



Turistička zajednica  
grada Dubrovnika  
Dubrovnik  
Tourist Board



GRAD DUBROVNIK



# Dubrovnik Pocket Guide

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## 1. Introduction

Dubrovnik, situated on the Adriatic coast in southern Croatia, is one of the country's most remarkable and internationally recognised cities. Known for its exceptional beauty, rich history, and cultural heritage, it attracts visitors from around the world and holds a special place as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its historic streets, sea views, and distinctive atmosphere make it a city where the past and present meet in a unique way.

Beyond its architectural and cultural importance, Dubrovnik also has a long and meaningful chess tradition. Chess in Dubrovnik can be traced back to the time of the Dubrovnik Republic and, in local tradition, even to the 12th century. Historical accounts suggest that old Dubrovnik citizens played chess for centuries, long before organised club chess officially began in 1933 with the founding of Chess Club Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik's place in international chess history was further strengthened in 1950, when the city hosted the Chess Olympiad, the first Olympiad held after the Second World War.

Today, that tradition continues through chess events organised by Chess Club Dubrovnik, including the Dubrovnik Advent tournament, which brings players together in the spirit of competition, friendship, and the city's enduring connection to the game.

This guide is intended to offer a practical and engaging introduction to Dubrovnik – not only as a world-famous destination, but also as a city with a rich local identity and a proud chess heritage – and to serve as a useful companion for all participants of the Dubrovnik Advent Open.

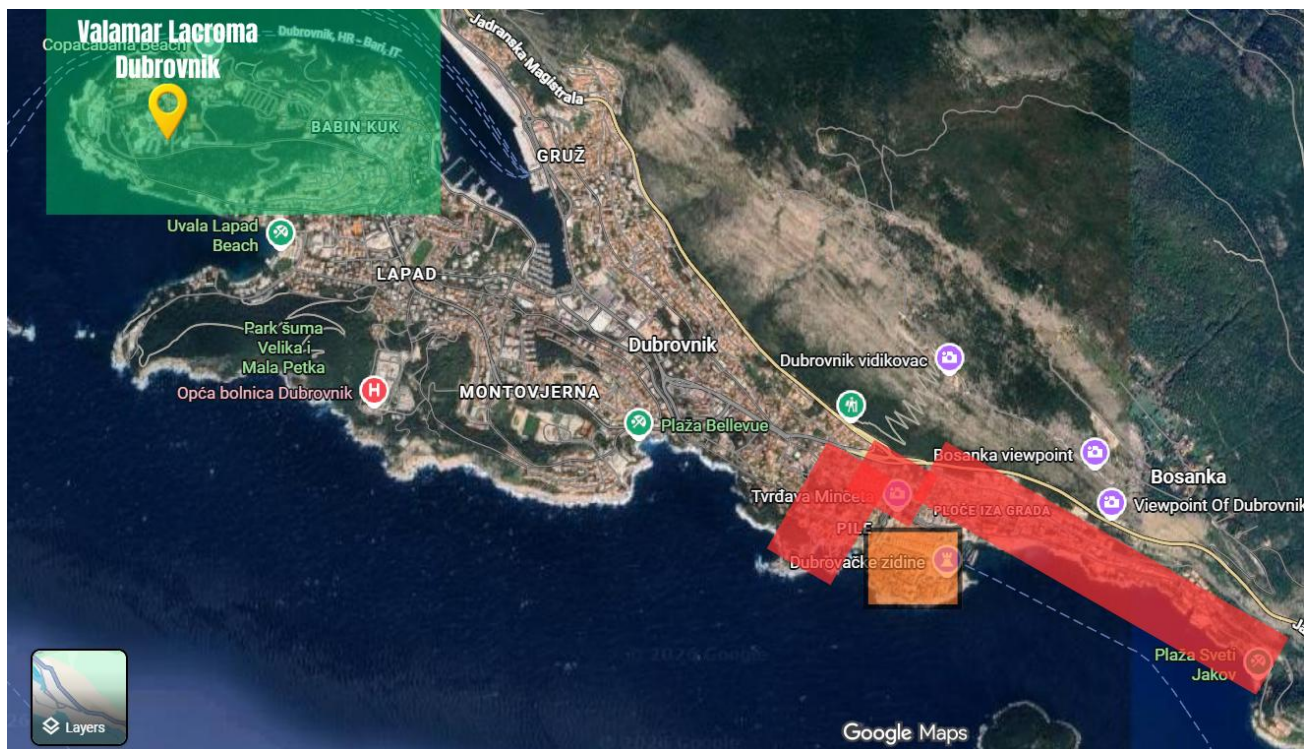
## 2. Transportation from the Airport (if arriving by plane)

