

THE VERY BEST OF CROATIA AND THE DALMATIAN COAST

9 DAYS/7 NIGHTS



It's truly no wonder why Croatia has fast become one of the most popular European destinations alongside longtime chart-toppers like Italy...from its delectable Mediterranean and to its mild year-round climate, rich cultural heritage, and stylishly cosmopolitan appeal... it's literally the best-kept secret in the Adriatic! This inspired vacation boasts an extended stay in Opatija, a celebrated resort town visited by Austro-Hungarian aristocracy and nobility since the 19th century and the perfect home base for exploring Croatia's Western Coast and the Istrian Peninsula. In case you didn't know, Croatia features a virtually unrivaled ancient heritage boasting intriguing architecture that's been preserved for hundreds of years, including a first-century Roman amphitheater in the city of Pula that you have the chance to explore while you are here. Take time to discover such gems as the quintessential fishing village of Rovinj with its especially strong Venetian influences and the "Golden Island" of Krk. You will even have opportunities to delve into Italy's Venice and to explore the truly unforgettable Istrian Peninsula. Further on, travel along the Dalmatian Coast, to captivating towns and villages from Split to Dubrovnik and beyond. Experience pristine nature in Plitvice National Park, then shop the open-air markets of Split and experience the area's trendy restaurants. Extend your stay to delve into Dubrovnik. Old Dubrovnik is considered one of the best-preserved medieval walled cities in the world. Here you can walk along the city's walls, delve into its rich cultural heritage, savor the flavors of the Mediterranean, and make new friends as the warmth of the locals draw you into their world.

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(5) Opatija - (2) Split



DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Croatia's culture, arts, music, architecture, history, and gastronomy • Austro-Hungarian Opatija • Extended stay in Opatija • Austro-Hungarian, and Art Nouveau architecture • Rovinj • Pula • The Roman Amphitheater • The Istrian Peninsula • Venice The romantic "City of Canals" or "City of Bridges" • St. Mark's Basilica • Island of Krk • Italian-inspired food and wine • mild Mediterranean climate • Split • The Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments) • Trogir • Plitvice Lakes National Park • Ancient Ottoman city of Mostar • UNESCO protected Old Bridge • Spectacular natural landscapes • UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Dubrovnik, one of the best-preserved medieval walled cities in the world • Dominican Monastery • Beautiful historical towns of Montenegro • Breathtaking Bay of Kotor • Game of Thrones movie backdrop and more...

TOUR FEATURES

- **ROUND TRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION** - Air transportation from New York
- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** - Hotel accommodations for 7 nights
- **SUPERB CUISINE** - 10 included meals consisting of 7 buffet breakfasts and 3 dinners
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** - Sightseeing, including local guide and all entrance fees city tour of Opatija and Moscenice, tour of the Island of Krk, a Plitvice National Park tour, a Split city tour, a Trogir city tour. Optional tours are available
- **CULTURAL DISCOVERY SERIES** - Our program encompasses cultural connections, in-depth learning on the local economy and social systems, and interaction with locals such as visitation to a 300-year-old working olive oil press, and homemade prosciutto, cheese, and wine in a local tavern
- **PROFESSIONAL TOUR DIRECTOR** - Assistance of a professional Tour Director for the entire length of the tour upon arrival in Zagreb
- **DELUXE MOTORCOACHES** - Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- **BAGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS** - Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage outside of the airport

Day 1 Depart USA Embark on your overnight international flight to Zagreb, Croatia. Meals and refreshments are served on board.

Day 2 Arrive Zagreb – Opatija Welcome to Croatia. If your Mediterranean fantasies feature great food, terrific wines, and crystal-clear sapphire waters in the shade of ancient walled towns, Croatia is the place to turn them into reality. Upon arrival in Zagreb, you will be met at the airport by your Aventura World representative and transferred to your hotel in Opatija to relish in a 5-night extended stay. Nestled on the slopes of Mount Ucka along the coast of Kvarner Bay, Opatija has been a playground of the rich and famous for more than 160 years, even serving as a well-known 19th-century health resort for Austro-Hungarian aristocracy and nobility. You will feel as though you stepped back in time as you explore Opatija's city streets and pass by the grand 19th-century hotels with their eclectic mix of Mediterranean, Austro-Hungarian, and Art Nouveau architecture. Opatija is a true hidden gem! Tonight, we invite you to join your fellow travelers for a special welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3 Opatija/Moscenice Tour Today after breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a tour of Opatija and the medieval hilltop town of Moscenice. Experience the enveloping charm of Opatija, with its rich history and culture, impressive monuments, and magnificent Austro-Hungarian villas. Visit the Croatian Walk of Fame, see the enchanting Lungomare coastal promenade, and discover the undisputed, most famous statue in Opatija, the Girl with the Seagull. Next, continue along the coast to Moscenice, a fortified hilltop town included in the list of Croatian cultural heritage sites. Stroll the town's cobblestone streets, soak up the old-world culture, and visit the town's 300-year-old working olive oil press as part of our Cultural Discovery Series before returning to Opatija. (B, D)

