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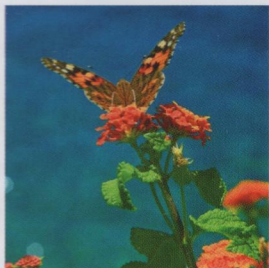
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CROATIA



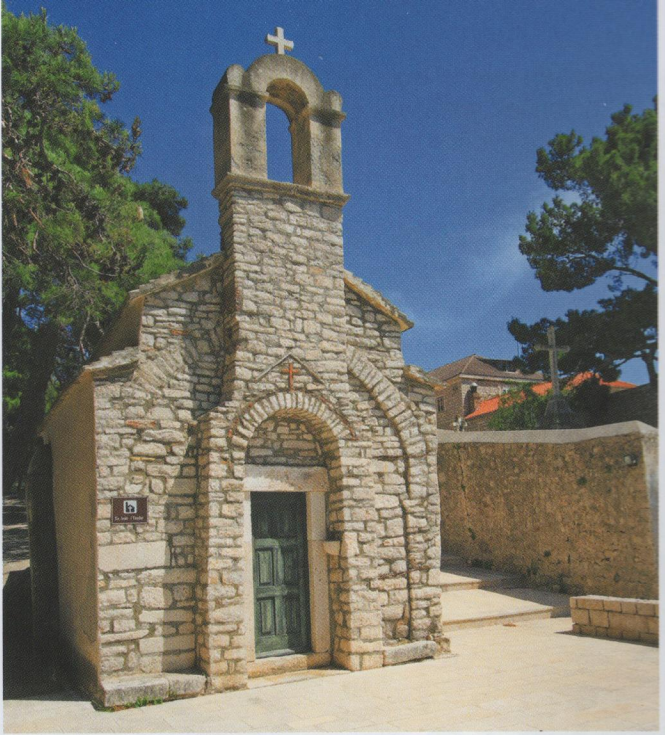


Bol is the oldest town (settlement) on the coast of the Island of Brač. It is situated on its own on the southern side of the island. Its history dates back to the beginning of the Christian era, if not earlier. Even back in ancient times it was inhabited. Above the renowned beach *Zlatni rat* (Golden horn) the remains of water reservoirs from Roman times have been preserved. A "Piscina", would have been part of a larger complex of ancient farm buildings (*villae rusticae*), and this is also illustrated by the walls found in the surrounding area. Roman gravestones have also been preserved from these times.



Bol is mentioned in the IX century in relation to Saracens arriving from Crete. It is then listed by sources in the XII century in concerning to a meeting of representatives of the island and the ecclesiastical authorities which was held in the bishop's palace in Bol in 1184, during which the *Povaljske listine* (the oldest Cyrillic document written in the Croatian language) was produced.





A number of churches built in the style of old-Croatian architecture have been preserved on Brač from this time. In Bol the most significant pre-Romanesque church is the Church of Sts. Ivan and Tudor. In the foundations of this church, on a Roman embankment, a complex of buildings from late antiquity has been discovered. Behind the half-columns of the present day church, pre-Romanesque frescos with ornamental content were discovered, while under the mortar of the church walls a piece of early Christian architecture has been preserved. An area from the VI century has been discovered in front of the church, whose entrance is at sea level.

On the eastern side of Bol harbour a fortified summer residence from the end of the XV and beginning of the XVI century stands out. It was built in the Venetian gothic style, and is a rare example of late gothic architecture on Brač. The office of the Tourist Board and public library are located in this building. On the facade there are two double lancet windows and a single lancet window.





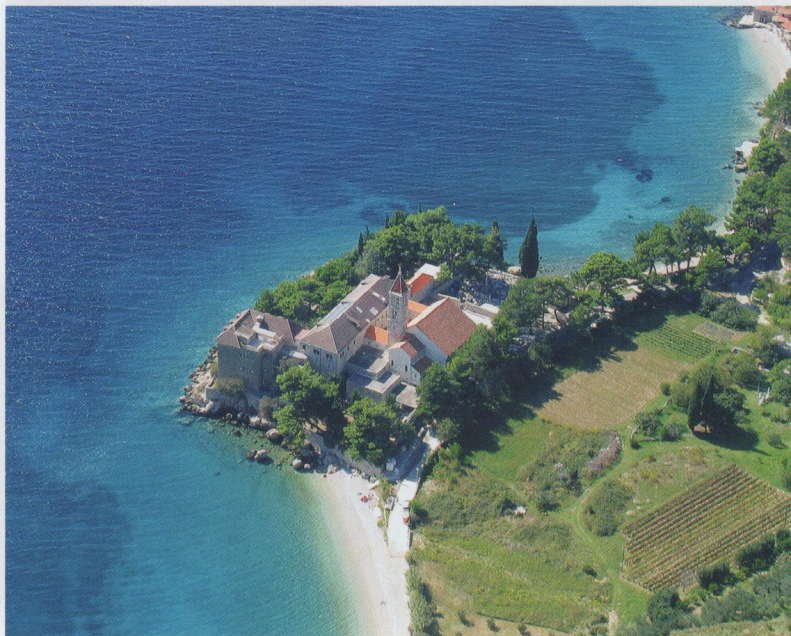
One of the most beautiful palaces in the Renaissance-baroque style on Brač is situated in the centre of the harbour. On the southern and eastern side it is decorated with lavish balconies, which are adorned with symbols of the sun and coats of arms of local nobility. Today the Branislav Dešković Art Gallery is housed in this palace.

