

# 12 DAY SPLENDOURS OF CROATIA

## DESTINATIONS

—  
DUBROVNIK  
SPLIT  
ZAGREB  
BOL  
VIS  
PLITVICE LAKES  
MILJET  
HVAR  
STON  
KORCULA  
SLANO



# TOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Destination	Home ✈ Zagreb
Meals included	Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Dubrovnik, or similar

Welcome to Croatia! You'll be transferred to your hotel.

The evening is free for you to relax or explore this elegant capital. It's a great city to just wander. There are a wide range of cuisines in Zagreb and loads of dining options, including its renowned cafe culture – make like a local and sit in one to watch the world go by.

*Please note: Some flights may depart the day before.*

*Check in: Passengers will be arriving at various times throughout the day from as early as 6am through to late evening. If arriving prior to standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available, as there are generally no scheduled activities on Day 1 of the itinerary. The hotel may grant early check-in, however this is strictly subject to availability and at the hotels discretion.*

## DAY 2

Destination	Zagreb
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Dubrovnik, or similar

We'll enjoy a morning walking tour of Zagreb. We'll walk through the historic, thousand-year-old Gornji Grad (Upper Town), a maze of narrow cobbled streets lit by gas lamps. We'll see St. Mark's Church, with its distinctive, brightly-coloured tile roof and the Zagreb Cathedral, recognisable by its two ornately decorated spires that are visible from most parts of the city. You'll see the Government Palace and the 13th-century Lotrščak Tower. A cannon is shot from the tower everyday to mark noon.

## DAY 3

Destination	Zagreb 🚌 Plitvice Lakes 🚌 Split
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Cornaro Hotel Split, or similar

This morning we'll head towards the spectacular Plitvice National Park, one of the oldest and largest national parks in Croatia. This UNESCO World Heritage Site consists of 16 beautifully-coloured lakes, connected by a series of waterfalls and cascades.

We'll enjoy a three-hour walk in this pristine sanctuary and a boat ride on the emerald green Kozjak Lake.

We'll then drive to Split, a buzzing city on the Dalmatian coast. Around here the locals say *poma!o* for a greeting – it means take it easy.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 4

Destination	Split 🏰 Embark cruise
Meals included	Dinner
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

In the morning, enjoy a guided tour of this coastal city. After a stroll around you'll understand why some *Game of Thrones* scenes were filmed here. The old city is a must-see, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes a city within a city: the wonderfully-preserved 4th-century Diocletian's Palace, built for the Roman emperor. This renowned site is a sprawling treasure trove of history – original Roman streets, marble-tiled Pjaca Square and a host of Renaissance architectural delights.

We'll transfer to the harbour for check in, from 2pm onwards. Welcome aboard to your home for the next seven nights as you cruise the vivid blue Adriatic waters of the dazzling Dalmatian Coast.

You'll have some free time to see more of Split before returning to the ship for a welcome meet and greet cocktail reception onboard.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to specific mooring conditions and requirements in some Croatian ports, ships are moored side by side, making it necessary for travellers to cross from one ship to another with gaps in between ships in order to get to shore. In such cases guest need to take special care when crossing and do this at their own risk. Crew assistance will be given to those needing and requesting it. This cruise is not recommended for passengers in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.

### DAY 5

Destination	🏰 Split 🏰 Bol 🏰 Hvar
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

In the morning we'll dock at Brač Island, the largest of the Dalmatian Islands, where you can swim at the most famous beach in Dalmatia. Jutting out on a very small peninsula, the white-pebbled beach of Zlatni Rat is a must-visit. Its shape and position shifts as the wind and waves constantly change. The beach is near the harbour town of Bol, a charming fishing village and now a popular tourist destination.

We'll continue towards the island of Hvar – a favourite among celebrities and the jet set crowd – with lunch onboard at the Pakleni Islands.

Hvar is the longest and sunniest island in the Adriatic, known for lavish lavender fields and breathtaking beauty. It's a stylish, glamorous, upmarket destination; just look at the yachts docked at the harbour. We'll arrive in the afternoon and enjoy a short presentation of lavender products and a tour of the town's historic landmarks.

We'll see the Renaissance cathedral with its original tower, and the oldest community theatre in Europe, founded in 1612. Hike up to the town fort overlooking the harbour for lovely scenic views of your ship and the Pakleni islands.





