



48 HOURS IN DUBROVNIK

Yvonne Gordon falls for Medieval city walls and dreamy Adriatic views.

Don't miss ...

FORTRESS The **City Walls** of Dubrovnik date back to Medieval times and on the two-kilometre stroll around them, you'll see the old city gates, forts and towers, and enjoy views over the blue Adriatic Sea, the city's tiny streets and the red rooftops. A few minutes away, climb the steps of Fort Lovrijenac for another perspective over the city walls.

PANORAMIC VIEWS Take the **Dubrovnik Cable Car** to the top of Mount Srđ, where there's a restaurant and panoramic terrace. For the best views down over the Old Town, walk a little away from the viewing terraces to the mountain top, from where you can watch the sun set over the Elaphiti Islands. There's also a fort and a small museum about the Croatian War of Independence.

SMART FLIERS

AERLINGUS flies from Dublin to **DUBROVNIK** daily.



Top, Dubrovnik's Medieval city walls make for a scenic stroll. Above, reaching new heights at the top of Mount Srđ. Left, refreshing cocktails up for grabs at Poco Loco.

NATURE To escape the buzz of the city, take the 15-minute ferry ride over to **Lokrum Island**, where you can enjoy walks in the gardens (and perhaps spot a few of the resident peacocks), explore old Benedictine Monastery ruins, have a picnic, sunbathe on the rocks or swim in the freshwater lake. There's also a small *Game of Thrones* museum.

Drink at ...

COCKTAILS There are lots of little bars hidden in the backstreets but for some of the best cocktails, head to **The Bar by Azur** where they'll mix you up a "spicy" with tequila, coriander, lime, pineapple, rhubarb juice, agave and ginger or a "woody" with whiskey, tawny port, Prošek and chocolate bitters. (Kunićeva 5, +385 20 454 477; azurvision.com)

SUNSET It's all about the views when you go for a sundowner cocktail in Dubrovnik and it's hard to beat **Abakus** on the terrace of Hotel Excelsior, where you can sip cocktails, chat and listen to live piano music over dreamy vistas of the blue sea and the ancient city. (Frana Supila 12, +385 20 353 000; adriaticluxuryhotels.com)

TAPAS Drop in to **Poco Loco Dubrovnik Fusion & Cocktail Bar** any time of day or evening for tasty tapas, burgers, craft beers and refreshing cocktails, while watching the world go by from a shaded outdoor table right in the heart of the Old Town at Gundulić Square. (Bunićeva Poljana 5, +385 95 191 1985)



STYLISH Set on a cliffside just along the coast, **Villa Dubrovnik** has views of Lokrum Island and lush gardens and there are vaporetto speedboat transfers to the city. Inside, rooms come with a private terrace and sea views, and there's a stylish rooftop wine bar, plus a lounge, restaurant and spa. Rooms from €324. (Vlaha Bukovca 6, +385 20 500 300; villa-dubrovnik.hr)

Sleep at ...

LUXURY Completely refurbished last year, the landmark **Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik** has been a favourite of celebrities and royals since it opened in 1913. Boasting some of the best views of Dubrovnik Old Town and the Adriatic, there are quiet gardens and a private seaside stone terrace and swimming spot. Rooms from €137. (Frana Supila 12, +385 20 353 000; adriaticluxuryhotels.com)

BOUTIQUE Just ten minutes' walk from the city centre and set at the top of a cliff, **Hotel Bellevue** lives up to its name with its superb views. All rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the sea and there's a large terrace plus a private beach for guests. Rooms from €108. (Pera Čingrije 7, +385 20 330 000; adriaticluxuryhotels.com)



Eat at ...

MODERN Fresh seafood from the Adriatic such as sea bream or turbot, rich meat dishes and homemade bread and pasta are on the menu at **Pantarul**, which serves up Dalmatian and Italian-inspired cuisine in a buzzy setting - there's a five-course tasting menu and the restaurant has a cookbook if you want to recreate some of its dishes at home. (Kralja Tomislava 1, +385 20 333 486; pantarul.com)

QUAYSIDE For a break from the madding crowds, take a lunchtime trip out to **Restaurant Orsan** for a relaxing waterside setting with daily fresh fish specials - tuck into octopus salad, oysters from Ston or sea bass carpaccio, along with a selection of local olive oils, cheeses, meats and organic vegetables. (Ulica Ivana Zajca 4, +385 20 436 822; restaurant-orsan-dubrovnik.com)

ASIAN FUSION You'll find a selection of local Croatian produce cooked Oriental style with lots of spice at **Azur**, hidden in a back lane in the Old Town. There's indoor and outdoor seating and sample dishes include CroAsian-style seafood laksa, spicy tuna donburi and meatballs with curry coconut sauce. (Pobijana 10, +385 20 324 806; azurvision.com)

Clockwise from top right, stylish interiors and bright rooms at Hotel Excelsior; gorgeous views from the terrace at Hotel Bellevue; Oriental delights at Azur in the Old Town; Dalmatian and Italian inspired bites at Pantarul restaurant.

