Tour B-112

**Enchanting Alps & the Adriatic**

17-day deluxe and in-depth exploration tour by self-driven car and our local guides

*Visiting Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro*

**TRIP SUMMARY**

This tour will give you a chance to see some of the most interesting and beautiful sites in Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro with the following highlights: accommodation in boutique or deluxe hotels, transportation by private chauffeured car, excursions, private guides in all cities, daily breakfast, additional special meals with wine, truffle safari, unique visit with a typical Croatian family, hydrofoil transfers to some of the most beautiful Croatian islands and much, much more. Please review the itinerary with all inclusions and attachments.

CROATIA, Slovenia and Montenegro along with 4 other nations; Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo, were part of former Yugoslavia until it fell apart during the Balkan conflict 1991-95. Some of them fiercely fought against each other but today they leave in peace and life is getting slowly back to normal. However, some animosities especially among elder generation still persist. Slovenia and Croatia were able to join EU while other 5 are still trying to qualify and join. Slovenia has accepted Euro as it’s own currency while Croatia kept its original money called “kuna” (pron. koo-nah). Montenegro, even though not yet part of EU, adopted Euro as its official currency.

On this tour we will try to show you some of the differences and you will have a chance to talk to local people and get their prospective on the history, conflict, economy and culture of each of these nationalities.
Day 1 - WED
ZAGREB - Arrival (D)

Arrival in Zagreb. Welcome to Croatia!
Mediterra representative/driver will meet you at the airport exit holding lollypop sign with your name on it. Private car transfer to 5-star hotel Esplanade Formerly Regent. This elegant hotel built by Orient Express in early 1900's to accommodate its premium travelers has lots of history. Actually, it was featured in Agatha Christy’s novel “Murder on Orient Express” and this book is featured in every room. Hotel has also a “Wall of Fame” with pictures and images of almost every nobility that ever stayed at this hotel. This wall is a “must see”.
To unwind and relax from long journey and get over the jetlag, we suggest a massage or spa treatment at hotel’s spa.

WELCOME DINNER: To start your exciting journey, we would like to invite you to a very special dinner at very special place. Restaurant “Stari Puntijar” (pron: poon-tee-yar) has been in the same family for many generations. When Pope John Paul II visited Croatia in 1994, he dined here. The restaurant owns one of the largest cookbook libraries in the world. It is more like cooking museum than library since they have also fantastic collection of menus from all over the world dating back to 1800’s. Owner/chef Zlatko Puntijar will go out of his way to make this dining experience unique one. You will first tour the library/museum and then you will witness ceremonial opening of Champagne with a sword. Dinner will be tapa-style where you will be sampling many local Croatian dishes accompanied and paired with local wines and liquors. We assure you, this will be unique dining experience remembered for long time.
RT private transfers to and from restaurant will be provided.
Overnight at hotel Esplanade in Zagreb.

Day 2 - THU
ZAGREB (B)

Leisurely Champagne breakfast at hotel.
After breakfast our “cousin” Petra (your local tour guide) will meet you at the lobby of hotel and take you on 2.0 hr. walking tour of Zagreb. Petra will tell you all about its turbulent history and show you all major attractions. All major attractions are located within walking distance and you will have no problem navigating in pedestrian city zone. Among most interesting attractions you will visit Dolac open Farmers Market, Museum of Broken Relationships recipient of many prizes and accolades for its originality, Mimara Museum, Mestrovic Gallery and Museum of Croatian Naive Art.
Croatia is leader in this art form and you will be impressed with its collection. Zagreb is beautiful, interesting and vibrant city and you will have fun exploring it on your own after the tour. Shopping for local goods can be also lots of fun. Overnight at hotel Esplanade in Zagreb.

Day 3-FRI
ZAGREB-LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (by self-driven car) (B)
Another leisurely Champagne breakfast at hotel Esplanade, check-out and departure to Ljubljana, Slovenia (total ride about 2.0 hr.). We will deliver your car rental to your hotel. Zagreb Ljubljana is entirely on highway (toll-road) and the ride is pretty uneventful. Arrival in Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia around lunch time. Accommodation at boutique hotel Antiq in city center. Hotel’s restaurant is elegant place to dine and perhaps quick lunch here would convenient. Relax a bit after lunch and our local “cousin” Kriya (California native) will meet you and take you on 2.0 hr. walking tour of Ljubljana. LJUBLJANA is one of the most beautiful capitals in Europe and one of travel magazines called it “Europe’s little hidden jewel....” Kriya will take to all attractions including Ljubljana Castle reached by cable car and museum in the Castle.

LJUBLJANA the capital of Slovenia, is a mid-sized city whose stunning architectural beauty is often compared to Prague. But by comparison Ljubljana is an undiscovered gem, Prague without the tourist hordes. Her history has been influenced by geography: Ljubljana sits at the conflux of the Slavic, Germanic and Latin worlds. The region is marked by picturesque castles and mansions, old homesteads and village churches, remarkable for their wealth of artistic treasures and countless natural sights.

