

See Croatia – from a woman’s perspective.

To truly see inside a country, you need to be able to see the culture from all perspectives. We created this Women’s tour of Croatia, so you can do exactly that.

Meet the incredible, inspiring, strong women who hold onto culture and preserve ancient traditions, in cosmopolitan cities to small villages. Take part in exclusive experiences that are off-the-beaten-path of regular tours. Make connections with locals, be immersed in culture, while also taking some down time to soak up the sights and smells of this beautiful country.

Our Women’s tours are Women only, and guided by women.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Female artisans:** meet the women who have preserved crafts and folk customs for centuries
- **Cosmopolitan Vibes:** see the modern side of Croatia in its capital – Zagreb!
- **Inspiring women:** visit the Center for Women's Studies and meet the incredible women building Croatia's future
- **Local Cuisine:** take a Croatian cooking class and learn secret recipes
- **Slovenian Alps:** marvel at the beautiful Lake Bled & Ljubljana
- **Truffle hunting:** experience & taste this rare delight in Motovun
- **Istrian wines:** taste the ancient and regal Teran wine
- **Native home:** be welcomed for breakfast in the home of a local woman, and try her homemade cheese, honey and Rakija!
- **Breathtaking Nature:** admire the beautiful Plitvice National Park.
- **Lavender fields:** see the stunning scenery of Hvar Island
- **Agave Lace:** discover the incredible art made by the nuns of St. Clara
- **City of Bridges:** marvel at Mostar, and it's historic bridge
- **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, welcome to its beautiful capital – Zagreb!

Upon arrival, you'll be picked up from the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Once you've checked in and freshened up, take a walking **City Tour**, and explore the historic old-town with its medieval feel. See the spectacular St. Mark's Cathedral, before taking the funicular down to the lower part of the city, to visit the open-air markets in Dolac.

In the evening we'll enjoy a fabulous **welcome dinner!** The traditional Croatian meal in Zagreb is a special pasta dish with turkey, with followed by home-made Apfelstrudel, aka apple strudel. Start your Croatian adventure getting acquainted with its delicious cuisine, and be immersed in the culture with a presentation of National Costumes of continental Croatia!

Day 2 | Zagreb (B/L/-)

This morning, after breakfast we will visit the **Center for Women's Studies Zagreb**, the first non-institutional Educational Centre in Croatia, and get the chance to find out the incredible women who are building a future for Croatia, as well as find out about their work and their goals.

Then we'll head back to the famous Dolac market, but today we'll be shopping for ingredients before we take part in a Traditional Croatian **Cooking Class!** Meet locals, and **test your cooking skills**, as you learn Croatian traditional recipes from local women. Learn all their secrets, passed down through generations!

After lunching on our freshly prepared dishes, we'll head out of the city to a town called **Samobor** – this is where city dwellers come to wind down, and get their fix of hearty food, creamy cakes and beautiful scenery. Guess what? We'll be getting our fix too!

We will visit the local castle, explore the old town, and then enjoy a traditional meal made by locals; taste their famous mushroom soup, a delicious platter of grilled meat and vegetables, followed by '**Bermet**' – a traditional dessert wine, 'kremšnite' - custard pie, and local coffee.

After we'll return to Zagreb, you will have a free night to explore the city or just to relax. Try out some of the local eateries – our Tour Leader will be able to point you in the direction of some of our favourites!

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel 'Academia' or similar | Zagreb

www.hotelacademia.hr

2 Nights



The Destination

Day 3 | Ljubljana – Rovinj (B/-/D)

After breakfast and check out, we will set off for Europe's smallest capital and a quaint city in the Slovenian Alps - **Ljubljana**. Upon arrival, we will explore Ljubljana and its architectural gems from across the centuries. We'll have a special **city tour** with a local female guide, who will describe in detail the historic struggle for women's rights and the amazing achievements of contemporary Slovenia in terms of gender equality. You will be acquainted with many stories of important women who have contributed to the rich heritage of Slovenia. After the tour you will have time to enjoy the city on your own, explore the quaint streets, cross the famous Triple Bridge, and walk the leafy banks of the emerald-green Ljubljanica River.

We'll stop for lunch in a **traditional restaurant**, where you'll be able to taste some of the delicacies, made for centuries by local Slovenian women. Did you know, the primary ingredient of Slovenian cuisine, and many Alpine countries is buckwheat? Get to know some of the incredible dishes they create with this simple ingredient!

After, we will head back to Croatia, to **Rovinj** – the star attraction of Croatia's Istrian coast! This town was originally an island, and was only connected to the mainland in 1763! On our way we'll stop for a **wine tasting** at one of the famous winemakers of this land. Learn about the winemaking traditions of this area from local women. Continue on to Rovinj.

Upon arrival we will get you checked in to your hotel and then explore the city by going on a brief city tour. After, soak up the sea air and beautiful scenery as you wander the streets of this romantic town. Enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Day 4 | Motovun (B/L/D)

Today we will head inland to the small town of **Motovun**, famous for two very special culinary delights: the unique **Teran wine** and the **Motovun Truffle**. Firstly today, we are going to delve into Croatia's culinary truffle tradition. We will learn about the history and theory of truffle collection, before heading into the famous Motovun forest for some adventure – you'll get lay out a treasure hunt of truffles, for our expert host and their dogs to find!

After, we'll continue the day with tasting these truffles, all paired with delicious wine, which perfectly complements the dish! Teran – the most famous red wine in Istria, dates back to the fourteenth century, when it was served in ceramic bottles to imperial emissaries! And it pairs perfectly with the distinct flavor of Motovun truffles. Hear the romantic stories that took place on this peninsula; Casanova's love story, and the story of Vespasian - a Roman emperor. Learn how love and food shaped this peninsula, and experience love through your senses as you taste the local truffles and wine.

Our next stop is **Groznjan**, a small Istrian town, which is known internationally. This stunning Venetian fortress is a haven for artists and musicians, and during the summer months fills with creative folk attending festivals and channeling their art. Take a walk around this fairytale town, and drop in to some of the unique art galleries that litter the cobbled streets.

We'll continue on to Plitvice, where we will check in and take some time to relax. Dinner served at the hotel.

Ljubljana – Rovinj - Motovun

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel 'Angelo d'Oro' or similar | Rovinj
www.angelodoro.com/en/
1 night

Hotel 'Gacka' or similar | Plitvice
<https://hotelgacka.inn.fan/>
1 night



The Destination

Day 5 | Plitvice - Zadar (B/-/D)

This morning we will be welcomed into the home of **local woman**, who creates her own honey, cheese and traditional Croatian '**Rakija**', or local brandy. This is her livelihood, but her products are 100% home grown and natural, and we will get to taste them! Learn about the traditional Croatian way of life as you experience breakfast in a local home. It's up to you if you want the rakija with your breakfast or not!

After, we will be visiting a place that's often considered Croatia's most popular tourist attraction - **Plitvice National Park**. The beauty of the National Park lies in its sixteen lakes, inter-connected by a series of waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars and rare bird species. Among 16 lakes and 92 waterfalls, one of the waterfalls got its name from the famous 19th **century opera singer**, soprano Milka Trnina, who had a high reputation in major American and European opera houses. Her contribution to the world was of great importance, as was the donation she gave to the park, even before it became a National Park. You will spend 3-4 hours exploring this beautiful park, including a scenic boat ride.

In the afternoon, we will continue on to our next destination - **Zadar**. Upon arrival, we'll get you checked in to your hotel, before heading out on an orientation. 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. Enjoy the sounds of the waves and be inspired to sing along. As we are in the city of art, practise singing in the traditional Dalmatian way, **klapa or a capella style singing** with your guide!

We'll take you out to a restaurant for dinner, to indulge the rich cuisine of Dalmatia. Rest of the evening at your leisure.

Day 6 | Zadar - Split (B/-/D)

Zadar is sometimes called the oldest and most modern city of Croatia, with its historic old town of Roman ruins, medieval churches, cosmopolitan cafes and quality museums: the City Museum, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Ancient Glass, Museum of Illusions, and more! Enjoy a **free morning** to visit one of the many museums and galleries, or sit by the sea and listen to the Sea Organ. Free time for lunch – we recommend to try some of the delicious local seafood!

In the afternoon we'll set off for the ancient city of **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, the Peristyle square, with its own intact Egyptian sphinx. Split is a town filled with history, and stunning historic buildings. Aswell as being an ancient city, Split is also considered the Capital of Fashion in Croatia. Enjoy a tour with one of our female guides, and learn more about this creative medium which has been a form of expression for women across Croatia for centuries. After, we'll dinner in a local Dalmatian tavern with an intimate atmosphere. Rest of the evening at your leisure.

Plitvice - Zadar - Split

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel 'Niko' or similar | Zadar

<http://hotel-niko.hr/>

1 night

Hotel 'Cvita' or similar | Split

<https://hotelcvita.com/>

1 night



Day 7 | Hvar (B/L/D)

After breakfast at the hotel we will transfer to the quayside, as we will be travelling to the **island of Hvar**, the most famous of all 1244 islands of Croatia! Visiting Croatia and not seeing the islands is like visiting Rome and not seeing Pope.

The island of Hvar is famous for its rich history and legacy but primarily for its stunning scenery. We'll check in to the hotel and take a walk through the town. Hvar town is the jewel of the island, featuring stately Venetian architecture along a welcoming harbour.

Then we will travel to Hvar's famous **lavender fields**. Here in Velo Grablje, lavender flourishes due to the sunny weather on this island, and the island has hence become known for its stunning fields and pathways lined with lavender bushes. The bright purple flowers and calming scents stretch for miles. Here, we'll meet the local women who work these lavender fields, and discover the variety of products they have developed over the years using the fragrant oil – from creams to soaps and candles.

