



# 4. Coast Lines

## *a wandering museum*

Alive and moving, physical and virtual path following traces of life by the Adriatic Sea.

A series of 15 specially designed installations are built throughout the city and region. They are connected by local transport, including boats to some islands. A necklace of historical/natural points of departure, placed at the root/home of each narrative. The guided tours are designed for active participation and coordinated travel (electric bus, boat, on foot).

The expertise of four museum institutions which manage the project guarantees the knowledge and relevance of the chosen sites. This synergy of museums, together with independent artists and tourist associations, produces cultural tourism services. The project inspires the museum institutions to be more open, more accessible, more experimental with “in situ” exhibitions.

We plan four *starting points* (Opatija, Rijeka, Crikvenica and Rijeka Airport), where it is possible to observe the live situation at all 15 locations, through onsite cameras transmitting to TV monitors displayed at each starting point. Here – as well as through a developed smartphone app – visitors get info about transportation and guides and reserve tickets for special programmes.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

**Lead Project Hosts:** National Museum of Tourism, Opatija, Natural History Museum, Rijeka, City of Rijeka Museum, Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral, Rijeka

**Local:** Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, (MMSU), Tourist boards and local governments at each of the 15 stations

**European:** NEMO – Network of European Museum Organisations, European Network of Open Air Museums, River/Cities Platform, Association of the Maritime Mediterranean Museums

**Supplementary funding sources:** Creative Europe – Culture, Ministry of Tourism Croatia, European Regional Development Fund – ERDF, local businesses in each chosen community

## IMPULSE

The sea has an immense meaning for people in and around Rijeka. Being a major climate driver, the Adriatic Sea has given unique life to the region – through sea trade, military exploitation and industrial production, through fishing and tourism. But the narrative of life on the seacoast is too diverse to be housed in one specific building. It encompasses the coastline, the mountains, the islands and bays, the urban port – all places that make a region unique in terms of natural and cultural heritage. For this reason we have chosen the format of a “wandering museum” – site-specific, maintained by local people, flexible and year round.

**Coast Lines** is trans-institutional, managed through a cooperation between the **Natural History Museum of Rijeka, City Museum of Rijeka, Croatian Museum of Tourism** and the **Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral**. It is multi-leveled, consisting of 1 national museum, 2 regional museums and 1 municipal museum. **Coast Lines** opens for a groundbreaking, cross-fertilising collaboration between our heritage institutions. A flexible, open-air, wandering museum becomes the point of encounter and re-interpretation for natural, human and historical heritage.

**Coast Lines** generates accessibility, facilitating links between local communities both urban, rural and coastal, celebrating tradition and rethinking the role of the sea in our lives. It reverses the relationship between hosts and tourists: tourists take part in the daily life of the hosts.

## PLACE

15 stations will be designed, built and maintained as part of **Coast Lines – a wandering museum**. Sites will be researched during the [ri:map] phase, when inter-disciplinary teams of researchers map the proposed historical/natural heritage that form the **Coast Lines** tour.

### 1. Bakar: Transport tunnel as an observatory

Bakar is a sea town with a rich cultural-historical heritage and an important natural history phenomenon. Unfortunately the whole area was devastated due to heavy industry in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The transport tunnel of the ex Coke Ovens that connects two parts of the Bakar bay will be turned into an observatory for marine life. This will also function in the reverse, as an aquarium where fish can observe people. An industrial remnant transforms into an exciting underwater walk.

### 2. Crikvenica: fishing innovations

Crikvenica is the birthplace of Ivan Skomerža who was the inventor of the fishing boat with engine drive. Mario Puratić, also from Crikvenica, invented the winch for pulling the fishing nets from the sea. All of these innovations can be presented in collaboration with City Museum of Crikvenica.

### 3. Mošćenička Draga: pagan Slavic mythology presented with Eco-museum Perun's World.

### 4. Volosko, Mandrač: arts town

### 5. Torpedo – Launching ramp: industrial heritage

The industrial heritage of Rijeka is largely concentrated along Milutin Barač Street – ex Industrial Street. Many of the buildings have been related to the sea. The most important heritage object is the launching ramp, used for testing torpedoes produced in a nearby factory. The torpedo was invented to protect the coast from attacks by sea. The test launching ramp, presently in disrepair but still an attraction for Rijekans and visitors, will be presented as a station along **Coast Lines**.