Ljubljana has preserved evidence of a five-thousand-year history including the remains of the Roman city of Emona, the old City Center with the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation (Frančiškanska cerkev), a medieval castle (Ljubljanski grad) located on the summit of Castle Hill, Baroque façades, decorative portals and uneven roofs. Between 1701 and 1706, the Jesuit architect Andrea Pozzo designed the Baroque Ljubljana Cathedral with two side chapels shaped in the form of a Latin cross, easily identifiable by its green dome and twin towers. Other significant bits of the city mosaic are picturesque bridges across the Ljubljanica River and the vast Tivoli Park, which stretches into the very city center. Ljubljana's present appearance is partly due to the Italian Baroque and partly to Art Nouveau, which found expression in numerous buildings constructed after the earthquake of 1895. In the second half of the 20th century, it was the world famous architect Jože Plečnik who put an indelible personal stamp on his native Ljubljana. The city's appearance was further shaped by his students and a new wave of renowned young Slovenian architects. This mixture is perfectly in
keeping with Ljubljana’s character: a city famed for its historical heritage and tradition, but also influenced by a modern lifestyle. Ljubljana’s residents' average age is only slightly above 30. Ljubljana boasts one of the world's oldest philharmonic societies. Each year it hosts over 10,000 cultural events, from prestigious musical, theater and art events to alternative and avant-garde events, notably including 14 international festivals. While you’re visiting, use Ljubljana as a base to explore the many surprises and temptations of Slovenia. To learn more about Ljubljana: [https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/](https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/)

After the city tour, you will have a chance to explore it on your own. However, our representative Kriya will be there to assist with anything you might need.

Overnight at hotel Antiq in Ljubljana.

**Day 4-SAT**

**LJUBLJANA-BLED-LJUBLJANA (day trip by self-driven car) (B)**

Leisurely breakfast at hotel Antiq in Ljubljana. After breakfast, our cousin Kriya will join you and take you on a full-day excursion to acclaimed Lake Bled (1.0 hr. drive) just recently voted by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as “one of 10 most romantic places in Europe” ([https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/the-most-romantic-small-towns-in-europe?mbid=nl_020618_Daily&amp;CNDID=50737322&amp;cntnl=0&amp;spMailingID=12885569&amp;spUserID=MjEyNzU3MDIyNTA5S0&amp;spJobID=1340545576&amp;spReportId=MTM0MDU0NTU3NgS2](https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/the-most-romantic-small-towns-in-europe?mbid=nl_020618_Daily&amp;CNDID=50737322&amp;cntnl=0&amp;spMailingID=12885569&amp;spUserID=MjEyNzU3MDIyNTA5S0&amp;spJobID=1340545576&amp;spReportId=MTM0MDU0NTU3NgS2))

You will spend entire day at this beautiful lake and have a chance to explore its beauty in details. We will take you to the St. Mary’s Abby on the little island in the middle of the lake and you will have a chance to walk the “lucky 155 steps.” The believe is that, whoever walks these steps will re-affirm its relationship with the person he/she is with and the relationship will last forever.

**LAKE BLED** is probably the most beautiful Alpine lake in the entire Alpine system.

Long a destination of the European elite, the Slovenian town of Bled in the Julian Alps has been promoted as a health resort since the 19th century. The clear waters of its thermal lake, ice free even in winter, have been a draw not only for their curative powers but for their beauty. The quaint town on its shores, the picturesque island in its midst, and the surrounding linden-covered mountains all reflect in its calm waters. One of the best vantage points is Bled Castle, built on a rocky cliff overlooking the lake. Today the town attracts those who want a healthful destination where they can swim and paddle, play golf, hike mountain trails and alpine meadows, horseback ride, go white water rafting, and cycle cross country. Bled is the access point for the natural wonders of Triglav National Park and the karst formations of Hog’s Tooth caves. In winter, the area magically transforms into a snowy paradise for skiers (alpine and cross country), snowboarders and those who prefer to watch winter from the comforts of a spa. Bled is the quintessential romantic
destination, with charming hotels and restaurants scattered through the old town, and where a tiny church on the lake’s tiny island offers new grooms the chance to carry their brides up its 99 steps.
To learn more about Bled: http://www.bled.si/en/
Late afternoon returning to Ljubljana for overnight.

