

# DISCOVER CROATIA

April 1-11, 2018  
Detailed Itinerary

## **DAY 1, Sunday - Depart for Italy**

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## **DAY 2, Monday - Arrive in Venice and Transfer to Opatija**

Arrive in Venice and transfer to your hotel in the seaside town of Opatija. A gem on Croatia's Adriatic coast, nestled along the striking Gulf of Kvarner. Afternoon is at leisure to explore the town on your own. Perhaps take a stroll along the "Lungo Mare" seafront and enjoy beautiful views of the Gulf, sheltered by soaring mountains. Tonight, Welcome Drink and Dinner with your fellow travelers, followed by a briefing by your Tour Manager on the journey that awaits you in Croatia and Slovenia (transfers not included).

**Overnight:** Opatija

**Meals:** Dinner

## **DAY 3, Tuesday - Full Day in Opatija**

Enjoy a full day at leisure in the seaside town of Opatija, with its rich history, picturesque surroundings and gorgeous beaches, once a gathering spot for the Austro-Hungarian nobility. Alternatively, join the *optional* tour to the Istrian Peninsula that begins in Pula, a strategic port since the times of the ancient Romans. Afterwards, the tour continues to the resort town of Rovinj. Tonight, return to Opatija and explore the charming town with its wealth of fine seafood restaurants

**Optional:** Full Day Istrian Peninsula (AM)

**Overnight:** Opatija

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **DAY 4, Wednesday - Zadar City Tour en Route to Split**

Depart today for a long drive along the dramatic Adriatic coast to Split. En route stop at the historic old town of Zadar; highlighted by ruins of a Roman forum, medieval churches, cosmopolitan cafes and museums. This city is a wonderful combination of beautiful Roman architecture, Habsburg elegance, and a picture-perfect seafront. View the Cathedral and St. Donat Church before driving to the UNESCO protected seaside town of Split, the second largest city in Croatia. Upon arrival, in the early evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the scenic waterfront promenade

**Overnight:** Split

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **DAY 5, Thursday - Depart Split, Arrive in Dubrovnik**

Walk along the cobbled streets of the Old Town featuring the historic inner city with its dominating Roman influence, built around the astonishing 4th century Palace of Diocletian. This spectacular palace is the largest and best preserved Roman palace in the world, built for the Emperor Diocletian, representing a precious example of Roman architecture. See the remains of the Roman Peristyle, the unusual Cathedral of St. Domnius built in the Middle Ages, and the Temple of Jupiter, with its headless black sphinx guarding the entrance. Spend time discovering the town independently before continuing along the coast to the spectacular walled city of Dubrovnik where you will have the opportunity to see the amazing views of this city known as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". Tonight, enjoy dinner at your hotel

**Overnight:** Dubrovnik

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 6, Friday - Dubrovnik City Tour**

Enjoy the many delights of Dubrovnik today. The city's splendid medieval ramparts are considered to be one of the most grandiose fortification monuments in Europe, and its magnificent Old Town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The walking tour of "Old Dubrovnik" highlights the city's treasures within the 800-year-old walls including the Rector's Palace, an outstanding blend of Gothic and Renaissance architecture and the monumental Sponza Palace, preserved with its original beauty. Under the City Bell Tower on Luza Square stands Orlando's Tower, dedicated to the knight that saved the city in the 9th century. Continue to the Dominican Monastery, whose museum is a major treasury of culture and to the Franciscan Monastery with exhibits from the world's third oldest functioning pharmacy. The rest of the day is yours. Perhaps, spend time strolling along the impressive ramparts overlooking the shimmering Adriatic Sea

**Overnight:** Dubrovnik

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 7, Saturday - Full Day in Dubrovnik**

A full day at leisure to explore Dubrovnik independently. Perhaps visit the Maritime Museum in St. John's Castle, linger in the historic Old City, or, people-watch at a charming cafe. Alternatively, join the *optional* full day tour to Montenegro, the "Jewel of the Mediterranean" nestled on the gorgeous Adriatic coast. Drive towards the stunning Bay of Kotor, the longest and deepest fjord in southern Europe. On to the charming coastal town of Perast where a short boat ride takes you to the 15th century "Our Lady of the Rocks" Church perched on an islet in the bay. Once there, visit the Roman Catholic Church whose interior is decorated with 68 paintings by Tripo Kokolja, a famous 17th century painter from Perast. Proceed to the charming city of Kotor for a guided walking tour. View the Cathedral of St. Tryphon, Maritime Museum, numerous Palaces and Old Square and get to feel the atmosphere of this unique medieval town.\* Leisure time to walk the winding cobblestone lanes of the Old City before returning along the Dalmatian Coast to Dubrovnik. Tonight, enjoy a walk along Dubrovnik's cobbled streets; see the glowing buildings and the fortifications accented against the night sky

*\*Note: Due to the new EU regulation, the border crossing between Croatia and Montenegro can take longer waiting time.*

**Optional:** Full Day Montenegro Tour (AM)

**Overnight:** Dubrovnik

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 8, Sunday - Travel to Zagreb**

Today spend the day traveling inland through wooded mountains and lush vegetation to Zagreb. En route stop in Pakovo Selo for lunch. On to the Croatian capital Zagreb, the largest city of the Republic of Croatia. Take the Plitvice Lakes National Park optional tour in the afternoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive in the evening at the Croatian capital of Zagreb, the largest city of the Republic of Croatia. After checking in to your hotel, enjoy exploring at leisure the numerous shops and various restaurants.

**Optional:** Plitvice Lakes National Park

**Overnight:** Zagreb

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 9, Monday - Zagreb City Tour, Arrive Bled**

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Zagreb which concludes with a walking tour in the Old Town. After lunch on your own, depart for the lovely city of Bled, exquisitely set amidst the Julian Alps. Bled, with its rich natural beauty ranks among the world's most beautiful alpine resorts and is also renowned for its mild, healing climate and its thermal lake waters. With its emerald-green lake, picture-postcard church on an islet, a medieval castle clinging to a rocky cliff and some of the highest peaks of the Julian Alps, Bled is Slovenia's most popular resort. Tonight, an *optional* dinner at a charming and popular country inn in the tiny medieval town of Radovljica, highlighted by a selection of traditional Slovenian dishes and wine

**Optional:** Tour of Radovljica with dinner (PM)

**Overnight:** Bled

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 10, Tuesday - Tour Ljubljana, Return to Bled**

This morning drive to Ljubljana for a sightseeing tour that includes views of the open-air market, City Hall, Robba Fountain, the Three Bridges, and the Parliament. After some time at leisure, return to Bled for a sightseeing tour, including a visit to Bled Castle, located on a cliff high above the lake. This beautiful resort lies in the heart of the Julian Alps. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant with your fellow travelers

**Overnight:** Bled

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 11, Wednesday - Depart Italy**

Transfer to the Venice airport for your departure flight (transfers not included).

**Meals:** Breakfast