



Travel Stories by Amaru & Suzanne



Hvar-ppy Birthday to Suz

by Amaru & Suzanne, Sept 14th 2007

Arriving in Hvar, all of us still wanted to see if we could arrange accomodation together in the same house and decided to look for the people offering rooms.

It seems that we didn't have to worry though, on every other port here in Croatia there has always been 3-4 different people offering us accomodation. Upon arrival in Hvar we were literally attacked by a dozen people who wanted us to stay at their place.

The ongoing rate started a bit high but as soon as they found out that we were all together they started dropping their prices. At the end we just followed a man who had three rooms for us and at a decent price. The rooms were ok, it came with a good equiped kitchen and we also had a terrace, couldn't ask for much more really.

We had heard about the lavender fields of Hvar and wanted to have a look to see if we could find them....



Sitting on the terrace of our place in Hvar



Originally, Suz and I thought of renting a motorcycle to explore the island with, but since none of the other girls would have been able to drive one we just thought, why not share the cost and just rent a car?

Said and done, we found a very cute old yellow convertible Beetle that we picked up and we took off towards the fortress looking over Hvar town to start with.

Driving the Beetle was quite an experience, to start the car I had to keep the pedal to the metal or it would just shut down on me. It came with 4 gears but since the roads are very windy and narrow I barely touched the 3rd gear.

It only took us between 5-10min to reach Fortress Španjol...

From here we had the best view over the town of Hvar and we made sure that we got some good photos from every possible angle, we even arranged my camera on the tripod and managed to get a good group photo that way.

Eventually we decided that we had had enough of the fortress and continued on our search for Lavender.

Driving along the small narrow road of Hvar you have to watch out for the edge of the road, there are no railings on the side which would keep you on the road if you swerved to hard to one side....no, here you would just tumble all the way down. Which is quite scary considering the views are amazing as you drive by, I wanted to see them but I also had to keep my eyes on the road.



Suz and Trina waiting for our car



On top of the hill
On our way to the fortress

Well, I just made sure to make a few stops here and there so that I could see some of the scenery as well!

The girls kept looking for the lavender fields but unfortunately we were later told that it was too late in the year for them, which would explain why we couldn't find them. We did on the other hand see some very weird rock formations along the side of the cliffs and wondered if it was there for the lavender plants....

After driving for a while we eventually reached Stari Grad, which actually means Old Town. We parked and wandered along the streets for a while trying to find somewhere to have lunch. Eventually we managed to find a family owned little restaurant where we got some good food.

With lunch taken care of we continued along the road, this time we were on the lookout for a nice beach and we had heard that there was one just outside of the small town of Jelsa.

Passing Jelsa we followed the sign to a camping area and eventually found a beach, but since this seemed to be filled with caravans and people who live in caravans we decided to look around the area for an alternative beach.

Well, we didn't exactly find a beach but at least we found a place where we could get into the water. The bad news about it was that it was very rocky and quite difficult to get in. Suz eventually gave up from trying (and I think she thought the water was a bit too cold as well). Laura and I were actually the only ones to dare the cold water.



All of us
in our rented Beetle!



Outside the fortress
No handguns....check!

After a refreshing dip I got out and laid down to rest for a while in the sun, since it was sunny I decided to use my sarong over my head for cover and this amused the girls to no end!

They started by folding the sarong tightly around my head and then putting on a pair of sunglasses on top of the sarong. Then they used the sunscreen to type a very charming message across my stomach..... This is what happens when you travel with 4 girls!

The afternoon was now upon us and we decided to start heading back to Hvar.... passing and stopping at the small towns of Jelsa, Vrboska and Milna along the way for some well deserved gelato (it still cannot compete with the one we had in Rome though).

Originally we had intended to return the car the next morning (we did rent it for 24h after all) but the hassle of parking just wasn't worth it. So when we returned to Hvar Town in the early evening we called the rental guy and managed to return the car.... perfect!

That evening we strolled the small streets and harbour of Hvar Town, just wandering aimlessly.... and the next morning, it was Suz's Birthday!

We started the celebrations by having a well deserved sleep-in (I asked Suz what she wanted for her B'day and she responded: "Not to get up before noon!").

Once we managed to drag ourselves out of bed we went for a stroll around town during daytime. At some point we even managed to get a bit lost but eventually we made our way back to our house.



The view over Hvar from
Fortress Španjol



Suz and I
at the fortress

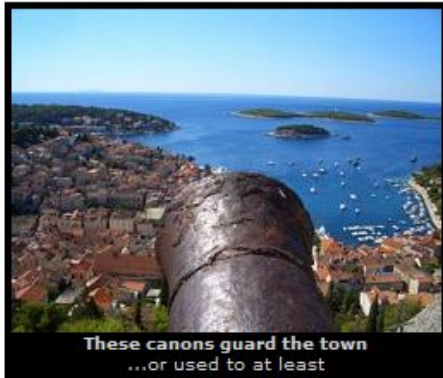
That evening Alex and I did the cooking, she sliced and diced and I invented the now very famous "Hvar Stew"!

