2027 – SELF-DRIVE TOUR "MAGICAL EMERALDS"

IN 15 DAYS

Hike from north to south along enchanting trails through Croatia's natural wonders



Sveta Ana is a licensed organiser of nature-based travel. The Magical Emeralds self-drive tour reveals all the great landscapes of this country of a thousand faces:

- The continental Pannonian plains, beginning around Zagreb
- The Dinaric mountains that form the Balkans
- The Mediterranean Dalmatian coast with its 1,200 islands

This great diversity of landscapes makes for a rich experience in which every day brings a new surprise. To capture it even better, the adventure also includes visits to the capital Zagreb, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Korčula, Hvar and Dubrovnik.

The hiking trails combine "must-sees" in 6 national parks and 4 nature or landscape parks, such as Mount Učka and Lake Trakošćan, with exclusive off-the-beaten-track routes designed by Sveta Ana, such as on Hvar, Korčula and Pelješac.

The walks are rated level 2 to 3 and are suitable for everyone. You will receive a detailed road book and GPS tracks for the hikes. An English-speaking driver-guide is also available on request.

Travellers must bring suitable hiking gear: long trousers, a hat, a daypack for excursion essentials (packed lunch, water bottle…) and walking boots.





Sunset over Pelješac and Hvar – photo taken by Sveta Ana on a hike in 2017

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

The Kvarner Gulf
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiYnB3a2NjQ

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

The Split region
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqhXqIwqQl0

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 ROUTE


AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
ITALY
SLOVENIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
SERBIA
MONTENEGRO
ALBANIA
Adriatic Sea
Croatia
0 50 Kilometers
0 50 Miles
Ljubljana
MEDIMURJE
Cakovec
VARAZDIN
Varazdin
KOPRIVNICA-KRIZEVCI
Koprivnica
Krapina
KRAPINA-ZAGORJE
ZAGREB
Bjelovar
VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA
Virovitica
ZAGREB
City of Zagreb
BJELOVAR BILOGORA
OSIJEK-BARANJA
Osijek
PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR
Karlovac
Sisak
POZEGA-SLAVONIA
Rijeka
Pozega
Vukovar
Pazin
ISTRIA
KARLOVAC
SISAK-MOSLAVINA
BROD-POSAVINA
Slavonski Brod
VUKOVAR-SRIJEM
LIKA-SENJ
Gospic
ZADAR
Zadar
SIBENIK-KNIN
Sibenik
Sarajevo
SPLIT-DALMATIA
Split
DUBROVNIK-NERETVA
Dubrovnik

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Arrival at Zagreb Airport – overnight in Škarićevo

Arrival at Zagreb Airport.
Collection of your rental car in the chosen category for 15 days (see "Rental conditions").

Drive to Škarićevo. Travel time: 45 min.
Check-in at **Vuglec Breg guesthouse 3***. Double room(s) in the Jana or Jagica cottage.
Set in the peaceful village of Škarićevo, Vuglec Breg offers rooms in 4 traditional northern Croatian houses. You will discover the rolling vineyard landscapes of Zagorje, the region north of Zagreb, with magnificent views. Veliki Tabor Castle, Tuhelj spa and the ethnographic village of Kumrovec are all nearby. Some rooms have a private hot tub. The restaurant is a registered agritourism and serves regional specialities and wine from the owner's own vineyard.



Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 2: Zagreb and the landscape park of Trakošćan Castle – overnight in Škarićevo

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Zagreb. Travel time: 45 min.
Free time to explore Zagreb.
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.





Drive to Trakošćan. Travel time: 1h00
Free time to visit the castle (entrance fee not included) and walk in the landscape park around the castle lake.



Trakošćan Castle was built in the 13th century in the forests north of Zagreb, beside a pretty lake, to defend the northern border. It acquired its present appearance in the 16th century under the great Drašković family. Its interiors illustrate the lifestyle of the regional nobility, with collections of weapons and period rooms. We also recommend the landscaped trail around the castle's artificial lake. The lake served as a fishpond for the Drašković lords and, above all, was laid out in the Romantic style within a magnificent native pine forest enriched with many plant species. The castle forest is now a protected park. Distance: 5 km – Walking time: 2h00 – easy

Return to Vuglec Breg for the night. Travel time: 30 min.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 3: Risnjak National Park – overnight in Fužine

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Crni Lug at the entrance to Risnjak National Park. Travel time: 2h00
Hike in Risnjak National Park. Entrance fee not included, payable on site.



