



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Discover Croatia's Riviera

Tuesday, March 9 - Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Imagine your vacation on the Riviera-swaying palm trees; a seaside villa resort; fine local wine. Is this France? Italy? Actually, it's one of Europe's best-kept secrets- the lovely Istrian peninsula, home to historic and beautiful Croatia and Slovenia. Your home for this seven-night trip is the elegant resort town of Opatija. Enjoy daytrips to the ancient coastal cities of Pula and Porec, home to structures dating back to the first century, and the Lipica Stud Farm, home of the world-famous Lipizzanerhorses. You'll travel north to Slovenia, visiting the "Old-World-meets-modern day" capital of Ljubljana, and the lake resort town of Bled, nestled in the Julian Alps. Your trip winds down with a visit to the vineyard-covered hills of nearby Motovun. Most American are still unaware of the beauty of "Croatia's Riviera"- be the first of your friends to experience its wonders.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Zagreb
- Seven nights' first class accommodations
- Eleven meals: seven breakfast, four dinners
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$1,919 per person double occupancy

\$1,889 per person triple occupancy

\$2,309 single reservations

Add \$370 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation and unused services waiver is \$150 per person. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at the time of booking. Passport required.

Features

Opatija • Moscenice • Pula • Porec • Ljubljana • Bled • Pletna Boat Ride • Lipica Stud Farm • Wine Tasting • Hum • Motovun • **OPTIONALS:** Venice full-day excursion, Piltvice Lakes full-day excursion

Accommodations

Hotel Milenij

Marsala Tita 109

HR 51410 Opatija, Croatia

Hotel Milenij is a luxurious hotel situated in the centre of the fashionable town of Opatija, near the sea, surrounded by the most beautiful Croatian park and the seaside promenade. 125 elegant and luxurious rooms and suites with top quality services, 2 restaurants, lobby bar with piano music, Vienna style coffee shop, wellness centre with wide range of body and facial treatments, as well as meeting rooms and business centre services will make your stay at Hotel Milenij beyond expectations All rooms are decorated in a luxurious, modern and stylish way with period furniture, air conditioned, equipped with SAT and PAY TV, mini bar, safe, hair dryer, desk, telephone and internet access

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, March 09, 2010-Overnight Flight

Affectionately called the "Croatian Riviera," Croatia's Istrian peninsula is a heart-shaped region jutting into the Adriatic Sea. Blessed with medieval cities, an inviting coast, fascinating history and culture, this region is one of the undiscovered gems of Europe. An unforgettable journey awaits you as you depart on your overnight flight.

Day 2: Wednesday, March 10, 2010-Arrive Opatija, Croatia - Tour Begins

Welcome to Opatija, an elegant resort and long-time favorite destination of European nobility. Opatija welcomes you with swishing palms and stately seaside villas. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a special welcome dinner. (D).

Day 3: Thursday, March 11, 2010-Opatija - Moscenice - Pula - Porec - Opatija

LANGUAGE DISCOVERY: Today, your Tour Manager will help you discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals. Travel to the medieval hill town of Moscenice, perched on a dramatic precipice overlooking Kvarner Bay. Enjoy free time to wander its narrow streets and soak up its romantic charm. While in the village you will get to tour their local museum and learn about the history behind their olive press and even sample their locally made brandy! Continue your journey to the coastal city of Pula, beautifully situated on the southern end of the Istrian peninsula. The earliest settlement here dates back to the 10th century B.C. Embark on a walking tour that highlights the city's many artifacts from its time as a Roman colony. View the imposing and well-preserved first-century amphitheater. Next, it is on to the charming seaside city of Porec. More than 2,000 years old, Porec's city center still follows its ancient Roman street plan. Visit the Euphrasian Basilica Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features remarkably intact 6th century Byzantine art and early Christian mosaics dating to the 2nd and 6th centuries. (B)

Day 4: Friday, March 12, 2010 -Opatija

Enjoy the many charms of Opatija at leisure today. Or, perhaps you will opt to join the optional excursion to the staggeringly beautiful Plitvice Lakes, a Croatian national park and UNESCO World Heritage site. Your option includes traveling through spectacular scenery where sixteen terraced lakes tumble into each other through a series of dramatic waterfalls and cascades, surrounded by dense forests and lush vegetation; a short cruise will also take you across the clear, pristine lake waters.(B)