Dubrovnik Airport is located approximately 20 kilometres from the city, and the journey to Dubrovnik takes around 25 minutes.

The main transport options from the airport to the city are as follows:

- 1. Official Shuttle Bus – Platanus (recommended option):** The Platanus shuttle bus is the official airport transfer service and is generally considered the best option for most travellers. It operates in accordance with flight arrivals and usually departs around 30 minutes after each landing. A one-way ticket costs **10 EUR**, while a return ticket costs **15 EUR**. Additional information, including the timetable and online ticket purchase, is available on the [official website](#).
- 2. Uber:** Uber is also available from the airport to the city centre, with fares usually ranging from **35 EUR to 45 EUR**, depending on traffic and demand. Standard taxis are typically more expensive, making Uber the more economical car transfer option.

## 3. Accommodation



For easier orientation, please refer to the enclosed map when selecting your accommodation.

The **yellow pin** marks **Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik**, the official playing venue and the main accommodation option for all tournament participants. The hotel offers both **half board and bed & breakfast** packages.

The **green-marked area** indicates the most recommended zone for booking accommodation outside the official hotel, as it allows reasonably convenient access to the venue.

The **red-marked areas** indicate locations that are generally less practical for accommodation, particularly for participants who intend to reach the playing venue by foot, public transport or car.

The **orange-marked area** highlights the **Old Town**.

Our main recommendation is **Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik**, which serves as the host hotel and playing venue for the tournament. It is one of Dubrovnik's leading hotels and offers participants a comfortable and practical stay. In accordance with the tournament announcement, players who book through the organisers are eligible for a **special discounted rate**.

Participants who prefer other accommodation options may use platforms such as **Booking.com**, **Expedia**, or **Airbnb**. In that case, we recommend choosing accommodation in the **green-marked area**, or elsewhere in the city depending on your budget, transport preferences, and overall travel plans.

## 4. Transportation Around Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik is connected by a public bus network operated by Libertas, and many parts of the city are also practical to explore on foot. The main areas of interest, including the Old Town, Lapad, Gruž, and Babin Kuk, are linked by regular city bus lines.

A ticket purchased on board costs **2.50 EUR** and is valid for one ride. A **1-hour ticket** costs **1.73 EUR** and remains valid for one hour after first validation. Current ticket prices and timetable updates are available through [Libertas](#).

For participants staying in the **Babin Kuk** area, including **Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik**, [bus line 6](#) is the most convenient public transport option. It directly connects Babin Kuk with **Pile**, the main entrance to the Old Town. According to the published timetable, line 6 runs every **15 minutes** for most of the working day, while weekend and holiday departures are generally every **20 minutes**. The journey to Pile takes approximately **15 minutes**. The nearest bus stop for the hotel is located on the main road above the hotel.

For real-time route information, active lines, and expected bus arrivals, participants may use the official **Libertas app**, available on both [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#). The [full city timetable](#) and [network map](#) are also available on the official Libertas website.

During previous editions of the **Dubrovnik Winter Festival**, city bus transport operated free of charge from **17:00** until the last evening departure. As this is a seasonal arrangement and may vary from year to year, participants are advised to check the current festival programme and Libertas notices closer to arrival.

