

Hiking, biking, kayaking & diving

A Custom Designed Adventure Itinerary to

Croatia

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: ZAGREB/ ISTRIA. Upon arrival at the airport in Zagreb, you will be met and privately transferred to the Istrian town of Brtonigla. Here we have included a two night stay in a classic twin bedded room at the **Hotel San Rocco**, a four star hotel, situated on a hilltop beside the sea in the picturesque rural village of Brtonigla, known as the city of wine. All rooms are furnished in a classic style accented with old ceiling beams and feature internet connection, telephone, T.V. SAT set, safety box, mini-bar, hydro massage and air conditioning.



DAY 2: BIKING! After breakfast this morning we will arrange a full day bike rental on your behalf. Your standard mountain bikes will be delivered to your hotel for the selected cycle route. Please advise each person's height and weight. Enjoy a full day to explore the surrounding countryside. We will include further details with your final itinerary.

DAY 3: ISTRIA / VELEBIT. This morning you will be met at your hotel by an English-speaking driver for a private transfer to Opatija. Here you will collect your rental car, an economy manual, Opel Corsa, or similar, with air conditioning, unlimited mileage, CDW, and tax included. *An international driver's license is recommended.*

From Opatija, travel south along the Adriatic Coast to the beautiful Northern Velebit National Park. At a designated location you will leave your rental car and join the trail to hike to your overnight destination, **Hut Gacka**, a small bed and breakfast retreat. Further details will be included with your final itinerary. Enjoy the balance of your day within the picturesque scenery of the Northern Velebit National Park.



DAY 4: VELEBIT / RAB. This morning you will hike back along the trail to your car and drive south to Jablanac, where you will ferry with your vehicle to Misnjak, on the Island of Rab (*ferry crossing included*). Upon arrival in Rab we have included a two night stay at the **Hotel Arbiana**. The Hotel Arbiana is located just beyond the city walls on its own green park at the edge of the Adriatic Sea. Rooms are light and spacious, accented with stylish and traditional décor, equipped with modern amenities. Spend the balance of your day at leisure.

DAY 5: RAB. Enjoy a full day in Rab with kayaking or diving included. Further details to be advised.



DAY 6: RAB/ PAKLENICA. Today you will ferry back to the mainland along with your vehicle (*ferry crossing included*) and travel to the Paklenica National Park. *Entrances to the Paklenica National Park have been included.* Within the National Park there are approximately 100 miles of hiking trails, with one of the most frequented trails leading from the reception area through the Velika Paklenica Canyon and on to the Paklenica Mountain Hut (about a two hour hike). Further details will be included with your final itinerary.

This afternoon make your way to the **Hotel Vicko** (www.hotel-vicko.hr/en/o_hotelu.php) for an overnight stay. The small family run hotel is an excellent base for exploring the nearby national parks and offers a wonderful restaurant serving local favorites.

DAY 7: PAKLENICA / KRKA. This morning you will drive south to the Krka National Park for a special sightseeing excursion. Enjoy a walk along the footpath and the banks of the Krka River to the wharf above Ogrlica. Here you will board the excursion boat, which operates from the Krka National Park dock. Your half day excursion includes a visit to the Franciscan monastery, church and museum, a ride through the Među Grede Canyon and sightseeing on Roški Slap. *Entrances to Krka National Park have been included.* We will include further details with your final itinerary.



This afternoon check into the **Hotel Skradinski Buk** (www.skradinskibuk.hr), for an overnight stay. Located in the historical town of Skradin, the Hotel Skradinski Buk is perfectly located to explore the nearby parks. Rooms are well equipped with the modern conveniences and balcony allowing guests to relax and fully appreciate the surrounding beauty.

DAY 8: KRKA / TROGIR. After breakfast this morning you will leave the Krka National Park behind and drive to Trogir. The rich culture of Trogir was created under the influence of Greeks, Romans and Venetians. Trogir's concentration of palaces, churches, towers, and a fortress on a small island has earned it the nickname, "The Stone Beauty" and a place on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Here we have included an overnight stay at the **Villa Sv Petar**. Situated inside the historic nucleus of Trogir, the Villa Sv Petar was built in the 14th century and has been carefully reconstructed to keep the traditional appearance.

