

Croatia

Treasure under the Ancient Sun

Eight-night tour: 2 nights in Zagreb, 2 nights in Split, 1 night in Hvar, 1 night in Korcula, 2 nights in Dubrovnik

HIGHLIGHTS

ZAGREB – the capital of the

PLITVICE – the green fairytale

SPLIT – the Vestibule of Paradise (UNESCO)

TROGIR – a treasury cove of the historical and cultural monuments (UNESCO)

HVAR – the sunniest island in Europe

KORCULA – where the Silk Road begins...

DUBROVNIK – the Pearl of Mediterranean (UNESCO)

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

- Private tour of the Museum of Naïve Art in Zagreb with the museum's Curator
- Private wine tasting at the famous Tomic Winery on the island of Hvar
- Oyster tasting with a glass of wine in Bota – Šare restaurant in Ston

DAY 1: arrival to ZAGREB

Arrival to Zagreb airport; flight details TBA.

Meet your driver for a private transfer to the luxury hotel of The Regent Esplanade – an elegant hotel situated in the heart of historic Zagreb.

DAY 2: ZAGREB tour

This morning meet your local guide at the lobby for a private sightseeing tour of the historic core of **Zagreb**.

The capital of Croatia illustrates both the continental and the Mediterranean spirit of the nation it spearheads. This is a city with tumultuous history, warm and inviting, and it will surely fulfill all your expectations. The façades of Zagreb's buildings reflect the



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ebb and flow of history, while its streets and squares bear witness to the coming together of the many cultures that have shaped its identity.

Your guide will take you for a walk from Zrinjevac, through the avenues of trees and flowers to the main city square of Ban Jelacic, the heart of the city. You will continue the tour to the Upper Town and its mediaeval twin settlements: secular Gradec and ecclesiastical Kaptol, both preserved till today. You will discover its cobblestone streets, mediaeval towers, the vivacious green market; old houses and churches (Cathedral of Mary's Assumption in the neo-gothic style, St. Mark's church with the beautiful multi-colored roofs decorated with Croatian historical coats of arms...). Then we will take you for a **CALVADOS CLUB**

Extraordinary Experience: Visit the Museum of Naïve Arts with the Museum's Curator. Museum of Naïve Arts is located in the 18th century Raffay Palace in the Upper Town and it is considered the first museum of naïve art in the world. The museum keeps works of 1500 works of art - paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints, mainly by Croatian but also by other well-known world artists. Then you will continue by funicular or walk to the Lower Town, dominated by the impressive building of the Croatian National Theatre. The neo-baroque edifice is surrounded by numerous Art Nouveau buildings that represent Croatian architecture of the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

The rest of the day is at your leisure.

DAY 3: ZAGREB - PLITVICE - SPLIT

This morning meet your driver and guide in the hotel for a private transfer to Split.

On your way, you will stop to visit the **Plitvice Lakes**, the most beautiful national park in Croatia, protected by the UNESCO as the World Natural Heritage. Upon arrival, you will enjoy the tour of the park area with your guide. Discover the unspoiled beauty of a grand collection of waterfalls, gallery of lakes, forests and diversity of animal life. The beauty of the National Park lies in its sixteen lakes, interconnected by a series of waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars and rare bird species. The lakes



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are renowned for their distinctive colors, ranging from azure to green, grey or blue. Discover the mesmerizing ever-changing landscape - created by water, gravity, limestone and time - in this unique park of nature. Your guide will take you through the park by a well-laid out system of wooden walkways that allow you to experience the best of your visit.

In the afternoon, you will continue with your driver towards Split. Upon arrival, you will check in to your hotel - the Vestibul Palace - situated in the heart of the historic Diocletian's Palace so you will have a unique chance to stay in the former suites of the Roman emperor.

DAY 4: SPLIT & TROGIR

Meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a private sightseeing tour of **Split**, a 1700 years old town with famous Diocletian's Palace, included in the UNESCO's World Heritage list. The first inhabitant of Split was the Roman emperor Diocletian who started to build his palace in this friendly bay around 293 AD. After his abdication he withdrew to this luxurious palace to enjoy the rest of his days. Your guide will take you for a walk through this living monument and all its magnificent sights. You will discover the basement halls of the Palace and their unique role in the history of Split. Then you will continue to the Peristyle, the main square of the Palace that preserved the cult of emperor as the son of god. You will visit the Cathedral of St. Domnius, the patron-saint of Split, the temples of the Palaces, as well as the suites of the Emperor. You will explore the waterfront promenade of Split, the lively open green market and the monuments not only from antiquity, but also from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque.

