



Croatia: Jewel of the Coast

9 days from \$4,595 | Limited to 18 guests

Discover the glimmering Adriatic coast with ancient cities, private tours and unforgettable meetings with locals. Connect to Croatian food and culture, savoring fresh oysters and a private tour of the Mestrovic Gallery.



A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Cap off a morning of exploration in Zagreb as you join a local at a private restaurant inside her home for lunch
- ▶ Explore stunning Montenegro and the fjord of Boka Kotorska, the muse of painters, poets and travellers alike
- ▶ Meet a local fisherman, and sample his harvest of Croatia's juicy oysters, plucked from the salty waters of the Adriatic
- ▶ Learn about the Balkan Wars during a talk in Dubrovnik with a local who shares her experiences of the conflict

DAY 1: Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

On arrival, transfer to your historic Art Deco hotel, set within a gracious building dating back to 1925. Gather for a welcome dinner tonight. Esplanade Zagreb Hotel | Meals: D

DAY 2: Zagreb | The Stately Capital

Zagreb is Croatia's capital and largest city, and its history stretches back to Roman times. This morning, take an extensive walking tour of the city to see the train station building and downtown promenade parks. Continue on to one of the loveliest parts of Zagreb, including St. Mark's Square and the Cathedral. Ride a funicular built in 1889 to reach the charming Upper Town quarter from Lower Town.





Experience Croatia's breathtaking, island-dotted coastline

Visit Ban Jelacic Square, which divides the old and new regions of the city. Its two prominent landmarks — the clock at the west end of the square and the statue of Count Josip Jelacic on horseback — have passed into the Zagreb lexicon, with locals often making plans to meet each other “under the clock” or “under the horse’s tail.” Afterward, enjoy a delicious lunch at a local resident’s apartment restaurant. Take the rest of the afternoon to explore the capital.

Esplanade Zagreb Hotel | Meals: B L



At a privately arranged tasting, sample one of the unique tastes of Croatia: maraschino, a liqueur made from the bitter marasca cherry.

DAY 3: Zadar | Along the Scenic Adriatic

Drive to the coastal city of Zadar, the oldest city in Croatia and one of the most scenic along the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy lunch and a maraschino liqueur tasting — unlike its namesake cherry, maraschino has a more sour flavor, and is a key ingredient in the Hemingway daiquiri, one of the legendary author’s favorite drinks. Then, take a short walking

tour that introduces you to St. Donat’s Church and the Sea Organ, an art installation designed by local architect Nikola Basic, which converts the movement of the waves into music. Continue to Split, where you check in to your boutique hotel in the heart of the city. **Cornaro Hotel** | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: Split | The Emperor’s Palace

Begin the day with a private tour of the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery with its curator, marveling at the 86 bronze, marble and wood sculptures within. Anyone familiar with Chicago’s Grant Park knows Mestrovic’s bronze masterpieces, *The Bowman* and *The Spearman*. Set off on a walking tour of Split, starting with the palace of the Emperor Diocletian. This massive complex takes up around half of Split’s Old Town and has been immaculately preserved and restored, giving visitors a palpable sense of life in the days of the Roman Empire. Visitors who find its basement oddly familiar may recognize it as the location for Daenerys’ throne room on the hit TV series *Game of Thrones*. Other noteworthy sites within the palace are Peristil Square, where the emperor gave speeches, and his mausoleum, now a church. Afterward, explore more of captivating Split at your leisure.

Cornaro Hotel | Meals: B

DAY 5: Brac | Rustic Village Visit

Board a ferry to Brac, a Dalmatian island famous for its stone, used in Split’s Diocletian’s Palace and the White



Cruise past Our Lady of the Rocks, a church built on an artificial island in the Bay of Kotor



A striking bronze sculpture of Ruza Klein, the first wife of Ivan Mestrovic

House in Washington, D.C. Visit Skrip, the oldest village on the island, and the Museum of Brac. While short on people (with a population of barely 200), its location provides jaw-dropping views of the coast and mainland. Stop at a traditional restaurant for lunch, sampling local specialties of lamb, cheese, olives and wine before returning by ferry to Split.

Cornaro Hotel | Meals: B L

DAY 6: **Dubrovnik** | The Culinary Road

Set out for Dubrovnik, stopping at Ston, world-renowned for its oysters. Meet a village fisherman and sample one of these tasty delights paired with a local wine for a true taste of Croatia. Complete a superb lunch at a nearby seafood restaurant before continuing on to Dubrovnik. During the Middle Ages, Dubrovnik was a center of maritime trade, and its wealth and skill in diplomacy enabled it to become the only Adriatic city-state to rival Venice. Centuries later, the city emerged from the chaos of the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s with refurbished monuments and a welcoming, forward-looking spirit that has made it one of the most-visited on the continent. With its jumble of old buildings topped with brilliant terra cotta tile roofs, Dubrovnik looks like no other city in Europe, and is doubly familiar to *Game of Thrones* viewers as the city of King's Landing.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: B L D



DAY 7: Kotor, Montenegro | Seaside Charms

Spend the day in marvelous Montenegro, which was finally established as a fully independent state in 2006, following the dissolution of Yugoslavia. With its rugged mountains that sweep down to the glittering blue Adriatic Sea, Montenegro features dynamic topography dotted with picturesque villages and fortified towns. Drive around the eastern edge of Boka Kotorska, Europe's southernmost fjord, where precipitous mountains rise from azure waters. Reach the coastal city of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site surrounded by fortifications that date back to the era when the region lay under Venetian rule. Enjoy a walking tour of the town, including its 12th-century Cathedral and Maritime Museum, followed by lunch and exploration at leisure. Take a boat ride back across the bay, past the Baroque Church of Our Lady of the Rocks. From the water, admire the famous church, built on an artificial island fashioned by a bulwark of rocks and the remains of old shipwrecks. Local legend has it that the island was created over the centuries by fishermen dropping rocks into the sea, a tale re-enacted every year on July 22, when locals sail to the island to attend church and deposit more stones along the shore. Afterward, drive back to Dubrovnik.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: B

DAY 8: Dubrovnik | The City Museum

Enjoy a morning tour of Dubrovnik. Proclaimed a "city museum" by UNESCO, the Old Town is surrounded by

impressive stone walls and towers that make it one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. Mingle with local traders and craftspeople in its markets. Then, reflect during an A&K exclusive as a survivor of the Balkan War shares memories of the conflict that secured Croatia's independence from the former Yugoslavia, a struggle that cost more than 20,000 lives. Spend the afternoon at leisure, followed by a memorable farewell dinner accompanied by a traditional *klapa* (a cappella choir) performance, arranged just for you.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: B D

DAY 9: Depart Dubrovnik

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. **Meals: B**

BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS



Esplanade Zagreb Hotel

A glamorously restored 1925 Art Deco gem opened for Orient Express passengers, with a Champagne bar and one of Croatia's finest restaurants.



Cornaro Hotel

A stylish design by a leading Croatian architectural firm defines this modern boutique hotel within Split's city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Grand Villa Argentina

Nestled among cliffside gardens overlooking the Adriatic, this contemporary waterfront property affords easy access to Dubrovnik's Old Town.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Oct 16-24	\$4,595	\$1,095
May 15-23, Jun 5-13, Sep 25-Oct 3	\$4,895	\$1,395
Jul 3-11, Sep 4-12	\$5,195	\$1,495

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.
 First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.
 Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 8.
 Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

The maximum guest capacity for 2021 Connections journeys has been temporarily reduced to 18 and may revert to 24 at A&K's discretion due to changes in COVID-19-related requirements.

See Wylls Professional Travel for up-to-date availability and pricing information.