

CROATIA WITH NATIONAL PARKS

Biking – Hiking – Cruising

8 days Adventure



Season

March - November



Arrival

Zagreb



Accom.

4*/5* hotels



Group Size

Small Group



Activity Level

Relaxed



Departure

Split



Meals

7 Meals Included



3 UNESCO Sites



Highlights

Find out all about mysterious tunnel and noontime big bang in Zagreb

Big waterfall at fascinating complex of nature – the emerald Plitvice Lakes

Reveal the biggest secret of NP Velika Paklenica – Tito's nuclear bunker

Roam down the chambers of the Diocletian palace in Split



Introduction:

Dare to discover the captivating nature of Croatia and travel through the incredibly turbulent history of the coastal cities, adding a fantastic context to your sightseeing adventures. You will take a bicycle ride through Zagreb before you continue to the flourishing natural wonders protected by government. Cobblestone streets, Roman ruins, medieval churches and so many exciting anecdotes await you in the charming cities of the Dalmatian coast. Walking down the streets of Split, makes the sightseeing feel like wandering through a historical maze. The visit to the Biokovo Nature Reserve brings you a chance to enjoy the Skywalk, a 25-meter-long glass promenade that offers a spectacular view of Makarska Riviera.

If you are arriving in **Zagreb** a few days prior to the tour departure, you can book additional nights with us, at the same hotel.

Arrival transfer from the listed airport is included. Private transfers from non-listed airports **are available on request**.

Please check the options with your local expert.

Day 1 Arrive Zagreb

Upon your arrival in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, you will be welcomed by your guide and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere in this small gem of Europe located in the heart of the continent. Your guide will provide some basic information about the Croatian capital, tips and tricks about the local daily routine and suggest some ideas for your free time.

Overnight: Zagreb.



Day 2 Zagreb City Center bike tour - Leisure afternoon



5 km



2:30 h



30 m

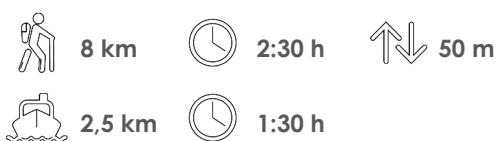
It's time to get on your bicycle and start pedalling. An easy and entertaining ride will take you to all the key sites in less than 3 hours, which makes this a perfect tour around Zagreb for a short stay. You will discover the main highlights of the Upper town with its red tile roofs, the quaint cobblestone streets and countless church spires, as well as the Lower town with its architecturally different house facades, the domes and colourful murals made by the street artists. You'll pass the magnificent Croatian National Theatre and St. Mark's Church, feel the energy of Zagreb's most vibrant greenmarket - the Dolac market, cross the mysterious Grič Tunnel and see the Cathedral from the most beautiful viewing point. The real treat of the tour are the stories about the Bloody Bridge or noontime "big bang", the story about the magical powers of the Stone Gate and the manual lighting of the street lamps in the Upper Town still present to this day.

The Cycling Zagreb adventure ends just around noon, so use your free time to explore the city on your own. Our recommendation would be Mirogoj - one of the most beautiful cemeteries in Europe, a stunning park and an open art gallery, all in one. Of course, Zagreb offers countless museums and entertainment options. In the end, the choice is yours. **Overnight: Zagreb.**



Day 3

UNESCO's NP Plitvice Lakes: Walk and discover the Devil's garden



Depart from the Croatian capital and in a couple of hours you will reach Plitvice Lakes National Park. No matter what kind of traveller you are, during your visit to Croatia, Plitvice lakes are not to be missed, not just because of the UNESCO World Heritage Site label, but because of its indescribable nature. Our sightseeing approach will give you deep-insight and an opportunity to meet Plitvice Lakes very thoroughly and off the beaten tracks. The hike through the National Park will show us untouched nature highlighted by the idyllic waterfalls and 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On the old maps, the national park was called "Devil's Garden" but its dense forests, splashing waterfalls and emerald lakes can only remind you of Heaven. A short boat and a panoramic train ride will help you catch as much of the landscapes as possible, so sit back and admire this wonder of Nature. You will be in awe with the magnificent nature, so take your time during the ride to the hotel on the Adriatic coast to relax and reflect on your incredible day. **Overnight: Starigrad or Zadar.**

