

Hvar – A Cyclist’s Paradise

Ancient stone villages. Sparkling, turquoise seas. Aromatic pine forests. Fields full of lavender....

There’s no place in the world like Hvar. The Croatian island has been called ‘a little piece of heaven’ and ‘paradise’ by many who travel there. With 2,700 hours of sunlight each year, it’s the perfect destination for outdoor activities.

It is especially perfect for cycling.

Hvar offers one of the most scenic cycling routes in all of Europe, taking riders the full-length of the island, all along the Adriatic Coast, over gently rolling mountain passes, and through fields lush with bright purple *lavanda* (lavender). The landscape is dotted with vineyards, olive groves, ancient villages and fortresses, and the world-renowned Unesco-protected Greek fields.

The Greek fields are famous for being the largest, most fertile fields on the Adriatic islands. This area—called Hora—was divided by the ancient Greeks into smaller parcels, each of which was 900 x 180 meters. That parceling of land is still visible today, and it makes Hora the best-preserved Greek *cadastre* in the Mediterranean...a wonderful site to see while cycling across the island!

Riders find it easy to fall into a peaceful rhythm while cycling across the island, thanks to the breathtaking vistas and the flowing terrain. The ride is not too difficult, nor too easy. The climbs, the descents...everything feels just right from atop the bike, allowing cyclists to be challenged while still taking in the landscape as they ride.

The island has no shortage of charm between rural and urban areas. As you cycle from town to town, you will find yourself in the midst of stone streets, bustling marinas, expensive yachts, humble fishing boats, and the freshest open-air markets in the country. Fishermen can often be seen on the *riva*—harbor—hauling in their catch, while tourists from Europe and the UK relax on nearby sailboats.

Hvar is a cyclist’s dream, the perfect mix of old and new, nature and civilization, historic and modern. The entire experience is, quite simply, euphoric. It is a journey not to be missed.