



BLUE WORLD INSTITUTE

ECOVOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACK



Blue World Institute

Kaštel 24, 51551 Veli Lošinj, Croatia

volunteer@blue-world.org

www.blue-world.org

CONTENT

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 2 | ADRIATIC DOLPHIN PROJECT | 17 | ECO-VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM | 27 | WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE AND WHAT IS NOT |
| 2 | STUDY AREA | 17 | WEEK SCHEDULE | 29 | HOW TO BOOK A PLACE |
| 4 | RESEARCH | 19 | SOME USEFUL INFO | 31 | WHAT TO PACK |
| 5 | METHODS AND DATA COLLECTION | 21 | ACCOMMODATION | 32 | GOOD TO KNOW |
| 7 | SPECIES YOU MIGHT SEE | 23 | ISLAND OF LOŠINJ | 33 | ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE |
| 14 | MEET THE STAFF | 26 | DATES AND PRICES | 36 | COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS |

Dear friend,

I would like to thank you for showing interest in our work and marine wildlife. With your help we can make a difference and work together for better protection of endangered large marine vertebrates!

Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation is a non-governmental organization that carries out scientific research and conservation projects, and promotes environmental awareness. Our research program, the Adriatic Dolphin Project, has been running for over 20 years. During all these years, Eco-Volunteering program played an important role in prosperity of the project. With volunteers' help, we manage to collect large volumes of scientific data during the boat-based surveys, especially in the summer season when the weather conditions are stable and favourable for intense field work. For example, we regularly have over 150 sightings of bottlenose dolphin groups annually, with groups sometimes comprising over 50 individuals (the largest recorded was 100 individuals). Over the years our bottlenose dolphin dorsal fin reference catalog has grown and now contains over 5.000 individuals. This data is used for monitoring of the population of this endangered species which helps development of evidence-based conservation measures. Our research teams also systematically record encounters of other species of large marine vertebrates. The Blue World Institute also runs the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre where veterinary care is provided to injured sea turtles before their release back into the sea. With so many activities, it is not hard to understand why we need you to be a part of our team. In return, we will try to make your stay the best experience ever. Besides observing these wild animals from close proximity, you will actively participate in research team's activities and meet people from all over the world, of different occupations and cultures. You will also see new places and be able to explore the beauty of the island of Lošinj.

You will find many more details about the Eco-Volunteering program on the following pages. For more information about our organisation please visit: www.blue-world.org

I hope to meet you in Veli Lošinj

Tihana Vučur Blazinić, researcher and volunteer coordinator

ADRIATIC DOLPHIN PROJECT LOŠINJ

STUDY AREA



The main field base of the Adriatic Dolphin Project is situated on the island Lošinj, covering a study area in the North Adriatic from Istria to the island of Molat and encompassing two Natura 2000 protected areas for bottlenose dolphins (Western Istria (HR500032) and Cres-Lošinj (HR3000161)). The value of the area is not just due to the presence of wild bottlenose dolphin community, but also because of the rich marine life, historical artefacts, bird nesting sites and loggerhead turtle foraging grounds.



RESEARCH

Our research focuses on bottlenose dolphins and other large marine vertebrates (mostly cetaceans, sea turtles and sharks) with an aim to contribute to their conservation and the protection of the marine environment. Results of the research are presented in a form of scientific publications, but are also translated into activities for raising public awareness and education.



METHODS AND DATA COLLECTION

Boat based surveys – We use a 6 m inflatable speedboat to conduct field surveys. When the weather conditions are suitable, boat-based surveys start from the port of Veli Lošinj. Upon spotting species of interest, everyone on board get instructions from researchers and data collection begins. During the sighting, the boat is carefully manoeuvred at minimum speed, following the code of conduct in order to minimize the disturbance to the animals. Depending on the current conditions, the field surveys can last from a few hours to whole day.



Photo-Identification - During encounters with dolphins, researchers take photographs of their dorsal fins. Notches and scars on dorsal fins occur naturally, during animal's interactions and are unique to each dolphin, like a fingerprint. "Capturing" fins on photographs is a non-invasive method that enables tracking of individuals in space and time. Data obtained using this method helps us gain a detailed insight into biology and ecology of the studied bottlenose dolphin populations. We often re-encounter the identified individuals, which enables us to assess the birth and mortality rates of dolphins, population abundance and their social relations.

