



**LIBERTY ADRIATIC**

[www.liberty-adriatic.com](http://www.liberty-adriatic.com)  
[www.impact-tourism.net](http://www.impact-tourism.net)

**Head office Slovenia**  
Dunajska cesta 109, Ljubljana  
T: +386 1 232 11 71  
E: [adriatic@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic@liberty-int.com)

**Croatia offices**  
**Zagreb:** Ilica 92/1; T: +385 91 761 08 85  
**Dubrovnik:** Na Rivi 30a; T: +385 98 188 21 32  
E: [adriatic-croatia@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic-croatia@liberty-int.com)

**Serbia office**  
Terazije 45, Belgrade  
T: +381 11 334 13 48  
E: [adriatic-serbia@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic-serbia@liberty-int.com)

# DUBROVNIK AND ADRIATIC ISLANDS

9 days / 8 nights

*Discovering Dubrovnik and Split, Islands of Korcula and Hvar with  
a touch of Bosnia*

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the winding alleys of walled Old town of Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Visit Marco Polo's birth place, beautiful Korcula
- Refresh yourself in the sea of Hvar island
- Experience Split with its remarkable Diocletian palace
- Visit Mostar, a city victim of recent ethnical clash



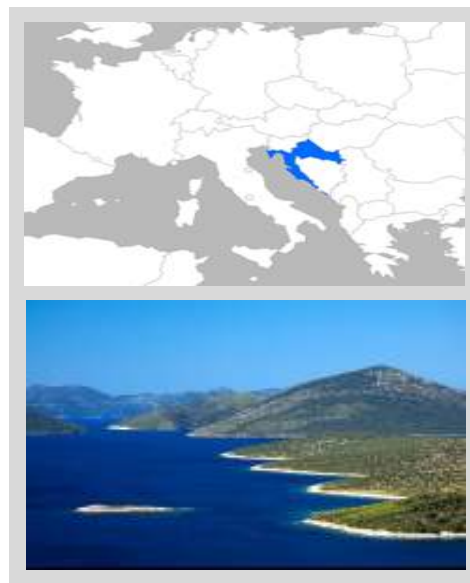
## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### CROATIA

Travelling through Croatia, Dalmatia or Dubrovnik Region offers immense and rich experiences to every visitor. From the coastal to the continental parts, Croatia's rich cultural heritage, combined with its magnificent natural beauties, make it the perfect place to spend your vacation at. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, a charming medieval city of exceptional beauty known for its spirit and architecture, with a population of approximately 1 million. The uniqueness of Croatia lies in its diversity. Situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, Croatia provides visitors with the opportunity to ski in the winter and swim during the summer months, all within driving distance. With its 1,185 islands, islets and reefs, it is the most diverse coast on the Mediterranean. There are seven national parks in Croatia, three being in the mountainous regions (Risnjak, Paklenica and Plitvicka Jezera), and four in the coastal regions (Kornati, Brijuni, Krka and Mljet).

To mention a few, Croatia is home to the Old City of Dubrovnik, Diocletian's Palace in Split, Euphrasies Basilica in Porec, and many others. Croatia boasts the largest number of developed settlements in southeast Europe, in addition, many of which date back to Roman and medieval times. Rarely can you find so many examples of cultural and historical significance from different periods in such a small region.



### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the last undiscovered regions of the southern area of the Alps, with vast tracks of wild and untouched nature attracting adventurers and nature lovers. According to an estimation of the World Tourism Organization, Bosnia and Herzegovina will have the third highest tourism growth rate in the world between 1995 and 2020. Most notable among its charms is its lush, mountainous landscape, best seen from the vantage point of one of the national parks. The central Dinaric Alps are favoured by hikers & walkers, containing both Mediterranean & Alpine climates. White-water rafting with 3 rivers (including the deepest river canyon in Europe, Tara River) is something akin to a national pastime. Bosnia has also become an increasingly popular skiing and Ecotourism destination. For some, the country remains synonymous with the Yugoslav wars that ravaged the Balkan region in the 1990s; it still bears the legacy of this, having a fractured infrastructure and a countryside that remains littered with mines in some regions.

However, there are plenty of positives to take from Bosnia and Herzegovina's urban centres, especially the cosmopolitan capital of Sarajevo with its Turkish heritage and lively cafe scene. Lonely Planet, in ranking the best cities in the world, ranked Sarajevo ahead of Croatian Dubrovnik. Tourism there is chiefly focused on historical, religious, and cultural aspects. Elsewhere there are historic fortresses, splendid old mosques, monasteries and Catholic shrines to enjoy. But perhaps above all else, it is the reconstructed Ottoman bridge at Mostar that symbolizes both the past and a positive new beginning for the country.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

Arrival to Dubrovnik airport  
Meet and greet at the airport and drive to a hotel (20km)  
Check-in  
A sightseeing tour around Dubrovnik  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### DUBROVNIK – the pearl of the Adriatic

The city of Dubrovnik is situated in the very South of the Republic of Croatia. The particularity and uniqueness of Dubrovnik is in its permanent live connection to its rich past and its cultural heritage, while it keeps vibrantly in pace with contemporary life, echoing its spiritual identity and its presence in the European cultural environment. Dubrovnik, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is rich in cultural and historical monuments.