In addition to public transport, **Uber** and local taxi services are available throughout the city. Taxi fares within Dubrovnik vary depending on distance, traffic, and demand, so app-based estimates or direct confirmation with the operator are recommended before travel. Among the available local providers are **Plavi Taxi** (+385 (0)20 332 222), **Cammeo** (+385 (0)20 212 212), and **Eko Taxi** (+385 (0)20 432 432).

## 5. Dubrovnik Pass

The [Dubrovnik Pass](#) is the city's official visitor pass and a practical option for those planning to explore Dubrovnik's main cultural attractions. [It includes](#) entry to major sites such as the **City Walls**, Fort Lovrijenac, selected museums and galleries, **as well as public transport**, and it also provides [additional discounts](#) for a range of attractions and services.

The pass is available in three versions: a **1-day pass** for **40 EUR**, a **3-day pass** for **50 EUR**, and a **7-day pass** for **60 EUR**. It can be purchased online in advance through the official Dubrovnik Pass website or at selected sales points in the city.

For visitors who plan to walk the **City Walls**, the Dubrovnik Pass is especially worth considering, as it combines one of Dubrovnik's main attractions with public transport and additional cultural visits in a single ticket. Current third-party listings place a standard adult City Walls ticket at **40 EUR**, which means the **1-day Dubrovnik Pass** may offer better overall value if you intend to see more than one site.

More information is available on the official website: [Dubrovnik Pass](#).

## 6. Dubrovnik Winter Festival

**The Dubrovnik Winter Festival** is one of the city's main seasonal events and is usually held from late November to early January. In recent editions, it has brought a wide cultural and entertainment programme to both residents and visitors, with events taking place across several locations in the city.

The festival includes concerts, children's programmes, live performances, and festive events in different parts of Dubrovnik, including the **Old Town** and other city areas. The official programme has also included formats such as **Stradun LIVE**, **Advent on Vojnović**, and **Advent Park Dubrovnik**, showing that the festival is spread across multiple locations rather than being limited to one central square.

A particularly recognisable part of the festival is the presence of **Advent houses** – festive stalls and wooden booths offering seasonal food, drinks, sweets, and other holiday treats. Together

with the city's decorative lighting and seasonal atmosphere, they make the Winter Festival one of the most enjoyable periods to visit Dubrovnik.

For tournament participants visiting during the Advent season, the Dubrovnik Winter Festival offers an additional opportunity to experience the city in a lively and festive setting beyond the tournament itself. **The full festival programme is usually announced later in the year, closer to the start of the event.**

More information is available on the official website: [Dubrovnik Winter Festival](#).

## 7. What to Visit in Dubrovnik?

Dubrovnik offers a remarkable concentration of historic landmarks within and around its Old Town, making it easy to explore some of the city's most important cultural and architectural sites even within a limited amount of free time. The following attractions are among the most recognisable and rewarding places to visit for anyone wishing to experience Dubrovnik's history, heritage, and distinctive atmosphere.

