



ZLARIN, coral island

OBONJAN, private resort

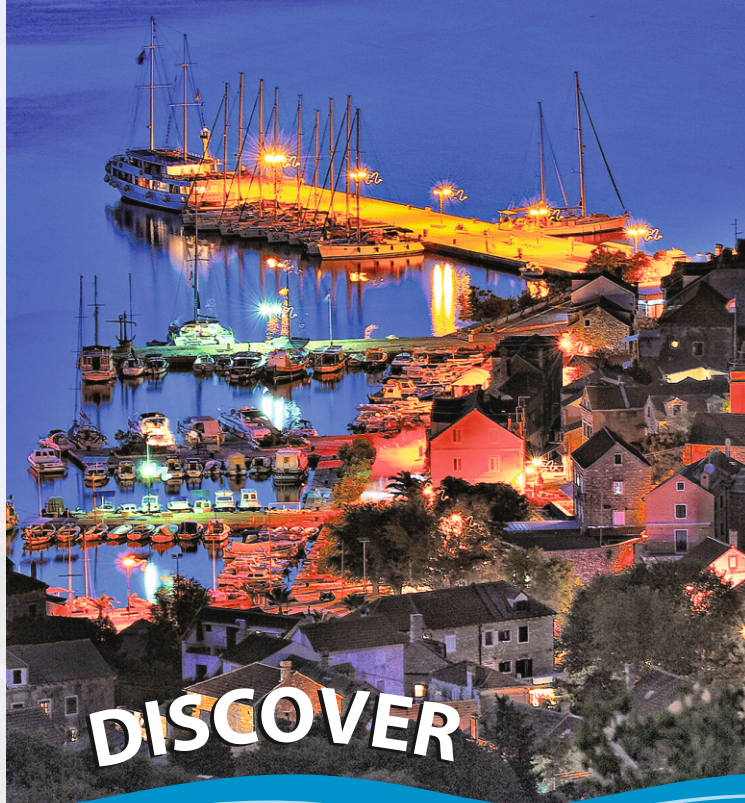


Zlarin is a small undiscovered jewel of our coast that is distinguished by its pristine nature and exceptionally rich historical and cultural heritage. Due to its geographical position, Zlarin has always held the strategic role of St. Ante Channel gate keeper and the guardian of Šibenik.

This green island with total area of 8,19 km² will, as soon as you reach its port, dazzle you with its position protected from southern and northeast winds, making it attractive to a large number of sailors. You can feel the benefits of the sea and vegetation everywhere you go, and the stillness on the island is only broken by seagulls, peasants, woodpeckers or owls. It should be noted that there are 2700 sunlight hours per year, which makes the island one of the sunniest on the Adriatic coast. The highest peak of Zlarin is Klepac (169 m) from where you can see the entire Zlarin sea surface and Šibenik channel, all the way to Velebit on one side and sometimes, all the way to the volcanic island of Jabuka on the other.

In the 15th ct. Zlarin was named golden island. Is that because the word zlarin comes from Latin "Insula auri" meaning "island of gold," or because of the crystal clear sea, idyllic nature, green pine forests, beaches, bays and coves, or because of the peacefulness of the island? Maybe it is golden because of its rich historical and cultural heritage or a combination of golden sunset and the blue of the sea. We will never know the answer, but we are convinced that the sight, the range of colors, will forever stay with you.

Your experience of the place will be complemented by the tastes and smells of Dalmatian cuisine based on autochthonous recipes, a cuisine you can try in several local restaurants and taverns. And because of one other distinctiveness of Zlarin you can have a taste of these original recipes in a complete peace and quiet, and that is the ban on cars on the entire island. Precisely due to this, to many people Zlarin has become a sanctuary away from city crowd and noise. A 25 minutes' boat ride will take you back to your childhood and the days of playing on the streets, riding a bike, exploring and simply enjoying.





Coral diving is the most recognizable cultural heritage and a centuries-old distinctiveness of the island of Zlarin.

Since the 14th century, our ancestors dove for and harvested corals. Coral diving know-how was carried over from father to son and there are no written records of it, nor are there records of how to dive for red corals that are 200 meters deep in the sea. And now, just as they did then, corals amaze generations after generations with their color, and have become synonymous with Zlarin, as well as with health, wealth and love.

According to an ancient legend, red coral was made when Perseus beheaded Medusa and threw the head into the sea. Sea algae, covered in blood from Medusa's head, turned to stone and became a beautiful coral.

Red coral, and Adriatic treasure protected by law, is considered the most beautiful coral. It symbolizes love, loyalty, fidelity and obedience. Coral branch is seen as protection against evil and is often depicted above Madonna and Child.

