CROATIA

The Istrian Peninsula

A Prototype Guided Walking Adventure
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Travel Style

This small-group Guided Walking Adventure offers an authentic travel experience, one that takes you away from the crowds and deep in to the fabric of local life. On it, you’ll enjoy 24/7 expert guides, premium accommodations, delicious meals, effortless transportation, and local wine or beer with dinner. Rest assured that every trip detail has been anticipated so you’re free to enjoy an adventure that exceeds your expectations.

And, with our optional Flight + Tour Combo and Zagreb Post-Tour Extension to complement this destination, we take care of all the travel to simplify the journey. Refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

Overview

Istria evokes images of palm-graced gardens, Venetian villas, and glamorous resorts along the shimmering Adriatic Sea. This journey plants you amid sumptuous luxury tinged with a hint of the exotic, since Westerners have only recently ventured to Croatia. Exploring the Adriatic’s eastern shore, you stroll formal seaside promenades, walk gentle paths, and hike traditional trails, following in the footsteps of Roman soldiers, medieval artisans, religious pilgrims, Italian princes, and Austrian emperors. You’ll summit Croatia’s highest mountain for the ultimate reward: 360-degree views of this stunningly beautiful region.

Traveling from “Blue” to “Green” Istria—from the sea to the peaceful interior—you encounter the region’s extraordinary nature, culture, and cuisine with expert guides who add depth to your experience. You take part in a hunt for the elusive Istrian white truffle, taste fine wines poured by the vintners who nurture them, wander an amazingly intact 1st-century Roman amphitheater, and admire brilliant mosaics in a Byzantine basilica. Each day promises fresh dining pleasures; hearty Eastern European fare, tasty Italian-influenced pastas, and fresh-caught delicacies from the sea. And each night, luxurious lodging—a chic modern seaside hotel & spa, a renovated Belle Époque villa, and a city hotel that once welcomed Orient Express travelers—enhance the adventure.
Daily Itinerary

DAY 1


After brief introductions, and a 30-minute drive through the little village of Bagnoli, you reach the trailhead for today’s walk in the Val Rosandra Nature Reserve, situated on the border between Italy and Slovenia. Throughout history, this lovely low-lying alpine reserve has been a vital trade route between inland regions and the Adriatic Sea. Today it’s part of the famed Alpe Adria trail. Your path varies between white stone and dirt, with some larger rocks and roots, as it climbs gradually above the Rosandra River through oak and black pine forest. Along the way, you see unusual karst rock formations caused by acidic water seeping into limestone bedrock to form cracks and eventually caves, sinkholes, and spectacular cliffs. The area teems with wildlife; chiefly small mammals like hares and hedgehogs, but also lynx, deer, wild goats, and (binocular alert!) more than 130 bird species. You enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the Gulf of Trieste en route to the beautiful Glinščice Waterfall, which once powered the mills operating downstream into the early 1900s. Then you descend to Bottazzolo, a former mill village, and join the rail trail created along a former track built in just 20 months in 1885. If the day is clear, you have views of the oldest church in the region, Santa Maria in Siaris, built on 13th-century foundations on a nearly inaccessible scree bluff.
After, relax during a 1-hour transfer through Slovenia into Croatia, where your first stop is a welcoming family-owned restaurant where a raised hearth and beamed ceilings exude traditional atmosphere that matches the hearty fare: perhaps homemade pasta, wild asparagus, game, and other local specialties. Your next stop is a tour and tasting at Croatia’s top winery, Kozlović, family-run since 1904. Recognized for both quality and innovation (some of their Malvazija, for example, is aged in acacia barrels), Kozlović’s tasting room is strikingly modern; as is the terrace that affords great views of the vineyards below and the hilltop town of Momjan above.

