

DIVERS HEAD TO CROATIA: THE ADRIATIC HIDES 15,000 WRECKS



Thousands of wrecks and yet undiscovered caves attract growing number of divers to Croatia and the Adriatic. The diving tourism increased by 15 to 20 percent over the last 10 years.

The Adriatic Sea is a popular destination for increasing numbers of divers. Every year more and more visitors coming to Croatia want to explore not only its historical cities and picturesque villages but also the unique wildlife hidden under the surface of water. According to the Croatian Tourism Association, diving tourism recorded here a 15 to 20 per cent growth in the last ten years, reported Slovak Press Agency.

One of the greatest attractions for divers are the undiscovered caves and holes - according to the association there are at least 1,500 of them. Also, the sea bottom is reputedly covered with some 15,000 wrecks of ships, submarines and airplanes. Every ship of course has its story and they serve as monuments of courage and tragedy.

Thanks to the growing interest of divers in the region the number of professional diving centers is increasing as well. Currently, there are over 100 registered diving centers most of which are in Istria, Kvarner and in the central Dalmatia.

According to the association the local authorities do not want to restrict the visitors in any way and thus it is possible to dive almost everywhere in the Adriatic. The divers only have to have a diving instructor with them who is responsible for their safety and also informs them about the diving areas. In several protected areas diving is however not allowed or it is necessary to obtain a special permit from the nature reserve.

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