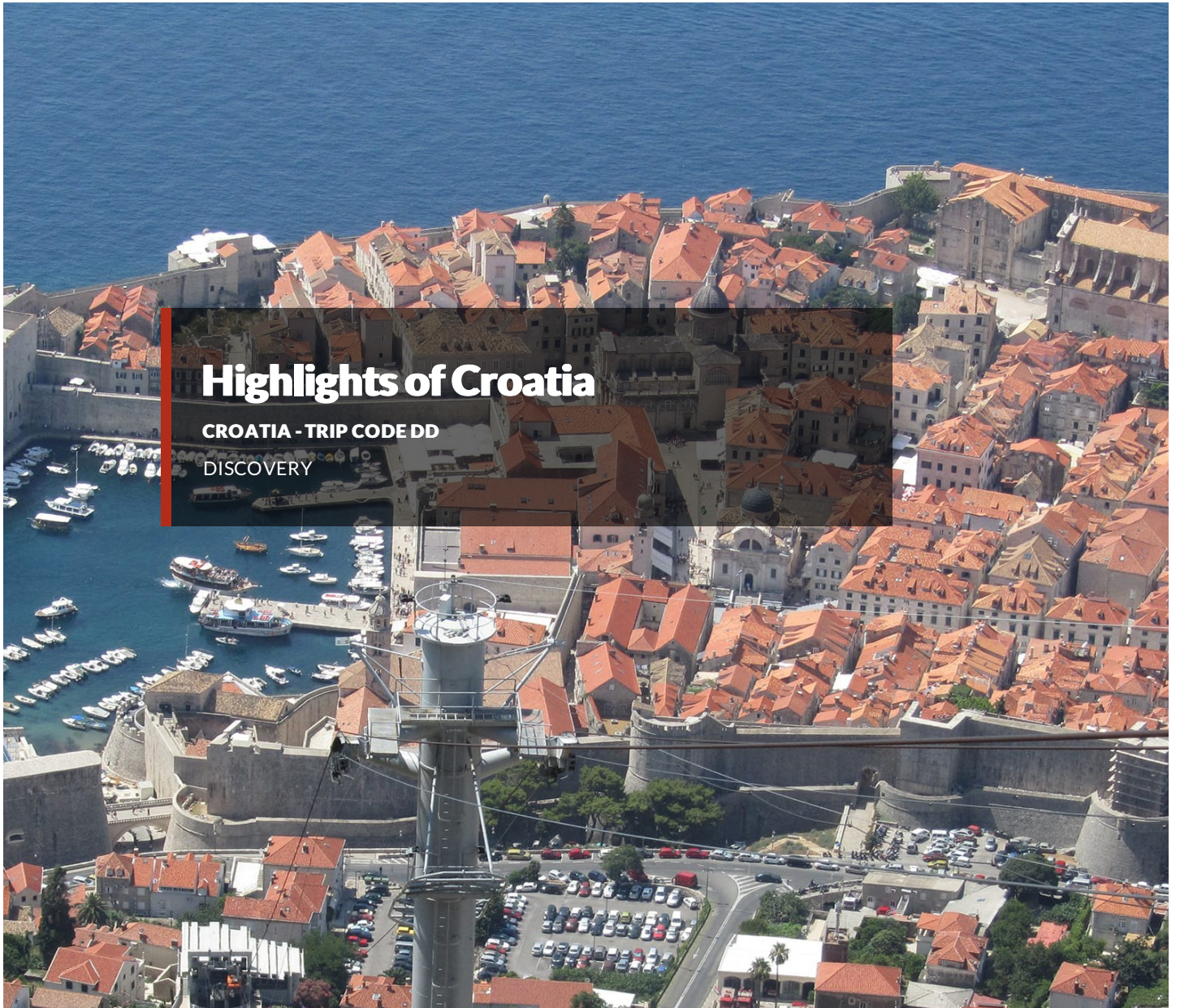


EXPLORE!



Highlights of Croatia

CROATIA - TRIP CODE DD
DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

This one-week trip to Croatia offers the chance to discover its historic cities, pretty red-roofed coastal towns and stunning waterfalls. Explore Croatia's old capital Zadar and discover the narrow streets and medieval buildings in Trogir.

