

# CROATIAN NATURE & HERITAGE TOUR

## Croatia

Spring / Autumn  
10 days / 9 nights Tour

*With the support of Croatian Botanical Society experts –  
especially prepared for you by:*

PerfectMeetings.hr

Croatian Botanical Society



URKA, d.o.o.; Draskoviceva 66; 10000 Zagreb; Croatia

ID Code: HR-AB-01-060027010

Contact: Mr. Ranko Filipovic

Phone: ++385-1-4827 278

Fax: ++385-1-4832 330

E-mail: [ranko.filipovic@perfectmeetings.hr](mailto:ranko.filipovic@perfectmeetings.hr)

Home Page: [www.perfectmeetings.hr](http://www.perfectmeetings.hr)



URKA, d.o.o. [PerfectMeetings.hr](http://PerfectMeetings.hr); Draskoviceva 66, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

OIB/VAT no: 28424041057; ID Code: HR-AB-01-060027010; MB: 1000870; MBS: 060027010

Insurance policies at Jadransko osiguranje, Zagreb-Croatia.

Tel: +385-1-4827-278; Fax: +385-1-4832-330; [ranko.filipovic@perfectmeetings.hr](mailto:ranko.filipovic@perfectmeetings.hr); [www.perfectmeetings.hr](http://www.perfectmeetings.hr)

# Suggested Itinerary



## DAY 1

Arrive at Zagreb Airport. Meet & greet at the airport and transfer by coach to the hotel in the city centre. Check in, dinner and overnight at the hotel.



### Timing:

- Transfer Airport – Hotel: 30 minutes



## DAY 2

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a guided city tour of Croatian capital by an expert tour guide including city's landmarks. The tour is followed by a visit to the Maksimir Park, a tribute to the park architecture with the goal of protecting and preserving nature's origin, securing undisturbed natural processes and sustainable utilization of natural resources. Lunch on your own.



After a lunch in the local restaurant in the city centre, visit to the Botanical Garden, a part of Faculty of Science of Zagreb University, founded in 1889 and double protected as a monument of park architecture and culture. Most of the garden is constructed in the landscape style, with groups of trees and bushes planted according to the plant systematics. The central flower *parterre* is built in the French style, according to a strict geometrical and symmetrical ground plan.



Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



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## DAY 3

After breakfast, depart towards Trakoscan Castle, most visited and best-preserved castle in the country. Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century as a small fortress, the castle has been rebuilt and renovated several times until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and today displays the way of life of North Croatian nobility in the centuries past. It is surrounded by a beautiful wooded park and a lake.



On our way towards the city of Varazdin, we will stop at Opeka Arboretum near the village of Vinica. Located in the park surrounding the manor, the arboretum was founded in 1860 by a local nobleman who travelled a lot all over the world and brought back various exotic seeds and plants from his travels, expanding his garden and park all the time with exceptional care.

The drive continues towards the city of Varazdin with its exuberant Baroque architecture, the variety of museum collections and delicacies of local food and wine. The lunch on your own. Enjoy a guided city tour including a unique, magnificent Entomological collection. The tour ends at the local cemetery, a part of *European Cemeteries Route*, an outstanding example of landscape architecture and natural monuments.



Drive back to Zagreb for dinner and overnight.

### **Timing:**

- Zagreb - Trakoscan: 1 hour and 15 minutes
- Trakoscan - Varazdin: 35 minutes
- Varazdin - Zagreb: 1 hour and a half

## DAY 4

After breakfast, depart towards world famous Plitvice Lakes National Park – a UNESCO's World Heritage Site. This is the oldest and most visited Croatian national park. Enjoy a guided tour of the park followed by lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch – free time for individual programs.

In the afternoon, the tour continues towards Dalmatian coast and town of Starigrad for a dinner and overnight at the hotel.



**Timing:**

- Zagreb - Plitvice: 2 and a half hour
- Plitvice - Starigrad: 2 and a half hour

## DAY 5

After breakfast, visit the Paklenica National Park whose unique natural features, magnificent forests and extraordinary geomorphologic structures, of the largest and best preserved forest complex in the territory of Dalmatia are protected from overexploitation.

Continue your drive towards the city of Zadar. Free time for your own lunch, followed by a guided city tour of Zadar. Free time to explore this ancient city on your own.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Zadar.