Behavior – At the very beginning and during the whole encounter, the behavior of the group of bottlenose dolphins is determined according to predefined behavioral categories. This provides us an insight into the behavioral budget and the influence of the boat traffic on the population. It has already been proven that recreational vessels are a major factor influencing behaviour and spatial distribution of dolphins. In the presence of boats, dolphins decrease feeding and resting behavior and increase traveling behavior. To minimize the effects of the boat presence on the behavior of bottlenose dolphins, we developed a code of conduct for vessels during dolphin encounters.



Bio Acoustics – Many marine mammals have developed their auditory capabilities and rely on sound for communication, locating prey and navigation. Therefore, it is of great importance to assess the level of the sea ambient noise and the relationship between the underwater noise, the boat traffic and the seasonal spatial variation of the distribution of bottlenose dolphins. For that purpose, we use remote and stationary hydrophones.

SPECIES YOU MIGHT SEE

In the northern Adriatic, the bottlenose dolphin is the only cetacean species with a permanent and stable population. This is why our systematic surveys are aimed at this species. However, other species may occur in this region, giving us the opportunity to collect data and better understand their ecology. Besides conducting research on cetaceans, Adriatic Dolphin Project crew is also involved in the research and conservation of loggerhead turtles in the Adriatic.



BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN | *Tursiops truncatus*

- This is one of the most widely distributed cetacean species in the Mediterranean and the only marine mammal that inhabits the whole Adriatic Sea
- The population along the eastern Adriatic coast comprises local communities, each with distinct demographic characteristics and adaptations to local environmental and anthropogenic features
- The community that inhabits the Cres-Lošinj archipelago is estimated at around 200 individuals, many of which show year-round residence, some of them for over two decades



STRIPED DOLPHIN | *Stenella coeruleoalba*



- The striped dolphin is considered to be the most abundant cetacean species in the Mediterranean Sea
- This species prefers offshore areas with depths greater than 200 m
- It is a highly sociable species, usually occurring in large groups
- In the Adriatic Sea, they are regularly present in the deepest, southern part, whereas sightings in the Central and Northern Adriatic are only sporadic



COMMON DOLPHIN | *Delphinus delphis*



- Once abundant, the Mediterranean population has experienced a major decline over the last 30-40 years
- In the Adriatic Sea, historical records indicate a noticeable decline since the 1940s and the species is considered regionally extinct since the 1980s
- Since 2014 there are occasional observations of this species in the Central Adriatic, with group sizes up to 40 individuals



FIN WHALE | *Balaenoptera physalus*

- The fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea prefer regions with depths of over 400 m, but can also be found in shallower waters
- Recent research of the Blue World Institute indicates that fin whales regularly enter the Southern and Central Adriatic Sea, probably in relation to seasonal changes in abundance of their prey - krill
- Occasionally they can be seen even in the coastal parts of the Northern Adriatic



LOGGERHEAD TURTLE | *Caretta caretta*



- The loggerhead turtle is the most abundant sea turtle species in the Mediterranean Sea
- The shallow Northern Adriatic is an important neritic habitat for juvenile and adult individuals that nest mostly in Greece and Turkey
- Entanglements in fishing tools, by-catch and collisions with boats are among the greatest threats for this species



MEET THE STAFF

TIHANA VUČUR BLAZINIĆ, M.SC

Researcher and Internship and volunteering coordinator

I grew up on the coast, so the sea was always my passion. From an early age, I knew I would be studying biology, so I mastered in Ecology and Nature Protection. I joined the BWI through the internship program to learn more about marine mammals and their research. I did not expect that this will be my permanent job and that dolphins will be constant part of my life. Besides conducting research at the Adriatic Dolphin Project, I am the volunteer and internship coordinator. As a highly personable individual, meeting people from all over the world is something I enjoy very much.