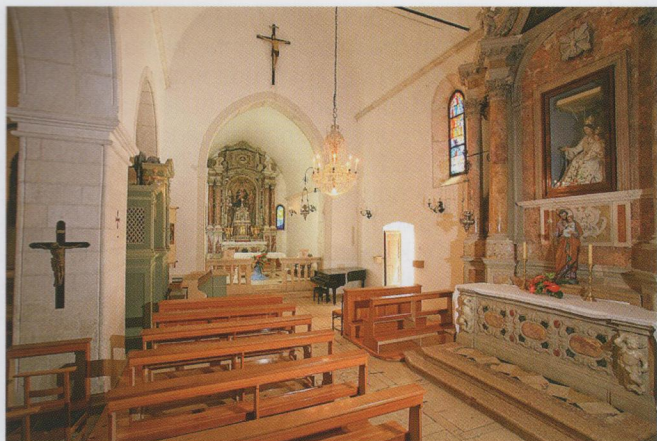


A fort for defence against Turkish pirates with significant fortifications and living quarters is situated on the western side of the harbour. It has lavish balconies on its eastern side and a strengthened facade on the southern side facing the sea. Today the fort has been converted into the Hotel Kaštil.



The complex of the Dominican monastery in Glavica deserves a special mention. At the meeting in the bishop's palace which is mentioned in 1184, the Dominicans founded a community of monks and searched for a location to build a monastery and church. In 1475 they built a monastery and new church consecrated to Our Lady of Mercy. In XVII century the inhabitants of Bol erected a new northern nave at their own expense. The bell tower along with the church itself was completed in the middle of the XVIII century. A picture of the Virgin Mary and Child surrounded by the saints connected with the history of the Church and Dominican order dominates the main altar. This painting was created in the workshop of the Venetian painter Jacob Tintoretto in 1563.



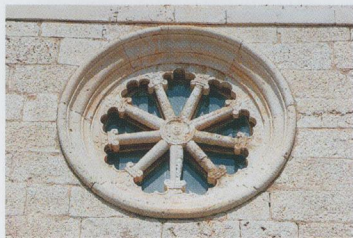


There is a valuable and beautiful engraved ornamental ceiling under the church choir loft. The wall is decorated with a painting by the Croatian baroque artist Trip Kokolje (1661 – 1713).

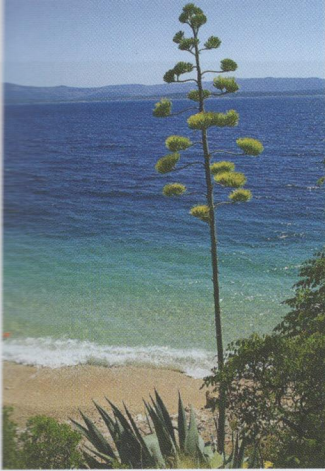
The Museum of the Dominican monastery houses exhibits from prehistoric and later periods: headstones, ceramics, an extensive coin collection, manuscripts, books, very old printed documents, church silver and priests' garments etc.

The collected works of sculptors and painters born on Brač, as well as those who spent time on the island either permanently or occasionally, can be found in the Branislav Dešković Gallery.



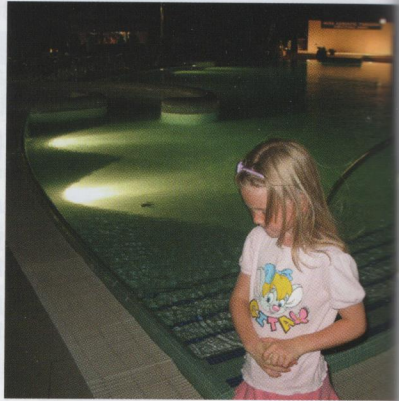


The parish church in the centre of Bol is consecrated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and was built in the baroque style. It was enlarged at the end of the XVIII century. It is renowned for its baroque architecture, and above the carved door there is a stone carving of an angel holding Veronica's shroud.

