

GROUP STAY IN CROATIA'S CAPITAL: ZAGREB, FULL OF LIFE!

INTRODUCTION

Zagreb is the Croatian capital, an important commercial crossroads in many ways completely different from the Croatian coast. The city developed as an important fair centre at the gate of the Croatian Panonian plain, the largest fertile area in central Europe. A wealthy noble class and their lush castles, scattered around the capital, thus emerged. Zagreb's architecture and traditions witness the Austrian rule from the 16th century when northern Croatia voluntarily submitted to the Habsburgs. The region is renowned in Europe for thermal waters which attracted the European elite in the winter period. Zagreb abounds in lounge clubs, microbreweries, high-quality restaurants and museums including the Croatian Museum of Naive Art and several hotels at the cutting edge of technology for business trips and incentives. This green located at the foot of Sljeme hill. the region and its colourful traditions were inspirational for many naive artists.

Above all, Zagreb is a city permanently animated by popular gastronomic, artistic events, shows, concerts and full of small places and surprises to discover! You will be enchanted by its family atmosphere.

By a well developed network of motorways we can organize tours to the famous Plitvice Lakes national park, the only natural monument listed by UNESCO in Croatia, visit to the Slovenian capital Ljubljana which is only 1.5 hours away, or Maribor, a jewel of Slovenian baroque architecture



Sveta Ana d.o.o. DMC

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TIME OF ADVENT IN ZAGREB: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS MARKET IN EUROPE!

Discover Zagreb in the Advent season beginning the 4th Sunday before Christmas. Zagreb has been rediscovering its traditions around Christmas markets for several years. Stands of local products and crafts are located in the main streets and squares of the city centre adorned with garlands and magical lighting. The bars, breweries and restaurants have very original decorations. Locals meet at cafés, drink hot chocolate, spicy mulled wine and special Christmas beers, discuss, do the shopping... The Advent in Zagreb really deserves to be discovered and fully justifies the title of the most beautiful Christmas market in Europe!



HOTELS OF OUR CHOICE... THERE ARE ALSO OTHER OPTIONS

Option 3*: HOTEL CENTRAL

This hotel is of modern design, located near the Zrinjevac park stretching to the city centre, a pleasant 10-15 min stroll. The hotel restaurant serves only breakfast, groups can also book lunch and dinner on prior request.



Option 4*: BOUTIQUE HOTEL PALACE

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.



Option 5*: HOTEL ESPLANADE

Built in 1925. for the purpose of providing accommodation to passengers of the famous Orient Express train, the hotel combines sophistication and the best of the hotel business tradition. The hotel is located on the southern end of the city gardens forming the "green horseshoe" leading to the centre. Unlike other hotels, the Esplanade hotel is a typical Zagreb Secession style building of the 19th century.

Capacity: 209 rooms luxuriously equipped in classic elegance. The hotel offers concierge services, parking valets, limousine transfers, WIFI, wellness with sauna, beauty salon, a fitness room, ice skating rink, casino, four gourmet restaurants, business centre with meeting and congress rooms...

We propose accommodation in Deluxe category rooms.



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PROGRAM

Day 1: Arrival at Zagreb airport and typical dinner in a microbrewery – overnight in Zagreb

Arrival at Zagreb airport.

Meeting with your local English-speaking guide.

Transfer to the hotel. Travel time: 30min

Refresh at the hotel.

Stroll through the Zrinjevac park to the city's main square of Ban Jelačić, then by the Ilica street to the Medvedgrad microbrewery. Walking time: 20min

Dinner in one of the most renowned microbreweries of the Croatian capital, famous for its 7 home-made beers of excellent quality. You will discover the local ambience and traditional Croatian cuisine:

The meal reveals the typical „under the bell“ cuisine:

veal, lamb and potatoes are put on a metal platter, on a bed of embers and covered with a metal bell-shaped lid.

The meal is cooked for 3 hours in the stew. Food becomes crisp on the surface but melts on the inside. Order good local wine and experience true gastronomical pleasure!



Menu

Aperitif: brandy with honey

Main dish: veal with stewed potatoes and salad

Dessert: chocolate cake

Beverage package: 0.5 l choice of house beer or juice



Walk back the hotel.

Day 2: Zagreb and wine tasting in Plešivica

Breakfast.

Walking tour with a local guide including the entrance to the cathedral and the Croatian Museum of Naive art.

During the walking tour you will 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.



Lunch in the local restaurant Kaptolska Klet located in front of the cathedral.

Menu

Starter: soup with štrukli (puff pastry with cheese)

Main dish: duck with mlinci (grilled leaf pasta)

Seasonal salad

Dessert: vanilla ice cream



Afternoon at leisure for a personal discovery of the city.