Day 4

UNESCO's NP Paklenica - City of Zadar with Sea Organ



The rugged peaks of the Velebit massif in the Paklenica National Park are just a stone's throw from the hotel. Croatia's largest forest area is weaved by numerous ravines and rivers that make this UNESCO World Heritage Site an excellent area for your next adventure. So, lace up your hiking boots and go through a complex nature full of contrasts, Wild West scenography with sharp karst shapes on one side and the soft greenery on the other. The most attractive points are vertically carved canyons and impressive cliffs decorated with climbers as this is the most known climbing site in Croatia. After the abundance of geomorphological forms, diverse flora and fauna,

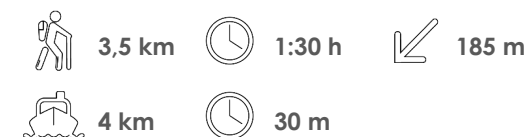
attractive landscapes and intact nature, you can be sure that you will be just as amazed by Tito's nuclear bunker that is to follow.

Our "return to civilisation" comes with a great reason – to meet Zadar, the oldest, continuously-inhabited Croatian city. This city will show you the glory of the Gothic-Romanesque architecture found in the Cathedral of Saint Anastasia, the largest cathedral in the Dalmatia region and St. Donatus, the monumental round construction from the 9th century whose base dates from Roman times. Afterwards, we are drawn to the furthest end of the peninsula to see an extraordinary sight - the Sea Organ, an experimental music instrument whose melodies are created by the breaking waves on the tubes located underneath a set of marble steps. A "Greeting to the Sun" will be the most perfect end to this rich, fulfilled day. Strolling down the city on your own, treat yourself at one of the many cosmopolitan cafes. Drive back to the hotel in just under an hour. **Overnight: Starigrad or Zadar.**



Day 5

NP Krka walk with boat ride to the Skradin town – City of Šibenik



The first part of this day will be dedicated to the sparkling green of the Croatian rivers. The joined waters of the Krka River and its largest tributary, the Čikola River, fall over the 17 cascades of Skradinski buk waterfall and create an absolutely magical place.

This picturesque and most unusual confluence in Croatia is well known by the open vistas and island formations covered in aquatic plants. Hiking along the banks and over Krka River while you feel splashes of the waterfall nearby will be really fun and refreshing, but the full impression of the Krka river mightiness will be visible only by cruising along it all the way to the Skradin

town. Once you are there, don't miss the opportunity to try an awesome local speciality, the Skradin risotto.

In the second part of the day, the city of Šibenik awaits. This medieval Venetian city is famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the old city walls. It is a home to many significant landmarks, among which is the Cathedral of Saint James (found on the UNESCO World Heritage List). This magnificent building has been constructed by locals for hundreds of years and it certainly deserves a special acknowledgment on this tour. Šibenik is the perfect town to make a short break. Spend your free time to explore Šibenik and its lovely squares on your own.

Overnight: Split or Trogir.



Day 6

The Historical Maze of Dalmatia: Trogir and Split



3 h

Feeling lucky to start your day in Trogir, a charming little town with medieval walls, magical architecture and a wonderful sea view, you are ready for today's adventure. Being in this town will seem like you travelled back in time through centuries, all the way to the Trogir's Golden era, today, still visible in the magnificent Cipiko Palace, the Venetian Cathedral of St. Lawrence, the Gothic town hall and mighty walls along the waterfront. Walking through the city centre (UNESCO World Heritage Site) with cobbled streets and passages, among different architectural styles, listening to the stories about medieval time and feeling the atmosphere of the glorious times past, you will find yourself immersed in the incredible history of Trogir.