Day 5-SUN
LJUBLJANA-JULIAN ALPS-TRIGLAV-BOHINJ-LJUBLJANA (B)
Leisurely breakfast at hotel Antiq in Ljubljana.
After breakfast Mediterra private guide will meet you at your hotel and guide you on an unforgettable day trip to Slovenia’s Julian Alps, lake Bohinj, another beautiful Alpine lake and Mt. Triglav, the tallest peak in Slovenia, a symbol that is engraved in Slovenian flag.
We suggest a lunch break in typical Alpine lodge “gostilna” where you can sample local cuisine and specialties.
To learn more about Julian Alps:

Day 6-MON
LJUBLJANA-POSTOJNA-OPATIJA (by self-driven car and private car) (B, D)
Leisurely buffet breakfast at hotel in Ljubljana.
After breakfast Mediterra private car and driver will pick you up and take you to Postojna Caves (1.0 hr. drive).
POSTOJNA CAVES (pron: po-stoy-na) is a 20,570m/13mi. long karst cave system, 115 m (377 ft) deep and the second largest underground cave in Europe (following the Migovec Cave System also in Slovenia but not open to public). It is so huge that a small electric railroad system has been built in it to accommodate the flow of human traffic. Spectacular halls of stalagmite and stalactite images and sculptures created by crystallized limestone are another example of Mother Nature working wonders. One hall is so enormous that it is used as a concert hall with full fledged functional acoustics. The caves are also home to the endemic olm, the largest troglobitic amphibian in the world. The tour through the caves includes an aquarium with some olms in it. Underground temperatures can be quite chilly and even though blankets can be rented from the operator of caves, warm clothing is recommended.
Tour of caves is conducted on hourly basis by the cave management. Plan to spend about 3 hours here.

After Postojna Cave tour brief lunch break at local restaurant before continuing to Opatija, Croatia. Ride from Postojna to Opatija is just about 1.0 hour. Check-in at your hotel and after refreshing, our local “cousin” Maria will meet you and take you on 1.0 hr. walking tour of Opatija.

**OPATIJA** (pronounced: oh-pa-tee-yah) is probably the most elegant resort town on the entire Adriatic. It used to be the winter playground of European nobility in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. European royalty and aristocracy flocked to the little resort town that resembled Monte Carlo during the winter months for its mild climate and many spas it claimed to cure many illnesses. Anyone who was someone in Europe at that time had traveled to Opatija. Many hotels, villas and mansions that were built to house Habsburg nobility are still accommodating thousands of tourists in Opatija every year. The entire Opatija Riviera is dotted with small resort towns nested on steep hills where the mountain Ucka (pron: ooch-ka) and the Adriatic Sea meet. Some of the best restaurants and eateries in Croatia are found on the Opatija Riviera. Opatija is a starting port for many small ship cruises in the Northern Adriatic and springboard to numerous islands in the Kvarner Bay. Opatija is one of 10 “must see” places in Croatia.

To learn more about Opatija: [http://visitopatija.com/](http://visitopatija.com/)

Accommodation in Opatija will be at elegant boutique hotel Villa Ariston right on the waterfront. Hotel has also its own free parking for guests. This hotel resembles miniature Four Season and it has own swimming platform. An elegant beach-bar is set above the water with great view and great cocktails. Suggest a cocktail before going to dinner.

**DINNER PROGRAM:** Tonight, we will host you at very special place. Perun Restaurant is located in a small hill village Moscanice high above the Adriatic Sea. With its terrace overlooking the Adriatic, Bay of Kvarner and neighboring islands, this restaurant offers not only breath-taking view but also excellent Mediterranean and seafood cuisine. You will sample some of the best local wines with your dinner. Our friend and owner Sinisa will personally greet you and seat you at a nice table with great view.

Enjoy the dinner and the view and return to your hotel at your convenience.
We will check in at an elegant luxury boutique villa-hotel (TBA) with its setting and service resembles “miniature” Four Season luxury resort. Hotel is relatively small (only 13 rooms) but great location, private swimming platform, own award-winning restaurant and spectacular view of the Adriatic from almost every room.
After check-in, our local “cousin” (your private guide and tour director) will take you on 1.0 hr. walking tour of this beautiful town.

**Day 7-TUE**

**OPATIJA-PULA-ROVINJ-MOTOVUN-OPATIJA (B, L)**

**FULL-DAY "CIRCLE OF ISTRIA" EXCURSION (by self-driven car and private car)**
Leisurely breakfast at hotel in Opatija and then a full-day excursion "Circle of Istria". This is an interesting tour starting with Pula, home to the best preserved Roman amphitheater and then on to Rovinj, Porec and Motovun in Central Istria.

Please see attached flyer "Circle of Istria" for more details.
Truffle safari and truffle cooking demo, truffle lunch with wine (for adults and refreshments for kids) will be provided on this excursion.
Late afternoon returning to Opatija for overnight.
Day 8-WED
OPATIJA-CRESS ISLAND-OPATIJA (B) (by private boat & skipper-weather permitting)
After breakfast meet our skipper Vlado who will take you on yet another unforgettable day-excursion to neighboring island of Cres (pron: tzeress) by private boat. He will show you all those little coves and hidden beaches with crystal clear blue Adriatic water where you can swim and enjoy peace of solitude far away from it all. Vlado knows all the little eateries and restaurants in villages or on the beaches that will remind you on South Pacific.
Late afternoon returning to Opatija for dinner and overnight.
We suggest dinner at your hotel Ariston for they serve excellent food.

