



Edition: U.S. ▾

Search The Huffington Post

Like 31k Follow +1

- FRONT PAGE
- POLITICS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- MEDIA
- TASTE
- STYLE
- GREEN
- ARTS
- POST 50
- LIVE
- ALL SECTIONS

Travel > U.S. Destinations • International Destinations • Family Travel • Business Travel • Travel Blogs • On The Road • Love Letters • Airlines • Disney



PHOTOS: In Search Of Missile Silos In South Dakota



Ozzy Osbourne International Airport?



Wildlife Adventures Worth Traveling For In 2013

THE BLOG

Featuring fresh takes and real-time analysis from HuffPost's signature lineup of contributors

HOT ON THE BLOG

Michael Moore
Andrew Zimmern

Joel Diaz
Robert L. Borosage

Login with Facebook to see what your friends are reading

Regina Fraser and Pat Johnson
The Grannies on Safari

GET UPDATES FROM REGINA FRASER AND PAT JOHNSON

- FAN
- RSS
- EMAIL
- Follow
- Like 32

Serenaded By The Beauty Of Croatia

Posted: 01/01/2013 7:00 am

- React >

- Follow > [International Destinations](#), [Travel Blogs](#), [Video](#), [Grannies On Safari](#), [Klapa Subrenum](#), [Croatia](#), [Destinations](#), [Dubrovnik](#), [Travel News](#)

SHARE THIS STORY

59 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

23 17 4 1

Submit this story

Picturesque seascapes, pulsating waterfalls, bountiful green valleys... such was the palette of backdrops we discovered while driving through continental and coastal Croatia a few months ago. And after spending almost two weeks there, on our last day, we were serenaded by an amazing collection of soothing (and may we say pretty cute) male voices of the singing group Klapa Subrenum. There's something unforgettable about visiting a fantastic destination and then having a group of men sing, cook and clean

that turns any sightseeing trip into a "wow I've just been woo'ed with a farewell serenade!"

We picked Croatia as a destination to feature as part of our upcoming 2013 season of [Grannies on Safari](#). Our producer, who is of Croatian descent, gave us the initial nudge because she wanted us to discover the rich cultural and historic treasures the country had to offer. And right she was -- what a destination -- with bonafides on par with the star power escapes in the Mediterranean! We've decided to share a little bit from our last day in this beautiful country -- a special experience of singing and cuisine in the famous city of [Dubrovnik](#). Once we arrived, we hurried to board the last cable car that took us up Srdj hill -- a most glorious evening view of the city from above. Wow! The prominent wall jutting around the heart of the old city, sprinkled with orange tiled roofs and surrounded by a super palette of crisp greens and blues of the Adriatic were spectacular. It was well worth the wait!

ADVERTISEMENT

THE 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA. legal | replay

See more.

Starts at \$16,695. HYUNDAI

[Build & Price](#) | [Locate a Dealer](#) | [Schedule a Test Drive](#) | [Payment Estimator](#)

SOCIAL NEWS

FOLLOW US

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST 1 of 2

- Fantasia Barrino Posts Anti-Gay Instagram Rant?**
- Is The Kardashian Curse Really A Thing?**
- Christie Slams House**
- Video Leaked By Hackers Shows Ohio Teens Laughing About Rape**

Our introduction to the city began on the classic promenade inside the old walls -- the place to "be seen" as our guide said. So of course, we took position and parked ourselves in a strategic coffee shop with a five-star view. And there we enjoyed sitting and people watching for more than an hour, learning about the city from our tour guide as she briefed us about the centuries of historical significance, highlighting countless landmarks inside the cobblestone maze of walkways.

As we prepared to leave the old city were treated to the traditional singing style of a "klapa," harmoniously serenaded on the main promenade by the famous group [Klapa Subrenum](#). This form of a cappella singing has been around since the mid 19th century. Within minutes their soft tones lured passerbys, families and tourists, all crowding around to hear the source of the rich, multi-voice harmonies.

[Klapa Subrenum](#), in this case, includes a group of male vocalists who sing a repertoire of Croatian songs that often include plaintive lyrics of love, lost and found, and poignant events that play out in their daily lives. These men have performed all over Europe and even in the U.S. Their strong voices, rich harmonies and clear enunciations were a joy to hear.

But our entertainment didn't end there on the streets of the old city. The group invited us to join them for an exclusive "behind the scenes" dinner at their recording house! And it literally was that - no blinking lights or fanfare, just an old stone cottage in a remote area of Dubrovnik in which the upper room was converted into a studio and the bottom floor into a dining area. This was definitely one of our memorable "off the beaten path" adventures.

