaeological site, since this is the best preserved classic Greek land cadastre in the Mediterranean.

Other Greek colonies were founded just

along these traffic routes: at the mouth of the river Po Adria, that gave name to the Adriatic Sea, and the present day **Lumbarda** (Lumbarda), **Epidaurum** (Cavtat), **Tragurium** (Trogir), **Epetion** (Stobreč) and **Issa** (Vis).

At the time of the Venetian rule of the Adriatic, to enable supplying and maintenance of the Venetian galleys on their voyages to Levant, at the location of the present day Hvar town, and most probably of the ancient Lesina town, from the year 1278 the new town Hvar (Pharos) was erected with an arsenal,



Arsenal, Hvar



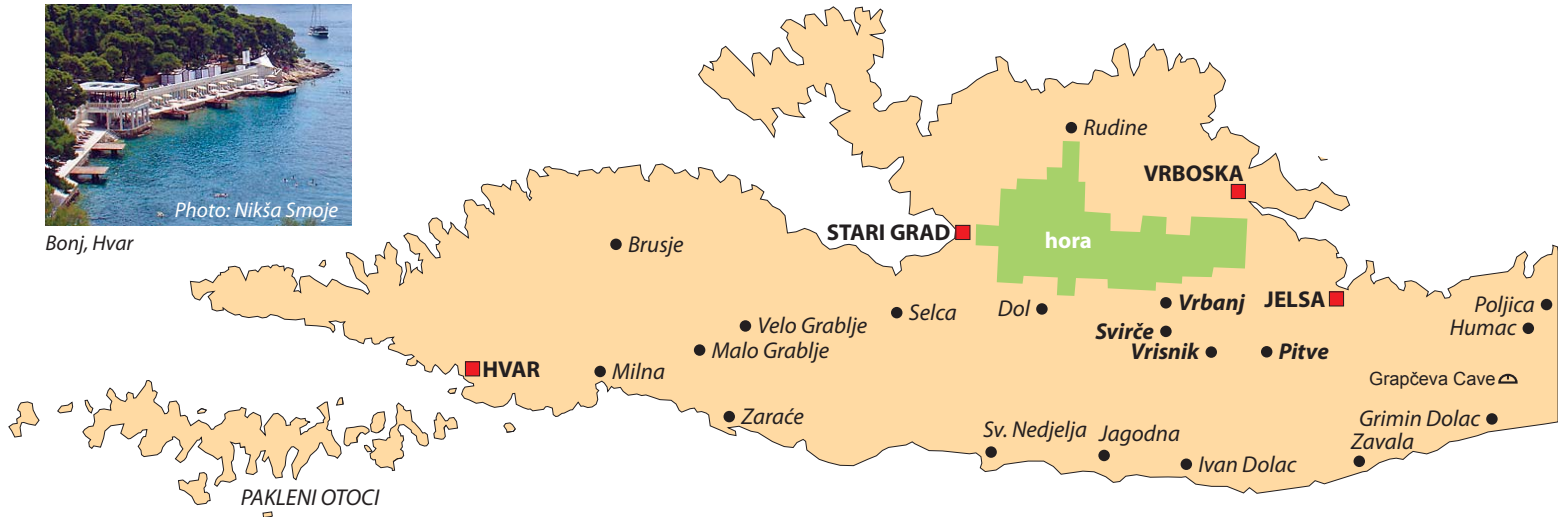
## In 2018 Hvar celebrated 150 years of organised tourism







Bonj, Hvar



whereas the initial Pharos became Stari Grad (Old town). In the period that followed, the power was held exclusively by the Hvar island nobility under the Venetian administration. In 1610 the subdued and humiliated commoners, led by **Matija Ivanić**, rose up for the equality of the classes, that turned into a civil war spread all over the island.



St. Mary (Vrboška)



St. Mary (Vrboška)

After four years of the commoners rule, Venice brutally crushed the mutiny, killing all its leaders. Ivanić left the island of Hvar, whereby his fighting influence gradually decreased. He was obviously walking ahead of his time, even for the European circumstances. Since then, meaning for 500 years now, on every Good Friday the famous After the Cross procession leaves simultaneously the places of **Jelsa, Pitve, Vrsnik, Svirče, Vrbanj** and **Vrboška**, but not to meet each other. During the next 8 hours, as many as 25 kilometres are walked and everyone returns to their starting points.



St. Mary (Jelsa)

In the mid 16th century these lands were attacked by the Ottoman Turks, wherefore palaces and some churches were turned into fortifications. Thus, the church-fort of St. Mary in Jelsa drew back a Turkish attack in 1571, after which event the church-fort of St. Mary in Vrboška was built.

