

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

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Walking tours in Croatia can only be guided in one language.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active.

Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions.



DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Taste and Flavours of Dubrovnik

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 4 hours

€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

€44

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

Duration 1h30

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

€25

Discover the everyday 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.



\The Great Dubrovnik Treasure hunt: Five hundred years of Fine Art

On foot

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 10 participants, Maximum 18

€40

Take a leisurely guided stroll through this medieval town and learn all about the history of the Dubrovnic Republic and its rich artistic and architectural heritage. The tour includes visits to a choice selection of museums.

The Rector's palace, now the town's cultural history museum, is one of Dubrovnik's priceless treasures; an outstanding secular monument which combines gothic and renaissance architecture. The rector was elected for a period of one month, and during that time not only was he forbidden to bring his family to live with him, he could not leave the palace himself without asking the permission of the senate. Here you will see rooms restored to their former glory and furnished in period style, portraits, coats of arms and coins.

The Sponza palace which now houses all Dubrovnik's historical archives is another fine mix of gothic and renaissance styles. Since it was first built in the XVIth century it has served as a customs house, mint, treasury and armoury as well as being home to Dubrovnik's first literary institution founded by a group of poets at the end of the XVIth century. It holds the distinction of being one of the very few buildings in the Old Town to have emerged unscathed from the terrible earthquake of 1667.

The Church of St Blaise was not so lucky; the original construction dating from 1368 was severely damaged in the quake and was replaced in 1715 by the baroque style building you now see. Saint Blaise is the patron saint of Dubrovnik who averted a catastrophe in 971 by forewarning the City Elders that a surprise attack by the Venetians was imminent. The marble altars in the church are particularly impressive and on the main altar there is a gothic statue of St Blaise himself, dating from the fifteenth century. This gold plated silver statue shows St Blaise holding the town of Dubrovnik (as it was before the earthquake) in his hands. The fact that this statue survived the earthquake which destroyed the original church and a subsequent fire is considered to be something of a miracle.

The Roman Baroque Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin is another « new » building, completed in 1713 after the earlier construction was destroyed by the earthquake. It is a veritable treasure trove and houses some 138 gold and silver reliquaries fashioned by local goldsmiths from the 11th to the 17th century. The reliquaries contain relics of St Blaise and a fragment of the Holy Cross. There is also a polyptych (panelled painting) of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary from Titian's studio and a painting attributed to Raphael.

However the best artwork is to be found at the Dominican Monastery Museum. The building dates from the fourteenth century (about the same time as the city walls) and looks more like a fortress than a religious building: all the better to protect the incredible collection of paintings from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. You can admire work by the Dubrovnic school of painters, the Venetian school, Titian's painting of St Blaise, Flemish paintings, relics, jewelry, manuscripts and incunabula.

The tour continues with a visit to the Franciscan Monastery with the church, one of the finest Roman Gothic buildings in Croatia, the pharmacy dates from 1317, the third oldest still functioning pharmacy in the world, the museum library with an exhibition of liturgical artifacts, some paintings of old masters such as "Ecce Homo" by Francesco Raibolini (15th century), a 14th century head relic of St Ursula and the painting of Vlaho Bukovac the founder and chief representative of the Croatian modern art.

The excursion price includes entry to the treasury of the Dubrovnik cathedral, the Dominican Monastery Museum, the Franciscan monastery Museum and Pharmacy.



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

Perast & Kotor

By bus and boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 120

Duration 4 hours

€50

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



Blue cave speed boat adventure

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 18

Duration 3h30

€80

The Blue Cave is undoubtedly the jewel in the crown of the Lustica peninsula which separates the Bay of Kotor from the Adriatic Sea.

This stunning natural phenomenon is caused by the sun's rays reflecting on the blue water inside the cave and creating a shimmering iridescent blue light.

Enjoy a scenic speed boat ride along the Montenegrin coast, passing villages and picturesque countryside, before you reach the Blue Cave situated just outside the bay.

Enter another world as you penetrate this impressive natural hall with its 9 metre high vault, sculpted from the rock. You will be spellbound by the play of light on crystal clear water so transparent you can gaze right down to the sea bed 13 metres below. If you want to you can go for a swim and make this a truly unforgettable « total immersion » experience.

Afterwards there will be a stop at Zanjice beach. This pebble beach with its mountain views and sheltered swimming was a favourite of Tito, the first President of Yugoslavia.

There will be time for a swim and some rest and relaxation before you board the speed boat for the return trip to Kotor.

This is a high activity level excursion

Participants should bring along comfortable shoes, swimsuits, towel, sunscreen and sun hat

You must be prepared to get wet on this tour ; we recommend you don't take any valuables with you

The speed boat ride to the Blue Cave takes about 45 minutes and you will have approximately one hour's free time at Zanjice beach

Please note that because the entrance to the sea cave is so narrow, the boat will be unable to access the grotto in rough seas. The visit could be cancelled without warning and there will be no reimbursement.

KORCULA**Korcula, cultural and historical centre and Lumbarda village**

On foot and by motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 3h30

€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

€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

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, SLOVENIA

Ljubljana on your own

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 96

Duration 6 hours

€66

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

Show included afternoon only

€85

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 Lippizzaner 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

Brunch included

€90

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 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

€106

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

Minimum 4 participants, Maximum 8

Duration 4h30

Moderately active excursion

Snacks included

€60

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.

« You are Very Welcome » - The home cooked lunch experience

Transport by air-conditioned coach

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 10

Duration 4 hours

Lunch included

€90

The Karst region is famous for its rich full bodied wines, flavourful dried ham and authentic cuisine. After a scenic drive along the Slovenian coast you will arrive at a small wine cellar. Here in the privacy of the vineyard garden you will savour home produced wine and exquisite home cooked delicacies. This tour is a unique culinary, cultural, and above all human experience: you will long remember the delicious food and the warm welcome extended by these kind hearted folk.

The lunch includes local specialities made with seasonal fare and a tasting of the four wines produced in the region.

The scenic drive to reach the estate takes approximately 1 hour

