

BEST OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA 11 Days 2 Countries 7 Cities

EXPLORE THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF A SCENIC REGION SHAPED BY TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Zagreb

Embark on an off-the-beaten track discovery of Croatia. The capital city of Zagreb is your springboard to an enchanting journey through what was once a troubled region and is today a land of diverse cultures and traditions. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers this evening for a Welcome Reception and evening orientation drive.

- ★ Hotel - Hilton Garden Inn/Park 45
- ★ Included Meals - Welcome Reception

Day 2 Zagreb Sightseeing – Bled (2 Nights)

Spend the morning exploring Zagreb with a 'Local Specialist' before travelling through romantic landscapes to the lakeside resort town of Bled, where we'll stay the next two nights.

- ★ Hotel - Park
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 3 Bled Orientation and Free Time

Enjoy some free time today to connect with this enchanting setting, but not before you sail on Lake Bled's crystal-clear waters to Bled Island to view its Church of the Assumption. Spend the rest of the day exploring on your terms, or consider joining an Optional Experience to Slovenia's largest glacial lake. This evening, savour local Slovenian flavours as you 'Connect With Locals' at a traditional 'Be My Guest' dinner with a local family.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Be My Guest

Day 4 Bled – Ljubljana – Opatija (2 Nights)

We leave the beauty of Bled behind for one of Europe's smallest capitals. Embark on an orientation tour of Ljubljana this morning, admiring its Old Town, bridges and Castle. We continue to the seaside resort of Opatija.

- ★ Hotel - Remisens Kristal
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 5 Pula and Rovinj Excursion and Opatija Free Time

Seaside splendour is on the agenda today and you'll start your day in the coastal city of Pula on Croatia's Istrian Peninsula. Visit Pula's 1st-century arena, with your 'Local Specialist', and learn about the city's role as a strategic location for the Romans, Ostrogoths, Venetians and the Allied Forces in World War II, before heading to the fishing port of Rovinj. Wander through the Old Town and witness its Mediterranean influences. We return to Opatija for some time on our own. See the statuesque nymph, her hand outstretched to cradle a seagull as a symbol of this region, and admire the belle-époque architecture.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 6 Opatija – Plitvice

The extraordinary natural beauty of Plitvice lakes centre stage today as we embark on a guided walking tour. Admire the cascade of spectacular waterfalls and crystal-clear waters reflecting green, grey and blue against the lush landscapes. Enjoy dinner at your hotel.

- ★ Hotel – Jezero
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Plitvice – Trogir – Split (2 Nights)

Today, we visit the walled island of Trogir with a 'Local Specialist'. The stone town is connected to the mainland and the island of Čiovo by bridges and will delight lovers of art, and Renaissance, Baroque and Romanesque architecture. We continue our journey to Split, where we'll join a 'Local Specialist' for a sightseeing tour, which includes entry into Diocletian's Palace, built for the emperor's retirement. Spend the evening on your own, or join an Optional Experience to enjoy traditional Dalmatian flavours.

- ★ Hotel - Atrium
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 8 Split Free Day or Optional Excursion to a Dalmatian Island

Delve into centuries of heritage on this free day in Split. Consider a full-day Optional Experience to one of the Dalmatian islands. Ascend the bell tower for magnificent views of the sprawling terracotta roofs and white marble façades that edge onto the Adriatic. Or savour the city's delicious gastronomy at cafés tucked away in hidden lanes.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 9 Split – Ston – Dubrovnik (2 Nights)

The terracotta rooftops of Dubrovnik beckon, but not before we stop to admire the extraordinary walled city of Ston, with its dramatic views and laid-back fishing village atmosphere. 'Dive Into Culture' and visit Europe's oldest salt pans where you'll hear how salt has been harvested here since ancient times. We continue to Dubrovnik this evening.

- ★ Hotel - Grand Park
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 10 Dubrovnik Sightseeing

Tread in the footsteps of Lord Byron and George Bernard Shaw, who were intoxicated by the allure of Dubrovnik. With your 'Local Specialist', you'll embark on a sightseeing tour past the Rector's Palace, Onofrio's Fountain and the

Franciscan and Dominican monasteries, before spending time on your own. As our journey comes to an end, join your travel companions for a Farewell Dinner.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Day 11 Depart Dubrovnik

Our time together comes to an end this morning after breakfast. Transfers are available to Dubrovnik Airport. Conditions apply.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

ABOUT THIS TRIP

What's included

- **10 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **14 MEALS** 10 Breakfasts, 4 dinners (including Be My Guest)
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** All Transport Land transportation included. Where applicable, Intra-air between cities are not included.

The Trafalgar difference

- **CONNECT WITH LOCALS** On their fifth-generation-owned family farm in Bled, you'll enjoy an exclusive 'Be My Guest' dinner and guided walk around the farm with Monika, Gregor, their children and the resident farm animals. (Day 3)
- **DIVE INTO CULTURE** In Ston, visit the salt pans that date back to the 2nd century BC and are surrounded by expansive fortifications still intact to this day. (Day 9)
- **LOCAL SPECIALIST** For included sightseeing in Zagreb, Pula, Rovinj, Trogir, Split and Dubrovnik

Sightseeing highlights

- **ORIENTATION** of Ljubljana, Bled, Opatija and Ston
- **VIEW** the Park of Sv. Jakov in Opatija and the lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice National Park
- **SCENIC CRUISE** to Bled Island
- **VISIT** the Church of Assumption on Bled Island, the arena in Pula, Plitvice National Park, Diocletian's Palace in Split and the salt pans in Ston
- **SEE** Zagreb's Ban Jelačić Square, the Opera House and Castle of Ljubljana and the Old City of Dubrovnik

Travel highlights

- ✓ Audio Headsets for flexible sightseeing
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- ✓ Optional Experiences and free time
- ✓ Must-see sightseeing and surprise extras
- ✓ All hotel tips, charges and local taxes
- ✓ VIP entry to many sights
- ✓ Daily breakfast and up to half your evening meals
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted
- ✓ All portorage and restaurant gratuities
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and professional Driver
- ✓ Handcrafted Highlights