CROATIA – Istria and the Dalmatian coast
THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY
OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR 2005
Monday 12 September – Monday 19 September 2005 (8 days)

guided by Dr. Preston Miracle
with help from Croatian archaeological colleagues

price £1150 (single supplement £175) – all-inclusive except for lunch Day 7 & 8 and drinks

Croatia is full of riches for the prehistorian, and the natural setting of its archaeological heritage is one of the most dramatic (and relatively undeveloped) in Mediterranean Europe. The tour will focus on the Adriatic coast from Pula to Dubrovnik. This is a karstic, limestone landscape riddled with caves (many full of prehistoric remains), with only pockets of arable land surrounded by tumuli, hillforts, and other prehistoric settlements. We will visit sites from the Mousterian to the Iron Age. Croatia is famous for having some of the youngest Neandertal remains from Europe, and we will have a chance to visit the site of Mujina Cave, which preserves a very late Mousterian stone tool assemblage. Other caves on our itinerary – Vela Spila and Kopačina – document the cultures of Upper Palaeolithic peoples, while Pupićina Cave is the richest Mesolithic site in Croatia. We will track the spread of the Neolithic down the Dalmatian Coast and back in time, visiting some of the key sites (Pupićina Cave, Kargarud/Vižula, Danilo, Nakovana). Along the way we will also examine the explosion of Bronze and Iron Age hillforts and tumuli on rocky promontories and the edge of arable land at sites like Škrip, Vidova Gora, and Monkodonja. Our trip through prehistory ends at the Iron Age Illyrian “shrine” in Nakovana Cave and the ritual landscape beneath the cave. Along the way there will be chances to explore the Roman monuments in Pula and Diocletian’s Palace in Split; both cities also have important archaeological museums that we will visit. And what is a trip to Dalmatia without a stop in Dubrovnik? A specially organised seminar in Pula will introduce participants to Croatian prehistory and the latest results of recent fieldwork. Many of the sites we will visit have been recently excavated, and with a little luck, we may even be able to visit some sites while excavations are still in progress. There will be some early starts, and some of the travelling will be by public ferry. Some sites require about 30 minutes walking to reach them, over rough terrain, both up and downhill. You will need to be fairly fit and mobile to enjoy this itinerary to the full.
Programme


Day 2: By coach to Neolithic coastal sites at Kargadur and Vižula, continue to Sv. Mihovail, Bale and sites in northern and western Istria: Bronze Age hillfort at Monkodonja, Rovinj, and Iron Age-early Christian site at Nesactium

Day 3: By coach to Pupićina Cave (where Preston Miracle excavated for 8 years). Drive to Split stopping en route at the Neolithic site at Danilo. In the evening an optional walk to Diocletian’s Palace in Split.

Day 4: Ferry to Brač to visit Kopačina Cave (Palaeolithic-present), Škrip (BA fortifications) and Vidova Gora (IA tumuli). Return to Split by ferry.

Day 5: Visit to Mousterian site of Mujina Cave followed by tour of Split Archaeological Museum; Ferry to Korčula Island, overnight in Vela Luka.

Day 6: Tour of Vela Luka Museum, continue to the cave site of Vela Spila and visit Iron Age hillforts and tumuli around Korčula town. Short crossing by ferry to Orebić. Late afternoon visit to Nakovana Cave site (early Neolithic–Iron Age Illyrian shrine), and the Iron Age landscape around Nakovana, continue to Dubrovnik (dinner en route).

Day 7: Free day in Dubrovnik.

Day 8: Early return flight to Heathrow, via Zagreb, with time to visit Zagreb Museum.

NB Size of party is limited to 27 people plus staff

Accompanying Staff:

Preston Miracle is a Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. He directed excavations at Pupićina Cave (one of the sites we will visit), and has worked on prehistoric assemblages from other sites on the itinerary (Kopačina Cave, Mujina Cave, Nakovana Cave). Among his books, the forthcoming (March 2004) Prehistoric Herders in Istria (Croatia): The Archaeology of Pupićina Cave, Vol 1, reviews the prehistory of Istria.

- A number of Croatian colleagues will show the society around some of the sites.
- Prehistoric Society representative
- There will also be an Andante tour manager to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

Scheduled flights:

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Local Travel: By private coach and public ferries: Split-Brač, Split-Korčula, Korčula-Orebić.

Accommodation: 2 nights in Pula; 2 nights in Split; 1 night in Vela Luka; 2 nights in Dubrovnik. All hotels with en suite facilities.

Food: All meals included except lunch days 7 & 8: breakfasts in hotels; packed lunches/light snacks; dinners in hotels or local restaurants. Drinks, except water at meals and on the coach, are not included.

Arrangements made by Andante Travels (ATOL 3552) who have previously organised 7 P.S. overseas study tours. To make a booking please telephone Andante Travels 01722 713800 (booking forms are no longer used, but details are taken directly over the phone). Booking Conditions must be agreed and are available on request or at the back of our 2005 Brochure.

Insurance: it is a condition of carriage that you are fully insured and Andante Travels can offer you its group insurance with TAG Connect at £42 (£84 if you are aged between 70 & 75; we regret we cannot insure anyone over 75). If you do not take Andante’s insurance, you must give details of your alternative policy.

Andante Travels, The Old Barn, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR

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