

CROATIA & SLOVENIA BY LAND AND BY SEA

INCLUDING MONTENEGRO AND BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

18 DAYS VISITING:

ZAGREB

LAKE BLED

LJUBLJANA

OPATIJA

PLITVICE LAKES

TROGIR

SPLIT

MEDJUGORJE & MOSTAR

MILJET

KORCULA

HVAR

KOTOR & BUDVA

DUBROVNIK

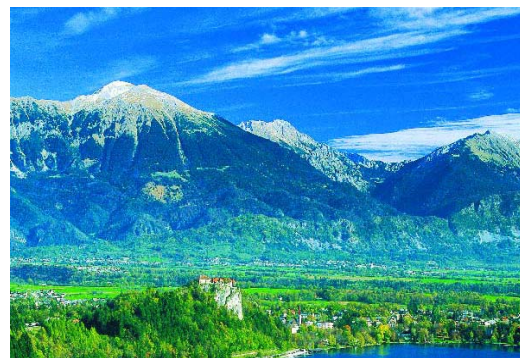


18 day comprehensive tour from Zagreb to Dubrovnik - Departs 3 September 2009

Exclusive deal - *SAVE \$1000 per couple - Book & pay in full by 31 July 09

Spend 18 days exploring the best of Slovenia and Croatia. Experience Slovenia's spectacular Julian Alps including Lake Bled before travelling via the Istria Peninsula and Plitvice Lakes to Dalmatia & Dubrovnik where you will board a privately chartered motor cruiser, the ideal size to explore the historic ports and pristine Dalmatian Islands in relaxed comfort. Your 5 night cruise features stops nightly, including Hvar & Korcula. From Dubrovnik enjoy side trips to Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

- **Small group tour Maximum 25 fellow travellers**
- **Fully escorted by a professional tour leader**
- **Price includes comprehensive sightseeing and services including gratuities**
- **Exclusive to the Australian & New Zealand market**
 - **1st class tour in English only**
- **Features a 5 day privately chartered Dalmatian Islands cruise**



*Details: \$1000 per couple saving valid twn share bookings deposited by 30 July 2009. Quote code SPJ09 on booking. Tour subject to availability

Book with your local AFTA Travel agent:

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2009 SMALL GROUP TOUR

CROATIA & SLOVENIA BY LAND & BY SEA

18 days from Zagreb to Dubrovnik

DAY 1, THURSDAY ARRIVE ZAGREB

An arrival transfer is included, even if you have booked pre-tour accommodation. On arrival at Zagreb airport, proceed to the arrivals hall after exiting customs. Look for your driver who will be holding a signboard with "your name" or "Beyond Travel" displayed. You will be transferred to Hotel Dubrovnik and, after check-in, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. At 7pm, please make your way to the hotel lobby where you will meet your Tour Director, Beyond Travel representative and fellow tour participants. Your Tour Director, Zvonko, will brief you daily about departure times and activities scheduled for the following day. This evening he will be available to answer any questions you may have. After a welcome drink, the group will enjoy dinner at the hotel. (D)

DAY 2, FRIDAY ZAGREB

After breakfast at your hotel, please meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a city tour featuring the historic Upper Town, St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, Parliament and Government Palace. The Upper Town and Kaptol form the core of this old city of quaint streets and squares which you will discover on a walking tour. After lunch at a local restaurant, the rest of the day is free for you to explore at leisure. Overnight at Hotel Dubrovnik. (B, L)

DAY 3, SATURDAY ZAGREB – OTOČEC – BLEĐ

After breakfast, please be sure to check-out and meet your group in the hotel lobby for an early departure. En route to Bled, we stop briefly to visit the picturesque town of Otočec where you may have morning tea. After arriving in Bled and hotel check-in, we embark on a sightseeing tour with a local guide who will show you this charming town with its picturesque lakeshore and imposing Bled Castle. We will also take a traditional 'pletna' boat and visit the small island in the middle of the lake. You have some free time after the tour before the group is transferred to Bled Castle for dinner. Overnight Hotel Golf. (B, D)