MARKO RADULOVIĆ, M.SC

Researcher



As a child I spent a lot of time with my family on the boat which defined my future career as a professional skipper and diver instructor. In order to specialize in marine biology, I decided to study at the universities of Düsseldorf and Hamburg in Germany. I completed my master's degree on the Spatial Distribution of Cetaceans in the North Adriatic with the BWI, and I mastered R statistical program. Besides bottlenose dolphins, I have great interest in cartilaginous fish (sharks and rays).

MARINELA CUKROV CAR, M.SC

Researcher



Ever since elementary school I knew that I want to become a marine biologist with focus on whales. So, I followed my dream and studied Biology. My thesis focused on bottlenose dolphin population size estimation in the Vis Island archipelago, undertaken as an intern at the BWI. After I got my degree I moved to Island of Lošinj and worked as a supervisor in the Lošinj garden center. When a position for researcher in BWI became available, I did not hesitate to accept the job.

MATEJA ZEKAN, M.SC.

Sea Turtle Rescue Centre Manager



I experienced my first encounter with Lošinj as a marine biology student completing a master's thesis on "Habitat use of bottlenose dolphins in the Cres-Lošinj archipelago" at University of Trieste, Italy. After two years of internship, I was recruited by the Blue World Institute as a researcher and educator. In the meantime, the focus of my work shifted from cetaceans to sea turtles. The prospect of contributing to the conservation of one of the most endangered animal species, through both science and education, is something that completely fills me up.

TINA BELAJ, DR.MED.VET.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Since childhood I have been surrounded by veterinarians and animals which certainly had an impact on my decision to study veterinary medicine. I graduated in 2020 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Zagreb at the Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases with Clinic. After graduation I ended up in a completely different field of veterinary medicine. While growing up on the island of Lošinj, I spent a lot of time at the sea, so the job of a veterinarian at the BWI was an opportunity I couldn't miss. At work I spend most of my time at the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre in Mali Lošinj taking care of these animals.



ECO-VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

WEEK SCHEDULE

There is no typical day. Schedule may vary depending on weather conditions and research priorities. It is important that you are flexible and bear in mind that dolphins are wild animals and working with them is not 100% predictable.

Day 1 (Saturday) - Arrival day, no boat surveys are conducted. You can use this day to relax after the trip, get familiar with the house, the beach and the town. During the dinner, a short introduction of the program will be given and you will hear about the plan for the next day.

Day 2 to Day 7 (Sunday to Friday) - If weather conditions are stable, you will help researchers to board the boat and participate in boat-based survey. Sometimes dolphins are found within a few minutes, however **it can take several hours to find them**. Patience is the key. Even when dolphins are not seen, the boat ride offers an excellent opportunity to study the coastline, enjoy the sight of seabirds and, if you'd like, question the researchers. When a group of dolphins

is spotted, everyone on board get a specific task to fulfill. While researchers take photos for the photo-identification, eco-volunteers help out by **recording the data**, such as the time, the number and breakdown of the animals, their behavioral activity, surfacing and their names, as the researcher calls them out.

If the sea is not calm or researchers have other priorities, the team remains in the office. There you will help with data analysis and assist in educational activities. You will help with data sorting and analysis of photos, videos and acoustic recordings if needed. Researchers will also give lectures on various aspects of cetacean biology and the marine environment. The aim is to broaden your knowledge so you can share it further with your acquaintances. It is also expected from you to assist in educational activities of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre. Duties may include helping out the staff and students, showing visitors around the Education centre and explaining exhibits or help with questionnaires.

*Friday – dinner out (not included in the price) – dinner in a restaurant with researchers to share experiences in a non-working atmosphere.

Day 8 (Saturday) - A free day for you to visit the island, discover new paths and beaches and enjoy swimming and snorkeling in the crystal clean sea.

Day 9 (Sunday) - Departure day, no work is conducted that day. There is no fixed time for you to leave the house.

*The atmosphere at the project is informal and relaxed and we will try to fulfil everyone's preferences. However, researchers are not tour leaders and you are welcome to organize your time off as you prefer.

