

# DUBROVNIK



JUGOSLAVIJA

**-CONTENTS-**

History.....3  
Tourist Life and Points of Interest.....5  
Theater, Concerts, and Cinema.....7  
Transportation.....8  
Athletic Facilities and Beaches.....8  
Churches.....8  
Currency.....8  
Hotels.....9  
Tours.....9  
Walks and Vistas.....9  
Shopping.....10  
Clubs and Bars.....10  
Restaurants.....10  
Map of Dubrovnik.....11

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NOTICE TO ALL HANDS

RETAIN THIS BOOKLET. DO NOT THROW IT AWAY. EACH TIME WE RETURN TO DUBROVNIK, YOUR PIO OFFICE WILL ISSUE A SUPPLEMENT WHICH CAN BE ATTACHED TO THIS BROCHURE.



HISTORY: The part of the Balkan Peninsula which is inhabited by Yugoslav peoples has been the scene of many "occupations" in the course of history. All these events have left archeological monuments of very great value.

At the beginning of recorded history, this region was populated by Illyrian tribes that were pushed back by the Celts and Greeks. The Greek towns founded their colonies at many points along the Adriatic coast. Then came another invader. After long wars that lasted about two centuries, Rome extended her power over the surviving populace. This power lasted for more than five centuries. The first centuries of the Middle Ages saw Western Europe fall to the Huns, Goths, and Avars. The Roman Empire of the West fell into ruins. From the fourth century, The Balkan Peninsula was ruled from Byzantium. About the middle of the sixth century the Slav tribes from behind the Carpathians came down into the basin of the Danube and passed in company of the Avars into the Balkans. Afterwards the Avars disappeared and the Slavs settled down in this new country which they never left, not even during the difficult time of the Turkish invasions in the 14th century.

Ruin, the faithful companion of all wars and occupations, did not spare Epidaurus, as Dubrovnik's forerunner was called. A small part of the surviving people of the town had fled to the rocks (lausa, Ragusa) which are stretched for some miles towards the west, rising out of the sea below the mountain of Srd and separated from the land by a small channel of the sea. On that small space, where a small fishing village had probably been formerly situated, the refugees of Epidaurus founded a new colony. For protection purposes they constructed a "castrum." At the same time the Slav immigrants founded a settlement in an oak wood on the land side. This settlement (dub, dubrava, Dubrovnik) became larger and larger. The existence of the two isolated colonies offered the possibility for the creation of Dubrovnik, whose foundation goes back to the first decades of the seventh century, according to some historians, in the year 609.

The colony on the rock, which kept her municipal traditions, maintained her isolation for more than five centuries. But the necessities of life demanded commerce between the two neighboring settlements. With long intermissions, contacts became closer and in the end led to a total fusion which supported their mutual interests. In the 12th century the small channel of the sea which separated the town was filled. A powerful fortress which was later on replaced by a solid wall combined the two colonies into a single defensive entity.

With this fusion Dubrovnik entered a new era of development. The united town was governed under the laws of the ancient Roman colony. Power was concentrated in the hands of the adult male members of patrician families. The patricians settled all public affairs, administered the navy, and devoted themselves to commercial problems. They owned the land while the farmers lived in bondage. The fusion encouraged territorial extension. The primitive community occupied the vineyards and oliveyards in the immediate vicinity; later on, the territory became larger and larger. In the 14th century, the frontiers of the Republic were fixed including the country between Klek and Sutorina with the neighboring islands, Mljet and Lastovo, and the peninsula of Peljesac. Paralleling this increase of territory, the structure and the character of the population changed. The Slav element, superior in numbers, became increasingly dominant. A slow assimilation of the Roman minority followed. Together with this change, the social situation was changed. The bourgeoisie, well-to-do and economically safe, became increasingly influential, some gaining access to the dwindling aristocracy.

In order to maintain her independence and her special character on a very limited space, even after her final extension (1,100 square kilometers of territory, mostly unproductive soil) Dubrovnik had to overcome enormous difficulties. In these circumstances the solution of the problems had to be found outside the town. The lack of economic resources had to be compensated for by the establishment and organization of a large net of commercial communications by land and sea. Since the first centuries of her existence, Dubrovnik founded her economy on sea commerce. During the later centuries the ships of Dubrovnik transported their goods from the African coast to England, Flanders and the Near East. Several commercial treaties were fixed with the Italian towns and in the neighborhood with the Slav sovereigns. As a result of these treaties, Dubrovnik was able to transport her goods by land as well as by sea.

