

# 16 DAY GEMS OF SLOVENIA & CROATIA

## DESTINATIONS

—  
**DUBROVNIK**  
**VENICE**  
**SPLIT**  
**BOL**  
**VIS**  
**PLITVICE LAKES**  
**MILJET**  
**HVAR**  
**STON**  
**KORCULA**  
**MESTRE**  
**SLANO**  
**BOHINJ**  
**ROVINJ/POREC**  
**LAKE BLEED**



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# TOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Destination	Home ➔ Mestre
Meals included	
Hotel	4 ★ Russott Hotel, or similar

Welcome to Italy! Make your own way to the hotel.

*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	Mestre 🚗 Venice 🚗 Bled
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Park, or similar

You'll meet your tour leader at hotel reception at 9am and head for Venice. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of this romantic city. Built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea, enchanting Venice has no roads – just canals, including its famed Grand Canal thoroughfare. Given its unique architectural and cultural heritage, the city and its lagoon are a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You'll take a walking tour with your English-speaking guide before returning back to land and continuing towards Slovenia.

## DAY 3

Destination	Bled 🚗 Lake Bled 🚗 Lake Bohinj 🚗 Bled
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Park, or similar

Enjoy a relaxing tour of stunning Lake Bled, one of Slovenia's most popular destinations thanks to its picturesque setting, surrounded by mountains and forests. Yes, the colour of this alpine lake really *is* that intense turquoise!

After a ride on Lake Bled on a traditional Pletna boat, enjoy some free time. On the tiny island you can ring a bell for your wish to come true!

Then we'll head to the medieval Bled Castle. Perched on a steep cliff above the lake you'll have lovely views to admire this wonderful historic city, lake and surrounding mountains. On a clear day you can see Mount Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain. The castle is considered the oldest in Slovenia.

Our final stop will be Lake Bohinj, one of the best kept secrets in the area. It feels a bit more unspoilt in comparison to Lake Bled and isn't as busy. Get ready for more great photo opportunities!

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 4

Destination	Bled 🚗 Lake Wörth 🚗 Klagenfurt 🚗 Bled
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Park, or similar

We'll visit neighbouring Austria today, which means you'll enjoy gorgeous views of the Alps – impressive at any time of year.

Across the border in the historic county of Carinthia, enjoy a panoramic tour of popular vacation spot Lake Wörth. At 20km long, it's one of Europe's bigger lakes. The setting is beautiful; mountain peaks, lush greenery, clear blue-green water.

We'll continue to charming Klagenfurt, a university town with the beautiful Lindwurm Fountain dominating the old city square, Neuer Platz.

Before we return back to our hotel, we'll have lunch in the Klagenfurt area.

### DAY 5

Destination	Bled 🚗 Postojna Caves 🚗 Rovinj
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Maistra Eden Hotel Rovinj, or similar

We'll head for Croatia today. On the way we'll stop at Postojna Caves, one of the largest underground cave systems in Europe – some 24km long. You'll find wondrous geological creations and magnificent cave formations, carved out of the limestone over millions of years. Enjoy a ride on the underground tourist train. This series of caverns, halls and passages is home to more than 150 animal species, the most famous of which is likely the olm – baby dragon!

Next we'll see the beautiful Renaissance Predjama Castle, perched high on a rocky cliff with a certain fairytale charm. This 800-year-old beauty is a medieval delight and holds a certain mystery – underground tunnels connect it with the cave directly beneath.

We'll then head for the Istrian Coast, a wedge-shaped peninsula in northwest Croatia with a rich history. We'll arrive at the enchanting coastal town of Rovinj in the late afternoon, on the western side of the peninsula.

### DAY 6

Destination	Rovinj 🚗 Livade 🚗 Pula 🚗 Rovinj
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Maistra Eden Hotel Rovinj, or similar

We'll see the most precious jewels of the Istrian Coast today.

