



CROATIA

Charismatic Croatia

including

Architecture, Cuisine, Culture,

5th – 24th July 2016

Gorgeous Croatia boasts a rich cultural history and offers visitors UNESCO heritage-listed historical sites, glittering seaside villages and myriad fortresses, castles, city walls and narrow cobbled alleyways to explore. This 20-day tour begins with an extended stay in famous Dubrovnik where we walk the city walls and explore the quaint old town. We island-hop to lovely Korčula, Hvar, where the glitterati dock their super yachts, and Split, for a visit to the incredible Diocletian's Palace. Walking around the Plitvice Lakes and waterfalls is a true highlight.

This tour offers it all including a true gourmet experience. We'll savour plenty of freshly caught seafood, the finest cured meats and truffles from Istria and famous cheeses from the island of Pag. Did you know that Croatians invented Zinfandel and that Croatian wine rivals that of its neighbour, Italy? Croatian wine has no preservatives, is cheap and generally should be consumed immediately; so we'll visit some tiny family-run wineries for tastings!

Come as a solo traveller or grab some friends to share all these wonderful experiences and share our passion in the journey.

Overview:

Destinations:	Dubrovnik Montenegro Ston Korčula Hvar Split Trogir Pag Zadar Plitvice Opatija Rovinj Groznjan Vodnjan Venice
Commences in Dubrovnik:	Sunday 5 th June 2016
Concludes in Istanbul:	Friday 24 th June 2015
Tour Style:	Deluxe Small Group Tour (6 - 14)
Length:	20 days / 19 nights
Accommodation:	4 or 3 star Hotels
Meals:	Breakfasts; 19: Lunches; 10 Dinners; 11:
Leaders:	Western tour manager and specialised guides
Transportation:	Luxury chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicles
Tour Grading:	Moderate: suitable for travellers with average fitness and mobility

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Walking the city walls of Dubrovnik
- A seafood feast on an island off Hvar
- A private sunset cruise in Zadar
- Exploring the Plitvice lakes and waterfalls
- Arriving into Venice by private speedboat
- Small Group Tour - Maximum group size of 10 guests



ITINERARY:

Day 1: Sunday 5th June 2016: Arrive Dubrovnik: (D)

Upon arrival in Dubrovnik, you'll be met and transferred to the Hotel, just a short walk from the famed Old Town. After welcome drinks overlooking the Adriatic, we'll have a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Monday 6th June 2016: Dubrovnik: (B/L/D)

With a local guide for the morning, we'll explore the labyrinthine streets of Dubrovnik's walled old town. After lunch we'll walk the city walls at leisure.

Day 3: Tuesday 7th June 2016: Dubrovnik: (B/L)

Private boat cruise to the Elafiti islands. There are 13 islands in this archipelago northwest of Dubrovnik but only three are inhabited ; Koločep, Lopud & Sipan that were the islands chosen by the Dubrovnik Republic aristocracy for their summer residences. After cruising and exploring the island, we'll have a long and lazy lunch overlooking the water at Villa Ruža Restaurant at Koločep.

Day 4: Wednesday 8th June 2016: Dubrovnik – Montenegro – Dubrovnik: (B/L)

Today we'll embark on an optional trip across the border to Montenegro! The drive around Kotor Bay is spectacular, as is the medieval town of Kotor. We'll stop in tiny little Perast for lunch, and to visit Our-Lady-of-the-Rocks, an island which was artificially created in the 15th century around a rock where an image of the Madonna was found.

Day 5: Thursday 9th June 2016: Dubrovnik – Ston –Korčula: (B/L)

Today we'll leave the city and drive towards peninsula Peljesac. The Dubrovnik Republic built the town of Ston in the 14th century in the form of a two-fold fortification system (Large and Small Ston), aiming to protect the salt plants, one of its major economic resources. A 12 kilometre long wall (the world's second longest wall after the Wall of China) connects two fortified cities. The Ston Bay is the cradle of farming of mussels and oysters and the Peljesac peninsula is the most famous wine growing area. After visiting the Ston walls, we'll stop at Mali Ston for an oyster tasting followed by a boat ride to the oyster beds. We'll enjoy a wine tasting at one of the region's most renowned wineries, before continuing to Korcula island.