Day 9-THU
OPATIJA-PLITVICE LAKES (by self-driving car/2.5 hr. drive) (B)
After breakfast check-out and departure to Plitvice Lakes National Park by private car. This ride is about 2.5 hr.
PLITVICE LAKES is a unique gift of Mother Nature to Croatia. This beautiful national park is made up of a chain of 16 pristine lakes, set above each other and connected by spectacular waterfalls and cascades. They are all nested in a jungle-like setting in thick woods abundant with flora and fauna. A highly visited site, one of the most acclaimed national parks in Europe, it is a natural wonder, registered and protected under UNESCO heritage natural monuments. As there is no vehicular traffic allowed in the park, be prepared to walk. The walking paths, small wooden bridges and boardwalks are well maintained. You will need about 2.0 hours to tour the lakes; however, an entire day is preferable. Some parts of the national park are handicapped accessible. This is one of the 10 “must see” attractions in Croatia and in Europe.
To learn more about Plitvice: http://www.tzplitvice.hr/
Our local "cousin" Jasmina will meet you and give you a private tour of lakes. One need practically an entire day to see the complete beauty of these lakes but 3-4 hours will give you basic idea and you can see all most interesting sites of this beautiful National Park.
Accommodation at Plitvice Lakes is at Villa Verde, one of the best local boutique properties.
Day 10-FRI

PLITVICE LAKES-ZADAR (by self-driving car/1.5 hr. drive) (B)

Breakfast at hotel in Plitvice, check-out and departure to Zadar.
Relatively short ride to Zadar and accommodation at cute boutique hotel Bastion where Anthony Bourdain stayed.
Zadar is very interesting city and many visitors enjoy it very much. Our local “cousin” Paula will meet you after lunch and take you on 2.0 hr. walking tour of this interesting city which Alfred Hitchcock called “the city with the most beautiful sunset.”

**Zadar** is an ancient city, built in the center of the Croatian Adriatic, full of historical and cultural monuments. It is three thousand years old, a city of tumultuous and dynamic history, often destructed, looted, devastated, every time emerging from the ruins stronger, richer and more beautiful. Zadar first made history in the 4th century B.C. as a settlement of the Illyrian tribe of Liburnians – the name Jader was referenced, and over the centuries it was called Idassa (Greek source), Jadera (Roman source), Diadora, Zara (during Venetian and later Italian rule) up to today’s name of Zadar.

Zadar is a city with a significant cultural inheritance and is now redefining its resources for the benefit of tourism. Its design inspiration was the Roman forum, a city inside well-kept walls containing the oldest Croatian monuments. It maintains archives, museums and libraries, which guard its literary and musical treasures. It is a walled city inside which is the oldest Croatian university (1396). It is the birthplace of the Croatian language, the first Croatian novel and the first newspapers.

Byzantine leader Paulus erected the Church of the Holy Trinity on the remnants of the Roman style forum, which is today known as St. Donat, and the symbol of the city. A larger settlement of Croats in Zadar took place in the 10th century. The foundation portions of the Romanesque Church of St. Mary, the Church of St. Grisogone and the Cathedral of Santa Anastasia have been preserved from that period. In 1202 the city was conquered and burned by the Crusaders and the Venetians. The first Gothic churches in Dalmatia—— St. Francis and St. Dominic—— were built after that time, and the gold-plated silver sarcophagus of St. Simeon is a distinguished treasure of the period. Well worth visiting is Zadar’s
**Sea Organ**, a musical instrument powered by surf and waves of the Adriatic. It is the first musical pipe organ powered by the sea in the entire world. Simple and elegant steps, carved in white stone, were built on the quayside. Underneath, there are 35 musically tuned tubes with whistle openings on the sidewalk. The movement of the sea pushes air through, and – depending on the size and velocity of the wave – musical chords are played. The waves create random harmonic sounds. This masterpiece of acoustics and architecture was created by expert Dalmatian stone carvers and architect Nikola Basic in 2005, who recently received the European Prize for Urban Public Space for this project. Many tourists come to listen to this mesmerizing symphony and enjoy sunsets falling on the nearby islands, a sensory experience that engages the ear and the eye for an unforgettable experience.

**Salutation to the Sun** is transparent (glass) round platform about 40 ft in diameter with different colored lights beneath. At night, changing light colors produce an interesting light play that are pleasant to watch. Many local newlywed couples choose to get married on this platform.

Dinner and overnight in Zadar.

**Day 11-SAT**

**ZADAR-TROGIR-SPLIT (by self-driving car/2.5 hr.driving) (B)**

After leisurely breakfast, check out and depart to Split with stops in Sibenik, Island of Krapanj and Trogir. Sibenik is home to St. James (Sv. Jakov) Cathedral, another UNESCO Heritage Monument in Croatia. This unique Cathedral with unusual 3-domes is well worth seeing. You can do self-guiding tour of this monument and city. After visit to St. James Cathedral, drive to the landing for Krapanj island. We will arrange for boat to come and pick you up. Krapanj is a very small island just about 200 meters from the Shibenik waterfront. It is small but very interesting island.

**KRAPANJ** is the lowest Mediterranean inhabited island with the highest point only 1.25 m/6.0 ft. Population od the island is just about 100 residents and there is a small grammer scholl on the island. Last year they had one student in first grade.