A walk through Rovinj's labyrinth of cobble streets will show you some of the most picturesque streets in Istrian. Rovinj's old town, with its romantic marble streets and pastel-coloured houses, has a distinct Venetian influence in its architecture.

Istria is renowned for its food; no surprise given the Italian influence here. We'll head towards Livade for a unique gastronomic experience – a sample of one of the tastiest Istrian treasures, the truffle.

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You'll then enjoy an olive oil tasting, appreciating the scent and flavour of various extra virgin olive oils at one of the most renowned local producers.

We'll then head to Pula. This city, about 3000 years old, is the largest city in Istria and famous for its Roman ruins and ancient history. We'll visit its well-preserved amphitheatre.

### DAY 7

Destination	Rovinj 🚗 Opatija 🚗 Fuzine 🚗 Plitvice Lakes
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	3 ★ Hotel Jezero, or similar

We'll head away from the peninsula this morning, with our first stop at Opatija. Enjoy some free time to enjoy this little town full of magnificent villas and old hotels, once the famous winter resort of Austrian elite. Take a stroll through Lungomare Promenade, visit gorgeous Angiolina Park, or simply enjoy a coffee break on the terrace at Caffè Wagner.

After we pass the mountainous Gorski Kotar region, we'll arrive at the picturesque village of Fuzine to explore the Vrelo Cave. The cave is a popular respite in summer given its shade and cooler temperatures. It's illuminated with artificial lighting and a mountain spring runs through the cave to add to the fairytale appeal.

We'll then stop for a traditional lunch at local restaurant Bitoraj at for an authentic taste of the region.

The trip continues through lush green scenery to the water paradise of Plitvice Lakes.

### DAY 8

Destination	Plitvice Lakes 🚗 Split
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Cornaro Hotel Split, or similar

After breakfast 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.

Our journey continues towards Split, a buzzing city on the Dalmatian coast. Around here the locals say pomalo for a greeting – it means take it easy.



We'll take a short evening walk. 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 see the Grgur Ninski Statue and will see the Cathedral of St. Domnius, with its iconic bell tower.

Tonight enjoy a group dinner in a konoba, a traditional Dalmatian restaurant.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 9

Destination	Split  Embark cruise  Split
Meals included	Breakfast, 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 10

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

In the morning, we will leave this magnificent town and continue our cruise towards the Island of Korčula, best known as the birthplace of Marco Polo.

Stop for lunch in one of the secluded bays en route. Early afternoon arrival in Korčula followed by a guided walking tour of this enchanting town with fortified walls. On this Island, you can find more legends, tales and monuments than anywhere else while you wander along the herringbone pattern streets. Korčula has an abundant choice of restaurants where you can continue your gourmet experience and there are many bars and clubs for those looking for evening entertainment.

Overnight in Korčula.

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### DAY 11

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

Next morning we head further south to the Island of Mljet. Join the cruise manager for a stroll to the famous salt lakes in the Mljet National Park and enjoy the boat ride to the St Mary Isle, where you will visit an ancient Benedictine monastery, an old abbey and a Church dating from the 12th Century.

Return to the ship for lunch followed by departure towards Dubrovnik. Late afternoon arrival in Dubrovnik, but before we tie the ropes at Gruž harbour the captain will take you for an evening cruise alongside the old city walls while a buffet dinner is served on deck. Enjoy the spectacular views of this magnificent old town.

Overnight in Dubrovnik.

### DAY 12

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

After breakfast transfer to the old town for the guided walking tour to enjoy this magical town. You will have the opportunity to take the best pictures of the town of Dubrovnik as we take the cable car from the Old Town to Srđ mountain to enjoy scenic views of the Walls and Elaphiti Islands.

Afternoon at leisure to find idyllic spots for lunch and dinner. For those of you with more enthusiasm, we recommend to walk the famous walls 1,940 m long and take a stroll along the walking street "STRADUN" – both a street and a square, a promenade inside the city walls.

Overnight in Dubrovnik.

