



## 18 Day Croatia Uncovered with Coastal Cruise

### AVG Travels – World Travel Experts!

Local Knowledge. Vacations of a Lifetime.

Discover the world with AVG Travels, where our team of destination experts combines local knowledge with a passion for adventure to offer you the vacation of a lifetime. At AVG, we not only provide an immersive travel experience, prioritize your comfort, safety, and enjoyment, but also showcase the beauty and cultural richness of stunning destinations.

Specialists in touring since 2015, AVG Travels, previously known as Asia Vacation Group, are proud to craft your itinerary and create memories that last a lifetime. Travel with confidence knowing your trip has been thoughtfully crafted by our experts with you personally in mind.

<b>AVG Travels Trusted Partner Tour</b>	<b>English-speaking Local Guides</b>	<b>4-star Hotels</b>
<b>Culinary Experiences</b>	<b>Adriatic Sea Cruise</b>	<b>International Flights Included</b>

### Day by Day Itinerary

Zagreb, Opatija, Rovinj, Pula, Plitvice Lakes, Zadar, Split, Trogir, Dubrovnik, Šipan, Korčula, Vis, Hvar, Pučišća

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- Explore the fortified, mediaeval Upper Town of **Zagreb** on a walking tour
- Tour the Istrian Peninsula visiting iconic locations such as **Rovinj** and **Pula**
- Marvel at the natural beauty of the **Plitvice Lakes**
- Enjoy a traditional meal in **Trogir** at the Tragos restaurant
- Taste the famous “Plavac Mali” wine – a very close relative to Zinfandel whilst in **Ston**
- Walk amongst the mediaeval rampart of **Dubrovnik** on a walking tour
- Cruise the **Adriatic Sea** on a Premium Superior ship with no more than 38 guests
- Explore **Hvar** during the day on a fully guided walking tour and at your own leisure in the evening, as the town comes to life

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Home -

Depart Australia today, en route for the beautiful scenery and cuisines of Croatia and the Adriatic Coast.

**Meals:** In-flight

**Accommodation:** In transit

### Day 2: - Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

Welcome to Zagreb!

On arrival into either Franjo Tuđman International Airport Zagreb (ZAG), you will be met by a local representative in the arrivals hall and transferred to your accommodation.

This evening, you will have your Welcome Meeting where you will meet your English-speaking guide and fellow travellers and have an introduction to your tour over dinner.

**Meals:** n/a

**Accommodation:** Hotel Dubrovnik 4\* or similar

### **Day 3: Zagreb - Opatija**

After breakfast, embark on a guided walking tour of Zagreb with an English-speaking guide. In the historic Upper Town, you'll explore key landmarks such as St. Mark's Church with its vibrant tiled roof, the Parliament, the government palace, and various beautiful old buildings.

Following the tour, we will continue to the scenic Kvarner Bay, specifically to Opatija, a renowned centre of Croatian tourism. Opatija was once a favoured spa destination for the Habsburgs and European aristocrats, including notable figures like Mahler, Chekhov, and Isadora Duncan.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Admiral 4\* or similar

### **Day 4: Opatija - Rovinj - Pula - Opatija**

Today, we'll explore the Istrian peninsula, starting with a visit to the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheatre in Pula. Next, we'll unwind in Rovinj, widely regarded as the most picturesque city in Istria and a source of inspiration for many artists.

Enjoy some free time in Rovinj before we head to Motovun to savour one of Istria's culinary delights: the truffle.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Tasting

**Accommodation:** Hotel Admiral 4\* or similar

### **Day 5: Opatija - Plitvice Lakes National Park - Zadar**

An early morning departure and comfortable walking shoes will help you discover Croatia's oldest and most stunning national park, a UNESCO World Heritage site with 16 interconnected lakes and spectacular waterfalls. Situated in the mountainous Lika region, the park is best explored on foot, though your visit will also include a boat ride across the strikingly emerald Kozjak Lake. The tour of the park lasts about 3 hours, showcasing its enchanting turquoise beauty.

