THE "PLATINUM" GROUP TOUR – FROM ZAGREB TO DUBROVNIK – 2027

Discover all the faces of Croatia in 8 days / 7 nights

INTRODUCTION







Croatia surprises you from the start with its unusual shape. The arc the country forms is the result of history and very particular circumstances that account for the richness and diversity of Croatia today. It combines a long coastline and one of the highest concentrations of islands in the world, shaped by the Mediterranean, with continental Pannonian plains closely tied to the Austro-Hungarian lowlands. These two landscapes are framed by the Julian Alps to the north and the Dinaric ranges that stretch down to Greece. Whether on the coast or on the plains, Croatians have always been a nation of traders, benefiting from their position at the crossroads of many trade routes dating back to antiquity and beyond. The Roman heritage is best embodied by **Split**, whose town centre lies within the walls of Emperor Diocletian's palace, continually reinvented over the centuries into a vibrant blend of architectural styles.

The turbulent medieval past can be read in the Venetian influences along the coast, in towns such as **Zadar** and **Šibenik**, and the Austrian influences inland, as in **Zagreb.** Croatia's strategic position and wealth made it highly coveted. All the joy and melancholy of the country can be found in the highly original naïve art of the plains, and in the finesse of the Dalmatian stonemasons, who surpassed themselves to create true artistic revolutions such as the Cathedral of **Šibenik**, built by Juraj Dalmatinac (George the Dalmatian).

And amid all these comings and goings, the small Republic of **Dubrovnik** developed an extraordinary city-state with its own distinctive

art and architecture, jealously guarding its freedom through exceptional diplomacy.
Montenegro reveals another culture, that of the Orthodox Balkans, uniquely combining a maritime trading world – of which the towns of **Budva** and **Kotor** are magnificent examples – with a mountain world of breathtaking landscapes shaped by family clans.
Bosnia and Herzegovina is also a world of its own, with a surprising mix of cultures – which is why the bridge in **Mostar** is called "the link between East and West".
Travelling across Croatia means discovering a great variety of ever-changing landscapes and terroirs, home to original, strong identities shaped by all the influences that have left their mark. This journey will take you to natural gems on islands such as **Pag** and **Zlarin** and in the uplands with **Plitvice Lakes National Park**... A richness that also delights the palate, with a mouth-watering variety of culinary specialities. From the scents of the Mediterranean sea to the gentle sound of waterfalls… a true feast for the senses!

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE REGIONS YOU WILL DISCOVER (LINKS PROVIDED BY THE CROATIAN TOURIST BOARDS):

Zagreb
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wiic1Cuj2n0

Zagreb County
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW85-yLN-8o

Plitvice Lakes National Park
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd30EICG5Qs

The Split region
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqhXqlwqQl0

The Šibenik / Knin region
https://vimeo.com/419883970

Cruises / islands
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS3PqVGkZs0

Dubrovnik
https://vimeo.com/419903021

Sveta Ana (a video by your agency in Croatia):
https://vimeo.com/305019269

NB: if a link does not open when clicked, copy it into your browser.

YOUR TOUR ROUTE



PROGRAMME

Day 1: Arrival at Zagreb Airport – overnight in Zagreb

Arrival flight to Zagreb Airport.
Welcome by your tour guide, who will stay with the group throughout the tour.
Services of a tour guide for 8 days and associated costs (accommodation, meals, transport...).

Audio guide equipment: earphones provided for the week. The tour guide uses a microphone.

Transport by tourist coach reserved for the group for 8 days.

Drive to Zagreb. Travel time: 30 min.
Check-in at the Canopy by Hilton 4*.
Dinner at the hotel.
Canopy by Hilton Zagreb City Centre is located in the Branimir Centre shopping complex, a short walk from the main railway station. True to the Canopy by Hilton brand, the hotel's art and décor reflect local culture – here, Zagreb's industrial past, as the building was once a chocolate factory. The modern, air-conditioned rooms have a minibar, flat-screen satellite TV and coffee machine, and private bathrooms with shower, hairdryer and free toiletries. Alongside its eclectic, welcoming atmosphere, the à la carte restaurant showcases original Croatian and international specialities. Its central location is another major advantage for a quality stay in the Croatian capital.





Day 2: Zagreb and its region – traditions and local flavours – overnight in Zagreb

Breakfast at the hotel.

Services of an English-speaking local guide.

Guided tour of Zagreb's historic centre.