Day 6: Friday 10th June 2016: Korcula: (B/D)

We'll spend today at leisure in lovely Korcula exploring the birth place of Marco Polo. Perhaps enjoy a short kayaking excursion, marvel at the 15th century cathedral, or lie by the pool overlooking the water!

Day 7: Saturday 11th June 2016: Korcula – Hvar: (B/L)

After breakfast, we'll take a private boat from Korčula to Hvar island. Hvar Town is a hot spot for wealthy yachties and therefore swanky hotels and restaurants. After checking into our hotel right at the marina (for excellent people-watching opportunities), we'll embark on an afternoon excursion via the scenic "old road" to see some of Hvar's famous lavender fields and enjoy lunch in the countryside. Spend this afternoon at leisure.

Day 8: Sunday 12th June 2016: Hvar: (B/L)

Mid-morning, we'll embark on a cruise to the Pakleni Islands, a group of tiny islands lying just off the coast of Hvar, that look like a string of pearls in the Adriatic. We'll have a chance to swim before a seafood lunch at the famous Menghello restaurant.

Day 9: Monday 13th June 2016: Hvar – Split – Trogir: (B/D)

After breakfast, we'll take the ferry to Split, where our guide will meet us and take us on a walking tour through this fascinating old town and the remains of Diocletian's Palace. After some time to enjoy the city on your own, we'll make the short drive to tiny medieval Trogir.

Day 10: Tuesday 14th June 2016: Trogir – Pag: (B/L/D)

Mid-morning, we'll head to the fascinating island of Pag. Pag is now connected to the mainland by a bridge, but it's produce and culture is very distinct from the rest of the country. Cheese and wine are famed here, as is the intricate Pag lace. Our hotel for the following two nights is a boutique stone farmhouse, set amongst vineyards and olive groves. Dinner shall be a culinary feast of local produce.



Day 11: Wednesday 15th June 2016: Pag: (B/D)

Spend today at leisure, enjoying the serene surroundings at our hotel, or alternatively, walk down to the nearby beach for a swim.

Day 12: Thursday 16th June 2016: Pag – Zadar: (B)

Mid-morning, we'll stop first at a famous Pag cheese factory for a cheese tasting, before making the short drive to Zadar, a cosmopolitan city with an historic old town. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Zadar. This evening after dinner, why not visit the incredible Sea Organ and Sun Salutation, two wacky creations designed by local architects to enhance the city.

Day 13: Friday 17th June 2016: Zadar: (B/D)

A local guide will take us on a walking tour of Zadar this morning. Alfred Hitchcock once stated that Zadar has the most beautiful sunset in the world! Late this afternoon, we'll set sail on a private yacht armed with local produce and wine, for a sunset cruise.

Day 14: Saturday 18th June 2016: Zadar – Plitvice: (B/L/D)

Today we'll see the landscape change completely as we leave the coast and drive to the Plitvice National Park, – one of the greatest natural wonders and phenomena in the world. Connected to each other by a series of foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls, the lakes are fed by many rivers and streams. We'll embark on a 2 – 3 hour walk through the park, stopping along the way for a picnic lunch.

Day 15: Sunday 19th June 2016: Plitvice – Opatija: (B/D)

Heading back towards the coast this morning, we'll first stop in Senj, at the foot of the Velebit mountains. The 16th century fortress is the symbol of the town, and as well as being an excellent museum, it's position on top of a hill provides excellent views of the region. We'll continue on up the coast to Opatija, a seaside resort town with the longest tradition of tourism in Croatia. Opatija was the most fashionable holiday destination for the Viennese elite during the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This afternoon we'll visit the small tourism museum housed in a grandiose 19th century villa. Perhaps also take a stroll along the *Lungomare*, the seaside promenade lined with majestic villas.

