

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary Croatia & Slovenia

Thursday, November 1–Monday, November 12, 2012

"It's official: Croatia is hot," says Rick Steves. Voted Top Destination in the World in 2005 by Lonely Planet and in 2006 by National Geographic Adventure, Croatia is one of Europe's hidden jewels with three thousand years of history, 1,100 miles of stunning Adriatic Sea coastline and mouth-watering seafood. **Dubrovnik**, the "Pearl of the Adriatic," is a walled, medieval city whose romantic Old Town is a traffic-free jumble of cobbled lanes. In bustling, vibrant **Split**, the abandoned palace of the Roman emperor Diocletian, built in 300 A.D., gave the city its medieval beginning and Split's old-town square stands where the palace courtyard once did. Narrow alleys offer both fashionable boutiques and galleries. **Plitvice Lakes**, one of Europe's most beautiful national parks, was granted **UNESCO World Heritage** status in 1979. Sixteen terraced lakes – separated by natural limestone dams and connected by countless waterfalls—are set in a lush mountainous forest. Neighboring **Slovenia** is known as one of Europe's most pleasant destinations. Capital city Ljubljana boasts a Baroque Old Town, Art Nouveau mansions and a castle on a cliff.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Dubrovnik and Ljubljana to Boston
- Ten nights three-and four-star accommodations
- Thirteen meals: nine breakfasts, four dinners with wine or beer
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of professional multilingual Tour Director

OPTIONAL:

Dubrovnik—Dubrovnik Evening with Dinner, Montenegro full day, Split—Mostar & Herzegovina full day; Lake Bled, Slovenia 3n post-tour extension: \$649 pp/dp

Rates

\$3039 per person double occupancy
\$3534 for single reservations
Add \$155 for current air taxes and fees. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500.

Features

Tours of Dubrovnik, Split, Zadar, Plitvice Lakes, Zagreb, walking tour of Ljubljana, wine tasting

TRIP PLANNER:

Day 1 Overnight flight from Boston
Days 2–4 Hotel Tirena, Dubrovnik
Days 5–7 Hotel President, Split region
Days 8–9 Hotel Jezero, Plitvice
Days 10–11 M Hotel, Ljubljana
Day 12 Return flight to Boston

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Overnight Flight

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Dubrovnik aboard an internationally recognized airline.

Day 2 - Dubrovnik

Arrive in Dubrovnik, where a Go Ahead representative greets you after clearing customs and escorts you to your hotel. Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's Welcome Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 3 - Dubrovnik

Set on a peninsula on the Adriatic, Dubrovnik has a spellbinding atmosphere. Built between the 15th and 16th centuries, the city's walls are 20 feet thick. As you embark on your guided tour this morning, you'll enter the city through one of four gates and pay a visit to its 13th-century Franciscan monastery, which sits on a rocky island and boasts the most extensive library in the region. Later, visit the impressive Rector's Palace before entering the city's ornate cathedral. Tonight, opt for our Romantic Dubrovnik evening event that's sure to make you fall in love with this beautiful city.

Included meals: breakfast



\$69 USD Romantic Dubrovnik optional tour

Your one-of-a-kind evening begins with a cruise along the shoreline of one of Europe's most beautiful and romantic cities. Arriving on the beach, you'll dine at a local restaurant before setting out on a stroll through Dubrovnik's medieval streets, letting its charming atmosphere set the mood.

Please note: In cases of inclement weather, restaurant location may change.

Day 4 - Dubrovnik

Today, revel in Dubrovnik's coastal wonders on your own or venture out on an optional excursion to the independent Republic of Montenegro. You'll visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor, where, between steep rocky hills and the sea, you'll explore medieval walls and churches. Next, soak in the beautiful peaks and valleys surrounding the charming villages of Njeguši and Cetinje and visit the King Nicholas Museum. You'll end your day at Budva, an inviting resort known for good beaches and a medieval old town which juts dramatically out into the water.