Another sixty minute ride brings you to Poreč for a guided tour of one of the most beautiful examples of early Byzantine art in the Mediterranean, the 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage site noted for its mosaics. After a 45-minute transfer, you reach your home base for three nights, a splendid seaside property. Refresh; then reunite for a welcome drink and orientation meeting. A feast of fresh local seafood savored with a local wine (or craft beer) follows at a favorite restaurant nearby.

**Hotel Monte Mulini, Rovinj**

This hotel offers every possible amenity in a breathtaking setting. Relax in an ultra-modern guestroom with stylish bath, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, and more. The hotel spa offers an array of treatments and facilities, including an indoor resistance pool. Outside are terraced pools, one of which is heated; and the hotel’s pristine pebbly beach. Mediterraneo, the hotel’s excellent restaurant, boasts an expert head chef and sommelier.

**DAY 2**

Truffle hunt; 1-mile, easy. Završje to Grožnjan; 5 miles, easy

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, you head into the green heart of Istria and the Mirna River valley near Buzet, where rare Istrian white truffles (*tuber magnatum*) as well as black truffles can be found. You join third-generation truffle hunter, Karlo, and his special-trained dogs on an actual search for these underground *tuberous fungus* (a gastronomic prize!). Afterward you have a chance to sample both white and black truffles and other truffle products.
Continuing on, you reach Motovun, a medieval hilltop village where you enjoy a special lunch on the restaurant’s terrace. Truffles will accent the fare; perhaps atop the chef’s legendary homemade fuzi pasta, a traditional Istrian specialty.

This substantial lunch calls for another walk; a two-hour stroll on a converted rail trail dubbed the Parenzana, or “Friendship Trail”, from nearby Završje to the artsy village of Grožnjan. Mostly abandoned after World War II, this medieval town high on a sandstone hill began to revive in 1965 when artists moved into the many empty houses. Today, the village is a beehive of activity in the summer, inhabited by musicians and actors as well as artists. Enjoy wandering the maze of cobbled streets and browsing the galleries, studios, and artisan shops, or find a café with a terrace; to soak in views of the surrounding hillside villages. Returning to your hotel late afternoon, you may opt for a swim or a spa visit before stepping out into the historic center of town for dinner at a rustic konoba (tavern).

Hotel Monte Mulini, Rovinj

Day 3

Brijuni National Park; 4 miles, easy. Pula guided tour, 1 mile, easy

You remain in “Blue Istria” today, first traveling 35 minutes down the coast to Fažana, where you catch a ferry to Veliki Brijun, an island where Marshal Josip Broz Tito, former president of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, spent half of every year enjoying a very lavish lifestyle. Tito’s first visit was in the late 1940’s when he immediately set about restoring the island to its former glory. Thereafter, his villa hosted more than 100 heads of state, film stars, as well as other VIPs.

On a fascinating circuit walk, you quickly see the attraction of this 1700-acre island (the largest in the archipelago) that was established as a national park in 1983, following Tito’s death. Your walk passes Roman ruins from the first century A.D.—a Temple of Venus and a Roman residential villa. You walk through meadows, oak and laurel forests, and see some 1,000-year-old olive trees. You may spot rare plants, such as wild cucumber and marine poppy. Soon you arrive to a small but interesting ethnographic museum established by Tito himself, to gain insight into the region’s diverse population.

Returning to the mainland, you enjoy lunch at an authentic Istrian estate dating from Roman times. Early in the 20th century, Austrian military officers established it as a rest and relaxation retreat close to their military facilities.
Recently the estate has been completely renovated and is now renowned for its wines and olive oil. You have the opportunity to sample these and other specialties in the tasting room and restaurant.

Later this afternoon you continue south to Pula, whose complex political history dates from 177 B.C., when it was conquered by the Romans. Despite millennia of devastating wars and changes in governance, Pula’s Roman amphitheater—one of the six largest in the world—has survived largely intact and is still in use. A local historian is your guide before your return to Rovinj, where you enjoy an independent evening of exploring and dining.

