

ENG

# COOL *Tours*

**MUST**

SEE | KNOW | DO



LOŠINJ

ISLAND OF VITALITY



p. 6

# MUST

*See*

Attractions worth the saying "if you haven't seen it, you haven't been to Lošinj and the islands..."

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# MUST

*Know*

If you know this, you can say you're local :D

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# MUST

*Do*

Try something that's easy peasy for us

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# ISLES of Apsyrtus



It was precisely here, on the Cres-Lošinj archipelago, that the famous mythical ancient Greek pursuit came to an end. The epic story of heroic endeavours, fatal love, and treason started in Greek Thessaly, where king Pelias promised Jason to give him back his father's throne if he brought the Golden Fleece back to him from the faraway kingdom of Colchis. It was a true mission impossible, which required sailing the treacherous Black Sea, convince the king Aeetes to hand over the Golden Fleece, and overcome the sleepless dragon who was guarding it... Jason succeeded in all tasks with a little help from the gods, especially goddess Hera who put a spell on Medea, a sorceress and a daughter to Aeetes. Medea ran away with Jason, which sparked a great pursuit led by Medea's brother Apsyrtus.

Jason and the Argonauts couldn't return home the same way they came, so they found an escape route on mystical paths, over the mouth of the river Dunav and its tributaries all the way to the northern Adriatic. While they were travelling, Apsyrtus had already settled in the northern Adriatic and made a pact with the islanders. Jason was ready to negotiate an honorable agreement, so he agreed to meet Apsyrtus near the temple of Artemis. It was a trap. Jason killed Apsyrtus and ran away with Medea and the Golden Fleece, protected by a horrible storm that Hera sent to stop the Colchians in their pursuit. Fearing the king's rage, the Colchians remained on the islands. They called them Apsyrtides, the isles of Apsyrtus, to honour the Colchian prince.

p. 6

# MUST

Attractions worth the saying “if you haven’t seen it, you haven’t been to Lošinj and the islands...”

See

p. 21





1.

## APOXY— —OMENOS

MALI LOŠINJ

His harmonious muscular body shines in bronze splendour, but his thoughts are deep and far while he cleans his strigil. He has been standing still like this for over 2,000 years. He reminisces the glorious times under the Greek sun when he was in everyone's awe, but also the dark storage room where he was thrown into when he was no longer needed. He remembers the days that filled him with hope when he set sail towards north, and ended up in dark again, the dark of the depths of the sea. For too long he observed the fish and ships pass him by...And just as he thought he'd turn into a shadow, a hand touched his head. He emerged from the deep Adriatic, the veneer of time removed, and he now shines a new shine in his own museion that honours him in a town of famous Liburnian sailors.

☐ Yep, done and done!



2.

MALI LOŠINJ

## FOUR LADIES IN LOŠINJ MUSEUM

Four ladies await you in the silence of the palace of Lošinj Museum. The ancient and mysterious *Lady of Čikat* welcomes us, brings us to the elegant Baroque *Lady in Black* who hands us over to a true *Lošinjanka* in her formal attire, though the last one, *Meditation*, only shows her face, lost deep in thought.

☐ Yeah, I sure did!

## 3. LOGER “NERE— —ZINAC,”

MALI LOŠINJ

After having worked hard for a hundred years, he is now old and broken, and is waiting for his end...But Fortuna smiled at him and thanks to skilled hands of shipbuilders, he was reborn and returned to the sea where he belonged. He is the little brother of sailing ships from Lošinj, the last of his kind. His deck, where the wood for glassblowing furnaces in Venice used to be stored, now carries stories of ancient sailing ships and their crews for new generations of lovers of the sea and ships. His slim silhouette with two masts, that the generations of islanders knew only as an emblem on Nerezine's coat of arms, now adorns the port of Mali Lošinj. The lugger of Lošinj is ready to set sail. We wish him fair winds and following sea!

☐ YES, I DID!



4.

## VIA CRUCIS WITH A VIEW

MALI LOŠINJ/KALVARIJA

They say that the sailors' bread has seven crusts and that not everybody was made for sea. It's a hard life, perilous, humble, and lonely. The Stations of the Cross on Kalvarija, that open a new view of Mali Lošinj at every chapel, were set up by the families of local sailors.

☐ *Tried it, loved it!*

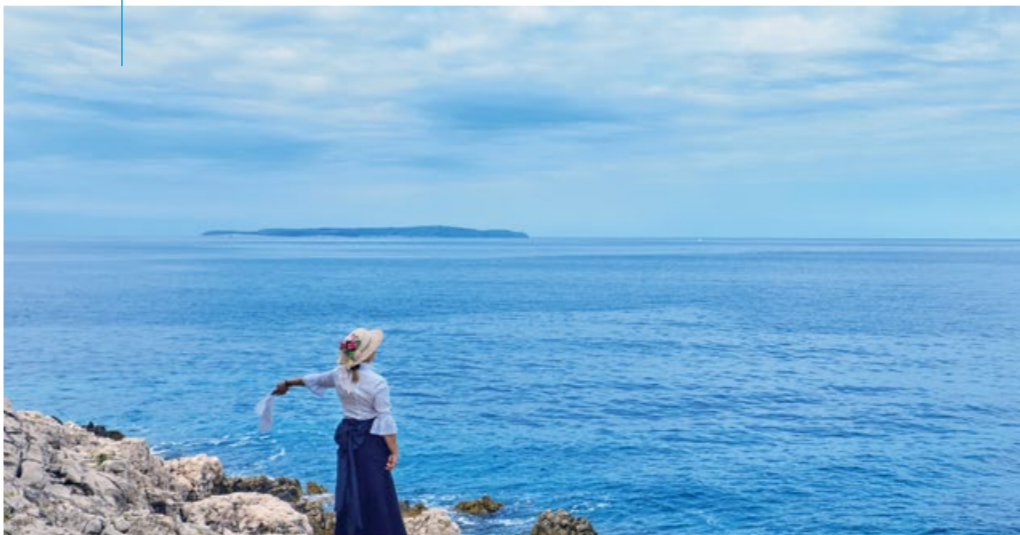
**THEY SAY THAT THE SAILORS  
BREAD HAS SEVEN CRUSTS  
AND THAT NOT EVERYBODY  
WAS MADE FOR SEA**



## FRAGRANT GARDEN

5. MALI LOŠINJ

Everything that grows and brings pervading scents, feeds and heals the body and soul of the island, is summed up in a cute microcosm of this rocky garden in Lošinj. Regardless of the season, there is always a plant that is blooming and bringing fruit, and it is all brought together by its owner Sandra and her "gardeners" – a big donkey and a small ram.

