

Hvar Artist Retreat

4-12 September, 2016

Island of Hvar, Croatia

Our artist retreat is based in the quiet little fishing port of Vrboska, a quaint huddle of medieval stone houses around a peaceful inlet. Everyone walks around the village, nothing is very far, and no cars are allowed on the waterfront during summer.

We have two supermarkets, a fishing museum, post office, winery, several bakeries and a good choice of cafes and restaurants. At night from our terrace we can see the Milky Way overhead, and hear... blissful silence!

Right: Vrboska harbour

Below: artist retreat, 2015



Location

The island of Hvar is set in the beautiful Adriatic Sea, just to the south of Split. Around 50 miles long, it's covered in green pine forests and known for lavender fields, vineyards and olive groves. In the summer it's popular with sun-seekers, but by September it's much more peaceful. The weather is pleasant, the sea is still warm, and it's just perfect for getting out and about.

There are many lovely places on the island where we can sit and sketch or paint - waterfront boats and reflections, medieval villages and churches, Roman ruins, vineyards and olive groves - all within a short distance of our base in Vrboska.

Paint, sketch or take photos!

This will be a small group, with each artist setting their own goals for the week. You may paint en plein air, sketch on site or simply take photographs to work on later. It's really up to you.

As a group, we'll visit a variety of lovely painting locations through the week. There will also be a quiet space to paint, and we'll have a base directly on the waterfront.

Once a day, sometimes over lunch, we'll share our work with the rest of the group. It's always fun to see how different everyone's approach is, given the same subject!



Where we'll be painting

Actual locations throughout the week may vary, depending on personal choices, weather and other random events!

Vrboska

Orientation – we start the week with an early morning walk around Vrboska's harbour and backalleys. Sunrise is the absolute best time to take photos, as the warm light catches the old stone buildings and boats, and the reflections are perfect.

Paint & sketch on the waterfront with Konoba Lem as a base, or set up in the studio /courtyard. We'll visit the famous church-fortress and take in the view from the roof, tour the Fisherman's Museum, and look at traditional fishing boats.

Stari Grad & the Ager

Drive to Stari Grad, where we will paint in the lovely 16th century summer residence of the Croatian poet Petar Hektorović, with its famous fish pool and garden, and visit the nearby Biankini Palace, now the museum of Stari Grad. Lunch in a nearby Stari Grad restaurant.

Meneghello art gallery

Meneghello's on Palmižana, one of the Pakleni islands, is one of the most artistic and stylish resorts, kind of Caribbean jazz meets Dalmatian stone. It has a renowned restaurant, art gallery and arboretum - and beautiful beaches! We'll take a boat trip from Hvar harbour, and enjoy an artistic day out!

Abandoned / seasonal village

We'll visit either Malo Grablje, a village deserted by its entire population in the 1950s, or Humac, a seasonal shepherds' village. Both have a timeless quality, with old stone houses surrounded by spectacular views, one in a rocky canyon, the other on top of the island. The village konobas are still open for business, so we'll have lunch there. Lots of hiking opportunities for the non-painters!

Coastal Trail and Beach

It's a nice easy walk from Vrboska round the Glavice headland coastal trail. Paint on the beach, and swim. The north shore is more rugged and rocky, while the south shore is sheltered and shady. Should not be busy at this time in the season, but the water will be beautifully warm for swimming. There is a cafe bar for drinks, lunch and ice cream.

Hvar town

It's a lovely drive into Hvar to visit the island's largest and best-known town. Walk up to the Spanish fortress to take in the famous view, wander around the old streets, browsing shops and galleries, visit the Benedictine nuns' agave lace exhibit, and the renaissance garden and summer villa of Hanibal Lucić.



Vineyards and villages

Svirče is a small village at the heart of Hvar's wine country, surrounded by terraced fields. We'll paint in the vineyards, then visit a traditional Dalmatian konoba in Vrbanj for food and wine tasting. In the afternoon, we'll take in the spectacular views from Vrisnik, one of Hvar's tucked-away hilltop villages.

Pitve

Our final evening dinner is at Dvor Duboković, enjoying traditional Dalmatian peka food with spectacular views as the sun sets. A special treat here is to sing along with a group of local musicians in traditional Dalmatian songs. Before the dinner we may visit a local winery and sketch in the vineyards.

Other options include:

The nearby market town of Jelsa is an easy 40 minute walk along the coast, the Stari Grad Plain is right outside our door. More strenuous hikes might be to Sv. Nikola, Tor, Galešnik, or Grapčeva Spilja. Bikes and boats are for hire in Vrboska. And of course, we will be wine-tasting at some of the excellent local wineries!