Risnjak National Park is one of the wildest in Croatia. Set in the Gorski Kotar mountains, it is home to bears, wolves, lynx and other forest animals. The hike starts at an altitude of 695 m and follows the "Horvatova staza" trail, first through the forest and then into rocky mountain terrain up to the summit of Veliki Risnjak (1,528 m), with fine views of the Velebit range, the Kvarner Gulf, the Slovenian mountains and the rest of Gorski Kotar, which separates Mediterranean Croatia from the Pannonian plains. Near the summit there is a mountain hut serving simple meals. The return follows the trail via Medvjeđa vrata.
Length: 16 km – Actual walking time: 5h30 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 6h30
Elevation gain: 835 m – Difficulty: moderate 3–4/5

Drive to Fužine. Travel time: 30 min.
Check-in at **Hotel Bitoraj 4*.** Standard double room(s). Parking included.
Hotel Bitoraj is a small, family-run 4-star hotel with an eco certification, awarded as one of Croatia's best small boutique hotels. The building is also a protected historic monument. It has a large wellness area with a whirlpool. Above all, it is renowned for its traditional Gorski Kotar mountain cuisine, much of it homemade using produce from small local farmers. You can try regional game (venison, wild boar, bear...) and especially the wild blueberry strudel, a protected local recipe. The family is very involved in local tourism development and are wonderfully warm hosts.





Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 4: Mount Učka or watching wild bears in their natural habitat – overnight in Fužine

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

Option 1: Mount Učka above the Kvarner Gulf

Drive to the car park at Poklon Pass. Travel time: 1h00

Hike in Učka Nature Park (Poklon – Vela Učka – Mala Učka – Poklon)

The starting point is the car park of the Pansion Učka restaurant in Vela Učka, at an altitude of 995 m. Hike to the summit of Vojak (1,396 m), with magnificent views over the Kvarner Gulf and Istria as far as Slovenia, then on to the village of Mala Učka, known for its cheesemakers, and back to Poklon Pass along the forest trails of the mountain's southern slope. Distance: 12 km. Duration: 4h00





You can also pop down to Opatija or Rijeka to visit these towns.

Option 2: Lake Bajer and watching wild bears in their natural habitat

Explore Lake Bajer or the surroundings of Fužine

Fužine is a typical Gorski Kotar village on the shores of beautiful Lake Bajer. Tourism developed here from the 19th century thanks to its special microclimate, where maritime and mountain conditions meet – ideal for athletes' training, and many Croatian champions come here regularly. Lake Bajer remains off the main international tourist routes. A lovely trail runs around it, linking the village with Vrelo Cave, which has stalactites and stalagmites typical of the karst landscape that characterises Croatia – an easy walk not to be missed. Close to the village, Mount Viševica offers hikes for all levels, and its summit has a splendid view stretching from the Kvarner Gulf to Zagreb and taking in the Gorski Kotar ranges – one of the finest views in Croatia. You can also visit the Zeleni Vir and Kamačnik nature reserves. Near Fužine there is also an adventure park, and river kayaking is available…