**Hotel Monte Mulini, Rovinj**

**DAY 4**

Zlatni Rt (Golden Cape) Park Forest; 4 miles, easy to moderate. Guided walking tour of Rovinj; 1 mile, easy

Depart on foot from your hotel this morning for a coastal stroll on well-groomed paths through the nearby Golden Cape Forest, the oldest protected natural site in Istria, used for many types of recreation. Your walk is enhanced by a profusion of native plants: Himalayan cedars, cypresses, and a rich variety of pines, including Aleppo and Calabrian pine. There’s also dense undergrowth consisting of holm oaks and other Mediterranean shrubs. The meadows are surrounded by Douglas firs and by the exotic solitary cypress.

After the park circuit, you continue directly into the historic heart of Rovinj for a guided walking tour. Medieval, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque periods are reflected in the buildings rising from ancient cobblestone streets. You explore the outdoor market, landmark buildings, and the town’s symbol: St. Euphemia Parish Church, an impressive three-nave church built in 1736 over the remains of earlier Christian churches. Its striking bell tower is similar to the iconic tower on St. Mark’s in Venice; inside, you find significant religious paintings and sculpture. Enjoy lunch on your own before a 2-hour drive through forested hills to Opatija, the genteel grand dame of Adriatic seaside spa resorts during the height of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Evidence of those glory days remains in the many Belle Époque villas, one of which will be your home base while here.
After settling into your boutique hotel, it’s a short walk in the adjacent park to visit Opatija’s symbol, the Maiden with the Seagull statue.

You reconvene to stroll along the beautiful Franz Josef I Promenade (Lungomare) past majestic villas and gardens graced with laurels, palms, fig trees, and oaks, to the charming little harbor of Volosko, where working fisherman repair their nets and flowers cascade from the balconies of small stone houses. You are rewarded for your efforts with an outstanding meal at one of the finest restaurants in all Croatia. The restaurant owner and chef is also an accomplished sommelier who personally sources each day’s ingredients locally. Her elegant presentations match the quality of each course.

Hotel Sveti Jakov, Opatija

The former home of Viennese physician and scientist, Julius Glax, is now a boutique hotel where you experience firsthand the Belle Époque esthetic that prevailed under Austro-Hungarian rule. Its classical elegance features archways, lavish draperies and gleaming parquet floors enhanced by desirable modern amenities. You also enjoy access to the luxurious spa and beach facilities of Sveti Jakov’s sister hotel right next door. The delightful hotel restaurant has outdoor seating protected by an arcade.

DAY 5

Učka Nature Park; 5 miles, easy to moderate

After a 45-minute transfer, today’s walk offers (on a clear day) one of the most stunning panoramas of the Istrian peninsula from the top of Mt. Učka. This magnificent nature park was established in 1999, partly because of its unique climate and the species of flora and fauna sheltered here. Human settlement on the mountain dates back 13,000 years. In recent centuries people have lived in tiny villages and earned their living by cattle breeding and agriculture; clearing the land and leaving traces—stone walls, shepherds’ huts, animal shelters—that remain today. Among the park’s fauna are birds, amphibians, insects, and mammals including deer, roe deer, wild boar, badger, and recently bear; plus rare birds, in particular the griffon vulture which is virtually extinct elsewhere. Plant species include the Učka bellflower, found only on Mt. Učka.
Your path (beginning about ¾ of the way up the mountain) leads you through a unique littoral beech forest on a gradual ascent to the summit of Vojak, Učka’s highest peak at 4,596 feet. There is a stone observation tower at the summit from which you have a magnificent view over the entire Istrian peninsula, the Bay of Trieste, the Julian Alps, and the islands of the Adriatic. After you’ve had a chance to absorb and cherish these amazing views, you descend (via minibus) to a charmingly rustic restaurant. Refueling options include hearty soups, salad, cured meats, and for those who enjoy game, venison and wild boar.

