

Croatia Off the Beaten Track
11 days – 10 nights
Venice, Istria, Gorski Kotar, Lika, Dalmatian Zagora, Bosnia, Jajce, Slavonia, Baranja, Zagorje,
Zagreb
Gastronomy, Discovery, Culture

Dine, wine and explore Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. A completely different experience full of authentic food, country living and do-it-yourself projects

Day 1: Venice, Central Istria

Arrival in Venice, transfer from airport to central Istria. Overnight.

Day 2: Istria Peninsula

After a homemade breakfast, some truffle hunting is in order (depending on the season it can be mushroom or asparagus picking, olive picking...). You will enjoy a truffle hunting demonstration with a local farmer and his sniffer dog, a memory that you will hold on to all your life. Gathering in the village Paladini near Buzet, with family Karlič. Registered truffle hunter will introduce you the world of truffles and truffle hunting. You will have the opportunity to hear a story about tradition of truffle hunting in Istria and the general story about the truffles and other Istrian natural products. After a story about truffles and truffle hunting tradition in the family, family serves three typical Istrian bandies; honey brandy, mistletoe brandy and cheery brandy. When you open your appetite it's time for truffle delicacies such as Istrian cheese with truffles (three different types), sausages with truffles, canapés with truffles, truffle honey, truffle oil, scrambled eggs with fresh truffles (which are prepared in front of the guests so they can participate in the preparation) and a surprise dessert. The experience is fulfilled by tasting of the homemade wines, Malvazija and Teran, from the cellar. The most attractive and most interesting part of the tour is real truffle hunting in the nearby forest with specially trained dogs what concludes the whole truffle hunting experience. The entire program takes approximately 2 to 3 hours. After the truffle hunting in the afternoon visit of the small town Motovun, possibly the most picturesque medieval town of inner Istria which has been since prehistoric times the most important settlement of this area. Motovun is a small town of rich cultural and historical heritage, situated on a hill above the Mirna river valley, with a beautiful view of the valley and the famous Motovun forest, habitat of the respectable white truffle, where in 1999 the then-largest white truffle in the world was found (1.301 grams), whose record-breaking size is confirmed by a certificate of the Guinness Book of World Records. After the visit free time for a later lunch. Return to your accommodation where you will be involved in the preparing of your dinner. Overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Istria (Wine Day)

After breakfast you are ready for a wine day in Istria. Croatia has always been among world's top-quality wine producers. Grape-growing and winemaking have long been the economic mainstay of generations of families in Istria and at the moment, Istria is producing some of the top-notch wines. This is why we will spend a day visiting a local producer and trying a variety of wines or we will make a wine and bike tour. But Istria has one other gold product – olive oil and we can't miss the experience of visiting an olive oil producer and taste the best olive oils of the region (depending of the season possibility of picking up olives). For this evening, before you leave Istria region, you will enjoy in a traditional dinner in a typical agritourism. Overnight. [B/T/D]

Day 4: Istria (Gorski Kotar area)

Today we are leaving Istria to discover the region of Gorski Kotar on our way to Lika. Gorski Kotar is well known for it's unspoiled nature, tranquility, friendly people, excellent cuisine and wealth of natural attractions. Depending on the season, you will enjoy participating in various activities: Fruits of the Mountains, Elder Day or Lavender day or Blueberry day, a recreational and educational event, sampling produce; or Fruits of the Mountains, sampling strawberries and strawberry produce; or Glijvarijada Mushroom Festival – picking mushrooms, preparing mushroom dishes, watching a mushroom stew competition; or Bundevidada Pumpkin Festival, preparing and sampling pumpkin

dishes, fair including an entertainment program. Lunch in a local restaurant and transfer to accommodation in Lika county. [B/L]

Day 5: Gorski Kotal area, Lika County

Lika county has the scent of the sea, rock, sage, olive and bura (north wind on the coast) on one side and the scent of grass, hay, forests, fresh summers and sharp winters on the other. This hidden Croatian gem is getting more and more attention, as it deserves. Lika is a farming and livestock region ideal for growing healthy food so, today, we will dedicate our time to food and local experience. Škripavac cheese, cottage cheese, and cow and sheep curd are the foundation of the traditional offerings of the region's dairies and small farms. We will visit a family owned cheese factory to experience the true making of cheese. Afterwards it's time to do some fly fishing (catch and release) in Gacka river or some bike tour, kayaking or similar (depending of the season and interest). Dinner with traditional local specialties. Accommodation in Lika county. [B/D]

Day 6: Lika County (Dalmatian Zagora - Dalmatian Hinterland)

Departure for Dalmatian zagora, the Dalmatian hinterland, situated behind the mountain range, separated from the coastline and far from the fast living which enabled the survival of tradition. What is particularly inspired is gastronomy that seems to be from another, forgotten time. After arriving in an ethnic village, you'll take a guided tour and find out about its history. This is followed by a hands-on cooking class where you'll use age-old recipes to prepare an authentic meal that includes homemade sausage, soup, lamb roasted on a spit, stewed vegetables, fruit desserts, and more. Accommodation in Dalmatian Zagora in an apartment or a holiday home. [B/L]

