

SCENIC SLOVENIA AND CROATIA



TRIP OVERVIEW

Experience the understated sophistication of Slovenia's capital city, marvel at breath-taking panoramas at enchanting Lake Bled and immerse yourself in Zagreb's bewitching electric ambience.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Slovenia and Croatia. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Maribor D

Depart London on a scheduled flight to Zagreb and transfer to the ancient city of Ptuj for a walking tour. Admire breath-taking city views from Ptuj's hillside castle which dominates a quiet landscape scattered with ancient architecture and was strategically positioned as a defence against marauding invaders. Continue along a network of cobblestone avenues towards Slovenski Trg, which has featured heavily in Ptuj's everyday life since antiquity, and marvel at St George's Church tower, standing conspicuously amidst an assortment of captivating facades. Travel to Maribor for your overnight stay.

DAY 2: Ptuj to Ljubljana B

Explore Maribor and discover the world's oldest vine, which, having endured many brutal battles, remains connected to the former city wall. Delight in architectural extravagance in the heart of Glavni Trg, which boasts a majestic town hall and Europe's most resplendent baroque column, constructed to commemorate the extraordinary loss of life during the Great Plague. Following a visit to admire the Franciscan church's red clinker exterior, wander the Vinag Wine Cellar's extensive underground passages and savour the delectable tastes of local wines during a flavourful tasting. Transfer to the city of Ljubljana this afternoon where you will spend three nights.

DAY 3: Ljubljana B

Between the vast expanses of verdant spaces, discover urban gems and cultural treasures nestled within Slovenia's capital. Strolling to the heart of the city, uncover a landscape of understated elegance, commencing today's tour at the wondrous Dragon Bridge, Ljubljana's finest example of art nouveau architecture, most famously renowned for its adornment of iconic Dragon asphalt statues. Cross the beautiful Ljubljanica River and witness an impressive structural feat at the Triple Bridge, where a trio of pedestrian bridges, embellished with lightly coloured balustrades connects Ljubljana's medieval and contemporary districts. From here, saunter past a collection of intriguing statues upon Butchers Bridge as you follow the route to St Nicholas' Cathedral, whose recognisable dome and twin towers are visible from viewpoints across the city. Next, serving as the official seat of the city government, observe Town Hall's baroque façade, proudly situated alongside the 18th Century Robba Fountain.

DAY 4: Ljubljana and Lake Bled B

This memorable day begins with a trip to an area of unsurpassed natural beauty set amongst a mountainous backdrop, where the Julian Alps and Karavank peaks majestically overlook a protruding islet in the centre of Lake Bled's serene emerald waters. Perched atop a rocky headland, Bled Castle is an incredible display of medieval architecture, venture across an ancient drawbridge and enter through the dramatic Gothic archways into Bled Castle's historic interior. Wander through the 11th century courtyards and terraces before examining the collection

of retired armour and weaponry found within the contemporary museum, which traces through the colourful history of Lake Bled.

DAY 5: Ljubljana to Opatija via Postojna Caves B

Departing Slovenia this morning, journey to the cavernous complex of Postojna Caves where an unforgettable underground kingdom awaits. Interspersed with otherworldly structures which resemble the solidified droplets upon a melted candle, gaze in awe at the cave's crowning treasure, a distinctive 5-metre Stalagmite named 'Brilliant'. Spanning an enormous 24,340 metres, wind along a section of Postojna Caves' intricate formations on an underground railway journey, observing the Murano-glass chandeliers soaring above this fairy-tale wonderland. Later, continue to Opatija for an evening at leisure

DAY 6: Opatija B

Dividing the lush forested hills and glistening waters of the Adriatic, spend a day at leisure discovering the unspoilt seaside region of Opatija, enjoying panoramic views of neighbouring islands from the coastal promenade, which sprawls across its picturesque seafront.

DAY 7: Opatija to Plitvice National Park B

Feast your eyes upon an exquisite web of sixteen lakes, interconnected by a torrent of cascading waterfalls on a morning tour of Plitvice National Park. Witness the emerging sun peeking through the treetops, as you explore this biodiverse haven on foot, looking out for roaming deer and singing birds soaring overhead. Surrounded by verdant woodland and crystal-clear waters, immerse yourself in this stunning area, sailing upon the waters of Lake Kozjak, at an altitude of 534 metres above sea level.

DAY 8: Plitvice National Park to Zagreb B

Depart Plitvice National Park this morning and gain an insight into local culture and everyday rituals on a visit to the Serbian Village of Licko Petrovo Selo. Deeply affected by long-standing conflicts during the Yugoslavia and Bosnian Wars, uncover typical regional trades and sample local delicacies offered to you by the village's hospitable residents. Later today, transfer to the capital of Croatia for an afternoon at leisure.

