

‘Croatia and Beyond’ - Adriatic Adventure

From charming **Ljubljana**, to renowned **Lake Bled** and **River Soca**, we move on to Croatian Tuscany to discover the towns of **Rovinj** and **Motovun**. We then continue to **Plitvice Lakes** by passing through **Opatija**, the former vacation resort of the Hapsburg family. This is followed by a drive down the Dalmatian Coast, with its rocky coast line, olives tree plantations, delicious food and splendid cities, such as **Zadar**, **Trogir** and **Split**, island hopping on **Hvar**, exploring **Mostar** and the breathtaking river **Neretva**, ending up in the far south, in unarguably one of the most beautiful cities in the world, in **Dubrovnik**. There is something intriguing around every corner of our Adriatic Adventure tour - enjoy every bit of the way.

Itinerary

- Day 1 – Departure
- Day 2 – Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Day 3 – Ljubljana/Bled, Slovenia
- Day 4 – Rovinj/Porec/ Motovun, Croatia
- Day 5 – Rovinj/Opatija, Croatia
- Day 6 – Plitvice, Croatia
- Day 7 – Zadar/Split, Croatia
- Day 8 – Trogir/Split, Croatia
- Day 9 – Split/ Hvar, Croatia
- Day 10 – Mostar, BiH
- Day 11 – Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Day 12 – Dubrovnik/Mljet, Croatia
- Day 13- Dubrovnik/Kotor, Monte Negro



Highlights:

Ring the enchanted bell on **Bled Island**. Take a cable car to the top of majestic **Mt Vogel in the Slovenian Alps**. Meander through the Venetian-influenced lanes and cobbled squares of **Rovinj** in search of a delicious seafood meal. Truffle your way through **Motovun**. Indulge in the Hapsburg flair in **Opatija**. Listen to the enchanting sounds of the Musical Organ in **Zadar**. Bargain for lunchtime delicacies at the colourful markets just outside the **Split** palace walls. Witness the remains of the Yugoslav war in **Mostar**. Go island hopping to **Hvar**. Walk along the famed city walls of **Dubrovnik** to get great views of the Adriatic Sea. Lose yourself in the deep South of **Monte Negro**.

Day 1: Departure

Departure via scheduled air service (specific flight details to be discussed), including full meal, beverages and in flight entertainment.



Day 2: Architectural Riches of Ljubljana

Pick up at airport and meet with your Tour Bus and Tour Manager. Take a brief orientation of the political and cultural heart of Slovenia, and enjoy the architectural adventures of native born architect Jože Plečnik. Stroll along the charming streets filled with cafes, shops and restaurants and soak up the lively feel of the city centre.

Day 3: Slovenian Lakes & Alps

Take a short drive into Slovenia's Julian Alps that brings you to the azure jewel of Lake Bled. Explore the lake and then take a scenic, winding, mountain-pass drive to the breathtaking Soča River Valley where you discover the beauties of this wonderful place. There is the chance to get active in this area with canoeing, caving and cycling. Return to Ljubljana for overnight.

Day 4 and 5: Croatian Tuscany

Follow Slovenia's small piece of Adriatic coast on your way to Croatia's Istrian peninsula. You will be based in Rovinj and spend two days exploring the northern part of Croatia, studded with Roman ruins, Venetian architecture, and a landscape evocative of pre-tourist Tuscany. Sail through the Lim Fjord and meander the cobbled streets of lively Porec. Taste your way through truffle specialties, olives, smoked cheeses, oysters and Istrian wines.





Day 6 – Truffles & Hapsburg Cakes

Head through the heart of Istria, past sleepy old villages and dynamic resorts. Stop in Motovun, an ancient Istrian acropolis town located atop a 277 meter high hill. Visit a culinary workshop and taste test the regional mouth-watering specialties of truffles and smoked ham. Continue to Opatija known for beautiful nature, parks, and old Austrian villas reflecting the strong influence of the Hapsburg dynasty, seaside promenade and beaches. Enjoy a short orientation tour of this imperial jewel and head towards Plitvice Lakes.

Day 7: Cascades & Waterfalls

Hike along rustic boardwalk trails connecting the idyllic forests, lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice National Park. Explore the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation where each of the falls is at a different elevation. Continue down to Split and on the way stop in Zadar and listen to the sea organ before you drive to the artistic town of Trogir, home to its very own fortress, as well as a high concentration of palaces, churches and towers.



Day 8: The Roman Heart of Split

Enjoy a city tour featuring the historic inner city, built around Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. See remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle and the Cathedral. Lose yourself in the maze of cobbled streets and quaint coffee houses.



Explore on your own....

Day 9: Dalmatian Island Hopping

Climb aboard a boat bound for the famous Dalmatian island of Hvar. Situated on a little harbor and backed by hills covered with lavender and rosemary, soak up the sun on one of its pristine rocky beaches or sail out to a nearby island to find a more secluded spot. Nature and spectacular Venetian architecture are what makes this island truly unforgettable, so why not rent a bike or hike through the hills to uncover the magic on your own.

Day 10: Bridges and Towers

Start the day with a scenic drive into the rugged beauty of the Neretva Valley. Overnight in Mostar, the regional capital during the Ottoman Empire, this history evident today in the city's skyline – punctuated by graceful minarets – and in the ancient cobblestone streets of the bazaars. View the remains of the town reduced to rubble during the Yugoslav wars and its famous Turkish bridge, now reconstructed. This day will take you from Croatia into Bosnia and Herzegovina, to witness both another culture and the tragedies of the Balkan conflict. Accommodation in Mostar.

Day 11: Dazzling Dubrovnik

After a scenic drive along the Dalmatian coast, pass by some of the most popular tour resorts, olive groves, vineyards, dramatic cliffs and sandy beaches, head towards Dubrovnik. With its stunning location on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, its carefully preserved and restored icons and its charm, medieval walls, glistening domes, dramatic arches and more, discover



Day 12 & 13: The Gems of the Adriatic

Pick from a number of exciting activities near this Dalmatian city choose from, (1) a cruise to the island of Mljet to explore the island, take a dip in the warm waters of the Adriatic and enjoy a seafood lunch; or (2) take a full day excursion into Montenegro seeing the picturesque private island of Sveti Stefan, the fortified coastal town of Budva

Day 14: Departure

Departure to airport. Flight via scheduled air service (specific flight details to be discussed).