

Dubrovnik, Croatia - The Jewell of the Adriatic

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Dubrovnik, Croatia
Friday, May 27, 2016

Still around the corner there may wait a new road or a secret gate. J.R.R. Tolkien

Tuesday 24th of May, 2016

The joys of early morning starts while travelling. We took a cab last night to a motel in Gatwick due to having a 7:10 am flight this morning - therefore a 4 am wake up call. All went well and we arrived in Dubrovnik at about 10:40 am to be met by our taxi driver for the 25 minute drive into town. The scenery is typical Mediterranean, turquoise sea with a steep rocky landscape covered with patchy bushes. The houses are made of stone with red half pipe terracotta tiles, surrounded with olive trees and grape vines on trellises to provide shade.

We came to a bend in the road and then wow! The old city of Dubrovnik, clinging to the cliff with its great stone walls rising from the waters of the Adriatic, filled with red roofs and a jumble of buildings, church bell towers and huge fortifications on the wall. We have seen pictures of this place, but it does not prepare you for the jolt on your senses when you see it for yourself.

We were met at the gate to Old Town (inside the wall) by Dimmy to be guided to our accommodation. We followed like ducklings following their mother down ancient streets and laneways, the paving stones polished by millions of footsteps over hundreds of years. Our place was down a couple of narrow lanes, through a non-descript doorway then up 4 flights of narrow stairs to the top floor. Our apartment was fantastic, with views over the town through our shuttered windows.

We got ourselves settled in and explored this amazing place, which has suffered from earthquake (1665) and war (1991), but been faithfully rebuilt. We had a late lunch at a cafe next to the old wharf, but just as we started, a cool change came over threatening rain (just like a Melbourne cool change). We were ushered inside to finish our lunch. Afterwards we walked the city walls, and for those of you who know "Game of Thrones", there are many recognisable locations here such as the Red Keep and Kings Landing.

We were very tired by evening time and had dinner at a little restaurant around the corner before an early night.

About 21 degrees and overcast before a cool change. Walked 5 km.

Wednesday 25th of May

After a good night's sleep, we all took a stroll around Old Town then headed out the gate towards the Lovrijenac Fort, virtually next door to Old Town. This is another striking building of ancient origins - and again used for various locations in filming "Game of Thrones."

We had a picnic lunch on a hill overlooking the Adriatic and Dubrovnik before all of us heading off to do our own thing. Brad climbed up Mount Srd - a 380 metre peak directly behind Dubrovnik - to the Imperial Fort which was the centre of operations for the Croats when the Serbian Republican forces attacked in 1991. Anna took the cable car option to the same place. The view was spectacular. Craig explored the beaches and streets north of Old Town.

At sunset, we had a few drinks at a bar on the rocks through a tunnel under the wall overlooking the Adriatic - I know, life is tough. Dinner tonight was pasta and pizza at another little restaurant virtually just around the corner from our apartment.

About 24 degrees, sunny. Walked 15 km today.

Thursday 26th of May

This morning Anna and Brad took a short cruise in an old converted yacht (built 1878) from the old port around a nearby island which is the site of the Botanic Gardens. Around the other side is a naturist's area - complete with middle aged nudes of various shapes and sizes sunning themselves on the rocks like pale walrus - but without the smell.

Craig chose to explore the area to the south of Old Town, through Ploce Gate. Anna and Brad had morning tea at a bar nearby and we met up by chance before returning to our room for lunch.

After lunch we all walked to the New Wharf at Gruz, about 4 kilometres away. It was very quiet here - despite there being 3 cruise ships docked - due to it being Corpus Christi holiday.

Back to Old Town for a rest before some pre-dinner drinks at another cliff top bar (Buza), then off for a delicious meal at the restaurant opposite our front door.

26 degrees, sunny. Walked 12 km.

Comments

Now I'm really getting jealous!!

— From Joy, on May 28, 2016 at 11:48AM

Pictures & Video



Dubrovnik Old Town



View from our bedroom window



The wall on cliff top



Enjoying the view



Ready for lunch



Placa (Strudun) - The main street Story!



Game of Thrones location - Cersei's walk of shame



Enjoying our cruise



The wall



Evening drinks



Old wharf at night



Dubrovnik Old Town

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View from our bedroom window

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The wall on cliff top

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Enjoying the view

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Ready for lunch

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Placa (Strudun) - The main street

This was the quietest we saw this street. All other times it was packed.

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Game of Thrones location - Cersei's walk of shame

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Enjoying our cruise

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The wall

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Evening drinks

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Old wharf at night

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