# CROATIA, BOSNIA & SLOVENIA TOUR



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# Croatia, Bosnia & Slovenia Escorted Tour

Duration: 13 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 12 nights hotels

Travel style: Escorted coach tour

**Booking code:** CBSVG13M

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# 13 Days Best of Croatia, Bosnia & Slovenia Tour

## About the holiday

Medieval Europe comes to life on this special escorted tour of Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia!

Start in the vibrant city of Zagreb in Croatia and travel through Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia to complete the exciting tour in Venice, Italy. Discover the splendid architecture of Sarajevo and explore the rugged Adriatic coast. Visit Old Dubrovnik and walk the cobbled streets of Split's old town. Spend time in the natural wonderland of Plitvice Lakes and the stunning seaside town of Opatija.

Explore caves, castles, cathedrals and more, as your expert guides share their local knowledge and help you discover more about each destination. You'll be amazed by what you'll see and experience in Europe on this incredible 12-night journey!

Why you'll love this trip...

Enjoy the comfort of first class and deluxe hotels while on tour Tour Zagreb, Sarajevo, Dubrovnik, Split, Plitvice Lakes, Bled, Venice & more Travel with an English-speaking tour guide to make the most of your trip Ask us about adding flights to complete the top value holiday!

#### **Travel dates**

2023 & 2024 - Weekly departures from May to September

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Want to stay longer & see more of Europe?

Call our office on 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

for current rates & travel deals.



#### **Escorted tour includes:**

- 13 nights accommodations
  - o 2 nights Zagreb
  - 1 night Sarajevo
  - o 3 nights Dubrovnik
  - 1 night Split
  - o 2 nights Plitvice Lakes
  - 2 nights Bled
  - o 2 nights Venice
- Hotel porterage
- 21 meals: 13 breakfasts, 8 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- · Services of local guides in all major cities
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

# Package excludes:

International flights - please ask us for the latest airfare specials Airport transfers - can be pre-booked on request

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities - prices listed are a guide & based on pre-booking Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for tour manager, guides & drivers, paid on last day of tour Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For more information call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

# Experiences on tour & special highlights:

- View Zagreb's monumental Cathedral with its soaring twin spires in bustling Kaptol Square
- Tour Sarajevo, a beautiful city with splendid architecture and a complex history
- Visit Old Dubrovnik, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Excursion to Montenegro, a Mediterranean jewel nestled on the rugged Adriatic coast
- Walk the cobbled streets of Split's Old Town to the 4th century Palace of Diocletian
- Visit Plitvice Lakes National Park, a natural wonderland flanked by thundering waterfalls
- Travel along the striking Bay of Kvarner to the stunning seaside resort of Opatija
- Visit the Postojna Caves in Slovenia, the largest and the most visited show cave in Europe
- In Bled, visit the 11th century castle perched on a steep cliff high above the lake
- Tour Ljubljana, with its unique mixture of Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture
- Walking tour of Venice including St. Mark's Square with its extraordinary treasures and architectural wonders

## **Itinerary:**

## DAY 1, Thursday - Arrive in Zagreb

Arrive in Zagreb and make your own way to the hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 7 PM, followed by a light dinner. We recommend that you select flights which arrive no later than 5 PM

Overnight: Zagreb Meals: Dinner

# DAY 2, Friday - Zagreb's Upper and Lower City Tour

Begin the day in busy Kaptol Square in Upper Town, dominated by the monumental Zagreb Cathedral, with its soaring twin spires. Then, head into Zagreb's medieval Upper Town with its cobblestone streets and red-tile-roofed buildings. Walk along Kravi Most, to St. Mark's Church with its brightly colored roof and the 17th century Jesuit Church of St. Catherine. After a stop at the Parliament building, free time to explore the winding streets of the Old Town and Ban Jelacic, the main square. Or take a leisurely stroll along Ilica Street, packed with restaurants, trendy cafes and a vibrant shopping scene. The *optional* tour to Kumrovec starts in the early afternoon with a scenic drive to Kumrovec, the birthplace of the late Marshal Tito. Visit the Ethnological Museum's restored village houses from the turn of the 19th century.

