

Get wild and woolly on Cres

What's the vibe?

No luxury resorts. No tourist traps. No souvenir shops. Instead, Cres has... sheep. Happy ones, that gallivant across the 66km-long island's rugged terrain. Think weather-beaten mountains, winding roads through forests of pine and ancient oak, and rocky footpaths zigzagging between dry stone walls.

What should I do?

Cres is a popular summer sailing destination, with most boats dropping anchor in Cres town, a busy port dotted with pastel-coloured houses. The unhurried fishing village of Valun has simpler charms. From here you can kayak across crystal-clear waters to hidden coves and beaches, or hike up to the ghostly quiet cliffside village of Lubenice and enjoy its panoramic views of the Istrian peninsula.

Who should I meet?

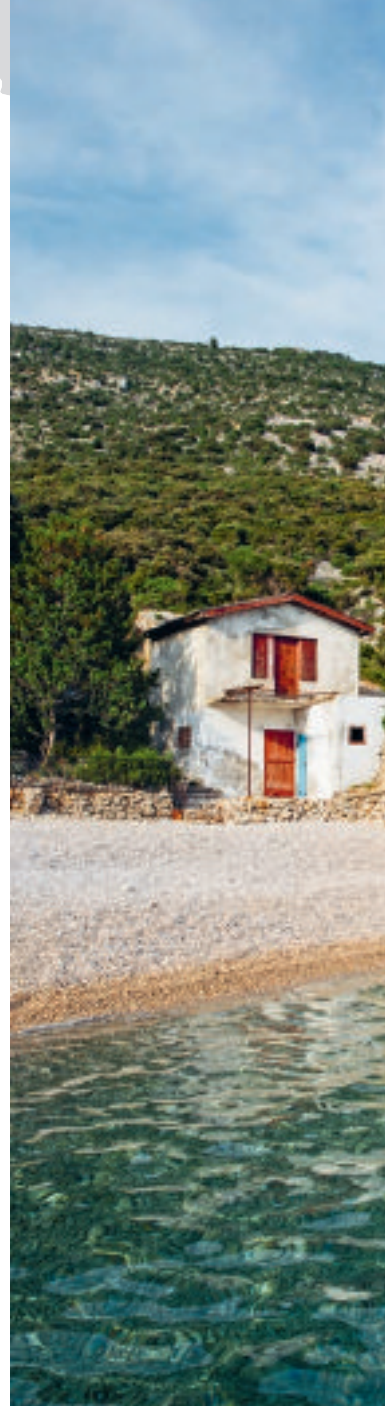
Artist Tea de Both offers a warm welcome to visitors at her quirky little sheep museum in Lubenice. It pays homage to the island's ovine population, with videos on cheese-making and sheep shearing, and toasty-warm wool slippers for sale.

Need to know...

Konoba Adria is a gem of a restaurant in the quaint town of Osor, by the bridge that links Cres to Lošinj. Seafood is caught fresh by the owner every morning and their vegan dishes – gnocchi zucchini and thyme sauce, beetroot and potato ravioli filled with spinach and sage – are some of the best in Croatia.

How do I get there?

Punctual car ferries make the scenic run from Brestova on the Istrian mainland to Porozina on Cres's north-western tip. It's a 20-minute ride.



Clockwise from top left One of Cres's many happy sheep; Lubenice Beach; sculptures in Osor town include this one by Croatian artist Ivan Meštrović; an afternoon's fishing; Tea de Both with some items from her sheep museum; Cres town; fresh seafood from Konoba Adria; on the ferry to Cres; exploring the sidestreets

