

13 Day Affordable Croatia & Slovenia with Venice

Departures:

2015-16 March 13, 31 from \$1499(land only) \$2379*(with flight)

2016-17 October - December :Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday from \$1249(land only) \$2109*(with flight)

Note: your itinerary will change depending upon the day of the week you depart. Click a day above to see what is included.

DAY 1, Sunday - Depart for Italy

Depart for Italy

DAY 2, Monday - Arrive in Opatija

Arrive in Venice; transfer to your hotel in the seaside town of Opatija, a gem on Croatia's Adriatic coast, nestled along the striking Gulf of Kvarner. On your afternoon at leisure, perhaps take a stroll along the "Lungo Mare" seafront before tonight's Welcome Dinner and briefing by your Tour Manager on the tour that awaits you in Croatia, Slovenia and Venice

Overnight: Opatija

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3, Tuesday - Full Day in Opatija

Enjoy a full day at leisure in the seaside town of Opatija, with its rich history, picturesque surroundings and gorgeous beaches, once a gathering spot for the Austro-Hungarian nobility. Alternatively, join the *optional* tour to the Istrian Peninsula that begins in Pula, a strategic port since the times of the ancient Romans. Afterward, proceed to the beautiful resort town of Rovinj where you will enjoy free time exploring the old town and its narrow lanes before returning to Opatija

Optional: Full Day Istrian Peninsula (AM)

Overnight: Opatija

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4, Wednesday - Zadar City Tour, Arrive in Split

Depart today for a long drive along the dramatic Adriatic coast to Split. En route stop at the historic old town of Zadar; highlighted by ruins of a Roman forum, medieval churches, cosmopolitan cafes and high quality museums. This city is a wonderful combination of beautiful Roman architecture, Habsburg elegance, and a picture-perfect seafront. See the Cathedral and St. Donat Church before driving to the UNESCO protected seaside town of Split, the second largest city in Croatia. Upon arrival, in the early evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the scenic waterfront promenade

Overnight: Split

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Thursday - Depart Split, Arrive in Dubrovnik

Walk along the cobbled streets of the Old Town featuring the historic inner city with its dominating Roman influence, built around the astonishing 4th century Palace of Diocletian. This spectacular palace is the largest and best preserved antique palace in the world, built for the Emperor Diocletian, representing a precious example of Roman architecture. See the remains of the Roman Peristyle, the unusual Cathedral of St. Domnius built in the Middle Ages, and the Temple of Jupiter, with its headless black sphinx guarding the entrance. Spend time discovering the town independently before continuing along the coast to the spectacular walled city of Dubrovnik where you will have the opportunity to see the amazing views of this city known as the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Tonight, enjoy dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Dubrovnik

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Friday - Dubrovnik City Tour

Enjoy the many delights of Dubrovnik today. The city's splendid medieval ramparts are considered to be one of the most grandiose fortification monuments in Europe, and its magnificent Old Town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The walking tour of "Old Dubrovnik" highlights the city's treasures within the 800-year-old walls including the Rector's Palace, an outstanding blend of Gothic and Renaissance architecture and the monumental Sponza Palace, preserved with its original beauty. Under the City Bell Tower on Luza Square stands Orlando's Tower, dedicated to the knight that saved the city in the 9th century. Continue to the Dominican Monastery, whose museum is a major treasury of culture and to the Franciscan Monastery with exhibits from the world's third oldest functioning pharmacy. The rest of the day is yours. Perhaps, spend time strolling along the impressive ramparts overlooking the shimmering Adriatic Sea

Overnight: Dubrovnik

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Saturday - Dubrovnik

A full day at leisure to explore Dubrovnik independently. Perhaps visit the Maritime Museum in St. John's Castle, linger in the historic Old City, or, people-watch at a charming cafe. Alternatively, join the *optional* full-day tour to Montenegro, the "Jewel of the Mediterranean" nestled on the gorgeous Adriatic coast. Drive towards the stunning Bay of Kotor, the longest and deepest fjord in southern Europe. On to the charming coastal town of Perast where a short boat ride takes us to the 15th century "Our Lady of the Rocks" Church perched on an islet in the bay. Time to admire the marble altar, fine paintings, silver plaques and panoramic views before driving to Kotor surrounded by old fortress walls, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Leisure time to walk the winding cobblestone lanes of the Old City before returning along the Dalmatian Coast to Dubrovnik. Tonight, enjoy a walk along Dubrovnik's cobbled streets; see the glowing buildings and the fortifications accented against the night sky

