**ADRIANO BOLIBRUH**

**The Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč**

The Euphrasian Basilica is a basilica in Poreč, Croatia. The episcopal complex, including, apart the basilica itself, a sacristy, a baptistery and the bell tower of the nearby archbishop's palace, is an excellent example of early Byzantine architecture in the Mediterranean region. The Euphrasian basilica has for the most part retained its original shape, but accidents, fires and earthquakes have altered a few details. Since it is the third church to be built on the same site, it conceals previous buildings, for example the great floor mosaic of the previous basilica from the 5th century. Because of its exceptional value, it has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1997.

* Look for Euphrasian basilica images

**Sinjska Alka, a knights’ tournament in Sinj**

Inscribed in 2010 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Sinjska Alka is a chivalric tournament that takes place annually, as it has since the 18th century, in the town of Sinj, in the Cetinska krajina region. During the contest, knights ride horses at full gallop along a main street, aiming lances at an iron ring hanging on a rope. The name of the tournament derives from this alka or ring, a word whose Turkish origin reflects the historical co-existence and cultural exchange between two different civilizations. The tournament rules, codified in a 1833 statute, promote ethics and fair play, and stress the importance of participation in community life. Participants must be members of local families of Sinj and the Cetinska krajina region. The Sinjska Alka is the only remaining example of the medieval knightly competitions that were regularly held in the Croatian coastal towns until the nineteenth century.

* Look for Sinjska Alka images

**ANJA GRBEŠA**

**The historic complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian**

Diocletian's Palace is an ancient palace built for the Roman Emperor Diocletian at the turn of the fourth century AD, that today forms about half the old town of Split, Croatia. While it is referred to as a "palace" because of its intended use as the retirement residence of Diocletian, the term can be misleading as the structure is massive and more resembles a large fortress: about half of it was for Diocletian's personal use, and the rest housed the military garrison. Diocletian built the massive palace in preparation for his retirement on 1 May 305 AD. It lies in a bay on the south side of a short peninsula running out from the Dalmatian coast, four miles from Salona, the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia. In November 1979 UNESCO adopted a proposal that the historic city of Split built around the Palace should be included in the register of World Cultural Heritage.

* Look for Diocletian palace images

**Ojkanje singing**

Inscribed in 2010 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Ojkanje two-part singing, found in the Croatian regions of the Dalmatian hinterland, is performed by two or more singers (male or female) using a distinctive voice-shaking technique created by the throat. Each song lasts as long as the lead singer can hold his or her breath. Melodies are based on limited tonal scales and the lyrics cover diverse themes ranging from love to current social issues and politics. Ojkanje owes its survival to organized groups of local tradition bearers who continue to transmit the skills and knowledge, representing their villages at festivals in Croatia and around the world. Ojkanje is traditionally passed on orally.

* Look for Ojkanje singing images

**BRUNO ELEZ**

**The Cathedral of St James in Šibenik**

The Cathedral of St. James in Šibenik, Croatia is a triple-nave basilica with three apses and a dome (32 m high inside) in the city of Šibenik, Croatia. It is the most important architectural monument of the Renaissance in the entire country. Since 2000, the Cathedral has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The building of the church was initiated in 1402, though plans on its construction had already begun in 1298, when Šibenik became a municipality. The actual work to transform the older Romanesque cathedral began in 1431. Built entirely of stone (limestone from a nearby stone quarry and marble from the island of Brač), it was completed in three phases, from 1433 to 1441, when the Grand City Council entrusted the work to local and Italian masters.

* Look for St. James cathedral Šibenik images

**Two-part singing and playing in the Istrian scale**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. On the Istrian peninsula in western Croatia, several varieties of two-part singing and playing in the Istrian scale are preserved by Croatian, Istro-Romanian and Italian communities. The style is characterized by vigorous, partly nasal singing. It involves a degree of variation and improvisation in both vocal parts but always ends with two performers singing in unison or an octave apart. Typical musical instruments are the sopele shawms, always played in a pair, bagpipes, flutes and the tambura lute. Several local sub-styles have developed their own characteristics. This tradition is still a part of everyday life and festive occasions.

* Look for Two part singing Istria images

**ANTONIO BERISLAV TOKIĆ**

**The historic City of Trogir**

Trogir is a historic town and harbour on the Adriatic coast in Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia. The historic city of Trogir is situated on a small island between the Croatian mainland and the island of Čiovo. It lies 27 kilometres west of the city of Split. Trogir has 2300 years of continuous urban tradition. Its culture was created under the influence of the ancient Greeks, and then the Romans, and Venetians. Trogir has a high concentration of palaces, churches and towers, as well as a fortress, and in 1997 was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Trogir is the best-preserved Romanesque-Gothic complex in all of Central Europe. Trogir's medieval core, surrounded by walls, comprises a preserved castle and tower and a series of dwellings and palaces from the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Trogir's grandest building is the church of St. Lawrence, whose main west portal is a masterpiece by Radovan, and the most significant work of the Romanesque-Gothic style in Croatia.

