

ROVINJ AND POREČ – THE PEARLS OF ISTRIA

One of the most 'photographed' towns in the Mediterranean, once a fishing village, today **Rovinj-Rovigno** is a tourist resort. Known as the town with favourable and beneficial climatic features is still 'fighting' for the title of 'healthy town'... The rest is nature's work. The whole coastline, with its twenty-two islands is an area of protected natural heritage. Feel the enchantment of the town in its narrow medieval streets and the warm Mediterranean setting. The main Church of St. Euphemia keeps relics of the saint and presents one of the most beautiful Baroque achievements in Istria. From the church plateau there is a wonderful view of the open sea. A visit to the Rovinj-Rovigno Town Museum and the town's many galleries will complete your cultural experience.



The city of **Poreč** carries the title of the most visited resort in both Istria and Croatia with a good reason. Although rewarded many times for its quality and popularity, those contented human rivers, which are flowing through the town every year, are even more precious for the city of Poreč and its inhabitants.

Poreč developed on a small symmetrical peninsula long before the arrival of the Histrians,

an Illyrian tribe. Today the centre of the old city is located on this small peninsula. With the arrival of the Histrians the area surrounding the present-day city was settled, and thanks to a naturally protected harbour the construction of a harbour-centre was enabled and Poreč could develop unhindered. Preserved records by Ancient Greek historians and geographers from the 6th and 4th centuries BC mention a small



fishing village, and archaeological findings tell us of the homes of the people of the time. A Roman settlement was constructed around the 2nd century BC which, with the natural harbour, developed into a military fort over time. The silhouette of a city is visible in the geometrically symmetrical placement of the streets. Poreč has one of the most magnificent early Byzantine churches in Europe called Euphrasius' Basilica after Euphrasius, the Bishop of Poreč, who in the 6th century commissioned the building The complex of the Euphrasian Basilica represents a significant global monument acknowledged by UNESCO organisation in the year 1997.

