

Treasures of Croatia and Italy

Dubrovnik – Split – Zagreb – Udine – Venice

17 days/16 nights

Price includes:

- Selected 4 star hotels
- Breakfast and dinners as per itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach
- Transfers to/from Airport

Price excludes:

- Air fare and taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Meals (if not specified)
- Tips
- Optional tours
- Entrance fees to castles and museums
- Single supplement

Highlights

Dubrovnik

Dubbed the 'Jewel of the Adriatic', Dubrovnik offers a wealth of beauty and culture all nestled within its beautiful medieval walls. The city is a maze of old cobbled alleyways, open air piazzas and ancient churches.

Udine

The historical capital of Friuli. A city of art, history, sports, wine and fine cuisine. There is a mixture of Italian, Croatian and German cultures, with its history dating back to Imperial Roman times.

Venice

Considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world and often referred to as the 'Queen of the Adriatic', Venice is built on 117 islands, formed by 150 canals on the lagoon. The heart of the city is Piazza San Marco, which is dominated by the great Basilica and the Doge's Palace.

Day 1 – Dubrovnik

Independent arrival in Dubrovnik. Dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2 – Dubrovnik

After breakfast join us for a guided tour of the city of Dubrovnik. This stunning town, referred to as the 'Jewel of the Adriatic' by George Bernard Shaw, offers a wealth of beauty and culture that is protected by beautiful medieval walls. The old town, completed in the 13th century is a maze of old cobbled alleyways and numerous ancient churches. The entry through the Pile Gate will lead you to the Stradun, the city's promenade. Here you will find the Onofrio Fountain, built in 1438, the Franciscan Monastery, the Baroque church of St Blaise and the Rector's Palace built in 1441 which is now a city museum. Afternoon at your leisure. Overnight stay in Dubrovnik. (B & D)

Day 3 – Dubrovnik

After breakfast a day at your leisure to explore more of this magnificent city. (B)

Day 4 – Dubrovnik – Split

After breakfast depart for Split, the second largest city in Croatia. A former Greek settlement, Split was conquered by the Venetians in 1420 and then ruled by the Austrians and French before becoming part of Yugoslavia in 1918. In 1941 the city was occupied by the Italians and liberated in 1943. The Diocletians Palace is the best preserved antique building in Croatia and was built of stone obtained from the nearby island of Brac. Overnight stay in Split. (B & D)

Day 5 – Split

After breakfast depart for a half day guided tour of Split. This fascinating city offers many important historical buildings, several museums, a beautiful cathedral and numerous churches. One of the significant sights is the Diocletian's Palace, situated in the heart of the inner-city. Overnight stay in Split. (B)

Day 6 – Split

After breakfast a day at your leisure to relax and enjoy more of this beautiful city. (B)





Day 7 – Split – Zadar – Opatija

After breakfast depart for Opatija with a stop in Zadar. Situated in the centre of the Croatian Adriatic, Zadar is close to the national parks. Its natural beauties are the 300 or so islands and islets, numerous coves and beaches as well as the many cultural and historical monuments. In the historical part of Zadar you will find the Church of St. Donat, the Archaeological and the National Museum together with the Art Gallery. The Maritime Museum hosts a permanent exhibition of Sacral Art with thousands of valuable exhibits from the past centuries known as 'The Gold and Silver of Zadar.' After lunch continue on to Opatija for dinner and overnight stay. (B&D)

Day 8 – Opatija – Plitvice Lakes – Opatija

After breakfast depart for a guided excursion to the Plitvice Lakes National Park. The beauty of this national park are its sixteen lakes of crystal blue-green colour. The lakes are fed by many small streams and brooks which spill into each other in foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls. The National Park covers an area of 300 square kilometres while the lakes join together over a distance of 8 kilometres. Due to their unique evolution and beauty, the Plitvice Lakes were listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1979. Return to Opatija for overnight stay. (B)