Included meals: breakfast



\$75 USD Montenegro optional tour

Join a guided excursion to the independent Republic of Montenegro. After driving through twisty mountain passages, you'll visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor, where, between steep rocky hills and the sea, you'll view medieval walls and churches. Next, you will stop at Budva, an inviting resort known for its beaches and a medieval Old Town section that juts dramatically out into the water. Enjoy an included lunch before heading back to Dubrovnik.

Please note: This excursion involves some difficult walking over uneven terrain.

Day 5 - Split Region

Take in the Croatian countryside as you transfer to Split, designated by UNESCO as a cultural treasure. Stop en route to enjoy a wine tasting. Upon arrival, discover why it's known as one of the sunniest places in Europe and a premier resort city. Dinner is included this evening.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 6 - Split Region

Today's guided tour of Split, the second-largest city in Croatia, features a visit to Emperor Diocletian's huge 3rd-century palace, one of the last built by the Romans. View the monuments to the city's varied cultural influences, including Gothic churches, Renaissance palaces, Venetian fortifications and even an Egyptian sphinx. Later, at the Mestrovic Museum, examine bronze, wood, marble and stone sculptures, as well as drawings and paintings by the Croatian-American expressionist Ivan Mestrovic.

Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: Mestrovic Museum

Day 7 - Split Region

Enjoy a full free day in Split today or take part in a guided optional excursion to Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a city named for "the bridge keepers" (natively, mostari) who kept the notable Stari Most (Old Bridge) over Neretva river.

Included meals: breakfast



\$75USD Mostar & Herzegovina optional tour

Take an excursion to Mostar, the largest city in Herzegovina. This beautiful Bosnian city is situated on the Neretva and often recognized for the striking Mostar Bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which joins the river's banks. You'll also see the Cejvan Cehaj Mosque and historic Ottoman House.

Day 8 - Plitvice

Take in the Croatian countryside as you transfer to Plitvice. First stop is Trogir, a gem of medieval Venetian architecture set on a tiny island just off the mainland. Cross a narrow stone bridge to the Old Town, located on a small island. Take in the ancient beauty as you wander past Radovan's Portal and the Kairos Relief. Then a local guide leads you on a sightseeing tour of Zadar, an ancient seaside market town. You'll see the intermingling of classical and Christian culture in the town's streets and churches. Dinner is included this evening.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 9 - Plitvice

One of the most beautiful national parks in Europe, Plitvice Lakes offers a stunning setting of lush, forested mountains and 16 levels of lakes nestled between Mount Mala Kapela and Mount Pljesevica. The lakes were formed over thousands of years. Water flowed over limestone and chalk, depositing travertine barriers and created dams that resulted in the beautiful blue-green lakes. Your tour director leads you to the upper and lower lakes, surrounded by thick forests and waterfalls. You may catch a glimpse of the 20 caves that dot the area.

Included meals: breakfast

Included Entrances: National park

Day 10 - Ljubljana

Travel to Zagreb this morning, where a local guide introduces you to the best of Croatia's capital on today's tour. Zagreb has been the capital city of Croatia since 1557, and much of its original medieval architecture still stands. Highlights include the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary with its twin neo-Gothic spires, the Lotrscak Tower, the Museum Mimara with its neo-Renaissance facade and the lovely Mirogoj cemetery. Then cross into Slovenia as you travel to the capital city of Ljubljana, a charming, beautiful city known for its love of the arts.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 11 - Ljubljana

Embark on a guided walking tour of Ljubljana today. Take note of the city's numerous theaters, museums and galleries. See the medieval castle perched high atop a bluff. Tonight, join your group for a Farewell Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 12 - Ljubljana

Board your return flight home or extend your stay in Ljubljana and Lake Bled.

Included meals: breakfast

Extend Your Stay

Add 3 nights in Slovenia for only \$649 USD (Single room: add \$145 USD)

Northwest Slovenia is home of Bled, one of Europe's most beautiful locations. Famous for its glacially formed Lake Bled and the iconic castle that overlooks it, Bled is a romantic getaway that aristocrats have been vacationing in for centuries. With its natural beauty and many outdoor attractions, this Slovenian destination has charm indeed!

Proof of Citizenship: *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity past the date of return.. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*