## Croatia

## **ITINERARY**

Day 1 Australia - Zagreb, Croatia

Today depart from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth for Zagreb! Fly with award winning airlines such as Lufthansa, Swiss Airways, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific or Finnair to name a few (subject to availability).

Meals included: In-Flight

## Day 2 Welcome to Zagreb

Upon arrival into Zagreb a transfer will be arranged to the hotel for check-in. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure, followed by a welcome dinner in the evening.

Overnight: Best Western Premier Hotel Astoria, Zagreb

Meals included: Dinner

Day 3 Zagreb City Tour - Bled, Slovenia

Enjoy the morning with some sightseeing of the city of Zagreb - the Croatian capital. See the fortified Upper Town, the city's historical centre, St Mark's church with its multi-coloured roof, the Cathedral, Croatian National Theatre and the University. Through the carved facades of buildings and baroque churches, see many green spaces and terraces of cafes where the locals like to gather. In the early afternoon, depart for the small town of Bled in the Julian Alps of Slovenia. Like a setting for a classic fairytale, it features immense natural beauty with mountains and forest surrounding an emerald glacial lake; an island in the middle of the lake with a church steeple and its wishing bell; and a cliff top castle with picturesque views. Bled, together with its surroundings, ranks among the most beautiful alpine resorts and is renowned also for its mild, healing climate and thermal lake water. Enjoy dinner and the night in the Bled area.

Overnight: Park Hotel, Bled

Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 4 Bled - Ljubljana City Tour - Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

After breakfast depart to Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital to take a guided tour of the most significant sights of its old centre: the picturesque central open-air market and the Three Bridges, the Baroque Town Hall and Robba's Fountain. After Ljubljana continue to Plitvice Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy the natural beauty of the 16 crystal blue lakes cascading into 92 spectacular waterfalls. Walk on the wooden promenades where every turn leads to breathtaking scenery and yet another waterfall. Surrounded by dense woods, Plitvice Lakes are a natural phenomenon of rare and unique beauty. Enjoy dinner and the night in the Plitvice area.

Overnight: Hotel Jezero, Plitvice

Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 5 Plitvice - Zadar City Tour - Split - Begin 7 Night Adriatic Islands Cruise

Today travel towards Zadar, where upon arrival you will take a guided walking tour through the Roman Forum from the 2nd century BC, passing by the 9th century pre-Romanesque church of St. Donatus as well as St. Anastasia church. This afternoon the guide will uncover the secrets of the UNESCO protected Diocletian's Palace and its cellars. This Roman emperor spared no expense for the construction of a sumptuous residence, importing the best quality marble, sphinx and columns. The original palace was modified by its new inhabitants during the middle ages, but making it even more beautiful than what it is today: the city's living heart. Its narrow streets hide passageways and courtyards, some deserted and eerie, others lively and animated by the music from bars and cafes, or by the everyday life of its residents. Afterwards depart for Split to embark on your spectacular 7 night luxury island cruise through Croatia.

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Split)

Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 6 Split - Hvar (Island Of Hvar) City Tour - Vela Luka (Island of Korčula)

Late in the morning set sail towards Hvar, known as the sunniest island in Croatia, famous for its endless fields of lavender and rosemary, its beautiful coast and historical towns. Your destination is the town of Hvar, a town of immense beauty that buzzes with vibrant energy in the summer sun. Upon arrival, an expert local guide will show you around the ancient streets of Hvar. After the guided walking tour of Hvar set sail towards Korcula Island. Along the way stop for a swim near the beautiful islands, Pakleni Otoci, renowned for their beautifully warm surrounding waters. After your swim, Dalmatian fried fish will be served for a snack. Arrive in Vela Lula (Korcula Island) in the late afternoon ready for the Captain's Dinner!