In the evening Hvar lives up to its reputation as a party island, offering an abundance of entertainment open long into the night. Cocktail bars, seafood restaurants, beach clubs, cafes along the waterfront ripe for people watching. It's all here.

We'll spend overnight here.

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### DAY 6

Destination	 Hvar  Biševo  Vis 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

Enjoy an early morning cruise towards the small island Biševo to visit the Blue Cave, a magnificent natural phenomenon. The iridescent blue colour of the water is a marvel. (Entrance isn't included; approximately seven Euro.) Weather conditions can sometimes be very unpredictable so the possibility of our visit will depend on these conditions – you'll be notified of this.

We'll continue to the island of Vis, once a strategic naval base and closed to the public for decades. Due to this isolation, Vis has a special untouched charm, like "the Mediterranean as it once was". This makes it an interesting city to explore. It's not only incredibly picturesque – think red rooftops, lush green scenery and the brilliant blue little bay – it also has a rich history given its strong military roots. It's a fascinating oasis.

You'll have the chance to try some exquisite wine varieties in one of the traditional wineries. Discover the island's Roman past by visiting the remains of the Roman thermae (public baths) or the Issa Archaeological Museum. Or simply stroll along, enjoying the views along the lovely waterfront.

### DAY 7

Destination	 Vis  Korčula 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

Early morning we'll head towards Korčula island, best known as the birthplace of Marco Polo. We'll stop for lunch in one of the secluded bays en route.

We'll arrive in Korčula in the afternoon and take a guided walking tour of the enchanting Old Town, tucked away behind massive walls on a tiny peninsula. One of the best preserved medieval cities in the Mediterranean, it really is a living piece of history. A fishbone street pattern was used in the design of Korčula Old Town to reduce the effects of wind and sun and provide sheltered and comfortable accommodation. It's small and compact so easy to walk around, and is often referred to as 'Little Dubrovnik'. As you wander the narrow, winding streets connected by stone steps you'll notice the Venetian influence reflected in the architecture.

Korčula is a great foodie destination, and you'll find there is an abundance of great dining options – visit a konoba (traditional tavern) to get a real feel for the local cuisine. The island, home to many wineries, is well known for its crisp white wine made from the Posip grape.

You might take an optional excursion to a small village near Korčula for a typical Dalmatian dinner and to discover more about their history and traditional way of living.

### DAY 8

Destination	 Korčula  Mljet 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

We'll cruise further south to the island paradise of Mljet. Legend says Greek hero Odysseus spent years on this island when he was captured by the nymph Calypso.

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It's time to take it slow in this tranquil haven. Get back to nature in this quiet, protected area – one of the greenest islands of the Adriatic, over two thirds of the island is covered by forest.

Join the cruise manager for a stroll to the famous salt lakes in the Mljet National Park and enjoy the boat ride to the little Isle of St. Mary to visit an ancient Benedictine monastery, an old abbey and a church dating back to the 12th century.

You can swim in the lake, rent a bike to cycle along the lake's shoreline or even rent a kayak.

You'll have dinner onboard and spend overnight in Polača or Pomena.




### DAY 9

Destination	 Mljet  Slano/Ston 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

We'll dock at a small village called Slano on the mainland, a peaceful fishing village within easy reach of Ston. The once-fortified, small village of Ston has the world's second-longest fortified walls. After exploring the town's medieval ramparts, a short coastal walk leads us to an oyster farm to learn more about – and, of course, have a taste of! – these renowned oysters.

We'll transfer back to the ship for the Captain's dinner with entertainment and music.

### DAY 10

Destination	 Slano  Dubrovnik 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

It's an early morning departure to Dubrovnik, a medieval delight set between cobalt seas and the rugged Dinaric Alps

The special charm of this ancient harbour town is the buildings that have remained since its time of the old Dubrovnik Republic, enclosed by massive 16th-century defensive stone walls.

Before we tie the ropes at Gruž harbour, cruise alongside the old Dubrovnik city walls while lunch is served on deck. After docking, transfer to the Old Town for a guided walking tour. Discover lively promenades and narrow lanes lined with churches, monasteries, shops and cafes.