Continue onto Zadar where we spend the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Kolovare 4\* or similar

### **Day 6: Zadar - Split**

After breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we'll set out to explore Zadar. This historic town boasts numerous cultural and historical landmarks, including the 1st-century Roman forum and the 9th-century Church of St. Donatus. A highlight of the visit is the unique Zadar Sea Organs, which are one-of-a-kind in the world. From the Old Town, we'll head to a local winery in the Dalmatian hinterland, where you can sample authentic Dalmatian wines and international cuvées, paired with delicious Croatian-style tapas.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Tasting

**Accommodation:** Hotel Art 4\* or similar

### **Day 7: Split - Trogir - Split**

Today's Split is a tapestry of seventeen centuries of construction and renovation, where 18th-century houses merge with ancient Roman walls and 4th-century chambers now serve as 20th-century apartments. At the heart of this evolving cityscape is the palace built by Emperor Diocletian for his retirement at the turn of the 4th century.

For lunch, we'll enjoy a traditional Dalmatian dish at Tragos Restaurant in Trogir. This UNESCO World Heritage site boasts a continuous urban history of over 2,300 years, influenced by the Greeks, Romans, and Venetians. With its dense collection of palaces, churches, towers, and fortresses on a small island, Trogir is often referred to as the "floating museum town."

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Art 4\* or similar

### **Day 8: Split - Ston - Dubrovnik**

En route to Dubrovnik, we'll make a stop near Ston to visit a local winery and sample the renowned "Plavac Mali" wine, which is closely related to Zinfandel. This winery has a long-standing tradition of winemaking passed down through generations, offering a captivating story that everyone will enjoy.

The wine tasting experience includes a detailed presentation on the winemaking process, the opportunity to taste

various wines, and a light snack.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Tasting & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Lero 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Dubrovnik**

Completed in the 13th century, the old city of Dubrovnik has largely preserved its historic character. Its mediaeval walls still enclose the Old Town, accessible through one of two gates. Crossing a stone bridge beneath the watchful eye of the city's patron, Saint Blaise (Vlaho), you'll find yourself on Stradun, the wide, stone-paved promenade.

After the guided tour, you'll have free time to explore the city independently.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Lero 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Dubrovnik - Šipán**

This morning, you will be transferred to Gruž (Dubrovnik Harbour) in time for your check-in and embarkation of your Adriatic Sea cruise.

Lunch will be served as we sail along the Dalmatian coast, heading either to one of the Elaphiti Islands, such as Šipán, or to the quaint village of Slano on the mainland. Both destinations are serene fishing villages known for their stunning sunsets.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 11: Šipán - Mljet - Korčula**

After breakfast, set sail towards Mljet Island and Mljet National Park (entrance fee not included, payable on-site).

Enjoy lunch on board, followed by free time to explore the park's salt lakes and bask in the sun on this peaceful island. The large lake within the park features an old abbey and church in its centre, or you can paddle a canoe around the lakes. Bicycles are available for rent to cycle along the paths surrounding the lakes.

In the late afternoon, we will continue to the island of Korčula, where a guided tour will showcase the well-preserved Old Town, with its ancient walls and bastions dating back to the 13th century.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 12: Korčula - Vis**

Early in the morning, set sail for the small island of Biševno to explore the Blue Cave, a stunning natural wonder. Due to the unpredictable weather, the visit is subject to prevailing conditions. Entrance to the Blue Cave is not included and must be paid on-site. The journey continues to the island of Vis, known for its unique geographical position and its past as a strategic harbour for the Yugoslav navy—making it off-limits to the public until recently. This isolation has preserved Vis's charm as a 'Mediterranean as it once was,' making it a fascinating destination.

Overnight will be in the town of Vis, located on the island's northern side and developed near the ancient ruins of Issa, Croatia's first urban centre. You can explore the remains of the Roman thermal baths and the City Museum, or simply enjoy a stroll along the waterfront, admiring the beautiful *villae rusticae*. For those wishing to explore further, consider renting a car or scooter to discover more of this enchanting island on your own.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 13: Vis - Hvar**

Next, we will head to the small island of Šćedro, located near Hvar. Upon arrival, you'll have time to unwind and swim in the clear, turquoise sea.