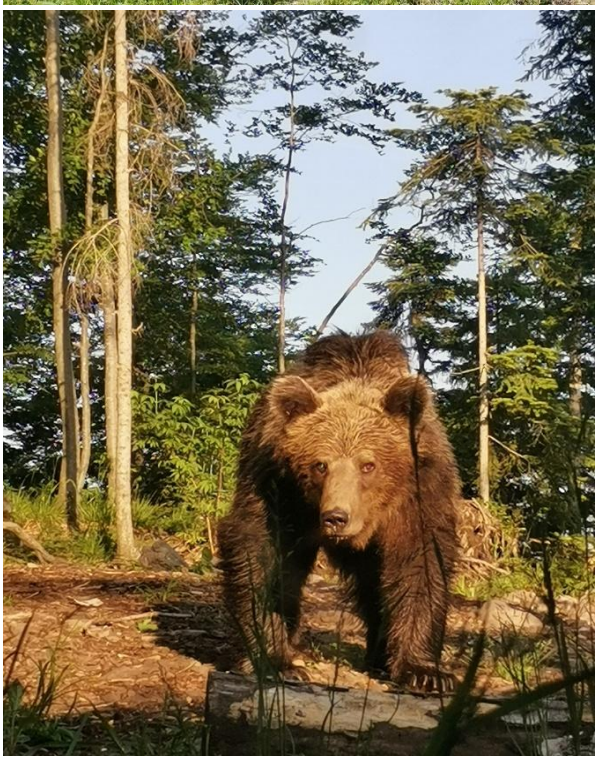



Drive to the village of Tršće. Travel time: 1h00

Wild bear-watching excursion

Meet at Mirjana Jurković's guesthouse in the village of Tršće, followed by a jeep ride of about 30 minutes into the wild forest. Your host is a nature lover devoted to protecting wild bears. He offers them treats without actually feeding them, and has accustomed them to visiting his land – he even talks to them. He has built hides with a chimney to carry scents away, giving observers complete protection without disturbing the animals (one-way mirror glass…), and uses microphones, cameras and other professional equipment. By sharing his passion with photographers and nature lovers, he offers a unique experience and raises awareness of the beauty of an animal that needs protecting. Waiting for an animal like the bear to appear is a true communion with nature that calls for a calm far removed from our hectic daily routine. An animal in its own element looks completely different from one in captivity; its expressions and intelligence are striking. The excursion is suitable for families, but children taking part must be able to wait patiently and quietly. Croatia's stable bear population is the best indicator of a healthy environment and of people living in harmony with nature – the bear is a symbol of Croatia. The chances of seeing bears are high, but sightings cannot be guaranteed. If no bears are seen, half of the excursion price is refunded – and you will still have enjoyed a jeep ride through a vast, majestic forest. The excursion runs from about 3 pm to 7 pm.



For a preview, watch this video: https://vimeo.com/603081552

Price per person for the bear-watching excursion = 145 € (not included in the tour price)

Return to Hotel Bitoraj in Fužine. Lunch and dinner at your own expense

Day 5: Northern Velebit National Park – overnight in Korenica

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Zavižan, one of the gateways to Northern Velebit National Park.
Travel time: 2h00
Hike in Northern Velebit National Park. Entrance fee not included, payable on site.
Velebit is Croatia's largest mountain range, stretching almost 200 km, with peaks of up to 1,800 m. It separates the Kvarner Gulf from the mainland and offers views over its exceptional archipelago. Its steep slopes create a great many different habitats within short distances, giving it a rich flora. Brown bears, wolves, lynx, deer, grouse and otters are commonly found here…
Walk along the Premužić Trail, named after the forester who built it in the early 20th century. Winding between limestone rocks sculpted by water, it offers unforgettable views of the Kvarner Gulf – a true feat of human engineering.
Distance: 15 km – Difficulty: moderate 3/5 – Actual walking time: 5h30 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 6h30 – Elevation gain: 300 m




Drive to Korenica. Travel time: 1h30
Check-in at Mrzlin Grad guesthouse 4*. Deluxe double room(s).



This traditional guesthouse stands at the edge of a forest in Vrelo Koreničko, about 10 km from Plitvice Lakes National Park. The rooms have a private balcony and bathroom and look out over the surrounding countryside. You can enjoy Croatian specialities in the traditional restaurant.

This accommodation has signed up to our sustainable-development code of conduct for partners, in line with your vision of ethical and responsible tourism.

Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 6: Plitvice Lakes National Park (UNESCO) – overnight in Korenica

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

Drive to the Plitvice Lakes. Travel time: 15 min.

(Park entrance fee not included. Your road book will explain how to book tickets online.)

Hike in the national park: 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.

Distance: 8 km. Actual walking time: 3h00 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 5h00 – Difficulty: 2/5

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.







Return to Mrzlin Grad in Korenica for the night.

Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 7: Paklenica National Park and Zadar (UNESCO) – overnight in Skradin

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

Drive into Dalmatia, the southern part of the Croatian coast, and on to Starigrad, the entrance to Paklenica National Park. Travel time: 1h30

Hike in Paklenica National Park. Entrance fee not included, payable on site.

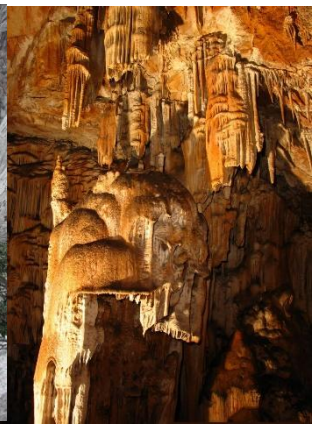
We recommend the trail through the narrow canyon with its towering vertical walls and the climb up to Manita Peć Cave to visit its impressive chambers, where water has created stalactites, stalagmites and columns – a true underground cathedral of organic shapes.

Actual walking time: 3h00 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 4h30 – Elevation gain: 340 m

Difficulty: easy to moderate (2–3/5).

