

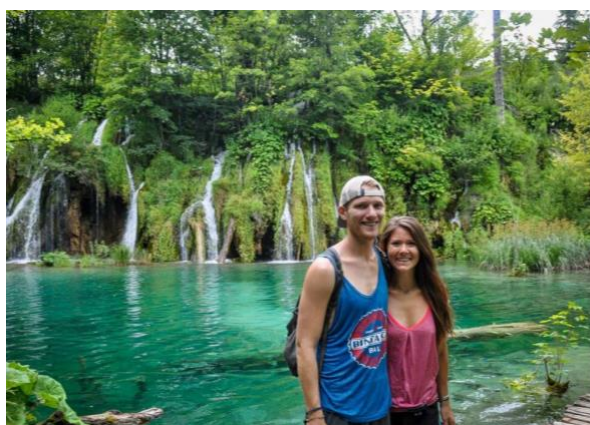


**STATE EXPRESS
GLOBAL VOYAGES**

GEMS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA TOUR

09 Nights/ 10 Days

Ljubljana (2N) – Opatija (2N) - Plitvice Lakes National Park (1N) - Split (1N) –
Hvar (2N) – Dubrovnik (1N)



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DAY 01 – ARRIVE IN LJUBLJANA

On arrival at Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, you will be met by our local representative in Slovenia for a brief meet and greet. Later, proceed to your hotel in Ljubljana for check-in.



Ljubljana is the political and cultural capital of Slovenia. Although it's the largest city in Slovenia, it is one of the smallest European Capitals. However, the city's small size is foreshadowed by the youthful energy of the 50,000 university students who study here at the country's largest university. Completely rebuilt in 1895, after a devastating earthquake destroyed the city, it carries a modern appeal.

Rest of the evening is free for you to explore Ljubljana on your own.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Ljubljana.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Arrive and check-in at the hotel in Ljubljana

DAY 02 - POSTOJNA CAVES AND LAKE BLEED TOUR FROM LJUBLJANA

After breakfast, , we will visit the famous Postojna Caves near Ljubljana.

Postojna caves, a vast network of limestone caves, tunnels and galleries, is a fascinating world under the ground. The caves will mesmerise you by their sheer size and the astounding natural karst formations. A train tour on the specially built train track will reveal the murmuring rivers and towering mountains within these caves. A visit to these caves is definitely an unforgettable out-of-the-world experience.

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After the Postojna caves tour, we will enjoy a tour to Lake Bled. **Lake Bled** is surrounded by the Julian Alps, creating a stunning backdrop that includes a medieval castle perched on a hill and the iconic Bled Island with its church. The scenery is often described as postcard-perfect, making it a paradise for nature lovers and photographers. Bled Castle: The medieval Bled Castle offers panorama. Enjoy a ride on a **pletna**, a traditional wooden boat in Slovenia, and be taken to Bled Island to explore the area. Then move on to **Bled Castle**, where you can see a stunning view of the lake and the rest of the town.



Afterwards, return to Ljubljana for overnight stay.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a train ride at the bottom of a limestone mine at Postojna cave
- Take a short boat trip on Lake Bled and explore the surrounding area

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DAY 03: TRANSFER TO OPATIJA AND DAY AT LEISURE

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to Opatija by drive/train. Upon arrival, transfer to your resort and check-in.

Opatija is a charming coastal town located in Croatia, along the Adriatic Sea. It's crystal-clear waters and a pleasant Mediterranean climate makes it a popular tourist destination. The town is known for its scenic views and relaxing atmosphere. Opatija has a rich history and features beautiful Belle Époque architecture. Visitors can explore historic buildings, grand villas, and well-maintained parks, reflecting the town's past as a popular resort destination.



Rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the the **Lungomare** is a famous seaside promenade that stretches for several kilometers along the coast. It offers a picturesque walk with panoramic views of the sea and surrounding landscapes. Relish variety of local seafood, Mediterranean dishes, and Croatian wines at the town's restaurants and cafes. Opatija has a long-standing tradition as a wellness and spa destination.



Overnight stay at resort in Opatija.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to the coastal resort town of Opatija and enjoy a leisurely stay

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DAY 04: EXCURSION TO ISTRIAN PENINSULA FROM OPATIJA

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed for a full day sightseeing tour of Istria. **Istria**, a peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, shared by Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy, is a popular tourist destination known for its diverse attractions and unique experiences.