Zagreb was a crossroads of trade routes between the mainland and the sea, and a gateway from Central Europe to the Balkans. Its fair was famous in the Middle Ages. For a long time it was Europe's easternmost Catholic diocese, which explains its distinctive fortified cathedral. The city's history was shaped by the rivalry between Kaptol hill, the seat of the Church, and Grič hill, the centre of secular power, which grew together into the capital of Croatia. Zagreb is a green city with many parks, enlivened by street events all year round. It was also an important artistic centre, and we particularly recommend its museum of Croatian naïve art.

Casual traditional lunch in a microbrewery, to get a feel for the city's authentic everyday life, with a very original choice of beers:



Menu

Starter: štrukli (traditional cheese pastry)

Main course: beer sausages with baked beans

Dessert: cake of the day

Drive to Kumrovec through the Klanjec gorge, where the Croatian national anthem was composed. Travel time: 1h00

Free time to explore the open-air museum.

Entrance fee included.



Kumrovec is an ethnographic museum village showing the crafts and traditions of the past, with life-size figures dressed in traditional costume. You will also see the birthplace of Tito, the defining political figure of the second half of the 20th century, who led Yugoslavia after the Second World War and created a very distinctive political system. It is the largest open-air ethnographic museum in Croatia.

Drive to the village of Plešivica in Žumberak Nature Park. Travel time: 1h00
The Žumberak area is a landscape of amphitheatre-like steep hills that create special microclimates. The clay soils and altitude make it ideal for winemaking, with very old local styles such as its sparkling wine and Portugizac, once favoured by Zagreb's elite.





Presentation of the Jagunić family winery, cellar visit and tasting of 4 still wines and one sparkling wine, served with bread and cheese. All products are local. The estate enjoys a magnificent view over the Žumberak landscape and the Zagreb plain.
Gourmet dinner of local specialities

Menu

Starter: "Ajngemahtec" soup (chicken stew-soup with dumplings and vegetables)
Main course: slow-cooked veal with vegetables and honey-glazed pork ribs in tomato sauce, with pan-fried potatoes + seasonal garden salad
Dessert: homemade cake from grandmother's recipe

Return to the Canopy hotel in Zagreb. Travel time: 45 min.

Day 3: Plitvice Lakes National Park (UNESCO) – overnight in Ličko Petrovo Selo

Breakfast at the hotel.
Drive to the Plitvice Lakes.
Travel time: 2h30
Entrance to Plitvice Lakes National Park included.
Visit of the national park with your tour guide: the travertine cascades of the Upper Lakes, the electric boat across the large central Lake Kozjak, and the lower canyon with the Big Waterfall and the road train.



Plitvice Lakes National Park lies in the Lika region, Croatia's mountainous heartland. This UNESCO-listed natural wonder consists of 16 crystal-clear lakes that flow into one another through magnificent

waterfalls – a true natural paradise. You will see the whole park: the travertine cascades of the Upper Lakes, the electric boat across the large central Lake Kozjak and the lower canyon with its 70 m Big Waterfall. There are rest areas within the park with bistros serving grilled food and a few simple dishes. The trails are easy and accessible. Protected since the late 19th century, it is one of Croatia's most beautiful natural sites.

Lunch in the national park as a break from the walk

Menu
Starter: mushroom soup
Main course: trout with vegetables
salad
Dessert: apple strudel

Drive to Ličko Petrovo Selo. Travel time: 20 min.
Check-in at Hotel Big House 3*.
Dinner at the hotel.

Hotel Big House 3 is set in a small mountain hamlet surrounded by nature at a short distance from the Plitvice Lakes National Park. It is built in the rustic local style and has a restaurant serving regional specialities. You will enjoy the peace and the simple atmosphere in harmony with nature.*




Day 4: The flavours of the island of Pag, and Zadar (UNESCO) – overnight in Vodice

Breakfast at the hotel.
Drive to the island of Pag, linked to the mainland by a spectacular bridge, and on to Pag town.
Travel time: 2h00

Free time to explore Pag town.



Pag is a typical island of the Kvarner Gulf with two faces: a green western side, and the side facing the Velebit range, which is completely rocky because the bora wind sweeps down the mountain's steep slopes, carrying sea spray whose salt "burns" the vegetation. The goats and sheep that graze here produce naturally salty meat and milk, enriched by the aromatic herbs that are the only plants able to grow in this harsh environment. As a result, Pag's restaurants and cheeses are highly renowned. Like many Croatian islands, the island's main town shares its name. It is known for its salt pans and its very distinctive town plan, designed in the 15th century by one of Croatia's greatest architect-sculptors, Juraj Dalmatinac (George the Dalmatian). The island is also famous for its lace.

