

STAR FLYER

7-NIGHTS WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

Summer 2017

Venice – Dubrovnik – Kotor – Korcula – Losinj – Piran – Venice

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace

Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group. Walking tours in Croatia can only be guided in one language.

Some excursions are only available on certain dates and/or are dependent on the ship's arrival and departure times.

Fitness requirements depend on the chosen activity; for excursions involving hiking, snorkeling and boating, an average to good physical condition is needed.

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Taste and Flavours of Dubrovnik

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration: 4 hours

Euros 60

The tour starts with a pleasant drive along the Adriatic road to the town of Mali Ston, the “oyster capital” of Croatia. This little town is often described as Dubrovnik in miniature. It boasts impressive 5km long city walls, among the longest defensive walls in the world. Construction of the walls started in 1317, and was finally completed in the 16th century. You will also see the ancient salt pans that were in use during the Dubrovnik Republic; salt is still produced there to this day. However Ston is mainly famed for its oysters, and there are oyster farms dotted all around. Upon your arrival in Mali Ston, you will board a local boat which will take you to the oyster and mussel beds. Your guide will tell you about oyster and mussel production in the area and you will get to taste some of the freshest sea food you have ever eaten, including some Mussel Bouzara, a local dish consisting of mussels cooked in wine, olive oil and garlic.

After the visit you will return to your motor coach in Mali Ston and drive back to Dubrovnik.

There will be a short guided tour of Dubrovnik Old Town, and then you will be free to do some exploring on your own.



Dubrovnik Sea Kayaking**Minimum 6 participants, maximum 24****Duration: 3h30****Euros 40**

The Dubrovnik Kayak tour is an unusual and original way to take in all the city highlights.

You will start the tour by rowing between the forts of Bokar and Lovrijenac. Bokar fort is one of the oldest of its kind, and was built to protect Pile Gate and City Bridge. It was also used as a prison. Lovrijenac guards the west entrance and, unlike the other city forts which form part of the city wall fortifications, it stands alone perched high on a rock, earning it the name of “the Gibraltar of Dubrovnik”. These days it is used as a venue for Dubrovnik’s summer festival, as well as for staging Shakespeare plays, so its thick walls resound to the words of the Bard rather than the thud of canon balls.

Next on the agenda is Lokrum island. Legend has it that Richard the Lionheart was cast ashore here after being shipwrecked in 1192, luckily you will be spared a similar fate. After steering a course around the island you will reach Betina cave, a hidden gem accessible only by sea. Here we will stop for a snack and you will have some leisure time to go swimming in the crystal clear Adriatic before rowing back to the departure point and returning to port.

- 2 participants per kayak.
- We recommend you bring swimsuits, towels, sun hat and sun screen.
- There is a 15 minute walk to the kayak base.

Legends & Curiosities**Off the usual tourist radar****Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18****Duration: 1h30****Euros 24**

Discover the every day life of the folk who live within the walls of Dubrovnik’s Old Town. A stroll through a maze of narrow streets and little squares will conjure up the shades of the past. Visit the oldest parts of the town off the tourist radar; discover hidden treasures around every street corner, local churches and places not mentioned in any guide books. During your guided tour you will be regaled by stories and legends of Dubrovnik’s old town and the history of the Republic of Ragusa.



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

Perast & Kotor

By bus and boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 120

Duration: 4 hours

Euros 49

Upon disembarkation you will drive through the beautiful bay of Kotor to Perast, a small baroque village hidden behind the islet of the Lady of the Rocks. The most outstanding buildings here are from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a tranquil place which abounds in sacred monuments such as the Church of St Nicholas, built between the 15th and 17th centuries. You will also get to visit the Maritime Museum.

Afterwards there will be some free time so you can explore Perast on your own before we take a boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela or Lady of the Rocks, and its church of the same name.

Gospa od Skrpjela is a baroque church situated on one of the two islets in the Bay of Kotor, just opposite Perast. Legend has it that the island was made over the centuries by devout mariners who, after finding an icon of the Madonna and child on a rock in the sea on July 22nd 1452, swore that they would drop a rock at the site after every successful sea voyage. Thus as time went by, the islet gradually emerged from the sea. The custom remains to this day, and on July 22nd every year at sunset the locals take part in the "fascinada" a tradition whereby they take out their boats and throw rocks into the sea. The church contains 68 magnificent paintings by Tripo Kokolja a famous 17th century artist from Perast. His masterpiece is without doubt a 10m long painting depicting the Death of the Virgin. After visiting the island you will take the boat back to Perast and board the coach for the drive from Perast to Kotor, a charming medieval town lying beside a beautiful fjord.

This UNESCO heritage site is the old maritime centre of Montenegro; it abounds in monuments, shops, cafés and restaurants. The 12th century Cathedral of St Tripun and the orthodox church of St Luka will be viewed from the outside.

- Lightweight clothes and sturdy shoes are recommended on this tour.
- The drive to Perast takes 20 minutes.
- You will visit the maritime museum in Perast and Gospa od Skrpjela church.
- Transfer by boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela.