- **Dubrovnik** - Explore the 'pearl of the Adriatic' that has been wonderfully restored by UNESCO
- **Split** - Wander through the old town and take a guided tour of the sprawling Diocletian's Palace
- **Plitvice Lakes National Park** - Walk among the shimmering lakes and cascading waterfalls



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
Ferry
Public Bus



ACCOMMODATION
7 nights
comfortable hotel



TRIP PACE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
12 - 18

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip in Dubrovnik

Arrive in Dubrovnik. Our hotel is about 30 minutes' drive from the airport.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Dubrovnik at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Dubrovnik Airport (DBV). For those arriving on time our leader will meet you in the hotel reception at 7pm for the welcome meeting. After this, for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. Should you miss the meeting, your leader will leave you information giving the meeting time for the next day in the hotel reception and will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to take the public bus into the Old Town. The bus stop is in front of the hotel and it is only around seven minutes' drive.

This evening you might choose to have your first taste of Croatian cuisine. Fish is a popular choice, as it is caught locally and often served alongside grilled vegetables. Olive oil is a staple in Croatian cooking and there is more of an Italian influence than in most other Balkan countries. Black Risotto is a traditional Dalmatian dish, is coloured with squid ink, and has other seafood in it such as mussels. Both white and red wine are popular choices with Croatian varieties including Babic and Lumbarda. For dessert, a custard pudding covered in caramel sauce is a speciality that is similar to a crème caramel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Petka (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Explore Dubrovnik Old Town on foot; free afternoon in the city

This morning we will take the public bus to the Old Town and enter through Pile Gate. The best way to get a feel for the wealth of monasteries, museums and historic buildings in Dubrovnik is on foot and so a local guide will take us on a walk to get our bearings. We'll learn about how the city was almost entirely destroyed by shelling in the Siege of Dubrovnik between 1991-92 and how this fortified medieval town was thankfully restored by UNESCO and the local people and still retains its unique atmosphere and charm. George Bernard Shaw once wrote 'those who seek paradise on earth should come to Dubrovnik'.

This afternoon is free for you to discover more and to make your own way back to our hotel at a time of your choosing. You might like to visit the Rector's Palace and the Maritime and Ethnographic Museum. The Rector's Palace was built in the 14th century for the Rector of the Regusa Republic before later becoming an armoury, watch house and prison. As well as the buildings' fantastic architecture, it also houses a museum that will give you a taste of the Ragusan lifestyle. The Maritime Museum is located in the Fort of Saint John and gives you an overview of ship building and trading from the start of the Dubrovnik Republic right up to World War II. The Ethnographic Museum is in an old granary dating from the 16th century. Here you can learn about the heyday of the Dubrovnik Republic and see the traditional folk costumes and textiles from the time.

You may choose to get a view from above the Old Town by taking the cable car to a nearby hilltop or by enjoying a walk around the city walls, (the walk of the full course is 1,940 metres). Perhaps also visit the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery or the cathedral in the Old Town to see some of the most well known religious buildings in the city. For something a bit different you might like to visit the Red History Museum where you can learn about different forms of communism and also about the Cold War.

Alternatively, you could leave the city and take a boat ride to Lokrum Island Nature Reserve. This idyllic island, with an ancient Benedictine monastery at its heart is only a short boat ride away. As well as visiting the monastery, there is the opportunity to take one of the forest walks, relax on the small beaches or take a dip in the mini 'dead sea' on the island.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Petka (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Visit to Ston and Omis; discover Split on a walking tour

We will leave Dubrovnik this morning and begin our drive to Split. Our first stop along the way is in Ston; a village known for its unusual salt pans and its impressive defensive walls. Built in the 14th and 15th century the town's walls are much longer than those found in Dubrovnik. They run for five kilometres, which makes them the longest defensive walls in Europe. The salt pans are even older and are thought to have greatly contributed to making the Republic of Dubrovnik wealth and successful in the past.

If you fancy going for a walk then you could head for Mali Ston or 'little Ston' as it is also known. It's about one and a half kilometres along the peninsula. Here you can find the oyster bays that produce this speciality, which is famed as being some of the best, found anywhere in the world.

After spending a couple of hours in Ston we will drive to Omis, where we have a little free time to have lunch. This small port town sits at the mouth of the Cetina River and was once known as, the home of pirates. The pirates that used to patrol these waters would ambush trade ships trying to enter the port and steal their goods. Now it's a far more peaceful place and there are a number of local cafés and restaurants to choose from.

