



# Croatia & Slovenia Gems of the Adriatic

June 16 – 30, 2023



Between the shoulder of the Adriatic Sea and the belly of the Alps Mountains nestles the idyllic paradise of Slovenia. Little-known until recently, it is graced with stunning alpine beauty, picture perfect towns, delectable cuisine and excellent wine. We don't know how it remained a secret for so long.

From medieval architecture to storybook hamlets, from crystal blue waters to lush verdant forests, Croatia is a land of wonder. The rich cultural heritage of myths, legends and fables adds to the feeling that you've entered a magical world.

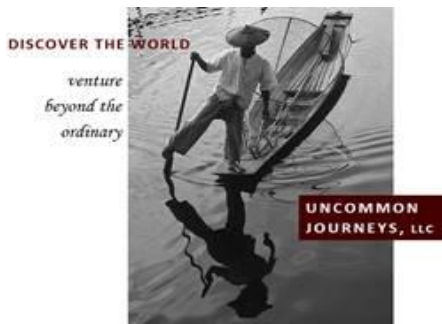
## Tour Highlights

- Bled, "Land of Folk Tales"
- Ljubljana, "City of Love"
- Radovljica, "Sweetest Medieval Town"
- Portorož, "Port of Roses"
- Plitvice National Park, "One of the World's Most Beautiful Spots"
- Split, "UNESCO Site of Diocletian's 4<sup>th</sup> Century Palace"
- Dubrovnik, "Pearl of the Adriatic"
- Hvar, "Queen of the Dalmatian Islands"

## Tour price per person, based on double occupancy

8 – 9 participants:	US\$7,500
10 – 11 participants:	US\$7,200
12 + participants:	US\$6,900
single supplement:	US\$1,577

The tour price **includes** 14 nights of deluxe and boutique accommodations, airport transfers, all meals from dinner on June 16 through breakfast on June 30, ground transportation, entrance fees, gratuities, and the services of a tour director and local guides. The tour price **does not include** flights to Ljubljana and from Dubrovnik, and alcoholic beverages. | You must book your own flights to Ljubljana and from Dubrovnik. | A US\$500 deposit is required to reserve a place on the tour. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.



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## Day 1 | Friday, June 16 | Arrive Ljubljana, Slovenia, transfer to Bled

Prepare to be enchanted by Bled's emerald lake and tiny magical island in the heart of the Julian Alps.



## Day 2 | Saturday, June 17 | Bled (Ljubljana), Slovenia

Ljubljana, considered Europe's greenest capital, might well be the most charming city you'll ever visit. Our tour includes the mighty 12<sup>th</sup> century fortress that stands proudly atop Castle Hill, and a reenactment of key historic events that shaped the city.

## Day 3 | Sunday, June 18 | Bled (Bohinj, Radovljica), Slovenia

We begin at the Alpine Dairy Museum, for insight into the importance and endurance of pastoral life. After a traditional farmer's lunch, we proceed to Radovljica, Šivec House and the Apiculture Museum.

## Day 4 | Monday, June 19 | Bled → Portorož, Slovenia

Partizanska Bolnica Franja was a secret field hospital used during the WWII resistance movement. Today it stands as a monument of humanity and heroism of Slovenes who opposed Fascism and Nazism. This afternoon we continue to the seaside town of Portorož.



## Day 5 | Tuesday, June 20 | Portorož, Slovenia

Salt has been mined in Sečovlje since the Middle Ages, and traditional methods still account for its exceptional taste. We'll visit the salt pans and museum dedicated to preserving the fascinating history and heritage of this precious commodity. We end the day at Lipica, home of the majestic Lipizzan horses, with a tour of the stables and presentation of the classical riding school.

## Day 6 | Wednesday, June 21 | Portorož, Slovenia

Postojna Cave is an enchantment of tunnels, passageways and karst formations that will leave you speechless. You won't want to leave, but we must, to explore Predjama Castle, a fairytale world where human ingenuity meets nature's wonders. Perched on a towering cliff, it is the magnificent, defiant, intriguing site of the legend of 15<sup>th</sup> century robber baron Erasmus.

## Day 7 | Thursday, June 22 | Portorož, Slovenia → Plitvice, Croatia

Experience the very essence of tranquility at our ecolodge, a refuge for anyone seeking a deep connection to nature.

## Day 8 | Friday, June 23 | Plitvice, Croatia

It's hard to conjure anything more wondrous than 16 terraced lakes joined by waterfalls, flowing into a limestone canyon. This photo enthusiast's dream is described as "the most laughing and light-minded of natural prodigies."





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## Day 9 | Saturday, June 24 | Plitvice → Split, Croatia

Split was the 4<sup>th</sup> century holiday home of Roman Emperor Diocletian. With Roman ruins and grand museums juxtaposed with trendy shops and cafes, this city has it all.

## Day 10 | Sunday, June 25 | Split, Croatia

Split is overflowing with rich history and a storied past that have left traces in everyday life. This morning we immerse ourselves in antiquity and explore the most significant sites. This afternoon we visit a gallery that features the most important work of renowned sculptor Ivan Meštrović.

## Day 11 | Monday, June 26 | Split (Hvar & Stari Grad), Croatia

Board a catamaran and set sail for Hvar Island. The serenity belies the 16<sup>th</sup> century uprising against Venetian nobility. Continue to the UNESCO town of Stari Grad, founded by Greeks in 384 BC.



## Day 12 | Tuesday, June 27 | Split → Mali Ston → Dubrovnik, Croatia

Fun fact: some oysters have both male and female reproductive organs. Learn more on our oyster farm tour and optional tasting of this delicacy, then continue to Dubrovnik.



## Day 13 | Wednesday, June 28 | Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dubrovnik reveals the genius of history's architectural masters. Its ramparts and fortresses are enduring monuments to emperors and legends, and speak softly of a bygone era.

## Day 14 | Thursday, June 29 | Dubrovnik, Croatia (Elaphiti Islands)

Guardians of the coast and sea, the Elaphiti Islands have been home to generations of sailors. Our full day excursion is by private boat.

## Day 15 | Friday, June 30 | Departure

