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# TOP SITES OF CROATIA WITH A TOUCH OF MONTENEGRO AND BOSNIA

12 days / 11 nights

*Discovering Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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- Enjoy Zagreb, the capital of Croatia
- Explore Plitvice and Krka national park
- Experience Split with its remarkable Diocletian palace
- Refresh yourself in the sea of Hvar island
- Feel the rhythm of the winding alleys of walled Old town of Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Discover the picturesque cities of Montenegrin Kotor and Budva
- Visit Bosnian Mostar and Medjugorje, a city victim of recent ethnical clash and world known pilgrim site



# 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.



## MONTENEGRO

Montenegro is the smallest of ex - Yugoslav republics. It offers wide range of investment possibilities and great geographic diversities which make this country worth visiting and exploring. 293 km of coast with its beautiful beaches and amazing beauty of its unique bay are a total opposite to the lakes, canyons, rivers and high mountains of Inner Montenegro.

It is unique in many ways. It is extremely wild and beautiful. It has it all, small medieval cities on the coast, wild mountains, the biggest lake on the Balkan, the longest and the deepest canyon in Europe, Mediterranean climate and most beautiful fjord in Mediterranean. It has wide range of hotels on the coast and in land and venues that can host up to 1000 participants.



Different cultures have left their traces here. Today in Montenegro one can feel the influence of Venetian, Roman, Byzantine, French and Turkish culture. Moreover, all of that could be experienced in a relatively small distance.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

Arrival to Zagreb airport  
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to Zagreb (20km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Zagreb

### ZAGREB – the capital and the largest city of Croatia

Zagreb is the capital city of the Republic of Croatia. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now became a centre of commerce and industry as well. Zagreb is also the hub of the business, academic, cultural, artistic and sporting worlds in Croatia. Many famous scientists, artists and athletes come from the city, or work in it. The city boasts a charming medieval 'old city' with architecture and cobbled streets reminiscent of Vienna, Budapest, Prague and other Central-European capitals, though mixed with a strong Italian influence. It can offer its visitors the Baroque atmosphere of the Upper Town, picturesque open-air markets, diverse shopping facilities, an abundant selection of crafts and a choice vernacular cuisine.

Zagreb is a city of green parks and walks, with many places to visit in the beautiful surroundings. In spite of the rapid development of the economy and transportation, it has retained its charm, and a relaxed feeling that makes it a genuinely human city.



## DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Zagreb and free time for lunch  
Free afternoon for shopping or museum visits  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Zagreb

## DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive to Plitvice National Park (135km) for a visit and free for lunch  
Continue to Split (255km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Split

### PLITVICE – a misty natural wonderland

Located in a deep mysterious ancient forest known as the “Devil’s Garden” between Zagreb and Zadar lies Plitvice Lakes National Park, composed of 19.5 hectares of woods, lakes and waterfalls. Imagine Niagara Falls diced and sprinkled over a heavily forested Grand Canyon. This lush valley of terraced lakes is laced together by waterfalls and miles of pleasant wooden-plank walks.

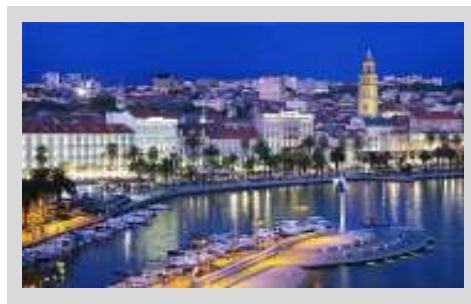
It is one of Croatia’s top sights and the oldest national park in Europe, deservedly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. Countless cascades and strangely clear and colourful water make the Plitvice Lakes National Park a misty natural wonderland.



## 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 Ćrnovnica 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 4

Breakfast in the hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Split and free for lunch  
In the afternoon drive to Trogir (28km) for a visit  
Return to Split  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Split

### 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 5

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Krka waterfalls (85km)  
Whole day tour with free time for lunch  
In the afternoon return to Split with a short stop in Sibenik for a visit  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Split

### 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.



**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.



**DAY 6**

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to the port and take a ferry boat to Hvar  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for lunch  
A visit of Hvar  
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 7**

Breakfast in the hotel  
A day off for swimming and enjoying  
Overnight in Hvar

**DAY 8**

Breakfast in the hotel and check out  
Transfer to Sucuraj port and a ferry transfer to Drvenik  
Drive to Dubrovnik (123km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
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 9

Breakfast in the hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Dubrovnik and free for lunch  
In the afternoon optional tour to Elaphiti islands or free at leisure  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

## DAY 10

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive via Perast to Kotor (80km) for a sightseeing and some free time for lunch  
Continue to Budva (25km) for a visit  
Return to Dubrovnik (120km)  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### PERAST - a sleepy baroque place close to Kotor

One of the principal attractions on the Bay of Kotor is the ancient village of Perast, rich in Venice-like architecture which includes sixteen Baroque palaces, seventeen Catholic churches, several important Orthodox structures and a series of nine defensive towers, all set in stone and seemingly untouched by the scourge of modern-day tourism.

### KOTOR – rich medieval monument

Surrounded by mountains ranging from 1,000m to 1,700m high, situated at the eastern tip of Kotor Bay, lies the picturesque city of Kotor. Its city-core is the best preserved of the cities along the Montenegrin coast and it is rich in medieval monuments. The walled medieval city centre with its winding, narrow little streets, squares and small churches, appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Of its religious monuments, the most notable is the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon, dating from the 12th century.



## BUDVA - the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism

Budva is Montenegro's main tourist centre. The secret of the city's popularity rests mainly on its beautiful, mostly sandy coastline, diverse nightlife and examples of Mediterranean architecture. In addition to the splendid beaches of the "Budva Riviera", the city also possesses a tiny, but beautiful, historic centre. Surrounded by a wall, the historic centre is located on a small peninsula which extends as a harbour-side promenade.



## DAY 11

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Bosnia and Herzegovina for a whole day tour  
Stop in Medjugorje (138km) for a visit  
Continue to Mostar (30km) for a sightseeing tour with a stop for lunch  
Return to Dubrovnik  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### 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 12

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



# SERVICES

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## SERVICES INCLUDED:

### TRANSFERS:

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

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

2 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Zagreb, 3 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Split, 2 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel on the island of Hvar, 4 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Dubrovnik

### GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour, local guides for visits in Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor and Mostar

### ENTRANCE FEES:

Plitvice lakes, Diocletian cellars and palace in Split, Cathedral in Trogir, Krka national park, Cathedral, Rector's palace and Franciscan Monastery in Dubrovnik and Kotor

### OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

## SERVICES EXCLUDED:

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

## OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Tour to Elaphiti islands