☐ **WOULD DO AGAIN!**


6.

## VELA STRAŽA

ČIKAT

It is not the highest, but it is the most important of all local sentinels, because this was a place to oversee the entry to the magnificent Augusta Bay and the port of Mali Lošinj. A picturesque path through the hundred-year-old pine-trees and cypress leads to this favourite coastal viewpoint.

☐ *Been there, done that!*

7.

## ANNUNZIATA

ČIKAT

"Do not divert your eyes from the shine of this Star, if you do not want to be wrecked by the storms" is an inscription on the façade of the chapel of Annunciation in the Čikat Bay. This is a place of vows, longing, and gratitude of Lošinj's sailors. Its walls are covered with paintings of their ships that were saved by the miracle of prayer.

☐ *This also!*




## LANTERNA

8.

### ČIKAT

It is only near Lanterna, the lighthouse at the entrance to the Čikat Bay, that the rocks take shape of the waves that formed them – layered, flat, and winding like the “dead sea” after the southern wind. And this wind is spectacular here – roaring in thunder of waves and sea foam.

☐ YES I DID!

9.

## PROVIDENCA

### MALI LOŠINJ/UMPINJAK

There is an unusual viewpoint at the top of Umpiljak Hill overlooking Mali Lošinj. The breathtaking view of islands and islets surrounding you is accentuated by educational panels that bring out their stories. The first photographers of the 19th century knew that this was the place to take the best panoramic shot of Mali Lošinj.

☐ Absolutely!

10.

## KULA-TOWER

### VELI LOŠINJ

The circular tower that irresistibly reminds of rook, swallowed by the houses of the port of Veli Lošinj was built by the locals as a defense against the pirates. Today it houses a small historical museum offering a wonderful view of the centre of Veli Lošinj from the top.

☐ For sure!

11.

## ST. ANTHONY THE ABBOT

### VELI LOŠINJ

Built on a rock perched above the entrance to the port, the parish church of Veli Lošinj resembles a fort. This makes entering the church more spectacular. The acoustics of the lavish Baroque interior, decorated by the local, well-off captains' families, are worthy of a great concert hall.

☐ YOU BET I DID IT!



# BLUE WORLD

## VELI LOŠINJ

Thanks to the long-standing work of this small, but very active institute for marine research and protection, the bottlenose dolphins of Lošinj have become famous around Europe. This educational centre in Veli Lošinj is a top destination for anyone who loves the sea and these fascinating sea mammals.

☐ Done and done!

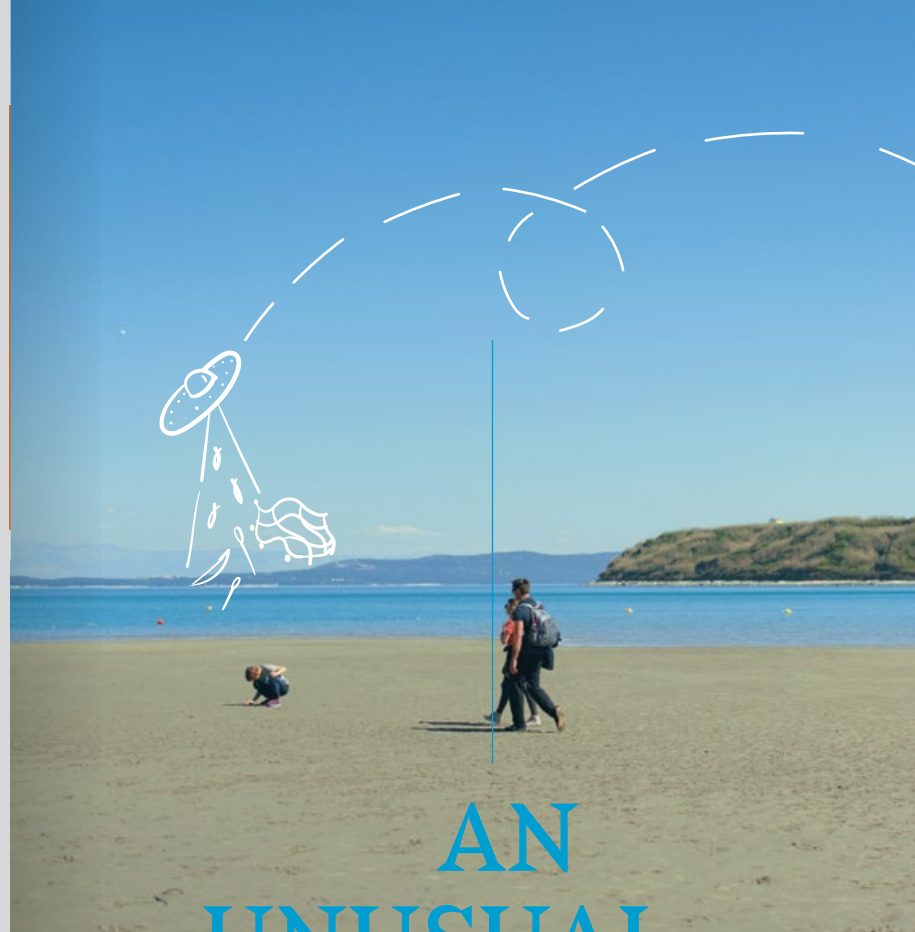
## 13. ILOVIK CHANNEL

### ILOVIK-ST. PETER

The Ilovik Channel, 2.5 km in length and 300 m in width and protected from all winds, has always been a haven for many ships that were escaping the notorious storms on Kvarner, zig-zagging through the labyrinth of islands and islets. Seeking military protection from the pirates, they moored at Fortica on St. Peter's Island, whose ruins can be seen today still.

☐ YEAH, I'VE SEEN IT!

12.



## AN UNUSUAL ISLAND

### SUSAK

Imagine a steep pyramid of the finest sand in the middle of the sea. That is the island of Susak. It was once covered with vineyards enclosed by reed (because there are no stones on the island), and the grapes and wine provided means to buy everything that was necessary – from stones to build houses to wool for their colourful folk costumes.

☐ Yes, yes and yes!

14.