During this tour, we shall visit the picturesque coastal towns of Rovinj, Poreč, and Pula that offer a blend of history, culture, charming architecture and scenic landscapes. We will begin the tour with a visit to **Rovinj**, one of the Istrian most beautiful coastal cities,



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which rises on a peninsula with the **church of St. Euphemia** on the top. Next stop is **Poreč**, well-known for its' **Euphrasian Basilica** (UNESCO World Heritage Site) from the 6th century, which is the most famous example of Byzantine sacral architecture and mosaics. Final stop is **Motovun**, an ancient Istrian medieval town, located on a high hill, offering a magnificent view over the surrounding valleys.

After the tour, return to Opatija for overnight stay.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a tour of the stunning Istrian Peninsula - Rovinj, Poreč and Motovun

DAY 05: TRANSFER TO PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK & HIKING TOUR

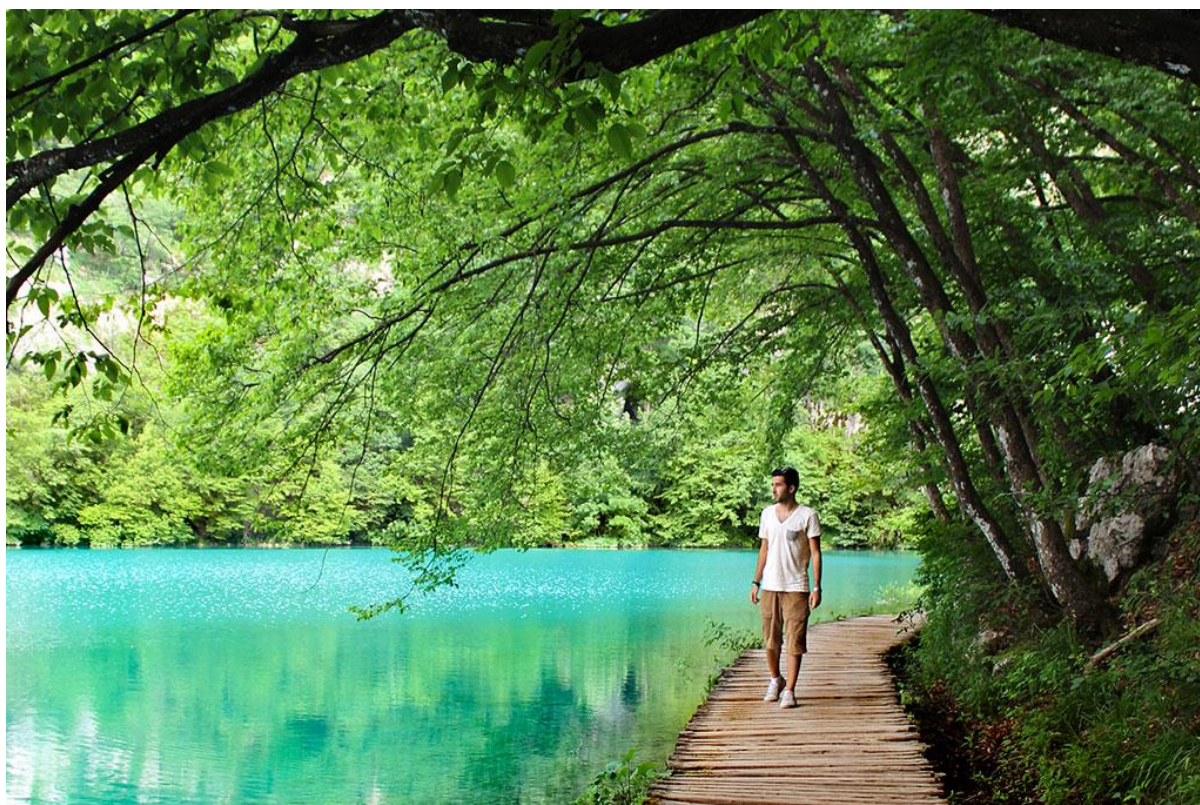
After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Upon arrival, we will check-in at our hotel there. Enjoy a spellbinding hike around the National Park.

Plitvice Lake National Park is one of the most beautiful natural attraction in the world. This lush green forest is endowed with 16 gorgeous lakes that are connected by waterfalls, the highest being 78-m high. The colour of the lakes varies from blue to grey, depending on the mineral content in the water. Spread across 73,000 acres, this unspoiled landscape is a wonderful natural wonder that one can simply not get enough.



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Hiking in the National Park is the best way to capture the true beauty of the park. The hiking trails pass through wooden walkways that have been built above the lake to connect different parts of the forest. The views from these walkways is simply surreal. The park also has boats to ferry you across the lakes and electric trains that will take you into far-reaching corners of the park.

