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Croatian & Eastern Delights - 14 Days

Start point: Munich

End point: Munich

DAY 1: Munich (D)



The first day of the tour is our arrivals day. Meet your fellow travellers, and depending on what time you arrive, head into Munich and see the sights ahead of the start of your tour. A city that exhibits both prosperity and a certain amount of comfort and cosiness, Munich's apparent contradictions will delight the avid explorer. Along with modern high-powered industry, designer shopping districts and sleek BMWs, you'll find a wealth of cultural hotspots in Munich. Even with all its smart sophistication, Munich has a certain charm that visitors find irresistible. Tonight, meet your fellow explorers and get to know them over a beer as we take you to a traditional German beer hall for dinner and to get a taste of German culture. Prost!

Experiences

German Beer Hall: On your first night we'll take you to a traditional German Beer Hall. Sample German beer, along with traditional German cuisine. Prost!

Accommodation

Super 8 Munich City West

Other Foods to try

Bavarian cuisine typically includes meat and boiled dumpling dishes.

DAY 2: Ljubljana (B/D)



Heading for the Slovenian capital, we stop at Salzburg on the way for a comfort stop. Featuring gorgeous architecture, a formidable cliff-top fortress and imposing cliffs in the distance, you could be forgiven for thinking that you were in a fairy tale. This was also Mozart's home-town – see if a little of the genius rubs off! We also stop at Lake Bled for a photo stop. The lake is situated in the Julian Alps and surrounds Bled Island in the middle of the lake, and is overlooked by the medieval Bled Castle on the north shore. On arrival in Ljubljana, we'll have a walking tour of this little gem of a city. Despite its small size, you're sure to be entranced by the beauty of this city, which features a wealth of cultures, activities and sights. Ljubljana Castle overlooks the city, and dates back to the 16th Century. Tonight, after dinner, explore a little more and take advantage of the fact that pretty much everything is just a stroll away!

Experiences

On our way to Ljubljana we stop off at Lake Bled for a photo stop. Then, on arrival in Ljubljana, we'll have a walking tour of the city.

Accommodation

Hotel Park Ljubljana
M Hotel

Other Foods to try

Visit a "gostilna" restaurant, a traditional place to enjoy good food and wine in good company. Often serving dishes prepared to old recipes using local ingredients.

DAY 3: Plitvice Lakes – Split (B/D)



Today, you will be treated to some of the most picturesque natural landscapes, in the whole of Europe as we're off to Croatia, visiting the world-famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. Stroll along the boardwalks and marvel at the incredible natural scenery of Croatia's largest national park. Filled with waterfalls, lush vegetation and countless lakes, this is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour, so keep your cameras handy! Once we've got an eyeful, and a full camera-load of shots, we take you to your hotel in Split. After dinner, you can take a stroll around this historic town, including the sprawling Diocletian's Palace complex.

Experiences

We visit the world-famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. Filled with waterfalls, lush vegetation and countless lakes, this is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour.

Accommodation

Hotel Dujam
Hotel Medena

Other Foods to try

Croatian cuisine is heavily influenced by Italian and Mediterranean cuisine - plenty of fish, olive oil, vegetables and herbs. Pasta is very popular; manistra na pome (pasta with tomato sauce) is a staple.

DAY 4: Dubrovnik (B)



Heading south, we make our way to the walled city of Dubrovnik. This is a city that's always buzzing, with just the right mix of modern delights and traditional attractions. Once we reach Dubrovnik, a local tour guide awaits to take you on a walking guided tour of the old town. You will be acquainted with this stunning walled city, with a maritime history dating back to the Middle Ages. The city is a tapestry of spectacular architecture - including churches, monasteries, fountains and museums. Learn about the city's history, stroll the marble streets, take a walk along the ancient city walls or try one of the many charming restaurants. You have plenty of time to explore, so don't rush - you have a full free day tomorrow.

Experiences

Guided walking tour of the old city. Learn about the city's history, stroll the marble streets, take a walk along the ancient city walls or try one of the many charming restaurants.

Accommodation

Hotel Adriatic

Other Foods to try

Croatian cuisine is heavily influenced by Italian and Mediterranean cuisine - plenty of fish, olive oil, vegetables and herbs. Pasta is very popular; manistra na pome (pasta with tomato sauce) is a staple.

DAY 5: Dubrovnik - Free day

Take the time to explore the city further - with most of the main attractions located within the city walls in the 'old town', it is very easy to plan your day and navigate the streets. Want the best views of the 'old town' and islands? Catch the cable car to the top of Mount Srdj and enjoy! It is highly recommended for a scenic sunset photo or two. For those who really want to explore

further afield, you can choose our optional excursion to Montenegro! Take a full day to experience one of Europe's lesser-visited gems. Discover the natural beauty and rich history as we drive through charming countryside to the UNESCO Heritage listed town of Kotor. The old port of Kotor is surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period, and is a picturesque Mediterranean landscape. This day trip also includes photo stops at Verige and Perast, and a stop at the picturesque coastal town of Budva.

