

# EXPLORE!



**Self-Guided Cycling Croatia**  
8 days

Croatia - Trip code CSCD

## Self-Guided Cycling Croatia

Explore the heart shaped peninsula of Istria on this self-guided cycling holiday. Travel on peaceful roads and tracks as you pedal alongside the cobalt-blue Adriatic waters, through the ancient villages, historic citadels, forests, vineyards and olive groves of the interior. Along the way, discover a wealth of fascinating Roman, Byzantine and medieval architecture and enjoy superb food, wine and hospitality.

### Trip highlights

- ★ **Variety of Istria** - Cycle through sun dappled oak forests, vineyards, forested valleys, Adriatic coastal rides and to the hilltop town of Motovun
- ★ **Rich history** - See Roman amphitheatres, Byzantine basilicas, frescoed churches and medieval squares
- ★ **Delicious cuisine** - Enjoy fresh seafood, fragrant truffles, homemade pasta and great local wines
- ★ **Beaches** - Stunning coastline alongside the deep blue sea

#### 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.

#### CYCLING GRADE:

##### Easy To Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate rides on the same tour. You'll be cycling through flat or gently undulating terrain, with the occasional more energetic ascent.

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Holiday starts in Fazana

After arriving in Fazana and checking in to your hotel, the rest of your day is free to explore and relax in this picturesque village that will be your base for the next three nights. Your bike will be delivered today or tomorrow morning and you will be required to sign an agreement of care upon receipt of the bike. Please note that the Hotel Villetta Phasiana in Fazana only has double beds. For anybody requesting a twin bedded room the hotel will provide two single mattresses enclosed in a double bed frame and fitted with separate bed linen.



**Accommodation: Hotel Villetta Phasiana** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Explore Pula by bike; Loop ride to Vodnjan

Today, you have several cycle options starting from Fazana. You may wish to enjoy a short and easy coastal ride to the bustling town of Pula - the capital of Istria. Here, you can cycle around the warrens of marbled alleys and the beautifully-preserved amphitheatre from 27 BC. If you prefer more time in the saddle, there is also a longer cycle route around Pula. Alternatively you can enjoy an inland loop ride to Vodnjan - the ancient capital of Istria, where you will find a mix of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture. Again this option has a shorter or longer cycle route to choose from. On your return route to Fazana, you pedal along the coast, passing remains of Roman baths and ancient stone houses called kazun, which are similar to the Trulli houses of Southern Italy.

The shortest route today to Pula is 18 kilometres. Should you choose to do both this short ride and the long route to Vodnjan, your total cycling distance is approximately 54 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Villetta Phasiana** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

## DAY 3 - Visit Tito's residence in Brijuni National Park

Today, you have the option to take the 15-minute boat ride to the beautiful island of Brijuni - Tito's presidential residence during his dictatorship. Here, you can explore the island's Roman villas, Byzantine villages and pine-fringed bays. The Tito Museum and the dictator's personal zoo are also worth a visit. It is not possible to take bikes on the boat, but you can rent bikes on the island or explore on foot.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 16 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Villetta Phasiana** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 4 - Peddle to Rovijn via the Roman stronghold of Bale

Leaving Fazana behind you, today you cycle north to the charming and bustling port town of Rovinj. En route, a gentle ascent takes you to the small town of Bale. Once a Roman stronghold known as Castrum Vallis, it was built to help defend the saltpans, as well as the crucial trade routes connecting Pula and Porec.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 39 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Villa Lili** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 5 - Cycle to Motovun from Lim Fjord

Today starts with a transfer (along with your luggage) inland to the impressive wooded valley of the Lim Fjord. We start our ride above Lim Fjord with panoramic views from the hilltop. There is the option to cycle all the way from Rovinj. Continuing inland through gently ascending terrain, your final leg has two steep but short climbs up to the fortified hill town of Motovun - your base for the night. This magical spot affords wonderful views over vineyards and truffle-filled forests.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 36 kilometres or you can extend to 58 kilometres