Day 5: Saturday, March 13, 2010-Opatija - Ljubljana, Slovenia - Bled - Opatija, Croatia

Today travel to Croatia's neighbor to the north, Slovenia. Your first stop is its vibrant and friendly capital, Ljubljana. A locally guided tour reveals the unique character of *Stara Ljubljana*, Ljubljana Old Town, where distinct Baroque and Art Nouveau edifices blend with the striking creations of the visionary 20th century architect, Jože Plečnik. Continue your journey to the historic and enchanting lake resort, Bled, nestled in the rugged Julian Alps. Enjoy the old-world charm of taking a "pletna" boat to the island on the lake to visit the 17th century cathedral, St. Mary's Church, and the "wishing bell". The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax or explore this fairy tale resort on your own, before returning to Opatija. (B,D)

Day 6: Sunday, March 14, 2010-Opatija - Lipica - Opatija

Discover the historic home of the world-famous Lipizzaner horses when you visit the Lipica Stud Farm. Charles II, Archduke of Austria, founded the farm in 1580 to breed horses for his powerful family, the Hapsburgs. Tour this fascinating facility and learn about these docile and elegant creatures. Your next stop is one of the finest wine producing areas in the region where you have the opportunity to sample some locally produced varieties. (B,D)

Day 7: Monday, March 15, 2010-Opatija

Today is at leisure. Relax along the shore, enjoy Opatija's many sights and pleasures or you may choose to join the optional excursion to one of the world's most romantic cities, Venice, Italy. Upon arrival in Venice, cruise to Murano Island* for a fascinating glass-blowing demonstration. Return to St. Mark's Square, the elegant piazza at the center of Venetian life. Join a local expert for a walking tour that reveals the Clock Tower with its famous Moors, St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, and the charming bridge that spans the Rio di Palazzo, which was given the nickname "Bridge of Sighs" by the English poet, Lord Byron. Your option continues with time enjoy Venice on your own. (B).

Day 8: Tuesday, March 16, 2010-Opatija - Hum - Motovun - Opatija

Today, travel to the world's smallest town, Hum. Listed in the Guinness Book of World Records, Hum is home to some of Istria's most famous and renowned frescoes. Also, while visiting the town, you will have the opportunity to sample their famous mistletoe brandy. Then it's on to Motovun, a beautiful medieval city spread over the top of a 740 foot vineyard-covered hill. Step into the past as you explore this one-time colony of the Venetian Republic, still charming with the architecture of its colonial days. Finally, visit a local farm where the family will show you their way of life in the Istrian countryside. Join your hosts as you learn about the ingredients harvested from their land. Complete the evening with a wonderful farewell dinner on the farm. (B,D)

Day 9: Wednesday, March 17, 2010-Opatija - Tour Ends

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to Boston. (B)

OPTIONALS

Romantic Venice \$150 USD

Travel to the enchanting city of Venice, where 117 tiny island are connected by a beautiful latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. Upon arrival take a boat trip (weather permitting) to Murano Island for a fascinating glass-blowing demonstration. Experience the magnificence of Murano glass and then have the opportunity to shop for some of these works of art. A local expert will then take you on a walking tour featuring the charming St. Mark's Square, the hub of Venice city life. View the Clock Tower with its famous Moors, St Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace and the legendary Bridge of Sighs. While in romantic Venice, take advantage of your free timeto wander the streets or perhaps enjoy a romantic ride on the famous gondolas.

Duration: Approximately 12 hours. Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required. Transportation is included.

The Wonders of Plitvice Lakes \$115 USD

During your free day in Opatija, you are invited to travel to Croatia's national treasure, Plitvice Lakes National Park. This UNESCO World Heritage sit is sure to leave you speechless. You will be in awe as you travel through spectacular scenery where sixteen terraced lakes tumble into each other through a series of dramatic waterfalls and cascades, surrounded by dense forest and lush vegetation. You come within arm's length of the cascades that make up the beauty of this natural phenomenon. Walk across wooden paths that actually cross over the lakes an allow you to seemingly "walk on water". A short cruise will also take you across the clear, pristine lake waters. This excursion includes walking over uneven surfaces and inclines. The temperature in the lakes region is usually cooler than other areas of the region. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers to adjust to the temperatures.

Duration : Approximately 10 hours. Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required. Transportation is included.

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.*