



# Croatia at Its Best

12 days

## Tour Description

*Come visit the small Mediterranean country of Croatia, home to a unique culture, historical monuments and a wealth of Roman and medieval ruins. View the spectacular coast, old fishing villages, small islands and impressive cathedrals and churches as you wind your way through Croatia's best sights. Discover surprises such as Croatia's fjords and the Plitvice region's terraced lakes.*

## Highlights

- ❖ **Enjoy Trogir, a Croatian town filled with painters**
- ❖ **Cruise to Skradinski Buk**
- ❖ **View the Stari Most, Mostar's Old Bridge, and a UNESCO Heritage Site**
- ❖ **Visit Marco Polo's birthplace**
- ❖ **Enjoy Cilipi, famous for its national costumes, folk customs and embroidery**

## Sample Tour Itinerary

### ***Split – 3 nights***

#### **Day 1: Split**

Upon arrival to Split airport meet and greet and transfer to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure.

#### **Day 2:**

Located in the center of the Dalmatian coast and nestled between the mountains and sea, Split is a picturesque ancient town built by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. On your guided tour, visit the impressive emperor's palace built in the 3rd century and Jupiter's temple and cathedral.

#### **Day 3:**

Visit the ancient ruins of Salona, the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia and the birthplace of Emperor Diocletian. Next head to Trogir, where scholars from around the world gather to study and paint. Continue to the island of Primosten, which seamen called the 'dry cape' due to long dry periods. Enjoy a short panoramic sightseeing tour and afterwards travel north along the spectacular Adriatic coast, past old fishing villages and new resorts, to Sibenik.

### ***Zadar – 2 nights***

#### **Day 4:**

This morning visit Zadar's center, featuring fortresses, monuments and churches. The little streets, the attractive squares are remarkable and the stylish architecture of the vanished centuries is still evident in the buildings of the city. One of the main attractions that you must visit while on a trip to Sibenik is the 15th century cathedral Sveti Jakov, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After the visit drive to Krka National Park for a tour and cruise to Skradinski Buk.



**Day 5:**

Participate in a walking tour of Plitvice National Park. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder of 16 terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation. After the visit return to Zadar for an afternoon sightseeing tour, featuring visits to the Roman Forum and St Donatus Church, magnificent monument of Romanesque architecture.

***Dubrovnik – 5 nights***

**Day 6:**

After an early breakfast head south towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mostar may be the only place in the world where the west meets the orient and blends in so perfectly and is famous for the Stari Most (old bridge) in the very center of the city, which is an UNESCO Heritage Site. In the afternoon drive to Medjugorje, one of the sacred catholic pilgrimages where you will have the opportunity for confession or to spend time in prayer in the perpetual adoration chapel. Enjoy some free time for shopping near the church. Delight in a breathtaking drive along the spectacular Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic, dotted with palm trees, olive groves and idyllic fishing villages. Arrive in Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best preserved walled cities founded in the 7th century.

**Day 7:**

Dubrovnik is certain to enchant any visitor! Thick age-old walls surround the ancient port town. The winding cobblestone streets are filled with old red-tiled roof houses and distinctive medieval age buildings. Enjoy a guided walking tour through "old Dubrovnik" and see the harbor, the Franciscan monastery and the stately baroque cathedral. The afternoon and evening are at leisure to discover the treasures of the historic old town at your own pace.

**Day 8:**

A full day at leisure to explore splendid Dubrovnik on your own or join an optional excursion or shop for local arts and crafts in the colorful local market.

**Day 9:**

Today, drive across the border to the republic of Montenegro and the beautiful bay of Kotor, the longest and deepest fjord in southern Europe and learn about the rich history of the area. Proceed to Cetinje, once the seat for the Montenegrin rulers. Drive back to the seaside and view Sv Stefan.

**Day 10:**

After breakfast depart to Ston, that was among the first towns in Europe to be built according to a town-planning project. Its 5 kilometer long stone walls are especially interesting, protecting the town and attracting hundreds of visitors, amazed at their length and monumentality. Drive across Peninsula Peljesac, a wine growing area to Orebic. Board a ferry for short drive to the island of Korčula where you will have a city orientation tour. Korčula is considered to be the birthplace of Marco Polo, and legend has it that the Trojan hero Antenor founded the town. The stormy and long history of the town has left numerous traces which you will be able to see during the walking tour



**Day 11:**

A drive to the heart of the Konavle valley, to Cilipi – takes you to a village known for its carefully preserved folk customs, rich national costumes and famous embroidery. Walk around this picturesque village, buy a traditional souvenir or attend mass at St. Nicolas church. Guided walking tour of Cavtat, includes the house of Vlaho Bukovac and his rich collection of paintings and mementos. View the mausoleum of the Racic family, designed by Ivan Mestrovic a famous Croatian sculptor. In the afternoon visit the arboretum in Trsteno, which delights with numerous and varied tree species, such as giant plant trees, different kinds of palm trees and camphor trees among its diverse exotic vegetation.

**Day 12:**

This morning we transfer to Dubrovnik International Airport with ample time to check your luggage and board your flight back to the USA

**INCLUSIONS**

- Accommodations: Split 3 nights, Zadar 2 nights, Dubrovnik 5 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary