



## **CROATIA**

**Zagreb \* Zadar \* Split \* Hvar \* Dubrovnik**

**9 nights/ 10 days**

**Daily programme:**

### **DAY 1: Arrive Zagreb**

Arrive Zagreb airport.

You will be met upon arrival and private transfer from Zagreb airport to the hotel in Zagreb.

Hotel check in and rest of the day free.

Overnight at the hotel in Zagreb

### **DAY 2: Zagreb**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Zagreb sightseeing tour with local guide (duration approx. 2 hrs.)

Zagreb grew up on two neighbouring hills: Kaptol - the centre of spiritual and religious life of north-western Croatia and Gradec - the commercial centre of skilful tradesmen and craftsmen. Take an easy walk with your guide, visiting the Upper Town with its Gothic Cathedral, the beautiful and ornate St. Catherine's church or the massive St. Mark's church with its famous colour-tiled roof. Continue to the medieval Stone Gate and "Dolac", the open-air market which are a must for all visitors.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel in Zagreb.

### **DAY 3: Zagreb – Plitvice National Park - Zadar**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Private transfer from Zagreb to Plitvice National Park. (duration approx. 2 hrs)

Visit of Plitvice national park on own – entrance fee included (up to 4 hrs)

Plitvice National Park is one of the most beautiful and best-preserved national parks in the country. Therefore, the entire lakes and surrounding area were declared a national park in 1949 and are listed on the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites because of its exceptional beauty. It is a valley situated between high forested mountains in which lie, one below another, a string of sixteen beautiful lakes of crystal blue and green waters. Fed by small streams and brooks, they spill into each other in 92 foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls. The lakes themselves cover about 2 square kilometres and the entire national park covers 200 square kilometres.

Transfer continues to Zadar (duration approx. 2 hrs)

Overnight at the hotel in Zadar area.

### **DAY 4: Zadar - Split**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Zadar sightseeing with local guide (duration approx. 2 hrs.)

The Zadar peninsula still preserves very old network of narrow and charming city streets, as well as a Roman forum dating back to the first century AD. The pre-Romanesque Church of St. Donat dates to the ninth century and it is certainly Zadar's most famous spot. The town is fortified with medieval

walls, distinguished for their pretty and impressive ports – entries in the city all dating back to the sixteenth century. Even Alfred Hitchcock was impressed and supposedly said that the sunset here is more beautiful than in California. Countless buildings and monuments attest to the rich intellectual and cultural heritage of the city. At the end of the Western Quay is Zadar's newest feature, the Sea Organ. This unusual organ is powered by the wind and the sea. When the sea pushes air through the whistles, a series of melancholy chords are played, with the sound emerging through the perforated stone stairs. Next to the Sea Organ is the Sun Salutation also designed by Nikola Basic. This circle of glass collects the sun's rays by day, stores the energy, and emits it as a flickering light show after dark.

Free time.

In the afternoon, transfer to Split (duration approx. 2 h)

Overnight at the hotel in Split

#### **DAY 5: Split**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Split, Trogir and Salona excursion with local guide (Duration approx. 7 hrs)

The old town of Split is built on and around the spectacular Roman Palace erected by the Roman Emperor Diocletian (born in Salona – today's Solin) in the 4th century. The walking tour starts with a visit to the cellars of the Palace that are still very well preserved. The cellars offer a good view at how the life in the Palace was organized. Other sites such as the Golden Gate, the Silver Gate, the Peristyle Square etc. will be seen from the outside.

After Split, proceed to Trogir for the visit of beautiful medieval town under the protection of UNESCO:

Trogir is a town-museum in the very meaning of the word. Lovers of cultural and historical monuments, art, original architecture, and nice alleys are given the opportunity in Trogir to learn about the manifold and complex heritage - from the Romanesque yard to the modern interiors. During the walk around the city, guests can enjoy the centuries old town with its streets and buildings.

On the way back to Split, visit Salona:

Salona is known as the centre of ancient Dalmatia, and is located about 6 km from Split, in today's Solin. As the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia, Salona was originally the port of the Illyrian Delmata, which by the end of the 2nd c. BC Kr. conquered by the Romans.