Attractions to discover in your free time

War Photo Ltd	Tue-Sun 10:00 – 16:00	Adults 40 HRK, Children 30 HRK
Cable Car	Jun - Aug 09:00 – 00:00 / Sep 09:00 – 22:00 / Oct 09:00 – 20:00	Adults 60 HRK one-way, Children (4-12 yrs) 30 HRK one-way
Lovrijenac – a great place to get views of the Old City		
Museum of Croatian War of Independence	08:00 – 18:00	Adults 20 HRK, Children 10 HRK
Memorial Room of the Defenders of Dubrovnik	09:00 – 21:00	Free
Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola	09:00 – 12:00 / 15:00 – 19:00	Free
Rector's Palace	09:00 – 18:00	Adults 80 HRK, Children 25 HRK
Maritime Museum	Tue – Sun 09:00 – 18:00	Adults 80 HRK, Children 25 HRK

Optional Excursions

Montenegro day-trip €65

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 6: Sarajevo (B/D)



Leaving Dubrovnik behind, we travel on to Sarajevo, stopping on the way in the enchanting Balkan town of Mostar. Mostar is an enchanting and historical place, which offers a splattering of numerous religious buildings and churches, and a vast collection of Roman, Greek, Croatian and Ottoman influences. Sarajevo is the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has returned from the brink of destruction in the 90s, becoming famed for its East-meets-West atmosphere. Learn all about the city's troubled past in a walking tour of this fascinating city.

Experiences

On arrival in Sarajevo we'll take a walking tour of the city.

Accommodation

Hotel Grand

Other Foods to try

Cevapci - minced meat kebabs served in a thick pitta with fried onions.

DAY 7: Belgrade (B)



Saying goodbye to Sarajevo, we make our way to the Serbian capital of Belgrade. We will enjoy a tour of the city with a local guide, who will introduce us to the city's highlights, including Republic Square, Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan park and Belgrade fortress. A fascinating place, Belgrade radiates gritty exuberance in its many architectural contrasts with socialist blocks set amongst more grandiose buildings. Belgrade is where the Sava River meets the Danube. Knez Mihailova (Prince Mihailo Street) is a pedestrian street with historical buildings on either side, with many grand coffee houses, and is protected by law as one of the oldest and most valuable landmarks of the city.

Experiences

On arrival in Belgrade, we'll explore the city with an orientation tour.

Accommodation

Hotel Park Belgrade

Other Foods to try

A mix of oriental, central European and local Balkan cuisines. The food is typically 'heavy', with plenty of meat, vegetables and pastry.

DAY 8: Budapest (B/D)



Stopping off in Novi Sad – which boasts all the best bits and none of the stress of larger cities in Serbia – we travel onward to Budapest. Blessed with natural beauty (it straddles the Danube River) as well as baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture, this is a city to behold. Get a good overview of it all with our Budapest driving tour on arrival. Starting on the Pest side of the Danube, head across the river and stop at the Fisherman's Bastion for spectacular views of the city and the river below. See the Houses of Parliament and drive along the river admiring the city – take note of spots to revisit tomorrow on your free day.

Experiences

See the sights of Budapest with a driving tour of the city on arrival.

Accommodation

Ibis Budapest City

Ibis Budapest Centrum

Other Foods to try

Hungarian Goulash - a soup or stew of meat and vegetables, seasoned with paprika and other spices

DAY 9: Budapest - Free day

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details, this is your chance to get up close and personal with Budapest. Look out for remnants of the conflicts of WWII and the uprising of 1956, try Hungarian cuisine (so much more to it than just goulash), sample world-renowned wines, and soak your weary Rambler's bones in one of the city's bath-houses – something Budapest has been known for since the Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources. Then, maybe catch the sunset with an evening stroll along the Danube.

Attractions to discover in your free time

Raoul Wallenberg Memorial Gellért Hill & The Tabán Castle Hill Memento Park	Tue – Sun 10:00 – 18:00	Various
Szabadság tér (Liberty Square)		
Terror House	Tue – Sun 10:00 – 18:00	2000 Ft
St Stephens Basilica	09:00 – 17:00	500 Ft
Holocaust Memorial Centre	Tue – Sun 10:00 – 18:00	1400 Ft
Royal Palace	Tue – Sun 10:00 – 18:00	Various

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 10: Vienna (B/D)



Leaving Budapest behind, we head for the grandeur of Vienna, stopping for a comfort stop in Bratislava (Slovakia). On arrival in Vienna we'll take a driving tour of the city – which ranks as one of the world's most liveable cities. Few cities can show off such cultural and historical splendour and maintain a profile as an exciting, modern city, but Vienna does it well. Along with a musical past that includes luminaries like Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, and artworks by

masters like Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, Vienna has a buzzing modern culinary scene, cheerful, bustling pubs and bars, and a host of clubs and music venues in which to dance the night away.

