

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

PRIVATE JOURNEY

Adriatic Dreams

“Sixteen emerald lakes, a Roman emperor’s palace, the Pakleni Islands and the walls of Dubrovnik”

10

DAYS

4

UNESCO SITES

16

LAKES AT PLITVICE

3

ISLAND BOAT DAYS

FROM

\$10,400

PER PERSON

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Overview

A journey down the Dalmatian coast — from the Art Deco elegance of Zagreb to the turquoise waterfalls of Plitvice, from Diocletian's Roman palace at Split to the sun-bleached streets of Hvar, and finally to the Pearl of the Adriatic itself. Croatia's natural wonders, UNESCO heritage and island life, in one unhurried line.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A night at the Esplanade Zagreb, built in 1925 for passengers of the Orient Express
- Diocletian's Palace — a 4th-century imperial retirement complex that is still a living town
- A private boat day through the Pakleni Islands off Hvar
- The Dubrovnik City Walls — 1.94 km of the finest fortification system in Europe
- A private boat to the Elaphiti Islands: Lopud, Sipan and Koločep
- Plitvice Lakes — sixteen interconnected emerald lakes, and Croatia's tallest waterfall at 78 metres
- The Cathedral of Saint Domnius, the oldest cathedral still in use in its original structure
- Sunset from the Fortica fortress above Hvar Town
- The cable car to Mount Srđ for the view over the terracotta rooftops
- Koločep's Blue Cave, and hidden coves reachable only from the water

Sixteen emerald lakes, a Roman emperor's palace, the Pakleni Islands and the walls of Dubrovnik

The Itinerary

01

ZAGREB

Day 1 | Arrival in Zagreb

Land at Zagreb and transfer to the Esplanade, an Art Deco landmark opened in 1925 as a refuge for passengers stepping off the Orient Express. It has been putting up film stars, politicians and artists ever since, and the interiors have been kept impeccably. The afternoon walks the capital: Ban Jelacic Square, the neo-Gothic cathedral, and the Dolac open-air market where the country's produce arrives each morning. Then Tkalciceva Street for its cafés, through the Stone Gate — the only surviving medieval city gate — and up to St Mark's Church, whose tiled roof carries the coats of arms of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia. Dinner is Croatian, with local wine.

- Esplanade Zagreb Hotel
- Dinner

02

PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Day 2 | Zagreb » Plitvice Lakes

Two hours south through the Croatian countryside to Plitvice Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage site and, in our view, non-negotiable on a first visit to Croatia. Sixteen emerald lakes sit in a stepped chain, joined by waterfalls and threaded with wooden walkways that run directly over the water. You explore on foot, by the park's electric boats across Kozjak — the largest lake — and by panoramic train. The Lower Lakes hold the most dramatic cascade, and Veliki Slap, the Great Waterfall, drops 78 metres, the tallest in Croatia. Water, karst and moss have collaborated here to produce something that looks too deliberate to be natural.

- Fenomen Plitvice Resort
- Breakfast, Dinner

03

SPLIT

Day 3 | Plitvice » Split

Three hours south, descending through increasingly dramatic country to the Adriatic and Split, the largest city on the Dalmatian coast. The old town is built inside Diocletian's Palace — a fourth-century fortress complex built as a retirement home for the Roman emperor, and still, seventeen centuries later, a working town. More than 220 Roman-era buildings within the walls now hold homes, shops and bars. You see the Peristyle and its colonnade, the Cathedral of Saint Domnius — originally Diocletian's mausoleum, and the oldest cathedral in the world still in use in its original structure — the Temple of Jupiter, the Golden Gate, and the Riva waterfront. Dinner over the Adriatic.

- Hotel Park Split
- Breakfast, Dinner

04

SPLIT

Day 4 | Split & the Adriatic

A private guided morning going deeper into the palace: the underground cellars, once used for storage and waste, are now among the best-preserved Roman structures anywhere, precisely because they were sealed and forgotten for centuries. The afternoon is yours to choose. Option A walks or drives up Marjan, the forested hill that has been Split's retreat for centuries, for views over the city, the islands and the sea. Option B takes a private boat along the coast for swimming and snorkelling in very clear water. The evening is free for Split's restaurants.