## POLJE

### UNIJE

The big, flat, and only a few meters above the sea level, Polje (the field) near Unije on the eponymous island, appears somewhat surreal. A long time ago, the wheat danced in the wind, but today there's only tall grass, with a sheep's head popping out of it every so often. Polje served as an airport for small planes until a few years ago.

☐ YEP, AND IT WAS GREAT!

## 16. TORAĆ

### ČUNSKI

The last functioning olive mill on Lošinj is not located in Čunski by accident. It is precisely here that over the last decades the old olive groves were rebuilt and new ones planted. Torać is a place where every autumn the heavy mill stones are turned by hand, like in the old times, and the event is filled with laughter and happiness.

☐ Sure did!

15.



# "LIVE HERITAGE,"

### NEREZINE

Traditional songs, dance, and local customs and skills have always been a part of Nerezine, not just something that is put on display for visitors' pleasure only. With the persistent sound of bellows, the locals continue to celebrate *Mugj*, a celebration of youth and spring, and their regatta of traditional wooden boats is something that can't be missed.

☐ ...And would go again!

## 18. HAND-OPERATED PIVOT BRIDGE

### OSOR

To shorten their trip, the Romans dug through Kavuada and artificially split the islands of Cres and Lošinj. The channel is so narrow and the bridge so small that most people don't even notice it, except twice a day when the bridge opens for passage of boats by manual operation. It is quick and efficient, thanks to hydraulics.

☐ YES, MA'AM



18

| MUST SEE | MUST DO | MUST KNOW

## MUSEUM-CITY

OSOR

Osor, the once capital of the islands of Cres and Lošinj, hasn't been a city in its true sense for a very long time. It is now a blend of an outdoor archaeological museum, an idyllic summer destination, and the seat of one of the most important musical festivals in Croatia. Time stands still here. It needed to take a break.

☐ Done!

19.



Not all sheep are the same. The *pramenka* from Cres is the smallest and the liveliest of all its cousins. It has inhabited these islands since forever, it is here where it breeds, lives, and dies under the open island sky. It roams free within its stony pastures encircled by dry-walls. It grazes patiently and waits for its master to bring it a drop of water and some old bread "for dessert".

☐ ...AND CAUGHT SOME SUN, TOO!

20.

## "STONE KINGDOM" OF SHEEP

USTRINE

## TWO DISTILLERIES OF ESSENTIAL OILS

MARTINŠĆICA

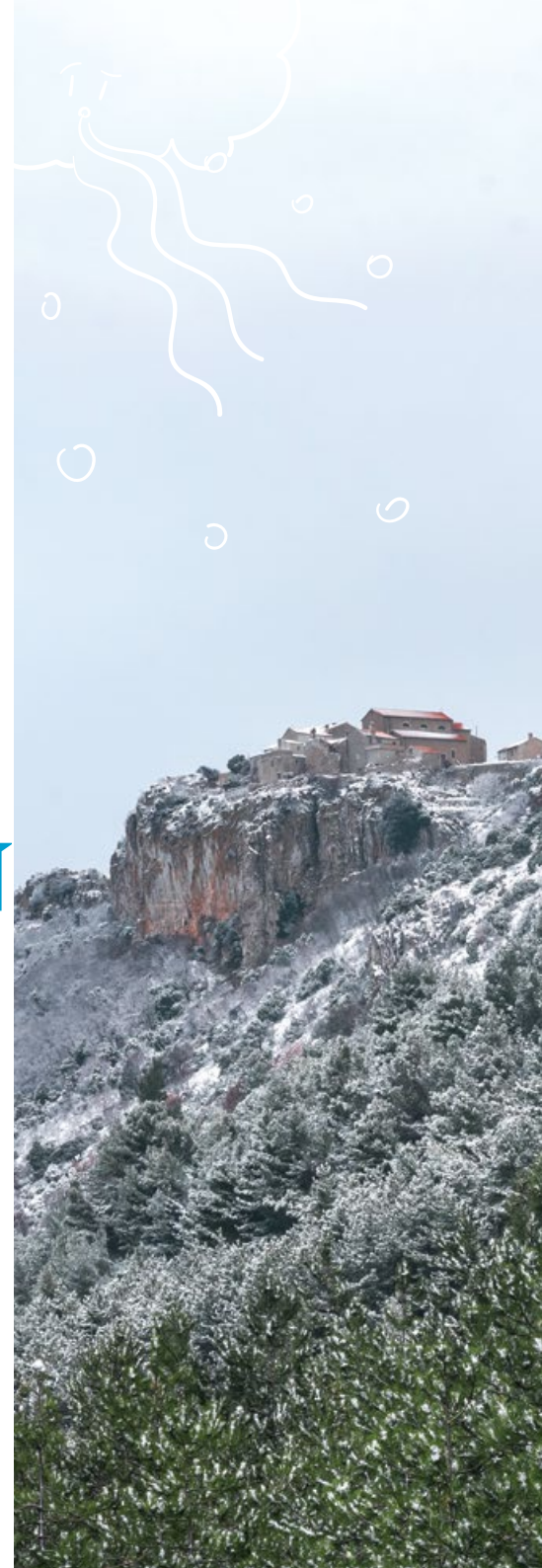
In the centre of Martinšćica, on the very coast there still stands a stone building where, hundred years ago, the Linardić family produced world-known essential oils from sage, immortelle, and laurel. The tradition of distilling aromatic plants has been continued by Guerino Kučić on his picturesque family farm.

☐ And even got the oil!

21.

## TOWN ON A CLIFF

22.





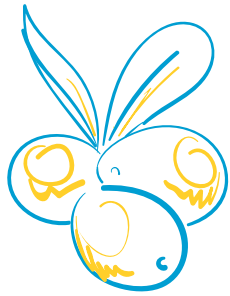
23.

## URBAN OLIVE GROVES

CRES

Cres has kept its original location since the ancient times – on the shore of a large protected bay enclosed by gentle slopes of the surrounding hills. Here, the terraced olive groves, hundreds of thousands of them, surrounded the idyllic town of Cres and continue to dominate with their greyish green crowns.

☐ Yeah, done!



24.

ORLEC/BELI

On the vertical cliffs of the eastern coast of Cres nest the vulture griffons – fascinating, rare, and strictly protected birds. They rarely have more than one chick, and often enough its clumsiness drags it down into the sea.

Then we must rescue it and return it into the wild after its recovery in the ornithological reservation in Beli.

☐ ...AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!