Later, follow a winding road through the Zagorje Hills to a charming farm restaurant for a dinner of local specialties and wine, plus stunning views of Veliki Tabor Castle

Optional: Kumrovec & Dinner

Overnight: Zagreb Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 3, Saturday - Travel to Sarajevo

Today, travel from Zagreb to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina **Overnight:** Sarajevo **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 4, Sunday - Picturesque Sarajevo, Arrive in Dubrovnik

Morning tour of Sarajevo, a beautiful city with a complex history. Arrive at the picturesque Turkish Bazaar (Bascarsija), an ancient trading place with artisan workshops. View many examples of splendid Ottoman architecture around the city center. The city is truly a "living history museum", where mosques built by the Ottomans sit alongside buildings created by the Austro-Hungarians. On to the Gazi Husrev-bey Mosque, the most important Islamic structure in the country, one of the world's finest examples of Ottoman architecture. View the now neglected stadium from the 1984 Winter Olympic Games and visit the Gavrilo Princip Museum, dedicated to Archduke Ferdinand. On your walk, look for the poignant Sarajevo Roses, flower-shaped memorials in the pavement filled with red cement, which are one of the few reminders left of the war. En route to Mostar, a medieval town in northern Herzegovina, enjoy panoramic vistas. Here, view the compelling reconstructed Stari Most Bridge, a staunch symbol of freedom on the Neretva River. End the day in the spectacular walled city of Dubrovnik, lovingly named the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Tonight, enjoy dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Dubrovnik Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 5, Monday - Walking Tour of Dubrovnik

Begin the day with a walking tour of Dubrovnik and view the monumental Sponza Palace, one of the most beautiful palaces in the city, preserved in its original form. Under the City Bell Tower on Luza Square, view Orlando's Column, dedicated to the legendary knight that saved the city in the 9th century. Then view the Dominican Monastery and visit the Franciscan Monastery and its 14th century pharmacy, one of the oldest still-functioning pharmacies in Europe. Tonight, perhaps attend the *optional* Cruise and Dinner. Venture to St. Jakov beach in Dubrovnik, where a boat ride will take you around the Old City walls, Then enjoy a three course dinner and Dalmatian wine. After dinner return to the Old City Port and enjoy the views of Dubrovnik by night before returning to your hotel

Optional: Cruise & Dinner

Overnight: Dubrovnik Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 6, Tuesday - Excursion to Montenegro

Today's excursion takes you on a scenic drive across the Croatian border to Montenegro, a Mediterranean jewel with its crystal clear lakes.

Head to the beautiful Bay of Kotor, the longest and deepest fjord in Southern Europe. Take a boat ride that takes you to Our Lady Of The Rocks Church, nestled on an islet off the coast of Perast. View the Roman Catholic Church, the largest building on the islet, with a museum attached to it. Later, visit the dramatically beautiful town of Kotor, butted up against the steep limestone cliffs of Mt Lovcen, with its imposing network of fortifications. Afterward, return to Dubrovnik. Tonight, be sure to enjoy the spectacular sunset as you walk along Dubrovnik's cobbled streets and see the glowing buildings and the fortifications accented against the night sky

Overnight: Dubrovnik

Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 7, Wednesday - Travel to Split, Split City Tour

Depart Dubrovnik and travel north along the Pelješac Peninsula. View the new Pelješac Bridge connecting the region of Southern Dalmatia with the rest of the country's mainland, on your way to the UNESCO protected the seaside town of Split, the second largest city in Croatia. Upon arrival, a walking tour along the cobbled streets of the Old Town features the historic inner city with its dominating Roman influence, built around the 4th century Palace of Diocletian. This spectacular palace, a precious example of Roman architecture, is one of the largest and best preserved in the world. See the remains of the Cathedral of St. Domnius built in the Middle Ages, and the Temple of Jupiter with its headless black sphinx guarding the entrance. Spend the remainder of the day discovering the town independently, or taking a leisurely stroll along the scenic waterfront promenade. In the evening, dinner together

