



Pearls of Dalmatia

With Dubrovnik & the Island of Hvar

Independent, democratic Croatia welcomes visitors eager to absorb its remarkable history and culture – and its beautiful and unspoiled Dalmatian coastline. As our small group travels from historic Zagreb and beautiful Lake Bled to the Habsburg resort of Opatija, the island of Hvar, and beloved Dubrovnik, we see why this cherished region lays such a claim on the hearts of all who visit.

With an Post-Tour Extension: Montenegro

Itinerary

Created on Apr 4, 2024

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Zagreb, Croatia

DAY 2: Arrive Zagreb

After a connecting flight in Europe, we arrive in Zagreb and transfer to our hotel. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned for today.

Accommodations: Amadria Park Hotel Capital

DAY 3: Zagreb

This morning's tour of the Croatian capital by coach and on foot reveals a gracious city of culture and hospitality. We stroll through Old Town; visit the Croatian Museum of Naïve Art, showcasing the work of naïve artists of the 20th century; and taste traditional Štrukle pastry. After calling on the colorful Dolac open-air market, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner.

Accommodations: Amadria Park Hotel Capital

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: Zagreb/Ljubljana, Slovenia

Departing by coach this morning, we arrive in the Slovenian capital in time for lunch on our own. An afternoon walking tour reveals the heart of this friendly mid-sized city of romantic bridges, ornate façades, pedestrian zones, and abundant parkland. We dine this evening at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Eurostars uHotel Ljubljana

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: Ljubljana/Lake Bled

This morning we visit Bled, Slovenia's popular resort town whose namesake lake is the stuff of fairy tales. Sitting in the foothills of the Julian Alps with a medieval castle perched above its emerald-green waters, Lake Bled draws visitors and locals alike. We tour the castle then enjoy a leisurely boat ride around the placid mile-wide lake. After this relaxing interlude, we return to Ljubljana with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Accommodations: Eurostars uHotel Ljubljana

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6: Ljubljana/Postojna/Opatija, Croatia

En route to Opatija today, we stop to explore Postojna Cave, the almost 13-mile-long karst cave system where an electric train takes us deeper than is possible in any other cave in the world. Then after free time here for lunch on our own, we continue on to Opatija, the seaside resort where Habsburg princes once vacationed. Upon arrival, we explore the “Opatija Riviera” on a walking tour of this modern-day resort town nestled between green forested hills and the cobalt Adriatic. We dine together tonight.

Accommodations: Amadria Park Hotel Milenij

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Opatija/Istrian Peninsula

Today’s tour of the Istrian Peninsula reveals the multicultural roots of this alluring spit of land jutting into the Adriatic. At various times a vassal of Venice, the first Austro-Hungarian Empire, Fascist Italy, the Yugoslav Federation, and finally, Croatia, Istra, as it is known, boasts an interesting history, mild Mediterranean climate, lovely scenery, and good wines. Our first stop is in the port of Pula, where we visit the well-preserved remains of a Roman amphitheater (c. 177 BCE). Next is Rovinj, a charming old Venetian port where we are free to explore on our own and perhaps enjoy lunch at an outdoor café. After returning to Opatija late this afternoon, we dine together tonight at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Amadria Park Hotel Milenij

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8: Opatija

Today we visit nearby Moscenicka, a one-time fishing village that now draws visitors to its tranquil port and beautiful pebble beaches. After lunch together, we return to Opatija where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Accommodations: Amadria Park Hotel Milenij

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9: Opatija/Plitvice Lakes/Trogir

We travel south this morning for an excursion to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Famed for its string of 16 turquoise-colored lakes connected by a series of waterfalls and cascades, separated by distinctive travertine deposits, and surrounded by dense forests, Plitvice counts as one of UNESCO’s first natural sites and Croatia’s largest national park. Late afternoon we depart for Trogir, arriving early this evening in time for dinner at our hotel.

Accommodations: Hotel Trogir Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10: Trogir/Split/Hvar

This morning we travel to Split, the main city of the central Dalmatian Coast and home of 3rd-century Diocletian's Palace. As we see on our guided tour, the palace, and eventually its ruins, formed the historic heart of picturesque Split. After time for lunch on our own, we board a ferry for the two-hour cruise to Hvar, "queen" of the Dalmatian islands. Upon arrival we travel by coach to lively Hvar Town, where we spend the next two nights. We dine tonight at a local restaurant just a short walk from our hotel.

Accommodations: Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11: Hvar

With captivating natural beauty and a strategic Adriatic location, Hvar has prospered since antiquity. We discover some of its charms this morning, first with a walking tour of Venetian-tinged Hvar Town then with a walking tour of nearby Stari Grad, one of Croatia's oldest cities and where we also have time to wander on our own. Then we visit a local winery for a tasting and lunch.

Accommodations: Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12: Hvar/Dubrovnik

We continue our journey south today, leaving Hvar for the mainland then traveling along the scenic Dalmatian coast to popular and beloved Dubrovnik. We stop along the way for lunch before reaching our hotel late this afternoon. Tonight we enjoy dinner together.

Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13: Dubrovnik

Today we explore Dubrovnik on a walking tour through the Old City. Along the way, we visit the stately Baroque Cathedral (c. 1672). We also see the Treasury, whose gilded shelves and historic relics sit behind locked wooden doors, and the Franciscan monastery with its 14th-century pharmacy. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore as we wish, with lunch and dinner on our own. Dubrovnik offers discoveries aplenty to fill the remainder of our day, including the tiny synagogue dating to the 15th century, historic Sponza Palace, the Maritime Museum, Luza Square, and the Rector's Palace.

Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14: Dubrovnik

We have a free day today to explore and enjoy Dubrovnik at our own pace. We have access to Dubrovnik's ancient city walls, which we may wish to walk across this morning on our own (tickets will be provided by your tour director). Or simply return to Old Town for strolling, shopping, museum-going, or watching the theater of daily life from a sidewalk café along pedestrian-only Stradun. Then we enjoy a small group highlight as we set out late this afternoon for a farewell dinner with a local family whose home overlooks Dubrovnik. Our menu features produce from their garden, homemade olive oil, and local wine.

Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 15: Depart for U.S.

This morning we transfer to the airport for our return flights to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

PLEASE NOTE

For 2024 departures Ljubljana and Lake Bled sightseeing on Days 4 and 5 will be swapped.

This tour itinerary was generated for Pearls of Dalmatia on Apr 4, 2024. Please visit the Pearls of Dalmatia page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/europe/pearls-of-dalmatia/> for the latest and most accurate information.