The Byzantine suzerainty which lasted until 1205 was not considered as a burden because it included the neighboring provinces belonging to different Slavs who enlarged their territory later on. Dubrovnik paid different tributes to the Bosnia and Serbian sovereigns in order to keep her liberty of commerce in their territories. By contracts Dubrovnik could enlarge her territory, partly in buying the land, partly in receipt of gifts. The maintenance of good relations with the sea forces was much more difficult. Her position on the sea and her merchant marine was the reason for her prosperity, but also the source for constant danger. During the first centuries of her existence, Dubrovnik had to fight on the sea with the Saracens and other pirates. Therefore the Republic had to acknowledge the Norman sovereignty for a short time. But the greatest and lasting danger for Dubrovnik was represented in the Republic of Venice, which insisted on ruling alone the east coast of the Adriatic sea. This conflict of interests was the reason for the struggle of Venice with the Croatian kings and their sea forces. During the constant fighting that followed, Dubrovnik conquered the Dalmatian towns, but later lost them again. Dubrovnik always had to consider the victories and the defeats of her neighbors. So, after the fall of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade, she rejected the Byzantine sovereignty in order to recognize that of Venice (in 1205). For fifteen decades she payed her tributes and gave guarantees. After the peace of Zadar, which chased Venice out of Dalmatia, Dubrovnik rejected the sovereignty of Venice in order to acknowledge the rights of the Hungarian kings (in 1358). Dubrovnik again payed tribute to new sovereigns. Still peace did not last very long. In 1420 Venice succeeded in conquering Dalmatia to the Neretva, including the Bay of Kotor. This occupation lasted until 1797 with the defeat of Venice. By the end of the 15th century, Dubrovnik was threatened by land as well as by sea. Turkish victories changed the situation of the Balkan states completely. After the battle of Kosovo (in 1389), some Serbian despots were governing in certain parts of the old Serbian empire. They ruled in commission of the Turks. In 1459 Serbia became pachalik; Bosnia fell in 1463 and Herzegovina in 1483. The Turkish power reached the hinterland frontiers of the republic. But Dubrovnik had enlarged and fortified her solid battlements, unsatisfied with reliance upon her flexible diplomacy alone. Therefore the republic could fix a treaty with the Turks guaranteeing her freedom of commerce in the Balkans. But Dubrovnik had to pay for these privileges, and after the Battle of Mohacz (in 1526), recognized Turkish sovereignty. She promised to maintain a policy of strict neutrality during the wars of the Christian countries against the Turks.

In the seventeenth century, when world commerce had found new markets, the great powers oppressed the smaller and weaker ones. The economic development of Dubrovnik suffered a certain stagnation. This crisis became obvious in all aspects of public life. The terrible earthquake in 1667 made the situation of the town even more difficult. Still the town was able to recover, but reconstruction took decades. Many old buildings were reconstructed without their former glamour. The effects of the destruction were profound. With these events, the signs of weakness in the old regime were becoming obvious. Social contrasts grew increasingly noticeable. With all these inside difficulties the final stroke came from the outside. After the French Revolution, the armies of Napoleon invaded the Adriatic coast. After the defeat of Venice, it was Dubrovnik's turn to give up her independence. By the decree of January 31st 1808, the Republic of Dubrovnik was extinguished.

Napoleon founded his Illyrian Kingdom which included a part of Slovenia, Croatia to the Sava, the whole coast of Dalmatia, including the territory of Dubrovnik. After the fall of Napoleon, the Illyrian provinces were annexed by the Austrian empire at the decision of the Congress of Vienna in 1815. So Dubrovnik ceased to exist as an independent political entity.

With the collapse and disintegration of Austria-Hungary following the First World War, Dubrovnik became Yugoslavian.

**TOURIST LIFE:** Each season has its advantages in Dubrovnik. The tourists arrive for the most part during the summer months but one can swim from the first days of May to the last days of October. The winter months are not so cold and there is no snow. The oranges ripen in December and by January the branches of the almond and the cherry trees are covered with blossoms. The climate of Dubrovnik will suit all those who are in search of rest and recreation.

