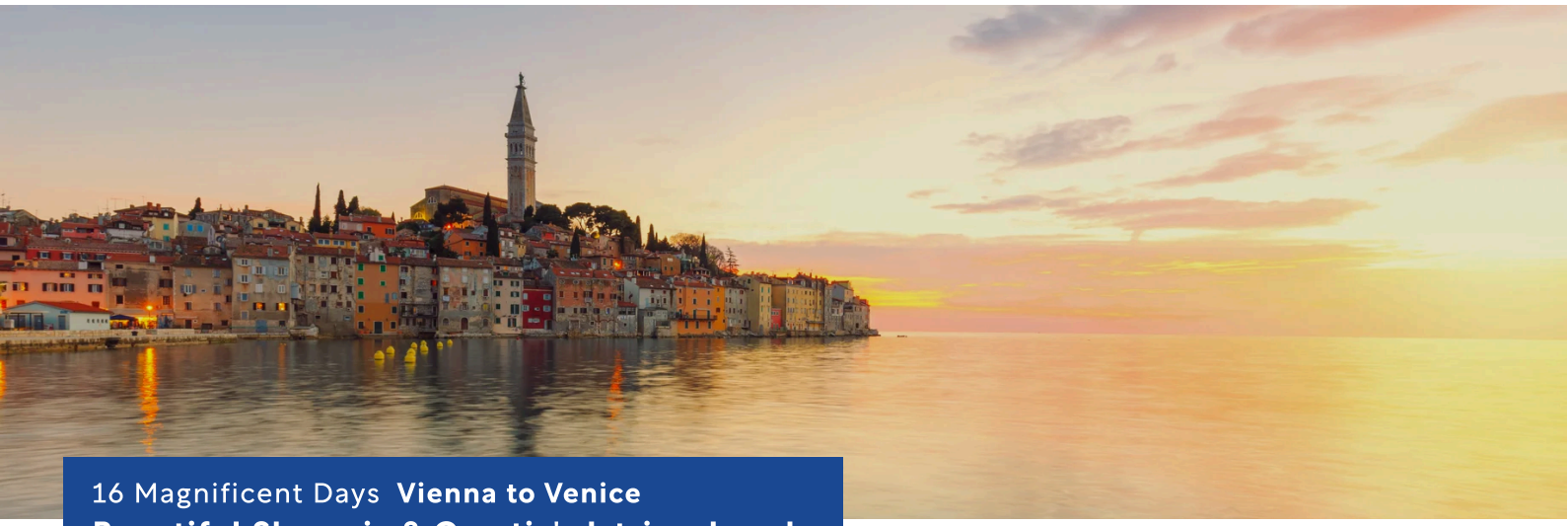
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16 Magnificent Days **Vienna to Venice**
# Beautiful Slovenia & Croatia's Istrian Jewels

## Take in the beauty of Croatia's spectacular Istrian Peninsular

**Experience a truly authentic taste of Croatia and Slovenia**

From Imperial Vienna and the stunning Schönbrunn Palace to beautiful Slovenia and enchanting Croatia, discover some of Europe's grand cities such as Graz, lovely Ljubljana, classic Zagreb and Trieste in Italy and enjoy Opatija's 'Belle Époque' parks and promenade. Enjoy exciting activities such as a relaxing horse and carriage ride, a trip on a historic boat to a Church in the middle of Slovenia's Lake Bled, ride high in a cable car above beautiful Lake Bohinj, visit craggy castles, and take in the stunning views across Corinthian Lakes from top of the Pyramidenkogel - Europe's highest wooden tower. Ride deep into the Postojna Caves and step high inside rock clinging Predjama Castle. Not forgetting our trademark longer stays such as an extra night in Plitvice so you get to properly explore both sets of Plitvice's cascades and leaping waterfalls and 3 nights in the jewel of the Istrian peninsula – Poreč, with included excursions and visits to picturesque Rovinj, Pula's Roman Amphitheatre and the 'time capsule' mountain village of Grožnjan. What an adventure!

Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach

Welcome drink on Day 1
23 meals including breakfast daily (B), and 8 evening meals (D)
A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners

15 nights authentic, specially selected hotel accommodation
Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)
Lake View rooms at Park Hotel in Lake Bled
Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)

Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)
Local guides as described in the itinerary
ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides

Hand Selected Albatross Inclusions : Visit Pyramidenkogel Observation Tower, Graz sightseeing, Lake Bled boat cruise and horse and carriage ride, Plitvice Lakes Upper and Lower Falls. Lake Bohinj Vogel Cable car ride, 3 nights in the Istrian Jewel of Poreč, visits to Postojna Caves, Predjama Castle and Castello di Miramare in Trieste.
ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described


Vienna 2
Austria
1
Graz
Pyramidenkogel
Lake Bled 3
Vogel
Lake Bohinj
Ljubljana
Slovenia
Miramare
Predjama Castle
Postojna
Italy
2 Zagreb
Trieste 2
Venice
Brtonigla
Groznjan
Poreč 3
Istrian Peninsula
Opatija
Rastoke
Rovinj
2 Plitvice
Pula
Adriatic Sea
Croatia
Tour commences
3 Nights
Included excursions

## Vienna welcome

**Day 1** | **Hilton Vienna Park, Vienna, Austria** | **D**

Your tour commences this evening in the Imperial city of Vienna. If you have arrived today on your international flight, experience tells us it is best to keep active through this afternoon and Vienna is such a wonderful city at this time of year with so much to see and do. Dinner tonight is included, but first enjoy a welcome drink. This is an ideal opportunity to meet your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

## Vienna Sightseeing and Schönbrunn Palace

**Day 2** | **Hilton Vienna Park, Vienna, Austria** | **B**

This morning we are joined by a local guide for a panoramic city drive past all the grand sights, gardens and monuments of this Imperial City, from the State Opera House to the Hofburg Palace. We have included entrance and a guided tour through the State Apartments of the magnificent Royal summer residence - Schönbrunn Palace.
Your afternoon and evening is completely free. Relax and enjoy this enchanting city of museums and style. You simply must indulge in the world of the traditional Viennese coffee houses. How about a tall aromatic coffee and a calorie-busting apfel strudel? Maybe a rich chocolate torten cake?

## Graz walking tour & Castle

**Day 3** | **Schlossberghotel-Das Kunsthotel, Graz, Austria** | **B**

Arriving at Graz, capital of Styria, late morning we have included a short, guided walking tour and funicular ride to the castle complex on top of the Schlossberg Hill. This was once the most formidable fortress in Europe, before being razed by Napoleon. The views from the Stallbastei bastion down over the medieval city are tremendous. The Bell Tower dates from the 16th century, the Türkenbrunnen (Turkish well) is 94 metres deep.
Your beautiful Schloss Hotel is in the very heart of this UNESCO World heritage listed city. Your afternoon and evening are at leisure in this medieval town.

## Pyramidenkogel Tower & Bled Castle

**Day 4** | **Hotel Park Lake Bled, Slovenia** | **B,D**

A beautiful drive today as we drive along lakes, through the hills, mountains and undulating meadows of Corinthia. On top of one hill is an amazing wooden observation tower called the Pyramidenkogel. This is Europe's highest wooden tower and we have included entrance so you can ride in the lift to the sheltered observation platform at the top (or walk up the stairs!) and take in the astonishing 360 degree views along two 'picture postcard' lakes. A fantastic experience.  In the afternoon we enter the Julian Alps and arrive at the natural wonder of Lake Bled, in Slovenia, where the tranquil waters are surrounded by impressive mountains and overlooked by the imposing castle. On arrival we will visit the cliff top, medieval Bled Castle dramatically perched 130 metres above the lake. Dating back 1,000 years it is a symbol of Bled and Slovenia. We stay here in Bled in Lake View rooms, right beside the lake, in the heart of town for the next three nights. Dinner tonight is included in the hotel.

## Horse carriage, Pletna boat & Bled Cake

**Day 5** | **Hotel Park Lake Bled, Slovenia** | **B**

First activity of the day will be a relaxing horse and carriage ride along the shores of Lake Bled. Next, we board a traditional 'Pletna' boat to cross the placid lake waters to the picturesque Church of the Assumption on the small island. In addition, in the classic, lakeside Kavarna Café, we have included a coffee and cake - Kremna Rezina – known simply as Bled Cake. It is like a vanilla slice, but the way they make it... mmm... delicious! Then it is time at leisure - 'My Time' to relax and savour the beauty of Lake Bled. Your evening is at leisure.

## Lake Bohinj, Vogel cable car & wine tasting dinner

**Day 6** | **Hotel Park Lake Bled, Slovenia** | **B,D**

There is nothing quite like a day playing in the mountains! After a leisurely start, driving into the Bohinj Valley, which stretches through the Triglav National Park, we reach beautiful Lake Bohinj. Following the pretty shore to the far end we board a cable car which whisks us up Vogel Mountain. Time to relax and enjoy lunch in one of the mountain restaurants and marinate yourself in the views down across the lake and out across the peaks. The remainder of your afternoon is at leisure back in Bled. This evening we have included a tasting of local wines before a dinner of regional specialties in a local restaurant.