Take the three-minute cable car from the Old Town to the summit of Mount Srđ for the best views. For those keen, we recommend a walk on top of the city walls – it's a great way to see the sights and it takes about two hours. Walk across the Pile Gate's drawbridge and get lost in the buzz of the limestone-paved Stradun, the beautiful main street.

You'll have free time for dinner and then stay overnight in Dubrovnik.

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### DAY 11

Destination	 Disembark cruise Dubrovnik ✈ Home
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	N/A

Enjoy one last delicious breakfast this morning, before your Croatian adventure comes to an end. Later you will disembark and be transferred to the airport to board your flight home.

We hope you've enjoyed this extraordinary journey.

### DAY 12

Destination	✈ Home
Meals included	
Hotel	N/A

Arrive home today. We hope you've been *inspired*.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return international airfares with a full-service airline
- Airport and port transfers with guide assistance
- 3 nights in 4-star accommodation
- 7 nights onboard a Katarina Deluxe Superior vessel on Lower Deck
- All Transportation including coach and cruise
- Activities indicated in the itinerary
- Meals: Breakfast daily, 6 lunches & 4 dinners, as per itinerary
- English speaking tour leader from Zagreb to Split
- English speaking cruise manager from Split to Dubrovnik
- All accommodation as listed
- All entrance fees to the sites listed (except optionals)
- All activities listed in the itinerary unless a paid optional
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent

#### SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Zagreb – Take a walking tour through the elegant, historic capital
- Plitvice National Park – Experience the beauty of this national park, where 16 crystalline lakes connect via a series of waterfalls and cascades
- Split – Take a guided tour of this gorgeous UNESCO-protected Dalmatian town
- Dalmatian Coast – Cruise along the stunning Croatian coast, island hopping for 7 nights
- Zlatni Rat – Visit this famed white-pebbled beach peninsula
- Bol – See this charming fishing village on the island of Brač
- Hvar – Enjoy a walking tour to see this stylish island's historic landmarks and learn about the renowned lavender industry
- Biševo – Experience the natural phenomenon of the Blue Cave
- Vis – Visit a traditional winery to sample some of Croatia's famous wine
- Korčula – Enjoy a walking tour of the charming, beautifully preserved Old Town
- Mljet – Stroll along the famous salt lakes in this stunning natural park
- Ston – Visit an oyster farm to taste and learn more about this regional delicacy
- Dubrovnik – Enjoy a guided walking tour of this medieval delight

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### CRUISE DETAILS & UPGRADES

#### **Deluxe Superior Vessel**

*Deluxe superior vessels are newer, larger and the best vessels that exist on the Adriatic Sea. They are built with high-quality materials of solid wood, glass, marble, stainless steel and similar materials. They are a minimum of 47 meters in length, newly built or refurbished after 2016, featuring hot tubs and spacious, superbly designed, air-conditioned en-suite cabins with double or twin beds. Cabins are between 11 to 20 square meters in size and are equipped with wardrobes, deposit box, hairdryer, toiletries, bathrobe, slippers etc.*

See below for the intended ship to operate each departure date. This is indicative only and ships' schedule may change without prior notice:

29th April 2020 - due to sail on [Riva](#)  
13th May 2020- due to sail on [Aurelia](#)  
10th June 2020 - due to sail on [Ave Maria](#)  
15th July 2020 - due to sail on [Aurelia](#)  
12th Aug 2020 - due to sail on [Aurelia](#)  
23th Sep 2020 - due to sail on [Black Swan](#)  
30th Sep2020 - due to sail on [Ave Maria](#)

#### **Cabin Types & Upgrades**

##### *Deluxe Superior Cruise on Lower Deck - **INCLUDED***

Lower Deck cabin amenities vary from vessel to vessel. Generally, you can expect them to be fully equipped with air conditioning, safe deposit box, fire alarm, emergency lights and audio system for announcements by the captain or Tour Director. In addition each cabin has life jackets, desk, wardrobe, and a porthole window. The approximate cabin size is 11 to 14 square meters.

##### *Upper/Main Deck - **Upgrade from an additional \$461 per person twin share (\$922 single)***

Upper/Maid Deck cabins have similar amenities to Lower Deck ones. Some may or may not have a window instead of a porthole. Location within the ship is the main point of difference between cabins. Upper/Main Deck upgrade not available on 12th August 2020 departure.