Overnight: Split Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 8, Thursday - Plitvice Lakes National Park

Travel north to and inland towards Plitvice Lakes National Park. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch together. Then set out to explore the park\* and discover first-hand the breathtaking surroundings of this natural wonder, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to more than 16 lakes and magnificent waterfalls at every turn. As you walk along the zig-zag paths, admire this wonderland of waterfalls, lakes and trees. A guided walk takes you past lush vegetation and along man-made boardwalks to several of the pristine lower lakes. Remainder of the day is at leisure. Share today's adventure with your fellow travellers at dinner tonight

\*The walk down to Plitvice Lakes requires good walking shoes

Overnight: Plitvice Lakes Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9, Friday - Opatija Sightseeing & Postojna Caves En Route to Bled

Today, return to the coast and travel along the striking Bay of Kvarner to the remarkable seaside resort of Opatija, a gem of Croatia's Adriatic coast, with its rich history and picturesque surroundings. Take an orientation tour of Opatija exploring the highlights of this former Imperial resort city. Time to enjoy the pleasures of this area before journeying north to the Postojna Caves in Slovenia, a network of

passages, galleries, and chambers. This is the largest and the most visited show cave in Europe. Travel aboard the specially designed cave train with electric lighting that allows you to observe the splendour of the underground world, where the geological past is recorded in a unique manner. You'll be dazzled by the stalactites and stalagmites in a variety of shapes and colours. Afterward continue to Bled, exquisitely set amidst the Julian Alps, for dinner and overnight

#### DAY 10, Saturday - The Alpine Resort of Bled, Ljubljana Excursion

Morning exploration of Bled, with its emerald-green lake, picture postcard church, and medieval castle. Ranked among the world's most beautiful alpine resorts, it's renowned for its mild healing climate and thermal lake waters. Tour the imposing 11th-century Bled Castle, perched on a steep cliff high above the lake, creating a dramatic backdrop to the city. This medieval fortress, with its huge towers, ramparts, moats, and terrace, offers exquisite views. This afternoon, embark on an excursion to Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. View the most significant sights of the old city centre, with its unique mixture of Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture. Stop at the picturesque open-air market, Three Bridges Square, the Town Hall, and Robba Fountain, one of the city's best known Baroque monuments. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Tonight, join your fellow travellers for an *optional* dinner at a traditional Country Inn in the tiny medieval town of Radovljica that includes choices of Slovenian favourites along with wine

Optional: Tour of Radovljica with dinner

Overnight: Bled Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Bled Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 11, Sunday - Trieste Sightseeing En Route to Venice

Depart Slovenia towards Italy, stopping en route in Trieste, a major seaport in northeastern Italy. Enjoy a pleasant walk through the major piazzas of the city, including the former seat of the Jewish quarter and the Roman theatre. Continue to magical Venice with time to begin your exploration of this astonishing city on your own. Tonight, indulge yourself at one of the city's fine restaurants, or just sit at an outdoor café and sip a cappuccino or a lovely glass of Italian wine **Overnight:** Venice **Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 12, Monday - Walking Tour of Venice

The discovery of Venice begins on the Island of Murano, known for its artistic and colorful glassware. While here, visit a local factory to witness the art of glassblowing. Afterward, continue to the main Venice Island and take a walking tour with your local guide through the maze of narrow alleyways and bridges before reaching St. Mark's Square. Upon reaching the square, stop to view its most prominent monuments, the pink marble Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, and golden Basilica of San Marco. The Doge's Palace was the official residence of the Venetian ruler. The Bridge of Sighs offers one of the most notable scenes of this Romantic city.

