

Korcula Cathedral, Korcula Island, Croatia

Denomination: Roman Catholic.

Status: Parish Church. Part of the Diocese of Dubrovnik.

Visited by: Bruce and Elspeth Lindsay with daughter Emma Stewart.

Date of visit: 21 May 2018.

Korcula old town is built on a low round hill on a promontory no more than 300 yards long and 170 yards wide. The buildings are of cream / white stone with red pantiles and make an impressive sight as the eye rises upward from the sea. At the top of the hill, and dominating the town from every viewpoint, is the Cathedral or Church of Saint Mark.



Korcula was the seat of a bishop from 1300 until 1828, when Pope Leo XII reorganised the Adriatic dioceses, abolishing the Diocese of Korcula. The people of Korcula did not take kindly to this change in status and for a while enjoyed the less prestigious title of 'mitred abbey', until that was abolished in 1971. The matter still rankles in the minds of many folk to this day! The lady who welcomed us into the building, when asked, insisted it is still a Cathedral.

The present building dates back to 1406. Inside, it is a true treasure trove and architectural masterpiece of its day. The adjoining bell tower is open to members of the public who, for a small fee, have the opportunity to climb a very narrow spiral stair to enjoy a marvellous view of the town and surrounding area. In the baptistery, on the ground floor of the tower, there is a twentieth century bronze statue of the resurrected Christ. A service is held in the Church every day of the year.