Continue to the village of Kolan.
Travel time: 30 min.
Visit to the Gligora cheese dairy, the most award-winning in Croatia and producer of the famous *paški sir* – Pag sheep's cheese.
Visit programme:
Introduction to the history of the Gligora dairy and Pag cheese, tour of the production plant, tasting of a selection of cheeses in the upstairs tasting room with a fine view, and the chance to buy local products in the dairy shop



Gourmet lunch in a small local agritourism restaurant, featuring Pag's renowned lamb cooked under the bell (peka).

Menu
Starter: beef and tomato soup
Main course: lamb and potatoes cooked under the bell
Dessert: homemade apple strudel

Cooking under the bell (peka) means placing lamb and herb-seasoned potatoes on a dish set over a bed of embers. It is covered with a metal bell with a rim so that embers can also be heaped on top. Cooking takes about 3 hours, leaving the food crisp on the outside and meltingly tender inside… with a glass of local wine, it is a real treat!



Drive to Zadar. Travel time: 1h15

Services of an English-speaking local guide. Guided tour of Zadar's historic centre.

Zadar boasts a very ancient heritage dating back to antiquity and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its main square is a Roman forum with the complex built by St Donatus in the 9th century, including a church modelled on the one in Aachen – a reflection of close political ties with Charlemagne. Zadar's Benedictine nuns have preserved an important collection of goldsmiths' work known as "Gold and Silver". Zadar is a dynamic city that has also created modern landmarks, such as its Sea Organ, built into the waterfront, on which the sea and the wind "play" a mystical, organic melody.



Drive to Vodice. Travel time: 20 min.

Check-in at Hotel Olympia 4*. Dinner at the hotel.

Hotel Olympia is a 4-star hotel right by the sea, with indoor and outdoor pools, a wellness and spa area and a gym, as well as various sports grounds. Its buffet is plentiful and of high quality. It is one of the finest hotels in central Dalmatia, just steps from the centre of Vodice, a typical Dalmatian village full of shops, cafés and traditional restaurants.





Day 5: Cruise through the Šibenik archipelago – overnight in Vodice

Breakfast at the hotel.
Walk to Vodice harbour.
Walking time: 10 min.
Boarding of an excursion boat reserved for the group.
Welcome drink on board.
Sail through the Šibenik archipelago past St Nicholas Fortress (UNESCO), a sea fortress at the entrance to the majestic St Anthony Channel leading into Šibenik Bay.



Docking in Šibenik for a tour with a local guide. You will walk along Kalelarga and Masna Ulica streets and see the old market square, the Venetian town hall still used by the local administration, and the many churches that bear witness to the town's rich past – not forgetting the famous UNESCO-listed Cathedral of St James.



Free time.

Light lunch on board (grilled fish fillet or chicken with potato salad, dessert, a glass of wine and water)



Sail to the island of Zlarin.
Visit to the Coral Museum (entrance fee included). Zlarin has long been known for its coral craftsmanship.

Return to Vodice along the island of Prvić.

Return to Hotel Olympia in Vodice for the night.
Dinner at the hotel.

Day 6: Split (UNESCO) – overnight in Mostar

Breakfast at the hotel.
Drive to Split. Travel time: 1h30
Services of an English-speaking local guide.
Guided tour of Split's historic centre.



Split is an unusual monument in that it is alive. The original Roman palace has been continuously transformed throughout history, each era leaving its mark to create a vibrant blend of architectural styles – today the heart of Croatia's second-largest city and second-largest port. Its cathedral is considered the oldest in the world still in use and perfectly captures the spirit of Split, as it was originally the mausoleum of Emperor Diocletian, the greatest persecutor of Christians. The remarkable preservation of Diocletian's Palace earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. A truly extraordinary monument awaits you!

Lunch at a restaurant serving local specialities in the historic centre.

Menu
Starter: beef soup
Main course: pašticada with gnocchi (Dalmatian beef marinated with herbs and vegetables and slow-cooked in sauce)
Dessert: semifreddo

Drive to Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Travel time: 2h30
Check-in at Hotel City 4*.
Dinner at the hotel.



Hotel City is an attractive 4-star hotel in the town of Mostar itself, with a modern design and a high level of comfort.

