

A Mediterranean Rhapsody

The Grand Tour of Croatia



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 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 Zagreb

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 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 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 Rovinj via Ljubljana & Postojna

Visit Slovenia's capital

Embark on a thrilling underworld experience at Postojna caves

Arrive in Rovinj for a sunowner on the hotel's terrace

Recommended hotel: Grand Park Hotel <https://www.maistra.com/grand-park-hotel-rovinj>

The most luxurious hotel on the Croatian Adriatic, offering contemporary design and old town view.



After breakfast, hit the road for Slovenia's capital Ljubljana just one hour away from Zagreb. Take a stroll through the city center along the Ljubljanica river with its charming cafés and visit one of the local trattorias to grab a tasty snack. Continue the journey to Postojna, one of the world's largest flowstone caves, discovered by accident about 200 years ago. A little train will transport you 3 kilometers inside an impressive dripstone ensemble of over 21 kilometers of joint caves, formed by subterranean rivers running through the karst thousands of years ago. You might also pay a visit to Postojna's most famous residents: a species of white olms that has survived since ancient times, lives more than a hundred years and can survive without food for up to seven years. After a 1,5 hour's drive arrive at charming Rovinj and enjoy a sun owner on the hotel's glamorous terrace overlooking the sea and the old town.



DAY 4 Leisure at Hotel & Poreč

Relax and enjoy the amenities of your hotel

Visit Lim fiord for a plate of fresh mussels

Explore the roman settlement of Poreč and its magnificent byzantine basilica

Relish in this property's amenities such as the hotel's nearby beach, lounge by the pool or relax in the beautiful park surrounding it. Enjoy the down time, stroll through Rovinj, climb the belltower of St. Euphemia for the best view of the old town and the surrounding islands. Go for a run in Zlatni Rt, a beautiful park just a stone's throw of Rovinj's old town, or board one of the local excursion boats for a 20-minute transfer to the Red Island. In the evening, visit the Lim fiord, a 10-kilometers long loch, offering crystal clear waters with a relatively low concentration of salt - the best grounds to harvest mussels. Enjoy them right on the platform where they grow - prepared in a small improvised kitchen.

Head to Poreč for a stroll on the main alley Decumanus (Roman for main street) and visit the UNESCO heritage site of Euphrasian Basilica, before you enjoy dinner in one of the charming restaurants in the old town.



DAY 5 Inland Istria

Visit the medieval town of Motovun
Stop by Livade - Istria's truffle capital
Meet local artists and visit the galleries in Grožnjan

Just as beautiful as the coast, but not as crowded in the season, is the hinterland of Istria. Magical little villages, vineyards, winding backroads and romantic hidden little taverns famous for their homemade, yet world class food, invite you to explore this highly cultivated area with its centuries' old tradition of hospitality. Nested on a hilltop, overlooking the surroundings, Motovun is a beautifully preserved medieval jewel, presenting its changeable history from the Romans, Venetians, French, and the Habsburg monarchy. It's also the hometown of American car racing champion Mario Andretti. Next, visit Livade where, about 20 years ago, Giancarlo Zigante found one of the biggest white truffles ever in a forest. His discovery marked the rise not only of his private truffle empire, but of the whole region as one of the hotspots of the gourmet world. Stop by for a plate of linguine with white truffles, accompanied by one of Istria's great white wines. For a proper round-up of an authentic inland Istria experience, linger in the cobblestone streets of Grožnjan, a little town picked by international artists as a favored location for their ateliers and galleries, hosting art and music workshops in the summer months.



DAY 6 Venice by High-Speed Ferry

Board the speed ferry for a full day trip to Venice

Walk Rialto Bridge and sip a cappuccino on Piazza San Marco

Cruise the countless canals with a private Taxi boat

In the early morning, embark on a high-speed ferry for an unforgettable trip to Venice - only 3 hours away from the Istrian shoreline. The ancient Republic of Venice was the dominant state in the Adriatic from the 13th to the end of the 18th century. La Serenissima - Venice's nickname - controlled huge parts of the Dalmatian coast for many centuries and had a huge impact on the culture, architecture, trade and food of the region. The city, built on over 100 islands, connected through more than 400 bridges with countless palaces and churches, is truly unique in its artistic and historic heritage: World-renowned Canale Grande, Rialto Bridge, Piazza & Basilica San Marco are perfect examples and speak volumes about the success of Venice as an early global trade power. Today, it is home of countless festivals and one of the leading art fairs - the Biennale. Venetians also love to party – their carnival is world famous, originally celebrating the victory over Aquileia in 1162. Take one of the beautiful mahogany wooden taxi-boats to explore the labyrinthine canals off the beaten tracks before returning to your ship. Greet the campanile of St. Marco and the Lido from deck, as you sail back into Croatian waters.