The most recognizable feature which defines the History of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic are its intact city walls which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in the Europe is the main attraction for the city's visitors. This is a tour which will show you the finest sites of the Old Walled City and will reveal why Dubrovnik is often referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". We will lead you through the streets of the Old Town introducing you to the history and culture of this magnificent city. Other splendid buildings such as Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Church, Sponza Palace will be viewed along the way. You will be able to visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's oldest pharmacy, the Cathedral with its famous Treasury and the Rector's Palace which once used to be the seat of the government in the Dubrovnik Republic.



## DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive towards Peljesac peninsula (70km)  
On the way stop at Trsteno arboretum, Ston and a winery for wine tasting  
Free for lunch  
Continue to Orebic (40km) for a short ferry transfer to Korcula  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Korcula

### ARBORETUM TRSTENO – a botanical splendour

The village of Trsteno is a modest little settlement with a fine church and two huge 500 year old Asiatic plane trees. The arboretum includes the original 15th century garden laid out in renaissance style, with a geometric pattern of paths, a chapel, the fountain and aqueduct. There is also a newer garden (early 20th century) featuring formal and modern sections with features typical of the southern Adriatic, plus a historic olive grove and natural woodland.



### STON – the second largest defence walls in the world

In an area known for its rugged natural beauty, few man-made sights are more magnificent than the grizzled fourteenth-century walls of Ston which with the backdrop of the mountainous countryside look scarily like the Great Wall of China. The walls date back to 1334, when the Republic of Dubrovnik gained Ston and the neighbouring Peljesac peninsula, and immediately set about securing it against potential Venetian or Ottoman attack. The area was well worth the investment: the salt pans of Ston went on to become a key source of Dubrovnik's revenue, and helped to keep the republic's fleet on the seas.

Spanning the isthmus that connects the Peljesac peninsula to the mainland, and consisting of 40 towers and 5 fortresses, the walls comprise one of the longest stretches of surviving fortifications in the whole of Europe.

### PELJESAC – Croatian peninsula with the best wine

Peljesac peninsula is the second largest peninsula in Croatia. Natural beauty on Peljesac still stands against commercial and urban values. It truly has an exceptional biodiversity. That's why Peljesac is known as the place where the nature is still the nature. It is also a region well known for its quality wines and winemaking tradition dating back to ancient Greek and Roman times, and for its seashells - oysters, mussels and others.

### KORCULA – Marco Polo's birthplace

The city of Korcula is one of the most attractive and best-preserved towns from the Middle Ages in the Mediterranean area. The island of the same name is one in the long string of 'pearls' forming great archipelago that runs along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea.

It is reputed that Marco Polo, the famous world-traveller, Venetian merchant and writer has been born in old town of Korcula. Moreover Korcula has a long art and cultural tradition which can be seen in museums, galleries and at festivals. So a visitor besides all the natural beauties, views and beaches can also see and experience many things including Korcula's culture, art and history, traditional crafts and skills of stone masonry and shipbuilding, sword dances, music,....



## DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel  
Day at leisure on the island for swimming or exploring  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Korcula



## DAY 4

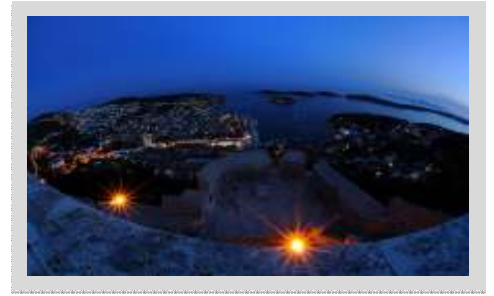
Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Early morning ferry transfer to Hvar Island  
Check-in to a hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Hvar with free time for lunch  
Return to the hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Hvar





## HVAR – jewel hidden by the time

Island Hvar belongs to the central island group of the Adriatic and lies in an east-west direction at right angles to the coast. It is longest Adriatic island and also the fourth largest in area. Hvar is the town of a unique cultural and historical heritage, but also an important tourist resort with a centuries-old tradition in tourism. Main attractions are pleasant climate, a lot of sunshine, natural beauties, various accommodation facilities, gastronomic offer, sports and recreational opportunities... Hvar is frequented during the whole year - in the summer and winter months and its very special climate favoured the development of health tourism. The so-called Hygiene Society was established in Hvar as early as 1868; the major task of the society was to take good care of the visitors from abroad. This marked the beginning of tourist development. The first hotel, Empress Elisabeth, was opened in 1903.



## DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Ferry transfer to Split  
Check-in to a hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Split with some free time for lunch  
Return to the hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Split



## SPLIT – the cultural and economic center of Dalmatia

Split is the largest and most important town in Dalmatia. The town was developed around the palace, which was erected in the 4th century by the Roman Emperor, Diocletian. You can also visit the ancient cellars, Cathedral, Temple of Jupiter and the Golden Gate.

The town of Split is situated in the central part of the eastern Adriatic coast and is bordered by the mouths of the small river Ærnovnica in the Southeast, and the river Jadro in the North. Split offers you its many charms; the pines of the Marjan forest in the Western part of the peninsula, the murmur of the sea and the sound of the Dalmatian song in the stone streets of the city. Split has a very favourable climate characterized by an extremely bright sky with about 2,700 sunny hours per year.



## DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel  
Transfer to National Park Krka (83km)  
Stop in Sibenik for a visit  
Free for lunch  
Return to Split via Trogir  
Return to the hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Split

## SIBENIK – the oldest Croatian town on the Adriatic with an extraordinary location

The historic town of Sibenik, connected with the expansion and development of the early Croatian state, is rich in cultural and historical monuments. The most representative among them is the famous Cathedral of Sibenik, one of the most original architectural projects of the late middle ages, primarily linked to the local master Juraj Matejev Dalmatinac (George of Dalmatia). Sibenik is today a tourist centre situated in the area where the best-indented archipelago in Europe (Islands of Kornati) and karst hydrographical phenomena (Skradinski Buk,



Visovac, Roski Waterfall) merge into the ecologically and aesthetically most attractive tourist and recreational zone on the Croatian Adriatic.

#### **NATIONAL PARK KRKA – the empire of Krka River**

Krka River, the magnificent karstic beauty travelling two thirds of its way to the sea through canyons, is a complete opposite of Kornati national park. On its green path it has seven falls, the last and most famous one being Skradinski buk with an average flow of 55 cubic meters of water per second. National Park Krka is rich in flora and fauna. 222 bird species live there, making it one of the most valuable ornithological areas in Europe. You can visit it by boat, car or on foot. Make sure you visit the ethno museum on one of the old mills. National Park Krka also has the only hawk training centre in Croatia where you can see presentations of hunting with hawks and hawk trainers' skills.

#### **TROGIR - town-museum on the Adriatic coast**

In Trogir lovers of cultural and historical monuments, art, architecture and nice alleys are given the opportunity to learn about manifold and complex heritage – from Romanesque yard to the modern interiors. The unique historical core, Radovan's portal, the art collections, which have been arousing excitement among visitors and travellers for centuries offer a tourist beauty, personified in the relief of Kairos as an appropriate souvenir.



## **DAY 7**

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive to Mostar (157km)  
On the way stop in Medjugorje (136km)  
Free for lunch and continue to Mostar (29km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Mostar

#### **MEDJUGORJE – “between the hills”**

Medjugorje is a town located in western Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Herzegovina region around 25 km Southwest of Mostar and close to the border of Croatia. Since 1981, it has become a popular site of religious pilgrimage due to reports of apparitions of the Virgin Mary to six local Catholic children, with thousands visiting each year. It has been estimated that 30 million pilgrims have come to Medjugorje since the reputed apparitions began in 1981. The Roman Catholic parish (local administrative and religious area) consists of five neighbouring villages, Medjugorje, Bijakovici, Vionica, Miletina and Surmanci.

#### **MOSTAR – the city with the largest population of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Mostar is the biggest and the most important city in the Herzegovina region in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is situated on the Neretva River and is the fifth-largest city in the country. Mostar was named after "the bridge keepers" (natively: mostari) who guarded the Stari Most (Old Bridge) over the river. The bridge was ruined during the war and then rebuilt in 2004. Today it is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. Together with the Old town became a listed UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The Old Town with its towers, oriental shops, and restaurants, which are specialized in aromatic cooking, take you back for many centuries. Traces of 'old' times are imprinted in the market, the mosques, Herzegovina's museum and in the typical Turkish houses, a few of which have been kept in original style.

The city excels in the spheres of art, cuisine, music, theatre, museums, and literature. It is also widely celebrated in popular lore, featured frequently as the setting for books, movies, and television programs.



## DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive to Dubrovnik (158km) with some stops on the way  
Free for lunch  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

## DAY 9

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Dubrovnik airport for your departure flight

# SERVICES

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## SERVICES INCLUDED:

### TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned vehicle through the whole tour, ferry transfers to Korcula Hvar and Split

### ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

2 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Dubrovnik, 2 nights in 4\* hotel in Korcula, 1 night in 4\* hotel in Hvar, 2 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Split, 1 night in 4\* hotel in Mostar

### GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour, accommodation for the guide

### ENTRANCE FEES:

Cathedral, Rector's palace and Franciscan Monastery in Dubrovnik, Trsteno Arboretum, wine tasting in Ston, Diocletian cellars and palace in Split, National park Krka, St. James cathedral in Sibenik, Cathedral in Trogir

### OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

## SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Meals unless where specified
- Services not mentioned in the program
- Porterage
- Tips