We arrived at dusk, as the high-pitch of crickets filled the air and insects buzzed to and fro to finish off their early evening tasks. There was no fancy valet, just a small rocky path that led to a small clearing and a wooden picnic table and benches. We were welcomed with a toast of local fruit liquors (some pretty potent moonshine may we add!) and an intoxicating aroma of meats, fish and other delicacies being prepared inside the small cottage and on outdoor grills. We watched as the male members of the group scurried around organizing the meal preparations. We kept looking for any sign of help needed or a woman's touch in the kitchen, but with the brush of a hand, we were reminded that the men were the chefs and they were busy preparing our five course meal. As we relaxed -- a perfect balmy night in a convivial, rural atmosphere -- we drank, relaxed and -- when the locals weren't looking -- whisked away the pesky mosquitoes as most city girls do!

Within an hour, the men signaled us to enter the dining area, a small room with a super long wooden table and a hearth with a "sac" (a type of dutch oven). The meal was a gastronomic amalgam of grilled meats, fish, with accompanying salads and vegetables. The courses were offered by the gents in great quantity, on hefty platters and large serving bowls, while the singers took turns joining our group at the table. We dined on a traditional Dalmatian fish stew called "brudet," tender octopus and scrumptious potatoes baked in the traditional "sac" method, grilled meats, salads made with freshly picked garden lettuce and homemade cheeses. Everything was incredibly flavorful and delicious and all of us grazed until we were absolutely stuffed.

The sumptuous dinner party was the fulfillment of a Croatian cultural experience that I don't believe most tourists have. And that was not all! After the multi-course meal, the men all gathered round and we were serenaded once again by this fabulous Klapa. Some of us swooned to the melodies under the moonlight, others were too full to move and instead were moved by the soothing voices of romantic harmonies. We definitely could have spent the rest of the night with these delightful men if we didn't have to return to our hotel and catch our flight to the U.S. the next morning.

We were indeed honored to have shared a special night with such a hospitable and talented group of gentlemen, and to have had a night of music and food in Croatia that was truly memorable and a great finale to this fabulous destination. Stay tuned for more serenading in song, culture and arts on our next season of [Grannies on Safari](#) airing in spring of 2013.



PHOTO: Madonna Face Plants While Skiing

[f Like](#) 355



Is Kris Humphries The Father Of Kim Kardashian's Baby?

[f Like](#) 235



Did Neil Armstrong Lie About His Famous Line?

[f Like](#) 381



How Much Money Will Kim Kardashian Make From Baby?

[f Like](#) 555



Boehner To Reid: Go F* Yourself**

[f Like](#) 15k

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

1 of 5



Michael Moore

[Those Who Say 'I Support the Troops' Really Don't](#)



Joel Diaz

[The Incredible Story of What Happened When Two Gay Men Were Harassed While Waiting for Pizza](#)

Find Your Hotel

[Hotel](#) [Flight](#) [Vacations](#) [Car](#) [Cruise](#)

Where City name or airport

Check In

mm/dd/yy

Check Out

mm/dd/yy

POWERED BY
ORBITZ

Search

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW

1 of 2



Ozzy Osbourne International Airport?



Costa Rica's Medical Tourism Boom

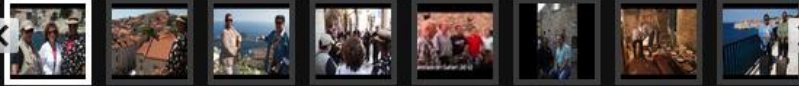
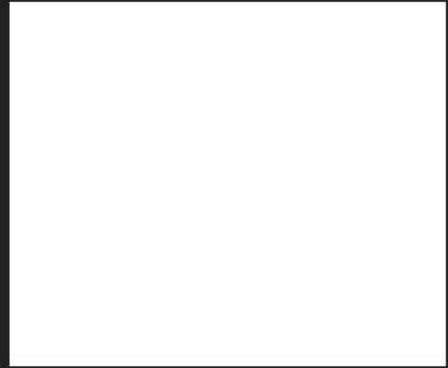
Sponsored Links



Outside the city walls of Dubrovnik

Enjoying the sites of Dubrovnik with our tour guide Maja. (Photo courtesy Grannies on Safari/David Fraser)

ADVERTISEMENT



Search The Huffington Post SEARCH