

Explore the Beauty of Croatia.

If you dream of traveling to a place where the days are laid back and relaxed, where you can spend time in the sun by the sparkling water, or cool off in the shade of ancient-walled towns, then Croatia is the place you want to be! Join our Best of Croatia Tour to explore the very best this stunning Mediterranean country has to offer, as you travel through its ancient cities and along its ragged coastlines, and discover the fascinating history and culture of this off-the-beaten-track travel destination.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Cosmopolitan Vibes:** see the modern side of Croatia in its capital – Zagreb!
- **Local Cuisine:** take a Croatian cooking class,
- **Breathtaking Nature:** admire the beautiful Plitvice National Park.
- **Sound of the Sea:** listen to the mystical Sea Organ in Zadar.
- **Time travel:** experience Croatian village life at Ethnoland Dalmatia.
- **Roman classics:** travel back in time in historic Split.
- **Secluded Bay:** relax in Kotor Bay – a natural gem of Montenegro.
- **Unparalleled Beauty:** explore the Pearl of the Adriatic Sea – Dubrovnik.
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway Travellers.



Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Zagreb (-/-/D)

Welcome to Croatia! We start our journey in the beautiful city of Zagreb. Begin your discovery of this wonderful country, and enjoy some local cuisine at a welcome dinner. Free evening at your leisure – take a small walk around Zagreb to orient yourself, and soak up its enigmatic atmosphere!

Day 2 | Zagreb (B/L/-)

Today we'll get to know Zagreb - the largest city and capital of Croatia. Take a walking **City Tour**, and explore the historic old-town with its medieval feel. We'll even stop for a traditional Croatian coffee en-route! Visit the open-air markets in Dolac, to stock up souvenirs and taste some of the wonderful cuisine that Croatia has to offer! We'll buy some ingredients before we take part in a Traditional Croatian **Cooking Class** (paired with wines of course.)

After lunching on our freshly prepared dishes, we'll head out of the city to visit **Trakošćan castle**, a romantic castle which dates back to the 13th century. After, on our way back to Zagreb, we'll stop in the beautiful the beautiful area of **Zagorje**. Return to Zagreb in the evening.

Day 3 | Đakovo (B/L/-)

After breakfast, we'll take a day trip to Slavonia, the easternmost region of Croatia – known for its hospitality, great food and beautiful landscapes. We will visit the picturesque city of Đakovo. Take a walk around the historic centre and the church square.

Đakovo is also famous its National stud of Lipizzaner Horses - bred here for many years, originally for the Habsburg Royal family. We will enjoy lunch and get a taste for Croatian culture with an artisan presentation of the local folklore, cuisine and way of life by our hosts. You will see and meet local people, and have an authentic experience of true Croatian hospitality. Return to Zagreb in the afternoon. Rest of the day at your leisure.

HOTEL:

"Hotel Garden" or similar | Zagreb
<https://www.gardenhotel.hr/>
3 Nights



Day 4 | Plitvice (B/-/D)

Breakfast in the morning and check out. Enjoy a last wander around Zagreb, to have a coffee in the old town or simply relax and watch the world go by, before we set off for our next destination: the Plitvice National park.

This collection of lakes and pools, provide some of the most spectacular natural scenery in Croatia. The lakes are renowned for their distinctive colors, ranging from azure to green, grey or blue. The colors change constantly depending on the quantity of minerals or organisms in the water and the angle of sunlight. We'll walk around the upper and lower lakes, exploring small bays under the pine trees, and feel at one with nature.

We'll have dinner nearby, then stay overnight in a hotel near to the National Park.

Day 5 | Zadar - Split (B/L/-)

After breakfast, we'll carry on our journey to Zadar, an ancient city which dates back to the Roman Empire. See the Roman and early medieval remains of city fortifications. Head to the sea side to see the incredible Zadar "Sea Organ". An incredible collaboration of mankind and the elements, this 230-foot concrete structure harnesses the energy of the winds and waters of the Adriatic Sea to create random but soothing and harmonized notes.

After, we'll get to better understand the spirit of Dalmatia as we visit "Etnoland Dalmati". Etnoland Dalmati is a unique combination of culture, tradition and history. It offers a rare opportunity for people to discover old crafts and traditional customs, making it a cultural monument of sorts dedicated to the heritage of the Dalmatian hinterland. Take a tour of the village, and get to know how the Dalmatian people used to live, their culture, traditions and values. Enjoy a delicious lunch of local specialties, such as veal, cooked under an iron bell!

In the afternoon, enjoy a quick and exciting tour of Trogir another one of Croatia's many UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Its amazing Romanesque and Renaissance architecture will blow you away! Check in to the hotel. Evening at your leisure.