After some time at your leisure, your driver and guide will take you to **Trogir** - a treasury cove of cultural and historical monuments dating as far back as the 4th Century BC. Set on a small island just off the mainland, Trogir is a tiny charming town surrounded by impressive fortress walls. As you enter the fortified town through the Land Gate, you will stroll along its narrow streets, flanked by ancient stone houses. Your guide will walk you through all the magnificent monuments of this



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picturesque town: St. Lawrence Cathedral, a masterpiece of mediaeval architecture, with a magnificent Romanesque portal, carved by the Dalmatian sculptor Master Radovan in the 13th Century; the Old City Hall from the 15th Century, the city walls, the Kamerlengo tower, the relaxing waterfront promenade etc.

After some time on your own, your guide and driver will take you back to your hotel.

DAY 5: SPLIT - HVAR

This morning you will meet your guide and driver for in the hotel. You will embark a public ferry boat to the island of Hvar (optional supplement for a private motor boat transfer). The island of **Hvar** is a unique fusion of the luxurious Mediterranean nature and the remarkable cultural and historical heritage. The name of the island

derives from the Greek word PHAROS, meaning the lighthouse. Since Hvar lies in the heart of all the main sea routes since the ancient times, many different cultures left their traces to the present day. A Greek colony in the 4th century BC, Hvar gained its glory and power during the Middle Ages being an important port within the Venetian naval empire.

Upon arrival to the port of Stari Grad, your guide will take you for a brief sightseeing tour. Stari Grad was the the former Greek colony of PHAROS and the first settlement of the island. A thousand years of history have left many traces in the urban structure of the Town. The Town Walls of Pharos, built by the Greeks the 4th century BC, the Roman mosaics, the early Christian church of St. John, the mediaeval streets and above all Tvrđalj - the Renaissance fortified castle are all the signposts through a millennium long life of the town. A stroll through the town centre, its narrow streets and small squares will bring you the whisperings of the foregone times.

Then, through the beautiful landscape of vineyards, olive-groves and lavender fields you will come to **Jelsa**, a small town with a long winemaking tradition. Throughout the centuries of rich and turbulent history, people on Hvar cultivated their vineyards with great skill and care, blessed with the lushness of Mediterranean. Today you will enjoy a private wine tasting at the Tomić family winery in Jelsa. Following the



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tradition of their ancestors, Tomić family has dedicated their life to producing high quality wines and promoting wine culture. They believe that Hvar, with its authentic varieties, exceptionally favourable climate and location of vineyards, can preserve the long tradition of winemaking, enriching it continually with new products.

After some time for lunch, you will continue to the town of Hvar and a private tour with your

guide. New meets the Old in the perfect harmony of the town of Hvar. Your guide will take you for a stroll through the inexhaustible treasury of the cultural heritage of Hvar. You will visit the largest square in Dalmatia, the town loggia and the Gothic and Renaissance palaces, one of the oldest theaters in Europe, the mighty Arsenal, the glorious Cathedral of St. Stephan, as well as the impressive Franciscan Monastery, that today houses a collection of lace, manuscripts and books.

Spend the afternoon at your leisure. Overnight in Adriana – a chic boutique hotel in the heart of the old town of Hvar.

DAY 6: HVAR – KORČULA

Enjoy the morning at your leisure in Hvar.

In the late afternoon, you will embark a public speed catamaran boat to Korčula (optional supplement for a private motor boat transfer). Upon arrival, you will meet the luggage porter who will take you to the Lesic Dimitri Palace Hotel – a unique property that tells an extraordinary tale of Marco Polo and his Silk Road...

DAY 7: KORČULA – STON – DUBROVNIK

Meet your local guide in the hotel for a private tour of the Old Town of **Korčula**.

