



## Adriatic Crossroads, Part II

### Custom Itinerary for ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (3 guests)

### Archeological Tour in Slovenia & Croatia, July 5 - 14, 2014

Seeing Slovenia and Croatia for the first time is a life changing experience. To visit time and again is to re-affirm life. Blessed with magnificent scenery and fascinating history, the region is further enriched with folk traditions and delicious provincial foods and wines. Places so divine they have been named among the best travel destinations in the world. Mediterranean, European, and Balkan influences have formed ancient and distinctive cultures throughout the pastoral countryside and along shimmering coastlines. Powerful mountain ranges have carved legacies in their midst while fairy tale castles and walled seaside villages stand as testimony to the tumultuous past. Once the site of one of the bloodiest crossroads between Europe and Asia, these countries gained international recognition and independence in the early 1990s and today are gorgeous and peaceful lands that beckon passionate travelers from all over the world. From its lush national parks teeming with flora, fauna and stunning waterfalls to its glistening chain of lavender and citrus scented islands in the sun drenched Adriatic Sea, this is truly one of the most beautiful spots on Earth. A journey to the westernmost Balkans is a lovely and indelible memory that lives with you forever.

## Day 1 - July 5 - Udine – Trieste – Škocjan Caves – Opatija

*Trieste is a city and seaport in northeastern Italy. It is situated towards the end of a narrow strip of Italian territory lying between the Adriatic Sea and Slovenia, which lies almost immediately south and east of the city. Trieste is located at the head of the Gulf of Trieste and throughout history it has been influenced by its location at the crossroads of Germanic, Latin and Slavic cultures. Trieste was one of the oldest parts of the Habsburg Monarchy. In the 19th century, it was the most important port of one of the Great Powers of Europe. As a prosperous seaport in the Mediterranean region, Trieste became the fourth largest city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (after Vienna, Budapest, and Prague). In the fin-de-siecle period, it emerged as an important hub for literature and music. However, the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Trieste's union to Italy after World War I led to some decline of its "Mittel-European" cultural and commercial importance. Enjoying an economic revival during the 1930s and throughout the Cold War, Trieste was an important spot in the struggle between the Eastern and Western blocs. Today, the city is in one of the richest regions of Italy, and has been a great center for shipping, through its port (Port of Trieste), shipbuilding and financial services.*



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
9.00	<i>Departure from Udine (Astoria Grand Hotel)</i>	Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car
	<i>Private transfer from Udine (Italy) to Opatija (Kvarner Riviera)</i>	English speaking guide for a walking city tour of Trieste
10:00	<i>A stop in Trieste for a city tour and Škocjan Caves (walking tour on your own)</i>	Entrance fees for the Škocjan Caves
	<i>Accommodation in Opatija</i>	Dinner at the hotel upon arrival (drinks not included)
	<i>Dinner at the hotel and an overnight.</i>	Accommodation in Grand Hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta 4* - standard single rooms, BB basis

Due to their exceptional significance, the Škocjan Caves were entered on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites in 1986. Archaeological research has shown that people lived in the caves and the surrounding area in prehistoric times – from the Mesolithic, the Neolithic, the Bronze and Iron Ages through Antiquity and the Middle Ages to the present; altogether for more than 5,000 years. The finds from this area testify that the Škocjan Caves had not only local but regional importance in prehistoric times. Pioneering research of Karst and karst phenomena began in this area in the 19th century. The international karstological terms "karst" and "doline" originate here.



## Day 2 - July 6 - Opatija – Pula – Poreč - Opatija



Pula is the largest town on the Istrian peninsula and offers a diversity of attractions to lovers of culture. The rich itinerary of its three thousand year old history, where every step you take through the old town is a landmark, begins and ends with the Roman amphitheater. While strolling through Pula you will come across numerous monuments of Roman architecture: the Triumphal Arch of the Sergi from the 1st century B.C., Hercules' Gate and Twin Gates, the Temple of Augustus, Arena and Small Roman Theater in the town center.

A unique experience will be moments of relaxation in the main town square, which has managed to retain its role as the meeting place since the Augustan Age.



**Poreč** is a town and municipality on the western coast of the Istrian peninsula, in Istria County, Croatia. Its major landmark is the 6th century Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Poreč is almost 2,000 years old, and is set around a harbor protected from the sea by the small island of Saint Nicholas/San Nicolo (St. Nicholas).