Our islanders believe in the magical power of corals that can provide protection against many ailments, and particularly, protection of pregnant women and unborn children.

Beautiful red branches are a leitmotif of all aspects of this island's life, history and tradition.

Coral jewelry can be found on Zlarin's traditional costumes, in the church and in Zlarinka shop. It is a real shame to leave the island and not take this little red symbol with you.

Today, the keepers of coral tradition and rich national heritage are members of the folk ensemble "Koralj" that takes good care of the heritage and carries it over to the next generations. Female folk costumes, inspired by corals, have remained preserved and Zlarin women often wear them on special occasions and for cultural events on the island.

Coral was and has remained a unique part of the island's history, as recorded in many stories, Janko Matko's novel "Dragulji i strasti", Vesna Parun's poems "Koralj vraćen moru," even a German movie "Coral Princess," shot on the island in 1937.

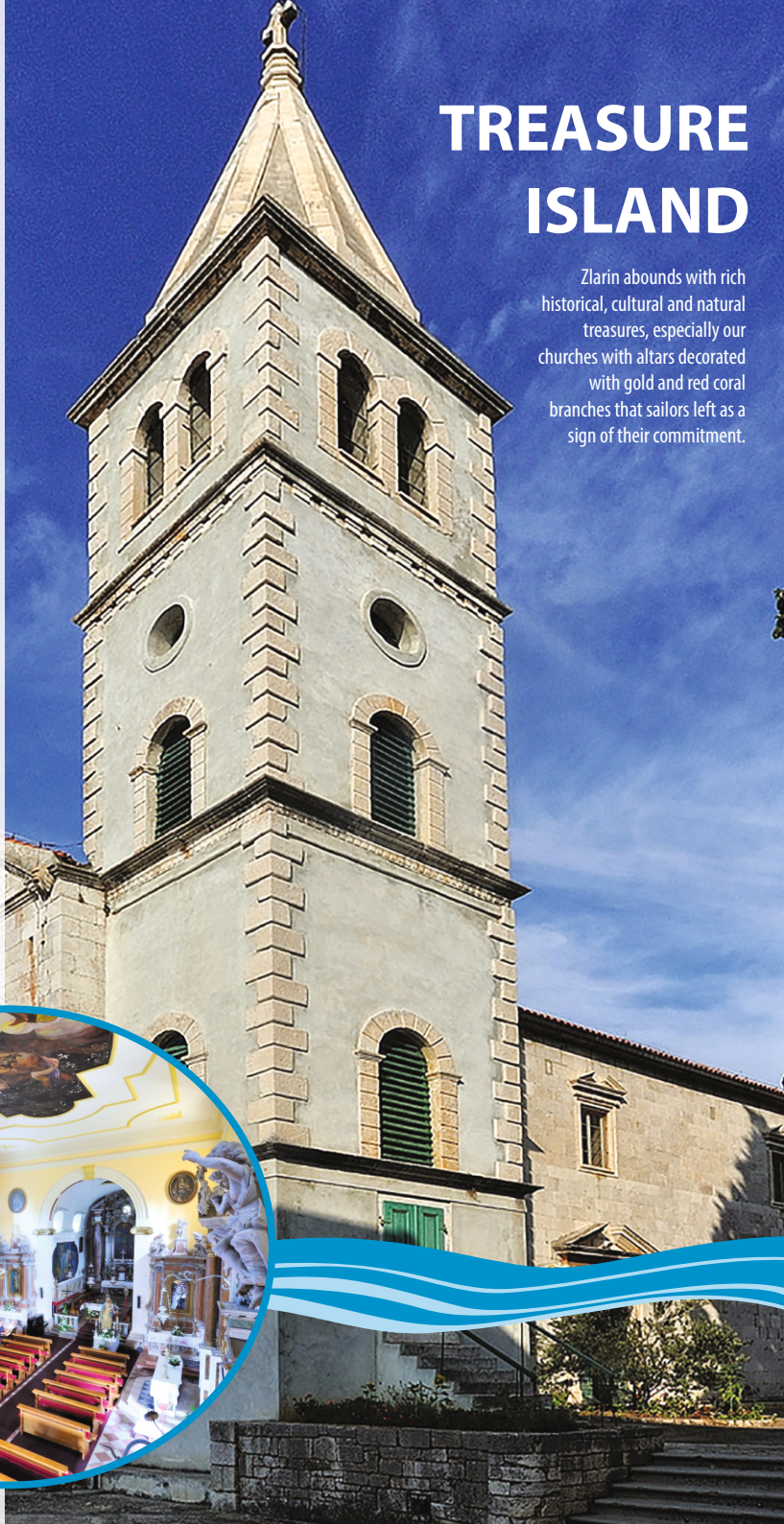


CHURCH OF MARY'S ASCENSION

The story of today's parish church dates back to the 14th ct. and the first record of a chapel erected on the foundations of the Late Antiquity temple. In the period from 1735 to 1740 it was demolished and rebuilt in baroque style based on the drawings of Domenico Focozio – one of the greatest altar craftsmen in Italy – and it now has seven altars. In one of these altars the body of St. Fortunat, protector of the island and sailors, a Roman martyr is being kept. The body was brought by canon Stjepan Makale from Roman catacombs and sent by pope Pius VI. The Pope clothed him in a shiny suit, gave him a saber and a ring, and the story goes that he even kept the body of St. Fortunat in his own house for two years until a deal regarding the ownership was made with the church. Another particularity carried over through generations is the story of the fresh water well beneath the main altar that encloses the church in a repentant aura, almost as if you can feel the weight of a centuries-long island life. In any case, the fact is that there is a well in front of the church that is somehow being filled, and nobody knows how.