DAY 9: Zagreb B

Absorb the vibrant culture and lively ambience which exudes Zagreb during this morning's walking tour, exploring a diverse assortment of secessionist and neo-baroque architecture, dotted amongst the city's bustling boulevards. Meander through a hive of activity, navigating Dolac Market's vivid stalls, before uncovering the prominent Gothic spires of Zagreb's Roman Catholic Cathedral, which can remarkably be seen from almost any vantage point throughout the city. Next, journey through the colourful facades of Tkalciceva's pedestrianised streets, lined with bohemian cafes and boutique shops, before a visit to the former chief city fort provides incredible panoramic vistas of this scenic city from its belvedere. Finally, before an afternoon at leisure, marvel at St Mark's Church's distinctively ornamented roof, richly adorned with colourful tiles depicting Zagreb's coat of arms and iconic emblem.

DAY 10: Zagreb to the UK B

Depart Zagreb this morning and transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP



Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK, Slovenia and Croatia. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.



Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Zagreb you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Happy Tours**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/**Happy Tours** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Happy Tours

Contact Number: 00386 0 590 78207
Email Address: info@happytours.eu

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Happy Tours
24 hour contact number: 00386 0 590 78207

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Slovenia or Croatia. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include: www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Scenic Slovenia & Croatia is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour. Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 15, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 15 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tipping

It is customary/at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 2 Euros per person per day. This is a total of €18

per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Slovenia is the Euro. The currency in Croatia is the Croatian Kuna. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information/A scanned copy of your passport is required for this tour. This information is required at least 90 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Slovenia and Croatia is 230 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to [Zagreb Airport](#) with [British Airways](#), departing from [London Heathrow Terminal 3](#).

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

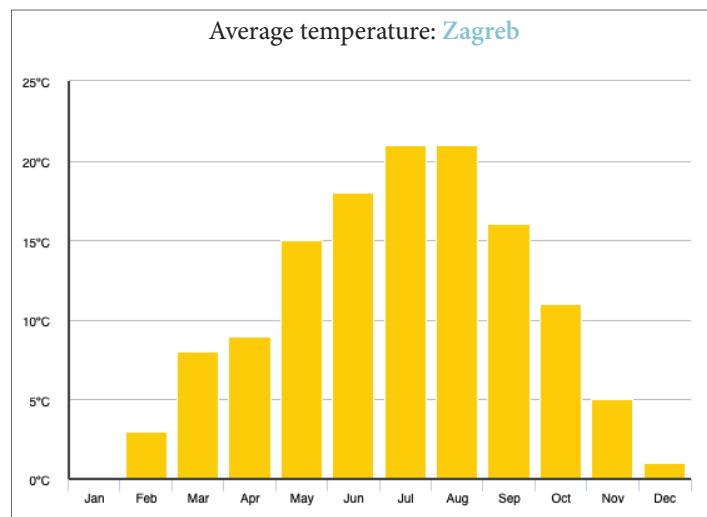
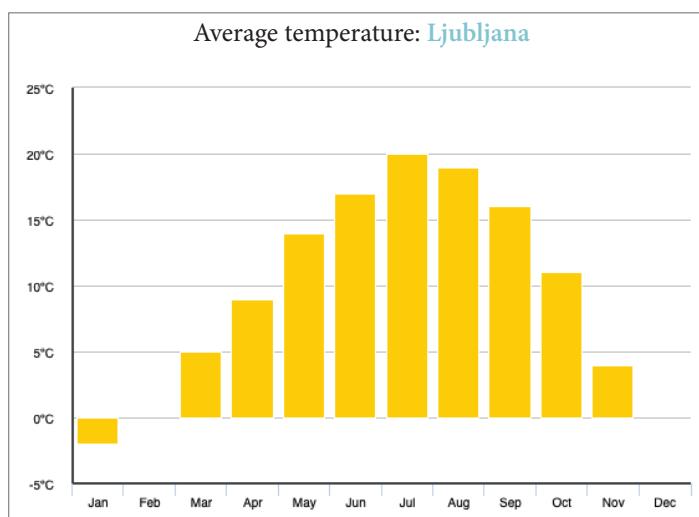
Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 23kg - 56cm/45cm/25cm) in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



CROATIAN ISLAND CRUISE

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Cruise between peaceful islands stopping off at historic towns as you set sail along the Croatian Riviera, one of the most breathtakingly scenic coastlines in the world.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Croatia

Cruise Information Itinerary

DAY 11: Zagreb to Trogir B

Depart your hotel after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight to Split, where you will be transferred to your boat, docked in the port of Trogir, for the night. This afternoon* spend time exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Diocletian's Palace, built by the Roman emperor Diocletian as a fortress in the 4th century. It now forms the centre of a bustling city.