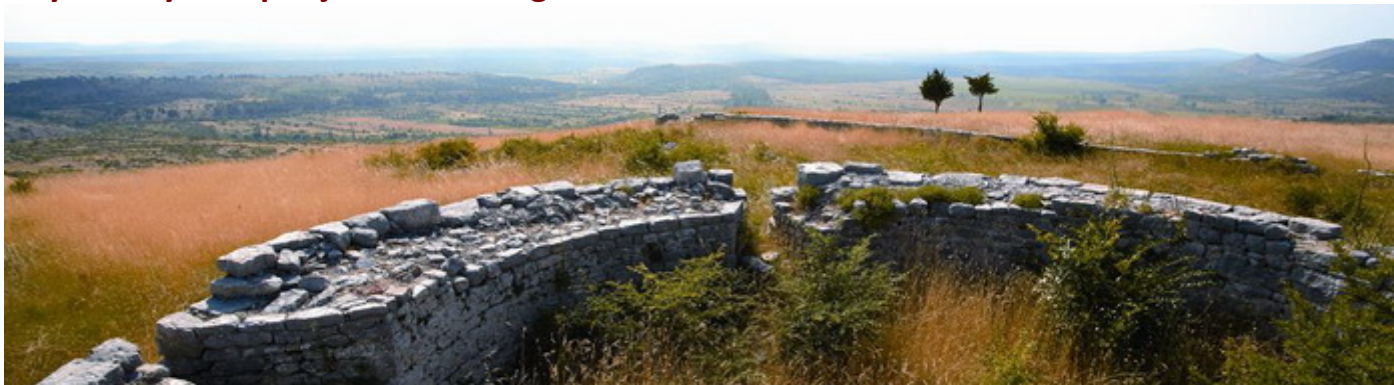
Former town of rich noblemen and Roman aristocracy, Poreč is now a popular tourist destination in Istria, known for its many sights that alternate in its streets the same way as rulers did during its turbulent history. In the company of a professional guide,



we are taking you to see the palaces, squares, galleries and museums. The old town core has a special place, with its various monuments and cultural and historical attractions, some of which date back to the period of the Roman Empire.

Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
9:00	<p>Meeting with your driver for a private transfer to Pula (tour of the city on your own)</p> <p>After a visit to Pula, an onward drive to Poreč with a visit</p> <p>Drive back to Opatija for an overnight</p>	<p>Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car</p> <p>Entrance fees to Amphitheater and Temple of Augustus in Pula &amp; Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč</p> <p>Accommodation in Grand Hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta 4* - standard single rooms, BB basis</p>

### Day 3 - July 7 - Opatija – Bribirska glavica – Zadar



Bribirska glavica, an attractive archeological site, is referred to as the Croatian Troy for its mystical combination of nature and wooden buildings. Because of its strategic position, it was the central settlement of the entire region for six thousand years. An old Liburnian settlement, Roman Municipality of Varvaria or mythical Bribir under the reign of the powerful Croatian feudal ruler, Governor Pavle Šubić of Bribir – all civilizations recognized the importance of this seemingly unimportant hill. Stroll around and find ancient sarcophagi, tanks and “ceramic refrigerators” (two meters thick Liburnian and ancient walls), remains of sacral buildings, and a rich collection of exhibits from the prehistoric era to the late Middle Ages.

Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
TBC	<p>Meeting with your driver for a private transfer to Zadar with en route stop in Bribirska glavica archeological site</p> <p>Accommodation in Zadar</p> <p>Dinner at the hotel an overnight</p>	<p>Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car</p> <p>Dinner at the hotel upon arrival (drinks not included)</p> <p>Accommodation in the Bastion Heritage Hotel - Relais &amp; Châteaux 4* - standard single room, BB basis</p>

### Day 4 - July 8 - Zadar

**Zadar** is a treasure trove of archaeological treasures and monuments to the ancient, medieval and Renaissance periods. This is visible by a number of sacral and architectural monuments – the church of sv. Donat [St. Donatus] where every summer the sounds of Zadar's musical evenings echo, the Roman Forum near the main square, Kalelarga - the longest and widest street, the Cathedral of sv. Stošije [St. Anastasia], an Archaeological Museum with its exceptional treasures and many other monuments of cultural and historical heritage (town gate, Arsenal, churches, museums...).

In a city with the most beautiful sunset, in a maritime archipelago facing a multitude of islands and islets, which protect the city from the strong winds, enjoy the symphony of the Sea Organ and magical urban light installation Pozdrav suncu [Greeting the Sun] near the new harbour for cruise ships.