Day 16: Monday 20th June 2016: Opatija – Rovinj: (B/L)

This morning, with a local guide, we'll first stop at Hum, the smallest town in the world, with a population of 24. We'll then continue on to Beram to visit their tiny church and enjoy a delicious lunch. We'll then proceed to Rovinj, a charming Istrian town.

Day 17: Tuesday 21st June 2016: Rovinj – Groznjan – Rovinj: (B/L)

With a local guide, we'll embark on a day of exploring the Istria region. Our first stop is the charming hilltop village of Groznjan, which has developed into an artistic hotspot. We'll then settle in to an exquisite truffle lunch at Zigante estate.

Day 18: Wednesday 22nd June 2016: Rovinj – Vodnjan – Rovinj: (B)

This morning we'll visit the family-run Chiavalon olive grove for a tour and olive oil tasting. You'll never look at olive oil the same way again! Spend the rest of the day at leisure in gorgeous Rovinj.

Day 19: Thursday 23rd June 2016: Rovinj – Venice: (B/D)

This morning we sadly say goodbye to Croatia as we drive north, through Slovenia, to Venice. We'll drive as far as we can before we jump aboard private water-taxis and cruise up the Grand Canal to our hotel! This evening, our local guide will take us on a walking tour through some of Venice's backstreets, showing us interesting places off the tourist trail. Afterwards, we'll have a Venetian feast to mark the end of our tour.

Day 20: Friday 24th June 2016: Depart Venice: (B)

Our tour ends after breakfast with a speedboat shuttle to the airport for your onward flight. Should you wish to spend more time in Venice, additional accommodation and sightseeing can be arranged.



Tour Date:

ARRIVAL DATE:

5th June 2016

DEPARTURE DATE:

24th June 2016

Both Pre & Post Tour accommodation can be arranged.

Hotels can be 'mixed and matched' to suit you. A new quote will be required.

Tour Price

Total cost per person based on twin share accommodation: \$8,400.00

Single Supplement: \$2,200.00

Pre & Post Tour Accommodation & Travel:

Price & details available on request

International Airfares:

Price & details available on request

Insurance:

Price & details available on request

Boutique Tours & Travel offers comprehensive travel packages with just about everything on land included in one price. Accommodation, most meals, transfers, baggage handling, all major sightseeing and numerous cultural events are also included. Before you travel, you may have questions about what to expect while on your tour; for further information about this tour, or assistance in booking this tour please don't hesitate to contact us.

BT&T Waivers Visa, MasterCard Fees.

INCLUSIONS:

- Private arrival and departure transfers – Dubrovnick Airport – Hotel / Venice Hotel – Airport – Train Station
- Small Luxury Hotels & Boutique Hotels
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Meals as indicated in Itinerary; B = Breakfast 19: L=Lunch - 10: D=Dinner - 11:
- Chauffeur driven luxury air-conditioned private vehicle for all transfers & sightseeing
- Fully escorted by our Australian Tour Manager & very experienced professional bilingual local tour guides
- Entrance fees to sights, monuments and activities as per the itinerary

Not included:

- International air or train fares
- Arrival / Departure Taxes, levies and other charges
- Passport and visa fees
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal travel insurance
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses

For further information, or assistance in booking this tour please don't hesitate to email us at:
info@boutiquetours.com.au



BT&T Croatia - Travel Information

Accommodation:

All our hotels are excellent four star boutique hotels. We highly recommend our hotels as they have excellent services and facilities. All rooms have modern facilities, private bathrooms with double & two twin beds. Triple share accommodation may also be available and consists of two single beds plus a rollaway/fold-up bed. Request at time of booking.

Climate & Clothing:

In summer the weather in Croatia is mild. Summers are relatively dry, but rain does occur all year round. During winter it is cold, wet and often snowy. Snowfalls tend to be heavy, but temperatures rarely drop as low as freezing point.

The general rule is to bring comfortable clothing including lightweight cottons. Comfortable walking shoes are essential as is a light waterproof jacket. We provide a detailed packing list to all our guests prior to departure.