**Accommodation: Hotel Kastel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Cycle along the Parenzana to Porec

A steep descent from Motovun takes you to the Parenzana - a dismantled old railway line which has been converted into a gravel cycle path that gently winds its way through fields towards the ancient port town of Porec. Situated in the small peninsula of San Nicholas, this popular summer-getaway town will be your base for the last two nights of the tour. Here, we recommend spending some time visiting the town's magnificent historical palaces; the 'House of the two Saints' and the popular UNESCO Heritage Basilica of Euphrasian.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 38 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Flores** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Circular route through 'Europe's best olive oil region'

Today's circular cycle route takes you along the coast and up into the fertile plateau of Tar. On your way, you will pass the Larun olive plantations, said to produce Europe's best olive oil. Returning to Porec via an inland route, you have the chance to visit the giant limestone cave of Jama Baredine. Later, you may choose to toast your final evening of the trip with a glass of the excellent local white wine on one of Porec's harbourside terraces.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 32 kilometres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Flores** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Holiday ends in Porec

After breakfast, the organised part of your holiday comes to an end.

**IOY** Meals Provided: Breakfast

## Cycling information

### DAILY DISTANCE



### General cycling information

On this journey you cycle 198 km over six days (an average of 33 km per day). The terrain is mostly flat but becomes hillier inland to Motovun on day 5. Apart from some dirt roads, most of the route is on secondary roads. Around the larger towns there is more traffic but some sections can be avoided by riding on the pavement; in general there is no heavy traffic. We have graded the route as easy to moderate. Most of the rides are easy except the ride on day 5 which involves more distance and ascent.

### Bike included

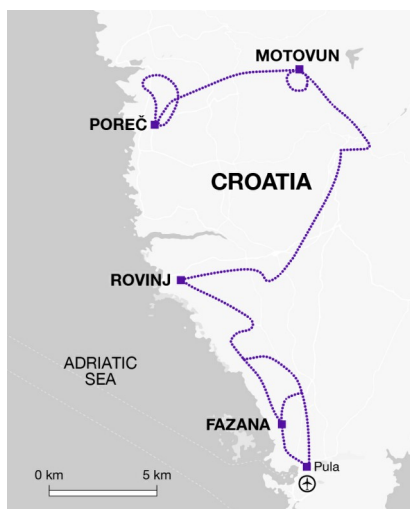
21 gear hybrid bike.

### Bike information

Your included bike is a 21 gear hybrid bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. Each bike is fitted with one lateral pannier bag. A handlebar bag that doubles as a map note holder is provided for every two bikes. A water bottle holder is included as well as the facility to fit your own pedals (SPD 9/16") or saddle (stem 27.2mm) if you wish to bring them. A lock, pump, spare inner tube and puncture repair kit with tyre levers is included. All you need to bring is your own helmet. You will be required to sign an agreement of care upon receipt of the bike.

### Cycling grade

EasyToModerate



## Why book this trip

Unlike many other operators, we include the hire of your bike in the overall cost of the holiday: you don't need to bring your own or pay extra to hire one locally. We also provide a pump, lock, spare inner tube and tyre levers. All you need bring is your own helmet.

# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 7



## Transport

Bicycle



## Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

# 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

+1

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Roman Catholic

#### Language

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.

Day 1 - Depending on your arrival time in Fazana it is worth spending time exploring, perhaps visit the Romanesque Chapel to view frescoes, spend time walking on the waterfront or visit the Gothic church of SS. Cosmas and Damian.

Day 2 - Stopping off today in Pula, visit the Amphitheatre and temple of Augustus.

Day 3 - Day trip to Brijuni Island. 15 minute boat journey (costs around 15 to 20 Euros per person).

Day 6 - After visiting the Euphrasian Basilica and palaces in Porec perhaps explore the Baredine caves or take a stroll along Decumanus street.

