



Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Hottest Destinations in Europe

Travel to Croatia, Pearl of the Adriatic and Slovenia, Jewel of the Alps



September 23 – October 7, 2022 (15 days)

Itinerary subject to change

Join us on this spectacular tour of Croatia's azure coastline and Slovenia's mountainous terrain during the best time and weather of the year.

See Rick Steves' Europe Travel Guide's Coverage as to Why Croatia is one of Europe's Top Destinations: [Click Here](#)

All accommodations are top-tier, luxury 5 star hotels. All breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners are included in the cost of the trip.

Prices for the trip as well as COVID-19 travel requirements can be found on Page 18.

Full payment is due by August 15, 2022.

Space is limited and payments accepted on a first come, first served basis. Knight Travel will provide individual airfare quotes on request, as there is no group air pricing. Travelers who have AA air credits will have to communicate directly with Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) to secure your tickets.

We have at least 25 travelers that have expressed interest, so send in your payment soon!

Please contact Ljubomir Stambuk at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7760 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.

Day 1: Friday, September 23, 2022

Charlotte/Dubrovnik

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport to Dubrovnik, Croatia. Flight Information is forthcoming.

The flight will arrive in Dubrovnik the following morning and the group will clear Croatian immigration formalities. **Time appropriate meals will be served in-flight.**

Day 2: Saturday, September 24, 2022

Dubrovnik

After arriving in Dubrovnik, the group will be welcomed by the group tour manager.

"The UNESCO sites make Dubrovnik the ideal destination for culture fans, as pretty much everywhere you walk is centuries old. Some of the best spots to take a look at are the Medieval Franciscan Monastery which has one of the oldest pharmacies in the world, the spectacular grandeur of St. Blaise Church and the imposing turrets and high walls of St. John's fortress." - [Holiday Hypermarket](#)

Transfer to your hotel for the next two nights: the [Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik](#), the best hotel in Dubrovnik, is an elegant and historic five-star hotel. Located in the heart of the city, Old Town, the hotel is a great starting point from which to discover one of the world's most perfectly preserved medieval cities.

After a short independent lunch and free time, enjoy a 2-hour guided tour of Dubrovnik, full of magnificent architecture, significant historical landmarks, and breathtaking views of the Adriatic Sea.

This evening, join fellow traveling companions for a delicious 3-course welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik



[Dubrovnik](#)



[Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik](#)



[Dubrovnik "Old Town"](#)

Day 3: Sunday, September 25, 2022

Dubrovnik/Konavle

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast before setting off on a full day tour of the Konavle region, one of the most sustainable regions in the world and the southernmost part of Croatia. The excursion will focus on the combination of nature, tradition, and history. During your journey through a region full of flourishing wildlife, abundant cypress and pine trees, and vineyards, explore the agricultural backbone of Croatia at the [Divanović Mills](#).



[Konavle Region](#)

“Konavle is stunningly beautiful. One third of the region is forest, mostly pines and cypresses. The valleys are full of vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees including tangerines, figs and mulberries. There are two main rivers, the Ljuta and the Konavocica and water mills were important at one time. Some have been preserved to show visitors about past times.” [- Croatian Villas](#)



[Divanović Mills](#)

After indulging in local sweets and homemade liquor, visit the [Crvik Winery](#). Enjoy wine tastings and a 3-course lunch at the [Konavoski Dvori Restaurant](#) during your visit. Experience award winning wines from the Crvik family, who have been dedicated to wine production for over 100 years. You'll get the chance to experience traditional Croatian dishes from across the region and find yourself enthralled in the rich aromas and flavors.



[Crvik Winery](#)

Lunch included

According to [Dobra Hrana](#): *“Real homemade, simple, honest food is eaten here, food with an unforgettable taste. When you pass by and get to know this region, the famous sentence is definitely refuted: the further south, the sadder. Quite the opposite, here in the extreme south of Croatia there is nothing sad, here everything is teeming with life and beauty that captivates at first glance. That's why you have to fall in love with Konavle and Konavoska dvore.”*



[Konavoski Dvori Restaurant](#)

This evening, return to Dubrovnik for an independent dinner and an evening at your leisure. **Looking for things to do?** [Read: 15 Best Things to Do in Dubrovnik](#)

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast on your last morning in the Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik. Today, as you travel towards the island of Korcula along the picturesque Adriatic Coast, experience the incredible views of the Croatian coastline.

