

10th UNICA PhD Master Class
Dubrovnik, 1-4 September 2019

NERETVA RIVER SAFARI

Social programme on Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Meeting point: CAAS lobby

Time: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 11:00

Bus: Pile at 11:15

The bus will take us up the coast to the Neretva River. On the way we shall stop in *Ston*, a small city famous for seashell cultivation since the days of the Roman Empire. Sailing on the wooden boat, we shall visit the oyster farms and have an unique opportunity to taste them.



We shall also visit the salt beds from the time of Dubrovnik Republic, few hundred years old, when the salt was called “white gold”. The area is divided in the groups of salt pools according to the evaporation. At the end of every summer, the salt is harvest and ready for distribution and sale. To learn more please visit:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ston>



After leaving Ston, we shall continue our ride to Neretva River. Running past towns and villages in Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Neretva spills out into the Adriatic Sea, building a delta of wetlands so rich, it is listed under the *Ramsar Convention* as internationally important. In this lower valley in Croatia, the Neretva River splinters into multiple courses, creating a delta covering approximately 12,000 hectares. The delta has been reduced by extensive land reclamation projects, and now the river flows in just three branches, a drop from the previous twelve. The marshes, lagoons and lakes that once dotted this plain have disappeared and only fragments of the old Mediterranean wetlands have survived. The area presents a variety of habitats, which form a beautiful and remarkable landscape. Wetlands, marshes and lagoons, lakes, beaches, rivers, hummocks (limestone hills) and mountains combine into a mosaic of natural habitats of the Neretva Delta, although five protected localities with a total surface of 1,620 ha already exist. These are the ornithological, ichthyologic reserves and the protected landscapes.



To learn more about endemic and endangered species and/or about cultural & historical background of the whole area please visit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neretva>

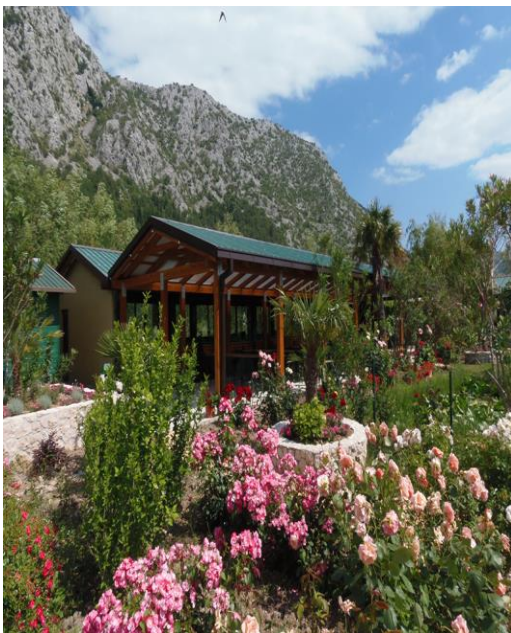
Near the city *Opuzen* we shall board the typical Neretva boat called *Ladja* and sail to the *Kuti Lake*. On the boat we shall taste some homemade grappa, liquors and dry figs.



Ladja has served for centuries as water vehicle which transported people, animals and farming produce. It was used for weddings, funerals etc. Because of its narrow size, it was able to enter every one of the rivers that flowed into the Neretva as well as the Neretva River itself. It can be said that the *ladja* to the Neretva represents the same significance as the gondola does to Venice. *Ladje* were used by the old Neretva pirates of yesteryear, who

terrorized these parts in the 10th century. With the modernization of life, ladje have almost become technologically redundant, and as a result became a relic.

After 45 minutes we shall arrive to the Restaurant „Adria“ situated on the lake in the untouched natural resort, a perfect place to work in the shade. The traditional Neretva dinner will be served around 7 p.m. We shall taste delicious prosciutto with cheese, frogs, eels, soft-shell crabs, grilled meat and homemade cakes. Drinks are included.



In the evening we shall return to Dubrovnik