

CULTURE + WALKING

CROATIA

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Life Along the Adriatic

On this earth, we have never seen anywhere more beautiful than the southern coast of Croatia. Even the grandeur of Dubrovnik—for 500 years the peer of Venice—didn't prepare us for the simple, sweeping vistas along the Adriatic. We recommend going now, before the growing buzz attracts the crowds. Today, you can still spend an hour or two on a farm trail between the aquamarine sea and a patchwork of tiny fields with a scattering of goats—and never see another visitor. Again and again, you'll see a red-tiled roof or a gorgeous little bay and imagine for a moment that you're in Provence or on the Italian coast. But this is definitely Croatia, where the tempo is slower, more peaceful. And you'll find it incredibly easy to engage with the locals, whether our friends who run a family vineyard or the lace-maker who invites us into her workshop. This is our newest favorite destination and we are convinced that you will agree.

DAY 1

DUBROVNIK

- Explore the medieval city of Dubrovnik
- Linger over a welcome dinner of local specialties

From our first meeting this afternoon in Dubrovnik, you'll know you're in for an amazing experience. The city, like the superb Dalmatian coastline, feels undisturbed; a provocative glimpse into the past.

The region's weather, geography and natural beauty recall the Western Mediterranean of an earlier era - without the developers and swarms of tourists. Even its name is an historic relic: *Dalmatia*, dating from its early years as an ancient Roman province.

On a walk through this gem of a medieval city, our guide introduces us to Dubrovnik's fascinating history, including its 500-year rivalry with Venice for domination of the Adriatic. It still boasts beautifully preserved limestone buildings with red-tiled roofs, quaint streets with charming shops and cafes, and massive walls that allow us to experience the city from many vantage points. You'll be struck as we were by the cleanliness of Dubrovnik's streets. The secret? Each night, the fire brigade hoses down the streets of the entire Old Town.

We return to our splendidly restored Belle Epoque hotel in time to relax and regrow before dinner.

Then we're off to our favorite quayside seafood restaurant for local specialties like sautéed squid or a creamy risotto, one of the many regional dishes that will remind you of Italian cuisine.

OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK
MEALS: D

DAY 2

DUBROVNIK / CAVTAT

- Follow a scenic coastal path past shepherds, vineyards and historic homes
- Visit local artisans for a lace-making demonstration

Fortified by an unforgettable breakfast, we motor a short distance along the coast. Then, on foot, our guide leads us along scenic paths used for centuries by shepherds to move their flocks to and from the mountains. It's so serene here that you actually hear the goats before you see them, as their tinkling bells break the silence. The walk is almost impossibly picturesque; from a meadow overlooking the sea to a shepherd's hut made of honey-colored stone...from charming historic homes perched beside small vineyards to a 15th-century chapel. Almost every step of the way, the Adriatic is in sight, with olive trees and cypress to frame the view. An interesting note from the day we scouted this walk: over the entire morning, we passed only two couples - one French, one English.

At midday, we arrive at lovely Cavtat, a Provençal-like village nestled on a little harbor. If you love Provence or the Cinque Terre, but prefer an area with fewer tourists, Cavtat will delight you. There's time for a leisurely lunch at a quaysidecafé, an afternoon gelato, shopping, or even a swim in warm waters that are clear to a depth of 30 feet. At mid-afternoon you can choose to linger longer in Cavtat and ferry back to Dubrovnik at your leisure. Or join our guide

for a short journey to a family home in a nearby village for a demonstration of how the local silk is woven into lace. Following our visit, we return to Dubrovnik in time to unwind before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK
MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

DUBROVNIK / LOKRUM

- Morning ferry ride to Lokrum
- Walk through a picturesque reserve on the island

On the first of several ferry rides we'll take this week, you'll notice right away how calm the waters are. The sea off this southern portion of the Dalmatian Coast is so placid you might see water-skiers crisscrossing it. Even sailboats are almost always under motor power, owing to the gentle breezes along this stretch of shoreline.

A short cruise over crystalline waters leads us to Lokrum, one of nearly 1200 islands just off the coast of Dubrovnik. As legend has it, these are the islands where Odysseus was seduced by the sultry nymph Calypso and lingered for seven years on his way back to Ithaca from Troy. His choice of location was a good one. We'll spend the whole day on this beautiful, uninhabited island. There's plenty to do.

The island is a beautiful nature reserve with botanical gardens and a fortress. Peacocks wander everywhere and will show off for you. The island even has a lake of its own, as well as some of Dalmatia's best rock beaches. The waters around here aren't just calm; they're clean and clear up to a depth of 30 feet or more. Taking advantage of the picturesque setting, we stop for a picnic and a swim. A short walk after lunch leads us out of the reserve to the ferry landing and the trip back to Dubrovnik. Here, if you'd like, relax on our hotel's terraces, enjoy some fine shopping, or join our guide for a late afternoon walk along the magnificent walls of the city. As your reward, the afternoon sun bathes the tile roofs and stone walls in a warm, golden glow. Dinner tonight is at a café overlooking the floodlit buildings of the enchanting main square.

OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

PELJEŠAC PENINSULA

- Visit with monks at Franciscan monastery
- Savor a lunch and wine-tasting with the owner of a private winery

Departing Dubrovnik at midmorning, we drive north along the coast to the Pelješac peninsula, Croatia's version of Napa Valley. At our first stop, we call on a Franciscan monastery, once home to a large monastic order, which now houses just two caretaker monks. We pause to hear their personal insights and anecdotes about life in this tranquil setting, then set off on a two-hour stroll along the same paths used by local vineyard workers as they care for the vines.