Paklenica National Park lies in the southern part of Velebit, Croatia's largest mountain range. It consists of two impressive gorges, Velika and Mala Paklenica, whose sheer walls host rare pioneer vegetation and are famous for rock climbing. It also has unusual karst formations, remarkable caves and a highly varied flora and fauna thanks to its strong climatic contrasts. A lovely footpath runs through the wild Velika Paklenica gorge, once used by locals to trade fish, salt and olive oil from the coast for wool and cheese from the mountains.





Drive to Zadar. Travel time: 45 min.

Free time to explore Zadar.



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 Skradin. Travel time: 45 min.
Check-in at Hotel Skradinski Buk 3*. Double room(s). Parking included.
Hotel Skradinski Buk is a small, family-run 3-star hotel in the picturesque village of Skradin. It offers air-conditioned rooms and suites with minibar and satellite TV. The restaurant serves typical Dalmatian specialities paired with fine wines. On-site parking. Skradin lies at the mouth of the Krka river and is one of the gateways to the national park.




Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 8: Krka National Park and Šibenik (UNESCO) – overnight in Skradin

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Hike in Krka National Park. Entrance fee not included, payable on site.
Krka National Park follows the Krka river, where the continental and Mediterranean climates meet. Along its course, the river carves canyons interrupted by magnificent waterfalls. An ethnographic village at Lozovac shows traditional crafts such as watermills, forges and looms. Easy trails let you wander through woodland criss-crossed by water.



Walk programme:
Board the park boat in Skradin to sail up the Krka river – or walk (1h00) to the Skradinski Buk waterfall. Walk through the national park on trails at the foot of the waterfalls, through the ethnographic village at Lozovac and the forest. Walking time: approx. 1h30 – easy. From Lozovac, you can take a boat up the canyon to visit Visovac islet with its monastery and the Roški Slap falls. Return to Skradin…

Drive to Šibenik.Travel time: 20 min.
Free time to explore Šibenik.



Šibenik is a picturesque Dalmatian town founded by the Croats, unlike other Dalmatian towns of ancient origin. A royal town with many fortresses, it is famous for its Cathedral of St James, an unrivalled architectural achievement that earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Šibenik is one of the few towns in Croatia with a lovely beach close to the historic centre.

Return to Hotel Skradinski Buk in Skradin for the night.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense

Day 9: Split (UNESCO) – overnight in Dominče

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Split. Travel time: 1h00
Free time to explore Split.



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!

Scenic drive to Orebić across the Dalmatian uplands, past the market gardens of the Neretva delta and over the spectacular 2.5 km bridge linking the Pelješac peninsula to the mainland. Travel time: 2h00





Ferry from Orebić to Dominče (Korčula). Ticket included.Crossing time: 20 min.

Drive to Dominče. Travel time: 5 min.
Check-in at Pension Hajduk 3*. Double room(s).

This family-run guesthouse is located in Dominče, 1.5 km from Korčula's historic centre. Dominče lies in Školjka Bay, known for its lovely beach. A seaside promenade lets you walk from Dominče to Korčula (30 min), or you can take a private boat service between the jetty in Školjka Bay and Korčula town. The guesthouse also offers taxi transfers in vehicles of various sizes, traditional home cooking, a warm welcome from your hosts, and the chance to relax in a small fitness room and a large outdoor pool.



This accommodation has signed up to our sustainable-development code of conduct for partners, in line with your vision of ethical and responsible tourism. It is itself actively committed through concrete measures validated by a label or certificates.

Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 10: Kočje nature reserve in Žrnovo village, and Korčula – overnight in Dominče

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

Hike up to the hillside village of Žrnovo, set in a sinkhole (doline) and made up of typical family hamlets. The climb offers lovely views.

Walk through the Kočje nature reserve, famous for its impressive rocks with the trail winding between them.

Return to Žrnovo through the maquis and the fields of the doline, then back to Dominče.

Actual walking time: 3h15 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 4h00 – Distance: 9 km

Elevation gain: 270 m – Level: easy to moderate 2–3/5





Return to Pension Hajduk.

Drive to Korčula. Travel time: 5 min.

You can also walk to Korčula along the seaside promenade from Dominče beach. Walking time: 15–20 min.

Free time to explore Korčula.

Korčula embodies the spirit of the Dalmatian islands, shaped by the Venetian presence and the influence of the Republic of Dubrovnik. Its history is closely tied to its religious brotherhoods, which are still active today. An important seaport in the Middle Ages, it is said to be the birthplace of the great merchant and traveller Marco Polo. The island is renowned for its olive oil and wines. Boat lines connect it with the islands of Mljet and Hvar and with Dubrovnik and Split. Its exceptionally clear waters make it a paradise for swimming.





