

Ljubljana to the Istrian Peninsula

Slovenia & Croatia Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Gems of the Northern Adriatic

Just a generation ago, Slovenia and Croatia's Istrian Peninsula were part of Yugoslavia. Now, they're two of the great under-the-radar screen destinations in all of Europe. These unspoiled next-door lands sit right at the top of the Adriatic Sea just east of Venice. The scenery is so insanely perfect that you don't want the walks to end. Think vineyards rolling into olive groves sweeping to the Adriatic and mirror calm mountain lakes reflecting snow-capped Alps. Can't you see yourself, eating an apricot plucked from the orchard of a limestone farmhouse...chatting with a shepherd...sipping the local Malvasia wine before another forkful of truffled gnocchi? The Romans called this region Terra Magica and even now there are strong traces of Italian culture in the food, scenery and everyday life. Travel experts love to say that these lands are "like Tuscany 30 years ago." We think Istria and Slovenia are even better...the rare kind of destination just about guaranteed to give you the unforgettable thrill of discovery.

DAY 1

LJUBLJANA

- Enjoy a private guided exploration of Ljubljana
- Celebrate over a festive welcome dinner

Meet in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. You've rarely seen a major city so full of trees. The shady setting makes for wonderful walking. You'll go for a guided stroll crossing the Ljubljanica River that meanders through the city and explore the Old Town. With the red-roofed city in the foreground and mountains as a backdrop, you'll also take in the wonderful views from Ljubljana Castle.

Slovenian cuisine has been influenced by neighboring Italy, Austria and Hungary, and you'll enjoy your first taste at dinner in one of the city's fine local restaurants.

Overnight: Ljubljana

Meals: D

DAY 2

LAKE BLEĐ

- Explore 15th century frescoes on an island
- Follow mountainside trails with views of waterfalls

A scenic drive this morning leads to Lake Bled, a fantasy setting in real life. The Julian Alps soar in the near distance and of course there's a medieval castle clinging to a cliff. You'll visit a small island on the lake where a pilgrimage church sits in picturesque isolation. Its steeple pierces the clear mountain air and inside there are remains of frescoes dating back to the 15th century.

Just before it spills into Lake Bled, the Radovna River has carved the remarkable Vintgar gorge. As you walk the wooden bridges and trails, you'll discover a beautiful series of rapids and emerald green pools, culminating in the view from a small bridge overlooking powerful Šum waterfall.

Overnight: Ljubljana

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

GROZNJAN / ROVINJ

- Walk scenic countryside trails to the beautiful hill town of Groznjan
- Savor a wine tasting at the end of a vineyard walk.

This morning, we cross the border to Croatia. Your destination is the walled hilltop village of Groznjan. (That's Grosignana in Italian. All towns here are named in both languages. That fact perfectly sums up the interesting mix of cultures you encounter in Croatia.) Improbably, Groznjan has a wonderful collection of art galleries. You have time here to stroll the charming narrow streets and venture along the Parenzana trail.

Later this afternoon, your new friend, Antonella, and her family welcome you to their award-winning winery for a tasting of the typical white Malvasia wine and the deep-ruby Teran wine made of the vines that only grow in this type of soil.

Continue on to Rovinj, one of the most picture-perfect towns you'll ever see. It completely fills the pearl-shaped tip of a small peninsula, with its red-roofed buildings on the verge of spilling into the sea. Your hotel is set on a beautiful cove with views of the offshore islands and the surrounding area.

Overnight: Rovinj

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

BRIJUNI ISLANDS / PULA

- Explore the private Brijuni Islands on foot
- Visit ancient pula amphitheater

• Taste award-winning olive oil

After breakfast, make the short drive to Fazana, your embarkation point for the ride in a wooden naval boat to the Brijuni Islands. These scenic islands held the summer residence of President Tito and were closed to the public for over 40 years. Access is still strictly controlled so the paths are quiet (except for the trademark calls of the abundant peacocks). Walks with your expert guide include a nature preserve, a Byzantine fortress, and villas that date to Roman times. Midday, return to Pula with time to explore the magnificent Roman amphitheater, one of the world's largest and best-preserved.

