

Škaljarsko kolo

(Montenegro)

On the south Adriatic coast in Boka Kotorska, Montenegro, live Croats whose ancestors emigrated to this region in the early 9th century. A port on the Adriatic, the dances from this region are majestic, elegant, and simple, and are similar to dances from other port cities which reflect a western European and Mediterranean influence. There were few opportunities to dance, mostly for church celebrations, holidays, and weddings, and then only in public gathering places. The musical accompaniment was traditionally a mandolin, but today they are mostly brass bands. Željko Jergan learned this dance from Vladimir Šoć, the most well-known ethnomusicologist from this region, in 1978. The name translates as "dance from Škaljari," Kotor region.

Pronunciation: shkah-lee-JAHR-skoh koh-loh

Music: Tape: "Let's Dance" by Skitnice, Side B/2
CD: "A Road Less Traveled" by Skitnice, Band 13.

Rhythm: 6/8 meter counted: 1-2-3 4-5-6
1 & 2

Formation: Closed circle of cpls (W on MR side) with hands joined in W-pos; W has handkerchief in R hand. The dance can be done as cpls or individuals.

Styling: Elegant and majestic, with small bounce in the cadence. When hands are free, M tuck thumbs in front of belt; W have handkerchief in R hand waving it above head, while back of the L wrist is on hip.

Meas

Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I

1-8 Facing and moving L (RLOD), beg L, dance 8 two-steps fwd.

FIGURE II

1-2 Still moving L (RLOD), step L, R, L fwd (cts 1,2,1); touch R fwd, pivoting to face R (LOD) (ct 2).

3-4 Repeat with opp ftwk and direction. (RLR, touch L)

5 Step on L to L, turning to face slightly R of ctr (ct 1); touch R fwd (ct 2).

6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction. (R to R, touch L)

7-8 M (thumbs in belt): Releasing hands, step L, R, L, turning L (CCW) once in place (cts 1,2,1); close R beside L (ct 2).

(7) W: L hand on hip, R hand waves kerchief above head. Step L, R fwd twd ctr, moving twd inside of circle in front of M (cts 1,2).

(8) Step L, R, turning 1/2 L (CCW) to face ptr (cts 1,2).

Note: Cpls are now in a double circle with W on the inside of circle with back to ctr. Ptrs face.

Škaljarsko kolo—continued

FIGURE III

M thumbs in belt; W waves kerchief in air.

- 1-2 Moving to own L, step L, R, L fwd (cts 1,2,1); touch R fwd and clap hands at shldr level, pivoting to face slightly R of fwd (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction. (RLR, touch L)
- 5 Step on L to L, facing slightly R of fwd (ct 1); touch R fwd (ct 2).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction. (R to R, touch L)
- 7-8 Step L, R, L, turning L (CCW) once in place (cts 1,2,1); close R beside L (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. End facing ptr.

FIGURE IV

- 1 Joining R hands slightly above head level, step (rock) fwd on L with R shldrs adjacent, hands raise high (ct 1); step back on R to place (ct 2).
- 2 Step (rock) bkwd on L (ct 1); step fwd on R to place (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1 with same ftwk, but with L shldr adjacent.
- 5-6 Beg L, do 4 two-steps fwd, beg to exchange places by passing L shldrs.
- 7-8 With 2 more two-steps, turn R (CW) in place to end facing ptr. You have now exchanged places.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 once more in exchanged places to end in orig pos (M back to ctr).

Reform circle and repeat dance form beg one more time. End dance in double circle with W back to ctr. End dance with M bowing and W curtsy holding skirts.

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw 10-98
Presented by Željko Jergan