CROATIAN CORAL CENTER ZLARIN

Welcome to the Croatian Coral Center Zlarin

The museum is dedicated to corals and the centuries-old tradition of coral harvesting on Zlarin. It follows the past, present, and future of the "red gold" presented on four floors of this fascinating historical house.

Coral grows at depths of 30 to 200 meters on solid rocks, caves, and similar locations with less light, rarely attaching to sandy and gravelly bottoms.

Contrary to common assumptions, there is no coral on Zlarin! This is why the islanders ventured into the open sea in search of coral branches. Despite fears of the sea and storms, they sailed for months, from north of the Adriatic Sea to Greece, in search of the treasure that nourished generations.

TIP: For the best visiting experience, follow the marked points and directions.

LEGENDA

AR: AUGMENTED REALITY

LISTEN & WATCH
The audio is in Croatian; the subtitles are in English.
If there is no sound, click on the note on the screen.

VR: VIRTUAL REALITY

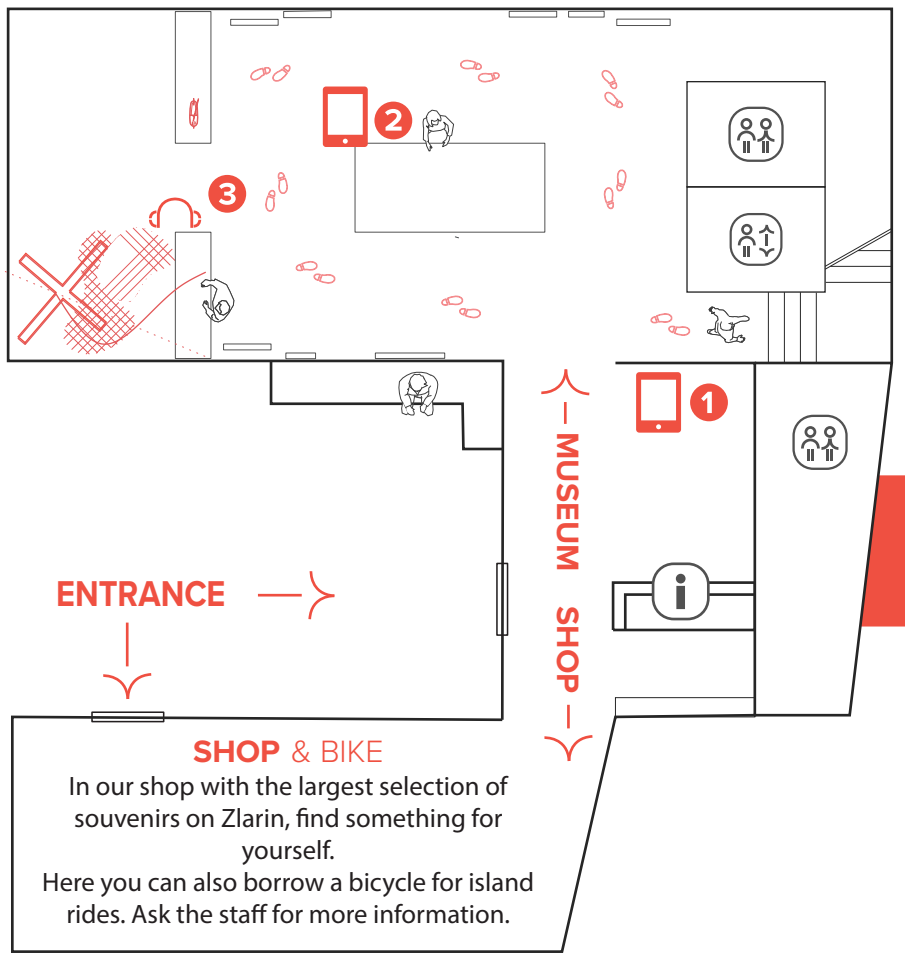
INTERACTIVE TOOL

INFO

LIFT

WC

Ground floor: THE STORY OF AN ISLAND



SHOP & BIKE
In our shop with the largest selection of souvenirs on Zlarin, find something for yourself.
Here you can also borrow a bicycle for island rides. Ask the staff for more information.

1 MEDUSA'S BLOOD
According to legend, red coral was formed from Medusa's spilled blood and its connection with humans is as old as civilization.
Watch the animation!

2 THE SHIPWRECK
The remains of a 1st century trading ship were found underwater near Zlarin, indicating that the island was part of a network of trade routes even back then.

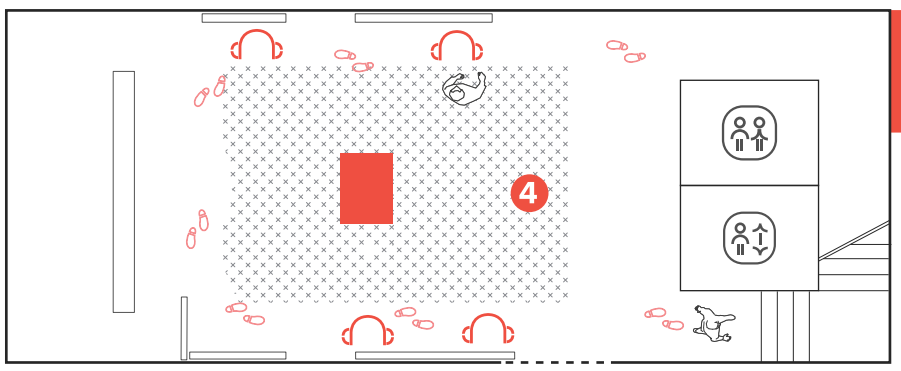
3 CORAL HUNTING
How hard was it to find corals? How were they extracted? With what tools? At what cost? Watch the animations, listen, and learn.