## Charming Ljubljana, quaint bridges and old town

**Day 7** | **Amadria Park Hotel Capital, Zagreb** | **B,D**

This morning we are joined by a local guide to visit Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana, which means 'beloved' in Slovene. Retaining the charm and warmth of a small town, it is filled with baroque churches, palaces, museums, and quaint bridges traversing the canals and rivers. Afterwards, you will have 'My Time' to explore the pedestrian areas in the historic Old Town filled with cafes, shops and riverside restaurants. Later we reach Croatia's capital, Zagreb, where we stay the next two nights. The centre of town is so easily accessible as our hotel is only a short walk away. Dinner is included in a local restaurant.

## Zagreb sightseeing, Sljeme cable car & 'My Time'

**Day 8** | **Amadria Park Hotel Capital, Zagreb** | **B**

This morning we are joined by a local guide who will take us on a walking tour through this vibrant city. Your afternoon and evening will be free. 'My Time' to explore at leisure. Use your included cable car ticket to visit Sljeme, the highest peak of the Medvednica mountain.

## Rastoke, Plitvice Lower Falls and Lake Kozjak

**Day 9** | **Hotel Jezero, Plitvice, Croatia** | **B,D**

On our way to Plitvice today we make a short photo stop in Rastoke where the little village houses are split and surrounded by numerous tiers of small waterfalls spilling and tumbling right through town.
Later we arrive at Plitvice, famous for its majestic, grand cascades and enormous waterfalls set in a stunning, scenic gorge. Our guided walk along the riverside boardwalks of the lower falls area, in and amongst the pretty cascades, take us to Lake Kozjak where we board a boat to cruise the length of the lake, and arrive at our hotel which is located close to the shore, in the centre of the National Park. Spectacular! We elect to spend two nights in Plitvice because here there are actually two sets of magnificent waterfalls, and this gives us ample time to take them both in,and properly absorb their beauty.

## Plitvice Upper Falls & 'My Time'.

**Day 10** | **Hotel Jezero, Plitvice, Croatia** | **B,D**

Today you can do as little or as much as you want. Your entire day is free - 'My Time'. Your hotel is located 500 metres uphill from the lakes edge, and your National Park tickets include a short boat crossing so you can also walk around Plitvice's Upper set of waterfalls and cascades. Many say this Upper set, have better views and are more rewarding, because the winding bridges and walkways are quieter with less tourists. Perhaps enjoy a beverage amongst the pine trees on the lake side, or a leisurely walk along the waterside pathways. A wonderfully relaxing day!

## Opatija's 'Belle Époque' and the jewel of Poreč

**Day 11** | **BO Hotel Palazzo Poreč, Croatia** | **B,D**

Crossing to the Adriatic coast we reach Opatija late morning. In the 19th century Opatija evolved as a fashionable riviera where the elite of the Habsburg Empire and Russia partied. Opatija's 'Belle Époque' (Beautiful Age) is attested by its seaside parks, gardens, and Lungomare promenade which snakes its way past little harbour inlets and coves. Littered with restaurants and cafes, you'll enjoy lunchtime here at leisure with plenty of free time to explore. Later in the afternoon we cross the Istrian Peninsula to beautiful Poreč where we stay three nights right beside the harbour in the old town. Poreč is one of Croatia's seaside jewels and makes a perfect base for our included excursions to the south and inland areas. The historic old town is located on a small peninsula, and as you would expect with its 1,000-year-old history, boasts little winding stone paved streets and small squares lined with local cafes and restaurants. A gorgeous atmosphere. Its 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica complex is famous for its gem-studded Byzantine mosaics.

## Pula Amphitheatre, Rovinj old town

**Day 12** | **BO Hotel Palazzo Poreč, Croatia** | **B**

This morning we drive to the south of the peninsula, to Pula, where we have included a guided visit to the beautifully preserved Roman Amphitheatre. After free time in the old town, we then visit another Istrian city gem – Rovinj. Your time will be at leisure to explore this delightful old town and settle into that perfect waterside restaurant or konoba (tavern) for lunch. Later in the afternoon we have included an aperitif in a very special place where the elevated terrace has astounding views across the water and on to picture perfect Rovinj. Your evening is at leisure back in Poreč.

## Poreč 'My Time', Grožnjan and Winery tour & tasting

**Day 13** | **BO Hotel Palazzo Poreč, Croatia** | **B**

Your morning is at leisure. 'My Time' to do as little or as much as you want in Poreč old town. In the afternoon it's time for us to venture inland and explore the Istrian hills. First stop will be the amazing hilltop village of Grožnjan. Tiny stone houses cram a maze of ancient stone streets and alleys, a true heritage timepiece. After time to wander around independently we then continue to nearby Brtonigla, and the Veralda Winery for a cellar tour and wine tasting. Amongst a variety of delicious local wines, you will also sample their Veralda Xtrian which, in London in 2016, was voted best single variety red wine in the world.