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Korcula)

Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 7 Vela Luka (Island Of Korcula) - Pomena (Island Of Mljet) - Slano

In the morning leave the stunning beauty of Vela Luka. The Captain will hand-pick a bay to drop the anchor. Hop into your swimsuit and have a swim in the crystal-blue Adriatic, surrounded by pine trees and the sound of crickets. After your swim, continue sailing to Pomena on the island of Mljet. The Island of Mljet on its western side houses the National Park Mljet, known for its immense beauty and its two turquoise salty lakes surrounded by thick forest. Upon arrival take the option to enjoy the time free at leisure onboard. If you wish to explore the park an entrance fee will be required (not included). You could also take part in a 2.5 hour optional tour with a guided exploration of Mljet and its national park (not included) to visit a tiny island on one of the lakes. Here you'll discover a monastery and a church of St. Mary's built in the 12th century and enjoy a cup of coffee with the view. Once

on land in Mljet you may rent bikes and enjoy some cycling or jogging on the numerous paths around the lakes or in the forests. In the late afternoon depart towards the village of Slano.

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Slano)

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch

Day 8 Slano - Lopud Island - Dubrovnik

After breakfast take the opportunity to enjoy an optional guided tour of the "Taste of Dalmatia" (not included). The tour will visit Ston, a small town famous for its 5km long city walls (the longest in Europe) and visit a local winery to taste some of the finest Dalmatian wines. Later, set sail towards Lopud island for a short swim and continue towards Dubrovnik and cruise beneath Dubrovnik City Walls and then into port Gruz.

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Dubrovnik)

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch

Day 9 Dubrovnik - Montenegro Excursion

Today after breakfast enjoy a unique excursion by land to the small country of Montenegro. Located less than an hour's drive from Dubrovnik, Montenegro offers an unforgettable experience; exceptional natural beauty in combination with a rich history and culture. Mild beaches, clear waters and gorgeous mountains that plunge into the sea will greet you upon your arrival to the Gulf of Kotor. Encircled by mountains, the innermost bays of the Gulf, Risan and Kotor, are the earliest inhabited areas with evidence of civilization dating from Illyrian, Roman and early Christian periods. This is a land where the mountains descend almost directly into the sea creating a surreal atmosphere. Return back to your cruise boat for the night.

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Dubrovnik)

Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

<u>Day 10 Dubrovnik - Elaphite Islands - Korčula Walking Tour</u>

Enjoy a morning departure from Dubrovnik to Korcula. On the way enjoy a short stop for a swim and some relaxation on one of the beautiful Elaphite Islands. Lunch will be served onboard before the late afternoon arrival to Korcula. Upon arrival enjoy a walking tour with a local guide, where you will hear of its long history; ingenious building strategies; peculiar building layouts; and the legend of a great merchant traveller Marco Polo who was born and spent his childhood in the streets of Korcula.

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Korčula)

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch

## Day 11 Korcula - Brac Stonemasonry School - Omis

Today sail towards the island of Brac. The captain will anchor on the way for a refreshing swim in a secluded bay, afterwards continue the journey towards the small town of Pucisca on the island. After docking, you can join a short visit to a stonemasonry school nearby where you will learn of the Brac limestone and their centuries-old tradition of stonemasonry and the unconventional tools they use before continuing the journey to Omis (a town known for two things: the stunning beauty of its river, Cetina canyon, as well as its historic pirates). Upon arrival take the opportunity to enjoy a Cetina river trip (not included).

Overnight: Luxury Adriatic Cruise Boat 'MS Adriatic Princess' (Omiš)

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch

Day 12 Omis - Split

Today take a morning departure from Omis towards Split. Disembarkation will be after breakfast and a transfer to the hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy this beautiful city.

Overnight: Art Hotel, Split

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 Split Free Day

Enjoy your last day in paradise free at leisure.

Overnight: Art Hotel, Split

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14 Split, Croatia - Australia

At the appropriate time transfer to the airport for your return flight to Australia after one trip-of-a-lifetime!

Meals included: In-Flight

Day 15 Arrive in Australia

\*Please note, some flights may arrive in Australia +1 day later.

Cost per person \$4,999\*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares ex Brisbane
- Airport taxes
- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- 7-night luxury cruise
- 21 meals including Captain's dinner