Late afternoon finds you seaside in Opatija once again, where you may wish to sample the luxurious spa services at Hotel Milenji next door, shop, stroll the waterfront promenade, or simply relax. There are many restaurants from which to choose this evening—including the hotel’s excellent osteria.

Hotel Sveti Jakov, Opatija

DAY 6

Plitvice National Park; 5 miles, easy to moderate. Transfer to Zagreb

We bid the Adriatic farewell today and travel inland 2½ hours to Croatia’s oldest and most beloved national park: Plitvice Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage site recognized and studied by scientists for more than two centuries. Today, Plitvice’s rare flora (including the lady’s slipper orchid and several carnivorous plants) and fauna (including brown bear and nearly 160 bird species) are closely monitored and protected. Your guides lead you on a network of wooden walkways and hiking trails that crisscross through the cascades, waterfalls, streams, and lush green scenery of both the upper and lower lakes, stopping en route for a picnic lunch. You learn how geography and the karst geology have shaped this amazing area. An electric boat ride offers a different perspective and an opportunity to appreciate the powerful force and crystalline waters of this magnificent park.

Mid-afternoon, you continue towards Croatia’s capital, Zagreb, where you are welcomed in style at a hotel that was a stopping point for Orient Express travelers on the route between Istanbul and Paris. After refreshing, you reunite for a farewell feast at a favorite restaurant. The menu features locally-sourced
products from fishermen and hunters and offers middle-European flavors and a touch of the Mediterranean.

Hotel Esplanade, Zagreb

Perfectly situated in the heart of Croatia’s vibrant capital, the Esplanade is an imposing building outside, while inside it’s lavishly appointed throughout in Art Deco style, with marble walls, beautiful woodwork and elegant furnishings. Guest rooms are spacious and sophisticated, with sumptuous marble baths. Amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi and a fitness facility. Attentive professional staff will ensure your comfort. There’s a fine restaurant, Zinfandel, as well as a bistro with terrace seating.

DAY 7

Departure from Zagreb

After a leisurely breakfast, you bid your travel companions farewell and continue your exploration of Zagreb, or depart for onward travels.
ITINERARY CHANGES

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual activities, sites, and accommodations may vary due to season, special events, weather, or transportation schedules. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary, since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance and unforeseen circumstances may arise that mandate change. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.

PROTOTYPE TOUR INFORMATION

As a reminder, this is a Prototype Tour and the itinerary is being operated with a group for the first time. Although extensive research and development have taken place, certain logistics may need to be altered and fine-tuned along the way. We ask that you join with a sense of adventure and flexibility. Your reviews are very important to us, and we do require that each guest complete a short daily evaluation for to be collected at the end of the tour by the Country Walkers representative. Thank you for joining this “maiden voyage” – we appreciate your input, opinions, and sense of adventure!

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Country Walkers is a leader in active travel with responsible tourism an integral part of our core values. Our tours reflect our dedication to best travel practices—and to the preservation of indigenous cultures and the environment. Country Walkers has made a donation on behalf of every traveler to the CW Travelers Fund, which supports designated projects in the communities and habitats in which we travel. We invite you to learn more about our efforts and initiatives for giving back.
Tour Itinerary Overview

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel (lobby), Trieste, Italy. 8:30 a.m.
Riva del Mandracchio, 4
Trieste, Italy
Tel 011 39 040 77941
Email savoiaexcelsior.ts@starhotels.it
starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/savoia-excelsior-palace-trieste/

NIGHTS 1, 2, & 3

Hotel Monte Mulini
Ul. Antonia Smareglie, 3
Rovinj, Croatia
Tel 011 385 52 636 000
Email info@maistra.hr
maistra.com/hotel-monte-mulini-rovinj
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 4 & 5

Hotel Sveti Jakov
Ul. Pava Tomašića, 1
Opatija, Croatia
Tel 011 385 51 278 007
Email info@milenijhoteli.hr
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHT 6