TREASURE ISLAND

Zlarin abounds with rich historical, cultural and natural treasures, especially our churches with altars decorated with gold and red coral branches that sailors left as a sign of their commitment.



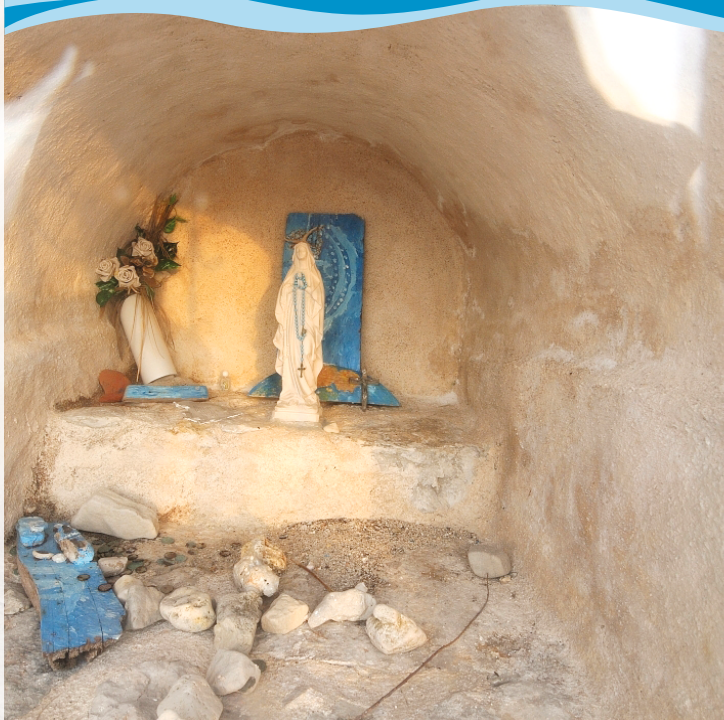
OUR LADY OF RAŠELJ CHURCH

If you decide to walk towards the fields at a crossroads you will see the oldest and most mysterious church on Zlarin, built in the first half of the 15th ct. According to a legend, a girl from Borovica village was going to Mass at dawn and saw a young woman in white on the mahaleb cherry tree who told her to tell the priest and villagers they should build a church on that spot. She told everyone in Zlarin what she saw, but no one believed her. The next day Mary, Mother of Jesus appeared in front of her and gave her her "pas" (belt) with the inscription "Hail Mary". The villagers then followed the girl and found a framed picture of Mary, Mother of Jesus on the tree. Having already started building the church twice in another spot and with the church constantly caving in, they decided to take the picture there. On that occasion, a solemn procession led by four girl dresses in white carrying the picture commenced. However, according to the legend, the sky was suddenly covered in clouds, heavy wind started blowing and it began to rain after a months-long drought. Allegedly, they tried to relocate the picture three times, but to no avail, until finally they gave up and built the church on the other spot. They named her Our Lady of Rašelj Church after a tree on which they found the picture and it is honored on 8 July, the day of the solemn procession.

Another particularity surrounding this church is that soon after it was built Brotherhood of Our Lady of Rašelj Church was formed there. The Brotherhood had a book of regulations (matrikula) on humanitarian and social issues, written in Latin alphabet 36 years before the discovery of America (in čakavština dialect) and as such, represents the first written document of that kind.