It often happens that the tourists alter their travelling plans while staying at Dubrovnik. They come with the intention of staying only for a few days, but soon they feel at ease in this town and decide to stay longer.

Dubrovnik has all the preconditions necessary for an important center of tourist life: a beautiful sunny landscape; an exuberant subtropical vegetation; blue sea and sky; unlimited possibilities for walks or excursions; monuments bringing to life a magnificent past; museums and art treasures; theater and concerts in picturesque environment; sports contests: swimming, skiing, tennis, and Alpinism; pleasant evenings under a starry sky on the terraces of Dubrovnik's ancient palaces; and entertainment in the bars at night.





MONUMENTS AND POINTS OF INTEREST: One has only to look on the town of Dubrovnik to find out in what a splendid way the ancient architects solved the architectural problems of Dubrovnik. The construction of Dubrovnik lasted for several centuries. Conditions, purposes and styles changed but the harmony of proportion and the architectural unity of the town remain.

The construction of the first defensive works started immediately after the foundation of the settlement on the rocks. Afterwards new fortifications were built to match the extension of the town. Part of the massive fortifications which are still visible can be traced back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, when the land at the slopes of Srd were connected with the town. In the fourteenth century the ground of the Dominican monastery was also surrounded by walls. At the same time the trench was dug to let water in. The fortifications of Dubrovnik reached their present dimensions and shape during the 15th and 16th centuries.

The oldest of the defences on the wings of the ramparts is the Fort St. John, built at the end of the eighth century to defend the entrance into the port. Some centuries later this was enlarged.

At the highest point of the ramparts, on the ground of an old square tower, one can see the round and massive silhouette of Fort Minceta (15th century).

Outside the city walls, two strong fortresses defended Dubrovnik. In the west as an outpost against all possible aggression from Venice rises Fort Lovrjenac, started in the 11th century and finished three hundred years later. The east is protected by the impressive Fort Revelin, built in the 16th century to protect Dubrovnik from the Turkish attacks. Lovrjenac and Revelin are the two strongest links in Dubrovnik's system of fortifications. During the festival of Dubrovnik these two forts are used as stages.

Rector's Palace-- Among the public buildings, the Rector's Palace is notable because of its historic and architectural value. This building was the residence of the Rector of the Republic. In its halls the meeting of the Great and the Little Councils took place. The construction of the palace was started in the 12th century. In its present form it can be traced back to the 15th century, except for several changes after the earthquake in 1667. The old parts of the palace show a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles while the later changes reflect the Baroque.

The high columns and the front are decorated with intricately-worked capitals and furnished with statues. A Gothic gate leads into a large atrium surrounded by vaults. In one corner one can find a fountain and nearby is a great stone staircase leading to the first floor. In the center of the atrium stands a bust made in bronze in honour of the benefactor to the republic, the plebeian Miho Pracatovic (1638). In former times great parades and theater performances took place in front of the palace.

The Sponza Palace-- In this palace of great and exceptional merit took place numerous aspects of public life. The palace was built in a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles (the first half of the 16th century). In this palace were the state mint, the customs offices and several warehouses. Later on, several "academies for scholars" had their seat in the palace.



Private Houses-- The ancient inhabitants of Dubrovnik built their houses with excellent taste. They had strong buildings but the great earthquake in 1667 destroyed a large part of the town. The patrician families built their houses, which were emulated by the bourgeoisie. Among the preserved palaces are three worth visiting belonging to the plebeian Skocibuha. One of his houses stands in the town (behind the cathedral), another at Boninovo, and the third at Lapad. Several patrician houses are preserved, notably those of the Sorkocecic, Gradic, and the Gundulic.

Steeple and the Tower-Clock-- The two high steeples and the tower with the clock add a special charm to the town. The highest steeple is the one of the church of the Franciscans (44 m. high), built in the 15th century. The next one is the steeple of the church belonging to the Dominicans (41 m. high), built between the end of the 14th century and the third decade of the 15th century. The tower-clock, on whose top "two green men" (Zelenci) strike the hours, is 31 m. high. It was constructed in 1445 and completely repaired in 1929. All these monuments are the works of Dubrovnik masters.

Art-- Dubrovnik possesses numerous works of art by native and foreign artists. The paintings are preserved in public buildings, in old churches and monasteries. Quite a number can be found in private houses.

