

Croatia Private Journey

ADVENTURES ALONG THE DALMATIAN COAST



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 9 days
Arrive: Hvar, Croatia
Depart: Dubrovnik, Croatia
Lodging: 8 nights hotels
Meals: All meals per itinerary
Activity: Cultural, Family Trips, Walking, Hiking & Trekking

Trip Level: 1 ② 3 4 5 6

Cultural explorations and walking tours, optional easy to moderate hikes of 2-3 hours, optional sea kayaking and biking

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Dubrovnik on fantastic hiking, kayaking, and biking options with your private guide
- Enjoy a countryside hike and a cooking class on gorgeous Hvar Island
- Stroll the cobble streets of Korcula's Old Town, hike in Mjlet Island's national park
- Travel the unspoiled Peljesac Peninsula from historic villages to secluded Adriatic coves

Introduction



ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN DATES

May to October

Explore the glorious Dalmatian Coast, with its legendary islands, fascinating walled cities filled with the echoes of the Venetian Empire, fresh-caught seafood, and burgeoning wine scene. We've created a Private Journey with an array of options that let you choose among guided hiking, kayaking, and biking options. Explore Hvar Island, with its charming white-stone villages, enjoy Korcula Island, birthplace of Marco Polo, hike through beautiful coastal villages and lush hillsides with panoramic Adriatic vistas, and paddle sea kayaks in the inviting turquoise waters of the Adriatic. Your grand finale is magnificent Dubrovnik, the “Pearl of the Adriatic,” whose Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Ambassador

With a wonderful location and excellent views of the Adriatic, Hotel Ambassador is an ideal base for exploring Split. Guest rooms are bright and airy, with comfy beds, spacious bathrooms, and nice views of the town or sea. The hotel also has a spa, restaurant, and lobby bar. If you have time, be sure to relax at the rooftop pool and enjoy a drink from the pool bar, or take a stroll on the promenade to explore nearby shops and cafes.

Meals: D

DAY 1 SPLIT

Arrive in Split Airport (SPU) and transfer to the hotel (you must arrive early this morning or the night before). Meet your guide at 9:00 am for a full-day city tour, including the Temple of Jupiter, Peristyle Square, and Diocletian's Palace, a nearly 2000-year-old relic of the Roman Empire. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your guide. You will have a private driver/guide for the entire trip as well as city guides in major cities.

Option: Instead of a city tour, enjoy a morning of hiking and exploring in Marjan Park, a green oasis in the western part of the Split Peninsula. Hiking/walking options can be discussed with your guide. The afternoon is at leisure.

Itinerary



Overnight: Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel

This hotel's location is ideal—right on the waterfront promenade facing the old city center and just a few steps from the main square. Guest rooms have a delightful contemporary design, and as its name indicates, the hotel offers a wonderful variety of spa treatments, as well as a Jacuzzi, indoor pool, and a rooftop saltwater swimming pool offering heavenly views of Hvar and the sea. The Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel is a member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World.

Meals: B, D

Walking Details: Approximately 2 hours

Ferry Time: 2 hours

DAY 2 HVAR / WALKING TOUR/ COOKING CLASS AND OLIVE OIL TASTING

From Split, take the morning ferry to gorgeous Hvar, an island with a colorful history to match its evocative beauty. After lunch, set off for a walking tour with your guide. Your walk will be flexible according to your interests. Hvar's history dates back to the 4th century BC, when the Greeks established a colony here. Fascinating sites include the Hvar theatre, the oldest public theatre in Europe, built in 1612, and a Benedictine monastery founded in 1664. Today the monastery's community of nuns still weaves lace from fibers of the agave plant. Hvar is a wonderful place to explore, with its pedestrian-only alleys, Venetian-style architecture, and laid-back Mediterranean ambiance. The rest of the afternoon is on your own to relax or swim at the beach or pool. In the late afternoon, your guide will bring you out into the Hvar countryside to visit an olive oil producer. Here you can sample the wares and learn how to prepare a traditional Croatian dish that will be your dinner.

Itinerary



Overnight: Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel

Meals: B, L

Hiking Details: 4.5 miles, 2-2.5 hours

DAY 3 HVAR / HIKING OR SEA KAYAKING

Today you have two options: a half-day of hiking (included) or a half-day of sea kayaking (additional cost). For the hike, your guide will bring you to the coastal village of Milna for a walk through Hvar's central hills, brimming with fields of lavender and other aromatic herbs. As you hike between ancient hamlets with traditional architecture, your guide will share insights into the local way of life, unchanged for centuries. You may even have the chance to taste some homemade prosek, a dessert wine, or travarica, an aromatic herbal grappa, prepared the traditional way. Reaching the hidden village of Malo Grablje, enjoy lunch in an inviting taverna, then hike back to the picture-perfect port of Milna. Return to Hvar, with the balance of the day free.

