

NORTHERN CROATIA & SLOVENIA ZAGREB TO SPLIT BUS TOUR

SEPTEMBER 11 TO 19, 2021

\$3,271 per person, double occupancy

(based on up to 18 people double occupancy; more people = lower price)

Single supplement: \$860

Deposit: \$500 per person due April 30 2020

Final payment due June 1 2021

Price includes:

- Fully escorted coach throughout by English speaking tour guide/escort.
- Full day Zagreb city coach, entrance fees
- Half day Bled tour: Includes coach, entrance, boat
- Visit Predjama Castle & Skocjan Caves
- Half day Rovinji tour. Includes entrance,
- Full day Pula tour. Includes entrance, all costs
- Short Opatija city tour. All costs
- Half day Plitvice tour: Includes entrance, all costs
- Transfer to Split docks for cruise boat / ferry departure
- 4 x dinners at hotels (3 courses, no drinks)
- 3 x dinners at local restaurants (3 courses, no drinks). Includes transfer to & from hotel
- 2 nights 4 star hotel in Zagreb, with breakfast
- 1 night 4 star hotel in Bled, with breakfast
- 1 night 4 star hotel in Rovinji, with breakfast
- 2 nights 4 star hotel in Pula with breakfast
- 1 night 3 star hotel in Plitvice with breakfast



Designed to accompany a Cycle and Sail trip through Southern Croatia, this tour will focus on the beauty and history of Northern Croatia and some of the highlights of Slovenia.

Traveling on a comfortable, bus, fully escorted with professional and knowledgeable guides, we get to know this interesting part of Europe. Experience highlights such as medieval fortress towns in Zagreb and its local culture; open air markets, architecture from the Renaissance and Austro-Hungary; emerald glacial lakes; castles; Unesco caves inhabited by humans in prehistoric times; the medieval home of robber-baron Erasmus, artists galleries on old town streets; Roman Ruins; Istrian Olive Oil Museum with samples; a trendy destination for the jet set and royalty; hike 16 lakes which cascade into each other and feed a variety of flora and fauna.

ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 01: 11 Sep ZAGREB Arrive in Zagreb, Croatia and transfer to the hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure. Zagreb began as two medieval fortress towns atop hills overlooking the Sava River. The city was reborn in the Baroque period as a center of business, well located on routes connecting Central Europe to the Adriatic Sea. Today, Zagreb is the heart of contemporary Croatia's culture, art, sports, and academics with a unique blend of medieval towers, 19th century palaces, open-air markets, and ancient cathedrals. Overnight (4 star) Hotel Dubrovnik (or similar)

Day 02: 12 Sep ZAGREB Full day Zagreb tour: We visit Governor Jelacic Square, the heart of the capital dominated by the statue of Josip Jelacic who became the governor of the triple Kingdom of Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia We visit the Baroque Upper Town, and the picturesque Open-Air Market. Perched on two small hills encircled by Renaissance-era walls, Zagreb's oldest district is home to many of the city's main attractions. From its intriguing architecture to nearby natural havens, this underrated European capital has something for everyone. Zagreb's cityscape is a fascinating mixture of classic Austro-Hungarian architecture and gritty socialist structures. Some of the city's most emblematic buildings include the iconic, colorful roof of St Mark's Church and the twin spires of Zagreb Cathedral. With an electric mix of Italian, Turkish, and Austro-Hungarian influences, even its coffee culture here is steeped in history. Overnight (4 star) Hotel Dubrovnik (or similar). Breakfast, restaurant dinner

Day 03: 13 Sep BLEED Half day Bled tour: Bled Castle, boat trip Bled Otok Today we drive to Bled, Slovenia (2.5 hours). Bled nestles on the shores of an emerald green glacial lake and the views on approach are stupendous. The town's castle hovers over the lake's edge, where Bled Otok is, a small island with a church at the center, all against the spectacular backdrop of the Karavanke Mountains and Julian Alps. In the afternoon we go on a half day tour of Bled including 11th century Bled Castle, with a small museum and magnificent views of town, lake and mountains. Then catch a small traditional boat, or pletna to visit the country's only island, Bled Otok where we visit the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption. Legend has it that if you make a wish while ringing the bell it will come true. Overnight (4 star) Hotel Park (or similar). Breakfast, hotel dinner

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Day 04: 14 Sep ROVINJI Drive to Rovinji. Visit *Predjama Castle & Skocjan Caves*. Skocjan Caves are a UNESCO natural & cultural world heritage site since 1986. Archaeological research has shown that people lived in the caves in prehistoric times –for more than 5,000 years. On a shared guided tour we depart underground. Traverse the man-made passage in the Globočak Collapse Doline and continue through the Silent Cave a fossil passage filled with numerous dripstone formations. Exit the Silent Cave to a remarkable view of the underground canyon of the Reka River which we cross on the Cerkevnik Bridge, suspended nearly fifty meters above the riverbed. Return through Tominc Cave and the waterfall under the natural bridge in the Big Collapse Doline. Next, visit the idyllic village of Predjama and famous Predjama Castle, medieval home of the robber-baron Erasmus, the 'Slovenian Robin Hood' set in the gaping mouth of a cavern halfway up a hill, gives. Overnight (4 star) Hotel Eden (or similar). Breakfast, hotel dinner.