- Hotel Park Split
- Breakfast

05

HVAR

Day 5 | Split » Hvar

A fast ferry or private boat across to Hvar, about an hour and twenty minutes, with the Dalmatian islands passing on either side. Check in at Palace Elisabeth in the heart of Hvar Town, a few steps from the main square and the waterfront. The afternoon explores the town: St Stephen's Cathedral above one of the largest piazzas in Dalmatia, and the Venetian architecture that runs through the old centre. At sunset you walk up to the Fortica, the Spanish Fortress above the town, for the view across Hvar and the Pakleni Islands as the light goes. It is one of the defining images of the Dalmatian coast.

- Palace Elisabeth Hvar Hotel
- Breakfast, Dinner

06

PAKLENI ISLANDS

Day 6 | Hvar & the Pakleni Islands

A full private boat day through the Pakleni Islands, the archipelago that sits just off Hvar Town — Jerolim, Stipanska and Marinkovac, and the hidden coves between them. Swimming and snorkelling in water that is genuinely as clear as the photographs suggest, and lunch at a secluded beachside restaurant reachable only from the water. For anyone who wants it, the whole day upgrades to a private yacht with captain and onboard lunch. Back to Hvar in the afternoon, and a sunset dinner over the harbour.

- Palace Elisabeth Hvar Hotel
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

07

DUBROVNIK

Day 7 | Hvar » Dubrovnik

South to Dubrovnik — by fast catamaran in season, roughly three hours, or by a private boat and road combination outside it. Check in at the Excelsior, on the water just beyond the old town walls, then begin on the Pearl of the Adriatic itself. Through the Pile Gate onto the Stradun, the marble-paved main street that is simultaneously the city's square and its spine. Onofrio's 15th-century fountain still supplies water. The Rector's Palace was the seat of the Republic of Ragusa, which once rivalled Venice at sea. Then the cathedral, its treasury, and the old harbour. Dinner over the Adriatic.

- Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

DUBROVNIK

Day 8 | The Old City & the Walls

A private guided walk through the old town and the history of the Ragusan Republic, then the thing everyone comes for: the City Walls. They run 1.94 kilometres around the entire old town, reach 25 metres in places, and are considered the finest fortification system in Europe. Minceta Fortress is the highest point and the best view; Lovrijenac, across the water, is the fortress most visitors recognise as King's Landing. Walk it early — there is no shade and it fills up. The afternoon takes the cable car to the summit of Mount Srd, for the old town from above, the Adriatic to the horizon and the Dalmatian islands strung out along the coast. Dinner in the old town.

- Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik
- Breakfast

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

09

ELAPHITI ISLANDS

Day 9 | The Elaphiti Islands

A private boat northwest to the Elaphiti Islands. Lopud is car-free and holds the crescent of Sunj Beach. Sipan is the largest and greenest, with olive groves, vineyards and the summer residences of Dubrovnik's nobility along the main village of Sipanska Luka. Kolocep — Kalamota — has the Blue Cave, where you can swim and snorkel, and quiet coves at Donje Celo and Gornje Celo for anyone who would rather not. Swimming, snorkelling, pine forest and turquoise water, with a traditional Dalmatian lunch somewhere along the way. Back to Dubrovnik for a farewell dinner over the Adriatic.

- Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

10

ELAPHITI ISLANDS

Day 10 | Departure

Breakfast at the hotel and, if your flight allows, a final coffee on the Stradun before the private transfer to Dubrovnik Airport.

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- Breakfast

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$11,000

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Pricing is an estimate subject to confirmation based on season, room category, and final accommodation selection.

SEASONAL PRICING

Nov – Mar	BEST VALUE	\$10,400
Quiet cities, museums without queues		
Jun – Aug	PEAK SEASON	\$13,200
Long days, warm seas, busy sites		
Apr – May, Sep – Oct	SHOULDER SEASON	\$11,700
The sweet spot — mild, bright, uncrowded		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » Private chauffeur and guide throughout, including all inter-city transfers
- » 9 nights accommodation across five properties
- » Daily breakfast, plus meals as detailed in the itinerary
- » Plitvice Lakes National Park entry, with electric boat and panoramic train
- » Private guided tour of Diocletian's Palace and Split Old Town
- » Fast ferry or private boat Split – Hvar
- » Full-day private boat through the Pakleni Islands, with beach lunch
- » Hvar Fortica fortress entry
- » Catamaran or private transfer Hvar – Dubrovnik
- » Private guided walking tour of Dubrovnik Old Town
- » Dubrovnik City Walls entry
- » Dubrovnik cable car to Mount Srd

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to Zagreb and from Dubrovnik
- City tourist taxes, payable at each hotel
- Optional private yacht upgrade for the Pakleni Islands day
- Lunches and dinners not listed in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers and boat crew

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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Adriatic Dreams