DAY 9: TROGIR/ HVAR. This morning make your way a short distance to Split and perhaps spend the morning here for a little sightseeing. Split is a fascinating ancient city originally founded in the 4th century by Diocletian as his retirement home. The remains of his palace are incorporated into the Old Quarter of Split and are the prime attraction in the city along with many museums and galleries. Poised between the classical and the medieval Christian civilization, Diocletian's Palace is a compendium of all the styles that preceded it and today is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon you will ferry from Split with your vehicle (*ferry crossing included*) to Stari Grad on the Island of Hvar. Here we have included a three night stay in a superior room at the **Hotel Podstine**. Set in a picturesque, resort like setting, the family friendly hotel is just a ten minute walk from the main city square. It features a romantic restaurant with waterside tables, terrace, café bar, a small pool and wellness center with sauna, solarium and gym and its own beach. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure.



DAY 10: HVAR. Enjoy the next two days on the magical Island of Hvar! Heather, olive groves, lavender, sage, rosemary and wonderful wines... An amazing climate, with over 2700 hours of sunshine a year... The unspoiled town of Hvar, where nuns still make doilies from cactus plants, and (high above) the 13th century fortifications from where guests have an incredible view of the town and the tiny archipelago of the 20 Pakleni islands – perfect for snorkeling and scuba diving in the crystal-clear Adriatic... The picture-postcard town of Stari Grad, with its unique 16th century fortress... And villages inland, where time has literally stood still. During your stay in Hvar we have arranged standard mountain bike rentals for two days; further details will be included with your final itinerary.

Today we will arrange a morning of sea kayaking. Your small group kayaking excursion will begin in Hvar by 9AM. You will set off to the group of small islands called the Pakleni. The origin of the name goes back to old days when the islands were the main source of rosin for local shipbuilders. Today, just like then, the islands are covered with thick pine woods providing refreshing shade even during the hottest summer days. Besides the well-known beach of Palmizana, the route through narrow straits and along the islands reveals to you small hidden pebble beaches where you can enjoy the privilege of having, at least temporarily, a deserted beach. Return to Hvar around 1PM. Afternoon to get on those bikes and explore!

DAY 11: HVAR. Today we will arrange a morning 3-hour diving excursion to explore the surrounding waters of the Adriatic. Meet at Dive Hvar, just minutes from your hotel. The dive includes the hire of all necessary equipment (excludes computer and flashlight). Further details will be included with your final itinerary. After your diving excursion, spend the balance of your day on the bikes to continue exploring.

DAY 12: HVAR/ DUBROVNIK. Today you will board the local ferry with your car to Drvenik (*ferry crossing included*) and drive south to Dubrovnik for a three night stay at the **Hotel Aquarius**. Here we have included a room with balcony.

DAYS 13/14: DUBROVNIK. Dubrovnik, often referred to as the “Pearl of the Adriatic”, is perhaps one of the most incredible medieval walled cities in the world, and today is a UNESCO protected city. The Franciscan Monastery with its 14th century Pharmacy, Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Cathedral and the Rector's Palace are just some of the city's architectural and cultural masterpieces, scrupulously preserved over the centuries. A walk on the old city ramparts is a must; as is a seafood meal in one of the many great restaurants inside the walls.



On one day we will arrange a half day excursion of sea kayaking to the Island of Kolocep with a sea kayaking guide. See green forests touching clear water, steep cliffs, stunning blue caves, rock formations, hidden bays and small fishing villages. Paddling close to the shore is the best way to experience the island's beauties. Your tour will begin with a speedboat transfer, crossing the sea canal to avoid ship routes and areas with sea traffic.

Your tour departs by 9AM and returns at approximately 2PM and has a paddling distance of about seven miles. *Maximum number of participants on this tour is seven. Sea kayaks and equipment are included.* Further details will be included in your final itinerary.

DAY 15: DEPART. Today you will drive to the airport in Dubrovnik, where you will drop off your rental car in time to board your departing flight.