Return to Pension Hajduk in Dominče for the night.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense

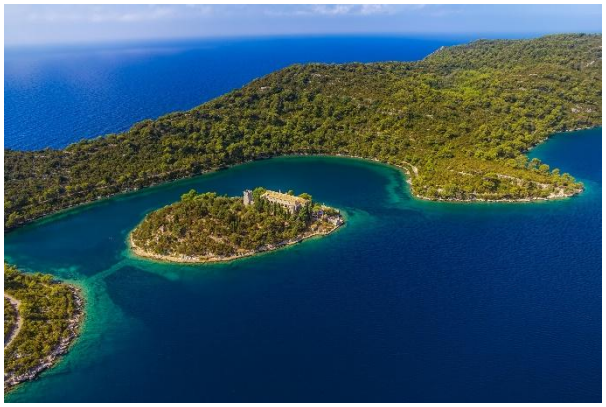
Day 11: Mljet National Park – overnight in Dominče

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Korčula. Travel time: 5 min.
You can also walk to Korčula along the seaside promenade from Dominče beach. Walking time: 15–20 min.



Scheduled catamaran from Korčula to Pomena (Mljet).
Crossing time: 30 min.
Ticket included.

Free time to explore Mljet National Park. We recommend a visit to St Mary's Islet with its 11th-century monastery. Actual walking time: 3h00 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 5h00 – Difficulty: easy 2/5
(entrance fee not included, payable on site)
Mljet is the island of the Odyssey, where Ulysses is said to have stayed for seven blissful years in the arms of the nymph Calypso. Pine and oak forests cover the island, a third of which is a national park. Its most striking feature is its two lakes, linked to each other and to the sea by a narrow channel. On the larger lake there is yet another island – an island within an island! This unique setting was created by rising sea levels around 10,000 BC, giving rise to an exceptional flora and fauna. St Mary's Islet is home to a medieval Benedictine monastery, which now houses a restaurant. It is an ideal spot for swimming, as the lake water is warmer than the sea. Its walks will soon show you why Ulysses never wanted to leave.





Scheduled catamaran from Pomena back to Korčula. Ticket included.

Return to Pension Hajduk in Dominče for the night.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 12: The island of Hvar – overnight in Dominče

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Korčula. Travel time: 5 min.
You can also walk to Korčula along the seaside promenade from Dominče beach. Walking time: 15–20 min.

Fast catamaran to Hvar (depending on the season, departure may be early in the morning).

Hike up to the Napoleon Fortress overlooking Hvar town from its 227 m vantage point. Continue along the ridge above the Hvar plain, then descend to Borča Bay, with the option of a swim. The trail then follows the coast back to Hvar town.
Distance: 15 km – Actual walking time: 5h00 – Total hiking time incl. breaks: 7h00 – Elevation gain: 485 m – Difficulty: easy to moderate 2–3/5
Picnic during the walk.



Free time to explore Hvar
Hvar is an island with a very mild climate and plenty of sunshine, ideal for growing lavender, whose essential oils are used in medicines and perfumes. These conditions meant that tourism developed here, as in Dubrovnik and Opatija, from the late 19th century. Hvar town bears strong Venetian influences while keeping the character of a Dalmatian port with its stone architecture. Then as now, Hvar's magical setting attracts the international jet set.



Scheduled fast catamaran back to Korčula town.

Return to Pension Hajduk in Dominče for the night.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 13: Mount St Elijah and the Pelješac peninsula – overnight in Mlini

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to the ferry terminal for Orebić, a village at the tip of the Pelješac peninsula.
Travel time: 5 min.

Ferry crossing of 20 min. Ticket included.



Continue to the Church of Our Lady of the Angels, with a magnificent view over Korčula and its archipelago, then climb Mount St Elijah (Sveti Ilija, 960 m), with magical views over the islands.

Actual walking time: 4h30
Total hiking time incl. breaks: 6h00 – Elevation gain: 850 m – Difficulty: easy to moderate 2–3/5

Scenic drive along the Pelješac peninsula to Veliki Ston. Travel time: 1h15

Pelješac is Croatia's longest peninsula, a land of wild beauty with crystal-clear coves. It is renowned for its wines, especially Dingač from the Potomje vineyards, among the finest reds in the country.





Free time to explore Ston.

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!



