

## THE LIVING WALLS

What gives the Walls of Dubrovnik its authentic historic look is the living world that is incorporated in its stones. The fact that the fortification has become one with the surrounding nature is what makes the visitors feel that the Walls have been there since the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the bare lifeless walls left after renovation give the impression of a new building. Therefore, the project "Flora of the Walls of Dubrovnik" was implemented with the aim of collecting and presenting the data on all the plants that inhabit the Walls.

## GREEN RESTORATION

1. At least 50% of cracks and smaller gaps should be left, so they could serve as potential habitats for plants and animals in which they are not yet present.
2. If vegetation is present in small cracks and gaps it should not be removed and the cracks that provide habitat for them should be preserved.
3. Preserve bird nesting sites, either by leaving natural openings or by installing hollow blocks that look like stone and are suitable for birds nests.
4. Woody plants such as figs, oleanders and pitospores that grow from the Walls should be removed. When they reach full size they can cause significant damage to the Walls.

Association Biom was founded in 2006 and since then it has become one of the leading nature protection civil society organizations in Croatia. In the last ten years Biom has conducted more than 100 projects related to nature protection in all parts of Croatia, and became a member of the world's largest network for birds and nature protection, BirdLife International.

**Biom's mission is to preserve biodiversity for the benefit of nature and people.**

**The project was carried out by Association Biom with the co-financing of the City of Dubrovnik.**

Design: Nika Sviben  
Text: Tomislav Hudina  
Photographs: Biom, Dubravko Dender



Grad  
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City of  
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## CAPER

(*Capparis orientalis*)

The spiky caper or caper is a typical representative of the Mediterranean region. It is a shrubby plant that grows mostly in the cracks in walls. It blooms in spring with white to slightly pinkish fragrant flowers. The conserved caper buds, with its distinctive taste, are one of the characteristic ingredients of Mediterranean cuisine.



## SOUTHERN MAIDENHAIR

(*Adiantum capillus-veneris*)

Although this species is also a typical inhabitant of walls and cracks, it can also be found in rocky and wet habitats. The plant is easily recognizable by multiple lobed leaves with glossy black petioles. In mythology this species is often mentioned in stories about beauty, from which it got its Latin name, capillus-veneris, meaning hair of Venus.



## INULA

(*Inula verbascifolia*)

*Inula candida*, the former Latin name of this species, was inspired by the white leaves and stem with yellow flowers, associating the plant with a lit candle. It blossoms during the whole summer and is a common plant on rocks and cliffs, as well as on walls and roofs. Inula is a plant famous from the ancient times, as it is linked to the tales of Helen of Troy.



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77 recorded plant species, 2 of which are endemic



The samphire is a widespread and almost irreplaceable species. It's a typical representative of coastal vegetation and grows on the rocky slopes near the sea, in the harbors and on the walls and roofs of houses near the sea. This plant is edible and can be found on the menus of numerous restaurants as a supplement to various meals.

## SAMPHIRE

(*Crithmum maritimum*)



The Sea-lavender is one of two endemic species that grow on the Walls of Dubrovnik. Like other species of this genus it is a typical plant of the rocky coast and sunny cliffs near the sea. This species tolerates extremely high concentrations of salt and is therefore common in habitats exposed to splashing of the sea. Although the genus *Limonium* is spread all over the world, this particular species is endemic for the southern Adriatic region.

## SEA-LAVANDER

(*Limonium dactylophorum*)

