





I remember the morning
when I entered Pučišća on a sailing boat as
if I entered an enchanted world.
The houses had the appearance of people...
But those early childhood images
sparkling in the depths of solitude,
in the whiteness of tiled roofs,
are escaping words and sink elusively,
submerging and emerging out of the abyss of time.

Jure Kaštelan, 1967



Find the world for yourself

"I've done enough traveling for one lifetime, and if I never go anywhere again, I can't complain. Some people go their whole lives without finding their Pučišća. So I know how lucky I am," Rory Macleod once said. An American who, while exploring Croatia, came to Pučišća by bicycle. And he stayed.

Modest and unobtrusive, quiet and shy, hidden at the bottom of a deep bay, huddled between gentle hills and captured in the whiteness of the mist, Pučišća has been and remains an enchanted world throughout the centuries. A world where time has stopped long ago, a part of the universe that has yet to be found. It's not a place that reveals or offers itself. It doesn't brag or heave. It just waits patiently for you to find it.

What is it about this small place that is so different from any place else you've seen in your life? What story will the white stone roofs tell you, the compact peasant houses lying on the slopes of Bračuta, Mladinje and Lateša hills on top of each other, yet in perfect harmony, unique in their stone whiteness? They wink at each other behind the green shutters, whisper some forgotten story that echoes through the narrow streets descending steeply to the port.

Come with us on the journey of your life. Find Pučišća. Find the world for yourself.



Find the history

The old Illyrians used to live here. They were humble people. On the Brač plateau, they raised livestock, mainly sheep and goats. They dug watering holes for livestock in the compact stone and built stone mounds that you can still find today when exploring the beautiful nature of the interior of the island. Stone mounds were their houses, their temples and their graves.





Church of St. Stephen in the Pučišća Cemetery

The peace of the Illyrians was disturbed by the Romans who, after bloody wars in the second century, finally took control of this area. As a reward, their soldiers would receive fertile lands by the sea where they built their villas and sanctuaries. The remains of Roman buildings were found near the present-day Pučišća cemetery. In the following centuries, pagan sanctuaries were converted into Christian ones. On the same place arose the early Christian basilica of St. Stephen's, and later the Benedictine and Augustinian monasteries. Along the foundations of the church of St. Stephen, you can still see the stone baptistery from the 6th century. Old Pučišća emerged around the church and monastery, and another settlement emerged in a similar way around the former church of St. Hyginus in the western part of Pučišća bay. Those places by the sea soon came under attack by various pirates, so their inhabitants retreated to the interior of the island.



Church of St. George near Straževnik



Church of St. Clement near Straževnik



Aquila Tower

In the 9th century, a new warrior people from the east, the Croats, came to Brač. Mixing with the Illyrians and Romans, near Gornji Humac and Pražnica, they built their first settlements on the island: Gradac, Dubravice, Mošuja and Straževnik. These settlements don't exist today. First they were ravaged by the great plague in the 15th century and after the threat of sea pirates ceased, the few remaining inhabitants returned to the coast. Now you can find only traces of their houses and preserved medieval churches with burial grounds.

Then, at the end of the 14th century, Pučišća came to life again. However, the peace did not last long because a new danger from the east was already at the door. The Ottoman Empire was expanding, and their ships sailed into Pučišća bay. This time the residents of Pučišća decided not to run away. Instead, they built defensive towers. A total of thirteen towers on the sea cliffs were built from 1467 to the second half of the 16th century. Pučišća thus became a small fortress and got the name Luka Kula (Harbour of Towers). You can still find six of them today, and the rest have been walled off or demolished by the ravages of time.

There are still numerous records of the successful defense of the place against Turkish and Uskok raids. The most famous battle is from 1571, when around 1,000 Turkish soldiers with twenty ships attacked the place, which was then burned and looted, but still defended thanks to well-fortified towers and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The people of Pučišća have



Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Botak



Stone model of the Vatican's Basilica of St. Peter



Radojković winged altarpiece

always honored Her in a special way, so in 1482 they built a beautiful church for Her on Botak, which soon became their first parish church. They received permission from the pastor of the parent parish of Pražnica to build it, but under the condition that it be no wider than three stones. The wise citizens of Pučišća, led by Ciprijan Žuvetić, looked for the three longest stones they could find, which you can still recognize today on the front of the church. Inside the church you will also find a beautiful winged altarpiece by master Nikola Radojković. In its center, the Mother of God is surrounded by four saints: St. Anthony the Abbot in honor of the patron of the home parish in Pražnica, St. Stephen in honor of the patron of Old Pučišća, St. Cyprian, namesake of Žuvetić, and St. Nicholas, patron of Gornji Humac and namesake of stonemasons Radojković. If you look a little closer, on Our Lady's neck, you will recognize the place where the head of the Mother of God was torn off in one of the raids in the 16th century. Tradition says the raiders tried to steal it, but the wind did not allow them to leave the bay by boat until they returned the head of the Mother of God to shore. Terrified locals found the head glowing in a bush by the sea near today's Sveti Rok beach and returned it to the church. The church also has stone graves with carved coats of arms of the founders of Pučišća from the noble families Žuvetić, Aquila, Radojković and Bokanić, so it can be said that it is the necropolis of the founders of Pučišća. Today, you can see a unique stone miniature of the Vatican's Basilica of St. Peter, the work of the Pučišća master Josip Radić.