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
9:00	<p><i>Meeting with your guide and a walking city tour of Zadar</i></p> <p><i>Time at leisure in Zadar</i></p> <p><i>An overnight in Zadar</i></p>	<p>English speaking guide for walking city tour of Zadar</p> <p>Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car</p> <p>Entrance fees to Archaeological Museum in Zadar &amp; St. Donatus Church</p> <p>Accommodation in the Bastion Heritage Hotel - Relais &amp; Châteaux 4* - standard single room, BB basis</p>

## Day 5 – July 9 - Zadar - Split

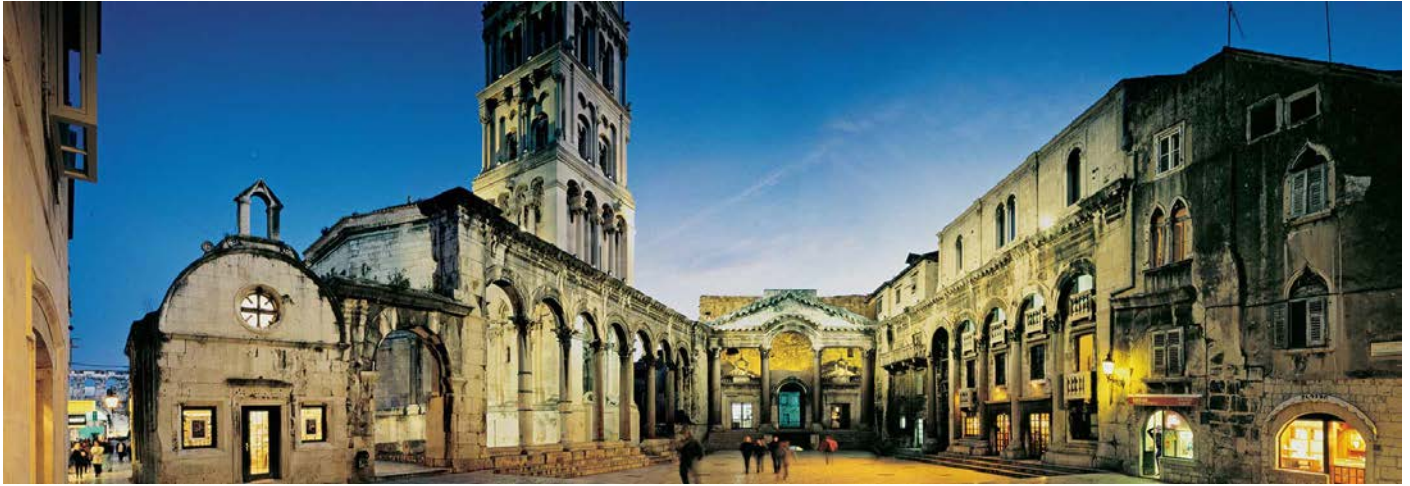
*Olives, indigenous aromatic plants, brilliancy of white stone against the verdant vegetation and the towering mountain massif of Biokovo whose spurs reach all the way to the sea – yes, this is indeed an exceptional part of the country, and its beauty is made all the more enchanting by numerous historic events and monuments, and cultural manifestations. When, in the year 305, the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruled the entire world at that time, decided to build his leisure time abode - in which he intended to spend the rest of his life - he had no doubt as to exactly where build to it. In the very heart of Dalmatia, in the bay of Aspalathos (Split), well protected from the sea by the islands of the Split archipelago, and defended on its landward side by high mountains, Diocletian created a special point on the map of the Adriatic: the future city of Split.*



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
TBC	<p><i>Meeting with your driver for a private transfer to Split with a visit to the city itself</i></p> <p><i>Accommodation in Split</i></p> <p><i>Dinner at the hotel an overnight</i></p>	<p>Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car</p> <p>Dinner at the hotel upon arrival (drinks not included)</p> <p>Accommodation in Hotel Marmont 4* - standard single room, BB basis</p>



## Day 6 - July 10 - Split



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
	<i>Time at leisure in Split</i>	Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car
	<i>An overnight in Split</i>	Entrance fees to Archaeological Museum in Split (professional guidance included), Cathedral & Diocletian's Cellars  Accommodation in the Hotel Marmont 4* - standard single room, BB basis

## Day 7 - July 11 - Split – Metković – Dubrovnik

*The ancient of the city of Narona: remains of a Roman temple – the Augusteum – and 17 marble statues. Archaeological research conducted at the Plečašove štale site in 1995 and 1996 led to a sensational discovery of the remains of a Roman temple – the Augusteum – and 17 marble statues, both outsized and in natural height. These finds inspired the idea of presenting this unique archaeological site in an integral fashion, including both architectural remains and other specimens of the ample archaeological materials.*