DAY 4, SUNDAY BLEĐ – KRANJSKA GORA – VRSIČ PASS – TRENTA VALLEY – BOVEC – BLEĐ

After breakfast, today's full day excursion will take you to the Julian Alps, a unique and unspoilt alpine region. You will pass through Kranjska Gora, a famous winter sports centre, and drive along scenic mountain passes. A stop at Vrsic Pass will allow you to admire the breathtaking scenery. Then your journey takes you down to the Trenta Valley, one of the most beautiful and untouched Alpine valleys in Europe, where you will also see the turquoise water of the Soca River. In the valley's museum (entrance payable locally), you will discover the cultural and natural heritage of the Triglav National Park before stopping for lunch in the small resort town of Bovec. Afterwards, we travel via the Italian Alps and Tarvisio back to Bled where you have the evening at leisure. (B, L)

DAY 5, MONDAY BLEĐ - LJUBLJANA

Please check-out and be ready for an early departure and the one hour drive to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. A local guide will meet the group for a morning walking tour of the city's Old Town, including the picturesque central open-air market and Three Bridges designed by famous architect Joze Plecnik. You will see the baroque town hall and Robba's Fountain and take a funicular to the castle to admire the view over Ljubljana. After check-in at Hotel Lev, the rest of the day is free for you to explore further, or you may choose to shop for souvenirs at the market. Tonight the group will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 6, TUESDAY LJUBLJANA – POSTOJNA – PREDJAMA - OPATIJA

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we leave Ljubljana and travel to Postojna, home of the Postojna cave system, the largest in Slovenia. Tour the fantastic subterranean world by electric train, then continue to nearby Predjama Castle which is located in the middle of a 123m high, limestone cliff at the entrance to a cave. After a tour of the castle and time for lunch (on your own), we continue across the border into Croatia. Upon arrival at the beautiful bay of Kvarner and its popular resort town of Opatija, you will check-in at Hotel Bristol. Later, your guide Zvonko will take you for a short walk around the town. Opatija, often called the Nice of the Adriatic, is one of the most popular seaside resorts in Croatia with a long and imperial history. Dinner tonight will be at a local seafood restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 7, WEDNESDAY OPATIJA – ROVINJ – PULA – OPATIJA

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a full-day excursion to the beautiful Istrian Peninsula. Our first stop will be the old fishing village of Rovinj where you will have a tour of this fashionable resort and some free time for a light lunch. We then continue to the historic town of Pula with a sightseeing tour and visit to the Roman amphitheatre built in the 1st century. Tonight you will enjoy a Croatian evening in the small town of Istra, with folk dancing, wine and homemade, traditional Croatian food. Afterwards, we return to Opatija and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 8, THURSDAY OPATIJA - PLITVICE

Today after check-out, we leave Opatija and drive to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Have your camera ready to capture the spectacular scenery of this natural wonder of 16 terraced lakes connected by cascading waterfalls surrounded by wooded mountains and lush vegetation. After check-in at Hotel Jezero, we will take a walking tour around several of the lower lakes which are surrounded by sparse underbrush and lie on limestone bedrock. You will have some free time before dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 9, FRIDAY PLITVICE – ZADAR - TROGIR

After an early breakfast, check-out and meet your tour group in the hotel lobby. We depart Plitvice and travel to Zadar, the oldest Slavic city on the Adriatic Sea and once a famous cultural centre. A local guide will take you on a tour including the ruins of the Roman Forum and St. Donat Church, and you will have some free time before continuing to Trogir. En route we stop at Entno-Land where you will learn about Dalmatian customs, with a welcoming ceremony, guided tour and a tasting of local wine and smoked ham, followed by a traditional meal with folkloric music. After an early dinner, we travel the final stretch and arrive at Hotel Fontana in Trogir. (B, D)

DAY 10, SATURDAY TROGIR - SPLIT - TROGIR

This morning after breakfast, you will meet your guide for a tour of this centre of artistic activities where scholars from around the world gather to study and paint. Then we depart for a 30 minute drive to Split where you will have a city tour escorted by a local guide featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace. You will also see the remains of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle, and Cathedral. The rest of the afternoon is free for your own exploration. After dinner at a local restaurant, return to Trogir with free time for an evening stroll through the medieval Old Town. Overnight at Hotel Fontana. (B, D)