On the way, stop and visit [Mali Ston](#), the connecting city between the mainland and Korcula island, where you will embark on a boat cruise to oyster farms and experience an oyster cultivation presentation and eat oysters and local sweets. [Mali Ston Oysters](#) says:

“The bay of Mali Ston located on Pelješac peninsula has a unique mix of freshwater and seawater. This is [an] essential component that makes our oysters unique in the world. There are 3 essential characteristics of Ston oysters: it refreshes, calms and encourages love. They are well known [for being the] best natural aphrodisiac. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, beauty and lust, was born, as artists see it, in a shell. And if you ask the people of Mali Ston, they have no doubt that the shell was an oyster.”

Take a ferry from the Orebic pier to Korcula where you will enjoy a 2-hour walking tour of the city. You will encounter breathtaking views, pebbly walkways, preserved old architecture, and natural beauties and beaches. The tour will take you to the gothic-renaissance style [St. Mark's Cathedral and Treasury](#), the birth house of Marco Polo.

“Like most of Croatia, Korčula is brimming with natural beauty. But Korčula is also home to a spectacular wine culture, a stunning old city, a collection of hidden beaches, and some unique dining specialties. Korčula is well known, but it's not as busy or overcrowded as other Croatian islands.”- [Adventurous Kate](#)

Your tour will end at the gorgeous retreat, the [Aminess Liburna Hotel](#), set on a small peninsula with a magical view of the city. This evening, enjoy free time to explore the city before a



[Mali Ston](#)



[Mali Ston Oysters](#)



[Korcula](#)



[St. Mark's Cathedral and Treasury](#)

3-course dinner at a local restaurant like [Restaurant Filippi](#) - it will be well worth it.

Dinner included

Read: [What to Eat and Drink on Korcula](#)

According to [The Guardian](#): *“The greenest, most independent and most interesting of Croatia's 1,000 or so islands, Korcula was a favorite Greek holiday spot over 2,000 years ago. Very much a law unto itself - as you might expect from a community that resisted the sieges of centuries - Korcula town is a mini-fortress enclosed with honey-coloured stone walls that contain hidden treasures, from icons to Tiepolos, as well as architectural delights in every narrow, cobbled street. Yet the island is very much a living community, as you witness for yourself if you watch the wild Moreska dance performed on summer weekends.”*



[Aminess Liburna Hotel](#)



[Aminess Liburna Hotel](#)

Overnight at the luxurious Aminess Liburna Hotel

Day 5: Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Korcula

Complimentary breakfast included

On day five, enjoy breakfast at your hotel before experiencing a day of leisure in Korcula.

Ljubomir “L.J.” Stambuk, WACC President & CEO, a native of Korcula, will provide you with a unique experience where you will meet the mayor, Andrija Fabris, explore the Korcula Town Museum in St. Mark’s Square, and experience other unique content that can only be provided by someone born and raised in Croatia.

After your day exploring, return to the Aminess Liburna Hotel for dinner and a quiet evening.

Overnight at the luxurious Aminess Liburna Hotel



[Korcula](#)



[Korcula Town Museum](#)



[Hvar](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel before departing to [Hvar](#), a lively island known for its lavender. Upon arrival and check-in, enjoy a 2-hour guided city tour detailing the 16th and 17th century architecture, 13th century walls surrounding gothic palaces, marble streets, and secluded beaches.

[Traveler Magazine](#) listed Hvar as one of the top 10 most beautiful islands in the world:

"The immense fields of lavender, later used in production of first class lavender oil, said to be of the highest quality in the world, are the trademark of this island. Lavender flowers in summer, just as tourists start to arrive, and the beauty of these violet fields submerged in the greenery of the Mediterranean vegetation and the blue of the sea is a truly magical sight. Lavender souvenirs are the most common gifts people take back home and they can be purchased on many locations around the island which makes it the nicest smelling island in the world!"

Later, you will arrive at the best hotel in town, and your home for two nights, the elegant [Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort](#), located in a private bay overlooking the Paklini Islands in the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy a nice night on your own!



