

italian tours and

Travel by Diana

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f Italian Tours by Diana

Custom Tour of Croatia

Day 1 Depart USA

International flights to Zagreb, Croatia.

Day 2 Arrive Zagreb

Dobrodošli! Welcome to Croatia! Upon arrival at the Zagreb Airport, retrieve your baggage and meet your private driver in the arrivals hall, holding a sign with your name, for transfer to your hotel. Check in and settle, enjoying the afternoon at your own pace. Note that official check in time is 2:00-3:00 pm. Overnight in Zagreb. PT/H

Day 3 Zagreb

Zagreb



Breakfast at hotel. This morning at 9:00 am, meet your private bilingual certified guide in the hotel lobby for a two hour walking tour of the city. Zagreb is the capital of Croatia and its largest city, filled with many Slavic influences. Take a stroll along the streets of Zagreb, explore the Ban Jelacic Square, Tkalciceva Street, Zagreb Cathedral and one of the city's medieval entrance gates (Stone Gate). Admire the colorful tiled roof of the 13th-century Church of St. Mark's. Walk through Zrinjevac, the first park in the 19th century Donji grad (Lower Town) that brought the city into the modern age. On this tour you will learn about the culture, history and architecture of this amazing city. Entrance tickets will be pre-purchased and held by your guide. The thousand-year old Gornji grad (Upper Town) includes the Presidential Palace, the iconic St Mark's Church, the Croatian parliament (Sabor), and museums and galleries along ancient cobbled streets. During your tour, you will enter the Presidential Palace for a visit. The third area is Novi Zagreb ('new Zagreb'), a modern post-World War II area. You may stroll down the charming street of Tkalčićeva, connecting to the main square of Jelačić Trg, or shop in the colorful Trznica Dolac market where you can see the locals purchase groceries and artisan crafts. After the tour, spend the rest of the day at your own pace. Overnight in Zagreb. B/G/ET/H

Day 4 Zagreb, Lake Bled

Lake Bled



Breakfast at hotel. Meet your private driver in the hotel lobby at 9:00 am for transfer to Lake Bled, located in northwestern Slovenia (2h 15 min). You will have the day at leisure at this picturesque lake, surrounded by the Julian Alps. There are opportunities for hiking, biking and more in the area, or you may choose to relax by the emerald green lake. You can take a larger Pletna boat to Bled Island (about 12€ per person, not included) to ring the wishing bell at the church. Perhaps Bled Castle may be interesting to visit as well. Be sure to try the Bled cream cake that is offered in this area! Return to Zagreb in the late afternoon with your driver for the evening at leisure. Zagreb for overnight. **B/PD/H**

Day 5 Zagreb, Split

Breakfast at hotel and check out. This morning meet your private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Zagreb Airport. Board a quick flight to Split. Upon arrival at the Split Airport, retrieve your baggage and meet your private driver in the arrivals hall, holding a sign with your name. Transfer to your hotel, check in and settle.

Split



The Riva, or main promenade along the Adriatic, is perfect to observe the locals socializing in the afternoon while relaxing at an outdoor cafe. You may even be serenaded by the elderly “Splicani,” or natives of Split. If you are feeling energetic, you can climb to the top of the Bell Tower next to the Cathedral of St. Domnius. You will have stunning views over the Adriatic, Dalmatian mountains and the streets of Split. We will provide restaurant suggestions for each city you visit. Overnight in Split. **B/PT/Flight/PT/H**

Day 6 Split, Solta

Hvar



Breakfast at hotel. This morning, make your way to port and board a 1-hour ferry ride to Solta. Once you arrive on the island, meet your guide who will take you for a 2 hr 30 min tour in which you will learn about the traditional olive oil process, taste oil and honey produced on the island. Some of the olive trees on the island are over 1000 years old! You will visit Olynthia Natura, which is famous for its varietal and flavored olive oils. You will take a short factory tour and guided Olive Oil Tasting. This company can ship the products you may wish to purchase to the USA. Next, you will visit Purtic Family wine, who have been producing white and red wine for generations. Tasting 2 wines in an amazing courtyard of their family stone house in the middle of the old Dalmatian village is an unforgettable experience. Finally, you will end the tour by visiting a local family at their beautiful estate overlooking the sea. They will proudly present to you their products and you will learn why rosemary honey from Šolta is considered to be one of the world's best. After the tour, you will have a chance to independently explore the island. You can visit the sleepy towns of Rogač or Stomorska, see the traditional way of life in Gornje Selo or relax along the pebble beaches. Return to the ferry port by 6:00 pm or so in order to board the return ferry back to Split. Arrive in Split and spend the rest of the evening at your leisure. Split for overnight. **B/Ferry Roundtrip/WT/H**

Day 7 Split

Split



Breakfast at hotel. Meet your private bilingual certified guide in the hotel lobby for a walking tour of the city. Split is a lovely town on Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. Enjoy a panoramic view from Marjan hill. The hill is completely surrounded by the city and the sea, making it a unique sight. The town is known for its beaches and the fortress like complex at its center, Diocletian's Palace, built by the Roman emperor Diocletian in the 4th century. With your guide, you will visit Diocletian's Palace; entrance tickets will be provided and held by your guide for your convenience. Once home to thousands, this

UNESCO site's sprawling remains include more than 200 buildings. Within its white walls, you will discover a cathedral and numerous shops, bars, cafés and hotels. Following the tour, relax on the sandy Ovcice beach in your free time or hike through Marjan Forest Park. Overnight in Split. **B/G/ET/H**

