

# 'THE RAVERS' GUIDE: THE DALMATIAN COAST

## THE DALMATIAN COAST



There are 101 reasons to visit Dalmatia – none involving Disney dogs...

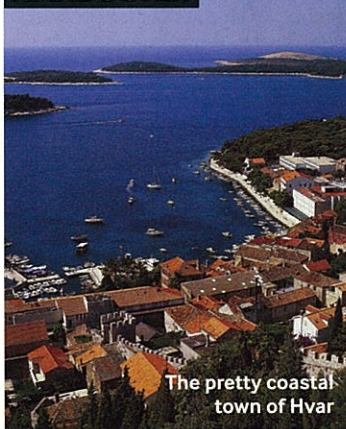
THEY MAY ONLY operate for three months of the year, but summer clubs spreading like wildfire along Croatia's Dalmatian coast. From decadent open-air complexes to bars tucked deep in secret gardens, vacation hues are attracting clubbing tourists from all over Europe. Even UK promoters such as Mulletover and Mretsundaze have realised the potential for affordable mini-festivals (around 50 quid a pop) with guaranteed shine (see [www.gardenfestival.eu](http://www.gardenfestival.eu) for details of events). With plenty of outdoor clubs within easy reach, it's the perfect excuse for a holiday club crawl. Rather than settling for a soundtrack on the beach, trendy Croatians prefer to party in stylish surroundings. Overlooking the Adriatic, upmarket club Byblos is rated one of the best summer clubs on the coast. It features ornate glass chandeliers and offers street parking. Like most places popular with the beautiful jet set, house music is the order of the day (and night). Eddy Mich, Jorgarde and Ilija Rudman are local names to look out for. Clubbers with even more cash to burn make a beeline for the elite jet-set kind of Hvar. Rich kids from all over Europe moor their yachts in the harbour and move onto bars like Carpe Diem ([www.carpe-diem-hvar.com](http://www.carpe-diem-hvar.com)) or La Troya. Back on the mainland, Club Porat ([www.poratclub.com](http://www.poratclub.com)) is set on an inhabited area of coastline close to Zadar. Its grounds include more than 9000 square metres of recreational park, and it's the true definition of a clubbing retreat. By night, clubbers dance beneath the stars; by day they can take workshops at the adjoining art gallery. Alongside the locals, foreign club promoters are staging a series of summer events such as the Electric Elephant (August 22–24) and the Mook Festival (August 29–31). While

## BOAT PARTIES!



Cruising on the good ship Argonaughty

## HARBOURS!



The pretty coastal town of Hvar

## SURF!



## ENVY!



Make your friends in the boring old Balearics jealous

holidaying in Croatia six years ago, Nick Colgan and Eddie O'Callaghan stumbled upon the gardens of a disused hotel and decided it would make a great setting for a festival. Now in its fifth season, the Garden Festival in Zadar has grown from a boutique festival into a major event. The latest jewel in their clubbing crown is Barbarella's, a renovated 70s discotheque in the grounds of the Piniija Hotel in Petrcane ([www.piniija.hr/](http://www.piniija.hr/)). The pair are also responsible for

the Argonaughty party cruises which take place throughout the summer; this year's cruise featured Mulletover and Lamerica. Next year they plan to run more regular events throughout the season. Keep an eye on [www.gardenzadar.com](http://www.gardenzadar.com) for next year's events.

The British summer may almost be over, but Croatian clubbers refuse to rest 'til the sun finally dips. If secret parties in remote locations appeal, Dalmatia could be next season's biggest 'must-have'. SARAH MARSHALL

## NEED TO KNOW

### CLUBS

**Barbarella's, Zadar**  
Renovated 70s discotheque run by the Garden Festival team  
Punta Radman 23231, Petrcane  
[www.thegardenfestival.eu/barbarellas](http://www.thegardenfestival.eu/barbarellas)

**Club Porat, Pirovac**  
Stunning concept club in a remote location. Ivan Smaghe, Jimpster and Lee Burrige all have dates in August. If in Croatia text 66856 for cheap entry.  
Club Porat, Uvala Porat BB, Pirovac  
[www.poratclub.com](http://www.poratclub.com)

**Byblos, Porec**  
One of Erick Morillo's favourite clubs. Look out for resident D&G.  
Zelena Laguna BB  
[MySpace/dandgmusic](http://MySpace/dandgmusic), [www.byblos.hr](http://www.byblos.hr)

### EAT

**Riblji Restaurant Fosa, Zadar**  
Upmarket restaurant popular with Garden Zadar regulars.  
Kralja Dmitra Zvonimira 2

**Konoba Istra, Porec**  
Seafood restaurant popular with locals.  
Mlinovica Ulica, Porec

### Tamaris

Award-winning fish restaurant close to the sea.  
Pero Grgic, Grgura Ninskog 5, Vodice  
[www.vodice-tamaris.com](http://www.vodice-tamaris.com)

### SLEEP

**Hotel Bastion, Zadar**  
Classy hotel in the Old Town.  
Rooms from £142.  
Bedemi Zadarskih Pobuna 13  
Tel: +38 523 494 950  
[www.hotel-bastion.hr](http://www.hotel-bastion.hr)

**Hotel Piniija, Zadar**  
Doubles from £43.  
Intermod d.o.o., Petrcane BB, Petrcane  
Tel: +38 523 202 500  
[www.piniija.hr](http://www.piniija.hr)

**Hotel Mediteran, Porec**  
Modern resort hotel overlooking the sea. Rooms from £30.  
43. Istarske Divizije 25, Porec  
Tel: +38 552 432 310

## WHAT IT COSTS

FLIGHTS FROM LONDON TO ZADAR ON RYANAIR - £90

HOTEL - £60

FOOD/DRINK - £50

CLUBS - £30

TOTAL £230