## ORNITHOLOGICAL RESERVATION



25.

## “MAGICAL FOREST”

TRAMUNTANA

The last thing you would expect on a rock-strewn island such as Cres is a thick forest of hundred-year-old oak trees. Among many of these giant trees there is a special one – a 400-year-old downy oak near the hamlet of St. Peter. Children (and an elf from time to time) love to hide in its hollow.

☐ And it was magical!



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# MUST *Do*

Try something that's easy peasy for us

p. 35







## COUNT THE STEPS

MALI LOŠINJ-BRDINA/KAŠTEL

If you're looking at the bell tower of the parish church from the port, it seems so close. But when you start climbing the stairs from St. Joseph's chapel, it seems like they will never end! It is true; for the stairs are wide and low, and there are many to reach the church square. You will have to find out on your own how many there are exactly! For those with super endurance – there are many more to climb to reach Kaštel!

1.

☐ YEAH, I DID IT!



### 3. SING SOMETHING (OPERA)

MALI LOŠINJ-JOSIP KAŠMAN

Lošinj's own Josip Kašman, whose bust you can find in front of St. Anthony's chapel, was the "king of baritone" of the global scene at the end of the 19th century. The Italians called him Il Divino (divine). We aren't sure if he kicked off his career by singing under someone's balcony, but you are welcome to try – you never know.

☐ Sure, and you should've heard me!

### SEE THE UNDERWORLD

MALI LOŠINJ-UNDERWATER SPEAR FISHERMAN

2.

The statue of the underwater spear fisherman, a staple in local jokes because of its tight swimsuit, was erected to celebrate the most famous sport on Lošinj – underwater spear fishing. Nowadays it is more acceptable to catch fish with your camera, so dive into one of many coves on Lošinj and enjoy the big blue.

☐ Yep, done this too!





## DRINK WATER FROM THE FOUNTAIN

### MALI LOŠINJ-TWO DOLPHINS

The Two Dolphins fountain was erected in 1960 to mark the opening of the water system in Mali Lošinj. The rainwater from the tanks has been replaced by the top-quality water of the Lake Vrana on the island of Cres, which still runs in every shower and tap on Lošinj. Have a good drink of this water, for its quality is better than any of those bottled waters.

☐ YEAH, AND IT WAS AMAZING!

4.



## 5. KNOW THE FISH

### MALI LOŠINJ-RIBARNICA

How many times have you been to a restaurant and regretted not being able to tell one fish from the other? To fix that, make your way to the local fish market tomorrow morning with the crack of dawn. (It's that beautiful old stone building on the square with blue windows and doors). Take a picture of at least five types of fish, ask the vendors what they are, look them up online, and remember them!

☐ I DID THIS, TOO!



THE LAST THING YOU WOULD EXPECT ON A ROCK-STREWN ISLAND SUCH AS CRES IS A THICK FOREST OF HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD OAK TREES

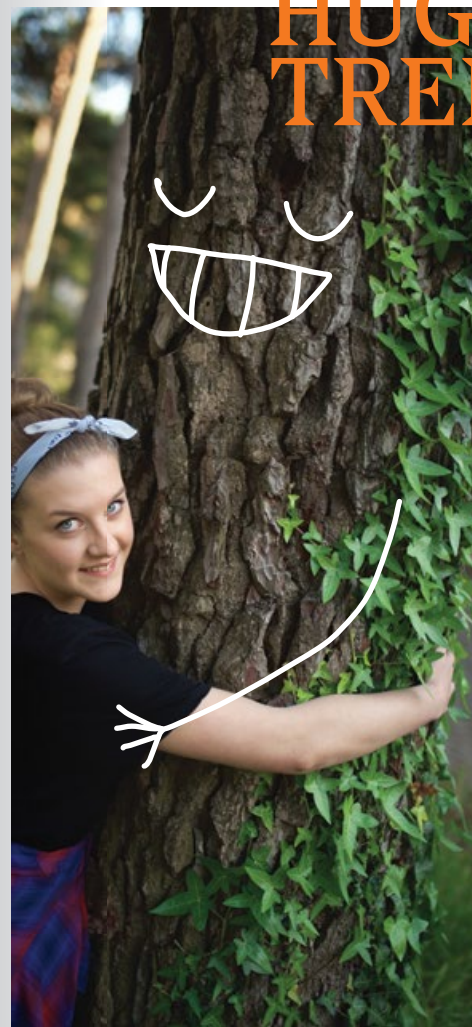
## HUG A PINE-TREE

### ČIKAT-AMBROZ HARAČIĆ

Lošinj is one of the most afforested islands on the Adriatic, however, it is not the work of nature, but Professor Haračić who started the afforestation of the island karst in 1886. In the first six years, half a million seedlings of Aleppo pine were planted, of which 300,000 survived. A great deal of them has endured all the droughts, strong winds, and storms for over 130 years. Their imposing trunks rise high above footpaths through the forest and coastal promenades on Čikat, where the proud "green professor", a bronze statue of Ambroz Haračić, watches over them. Find your pine-tree and hold it tight; you will hold the very soul of Lošinj.

☐ Yeah, and I would do it again!

6.







## 7. SPOT A DOLPHIN

("DOLPHIN WATCHING,,)

VELI LOŠINJ

You've seen them in the movies and you know a lot about them, but you've never seen them in real life, in the sea? No problem! Join the team from the Blue World Institute in Veli Lošinj on their boat and go search for the Lošinj's dolphins. There is a great chance you'll see them.

☐ Yeah, and I loved them!