This secluded part of the world is known as the home town of Marco Polo – the first world traveler. This is where his silk road began. But the visitors often joke that it can't be true – after all, if the famous explorer has indeed been born here, he would have never left... Let the sheer beauty and the priceless cultural



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heritage of Korčula seduce you and get under your skin forever. With more than 2000 years of history, the former Greek colony of the “Black Korčula” (Korkyra Melaina) resisted the sieges of centuries and remained a living monument that is now yours to discover...

Through the narrow cobblestone streets you will come to the Cathedral of St. Marko, an architectural masterpiece in Gothic and

Renaissance style. Its construction is an admirable testimony of the artistry of the local stone masons and the excellent adamant stone of the island. The Cathedral’s abbatial collection abounds with exhibits from Greek and Roman period, as well as with peculiar artifacts of the recent history. You will visit also the Town Museum of Korčula, with its interesting exhibits illustrating the island’s glorious naval history. Your stroll will finally take you to Marko Polo’s childhood home – a modest mediaeval house from which originates this great Venetian merchant, writer and traveler. The mediaeval city walls have surrounded the town since the 14th century and its mighty fortification deterred many invaders.

In the early afternoon, you will embark a small public boat to Orebić, a town on the mainland. Here you will meet your driver for a private transfer to Dubrovnik. On your way, you will stop in **Ston** – small town known as the paradise for sea food lovers. Famous Ston oysters are known as the best aphrodisiac from the Roman period. You will get a unique opportunity to try these delicacies in one of the best sea food restaurants in Croatia – Bota Šare. Enjoy **oyster tasting with a glass of wine** and should you wish, stay for lunch and try the wide palette of seafood plates prepared as per original local recipes. Ston was also an important military fort of the Ragusan Republic, which was well protected by massive city walls and used Pelješac to build another line of defense. At Pelješac’s narrowest point, just before it joins the mainland, a wall was build from Ston to Mali Ston. With over 5 km of length; the mediaeval walls from the 14th century are the biggest city walls in Europe. The wall meant to protect the precious salt pans that contributed to Dubrovnik’s wealth, which are still being in use today. Upon arrival to Dubrovnik, check in to your hotel and spend the evening at your leisure. You will enjoy the Bellevue Hotel – the splendid location, stunning views and chic ambiance.



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DAY 8: DUBROVNIK tour



This morning meet your local guide for a private walking tour of **Dubrovnik**, one of the most beautiful stone-built cities in the world. A town-museum is a one-of-a-kind destination which makes you fall in love with it and come back to it over and over again in an endless pursuit of unique experiences. More than a thousand-year history is reflected in every part of the town. An important maritime port and a one-time state, it has always been a

cultural metropolis. As one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Dubrovnik owes its special charm to the historic monuments which testify to its rich history. The works of artists, writers and scientists of Dubrovnik have been woven into the texture of the town.

You will experience the splendour of its stone and the redness of its roofs, the walk through its lively streets and the unforgettable beauty of this living monument. While strolling with your guide down Stradun, the main street, you will stop to visit the Franciscan monastery of the “Order of Little Brothers” that preserves one of the three oldest pharmacies in Europe. You will continue down to Orlando Column and the Sponza Palace and visit the Church of St. Blasius, the patron-saint of the town. You will also discover Rector’s Palace, the magnificent structure of the dukes of Dubrovnik, and the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary with a treasury containing the originals by Tiziano and Rafaelo and many other valuable relics.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this stunning town on your own. Dubrovnik is full of charming cafes, boutiques and local curiosities, nestled in the intricate network of the cobblestone streets. We recommend you to take a walk along the city walls (2500 m around the old town), visit one of the numerous museums or take a funicular ride to the top of the Srđ hill.

DAY 9: DUBROVNIK - onward

This morning meet your driver for a private transfer to the airport for and your flight onward.



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We wish you a memorable journey...



RECOMMENDED HOTELS	
ZAGREB	The Regent Esplanade Hotel
	Vestibul Palace Hotel
SPLIT	Marmont Hotel
	Luxe Hotel
	Le Meridien Lav Hotel
HVAR	Adriana Hotel
KORCULA	Lesic Dimitri Palace
DUBROVNIK	The Pucic Palace Hotel
	The Bellevue Hotel
	Excelsior Hotel
	Villa Dubrovnik Hotel

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