[Lavender Fields](#)



[Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort](#)

Overnight at the luxurious Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before departing for a full day catamaran tour of the [Blue and Green Caves](#) where you will experience a beautiful day of beaches and water. Begin with traveling to the [Island Budikovac](#) also known as the Blue Lagoon. There you will adventure to the Green Cave, a unique experience. Take a dip in the turquoise clear water surrounded by cliffs and nature.

Interestingly enough, Budikovac is home to one man, [Mr. Andro](#), who runs a small restaurant, animal farm, and vegetable fields. You will be able to recognize him by his straw hat!

The tour continues from Island Budikovac to [Stiniva Bay](#), one of Europe's top 10 most beautiful bays. Dig your toes into the sand and take in the natural beauty dominated by high cliffs where Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again was filmed. Next, you will island hop to [Bisevo Island](#), home of the famous Blue Cave. In Bisevo, there are no shops, cars, or roads. Here you will experience beauty and nature disconnected from the world.

[Vacation Dalmatia](#) states: *"Apart from a unique experience in the Blue Cave, Bisevo also offers bathing opportunities in one of the coves and excellent fish. The coastal area is extremely rich in fish."*

Before returning to Hvar, explore the [Pakleni Islands](#) in the Palmizana Bay. See the gorgeous chain of wooded isles, hidden beaches, and deserted lagoons. Here you will have time to grab lunch and enjoy the beach.

After lunch, return to Hvar for some independent time before an exquisite fine dining dinner experience with your traveling companions at Restaurant Passarola, Gariful, Dvino, or similar.

Dinner included

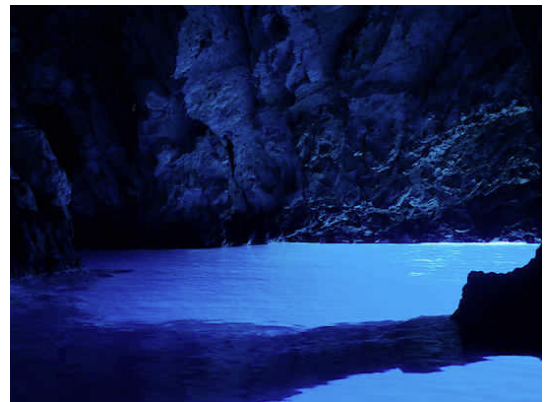
Overnight at the luxurious Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort



[Island Budikovac](#)



[Stiniva Bay](#)



[Bisevo Island's Blue Cave](#)



[Pakleni Islands](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, leave Hvar on a catamaran to Split. The second largest city in Croatia is a mix of modern life, ancient history, and architecture. Enjoy an independent lunch and some time to explore the city.

[Read Earth Trekkers' Top 10 Things to Do in Split, Croatia](#)

After lunch, you will travel to the coastal town of [Zadar](#) and enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. The tour will cover cultural heritage and historical landmarks such as the famous [Promenade](#), the 12th century romanesque [Cathedral of St. Anastasia](#), the [Church and Convent of St. Mary](#), [Kalelarga street](#) full of music, and [People's Square](#).

Fun Fact: Zadar created the first [sea Organ](#) in the world!

According to [National Geographic](#): *"Zadar has long captured the imagination of those who step foot in it. It was the Romans who conquered it first, followed by the Venetians, and the influence of both empires dominate the city's architectural makeup; think a Venetian campanile, the fortified Arsenal and a jigsaw assortment of colonnades, columns and sarcophagi, which now rise up like visions from the past. The Romans turned it from backwater into the beautiful harbor town that it is today — not that it always shows its age. This is the much-hyped Adriatic coast, and what awaits visitors is a host of terrific beaches and stunning islands to escape to, national parks to explore and delicious seafood restaurants to cap off the perfect day with."*

[Read Luxury Travel Advisor's 14 Reasons Why You Should Visit Zadar, Croatia's Coolest City](#)

Later, you will arrive at the best hotel in town, and your home for one night, the elegant 5-star [Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Iadera](#), overlooking the Adriatic Sea with breathtaking panoramic views. Enjoy an independent dinner and evening.