We all sat around that night, eating, celebrating and just being silly (which we are very good at). We finished up the evening sitting around the computer, sharing photos and some of our delicious local Proceak wine!

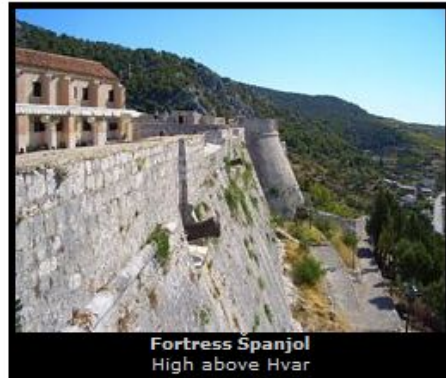
The next morning it was time to leave the islands and head for the mainland once more....

Our main reason for visiting Hvar was to see the large fields of Lavender, we were of course a bit disappointed that we didn't see it but still had a great time on the island.

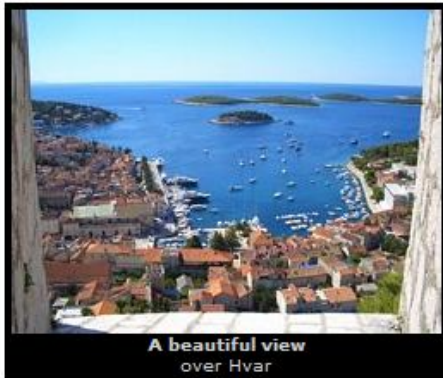
It's still a gorgeous island and with our rental Beetle (which we just loved to drive around in) we managed to see some great areas. It didn't leave such an impression as Korcula and to some extent Dubrovnik, but we would still recommend people to visit it (just make sure to arrive in Lavender season!!).



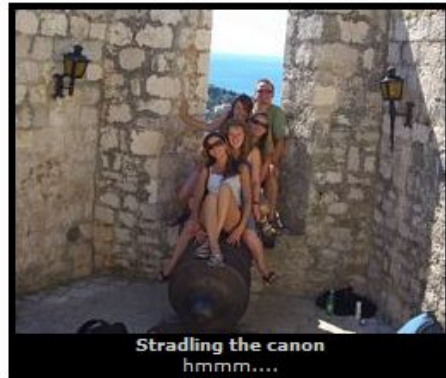
These canons guard the town
...or used to at least



Fortress Spanjol
High above Hvar



A beautiful view
over Hvar



Stradling the canon
hmmm....



"On the road again..."
"I can't wait to get on the road again..."



We keep finding these
tiny villages along the way



The back seat girls striking a pose!



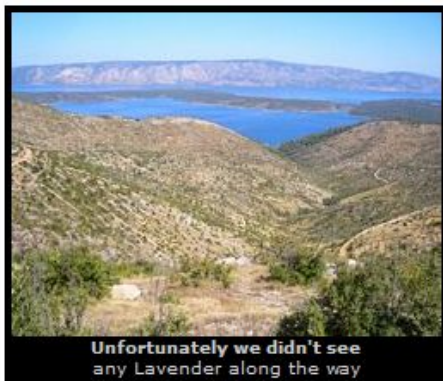
Beautiful scenery along the way



Alex has been upgraded to the front seat



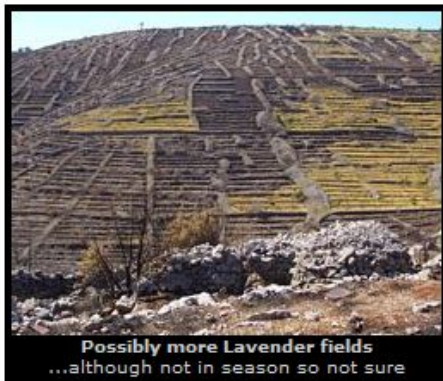
Suz is now occupying Alex's old seat



Unfortunately we didn't see any Lavender along the way



The girls and our car



Possibly more Lavender fields ...although not in season so not sure



It was a lot of fun to drive the Beetle on these winding roads



We've reached the town of Stari Grad



Stari Grad has a beautiful little harbour



"Fast Food Funny"
...not so sure what's funny about it!



Stari Grad actually means Old Town and it's easy to see why



Approaching the small town of Jelsa



We found a nice beach just outside Jelsa



Well, beach and beach
At least it's a place to swim



Water was nice and cold
...and almost as clear as in a pool



Fall asleep around 4 girls
and this is what happens...



We're back in the cute
town of Jelsa



Old Firetrucks
Quite retro!



Suz and Trina
next to our cute little car



Another gorgeous little town
This one is called Vrboska



Our final stop for the day
was in Milna



Laura and Alex give me
an old woman makeover!



Hvar
by night!





And some Coke Hubba Bubba
Chewing Gum



Suz and her smelly thing
from Lush!



The girls are enjoying
the B'day dinner



Last night in Hvar
copying each others photos

[Back to Top](#)