SWORD DANCE PROGRAMS

There are two types of sword dances on the island of Korčula.

One of these is Moreška, a double-sword battle dance between two armies to liberate a “bula” female. The clashing sword dance/drama is performed only in the town of Korčula and is accompanied by a brass band. The opening of the symposium on July 7 includes a performance of Moreška.

In addition to Korčula town, there are six villages on Korčula island with single-sword dance groups (Žrnovo, Pupnat, Čara, Smokvica, Blato, and Vela Luka). The single swords (17th century vintage) are held between the men as they perform linked formations, accompanied by a bagpipe and drum. Within the symposium schedule, there are excursions to observe kumpanija sword dances in Smokvica, Pupnat, and Blato villages.

MOREŠKA

SMOKVICA VILLAGE

One of the five oldest villages that features a centuries-long continuity of the single-sword kumpanija dance is Smokvica village. As are the other four oldest villages with sword dance groups, Smokvica village is located within the interior hills of the island, not visible from the sea. On the western side of the island the village economy is based on wine.

LASTOVO ISLAND

A full-day excursion is to neighboring Lastovo island – July 12 (Saturday). The trip includes bus travel across the length of Korčula island to the port of Vela Luka, two-hour travel by ship to Lastovo island where we continue by bus to view historical features of this island that was under centuries of Dubrovnik.

PUPNAT VILLAGE
During the symposium week, there will be an excursion to observe the kumpanija sword dance in the village of Pupnat. More information is pending.