But Krapanj is better known as the Adritic sponge diving capital. Some of the best quality Adriatic sponges are harvested here. The only hotel Spangiola organizes diving excursions and diving lessons. There is a small sponge-diving museum and a small shop where you can purchase original Adriatic sponges. The hotel Spangiola actually was sponge warehouse before it was converted to luxury boutique hotel. Hotel also has one of the best restaurats in the area serving exceptionally good and fresh seafood prepared Mediterranean style; simple with olive oil and garlic. We will host you here for a delicious lunch before returning by boat to mainland.

Continue your journey by car to Trogir (1.0 hr. drive)
Our local “cousin” Ivitza who is based in Split, will meet you here and take you on 1.0 hr. walking tour of this very cute old Croatian town.
TROGIR (pron. tro-gheer), a town about 17 miles from Split, because of its historical and cultural significance, aka “town museum”, has been proclaimed one of UNESCO’s World Heritage Monuments. The heart of Trogir is a small islet lying between the gentle hills on the mainland and the coast of the Island of Ciovo. A small town of 12,000 inhabitants is the epicenter of the Trogir micro region and the Trogir Riviera with its ensemble of 20 islands, islets and small villages. The city has more than 2300 years of history, culture and tradition, was created by the Greeks and manifests considerable influence of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations as well as the Venetian. The small island of Trogir offers a concentration of palaces, churches, towers and a fortress which in every way deserves its nickname: "The Stone Beauty."

After brief tour of Trogir, you will continue with Ivtiza o Split and check in at 4* boutique hotel Jupiter Palace. This beautiful hotel is located entirely within the historic Diocletian Palace dating back to the beginning of 4th century AD. After you check in and refresh, Ivtiza will take you on 2.0 hr. walking tour of this fascinating Palace around which the entire city of Split (second largest in Croatia) is built. We will also arrange for your car to be picked up from you in Split since you won’t need it any longer.

SPLIT is the economic, political and cultural center of Dalmatia, the Croatian province embracing the shores of the Adriatic. It is best known for its architectural treasure of Diocletian’s Palace.

Roman Emperor Diocletian built the massive palace in preparation for his retirement in 305 AD. It lies in a bay on the south side of a short peninsula running out from the Dalmatian coast, four miles from Salona, the capital of the former Roman province of Dalmatia. This palace stands today, flanked by all the most important historical buildings, in the center of the city of Split. Diocletian’s Palace far transcends local importance because of its degree of preservation. The Palace is one of the most famous and complete architectural and cultural features on the Croatian Adriatic coast. As the world's most complete remains of a Roman palace, it holds an outstanding place in Mediterranean and European culture and is designated as a UNESCO world heritage site.

After the Romans abandoned the site, the Palace remained empty for several centuries. In the 7th century local residents fled to the walled palace to escape invading barbarians. Since then the palace has been occupied, with people making their homes and businesses within the palace basement and directly in its walls. Today about 500 Split residents as well as many restaurants and shops, have found their home within the walls of the Palace. Even four small boutique hotels are located within this enormous structure.

After the Middle Ages the palace was virtually unknown in the West until the Scottish neo-classical architect Robert Adam had the ruins surveyed and, with the assistance of the French artist and antiquarian Charles-Louis Clérisseau and several draftsmen, he published Ruins of the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian at Spalato in Dalmatia. Diocletian’s palace was an inspiration for Adam’s new style of Neo-classical architecture and the publication of measured drawings brought it into the design vocabulary of European architecture for the first time. A few decades later
in 1782, the French painter Louis-François Cassas created drawings of the palace, which were published by Joseph Lavallée in 1802 in the chronicles of his voyages.

Another important attraction of city of Split is the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery. Ivan Mestrovic Gallery displays the massive body of Mestrovic’s works, consisting of 86 sculptures rendered in marble, stone, bronze, wood and gypsum; seventeen drawings, eight acclaimed bronze statues in the open garden, 28 wood reliefs and a stone crucifix. Mestrovic, a self-taught sculptor of exceptional talent, started as a stone cutter in a marble quarry on the nearby island of Brac. He ended up teaching sculpture at Syracuse and Notre Dame Universities (he died in 1962 at Notre Dame) and was honored by President Eisenhower. His monumental works are scattered all over the world, but the largest collection is in Split.

The Riva is the main city promenade. Closed to traffic, it is The Place for people watching, dotted as it is with bistros and sidewalk cafés for long coffee breaks and leisurely cocktails. Split is a major port in the Adriatic and point of embarkation for several cruises and the ferry connecting the mainland with the islands of the Adriatic. Diocletian's Palace is also the site of filming of many episodes of HBO popular series "The Game of Thrones". Split and Trogir are also one of the 10 “must see” attractions in Croatia.

To learn more about Split: http://visitsplit.com/en/

Overnight at hotel Jupiter Palace in Split.