Day 8 Split, Krka National Park, Zadar

Krka Park



Breakfast at hotel. Meet your private driver in the lobby this morning for transfer to the Krka National Park and Zadar. At Krka National Park, you will see beautiful waterfalls surrounded by lush green forests. Krka is most famous for Skradinski Buk, a multi-tiered waterfall tumbling into an aquamarine pool, where swimming is allowed. Take a break from the beach and relax on the grass listening to the water cascading through the rocks. Walk a trail towards the top of the waterfall, where you will find long abandoned villages perfectly preserved. You can cross wooden platforms over the rivers or see the peaceful monasteries built nearby. After free time, continue with your driver to Zadar (1h) in the early afternoon. Founded around 300 BC, Zadar is famous as the oldest town in Croatia. Ruled by the Romans, Byzantines, and more, history can be found in every corner of the Old Town. You will want to visit the stairs leading to the water, called the Sea Organ. As water flows through the canals in the stairs, you can hear the pipes whistle with the waves all along the promenade. Next to the Sea Organ is The Greeting to the Sun, a solar powered surface you can walk along. With each step, the glass changes hues and creates a colorful explosion! Perhaps visit St. Anastasia's Cathedral and climb to the top of the belfry for views across the city, all the way to the mountains in the distance.

Zadar



You may choose to relax in Narodni Trg, The People's Square, bustling with local life and shops. Return to Split in the late afternoon with your driver. Split for overnight. **B/PD/ET/H**

Day 9 Split – Island cruise *May 1st or later*

Breakfast at hotel. Today is a day to enjoy the islands! This morning make your way to the pier. Here you will meet your captain and crew for a semi-private full day boat ride around the Dalmatian islands. There will be time today for swimming and snorkeling, so come prepared! After departing from Split, you will sail to Bisevo island. Here you will stop at the Blue Cave, whose blue light feels like you are in a fairytale. Next at Budihovac Island, you will have the opportunity to swim, relax on the beach and have lunch at the only house on the island. Vis Island is the next stop, for time to explore or walk in the crystal-clear water. After a visit on this island, Hvar town will be your next stop. There are beautiful panoramic views, trendy cafes and bars and many local shops.



Finally, you will stop at Brač island. Brač is the most populated Croatian island. It is famous for its olive oil and white stone production. Here you will enjoy a wine tasting at a cellar over 350 years old. The local wine and light snacks will be an excellent way to end your day. It is 1.5 hrs on the boat to the first island and visit the cave, then 20 min boat ride to Budihovac for free time/swimming for 1.5 hrs and lunch on the island, then short ride to Vis for a quick visit, then short ride to Hvar for 1.5 hrs of free time in Hvar town, then to Brač for a wine tasting together and a 30 min ride back to Split. Return to the port of Split on the boat in the late afternoon. Make your way back to your hotel for the evening at your own pace. Overnight in Split. **B/semi-BR excursion (includes L)/H**

Day 10 Split, Medjugorje, Dubrovnik

Breakfast at hotel and check out. Meet your private driver in the lobby for transfer to Medjugorje (2h 30 min). Medjugorje is a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina, famous as a place of Catholic pilgrimage. The Virgin Mary allegedly appeared on Apparition Hill in 1981. There is a "Queen of Peace" statue marking the site of the 1st apparition and one in front of the St. James Church. Liquid has been said to drip from the "Risen Christ" statue near the church. A concrete cross tops Cross Mountain, to the south. Many pilgrims report miraculous conversions and healings while visiting. The Virgin Mary continues to give messages to six people from the village of Medjugorje: Ivan, Jakov, Marija, Mirjana, Vicka, and Ivanka. These six people are referred to as "visionaries" and have received apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary since June 24, 1981. After time exploring independently, continue to Dubrovnik with your driver in the afternoon (1h 40 min). Upon arrival in Dubrovnik, you will check and settle. Perhaps stroll along the Riva waterfront promenade, lined by palm trees, where you can see the yachts, ferries and fishing boats bob on the sea. Overnight in Dubrovnik. **B/PD/H**

Day 11 Dubrovnik

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, make your way to the entrance of the walled “Old city,” where you will meet your private bilingual certified guide. She will take you for a walking tour of the town and its streets while seeing all main sites including Onofrio’s fountain, Rector’s Palace, The Cathedral, Church of St. Blaise, Orlando column, Sponza palace and more. Dubrovnik is a lovely walled city on the Dalmatian coast, known as the “Pearl of the Adriatic.”

Dubrovnik



It has recently become a popular resort town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it was home to many prominent Croatian poets, scholars, artists and more. As it was a center of trade in the Middle Ages, Dubrovnik has a rich history and can be experienced throughout the Old Town. If you choose to walk on the wall after your tour, you may purchase tickets on the spot. Enjoy free time. Perhaps purchase some local artisan goods, like tablecloths and linens or neckties. Tonight, prepare for overseas flights. Overnight in Dubrovnik. **B/G/H**

Day 12 Depart Dubrovnik

Breakfast at hotel and check out. Meet your driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Dubrovnik Airport to begin your journey back the USA. Doviđenja! **B/PT**

CODES: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner H=Hotel G=Guide ET=Entrance Ticket
PD=Private Driver PT=Private Transfer TRTK=Train Ticket BR= Boat Ride WT=Wine Tasting
PWT=Private Water Taxi CL=Cooking Lesson

Once the “flow” of the itinerary is perfect for your journey, we are happy to provide a package price, per person, for the land portion only. Due to confidential and exclusive contracts with our suppliers, we are unable to accommodate requests for price breakdowns. Kindly note that your final quote for the land portion of this journey does not include international airfare, tipping, meals where not indicated and a city tax required by the European governments to be paid upon check out of each hotel. The tax is to be paid in cash and is approximately 1.50-5.00 euro per person per day.