Kayaking option (additional cost): One of Croatia's best half-day kayak tours brings you out to the emerald jewels of the Pakleni Islands. During this guided excursion, you'll have enough time to swim, snorkel, and relax. The length of the route is 3-5 nautical miles, with stops in several places (depending on conditions and pace). While on a beach stop, enjoy your time swimming, relaxing or grab a mask and snorkel and explore on your own. All equipment is included, and there will be a safety talk and introduction to basic sea kayaking techniques. No previous experience is necessary. The afternoon is on your own in Hvar.

Duration: 3-4 hours

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 3-5 nautical miles, with several stops

Itinerary



DAY 4 KORCULA ISLAND

Ferry to the island of Korcula, an ancient fortified Venetian arsenal known for its deep forests and sandy beaches as well as a white wine called Posip. After checking into your hotel, take a walking tour with your local guide. Korcula's crenellated walls and narrow cobbled streets make it a "little Dubrovnik" full of charm. Enjoy lunch at Eo Skoj, an organic farm and olive oil producer. Here you can sample homemade liqueurs, olive oil, marmalade, figs, and other local specialties, followed by a traditional lunch. Later, enjoy a hike in a lovely vineyard followed by wine tasting.

Overnight: Hotel Liburna

Walk to the beach or take a dip in the outdoor pool while enjoying the ocean views from this laid-back Mediterranean retreat. Guest rooms are clean and comfortable—the perfect place to fall asleep to the sounds of the sea. The restaurant serves fresh, seasonal cuisine, local wines, and has an outdoor ocean-view terrace. You can also have a drink in the lobby bar or outside by the pool.

Meals: B, L

Ferry Time: Approximately 1-1.5 hours

Korcula City Tour: 2.5 hours

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Liburna

Meals: B, L

Hiking Details: 7.5 miles, 3-3.5 hours

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

DAY 5 MJLET ISLAND / KORCULA

Ferry to Mljet Island for a morning hike. Mljet is often referred to the “green island” for the forests of Aleppo pine that cover most of it. Part of the island is preserved as national park. Join your guide to explore the park, hiking around two enchanting saltwater lakes, Veliko Jezero and Malo Jezero (Big Lake and Small Lake). You’ll have the option to climb to the highest hill (Motokuc Peak at 820 feet), with time to swim and relax on the beach before lunch. After lunch, return by ferry to Korcula.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Excelsior

Located within a five-minute walk to Old Town Dubrovnik and with sweeping views of the sparkling Adriatic, Hotel Excelsior is a wonderful introduction to the city and the perfect place to unwind and relax. The hotel was originally a villa built in 1913 and has welcomed many famous guests over the years including Queen Elizabeth II and Elizabeth Taylor. Guest rooms are modern and spacious, with nice views of the city or sea. Enjoy a drink at the rooftop restaurant and take a dip in the sea or the hotel's indoor pool.

Meals: B, L

Driving Details: Approximately 2 hours

DAY 6 PELJESAC PENINSULA / STON / TRSTENO ARBORETUM / DUBROVNIK

A short ferry ride (15 minutes) brings you out of Korcula town for a scenic day's drive along the unspoiled Peljesac Peninsula. Visit a wine producer in this ancient region where Illyrian tribes started producing wine around 2,200 BC, followed by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The warm, sunny climate—along with the perfect terroir of rock and soil—contributes to sumptuous vintages. Continue down to Hodilje Bay and cruise by small boat to an oyster farm where you'll enjoy a tasting and a traditional lunch (there is also the option to have lunch in Dubrovnik). After lunch, cruise to historic Ston, a village nestled on a bay. A military fort in medieval times, it still has its encircling defensive walls. Further along the coast, visit Trsteno Arboretum, a botanical garden set on the former estate of a noble family. Scenes from *Games of Thrones* were filmed at this gorgeous Mediterranean garden. Arrive in Dubrovnik, a dazzling late-medieval walled city of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. For dinner on your own tonight, there are many choices and your guide can make recommendations.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Excelsior

Meals: B

DAYS 7-8 DUBROVNIK

Your days in Dubrovnik includes your choice of one of the following guided options each day (all included in the trip price except sea kayaking, which is at additional cost). Dinner is on your own on Day 7 and lunch and dinner is on your own on Day 8. Your guide is happy to make recommendations for you.

Walk Dubrovnik's Walls Dubrovnik's fortified walls, built between the 12th and 17th centuries, are among the best preserved in Europe. The scale of these fortifications is impressive, with some sections eight stories high. They are accessible through three entrances, with the main entrance at Pile Gate, which has the most dramatic views of the city. There is no shade along the way, so we recommend going in the early morning, when it is cooler (and less crowded).

Duration: Approximately 2 hours

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Panoramic Walking Trails Hike a historic trail from the tiny coastal hamlet of Bosanka up to Mt. Srd for breathtaking views across the Adriatic Coast. Atop the mountain you'll find an 18th century fortress that houses the Homeland War Museum, which memorializes the Croatian War of Independence 1991-1995. Hike back down along country roads with panoramic views as you return to Bosanka.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours, plus driving time

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Hiking Distance: 3 miles, elevation gain of 700 feet

Itinerary

Half-Day Private Guided Sea Kayaking Tour (additional cost)

Experience cultural-historical sites from a new perspective as you paddle your sea kayak below the amazing city walls, around the mystical island of Lokrum, with its botanical garden and monastery, and to hidden beaches. Enjoy a few stops along the route to visit caves, swim, and take photos.