THE TREASURE CHEST
The museum contains **the original chest** in which the corals were transported to island. The front keyhole you see is fake. The real one is well hidden. The chest served like a safe, preventing corals from falling into the wrong hands.

IF WALLS COULD SPEAK
The Kažerma house, where the museum is located, has been a private residence throughout history, temporary accommodation for families searching for a home, a prison, a disco, and a museum. It was also a coral workshop and a library, serving as a cultural space for various events.

4 LOOK UP!
A fresco was found during construction work and have been preserved in its original state. It's not known exactly how old it is, but it's likely been there since the construction of the house in the early 19th century.

1st floor: MAN AND CORAL

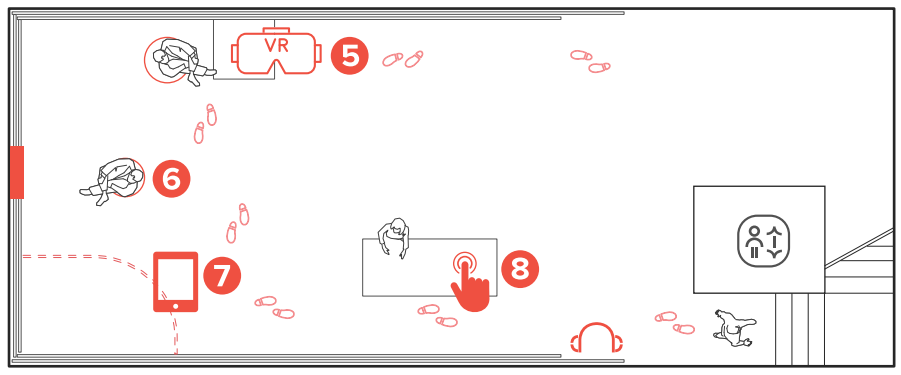


SLOW AND STEADY
Red coral grows at a rate of 4 to 8 mm per year in length. For comparison, humans grow 5 to 5.5 cm per year until the age of six.

5 THE WORLD OF THE CORAL REEF
Corals feed on plankton and are specially equipped to hunt these tiny organisms. They wait patiently to catch micro-particles carried by ocean currents. Put on VR glasses and dive into the virtual underwater world!

6 BRAVE DIVERS
Sit down and listen to stories about the beginnings and development of diving equipment. Did you know that divers and their assistants on the boat communicated through a signal rope called a 'pašaman'? Sometimes misinterpretation occurred, leading to serious consequences for the diver.

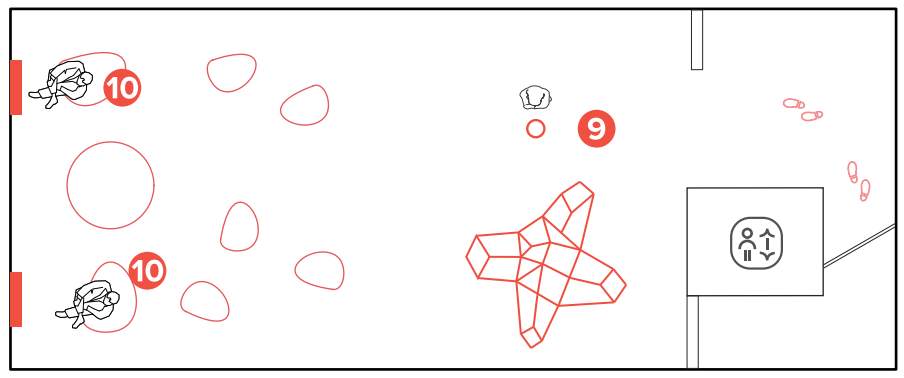
2nd floor: RED GOLD



7 HUMAN IMPACT
Human impact on oceans and seas has reached a critical level. Lost fishing gear, global warming and plastic irreversibly destroy marine life. Microplastics accumulate in marine creatures and travel through the food chain to our tables.

8 THE LIFE OF THE ŠIBENIK ARCHIPELAGO
Explore the richness of flora and fauna in the Adriatic. Play with the round tiles on the table, learn about endangered species and discover recipes for cooking delicious Dalmatian dishes.

3rd floor: RETURNING CORAL TO THE SEA



9 INTERACTIVE CORAL SCULPTURE
Approach and bring it to life with your breath. Corals play an important role in preserving marine life — here you can learn more about it.

10 IN THE END
Play an educational game or be inspired by the poetry of the most famous Zlarin poet Vesna Parun.

DID YOU KNOW?
Zlarin is **the first plastic-free island in Croatia**! This initiative has prompted many to think and change their habits, no longer using single-use plastics.



THE RED CORAL
Marino Kvarantan