

Thinkers Tours Essential

From Zagreb to Dubrovnik in 10 days



Composed by the sea

Curated by Thinkers Tours

Delivered to all lovers of true beauty



DAY 1 Arrival at Zagreb Airport & Transfer to Hotel

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



Meet your host at the airport and check into 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 evolving, Zagreb looks back at a long and eventful history.

The architecture was very much influenced by Austro-Hungarian rule in the 18th and 19th 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 a ride with the 150-year old funicular! At Dolac market, farmers from the surrounding areas sell their fresh produce. The Park Maksimir close by is one of the biggest and oldest city parks in the Balkan region. The Mirogoj 19th 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 Split via Plitvice Lakes

*Stop for a romantic picnic at Rastoke village
Tour famous Plitvice lakes and waterfalls
Enjoy lamb “peka” style – a delicacy of the region*

Recommended Hotel: Judita Palace Heritage Hotel <https://juditapalace.com>
Beautifully restored renaissance palace in the heart of Split’s old city center



Hit the road for your next destination: world famous Plitvice lakes. Enjoy a picnic at picturesque Rastoke village before you 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 breathtaking environment in every season. Enjoy a specialty of the region for dinner - lamb stewed under the “Peka” – before you continue your journey to the coast.



DAY 4 Split, Šibenik & Trogir

Enjoy a city tour with an expert on Roman art & history

Visit Šibenik & Trogir in the afternoon

Witness Split's buzzing night life

Split, the largest city of Dalmatia, was built on the remains of a large Roman palace. Emperor Diocletian had it constructed as his retirement residence. After the downfall of the West-Roman empire, people used these stones to construct their private homes, and a new city emerged within the palace in the following centuries. Enjoy a fascinating city tour with an expert on Roman history and architecture, before having some time to explore the town on your own.

A remarkable piece of sacred architecture on the Adriatic is located on the portal of Trogir's cathedral: The portal of medieval master Radovan of 1240, a unique masterpiece of Roman-Gothic art. Continue your drive to the coastal town of Šibenik with its steep little streets, charming cafes and hidden little gardens. Be amazed by the UNESCO protected Renaissance cathedral of St. James, a stone-carved masterpiece by one of Croatia's most acclaimed artists Juraj Dalmatinac.

Return to Split and lose yourself in the 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 Excursion to Bosnia & Hercegovina

*Stop for a Marenda, a Dalmation snack, at Imotski - the capital of Mercedes Cars
Walk the magnificent old town of Mostar
Enjoy a private dinner at Medjugorje's leading boutique winery Vasilj*

Hit the road for yet another jewel of your journey. Arrive at Imotski, a little Croatian town, where the density of Mercedes vehicles is higher than anywhere in the world! Enjoy a typical little snack called "Marenda" and a shot of Rakija, before continuing to Mostar. Walk the old town and spot some of the professional bridge jumpers practicing their art, visit the historic bazaar and enjoy a Bosnian coffee. Mostar, famous for its Ottoman bridge, suffered conflicts and destruction on a massive scale throughout its history. Although divided until today with many scars from the Homeland War still visible, the reconstruction of the bridge is a positive symbol for the future. On the way back to the sea you'll stop at the most beautiful wineries on the Herzegovinian wine-road. An interesting stop is the town of Medjugorje, that has become an important destination for Catholic pilgrims from all over the world since Holy Mary appeared on a nearby hill to a few teenagers in 1981. Enjoy a private dinner at Grgo Vasilj's boutique style winery accompanied by his awarded wines "Žilavka" & "Blatina", before you drive back to the coast.



DAY 6 Transfer to Korčula

Enjoy some downtime in Split

Ferry ride to Korčula Island

Arrive for a sundowner on the Thinkers House terrace

Accommodation: Thinkers House <https://thinkerstours.com/project/thinkers-house/>



Enjoy the special atmosphere in Split's old town, take a stroll to Bačvice beach or just linger in the countless cafes as the locals do.

After lunch, meet your driver at the ferry to enjoy the 2,5-hour boat-ride to Korčula, passing the islands of Brač and Hvar, before arriving at Vela Luka, only a 15-minutes' drive away from your accommodation. Alternatively, we can arrange a private speed boat to take you to Korčula. On your way you can stop at the Pakleni islands for a swim and Hvar old town for dinner.