Marvel at the golden Basilica of San Marco, that is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. It was built over several centuries in a fusion of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian architecture. The rest of the day is yours to explore Venice at leisure, or to participate in this afternoon's *optional* Gondola Ride, offering a different perspective of this unique city built on water. Tonight during dinner, share wonderful memories of your journey and bid farewell to your Tour Manager

Optional: Gondola Ride

Overnight: Venice Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 13, Tuesday - Depart Italy

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, make your way to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

#### **Hotels:**

The accommodation is subject to confirmation in each destination and hotels may change at the discretion of the tour operator.

## Sheraton Zagreb, Zagreb

This deluxe hotel is a modern attractive building with a mix of glass, steel and concrete. The front of the hotel has a large glass facade that allows natural light to fill the reception area and offer amazing views of the surrounding wonders of Zagreb.

Hotel Europe Sarajevo, Sarajevo

This first class hotel is centrally located in Sarajevo.

Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik Hotel, Dubrovnik

This first class hotel is located close to the beach.

Hotel Atrium, Split

This deluxe hotel is situated nearby Split's central shopping district.

Lyra Hotel Plitvice, Plitvice Lakes

This first class hotel is just a stone's throw away from the world-famous Plitvice Lakes National Park.

Park Hotel, Bled

This first class hotel is in the centre of Bled, on the shore of Lake Bled, near the famous Bled promenade.

Hotel Continental Venice, Venice

This first class hotel is located on Grand Canal on one of the city's main pedestrian streets.

Do you have any questions about this escorted tour?

Call 1300 168 910 or email <a href="mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com">hello@mytravelxp.com</a>
to speak to our travel experts.

## **Optional tours:**

Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance only covers services purchased prior to departure
- Contact us to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure
- The day the optional tours operate varies by the day of the week & prices will be confirmed at time of booking.

## **Croatian Countryside with Dinner**

Start your tour in the early afternoon with a scenic drive to Kumrovec, situated on the bank of the river Sutla, along the Croatian-Slovenian border. Kumrovec's fame is that it was the birthplace of the late marshal Tito, the president of former Yugoslavia, whose house has since been turned into a museum. Today, the major attraction of Kumrovec is the Ethnological Museum Staro Selo (Old Village) with very well preserved village houses from the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries. Up to forty houses and other farmstead facilities have been restored, which makes Staro Selo the most attractive place of this kind in Croatia. Later, follow a winding road through the Zagorje hills. An early dinner of genuine local specialties and wine is served at a charming farm restaurant with magnificent views of the 15th century castle Veliki Tabor.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 5 hours.

#### Cruise & Dinner

Sv.Jakov (St.James) beach in Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful beaches in the area. A motor boat ride will take you around the Old City walls to St. Jakov Beach, where you will enjoy a three course dinner and Dalmatian wine. After dinner return to the Old City Port. Enjoy a glimpse of Dubrovnik by night before boarding your bus at Pile Gate to return to the hotel. Boat ride depends on weather conditions. Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 4.5 hours.

#### Tour of Radovljica with dinner

This evening, visit the little medieval town of Radovljica and take a short walk through its old section. Later, stop at a popular and traditional country inn. Your dinner will include a selection of traditional Slovenian dishes and wine. Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 2 hours.

#### Gondola Ride

One of the experiences of any Italian holiday is a Venetian gondola ride. For centuries, the traditional flat bottom boat has been a major means of transportation in Venice though its primary role today is to take tourists on rides. Gondoliers may seem like "rough-and-ready" characters, however they are actually highly skilled operators constantly working on the perfect balance of this watercraft. The profession, handed down from generation to generation, is regulated by a guild which issues a limited number of licenses to highly trained gondoliers to navigate the narrow spaces of the Venetian canals. Explore part of the Grand Canal as well as some other hidden minor waterways. The gondola holds a maximum of six passengers. Please note that this is not a private gondola ride. Your gondolier will indicate the seating arrangements to balance the boat and you may not be seated next to your travel companions. Though you may envision the gondolier singing to you, there will only be a musician aboard one of the boats in your fleet of several different gondolas.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 30 minutes.

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#### MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

#### Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
- 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday.

The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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