Optional: Full Day Montenegro Tour (AM)

Overnight: Dubrovnik

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8, Sunday - Travel to Zagreb

A long drive to Zagreb today but extremely rewarding. Depart Dubrovnik early in the morning and spend the day traveling inland while enjoying the spectacular scenery of wooded mountains and lush vegetation. Evening arrival at the Croatian Capital of Zagreb, the largest city of the Republic of Croatia. After checking in to your hotel enjoy exploring at leisure the numerous shops and various restaurants

Overnight: Zagreb

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9, Monday - Zagreb, Arrive Bled

This morning, enjoy a bus tour of Zagreb which concludes with a walking tour in the Old Town. After lunch at leisure, depart for the lovely city of Bled, exquisitely set amidst the Julian Alps. Bled, with its rich natural beauty ranks among the world's most beautiful alpine resorts and is also renowned for its mild, healing climate and its thermal lake waters. With its emerald-green lake, picture-postcard church on an islet, a medieval castle clinging to a rocky cliff and some of the highest peaks of the Julian Alps, Bled is Slovenia's most popular resort. Tonight, an *optional* dinner at a charming and popular country inn in the tiny medieval town of Radovljica, highlighted by a selection of traditional Slovenian dishes and wine

Optional: Dinner at a Country Inn (PM)

Overnight: Bled

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Tuesday - Tour Ljubljana, Bled

Start the day with a tour that includes the 11th century Bled Castle, the city's most famous landmark, perched on a steep cliff high above the lake, creating a dramatic backdrop to the city. This is a true medieval fortress, with its huge towers, ramparts, moats and a terrace offering breathtaking views. Continue on to nearby Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia. Visit the most significant sights of the old city center, with its unique mixture of Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture. Stop at the picturesque open-air market, Three Bridges square, the Town Hall, and Robba Fountain, one of the city's best known Baroque monuments, modeled after famous Roman fountains. Then, return to Bled and the rest of the day is at leisure to explore the town independently, or, perhaps visit tiny Bled Island, site of a 9th century Christian church. This evening, celebrate your last night in Slovenia with your travel companions at a Farewell Dinner

Overnight: Bled

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Wednesday - Depart Bled, Arrive in Venice

Depart Bled this morning to magical Venice. There is time today to begin your exploration of this astonishing city on your own, with its gorgeous palaces, winding canals, fabulous museums and galleries. Wander on your own - there is so much to see! Walk the cobblestone streets and cross the endless Venetian bridges to discover this city's intimate elements. Pamper yourself tonight at one of the city's fine restaurants, or just sit at an outdoor café and sip a cappuccino or a lovely glass of Italian wine

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12, Thursday - Venice City Tour

A boat ride this morning takes us to the Island of Murano, known for its artistic and colorful Murano glassware. Afterwards, to St. Mark's Square where we begin the guided walking tour of this romantic city. View the Golden Basilica of San Marco, built over several centuries in a fusion of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian architecture. Walk via the Bridge of Sighs, created at the beginning of the 17th century to serve as a link between prisons. Then, to the pink marble Doge's Palace, official residence of the Venetian Doge; its facade is highlighted by a massive late-Gothic gate, known as the *Porta della Carta*. The rest of the day is yours to explore Venice independently. This afternoon, don't miss the *optional* Gondola Ride with music - it's definitely one of the highlights of any Italian holiday!

Optional: Gondola Ride with Music

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13, Friday - Depart Italy

Transfer to the airport in Venice for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Escorted Package Includes

- **Round trip flights New York-Venice, Venice-New York**
Other departure cities available. Click on date of departure for selection and prices
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 11 nights accommodation
 - 2 nights Opatija
 - 1 night Split
 - 3 nights Dubrovnik
 - 1 night Zagreb
 - 2 nights Bled

- 2 nights Venice
- Italian city hotel taxes
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 15 meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager
- Services of local guides in Split, Dubrovnik, Zagreb and Venice
- Entrance fees per itinerary

Special Features

- Visit seaside Opatija, with its rich history and picturesque surroundings
- Walk the cobbled streets of Split to the 4th century Palace of Diocletian
- Tour magnificent Dubrovnik, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- See the Upper and Lower Towns in the two-tiered Croatian capital city of Zagreb
- Travel to Bled, exquisitely set amidst the Julian Alps, a beautiful alpine resort
- Stand before the magnificent Golden Basilica of San Marco in Venice