

EXPLORE!



Walks and Coastal Towns of Croatia

8 days

Croatia - Trip code CO

Walks and Coastal Towns of Croatia

On this walking trip through Croatia's national parks explore the jagged mountain peaks of Dalmatia, the plunging gorges of Paklenica and admire the spectacular lakes and waterfalls of Plitvice. Along the way visit the pretty coastal cities of Split and Trogir, discovering a maze of cobbled streets, meandering alleyways and medieval architecture.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Plitvice National Park** - Walk round the UNESCO World Heritage Site with views of breathtaking travertine lakes and waterfalls
- ★ **Paklenica National Park** - Spectacular coastal and mountain walking along the Adriatic coast
- ★ **Trogir** - One of the oldest cities in Croatia, discover the city's medieval, Romanesque and Gothic architecture
- ★ **Premuziceva Trail** - a highlight for hikers in Croatia
- ★ **Zagreb** - Guided tour of the city known as a 'city of museums'

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Easy To Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour in Zagreb, Croatia's capital

Joining the tour today in the evening we meet with the group and the Tour Leader.



Accommodation: Hotel Central (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - City tour of Zagreb, drive to Plitvice National Park

Today we start our day with a city tour of Zagreb. Famously called a city of museums as there are more museums per square foot than any other city in the world it also has many other architectural structures to boast of. Later in the afternoon we drive down to the magnificent beauty of the Plitvice Lakes, a sumptuous setting of forested hills and beautifully clear lakes that are, with good reason, Croatia's premier tourist attraction. Travertine terraces cascade down through the lush landscapes, presenting the visitor with a series of plunging waterfalls and turquoise, calcium rich lakes that are one of Europe's natural marvels. Little wonder then that this remarkable park was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979.



Accommodation: Hotel Grabovac (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Walk around lakes and waterfalls of the national park

Today we plan to spend our time walking a track of which the second half provides us with far reaching views of the lakes, waterfalls and surrounding pine clad hillsides from a higher vantage point. Over the millennia, the waters of these lakes have dissolved the limestone rock and carved out the valley in which they now lie. Through the sedimentation of calcium carbonate and the build up of special types of algae and moss, minerals have been deposited to form the natural dams that separate these lakes. The dynamic process still continues today, creating new falls as the water breaks through the slow growing barriers. Our route today gives us the opportunity to experience the rich variety of flora in this region, ranging from reeds, bull rushes and willow trees, which shade the lakes and line the wooden walkways, through to the myriad orchids of cyclamen, scabius and smoke bushes which can be found beneath the predominantly oak and beech forests. Walking approx 14 km, 5 hours.



Accommodation: Hotel Grabovac (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Hike part of the long distance Premuziceva Trail

After breakfast, we transfer to Zavizan to walk the Premuziceva Trail. The top parts of northern and central Velebit from Zavizan to Baske Ostarije are connected by a 57km long hiking trail. It was named after its designer, Ante Premuzi, the great builder of roads and trails on Velebit. The construction of the trail took only 3 years (1930 - 1933), but it required the labour of a large number of workers from sub-Velebit villages. The trail opened access to the most hidden and the most beautiful parts of Velebit. We will walk 16km of the trail (approximately 5-6 hours). Later we will transfer towards Paklenica National Park, which lies on the southern edge of the imposing limestone mass of the Velebit Mountains. The impressive mountains that make up this breathtaking landscape present an almost continuous wall of rock, rising up to separate the waters of the Adriatic from the rolling landscapes of the interior. This region contains some of the most spectacular walking country in Croatia, with majestic karst landscapes, plunging gorges and jagged mountain peaks to enchant and captivate the visitor.



Accommodation: Hotel Vicko (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Half day walk in Starigrad Paklenica

After breakfast this morning we will depart the hotel and follow a trail that passes the villages lining the coast. Along this coastal area the rocky slopes tend to be favoured by a thick blanket of maquis and scrub which leads down to isolated pebble beaches. We will have the opportunity to swim undisturbed in the crystal clear water before stopping for lunch (optional). With the fabulous backdrop of the stark Velebit mountains we will have the chance to watch the changing colours of the sky and the sea as the sun sets on the coast, bring our first day in the region to a close. Alternatively we can extend our walk this afternoon into the foothills of the Velebit Mountains, passing through the Mirila (stone monuments to the deceased). Dating back to the 17th Century the people here made their living from animal husbandry and lived and died in the Velebit Hamlets. Mirila offers us an unique insight into the customs and the way of life of the early Dalmatians. Walking 10 km for the morning walk (no more than 50m ascent/descent) and 18 km including the extended walk (200m ascent/descent). 5-7 hours depending on the walk.



