

« NORTHERN DIAMONDS » WITH ZAGREB, THE ISTRIAN PENINSULA, THE PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK AND THE PANNONIAN PLAINS - 12 DAYS

YOUR ITINERARY



Sveta Ana d.o.o.

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PROGRAM

Day 1: Arrival at Zagreb airport – overnight in Zagreb

Arrival at Zagreb airport and vehicle pick up.

Road to Zagreb. Travel time: 30min

Check in at boutique hotel Palace 4*.

The 4* Palace hotel is a typical secession palace from the 19th century. The hotel is an eclectic blend of modernism and the spirit of Zagreb's history. It is located in the city centre at the end of the green Zrinjevac park.



Day 2: City of Zagreb, the capital - overnight in Zagreb

Breakfast.

Visit Zagreb.

Discover the two hills that mark the history of the Croatian capital and the green market. The Bishop's Hill Kaptol and the Lords' Hill Gradec or Grič, where the Croatian government and Parliament are still located today.

We suggest to visit the Croatian Naive Art Museum and the Cathedral.

We recommend the restaurant Kaptolska Klet near the cathedral, offering specialties from Zagreb region or the microbrewery Medvedgrad, favourite spot of the locals.

Overnight in Zagreb.



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Day 3: The luxurious Opatija and Pula on the Istrian peninsula – overnight in Pula

Breakfast.

Road to Opatija. Travel time: 2h30

Opatija was the one of the first cities to develop tourism in Croatia and on the Adriatic Sea. Austrian secession architecture is the predominant building style, a reminder of the mid-19th century when the main visitors were the Central European upper class and political elite. Opatija still today is a synonym for a stylish travel destination.



We advise you to stroll on the Lungomare, a seaside promenade (the longest in Croatia - 12km) connecting the old abbey, the Imperial hotel and the villa Angiolina.

Continue to Pula. Travel time: 45min

Check into hotel Galija 3*, a small family owned hotel located in the heart of the historic center of Pula renowned for the Istrian cuisine and warm ambiance.



Visit Pula.

Pula is a Roman city with one of the best-preserved amphitheatres in the world dating back to the 1st century AD. The amphitheatre is still in use for concerts and theatre performances. The nearby old town has also beautiful monuments from the Roman past. You can enter the old town through the Roman triumphal arch, the main square is a Roman forum with the temple of Augustus, now converted into a museum. You can also visit the 17th century Austrian fort in the upper part of the city.



For history lovers we recommend the multi-museum card which gives grants entrance to the amphitheater and its archaeological museum and the city museum located in the ancient temple of Augustus.

Overnight in Pula.

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Day 4: Rovinj and Poreč (UNESCO) – overnight in Pula

Breakfast.

Road to Poreč. Travel time: 45min

You can park your vehicle near the main bus station.

Visit Poreč. We recommend the visit of the early Christian complex built by bishop Euphrasius.

Poreč is a picturesque coastal town with long history, dating back to Roman Antiquity. Poreč harbours the famous basilica of bishop Eufрасius, one of the finest examples of pre-Christian architecture of the 3rd century AD with magnificent mosaics. The basilica is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. During the visit you will discover different areas of this dynamic and rich complex.



Continue to Rovinj by the Lim bay.

Travel time: 1h

Visit Rovinj.

Rovinj developed on a peninsula dominated by the bell tower of a church dedicated to Saint Euphemia. According to a legend, her tomb appeared on the beach and despite all efforts nothing and nobody could move the sarcophagus. Only a shepherd's child managed to push the tomb to the top of the peninsula where today stands the church. Rovinj's narrow and twisted alleys are crowded with life, shops, stalls of artists and craftsmen. The architecture is a nice example of Venetian heritage. The market is one of the liveliest in Istria. Rovinj is a town full of colours and surprises.



Return to Pula.

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Day 5: Plitvice lakes national park (UNESCO) – overnight in Jezerce near Plitvice

Breakfast.