Day 7: Lika County, Bosnia, Jajce

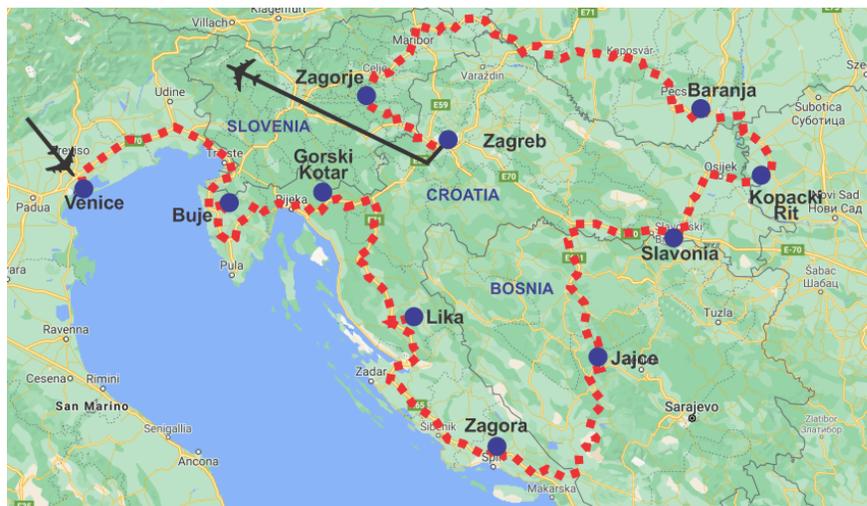
Departure for Bosnia, a neighboring country filled with tradition and friendly, open people. Arrival to Jajce, "Bosnian Venice". This charming and calm town, nestled in the heart of Bosnia, is blessed with an abundance of water settings. Visit to the local attraction, the watermills, in the area of the Pliva Lakes, a collection of about 20 little huts that once served as watermills for local farmers. You will also have a chance to visit the local honey makers and to see the process of making the propolis. Overnight in Jajce area. [B]

Day 8: Jajce, Slavonia, Baranja

After breakfast departure to Slavonia and Baranja, Croatia's eastern-most regions, characterized by flat terrain, numerous rivers, and outstanding natural sights. Untouched by mass tourism, this region maintains its authentic character. Arriving to our local farm for late lunch. You can try some traditional local specialties: freshwater fish stew, a spicy soup prepared with lots of paprika (you will taste the Hungarian influence), carp on a spit, prepared on an open fire or similar. After lunch you will enjoy in ride in a horse-ride carriage. Rest of the day at leisure in a village. Overnight. [B/L]

Day 9: Slavonia and Baranja

After breakfast we will first visit the Kopacki Rit. This Nature Park, also called the European Amazon, is situated in the central part of the Danube floodplain, between two important European rivers, the Drava and the Danube. It became a protected area in 1967 due to its value as a rare ecosystem, its rich biodiversity and important ecological values. The whole surface of the Park lies on 59,000 acres of which 17,650 are under higher protection being



a Special Zoological Reserve. In 2012, the Park was declared part of the Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO. The main ecological significance of Kopački Rit is the impact of flood dynamics making the park is always different. The tame natural resources of this area enable you to discover the rich fauna, from small birds to large wild animals, like deer. Here, the visitor can enjoy the gifts of nature, awakened by the scent of wild flowers, birds singing or by walking through oak forests that are extremely rare today. After the visit free time for lunch. In the afternoon you may enjoy an additional activity like a horse ride or visit one local winery to taste the best wines on this region. Dinner includes tasting some additional local specialties. Overnight. [B/D]

Day 10: Slavonia and Baranja, Zagorje County (A fair Tale at Hand)

Departure for the Zagorje region, an oasis of preserved nature, greenery, clean air and mild, healing waters. You will enjoy tasting red and white vine varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Rhine Riesling, Welsh Riesling or Sauvignon. Lovers of refreshing long walks in the fresh air will surely find enjoyable the numerous trails and walkways in the beautiful surroundings abounding in vineyards, orchards, forests and pastures and offering unforgettable views of the green Zagorje region. You will enjoy in a dinner in your rural accommodation with typical products. Overnight. [B/T/D]

Day 11: Zagorje County, Zagreb, USA

After breakfast free time until the time for transfer to Zagreb airport. [B]

[B]= Breakfast | [B/L]= Breakfast and Lunch | [B/D]= Breakfast and Dinner | [B/L/D]= Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner | [B/T/D]= Breakfast, Wine Tasting and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Airfare USA-Venice//Zagreb-USA
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Accommodation in apartments or holiday homes:
 - Istria region 3 nights
 - Lika county 2 nights
 - Dalmatian hinterland 1 night
 - Jajce 1 night
 - Baranja 2 nights
 - Zagorje 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 4 lunches
 - 5 dinners
 - 2 wine tastings
- Truffle hunting in Istria
- Motovun City walls
- Olive oil tasting in Istria
- Wine Experience in Istria
- Biking in Istria
- Nature activity in Gorski kotar county,
- Sport activit (fishing/biking/canoing) in Lika county
- Honey tasting in Jajce
- Horse carriage in Baranja
- Kopački Rit Nature Park
- Horse ride or Wine tasting in Baranja
- Wine tasting in Zagorje

Half day city tours:

- Motovun
- Lika county
- Jajce
- English-speaking driver-guide
- Private A/C vehicle for transfers and tour
- Accommodation and meals for the driver-guide.
- Entrance fees
- Taxes and service fees

Tour does not include:

- Any taxes and surcharges relating to airfares
- Travel insurance
- Entry Visa and visa fees
- Wi-Fi at hotels except as indicated
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks except as indicated
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Optional tours and activities
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Istria region	La Parenzana	4
Lika county	Holiday home or app	n/a
Dalmatian hinterland	Holiday home or app	n/a
Jajce	Pivsko Jezero	3.5
Baranja	Etno house Karanac	4
Zagorje	Vuglec Breg	5

Accommodations will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$3,155 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

This program can be customized for individuals and groups.

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• **Airfare**

We also be glad to adjust the airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

• **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

• **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: CR08VCE21UT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.
- Private arrival and/or departure transfer

Group Quotations

- The options suggested in the itinerary will be quoted at time of booking
- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote

with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.

- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.