Church of St. Michael near Gornji Humac

Immediately after the foundation of the parish in 1566, construction of the new parish church of St. Jerome began. Its bell tower, completed in 1768, is one of the most striking motifs. In the area of Pučišća, Pražnica and Gornji Humac, you will find as many as 22 larger or smaller churches and dozens of chapels that the hardworking people of Brač built over the centuries as a permanent symbol of faith, hope and gratitude. Marked footpaths lead to them. Whichever path you take, you'll feel as if you're disappearing into a story where the past, present and future are intertwined. Seduced by the scents of the Mediterranean, the old field roads will lead you through well-kept vineyards and olive groves, and the blows of the wide hoes hitting the rocky soil will sound like the song of an old farmer working for a drop of oil, a drop of wine.

That is our history. Find it.



Church of St. Domnius



Church of St. George on Bračuta



Parish Church of St. Anthony in Pražnica



Church of St. Lucy



Parish Church of St. Nicholas in Gornji Humac

Find your stone

The stone here is both the bread and the cross. Since ancient times, the strong hands of stonemasons have embraced it and listened to its song. The stone here speaks and pleads. The stone comforts and soothes. The stone rings. And everywhere you look, you will see a stone. There are stone thresholds, stairs, roads, houses and roofs. The graves are also made of stone.







Looking for stone for his projects, the famous builder Andrea Alessi came to Pučišća. He found the best stone in the Veselje cove and on May 2, 1455, he signed a contract for the lease of land in order to open a quarry. Although stone was quarried in Pučišća as early as the time of the ancient Romans, this date in a way marked the beginning of organized stonework in Pučišća.

In addition to Alessi, the greatest masters of that era, Giorgio da Sebenico and Niccolo di Giovanni Fiorentino, often came to Pučišća for stone and hired Pučišća locals for their construction projects. Soon the people of Pučišća became excellent stonemasons and builders themselves. The most significant of them was Trifun Bokanić. The fact that at the age of 22 he was entrusted with the construction of the last floor of the bell tower of the Cathedral of St. Lawrence in Trogir shows his skill. He died in 1609 at the age of 35, and left behind dozens of outstanding works, especially in Trogir and Hvar. Over the centuries, numerous churches and palaces in Dalmatia and Italy, and later in other parts of the world, from the Levant to the New World, were built from Pučišća stone: the Parliament and the New Palace in Vienna, part of the Parliament in Budapest, and a lot of evidence indicates that the White House in Washington was partly built with it. A favorite is the magnificent Šibenik Cathedral of St. Jacob, the ultimate achievement of Renaissance architecture in Dalmatia.

The great tradition of stonemasons and builders from Pučišća is preserved today by the Stonemasonry School founded in 1909. It is unique in the world, and it still preserves the traditional Roman technique of manual stone processing. If you visit its workshop, you will find students working on stone with the same tools used by stonemasons two thousand years ago!

If you then return to the center of town and head to the colorful stands, you will find some of the richest selection of stone souvenirs in this part of Europe. You will find your stone which will remind you of Pučišća forever!





Find your host

Brač people, your hosts. Patient, strong, unique in their simplicity and modesty, in the beauty of hospitality, they will be the host you will always remember, and we believe, return to. Because there are few places like Pučišća, which, in their geographical appeal, so powerfully capture all the senses, not only of its inhabitants, but even more so of intending travelers.





So come and live with us, at least for a while. Be one of us, be ours. May the old bell from the campanile wake you up in the morning, just like it wakes us. And while the sun is peeking out in the east, filling the sky with the warm summer colours, you will experience the Mediterranean in all its beauty: the fishermen returning from the sea, and your host already waiting for them by the centuries-old stone fish market. Squid, octopus and shrimp – today we will treat ourselves well!



We will offer you the best we have. May you, like us, smell hot bread under the oven, may your palate be awakened by Brač cheese in olive oil, may a glass of red wine invigorate you. You will try the lamb with us, and we will explain you how *vitalac* is made.

You too will feel what it's like to pick a fig from a tree and then toast in the courtyard with a glass of *orahovica*. And if nona is in a good mood, you will also sense the smell of our *hrostule*.

You will experience what it's like to fall asleep allured by the scents of lavender and rosemary wafting through the courtyard window. To rest in silence interrupted only by the song of the crickets and gently rising waves.

It doesn't matter if you want to stay in a small stone house by the seashore, in a modern house in an olive grove, in an apartment or in one of the hotels, your host is always the same, eager to open the door of his heart to you, waiting for you to find him.