*In the course of history, the valley of the Neretva was always a natural route from the Adriatic Sea to the interior. Along this route, in antiquity, the interior of the province of Dalmatia was connected with the coast and the rest of the Mediterranean. The museum was built on the remains of the Antique town of Narona, today's village of Vid, four kilometres north-west of the centre of Metković.*



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
TBC	<i>Meeting with your driver for a private transfer to Dubrovnik with en route stop in Narona Archeological site and museum in Metković</i>	Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car

*Accommodation in Dubrovnik*

*Dinner at the hotel restaurant followed by an overnight at the hotel*

Entrance fees to Naronia Archaeological site in Metković (professional guidance included)

Dinner at the hotel upon arrival (drinks not included)

Accommodation in Hotel Bellevue Dubrovnik 5\* - classic single room, sea view, BB basis

## Day 8 - July 12 - Dubrovnik



*Dubrovnik is a medieval city on the Croatian side of the Adriatic coastline and treasure trove of cultural, historical monuments that were created throughout its thousand-year existence. In the past, it was a City-Republic, and alongside Venice one of the most famous cultural-economic centres on the Mediterranean. In more recent times, it has become the centre of modern cultural and tourist events: a city of summer festivals – an international parade of top musical and theatrical achievements, a city of museums and galleries. These values have turned Dubrovnik into a place that offers a rich selection of various experiences and excitement, but also a complete holiday in a quiet and calming, mild Mediterranean ambience and wonderful seaside landscapes.*

Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
9:00	<i>Meeting with your guide for a walking city tour of Dubrovnik</i>	English speaking guide for Dubrovnik tour
	<i>Time at leisure in Dubrovnik</i>	Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car
	<i>An overnight in Dubrovnik</i>	Accommodation in Hotel Bellevue Dubrovnik 5* - classic single room, sea view, BB basis

## Day 9 - July 13 - Dubrovnik



Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
	<i>Time at leisure in Dubrovnik</i>	Private transfer in a modern, air-conditioned car
	<i>Farewell dinner in the Old Town Dubrovnik</i>	Dinner in Komarda restaurant in Dubrovnik (drinks not included)



An overnight in Dubrovnik

Accommodation in Hotel Bellevue Dubrovnik 5\* - classic single room, sea view, BB basis

## Day 10 - July 14 - Dubrovnik

Time (approx)	Itinerary	Service
5:00	<p>Private transfer from your hotel to Dubrovnik Airport for departure flights</p> <p>6.25 flight OU 661 to Zagreb (McGuire Donald)</p> <p>/.25 flight OU418 to Frankfurt (Boyce &amp; Thomson)</p>	Private transfers in a modern, air-conditioned car

### The package includes:

2 nights in Opatija, Grand Hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta 4\* - standard single rooms, BB basis  
2 nights in Zadar, Bastion Heritage Hotel - Relais & Châteaux 4\* - standard single room, BB basis  
2 nights in Split, Marmont Hotel 4\* - standard single room, BB basis  
3 nights in Dubrovnik, Hotel Bellevue Dubrovnik 5\* - classic single room, sea view, BB basis

All taxes and VAT, breakfast daily

Professional English speaking driver/guide/escort throughout

Private transfer from Udine to Opatija with en route stop in Trieste and Škocjan Caves

Private walking tour of Trieste accompanied by an official English speaking guide

Entrance fees for the Škocjan Caves

Private transfer to Pula and Poreč with a return to Opatija

Entrance fees to Amphitheater and Temple of Augustus in Pula & Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč

Private transfer from Opatija to Zadar with en route drive to Bribirska glavica archeological site (near Šibenik)

Private walking tour of Zadar accompanied by an official English speaking guide

Entrance fees to Archaeological Museum in Zadar & St. Donatus Church

Private transfer from Zadar to Split

Entrance fees to Archaeological Museum in Split (professional guidance included), Cathedral & Diocletian's Cellars

Private transfer from Split to Dubrovnik with en route visit to Museum Narona in Metković

Entrance fees to Narona Archaeological site in Metković (professional guidance included)

Dinners upon arrival in hotels based in Opatija, Zadar, Split and Dubrovnik (drinks not included)

Private walking tour of Dubrovnik accompanied by an official English speaking guide

Private transfers from Dubrovnik based hotel to Dubrovnik Airport according to flight schedule

### Program does not include:

Meals and drinks not mentioned above

Airfare, Travel Insurance

Gratuities, Personal expenses

Tour quotes do not include airfare to/from the trip start point unless noted on the itinerary.

We are not responsible for any loss, accident, injury, delay, defect, omission or irregularity which may occur, such as changes, additional expenses and cancellations due to weather conditions, ferryboat schedule changes and other changes beyond our control.