SOME USEFUL INFO

- Working hours during the field work depend on the weather conditions and area that needs to be surveyed. During very long field work days the team usually makes short breaks for swimming or coffee
- Regardless of the planned duration of the field work, it is advised to always bring water, swimming suit and protective gear with you (sun cream, hat, sunglasses, wind jacket)
- Even though our teams strictly obey code of conduct during sightings, any presence of boats can present disturbance to dolphins. Therefore, the sighting procedure ends and the survey continues as soon as enough data is collected
- It is forbidden to [touch](#), [swim with](#) or [feed](#) the dolphins
- Smoking is strictly forbidden on the boat
- Eco-volunteers are not obliged to go on the boat if they do not wish to
- When not doing the field work the working hours in the office are usually from 9 am until 15 pm



ACCOMMODATION



Kaciol 17, 51551 Veli Lošinj



The flat provides two bedrooms for interns, two bedrooms for volunteers, two bathrooms, the kitchen, and the terrace.



Beds, sheets, blankets and towels are provided.



There is a washing machine in the flat which you can use.



Daily household duties include cooking, dishwashing and general housekeeping. All participants alternate in housekeeping and cooking shifts.



Please bring with you some recipes if you are not familiar with cooking.



There are some local restaurants where you may choose to eat dinner at your own expense.



Shopping is done by project staff members.



Smoking is not allowed within the accommodation.



The project is also advertised in many countries, so it is possible that your colleagues will be from different European countries, or even further.



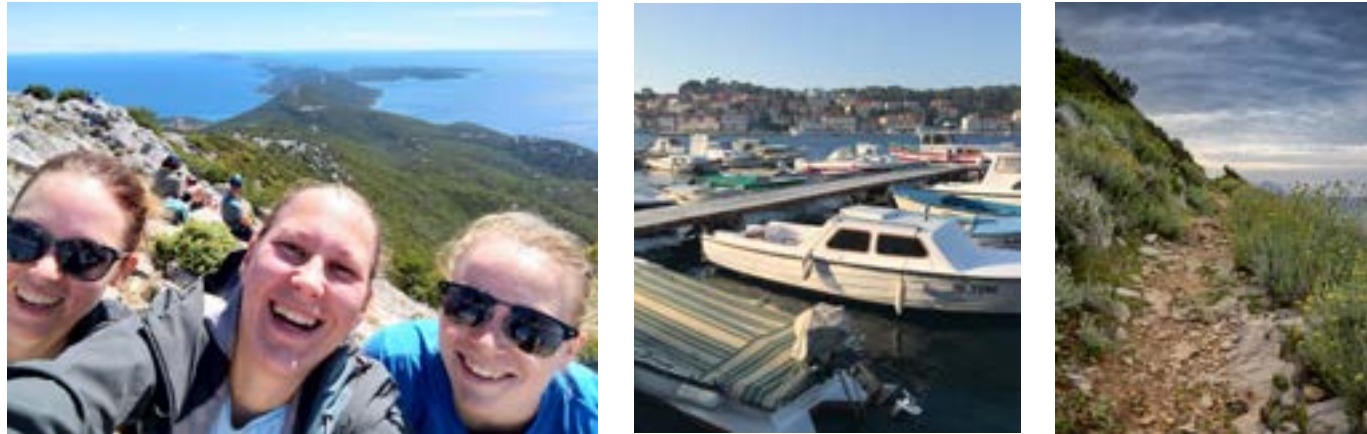
The house and the office have free Wi-Fi. In addition, some bars and restaurants offer Wi-Fi access for their guests.



ISLAND OF LOŠINJ



The coastline of Lošinj is very diverse; it consists of many bays and underwater caves. The flat and the office are located in the old village of Veli Lošinj (3 km from Mali Lošinj — the biggest island town in Croatia), on the sheltered east coast of the island. There are more than 95 species of fish found in the waters around the island, and other top predators such as tuna and swordfish can regularly be seen in this area. The marine environment around Lošinj is one of the cleanest parts of the Northern Adriatic Sea with water transparency consistently over 20 meters. We encourage you to explore the island and take advantage of the pristine natural environment that surrounds you.



People participating in this project should match the following requirements:

- Be in a good physical condition
- Steady on the legs and able to swim
- Able to tolerate hot weather and long periods on the boat under the sun
- Speak English
- Over 18 years old
- Enjoy meeting other people and cultures
- Love to work in a team
- Enthusiastic about marine wildlife
- Conform to current Covid-19 regulations

*Be aware that the project director or project manager has the right of expelling you from the field base, in case your behaviour and attitude may obstruct the normal research activities.