Duration: Approximately 4 hours

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Paddling Time: Approximately 2 hours, plus safety briefing and free time on Lokrum Island. All equipment provided, no previous experience necessary.

Countryside Biking and Traditional Lunch at Farm (additional cost)

Discover the Dubrovnik countryside by E-bike or regular bike, cycling roads in the valley and along the coast with your guide and learning about the area's history. Pedal to the picturesque village of Pridvorje, with its 15th century Franciscan monastery, then up to villages above the valley for a cooking class and lunch at a local farm. Stops may include the 4th century archaeological site of Illyrian Tumulus and the River Ljuta, with its old water mills.

Duration: Approximately 7 hours

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Cycling Distance: Up to 20 miles

Day Trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina (additional cost)

Enjoy a round-trip drive along the coast from Dubrovnik to the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Balkan Peninsula. During your visit to Mostar, the capital, explore historic sites including the iconic Stari Most, or "Old Bridge," and the Turkish Bazaar. On the way back, stop in the small Herzegovina town of Ravno to stretch your legs and enjoy a snack.

Duration: Approximately 5 hours round trip

Meals: B

DAY 9 DEPART

Take a shuttle to the Dubrovnik airport and depart on homeward-bound flights.

Pricing

TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2025**

\$6995 (4-10 members)

Single supplement: \$1590

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: 25% of trip cost

90 days prior to departure: Balance

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Services of private guide and local city guides
- Accommodations as indicated in itinerary
- Meals as indicated in itinerary
- Land and ferry transportation as indicated in itinerary
- Sightseeing as noted, including walking tours, wine tastings

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare
- Meals not noted in itinerary, including all dinners
- Optional tipping to guide and local staff
- Optional tours and some tours in Dubrovnik
- Additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors
- Pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas
- Other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Europe Manager or email us at europe@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.



Zagreb & Plitvice Lakes National Park

Pre-Trip Extension

Hike in Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's largest national park, with its 16 crystalline lakes that flow into each other by way of spectacular waterfalls. More than 10 miles of wooden bridges and hiking paths make it a wonderful place to explore, and you'll also enjoy a tour of ancient Zagreb, whose streets are alive with history, from the Roman Forum to the 9th century St. Donatus Church.

DAY 1 (PRE-TRIP) ZAGREB

Arrive in Zagreb, Croatia's capital, where you are met for a shuttle transfer to your hotel. Overnight Hotel Esplanade (superior rooms)...meals on your own

DAY 2 (PRE-TRIP) PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Your private guide will meet you in the morning for drive to Plitvice Lakes National Park to explore this gorgeous park of terraced lakes, joined by waterfalls that extend into a limestone canyon. Your guide knows all the best trails, the most interesting villages, and the fascinating history of this part of the world. He is your link to the local scene and will be with you throughout your adventure Overnight Hotel Mirjana...BL

DAY 3 (PRE-TRIP) ZADAR / SPLIT

From Plitvice, you'll be driven to the coastal town of Zadar, famed as one of the centers of Roman heritage. After a 2-hour visit to the town, continue to Split for overnight (main trip starts next day)....BD

EXTENSION COSTS

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

\$1790 per person (minimum 4 members)

Single supplement: \$390

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Split Airport (SPU)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: You will meet at the Ferry Dock in Hvar on Day 1.

The easiest way to travel to Hvar is via Split. Once you arrive at the airport there are several transportation options. Frequent buses depart from outside the main terminal and take you directly to the main station and port. There are also taxis and private transfers available.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Dubrovnik Airport (DBV)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 9, anytime

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Croatia.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

What to Expect

- WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE** This trip is rated a **Level 2 (Easy to Moderate)** according to our trip grading system. It features several walking tours and hikes, a day of bicycling country roads, and an optional sea kayaking excursion, with comfortable hotel accommodations throughout. We recommend you make a special effort to get in good physical condition for the trip, as it will greatly increase your enjoyment.
- TERRAIN** The terrain can be hilly and rocky with many sets of stairs on both ascents and descents.
- WEATHER** Spring and fall are the best times to visit, when the crowds of summer are absent and the temperatures are cooler. The climate is typically Mediterranean. Cooling breezes and an occasional shower is always a possibility. The weather is variable so be prepared: it can be cool and pleasant, hot and muggy, or damp and chilly.
- ACCOMMODATIONS** Our accommodations are in charming inns and hotels. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size.
- CUISINE** Our lunches are in restaurants, on boats, or picnic-style. Dinners are at local restaurants or our hotel. The cuisine is typical of the Mediterranean with salads, vegetables, pasta, meat, and seafood. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US so please plan accordingly for dinners on your own.
- TRANSPORTATION** Depending on the group size, a car or van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need for the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if you are not transferring that day).

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Travel Notes

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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Wilderness Travel

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