## Clothing

Bring cycling gear such as quick drying cycle tops, padded cycle shorts and cycle gloves. In July and August the temperature can be very hot making the rides more strenuous. In April and October the weather can be slightly more changeable and it can be cool, especially at night, so bring a warmer jacket/fleece. A waterproof cycle jacket is recommended in case of rain. A light windproof jacket is always useful.

## Footwear

If you are not bringing cycle shoes then try to bring stiff-soled shoes as these are better for cycling - transmitting your energy into the pedals more efficiently. This becomes more relevant and recommended the more demanding the grade and distances to cover. SPD cycle shoes are not well suited to tours that combine sightseeing with cycling. Comfortable shoes, trainers, sandals or flip flops are useful when not on the bike.

## Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage if using public transport so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport you should always take your luggage with you.

## Luggage transfer

Included between each hotel.

## Equipment

On all Explore cycle holidays we strongly recommend you bring along and wear your cycle helmet. In case of an accident resulting in personal injury, certain insurance policies are invalidated in cases where a helmet was not being worn. Cycle glasses (to protect against dust, insects, pollen, sun etc) , cycle gloves (padded for more comfort) and a water bottle or water delivery system (eg camelback or platypus). Please note that it is a legal requirement to wear a helmet while cycling in France. In case of an accident resulting in personal injury, certain insurance policies (explore included) are invalidated in cases where a helmet was not being worn. You may choose to bring your own gel seat cover for added comfort. If a handle bar bag or pannier is not provided (check bike details) then you may like to bring a small rucksack to wear while cycling. Please carry some or all of your cycling equipment e.g. helmet as part of your hand luggage.

Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a set of maps that have been created specifically for this trip to help you navigate. The route is marked on each map together with a series of numbered waypoints which correspond with instructions in the route notes. Should you wish to purchase a more detailed commercially produced map we recommend the following:-

General maps

Croatian Coast Road Map - Istria-Dalmatia-Dubrovnik 1:200.000 Freytag & Berndt.

## Country Information

### 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**

£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

Bicycle

### Recommended airport

Pula in Croatia. Trieste or Venice in Italy.

### Flying to your destination

We'd recommend return flights into Pula in Croatia, Venice or Trieste in Italy which are served by both budget (including Easyjet, Ryanair) and non-budget airlines (including British Airways) from multiple airports in the UK.

### Accommodation notes

#### **Booking a Single Room**

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard - Our 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.

Please note that the Hotel Villetta Phasiana in Fazana only has double beds. For anybody requesting a twin bedded room the hotel will provide two single mattresses enclosed in a double bed frame and fitted with separate bed linen.

### Arrival and departure information

At the start of your trip you can fly into Pula Airport in Croatia. Alternative airports in Italy include Trieste or Venice.

By public transport from Pula airport

From Pula airport you can take a taxi to the hotel in Fazana for approximately 30-35 Euros. Make sure you agree the price before leaving the airport. The taxi stand is located outside the airport, next to the bus terminal.

By public transport from Trieste or Venice

You can also fly into Venice Airports and take the train to Trieste then the bus to Fazana via Pula. Trieste bus station is located 300m from the train station. The bus ride from Trieste bus station to Pula takes 3.5 hours and costs 16 Euros one way. From Pula you take bus 21 (2 Euros) or a taxi should cost about 20 Euros. If you stay a night in Venice, you can take a boat from Venice to Porec or from Rovinj to Venice.

The trip ends in Porec

By public transport to Pula airport

Between Porec bus station and Pula bus station there are daily buses (1.5 hours, 10 Euros). From Pula bus station to Pula airport



there are daily buses (8 km, 2 Euros) or a taxi should cost about 8 Euros.

By public transport to Trieste or Venice

From Porec there are daily buses to Trieste bus station (2 hours 15 minutes, 12 Euros). Buses run about every 30 minutes to Trieste airport (1 hour, 4 Euros). A morning daily ferry runs from Porec to Venice (3 hours, 60 Euros each way).

Private arrival and departure transfers from Pula airport can be arranged at additional cost. These transfers must be booked in advance.

## 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.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

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](http://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 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, 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.

## 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.

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