



# Croatia & Italy: Dubrovnik to Venice

12 days | 15 days with Florence extension

What do you get when you pair Croatia, one of Europe's best-kept secrets, with Italy, one of the world's most talked about destinations? A trip that seamlessly combines a laid-back coastal lifestyle with a historical legacy. Trace the Venetian empire's influence over the region as you travel from Dubrovnik to the Istria Peninsula and on to Trieste and Venice.



## Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Dubrovnik
- Ston
- Ivan Mestrovic Gallery
- Diocletian's Palace
- Shellfish farm visit
- Zadar's Sea Organ
- Rovinj
- Castello di Miramare
- St. Mark's Basilica

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Dubrovnik today.

## Dubrovnik → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Dubrovnik

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Croatia! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set on a peninsula on the Adriatic, Dubrovnik's massive walls have served as the city's calling card for centuries. Today, you'll take a guided tour of the historic locale.

- Stop at a viewpoint to soak in panoramic views of the Old Town, coast, and nearby Lokrum Island
- Pay a visit to the 13th-century Franciscan Monastery, which boasts the most extensive library in the region
- Enter the impressive Rector's Palace and the city's ornate cathedral

Enjoy a free evening in Dubrovnik or add an excursion.

+ Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Dinner

## Split Region → 2 nights

### Day 4: Split Region via Ston

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Travel north and stop on the Peljesac peninsula to visit the city of Ston.

- View the city walls, which stretch for almost five miles and are some of the longest in Europe
- Meet with local shellfish farmers on the seafront and board their ship to learn more about the cultivation of shellfish
- Tour the shellfish farm then enjoy a tasting of their oysters and mussels
- Enjoy free time to explore the quaint, coastal city

Continue on to the Split region and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Split

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a guided tour of Split, a coastal city with a local culture that seamlessly combines tradition and modernity.

- Examine sculptures, drawings, and paintings at the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery
- Enter Diocletian's Palace, an enormous third-century palace complex
- View the monuments to the city's varied cultural influences, including Gothic churches, Renaissance palaces, Venetian fortifications, and an Egyptian sphinx

Spend free time in Split or add an excursion.

+ Adriatic Trogir

## Istria Peninsula → 2 nights

### Day 6: Istria Peninsula via Zadar

*Included meals: breakfast*

As you travel to the Istria peninsula, stop on the Dalmatian Coast to visit Zadar.

- Join a local guide and walk along the seaside promenade
- Listen to the sounds created when water and air are pushed through a one-of-a-kind Sea Organ
- See the town's ancient Roman ruins

After, continue on to the Istria peninsula.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Rovinj

*Included meals: breakfast*

Make your way to the western coast of the Istria peninsula and join a local guide for a tour of the Venetian-style city of Rovinj.

- Walk through Balbi's Arch to enter the Old Town
- Step inside the Baroque Church of St. Euphemia
- Learn about the bell tower, which dominates the city's skyline and resembles the one connected to St. Mark's Basilica in Venice
- Admire the unbeatable views of the Adriatic Sea

Enjoy free time on the Istria peninsula or add an excursion.

+ Pula, Istria Wine Tasting & Dinner

## Trieste → 2 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Trieste & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Say goodbye to Croatia and travel to Trieste, Italy. You'll meet up with a local guide and learn about the city's multicultural history during a sightseeing tour.

- Stroll through the Old Town and Austrian Quarter, passing through Unity Square
  - View the remains of an ancient Roman theater and pass by the Castello di San Giusto
  - Enter the Castello di Miramare, a striking waterfront castle built in the mid-1800s
- Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 9 Free day in Trieste

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Trieste or add an excursion.

+ Slovenia: Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle

## Venice → 2 nights

### Day 10: Transfer to Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Venice where you'll board a water taxi, or vaporetto, and cruise along the Venetian Lagoon to your hotel.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Venice

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in the 1340s
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at tonight's farewell dinner.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

**Day 12: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Florence.

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**+ Florence extension**

Not ready to say *arrivederci*? Continue your trip in the Tuscan capital of Florence, where Renaissance beauty and really (really) good food are practically everywhere. Travel there by train, then enjoy sightseeing with a local guide.