Day 7: Mostar (UNESCO) and Dubrovnik (UNESCO) – overnight in Dubrovnik

Breakfast at the hotel.
Drive to Mostar's historic centre. Travel time: 5 min.
Services of an English-speaking local guide.
Guided tour of Mostar's historic centre.
Entrance to the Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque included



Mostar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site because it embodies a highly original blend of Eastern and Western cultures. This mix can be seen in people's faces, the architecture, the food… a captivating atmosphere that turns all your points of reference upside down. The town is rightly famous for its Turkish-influenced bazaar and above all for its bridge over the Neretva river, with a uniquely original arched structure.

Drive to Veliki Ston.
Travel time: 1h30



Ston lies where the Pelješac peninsula joins the mainland. It is known for its shellfish farming, especially the Mediterranean oyster – a speciality not to be missed! It is also home to the salt pans of the former Republic of Dubrovnik, still in operation. Its most remarkable monument, however, is its defensive walls, among the longest in Europe – a true feat of human engineering!

Gourmet lunch in a small traditional restaurant

Menu
Starter: three oysters
Main course: seafood risotto and black risotto
Dessert: Ston cake (walnuts and almonds with pasta)

Drive to Dubrovnik. Travel time: 1h00

Services of an English-speaking local guide.
Guided tour of Dubrovnik's Old Town.



Dubrovnik was a Mediterranean city-state that preserved its freedom and avoided conflict through skilful diplomacy. It abolished slavery as early as the 15th century, its hygiene measures spared it from major epidemics, and its façades were all built alike to prevent social unrest – just some of the remarkable measures of a system far ahead of its time. The scale of its trade can be read in every stone of this city, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the world. The UNESCO-listed "Pearl of the Adriatic" is Croatia's top tourist destination and will surprise you with its beauty and exceptional culture at the crossroads of Europe, the Mediterranean and the Near East.

Free time. We recommend visiting the Rector's Palace, the Franciscan Monastery with its old pharmacy and the Dominican Monastery with its collection of paintings of the Dubrovnik school – not forgetting the impressive City Walls!

Drive to the hotel in Dubrovnik. Travel time: 10 min.
Check-in at Hotel Lero 4*.
Dinner at the hotel.
Hotel Lero is a 4-star hotel with 208 rooms set around an outdoor pool, and also offers a wellness area. Its architecture combines simplicity and elegance. Its great advantage is its proximity to the historic Old Town: 5 minutes by bus or a pleasant 15-minute walk. It is also close to the sea and the beach.





Day 8: Departure from Dubrovnik Airport (Cavtat)

Breakfast at the hotel.
Coach transfer to Dubrovnik Airport. Travel time: 40 min.
Departure flight

If flight times allow, we recommend a visit to the village of Cavtat, close to the airport.
Cavtat is one of the most beautiful villages on the Dubrovnik Riviera. Its special natural setting, sheltered by two headlands jutting into the sea, led the Romans to choose this enchanting spot for their colony of Epidaurum. When it was destroyed with the arrival of the Croats, the refugees went on to found Dubrovnik, so the histories of the two towns are closely linked. Today Cavtat is a typical stone village with grand sea captains' houses, known for its restaurants, cafés and beautiful seafront promenade. It is home to a mausoleum by the great Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović, a Franciscan monastery and the birthplace of the leading impressionist painter Vlaho Bukovac. A colourful little gem where life is sweet...





OPTIONAL EXCURSION FROM DUBROVNIK

Montenegro and the Bay of Kotor (UNESCO) – overnight in Dubrovnik

Breakfast at the hotel
Departure for Montenegro, whose border with Croatia lies 40 km south of Dubrovnik.
Travel time to the border: 45 minutes
The first landscape Montenegro offers is the Bay of Kotor, a bay with a very organic shape and steep mountain slopes, reminiscent of a fjord.
Continue to the village of Perast.
Travel time: 30 minutes.



Stop in Perast. The entire village of Perast is a protected heritage site – a museum village whose Baroque palaces recall its illustrious maritime past. After a short walk around the village, small boats take you to the church of Our Lady of the Rocks opposite.
Crossing time: 10 minutes.
Visit to the votive church (entrance fee included), built on an artificial islet by the people of Perast in honour of an icon of the Virgin which, according to legend, was found on a rock in the open sea. Austere from the outside, it will impress you with its collection of votive offerings – the largest in the world – and its wealth of Baroque paintings.

