

**Friluftsförbundet in Sundsvall on kayak around the Island of Mljet September 10-16, 2016 with Adria Adventure**



We were ten paddlers from Sundsvall in Sweden that went to Dubrovnik for a one week kayak tour to the island of Mljet organised by Adria Adventure. After arriving to Dubrovnik eight of us were picked up at the airport by Adria Adventure for the trip to the Catamaran at the harbor. Two arrived earlier and was already waiting at the dock. The weather ten days before we arrived has been cloudy with some rain but we arrived in sunshine. At the harbour two representatives from Adria Adventure met us and we had time to buy some food before we jumped onto the Catamaran that took us to Pomena in the west of Mljet.

Our tour guide for the week Josip met us in Pomena harbour and drove us to the apartments we shall live in for the coming week. We had all together four apartments in the same building. The apartments were comfortable and had all the things we needed including air conditioning. We were ambitious the first two mornings and started with some 7 minute exercise on the terrace belonging to the apartments. Breakfast was served at nine o'clock at the restaurant Ogigija so we had time. After breakfast on Sunday September 11 two minivans took us from Polače in the east to Sapulnara in the west part of Mljet. Here, we will pick up the kayaks and start paddling on the north side of the island. The kayaks were in good condition, most of them had rudders. Aquabound paddles and sprayskirts made of nylon.

Our tour guide Josip was friendly, helpful and made a good planning of the tour. After adjusting the kayaks to suit everybody we start paddling to the small bay or lagoon in the very east of Mljet. We had a short stop there while our tour guide, Josip, informed us about security and signals we should use on the sea. After the short break and safety instructions

we paddled to Prozurska Luka where we had a late lunch where two of us had black risotto. Black because the dish gets its colour from the ink of an octopus. Like most restaurants on Mljet it has a beautiful ocean view.



***All of us together before taking off for the first day in Saprunari in the east of Mljet.***

We were rather tired when we were driven by the minivans back to Polače. Back at the hotel we got together for an evening for non-alcohol beer and cheese on the terrace belonging to one of the apartments.

On Monday September 12 we started 8 o'clock by seven minutes aerobics led by Karin followed by a swim in the ocean. At nine o'clock we had breakfast as usual at the restaurant Ogigija where we now knew that the wasps were friendly. We gave them honey and most of them went to the small package of honey. A few hang around the table but during the week none of us were stung. There was plenty of time for breakfast so there was no rush before we were driven to Prožura where we had left the kayaks the day before. We paddled during Monday from Prozurska Luka to Kozarica. We stopped for lunch at Sobra about half the way to Kozarica. The coast consists of mainly cliffs and there are few possibilities to go ashore. For lunch some of us had picnic either bought on the lunch stop or bought in the morning. Some preferred restaurants and it was nice that we had the possibility to choose. After reaching Kozarica, where we left the kayaks, we were transported back to Polače for a dinner at Ogigija.



***Maria looking cool while paddling.***

On Tuesday September 13 Josip met up at 7 o'clock in the morning and we took a hike to a viewpoint Montekuc with a spectacular view of the lagoon Veliko Jezero that is connected to a small lake M. Jezero. After the walk we were hungry when we reach the restaurant for breakfast. Paddling on Wednesday went smooth as all other days and we paddled from Kozarica to Pomena and stopped for lunch at Polače. Pomena is a small city hosting many tourists and tourist boats. Some of the boats were made of wood and well kept. Pop music streamed from the boats with mainly young people that could be heard from a long distance.





***A hike to the top of the mountain Montekuc. From left to right Kristina, Maria, Janne, Örjan, Karin, Bo, Heidi and Greger.***



***A stop for a picture from left to right: Greger, Janne, Heidi, Örjan, Karin, Bo, Maria, Gustav, Åke and Karin.***





*A visit to Odysseus cave early in the morning with our guide Josip to the left and Åke to the right.*



*A swim into the cave of Odysseus.*

We were also early birds on Wednesday morning on September 14 as Josip had planned a trip to the cave of Odysseys. After roughly 20 minutes of driving and 20 minutes of walking we came to this peaceful place. Perhaps, it is only peaceful in the morning because later in the day more tourists might come. We only met a couple who said they have dived into the cave and could hear the music of Calypso. After taking a swim into the cave we were back to breakfast at nine o'clock. The sun was brighter than ever before this day and we paddled from Pomena to Pristaniste which is located far in into the lagoon. We had lunch in Soline which is located close to the entrance of the lagoon and is at the very west of the island. We continued after lunch to the island into the lagoon and passed by the island with an old monastery, where we made a stop to look around.