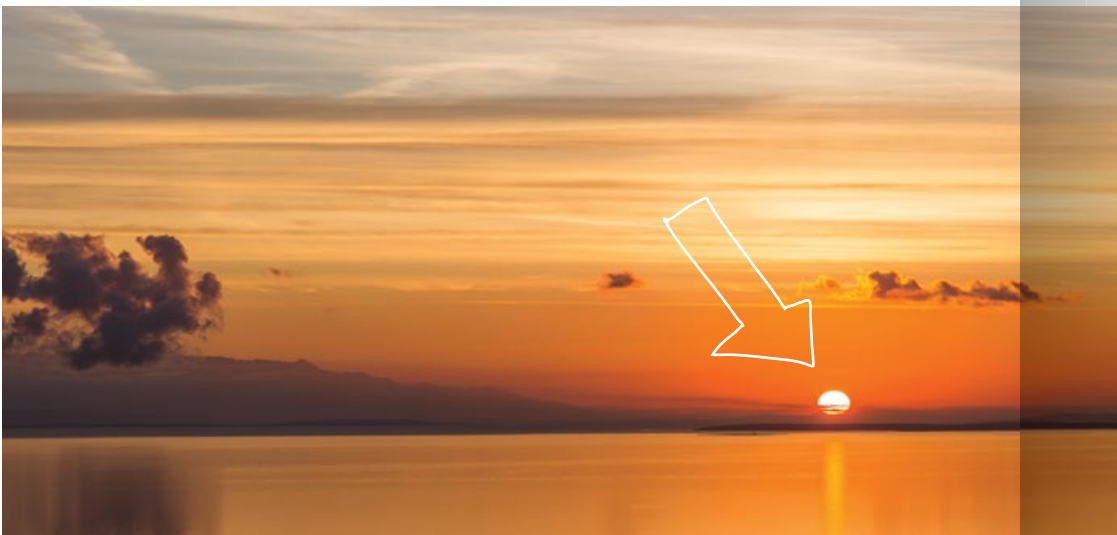
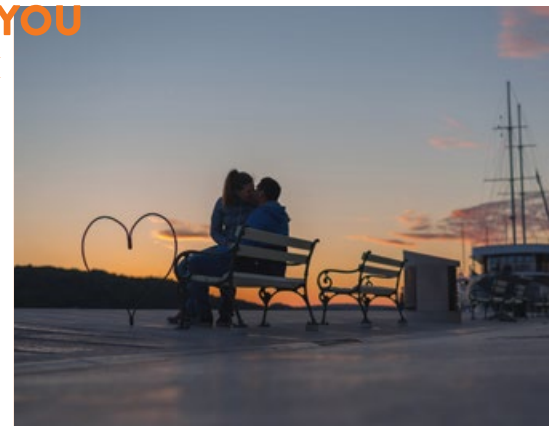
## LET THE ROMANCE GUIDE YOU

MALI LOŠINJ/VELI LOŠINJ-LUNGOMARE

The winding promenade under the pine-trees along the coast from Mali to Veli Lošinj was made for a long walk in two. It is gorgeous at any time of the day (or night), and sitting on the lovely benches, the couples reminisce their first kiss. And second, and third... starting all over again on the next bench.

☐ Yeah, and it was great!

8.



## SALUTE THE SUN

POGLED / UMPIJAK

Lošinj is one of the sunniest islands in the Adriatic. It is long and relatively flat, so it basks in the sun's reflection in the sea. Do not miss to see the dawn at the Pogled Peak (above Mrtvaška Cove) or the sunset on the Umpiljak (Providenca viewpoint) and take a snapshot of that spectacle.

☐ YES, AND WILL DO IT AGAIN!

9.



## 11. SAND CASTLES

### SUSAK-VELI BOK

Did you enjoy playing in the sandpit when you were a child? If so, the island of Susak, made of the finest sand, is perfect for you. You can build sand castles all day long on Veli Bok, most famous beach on the island. You can bury yourself in it, draw, write messages... bring your own little buckets and spades.

☐ I MADE A CASTLE!



## KNOW THE WIND

### VELI LOŠINJ-SV. IVAN

The air is always circulating around the islands of Lošinj. The best way to feel which wind is blowing is to climb hilltops, such as St. John's Hill above Veli Lošinj. Bora blows from the northeast and carries the salt from Kvarnerić. Scirocco is a southern wind that raises huge waves. Bringing freshness in summer is mistral that blows from the west.

☐ Yeah, i know them by name! 10.



## 12.

# LIE ON ALGAE AND WATCH SEAGULLS

### UNIJE

The stormy scirocco wind has washed ashore the long beach of Unije a thick layer of algae, or to put it better, dry seagrass foliage. Is there a greater pleasure than to lie down on that natural bed after a refreshing swim, observe the seagulls as they swirl around and squark, and doze off?

☐ Of course I did!

## 13. HIKE ACROSS THE ISLAND

### VELE SRAKANE

Few people can say that they've hiked across an entire island, or at least an isle. If you want to join this prestigious group, go to Vele Srakane and take a walk from the dock to the Vela Straža Peak. Take a break there in the shade of olives, the only trees on the island. You've earned it.

☐ THIS WAS A TOUGH ONE!





# WIN THE FORT

ČUNSKI-POLANŽA

You will find the remains of prehistoric sites on all peaks of the island; the primitive forts that have served over centuries, even millennia, as residences or shelters from the pirates. One of the most preserved is the Polanža fort that opens a panoramic view of the central part of the island of Lošinj.

☐ YEAH, I MADE IT!

14.

## 15. RING A BELL “FOR FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEA” OSORŠČICA-SV. NIKOLA

Island of Lošinj resembles a big ship with the command bridge on Osorščica, where from the eponymous peak “commands” St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors and travellers. The climb to this small, but very picturesque island mountain (588 m above sea level) is worthy of the captivating panoramic view of the island of Lošinj and the surrounding islands. At the St. Nicholas (Sv. Mikula) Peak, you will be welcomed with open doors to a small chapel that has been knocked down by storms so many times over centuries and rebuilt from scratch by the hard-working locals. There was a St. Nicholas monastery in the Middle Ages where the monks vowed to a solitary life. Enter the chapel; remember that we are all Travellers on the Sea of Life and ring the bell as hard as you can for “fair winds and following sea”.

☐ Yeah. I rang the bell!

16.

## “HUNT” WITH ARTEMIS

HALMAC / TARŽIĆ

Somewhere between Halmac and Taržić, in thick forests surrounding the calm meadows at the foot of Osorščica, hide the remains of the temple of Artemis from the mythical search for the Golden Fleece. If a deer or a roe jump before you, or you see a marten scurrying away – catch them with your camera.

☐ DID IT AND HAVE PHOTOS TO PROVE IT!







## 18. PET A MARTEN

### OSOR-MONUMENT TO MARTEN

Osor is known for many bronze statues scattered around the town. They are all dedicated to music and musicians, except one which celebrates the marten. Its fur was used to pay taxes, and our currency carries its name today. Pet the bronze statue so that your leafy martens don't dash away from your pockets.