Currency & Money Matters:

The official currency the Croatian Kuna. Currency rankings show that the most popular Commonly circulated banknotes come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and five kuna, bearing images of Croat heroes such as Stjepan Radić and Ban Josip Jelačić. Each kuna is divided into 100 lipa. You'll find silver-coloured 50- and 20-lipa coins, and bronze-coloured 10-lipa coins.

ATMs are now nearly everywhere in Croatia except the most remote and uninhabited islands. Just look for the "bankomat" sign. Visa, Mastercard, Cirrus, Plus, Maestro, and Eurocard are the most commonly accepted cash cards; American Express is slightly scarcer. You will find ATMs at all major airports and train stations in Croatia and very near to the embarkation point for ferries and buses.

Electricity:

In Croatia the standard voltage is 230 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power sockets that are used are of type F.

Insurance:

You must obtain Comprehensive Travel Insurance as a condition of travelling with Boutique Tours & Travel. We recommend that you purchase insurance at the time of Booking. BT&T can arrange this for you if required.

Language:

Croatian is a Slavic language spoken by around 7 million people. It is the official language of Croatia and one of the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Luggage:

Three words of packing advice: LIGHT, LIGHT, LIGHT!

It is best to condense your luggage into one manageable suitcase with wheels and one daypack.

All your baggage should be clearly labelled: both inside and out.

You are required to be totally responsible for your own baggage at all times. Ensure it is loaded onto our minibus or car.

Excess baggage fees for international & domestic flights are your responsibility.

For International flights; (depending on airline) Check with your airline

And remember;

- Be vigilant at all time
- Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas
- Do not accept bags from strangers

ALWAYS keep travel documents, passport, personal necessities and valuables with you at all times. Remember NOT to pack them in your check-in luggage. Email yourself all documents and organise a copy of everything and leave them at home.

Meals:

Our hotels offer a wonderful selection at their buffet breakfasts and occasional dinners.

Traditional Croatian cuisine reflects widely diverse cultural and geographic influences. Some are a result of Croatia's proximity to the sea and fertile farmland, and some are the result of foreign occupiers who imported their tastes and recipes. Croatians are very proud of their gastronomic traditions, and while there are regional differences, you'll find that



freshness, grilling, and daily baking are consistent across the country. Our hotels offer a wonderful selection at their buffet breakfasts and occasional dinners.

Medical Services & Facilities:

Our hotels have access to a doctor if required. They can also assist guests with purchasing of medicine. The international hospitals in Croatia are good and have western trained medical and surgical specialists. Dental care is also available. Bring enough of your prescription medications so that you will not run out away from home. You may not find the same medications in Croatia

Passports & Visas:

No Visa is required to enter Croatia.

Pre & Post Tour Accommodation:

Boutique Tours & Travel suggests that you may like to arrive a day before the start of your tour to allow time to relax and refresh. You are also very welcome to linger longer after the tour is completed.

Religion:

Croatia's has a huge Christian population. Of the Christians in the country, the majority of about 76.5% are Roman Catholics; those of the Orthodox Church account for 11%, and Protestants form 0.4%. In addition, there are small minorities of Muslims, Jews and other communities.

Safety & Security:

Visitors to Croatia are often pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of the Croatian people, who will go out of their way to assist and happily spend time chatting.

But like any country anywhere, there are those who are of ill repute and target tourist, so please be on high alert at all times.

Time Zone:

Like most states in Europe, Summer (Daylight-Saving) Time is observed in Croatia Time, where the time is shifted forward by 1 hour; 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2).

Tour Group:

Our small group tours provide you with a good balance of group activity and personal discovery.

Transport:

We generally use modern deluxe minibuses for tours. We also walk and catch local transport where and when it's suitable. (Mostly in Istanbul)

Weather:

Daily average temperatures in June are **about 22°C (72°F)**, highs reaching up to 27°C (82°F) and lows plummeting to about 16°C (62°F).

Water & Beverages:

Water is available for purchase along the way. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of this tour.