After lunch, we will depart for Hvar, where you can join an optional guided tour.. Hvar is the longest island in the Adriatic and is home to a stunning Renaissance cathedral with its original tower and the oldest community theatre in Europe, established in 1612. Hvar also boasts a vibrant nightlife, with numerous restaurants, bars, cafes, and clubs that stay open late into the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 14: Hvar - Bol - Makarska**

Depart from Hvar and continue cruising towards the island of Brač, heading to the town of Bol, renowned for its iconic Zlatni Rat beach (Golden Horn). This natural marvel, with its unique shape, stands out among Croatia's beaches and frequently changes form due to the directional winds and waves.

After enjoying a swim at the Golden Horn, we will set sail for Makarska, where you can soak up the Mediterranean atmosphere. Explore the town's many churches and other architectural and cultural landmarks during a leisurely stroll.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 15: Makarska - Pučišća**

Today's destination is Pučišća, a quintessential Mediterranean village located on the northern side of Brač Island at the base of a deep bay. Before arriving, we will stop for a swim and relaxation in a secluded bay along the way.

After lunch on board, you can explore Pučišća, renowned for its world-famous white stone from Brač. There is an opportunity to visit one of the rare remaining stone masonry workshops in Europe.

This evening you will be treated to a Captain's Dinner onboard the vessel. Afterwards, feel free to disembark and explore the town.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Captain's Dinner

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 16: Pučišća - Split**

Depart for the final destination, the city of Split, arriving in the early afternoon.

The Old Town of Split is a labyrinth of streets and cobblestone alleys surrounding the 1,700-year-old Diocletian's Palace, which the Emperor chose as his retirement villa. Both the Old Town and Diocletian's Palace are protected by UNESCO. The heart of the Old Town is People's Square (Narodni Trg), where cafes and restaurants extend into the square. A key attraction here is admiring the historic town clock.

Explore the beautiful sea-side city on a guided walking tour.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Premium Superior ship

#### **Day 17: Depart Split -**

After breakfast, disembark the Adriatic Sea cruise at approximately 9am where you will be transferred to Split Airport (SPU) in time for your departure flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** In transit

#### **Day 18: - Home**

Arrive home today – we hope you have enjoyed exploring Croatia.

**Meals:** In-flight

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **International flights departing Melbourne or Sydney**
- Amazing sights include Zagreb, Pula, Zadar, Split, Hvar, Korčula, Dubrovnik, the UNESCO-listed Plitvice Lakes
- Guided touring of Zagreb, the Plitvice Lakes, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik, Korčula and Hvar
- Entrance fees at the Plitvice Lakes, Pula Amphitheatre, Diocletian Palace Split and Franciscan monastery in Dubrovnik
- 4 high-quality gourmet experience; truffles tasting, hinterland winery, Tragos restaurant and Pelješac winery
- 8 nights in 4-star hotel accommodation
- 7 nights aboard a Premium Superior cruise on the Adriatic Sea
- Daily breakfasts, 8 lunches & 4 dinners
- Dedicated transportation throughout

- Dedicated English-speaking local guides throughout
- Cruise director whilst onboard the Adriatic Sea cruise
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of your itinerary
- Hotel to port portorage
- Tourist taxes

## EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Port fees: €60 per person (payable locally)

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN \$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Thursday</b> 10 Apr 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 27 Apr 2025	\$8,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 22 May 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 08 Jun 2025	\$9,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 05 Jun 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 22 Jun 2025	\$9,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 28 Aug 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 14 Sep 2025	\$9,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 11 Sep 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 28 Sep 2025	\$9,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 25 Sep 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 12 Oct 2025	\$9,399		<a href="#">Sold Out</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

## FINE PRINT

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes return flights from Melbourne or Sydney.

Flights from Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart and Perth attract a \$400 per person surcharge.

**Airline Selection:** We book the best available airlines for your journey, which may include a mix of full-service and low-cost carriers. Specific airline requests can be made at the time of purchase. This includes upgrades to your preferred carrier, premium economy or business class cabins or specific seats. Whilst we will try our best, not all requests can be confirmed.

**Flight Conditions:** Flights may not be direct and could involve a maximum of two transits.

**Ticketing Information:** Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Changes are subject to airline rules, airline change fees, and an AVG Travels change fee of \$250 per person.