Accommodation

Your accommodation will be in an authentic stone fisherman's house in Vrboska, beautifully converted into apartments with modern facilities. There are four separate apartments, each sleeping two people, with a fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, sitting/eating area, washing machine and a pretty outdoor terrace.

In addition, we have two lovely guest rooms in our own house, each with en-suite bathroom.

Getting there

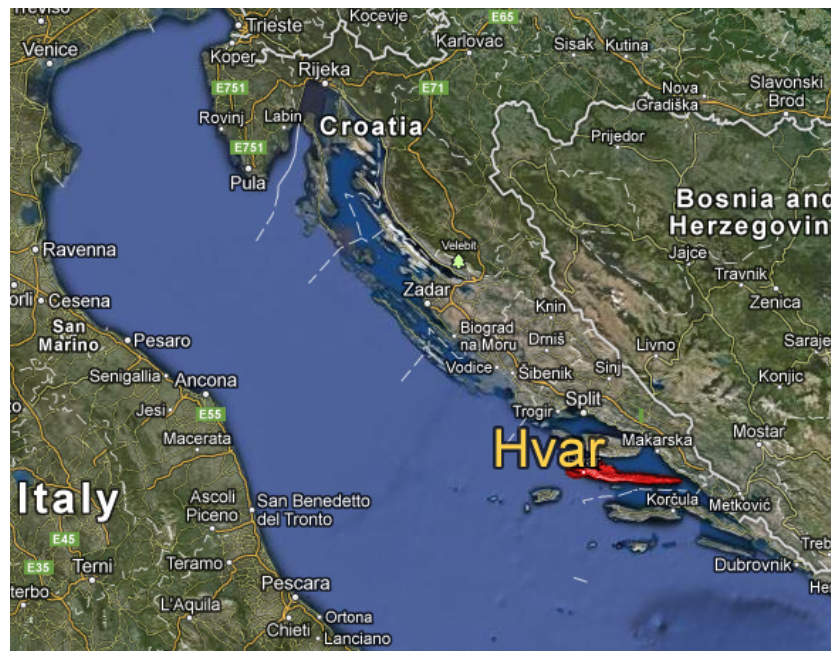
The closest international airport is Split. We usually fly United or Lufthansa from San Francisco to Frankfurt, and onwards to Split via Lufthansa or Croatia Airlines.

To get to the island, you can take the new seaplane service directly to Jelsa, and we'll pick you up there.

Alternatively, catch the car ferry to Stari Grad, or the catamaran service to Jelsa on Hvar. Let us know when and where to pick you up!

Rental cars are available at the airport, or take a bus or taxi to the ferry terminal in downtown Split.

We recommend arriving a day or two in advance, and spending some time exploring Trogir or Split before joining us on the island.



Suggestions for what to bring

There's nowhere on the island to buy art supplies, not unless you count the marine supplies and household brushes! So you will need to bring anything you need with you in the way of brushes, paper, paint, canvas, pencils, pens, etc. Also folding stool, travelling easel or whatever support you like. If collaging, you may be able to source found objects locally for an interesting assemblage!

General household products are readily available in local supermarkets, eg paper towels, paper cups and plates, water containers and some kids art stuff. Insect repellent – very important in September - is also available locally.

Cost

Artist Retreat costs only \$1045 per person*

This includes 7 days of painting, 8 nights accommodation (double occupancy), transportation to painting sites, entry fees and tours. Four meals are included: Welcome dinner with wine on arrival on Sunday evening, lunch at Malo Grablje/Humac, food and wine at the Bratanić konoba in Vrbanj, and a final sunset dinner with wine and live music at the beautiful Dvor Duboković.

Other food and wine will be left to your own choice, and obviously you can go self-catering if you wish. Other special group meals may be arranged during the week, in which case the cost will be in the region of 100-200 kuna a head.

Reservations

Email or phone me to check availability. To reserve your place we require a deposit in the amount of \$500 per person. The balance is due by June 1, 2016.

*Price is based on double occupancy, a single room supplement of \$250 applies.

Cancellation Policy. Deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel up to 60 days before the start of the retreat, any additional payments will be refunded. Within 60 days of the retreat, no refunds will be paid. We advise the purchase of travel insurance to cover your trip.

For more information

www.painthvar.com

Blog: gohvarblog.com

Marion Podolski

email: marion@podolski.com

cell: 408-463-8809