### DAY 13

Destination	Dubrovnik 🚢 Pelješac Peninsula
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

Early morning departure towards the Pelješac peninsula, well known for its excellent wine.

Before lunch a short stop at one of the Elaphiti Islands and afternoon arrival to Pelješac peninsula.

Today we move away from the shore inland to explore the rural areas. Afternoon transfer to the village followed by a visit to a local farm you will indulge in a typical village party with Croatian delicacies, an all-inclusive dinner with local dishes made from their own produce.

Late transfer back to the ship. Overnight on Pelješac peninsula.

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### DAY 14

Destination	Peljesac Penninsula 🚢 Hvar
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

Morning departure towards Hvar. Lunch stop on the small Island of Šćedro followed by a swim stop at the Pakleni Islands. Arrival to Hvar in the afternoon.

Hvar is the longest Island in the Adriatic and one of the sunniest; known for lavish lavender fields and breathtaking beauty. One can find many historical landmarks in Hvar: the Renaissance cathedral with its original tower, and the oldest community theatre in Europe which was founded in 1612. Hike up to the town fort overlooking the harbour to get some lovely scenic views of your ship and the Pakleni islands. In the evening Hvar offers an abundance of entertainment - many restaurants, bars and cafes are open long into the night.

Overnight in Hvar.

### DAY 15

Destination	Hvar 🚢 Bol
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Katarina Deluxe Superior Vessel, or similar

Our final stop will be the Island of Brač and picturesque town of Bol. Walk along the promenade or swim at one of the most famous beaches in Dalmatia – Zlatni Rat (the Golden cape - known for its gravel promontory shifts from side to side as the wind and waves constantly change its shape). Bol is a typical fishermen's town turned into a popular tourist destination.

After lunch on board time at leisure until Captain's farewell dinner with live entertainment on board.

Overnight in Bol or nearby Milna.

### DAY 16

Destination	Bol 🚢 Split ✈️ Home
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

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

We hope you've been *inspired*.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 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, 7 lunches & 7 dinners, as per itinerary
- English speaking tour leader from Mestre 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

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Venice – Enjoy a day of sightseeing in romantic Venice, a city built entirely on water
- Bled – Explore the natural beauty of iconic Lake Bled and take a boat ride on this turquoise gem
- Bled – Take in the amazing views from Bled Castle, perched on a steep cliff overlooking the beautiful lake
- Klagenfurt – Discover this charming Austrian town and its old city square
- Postojna Caves – Get deep into this captivating cave system, one of the longest in Europe
- Istrian Coast – Experience the cities, sights and tastes of this historic, stunning peninsula
- Livade – Sample the tastiest Istrian treasures, the humble truffle and renowned olive oil
- Pula – See the famed Roman amphitheatre in this ancient city
- 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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### 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:

24th April 2020 - due to sail on [Black Swan](#)

8th May 2020 - due to sail on [Aurelia](#)

12th June 2020 - due to sail on [Aurelia](#)

11th September 2020 - due to sail on [Markan](#)

25th September 2020 - due to sail on [Markan](#)

#### **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 \$362 per person twin share (\$690 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.

### Fine Print

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### 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 (Venice): \$221 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast and transfer
- Post-tour accommodation (Dubrovnik): \$413 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast and transfer

### Arrival and departure airport transfers

- Arrival Transfer (Venice): Included
- Departure Transfer (Dubrovnik): Included

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.

### 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

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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 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 \$4,026 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.

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Australian passport holders do not need a visa for Italy, Slovenia or 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

### **Trip Style - Group Tour**

Our Group Tours offer unparalleled value for money and are the perfect style of travel for those on a budget, though still eager to pack as much in to their itinerary as possible. These tours tick all the boxes with an abundance of inclusions such as sightseeing highlights, expert tour guides, quality accommodation, transfers, coach transportation, some meals and more. Please note that the maximum group size will vary between deals and will be mentioned within the Fine Print of each deal page.

### **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.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Return International Airfares
- Transfers
- Visas (if applicable)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

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