The **Gutenberg's** invention of moveable types printing press of 1440 initiated development of Humanism and Renaissance in Europe. **Marko Marulić** of Split is a well known European humanist, called the father of the Croatian literature, for his writing the first epic in the Croatian literature - Judita (Judith). His followers were **Petar Hektorović** of Stari Grad and **Hanibal Lucić** of Hvar. The most important work of Petar Hektorović is Ribanje i ribarsko prigovaranje (Fishing and the Fishermen Talks; 1568), where he described his voyage from Stari Grad to the islands of Brač and Šolta, accompanied by the fishermen Paskoje and Nikola. The value of this work is its Renaissance description of nature and people getting together as well as their thinking, making this a combination of artistic and folk literature. Hektorović also left to us his well known fortified mansion, Tvrdalj, built for several decades, but unable to resist the Ottomans' attacks in their two conquests. Besides on



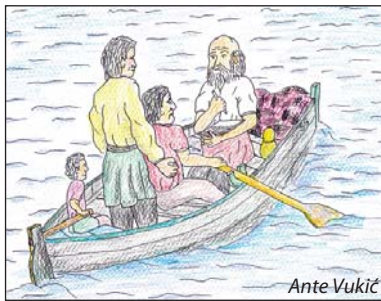
Tvrdalj



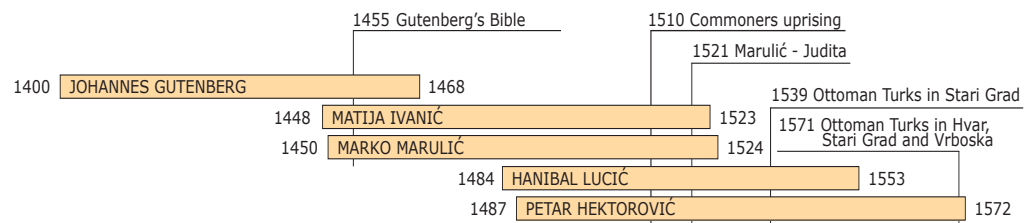
Tvrdalj







Petar Hektorović, Paskoj, Nikola



this occasion, he left his mansion also during the commoners uprising. In the mansion there is a fish pond and many enlightening sayings cut in stone. It provided accommodation to travellers and shelter to the poor. Hanibal Lucić is the best known Croatian Renaissance poet. Of his work, preserved is the canzoniere *Pisni ljuvene* (Love Poems) consisting of 22 love poems, the poem *U pohvalu grada Dubrovnika* (Praising the Town of Dubrovnik) and the first Croatian drama, *Robinja* (The Slave Girl), widely performed. In Hvar there is the Lucić's villa with a large Renaissance style garden. The busts of Petar Hektorović and Hanibal Lucić, made by the sculptor **Kuzma Kovačić** stand in the Hvar's cathedral of St. Steven.

In the latter half of the 19th century, driven by own forces, shipping developed in Stari Grad and, especially, in Jelsa that led before larger Dalmatian towns. Besides numerous sailing ships, eight ocean sailing

ships of the **Duboković Nadalini** family sailed in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, but to America as well. The largest sailing ship co-owned by the captain **Niko Duboković** (1834 - 1912)

was the clipper-brig *Giovanni D* (1873) of 474 tons capacity, flying the Croatian flag as early as in 1848. As the mayor of Jelsa (1868-1912) he continued building the town harbour, started by his father **Ivan**,



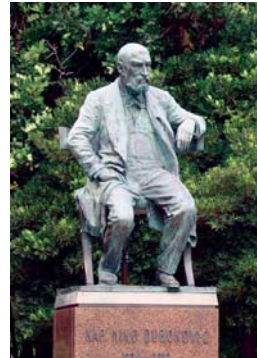
St. Stephen, Hvar



Petar Hektorović i Hanibal Lucić



Giovanni D



Captain Niko Duboković

the mayor of Jelsa 1843-1868. He also founded one of the first reading rooms in Dalmatia. The shipping of Jelsa, based on sail ships, ended with the appearance of the steamships.

Today, the main local branches of industry are tourism, production of the well known wine *plavac*, and processing of aromatic plants, firstly lavender, but also rosemary, sage, Scotch heather, oregano and may others. This has been enabled firstly by the mild climate with lots of sunshine. Development of tourism on Hvar island was marked by founding the Lesina Hygienic Society in 1868, that promoted health tourism, and building the first Hvar's hotel, the present day Palace, in 1899. The Pakleni Otoci archipelago, the islet of Šćedro and the entire coastline abound in beautiful bays and clean beaches. In the Hvar town is the well known Bonj beach. Today tourists are offered programmes of wine-roads with visits to various wine cellars, well marked 7 bicycle roads 7-24 km in lengths. numerous walks enabling fine insight into the area and many settlements, and learning the local life, work and customs.