Road to Plitvice. Travel time: 2h30

The road will take you through the coastal town of Senj before climbing on the Dinaric mountains of the Lika region. During the ascent toward the Vratnik saddle you will enjoy beautiful views of the Kvarner bay. Visit the national park.

The Plitvice Lakes are located in the mountainous Lika region, near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The national park is a natural phenomenon, part of UNESCO natural world heritage sites. It consists of 16 lakes with crystal clear waters which flow into each other in magnificent waterfalls. A paradise of nature.



In the roadbook you will find recommendations on the best way to discover the entire park with travertine waterfalls in the upper part, the electric boat on the big central lake Kozjak and the lower canyon.

A rest area is found in the national park with bistros offering drinks and simple dishes.

We advise you to buy the entrance ticket to the national park online, at least two days in advance. The link for the purchase of the tickets will be given in the roadbook.

Drive to Jezerce. Travel time: 30min

Check in at Etnohouse Plitvice.

The Etnohouse Plitvice is a guesthouse consisting of two traditional stone houses in a fairy tale setting within the Plitvice National Park. The furniture of the rooms is made by hand from local wood. The guesthouse features an outdoor swimming pool and a restaurant serving local specialties.



Day 6: Nature park and ethnographic village Lonjsko Polje – overnight in Osijek

Breakfast.

Drive to the village Krapje, at the entrance of the nature park Lonjsko Polje. Travel time: 3h30

Lonjsko polje is a wetland that has long been managed by man using natural retentions.

Here men and nature are nested in a harmonious symbiosis, just like land and water. Lonjsko Polje is an important ornithological reserve. Farmed species are genetically pure and ancient breeds. The park is spread over several localities. For a good overview, we advise the visit of 2 sites: Stara Lonja with the ethnographic village and Krapje where you will discover unique rural and forest landscapes.



Visit the nature park information centre and walk on the "Graničara" hiking trail (= Borderer's Trail). This area was marked by the wars against the Ottomans, you will see old refurbished watchtowers of that era, hence the name of the trail. You will also discover the ornithological reserve and autochthonous livestock species such as the "podolski" ox and the "turopoljska" pig. We recommend a boat trip in the marshes.



Hike duration: 2h30 / 3h - level: easy

Continue through the park to the village of Stara Lonja. Travel time: 30min

Visit the ethnographic village Stara Lonja.

For lunch, we advise tasting the local specialties.

Proceed to the ethnographic village Čigoč with an impressive stork population. Travel time: 20min



Drive through the splendid rural landscapes of the Pannonian plain to Osijek, famous for viticulture and Baroque architecture. Osijek is the heart of Croatian region Slavonia. Travel time: 2h15

Check into hotel Waldinger located in the city centre. The hotel is a beautiful secession building featuring luxury and modern comfort with a fitness area. The hotel's restaurant is renowned, offering a high standard cuisine.



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Day 7: Kopački Rit nature park – overnight in Osijek

Breakfast.

Drive to Kopačevo at the entrance of the Kopački Rit nature park. Travel time: 20min

Visit the nature park.

The Kopački Rit nature park is the result of the confluence of two rivers: the Drava and the Danube. It is a unique landscape made of islands and canals. This wetland is included in the IBA (Important ornithological zone), RAMSAR (World classification of exceptional wetlands) and Natura 2000 (European classification of valuable natural areas) lists.

*The tour of the park is done by boat with a guide, it includes a flora and fauna exhibition and a 10-minute film about the park and its treasures. Total duration of the tour: 3h
Return to Osijek.*



Day 8: Vukovar – overnight in Osijek

Breakfast.

Drive to Vukovar. Travel time: 45min

Visit Vukovar.

The city of Vukovar suffered greatly during the Croatian war for independence and became a symbol of Croatian resistance.

To better understand the recent history of Croatia and Vukovar, we recommend visiting the city museum in the Elz Palace, the cellars used during the Independence war and the Vučedol Culture museum.