Day 12-SUN

SPLIT (B)
Breakfast at hotel in Split. Entire day free in Split.
Our local staff will be on hand to assist with tips and dining suggestions.

Day 13-MON

SPLIT-HVAR (B, L)
Breakfast and check-out from hotel in Split. Walk to Split Cruise Terminal for morning hydrofoil departure to island of Hvar. We will take care of your luggage and have it delivered to you before boarding the hydrofoil. The hydrofoil ride is just about 1.0 hour and we will have someone meet you upon arrival in Hvar and take care of luggage while you can walk (15 min) to your hotel. There is Hvar island and principal town with the same name-Hvar. Your Grand Beach Hotel Amfora is 4-star property located in secluded part of the town with its own beach, spa, pool and other facilities. Couple of days in Hvar will give you good idea of island life in Croatia.
The entire central part of town of Hvar is pedestrian zone and there are no vehicles (except service vehicles) allowed in city streets. Croatia is blessed that it has more than 1200 islands (after Greece the most islands in Europe) and Hvar is one of the prettiest. Lately it has become popular in particular by younger visitors. In 2016 Hvar was featured in CBS’ “60 Minutes” and dubbed as “Europe’s Party Island”. Numerous cafes, restaurant and beach bars are popular gathering places and parties here start in early afternoon and last until 2:00 AM when city ordinance goes in effect and all bars have to shut down. But bar owners outsmarted city fathers and established “back up bars” on nearby uninhabited island and shuttle their patrons by boats and water taxis to continue partying. And actually, real partying starts after 2:00 AM and lasts way beyond sunrise.

After you have settled in your hotel and unpacked, you will meet our local “cousin” Yana who will take you on 1.0 hr. walking tour of this historic town.

After city tour we will arrange transfers to “Lost and forgotten” village. This is unique experience and please refer to attached pamphlet.

Return to Hvar and your hotel in early afternoon. Balance of day free.

Overnight in Hvar.

Day 14-TUE

HVAR (B, L)

Full day boat Excursion
Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast we will take you on a full-day excursion by group boat to Pakleni islands, Blue and Green Grotto, Vis island, Bisevo and other interesting and out of beaten tracks places. Lunch and refreshments will be served on board. Late afternoon returning to Hvar and your hotel.

Day 15-WED

HVAR-DUBROVNIK (by hydrofoil-3.5 hr.) (B)

Breakfast at hotel, check-out and transfer to Hvar Cruise Terminal for hydrofoil ride to Dubrovnik (3.5 hr.). Upon arrival in Dubrovnik, you will be met by Mediterra driver and transferred to one of the best hotels in Dubrovnik. Hotel More (pron: moh-reh) and mean “the Sea” in Croatian). Hotel More is unique property and more about it please read in the attachment here.

3-night accommodation at this 5-star hotel in Dubrovnik's Hotel Zone and right on the water with own swimming platform will be provided.

Upon check in and refreshing and relaxing, our local “cousin” Rose will meet you and take you on 2.0 hr. sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik Old Town. She will tell you all about turbulent history of this fascinating city and show you all interesting sites and attractions. After city tour, the guide will drop you off at cable car station in heart of Old Town and we strongly suggest taking cable car ride to Mt. Srdj. The view of the city, its Riviera and archipelago from this hill is spectacular and sunsets are unforgettable. There is also a nice restaurant on the hill with spectacular views from its dining room. Balance of evening is free. Here again, our local staff can assist you with dining suggestions and reservations.

ABOUT DUBROVNIK: Dubrovnik, “Pearl of the Adriatic”, is arguably the most fascinating city in the region, one of the top ten destinations in Croatia, and a line item on countless bucket lists. It is a magnet for Adriatic cruises, and it is not unusual during peak season to see 5 or 6 ocean liners anchored outside the city. The sight of these magnificent vessels against the stunning backdrop of Dubrovnik and the sparkling azure sea is the stuff of millions of postcards. During the centuries when Venice ruled the seas and controlled great swaths of world trade, Dubrovnik was an independent and rival republic, competing with Venice in the Mediterranean. Yet they never raised arms against each other - in fact they were trading partners. Venetian influences can be seen in Dubrovnik’s monuments, churches and public buildings. The difference between them (besides the canals) was that Venice was open and accessible from all sides while Dubrovnik was a fortress with massive walls and strong defenses against invaders and pirates. It wasn’t until Napoleon occupied Dubrovnik in 1808 that these defenses were breached - and Dubrovnik’s prosperity of many centuries was curtailed.
The entire Old City has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, preserved with almost all its original buildings. Its city wall, 4.5 m/15 ft. thick and over 7.6 m/25 ft. tall, is topped by a 2 km/1.25 mi foot path – enjoy unforgettable views as you walk above the city’s orange-tiled roofs, narrow streets climbing the hills, and laundry flapping in the breeze. Another option is a cable-car ride up to the top of Dubrovnik hill for breathtaking views over the city below, the crayon-colored boats in the harbor, the nearby islands and the entire Riviera. Dubrovnik is a pedestrian zone, and its heart is full of attractions, perfect for leisurely exploration: city squares, old buildings, churches, museums, galleries, boutiques, cafés and romantic spots to charm you. Modern Dubrovnik may have expanded beyond the walls, but there are still about 5,000 residents living within the Old City. Their lifestyle is casual and friendly as residents talk to each other across the stone balconies of their sturdy houses, older than any building in America. You’ll love Dubrovnik!