DATES AND PRICES

- All volunteer stages begin on Saturdays and end on Sundays (8 days).
- Eco-volunteers should organize their travel to arrive in Veli Lošinj during Saturday and leave during Sunday.
- There are five places available in each stage.

DATES

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Stage 1 | June 4 - June 12 |
| Stage 2 | June 18 - June 26 |
| Stage 3 | July 2 - July 10 |
| Stage 4 | July 16 - July 24 |
| Stage 5 | July 30 - Aug 7 |
| Stage 6 | Aug 13 - Aug 21 |
| Stage 7 | Aug 27 - Sep 4 |
| Stage 8 | Sep 10 - Sep 18 |



You can ask for a **single room**, if available, and the price is **966 EUR**.

**Discount price is for:

1. Returning Volunteers - For those of you coming again, we offer a loyalty discount. We know who you are so no proof required.
2. Croatian Citizens - we give accommodation grant for local people in order to encourage Croatians to work with us. Croatian identity card and residence will be required.
3. Block Bookings - If a group of 5 books a stage, one place is free.
4. Two stages bookings - If you decide to join us for two stages

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE AND WHAT IS NOT

INCLUDED

1. Accommodation
2. Food and beverages in the flat (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
3. Lectures by researchers
4. Boat trips
5. Scientific supervision
6. Internet access in the flat and in the office
7. Certificate of attendance in the Adriatic Dolphin Project
8. Some photo and video material recorded during your stay

NOT INCLUDED

1. Extra food and beverages consumed in restaurants and bars
2. Travel expenses
3. Alcoholic drinks and cigarettes
4. Personal expenses (e.g. telephone, cosmetics)
5. Dinner out on Friday
6. Insurance (non-EU citizens are recommended to take travel health insurance)

WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?

BLUE WORLD INSTITUTE IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION SO YOUR PARTICIPATION HELPS US COVER PART OF THE COSTS OF BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES WE ARE UNDERTAKING.



HOW TO BOOK A PLACE

1. Contact us

You can inquire about further details and the available dates by contacting us via e-mail: tihana.vucur@blue-world.org or by phone: **+385 51 604 666**.

2. Fill out the application form and complete booking

When we confirm that there is available place for the requested period, fill in the [online application form](#). Your place will be reserved for two weeks, within which a minimum of 50% of the fee needs to be paid. Otherwise, we will make your place available to others.

*If you are making a late booking, you can arrange payment directly with the volunteer coordinator (tihana.vucur@blue-world.org)



3. Payment

You can make payment via bank transfer or PayPal. The fee for money transfer is covered by you.

| BANK TRANSFER | PAYPAL |
|---|--|
| <p>Erste&Steiermärkische Bank Jadranski trg 3A 51000 Rijeka SWIFT/BIC: ESBCHR22 IBAN: HR7824020061100937954</p> | <p>Please send the required amount to this address: info@blue-world.org</p> |

***In order to cancel your booking you need to contact volunteering coordinator (tihana.vucur@blue-world.org) minimum 30-days before arrival to be entitled for a reimbursement equal to 80% of the course participation fee.**

4. Confirmation and arrival

We will send you an email to confirm that we received the money. The final step is to let us know about your arrival plan, if possible, 5 days before the start of your stage. Team will organise to welcome you on a bus station in Veli Lošinj or on a catamaran and ferry station in Mali Lošinj. If you have trouble organising your arrival, feel free to contact the volunteering coordinator.