Day 9 – Opatija – Istrian Peninsula

After breakfast depart with the local guide for the Istrian region. The first stop is Pula, the largest and oldest city in Istria, situated on the southern end of the Istrian peninsula. It represents a fine combination of old and new and you will find a large number of historical monuments including the Roman amphitheatre known as the 'Arena'. This important landmark dates from the second century and is the sixth largest in the world. Also visit the Triumphal Arch of the Sergi, Hercules' Gate, Twin Gates and the Temple of Augustus. Continue on to Rovinj, one of the most 'photogenic' towns in the Mediterranean with cobblestone streets winding up the hill to the imposing Church of St. Eufemia, where you can admire the roof tops and the blue sea below. The entire coastline, with its twenty-two islands is a natural heritage protected area. Heading north along the west Istrian coast is Porec, once a small fishing village, it has grown into an attractive town. The most important monument in Porec is the Basilica of St. Euphrasius built in the 6th century. The walls of the Basilica have been tiled in mosaics engraved with stories from the Bible. Return to Opatija for overnight stay. (B&D)

Day 10 – Opatija – Zagreb

After breakfast depart for Zagreb arriving in the afternoon with some time to relax. Overnight stay. (B)

Day 11 – Zagreb

After breakfast meet with our local guide for a half day tour of the city. Zagreb is not only rich in cultural and historical monuments, museums and galleries but it also offers the convenience of modern shops and restaurants. The city is divided into three parts; the thousand-year old Gornji grad (upper town) which contains the Presidential Palace, the Croatian Parliament, museums and galleries; the 19th century Donji grad (lower town) with its shops, restaurants, cafes and parks and the modern post war Novi Zagreb (new town) which is full of high rise buildings. Afternoon at your leisure. Overnight stay in Zagreb. (B)

Day 12 – Zagreb – Ljubljana – Udine

After breakfast depart for Udine with a stop in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. Ljubljana is a city of culture and home to many theatres, museums and galleries. It also boasts one of the oldest philharmonic academies in the world. In Ljubljana you will discover the remains of five milleniums of its history beautifully preserved: amongst these are the legacy of the Roman town of Emona and the Old Town with its medieval castle, Renaissance and Baroque facades, ornamented portals and uneven roofs. Continue on to Udine for overnight stay. (B & D)





Day 13 – Udine – Tarvisio – Udine

After breakfast depart for Tarvisio. This beautiful ski village which lies in the Giulian Alps of north-eastern Italy is surrounded by magnificent peaks and is close to the borders of Austria and Slovenia. Four different languages are spoken here and for centuries it was inhabited by the Slavs and Germans. In the churches you will find frescoes dating back to the 16th century by famous artists. Stop for a quick visit of Lake Fusine and then return to Udine. Rest of the day free to explore Udine. Dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

Day 14 – Udine – Dolomites – Treviso – Venice

After breakfast depart for Venice en route stopping to visit the Dolomites. These mountains were formed of mineralised coral which was laid down beneath the sea during the Triassic era and uplifted when the European and African continental

plates dramatically collided 60 million years ago. The ‘Pale Mountains’, as they are often called, have been carved by the corrosive effect of ice, sun and rain. Continue on for a brief stop in Treviso. This historical town which was surrounded by walls in the 1500’s has a system of rivers and canals which cross and surround it. There are two monumental gates in white stone on the north and west side with the winged lion of Saint Mark. Take a stroll through the maze of alleys and visit some of the historical buildings. Continue on to Venice for dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

Day 15 – Venice

Breakfast. A day at your leisure or alternatively you can take an optional tour to the island of Murano for a demonstration of the Venetian glass blowers creating their delicate objects as they did centuries ago. Overnight stay in Venice. (B)

Day 16 – Venice

Breakfast. A day at your leisure to explore the magnificent sights of Venice. Visit the Bridge of Sighs, the Doges’ Palace and the Basilica or enjoy a gondola ride through the canals. Overnight stay in Venice. (B)

Day 17 – Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

End of Tour

*‘A beautiful thing
never gives so much pain
as does failing
to hear and see it’*

Michelangelo