Day 4 Opatija Start your day with breakfast at your hotel to plan for your free day. Revel in the day at leisure to shop for local goods or choose to head out on a full-day optional tour to Pula and Rovinj. This exciting optional excursion will first take you to explore Plomin village. This area offers an incredible panoramic view of the Kvarner Bay, and it's a perfect spot for taking jaw-dropping photos. After enjoying the view, continue on to Pula, where remnants of the Roman era greet you at its Roman Amphitheater. Built towards the end of the first century BC, it's the sixth-largest surviving Roman arena, and it is remarkably well-preserved. You will also have an opportunity to see the Hercules' Gate and Twin Gates, the Roman Theatre, and many other monuments built by the Roman Empire. Next, visit local olive grove and mill for a guided olive oil tasting. Continue to Rovinj, the quintessential Istrian village that features especially strong Venetian influences due to its proximity to Italy's "Serenissima." From the air, its location on a promontory makes it look like a fairytale village suspended on a pillow of bright blue sea. Your walking tour takes you to explore this jewel on the Istrian Coast that was declared a cultural monument in 1963. Return to your Opatija hotel. (B)

Day 5 Opatija After breakfast this morning, consider crossing the border into Italy for a day in Venice. The romantic "City of Canals" or "City of Bridges" beckons to share her magic with you! Take a guided tour through classically elegant Venice with its more than 400 bridges. Your exploration will visit the must-see sights, including St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, and the Bridge of Sighs. Delight in free time to shop for handcrafted keepsakes, like famed Murano glass or intricate Venetian masks. Rejoin your guide to cruise back to your



Split

motorcoach, seeing postcard-perfect vistas, bustling waterfront, and historical landmarks. Glide along and gaze upon Venetian palaces that line the waterfront spanned by beautiful, storied bridges that are sure to captivate your imagination. (B)

Day 6 Opatija - Island of Krk Enjoy breakfast then head out to explore the island Krk. This beautiful island is situated in the northernmost part of the Adriatic. Its mild Mediterranean climate, natural and historical beauties, and prime geographical position gave it the nickname of the "Insula Aurea" or Golden Island. Your tour will first take you to visit the tiny islet of Košljun where we will explore the Franciscan monastery, inhabited only by Franciscan friars. At the museum situated within the monastery, you will see distinctive ethnography collections, archaeology, sacral art, a vast library, and more. Next, visit the city of Krk. As you walk through the old town, you can see Illyrian ramparts, its Frankopan castle, and Krk Cathedral. Later you will visit Vrbnik, a small town with a rich 900-year-old history, known as the cradle of the Glagolitic alphabet and an important religious center under the protection of Saint John the Baptist. It became widely known for its white wine called made from zlahtina grapes. As part of our Cultural Discovery Series, you will have the opportunity to indulge in the delectable flavors of prosciutto, cheese, and wine in a local tavern. (B, D)

Day 7 Opatija - Plitvice National Park Tour – Split Power up with breakfast at your hotel then bid a fond farewell to Opatija and head south for the ancient Roman City of Split. Along the way, have your camera ready to capture the treasures of the UNESCO World Heritage site and the untouched nature of Plitvice Lakes - the first, oldest, and largest National Park in Croatia. In 1979, the Lakes were included in the UNESCO's World Heritage List as a "natural phenomenon of rare and unique beauty." It consists of 16 lakes that keep changing their color because of the natural process of travertine barriers deposition. Because of the geological substrate and characteristic hydrogeological conditions, the lake system has been divided into the Upper and Lower lakes. After this visit, continue to Split and check in to your hotel. Croatia's second-largest city, Split (Spalato in Italian), is a great place to see Dalmatian life as it's really lived. Always buzzing, this exuberant city has just the right balance between tradition and modernity. Step inside Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments), to experience dozens of bars, restaurants, and shops thriving amid the old atmospheric walls where Split has been humming along for thousands of years. (B)