WHAT TO PACK



Please, try to bring no more than one large bag and a backpack as space is limited in our flat during the summer



Take your usual summer clothes



Bear in mind that there will be a washing machine at your disposal



Sunscreen (SPF 50+), sunglasses and a hat



Swimming and snorkelling gear



Light windproof jacket



Camera



A long sleeve shirt and a pair of jeans trousers



Beach towel



Insect repellent spray or lotion



Ear plugs for light sleepers



Basic medications



Documents and insurance (Valid ID card or passport and a travel insurance)

GOOD TO KNOW

- Official language is Croatian, but almost everyone can speak at least basic English. Young people generally speak English well, while many also speak German and Italian.
- Official language among the team is English.
- Croatia is generally a very safe place for tourists and crime rate is very low.
- Croatian currency is Kuna (KN). 1 EUR is around 7.4 KN; 1 USD is around 6.5 KN.
- Time zone In Croatia is +1UTC in winter; +2UTC in summer
- Power standard is 220V/50Hz and you will need a power plug for for a Schuko socket (CEE 7/3)



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- **It is not possible to arrive at the research station earlier than the start date of the stage, or to stay longer.**
- **In case you plan to arrive earlier, you are required to arrange your own accommodation.**
- **The information given here was correct at time of publishing. Please check timetables, connections and routes personally. You will have to make your own travel arrangements.**

1. BY BUS

Arriva is the bus company that drives to Veli Lošinj. On the following website you can check departing cities, timetable and prices: <https://www.arriva.com.hr/en-us/home>. Members of the team can welcome you on the bus station in Veli Lošinj and walk you to the accommodation.

2. BY PLANE

There are cheap flights to **Pula, Rijeka, Split, Zadar and Zagreb** in Croatia, and **Venice** and **Trieste** in Italy. For timetables of flights, you can check **Croatia Airlines** (<https://www.croatiaairlines.com/>), **easyJet** (<https://www.easyjet.com/en>), **Ryanair** (<https://www.ryanair.com/hr/en>), **Wizz Air** (<https://wizzair.com/en-gb/#/>), **Eurowings** (<https://www.eurowings.com/en.html>). You should make your own travel arrangements from the airport.

3. BY BOAT

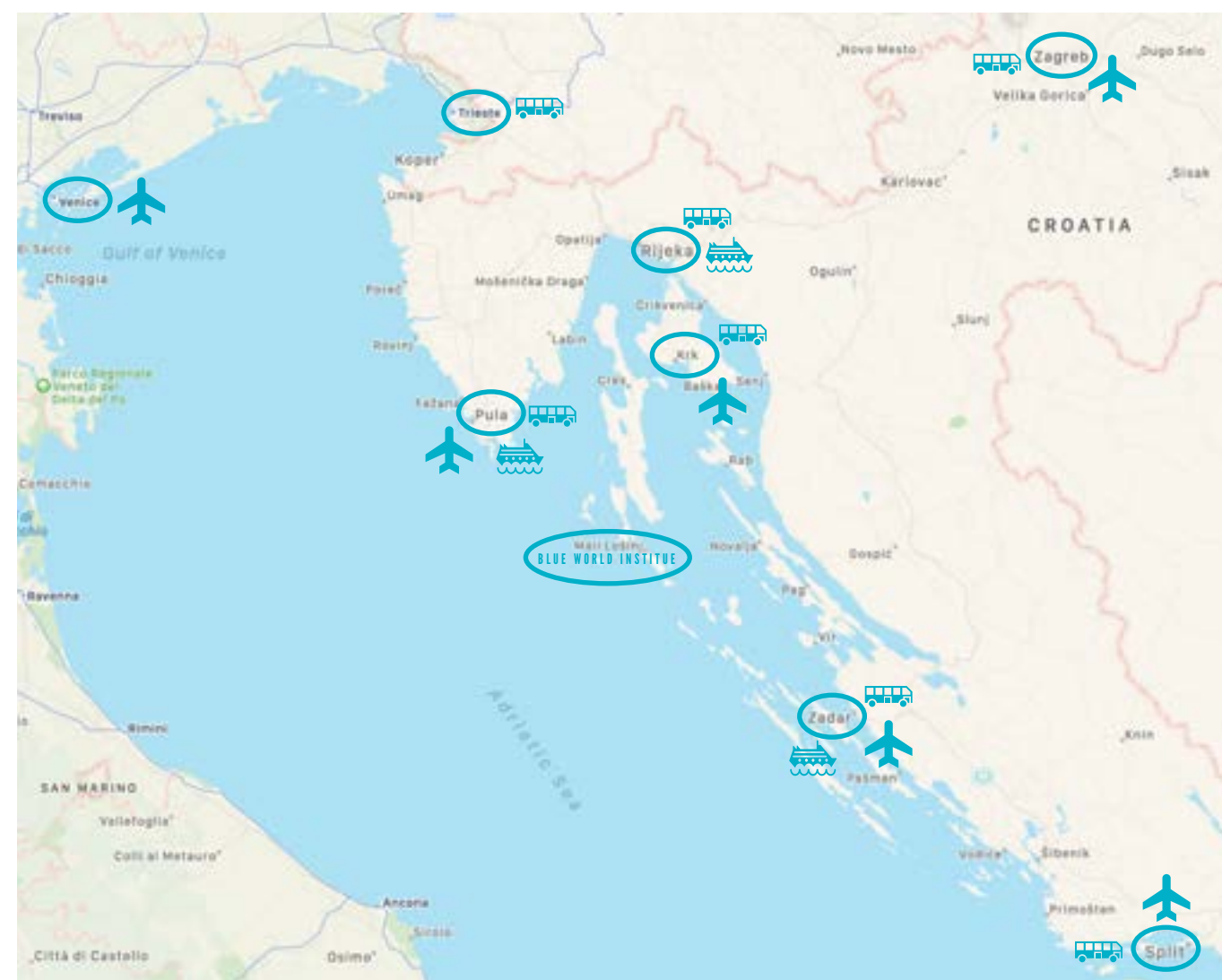
There is a catamaran line operating every day from **Rijeka** to Mali Lošinj. Please visit the following website for further information: www.jadrolinija.hr/en/. You can also reach Mali Lošinj from **Zadar** by ferry (www.jadrolinija.hr/en/) or catamaran (<https://www.krilo.hr/en/> or <https://www.gv-zadar.com/>). There is also a catamaran line from **Pula** to Mali Lošinj (<https://www.krilo.hr/en/>). If you are arriving by ferry or catamaran, please let us know and we will organize that somebody picks you up on a ferry/catamaran station.

