

CROATIA & BOSNIA

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today for **Croatia**, once part of the country of **Yugoslavia** and one of Europe's leading holiday playgrounds with spectacular natural wonders and a fascinating recent history. It is not only varied in its topography but is also diverse in its ethnic, historical and architectural treasures.

Day 2: Arrive in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb. Meet assistant for your transfer to the hotel.

Day 3: Enjoy the scenery as you drive to **Plitvice Lakes National Park** one of Europe's most spectacular natural wonders located in the heart of Croatia and part of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Visit some of the crystal clear terraced 16 lakes within the park as you hike the footpaths along the shore. See the stunning waterfalls. Later continue your scenic drive to **Split**. Enjoy the Old Town this evening.



Day 4: Travel to tiny **Trogir** one of the jewels of the **Dalmatian Coast**. Enjoy a self-guided walking tour through the narrow streets and stone houses of this medieval town. Return to Split for lunch and then join your guide for a walking tour of the Palace and charming Old Town. The Old Town grew up around the vast **Roman Diocletian Palace** one of the best preserved left from the Roman world. After two centuries of Byzantine rule Split became part of the Venetian territories under which the city flourished. Begin at the Golden Gate, the main entrance to the Palace. Discover the Peristyle, the interior courtyard of the Roman Complex. Visit the Cathedral of St. Dominus built in the 4th Century and the Baptistery of St John. Outside the walls, the village popped up. See the Peoples Square and the Iron Gate entrance. Tonight stroll the Riva the seaside pedestrian promenade.

Day 5: Spend part of today on the **island of Brac** enjoying its interesting geological structures. Spend a few hours in the quaint towns and some hiking and beach time. Return later to Split and continue to the Marjan Peninsula. Climb a windy set of steps for some fine views out to sea. Brac is clearly visible. **Seven Castles** is a series of fortifications built by the Venetians. Five are still preserved as are the walls. Enjoy a few hours exploring the area.



Day 6: **Hvar Island** is one of the treasures of the Adriatic. Hvar Town is one of the most visited on the Dalmatian Coast thanks to the treasures within the walls. Within the main St Stephen Square, see the Cathedral of St Stephen and the Benedictine Convent. Outside the walls the Franciscan Monastery and if you are up to the 20 minute hike, the huge **Hvar Fortress**. Further up the island is the 4th Century town of Stari Grad. Before heading back to Split, savor the historical sites in the main square.

Day 7: Continue today to Dubrovnik but first a visit to **Bosnia**. After meeting your guide, marvel at the sparkling **Kravice Waterfalls**. Continue to the Turkish Walled UNESCO World Heritage Site, the town of Pocitelj named as one of the 100 Worlds most endangered cultural heritage sites. During the 1992 – 96 war the entire historic urban site and all the buildings suffered extensive war damage. Continue to the beautiful medieval **Mostar**, one of the most important cities in the Herzegovina region. Don't miss the Old Bridge, on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, originally built in the 16th century, destroyed during the war but has been rebuilt. Then on to **Medjugorje** famous in the world as a pilgrimage site due to the 6 young people who claim to have seen the Virgin Mary.



Day 8: Like many other Dalmatian Coastal town, **Korcula** was found by the Greeks. Today the medieval quarter is like a mini Dubrovnik. Surrounded by strong 13th century walls the whole town is enchanting. See Great Land Gate, the Old Towns main entry, the Cathedral of St Mark dating for the 15th century and the Old Town walls. With luck you might witness a performance of the Moreska Sword Dance. Enjoy a tour along the rocky coastline with perhaps a stop in Lumbarda known for its wine and beaches. Return to Dubrovnik and explore the Old Town tonight.

Day 9: Dubrovnik, known as the Pearl of the Adriatic, is famous for its beautiful monuments, magnificent walls and welcoming atmosphere. The city flourished in the 15th and 16th centuries but an earthquake destroyed almost everything is 1667 so most of Old Town is post-quake. Meet your guide at Pile Gate, the main entrance to the old fortified center for the start of your Stradun Stroll, Dubrovnik's main promenade through Old Town. See Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, the Rectors Palace, the Dominican Monastery and the Cathedral. Starting at Minceta Tower, walk the 10th century walls, a symbol of Dubrovnik.

Day 10: Spend today visiting the sites and museums you didn't have time for yesterday. They are so numerous you probably won't have time for all of them. Later take the cable car up to the Napoleon built fortress, Mount Srd for spectacular views. While there spend some time at the exhibit called "Dubrovnik During the Homeland War". Enjoy your last evening in Old Town.

Day 11: Flight home.

*****Note: Extend by a day and spend it in Montenegro or add a day in Dubrovnik!**

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Zagreb return Dubrovnik
- Assistance upon arrival in Zagreb
- Coach and driver throughout tour according to itinerary
- Ferry crossings to islands
- 10 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 10 Breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Guided tours
 - o Half day Split
 - o Full day in Bosnia
 - o Half day in Dubrovnik
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Plitvice Lakes National Park
 - o Split Marjan Peninsula Castles
 - o Hvar Fortress
 - o Kravice Waterfalls
 - o Dubrovnik Walls and Castle
 - o Cable Car to fortress Mt Srd
 - o Dubrovnik Cathedral

