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CROATIA BUCKET LIST HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1: AIRPORT ZAGREB

Arrival to Zagreb airport TBA

Airport procedures baggage claim

Meeting with private driver

Private transfer to your hotel

Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight, Zagreb

DAY 2: ZAGREB – VARAŽDIN – TRAKOŠČAN – ZAGREB

Breakfast at the hotel

Meeting with your private driver

9.00 Transfer to Varaždin, 75 km

12.00 -12.30 Meeting with your private local guide - Varaždin sightseeing with English speaking local guide



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What makes Varaždin special is its unique monumental and historic heritage preserved in the intact and opulent Baroque architecture of the historic City core. Its unique urban identity shows not only the opulent Baroque architecture of the historic core but also the warmth of its squares and romantic streets. The historical City core stages numerous events throughout the year. The most of the town is beautifully restored and just off the beaten track enough to discover without the crush of day trippers.

Free time for lunch

13.30 Transfer to Trakošćan, 40 km

14.30 Trakošćan castle sightseeing



Castle Trakošćan was built in the late 13th century in northwestern Croatian defense system as a small observation fortress for monitoring the road from Ptuj to Bednja Valley. According to legend, Trakoscan was named after the Thracian fortress which allegedly existed in antiquity. Another preserved legend says, it is named after the knights Drachenstein who in the early Middle Ages, ruled the region. Including entrance to Trakošćan castle

16.00 Continue to Zagreb, 80 km

Overnight. Zagreb

DAY 3: ZAGREB – OPATIJA

Breakfast at the hotel

09.00 Meeting with your private local guide

Zagreb sightseeing with English speaking local guide up to 2h

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Zagreb has served as the cultural and political focus of the nation since the middle Ages. The city grew out of two medieval communities, Kaptol to the east and Gradec to the west, each sited on a hill and divided by a (long since dried up) river. Zagreb grew rapidly in the nineteenth century, and many of the city's buildings are well-preserved, peach-colored monuments to the self-esteem of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Zagreb is more than just a gateway to Central Europe; it is a melting pot. The city incorporates all the benefits of the West with the promising opportunities of the developing regions in South and East Europe, making it an ideal location for your company. A vibrating city on the river Sava, at the heart of a politically and economically stable market, Zagreb has a long history, rich culture, offers high quality life-style, excellent prospects and a highly educated population boasting over 1 million people. The city offers a uniquely vivacious café life and a year-round program of heavy-duty art exhibitions and at least one genuine cultural flagship in the shape of the recently opened Museum of Contemporary Art. The Croatian capital's growing reputation for arty fun also extends into its nightlife, with cutting-edge clubs, live gig venues and summer festivals.

Continue to accommodation

Meeting with your private driver and transfer to Opatija, 175km

Arrival at hotel

Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight. Opatija

DAY 4: OPATIJA – ISTRIA – OPATIJA

Breakfast at the hotel

Private full day tour to Istria (7-8h)

Istria is indeed a feast for the eyes. Its streams flow to the sea through deep valleys and gullies which bring to mind the ancient local myths about giants. Rolling hills overlook the fields and valleys with little towns perched on the peaks, recalling some old paintings. The view is splendid: white-topped mountains, lush wheat fields, plateaux, valleys, vineyards and olive groves on hillsides, and, finally the sea. As you get to know Istria you will notice more and more enchanting details: church facades and portals, tiny village alleyways with their specific architectural touches, the babble of a stream, the blossoming cherries. Everything is warm-hearted and friendly here: nature, towns and people.

09.00 Transfer to Buzet, 55km

Arrival and welcome by family for truffle experience - 3-COURSE TRUFFLE TASTING (1,5 h)

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Visit small family business in central Istria with a long truffle hunting tradition. Friendly hosts will tell you all about truffles, tradition of hunting, about their many dogs hunters. prepare you tasting truffle products in a beautiful ambience and you can buy their products in their own shop. ...this unique experience is crafted with a love for truffles, nature, dogs, and gastronomy...After the tasting you are invited to explore our 1st Croatian Truffle Museum, located just few steps from the degustation area - free of charge