Hotel Esplanade
Mihanoviceva, 1
Zagreb, Croatia
Tel 011 385 1 4566 666
Email info@esplanade.hr
esplanade.hr
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Hotel Esplanade, Zagreb, Croatia, at your leisure following breakfast (and by the hotel check-out time of 12:00 p.m.)
TRAVEL DELAY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you are delayed while traveling, or experience any unforeseen situation en route to your tour, assistance is only a few, easy steps away:

As a Country Walkers guest, you benefit from 24-hour, toll free access to One Call Emergency Hotline and Travel Assistance. Call the numbers below from anywhere in the world to get immediate assistance (regarding everything from lost luggage, to missed connections, to health concerns or notifying your guides or our local partners of a delayed arrival).

To contact One Call, please use one of the following methods:

By Email: mail@oncallinternational.com
By Text: 603.945.0103
By Phone:
If calling from within the USA: 800.555.9095
If calling from outside the USA: 800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710

When calling from outside the USA, you will need to dial the access code for the country you are calling from (a complete list of access codes, provided by AT&T, can be found on the Country Walkers website under Travel Planning and Travel Resources: AT&T International Access Codes. If you receive an automated response, when prompted, you can then enter either of the numbers above; One Call accepts collect calls 24/7.

In the unlikely event you are unable to connect by phone with One Call, or the region you are calling from does not have an access code, you should speak with a live international operator and ask them to place a collect call to 800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710.

Should there be any problems placing a collect call (as is occasionally the case depending on the country), dial, email, or text One Call directly and ask them to return your call immediately to minimize any out of pocket costs.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We offer guests the opportunity to purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please contact us for details.
Tour Facts at a Glance

TOUR LENGTH (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)
7 days, 6 nights

PROTOTYPE DEPARTURE DATE
October 2-8, 2017

PROTOTYPE TOUR PRICE
$5,148 (Single+$848)*

*Additional savings apply. Please call for details.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME
Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel (lobby), Trieste, Italy, 8:30 a.m.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME
Hotel Esplanade, Zagreb, Croatia, at your leisure following breakfast

ACTIVITY LEVEL
This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures. It is rated easy to moderate, with most walks more on the moderate side and an average of 3 to 5 miles per day, with options on some days. There are minimal daily ascents and descents, with climbing time on the ascents ranging from about 15 to 30 minutes. The terrain varies from paved and cobblestone streets (during organized city tours and other easy village exploration) to uneven, single-track trails with loose stones or gravel, rocky coastal paths, ancient ruins with stone steps.

INCLUSIONS
» Two expert, local guides (for groups of 8 or more), with you 24/7
» All meals except for one lunch and two dinners; local wine or beer included with dinners
» All accommodations while on tour
» Transportation from the meeting point to the departure point
» Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary
» Destination information (weather, visa requirements, etc.) and other travel assistance available 24/7 provided by One Call International
The unbeatable and cumulative experience of the Country Walkers staff

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

Prior to your adventure you will be asked to sign a Passenger Participation Agreement and you will receive:

» Luggage tags

» List of travel companions and guide biographies

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for all hotels, meals, and services that are included in your tour price will be paid by Country Walkers. Should you wish to tip your Country Walkers guide(s), the standard in the industry ranges from $10 to $15 per person, per guide, per day (or $20 to $30 per couple, per guide, per day), and can be paid in USD or local currency.
Traveling To and From Your Tour

If you are interested in reserving the optional Flight + Tour Combo and pre- or post-tour extensions, please refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel (lobby), Trieste, Italy. 8:30 a.m.

Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for city walking.

MOST CONVENIENT ARRIVAL AIRPORT

Trieste Airport (TRS)
aeroporto.fvg.it/welcome/

GETTING TO THE MEETING POINT

A taxi from the airport to the Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel costs approximately 55 euros and travel time is 40-45 minutes. You may also arrange a private transfer directly through the Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel for approximately 80 euros.

PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the elegant four-star Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel in Trieste, your meeting point hotel, for the night before your tour. For reservations, contact the hotel directly. Room rates vary according to season and room type. We recommend that you make your pre-tour reservations at your earliest convenience, as this is a popular hotel.

Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel
Riva del Mandracchio, 4
Trieste, Italy
Tel 011 39 040 77941
Email savoiaexcelsior.ts@starhotels.it
starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/savoia-excelsior-palace-trieste/

DELAYS AND LATE ARRIVALS

If you are delayed or miss the scheduled group meeting for any reason, we kindly request that you contact our emergency assistance provider, One Call International. This service is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to assist you.
with any type of travel delay. Please refer to the Emergency Contact details on your Tour Itinerary Overview page for One Call International contact details.

**TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME**

**Hotel Esplanade, Zagreb, Croatia, after breakfast**

You may choose to continue your explorations of this beautiful city or connect to your next destination. If you are departing Zagreb the day the tour ends, the hotel reception can assist you in arranging a taxi to Zagreb Airport at your own expense.

**MOST CONVENIENT DEPARTURE AIRPORT**

Franjo Tuđman International Airport in Zagreb (ZAG) is the most convenient airport for your departure (requires connection if traveling to the U.S.)

zagreb-airport.hr

There are no scheduled activities on the last day of the tour. If you plan to schedule return flights immediately following the tour’s conclusion, please call your airline directly for specific check-in requirements.
Information & Policies

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

Country Walkers guarantees the departure of every tour*—no exceptions and no disappointments! From the moment you make your deposit, you can start preparing for your adventure. We take care of all the details to ensure a seamless, small-group experience (with an average of 6 or 7 guests per guide). For best availability, reserve your trip today!

*except in cases of force majeure

RESERVATIONS

Reservations for this tour may be made by calling Country Walkers at 800.464.9255. We can confirm your reservation with a non-refundable deposit of $350 per person. Final tour cost is due 90 days prior to tour departure date. As arrangements are confirmed at least a year in advance, the tour price is subject to change.

GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES

Each guest has the responsibility to select a trip appropriate to his/her abilities and interests and to prepare for the trip by carefully reading the confirmation materials. To join this trip, you must be in good health and capable of completing activities as described in the day-to-day itinerary. Our in-house experts welcome the opportunity to discuss the tour in more detail. In order to meet your needs, we ask that you please share any relevant physical limitations or health conditions when you make your reservation.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of $350; cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date.
Croatia at a Glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**U.S. citizens:** Passports are required and must be valid for at least three months beyond the dates of travel. Visas are not required for stays of up to 90 days. For more information, see travel.state.gov.

CURRENCY

Croatia uses the kuna (HRK). While the official currency is the Croatian kuna, euros are accepted at many large hotels and restaurants. For current exchange rates, visit oanda.com.

Many businesses in Europe will no longer accept credit cards without PIN numbers (chip and pin cards). Always contact your bank or your credit-card company for details on fees and card use when traveling.

TIME ZONE

Croatia is in the Central European Time Zone, Eastern Standard Time plus six hours. For more information on worldwide time zones, see worldtimezone.com.

PHONE & INTERNET

Croatia country code: +385

Cell phone coverage throughout Croatia is extensive, but cannot be guaranteed to be accessible on all American mobile carriers or to function at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to countrywalkers.com/phones.

Internet access is generally very good in towns and villages; however, it is not guaranteed at all of the hotels used on the tour. For more details regarding Wi-Fi availability, please refer to the Tour Itinerary Overview.

Travel Tip

Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), some dollars to exchange.
The official language of Croatia is Croatian.

While knowledge of the local language is not necessary, you may want to learn some fun and useful phrases; see bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/croatian.shtml or the enclosed Reading Guide for a suggested phrase book.

Travel Tip
- Bringing your own hair dryer or other electrical device? You’ll need a travel converter, available at most hardware, travel, or consumer electronic stores.
- For laptops or an electronic device with a dual voltage switch, you’ll need the adapter plug but not a converter.