### 6. Rijeka Fish Market: a gastronomic re-interpretation, where the sea provides food

### 7. Baška: Buymer – Fishing Shelter

Buymer is a site in Vela Luka Bay near the town of Baška on the island of Krk, where a group of enthusiasts has re-built a fishermen's shelter and turned it into an historical object, although it can still be used for shelter in stormy weather or passing relaxed time with friends and locals.



Ivan Hrkaš, Trojka, 2015,  
courtesy of the author

#### 8. **Mali Lošinj:** Museum of Apoxiomen

Apoxiomen is a late antiquity bronze sculpture which was found in the sea as a part of a Roman shipwreck near the islet of Vele Orjule near Lošinj. This monumental sculpture is presented in the Kvarner Palace in the Town of Mali Lošinj.

#### 9. **Susak-Unije:** world of sand

Unije and Susak islands are exceptional from a bio-diversity aspect, with special sand brought by the river Po. These islands are exceptional because of language, natural history and culture. Boat trips connected to the **Coast Lines** tour will be arranged.

#### 10. **Lovran:** Maritime Architecture: a medieval port

Traditional boat *guc* can be seen in the local port – Lovranski mandrač. This port has the status of protected cultural site as an example of maritime architecture.

#### 11. **Novi Vinodolski-Zebar:** hotspot of the biological diversity.

#### 12. **Beli, on the island of Cres:** stars, poetry and vultures

Beli is a small historic hill town on the island of Cres. On the surrounding cliffs are nest of an unique population of Griffon Vultures.

#### 13. **Nerezine:** wooden shipbuilding

Long tradition of the wooden shipbuilding is presented by local experts who tell stories and give workshops.

#### 14. **Cres-Osor:** the strength of the wind

The creation of the town of Osor on the island of Cres was related to importance of the sea straits between the island of Cres and Lošinj where in antiquity Liburns who lived here dug a channel and physically created two islands.

#### 15. **Krk-Soline:** mud bath

Soline have been a sand export centre from the antique times. This Coast Line station is positioned at Soline beach, famous by its healing mud.

## TIMING

### *[ri:map] 2016-2017*

- ▶ Survey and interviewing local people
- ▶ a coordinated and interdisciplinary plan of interpretation for each station

### *[ri:learn] 2017-2018*

- ▶ research and inter-museum initiatives
- ▶ workshops in storytelling and interpretive guiding (professionals and volunteers)
- ▶ seminars for museum professionals
- ▶ commissioning to artists for the design of the stations – open call

### *[ri:invent] 2018-2020*

- ▶ construction of “stations” – installation spaces (5 annually)
- ▶ Total = 15 implemented designed and permanent installations

### *[ri:build] 2020-2021*

- ▶ opening of the completed “museo errante” – 15 “stations”
- ▶ establishing the first seasons with full itinerary
- ▶ international conference on open air museums and historical itineraries

## ACTION

The Lead Project Hosts prepare the ground for this nomadic project. However, it is the co-ownership of the local communities where the **Coast Lines** stations are built that gives the project its logic and meaning. In collaboration with local associations, local citizens will be interviewed, bringing their memories and observations into the presentations. They will also be engaged as volunteer guides and maintain the installations.

Each station is commissioned separately, through collaboration with the MMSU, to artists based on an Open Call. Each is individually designed, according to the genius loci of the chosen sites. They become permanent “public artworks”, with a common thread and identity.

The digital extension of **Coast Lines** is an essential element. Built into the design are instruments for tracking all events/stations online, searching information about programmes, transport, extra services, etc. The digital level of the project will be highlighted by 4 specifically chosen starting points for the **Coast Lines** tours. Further, each station will be observed by live cameras, transmitted both to the internet and to the starting points.

Other artists, craftsmen, pedagogues, scientists and lecturers are included. Performances, exhibitions, literary programmes, workshops for children, touristic routes and gastronomic festivals take place. New public transportation solutions (boat and bus lines that connect project elements) are debated and developed, according to the diversity of **Coast Lines** and environmental respect.

Some events linked to the stations along **Coast Lines**:

- ▶ The **Fiumare** programme (traditional gatherings of local associations related to maritime tradition) will be held at various locations.
- ▶ Performers of the **Music Festival Water** programme will highlight the stations annually.
- ▶ **La Mer 2020**, a massive sound/light spectacle, created especially for 2020, will coincide with at least one of the **Coast Lines** stations. It is performed by the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra together with the Rijeka Philharmonic Orchestra, a major high point of RI:2020.