Return to Osijek.



Day 9: Đakovo – overnight in Tuhelj

Breakfast.
Drive to Đakovo.
Travel time: 40min

Visit Đakovo.

Đakovo is a major wine-growing location and the city of bishop Strossmayer. Strossmayer was one of the ideological leaders of the Illyrian literary movement supporting the idea of Croatia's independence from Austria during the 19th century. We recommend visiting the famous brick cathedral, the museum dedicated to bishop Strossmayer and one of the cellars of the region.



Continue to Terme Tuhelj (Tuhelj thermal baths) Travel time: 3h

Check in hotel Well 4*, a modern structure of original design in the heart of the baths. Pools and saunas are free of charge.

The Well hotel is a modern and original design hotel in the heart of the baths. Access to pools and saunas is included, except wellness treatments.

The Tuhelj baths are renowned in Europe. The baths are located on a spring of hot water, with a temperature of 32/33°C forming a peloid mud. The mud contains a granular structure with elements of silica, aluminium, iron, magnesium, natrium oxide, sulphur and other organic materials. This mud is among the best in central Europe. The mud treatment effects are beneficial for the body, in particular for arthritis, rheumatism diseases, in post-operative recovery processes, in case of joint and bone injuries or mobility difficulties. The mud is particularly effective for the regeneration and beauty of the skin and treats diseases such as acne. Bath treatments play an important role in body relaxation, stress toxins elimination and the rejuvenation of the body.



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The Tuhelj baths feature "The sauna world" complex with:

- 4 Finnish saunas with chromotherapy, sauna with bio-ionizing crystals, extreme sauna and panoramic sauna
- 3 steam saunas - mud, salt and double steam
- laconium - relaxes and rests body and mind
- whirlpool - jacuzzi at 34°C
- water beds
- Kneipp path - alternately hot and cold path beneficial for circulation
- the ice cave and the cold pool (20°C) for cooling your body and mind after sauna
- relaxation areas and rooms with swings for tranquility and rest
- wellness bar - drinks and light meals
- terrace and tanning area



Day 10: The ethnographic village Kumrovec and Tuhelj thermal baths – overnight in Tuhelj

Breakfast.

Road to Kumrovec through the Klanjec canyon where you will see a unique monument to the Croatian anthem.

Travel time: 15min

Visit Kumrovec.

Kumrovec is an ethnographic village displaying traditional crafts and trades with real size mannequins dressed in national costumes. You will also see the house, which was the birthplace of Tito, a politician who marked the 2nd half of 20th century. After the Second World War Tito became life president of the Yugoslav federation which had a very special political system.



Return to the hotel and enjoy the thermal baths.

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Day 11: Varaždin and the Trakošćan castle – overnight in Tuhelj

Breakfast.

Drive to Varaždin through the bucolic region of Zagorje. Travel time : 1h40

Visit Varaždin.

Varaždin is one of the most charming baroque towns in Croatia. It was an important crossroads of trade routes between Austria, the Adriatic Sea and the Croatian agricultural plains. The Stari Grad fortress was built in order to reinforce the southern border of the Austrian Empire against the Ottomans. The Parliament was occasionally meeting here and Mary Theresa of Austria chose



Varaždin to be the seat of the state of Croatia. Unfortunately, a terrible fire ravaged the town and the Croatian government was definitively moved to Zagreb, the current Croatian capital. Varaždin still today preserves many palaces of great Croatian noble families.

Continue to Trakošćan. Travel time: 45min

Visit the castle.

We recommend the walk on the cultivated path around the artificial lake of the castle. The lake was a fishing pond in the era of the Drašković lords, landscaped in the romantic style and set in a beautiful pine forest with many imported plant species. The forest is listed as a protected park.

