

THE ESSENCE OF KONAVLE – CULTURAL ITINERARY

DAY 1. CAVTAT

First day is entirely designed for Cavtat.

1. **House Bukovac** - The birth house of Vlaho Bukovac, one of the most famous Croatian painters and the forefather of the Croatian modern painting, has been made available for public since May 2004, after a ten-year break and a thorough three-year reconstruction. The monumental features of the Bukovac House are not only its architecture, garden space and the location in the very heart of the town, but above all, it is the legacy of the name of the great artist, his artistic heritage and the heritage of his family's history.

www.kuca-bukovac.hr

E-mail: muzeji-i-galerije-konavala@du.t-com.hr

2. **Mausoleum of Račić family** – The mausoleum of the well-known ship-owners family Račić from Cavtat was built on St. Rock's cemetery by well-known Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962). Its construction took place in 1921, on the place of St. Rock's church from 15th century, following the will of the testatrix Marija Račić. It was built from the white stone from Brač island in the form of cupola. In the whole building no other material but stone was used, except bronze for the door, bell and angel. On the bell founded by Meštrović's design we find his beautiful reflection: "Comprehend the secret of love, you will solve the secret of death and believe that the life is eternal.

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3. **Baltazar Bogišić Collection** - Baltazar Bogišić Collection was founded in 1909 - 1912, and from 1955 is a part of Croatian Academy of Science and Art. Baltazar Bogišić (Cavtat 1834 - Rijeka 1908) was a jurist and a scientist of a European fame. Since 1875 he lived in Paris. He was the full member of Croatian Academy of Science and Art since its foundation in 1867, a member of many other Academies and Scientific societies, and a holder of several European decorations.

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4. **Picture gallery of St. Nicola's parish church in Cavtat** – The gallery was founded in 1952 by the merit of academy member Cvito Fisković. This valuable collection of paintings, sculptures and church liturgical pottery is situated in the room next to the Parish house, and from 2001 is again open to tourists and visitors of Cavtat. Among many valuable artistic works, of a special interest is the icon of St. Nicolas from 15th century, the alabaster relief of St. Sebastian made by baroque artist from Benedetto Genarri's school from Bologna, the paintings painted by Sicilian painter Carmelo Reggio, and the works of great Croatian painter Vlaho Bukovac.
5. **Monastery of Our Lady of the Snows** – The Monastery is founded in 1484. and built during the 15th and 16th century. Significant modification within the monastery was done from 18th to 20th century. In the church are exhibited several valuable paintings: altar painting of Dubrovnik painter Božidar Vlatković (end of 15th c.), polyptych of Dubrovnik master Vicko

Lovrin (1509/10), and the lunette of lady of Cavtat painted in 1909 by Cavtat painter Vlaho Bukovac.

After lunch you can try several programs of active holidays:

- 6. Diving** - Underwater world of Cavtat is very attractive for diving activities. Nearby, next to Cavtat islands Mrkan, Bobara and Supetar, there are several ancient sites, the largest and most attractive in the Adriatic, including ones in the Mediterranean. They are extremely valuable sites with over 1800 amphorae and pithos, which originate from the first century BC and the first and 2 century AD. In addition Cavtat seabed abounds in beautiful underwater walls that reach up to 100 feet deep, underwater caves and sunken ships from the ancient times and recent past.

www.epidaurum.com

E-mail: epidaurum@du.t-com.hr

E-mail: perisa@gabriel-diving.com

- 7. Kayaking** - An original and exciting way to learn about the wider coast of Cavtat is definitely organized kayaking excursion where you can try fishing, but also to observe the birds on the islands in front of Cavtat.

www.sea-kayaking-cavtat.com

E-mail: info@sea-kayaking-cavtat.com

www.adventuredubrovnik.com

E-mail: info@adventuredubrovnik.com

- 8. Romantic dinner** in one of Cavtat restaurants at Cavtat promenade

<http://visit.cavtat-konavle.com/hr/gastronomy>

DAY 2. KONAVLE – DONJA BANDA

Second day is designed for visiting of historical and cultural heritage in Donja Banda (South part of Konavle).

- 1. Đurović cave** – Đurović cave is located right bellow Dubrovnik airport runaway. The cave is 199m long, formed in the layers of upper Cretaceous limestone and partly sedimentary rocks such as breccias. It abounds in speleothems of different types: stalactites, stalagmites, coatings and send.

www.airport-dubrovnik.hr

www.dubrovnikpr.com

E-mail: partner@dubrovnikpr.com

- 2. Ethnographic museum of Konavle** – Konavle County House was founded in 1974, thanks to the selfless efforts and enthusiasm of prominent education and tourism workers in Čilipi and people of Konavle in general. A building that used to be the village treasury, located in the central square, now treasures the ethnological fortune of Konavle, displayed in the ambience

of a typical Konavle house. In 1991, the House was burned and a significant portion of the inventory was irreparably lost. The collection now holds about 500 items such as male and female folk costumes of the highest quality, embroidery and other textile handicrafts, jewellery, arms, musical instruments and items used in the everyday life. The permanent display includes a selection of the traditional needlework made by the Cavtat folklore society Jelka Miš.