In 1945 the Gallery of Art was set up in a large new palace in Ploce where international meetings and conferences are now held. This institution exhibits the works of contemporary Yugoslav artists. Furthermore it collects, protects, and studies the ancient art of the Dubrovnik region.

#### THEATER, CONCERTS, CINEMA:

Theatrical art in Dubrovnik has a long tradition. In the 16th century, plays by Drzic were given in front of the Dvor or in the Great Council Building. In the halls of the Sponza, during the 17th century, literary evenings, stage representations and festive performances were held. Orsan, in the city harbor, served as a theatre in the 18th century. In 1864, a new theatre (Bondin Teatar, founded by Bonda) was built, which still serves its purpose. It has 600 seats, and is finely decorated. In it the National Theatre gives performances throughout the year. There is also an open-air theatre in the Boskovic square.



Dubrovnik has a Musical School, a Musical group and several choirs. The City Orchestra gives public concerts in the court of the Dvor.

Three cinemas with modern installations are open throughout the year; in summer the performances take place in the cloister of an ancient nunnery and in a beautiful garden in the shade of pine trees. The cinemas show films of both Yugoslavian and foreign origin.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Local transportation consists of taxis, busses and street-cars. Taxis are scarce and consequently expensive. A bus service runs between the port of Gruz and the city and the various hotels. There is also streetcar service from Gruz.

**ATHLETICS:** The local soccer field can be utilized for softball and other sports. Basketball courts are available, and there are tennis facilities in Lapad.

Dubrovnik offers excellent possibilities to exercise all kinds of sports. Well-organized clubs and societies exist in town. Contests in swimming and water-polo are of particular interest. A modern swimming-pool with stands for the onlookers and comfortable rooms for members of the teams is being built. Numerous trophies are in the possession of the "Jug" sport club specializing in swimming and water-polo.

Sailing is practiced in the "Prsan" club. This club has its own house and landing with 22 sailing boats and yachts.

The hunters have their "Association of Hunters" and the fishermen come together in the "Jastog" club.

Alpinism is also favored in Dubrovnik. The Society of Alpinism organizes excursions into the mountains and to the caves in the environment of Dubrovnik. Skiing is practiced in the region of Orjen where the season lasts up to the last days of April.

**Beaches**--Dubrovnik has several beaches, the largest of which is the Sumratin at Lapad (reached by streetcar at Pile, with change at Gruz). There are 200 cabins, a refreshment counter and a garden restaurant. The beach of Ploce, near the Excelsior Hotel, also has cabins. The island of Lokrum also has good beaches.

**CHURCHES:** Some of the churches in Dubrovnik are given below. There are forty Roman Catholic churches.

Roman Catholic: St. Dumu Cathedral  
Greek Orthodox: No permanent location  
Jewish: Synagogue - Pusanska Ulica 1

**CURRENCY:** The Yugoslavian monetary unit is the dinar. One United States dollar equals 750 dinars.

## "TRAMVAJ"

THE TRANSPORT ENTERPRISE FOR PASSENGERS  
AND GOODS

DUBROVNIK — Tel. 42-25

Does the local transport of passengers in trams and buses. Keeps ordinary bus-lines to the villages of Rijeka and Zupa of Dubrovnik. Hires motor-coaches for group tours and excursions to the places of nearer and farther surroundings.





**HOTELS:** During the last sixty years a modern type hotel industry has developed in Dubrovnik.

The town possesses 15 hotels with more than 1000 beds, 8 recreation homes with 400 beds, two camps with 600 beds. More than 3,000 beds in private houses are placed at the disposal of the tourist traffic. In all the localities of some importance the tourists can take their meals not only in hotels and restaurants, but also in hostels, inns, cafes, milk - and confectioner's shops. The leading hotels in Dubrovnik are as follows:

**Excelsior** - Ploce, telephone 21-25. Deluxe, newest and best, moderately priced, open-air bar and private beach.

**Argentina** - Ploce (outside ramparts), telephone 21-36. Deluxe, double room \$3.50 per night (without bath), open-air bar and private beach.