DAY 7 Transfer to Opatija via Pula & Brioni National Park

*Explore Pula with its famous Roman Colosseum
Visit Brioni national park – Tito's former private residence
Enjoy dinner in Opatija and seize the day with a cocktail in Rijeka*

Exemplary hotel: Amadria Park <https://www.amadriapark.com/hotel/amadria-park-hotel-milenij-opatija-business-leisure-hotel>

Heritage hotel in a beautifully restored old villa, a stone's throw from the beach and the city center.



After breakfast you'll be driving towards Pula, Istria's biggest city and the cultural and political center of the region. After the city was conquered by the Romans in 177 B.C., Emperor Augustus built an impressive amphitheater; it is one of the biggest and best-preserved Colosseums today. Originally designed to fit 26.000 people, it is still frequently used for concerts and cultural manifestations. The next highlight on your route is the Brioni national park, an archipelago of 14 small islands, scattered along the coast. In the beginning of the 20th century, Brioni became a preferred hangout for the Viennese upper classes, later to gain fame as the private summer residence of Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito. On the biggest island Veliki Brion you can visit a museum containing memorabilia, such as Tito's old Cadillac Eldorado cabriolet from 1953. The island is populated with all kinds of exotic animals such as zebras and antelopes, even an elephant that Tito received as a present from visiting state guests. Continue for your next location on your itinerary – Opatija.



DAY 8 Opatija & Rijeka

*Catch a glimpse of the beautiful parks and villas at Opatija
Explore the cultural capital of Europe 2020 – Rijeka
Explore Rijeka’s dazzling night scene*

After breakfast, stroll through the many little parks and catch a glimpse of the grand Belle Époque villas of Opatija. Due to its special charm and healthy climate, Opatija became a focal point in social life of Habsburg’s Austrian Riviera. Enjoy lunch in the little fisher town of Volosko - just a 20-minute walk from Opatija on the seaside path once taken by Austrian empresses & emperors and the international jet set. Enjoy some leisure-time before heading out for dinner at one of Kvarner’s best fine dining locations and seize the evening with a couple of drinks in Rijeka, Croatia’s biggest port and a lively metropolis. Rijeka was part of as many as seven different countries during the last centuries, and thus remained an open and international city. As the European Capital of Culture in 2020, Rijeka celebrates its artsy vibe, curated and accompanied by a young, spirited crowd. Dive into Rijeka’s pulsating nightlife before returning to Opatija for the night.



DAY 9 Transfer to Šibenik via Plitvice Lakes

*Stop for a romantic picnic at Rastoke village
Tour the famous Plitvice Lakes and waterfalls
Enjoy Dinner in Šibenik*

Recommended Hotel: Heritage Hotel Life Palace Šibenik

<https://www.hotel-lifepalace.hr/en/homepage/>

Beautifully renovated charming old Palace in the middle of old town Šibenik



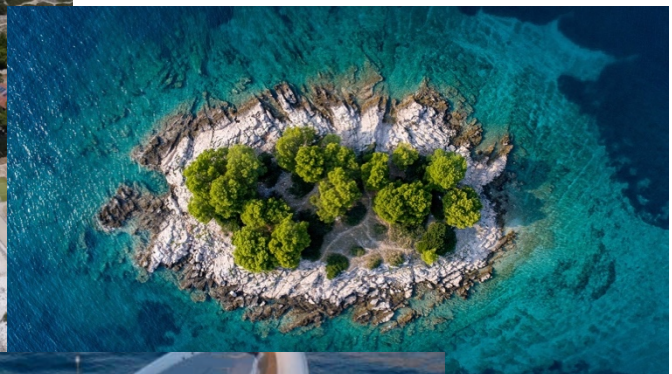
Hit the road for your next destination: world famous Plitvice Lakes. Enjoy a picnic in the picturesque Rastoke village before you go on an exciting tour: Between dozens of joint lakes, pristine waters and spectacular waterfalls against a lush greenery, you'll walk through an unreal variety and richness of flora and fauna. The unique geographical features of Plitvice formed millions of years ago and are a truly breath-taking environment in every season. Continue your journey to the coast and arrive in the bustling coastal town of Šibenik, the next highlight on your itinerary.