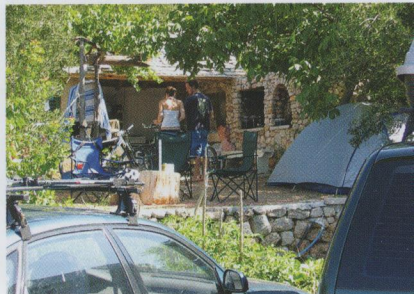


Bol was once a village of winemakers, fishermen and sailors, while today it is a first class tourist destination. It offers its visitors a range of quality hotels, villas, apartments, private accommodation and camping sites. Bol provides tourists with a clean sea, beautiful and spacious pebble beaches, a rich choice of food and cuisine and, above all, hospitality.





Bol has available 2,500 beds in hotel accommodation, 3,000 beds in private villas, apartments and rooms (for the most part air-conditioned, with their own parking and Satellite TV), and 300 places in campsites. There are also facilities for conference tourism.





In Bol excursions and tours of Brač and other neighbouring islands are also provided for visitors. Bol also offers a wide selection of water sports, 25 tennis courts, outdoor and indoor pools, beach volleyball, bicycle and pedestrian paths, rent-a-car, wellness centre, sauna, etc.



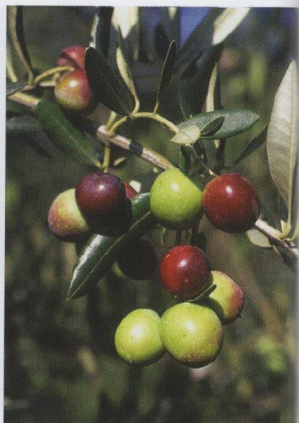
A variety of cultural events, shows, concerts, exhibitions and entertainment is organised throughout the summer in Bol.



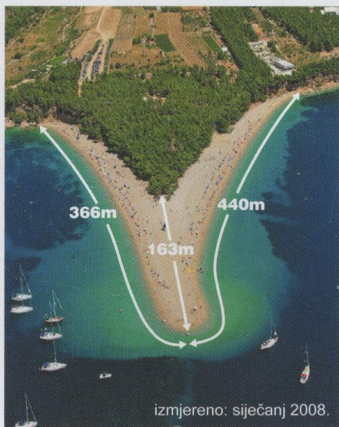


The airport is located on a plateau 10 km above Bol. There is a daily catamaran service from Bol to Split. You can travel by car on an asphalt road to Supetar or Sumartin, and then by ferry to Split or Makarska. There is also a bus service to Supetar.



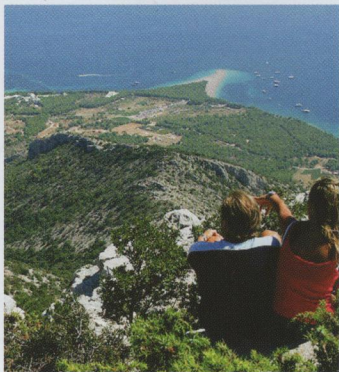


Today Bol has close to 2,000 inhabitants, while in the summer months it plays host to over 10,000 people. Aside from tourism, the inhabitants of Bol are involved in wine-making, olive growing and fishing.



The Zlatni Rat beach (Golden cape) is unique in the world. Like a little tongue it extends out nearly half a kilometre at a right angle to the sea. The tip of this renowned beach is constantly changing shape due to the effect of the waves and currents. Measurements have shown that every year the beach gets longer. The total surface area of the beach is 19,900 m², while the wooded part is 8,600 m². The beach is two kilometres from the centre of the village. The promenade to the beach is paved, and you can also reach Zlatni Rat by boat or tourist train.

The village of Bol has 58,950 m² of beach suitable for swimming. The total length of pebble beaches amounts to 3,650 metres. There is a special beach reserved for dogs, at the beginning of the promenade towards the Zlatni Rat beach.



Above Bol there is a mountain known as Vidova Gora (St. Vid's mount). It is 778 metres above sea level, and it is the highest peak in the Adriatic islands. On the top there is a sightseeing point with an unforgettable view of Bol and the neighbouring islands (Hvar, Vis, Korčula, Jabuka). There is an asphalt road to Vidova Gora, 26 km from Bol. However it can also be reached by a footpath which takes approximately 2 hours.

