

Charming Croatia and Slovenia 10 Days



Highlights:

- ★ Explore three Balkan countries on one trip
- ★ Ascend to Assumption Church after 99 steps on the island of Lake Bled
- ★ Board on a train to explore the underground world in the Postojna Cave
- ★ Embark for a boat ride and admire the breathtaking beauty of the Plitvice Lake National Park
- ★ Take the cable car to the top of mountain Srd and get a panoramic view of “*The Orange Santorini*” in the azure Adriatic Sea
- ★ Visit 5 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites 

Included:

1. Round-trip international flight
2. Hand-picked 4-star hotel accommodations
3. Sightseeing admission fees as listed on the agenda
4. Food as specified on the itinerary
5. Special cultural programs as specified in the schedule
6. Professional English speaking local tour expert
7. All tax and fuel surcharge
8. UTOvacation’s Worry-Free Plan 

Excluded:

1. Travel insurance
2. Any personal expenses
3. Tour extensions and optional programs
4. Gratuity for tour guides and drivers
5. Single supplement fee: U\$699





like a fairyland. You are invited to take a boat to roam around and observe the natural beauty on the tranquil Lake Bled. Dock at the island which is the only island in the whole country and climb 99 steps to visit Assumption Church. Afterwards, you are guided to explore the 11th century **Bled Castle** perched on a 330ft/100m high cliff by the lake. This castle is believed to be the oldest castle in the whole country housing a history museum. Remainder of the day is yours to continue touring this mesmerizing and secluded village at your own leisure.

- Overnight in Bled.

Day 4: Bled - Ljubljana

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Depart for Ljubljana (35mi/55km), the capital of Slovenia. The city is often dubbed as the “*Little Athens in Central Europe*”, famous for its sculptures and paintings. Come to the **Town Square** at the city center and enjoy the **Robba Fountain** in front of the Town Hall which was unveiled in 1751. Inspired by the Fountain of Four Rivers in Rome, the three figures of Robba Fountain represent three rivers of Carniola. Walk to the nearby **Triple Bridge** erected from 1842, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a group of three bridges across the Ljubljana River connecting the old town and the new town. Steps away from here is the famous **Dragon Bridge**, a beautiful arch bridge decorated with 4 large and 16 small dragon statues which are the city symbol and guardian angels. Ascend to the top of the Castle Hill to visit **Ljubljana Castle**, a 11th century fortress complex and a striking landmark of the city where you are able to learn about the history of the architecture as well as to gain the bird’s eye view of the city.

- Overnight in Ljubljana.

Day 1: Depart for Croatia

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Board the international flight and fly to Croatia.

Day 2: Zagreb Arrival

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Upon arrival, meet & greet and transfer to your hotel.

Day 3: Zagreb - Bled

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Your relaxing Balkan journey starts with a visit to the capital city of Croatia today. Explore the city center of Zagreb, **Ban Jelacic Square** where 18th- and 19th-century Austro-Hungarian architectures showcase the old time glory. In the center of the Square stands the statue of the national hero Josip Jelacic. Next visit is the 13-century **St Mark’s Church** in the Upper Town with a tiled roof consisting of two coats of arms. Not far from St Mark’s Church is the Gothic, two-spired **Zagreb Cathedral**, the second tallest building in the country. Board our bus and head to Bled (120mi/195km), a peaceful resort village proud of glacial **Lake Bled** with crystal clear water melted from the Alps. In the middle of the lake stands a small island with the **Assumption Church** on top making it look





Day 5: Ljubljana

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today is a rejuvenating day for you to enjoy Ljubljana at your own pace or you may wish to join our optional excursion to explore more of the appealing Slovenia.

Optional Tour: Mysterious journey to Karst Landscape at U\$129/person with lunch

- Jump on our bus to **Predjama Castle** (38mi/60km), a fairytale castle uniquely built within a cave opening halfway up a vertical sheer precipice about 400ft/120m high like a hanging fortress. This 800-year old mansion is unbelievably huge considering its location and it has been listed on the Guinness World Records as the world's largest cave castle. Having been elected to be one of the *"Ten most fascinating castles in the world"*, the Predjama Castle has been frequented by many newlyweds and movie production crews. Inside the castle, you are able to marvel at the network of tunnels, various chambers and a rich collection of antiquities depicting medieval life and the romantic legend about the Knight Erazem. After lunch, you are scheduled to visit the **Postojna Cave** about a few minutes bus ride away which is the second longest cave in the country as well as one of the longest in Europe. This massive cavern was found accidentally in 1818 when preparing for a visit by the first Austrian-Hungarian emperor Francis I and since then, tens of millions of tourists have flocked to this cave from across the continents to admire the stalagmites and stalactites in this underground world. The towering mountain inside is nearly 200ft/60m high, the colorful chandeliers are breathtaking and the vast atrium is big enough to host concerts. Take the cave train for an unforgettable ride going through the captivating subterranean formations and the symbol of the cave, **Brilliant**. If you are lucky, you may meet the olms-the baby dragon who lives in the complete darkness in the cave.
- Overnight in Ljubljana.