Transfer by bus to the village Plešivica on the Žumberak hills, a natural border with Slovenia. Travel time: 45 min.

The region of Žumberak is marked by amphitheatre shaped landscape, hills with steep slopes forming different microclimates. The clay soils and the right altitude are perfect for viticulture. In the Žumberak region we can find very old typical kinds of wine such as their sparkling wine and Portugizec, wine beloved by the Zagreb's elite.



Introduction of the Jagunić family wine production, visit to the cellar and tasting of 4 types of so-called "calm" wines and a sparkling wine accompanied by bread and cheese. From the Jagunić estate you will enjoy a splendid view on the Žumberak and Zagreb plains.

Typical dinner of local specialties.

Menu

Starter: "Ajngemahtec" soup (chicken stew soup with dumplings and vegetables)

Main dish: pork cutlet in mushroom sauce and duck with vegetables

Seasonal garden salad

Dessert: "Bazlamača" (corn cake with homemade jam)

Transfer to the hotel. Travel time: 45min

Day 3: Optional tours

Breakfast.

Option 1: The ethnographic village Kumrovec, Tito's birthplace and Tuhelj thermal baths

Transfer by bus with a local guide to Kumrovec through the Klanjec canyon where you will see a unique monument to the Croatian anthem. Travel time: 1h
Time at leisure in 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.



Continue to Tuhelj thermal baths. Travel time: 20min

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 very beneficial for the body, in particular for arthritis, rheumatism diseases, in post-operative recovery processes, in case of bone or joint 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.



The Tuhelj baths feature the "Sauna World" complex and a pool complex named "Water planet":

- 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



The tour includes the entrance to the "Sauna World" complex and the pool complex "Water Planet" with lunch.

There is also a children's complex with slides, a large fitness room, a vast choice of massages and body treatments for men and women (not included).

Return to Zagreb. Travel time: 1h

Option 2: The Plitvice lakes national park (UNESCO)

Transfer by bus with an English-speaking guide to Plitvice. Travel time: 2h30

Visit the national park with the Upper lakes, the travertine waterfalls, the electric boat on the central lake Kozjak and the Lower lakes with the Big waterfall and the road train.



Distance: 8km; Walking time: 4h

Level: easy 2/5

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 water which flow into each other in magnificent waterfalls. A paradise of nature.

Lunch in a restaurant in the national park.

Menu

Starter: mushroom soup

Main dish: grilled trout with vegetables

Dessert: apple puff pastry

Return to Zagreb.

Option 3: The Trakošćan castle and the town of Varaždin

Breakfast.

Transfer to Trakošćan castle.

Travel time: 1h15

Discover the castle and the history of the Croatian nobility.

Overlooking a large artificial lake, this castle is the most visited in the Zagreb region. The castle was built in the 13th century as a fortress, it acquires the present appearance in the 19th century when the owner, Count Juraj Drašković refurbishes it in the neo-Gothic style. The fortress became a residential castle with a romantic garden and an artificial lake. Trakošćan castle is remarkably well restored, you can visit all three floors and admire original furniture and a rich collection of weapons and works of art.



Continue to the town of Varaždin. Travel time: 45min

Lunch made of exclusively local products in a typical local restaurant.

Menu

Starter: beef soup

Main dish: chicken cutlet stuffed with bacon and mushrooms with vegetables

Dessert: pumpkin cake

Walking tour with a local guide.

Varaždin is one of the most charming baroque cities 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 city and the Croatian government was definitively moved to Zagreb, the current Croatian capital. Varaždin still today preserves many palaces of great Croatian noble families.



The city is known for the Špancirfest festival from August 17th to 26th, a crazy series of comedies, gastronomy, arts and traditions!

Return to Zagreb. Travel time: 1h15

This evening is at leisure for a personal experience of Zagreb.

Day 4: Departure from Zagreb airport

Breakfast.

Transfer by bus with a local guide to the airport. Travel time: 30min

Departure flight.



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TOUR PRICE

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation for 3 nights with breakfast in Zagreb
- Bus transfers from and to the airport
- English-speaking local guide for transfers
- 1 lunch in Zagreb
- Typical dinners in Zagreb and Plešivica
- Wine tasting in Plešivica
- Assistance, insurance and organization costs of Sveta Ana travel agency

NOTES

- Sveta Ana travel agency estimates the prices according to the hotels price lists but does not guarantee the hotel's availability without explicit client's request for options on specific dates
- 4 and 5 star hotels prices are set on request
- A similar program can be organised for individuals with a rental vehicle

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
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