**Timing:**

- Starigrad-Zadar: 45 minutes

## DAY 6

Following breakfast, drive from Zadar towards the ancient city of Trogir – another UNESCO's World Heritage Site – to enjoy this Renaissance gem town and have some free time to explore.



The tour continues towards the largest coastal city of Split. En route, stop at the Kastel Luksic to visit a small botanical garden belonging to the local elementary school and run by the children and their teachers. The garden boasts over 1000 plant species and it is protected as a park architecture monument. Upon arrival in Split, enjoy some free time for lunch on your own before taking a guided walking tour of Split whose centre, Diocletian's Palace, is a UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

Check into the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### Timing:

- Zadar-Trogir: 1,5 hour
- Trogir-Kastel Luksic: half an hour
- Kastel Luksic-Split: half an hour

## DAY 7

After breakfast at the hotel, drive along the coastal highway towards a city of Makarska to visit Kotisina botanic garden located on the coastal slopes of the Biokovo mountain, at an altitude of 350-500 meters. The garden was founded by a Franciscan priest and scholar with the purpose of scientific research, monitoring, protection, conservation, and popularization of the local flora and it is protected as a park architecture monument.



The tour continues to the Zaostrog village to visit the Franciscan monastery with a tiny garden in its cloister containing over 250 different plants. The visit also includes the museum and a valuable monastery library which, altogether make a cultural monument.



Our next stop is the village of Vid; a home of Narona Archeological Museum housing *in situ* the remains of the Roman temple of Augustus with numerous sculptures and artefacts from the time of 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC onwards. The lunch will be organized in a local restaurant.



The tour continues towards a city of Dubrovnik, a world famous UNESCO's World Heritage Site. Check into the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Timing:**

- Split-Makarska/Kotisina: 1 hour and 15 minutes
- Makarska-Vid: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Vid-Dubrovnik: 1 hour and 30 minutes

## DAY 8

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a guided city tour of Dubrovnik, a pearl of the Adriatic. Take some free time for your own exploring the city and for your own lunch. In the afternoon embark the boat in the old harbour to visit a small island of Lokrum in front of the city. It is a nature and a special forest vegetation reserve, but also houses a small botanical garden with over 800 plant species from across the world, mostly from Australia.



Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

## DAY 9

Following breakfast at the hotel, take a transfer to the harbour and embark the boat for a cruise along Dubrovnik Archipelago. The first stop is in the village Trsteno, known for its park architecture monument -



Arboretum - dating back as to the 15<sup>th</sup> century when a local noble family started planting different kinds of plant species brought from abroad by naval captains. The complex represents the way of social life at the country in the Renaissance times.

The voyage continues to the island of Sipan to visit the Skocibuha, another country residence of the former Dubrovnik Republic. After the visit, return to the boat to enjoy a lunch.



The final leg of the voyage takes us to the Lopud island, the largest in the group. Visit Gjorgjic-Mayneri Park dating back from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, another example of country gentry life in the region. Enjoy a free time for exploring the island before returning to Dubrovnik.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Dubrovnik.

## DAY 10

Transfer from the hotel to Dubrovnik Airport for your flight home.

# RATES & CONDITIONS

**RATE for the program in double occupancy, based on minimum 20 pax – available on request**

**RATE for single supplement is available on request**

### SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

- Airport transfers at arrival and departure flights
- 4-star hotel accommodation as per program based in double occupancy
- Meals as per program
- Transportation as per program
- English (or other language if previously agreed) speaking tour escort throughout
- Expert local guides and/or botanists wherever applicable
- Entrance fees for all the sites in the program
- All VAT and taxes required by law

### SERVICES **NOT** INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

- Flights arrangements



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- Any services, meals, drinks or other service or cost not specifically mentioned in the “Included services”
  - Single supplement cost
  - Personal expenses (for example: phone calls, beverages, bottled water, laundry, etc.)
  - Tips for tour escort and the driver
  - Travel insurance
- 

## **BOOKING**

Please note that none of the bookings has been made. To make a booking, exact dates are required.

## **AGREEMENT & PAYMENT**

Upon a confirmation of the program, an agreement will be offered which needs to be signed in order to provide the services. The services should be prepaid in full. The parties will establish the timeline of payments. Payments could be done:

- By bank transfer – net of bank commission
- By credit card – the rates should be increased for 6% card charges

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