

CONTINENTAL CROATIA

The beauty of continental Croatia begins where olive orchards cease to grow. Cypress woods become pine trees of Gorski Kotar, vineyards turn into grazing land, fields into orchards and meadows dotted with white houses and red roofs. Climbing over the Velebit and down soft hills of Lika and Banovina we reach the plains of Posavina and Slavonija. You will pass the waterfalls of the Plitvice Lakes, Slunj with its worldly known Rastoke village and Karlovac – the town on four rivers, reaching Zagreb – Croatian metropolis. Towards the east eager explorers of natural beauties will discover plains of Slavonia, willows of Podravina, hunting grounds of Moslavina and thermal springs of Daruvar and Lipik. Deeper into the heart of the plain and passing wooden houses in Posavina to Požega the road takes us to picturesque vineyards. Golden Valley (Valis Aurea) is only the hint of rich villages leading towards Đakovo and Osijek. Not far away the Drava River, before its confluence into Danube, creates the swamp area of Kopački Rit – the last untouched European nesting area of swamp birds. Vukovar is placed towards south-east with its famous archaeological site Vučedol which gave the name to the 5000-year-old culture. Ilok, famous for its wines, stands on the Danube on the very east of Croatia. Starting from Zagreb towards north-west, you will again enter the impressive landscape. Međimurje and Hrvatsko zagorje marked with its mellow hills, scattered vineyards and church-towers of baroque churches.

Day 1 ZAGREB

Arrival in Zagreb. Check in at the hotel. Overnight.

Day 2 ZAGREB – KUMROVEC – VELIKI TABOR – TRAKOŠĆAN – VARAŽDIN

After breakfast sightseeing of the old city centre. Leaving for KUMROVEC, a picturesque town in Zagorje located near Croatian-Slovenian border on the Sutla River. Visiting the unique outdoor ethnological museum Old Village Kumrovec where nearly 30 renovated and preserved household objects host the exhibition that brings us back into the village life of the 19th and 20th century. Passing the Miljan Castle and continuing to BIG TABOR – the most famous and best-kept middle-ages fort in Croatia. Possibility for lunch at the village household on Grešna Gorica in a typical Zagorje surrounding. Visiting the TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE, one of the most attractive castles in Croatia that once belonged to the Drašković family and was turned into a museum in the 20th century. The museum holds the inventory from the 15th to the 19th century. Leaving for VARAŽDIN, once the capital of Croatia and known as “the city of baroque” and “small Vienna”. The name of the settlement was mentioned for the first time at the end of the 12th century. Check in at the hotel. Overnight.

Day 3 VARAŽDIN – LUDBREG – HLEBINE – ĐURĐEVAC – VINKOVCI

Breakfast. Visiting the city museum “Old Town” and the old town itself. Leaving for LUDBREG, centuries-old annual fair site, known for the magical transformation of bread and wine into body and blood of Jesus in 1411, the miracle confirmed by pope Leon X in 1513. Continuing for HLEBIN, the native place of Croatian Naive Art where the main attraction is Hlebine Gallery – the gallery of Naive Art with its collection of the works of the greatest Croatian painter belonging to this school, Ivan Generalić. Continuing for Đurđevac, “the city of ‘picok’” and sightseeing of its well preserved old town. The voyage takes us to VINKOVCI. Check in at the hotel. Overnight.

Day 4 VINKOVCI – KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK – ZMAJEVAC – VINKOVCI

Breakfast. Leaving for Bilje and entering the KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK. The park is located on the north-east of Croatia, in Baranja, where Drava flows into Danube. Kopački Rit is one of the largest fluvial plains in Europe. The international significance of this plain was confirmed in 1993 when the area was placed on the list of the internationally significant swamps, according to the Ramsar Convention. It is also waiting to be placed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Sightseeing tour on foot and by boat. Return to VINKOVCI. Overnight.

Day 5 ĐAKOVO – PLITVICE

Breakfast. Leaving for ĐAKOVO – the centre of Đakovština and the Diocese of Đakovo. Sightseeing of the town and its cultural and historical monuments of which the most significant is Romanesque-gothic cathedral – the symbol, of the city and the most significant sacral object in Slavonia. Visiting the National stud of Lipice horses. Leaving to PLITVICE LAKES. Check in at the hotel. Overnight.

Day 6 PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast. Sightseeing of the PLITVICE LAKES, the most famous national park in Croatia. The lakes were given the status of the national park in 1949 and since 1979 they have been included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. The wooded mountainous area hides 16 smaller and bigger lakes cascading into foamy waterfalls, provided with water by numerous small rivers and streams. Overnight at hotel.

Day 7 PLITVICE- ZADAR

Breakfast. Leaving for ZADAR. Sightseeing of the city. Possibility to proceed to Krka National Park and visit. Check in at the hotel in Zadar. Overnight.

Day 8 ZADAR

Breakfast. Departure.

In package price included:

- 1 x BB in a 3-star hotel in Zagreb
- 1 x BB in a 3-star hotel in Varazdin
- 2 x BB in a 3-star hotel in Vinkovci, Osijek or in the area
- 2 x BB in Plitvice, a 3-star hotel
- 1 x BB in a 3-star hotel in Zadar area (Petrcane, Biograd).