A natural unfolding to this fulfilled day is a visit to the city of Split, the successor of Solin, the capital of Roman province Dalmatia. Split was actually the periphery of Solin whose very important citizen – the emperor Diocletian, chose Split's downtown as a place for his palace. That is how the splendour of Split began and how the heart of the city was shaped. Walking down the Split's streets is similar to wandering through a historical labyrinth. You will enter the bronze gate in the south, pass by the cathedral of St. Domnius, one of the best preserved buildings of Roman times, reach the golden gate in the north to touch the left toe of the statue of Gregory of Nin. According to the legend, all visitors who touch the toe of the statue will ensure their return to Split someday. Our tour ends on the busy



seafront, complete with palms and yachts, colourful shops in Roman passages, and charming bars with creative interiors.

Spend your free time to enjoy the remarkable view of the Split's historical centre from Marjan Hill and feel the life and energy of the locals. **Overnight: Split or Trogir.**

Day 7

Skywalk Biokovo



1:30h



Meet one more jewel of Croatian Nature, the Biokovo Mountain whose rampart peaks, 1.500 meters above Makarska Riviera, offer the exceptional views of the sea and nearby islands. It is one of Croatia's most popular hiking destinations with numerous paths that wind up the hills past olive groves, vineyards and pine forest. Some say it owes its name to the whiteness of the snow covered peaks (bio in Croatian word for white) while others claim that word biokovo used to be a synonym for tempest – a specific type of wind locally also called bura. The nature reserve is known among nature lovers by the great number of endemic animal and plant species. Recently, its fame has spread thanks to the Skywalk - a 25-meter-long glass promenade that offers a spectacular view of Makarska Riviera. The local myth says that when the sky is clear and bright, you can even see Italy, all the way across Adriatic!

As a perfect way to end your tour, why wouldn't you indulge yourself with delicacies at some of the Split's squares or promenades and catch the true vibe of the Adriatic coast. **Overnight: Split.**

Day 8

Departure day

Departure from **Split** or connection to another section.

If you are departing from **Split** a few days after the tour end, you can book additional nights with us.

Departure transfer to the listed airport is included. Private transfers to non-listed airports **are available on request.**

Please check the options with your local expert.

General inclusions // Valid both for Standard and Premium Package:

- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as „optional tours“
- **Experiences:** Zagreb City Center Bike tour
- **Entrance tickets:** Plitvice Lakes NP, Paklenica NP, Krka NP with boat ride, Biokovo Nature Reserve
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organization by a licensed local agency

Standard package // Accommodation:

- 2 BB in Zagreb in Hotel International 4* / Hotel Best Western Premier Hotel Astoria 4* or similar
- 2 BB in Zadar in Hotel Kolovare 4* / Hotel Niko 4* / Hotel Ilirija 4* Biograd na Moru or similar
- 3 BB in Split in Hotel Art 4* / Hotel Globo 4* / Hotel President 4* or similar

Premium package // Accommodation:

- 2 BB in Zagreb in Canopy by Hilton Zagreb City Centre 4* superior / Sheraton Zagreb Hotel 5* / The Westin Zagreb Hotel 5* or similar
- 2 BB in Zadar in Teatro Verdi Boutique Hotel 4* superior / Almayer Art & Heritage Hotel and Dépendance 4* superior or similar
- 3 BB in Split in Marvie Hotel & Health 4* superior / Hotel Luxe 4* superior / Hotel Cvita 4* superior or similar

Notices:

- Tips and portorage services are not included in price
- Final choice of the hotels depends on current availability. The tour organiser reserves the right to change the hotel due to availability reasons but guarantees the same category, service quality and similar location of the accommodation unit
- Minimum number of passengers needed for guaranteed tour departure: 2
- The tour organiser reserves the right to change the itinerary of the tour due to unexpected slow-moving traffic at international borders. These changes will not affect the basic itinerary
- It is the responsibility of the passengers to get acquainted with visa requirements of all the countries they are travelling to or will be in transit
- General Travel Conditions issued by Tour Operator d.o.o. and reconciled with YUTA standards are valid for this programme

