

# **ADRIATIC JEWELS 2025**

# VENICE TO DUBROVNIK / DUBROVNIK TO VENICE

# EXCLUSIVE SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE

IMPORTANT: THE TOURS AT ROVINJ-DAY 2, SENJ-DAY 3, AND SIBENIK-DAY 4 REQUIRE A PREBOOKING AHEAD OF CRUISE / PLEASE SEE NOTES





### DAY 2 ROVINJ

### Truffle Hunting & Wine Tour

REQUIRES PREBOOKING 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE

- Duration approx. 5,5 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking escort, truffle hunting and lunch /tasting with home made wine
- Per Person: Euro 256

Embark on an authentic Istrian adventure, combining tradition, nature, and culinary delights.

Your journey begins with a comfortable pickup from **Rovinj**, followed by a scenic drive through the picturesque Istrian countryside to a charming village near **Buzet**, known as the truffle capital of Istria.

Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed with a refreshing local drink and a warm introduction to the household's rich truffle-hunting tradition. Learn about the history and significance of truffles in Istrian culture as your hosts share insights into the art of truffle foraging.

Next, head into the enchanting Istrian forests with a **licensed truffle hunter** and two expertly trained dogs. Experience the thrill of the hunt as the dogs sniff out these prized culinary treasures beneath the forest floor. Your guide will explain the unique ecosystem that allows truffles to thrive and the skills required to uncover them.

After the hunt, savor the fruits of your labor with a delicious **three-course meal** crafted from locally sourced ingredients and, of course, freshly discovered truffles. Enjoy the rich flavors of Istrian cuisine, perfectly paired with local wines and delicacies.

This immersive experience offers a true taste of Istria's culinary and cultural heritage one you won't soon forget.

- Two types of cheeses, salami, canapés with black and white truffle spreads, truffle honey, truffle olive oil, and truffle spices
- Scrambled eggs with fresh truffles (Guests can either participate in the cooking or observe the preparation)
- Dessert: Warm fritule (traditional Istrian doughnuts) served with the world's first chocolate spread infused with truffles



### DAY 3 **SENJ**

#### Plitvice Lakes **REQUIRES PREBOOKING 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE**

- Duration approx. 5,5 hours
- Incl. Transportation, Plitvice National Park ticket, licensed English-
- speaking guide at the park. Per Person: **Euro 175**

Discover the breathtaking beauty of Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's crown iewel of natural wonders.

Your adventure begins with a comfortable pickup from **Senj**, followed by a scenic drive through Croatia's picturesque hinterland to the heart of Plitvice Lakes National Park - a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the country's most spectacular natural attraction.

Nestled among forested hills, Plitvice is a paradise of 16 interconnected lakes cascading into one another through a network of stunning waterfalls and crystal-clear streams. The mineral-rich waters create constantly evolving formations of tufa, shaping the park's ever-changing landscape.

As you wander through this natural wonderland, you'll follow well-maintained wooden footbridges and pathways winding around the lakes and across the rumbling waters. Keep an eye out for the vibrant clouds of **butterflies** dancing above the lakes and the rich variety of wildlife that thrives in this pristine environment.

Explore the park with a licensed tour guide, who will provide fascinating insights into the park's geology, ecosystem, and history. Afterward, enjoy some free time to explore at your own pace. The suggested routes are designed to be 2-3 hours long, but your guide will adjust the path based on the group's fitness level and the park's crowd levels to ensure the best possible experience.



# day 4 <mark>ŠIBENIK</mark>

#### Sibenik guided walk & Krka National Park REQUIRES PREBOOKING 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE

• Duration approx. 5,5 hours

 Incl. Transportation, guided tour of Šibenik, English-speaking guide, entry ticket

Pér Person: Euro 132

#### Discover the historic charm of Šibenik and the natural beauty of Krka National Park on an unforgettable journey through Croatia's Adriatic treasures.

Your excursion begins with a guided walking tour in **Šibenik**, the oldest Croatianfounded town on the Adriatic coast. Wander through the city's **narrow**, **winding streets** lined with **stone houses**, charming staircases, and remnants of ancient city walls, creating a romantic and distinct Mediterranean atmosphere.

The highlight of Šibenik is the magnificent St. Jacob's Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage Site), a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture built over the span of a century. Next, we journey to the breathtaking Krka National Park, which stretches along the 73 km Krka River from the Adriatic near Šibenik to the rugged mountains of Croatia's interior. This magical landscape of waterfalls, gorges, and karstic canyons plunges 200 meters deep, creating a dramatic natural setting.

Krka's rich history is also reflected in the **monasteries** built by monks who sought solace in the park's serene remoteness. Enjoy exploring the park at your own pace, following a recommended route of approximately **2.5 hours**. Walk along scenic trails, cross wooden bridges, and admire the park's cascading waterfalls and crystal-clear pools.



### DAY 5 <mark>SPLIT</mark>

#### Split and Trogir experiences

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Guided tour of Split and Trogir with an English-speaking guide
   and
- transportation to/from Trogir.
- Per Person: Euro 76

Experience the rich history and vibrant culture of Split and Trogir on an unforgettable guided tour.

We will start from **Split Cruise Port** for a short but insightful guided tour of Split's charming old town. Situated on Croatia's stunning **Dalmatian coast**, Split pulses with energy, effortlessly blending tradition and modernity. It's the perfect place to experience **Dalmatian life** as it's truly lived.