On the last paddling day, Thursday September 15, we had some winds coming from southwest so instead of paddling to Ropa on the outside of the island we paddled a short distance on the outside to feel the waves and then back into the lagoon and all the way into the lake M. Jezero which is connected to the lagoon through a small channel with a bridge on top of it. It was a nice tour and since this area is popular among tourists we saw quite many of them. In the afternoon we took a bicycle tour around the National park before we head back to the apartment where we stayed at in Polače. The Trek bicycles had perhaps 27 gears and extremely good breaks. The number of gears and the good brakes were handy because the scenic roads were bumpy and hilly.

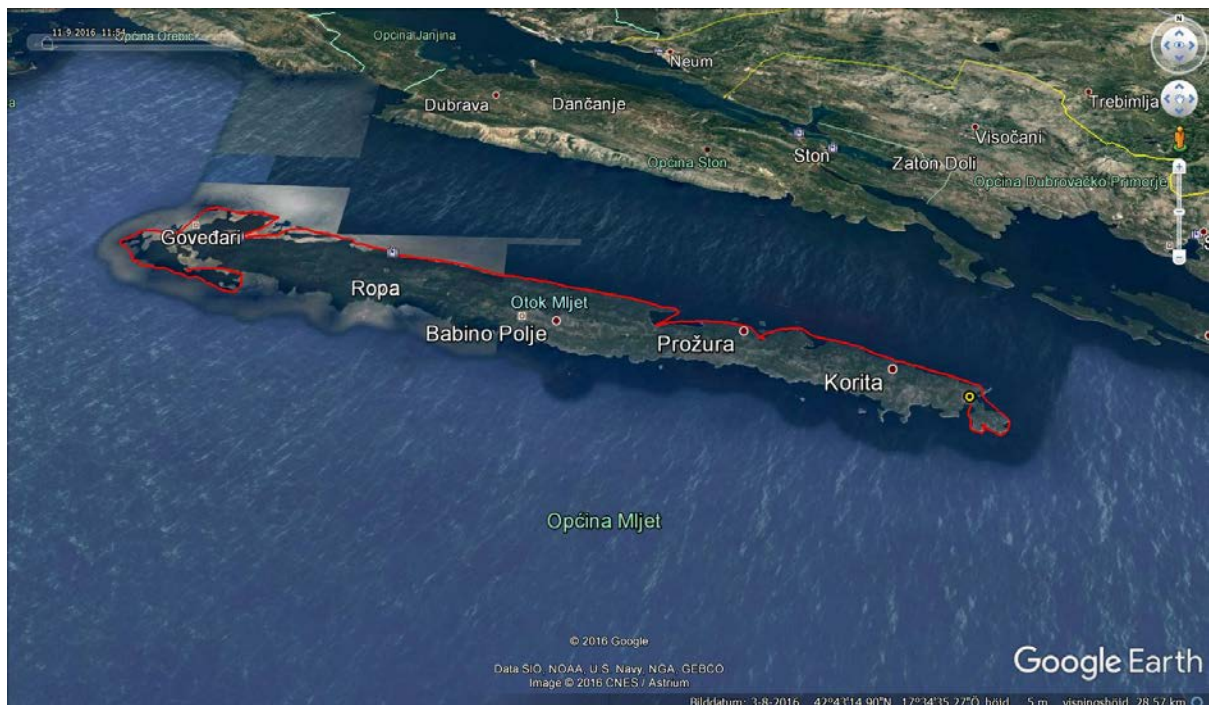


***Janne took this image of Bo on a bicycle tour on the west side of Mljet on Friday September 16.***

On Friday September 16, eight out of ten people in the group travelled back to Dubrovnik in order to have some sight seeing in the old town. Bo and Janne had been there before so we asked our guide Josip if he could rent bicycles for us which he kindly did. He also drove us to Maronovići between Sobra and Sapunara where we started our bicycle trip on a track that follows the coastline. We followed that track up and down about 15 km east until we reached



Odysseus cave where we took a cooling swim in the sea. We were there around noon together with a bunch of other tourists, so it was not as peaceful as the first time when we were there in the morning. A short walk and ride from Odysseus cave to the road and Babino Polje were the last activity we did on the island. We had agreed with our guide Josip that he would come by car and pick us up there. Back in Polače we had some lunch and then Josip invited us for a beer while waiting for the ferry and listening to some musicians playing and singing in the bar on the other side of the street. We paddled totally 74 km, hiked 10 km and bicycled 5 km for most of us and 20 km for two of us. We were all satisfied with the trip and how it was organised by Adria Adventure. We all agree upon that it is difficult to find any better vacation than this.



***The tour we paddled from Sunday to Wednesday September 11 to 14.***