- 1) [The City Walls](#) are Dubrovnik's most famous landmark and one of the best-preserved fortification systems in Europe, offering spectacular views of the Adriatic Sea and the Old Town. Built mainly between the **14th and 17th centuries** to protect the former **Dubrovnik Republic**, they extend for approximately **1,940 metres**, and a full walk usually takes around two hours.
- 2) [Fort Lovrijenac](#), also known as **St Lawrence Fortress**, stands on a 37-metre-high cliff outside the western side of the Old Town and formed an important part of Dubrovnik's defence system. Above its entrance is the famous Latin inscription "**Non bene pro toto libertas venditur auro**" ("Freedom is not sold for all the gold in the world"), and today the fortress is known for its panoramic views and cultural significance.
- 3) [The Rector's Palace](#) is one of Dubrovnik's most important historic buildings and a key monument of the former **Dubrovnik Republic**, located in the heart of the Old Town. Once the seat of government and the residence of the Rector, it now houses the **Cultural History Museum** and is known for its elegant blend of **Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque** architecture.
- 4) [Sponza Palace](#) is one of the most elegant historic buildings in Dubrovnik and one of the few major monuments in the Old Town to have preserved its original appearance. Built in the **16th century** in a distinctive **Gothic-Renaissance** style, it once served important public functions and today houses the **State Archives in Dubrovnik**.
- 5) [The Franciscan Monastery and the Old Pharmacy](#) are among Dubrovnik's most important religious and cultural landmarks, located near **Pile Gate** at the western entrance to the Old Town. Founded in **1317**, the **Old Pharmacy** is one of the oldest continuously operating pharmacies in Europe, while the monastery also preserves a valuable library with more than **20,000 volumes**.

## 8. Where to Eat in Dubrovnik?

If you are staying at **Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik**, your reservation may already include **breakfast** or **half board**, depending on the package selected. Even so, whether you are staying at the host hotel or elsewhere in the city, you may still wish to go out for lunch, dinner, or a more casual meal, and there are several convenient options near the hotel as well as throughout Dubrovnik.

*Please note that some restaurants in Dubrovnik may operate with reduced winter opening hours or seasonal closures. Participants are advised to check the current opening hours or make a reservation before visiting.*

Among the nearby options, [Asia Restaurant Dubrovnik](#) is a good choice for those looking for **Asian cuisine**, with a varied menu and a wide selection of dishes. It is especially suitable for guests who would like something different from hotel dining, with noodle dishes standing out as a particularly good option.

[Pivnica Dubrava](#) is a good nearby choice for those who prefer grilled dishes and a more traditional meal in a relaxed setting. It is known for its grill selection, hearty portions, and local-style cuisine, making it a suitable option for lunch or dinner outside the hotel.

If you prefer to order food, delivery services are also available in Dubrovnik. **Glovo** and **Wolt** both operate in the city, and [dobartek.hr](#) is a Croatian delivery platform that is also available in Dubrovnik, so it may be worth comparing the options before placing an order.

### 8.1. Restaurants in Dubrovnik

Below is a selection of restaurants in Dubrovnik, including options in and around the Old Town as well as other parts of the city. The list combines different styles of dining, from traditional Mediterranean cuisine to more casual international options.

- 1) [Dubravka 1836](#) is located near Pile Gate and offers Mediterranean cuisine with a beautiful view of Fort Lovrijenac and the City Walls. It is a convenient choice at any time of day, with a relaxed atmosphere, very good pasta dishes, and an apple pie that is especially worth trying.
- 2) [Hard Rock Cafe Dubrovnik](#) is located in the Old Town near Pile Gate and is a good option for visitors who enjoy the familiar Hard Rock concept in a striking historic setting. In addition to its classic menu, the restaurant also includes some local dishes, making it a suitable choice for those looking for an international brand with a Dubrovnik touch.
- 3) [Restaurant Portun](#) is a cosy family-run restaurant in a quieter part of the Old Town, well suited for a relaxed lunch or dinner away from the busiest streets. Its menu focuses on Mediterranean cuisine and is particularly appreciated for its warm service, good wine selection, and well-prepared specialities.
- 4) [Trattoria Carmen](#) is a small family-run restaurant near the Dubrovnik Aquarium, known for its intimate atmosphere and fresh daily menu. It is a very good choice for

those looking for a more authentic and quieter dining experience in the Old Town, with local wines and traditional Croatian desserts also on offer.

