

Dear Travel Professional:

Based on the amazing success of our FOUR fams in 2006 (108 agents from 17 U.S. states), the feedback from many of these agents, and more regular bookings to this region in 2006 than the previous 10 years COMBINED, it didn't take a rocket scientist to realize we need to get out ASAP what I firmly believe is the best program highlighting the Croatian Adriatic currently offered on the U.S. market.

I've geared it for multiple travel combinations and numbers; and costs will be based on these. Maybe you can put together a "group" (from 8 guests to 30 guests) and we'll use varying sizes of coaches, with top IQOTC drivers and guides? Maybe just 2, 4 or 6 guests, traveling in a rental vehicle or with a great English-speaking driver/guide and private car or minivan?

I've suggested a start in Venice, but the program can easily be geared to fly into Ljubljana, with the possibility of spending 3 nights in the amazing Slovenian mountain resort of Bled before heading to the Adriatic.

Whatever combinations you feel you can work with, the most crucial issue is picking 2007 dates ASAP and allowing IQOTC to "protect" what you are offering by holding the relevant hotel space. It is no exaggeration to state that this European destination will be the most heavily booked worldwide for 2007. And unless the right hotel rooms are booked very soon, clients are going to end up with rooms that are not up to U.S. standards or no rooms at all.

Other vital components such as ferries, local guides and special events must be pre-booked and pre-paid or the travel program will self-destruct once the clients are at the destinations. My own personal travel experience in this part of Europe (living there for over 8 years), the contacts we have on the ground, and the track record IQOTC can currently boast, all ensure that the program we create will work – and that the clients will return satisfied.

Welcome to Europe's #1 tourist destinations!

Sincerely,  
Brian Mundy  
President & C.E.O.

# *A Custom Designed Itinerary to*

## *Gems of the Croatian Adriatic*

*By*

### *IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS*

**DAY 1: VENICE / OPATIJA.** If 8 or more guests, a coach, driver and English-speaking guide will pick up at a designated time from a designated location at Venice airport and drive (2 hours) east into Slovenia, where a possible visit to the original Lipizzaner Stud Farm (founded in 1580) before crossing into Croatia and arriving in the sophisticated Adriatic resort of Opatija, where 3 nights will be included on a bed/breakfast basis.

#### **NOTES:**

- 1. If less than 8 guests, IQOTC will still include the Venice pick up (using an English-speaking driver and relevant vehicle) and transfer guests via Lipica to Opatija. To hire a rental vehicle IN ITALY and drop it off IN CROATIA will cost more than the private transfer.**
- 2. The hotel in Opatija will be geared to the requested budget. IQOTC has special rates at Hotel Millenij, Grand Hotel 4 or Hotel Agava (all can be seen on [www.ugohoteli.hr](http://www.ugohoteli.hr)), or Hotel Bristol – [www.hotel-bristol.hr](http://www.hotel-bristol.hr).**
- 3. If guests wish to fly into Ljubljana (Slovenia) rather than Venice, and start off with a suggested 3 nights in Bled, we can arrange either the coach option (for 8 or more guests), or a driver/guide and private vehicle option, or a rental car. The “extra” program would be as follows:**

**DAY 1: LJUBLJANA / BLEED.** Head from LJU (about 35 minutes) to the idyllic resort of Bled, where 3 nights are included at Hotel Berc – [www.berc-sp.si](http://www.berc-sp.si).

**DAYS 2/3: BLEED.** After breakfast each morning guests have a full day free in Bled – [www.bled.si](http://www.bled.si). Maybe a visit to the famous 11th century Castle, built on a rock 400 feet above the lake? Maybe take a “pletna” (gondola) out on the lake to the pilgrimage island? Maybe take a walk around the lake? Maybe 18 holes on the championship golf course (with incredibly low green fees, hire of golf clubs, pull cart etc)? Maybe some great hiking or biking (we can arrange the hire of bikes)? Maybe horse riding? Maybe just do NOTHING, relax and eat kremschnitters all day?



