

DELEGATE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2009

Introduction

AMA Queensland Annual Conference is now in its 9th year and is this year traveling to the amazing Dalmatian Coast in Split, Croatia.

This year's Conference is about Obesity -- It is one of the major health concerns gripping the world today. Delegates attending this year's conference from many sections within the health community will find this conference informative, proactive and interactive! Join Industry Professionals in being part of the solution.

Split, Croatia

Sunny islands, rustic villages and fine wine - what's not to love about Croatia? Situated on the Adriatic coast, Split is Croatia's second largest city with a population of over 200,000. More relaxed than its bigger brother Zagreb thanks to its seaside vibe, the city is filled with history that dates back to the first century. Expect Roman architecture, beautiful cobbled streets and a bustling café culture.



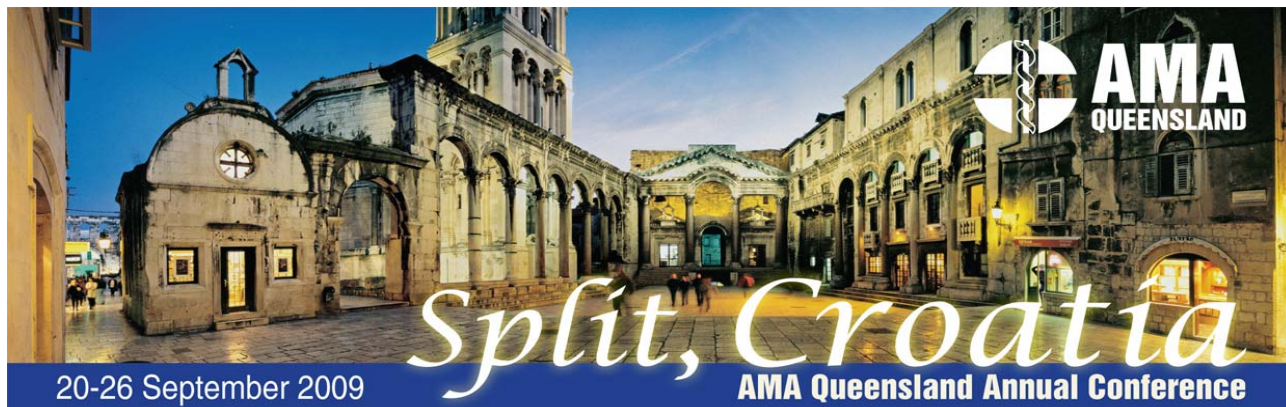
Why visit Split?

1. With local hero Goran Ivanisevic retired, the sporting passions of the Splicani lie firmly with their football team Hajduk Split, which should explain the red, white and blue graffiti around the city. Join the Torcida (as the fans are called) to cheer on their team at Poljud stadium, improving your Croatian slang in the process.
2. Diocletian's Palace, the retirement home of a Roman Emperor is the reason the whole city exists. Today, the crumbling walls woven into the fabric of the city might seem less commanding, but coupled with the sequence of underground chambers they're considered the greatest Roman ruins in Western Europe. Escape the street-level crowds to wander the foundations of the royal quarters before admiring the Peristyle, an open-air square flanked with colonnades and guarded by a granite sphinx.
3. Around the headland, away from the bustle of the bars along Split's waterfront, you'll find Sustipan, a garden decorated with cyprus trees, a classicist pavilion and the ruins of St Stephen's church. Taking a bench in the shade overlooking the Adriatic is the perfect way to cope with the midday heat.
4. The largest of the city's Italianate piazzas is Narodni Trg (People's Square), where you can sip a Kaltenburg beer al-fresco at one of the many cafés.
5. With international stores including Topshop and Hugo Boss, clothes shopping in Split rivals capital Zagreb, but things are more traditional when it comes to groceries, with most food bought from markets. At the sprawling Pazar, fruit and vegetables stalls drift into meat and confectionery and up the road is a fish market, fly-free thanks to the sulphurous spring that runs beneath the city.



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Pre and Post Conference Suggestions

Once you arrive in Europe the opportunities open up to an endless list of pre and post conference options.

Croatia

Dedicated AMA Travel Queensland groups offer a 7 day Island and coastal hopping tour of the Dalmatian Coast. Picture the pristine waters of the Adriatic Sea, traditional fishing villages, Roman and Venetian History and you have only a very small piece of what this region of Croatia has to offer. The 7 day tour travels between Split and Dubrovnik (pre conference reverse).

A 4 day extension is available post Conference to Istria. Istria is indeed a feast for the eyes. Its streams flow to the sea through deep valleys and gullies which bring to mind the ancient local myths about giants. Rolling hills overlook the fields and valleys with little towns perched on the peaks. The view is splendid: white-topped mountains, lush wheat fields, plateaux, valleys, vineyards and olive groves on hillsides, and, finally the sea.

Many opportunities are also available to cruise the Coast on small private Yachts either on your own or part of an AMA Queensland small group,

Italy

During September Italy has many ferry services into Croatia. Venice services operate into the region of Istria. Further south a service operates from Ancona to Split and Bari to Dubrovnik.

Highlight: - Amalfi Coast.

The region is well known as one of the most popular holiday destinations in the world, as it has always been. Dating back to the Roman times the Amalfi Coast was chosen by the Noble Romans as "the" place to pass the summer months. The dramatic vision of buildings perched on the edge of the cliffs. What a view! According to legend, Positano was founded by the God Neptune when he fell in love with the nymph Pasitea.

Austria

Once in Europe, Austrian Airways is a convenient and normally economical way to access Split. Stopping over in Austria is a great opportunity to take in the culture and coffee! Famous for its Coffee Houses and Music, Austria makes for a great destination.

Cruising

On the 27th September you can join an Amazing 14 day River Cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam. Passing through some of the famous waterways of Europe. The Romance and History of Europe are on show, while you only have to unpack once.

This is just a taste of what you can experience by attending the AMA Queensland Conference this year.

To register for attendance contact Neil Mackintosh at AMA Qld, phone 3872 2267 or email at n.mackintosh@amaq.com.au

For more information regarding **Travel options**, please contact Ros and Stephanie at AMA Travel Queensland. We look forward to seeing you there. Phone 1300 262885.

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