Cycling Adventure

Transfer by motor coach to Lustica, then by bike

Minimum 12 participants, maximum 18

Duration: 4 hours

Euros 60

You will leave Kotor and head towards Lustica. Your destination is the famous peninsula opposite Herceg Nov renowned for its many legends of pirates, sailors and fishermen. Lustica has a rich cultural heritage with twenty churches, eighteen Orthodox and two Catholic ones. In bygone times the community was rather isolated and the farms and small holdings are quite self sufficient and still produce the local cheese in oil, as well as dried fish and prosciutto. The area is quite under developed with vast olive groves and a flourishing population of wild boar, mongoose, jackal and edible dormice.

The starting point of the bike tour is the Lustica peninsula, and after a short safety briefing you will set off on your cycling adventure passing through villages and olive groves before arriving at Tici village and the Moric family farm where you will have some refreshing drinks before returning to Kotor by bus.

- 45 minute transfer by coach to Lustica.
- The bike tour lasts approximately 2 hours.
- You will be equipped with a helmet.
- A car will follow with spare equipment.
- This excursion is strenuous and guests need to be in good physical condition.
- The bike tour is almost all on flat asphalt terrain, although there is a bit of uphill cycling on the way.

KORCULA, CROATIA

Korcula, Cultural and Historical Centre and Lumbarda Village

On foot and by motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration: 3h30

Euros 60

Korcula is perhaps most famous for its historical sites including the house where, according to popular belief, Marco Polo was born and the medieval fortifications erected to keep the Turkish invaders and pirates at bay. It is a fascinating town to explore. The main street does not run straight down, but zigzags through the town with many side streets branching out at an angle. This is no accident, the zigzagging street blocks the cold winter winds that blow in off the sea, while the layout of the side streets tempers the heat of the midday sun in summertime.

The walking tour will include a visit to St Mark's cathedral, the Bishop's Palace, which houses sketches and drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Tiepolo and many others, and the City museum with exhibits from ancient Greek and Roman times.

After the walking tour you will board a motor coach and head off to the rural village of Lumbarda, where your hosts, the Milina-Bire family, have lived for centuries. In bygone times the family produced wine for its own domestic use, but about fifty years ago they decided to broaden their horizons and use their expertise to establish a small winery. You will get the opportunity to stroll through the vineyards before you reach the family house. You will see how wine is produced nowadays as well as visiting an interesting wine cellar decorated with tools of the trade from the past. The owner of the vineyard will be your host during the visit and will tell you all about wine production in Lumbarda and his own family history. There will be a wine tasting of both red and white wines as well as a snack and some local liqueurs.



Peljesac Peninsula Wines and Vineyards
Transport by air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 16 participants, maximum 35
Duration: 5 hours
Euros 90
Light lunch included.

This is an excursion with universal appeal, although it is particularly recommended for wine lovers and connoisseurs.

You will cross over to the Peljesac Peninsula by motor boat, arriving at the seaside resort of Orebic which is the departure point for the excursion.

The Peljesac peninsula produces some of the best wines in Croatia, including the famous Dingac and Postup red wines which you will sample when you visit the local wine cellars.

You will leave Orebic aboard a modern air-conditioned motor coach, and your first stop will be the legendary Mike Grgich wine cellar, one of the most famous in the region. Mike Grgich was born in Croatia in a wine growing family and studied oenology. However his creativity was stifled by the Communist regime and in 1954 he fled his native shores for the Napa valley in California, a journey which would take him four years to accomplish. By dint of hard work he established an international reputation, and when the Communist regime collapsed he returned to Croatia to establish a winery there, following in the tradition of his father, grand father and great grandfather.

The Grgich winery in Trstenik, is housed in a plain stone building that was once a military base. It is surrounded by a wooded area that overlooks the rocky coast of the Adriatic. During the wine tasting you will taste some of the red and white wines which have made the reputation of the Peljesac Peninsula. After a tour of the Grgich winery, the excursion continues to Potomje village to visit the Matusko family winery where you will get the opportunity to taste some of the wines produced by the grapes which grow on the steep slopes near the village of Trstenik. The last stop on the tour is the village of Prizdrina where the

Bartulovic family has its winery. Here you will be served a typical lunch consisting of local specialities and be entertained by a group of local musicians performing Dalmatian folk songs.

Afterwards you will board your coach for the return drive along the Peljesac peninsula back to the seaside resort of Orebic for the motor boat crossing to Korkula.

- Wine tasting in 3 different vineyards: Mike Grgic, Matusko and Bartulovic.
- A typical lunch of local specialities will be served at the Bartulovic winery.
- This is an active excursion.



LOSINJ, CROATIA

The warm sands of Cikat Bay are an irresistible magnet for beachcombers. In the fortified town of Veli Losinj, climb the 16th century tower and hear the history of the Uskoks, warrior refugees from the Turkish invasion who fled in 1526 to the coastal islands to start new lives under Hapsburg protection.