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Iadera



[Split](#)



[Zadar](#)



[Promenade](#)



[Cathedral of St. Anastasia](#)



[Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Iadera](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Start your day with breakfast in the hotel before beginning your journey to Opatija. Along the way, experience a 3-hour guided tour of [Plitvice Lakes National Park](#), Croatia's largest national park, as it spans 30,000 hectares. You'll surely love the beautiful landscape full of forests, meadows, lakes, waterfalls, and numerous rare animal species. Enjoy an independent lunch.

[Trip Advisor](#) listed Plitvice Lakes National Park as the 2022 Travelers' Choice Best of the Best!

"Plitvice Lakes is one of the most unique places to visit in Croatia. With easy walking trails, boardwalks suspended over the turquoise water, stunning viewpoints, and photogenic waterfalls, this is the type of place that is perfect for visitors of all ages." ([Earth Trekkers](#))

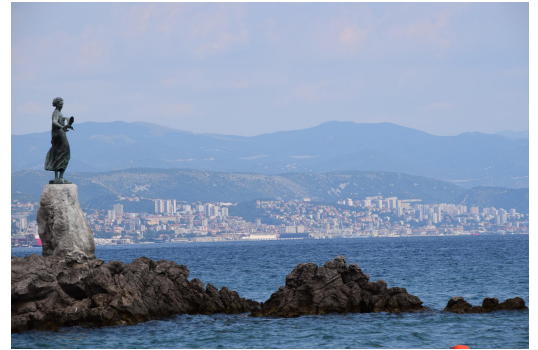
After lunch and your tour, continue on to the town of [Opatija](#), famous for its 19th-century health resort for Austro-Hungarian aristocracy and nobility of that time. It is truly a unique place with its harmonious combination of modernity and nature with its public gardens like the [Lungomare](#), its [Riviera](#), and a vibrant town.

According to [Visit Opatija](#), "A walk along this promenade above all means enjoying the fresh sea air and a beautiful coastal landscape dotted with quaint coves, but it is also much more than that. It is also a chance to learn something about local history: for right from its starting point in Volosko by the birthplace of the great scientist Andrija Mohorovičić, past former sanatoriums and guesthouses in the northern part of the promenade, through Angiolina Park and on past Slatina beach further south all the way to the magnificent villas in Lovran, the Lungomare reveals a series of buildings, locations, monuments and memorial plaques that tell the interesting tale of Opatija's past."

Check into your luxury hotel for two nights, the lovely [Hotel Ambassador](#), a beautiful hotel that offers elegance and



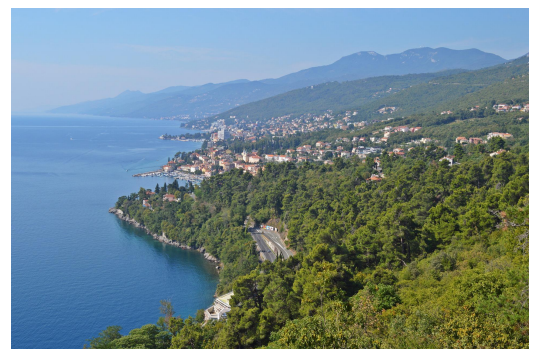
[Plitvice Lakes National Park](#)



[Opatija](#)



[Lungomare](#)



[Riviera](#)

excellent service near Opatija's city center. Enjoy an independent dinner and evening.

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Hotel Ambassador



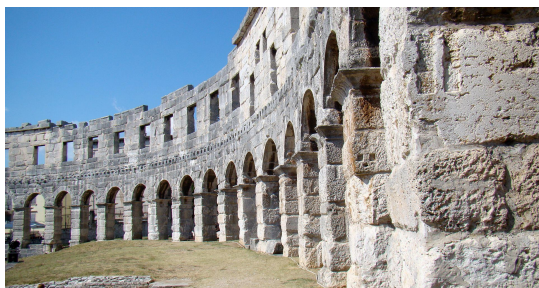
[Hotel Ambassador](#)

Day 10: Sunday, October 2, 2022

Opatija/Istria



[Istria](#)



[Pula Arena](#)



[Bale Valle](#)



[Motovun](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Have breakfast at the hotel before touring [Istria](#), the largest peninsula within the Adriatic Sea, which is shared with 3 countries (Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy). Start at the largest city in the Istria county, Pula. Witness its beautiful harbor, beach-lined coast, and Roman ruins. One of those ruins is the [Pula Arena](#), where you will explore the history that it holds. As one of the six largest Roman amphitheaters in the world, it is also the only one to have four sides and all three levels preserved.