Day 8 Split - City Tour/Trogir Tour After breakfast, get ready to discover Split on a tour of the historic city center that takes you to delve into the city's Roman heritage. Discover the Roman emperor Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then explore remnants of the Split's past, including its Renaissance and Gothic structures: the Peristyle, Cathedral, and Jupiter's Temple. Early this afternoon, head on to Trogir, a harmonious stone town on a small island connected to the mainland and the island of Čiovo by bridges. On a walking tour, visit the old town, a UNESCO world heritage site, a treasure trove for lovers of art and architecture with its renaissance and Baroque buildings and Romanesque churches. The area's narrow streets and small village squares, numerous restaurants, cafes, souvenir shops, and galleries all give this town a superb Mediterranean ambiance. (B)

Day 9 Split to the USA or extend your stay with an optional Dubrovnik extension. After breakfast, you will be transferred to Split airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Dubrovnik. (B)



OPTIONAL DUBROVNIK EXTENSION TOUR FEATURES

- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** - First-class hotel for 4 nights
- **SUPERB CUISINE** - 4 included meals consisting of 4 buffet breakfasts
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** - Sightseeing, including local guide, and all entrance fees, are as follows: a tour of Mostar and the Turkish house, and a walking tour of Dubrovnik with entrance to the Dominican Monastery and Pharmacy
- **PROFESSIONAL TOUR DIRECTOR** - Assistance of a professional Tour Director for the entire length of the tour
- **DELUXE MOTORCOACHES** - Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- **BAGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS** - Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage outside of the airport

Optional Extension

Day 9 Split – Mostar/City Tour - Dubrovnik The day's exciting activities commence with a morning breakfast and drive inland through the lush Dalmatian countryside, arriving in Mostar. The cultural capital of Herzegovina, Mostar, is named after the bridge keepers that would guard the old bridge over the Neretva in medieval times. On your walking tour of the city, you will visit the 16th-century stone bridge, explore the remnants of its Turkish quarter, and discover the old city center and the Turkish House. This beautifully preserved House is one of the best examples of Ottoman architecture in Mostar. Here explore its drawing-room, bedroom, kitchen, and see household items. During your visit, you will get acquainted with the typical family life of the 17th century while enjoying Turkish coffee. After your tour, there is free time to explore and shop for distinctive gifts. Next, head south through the Gorge of Neretva River, arriving at the Medieval City of Dubrovnik. Here you will check into your hotel and relax. No matter whether you are visiting Dubrovnik for the first time or the hundredth, the sense of awe never fails to descend when you set eyes on the beauty of Dubrovnik. Indeed, it's hard to imagine anyone becoming weary by the city's limestone streets, baroque buildings, and the endless shimmer of the Adriatic or failing to be inspired by a walk along the ancient city walls that protected the capital of a sophisticated republic for centuries. (B)

Day 10 Dubrovnik/City Tour Rise and shine with breakfast at your hotel before you discover the treasures of Dubrovnik with a spectacular walking tour of old Dubrovnik, considered one of the best-preserved medieval walled cities in the world. Highlights of your tour include the rector's Palace, Orlando's Column, Bell Tower Clock, Dominican Monastery, and Franciscan Monastery, featuring one of the oldest pharmacies in the world. The rest of the day is yours at leisure to explore this magical place. Here you can walk along the city's walls, delve into its rich cultural heritage, savor the flavors of the Mediterranean, taste the area's food and wine, and make new friends as the warmth of the locals draw you into their part of the world. (B)

Day 11 Dubrovnik Today greets you with a full day at leisure to explore Dubrovnik or join an optional Montenegro tour. The Republic of Montenegro showcases what was once thought to be Southern Europe's longest and deepest fjords, the Bay of Kotor. In fact, it is a submerged river canyon. This expansive bay comprises four smaller gulfs surrounded by mountains plunging into the Adriatic. You will join in a boating adventure at Our Lady of the Rocks Church. Then head back for a visit to Perast, situated at the foot of St. Elijah Hill. Here, Baroque architecture and splendorous 17th and 18th-century villas and churches greet you as you stroll the quaint streets of this charming village. Kotor is the next stop on today's exciting itinerary, where you can meander through its medieval maze of pedestrian streets, its bustling market, and see its beautiful Renaissance buildings and impressive nearly three miles of fortified walls. Return to Dubrovnik for an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 12 Dubrovnik - Split Today after breakfast, explore Dubrovnik one last time. Discover why the US production company behind the Game of Thrones series picked Dubrovnik as the setting for the capital city of Westeros, King's Landing, or maybe wander Prijeko Street to the Old Port, shopping for last-minute souvenirs. In the early afternoon, transfer to Split and check into your hotel for your last night in Croatia. Head to the old town, enjoy dinner in a local restaurant and enjoy some splendid Croatian wines for the last time (B)

Day 13 Split to the USA Today embark on your transfer to Split Airport for your return flight home, with a lifetime of memories of your travels to cherish and share. (B)

(B) – Breakfast, (D) – Dinner

Hotel and itinerary are subject to change.