After the hiking tour, return to hotel for overnight stay in Plitvice Lakes National Park.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to Plitvice Lakes National Park and check-in at the hotel
- Hike around the park and soak in the natural beauty of one of the world's most beautiful national park

DAY 06 - TRANSFER TO SPLIT AND EXPLORE DIOCLETIAN PALACE

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and transfer to Split. Upon arrival, we will check-in at our hotel there.

Split is one of the most vibrant Croatian cities. In 3rd Century AD, the roman emperor Diocletian built his palace here, then a desolate peninsular region, to spend the final resting years of his life. Today, a busy commercial and cultural centre, Split is the second-

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largest city in Croatia. The city is popular for its great food and wine and has a number of great museums to check-out. It is the venue for one of Europe's largest music festivals which attracts lakhs of people to the city.

In the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Split's most famous monument, the **Diocletian Palace**. This magnificent fortress complex with 72ft high walls having temples, a military camp and the king's residence is a sight to behold. This UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the best surviving examples of a Roman Palace. It was also a key shooting location for the HBO series – “Game Of Thrones”. It's where Daenerys's locked up and trained her dragons.



Overnight stay at the hotel in Split.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the scenic drive from Plitvice Lakes National Park to Split
- Walking tour of Diocletian Palace - A UNESCO World Heritage Site

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DAY 07 – TRANSFER TO HVAR BY FERRY AND EXPLORE ON OWN

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and transfer to Hvar by ferry. Upon arrival, we will check-in at our hotel there.

Hvar, a picturesque island in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia, is a popular tourist destination known for its natural beauty, historical sites, vibrant nightlife, and Mediterranean charm. Hvar boasts breath taking landscapes with crystal-clear waters, secluded beaches, and lush greenery. The island's diverse scenery, including lavender fields, vineyards, and olive groves, offers a perfect backdrop for relaxation and exploration.



Rest of the day has been kept free for your leisure. You can head to the **Old Town of Split** which is a charming maze of narrow streets and squares, filled with historic buildings, churches, and vibrant cafes. Strolling through the Old Town allows visitors to soak in the



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Mediterranean atmosphere and admire the local architecture. Or you can also enjoy water sports and activities in the island's clear waters which provides an ideal setting for snorkeling, kayaking, and sailing. There are also opportunities for hiking and cycling in the scenic landscapes.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Hvar.

SEGV'S RECOMMENDATION - In the evening, head to the island's bars and clubs, especially in Hvar Town, which attract partygoers from around the world. The Hvar nightlife scene is considered one of the best in the Adriatic. In the summer months, Hvar hosts open-air parties and events, attracting both locals and visitors. Popular among celebrities, it's not uncommon to encounter famous personalities enjoying the island's party atmosphere.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to Hvar by ferry and check-in at the hotel
- Spend the afternoon at your leisure – explore old town or enjoy water sports
- Party the night away in Hvar which is popular for Adriatic's best nightlife

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DAY 08 – BLUE CAVE & THE PAKLENI ISLANDS TOUR FROM HVAR

After breakfast at the hotel, hop on a boat tour departing from Hvar Town that takes you to the Blue Cave and Pakleni Islands.



The **Blue Cave**, also known as Modra špilja, is located on the small island of Biševo, near Vis. Transfer from the larger boat to smaller vessels, often local wooden boats, to enter the narrow cave entrance. The boats are small enough to navigate the confined space of the cave. Once inside the Blue Cave, be mesmerized by a display of deep blue and turquoise hues, caused by the reflection of sunlight off the white limestone bottom. The water's clarity enhances the ethereal experience.

Next, we shall visit the **Pakleni Islands**. The islands are a group of islets situated near Hvar, forming a beautiful archipelago. They are known for their crystal-clear waters, hidden coves, and lush vegetation. Stops at some of the Pakleni Islands for swimming, snorkeling, and relaxation on the beaches. Visitors can explore hidden bays and enjoy the natural beauty of the islands.



After the tour, return to Hvar for overnight stay.

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DAY 09 - TRANSFER TO DUBROVNIK AND SIGHTSEEING TOUR

After breakfast, check out from the hotel, and proceed to port to catch a ferry to the city of Dubrovnik and explore its most popular sights on a sightseeing tour.

Fondly called the "Pearl of the Adriatic", **Dubrovnik** is considered the most picturesque city in Croatia. The sightseeing tour begins at the iconic **Stone Walls of Dubrovnik** that protect the city. These 25m high stone walls surround the city and are a source of pride for the residents as they have never been breached. Next, we will visit the **Old Town**, and learn the history of its popular sites such as Onofrio's fountain, the bell tower and the Dubrovnik Cathedral. The city of Dubrovnik was the setting for the "King's Landing" portrayed in the popular HBO series - "**Game of Thrones**". Your guide will also share exciting trivia about the show's shooting during the tour and show you the places where iconic scenes of the series were shot.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Dubrovnik.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to Dubrovnik by ferry and check-in at the hotel
- See the most popular sights in the picturesque city of Dubrovnik.