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- 3. St. Nicholas church in Čilipi** – The church was built in 1853, at the site of a minor renaissance church and consecrated in 1858. Proper orientation, three-aisled, basilica type, with a semicircular apse to which is attached a rectangular sacristy by the main axis. In the 1991 the church was heavily damaged – it was burned with the entire sacristy, Mass attire and relics – today's reminders to that times are the desecrated statues of Holly Family.
- 4. Folklore show** - Folklore events in Čilipi occur every Sunday from Easter till the end of October. At the local square in front of the St. Nicholas' Church, after the Sunday Mass which starts at 11.15, the local folklore ensemble will introduce you with the customs and traditions of Konavle. A visit to Čilipi is also an opportunity to see the County House which treasures valuable ethnological items, as well as to buy an original souvenir ornamented with the famed Konavle embroidery.

www.cilipifolklor.hr

E-mail: cilipifolklor@cilipifolklor.hr

- 5. Illyrian piles** – This prehistoric tumulus, located in the village Mikulići, has a 45 m and height of 6,6m. The stone pile consists of larger and smaller pieces of breakable, untreated limestone. Within 2 km there is a large number of these piles, as well as elevation Gradac that is supposed to be a prehistoric settlement to which these stone piles belonged.
- 6. AR atelier** - AR Atelier is an art shop lead by academic painter Antonia Rusković Radonić. We produce various applied and decorative items created by several techniques like hand painted silk, pottery, and traditional Konavle embroidery. All products are original and authentic.

www.antoniaruskovic.com

E-mail: antonia.ruskovic@gmail.com

In the afternoon and evening hours several programs of active holiday are at your disposal:

- 7. Horse riding** through Konavle cliffs with breathtaking views of the sea and sunset

- 8. ATV safari**

www.kojankoral.hr

E-mail: info@kojankoral.hr

- 9. Adrenalin park** Sv. Ana, Poljice

<http://adrenalin-park-dubrovnik.com>

E-mail: info@adrenalin-park-dubrovnik.com

10. Dinner at one of the rural households of Donja banda

www.agroturizam-konavle.hr

DAY 3. – GORNJA BANDA

Third day is foreseen for Gornja Banda (northern part of Konavle).

1. Miho Šiša Konavljanin Gallery - Miho Šiša Konavljanin was born in 1946 in the village of Mihanići where he still lives and works. For 40 years he is living the life of a farmer and an artist.

His painting is completely bound to the hard work of the farmers, but also to the wealth and beauty of its fruits, showing the harmony between the landscape and a substance of the social and intimate life of Konavle. His work is trying, with his brush and chisel, to save the images of the common people's life from oblivion, and leave them to the generations to come.

In his gallery in Mihanići the visitors may see his work. Miho Šiša Konavljanin remains one of the most accurate chroniclers and custodians of the ethnologic wealth of the people and the land of Konavle

2. Franciscan monastery Pridvorje - In the middle of the village was built the headman's palace where resided headmen and poets. Around the palace were built the houses, the trashing - floors and a church, so the whole complex got the name of Pridvorje (in front of the palace). In the lowlands in front of the church of the Holy Trinity the Franciscan monastery with the church of St. Blaise was built (1423 - 1429) in the style of the early Dubrovnik renaissance. The monastery was a pilgrimage place, so it collected a rich treasury of sacral art, where special place belongs to the well-known late gothic wooden crucifixion from Pridvorje.

3. Sokol grad – Fort Sokol or Sokol Grad is the biggest and for its location on the mountain pass towards Bosnian hinterland, exceptionally important fort from the period of Dubrovnik Republic. It was built on the site of an Illyrian and roman fortification, the proofs for which are the roman details and roman bricks in its walls. With its form it is adjusted to the natural cliff on which it was built. From the fort and from the churchyard of Our Lady of Sokol one has a unique view of the whole Konavle.

citywallsdubrovnik.hr

E-mail: info@citywallsdubrovnik.hr

3. Watermills at the river Ljuta - There is a system of watermills and stamp mills built on river Ljuta which consisted of eight watermills for flour, two watermills for oil and three stamp mills. When the Dubrovnik Republic bought Konavle, there were four mills on the upper stream of the river. After 1550, the system called "lower mills" was built and has been preserved until today.

The river source and the upper stream are under protection of the Government as a park of nature, while the watermill is protected as a cultural monument.

4. OPG Malvasija Karaman - Dubrovnik Malvasia Karaman wine is the winner of the world competition "The World of Malvasia" and the best sweet Malvasia in the world. The wine tasting in

Pridvorje offers this championship wine and other wines of Karaman family. After visiting wine cellar, you can absorb the region by tourist train ride through the vineyards.

<http://www.agroturizam-konavle.hr/hr/smjestaj/karaman-malvasija-dubrovacka>

In the afternoon you can experience several activities:

5. Jeep safari – for those who want to experience an unforgettable adventure driving jeeps through Konavle field and enjoy the beautiful views from the hills or discover Konavle customs and traditions

6. Foto safari – Renault 4 is a symbol of Konavle people from Gornja banda where every house had at least one. Enjoy the ride with this so called „sickle“ with open roof through Konavle villages, hills and Ljuta river

7. Dinner in one of two typical restaurants in the village Ljuta.

<http://www.esculaprestaurants.com/?konavoskidvori=konavle&dubrovnik=restoran>

www.konobavinica.com