## Postojna Caves, dramatic Predjama Castle & Trieste

**Day 14** | **Savoia Excelsior Palace, Trieste, Italy** | **B**

We have an incredible day planned for you! Crossing back into Slovenia we reach Postojna where we enjoy a mesmerizing train ride deep into to a stupendous labyrinth of massive caves. Our guided walking tour will then take us along easy, winding walkways amongst gorgeously illuminated, enormous caverns, stalagmites and stalactites. World renowned, the Postojna Caves are an astonishing experience. Afterwards we also visit one of the most extraordinary castles in the world. Predjama Castle is set dramatically in the gaping mouth of a cavern halfway up a 123m cliff and is listed as the world's largest cave castle. Dating back 800 years, most of what you will see is 500 years old and its armory, halls, living quarters and dungeons take you back to the 16th century. Later we reach the coastal city of Trieste, and we enjoy an orientation drive, including a stop on San Giusto Hill. The first inhabitants here go back as far as prehistoric times, and here you will see the medieval castle and ruins of an ancient Roman basilica sitting next to a 14th century cathedral.
Our last two nights will be here in Trieste, in a grand old-style hotel right on Trieste's waterfront. The main city square of Piazza Unità d'Italia (the Unity of Italy Square) is just one block away. This huge square overlooking the sea is surrounded by truly grand buildings and cafes and in the evenings, it is gorgeously illuminated and bustling. The wide canal that cuts through the pedestrian streets is lined with numerous Italian restaurants. The remainder of your afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore and enjoy.

## Trieste sightseeing, Castello di Miramare and Farewell Dinner

**Day 15** | **Savoia Excelsior Palace, Trieste, Italy** | **B,D**

A leisurely start before we are joined by a local guide for a short walking tour of Trieste's old town.
Afterwards, we travel just outside of Trieste to visit the delightful Castello di Miramare. Set in a spectacular location on a rocky spur jutting out into the Gulf of Trieste, Miramare (meaning "look at the sea") was built in the mid-19th century for the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian (House of Habsburg) and his wife, Charlotte of Belgium. They later became the Emperor and Empress of Mexico. Miramare is not really a castle, but rather a fantastic example of a magnificent, princely residence of the 19th century. 'Maximilian's Rooms' include the archduke's bedroom designed and furnished like a ship's cabin, and the 'Throne Room'. The 'castle' is set in a large, extravagant Italian- English-style garden, with sculptures and plants and trees collected by Maximillian on his travels
Your afternoon will be free back in Trieste, and this evening we have arranged a farewell dinner.

## Transfer to Venice – Tour ends

**Day 16** | **B**

This morning, we will transfer you to Venice and arrive late morning. We will make stops at Venice Marco Polo airport and Mestre railway station.We recommend that you book flights or trains that depart Venice after 2pm today.

## Hand Selected Inclusions

**These are just a few of the very special hand selected inclusions that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.**



**Graz walking tour and funicular ride**
The Stallbastei bastion



**Pyramidenkogel**
Observation Tower



**Lake Bled**
Bled Castle, Pletna Boat cruise & Horse and Carriage ride



**Lake Bohinj**
Vogel Cable Car Ride



**Plitvice**
Upper and Lower Falls



**Poreč**
An Istrian Jewel



**Predjama Castle**
A Cliff Clinging Castle



**Postojna Caves**
Mesmerising Cave Adventure



**Castello di Miramare**
Nature & History

## Dates and Prices

**Correct as of 01:04 on 05th November 2026**

| Start Date | End Date | Twin Price | Solo Price | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 May 2027 | 30 May 2027 | AUD$13,687 | AUD$17,387 | Space Available |
| 20 May 2028 | 04 Jun 2028 | TBC | TBC | Pre-Register |
| 26 Aug 2028 | 10 Sep 2028 | TBC | TBC | Pre-Register |

* The itinerary, inclusions and hotels featured are based on 2027 tour departures and may be subject to change. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

## Tour Suitability

**Our tours require a moderate level of fitness due to the unique places we visit and stay.**
**This tour is not suited to anyone who has mobility issues.**

- There are a number of beautiful towns and sites we visit which require exploring on foot.
- We include a cable car ride up mountains. Whenever you are at even a moderate altitude breathing becomes a little more laboured when you exert yourself. Having said that, neither summit we visit is very high, and there is no need to do anything but take in the views. So as long as you take things easy and go at a more leisurely pace (and with Albatross we have time!) you will be fine.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

## Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATIA Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707