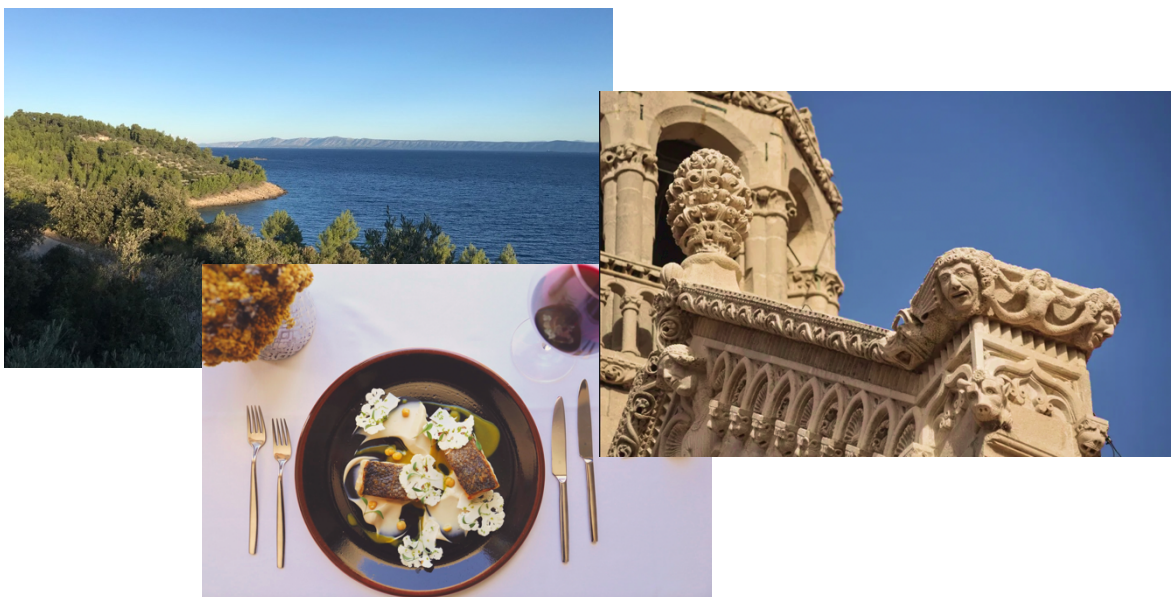


DAY 7 Leisure & Old town Korčula

*Leisure at Thinkers House
City tour of Korčula
Michelin Star dinner at LD Restaurant*



After your breakfast with a view it is time to get to know your surroundings. Explore the quiet shores of Blaca bay by foot, bike or SUP or just pick out a book in the library and listen to some relaxing music while overlooking the sea from the sunlounger. Korčula island, besides its stunning natural beauties also holds a rich cultural heritage. In the evening head for the capital of the island (also called Korčula) with its mighty walls and narrow stone streets built by Korčula's Venetian rulers in the 14th and 15th century. Enjoy the elegant vibe of this Renaissance jewel and let your guide give you a short history round-up about its ancient, everchanging and troubled history. Visit the originally romanesque Saint Marko cathedral - containing a mural of Tintoretto - before you sit down at LD Restaurant to enjoy one of Marko Gajski's Michelin Star decorated menus.



DAY 8 Explore Korčula island from West to East

Visit the prehistoric site of Vela Špilja

Taste Pošip & Grk – Korčula’s great white wines

Visit Stipe Nobile’s atelier in the picturesque village of Lumbarda

Korčula has been inhabited since neolithic times. Remains of the island’s earliest civilization can be found at Vela Špilja near the coastal town of Vela Luka in the west of the island, which you are free to explore. After a glimpse into the past, learn something about olives and wine, the foundation of Dalmatia’s agricultural heritage. Blato, “Croatia’s biggest village”, is a proud community. The massive baroque church and many villa-fortresses around the village tell of its glorious history. Pošip, a grape that is autochthonous to the island, is found in the fertile fields of Smokvica and Čara, two charming villages on the way to the eastern end of the island. In a sharp contrast to the rocky rest of the island, in Lumbarda you’ll find sandy beaches and a terroir perfect for Grk – the other famous white wine of the island. Finishing the round-trip the bohemian way, visit Stipe Nobile in his atelier placed in a castle-like villa built during the Dubrovnik republic. This acclaimed Croatian painter is not only known for his colorful imaginative style, but also for his entertaining stories about fishing and viniculture.



DAY 9 Transfer to Dubrovnik via Pelješac

*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*

Recommended Hotel: Hotel Excelsior https://www.adriaticluxuryhotels.com/hotel-excelsior-dubrovnik?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Google-places

Modern hotel, recently renovated at the top location of Dubrovnik

Room Category & Rate: Junior Suite + Balcony for 817,70 € a night = 1635,40 €



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 built wall at Mali Ston. Then board Captain Gianni'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 10 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

Explore the scenic old town of Dubrovnik, with its opulent Renaissance churches, palaces and monasteries. Walk along the impressive city walls and visit the original filming locations of “Game of Thrones”. Also worth visiting is the War Photography Museum, showing pictures from Dubrovnik’s war-torn past; or you can watch jewelry being made out of corals. Refresh yourself at the city beach or with a gelato at Dolce Vita ice cream parlor. 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, an architectural jewel of Dubrovnik’s finest renaissance heritage.



DAY 11 Leisure at hotel & Departure

*Enjoy breakfast at your hotel
Dip into the Adriatic for a last swim
Take the Limo to the airport*



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