Continue to Mlini. Travel time: 1h15

Check-in at Villa Carmen guesthouse 3*. Double room(s). Parking included.

Villa Carmen is a traditional stone house with a small traditional restaurant. It stands on the edge of a lovely park leading straight down to the sea and the beaches of Mlini. Surrounded by a Mediterranean garden, it is less than a 2-minute walk from sand and pebble beaches and the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic.



Mlini is one of the prettiest villages on the Dubrovnik Riviera, with lovely beaches, a seaside promenade and plenty of restaurants.

Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 14: Dubrovnik (UNESCO) – overnight in Mlini

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

Drive to Dubrovnik. Travel time: 20 min.

Alternatively, you can go straight to Dubrovnik's Old Town on the boat service from Mlini; your hosts can sell you tickets. You will avoid expensive parking and, above all, arrive at the Pearl of the Adriatic the traditional way – Dubrovnik was originally designed to be seen from the sea! The short cruise between the cliffs and the island of Lokrum takes about 30 min.



Free time to explore Dubrovnik.

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.

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!

From the Old Town, the following options are available:

- a swim at Banje beach, just east of the Old Town. It is Dubrovnik's most famous beach, where many celebrities have swum, including Jackie Kennedy, John Malkovich, Nick Nolte, Roger Moore and the Queen of England...
- the cable car up Mount Srđ to Napoleon's Fort Imperial, which now houses a museum on the war that followed the break-up of Yugoslavia.
- the scheduled boat to the island of Lokrum, a little natural gem known for its 11th-century Benedictine monastery, just a 15-minute crossing. Napoleon built a fortress here, and the Habsburgs later owned and landscaped the island. Lokrum also has a rich botanical garden and is now a protected, uninhabited nature reserve with lovely walks, a café and a restaurant – a favourite swimming spot for Dubrovnik locals.
- a sea-kayaking tour along the city walls.

Return to Villa Carmen in Mlini for the night.
Lunch and dinner at your own expense.

Day 15: Departure from Dubrovnik Airport (Cavtat)

Breakfast at the guesthouse.
Drive to Dubrovnik Airport. Travel time: 20 min.
Return of the rental car.Departure flight.

If your flight times allow, you can visit the village of Cavtat.



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...

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION



For 2 people: air-conditioned category B car, such as Opel Corsa, Suzuki Swift, Chevrolet Aveo, Renault Clio…

For 4 people: category H Standard car, such as Skoda Octavia…



For 6 and 8 people: category M van, such as Opel Vivaro 8+1, Renault Trafic 8+1 or similar

Any other vehicle category can of course be rented.



RENTAL CONDITIONS:

- Unlimited mileage; island travel permitted
- CDW insurance (any damage to the vehicle is charged up to a maximum amount blocked on your card, depending on the vehicle type); third-party and public liability insurance covering damage you may cause to other people or to private or public property; theft insurance.

NOTES:

- Please send us your arrival and departure flight times as soon as possible, as a supplement applies for vehicle collection and return outside the rental company's office hours (8 am–8 pm).
- Please tell us how many drivers you wish to register, as a supplement applies for additional drivers.
- Please also let us know the travellers' ages: drivers must have held their licence for at least 2 years, and a supplement applies for drivers under 21 or over 75
- A credit card is required at vehicle collection for the security deposit, which is always requested (the amount is blocked for the duration of the trip and released when the vehicle is returned)
- In the event of an accident or a fine, you must inform Sveta Ana immediately, on the same day, via the assistance number given in your road book, and your travel agent by email.

TOUR PRICES

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

Period of year 2027	Number of participants			
	2 people – with a category B economy car, such as Opel Corsa, Renault Clio…	4 people – with a category H standard car, such as Volkswagen T-Roc, Škoda Octavia…	6 people – with a category M minivan, such as Opel Vivaro…	8 people – with a category M minivan, such as Opel Vivaro…
01 - 16.05.	1654,00 €	1561,00 €	1569,00 €	1461,00 €
17 - 31.05.	1669,00 €	1576,00 €	1582,00 €	1476,00 €
01 - 15.06.	1726,00 €	1586,00 €	1620,00 €	1514,00 €
16 - 30.06.	1746,00 €	1606,00 €	1636,00 €	1534,00 €
01.07 - 31.08.	2172,00 €	1903,00 €	1905,00 €	1773,00 €
01 - 15.09.	2077,00 €	1815,00 €	1829,00 €	1697,00 €
16 - 30.09.	1724,00 €	1565,00 €	1621,00 €	1514,00 €
01 - 15.10.	1701,00 €	1542,00 €	1603,00 €	1492,00 €
16 - 31.10.	1686,00 €	1527,00 €	1590,00 €	1477,00 €

