

Trip Highlights:

Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Known as the pearl of the Adriatic, Dubrovnik is perhaps the most perfectly preserved medieval town in the world and is a definite highlight of any trip to Croatia. You will find yourself completely spellbound by the meandering streets of the old city and the many beautiful islands that dot the shoreline. Surrounded by thick stone ramparts built between the 11th and 17th centuries, and still completely pedestrianized, the steep cobbled streets, churches, monasteries and red tiled houses of the old city have remained unchanged for centuries. You can relax at one of the many cafés, take a boat cruise out to the nearby islands and wander through the olive groves, pine forests or lemon orchards, or walk around the old walls with fabulous views over the sea and the old city.

Korčula (Croatia)

The town of Korčula at the northeastern tip of the island hugs a small, hilly peninsula jutting into the Adriatic. With its round defensive towers and compact cluster of red roofed houses, Korčula is a typical medieval Dalmatian town. It's a peaceful little place with grey stone houses nestling between the deep green hills and gunmetal-blue sea.

Pula (Croatia)

The city contains a wealth of Roman ruins topped by a remarkably well-preserved amphitheatre, which is now the centre of Pula's lively summer cultural scene.

Lake Bohinj (Slovenia)

Situated in a basin and ringed by high mountains, the glacial Bohinj Lake boasts one of the most spectacular settings anywhere in Slovenia – a country renowned for its superb and unspoilt scenery. Take the cable car to the top of Mount Vogel for magnificent views back over the lake and the Julian Alps.

Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)

This cave complex has developed over the last two million years

and is incredible to explore. 5km long and 250m deep, the caves were carved out by the Reka River, which originates in the foothills of Sneznik (1796) to the southeast. The karst caves at Scocjan are far more captivating and 'real' than the larger one at Postojna, some 33km to the northeast in Postojna province.

Ljubljana (Slovenia)

There can be few more enchanting towns in Eastern Europe than Ljubljana. The population is only just over a quarter of a million people, the town is small enough to explore entirely on foot and is ringed by mountains - with fresh clean air. Spend your time relaxing in one of the many street cafes, watching the world go by and enjoying the sunshine; explore the rambling medieval streets of the old city with its cobblestone passages, hidden courtyards and Baroque fountains; climb up the hill to the castle with stunning views over the red roofs of the old city and the mountains beyond or wander along the banks of the Ljubljanica river with its peaceful paths and lovely medieval bridges. In the evenings the streets come alive with bars and open-air cafes, making this a great place for us to start and finish our trip.

Zagreb (Croatia)

Croatia's capital is a major city which has grown out of two medieval settlements that for centuries developed on neighbouring hills, the remains of which can still be seen. Many of the streets are lined with elegant 19th century architecture, and there is an imposing cathedral. There are numerous museums – archaeological, historical, artistic and scientific – and several art galleries and theatres, which offer a good insight into Croatian culture. The historical part of the city lies around Kaptol, a medieval urban complex of churches, palaces, museums, galleries and government buildings. The old town's streets and squares are easily reached on foot, starting from Jelacic Square, the central part and the heart of Zagreb. There is also a funicular railway from Tomiceva Street. Tkalciceva Ulica is a winding street in the old town lined with cafés and is a popular place for people watching.