Leaving Omis we'll take a scenic drive up the Cetina River Canyon. Arriving in Split, we'll check-in to our centrally located hotel, which is only about 15 minutes' walk from the Diocletian's Palace. Split is vibrant city set on the coast and with a beautiful old town area. We begin our explorations with a guided walking tour to see the Diocletian's Palace and old town. Emperor Diocletian built the palace at the turn of the 4th century and it quickly became the heart of the city. The Roman emperor was buried here, and it later become the world's oldest Roman Catholic cathedral, the Cathedral of Saint Domnius. Walking in the palace is like taking a step back in time, as we wander through the intriguing maze of narrow cobblestone streets where pre-Romanesque churches nestle alongside Gothic chapels. We'll see the peristyle (central square), cathedral and subterranean halls.

This evening you may like to take the opportunity to join the glamorous locals on a stroll along the Riva, Split's seafront promenade and stop off in one of the restaurants or bustling cafes along the way.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Globo (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Free day to discover Split or the chance to visit Krka National Park

Split is the second largest city in the country and it's a hive of activity, and today is free for you to further experience the city. It has a long history and is a pleasure to explore, with its small boutique shops,

hidden art galleries and reams of restaurants and cafes - some of which are built into the ancient city walls.

A Game of Thrones Museum is a popular new attraction that is a must see for fans of the TV show with over 100 exhibits. Nearby the cellars of the Diocletian Palace were used as a Game of Thrones filming location.

If you are an art lover then you might want to visit the Mestrovic Gallery with its pillared exterior and manicured gardens overlooking the sea. Inside you can see paintings, drawings and sculptures by Ivan Mestrovic, Croatia's most famous modern sculptor.

You could take the opportunity to relax on the city's main beach, Bacvice and perhaps try your hand at a popular local game called, Picigin. A small group of people will swim in the sea whilst trying to keep a rubber ball out of water for as long as possible, but your only allowed to touch it once on your turn.

Alternatively, you might decide to leave the city and join an excursion to visit the Krka National Park. This park is similar to Plitvice that we will be visiting later in this trip, but it is smaller and less well known. Here you can see stunning waterfalls and Visovac Island with a pretty monastery in the centre.

If you wish to remain closer to Split then you could take a guided walk on Marjan Hill, which is on the same peninsula and offers great views over the city and coastline below, and the surrounding mountains. Starting from the Diocletian's Palace cellars and winding through the narrow streets of the old peasants' district of Varos to the first viewpoint. Next you'll see the 16th century Jewish cemetery before walking through a pine forest to an old abandoned zoo which is a favourite picnic spot, and on to the top of the hill (178 metres above sea level). On a clear day, you can see as far as the Central Adriatic Islands. From here, you walk to the old hermitage of Saint Jerome, where people used to live in the caves but today only the front facade is visible. Heading downhill past the Church of our Lady of Bethlehem and Saint Nicholas Church you will arrive back into the Old Town.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Globo (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - See Klis Fortress and the city of knin en route to Plitvicka Jezera

After breakfast, we leave Split and drive to the nearby Klis Fortress. It is 360 metres above the sea and has been built into the rock face; nestled between the mountains of Kozjak and Mosor. The fortress played an important role in defence of Dalmatia from the Ottoman invaders and more recently, it has been used as a filming location in Games of Thrones, and so you may recognise it as part of the fictional city of Meereen.

Next we stop in the city of Knin where we'll have the opportunity to have lunch. During the The Croatian War of Independence, Knin was occupied by Serbian forces and became the capital of the Republic of Serbia Krajina, but on the 5 August 1995 the city was liberated in Operation Storm and this date is now marked as a national holiday in Croatia.

We will arrive at our hotel in the Plitvicka Jerera region in the early evening and you have the rest of the day free. Our hotel is an ideal base for visiting the nearby Plitvice Lakes National Park. Located in a valley between high-forested mountains, Plitvice was the first and it is one of the most attractive national parks in the country. It is considered to be one of Europe's greatest natural wonders.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grabovac (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Walk amongst the lakes and waterfalls of the Plitvice Lakes National Park

Spend the day wandering along the well-marked trails in the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which follow the course of 16 crystal blue-green lakes on their dramatic and cascading descent over 92 travertine barriers and waterfalls. 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 work of special kinds of algae and moss, travertine has been deposited to form the natural dams that separate the lakes. This dynamic process continues with new falls breaking through the travertine barriers and constantly changing the look of this icon national park.

A popular circuit leads you from the Upper Lakes, taking a ferry across Lake Kozjak and then the path twists between the Lower Lakes. Every turn leads to new scenery and yet another stunning waterfall. The walk is mostly on wooden promenades and you can either follow the Red Dot Walk, which takes around five to six hours or the shorter Yellow Dot Walk for about three to four hours.