Split is a treasure trove for history lovers, with numerous **archaeological sites** and buildings under **UNESCO protection**. Explore the impressive **Diocletian's Palace**, one of the most well-preserved Roman monuments in the world, built in the 4th century as a grand retirement residence for the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Stroll through the historic neighborhood's **narrow streets** lined with ancient Roman landmarks. Take in the lively atmosphere of the city's **vibrant squares**, perfect for people watching and soaking up the local culture.

Next, we'll head to the charming town of **Trogir**, a stunning example of urban continuity. This island settlement features an **orthogonal street plan** dating back to the **Hellenistic period**. Over the centuries, successive rulers have adorned Trogir with remarkable public and private buildings, including **Romanesque churches** and exquisite **Renaissance** and **Baroque** structures from the Venetian era.

After exploring Trogir's historic beauty, enjoy some **free time** wandering the town's charming streets or relax at a local café. Finally, we'll head back to the boat in Split, leaving you with unforgettable memories of Croatia's coastal gems



# DAY 6 **KORCULA**

#### Wine tasting at Bire Winery, Lumbarda

- Duration approx. 2,5 hours
  Per Person: Euro 78

Leaving the port, our tour takes us through the island to the rural village of Lumbarda and the surrounding vineyards, where the family Milina - Bire existed for centuries, known for producing some of the island's most distinctive and highquality wines. While in the past they produced wine for their house needs, half a century ago they decided to use the knowledge they gathered throughout the years of grape and wine production, and they started their own small winery. Now they have a completely automatic system for wine production, while they still try to keep part of the old-fashioned way. Upon arrival guests will go to the wine production venue to see how the wine is produced nowadays, before coming to the intriguing wine cellar nicely decorated with the wine production tools used in the past. Here your host, the owner of the winery, will tell you the history of the family Bire producing wines while you can sample four or their outstanding wines and other products like homemade prosciutto, sheep cheese and fresh local bread.

Note: On Sundays or non-operational days of the Bire winery, we will visit the Zura winery instead



# DAY 7 KOTOR

#### Kotor – Scenic Lovcen Road – Njegusi

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, prosciutto degustation at Njegusi
- Per Person: Euro 104

We depart from Kotor and journey along the steep slopes of **Lovcen Mountain**, an area of striking contrasts and breathtaking views. On one side rise the cold, rugged Montenegrin Mountains, while on the other lies the warmth and beauty of one of the most stunning bays in the world. Our route takes us along the serpentine "Lovcen Road," renowned as one of the most scenic drives in both the country and the world.

On the northern edge of the park, we'll arrive at the charming mountain village of Njegusi. The atmosphere here is quite different from that of Kotor Bay, as we now enjoy the refreshing coolness of the Alpine climate. This picturesque cluster of stone houses is known as the birthplace of the Petrovic dynasty, Montenegro's most influential rulers. Njegusi is also celebrated for producing the country's finest Pršut (smoke-dried ham). We'll visit a traditional "smoked Ham" house, where authentic Montenegrin artifacts are displayed, and see hams hanging from the rafters, filling the air with the tempting aroma of prosciutto.

We'll enjoy a taste of the renowned prosciutto and smoked cheese, accompanied by homemade bread and local wine. Afterward, enjoy some free time at the charming Kotor Old town before rejoining our ship.

(mostly as an afternoon tour)



# DAY 7 KOTOR

#### Morning Guided Walk in the Old Town

- Duration approx. 1-1,5 hours
- Incl. Kotor Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 58

Step back in time as you pass through **Kotor's Sea Gate**, the iconic entrance to the enchanting Old Town. Meet your guide and embark on a captivating journey through the city's rich history and architectural splendor.

Begin your exploration at the lively **Square of Arms**, home to the historic Clock Tower, where Gothic and Baroque styles blend harmoniously. Take in the vibrant atmosphere and admire the square's timeless charm.

Wander through Flour Square, flanked by the impressive Pima and Buca palaces, before arriving at the magnificent **St. Tryphon Cathedral**. Enjoy a guided tour of its interior and marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship. Continue your stroll through the Old Town's picturesque streets, discovering hidden treasures such as Boka Navy Square, with the renowned Karampana Well, and St. Luke Square, where ancient churches stand in quiet elegance.

Conclude your journey back to the bustling Square of Arms, leaving with lasting memories of Kotor's rich heritage and timeless beauty



### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Our curated tours are prearranged, therefor we kindly ask you to pre-book your tours marked with "prebooking required" at least 10 days before your cruise. No prepayment is required, but please note that pre-bookings will be binding. Prices are valid for a minimum of 11 guests; for smaller groups, a 10% surcharge may occur depending on the tour. Cancellation fees apply for cancellations received less than 48hrs before each tour.

#### REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety Cruises small groups and require a minimum of 11 guests.

Our tours do perfectly match with our cruise itinerary timings and are led by local certified English-speaking guides to the "must see" sites and hidden spots, mostly supervised by our experience leader.

They are subject to changes due to site restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Should sites or museums be closed on our visiting days, alternative visits will be offered instead.

The tours are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery sites, we recommend comfortable shoes, suntan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are <u>not included</u>.

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