HOTELS:

Hotel 'Gacka' or similar | Plitvice

<https://hotel-gacka.website/>

1 Night



The Destination

Split - Dubrovnik

Day 6 | Split (B/L/-)

In the morning, check out and set off for our next destination - Split. This vibrant town is known as the soul of Dalmatia. We'll visit its most iconic sights on a walking tour –marvel at the roman structures, still standing, and centuries old! Explore the historic Diocletian's Palace with its cellars (featured in the two last seasons of the Game of Thrones), the Peristyle square, with its own intact Egyptian sphinx. Split is a town filled with history, and stunning historic buildings – after the waking tour, take some free time to relax in one of the Dalmatian taverns in the city center.

Afterwards, we'll visit the nearby village of **Klis**, home to an ancient fortress - a medieval stronghold, featured in 'Game of Thrones' as the ancient city of Mereen! Watch the sunset over the bay from the hilltop fortress, while enjoying an open air picnic. Return to Trogir in the evening.

Day 7 | Hvar (B/L/-)

After breakfast at the hotel we will transfer to the quayside, as we will be taking a daytrip to the island of Hvar. Visiting Croatia and not seeing the islands is like visiting Rome and not seeing Pope. Today we will explore one of 1244 islands that Croatia has, and for many it is the most beautiful one – Hvar. The island of Hvar is famous for its rich history and legacy but primarily for its stunning scenery. Hvar town is the jewel of the island, featuring stately Venetian architecture along a welcoming harbour. We will have lunch, and a wine tasting, as this island boasts some of the best Croatian wines!

After, we'll return to Split and enjoy a typical Traditional dinner in a Konoba.

“Konoba” means a restaurant in the coastal area of Croatia - with a traditional interior and local delicacies. Drink the local wine while listening to the sounds of local music.

Day 8 | Mostar - Dubrovnik (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel then check out. On the way to our final destination, Dubrovnik, we'll make a stop in Mostar – the majestic city of bridges and arches, where you'll feel as though you've stepped back into another century. See the incredible bridge that linked the two sides of the city. Experience a traditional Bosnian coffee tasting at the famous Alma Café, and learn about the coffee culture of Bosnia as you sip coffee and taste Bosnian Delight.

After a delicious lunch and some time for shopping and exploring, we will continue on to the Dubrovnik area. Check into the hotel, then evening at your leisure.

HOTELS:

Hotel 'Trogir Palace' or similar

<https://hotel-palace.net/>

1 night



Day 9 | Dubrovnik (B/L/-)

Today we will explore this beautiful city! Take a tour of the wonderful and historic Dubrovnik, and discover its many stories. This picturesque, white-stone city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll visit iconic places such as the stunning Franciscan monastery and Onofrio's fountains; marvel at the Orlando Column and the St. Blaise Church.

Lunch in a restaurant, with a spectacular view of the Old Town.

After enjoy some free time to explore. You may recognise some spots on our tour from Game of Thrones, or Star Wars, as many famous scenes were filmed here!

Afterwards, take a panoramic boat cruise, and enjoy the magnificent view of Dubrovnik Old Town and its walls, mirrored on the surface of the Adriatic Sea.

Return to the hotel after.

Day 10 | Dubrovnik (B/-/D)

Today we'll take a day trip to the Pelješac and Korčula area.

If you are wine and/or nature lover, this will be a great day for you! We will cruise past some of the most amazing landscapes of Croatia, to come to the island and city of Korčula. Allegedly, Marco Polo the famous navigator was born here! Enjoy a delicious lunch before heading on the tour of the city. After, take some time to discover some of the local artisans – the most famous jewelry stores of Croatia can be found in the narrow alleyways of Korčula. Get gold, silver, and coral – all at reasonable prices. On the way back to Dubrovnik, we'll stop to taste some of the best Croatian red wines!

Return to the hotel. Overnight.

Day 11 | Kotor - Budva (B/L/-)

Take a day trip to **Montenegro**. We'll visit the beautiful cities of **Kotor** and **Budva**. Kotor is a World Heritage-listed city, set on a secluded bay amongst tall cliff - "Monte-Negro" literally means "Black Mountain". Wander its crooked alleyways, climb the hills to the ruined castle, and see the stunning panoramic views over the city and out across the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy Budva's charming Old Town and its sweeping beaches.

On our way back to Dubrovnik, enjoy a traditional Croatian **farewell dinner** to reminisce about all of the memories that you've just created! Farewell dinner where you'll enjoy some true delicacies, local music, dances and renowned Croatian hospitality.

Day 12 TOUR END DATE | Dubrovnik (B/L/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Komodor' or similar | Dubrovnik

<https://www.dniprohotel.ua/en/>

4 nights



Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
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- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 11 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt



NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room
- Do a side trip – visit Family
- Ukrainian Family History researched with our Genealogy service

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



BEST OF CROATIA TOUR 12 Days / 11 Nights

2020 TOUR DATES & PRICES:

Sept 25- Oct 6, 2020 \$3,880 USD

TOUR LAND PRICE:

Per Person, Based on Double Occupancy
Single Supplement \$ 710 USD

Early Bird Discount: Save \$200 USD if you
book at least 6 months prior to tour date.