Here we will have a **traditional picnic** in the fields, just like the local workers would do in during lavender season on the island of Hvar.

This isn't the end of the excitement for today. Did you know that the **Agave** plant can be used to make **lace**? We will take you to the convent of nuns of Saint Clara, where for centuries they have been making lace in this unique style. Discover their unique art, meet the nuns who make it, take the opportunity to ask about this art, and buy some of these masterpieces if you wish.

After, take some time to relax on the island before a **seafood dinner on the beach**, overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Tomorrow you get a full free day to explore this island, so use your guide for all the recommendations you need. Rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 8 | Hvar (B/-/-)

Enjoy a free day on the island of Hvar.

Optional Suggestions: Take a swim, or a boat trip; read a book, sunbathe on the beach, explore secluded coves, small fishing villages and local vineyards. Eat some delicious fresh seafood, or taste the famous Pašticada –veal meat prepared in plums dip made in a special way for days accompanied with gnocchi.

You could even stop for a spot of wine tasting. Did you know, Croatia has the oldest continuously planted vineyard in the world? The Stari Grad Plain on Hvar Island has been planted with wine grapes for 24 centuries, since the ancient Greeks first planted their vines in 384. BC. It was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008.

Vineyards are spread across the island and carefully nurtured to produce the best crops. It is no wonder that over the centuries, this tradition has been perfected in order to create some of the world's best wines. There is also the possibility to take various day trips from Hvar or on Hvar; the Blue and Green cave, Pakleni Islands, Bike Tour, Wine Tour, Kayak Tour, Scooter adventure and more.

Our guide will be available to make suggestions where you may need them.

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel Pharia or similar | Hvar
<https://hotelpharia-hvar.com/>
2 Nights



The Destination

Mostar - Dubrovnik

Day 9 | Mostar (B/L/D)

Today we'll have an early start, as we have a whole day of adventures ahead of us. We'll travel back to the mainland and into neighbouring Bosnia & Herzegovina. The trip will take approx. 4 hours, and we'll stop along the way.

We'll 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.

Our guide will introduce Mostar to us, take us to all the major sights, hidden part, and share her own life story of growing up and living in **Mostar as a woman, wife, mother, and worker**. We will end the tour in her very own **coffee house**, where they make their own special Bosnian coffee. Learn about the coffee culture of Bosnia as you sip coffee and taste Bosnian Delight. We will then enjoy a traditional Bosnian cuisine in a restaurant with amazing view of the famous bridge.

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

Day 10 | Dubrovnik (B/-/D)

This morning we'll discover to **Dubrovnik** – known as the pearl of the Adriatic Sea, its beautiful Old Town never fails to take your breath away. This picturesque, white-stone city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll take a **tour** of the wonderful and historic Dubrovnik, and discover its many stories from our local guide. Born and raised in Dubrovnik, she will fill you in on all the answers about Dubrovnik's history and life in today's Dubrovnik from a woman's perspective.

In the seven hundred years of the recorded history of the Dubrovnik Republic, there were almost no traces or records of women who lived in the town... On this tour, you will find out about the lives of these mystery women - those who married or raised the well-known scholars, poets, and writers of this republic, and were the untold heroes of this time. Learn how they lived back in the days, and how Dubrovnik has changes to be the forward thinking city it is today.

Dubrovnik is a city of wealth, gold, **jewels** and has always been the symbol of independence and richness. But sometimes the true gold is well hidden - on this special tour we will take you to those hidden, off-the-beaten-path places. You will have a chance to see all the major sights of the city; 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. You may recognise some spots on our tour from Game of Thrones, or Star Wars, as many famous scenes were filmed here!

Dubrovnik is also famous for its intricate **filigree jewelry**. We will have a unique opportunity to meet with a local jeweler for a demonstration on how they make their unique pieces of art. We're sure you'll love the experience and might want to buy some accessories to take home!

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon exploring the city, its traditional crafts, try out one last café for a nice lunch, or take some time to enjoy the beach! If you can't get enough of the stunning views - take a stroll on the City Walls or Cable-car up the mountain.

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.

To round off this special adventure, we will all meet for a **farewell dinner**. Enjoy a dance show of traditional Dubrovnik dance, music and clothing. Get involved in preparing these dishes with the local women, before sitting down and enjoying them to reminisce about your trip.

Day 11 TOUR END DATE | Dubrovnik (B/-/-)

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!

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel Mlini or similar | Dubrovnik

<https://www.maistra.com/hr/hotel-mlini-dubrovnik>

2 Nights



Tour Details

SUGGESTED INCLUSIONS:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 10 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

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

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



CROATIA FOR WOMEN 11 Days / 10 Nights

BESPOKE TOUR

Your tour – your way! Let us customize this tour for you. Contact us to get started.



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