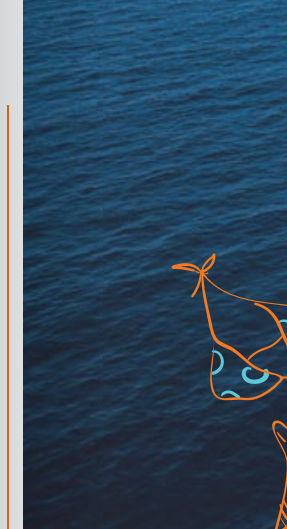
☐ DID IT, AND NOW I'M RICH!

## 17. DESCEND INTO "PANTHEON"

### PUNTA KRIŽA-JAMINA SREDI

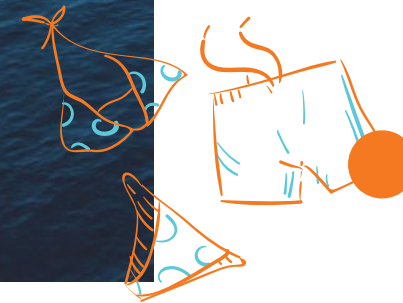
Halfway between Osor and Punta Križa, west from the Vela straža Peak, in the middle of deserted flatlands where you can easily get lost (although the path is marked), there is an unusual cave where people have lived for thousands of years. Slide through the narrow passage and enter a miraculous space that resembles the Roman Pantheon.

☐ Yes and I wasn't scared at all!



19.

## GO FOR A NIGHT SWIM



When the summer heat reaches its peak and the sea is as warm as a jacuzzi, it is time for a night swim. Grab a towel and head to the sea. A starry Lošinj sky above you, peace and silence around you... You won't even need a swimsuit.

☐ Did I? Yes, I did.



## PARTY WITH THE LOCALS

20.

There's no better way to discover our villages and people than attending the festivities that celebrate their patron saints – in Osor on St. Gaudentius day (1st June), Punta Križa on St. John's day (29th June), Ilovik on St. Peter and Paul's day (29th June), Nerezine on St. Mary Magdalen's day (22nd July), and Sveti Jakov on St. Joseph's day (25th July).

☐ Yeah, I loved it!







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# MUST *Know*

If you know this, you can say you're local :D

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## 1. 1 ISLAND! 2 ISLANDS! 3 ISLANDS?

Initially a single island, Cres and Lošinj were split by an artificial channel near Osor by the Romans. About 2,000 years later, a second channel was dug at the entry to Lošinj. Both bridges open twice a day and give way to the boats, like they always have.

INITIALLY A SINGLE ISLAND,  
(CRES AND LOSINJ) WERE SPLIT  
BY AN ARTIFICIAL CHANNEL  
NEAR OSOR BY THE ROMANS

2.



## SIZE IS RELATIVE

For a long time, Krk was considered the biggest island in the Adriatic, but recently, the island of Cres beat it for 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>. How did this happen? The coast on Cres is steeper, therefore, the rise of the sea level floods it. Veli (*big*) Lošinj, as you would guess, was bigger than Mali (*small*) Lošinj for a long time. It was, but it is no more. Why? Because of the port.

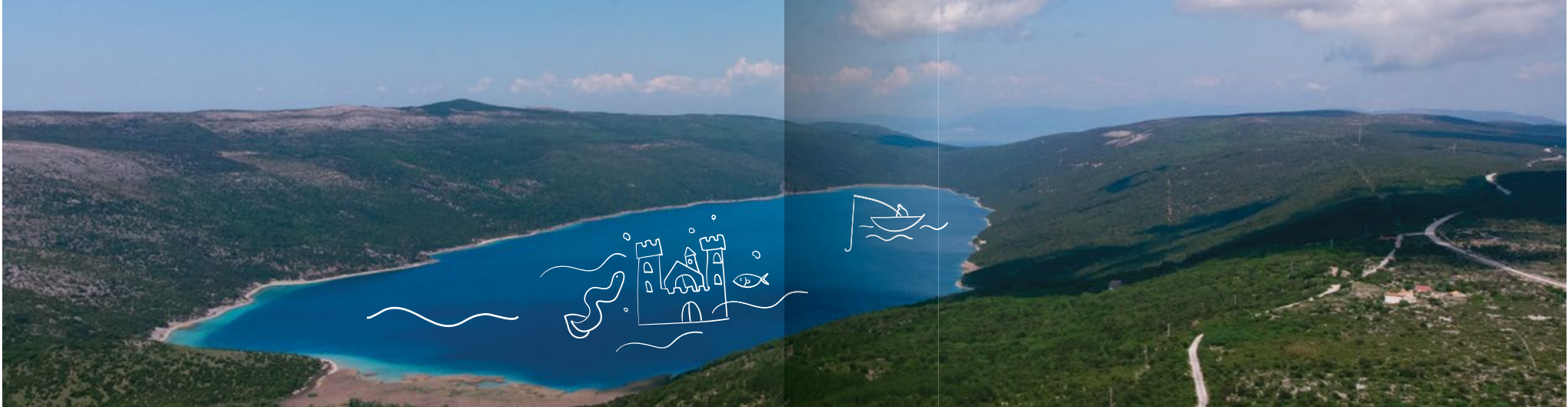
3.

## ISLAND-VINEYARD

In the late 19th century, phylloxera destroyed most of the Mediterranean vineyards, but Susak was spared because this pest could not propagate on the island's sandy soil. The demand for grapes and wine was huge, so the locals turned their island into a huge vineyard and got very rich.







# LAKE VRANA

4.

## “THE NORTHERNMOST SOUTH”

The 45th parallel north passes near the village of Vodice on the island of Cres and is halfway between the North Pole and the Equator. The entire Mediterranean is further to the south, but not the neighbouring island of Lošinj with its true Mediterranean climate. Thanks to its distance from the mainland and the strong effect of the sea, a plethora of plant species grow on the northern part of Lošinj (holm oak, myrtle, orange, lemon...). Pleasant in winter due to warm sea currents, refreshed in summer by a light breeze from the sea, always sunny and never too dry, Lošinj is a true Mediterranean island – the northernmost south of Europe. Regardless of the ongoing climate change, its own has remained mild and healing.

The big, deep, crystal clear lake in the middle of a dry island of Cres is a hydrological phenomenon. Its surface is around 13 m above the sea level, and the two connect somewhere deep (eels!). The lake is the main source of excellent potable water, so access to it is limited.



5.

6.

