# A Mediterranean Rhapsody

From Zagreb to Montenegro in 15 days



Composed by the sea

Curated by Thinkers Tours

Delivered to all lovers of true beauty



DAY 1 Arrival at ZAG Airport & Transfer to Hotel

Exemplary hotel: Hotel Esplanade <u>https://www.esplanade.hr</u> Grand hotel with tradition in the best central location

Meet your guide at the airport and check in to your hotel. Have a walk on Zrinjevac, a grand park-like avenue leading to the city center. Enjoy dinner at a typical Zagrebian restaurant, or just rest.





### DAY 2 Zagreb

#### Take a historic walk of uptown

*Explore Dolac, the dazzling grocery market at the main square Visit Mirogoj cemetery with its arcades and hundred-year old trees* 

With a population of approx. 1 million, Croatia's capital Zagreb represents the cultural, political, and economic center of the country. While constantly growing and developing itself, Zagreb is looking back at a long and eventful history.

The architecture was very much influenced by Austro-Hungarian rule in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Engineers and famous architects from Vienna planned the outlook of the city and designed many monuments and buildings. Uptown is one of the most romantic and charming parts of Zagreb and offers a great view over the whole city. The shortest way up is to have a ride with the 150 year old funicular! At Dolac market, farmers from the surrounding areas sell their fresh products. Park Maksimir is one of the biggest and oldest city parks in the Balkan region. Mirogoj 19<sup>th</sup> century cemetery with its artful arcades and opulent graves of Zagreb's aristocracy is also certainly worth a visit. The locals are known to be fashionistas and coffee enthusiasts. Meet them in the countless cafes and bars and get a sip of Zagrebian lifestyle.





### DAY 3 Transfer to Plitvice & Plitvice Tour

Visit Rimac factory – the home of the world's fastest electric car Stop for a romantic picnic at Rastoke village Tour famous Plitvice lakes and water falls

Exemplary hotel: Plitvice holiday resort <u>https://www.plitvice.com</u> Upscale campside with modern treehouses and a typical hearty breakfast to start the day



Hit the road for your next destination: world famous Plitivice lakes. On your way to Plitvice visit "Rimac" hypercar manufacturer; the world's fastest and most innovative electric car is produced and assembled in the small town of Sveta Nedelja. Enjoy a tour of the plant before heading to Plitvice lakes. Afterwards, check in to your hotel go on an exciting tour of dozens of joint lakes and spectacular waterfalls, where you'll walk between an unseen variety of flora and fauna. A cluster of colorful lakes arranged in cascades that are connected through waterfalls forms a truly breath-taking environment in every season. Enjoy a specialty of the region for dinner: lamb stewed under the "peka".





### DAY 4 Transfer to Split

#### *Visit Knin, the capital of Krajna, the formerly occupied part of Croatia Enjoy the beauty of inland Croatia Arrive in Split and witness its buzzing night life*

Exemplary hotel: Abokamento boutique hotel <u>http://abokamento-boutique-rooms.splithotels.net/en/</u> Stylish hotel in the city center with a great bistro on the ground level.



On the way to Split, you pass by the city of Knin, capital of the ancient Croatian kingdom, and main city of the historic Krajina - a region that used to be the fringe land between the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires for centuries. In this century, the region became another frontline during the Balkan wars of the 1990's. The remains and scars of the latest conflict can still be seen in many places.

On the way to the coast you can visit the Serbian orthodox Krka monastery established in 1577, picturesquely nestled on the banks of the winding Krka river. For a stylish arrival to the Adriatic coast, linger though the steep little streets of the coastal town of Šibenik, and be amazed by the UNESCO protected renaissance cathedral, a true masterpiece by one of Croatia's most acclaimed artists Juraj Dalmatinac.

Arrive in Split and lose yourself in a unique labyrinth of stones and squares formed by layers of history. In the evening, listen to singer-songwriters perform in the narrow alleys and bars and become acquainted with Split's buzzing nightlife!