* Look for St. Lawrence's cathedral Trogir images

**Nijemo Kolo, silent circle dance of the Dalmatian hinterland**

Inscribed in 2011 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Nijemo Kolo is practised by communities in the Dalmatian hinterland, in southern Croatia. Nijemo Kolo is performed in a closed circle with male dancers leading female partners in energetic, spontaneous steps – the male dancer publicly testing the skills of his female partner, seemingly without defined rules. The steps and figures depend on the mood and desire of the participants. The defining feature of the silent circle dance is that it is performed exclusively without music, although vocal or instrumental performances may precede or follow the dance. Nijemo Kolo is traditionally performed at carnivals, fairs, feast days and weddings, and acts as a way for young women and men to meet and get to know each other.

* Look for Nijemo kolo images

**LAURA POPOVIĆ**

**The old City of Dubrovnik**

Dubrovnik is a Croatian city on the Adriatic Sea. It is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the Mediterranean Sea, a seaport and the centre of Dubrovnik-Neretva County. In 1979, the city of Dubrovnik joined the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites. The prosperity of the city was historically based on maritime trade; as the capital of the maritime Republic of Ragusa, it achieved a high level of development, particularly during the 15th and 16th centuries, as it became notable for its wealth and skilled diplomacy. In 1991, after the break-up of Yugoslavia, Dubrovnik was besieged by Serbian and Montenegrin soldiers of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) for seven months and suffered significant damage from shelling. After repair and restoration works Dubrovnik re-emerged as one of the top tourist destinations in the Mediterranean.

* Look for Dubrovnik images

**Festivity of Saint Blaise, the patron of Dubrovnik**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The evening before the festivity of Saint Blaise in Dubrovnik as all the church bells in the city ring and white doves are released as symbols of peace, worshippers gather for a ritual healing of the throat to preserve them against illness. On the third of February, the official day of both saint and city, parish banner bearers flow into the city in folk costume for the centrepiece of the festival, a procession attended by bishops, ambassadors, civic leaders, visiting notables and the people of Dubrovnik. The festivity embodies many aspects of human creativity, from rituals to folk songs, from performance to traditional crafts. The ritual dates back in some form to at least 1190 and has reinforced a close identification of Dubrovnik’s residents with the city’s patron, Saint Blaise. On Saint Blaise’s day, Dubrovnik gathers not only its residents, but all those who pay respect to tradition and the right to one’s freedom and peace.

* Look for Festivity of Saint Blaise images

**IVAN PRNJAK**

**The Plitvice Lakes**

Plitvice Lakes National Park is one of the oldest and the largest national parks in Croatia. In 1979, Plitvice Lakes National Park was added to the UNESCO World Heritage register. The national park was founded in 1949 and is situated in the mountainous karst area of central Croatia, at the border to Bosnia and Herzegovina. It consist of 16 magnificent lakes that are connected by waterfalls and cascades. The protected area extends over 296.85 square kilometres. Each year, more than 1 million visitors are recorded.

* Look for Plitvice lakes images

**IVANA BARIČEVIĆ**

**Lacemaking in Croatia**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. At least three distinct traditions of Lacemaking in Croatia persist today, centred on the towns of Pag on the Adriatic, Lepoglava in northern Croatia and Hvar on the Dalmatian island of the same name. Pag needle-point lace was originally used to make ecclesiastical garments, tablecloths and ornaments for clothing. The process involves embellishing a spider web pattern with geometrical motifs and is transmitted today by older women who offer year-long courses. Lepoglava bobbin lace is made by braiding thread wound on spindles, or bobbins. Aloe lace is made in Croatia only by Benedictine nuns in the town of Hvar. Thin, white threads are obtained from the core of fresh aloe leaves and woven into a net or other pattern on a cardboard background. The craft both produces an important component of traditional clothes and is itself testimony to a living cultural tradition.

* Look for Lacemaking images Croatia

**Traditional manufacturing of children’s wooden toys in Hrvatsko Zagorje**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Villagers along the pilgrimage route to the Marian shrine of Our Lady of the Snow in Marija Bistrica in Hrvatsko Zagorje in northern Croatia developed a technique for traditional manufacturing of children’s wooden toys that has now been handed down for generations. The men in a family take soft willow, lime, beech and maple wood from the region and dry, hew, cut and carve it using traditional tools; the women then apply ecologically-friendly paint in improvisational floral or geometric patterns, painting ‘from imagination’. The whistles, horses, cars, tiny furniture, spinning dancers, jumping horses and flapping birds produced today are almost identical to those made more than a century ago.Popular among both locals and tourists, these toys are sold in parish fairs, markets and specialty shops around the world.