Day 05: 15 Sep PULA Half day Rovinji tour: St. Euphemia's. Vladimira Svalbe St. Drive Pula. This morning we take a half day Rovinji walking tour. Start with a walk up Rovinji's hilly streets to its highest point at St. Euphemia Church where we are rewarded with panoramic views of the sea, the islands of St. Catherine and the Red Island. Climb the church belfry (for an extra 10 Kuna). Then walk through old Rovinj, strolling along Grisia Street, known for its artists and galleries, and Vladimira Svalbe Street, one of the most unspoiled streets and Carera Street, Rovinj's most famous shopping street. After our tour we depart for Pula (36k / 23mi – 1 hour). Overnight (3 star+) Hotel Park Plaza Arena (or similar). Breakfast, restaurant dinner.

Day 06: 16 Sep PULA Full day Pula tour: Temple, Triumphal Arch. Mkt. Olive Oil Museum. Today we explore the stupendous Roman ruins. Start at the spectacular 2nd-century Roman Amphitheater, then walk to the Temple of Augustus on Trg Republike in the center of town, where we explore the temple. Visit The Triumphal Arch of the Sergi, best known as Porta Aurea or 'The Golden Gate'. We then walk through the City Market and Fishery where we see everyday ingredients of Istrian food. Visit the Olive Oil Museum and taste various olive oils. Overnight (3 star plus) Hotel Park Plaza Arena (or similar) breakfast

Day 07: 17 Sep PLITVICE Short Opatija tour: Angiolina Park. We drive to *Plitvice*, via a *short tour of Opatija* en route. Opatija was a trendy destination for the jet set and royalty in the 19th and early 20th centuries CE. including Friedrich Schüller, Croatian governor Josip Jelačić, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Austrian emperor Franz Joseph, German emperor Kaiser Wilhelm, composers Mahler and Puccini, Irish author James Joyce (to name a few). Today, after two wars, Opatija is still popular with European tourists. In the 19th century the Habsburgs turned Opatija into one of Europe's most popular destinations. Today it is famed for its eclectic architecture, including Renaissance, Venetian, Gothic, ornate Secession, playful Baroque, Classicism, Alpine Baroque... We visit Angiolina Park, with its Villa Angiolina, now a Museum of Tourism, the Church of Mary's Annunciation - a neoromantic building with a green dome and a convent built in 1906 CE. We pass The Kvarner Hotel and Villa Amalia, where European kings and emperors used to reside. Overnight (3 star) Hotel Jezero (or similar) breakfast, hotel dinner

Day 08: 18 Sep SPLIT *Half day Plitvice tour: Hike & boat Plitvice Lakes. Drive to Split* In Plitvice visit the 16 lakes, each at a different level and join each other in a series of cascading waterfalls. The travertine terraces have continuously reformed themselves over 10,000 years as calcium carbonate dissolves and settles, forming barriers and cascades. The lakes are also home to a huge variety of flora and fauna including 120 species of birds and a variety of mammals and fish species. The entire area is protected as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. Wooded paths at the edge of pine, beech and fir forests follow the successions of lakes and waterfalls which we will follow on our *easy walk*, ending with a *short boat ride across the largest lake*. In the afternoon we drive to Split via *Zadar*, the ancient capital of Byzantine Dalmatia. Zadar today is a large city with an historic center crowded on a small piece of land jutting into the Adriatic Sea. When it was occupied by the Germans during WWII, Allied bombers destroyed about 60% of the city. Today one finds a variety of architectural styles; from Roman Corinthian columns to Romanesque churches. We enter through Venetian Gates and proceed to the *Roman Forum*, the *Church of St. Donatus* and *Cathedral of Anastasius*, and visit the *Archaeological Museum*, with its fine collection of artifacts dating from Roman and medieval times. (NOTE: In the event that the Archaeological Museum is closed, due to erratic opening hours, the Museum will be replaced with a visit of the Treasury, a collection of relics attended to by the order of Benedictine nuns in the Church and Nunnery of St. Mary.) After our visit, we continue to *Split*, the 2nd largest city of Croatia. The historic city center actually lies in the walls of the enormous retirement Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian and served as both a palace and military fortress, and later a fortified town. Later we may wish to walk the harbor promenade as it comes alive with locals taking their evening stroll or relaxing in the seaside cafes against the palace walls. Dinner in a local restaurant (3 courses, tea & coffee - no drinks).. Overnight (4 star) Hotel Globo (or similar) breakfast.

Day 09: 19 Sep DEPART Group. Meal plan: breakfast