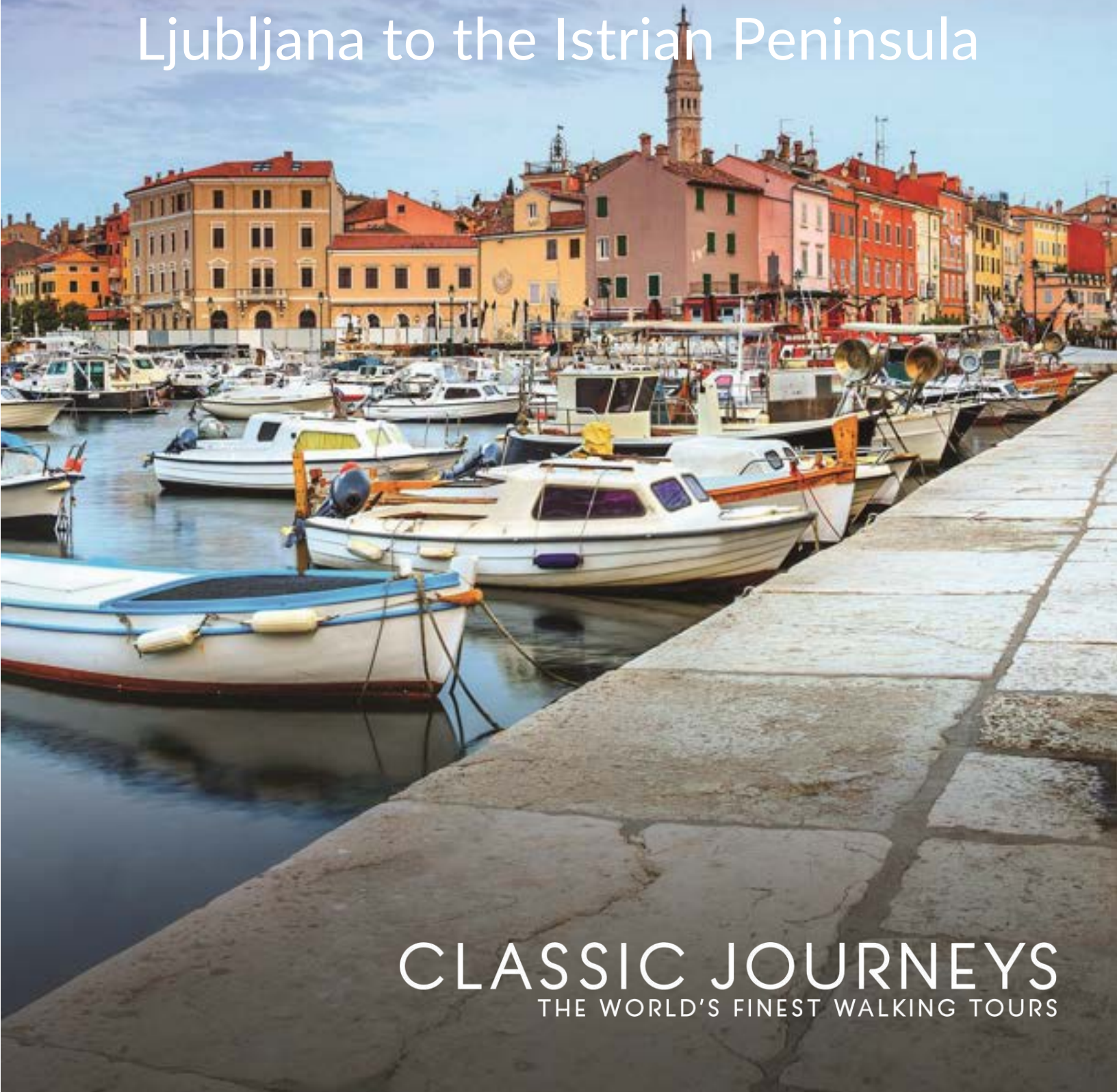


CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Croatia & Slovenia

Ljubljana to the Istrian Peninsula



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

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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. We think Istria and Slovenia are even better...the rare kind of destination just about guaranteed to give you the unforgettable thrill of discovery.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

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

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

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.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Ljubljana

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.

MEALS: D OVERNIGHT: LJUBLJANA

DAY 2 »

Lake Bled

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.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: LJUBLJANA

DAY 3 »

Groznjan / Rovinj

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.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: ROVINJ

DAY 4 »

Brijuni Islands / Pula

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.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: ROVINJ

DAY 5 »

Porec / Opatija

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 Poreč, 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.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: OPATIJA

DAY 6 »

Moscenice / Opatija

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.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: OPATIJA

DAY 7 »

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 Tkalčićeva Street, and the shops and parks that are this lively city's trademarks.

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

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Grand Hotel Union**
START CITY: **Ljubljana**
START TIME: **2:00 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Zagreb city center**
END CITY: **Zagreb**
END TIME: **3:00 PM**