Find your time

Go for a morning jog along the Pučišća waterfront, through the shadow of the pine forest, all the way to the lighthouse at the top of the bay. Drink coffee under the tamarisk trees, watching the sun rise over the hills and illuminating the stone beauty. Meditate on the beach by the crystal-clear sea with a view of the ships that sail into the port, revealing a world from a fairy tale. Take an evening stroll accompanied by the sounds of Dalmatian music and the song of the klapa. Go for a night swim on the beach with a view of the small town falling into its summer sleep.







Your children will play carefree with our children, in the parks and on the beach. They will look forward to an evening of outdoor children's shows, playing water polo or attending swimming lessons. Want to compete in the traditional Pučišća triathlon or aquathlon? Maybe you will use your vacation to learn to carve? Maybe you want to improve your musical skills at the International Summer Music School? If you like meditating with a book, look for our local library "Hrvatski skup", founded way back in 1868 under the motto "A persistent drop deepens even the stone". Here is another interesting fact: over time, the people of Pučišća widely accepted this saying as the best expression of their persistence, so they carved it in stone in at least three places. Find those inscriptions and remember that a small persistent drop of water deepens even the stone!

Yes, we also know how to have fun. In addition to the traditional Dalmatian music on the Solina night, the sounds of our *Brassčuta* brass band and the klapa song, in Pučišća you will experience the unique Summer Night Disco Fever in the first days of August, when the whole place dances to the sounds of the 70s and 80s. If you like newer rhythms, there is a traditional Mahrinac party.

And so much more is like in the palm of your hand, because the whole of Brač is offered to you waiting to be discovered. Discover the Brač plateau and the beautiful old pastoral villages of Pražnica and Gornji Humac. From there, in about fifteen minutes, you can reach the famous Zlatni Rat (The Golden Horn) beach in Bol, and if you like sandy beaches, there is Lovrečina, about 10 kilometers west of Pučišća. You should definitely visit the Museum of the Island of Brač in Škrip and the Blaca Hermitage. A special experience is to climb Vidova Gora with a view that reaches all the way to Italy. For longer walks, the Via Brattia footpath awaits, and for those in search of challenges there are also numerous marked bicycle paths. If you arrive in Pučišća by boat, you will be welcomed by a safe and well-equipped port to which you will happily return. If you arrive by car or by plane, be sure to rent a boat or a scooter and you will discover a hidden bay waiting for you. Anyhow, you will find a moment for yourself here, you will find your time.



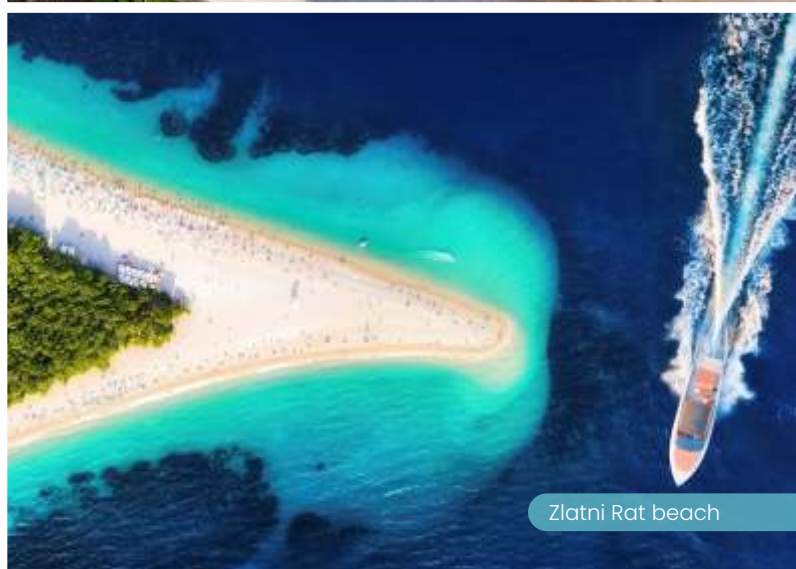
Pražnica



Gornji Humac plaza



Blaca Hermitage and Monastery



Zlatni Rat beach

Find Pučišća, find your own universe

It will be the beginning of love when you sail into this enchanted world. Here, alone with your thoughts, safe from storms and protected from all winds, you will find your hidden harbour. You will find the Mediterranean as it once was. You will learn the story of the primordial battle between man and stone, in which man still wins. Not because he is stronger, but because he is more persistent and because he knows that a persistent drop deepens even the stone. Time doesn't matter because time runs slower here. You will find your stone here, you will also find your time.

You will find a world for yourself, your own universe.





THROUGH THE EYES OF A SEAGULL





PUČIŠĆA



BRAČ





OFFICIAL PUČIŠĆA TOURIST BOARD

Trg Hrvatskog skupa 1
21412 Pučišća

tel: +385 21 633 555

e-mail: tz@pucisca.hr

www.visitpuciscabrac.com