4. BY CAR

If you prefer to travel by car, you can drive to the ferry port **Brestova** (Istria, close to Opatija) if coming from Italy/Slovenia directions. However if you are coming from Zagreb direction you should go to the ferry port **Valbiska** (Krk Island) where ferry will bring you to the island of Cres. From ferry ports on Cres there is approximately 1.5 hours' drive to Veli Lošinj. Please check the ferry schedule on www.jadrolinija.hr/en/ under the sailing schedule, District of Rijeka, or contact us through email if you need any advice. When you arrive to Veli Lošinj, there is a parking place 15 minutes' walking distance from the accommodation.

5. BY TRAIN

There are trains coming from most of the major cities of continental Europe to **Zagreb, Rijeka** or **Trieste**. Please enquire at your departure point. The train station in Rijeka is 200 m west of the bus station where you can take a bus to Veli Lošinj.



COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

Since the beginning of the program, more than 400 eco-volunteers, from all over the world, have joined us. Some of them became real fans of the program and started to work with us, many friendships and relationships have been formed, but most importantly, all of them helped our organisation to become what it is today. In the following text you can read some of the ex-participant's comments.

„As our time here comes to an end, I find myself wishing that the time didn't go by so quickly. I wish that I could stay longer and learn more about all of the work and research that occurs at the ADP. Seeing the dolphins was a great pleasure, yet a greater pleasure was helping with the research, I truly hope that we were of some assistance. The main goal for our time here was to enjoy learning something new, this objective was surely completed, thank you very much for this opportunity.“ from [Sam and Sarah McDeid, USA, July 2009](#).

„Thank you so much for the wonderful experience here in Veli. It will always be a place I remember fondly. I have been able to see about 70 dolphins in their natural habitat and help with some scientific research, which has been thrilling. But I think the best thing about Veli is the incredible people I have met since I have been here. Thank you everyone and hope to hear from all of you soon.“ from [Steven Mattice, San Francisco, July 2010](#).

