

On rounding a bend in the road it appears like a dream, perched on top of a 277m hill. As a settlement it dates back to pre-history and in the early part of the first century became a Roman stronghold but in 1278 it was taken by Venice and surrounded by solid walls. These walls are still intact today and are now used as a walkway, providing unique views over Istra.



The town's buildings of Romanesque, Venetian, Renaissance and Gothic styles corkscrew along the narrow streets, and lead to the main town square and the impressive church of St. Stephen.

Many stunning costal towns are within 30 minutes drive from the hotel. Istra possesses by far the most developed tourist infrastructure in Croatia and in



high summer it's as busy as a beehive. But with years of experience I have discovered many secluded painting



locations right in the hart of the old towns, that for centuries were thriving ports, trade centres and cultural melting pots. Both the Romans and Byzantines developed Porec into one of their most important strongholds.



The wonderful Euphrasian Basilica, which stands to this day in the centre of the old Porec, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its famous treasures of gold mosaic frescoes are one of the finest examples of Byzantine art.



Today the costal towns of Istra have modern beachfront hotels on their outskirts but the old city cores are full of reminders from a historic past; old town wall, Venetian villas and picturesque narrow streets ooze charm. The landscapes around the towns are generally rolling hills with vineyards, olive groves, fertile fields and oak and pinewoods.



Many Istrian towns are said to have been founded by the Celts, and derive their names from the Celtic language. Under Roman rule the entire region of Istria started to prosper greatly. Since the fall of the Roman Empire Istra has been ruled by the Byzantines, the Franks, Venice, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia and now Croatia.



I do hope I have succeeded in at least whetting your appetite for this holiday and while on the subject of appetite, on two evenings during the holiday I will bring you from the hotel to exceptional private restaurants, where you will sample the best of local Istrian cuisine and fine wines of the region.



Finally throughout the entire painting holiday I will work with you and give demonstrations of various painting techniques. I will help you with your choice of subjects, your composition and even the sketch if required. I also want to give you the freedom to express yourself and develop your own style. This is your opportunity to have a fantastic holiday and I want you to enjoy it. I look forward to you joining me in Istra in the near future.