**Passenger Details:** Please ensure all traveller names are as per passports. This includes all middle names. Errors may incur a name change fee of \$150 plus airline charges, or may require a forfeit of the existing ticket and purchase of a new ticket at an additional cost.

**Flight Schedule Changes:** Any changes or cancellations to airline schedules are outside our control. We recommend staying updated with airline schedules before departure. Additional expenses for extended transits or alternative arrangements are the traveller's responsibility.

**Internal Airfares:** Local flights included in your itinerary may utilise low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage is included; any additional baggage fees are payable at check-in.

**Booking Considerations:** If travelling with others on separate bookings, we may not be able to guarantee all flights are the same flight due to availability.

**Luggage and Fees:** You are responsible for your luggage at all times. Excess baggage fees, if incurred, are payable directly to the airline. All tickets will include 20 kg checked baggage per person, plus 7 kg of hand luggage. We recommend travelling with a max 20kg per person due to restrictions on internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Please note, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included.

**No-Show Policy:** Missing your flight may result in fees including a no-show fee, airline reissue fee, and possible new ticket purchase. AVG Travels charges a \$250 admin fee for re-booking assistance.

**Price Adjustments:** Prices are final at the time of ticketing. Any subsequent changes may result in additional costs due to factors beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations or airline surcharges.

#### **Flight requests, amendments or preferences**

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

- Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline
- Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class
- Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.
- Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.
- Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

#### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **\$2,472 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

#### **Physical Requirements**

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach and ship, and walking reasonable distances, typically around 2 kilometres per day or more. Whilst in the Plitvice Lakes, some of the boardwalks may be slippery and uneven. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

#### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package.

Industry standard is USD\$10-15 per person per day – however the final amount you may wish to give, is completely at your discretion.

#### **Group Size**

Minimum: 2

Maximum: 38

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

AU Passport holders:

You do not need a visa for Croatia if you are staying less than 90 days. Travellers require a passport valid for at least 3 months after the traveller exits the country. You may be required to provide proof of minimum funds.

**IMPORTANT:** Visa requirements may change at any time without notice. You should contact the nearest high commission/embassy or consulate for the latest details.

### **Children**

Children under the age of 12 years will not be permitted to travel on this tour.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling. We have partnered with **NibTravel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi- trip journeys simply with us.

### **HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extension your trip.

Pre tour accommodation in Zagreb, including breakfast & arrival transfer – **\$281** per room, per night for double/twin/single.

Post tour accommodation in Split is not offered.

### **CRUISE INFORMATION & UPGRADES**

#### **Katarina Line**

Katarina Line itineraries offer travellers the opportunity to discover breathtaking natural landscapes and charming Mediterranean villages while island-hopping through Croatia. This distinctive method of travel is one of the most popular and effortless ways to truly experience the essence of Croatia

#### **Premium Superior vessels**

The maximum capacity of these vessels ranges from 32 guests to 38 – depending on the vessel. They are modern, recently built (or refurbished) mini deluxe vessels, varying from 35 metres to 41 metres in length, featuring a spacious sun deck(s), air-conditioned salon, cosy lounge area and cabins 8 to 14m<sup>2</sup> in size with double or twin beds, hairdryer and safety deposit box

#### **Inclusions:**

- Daily buffet (continental) breakfast
- Three-course lunches
- Captain's dinner
- English-speaking tour manager on board
- Three guided tours of Hvar, Korčula and Dubrovnik
- Daily cabin service
- Private shower/toilette
- A mid-week fresh set of towels and bed linen
- Luggage handling
- Olive oil and wine tasting on board
- Afternoon tea and coffee with biscuits
- Complimentary water
- Free WIFI in public areas

#### **Lower Deck cabins**

Included

#### **Upper/Main Deck cabins**

\$333 per person (double/twin) – \$666 per person (single)

Cabin upgrades and prices are subject to availability upon booking

**Beverages**

Beverages that are not included in the tour cost can be purchased at the vessel's bar on consumption, or can be billed to your cabin, which you will require to settle on the cruise disembarkation day in Split

**AVG Travels**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339

New Zealand Call: 0800 220 920

US Call: 1 888 440 6001