From there, you will embark to [Bale Valle](#), an Istrian pearl situated near the western shore. Survey the stone workings of the town built on a hill and the endless olive groves and vineyards. Visit [Grubic Olive Oil](#) and taste their olive oil with local Istrian snacks. Afterwards, continue your tour to the medieval town of [Motovun](#). Meander through a town full of art, beautiful views, delicious treats, and fine Istrian wine. You will enjoy a truffle hunting demonstration in Livade (near Motovun), including a truffle product tasting. Relish in a 3-course truffle lunch at [Zigante Restaurant](#) or a similar local restaurant.

Lunch included

After lunch, enjoy an independent evening and dinner in Opatija.

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Hotel Ambassador

Complimentary breakfast included

Today, before arriving in Ljubljana, enjoy a ride in a vintage van to the Moon Bay for a glass of wine. [Moon Bay](#) is described as the most beautiful beach in Slovenia. Known for its pristine beauty and crystal clear waters, you are sure to relax and unwind.

Following your beach adventure, enjoy an olive oil tasting and lunch at the [Lisjack Olive Oil](#) farm in [Koper](#).

According to [Celebrity Cruises'](#) website: "As soon as you stroll through Koper's Muda Gate (a former town entrance), you'll be treated to an explosion of Slovene architecture, art, zesty culinary staples, and vibrant neighborhoods humming with life."

Lunch included

Later in the afternoon, arrive in [Ljubljana](#), the capital and largest city of Slovenia. Experience a unique city full of different cultural traditions, divine culinary destinations, nature, and youthfulness. **If time permits**, you will take a guided tour of the city and everything it has to offer.

"As soon as you enter the center of Ljubljana, you'll find yourself surrounded by thousands of lovely things, from charming buildings, tastefully decorated cafés and creatively arranged shop windows, to historical monuments and great pieces of street art. Ljubljana's elegant, but not overly posh. The countless bridges not only connect two banks of Ljubljanica River but also look fabulous. The squares are dotted with quirky sculptures (both modern and old). The winding cobbled-stone walkways lead to various bewitching spots and getting lost in this labyrinth is the best way to explore the town. Sitting up on the hill, the castle overlooks the myriad streets, buildings, and people. It's visible from nearly everywhere in the center and adds a bit of magic to the general look of Ljubljana." ([The Best Travel Places](#))



[Moon Bay](#)



[Lisjack Olive Oil](#)



[Koper](#)



[Ljubljana](#)

Afterward, transfer to your hotel for the next two nights: the [Intercontinental Ljubljana](#), an elegant five-star hotel, located near Old Town. Unwind with an independent evening and dinner.

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Intercontinental Ljubljana



[Intercontinental Ljubljana](#)

Day 12: Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Ljubljana/Bled

Complimentary breakfast included

A leisurely breakfast at the hotel will kick off your full-day tour to [Bled](#), one of the most beautiful alpine resort towns. Embark on a [Pletna Boat](#) ride to visit the church in the middle of the lake, Church of Assumption, designed in 15th century architecture.

According to [Adventurous Travels](#), *"In contrast to other places flooded by masses of visitors, the beautiful Bled is not overrated at all. In fact, it is way better in real life than in photos. The images cannot really convey the clear, deep blue color of water, pristine natural surroundings and charming architecture, all combined together."*

Afterward, experience one of Bled's treasures, the [Bled Castle](#). Standing as the oldest castle in Slovenia, dating back to 1004, it is full of picturesque castle architecture, museum collections, and a winery.

You will have time to explore Bled before returning to Ljubljana. During your time, indulge in some Bled culinary delights. The Bled website provides a great list of what to try - [click here](#).