**Imperial** - Pile, telephone 22-71. Cocktail lounge, garden restaurant with dancing.

**Villa Orsula** - Ploce, telephone 22-50. Private beach.

**Splendid** - Lapad, telephone 24-34. Garden, private beach, open-air night club on waterfront.

**TOURS:** Tours of Dubrovnik and the surrounding area are conducted by the state travel agency, PUTNIK, located at Pile, telephone 20-20. Some of their tours are the old walled city, Cilipi, and Cavtat, for 2,000 Dinars; and Montegegro, for 3,500 Dinars. Cameras are permitted. These tours are recommended.

**WALKS AND SIGHTSEEING:** There is plenty of opportunity for every visitor to enjoy the various attractions offered by the landscape, historical monuments or cultural institutions in Dubrovnik. The visitor should also make a point of choosing at least one of the many scenic walks in the city's suburbs, for example: along the Ploce to St. Jacob, or above the tiny bay of Orsula to Dubac; by the new road across Kono to Gruz; many paths in the headland of Lapad, and many more. The sights not to be missed are those from Mount Srd, Gorca and from the island of Lokrum.

## *Hotel „Mlini“*

MLINI near DUBROVNIK

*Ul. Dubrovnik 87*

Large terrace for sunning near the sea. Sandy beach, showers, rowing boats. Subtropical gardens. Rooms and balconies giving on the sea. Running water in all the rooms. Bar - Society rooms. Daily sea and land connections with Dubrovnik.

## *Hotel „DUBRAVKA“*

DUBROVNIK - Gundulićeva poljana - Tel.: 24-23

Excellent domestic and foreign cuisine. First-class service - Reasonable terms. Single and double bedrooms.

## *Pension Villa „ORSULA“*

DUBROVNIK - Put Frana Supila - Tel.: 22-50

Situated in the gardens on the sea. Proper beach. Unique views on the town of Dubrovnik, island of Lokrum and open sea. Domestic and foreign cuisine. Perfect service.

## GRAND HOTEL - LOPUD

near DUBROVNIK

87 bedrooms (163 beds), three furnished apartments.

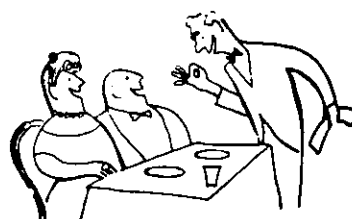
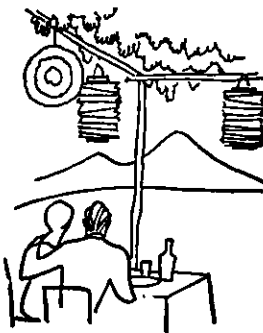
Sandy beaches - Cafe and restaurant in the garden.

Buffet on the »Sunj« beach  
Music daily.

**SHOPPING:** There are many shops in the place street area and on the main street. Local specialties include bowls, vases, hand-woven scatter rugs, hand-carved wood souvenirs, embroidery, filigree, lace, pigskin (peccary) and handicrafts. Some of the shops are:

Jugofilateliza - Placa; handicraft  
 Narodna Radinost  
 Bosnafolklor  
 Makedonija  
 Alatoptika

**CLUBS AND BARS:** Night life in Dubrovnik is found at the Labrinth Bar and at the various hotels, notably the Excelsior. The hours of operation for most establishments are from 2100 to 0300. Entertainment consists mostly of dance bands. The Labrinth, located on Avenue Frijere, to the right of the Fleet Landing, is an open air bar with a band, fair floor show, and moderate prices. It is for both officers and enlisted. Bikeicke Pive is a local dark beer.



BUFFET - RESTAURANT  
**„JUG“** DUBROVNIK  
 Ulica Između Polača

*Choice food and drinks - Fish and other  
 Dalmatian specialties  
 Come and make sure!*