Distance: 5km - Walking time: 2h – Level: easy

Trakošćan Castle was built in the 13th century, set on the shore of a pretty lake. The purpose of the castle was to defend the northern border against the Ottomans. The current appearance dates back to the 16th when it belonged to the noble Drašković family. Its medieval interiors with a weapons collection, portray the lifestyle of the lords of Zagreb.



Return to Tuhelj.

Day 12: Departure from Zagreb airport

Breakfast.

Drive to Zagreb airport. Travel time: 45min

Vehicle drop off.

Departure flight.

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VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

For 2 persons: air-conditioned B category car, Opel Corsa, Suzuki Swift, Chevrolet Aveo, Renault Clio or similar.



For 4 persons: air-conditioned H standard category car, Skoda Octavia or similar.



For 6 to 8 persons: air-conditioned Van category car, Opel Vivaro 8+1, Renault Trafic 8+1 or similar.



You can of course rent any other category of vehicle.

RENTAL CONDITIONS:

- Unlimited mileage
- Ferry crossings to the islands without extra rental fees (included in price)
- CDW insurance: the car rental company waives the right to collect a high deductible from you if the car is damaged, and most importantly it covers most of the damage in case of an accident. Theft insurance. The cost depends on the category of the vehicle.
- 1 additional driver included without extra rental fees (included in price)

NB: It is mandatory to own a credit card for the vehicle rental. A security deposit will automatically be pre-authorized on your credit card and will be returned after the rental of the vehicle ends.

TOUR PRICE

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation for 11 nights in hotels or guesthouses, category 3* and 4* with breakfast, namely 2 nights in hotel Palace 4* in Zagreb, 2 nights in hotel Galija 3* in Pula, 1 night in the guesthouse Ethohouse Plitvice 3* in Jezerce, 3 nights in hotel Waldinger 4* in Osijek and 3 nights in hotel Well 4* in Tuhelj.
- Car rental for 12 days (please see « vehicle description »)
- A roadbook including the detailed itinerary, a presentation of tourist sites to be visited (history and information) and various practical information on the town or site you visit (references of restaurants, parking lots...)
- 24/7 assistance in English by Sveta Ana travel agency. You will be provided with an emergency telephone number in case of incidents or any other major problem
- Assistance, insurance and organization costs of Sveta Ana travel agency

NOTES

- Sveta Ana travel agency checks the availability of hotels before writing the offer but does not guarantee the availability of the hotels prior to the definitive confirmation from the customer. If at the time of confirmation, the hotels are no longer available, Sveta Ana travel agency will undertake necessary steps to find similar accommodation, nearby the hotels listed in the initial offer. The prices listed above are subject to change and will be confirmed upon request for specific dates.
- Travel distances and times are given for regular driving conditions and for reference only. They can vary depending on random factors such as road work, accidents, traffic jams, bad weather ...

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Child seat. ¹
- Fuel.
- Road tolls and parking fees.
- Deductible cancellation and other services.
- Entrances to the monuments and national parks mentioned in the program.
- Flights and airport taxes
- Meals not mentioned in the program as “included”
- Repatriation assistance / insurance
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Tips

¹. Available on explicit client request.

OPTIONALS:

Sveta Ana travel agency provides the following additional optional services:

- Child seat = 7 € per day
- GPS (English) = 7 € per day
- Local English-speaking licensed guides providing visits of tourist sites: 115,00 € per visit of 1.5 hrs approximately
- “Private Travel” package with an English-speaking driver – guide. The package includes driver-guide’s daily costs and the costs of the vehicle (accommodation, food, petrol, tolls, parking fees) = € 330.00

Please note: the above prices are fixed costs are to be divided by the number of participants (the costs are not per person).

CANCELLATION TERMS

Cancellations must be written and sent by email to the local agency. Cancellation fees vary depending on when the cancellation occurs:

- more than 30 days prior to departure: 25% of the price of the trip,
- from 30 to 7 days prior to departure: 50% of the price of the trip,
- from 7 days prior to departure to the day of the departure of the trip: 100% of the price of the trip