Alternating current of 220V and 50Hz is used in Croatia. Plugs have two prongs. For a full listing of electrical outlets worldwide, see electricaloutlet.org.

Croatia’s climate varies from Mediterranean along the Adriatic coast to continental in inland areas (Zagreb). The sunny, coastal areas experience hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Wind patterns cool the coast with refreshing breezes in the summer, while the sea stores heat in the summer. Temperatures may range from the mid-60s to mid-80s. Be prepared to layer your attire if your itinerary includes boat journeys, since weather at sea can be variable.

For up-to-date forecasts, see qwikcast.com. For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see weatherbase.com.

Croatian cuisine is a savory blend of tastes reflecting the cultures (from Italian to Austro-Hungarian) that have influenced the country over the course of its history. Coastal cuisine is typically Mediterranean, generous with olive oil, garlic, and herbs. Appetizers may include menestra (a vegetable and bean soup akin to minestrone), salata od bobotnice (octopus salad), prsut (a tasty Croatian version of prosciutto), and Pag cheese, which is a sheep cheese often accompanied with olives. Dalmatian brodet (mixed fish stewed with polenta) and pastičada (beef stewed in wine and served with prunes and gnocchi) are regional delicacies.

Fresh grilled fish figures prominently on the menus. Desserts may include amareta (round, rich cake with almonds) and kremsnite (custard pie).
Croatia has good-quality wines that are typically only available locally, especially from the Istria region, including white, sparkling Prosecco-type, and red. Many grappa-style fruit and/or herb brandies are also enjoyed at the end of the meal.

**LIFE IN CROATIA**

**Shopping and banking hours**

Shops and stores are generally open Monday to Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and on Sundays some stores in shopping malls may be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Banks are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

**Mealtimes**

Breakfast is served at hotels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In restaurants, lunch is served from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and dinner is usually served from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. In tourist areas, restaurants serve continuously from noon until late in the evening.

**Tipping**

In restaurants and bars, it is customary to round up your change on the table. In upscale restaurants, a 10 to 15 percent tip is customary. Taxi drivers receive 10 percent of the fare. For luggage assistance, offer 5 to 10 HRK per bag.

**TRAVEL RESOURCES**

**National Croatian tourist board official site:**
croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada

**Public holidays**

To assist in travel planning, it may be helpful to be aware of Croatian public holidays, festivals, or calendars of events. Visit the Croatian tourist board’s website: croatia.hr/en-GB/Journey-through-Croatia/Useful-information/Public-holidays?Y2lcNzUscFwxNDc%3d.

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Travel Tip

The world’s largest white truffle was found in the Croatian region of Istria—a gigantic 2.88 pounds. In Croatia, dogs are favored over pigs for sniffing out these gourmet delicacies

Travel Tip

Was Marco Polo not Italian? One of world’s greatest travelers is thought to have come from Croatia’s Korčula Island.
TRAVEL IN CROATIA

A wealth of travel information is available at croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada.

Airports

The majority of international flights arrive at the international airports of Dubrovnik (airport-dubrovnik.hr) or Zagreb (zagreb-airport.hr), both requiring connections within Europe from the United States. Internal flights are available on Croatia Airlines to larger cities.

Trains

Croatia Railways: hzpp.hr/en, the national railway company site with schedules, fares, and pass options.

Raileurope: raileurope.com or 800.622.8600: a U.S.-based company that provides schedules, reservations, and ticketing for all European train networks (their multi-day/-week/-month passes in one country or combinations of countries may be an economical and convenient choice for European train travel.)

Other local transportation

In addition to rail and airlines, Croatia also has an extensive long-distance bus network that, for some towns and cities, may be more convenient and affordable than rail or air travel. Because there are a number of local companies and online ticket booking is not available, it is best to buy tickets and seats at the local bus station.