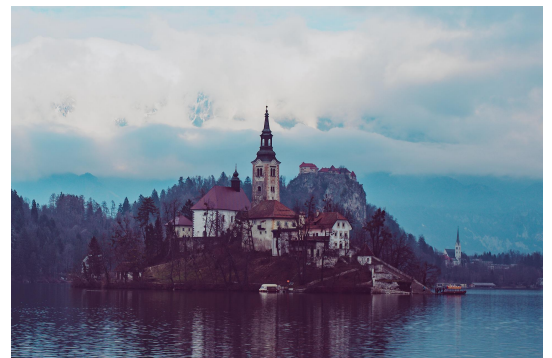
Back in Ljubljana, enjoy a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Intercontinental Ljubljana



[Bled](#)



[Church of Assumption](#)



[Bled Castle](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel before your adventure to the city of [Zagreb](#). Upon arrival, embark on a 3-hour guided tour of the capital of Croatia where you will be immersed in lively culture, museums, Austro-Hungarian architecture, gothic cathedrals, and beautiful parks.

[Lonely Planet](#) raves that “Zagreb is made for strolling. Wander through the Upper Town's red-roof and cobblestone glory, peppered with church spires. Crane your neck to see the domes and ornate upper-floor frippery of the Lower Town's mash-up of secessionist, neo-baroque and art deco buildings. Search out the grittier pockets of town where ugly-bland concrete walls have been transformed into colorful murals by local street artists. This city rewards those on foot.”

During your tour, get whisked away on the [Funicular of Zagreb](#), the smallest funicular in the world! The oldest form of public transportation in Zagreb, it is the easiest way to Upper Town and you will arrive in 64 seconds!

After your tour, settle in at the best hotel in town, and your home for two nights, the elegant [Esplanade Zagreb Hotel](#). Known for its distinction, glamor, and tradition, this hotel is one of the most famous and superb buildings in the city. Enjoy an independent evening and dinner.

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Esplanade Zagreb Hotel



[Zagreb](#)



[Funicular of Zagreb](#)



[Esplanade Zagreb Hotel](#)

Day 14: Thursday, October 6, 2022

Zagreb/Bednja

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before starting an amazing 5-6-hour tour of the [Trakoscan Castle](#) in Bednja, Croatia. In this 13th-century castle, which was restored in the 19th century, you will learn about its cultural and historic significance. Inside its museum, gaze upon its treasured collection of paintings, furniture, weaponry, and valuables dating from the Renaissance to Historicism.

[Croatia Expo](#) describes Trakoscan Castle as “A fairy-tale site brimming with tradition, legends, and untouched nature.”

After your tour, head back to Zagreb for an independent lunch and afternoon, where you can explore the city more. Kami & The Rest of the World provides a wonderful list of things to do in Zagreb - [click here](#).

Later in the afternoon, return to the hotel so you may be transferred to [Dubravkin Put Restaurant](#) or similar for a 3-course farewell dinner with your travel companions.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxurious 5-Star Esplanade Zagreb Hotel



[Trakoscan Castle](#)



[Bednja](#)

Day 15: Friday, October 7, 2022

Zagreb/Charlotte

Complimentary breakfast included

An early morning and bag breakfast will kick off your return journey. Say goodbye to Europe as you are transferred back to the Zagreb Airport to check in for your flight (Flight Details to Charlotte Forthcoming). Arrive at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport on October 7.

Welcome home!



[Zagreb Airport](#)

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY*

Price includes 15 days of luxury accommodations, all breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners, local transportation, several tours, and highly qualified and dedicated local guides

****Airfare not included in pricing****

Min. 15 Travelers

***\$6,895**

Min. 20 Travelers

***\$6,240**

Min. 25 Travelers

***\$5,656**

AIR TRAVEL:

Please contact Knight Travel for individualized air travel pricing.

Tickets are nonrefundable

Travelers must be members in good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact mneesmith@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757. [Click here](#) for information on WACC memberships. Please note WACC memberships are fully tax-deductible.

- **Trip payments are due by Monday, August 15, 2022, to fully secure your seat for this fabulous trip.**
- **Due to destination countries' policies on COVID-19 travel requirements, travelers will be required to submit proof of vaccination in order to travel with the Council.**
- If you are traveling alone but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best on matching you with a roommate.
- Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible for flight information.
- Please note that an approx. 3% processing charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirements. Processing charge is considered a tax-deductible donation. No additional charge if you pay by check.