„This volunteering trip is literally the best one I've ever had. The days spent on the island were indelible. I got to get close with dolphins in a natural habitat scenario on a speedboat for the first time when they came close to the boat. Before getting to the sea for field observations, I was educated about the research project and the guidelines regarding field observations. As a science student, I found this field-research exposure very rewarding for my future studies. The accommodation's brilliant! It's clean and tidy (with excellent view). The staff was very friendly and helpful. I've made some really great friends there. I wish I could stay longer.... The awesomeness of the trip is simply beyond description! I can't wait to take part in the program again!“ from [Matthew Tung, Hong Kong, June 2012](#).

„In early summer 2014 I had the special opportunity to join in both volunteer-programs of ADP Losinj

and North Dalmatia within just two weeks. There you are — maybe after a long journey — on this northern Croatian island arriving at the picturesque harbour town Veli Losinj, being picked up by delightful team members of Blue World.

Being out on the water (weather permitting) surrounded by beautiful natural scenery in search of dolphins hopefully with numerous (always carefully proceeded) encounters, which vary widely but are just breathtaking each time!!

What can be easily said is that everybody at Blue World - from management to the education desk team is doing an exceptional job with immense personal effort, highly professional and motivated and yet decidedly friendly and helpful. Thank you so much!“ from [Jens Ruggaber, Schömberg, June 2014](#)

„Time runs fast, especially during the brightest moments - these two weeks that I spent volunteering with Blue World run like a one day full of impressions and moments to remember. On a beautiful Losinj I've got some unforgettable memories of seeing dolphins very close, gained new skills, meet great people. As for future marine biologist, the opportunity to observe dolphins and then do some analyzing, helped me to see different sides of scientific work. The other thing I'm very glad about - I had a chance to communicate with professionals in marine science.“ from [Anastasiia Barilo, Russia, June 2015](#)

„Fantastic organization! We participated in the Blue World volunteering program for 2 weeks this summer and highly recommend it. Everything from the moment we arrived was well organized and on-point. We learned so much thanks to the generous and knowledgeable staff“ from [Michael Cerrone, USA, July 2016](#)

„This is my very first experience as an eco-volunteer and I cannot imagine it being done in another way which is better than what I had experienced with the Blue World Organisation. The best part of this volunteering opportunity was not merely the dolphins but the people whom I had the honor to work with. They are knowledgeable, fun, and most importantly have a big heart for all forms of wildlife in the Adriatic Sea. I would highly recommend everyone to participate in this programme, regardless of what background/age group you're from.“ from [Hui Wen Chong, Malaysia, May 2017](#)

„In July 2018 I had the chance to participate in the volunteer programme of the The Blue World Institute in Mali Losinj. For me it was a fantastic experience. I really enjoyed being on the research boat, searching for dolphins. It was great being part of the team and helping to monitor the sightings. The team is really nice and everybody took the time to answer questions and making my stay unforgettable. I'm sure that I will come back again soon.“ from [Simone Schüttler, Germany. July 2018](#)

„I had such an amazing experience in Croatia with the Adriatic Dolphin Project. Everyone was so kind and ready to help me learn. The apartment was very nice and the Blue World Institute's staff were so kind and helpful as well. I would recommend this trip to anyone needed exposure to the marine biology field. Thanks so much for great experience!“ from [Emily Bensema, USA. May 2019](#)

„Only to observe these islands landscape during the ride is healing, and the fact that you stop by near the dolphin, who is dedicatedly catching fish in the depths, travels somewhere with serious focus, or plays and jumps out the sea, you can't tell with words. You have to feel it...Magical! The opportunity is unique to anybody who loves the sea, loves the animals! If you haven't met the dolphin yet, it is time now! The world will appear much more beautiful afterwards...“ from [Anja Gorup, Croatia. Jun 2020](#)

„Tihana and the team were incredibly welcoming, truly passionate about the project, such knowledgeable experts in their field and just amazing human beings. It was great to be part of the team and feel we were contributing towards their project initiatives. Our volunteering meant we were involved with dolphin identification, supporting the team on their projects and education from the various Blue World Experts on the importance of the organisations' work. The shared accommodation was in the heart of the small fishing village of Veli and a truly amazing location. We feel privileged that we had this opportunity to support such an important cause with such an amazing team of people.“
From [David Edwards, UK. June 2021](#)