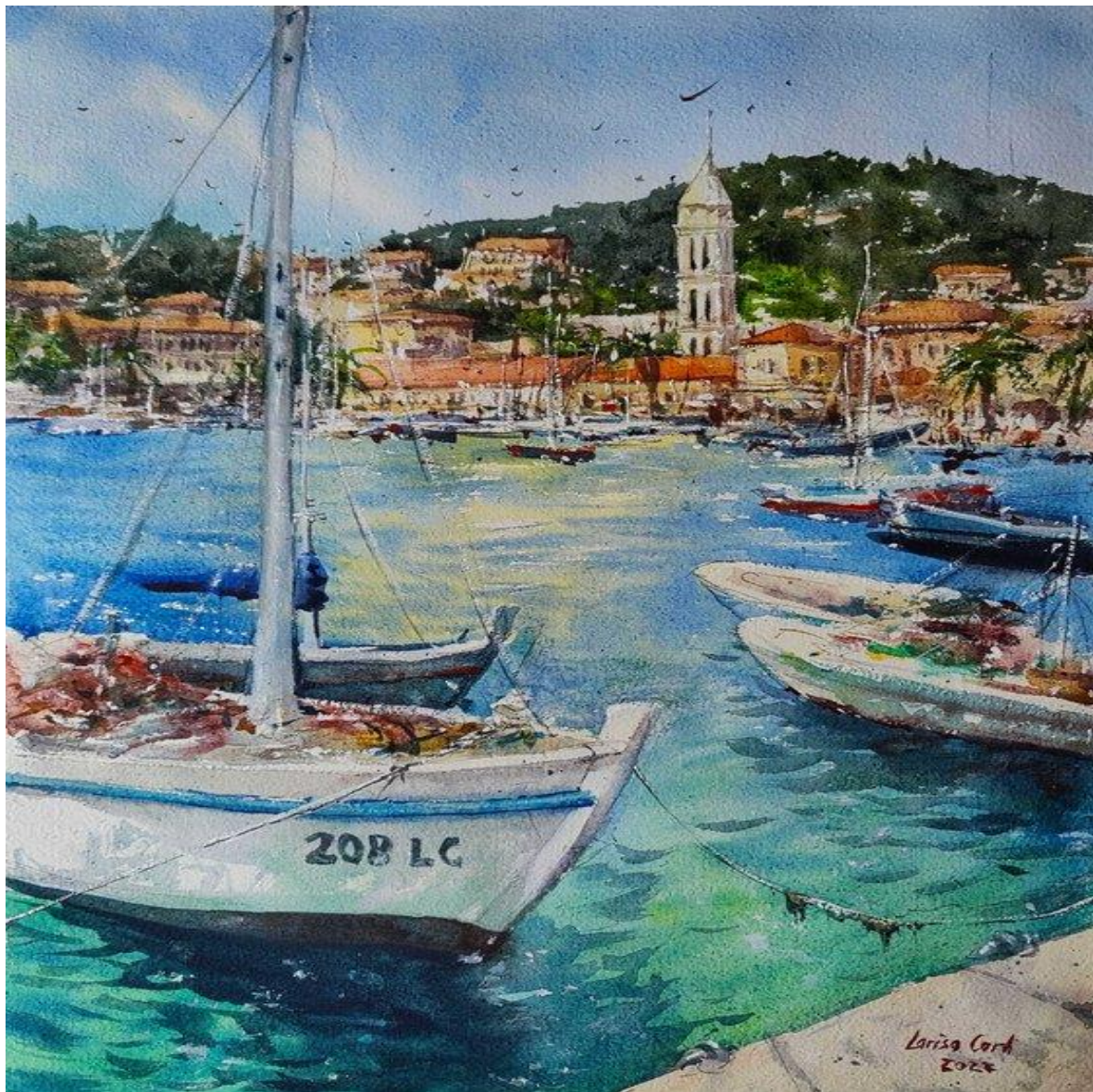
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DAY 10 – DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer to Airport in Dubrovnik to catch our flight back to India.

Arrive home with pleasant memories of your "Gems of Central and Eastern Europe" tour organised by State Express Global Voyages, which we are sure you will treasure for a lifetime.



“TOUR END”

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