To learn more about Dubrovnik: http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr/eng/#.UvI7ULStry0

Overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 16-THU

DUBROVNIK ((B))

Champagne breakfast at hotel in Dubrovnik. Entire day free. There is plenty to see and do in Dubrovnik. Explore this fascinating city on your own. Or simply stay at hotel and enjoy swimming in clear water of the Adriatic. Overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 17-FRI

DUBROVNIK-MONTENEGRO-DUBROVNIK (by private chauffeured car and guide) (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel.

Early breakfast at hotel and departure to Montenegro by private car & driver. Our driver will pick you up at your hotel after breakfast and take you on a full-day excursion to neighboring Montenegro. Even though distance is only 75 miles from Dubrovnik, but drive can be very treacherous. Two-way narrow road can be also very crowded and that is why we suggest local driver to take you around. Our local “cousin” will join you at the border crossing and stay with you the entire duration of trip in Montenegro. On this tour we will take you through Bay of Kotor to town of Kotor, Tivat, Porto Montenegro, Budva and Sveti Stefan.

As mentioned earlier, Montenegro was part of former Yugoslavia along with 6 other new countries that evolved for Yugoslavia; Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo. It is Mediterranean country and borders with Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and the Adriatic Sea. The country gained it
complete independence on 21 May 2006 and since has trying to join NATO and EU. Even though not yet EU member, the country adopted Euro as its official currency.

Montenegro is the newest emerging European travel destination and a travel magazine dobbed it as “Europe’s little hidden jewel...” Country is attracting more and more high-end travelers, jetsetters, private yacht owners and travelers looking for high luxury and something different. One of the most luxurious and prestigious luxury hotel chains, the Aman Resort has its presence here by acquiring island-resort of Sveti Stefan (photo below).

Canadian billionaire Peter Munk leased and old Yugoslav Navy abandoned shipyard and turned it into one of the most luxurious marinas in the world. Because of its deep water, marina is capable of accepting the largest yachts in existence. He built an entire new city around the marina with luxury villas, trendy boutique shops, world class restaurants and top-line luxury accommodation that include Regent hotel.

The country is very mountainous but very beautiful. Its Adriatic coastline dotted with small Mediterranean towns is absolutely stunning. Its interior mountains are over 8000 ft. tall and considered as part of southern Alpine system and Mt. Durmitor with 8274 ft. is its tallest peak.

Our local guide will give you complete overview of countries history and present struggle to emerge from third-world country and its high hopes to become part of the EU. Your tour of Montenegro will end around 4:00 pm and your driver will take you back to Dubrovnik. But just before you reach the city, he will deviate and stop at our family village retreat where you will be our guest for a typical traditional Croatian dinner. For details about this special and unforgettable dinner, please refer to attached pamphlet "Kameni Dvori". After dinner, our driver will bring you back to hotel for overnight.

**Day 18-SAT**
**DUBROVNIK-HOME (B)**

After breakfast, private transfer to DBV airport for return flight home.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy this rip and we at Mediterra will do everything to make it memorable and long lasting experience.

***End of trip-Thank you***

**INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:**
- Private transfer upon arrival in Zagreb
- 2-night accommodation at 5* hotel Esplanade (Formerly Regent) in Zagreb
- Special ceremonial welcome dinner at Puntijar Restaurant
- 10-day car rental (VW Polo or similar with manual transmission
- Unlimited mileage, CDW insurance and one-way drop-off charges
- Car rental delivery and pick up to/from client’s hotels
- 3-night accommodation at 5-star boutique hotel in Ljubljana
- Private sightseeing tour of Ljubljana/2.0 hr. walking
- Full day self-driving excursion to Lake Bled with private guide
- Full-day self-driving excursion with local guides to Julian Alps, Triglav, Bohinj
- Stop in Postojna for cave sightseeing
- 3-night accommodation at boutique hotel Villa Ariston or Imperial in Opatija
- Complete seafood dinner at Perun Restaurant in village of Mošćanice (Opatija)

**2020 DEPARTURES & PRICES**

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| Single Supplement: +70% |
| Third Person sharing: -25% |

DISCOUNTS: 4 Person traveling together: -$100 off p.p. 8 Persons traveling together: -150 off per person