## DAY 5 Split & Transfer to Hvar

### Visit the palace of Roman emperor Diocletian Enjoy the magic vibe of the old town at day and night Ferry ride to Hvar Island

Exemplary hotel: Adriana Spa Hotel <u>https://www.suncanihvar.com/adriana-hvar-spa-hotel.html</u> Spa Hotel with a gorgeous roof top swimming pool overlooking all the movement of the town center



Split, the largest city of Dalmatia, was built on the remains of a large roman palace. Emperor Diocletian constructed it as his old-age residence. After the downfall of the West-Roman empire, people used these stones to construct their private homes, and a new city emerged through the following centuries.

After lunch, take the ferry to Hvar, passing the island of Brač, before arriving to Starigrad, a 20 minute drive to the old town of Hvar, offering breathtaking views of the coast, hills, sea and the many surrounding islets. In the evening, take a boat shuttle to Palmižana for a fine dining experience in one of the top-listed restaurants on the Adriatic coast. Round up the day with a cocktail in one of the chic Hvar nightclubs.





### DAY 6 Hvar & Transfer to Korčula Island

#### *Stroll around the city of Hvar, Croatia's most glamorous destination Boat ride to Korčula island*

Exemplary hotel: Lešić Dimitri Palace <u>https://www.ldpalace.com/palace/</u> 5 star Boutique hotel in the core of the old town, member of Relais Chateaux



The city of Hvar with its dazzling restaurant scene, night life, and culture, offers many surprising treats. On the lively plaza watch the locals and tourists linger in the small cafes, visit an exhibition in the beautiful Arsenal - a former shipyard - and catch a glimpse of one of the oldest public theatres in eastern Europe, built in 1612 under Venetian rule. Go for a little trip through lavender fields, enjoy the view from the Spanish fort on top of the old town and visit the Pakleni Otoci (Hell's Islands). In the afternoon board a local boat for your transfer to Korčula Island.





## DAY 8 Korčula

Fishing experience with local fisherman City tour of Korčula Off road tour to the hills and best beaches



By sunrise, board a local fishing boat to experience the richness of Croatia's marine life. Afterwards explore Korčula town, the home of Marco Polo. Korčula island holds both a rich cultural heritage, and stunning natural beauties. Visit the romanesque Saint Marko Cathedral - containing a mural of Tintoretto - and stroll through the narrow streets of the old town, built by the Romans, Venetians, and the French. Surrounded by many islands, Korčula also has some of the best beaches and diverse landscapes you can discover off-road. The island is famous for it's culinary specialties, as almost every family is growing olive trees, or making wine. In the evening, meet local artists and singers and experience the artistic vibe of that truly rennaissance jewel of the Adriatic.





#### DAY 9 Yacht Trip to Mljet National Park

Day trip to Mljet island national park by a private yacht Bike along the two salt water lakes Eat fresh lobster at Pomena Visit traditional sword dance "Moreška"

Leave Korčula for a full day trip to neighboring island of Mljet. Mljet is the greenest island of Croatia, with forests covering more than 90% of its total area. Rent a kayak or a mountain bike to ride in the national park with its turquoise lakes, and visit Melita monastery - beautifully located on a little islet and still run by Franciscan monks. Reboot your energy with freshly prepared lobster, before you refresh yourself by swimming in some of the most secluded coves of the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy the sunset on board as you sail back towards Korčula town to watch a performance of the traditional Moreška sword dance in the evening.





#### DAY 10 Transfer to Dubrovnik via Pelješac Peninsula

Visit Orebić with its countless villas from the era of the Dubrovnik republic Walk the ancient walls of Ston village Taste Croatia's most famous red wine "Dingač" Go on an oyster discovery, sailing the channel of Ston



Arrive at the coastal town of Orebić after a short ferry ride, where captains from the Republic of Ragusa - Latin for Dubrovnik - built their representative villas. Later on, enjoy a taste of Croatia's best wines at Dingač vineyards nestled up against the steep coast of Pelješac Peninsula. Have a walk on the second longest man build wall at Mali Ston. Then board Captain Gianny's oyster boat, to watch oysters grow on ropes in the crystal-clear water, followed by a freshly prepared snack right on the spot. Continue your journey in style stopping at Trsteno Park, a botanical garden of exotic plants imported over the centuries on merchant ships from all over the world, before arriving in Dubrovnik.