Just in time for a late lunch we come upon a winery, owned by our friend, Mario, and his father, Teo. The first privately owned winery to resume operations after the fall of communism in Croatia, it now produces an excellent red—reminiscent of a Bordeaux—as well as a fine white and a

memorable dessert wine. Our genial host welcomes us with a tasting of the family treasures, accompanied by local cheeses, meats, olives and fruits served in the cellar and tasting room.

We part company with Mario for a late afternoon crossing to Hvar, ranked as one of the world's ten most beautiful islands. Our hotel is in Hvar town, located at the eastern tip of the island, with magnificent sea views.

OVERNIGHT: HVAR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

HVAR

- Walk through lavender fields and olive groves
- Enjoy an olive oil pressing demonstration and tasting at a local mill

We awake refreshed at our lovely hotel, a former private villa situated in a lush arboretum. From Hvar, we venture out on a morning walk through lavender fields and olive groves to the nearby village of Dol, tucked into the foothills of the mountains that form the spine of the island. A café overlooking Dol's town square provides an ideal spot for a lunch break.

Later, a brief, scenic walk leads us to a working olive mill, where a cooperative of small-scale olive growers brings their crops to be crushed. During a demonstration of ancient pressing techniques, we're treated to a tasting of the oils accompanied by the local crusty bread.

In late afternoon, we return to Hvar, once known as the Portofino of its day when King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson sought refuge here just a few months before he abdicated the British throne.

You might dine tonight at our seaside hotel or opt for one of the excellent restaurants catering to both locals and the yachting set attracted by Hvar's fair weather and friendly residents.

OVERNIGHT: HVAR
MEALS: B

DAY 6

HVAR

- Countryside walk to a coastal village
- Lunch at a local agriturismo

Our explorations today capture the essence of Hvar, "as golden as the honey the island is famous for." Vineyards, lavender fields and honey-colored buildings line our route to the coastal village of Jelsa. Our walk continues past olive groves and fields of fragrant herbs to a wonderful treat: luncheon at a local *agriturismo*, featuring a variety of favorites you've tried during the week, as well as the chance for the culinary ambitious among us to try some local specialties like smoked fish, goat carpaccio and roasted lamb under bell. We return to Hvar later in the day filled with anticipation for our festive farewell dinner.

OVERNIGHT: HVAR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

SPLIT

- Ferry to Split
- Explore Diocletian's Palace

We leave Hvar this morning for the ferry to Split. Like Dubrovnik, this city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At its heart, is a palace built by the Roman emperor Diocletian in the third century A.D. We'll spend a couple of hours exploring it before we part company at the airport or return you to our favorite hotel near town.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik

Built in 1895 and renovated in 2005, the hotel blends Belle Epoque style with comfort and technology. Spacious guest rooms, decorated in wood and marble finishes, overlook gardens and rooftops of old Dubrovnik. The hotel also has an indoor pool.

OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK | NIGHTS: 3



Adriana, Hvar Marina Hotel & Spa

Overlooking the old city centre, Adriana offers breathtaking panoramic views of the town and marina. Whether you are relaxing at the rooftop saltwater swimming pool or enjoying a massage at the Oasis Spa, Adriana is the perfect place to unwind.

OVERNIGHT: HVAR | NIGHTS: 3

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
May 3-9, 2020	\$4,795	\$5,590
June 7-13, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,890
July 5-11, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,890
September 6-12, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,890
October 4-10, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,890
May 2-8, 2021	\$4,895	\$5,690
June 6-12, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,990
July 4-10, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,990
September 5-11, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,990
October 3-9, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 2:00 PM Lobby of Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia

END: 1:00 PM Split city center, Split, Croatia Guests will depart upon the ferry arrival from Hvar

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. An average of 2 to 3 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van usually in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics and are there to help with anything
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Invisible Check-In**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in The Dalmatian Coast...

- Savoring three nights on Hvar, one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands
- Riding on, dipping into and dining alongside the crystal-clear sea
- Exploring the breathtaking island of Lokrum, complete with botanical gardens and wandering peacocks
- Comparing the contrasts between bustling Dubrovnik and spectacular countryside walks
- Accepting a warm welcome from expert local guide, like Lela, who loves her Croatia dearly and goes all out to make sure that you will love it too

"Lela was very well educated, informative, helpful and fun! We really enjoyed learning about Croatia from her. Our family is happy we had the chance to meet and get to know Lela!"

—Elizabeth E., La Jolla, CA

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Amalfi Coast

Positano & the Isle of Capri

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii
- Enjoying incredible hotels in Positano and Capri
- Walking seaside trails past magnificent villas

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/amalfi/>.



Montenegro

Azure Adriatic & Soaring Mountains

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling the palm-lined shores of the Adriatic
- Lunching with shepherds in their mountaintop huts
- Tasting olive oil in the mill where it was pressed

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/montenegro/>.



Sicily

Agrigento, Taormina & Aeolian Islands

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Enjoying a rustic lunch on the slopes of a volcano
- Walking a trail of ancient temples
- Meandering through meadows and olive groves

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/sicily/>.

You might also enjoy...



Slovenia & Croatia

Ljubljana to the Istrian Peninsula

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling vineyard trails to stunning hilltowns
- Cruising emerald islands to a national park
- Rambling Roman footpaths and ancient ruins

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/istria-slovenia-walking-tour/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.