PIRAN/ IZOLA/KOPER, SLOVENIA**Ljubljana on Your Own**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 96

Duration: 6 hours

Euros 64

Lunch not included

Discover the delightful city of Ljubljana, Slovenia's largest and busiest metropolis.

After a scenic drive to the city centre, you will be taken on a guided walking tour.

Ljubljana bears the traces of five millenniums of history including the remains of the Roman settlement known as Emona, a medieval castle built to withstand Ottoman invasion and numerous Baroque buildings with richly decorated façades. Among the many attractions of the city are a series of unique and picturesque bridges crossing the Ljubljanica river, and Tivoli Park, a vast haven of greenery which extends to the city centre and combines leafy walks, ornamental flowerbeds and beautiful statues.

At the end of the tour you will have time on your own to explore the city, go shopping or just take a seat at one of the outdoor cafés and watch the world go by.

- The drive to Ljubljana takes 1h30.
- The guided walking tour takes approximately 1 hour.



Lipica Stud Farm

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 4h30

Euros 80

Show included afternoon only

Lipica is situated in Slovenia's Karst region, close to the Italian border; a land of low lying shrubs, small pine forests and vineyards. The Stud farm itself is located in a lush green oasis, with venerable tree lined avenues. Renowned as the cradle of the famous Lipizzaner breed, it has been dedicated for over 400 years to improving and developing the blood lines of these splendid horses. In 1580 the Austrian arch duke Karl II established the stud and it was the property of the Austrian court until 1918. The Habsburg Empire needed horses that were sturdy, intelligent and eminently trainable and these elegant thoroughbreds were ideally suited to their requirements. Crowned heads thronged to admire these magnificent white stallions, fit for a king. In times of war and unrest the herd sought sanctuary in other countries, but always returned home to Lipica and they are now known as a national symbol of Slovenia.

These days Lipica is a tourist and recreation centre as well as a stud farm. A classical riding school showcases this unique breed with stunning performances of equine grace, and the site has an international reputation as a venue for prestigious equestrian events such as World Cup dressage competitions and the Lipica Stud days.

- This tour is only operated on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sunday afternoon.
- Training sessions are held on Wednesdays and Saturday morning.
- The site is closed on Mondays.

Wine Tasting and Truffles

By air-conditioned coach

Minimum 6 participants, Maximum 15

Duration: 4h30

Euros 90

Brunch included

The tour leaves directly from the pier and takes you on a one hour drive through Slovenian Istria known by the Romans as the "Terra Magica". The natural beauty of the countryside and the forest in Dragonia valley is literally breathtaking. During the drive your guide will tell you about the history of Slovenia and Istrian "gold", meaning the legendary white truffles hidden under the soil.

Your final destination is the Family owned Organic Winery Rodica, situated on a hill top with vineyards with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. It is surrounded by century's old oak and chestnut trees and an olive plantation. This unique location enjoys a Mediterranean and Continental climate which makes it possible for the vineyards to be cultivated organically, respecting nature and honouring tradition

It is one of the largest privately owned organic wineries in the region, and after a guided visit of the premises your host will invite you for brunch.

The quality of the soil has an influence on the flavour of the wine and truffles which are both outstandingly aromatic, as you will discover for yourself.

Each dish will be accompanied by wonderful wines, produced locally, as well as a selection of cold cuts, pâté and cheese flavoured with truffles.

- The drive to the winery takes about one hour.



Salt Field Spa Experience**Transfer by boat****Minimum 2 participants, maximum 8****Duration: 4 hours****Euros 99**

The Cecovlje Salina Nature Park is one of Slovenia's natural treasures. Salt has been produced in the area for hundreds of years, creating a unique saline landscape.

The Lepa Vida Thalasso, set in the middle of the salt fields, extends over four thousand square metres and has been built to the highest ecological standards using only natural materials. The pool is free of all chemicals, there is sea water in the showers, and all the treatments on offer use natural local sea products.

Relax and enjoy your traditional thalassotherapy session in an exceptional natural environment; indulge yourself with a salt pan mud wrap and a massage. The swimming and therapy pools are filled with highly concentrated salt water which improves blood circulation and stimulates the body's natural defences.

- The tour includes transportation by boat or minibus, depending on weather conditions, a salt-pan mud wrap followed by a 20 minute massage and a fruit smoothie.
- Only the three small pools for foot massage can be used without a medical check up.
- There is open access to the big pool.
- Your programme and arrangements for the massage and wrap will be set up by the spa.

Bike Tour**Moderately active excursion****Minimum 4 participants, Maximum 8****Duration: 4h30****Euros 60****Snacks included**

Discover the Slovenian coastal landscape on this scenic bike ride.

A professional guide will lead you on a trail linking Koper & Piran with all the other coastal cities. During the tour your guide will give you a running commentary about the country in general and the coastal region in particular.

The excursion is a harmonious and highly enjoyable blend of nature exploration, physical activity and local history.