Transfer to Motovun, 15km

Motovun sightseeing with local guide



Motovun is one of those story-book villages you see in slick travel magazines, but never seem to find. But there it is, magically perched on the top of a hill, surrounded by farms, lush forests, vineyards and valleys with a spiral of red-roofed stone houses curling its way up to the top. Wow. Motovun is rural medieval Istria at its most captivating—complete with a 13th century Romanesque-Gothic bell tower rising out of its center. Flanking it in the square is the Romanesque Municipal Palace, the largest secular building in Istria. Motovun has become a haven for artists and expats who love the area, the people and the peace. Every July, the place welcomes the world to the International Motovun Film Festival—and it's pretty amazing that thousands do show up (including some famous film makers!) Motovun other attraction is gastronomic. Surrounded by vineyards, its Malvasia white and Teran reds are very high quality varietals. And in, or rather under the forests, the famous white Istria truffle waits to be dug out.

Free time for lunch

Wine tasting at local winery (5 sorts of wine (fresh, aged and premium wines) with Istrian cold plate)

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Transfer back to hotel, 63 km

Overnight, Opatija

DAY 5: OPATIJA – NP PLITVICE LAKES - ZADAR

Breakfast at the hotel

08.00 Private transfer to NP Plitvice Lakes, 185 km

11.00 NP Plitvice sightseeing tour with private local guide up to 3h



The area of Plitvička jezera, declared to be National park in 1949., is considered one of the the prettiest natural notability of Europe. It is forested mountain area throughout which, one under another, line sixteen beautiful lakes and ponds of crystal blue-green colour. They are filled with water from many streams and brooks, interconnected with foamy cascades and murmuring waterfalls. Throughout the ages water from these lakes was breaking, corroding and melting the rocks and beds thorugh which they have flown. Through sedimentation of calcium carbonate from the flow and through interference of special algae and mosses, spongy kind of rock, sedra or travertin, has been and still is created. Near the lakes there are a couple of caves, and there were even discoveries from ancient history. The national park covers the area of 29.482 hectares in size, most of which falls of on woods, then grasslands with village spaces and waters. This natural resource is rich with diverse flora and fauna. In the park alongside many kinds of birds (around 161 different kinds), butterflies, there is also some small game, followed by large game, bears, wolves, boars and wild cats. Flora of the park is made from about 1200 herb sorts, of which 55 sorts are in the orchid family.

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Free time for lunch

Continue transfer to Zadar, 148 km

Arrival at hotel

Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight, Zadar

DAY 6: ZADAR – ŠIBENIK – SPLIT

Breakfast at the hotel

09.00 – 11.00 Morning walking tour of Zadar up to 2h



Zadar is a city monument, surrounded by historical ramparts, a treasury of the archaeological and monumental riches of ancient and medieval times, Renaissance and many contemporary architectural achievements such as the first Sea Organ in the world. In addition to its historic old town center, Zadar boasts splendid medieval churches and Roman ruins, including the famous Church of St. Donat built on the site of the former ancient Roman forum. The Promenade, which runs down Obala Kralja Petra Kresimira IV, is also perfect for a gentle stroll as you soak up the surroundings, while tourists seeking sun and sand are spoiled for choice with Zadar's beautiful beaches.

11.00 Private transfer to Šibenik, 89 km

12.00 Šibenik sightseeing with your English speaking local guide up to 1,5h

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In the motherly embrace of four mighty fortresses, Šibenik emerges from a truly unbelievably beautiful bay. One of the oldest Croatian cities is an imaginative game played by its UNESCO-protected heritage, invaluable city centre and Dalmatian lifestyle by the sea. Šibenik is city located on the Croatian coast some 80 km north of Split. As it is positioned in the deep bay, it is one of the most naturally protected harbors on the Adriatic coast. Šibenik is the city less known to tourist than Dubrovnik and Split, although it has its own personality and some great things to see and enjoy. The atmosphere in Šibenik is youthful and lively. Little streets lead to attractive squares where modern shop windows unite really nice with the fine and stylish architecture of the vanished centuries. Entrance to St. James cathedral included.