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation in double rooms for 14 nights in 3- or 4-star hotels or family-run guesthouses: 2 nights at Vuglec Breg guesthouse 3* in Škarićevo with breakfast, 2 nights at Hotel Bitoraj 4* in Fužine with breakfast, 2 nights at Mrzlin Grad 4* in Korenica with breakfast, 2 nights at Hotel Skradinski Buk 3* in Skradin with breakfast, 4 nights at Pension Hajduk 3* in Dominče with breakfast, 2 nights at Villa Carmen guesthouse 3* in Mlini with breakfast.
- Rental of a vehicle in the chosen category for 15 days (see “Rental conditions”).
- Return ferry transfers between Dominče (Korčula) and Orebić.
- Return catamaran transfers from Korčula to Pomena (Mljet).
- A road book with a detailed itinerary, information on the sights to visit (history, background) and practical information on the country (restaurant suggestions, parking locations, useful addresses)

- 24/7 assistance from Sveta Ana in English. You will be given an emergency number in case of incidents or any other major problem
- Tourist taxes, and Sveta Ana agency's assistance, insurance and organisation fees

NOTES:

- Sveta Ana checked accommodation availability when preparing this offer but cannot guarantee it. Bookings will be made once the traveller has confirmed. If the proposed accommodation is no longer available, the agency will offer an alternative at the closest possible price and location. The traveller then has 2 working days to request changes to the accommodation in the confirmed programme, which will be sent for final review.
- Sveta Ana has agreements with several local car rental companies. Rental prices are dynamic: offers are based on current prices, which cannot be guaranteed. The vehicle price will also be fixed after the traveller's confirmation, in the final booked programme. The agency thus guarantees the best market price at any given time. Please note: the longer the time between the offer and the traveller's confirmation, the more prices are likely to change.
- The road book provides GPS addresses for the sites and accommodation, practical information, maps and recommendations – everything needed for a smooth trip. Sveta Ana's assistance covers help in case of problems, monitoring of booked services and advice when in doubt, but not constant real-time tracking of the traveller, changes to the programme or active communication throughout the trip.
- 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

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Child seat.
- Fuel.
- Tolls and parking.
- Entrance fees to the monuments and national parks mentioned in the programme.
- International flights and airport taxes
- meals not mentioned in the programme
- Repatriation assistance / travel insurance
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Tips

INSURANCE

Sveta Ana does not sell insurance other than vehicle insurance. We recommend that you take out travel cancellation insurance and fully comprehensive cover for the vehicle. In the event of partial or full cancellation of the trip, or damage to the vehicle, we will help you prepare the documents required by your travel insurer (the agency's booking confirmation and a receipted invoice, with a calculation of the cost of unused services if applicable). Premium credit cards (Gold, Platinum, Premium…) often include this cover if the trip is paid with the card. Check with your bank or its insurer when to open a file – this often must be done when signing the travel contract or paying the first deposit.

SUPPLEMENTS:

Sveta Ana offers additional services so you can enjoy your trip with complete peace of mind:

- Combined Super CDW, WUG and PAI insurance, covering damage to the car regardless of who caused it (any damage to the vehicle is charged up to a maximum amount blocked on your card, depending on the vehicle type); third-party, comprehensive and public liability insurance covering damage you may cause to other people or to private or public property; theft insurance. This covers damage to the bodywork, external plastic parts and the engine. A security deposit is nevertheless blocked on the traveller's account at vehicle collection to cover any costs not covered. Damage to the chassis and interior and damage resulting from traffic offences are not covered. Damage must be recorded in a police report, otherwise it is not covered. The daily price depends on the vehicle category. This corresponds to fully comprehensive ("all-risk") cover.
- Child seat
- GPS (in English)
- English-speaking guides. In Croatia, the law requires a licensed guide for tours of tourist sites. Licences are issued by region.
- "Private Tour" option with a driver, including their daily costs and those of the vehicle (accommodation, meals, fuel, tolls, parking). The driver can be a professional English-speaking tour leader. Please note that someone driving a vehicle cannot always concentrate on giving commentary on the road, so their services cannot match those of a dedicated tour leader. It is possible to have both a tour leader and a driver; city guided tours must be led by local guides, at extra cost.

  Estimated cost of an English-speaking driver-guide = 450.00 € per day + single-room accommodation with dinner (vehicle rental to be added).