## Fine Print

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

#### Deposit & Payment

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$500 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$2,880 per person within 28 days.
- Final payment is then due 90 days prior to departure.

#### Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

### FLIGHTS, UPGRADES & EXTENSIONS

#### Airfare Information

- Full-service airline used will be Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, ANA Airlines, JAL Airlines or similar
- Flights are not direct and include a maximum of two connections
- If you would like to travel with a preferred airline, please ensure you mention this in the special request field. Please note that appropriate fare and tax difference will be applicable in order to confirm your request.
- All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train

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transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.

- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable; any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating are at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)

### **Premium Economy or Business Class upgrades**

- Premium Economy - not available.
- Business Class available from an additional \$7,000 per person (subject to availability).

Please specify this as a 'Special Request' when completing your booking and you will be quoted for the additional fare. In the event your selection is unavailable, or that you are dissatisfied with the quote, you will be provided with a full refund.

### **Land Only discount**

A reduction of \$1,300 per person applies if you wish to arrange your own airfares. To purchase a land-only fare, please select this option in the booking process under 'Departure City'.

Please note, if you are not arriving or departing as per the group itinerary, airport transfers are also no longer included. If you would like us to arrange this service for you, please refer to the 'Extra services' section for pricing.

### **Extending Your Stay**

Some customers like to enhance their holiday by extending their stay pre- and/or post-tour or including a stopover in another destination. If you wish to do so, please follow these steps:

1. Once you have logged in to your account, click on 'Book Now' and complete the required fields until you reach the 'Special Requests' free text field.
2. Here, please specify your preferred flight arrangements and/or preferred airline. Be sure to mention if you would like us to also quote additional nights' accommodation, with the number of nights needed.

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3. After finalising your purchase by processing your deposit payment, please proceed to submit your booking form with all traveller details. Your booking will then be assigned to your Dedicated Support Agent who will be in contact with you via email to verify your request.

By choosing to extend your stay, please note that a supplement of \$150 per person, plus applicable fare and tax differences will apply. We will contact you via email with a quote and proposed flight itinerary, and then proceed with collecting the additional payment required to confirm your request.

## EXTRA SERVICES

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, adding a stopover package en-route or booking a tour extension. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

**Pre and post tour accommodation** (deviating from group flights forfeits your group airport transfers)

- Pre-tour accommodation (Zagreb): \$318 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast
- Post-tour accommodation (Dubrovnik): \$402 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast

### **Arrival and departure airport transfers**

- Arrival Transfer (Zagreb): Available on request
- Departure Transfer (Dubrovnik): Available on request

Please specify in the 'Special Request' field when making your purchase your preferred travel arrangements and if you would like our team to book additional nights' accommodation and/or airport transfers. The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

Please note, the transfers are not private and you may be grouped with other Inspiring Vacations customers.

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### EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Optional shore excursions
- Personal expenses

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **Fitness Requirements**

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a “3”:

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the vessel and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

Due to specific mooring conditions and requirements in some Croatian ports, ships are moored side by side, making it necessary for travellers to cross from one ship to another with gaps in between ships in order to get to shore. In such cases guest need to take special care when crossing and do this at their own risk. Crew assistance will be given to those needing and requesting it. This cruise is not recommended for passengers in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.

#### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. While tipping is not customary, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations. You may also consider tipping your tour leader and driver for

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outstanding service throughout your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is \$3,170 per person in addition to the twin share price.

### **Triple Share**

Not available.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return.

New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for Croatia for travel less than 90 days.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://safetravel.govt.nz/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

### **Group Size**

2 to 40 people depending on vessel size. Some vessels have a maximum capacity of 36 passengers.

### **Trip Style - Expedition Cruise**

These trips are for the true explorer. Expedition small ship cruising is the best way to get off-the-beaten-track and see some of the world's most unspoilt and remote destinations. The experience on an expedition

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cruise is very different from that of a conventional, larger cruise ship. The focus is not about the ship's creature comforts but very much about about the destination, it's nature and wildlife.

Daily shore excursions by zodiac inflatable boats allow you to step on to shore in the world's most remote locations where few have ever been before. These trips will be a mix of fully guided or self-guided depending on your chosen package, on board your small ship you'll have an expert expedition team giving you informative lectures and educational lectures in many different scientific fields.

### **Children**

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

### **Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.