- 5) [Bistro Revelin](#) enjoys an attractive location by the old fortress, with beautiful views of the harbour and the sea. It is a pleasant option for lunch, dinner, or even breakfast, offering Mediterranean dishes, cocktails, and a relaxed atmosphere that is occasionally enhanced by live music.
- 6) [Gradska Kavana Arsenal](#) is one of the most recognisable dining spots in Dubrovnik, located by the Old City harbour in a historic building with exceptional views. It is especially suitable for visitors who wish to combine a meal or coffee with a classic Dubrovnik setting, with seafood dishes among the most popular choices.
- 7) [Lučin Kantun](#) is a well-regarded restaurant in the Old Town, known for its local atmosphere, Croatian cuisine, and friendly service. It also offers vegetarian and gluten-free options, along with local wines and homemade desserts, making it a reliable choice for a relaxed meal in the centre.
- 8) [Pantarul](#) is a popular local restaurant in Lapad, valued for its modern approach to simple, high-quality ingredients and seasonal dishes. It is a particularly good option for visitors who want to avoid the busiest tourist areas while still enjoying fresh seafood, homemade pasta, and strong vegetarian or vegan choices.
- 9) [Oriental Fusion Cuisine Trinity](#) is a good option for guests looking for sushi and Asian-inspired dishes in Dubrovnik. It is especially suitable for those who want a lighter meal in a modern setting without choosing a more formal restaurant.
- 10) [Urban & Veggie](#) is a very good choice for visitors looking for vegetarian or vegan cuisine in a pleasant and relaxed setting. Its terrace and lighter style of dining make it especially suitable for lunch or an informal dinner.
- 11) [Yacht Club Orsan](#) is well known for its seafood and its attractive setting overlooking the marina. It is a particularly pleasant option for those who want a calmer dining experience away from the busiest parts of the Old Town.

For those who would like to finish a meal with dessert or enjoy a sweet break while exploring the Old Town, Dubrovnik also offers several well-known dessert spots. One of the most popular is [Dolce Vita](#), a long-standing local favourite especially known for its **crêpes**, often considered among the best in Dubrovnik, with a wide variety of dressings and recipes, alongside **ice cream, cakes, and coffee**.

## 8.2. Fast Foods in Dubrovnik

For visitors looking for a quick, simple, and more affordable meal, Dubrovnik also offers several good fast food options. These are especially convenient for takeaway, a casual lunch, or a relaxed meal between sightseeing and tournament activities.

- 1) [Barba](#) is a popular choice in the Old Town, especially for visitors looking for quick seafood dishes with a local touch. It is best known for its seafood sandwiches and is an excellent option for a simple meal or takeaway while exploring the city.

- 2) [Fast Food Queen](#) is a convenient option for those who prefer a quick and uncomplicated meal. It is particularly practical if you are looking for fast delivery or an easy takeaway choice.
- 3) [Ten11](#) is a good option for visitors who would like a more filling fast food meal with local flavour. It is especially worth considering for its **ćevapi**, a traditional Balkan grilled minced meat speciality.
- 4) [Preša](#) is one of the best-known casual dining spots in the Old Town, offering affordable food in a small and often busy setting. Although it is considered a fast food option, the menu is varied and includes lighter choices such as salads, making it a good option for different tastes.

## 9. Emergency Numbers and Useful Addresses

The main emergency numbers and useful addresses are listed below.

- **112** – Emergency services
- **192** – Police
- **193** – Fire brigade
- **194** – Ambulance

### **Dubrovnik General Hospital**

[Ul. dr. Ante Šercera 4, 20000 Dubrovnik](#)

### **Police Station Dubrovnik**

[Ul. dr. Ante Starčevića 13, 20000 Dubrovnik](#)

## 10. Official Channels

For official updates, announcements, and additional information related to the tournament and club activities, follow Chess Club Dubrovnik through the official channels listed below.

- **Chess Club Dubrovnik** – [Linktree](#)
- **Chess Club Dubrovnik** – [Website](#)
- **Chess Club Dubrovnik** – [Facebook](#)
- **Chess Club Dubrovnik** – [Instagram](#)
- **Chess Club Dubrovnik** – [WhatsApp Channel](#)