Photo: Boris Kragić

JELSA





Photo: Boris Kragić

VRBOSKA



## HVAR

Brusje, Jagodna, Malo Grablje, Milna, Sveta Nedjelja, Velo Grablje, Zračce

**Sights:** Fortica Fortress, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Arsenal, Hvar Public Theatre, Town Loggia, Hanibal Lucić's Mansion, Hvar

Heritage Museum

**Mayor:** Rikardo Novak (021-741-608)

**Tourist Board:** Trg sv. Stjepana 42, 21450 Hvar, 021-741-059, [tzg-hvar@st.t-com.hr](mailto:tzg-hvar@st.t-com.hr)

**Hotels:** Croatia (021-742-400), Fortuna (021-745-021), Park (099-388-6666), Pharia (021-778-080), Podstine (021-740-400), Sunčani Hvar - Adriana - Amfora - Riva - The Palace - Pharos - Delfin - Villa Dalmacija

**Restaurants:** 4 Palme (021-743-081), Amo, Antonio (095-573-5377), Bonaca (099-687-3285), Casablanca (091-575-3808), Dalmatino - Steak & Fish House (091-529-3121), Đorđota Vartal (091-532-0382), Dva ribara plus (091-732-3624), Fameja (091-120-0303), Gariful (021-742-999), Giaca (098-748-695), Jerolim (021-741-258), Junior (021-741-069), Kod Barba Božjega (021-745-046), Lesina (091-523-3648), Lungo Mare (021-742-093), Marinero (091-410-2751), Mlini (091-783-8675), Palača Paladini (098-933-8915), Panorama (021-742-515), Paradies Garden (091-174-2066), Plava Alga (021-717-061), Pokojni Dol (021-742-106), Robinson (091-383-5160), Spice (098-938-6035), Tri grede (091-374-2203), Zlatna školjka (098-168-8797)

**Wine cellars:** Vina Ahearne (091-766-4515), Zlatan Otok d.o.o. (021-745-703)



## STARI GRAD

Dol, Rudine, Selca, Vrbanj

**Sights:** The Stari Grad Plane, HORA (in Greek) or AGER (in Latin), and the Stari Grad historic core with its narrow streets were placed in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in 2008.

St. Stephen's church, St. Peter's Dominican monastery, Tvrdalj - Petar Hektorović's fortified mansion, Stari Grad Museum

**Mayor:** Antonio Škarpa (021-765-520)

**Tourist Board:** Dr. Franje Tuđmana 1, 21460 Stari Grad, 021-765-763, [tzg-stari-grad@st.t-com.hr](mailto:tzg-stari-grad@st.t-com.hr), [stari-grad-faros.hr](mailto:stari-grad-faros.hr)

**Hotels:** Apartmani Ivanković Karlo (021-765-569), Heritage Villa Apolon (021-778-320), Hellios Faros d.d. - Lavanda - Arkada - Jurjevac - Hellios Apartmani - Trim Apartmani (021-765-866), Hostel Sunce (021-765-402)

**Restaurants:** Antika (099-692-8544), Bistro Kod Damira (091-573-6376), Eremitaž (091-542-8395), Jurin Podrum (098-502-747), Kod Barba Luke (091-594-5718), Konoba Batana (095-861-8381), Nauta (098-555-120), Pinetta (091-505-3672), Porto Culinarium (095-532-6039)

**Wine cellar:** PZ Svirče (091-176-8380)



## JELSA

Gdinj, Gromin Dolac, Humac, Ivan Dolac, Pitve, Poljica, Svirče, Vrboska, Vrisnik, Zavala Zastraišće

**Sights:** Illyrian hill fort and Tor Greek watchtower, St. Mary's fortified church, Monument to captain Niko Duboković by Ivan Rendić. The After the Cross procession was in 2009 placed on the UNESCO List of World Non Material Heritage.

**Mayor:** Nikša Peronja (021-761-792)

**Tourist Board:** Riva bb, 21465 Jelsa, 021-761-017, [info@tzjelsa.hr](mailto:info@tzjelsa.hr), [tzjelsa.hr](http://tzjelsa.hr)

**Hotels:** Adriatic Resort Fontana (021-761-810), Hvar Jelsa (021-761-024)

**Restaurants:** Arsenal (091-582-5600), Konoba Nono (091-735-2335), Konoba Pelago (091-588-1009), Marin (091-514-1973), Me and Mrs Jones (021-761-882), Murvica (091-550-2596), Turan (021-761-441), Wine Bar & Restaurant Artichoke (098-908-8667)

**Wine cellars:** Plančić (091-276-9681), Vina Duboković (021-605-5529, 098-172-1726), Vina Huljić (091-178-8880), Vina Tomić-Bastijana d.o.o. (091-763-0988)

## VRBOSKA

**Sights:** St. Mary's fortified church, Fishing Museum, Monument to the people killed in the WW II on the islet in the bay

**Tourist Board:** Vrboska bb, 21463 Vrboska, 021-774-137, [info@vrboska.info](mailto:info@vrboska.info), [vrboska.info](http://vrboska.info)

**Hotel:** Senses Resort (021-774-128)

**Restaurants:** Bonaca (091-720-0074), Konoba Lem (021-774-012), Konoba Skojić (021-774-241), Trica Gardelin (095-902-0311)

**Wine cellar:** Vina Pinjata (021-774-262)

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