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# Split

## NIGHT FEVER

### LOW KEY

**Luxor** (Peristil.) This café right in the heart of Diocletian's Palace fights running battles with the local authorities to let it have tables outside. Decent coffee whether you can sit outside or not, as well as a wonderful location.

### LIVE MUSIC

**Croatian National Theatre** (Trg Gaje Bulata. Tel. 021 585 999) This cultural edifice on the edge of Diocletian's Palace is home to an array of arts events, with theatre and classical music the highlights. It's also the leading light behind the Split Summer Festival ([www.hnk-split.hr](http://www.hnk-split.hr)).

### LATE & LIVELY

**Bacvice** (Bacvice Beach.) Massively popular modern nightlife complex south-east of the centre set on the bay of the same name. Myriad bars, cafés, restaurants and nightclubs. Great fun on hot summer evenings.

**Tropic Club Equador** (Kupaliste Bacvice. Tel. 021 323 571) Check out this smart, fun bar kitted out with colourful exotic décor, including palm trees and tropical murals. There is a fantastic view out on to the sea and when night falls it becomes the centre of Split's nightlife, with DJs and dancing until very late. ([www.tropic-club-equador.com](http://www.tropic-club-equador.com)).

## KEY AREAS

**Firule & Zenta** – Few tourists venture far away from the delights of Diocletian's Palace, but if you head east past the entertainment complex at Bacvice you can follow a path along the fringes of the Adriatic to Zenta, where Goran Ivanisevic once learned his trade in his embryonic tennis years.

**Kastelet** – This often ignored collage of fortified houses lines the coast between Trogir and Split. Head past the urban sprawl of the main road and discover these elegant old buildings, which enjoy a privileged position overlooking the Adriatic.

**Riva** – To give it its full name, this is actually Obala Hrvatskog Narodnog Preporoda—you can see why the locals prefer to call it the Riva. On a sultry summer's day this is the place to be as the long-legged locals promenade up and down,

straining to see and be seen as they swish past the pavement cafés. Take a seat, order a heart-starting macchiato and pose like a local.

## INSIDER'S TIPS

**Bargain bonanza** – If the prices of the tourist shops and fashion stores put you off shopping in Split, then head to the eastern flank of Diocletian's Palace. Here a lively and animated market offers fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as sun tops, sunglasses and other gear you might need at bargain prices. Plus the chance to barter to your heart's content.

**Culture vultures** – The month sees the city's biggest festival unfurl on to the streets of Split. The event is growing year on year with an array of cultural performances, both indoors and outdoors. Focusing predominantly on dance, theatre and opera, it has become one of the highlights of the Croatian cultural calendar. Check the event's website for a full program of events and where to buy tickets ([www.splitsko-ljeto.hr](http://www.splitsko-ljeto.hr)).

**Special brews** – These days many Croatians, especially younger ones, are opting for 'trendy' imported beers, which is a shame considering the local brews of Ozujsko (from Zagreb) and Karlovacko (from Karlovac in Central Croatia) are excellent. Perhaps less appealing to the tourist palette is Pan, advertised by local boy made good, Goran Ivanisevic. But when it hits 35c this summer, even the most particular drinkers will neck anything reasonably chilled.

## DAY TRIPPING

**Brac** – Only a half-hour ferry ride away from Split, this is an easily accessible island. Brac is famous for its high-quality stone and the island is littered with the quarries that helped build the White House in Washington and the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest. The main arrival point of Supetar is charming enough, but the crowds make for Bol where the Zlatni Rat (Golden Cape), perhaps the most famous beach in Croatia, awaits. In summer there are direct fast passenger ferries to Bol.

## NO WAY

Despite being an important port and the country's second city, Split escaped the bitter Homeland War in the early Nineties relatively unscathed. Tragically, there were fatalities from a brief period of naval bombardment, but Split was lucky enough to be away from the most serious fighting.

Compiled by **Jennifer Clarkson**