## PARK-FOREST ČIKAT

130 years ago, Professor Ambroz Haračić sparked the afforestation of the barren surroundings of Mali Lošinj. In just 6 years, half a million seedlings of Aleppo pine were planted on the island. Most of them survived thanks to the local women who watered them during the early days. Today they make up the protected Park-forest Čikat.



## 7. MAGRIŽ - IMMORTELLE

(LAT. HELICHRYSUM ITALICUM)

Timid and inconspicuous greyish bush interspersed with green that imbues the island's karst with odour, blooms in summer in golden yellow flowers that never wilt. In 1908, Andrija Linardić Jr. from Martinšćica distilled the first immortelle essential oil, which is considered very valuable and carries healing properties.





## SEA MEADOWS

Dark patches on the turquoise sandy bottom of the waters around Lošinj are meadows of Mediterranean tapeweed (*lat. Posidonia oceanica*), a seagrass species among whose long leaves over a 100 different species of fish spawn, grow, feed, and live. Mediterranean tapeweed grows very slowly, over centuries in fact, and it is endangered due to illegal anchoring.

8.



9.

## LOŠINJ BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Bottlenose dolphins (*lat. Tursiops truncatus*) can be found in the entire Adriatic, but only those living around Lošinj do not migrate. A group of around 180 dolphins permanently lives around these waters, so the scientists and lovers of the sea know them by their "names", that is, the marks on their dorsal fins. They love company; ship's engine noise not that much.

## GRIFFON VULTURE FROM CRES

These magnificent birds that circle the sky above Cres in groups are called griffon vultures (*lat. Gyps fulvus*). Despite their size (wingspan up to 280 cm, height around 100 cm) they are harmless because they feed exclusively on carcass. They are rare and endangered, therefore, a very protected species.

10.

11.

## CREEPLY CRAWLIES

If you come across a snake on your walks on these islands, fear not. It most likely isn't a snake but a harmless legless lizard – a slowworm or a European glass lizard. Real snakes are not venomous, such as European ratsnake (*lat. Elaphe situla*), one of the most beautiful European snakes.





12.

## ST. GAUDENTIUS

The patron saint of the islands of Cres and Lošinj is St. Gaudentius, the bishop of Osor and an ascetic from the 11th century. There are numerous legends around him, the most famous one being that he banished all venomous snakes from these islands. For that reason, he is always depicted with snakes and is considered the protector against poisonous snake bites.

## 13. **THE THREE RISES AND FALLS OF THE CITY OF OSOR**

Osor, the old capital of the islands of Cres and Lošinj, experienced its first rise in the ancient times. Although rich and well-fortified, it did not sustain the Saracen attacks in the 9th century that resulted in the city being looted and burned to the ground. Rebuilt on ancient ruins, Osor blossomed again under Croatian rule. After a long siege and robbery by the Genovese at the end of the 14th century, Osor was so badly destroyed that the Venetians rebuilt only a half of the city and built a new cathedral. The third rise was short-lived. The navigation routes changed so the ships didn't need to pass through its channel and port, and there was an outbreak of malaria. Osor was thus outworn.

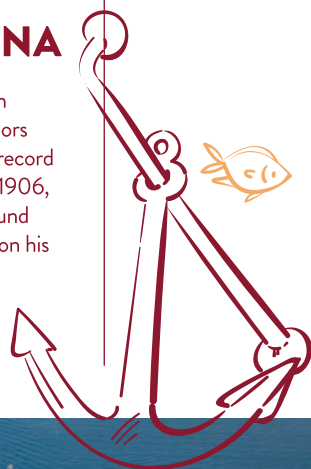




#### THE SEAMEN OF LOŠINJ/

### 14. ALDEBRANT PETRINA

Whoever survives the stormy bora wind on Kvarner can sail the world. The skills of sailors from Lošinj was legendary, like the speed record set by Captain Aldebrant Petrina who, in 1906, sailed the route from Trieste to Chile, around the Cape of Good Hope, in only 94 days on his sailboat "Contessa Hilda".



#### 16. THE SAILBOATS OF LOŠINJ/

### AGOSTINO STRAULINO

The locals say that "navigation is business, sailing is pleasure". At the end of the 19th century they turned a regular old pasara boat into a sailing speedster and competed in the Augusta Bay. Agostino Straulino, the legendary golden Olympian from Lošinj, later an Italian admiral, learnt his sailing skills precisely on this boat.



#### THE SHIPBUILDERS OF LOŠINJ /

### 15. NIKOLA MARTINOLIĆ

150 years ago, there were five shipyards in the big port of Mali Lošinj, where almost 250 ships were built in a span of around 30 years. Among them is the 60 m long full rigged ship (*nava*) "Imperatrice Elisabetta", the biggest sailboat in the Mediterranean, built in 1875 by the hands of the brilliant Nikola Martinolić.

15.





## TYPICAL HOUSE ON LOŠINJ

The huge demand for wood in shipbuilding led to the lack of beams, which then made the locals turn the roofs of their houses upside down and create the original Lošinj house with short ridges and wide façades. The only decoration of these simple houses were creative chimneys and beautiful front gardens.

18.

## 9. FIRST TOURIST ON LOŠINJ/ ARCHDUKE CHARLES STEPHEN

The first tourist in Veli Lošinj was the Archduke Charles Stephen of Austria. His great love for sailing and frail health brought him here in 1885, and after his first visit he decided to cast anchor in this beautiful seaside town where he spent his winters for the next 30 years. Half of the Viennese court followed suit.

19.

## FOLK COSTUME OF SUSAK

The ceremonial folk costume of Susak was not originally as short and fluorescent as we know it today. It changed in the early 20th century due to the influence of fashion and taste of locals who emigrated to the US. Regardless, it continues to fascinate with many starchy underskirts and shiny decorations.



20.

## BELLOWS AND ACCORDION

The traditional musical instrument of the villages on Lošinj is bellows made of sheep's skin. Its penetrating, historic sound can still be heard at local festivals, followed by the sound of Lošinj's "urban instrument" – the accordion. Waltz and polka are indispensable dances during the carnival festivities.