The archaeological park is located in the centre of the present-day city of Solin and covers an area of about 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The presented parts of the Roman city were created in a large period from the 2nd century BC. Cr. by the middle of the 7th century, already in the 1st century BC. Cr. an aqueduct was built to supply the city with drinking water from the Jadar spring. In the centre of the old town, next to the Capitol Forum, is a 3,000-seat theatre and a temple dedicated to Dionysus or Liber. The well-preserved tract of the eastern walls of the old town with the city gates, the so-called Porta Caesarea, bounded by two octagonal towers. Remnants of the monumental Amphitheatre for 17,000 spectators rise in the far west. In the eastern part of the town is the Episcopal Center of the Christian Salon, built in the 5th century and rebuilt in the 6th century. Outside the city walls, on the Monasteries, a cemetery basilica was erected above the tomb of the Bishop of Salon and Domnius, around which the largest Christian cemetery 'sub divo' (outdoors).

Overnight at the hotel in Split.

#### **DAY 6: Split - Hvar**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Embark the local ferry / catamaran to Hvar.

In the afternoon,

Hvar sightseeing tour (duration approx. 1,5 hr)

Enjoy a tour of the culture, art, and history of Hvar, one of the principal destinations on the Dalmatian Riviera. Hvar is home to fiercely proud, determined, and courteous people, who are eager

to show off their city. Walk around historical centre of Hvar, called Groda, visit the city square, the arsenal, the theatre, and the cathedral.

Bed and breakfast basis

Overnight at the hotel in Hvar

**DAY 7: Hvar**

Breakfast at the hotel.

OPTIONAL: Blue and Green Cave excursion – SIC (duration approx. 8 hrs)

This unique day on the sea starts with the majestic Green and Blue caves and includes Vis and the Pakleni islands! We'll begin by cruising between Hvar and the islets of Ravnik and Biševo. First, we will visit the Green Cave where we will get a chance to swim inside and enjoy the emerald light show! Then we'll discover a picturesque hidden inlet called Stiniva, where you can enjoy a delicious swim or just relax and sunbathe. After Stiniva, it's off to experience the world-renowned Blue Cave, whose ethereal silvery blue colour is created by the sun as it bathes the inside of the cave through an opening in the roof and is reflected by the sandy surface below. Widely regarded as one of the world's most beautiful natural phenomena, this cave is must-see. Our trip continues to the legendary island of Vis and the authentic fishing village of Komiža. We will have an hour of free time to explore this charming seaside hamlet before we take off to enjoy the Paklinski Islands. We'll stop at one of the archipelago's most popular bays, Vinogradišće at Palmižana, where you can have a seaside lunch at some of the best restaurants in the Adriatic! After lunch, you can swim, relax, or even go dancing at the Laganini lounge club beach bar, a famous island hangout where Bono enjoyed THAT 10-course lunch!

Overnight at the hotel in Hvar.

**DAY 8: Hvar - Duvrovnik**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Embark the local catamaran to Dubrovnik.

In the afternoon,

Dubrovnik sightseeing tour with local guide (Duration approx. 2 hrs)

"Those who seek paradise on earth", George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "should come to Dubrovnik".

The old city of Dubrovnik has remained basically unchanged since the thirteenth century. Its medieval ramparts encircle the city which pedestrians can enter through one of two gates - either way, they find themselves joining the evening promenade Stradun which you can either join or watch, a drink in hand, from one of the various cafes and restaurants along the way. The city is alive with open air markets, artisans' shops and studios of artists, Baroque churches and Gothic-Renaissance palaces, unexpected courtyards, and covered loggias. In the summer, music fills the air as the internationally renowned Summer Festival reveals the magic of theatre, music, and dance. In the fall and spring, the squeals of schoolchildren travel up and down the stone alleys and the younger generation discovers the unparalleled freedom of a city where no cars are allowed, and the stone-faced houses and orange-tiled roofs have remained unchanged for centuries.

Bed and breakfast

Overnight at the hotel in Dubrovnik

**DAY 9: Dubrovnik**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel in Dubrovnik.

**DAY 10: Depart Dubrovnik**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Private transfer from the hotel to Dubrovnik airport.

**End of services.**