DAY 9 Kornati Zodiac Safari

*Embark on a Zodiac Safari to Kornati National Park
Enjoy a superb lunch at Konoba Žakan, a hotspot for gourmets
Have a sundowner on charming Zlarin*

Have a hearty breakfast to prepare for a unique adventure in one of the most fascinating landscapes of Europe. The Kornati national park is composed of over 500 islands and islets. Mostly uninhabited and serene, Kornati islands offer innumerable beaches, coves, little villages and Robinson Crusoe-style restaurants, all well-hidden in this picturesque landscape. There'll be plenty of options for diving in caves, jumping from rocks, waterskiing and tasting the full range of Mediterranean life. After a tasty lunch at "Konoba Žakan", have a little siesta in one of the nearby coves. On the way back pay a visit to the charming little island Zlarin just a few minutes' sail away from Šibenik, where only electric golf karts are allowed. Stay there for a light dinner and a romantic sundowner before you return to Šibenik.



DAY 10 Transfer to Split

Visit the cathedrals of Šibenik & Trogir

Stop at ancient Salona, the perished metropolis of the Roman province Illiricum

Arrive in Split and witness its buzzing nightlife

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



Meet a renowned expert on regional art & history and wander through the steep little streets of the coastal town of Šibenik. Let the UNESCO protected renaissance cathedral work its magic on you, a true masterpiece by one of Croatia's most acclaimed artists Juraj Dalmatinac.

An especially remarkable piece of sacred architecture is the portal of Trogir's cathedral: Made by medieval master Radovan in 1240, it represents a unique masterpiece of Romanesque art on the Adriatic. After a short drive arrive at the site of ancient Salona and visit the fascinating remains of what was once a lively metropolis.

At Split, you can lose yourself in a unique labyrinth of stones and squares formed by layers of history. Enjoy a traditional fish stew in a Dalmatian Konoba – a tavern-style simple restaurant. In the evening, listen to singer-songwriters perform in the narrow alleys and bars and become acquainted with Split's buzzing nightlife!



DAY 11 Split

Tour the UNESCO protected remains of Diocletian's Palace
Spend the free afternoon shopping or just hanging out in the countless cafes
Enjoy Split at night

Split, the largest city of Dalmatia, was built on the remains of a large Roman palace. Emperor Diocletian constructed it 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 or head for some of Split's grand shopping malls for some distraction. Enjoy yet another wonderful evening in Split's buzzing old town!



DAY 12 Excursion to Bosnia – Mostar & Medjugorje

*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 for Mostar. Walk the old town and spot some of the professional bridge jumpers practicing their art, visit the historic bazar 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, witnessed by a few teenagers, in 1981. Enjoy a private dinner at Grgo Vasilj's boutique style winery accompanied by his awarded wines “Zilavka” & “Blatina”, before you drive back to the coast.



DAY 13-19 Southern Islands by Yacht

A week on a private yacht, sailing Croatia's southern shores, is the most exclusive and spectacular experience one could include in an itinerary. Due to a fast-growing market of yachting in Croatia there is a big number of boats, yachts and super yachts eligible for private charter and also a professional service industry built around it. The yachts come with a full crew, staff, chef and all the amenities and toys on board one could imagine. The greatest advantage, besides being able to visit the most secluded beaches, coves and islets in high style, is that the captain will tailor a flexible route perfectly suiting your interests, spontaneous ideas and weather conditions. You will remember yachting Croatia's most beautiful waters for a lifetime.

