

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Illustrator: MOLLY MCCAMMON

Visiting a city this summer with kids in tow? Five top writers share invaluable insider picks on keeping everyone happy... even before the 4pm ice-cream break



ICE CREAM STOP
IN LOPUD





ŠUNJ BEACH STROLL

DUBROVNIK
OLD TOWN

CROATIA

DUBROVNIK

BY TING DALTON

Although Croatia is perhaps best known for its thousands of pine-clad islands scattered across the shimmering Adriatic, the more urban coastal city of Dubrovnik is one of the country's most visited (and most popular) cities for families. It's a cosmopolitan hub where chic restaurants and cafes sit alongside open-air markets, food stalls, and baroque architecture. Dubrovnik may be bustling, but it's absolutely possible to enjoy it at a slower pace with kids and we spent a fantastic week exploring this beautiful walled city as a family.

A particular highlight was the Old Town, encircled by a 2km-long medieval wall, offering views of terracotta rooftops and narrow streets. Walking the walls is a must, and kids will love peeking through the battlements and spotting the forts and towers along the way. Go for a stroll early morning or evening before the sun sets for incredible views and smaller crowds. Just a short boat ride away, the Elaphiti Islands are great for a day trip with kids in tow. We visited Lopud, where there are no cars and the

pace of life is super relaxed. Stroll along the sand on Šunj Beach – great for kids who love to paddle – and stop for lunch at the seafront cafes that have wonderful local foodie options for children.

Lokrum, another nearby island, is also a great choice – with botanical gardens, shaded trails and even free-roaming peacocks for kids who enjoy wildlife spotting. For water babies, Dubrovnik has plenty of family-friendly beaches within easy reach of the Old Town too. Copacabana Beach was one of our favourites, with shallow waters, sun loungers, clean facilities and a smattering of family-friendly cafes. Just a quick heads-up, though – Dubrovnik's beaches are pebbly, so pack water shoes for little feet. ▶

'Just a short boat ride away, the Elaphiti Islands are great for a day trip with kids in tow'

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