Continue by boat to the town of Kotor, sailing through this majestic UNESCO-listed landscape and arriving in Kotor the traditional way: by sea.
Sailing time: 45 min.

Lunch in the historic centre on the town's imposing walls

Menu
starter: vegetable soup
main course: Njeguši steak (pork escalope rolled with smoked ham and cheese from the village of Njeguši) with roast potatoes
salad
dessert: ice cream

Tour of Kotor Old Town (UNESCO) with a local guide, including entrance to St Tryphon's Cathedral and the Maritime Museum. You will pass through the Square of Arms, Cathedral Square and the square of the Orthodox Church of St Nicholas.



A fortified medieval town, Kotor built its reputation on trade and shipping. A meeting place of cultures, it has both Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Return to Croatia, crossing the Bay of Kotor by ferry (10-minute crossing), then back to the hotel in Dubrovnik. Travel time: 2h30

Price on request



TOUR PRICES

Prices are per person, in euros, net, all taxes included

period of year 2027	Room type	Number of participants					
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
01 - 21.04	1/2	1494 €	1370 €	1288 €	1228 €	1184 €	1150 €
	1/1	1748 €	1624 €	1542 €	1483 €	1438 €	1404 €
22.04 - 19.05	1/2	1547 €	1422 €	1338 €	1279 €	1234 €	1199 €
	1/1	1854 €	1729 €	1645 €	1586 €	1541 €	1506 €
20.05 - 18.06	1/2	1615 €	1489 €	1405 €	1345 €	1300 €	1265 €
	1/1	1956 €	1830 €	1746 €	1686 €	1641 €	1606 €
19 - 30.06	1/2	1648 €	1522 €	1438 €	1378 €	1333 €	1298 €
	1/1	1998 €	1872 €	1788 €	1727 €	1682 €	1647 €
01 - 30.09	1/2	1634 €	1508 €	1424 €	1363 €	1318 €	1283 €
	1/1	1992 €	1865 €	1781 €	1721 €	1676 €	1641 €
01 - 13.10	1/2	1574 €	1448 €	1364 €	1305 €	1260 €	1225 €
	1/1	1906 €	1781 €	1697 €	1637 €	1592 €	1557 €
14 - 30.10	1/2	1529 €	1404 €	1321 €	1262 €	1217 €	1183 €
	1/1	1809 €	1685 €	1602 €	1542 €	1498 €	1463 €

1/2 = accommodation in double rooms *1/1 = accommodation in single rooms*

The price includes:

- accommodation for 7 nights in 3- and 4-star hotels on a half-board basis (breakfast and dinner): 2 nights at the Canopy by Hilton 4* in Zagreb (breakfast only on the second day), 1 night at Hotel Big House 3* in Ličko Petrovo Selo, 2 nights at Hotel Olympia 4* in Vodice, 1 night at Hotel City 4* in Mostar and 1 night at Hotel Lero 4* in Dubrovnik
- transport by tourist coach with associated costs (tolls, parking, ferries…)
- services of an English-speaking tour guide, including accommodation
- services of local guides in Zagreb, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Mostar and Dubrovnik
- entrance fees to the monuments listed as included in the programme
- lunches in Zagreb, Plitvice, Kolan, Split and Ston
- a traditional dinner with wine tasting in Plešivica
- cheese tasting on the island of Pag
- the boat excursion with grilled fish in the Šibenik archipelago.
- audio guide equipment for the week
- tourist taxes, and Sveta Ana agency's insurance, assistance and organisation fees.

DRINKS PACKAGE SUPPLEMENT

¼ l wine or 1 beer or 1 juice + ½ l water + coffee or tea with the 6 lunches
¼ l wine or 1 beer or 1 juice + ½ l water with the 7 dinners
Price per person, in euros, net, all taxes included = €130

NOTES:

- This sample programme is based on suppliers' price lists, but Sveta Ana does not guarantee prices or availability. These will be confirmed on request for specific dates, at which point the agency will place options to secure the travel conditions. Until options are placed, the prices in this offer are therefore indicative only.
- Travel times are based on normal driving conditions and are indicative only, as they may vary due to unforeseen factors such as roadworks, accidents, traffic jams or bad weather...

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

All cancellations must be notified by email to the local agency. Cancellation fees depend on when the cancellation is made:

- more than 31 days before departure: 30% of the tour price,
- between 30 and 16 days before departure: 50% of the tour price,
- from 15 days before departure until the day of arrival: 100% of the tour price