Day 6: Ljubljana - Opatija - Plitvice

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Kick off the day by driving to Opatija (70mi/110km), a coastal resort town labeled as the *"Pearl of the Adriatic"*. Due to the pleasant weather, Opatija was favored by the imperial family during the Habsburg-era as the holiday retreat and has enticed more and more glitterati from all over Europe ever since. Walk leisurely along the seaside promenade **Lungo Mare** filled with restaurants, cafes, gift shops where you could admire the lovely villas, idyllic islands, picturesque parks and romantic atmosphere. You will hit the road again after lunch to Plitvice Lake National Park (88mi/140km). Inscribed on the UNESCO [UNESCO](#) list, the park is noted for a chain of 16 terraced lakes connected by striking waterfalls following the water flow. You are welcome to join us for a walk on hiking trails and walkways along cataracts, over the tufa dams or across the creeks to submerge into the distinctive colors of the lakes, magnificent landscapes of limestone mountains and spectacular sceneries of the dense forest. Hop on a sightseeing boat and enjoy the unique steep cliffs, photogenic cascades, emerald lakes and overall panoramic natural spectacle.
- Overnight in Plitvice.

Day 7: Plitvice - Split

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- After breakfast in the hotel, you are jumping on your way to Split (125mi/200km), the second largest city in Croatia with a long history dating back some 2300 years ago to the Greek period. Roman emperor Diocletian had his retirement home built in Split right by the ocean from 295 to 305 AD which is the renowned **Diocletian's Palace** occupying about half of the old town. This massive and fortress-like structure was selected as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO [UNESCO](#) in 1979 and today it is the most complete relic of a Roman palace in the whole world. Ramble on the scenic **RIVA**, a coastal promenade packed with palm trees, cafes, eateries and historical buildings to feel the romantic and lively atmosphere. Walk to the **Saint Domnius Cathedral**, a Catholic church rendered from an imperial mausoleum designed for Emperor Diocletian





in the first place. Before going to your hotel in Split, don't forget to rub the toe of **Gregory of Nin** for good luck.

Day 8: Split - Dubrovnik

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Set off the day by taking our bus to Dubrovnik (145mi/230km), a city often labeled as the “*Pearl of Adriatic Sea*” which is actually in an enclave. Because of the geographical and strategic importance, Dubrovnik always served as a key military fortification in history and in 1979, the historical section of the city was recognized as a UNESCO  World Cultural Heritage Site. Founded in the 7th century AD, Dubrovnik boasts many remarkable ancient buildings, especially the **City Wall with Towers** running about 6400ft/1940m around the city. Set on top of a huge rock about 122ft/37m above the water level just outside of the City Wall, **Lovrijenac Fortress** has been standing and guarding the city since the 11th century. Saunter on Stradun, the main pedestrian street through the old town replete with shops and restaurants which connects **Pile Gate** and **Luza Square**. Admire the **Clock Tower** which is the 102ft/31m tall city landmark from the 15th century at Luza Square. Pass by **Rector's Palace**, **Orlando's Column**, **Sponza Palace**, **Dominican Monastery** and **Franciscan Monastery** before taking the cable car to the top of mountain Srd and get a panoramic view of so-called “*The Orange Santorini*” in the azure Adriatic Sea.

- Overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 9: Dubrovnik

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today is free on your own to enjoy the city or you may wish to join our optional excursion to Kotor with lunch.

 **Optional Tour: Journey to Kotor of Montenegro at U\$129/person with Oyster sampling**

- Depart for Kotor (56mi/90km) in the morning and on the way there, enjoy the captivating scenery along

the Dalmatian coastline. Located almost at the end of the Bay of Kotor, this small fortified town was once occupied and controlled by Venice City-state, Roman Empire and Ottoman Empire and now it is listed as one of the UNESCO  World Heritage Sites as it is the best preserved medieval city along the Adriatic Sea. Take a boat and touch down on **Our Lady of Rocks** islet to visit the church and learn the legendary story of this artificial island. Continue to visit **Saint Tryphon Cathedral**, the tallest building in Perast, housing a rich collection of artifacts. Afterwards, explore the **Maritime Museum**, old squares and winding streets in the ancient town. Jump on a sampan boat to visit a local village famous for its oyster farm. Sample fresh oysters and mussels with house wine tasting. Lunch is included today.

- Overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 10: Dubrovnik Departure

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Bid farewell to the enchanting Dubrovnik and check out from your hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



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