Accommodation: Hotel Vicko (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Hike along the Paklenica Gorge

A full day in the park sees us follow a different route, affording us with a variety of entrancing views. Leaving the hotel by jeep, we will follow a zigzag road with stunning views of the coast, stopping for a visit at the centuries old Mirila; stone monuments signifying the place where the departed would greet the sun for the last time. We then continue on foot to the abandoned summer village of Ramici, occupying the Njive Plateau. Making our way through the broadleaved forest we then descend into the upper reaches of the gorge, following a mountain trail lined with fragrant thyme and sage, all the while surrounded by stunning views of the dramatic karst gorge. We take our time as it is uneven terrain. Continuing up the gorge we will stop for lunch at a traditional mountain hut before returning through the spine of the gorge along a gentle stream. We wind our way through the window and chimney bellflowers and smoke bushes with a steep decent out of the gorge. There is the option to descend the other side of the gorge and continue our walk along pine forested paths, returning to the hotel via a steep ascent with far reaching views. As our route circles back towards the hotel it meets the coast, affording some opportunities for a refreshing swim, if time allows, before we head back for dinner. Walking approx walking 18km, 7 hours (please note this walk is weather dependent, if it is not available the Tour Leader will suggest a shorter walk).



Accommodation: Hotel Vicko (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Explore Trogir and the Dalmatian city of Split

Today we transfer to Split. En route we stop at Trogir with free time for sightseeing and optional lunch. Trogir has a rich history that dates back to the 3rd century BC, with a delightful collection of cobble stoned squares and medieval architecture, and a Romanesque cathedral that is considered one of the most exquisite in the entire Adriatic. Spanning some three centuries it boasts a superb entranceway in its west portal, carved in the 13th century by the master mason Radovan. The town also boasts Venetian Gothic mansions, an impressive clock tower and a comprehensive collection of church artwork displayed in the 13th century Church of St John. What makes Trogir such a delight to wander around though are its meandering alleyways, filled with cafes and restaurants and its elegant riverfront promenade, which leads up to the Kamerlengo Fortress, a 15th century edifice with imposing battlements and a huge octagonal tower. After lunch we continue towards Split. Today's Split is the product of 17 centuries of building, renovating and remodelling. After a guided walk of the city you may wish to visit more of the Diocletian's Palace (optional), the palace that Emperor Diocletian built for his golden years at the turn of the 4th century which became the heart of the city. The mausoleum of the pagan Roman emperor evolved with time into the world's oldest Roman Catholic church. What began as an imperial residence and fortified camp is today an intriguing maze of narrow cobblestone streets where pre Romanesque churches nestle alongside Gothic chapels.



Accommodation: Dalmina Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Tour ends in Split

The tour ends in Split this morning after breakfast.

Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES



Walking grade
Easy to moderate

Trek details
We trek on 4 days during this trip, with approximately 4 to 6 hours walking each day.

Max walking altitude (m)
1600



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7



Transport

Bus



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Croatia Holidays & Tours

Climate

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, dry, sunny summers. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally it is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms can occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Hvar Island gets the most sunshine in summer with 10-12 hours each day, followed by Split, Korcula Island and Dubrovnik with around 7-8 hours. Temperatures from May to October are generally in the low to mid 20's (in °C), but can reach into the 30's (in °C) in July and August. Trip itineraries with boat cruises can occasionally be disrupted due to bad weather.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Roman Catholic

Language

Croatian

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Paklenica National Park - Rock climbing €45 Trip to Zadar - €34.00

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months, but the weather is changeable all through the year. Be prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature whilst at altitude - a warm fleece and jacket are recommended. Light rainwear may be needed at any time of year.

Footwear

Lightweight trail boots with ankle support and sandals for relaxing. It may be advisable to pack some waterproof shoes for rocky beaches.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection. Trekking poles might be useful.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow approx. £10 for gratuities for local staff. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Country Information

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Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£18

Beer price

£2

Water price

£1.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Croatian Kuna.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Pound Sterling, US Dollars and Euro cash can all be exchanged for the local currency.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns and cities - your Explore Leader will advise you on arrival. Only exchange money at reputable places like banks, ATM's and official Forex Offices.

ATM Availability

Most towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

Credit Card Acceptance

Generally accepted throughout including most restaurants and hotels.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can only be exchanged in banks.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Croatia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance

policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Maximum altitude (m)

1600

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Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend being up-to-date with your routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK including protection against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Tick-borne encephalitis protection is recommended by some medical sources at certain times of the year. Ticks are most active between spring and late autumn. Check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.