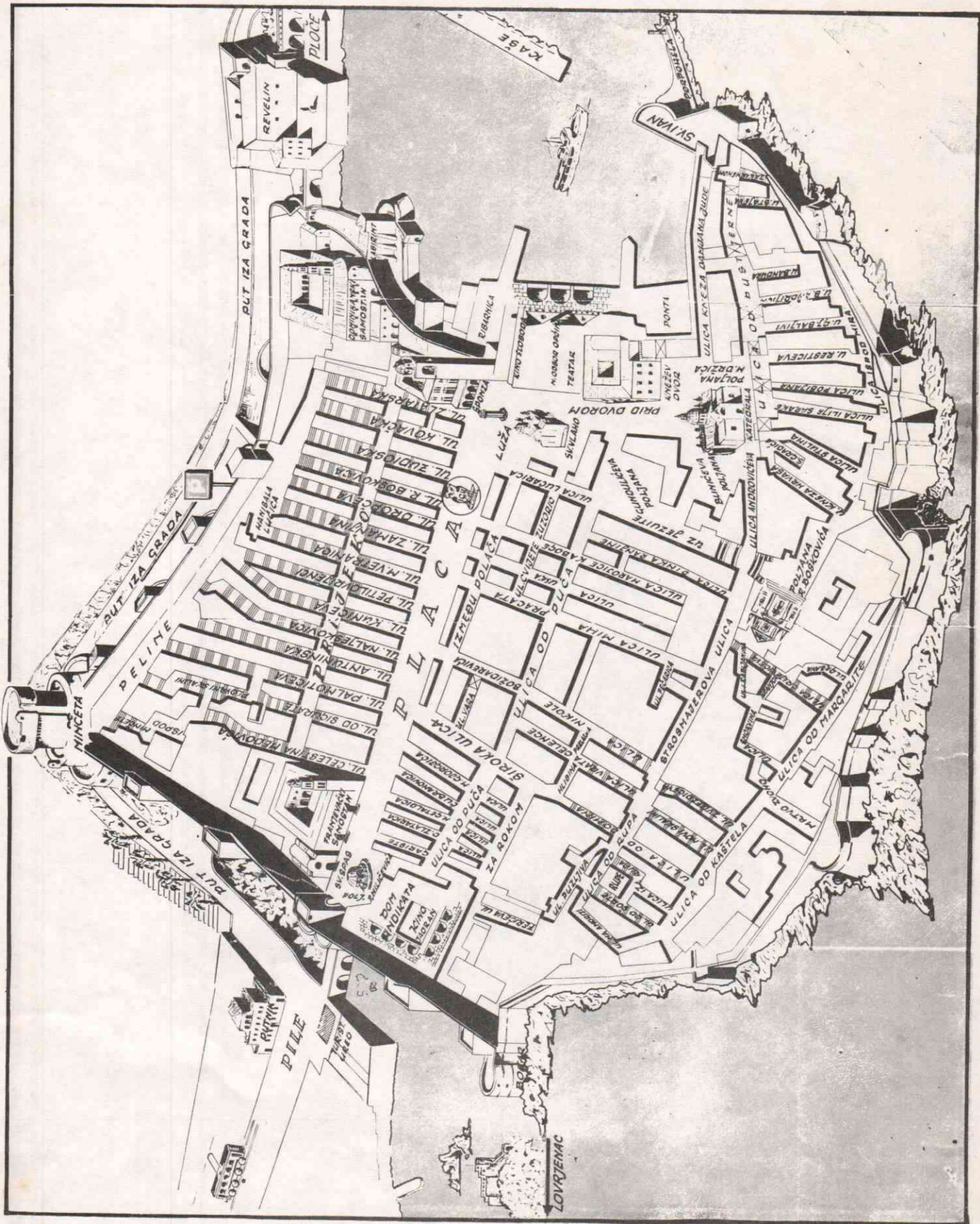
BUFFET - RESTAURANT  
**„PETKA“**  
 DUBROVNIK 2

*Choice food and drinks.  
 Original Dalmatian wines.  
 Smoked ham and other domestic specialties.*

**RESTAURANTS:** Besides the restaurants in the better hotels, the below are recommended:

Riblji Restoran - ul Siroka, off the Placa; seafood  
 Gradski - Ulica Cvijete Zugeric  
 Mimoza - 13 Marsala Tito; garden restaurant, seafood  
 Gradska Kafana - on square at Fleet Landing  
 Bubravka Cafe and Restaurant - across from PUTNIK, at Pile  
 Brsalje - near the streetcar terminal, island of Lokrum.

The average three course meal, with wine and coffee, costs from 800 to 1,000 Dinars. Some of the local foods are riblja (fish soup), oligai (squid), brodeste (mixed fish), zelena (green salad), teleci stek sa jajon (beefsteak with fried egg, rice and peas), cavapcici (beef sausage), and raznjici (pork sausage). Bikeicke Pive is the brand name of local beer. It is dark and reported good.







*Aerial view of the walled centre of Dubrovnik*