This afternoon, we are welcomed to a family run olive mill and into their home for a tasting of their award-winning oils. On the last of your two nights in Rovinj, you have the run of the city to dine in the restaurant of your choice.

Overnight: Rovinj

Meals: B

DAY 5

POREC / OPATIJA

- **Walk to a seaside village**
- **Explore the 2,000-year-old town of Porec**
- **Learn how to find truffles from an expert hunter**

The beauty of your stays in Croatia's wonderful coastal towns is the ease with which you can strike out on lovely walks overlooking the Adriatic. Today starts just like that! You'll continue to enjoy the views along a short coastal drive to Porec, a city founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago. The crowing glory of the town is the Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its octagonal baptistry that dates back to the 6th century.

Later, join up with a friend who fills you in on the history of the truffle and, you even get to join a hunt. In this region, special hounds are fed truffles from the time they're pups to help them learn how to sniff out the delicacy.

Then you're off to Opatija and your luxurious 5-star villa hotel, surrounded by a park and the lungomare where you'll promenade beside the water. You'll love this gorgeous city. It's the undisputed star of the Croatian Riviera, with its yacht-studded harbor, grand architecture and fashionable resort attitude.

Overnight: Opatija

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

MOSCENICE / OPATIJA

- **Walk to a scenic seaside village**
- **Walk along the Opatija Riviera**
- **Enjoy a welcome by mayor's wife in Moscenice**
- **Celebrate over a farewell dinner**

After a hearty breakfast, you will enjoy a walk from the hotel to the town of Lovran on the seaside promenade. You will enjoy a walk along the Adriatic, passing incredible villas, palm trees, and the scenic Cres and Krk islands just offshore. Here, you will have an opportunity to enjoy a nice swim before continuing for the day.

Later this afternoon, a short drive will take you to Moscenice, perched high over the peninsula's east coast. Your friend Kornelia, wife of the 2,000-year-old town's mayor, often greets us before we head off to explore. Along the way, you'll sample grappa, the local "firewater".

We return to your hotel for a chance to relax before we enjoy a festive farewell dinner.

Overnight: Opatija

Meals: B, D

DAY 7

ZAGREB

- **Enjoy a guided visit of Zagreb**

Zagreb is Croatia's capital and another Balkan town designed for great walking. Much of the architecture is from the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Your guided walk offers an engaging look at the cathedral, café-lined Tkalciceva Street, and the shops and parks that are this lively city's trademarks.

DAILY ITINERARY

Slovenia & Croatia: Ljubljana to the Istrian Peninsula | Cultural Walking Adventure

After lunch, part company with your guide and fellow guests.

Overnight: None

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Grand Hotel Union

This breathtaking hotel in Art Nouveau style offers an exclusive location in the heart of the city centre, overlooking Prešeren Square, the Triple Bridge and the Ljubljana Castle.

OVERNIGHT: Ljubljana | **NIGHTS:** 2



Hotel Lone

Spectacular contemporary design is the hallmark of this 5-star boutique property in a forest overlooking the Adriatic just outside Rovinj. Each room has a spacious balcony. There's a spa, indoor and outdoor pools and a beach.

OVERNIGHT: Rovinj | **NIGHTS:** 2



Hotel Milenij

A luxurious 5-star hotel situated in the center of Opatija, Hotel Milenij is situated between St. James Park and the famous seaside promenade, the 'lungomare'. The palm-lined terrace has a pool with a retractable roof.

OVERNIGHT: Opatija | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of Grand Hotel Union, Ljubljana, Slovenia
END	Zagreb city center, Zagreb, Croatia
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

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch 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

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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!

Samuel
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 Slovenia & Croatia...

- Joining a truffle hunt and eating the Croatian specialties like truffled gnocchi
- Tasting award-winning olive oil at a family run olive farm
- Following scenic footpaths on a guided walk on the private Brijuni islands through a nature preserve and to ancient Roman villas
- Relaxing at 5-star Hotel Milenij, situated between a park and the famous seaside promenade in Opatija
- Exploring with local guides like our friend Livio, named the country's #1 guide by the Croatian National Tourist Board