Later this afternoon there is the chance to take an excursion to Barac Caves to see the stalagmites and stalactites formations. The caves were first opened to visitors in 1892, but then were left abandoned and forgotten after World War II, but in 2004 they reopened to visitors.





ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Grabovac (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Scenic drive to Trogir via ancient Zadar

Following scenic backroads initially through rolling farmland, we make for the northern Dalmatian Coast towards the ancient capital of Dalmatia, Zadar. On arrival, we'll take a guided walking tour to see the unique experimental musical instrument on the sea front, known as the Sea Organ, as well as the Sun Salutation, which is a multi-coloured sun powered light display. We'll also see the round Church of Saint Donatus, which is considered to be the symbol of the city and there will be free time to go inside, should you wish to.

Continuing we drive along the twisting and picturesque Dalmatian coastal road to the charming medieval harbour town of Trogir. Once here we'll have some time free for lunch before a local guide takes on a walk to discover the main sights. After our tour you can either go to our hotel in nearby Seget Donji with our bus or spend longer in the old town and return later by taxi (it's about five minutes' drive). If you choose to stay longer then you might like to visit the Saint Lawrence Cathedral.



ACCOMMODATION:
Rotondo Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends in Seget Donji

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Seget Donji.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Seget Donji at any time. If your flight departs later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel and you can spend more time discovering historic Trogir. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to depart from Split Airport (SPU), which is only around 20 minutes' drive away.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Croatia

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	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic	Croatian

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Dubrovnik:

On day two you have the afternoon free to visit Dubrovnik's museums and historic buildings:
Franciscan Monastery entry 40.00 HRK (Croatian Kuna) per person.
Dominican Monastery entry 30.00 HRK per person.
Cathedral entry 20.00 HRK per person.
Rector Palace, Maritime Museum and Ethnographic Museum, a combined ticket for all three is 130.00 HRK per person.
Walk the Dubrovnik city walls for 200.00 HRK per person.
Take the cable car above the Old Town for 170.00 HRK per person return.

Alternatively on day two you might like to use your free time to:
Take a boat to Lokrum Island Nature Reserve 150.00 HRK per person return (it take around 10 minutes each way).

Split:

On day four you might like to do one of the following:

Guided walk on Marjan Hill for 185.00 HRK per person. The terrain is mostly gravel with some concrete and asphalt sections. Total distance is six kilometres and duration is about three hours. Elevation gain and loss is 300 metres and the highest point reached is 178 metres.

Mestrovic Gallery entry 40.00 HRK per person.

Excursion to Krka National Park including transfers by mini bus for €82.00 per person (minimum four people). This excursion is about six hours in total with four hours spent in Krka.

Plitvice:

On the afternoon of day six you can take a trip to Barac Caves, which includes return transfers by minibus; 115.00 HRK per person (minimum two passengers).

Zadar:

Church of Saint Donatus entry 20.00 HRK per person.

Trogir:

Saint Lawrence Cathedral entry 25.00 HRK per person.

All optional excursions can either be paid for in Croatian Kuna or Euros.

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months and lightweight cotton clothing is best. During spring and autumn temperatures can be lower or drop during the evenings and there is also a stronger possibility of rain, although light rainwear may be needed at any time of year. Layered clothing and a warm fleece are recommended for cooler evenings along with a waterproof jacket. Ladies should take a headscarf to cover their head when entering religious sites.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes plus sandals for relaxing. Take walking shoes or trainers with good grip for use in the Plitvice Lakes National Park. You may find a pair of old shoes or sandals useful for swimming off rocks and stoney beaches.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. Remember that you will have to carry your own luggage between our bus and your accommodation so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

We advise taking a water bottle for our included walks as well as sun glasses, sunscreen and a sun hat. To cut down on your plastic consumption we would also recommend bringing a reusable drink straw, travel coffee cup and a shopping bag with you. In case of emergency, it is advisable to carry a first aid kit and a torch. You might find mosquito repellent handy and bring a swimming suit and towel, as you may want to take a dip in the sea during your free time.

Tipping

Explore leader

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

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised 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 £10.00 for tipping. 10% is expected in restaurants.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Croatia

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	Beer price	Water price
£18	£2	£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, Ferry, Public 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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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 be able to apply 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an

additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

Ability to swim

No

Croatia

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. Please 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

Explore Croatia's famed cities and National Parks in just one week. This is a perfect trip to introduce you to the many sights that Croatia has to offer and is an ideal place to start if you have never visited the Balkans before.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**