Here are some boats in different categories available in Croatia:



Name	Seven Sins
Builder	San Lorenzo
Year	2017
Lenght	52 meters (171 ft)
Guests	10
Price p. Week	285.000 € + VAT + Expenses



Name	Tuscan Sun
Builder	Maiora
Year	2008, refit 2021
Lenght	32,5 meters (107 ft)
Guests	12
Price p. Week	66.000 € + VAT + Expenses



Name	Orlando L
Builder	Ferretti
Year	2007, refit 2020
Lenght	24 meters (78 ft)
Guests	8
Price p. Week	34.000 € + VAT + Expenses



Highlights of the Cruise



Hvar and Pakleni Islands



Blue Cave Biševo



Vis



Mljet National Park



Korčula



DAY 19 Disembark and Explore Korčula

City tour of Korčula town

Taste Pošip & Grk – Korčula's great white wines

Arrive for a sundowner on the Thinkers House terrace

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



Say goodbye to the crew and hello to Korčula, your next destination! Korčula island is simply stunning – its natural beauties are on par with its cultural heritage. Walk the ancient stone streets of the capital of the island (also called Korčula) with its mighty walls and splendid palaces built by Korčula's Venetian rulers in the 14th and 15th century. Glimpse into a different past and learn something about Korčula's wine heritage. In sharp contrast to the stony rest of the island, Lumbarda boasts sandy beaches and a terroir perfect for Grk – one of the two famous white wines of the island. Pošip, the other high-class grape that is autochthonous here, is found in the fertile fields of Smokvica and Čara, two charming villages on the way to the eastern end of the island. Get in touch with the island's bohemian spirit and visit Stipe Nobile in his atelier 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. Arrive at Thinkers House for a sundowner.



DAY 20 Korčula

Leisure at Thinkers House

Blato & Vela Luka

Traditional peka dinner at Pičena Bay 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 Paddleboard or just pick out a book in the library and listen to some relaxing music while overlooking the sea from the sunlounger. Set out to explore the western part of Korčula in the afternoon. Korčula has been inhabited since neolithic times and remains of the island's earliest civilization can be found at Vela Špilja near the coastal town of Vela Luka, which you are free to explore. From the art of living way back, look at the way of life today and dive into the logistics of olives, wine and fishing, the foundation of Dalmatia's agricultural heritage. Blato, "Croatia's biggest village", is a proud community and home of the longest tree alley in Europe. The massive baroque church and many villa-fortresses around the village tell of its glorious history. Vela Luka, the youngest settlement on the island, is the hometown of Croatian singer songwriter hero Oliver Dragojević. Learn to sing his most famous songs and round up the day with a tasty dinner.



DAY 21 Transfer to Dubrovnik via Pelješac

Taste Croatia's most famous red wine "Dingač"

Walk the ancient walls of Ston

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



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. Not much further, more great wines wait for you - enjoy a taste of Croatia's best reds 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 and visit 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 22 Dubrovnik

Walk the magnificent streets and ancient walls of Dubrovnik

Take a swim at Banje beach and Lokrum Island

Visit a classical concert at Rector's Palace

Explore the scenic old town of Dubrovnik, with its opulent renaissance churches, palaces and monasteries. Walk along the impressive city walls and revisit the original filming locations of "Game of Thrones" or visit the war photography museum, showcasing pictures from Dubrovnik's war-torn past. At Clara Stones Boutique and Workshop watch jewelry being made out of precious corals. Refresh yourself at the city beach or with a delicious 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 or just practice people-watching at Dubrovnik's catwalk "Stradun" while sipping Aperol.



DAY 23 Daytrip to Montenegro

Picturesque drive around Kotor Bay

Visit the old town of Kotor and Porto Montenegro Superyacht Marina

Enjoy Dinner in Cavtat

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. A few kilometers to the South, Kotor represents a well-preserved town of the late Middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th century. The name Montenegro translates to “Black Mountain”. Lovćen national park includes some of the highest mountains of Montenegro and offers untouched flora and fauna in abundance, including the world’s best view on Boka Bay. Enjoy an adrenalin kick at the most spectacular zipline of Montenegro and digest it over a visit to Tivat super-yacht marina, before making your way back to Croatia. Stop at Cavtat, a charming coastal town for dinner.



DAY 24 Leisure at hotel & Departure

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