* Look for Traditional manufacturing of wooden toys Zagorje images

**TOMISLAV RENIĆ**

**Mediterranean diet**

Inscribed in 2013 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Mediterranean diet involves a set of skills, knowledge, rituals, symbols and traditions concerning crops, harvesting, fishing, animal husbandry, conservation, processing, cooking, and particularly the sharing and consumption of food. Eating together is the foundation of the cultural identity and continuity of communities throughout the Mediterranean basin. It is a moment of social exchange and communication, an affirmation and renewal of family, group or community identity. The Mediterranean diet emphasizes values of hospitality, neighbourliness, intercultural dialogue and creativity, and a way of life guided by respect for diversity. It plays a vital role in cultural spaces, festivals and celebrations, bringing together people of all ages, conditions and social classes.

* Look for Mediterranean diet images

**Procession Za Krizen (‘following the cross’) on the island of Hvar**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. After mass on Maundy Thursday before the Christian holiday of Easter, each of six villages on the Dalmatian island of Hvar in southern Croatia sends out a group that will proceed through the other villages in a circle, covering twenty-five kilometres in eight hours before returning home. Each party in this community-organized Za Krizen (‘following the cross’) procession is led by a cross-bearer who walks barefoot or in socks, never resting. The cross-bearer has a much-desired and respected position, reflecting the devotion of the individual bearer and his family. He is followed by two friends with candelabra and others carrying candles and lanterns, five choral singers and many worshippers wearing the tunics of religious brotherhoods. .

* Look for procession Za krizen Hvar images

**ANA ROSO**

**Klapa multipart singing of Dalmatia, southern Croatia**

Inscribed in 2012 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Klapa singing is a multipart singing tradition of the southern Croatian regions of Dalmatia. Multipart singing, a capella homophonic singing, oral tradition and simple music making are its main features. During performances, the singers stand in a tight semicircle. The first tenor starts the singing and is followed by the others. The main aim is to achieve the best possible blend of voices. Topics of klapa songs usually deal with love, life situations, and the environment in which they live. Bearers and practitioners are skilled amateurs who inherit the tradition from their predecessors. In ‘traditional klapa’, knowledge is transferred orally. Local communities see klapa singing as a central marker of their musical identity, incorporating respect for diversity, creativity and communication.

* Look for Klapa images

**Annual carnival bell ringers’ pageant from the Kastav area**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. During the January carnival period, bell ringers march through the villages that dot the Kastav region in north-west Croatia. Clothed in sheepskin throws with bells around their waists and sporting distinctive hats embellished with sprigs of evergreen, two to more than thirty ringers swagger in groups behind a guide carrying a small evergreen tree. When they reach a village, the bell ringers form circles in the town square, ringing fiercely until the residents offer them food and a chance to rest before they continue their journey. At the end of the carnival, the ringers proceed through their own village, collecting rubbish at each house and burning it out front, involving everyone present in the ceremony. With variations distinctive to each village, the annual carnival bell ringers’ pageant is a way to strengthen bonds within the community and a valuable means of renewing friendships among the towns in the region.

* Look for Bell ringers Kastav images

**MARITA KUZMANIĆ**

**Bećarac singing and playing from Eastern Croatia**

Inscribed in 2011 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.Bećarac is a popular genre of music in eastern Croatia deeply rooted in the cultures of Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem. Communication among its performers is essential: lead singers interchange vocal lines, striving to out-sing one another while creating, emulating and combining decasyllabic verses and shaping the melody – all the while accompanied by a group of singers and tambura bands. Each lead singer shapes his or her performance according to the context, with the performance lasting as long as the creativity and energy of the singers permit. Lead singers must possess both a powerful voice and a wide repertoire and be apt in choosing and combining them. The Bećarac is spread widely throughout eastern Croatian communities and remains part of living practice.

* Look for Bećarac singing images

**Spring procession of Ljelje/Kraljice (queen) from Gorjani**

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Procession of Queens is performed by the young girls of the village of Gorjani in the Slavonia region of north-east Croatia every spring. The girls in a group are divided into ten kraljevi (kings), who wear sabres and men’s hats, and about five kraljice (queens), who wear white garlands on their heads like brides. On Whitsunday (a feast in the Christian calendar), they process from house to house, performing for the families they encounter. While the kings dance with their sabres, the queens comment on the dance in song. The family then joins in a larger folk dance and provides refreshments before the girls continue to another house. The next day, the party visits a neighbouring town or village and returns for a feast at one of the performers’ homes. The entire community assists in the preparations for the procession.

* Look for procession of Ljelje Gorjani images