The miraculous Lady of Rašelj wielded a huge influence on the people of Zlarin; farmers, fishermen, sailors, coral hunters, emigrants who declared their commitment to her and presented her with presents having gone through life difficulties and perils, as testified by numerous decorated candles, jewelry, corals, votive paintings and model ships of all kinds.

On the island there are two other churches known for their long history St. Šime, in which a valuable numismatic collection is kept, and St. Roko which will become a museum of sacred art. There are three votive chapels on the island that, as asserted by don Spomenko Bagarić, form a cross at the entrance. In that order, first there is the Holy Cross Church located at the bottom of the Fingac square, Lady of Carmen Chapel, located on the cape of Oštrica and St. Mikula Chapel, located on the cape of Marin.



BOROVICA

Dating back to the Middle Ages, Borovica was the first settlement on the island, located at the edge of the fields, near two springs and hidden behind the hill so as to avoid dangers coming from the sea – pirates and other ruffians. Today, the abandoned ruins tell the story of the islanders' hard life as well as their many talents. They were known as skillful house, sty and drywall builders. Drywalls were built around the gardens and vineyards, and the islanders were also master builders of stone field houses – small houses in the fields used as tool storages and lodges. They were practicing fishery, salt collecting and selling, winemaking and farming. They used homemade wool to knit their clothes, they made kartils – baskets made of canes, fishing nylon strings from strands of horse tail as well as various tools in a blacksmith shop: mattocks, pickaxes and small pickaxes, axle pins, pitchforks and rakes.



VRULJA

Groundwater source surrounded by stone slabs and small well. It was used for clothes washing which was a hard work everyday, especially considering that clothes were made of heavy wool and linen. Girls and women would gather there carrying the clothes in vats (maštels) on their heads, without holding on to the heavy load. Vrulja was the place of fun, songs, conversations, but also tears of true friendships since often times they only had one another, with their husbands being far away in foreign lands.



Zlarin has the longest island waterfront in Croatia, 131 m long and 16 m wide.

INTERESTING FACTS



Zlarin is the native island of Mladen Bjažić, a renowned Croatian poet, writer, journalist and caretaker of the Zlarin dialect (čakavština), and Vesna Parun, considered one of the most prominent figures of Croatian poetry and literature.



The islanders are engaged in tourism since 1922, when they founded "Society for embellishment and traffic foreigners". A few years later starts the first excursion trips from Zlarin along the entire Adriatic coast, are being conducted on the luxury yacht Nirvana.

In 1937, on Zlarin was filmed a cult German movie "The Princess of corals" with the famous actress Ita Rina. His public presentation was banned by Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister because of the appearance of the Slavs in the movie.



Public clock "Leroj" is ticking since 1839.g.

EXPERIENCE



Experience the wonders and natural beauty of Zlarin in the clear air throughout the year!

The pristine nature allows for countless possibilities for professionals and amateurs alike to do sports and recreational activities.

Walk, jog or ride a bike on hundred years old paths through beautiful landscape. Enjoy the sound of waves, the rumble of wind and the clarity of the sea by sailing or kayaking; dive in and enjoy the powerful images of the undersea world or cast your fishing line and wait for sea bass, dentex or sea bream to take the bait.

All that, and more, is waiting for you on Zlarin!





ENJOY & RELAX


We aim to make your stay on Zlarin as comfortable as possible, to have you truly enjoy the tastes, smells and benefits of our island, to relax and dance, and to make you want to return!

We recommend for you to go on a gastronomy adventure and explore the tastes of Dalmatian cuisine served in several local restaurants and taverns, and we will do our best to complete your experience with enjoyable cultural events.





OBONJAN ISLAND



Obonjan island provides a unique experience in an exceptional setting and pristine nature. Our offer, recognized by guests from all over the world, is based on ecologically designed accommodation in beautiful units located among hundred-year old trees with a view of the Adriatic Sea. Our rich and diverse offer allows you to explore your personal interests based on hedonistic principle of experience. To all music lovers Croatia, as one of the most popular European destinations, brings to Obonjan renowned international musicians and their performances in intimate and exceptional natural surroundings typical of the Mediterranean.



Together with music lovers, all art aficionados can find something for themselves on the island. Rich gastronomy and other aspects of the tourist offer will exalt everyone who decides to visit this remarkable island. In addition to art exhibitions, there are numerous workshops, educational and multimedia events taking place every day while internationally renowned chefs create gastronomic wonders for you.

Obonjan is definitely an ideal destination for a unique and unforgettable experience for everyone looking for more than just a vacation.

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of Zlarin**

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Regular boat line 505
Ferry line 532.
www.jadrolinija.hr

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