  Private tours with a driver only are less expensive, but prices need to be checked.
- **Price per person for the bear-watching excursion = 145 €**

YOUR TRIP'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

BASIC CALCULATION DATA

AIR

Flights account for around 4.5% of global CO2 emissions. We have taken an average of the sources found, which range from 3% to 6%.

Croatia is a medium-haul destination from the main countries Sveta Ana's travellers come from (France, Belgium and Switzerland), with flights of between 1,000 and 3,500 km. Aircraft fuel consumption varies with flight distance, since most energy is used on take-off, so short flights (under 100 km) consume the most per kilometre. Croatia is therefore a destination whose flights are acceptable in terms of carbon emissions.

According to European Union data, average aircraft emissions in Europe are **97 g of CO2 per km per passenger**.

FERRY

Croatia has many islands, which are an essential part of its landscape. We have based our figures on Krševan-class ferries, which run the Orebić–Dominče line: weight 780 tonnes, speed 12 knots, engine power 1,790 kW, maximum capacity 100 cars and 600 passengers. These figures come from a study by the University of Zagreb. Assuming 400 passengers on board, average emissions are **32 g of CO2 per km per passenger.**

CATAMARAN

A catamaran is a fast boat on twin hulls. Its shallow draught makes it 3 times faster than a ferry. For example, the Krilo catamaran can reach 36 knots, with an engine power of 5,000 kW and a maximum capacity of 428 passengers, according to the Croatian Technical Encyclopaedia. It therefore consumes about 2.8 times more than a ferry. However, it often saves many kilometres compared with combined car-and-ferry journeys, and our programmes use it in such cases. Assuming 300 passengers on board, average emissions are **120 g of CO2 per km per passenger.**

NEW CAR

According to European Union data, cars account for 61% of total CO2 emissions from road transport in Europe. Modern new cars emit an average of **95 g of CO2 per km per passenger** (Renault Clio type). A similar model built just 10 years ago emitted 190 g of CO2 per km per passenger. Our rental partner complies with Croatian law, which requires rental cars to be less than 2 years old. It has signed our Sustainability Charter and actively chooses the most fuel-efficient models. Our calculations are based on 2 people in a category B car (Clio type).

TRAIN

There is no reliable rail network in Croatia; it is outdated and unusable for touring. Heading south, the country is mountainous, which makes building a railway difficult in the first place. It is, however, possible to reach Zagreb by train, and we recommend this mode of transport. Sources vary again, but here are averages of the figures found on various sites (sustainability websites and the SNCF website). As a guide, a high-speed train such as the TGV with few stops emits around 2 g of CO2 per km per passenger, a mainline intercity train around 5.6 g, and a regional train around 22 g.

BUS

Croatia has a well-developed bus network between the main cities, but it is hard to use for a tailor-made trip. Timetables are not always kept and services can be cancelled. A bus emits an average of 30 g of CO2 per km per passenger. The bus journey from Dubrovnik to Zagreb takes about 10 hours on average, compared with 6 hours by car. Buses also often need to be combined with taxis to reach accommodation and sights. Since the bus is

slower, the difference at equivalent speed is probably less clear-cut – but above all, the bus is a great waste of time. We do not work with national bus lines, but will give you information on local lines in towns where relevant.

SAILING BOAT

A typical tourist sailing yacht such as the Elan 43, with 4 cabins and a Yanmar 45 engine of about 31.1 kW, consumes around 2.19 litres per 100 km – 40% more than a Renault Clio. Sails can offset this, but in practice most tourist trips are made under engine, so we have disregarded it. Yachts also use about 10 W per hour of electricity on board, as our calculations are approximate in any case. Their average emissions are therefore **135 g of CO2 per km per passenger**. Our calculations are based on an average of 4 hours' sailing per day.

CALCULATION FOR THE "MAGICAL EMERALDS OF CROATIA" PROGRAMME

Approximate total distance by air (Paris–Zagreb and Dubrovnik–Paris flights): 3,355 km
Approximate CO2 emissions for the flights: 325.5 kg of CO2

Approximate total distance by car: 1,332 km
Approximate CO2 emissions for car journeys: 125.6 kg of CO2

Approximate total distance by ferry: 90 km
Approximate CO2 emissions for ferry crossings: 2.9 kg of CO2

Approximate total distance by catamaran: 182 km
Approximate CO2 emissions for catamaran crossings: 21.84 kg of CO2

TOTAL CO2 FOOTPRINT PER PERSON: 476 kg of CO2