The islands of Cres and Lošinj abound in toponyms that cause trouble to foreigners (and often natives) how to pronounce. Here are the most common:

**LUBENICE**  
[LOO-BEN-ITS-EH]

**MARTINŠĆICA**  
[MART-IN-SH-CH-ITZAH]

**UNIJE**  
[OO-NIEH]

**SUSAK**  
[SUE-SACK]

**LOŠINJ**  
[LO--SHEEN]

**CRES**  
[TS-RESS]

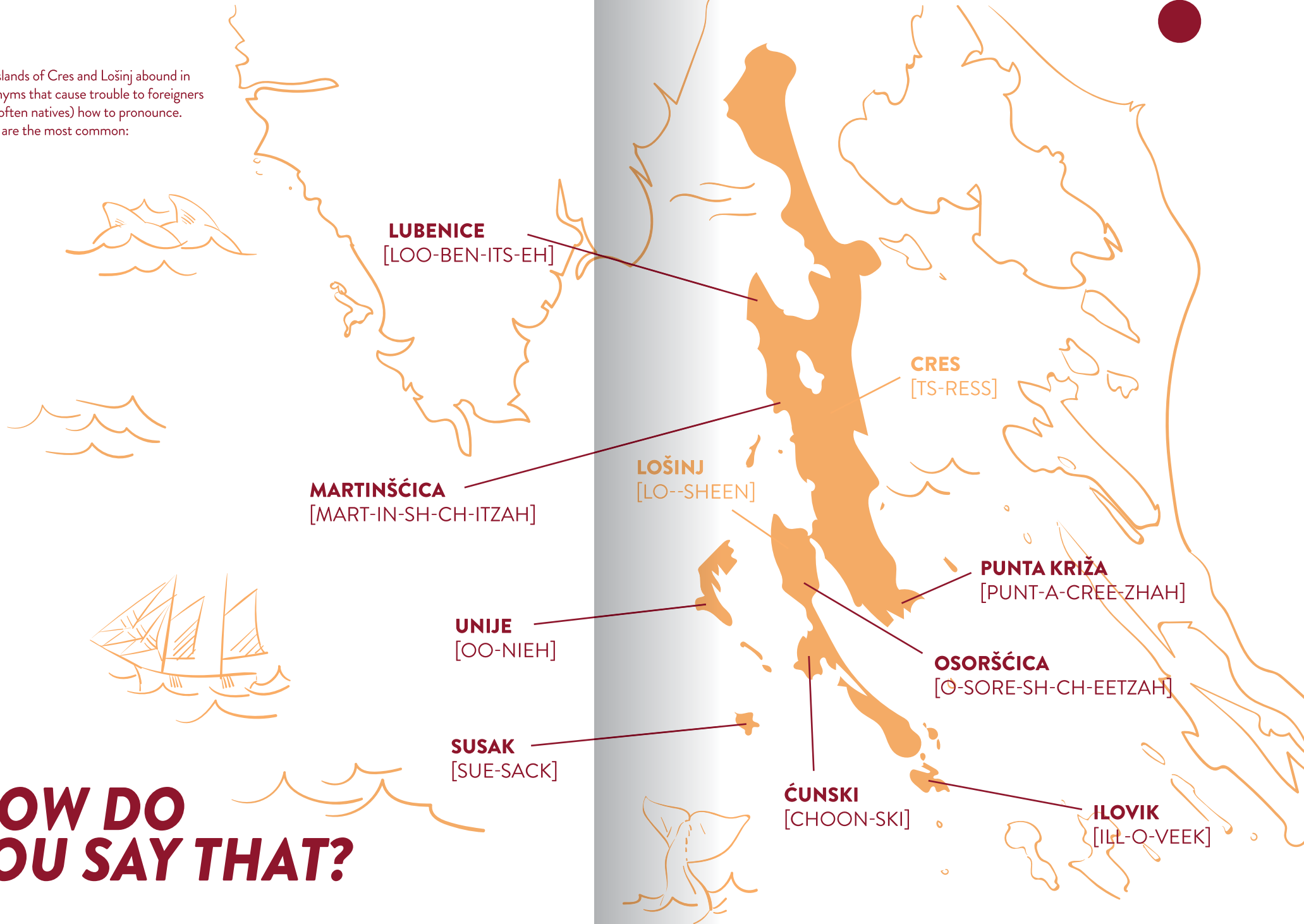
**PUNTA KRIŽA**  
[PUNT-A-CREE-ZHAH]

**OSORŠĆICA**  
[O-SORE-SH-CH-EETZAH]

**ĆUNSKI**  
[CHOON-SKI]

**ILOVIK**  
[IL-L-O-VEEK]

**HOW DO  
YOU SAY THAT?**

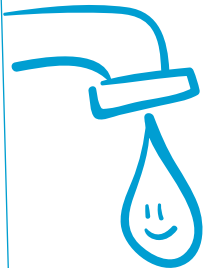




# THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF LOŠINJ

①

**DRINK WATER FROM THE TAP**  
it's clean and fresh.



②

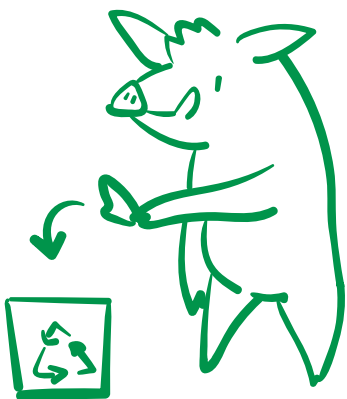
**CONSERVE WATER**  
don't take a cold shower.  
Go jump into the sea.



③

**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR GARBAGE BEHIND**

take it with you and put it in the bin.



④

**IF YOU SEE OR SMELL SMOKE IN THE FOREST, CALL THE FIREFIGHTERS IMMEDIATELY (112).**



⑤

**CLOSE THE LESA (WOODEN GATE) BEHIND YOU**  
so that the sheep don't run away.



⑥

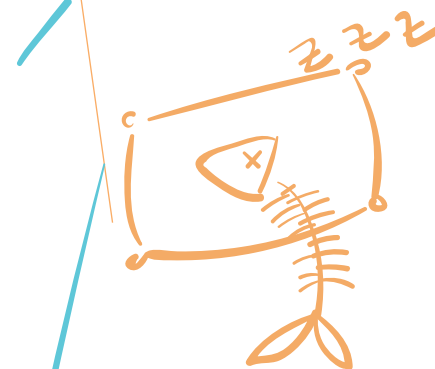
**DRIVE CAREFULLY AT NIGHT**

because the sheep like to sleep in the middle of the road.



⑦

**TAKE A 30-MINUTE NAP AFTER LUNCH**  
it's good for your health.





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KVARNER  
Diversity is beautiful



Town  
of Mali  
Lošinj





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