Most major car rental agencies are available at airports and train stations, although it may be best to rent through a local agency branch. Taxis are available at all major airports, train stations, and in smaller towns, and can be reserved in advance (your hotel can usually provide assistance). For more information contact Country Walkers, or go to croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada.
Packing List

PACKING TIPS

Pack light! Keep in mind there will be times you may have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially before and after your Country Walkers tour. Due to space constraints, we require you to limit your luggage to one medium piece (approximately 18x15x29 inches or 8,000 cu. in.) and one small carry-on, per person. We recommend packing any personal necessities, medications, your hotel itinerary/emergency contact information, your hiking boots (or shoes), and extra clothes in your carry-on luggage in the event that your baggage is delayed. We suggest leaving valuable jewelry at home. A copy of your passport or other important documents should be kept in a separate area of your luggage. Always be alert when carrying a purse, camera, money belt, or backpack in busy cities, airports, and train stations.

LUGGAGE & PORTERAGE

Due to the fact that this tour involves several transfers between islands, there may be times when you will have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially on and off ferries and/or catamarans. Please be assured that our guides and local partners will help you as much as possible, but we ask that you keep this factor in mind when preparing for your tour and remember to pack lightly.

FOOTWEAR

» Hiking boots or shoes. There are many brands to choose from. Proper fit is crucial, so try on new boots or shoes while wearing socks you plan to use on tour. Be sure to break in new footwear well before your tour begins. By the time you’re ready to join your walking tour, you should be able to complete 4-6 miles of walking without discomfort. We require lightweight boots or shoes with proper ankle support and good tread to ensure stability on all types of terrain. Waterproof footwear keeps feet dry in heavy rain and water resistant footwear keeps feet dry in heavy dew. Country Walkers reserves the right to deny participation to any guest not wearing appropriate footwear.

» Tevas or similar sandal or water shoe for us at the beaches

» Synthetic, moisture-wicking socks (cotton socks are not recommended for walking as they will quickly cause blisters)

» Blister remedy
CLOTHING
» Lightweight, wash-and-wear long pants
» Long-sleeved, wash-and-wear shirt
» T-shirts and shorts
» Polar fleece or light wool pullover (it will keep you warm even when wet)
» Dinner attire: dress is smart casual
» Light jacket or sweater for evening strolls and alfresco dining

OUTERWEAR
» Waterproof rain gear: jacket, pants, hat, or hood
» Windbreaker with hood (your rain gear may be suitable)
» Hat with a broad brim or visor

EQUIPMENT
» Pack (minimum size of 25L): large enough to carry water, extra clothing, rain gear, and personal items (camera, etc.)
» Waterproof cover for pack
» Water bottle, canteen, or CamelBak-type water reservoir or hydration pack to carry your own water while walking (equivalent of one to two liters)
» Sunblock and lip balm
» Insect repellent
» Sunglasses
» Toilet kit for when facilities are not available on the walks. Include zip-lock baggies, tissues, and moist towelettes, which can be disposed of upon return to the hotel
» Personal first-aid kit including any medications you ordinarily take (in their original container)

OPTIONAL
» Telescopic walking sticks (Please note that while telescopic walking sticks are recommended for this tour, they are not provided by Country Walkers. Therefore please plan on bringing your own should you wish to use them.)
» Scarf (for women to cover shoulders when entering churches)
» Binoculars
» Bathing suit for optional swimming in the sea or hotel pools
» Camera and charger and/or extra batteries
» Zip-lock bags (to keep camera and valuables dry)
» Small notebook and pen
» Field guides (see enclosed reading list)
» Folding umbrella
» Bandana
» Washcloth (many European hotels do not provide them)
» Hand sanitizer and/or moist towelettes
» Motion sickness bracelets or other non-sleep-inducing remedy if prone to motion sickness on minibus or (brief) boat rides
» Alarm clock (not all hotels have alarm clocks or provide wake-up calls)