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**Florence → 3 nights****Day 12: Train to Florence**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board a train and travel to Florence.

*Please note: You will need to handle your own baggage during the train transfer.*

Spend a free evening in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Florence Home-Hosted Dinner

**Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Florence**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set off to see Florence, the city at the center of the Renaissance, with a local guide.

- Visit the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the *Duomo*
- Pass Giotto's *Campanile*, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Step inside the Basilica of Santa Croce, the burial site of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo
- See the medieval *Ponte Vecchio* and the *Piazza della Signoria*, the center of Florentine life

Enjoy a free afternoon in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Accademia Gallery

**Day 14: Free day in Florence**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day exploring Florence or add an excursion.

Tonight, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers.

+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

**Day 15: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/CRI](https://goaheadtours.ca/CRI) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Dinner

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This excursion begins with a cruise along the shoreline of one of Europe's most romantic cities. Arriving on the beach, you'll dine at a local restaurant before setting out on a stroll through Dubrovnik's medieval streets. Please note: Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

## Day 5: Adriatic Trogir

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Make your way to Salona, an ancient Roman archeological site, and view ruins of the city's 1st-century aqueduct and thermal baths. Then, spend the rest of the afternoon in the seaside town of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage site with an architectural legacy touched by the Ancient Greeks, Romans, and Venetians. You'll tour the city center, viewing the 15th-century city gates, Venetian-era Fortress Kamerlengo, Duke's Palace, and triple-naved Trogir Cathedral. Later, enjoy free time to shop, snack and explore before returning to Split.

## Day 7: Pula, Istria Wine Tasting & Dinner

\$185CAD/\$195CAD\* (6.5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Pula is the largest city on the Istria peninsula and today's guided tour introduces you to its Roman roots and ruins. Meet up with a local guide and visit Pula Arena, one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheaters in the world. Then, walk through the city to view the Temple of Augustus. The temple was built for Augustus Caesar and is one of the most complete architectural sites outside of Italy. You'll also pass by the Arch of the Sergii and the Gate of Hercules. Later, make your way into the countryside to visit one of the best wineries on the Istria peninsula. You'll meet with the winemakers and sample a variety of local wines before enjoying an included dinner at the winery.

## Day 9 Slovenia: Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle

\$165CAD/\$175CAD\* (6.5 hours, departs in the morning)

Explore the vast network of underground caverns at Postojna Cave, one of the largest in the world. Navigate past stunning stalactites and stalagmites and maybe even spot a proteus, a species of cave-dwelling salamander native to Southeastern Europe. Then, it's on to Predjama Castle, a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture, built into a naturally occurring rock arch. Here, you'll have free time to explore before transferring back to Trieste.

## Day 11: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

## Day 11: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$225CAD/\$235CAD\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.

Please note: This excursion requires two passengers. Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 12: Florence Home-Hosted Dinner

\$125CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Florence to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Italian. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Italian culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

### Day 13: Accademia Gallery

\$89CAD (2 hours, departure time varies)

Home to Michelangelo's masterpiece David, the Accademia Gallery is one of the most famous museums in Florence. Skip the ticket lines, and join a local guide on a tour of the museum as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of David. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

### Day 14: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the essence of Tuscany on a full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide introduces you to the town and its black-and-white marble duomo, where you'll find brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library. You'll have some free time to explore the Campo, the square that serves as the center of civic life in Siena. Then, journey through the

countryside to the town of San Gimignano, where you'll have some free time to explore the city's medieval towers or simply admire the Tuscan hills. Later, you'll head to a nearby vineyard, where an included wine tasting awaits. Please note: This excursion involves a moderate amount of walking.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)