**DAY 4: POSTOJNA / OPATIJA.** We'll depart Bled after breakfast, heading southwest to possibly visit the Postojna Caves, the second-largest system of underground caverns in the world, and the #1 visited tourist sight in Slovenia, From here we head south into Croatia and the sophisticated resort of Opatija, where we start our “Gems of the Croatian Adriatic” program with the 3 nights at our selected hotel.)



**DAY 2 (OR 5 IF THE 3-NIGHT SLOVENIAN OPTION IS INCLUDED): OPATIJA.** A full day to relax and enjoy Opatija, the #1 seaside resort of the Austro-Hungarian nobility prior to WW1, and today the #1 resort on the northern Croatian Adriatic coast.



**DAY 3 (OR 6): LOCAL.** We suggest a day of exploring neighboring Istria, the “Tuscany of Croatia.” A “must” is a visit to Hum, with officially 17 inhabitants, this medieval hilltop masterpiece is recognized in the Guinness Book of Records as the Smallest City in the World. Nearby is another entry in that same book – Livade. Here in 1999 a local farmer and his dog discovered the largest white truffle ever found to date in the world; and this tiny village has now the finest restaurant in the entire country! A table for lunch here needs to be booked MONTHS in advance! 3 miles away is another medieval hilltop gem – Motovun. And not far from here we can arrange wine tasting in what we’ve discovered is the finest estate in Istria.

**DAY 4 (OR 7): TROGIR / SPLIT / BRAC OR HVAR.** Today we head south to one of the two UNESCO protected cities in Croatia – Trogir. Situated on its own island, Trogir is a masterpiece of Venetian art and architecture, and a local guide can show us it all on a walking tour. From here into Split, where another local guide can highlight Diocletian’s Roman Palace before we board a ferry to the magical Islands of Brac or Hvar. If the former, 3 nights are suggested at the Deskovic Palace – [www.palaca-deskovic.com](http://www.palaca-deskovic.com). If the latter, 3 nights are suggested at either Hotel Podstine ([www.podstine.com](http://www.podstine.com)), or the Hotel Adriana – [www.suncanihvar.com](http://www.suncanihvar.com).



**DAYS 5/6 (OR 8/9): BRAC OR HVAR.** 2 glorious days to enjoy either island - [www.islandbrac.com](http://www.islandbrac.com) or [www.hvar.hr](http://www.hvar.hr). Beaches, ancient fishing villages (where time has literally stood still), wine tasting, olive oil farms, special events...

**DAY 7 (OR 10): DUBROVNIK.** Today we head for Dubrovnik ([www.dubrovnik.hr](http://www.dubrovnik.hr)). Glorious scenery unfolds as we arrive at “The Pearl of the Adriatic”, where 3 nights are included in sea view rooms at the 5 star Grand Villa Argentina – [www.gva.hr](http://www.gva.hr), or the 5-star Hilton Imperial ([www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)) or the 5-star Hotel Bellevue ([www.hotel-bellevue.hr](http://www.hotel-bellevue.hr)).

**DAYS 8/9 (OR 11/12): DUBROVNIK.** We suggest starting with a morning guided walking tour of the other UNESCO protected city in Croatia, highlighting the Rector’s Palace, the Cathedral and the Franciscan Monastery. The balance of the stay is at leisure to walk the medieval ramparts (fantastic photos!), explore the cobblestone alleyways off the main street, have a sumptuous seafood lunch in one of the many local restaurants, shop, swim, take an optional half-day trip to the charming village of Cavtat, an optional full-day trip to the Republic of Montenegro, enjoy a concert or a folklore performance... Dubrovnik has it all!



**DAY 10 (OR 13): DEPART.** A transfer to Dubrovnik airport.

**Exclusive property of In Quest of the Classics [www.iqotc.com](http://www.iqotc.com)**