# DAY 11 Dubrovnik

## Walk the magnificent streets and the ancient walls of Dubrovnik Take a swim at Banje beach and Lokrum Island Visit a classical concert at Rectors Palace

Exemplary hotel: Villa Dubrovnik <u>https://www.mythahotels.com/villadubrovnik/en/</u> Design Hotel with gorgeous Views of Dubrovnik and private Beach



Explore the scenic old town of Dubrovnik, with its opulent renaissance churches and palaces. Walk along the impressive city walls and visit the original filming locations of "Game of Thrones". Refresh yourself at the city beach. Take a boat trip to the mystical island of Lokrum with its old monastery and botanical garden where you'll find peacocks roaming around freely. Enjoy a classical concert at night in the courtyard of the rector's palace, or watch a traditional dance performance on top of the mighty Revelin Fortress.





### DAY 12 Dubrovnik surroundings or leisure at hotel

#### Leisure at hotel or

#### choose between a little trip to Cavtat and Konavle or the Elafiti Islands Dine at Srđ Mountain, overlooking Dubrovnik's old town at night

Set on a small peninsula, and embraced by two harbors, the ancient town of Cavtat represents a more quiet and relaxed alternative to Dubrovnik. The hinterland is famous for its agricultural heritage due to its fertile soils, with people settled here as early as the Paleolithic period. Alternatively, board the old mail ship "Postira" and sail off to Lopud and Šipan - the largest islands of the Elaphiti Archipelago. The word *Elaphitos* - translated from ancient Greek - means "deer", as the islands were populated by these animals not long ago.

Enjoy the sunset at Srđ Mountain, overlooking the old town and the Elaphiti islands, before dining in the restaurant Konoba Dubrava in Bosanka, an area that was occupied by the Jugoslav army during the homeland war.





#### DAY 13 Transfer to Sveti Stefan & Boka Bay

Picturesque drive around Kotor Bay Visit the old town of Kotor and Porto Montenegro Superyacht Marina Arrive at Sveti Stefan islet

Exemplary hotel: Aman Sveti Stefan <u>https://www.aman.com/resorts/aman-sveti-stefan</u> Luxury hotel with a great history, set on a private peninsula.



Hit the road for the last destination of your trip – Montenegro, Croatia's southern neighbor! Take a ride along the marvelous Bay of Kotor, along Herceg Novi and the little town of Perast. Despite having only one street, this tiny town boasts 16 churches and 17 grand palazzi. Only a few kilometers south, Kotor represents a well-preserved town of the late Middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th century.

In the evening, arrive at the picturesque islet of Sveti Stefan that has been turned into a luxury resort by the world-famous Aman group. Enjoy a romantic dinner in the hotel's restaurant, overlooking Montenegro's stunning Riviera.





### DAY 14 Inland Montenegro

#### Visit Skadar Lake National Park

Take a speedboat ride through the swamps and a picnic on the water Enjoy the breathtaking view from Lovćen Mountain

The name Montenegro translates to Black Mountain. It has, as its name suggests, more than only a breathtaking coastline to offer. Explore the dazzle of a nearly untouched hinterland, its spectacular mountain roads and dramatic canyons.

Lake Skadar lies on the border to Albania and is the largest lake of southern Europe. It became the country's second largest national park, and is known for its biodiversity, and clear water. In addition, it boasts 18 important historic monuments including monasteries, churches, and fortresses.

In the little village of Rijeka Crnojevića, with its picturesque stone bridge, board a speedboat and enjoy an adrenalin drenched race through the swamps before refreshing with a picnic on board. Hit the road to nearby Lovćen National Park, that includes some of the highest mountains of Montenegro and offers untouched flora and fauna in abundance, including the world best view on Boka Bay. Return to the hotel for dinner.





# DAY 15 Leisure at Hotel & Dinner in Ulcinj

*Relax in one of the leading resorts of the world Visit Ulcinj for dinner* 

Seize your journey in style! Have a refreshing swim at the hotel's private sandy beach, relax at the pool or in the beautiful park, that surrounds Sveti Stefan Islet. Simply enjoy all the superb amenities, one of the most outstanding resorts worldwide has to offer. For the last evening, visit the southern town of Ulcinj with Europe's longest sandy beach, and dine in one of the family owned restaurants overlooking the citadel and sea. Walk the lively promenade and have a tasty gelato, before you hit the road back to Sveti Stefan.



Prolong your stay and book some additional nights or take a transfer to either Podgorica or Dubrovnik airport to board your flight back home.



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