DAY 11, SUNDAY TROGIR – MEDJUGORJE – MOSTAR – DUBROVNIK

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we depart via the Neretva Valley and travel into Bosnia & Herzegovina. Our first stop is Medjugorje, where, in 1981, six young parishioners testified that the Virgin Mary appeared to them and spoke her message of peace. Since this day, this once poor village has been attracting millions of Catholic pilgrims from all over the world. Leaving Medjugorje, we head towards Mostar which is famous for its old stone-arched bridge built in the 16th century. Mostar has survived centuries of varied cultures and religions now co-existing in a wonderful mix of European and Ottoman influences. Following a city tour, you will have some free time before departure for Dubrovnik. On arrival at Gruz Harbour, you will embark your ship, *Pape Prvi*. After dinner onboard, begin to explore this ancient walled city. (B, D)

DAY 12, MONDAY DUBROVNIK – MLJET

After breakfast onboard (supplement for English breakfast included), a local guide will meet you at the ship for a sightseeing tour of medieval Dubrovnik, including Rector's Palace and the Franciscan Monastery which houses Europe's third oldest pharmacy. After the tour you will have some free time to walk along the city walls before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon departure to the island of Mljet. On arrival, you may choose to join an optional tour of Mljet National Park (entrance fee to be paid locally). The evening is at leisure for your own activities and dinner on Mljet. (B, L)

DAY 13, TUESDAY MLJET – KORCULA

This morning you will have some free time on Mljet before your ship departs for Korcula, considered the birthplace of the famed explorer Marco Polo. Enjoy lunch onboard before arriving at Korcula where you will have a late-afternoon walking tour with a local guide. Korcula has one of the most beautiful Old Towns in Dalmatia and is often called "Little Dubrovnik" due to its mighty fortress and impressive city walls. The evening is at leisure for an evening meal in one of the island's many cafes and restaurants. (B, L)

DAY 14, WEDNESDAY KORCULA – HVAR

After breakfast onboard, your ship departs for the island of Hvar, with a stop for lunch and swimming. Upon arrival in Hvar, a local guide will escort you on a sightseeing tour of the Dalmatia's most popular island which is known for its moderate climate and lovely lavender fields. The evening is free to explore Hvar Town, a labyrinth of streets rich in historical and cultural heritage. (B, L)

DAY 15, THURSDAY HVAR – TRSTENIK

Today the ship departs after breakfast for a six hour cruise to Trstenik, a small, serene and very picturesque coastal town located on the mainland. You can explore the town and its lovely beach before returning to the ship for a special Captain's Dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 16, FRIDAY TRSTENIK – DUBROVNIK

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and some free time until the ship departs for Dubrovnik. Lunch will be served onboard with a late-afternoon arrival into Dubrovnik. The evening is at your leisure to further explore Dubrovnik on your own. (B, L)

DAY 17, SATURDAY DUBROVNIK – KOTOR – BUDVA - DUBROVNIK

Our full day excursion to Montenegro will depart after an early breakfast. We will travel to the fjord-shaped Bay of Kotor which is surrounded by high mountains and provides one of the most spectacular landscapes on the Adriatic. We then continue to the town of Kotor for a city tour including its beautiful Romanesque cathedral of St Triphun. As we continue to Budva, you will marvel at the panoramic view over Sveti Stefan, an exclusive island-resort. At Budva, you will have an orientation tour, followed by free time to explore this charming town. The return journey to Dubrovnik will include a ferry-ride across the bay. This evening, your Farewell Dinner will be at a local restaurant in Dubrovnik, including traditional Croatian "klapa" singing. Overnight on your ship. (B, D)

DAY 18, SUNDAY DEPART DUBROVNIK

Your "Croatia & Slovenia by Land and by Sea" tour concludes after breakfast on the ship. Upon disembarkation you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

PRICES - 03 September departure 2009

Category "C" Lower deck cabin during the cruise portion: \$6,250 per person twin share \$7,650 for a single
Category "B" Main deck cabin during the cruise portion: \$6,600 per person twin share \$8,700 for a single
Category "A" Upper deck cabin during the cruise portion: \$6,850 per person twin share \$9,450 for a single

Saving: Book & pay in full by 31 JULY 2009 and **SAVE \$1000** per couple off the above prices

Prices are AUD land & cruise only - including comprehensive sightseeing, accommodation, transfers, a privately chartered 5 day Dalmatian Island cruise, gratuities and many meals as indicated in the itinerary.
Details correct as of 10 June 09 - Tour is subject to availability and places are very limited.



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