Free time for lunch

14.00 Continue with private transfer to Split, 85 km

Drop off at the hotel

Overnight. Split

DAY 7: SPLIT

Breakfast at the hotel

Split sightseeing with English speaking local guide (meeting with your guide in hotel lobby)



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*In the history of Split it is essential to know that the old town of this city is linked to the Roman Empire. It was founded in the 4th century since the Emperor Diocletian, a native of this area, had his palace built to inhabit it once he retired from political life. Today, it is one of the best-preserved Roman palaces. The Diocletian's Palace has a square-shaped structure, typical of the Roman era, which, along with its walls, originally measuring 215 meters long by 180 meters wide, made the monument an impenetrable place. To access the interior, we can choose from several gates, although typically the entrance is through the Golden Gate. Walking through the Palace, we observe residences with Italian marbles, red granite, and even Egyptian sphinxes. Therefore, in 1979, UNESCO declared this palace a World Heritage Site. **Entrance to Diocletian Palace basements included.***

Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight. Split

DAY 8: SPLIT – STON – DUBROVNIK

Breakfast at the hotel

09.00 Transfer to Pelješac,

11.15 Visit Ston – Saltworks Ston, up to 45 min

The under-visited Ston and its neighbor Mali Ston on the Peljesac peninsula are a great escape from the standard southern Dalmatia tourist route. About 59km northwest of Dubrovnik, there are no big resorts or luxury hotels in Ston but there is great eating, great scenery, old stone houses and the longest fortifications in Europe. Ston is famous for second biggest continuing wall in the world (after the Great Wall of China), salt production and oyster farms.



Solana Ston is the oldest active saltworks in Europe, dating back to the 14th century and still producing sea salt in a completely traditional way. Built by the Dubrovnik Republic, its 17 pools use only sun, sea, wind and human skill to create high-quality ecological salt and the prized fleur de sel. Today, the saltworks produces around 2,000 tons of salt annually and remains one of Ston's most unique cultural and historic sites.

12.00 Continue to Mali Ston, 1,6 km

12.15 Oyster experience up to 1h

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Tour includes: Pick up by boat from the main port in Mali Ston; English speaking guide; Welcome aperitifs traditional homemade brandy & traditional homemade sweets sugared orange peel and sugared almonds; Sailing across Mali Ston bay to oyster farm & boarding on the floating wooden dock; Story and presentation of cultivating oysters and its history; Tasting world's most famous oysters and mussels with a glass of house wine & water; Tasting includes 4 fresh oysters and a few cooked mussels, House wine (0,5l per person) & bottled water, plain or sparkling; Duration is 45 minutes to 1 hour.

13.15 Continue to Dubrovnik

14.30 Arrival and accommodation

Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight, Dubrovnik

DAY 9: DUBROVNIK

Breakfast at the hotel

Private transfer to the city center

09.15-11.15 Morning historic walking tour with private local guide (up to 3h)

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Dubbed the "Pearl of the Adriatic," beautiful Dubrovnik offers a wealth of attractions for visitors. Famous for its spectacular seafront location on the Dalmatian coast coupled with its evocative and historic old city center, Dubrovnik was founded in the 7th century and has enjoyed its greatest growth in the 15th and 16th centuries, a fact reflected in the impressive architecture and its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to Croatia's artistic and intellectual elite, Dubrovnik offers numerous cultural activities and festivals. Highlights of a visit include walking around its picturesque old streets and alleys while visiting such excellent attractions as its splendid cathedral and treasury, the broad Stradun pedestrian walkway, and its many fine old palaces and fortifications. **Visit to the Franciscan monastery and cable car return ride included.**

Cable car ride to Srđ hill

Be amazed with the breathtaking views of the Old City of Dubrovnik, the crystal clear Adriatic Sea, and the numerous islands. The best views of Dubrovnik and the surrounding area are, without doubt, experienced from the top of the Srd Hill. The Dubrovnik Cable Car was built back in 1969 and was always enthusiastically used by more than 2.5 million visitors who wanted to enjoy the most beautiful panoramic views. On a clear day, you can see up to 60 km (37 miles). For this reason the neighboring Imperial Fortress was strategically built on this privileged spot, back in the early 19th century.



Return ride with cable car to Dubrovnik Old town

Free time for leisure, strolling down the streets of Dubrovnik, having free time for lunch...

Private transfer back to the hotel

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Rest of the day free at leisure

Overnight, Dubrovnik

DAY 10: DUBROVNIK departure

Breakfast at the hotel

Meeting with your private driver and transfer to Dubrovnik airport

End of services