# Treasures of CROATIA & the Balkans

**2024** May 6 — May 21 **2024** May 15 — May 30 **2024** September 24 — October 9

**2025** April 22 — May 7



#### DAYS 1 & 2 - GOODBYE CANADA, ZDRAVO SARAJEVO!

Enjoy a private car ride to the airport. Travellers departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your dedicated Group Guru and fellow travellers and fly overnight to Sarajevo. Upon arrival, luxury coach transfer to your hotel and free time to settle in before a delightful afternoon welcome cocktail. Overnight in Sarajevo. (D)

#### **DAY 3 - SARAJEVO**

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Sarajevo, from Ottoman era bazaars to Austro-Hungarian architecture. After exploring on foot, learn about its darkest wartime chapter during a moving visit of The Gallery 11/07/95. Free afternoon to explore this culture capital. Bosnian delicacies are served at a local restaurant tonight. Overnight in Sarajevo. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 DAY TRIP TO MOSTAR & ON TO DUBROVNIK (271 KM) Day trip to Mostar, where you will visit landmarks such as the Kajtaz House, the Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque and the UNESCO-recognized Stari Most bridge. Continue to the Dalmatian coast. Overnight in Dubrovnik. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 5 DISCOVER DUBROVNIK

This morning's tour will introduce you to the "Jewel of the Adriatic", including the Franciscan Monastery and the Cathedral of the Assumption. During a free afternoon, revel in the old town's storied past by walking along its iconic ramparts (Game of Thrones fans take note!). Overnight in Dubrovnik. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6 TO LOTOR

This morning brings you to stunning Kotor, Montenegro. Check out the bay from countless look out points during a walking tour, followed by tales of the sea during a visit to the Maritime Museum. After a delicious lunch set sail for Our Lady of the Rocks, an island constructed of sunken ships. Overnight in Dubrovnik. (B,L,D)

## DAY 7 · SPLENDID SPLIT (235 KM)

Enjoy the endless views of the Adriatic as you make your way to Split. On arrival, feel the hum of Croatia's second largest city during a guided tour of its cultural center. Explore Diocletian's Palace, erected by the Roman emperor in the  $4^{\text{th}}$  century. Overnight in Split. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 8 - TRIP TO TROGIR**

Start your day in medieval Trogir with a walking tour and visit to the stunning St. Lawrence Cathedral. Following lunch, return to Split to spend free time exploring at your leisure. Overnight in Split. (B,L,D)

## DAY 9 - HVAR ISLAND (FERRY)

Boat ride to the pristine island of Hvar. Enjoy a guided tour of the island and indulge in a tasting of local products served with wine, of course. Spend free time this afternoon in the town of Hvar smelling the locally grown lavender before returning to Split for dinner. Overnight in Split. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 10 · WINE TASTING & EXPLORING ZADAR (276 KM)

On the way to Zadar, stop for a tasting at a generations-old vineyard and farm, showcasing organic cheeses, cold pressed olive oils and full-bodied reds. Arrive in Zadar for a guided tour of the old town, before you are lulled by its sea organ, an architectural wonder where waves meet stone to create distinct musical notes. On to Plitvice National Park for the night. (B,L,D)

# **DAY 11 · COUNT WATERFALLS IN PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK** (165 KM)

A fairylike experience awaits, as you stroll through walkways alongside 16 interconnected pristine lakes and hundreds of waterfalls – bring your camera! End the afternoon with a visit of the beautiful seaside resort city of Opatija. Weather permitting, a walk along the sea will be in order! Overnight in Opatija. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 12 DAY TRIP TO ROVINJ

Today, you will explore Istria, the largest peninsula in the Adriatic, shared by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Enjoy the small-scale beauty of Rovinj during our walking tour, followed by lunch consisting of traditional Istrian delicacies. Return to Opatija for an afternoon of free time — a perfect chance to soak up the sun on Croatia's famous pebble beaches. Overnight in Opatija. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 13 · IMPENETRABLE PREDJAMA (135 KM)

Cross into Slovenia for a tour of Predjama Castle, perched on top of a 123-metre-tall cliff and designed to last the test of time. Then explore the impressive two-million-year-old Postojna Caves. Overnight in Ljubljana. (B,L,D)

## DAY 14 - LIFE IN LJUBLJANA

Enjoy a scenic walking tour of Ljubljana, the cultural, educational, economic, political and administrative center of Slovenia. Free time in the afternoon to explore at your leisure, perhaps strolling through Tivoli Park. Overnight in Ljubljana. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 15 ' PEACEFUL LAKE BLED**

Stroll around storybook Lake Bled, an unspoiled glacial lake fed by hot springs. Discover the medieval Bled Castle before a relaxing boat ride on the lake's still waters to visit its church-topped island. Return to Ljubljana for free time in the afternoon, followed by our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Ljubljana. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 16, HOME SWEET HOME

Fly from Ljubljana to Canada, arrive same day. Your driver will meet you at the airport to help you with your luggage and drive you home. (B)



# THIS TOUR INCLUDES



#### **TOUR ESSENTIALS**

- International flights with Lufthansa
- 14 nights in first class hotels
- Dedicated English-speaking tour guide and local guides
- Carefully selected visits, with entrance fees
- Luxury coach bus transfers and luggage porterage throughout



# **FOOD & DRINK**

- All 41 meals, including: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners
- Folkloric dinner (included in meal count)
- Farewell dinner (included in meal count)
- Welcome cocktail
- 2 additional local product and wine tastings in Hvar and Zadar
- Bottled water daily (2 x 500ml)



#### **UNIQUE MOMENTS**

- Take in the Adriatic sea breeze while walking along the ramparts in Dubrovnik
- Enjoy a scenic cruise surrounded by mountains in the fjord-like Bay of Kotor
- Marvel at the beauty of Plitvice's pristine cascading lakes during a morning nature walk
- Step onto the iconic island of Lake Bled after admiring it from afar