DAY 12: Trogir to Hvar Island B/L

Head for the island of Hvar, known to be the longest and sunniest Croatian island and a favourite with sailors for over two thousand years. Weather permitting, the cruise will stop en route for a relaxing swim off island Solta, a secluded cove, before arriving at the island's hub, Hvar Town. Spend your evening sampling its hip but laid-back restaurant scene.

DAY 13: Hvar Island to Mljet National Park B/L/D

A highlight of the cruise, Mljet is known as Croatia's greenest island with the national park making up almost one third of the landmass. After lunch, take a local ferry to Islet Melita, a charming island in the middle of the Large Lake, to visit the former Benedictine monastery. This evening, be a guest of your captain and enjoy a three-course meal on board your vessel.

DAY 14: Mljet National Park to Dubrovnik B/L

Journey south this morning, stopping for a swimming break at the Elafiti Islands. This afternoon, arrive in the port of the UNESCO-listed city of Dubrovnik, known as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic'. This enchanting seaside city has provided the backdrop to many feature-length films. Explore the Old Town, where all first-time visitors should begin with a walk around the magnificent medieval city walls.

DAY 15: Dubrovnik to Korcula Island B/L

This morning head to Korcula, stopping en route in a bay off the Elafiti Islands for a leisurely swim. After lunch, cruise along to Korcula with time to discover the town and acclaimed birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo. With an impressive old fortress and quaint cobbled streets, Korcula is an idyllic place to spend the evening.

DAY 16: Korcula Island to Brac Island B/L

Set sail along the crystal blue waters for Brac Island, stopping in one of the beautiful secluded bays of this area for swimming and sunbathing. The island landscape of Brac is dominated by a limestone relief, with numerous gullies, crevices, cavities, valleys and coves. Brac is also known for being one of the largest islands in the entire Adriatic Sea.

DAY 17: Brac Island to Trogir B/L

Depart from the island of Brac, stopping for a swim in a bay on the island of Ciovo. Continue to Trogir, a small picturesque town with lot of secrets situated on an island by the Adriatic Sea. Discover the beautiful masterpieces of famous sculptors such as the magnificent Cathedral's portal of master Radovan and the reliefs of master Niccolo di Giovanni Fiorentino. You can find many shops, bars and restaurants throughout this medieval town, a perfect way to spend your final evening before retiring to the boat.

DAY 18: Trogir to the UK B

After breakfast on board the boat, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Please note: the hotel listed is provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any snacks.

IMPORTANT - Embarkation Tax

An embarkation tax of €21 per person must be paid in cash on arrival to your vessel.

Tour Guides

An English speaking Tour Director will be on board your cruise with you for any queries that you may have

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on 0843 224 0723

SPLIT BEACH STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 4 night stay in Split on the Adriatic Seafront is just a few kilometres from Split's city centre, from here you can explore all that this beach area of Croatia has to offer.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Split.

Split (4 nights)

The second-largest city in Croatia, Split is a great place to see the real Dalmatian life. This exuberant city has just the right balance of tradition and modernity. Step inside Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments) and you'll see dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thriving amid the atmospheric old walls where Split life has been going on for thousands of years.

Hotel Information

Your stay will take place at the following hotel

5★ Le Meridien Lav Split on Bed & Breakfast.

Le Meridien Lav is a five star hotel in Split that features 381 modern rooms, perfect to accommodate a family or a group. The hotel's unique beach front

location invites guests to immerse themselves in the inspirational panoramic views of the Adriatic sea.

Hotel information: Grljevacka 2A, Podstrana, 21312, Split, Croatia.

Contact number: 00385 (21) 500500

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

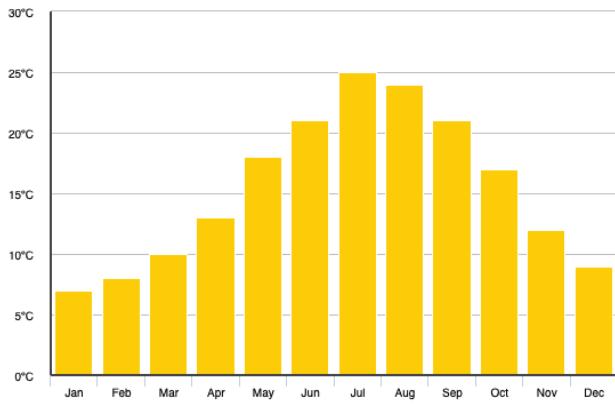
Tour Guides

Your stay in Split is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.

Average temperature: Split



Le Meridien Lav

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on 0843 224 0723