*You Pay prices must be paid in full 180 days in advance
• Full-day self-driving excursion "Circle of Istria" with private guide
• Truffle safari, with private, professional truffle-hunter
• Truffle cooking demo and truffle lunch with wine, home-made liquors and refreshments
• Full-day excursion by private boat and skipper to island of Cres
• 1-night accommodation at boutique hotel Villa Verde in Plitvice Lakes
• Plitvice Lakes sightseeing tour with private tour guide/3-4.0 hr. walking
• 1-night accommodation at boutique hotel Bastion in Zadar
• 2.0 hr. walking tour of Zadar with private guide
• Private boat transfers from Sibenik to island of Krapanj (Sponge island)
• Mediterranean lunch at hotel Spangiola Restaurant on island of Krapanj
• 2-night accommodation at boutique hotel Jupiter Palace in Split located at historic Diocletian's Palace
• Sightseeing tour of Trogir town with private guide/1.0 hr. walking
• 2.0-hour private guide and walking tour of Diocletian's Palace in Split
• Baggage transfer from hotel to Split Cruise Terminal
• OW transfer by hydrofoil from Split to Hvar
• Baggage assistance transfer upon arrival in Hvar
• 2-night accommodation and Grand Beach Hotel & Spa Amfora in Hvar
• City tour of Hvar with private guide/1.0 hr. walking
• Excursion to “Lost and Forgotten” village with RT transfer
• Traditional Croatian lunch/dinner with wine at “Lost & Forgotten” village
• Baggage assistance transfer from hotel to Hvar Cruise Terminal
• OW transfer by hydrofoil from Hvar to Dubrovnik
• Private transfer to hotel More upon arrival in Dubrovnik
• 3-night accommodation at 5* hotel More in Dubrovnik
• 2-hour walking tour of Old town Dubrovnik
• Full-day excursion to Montenegro with private chauffeured car and private local guide
• Complimentary dinner with wine and liquor tastings and cooking demonstrations at our Family Village Retreat
• OW private transfer from hotel to DBV airport
• Daily Breakfast at hotels
• VAT and Tourist taxes
• Mediterra 7/24 "Total Care" service

NOT INCLUDED
• Air to/from Croatia
• Admission to attractions, churches, museums and galleries
• Admission to national parks
• Cable car tickets in Ljubljana & Dubrovnik
• Meals other than those specified in inclusions
• Accident, Medical evacuation insurance
• Travel cancellation and travel interruption insurance
• Items of personal nature ordered in hotels, room service and liquor consumed in hotels
• Tips to drivers, guides, waiters and other service personnel

NOTE: For Payments, Cancelations and Refunds, please click here or go to our website: https://www.cgrinsurances.com/international-medical-insurance.html

HOTELS:
ZAGREB-ESPLANADE: www.esplanade.hr/
LJUBLJANA-ANTIQ: http://www.antipalace.com/
OPATIJA-VILLA ARISTON: www.villa-ariston.com
SPLIT-JUPITER PALACE: http://www.lh.jupiter.com/
DUBROVNIK-HOTEL MORE: http://www.hotel-more.hr/

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:
ZAGREB: http://www.infozagreb.hr/?lang=en
LJUBLJANA: https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/
BLED: http://www.bled.si/en/
OPATIJA: http://visitopatija.com/
PLITVICE: http://www.tzplitvice.hr/
ZADAR: http://www.zadar.travel/en
Sibenik: http://www.sibenik-tourism.hr/hr/eng
TROGIR: https://www.lonelyplanet.com/croatia/dalmatia/trogir
SPLIT: http://visitsplit.com/en/
HVAR: http://www.tzhvar.hr/en/
DUBROVNIK: http://tzdubrovnik.hr/lang/en/

About Mediterra:
Mediterra DMC (Destination Management Company) is leading luxury tour operator to Croatia, with distinct and unparalleled service that leaves clients with WOW! Impressions. Several of our signature services are completely new in the industry.
Our “Total Care” service: Mediterra Manager in Croatia checks with every client (or group leader) every day making sure everything is fine and according to the plan. Clients can request any additional services from manager like booking dining reservation, concert tickets, special favors etc. Mediterra does not charge for its services but additional services from other suppliers have its price and need to be paid on the spot. All prices will be communicated to clients before we order them. So be assured, from the moment you land in Croatia, former Yugoslavia or anywhere where we operate in the Mediterranean, we will be “holding your hands” during the entire trip.

Steve Alexis
Steve Alexis was born in the former Yugoslavia and he has spent almost his entire professional life in the travel industry. In 2010, he formed his own tour company Mediterra with offices in Santa Monica, CA, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Zagreb, Croatia specializing in creating customized travel arrangements for travel to countries of the former Yugoslavia and the Mediterranean basin countries. He is seasoned traveler and spends his time between the US and Mediterranean countries.

About Mediterra “Cousins”:
Several years ago, a happy couple who took Mediterra Croatian vacation returned to the US with unforgettable memories and pleasant experience. Mediterra Croatian staff and guides made this possible. Clients commented their experience with our guides… “we felt so comfortable and close with these people who went out of their way to make us feel like at home. We felt like we are having our cousins taking us around and we actually started calling them cousins.” So please when you meet our guides, feel free to call them cousins. Actually, their name tags say “Cousin...”.

For more information please contact:
888-488-3350 or 310-428-1343
info@mediterradmc.com