Experiences

On arrival in Vienna we'll take a driving tour of the city.

Accommodation

Fourside Hotel Vienna City Central
Courtyard by Marriott Wien Schoenbrunn

Other Foods to try

Schnitzel - a boneless meat, thinned with a meat tenderizer, coated with flour, beaten eggs and bread crumbs, and then fried. Similar to the French dish escalope, it is typically made from chicken, beef, turkey or pork.

DAY 11: Prague (B/D)



On the way to Prague today, we will be visiting Mauthausen concentration camp, where we'll learn about a darker chapter in Europe's history. A labour camp during the Second World War, this was where hundreds of thousands of political prisoners lost their lives. We'll also take a comfort stop in Český Krumlov. Blessed with a spectacular castle and a wealth of Renaissance and Baroque architecture, Český Krumlov is often thought of as a sort of mini-Prague. On arrival in Prague, we'll take a walking tour of this incredible city, which since freeing itself from communism has joined other European jewels like Paris, Rome and Amsterdam to take its place as one of Europe's most fascinating destinations. Famous for its art, architecture, cobbled lanes and ancient chapels, this is also home to some of Europe's finest beer. Your local tour guide will proudly escort you through the historic streets, pointing out the features of the 'Old Town', Primatial Palace, Slovak National Theatre and the Main Square. For dinner, experience authentic Czech cuisine at our local restaurant on your first night in Prague.

Experiences

On the way to Prague today, we will be visiting Mauthausen concentration camp, where we'll learn about a darker chapter in Europe's history. A labour camp during the Second World War, this was where hundreds of thousands of political prisoners lost their lives.

Once in Prague we'll take in the sights and sounds of the city with a guided walking tour.

Prague Dinner - Experience authentic Czech cuisine at our local restaurant on your first night in Prague, the history of this restaurant dates back hundreds of years and it is a favourite place for locals as well as our Expat Explore groups. You will also have the option to try the famous Czech Beer, Budweiser anyone?

Accommodation

Hotel Duo

Other Foods to try

Try svíčková na smetaně - a typical Czech dish consisting of beef sirloin in a cream sauce, commonly served with dumplings, cream and cranberries.

DAY 12: Prague - Free day

Today, take the time to explore, perhaps revisiting some of the sights you saw on your walking tour. Sample the local cuisine (including the much-lauded and hugely varied beers), visit art galleries, admire the weird and witty sculpture that adorns the city's public spaces, and marvel at the soaring gothic and baroque architecture. Highlights of the day might include the majestic Prague Castle, the famous Charles Bridge, the 'Old Town' and the Jewish Quarter. The Astronomical Clock in the Old Town Square is a 'must see' - the intricate puppetry and show performed on the hour draws hundreds of people throughout the day and night. For those who wish to put your stamp on the city, visit legendary Lennon wall - a tribute to John Lennon and words of peace, which is added to on a daily basis by the thousands of visitors to the city. Attractions to discover in your free time

Charles Bridge Towers	Daily 10:00 am - 6:00 pm [All year]	Adults CZK 90, Children CZK 25
Prague Castle	Daily 09:00-4:00 pm [All year]	Adults CZK 250, Children CZK 125
St. Vitus Cathedral	Feb-Mar: Mon-Sat 09:00-16:00 Sun: 12:00-16:00 / Apr-Oct: Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00 Sun: 12:00-17:00	Free
Astronomical Clock Tower	Daily 09:00-6:00 pm (All year)	Adults CZK 100, Children (6-15 yrs) CZK 75

Old Jewish Cemetery - Jerusalem Synagogue - Jewish Museum	Daily Sun-Sat 9:00 am - 9:00 pm [All year]	Adults CZK 480, Children (6-15 yrs) CZK 320
Museum of Communism	Daily 9:00 am - 9:00 pm (All year)	Adults CZK 180, Children (under 10) Free with paying adult
Petrin Tower (Mini Eiffel Tower) The Dancing Building	Nov-Feb: 10:00-18:00 Mar & Oct: 10:00-20:00 Apr-Sep: 10:00-22:00	Kč 100
Wenceslas Square	Mon-Sat 10:00 am - 6:00 pm [All year]	Adults CZK 150
Optional Excursions		
Kutna Hora Half Day Excursion	€25	
Traditional Folk Music & Dance Evening	€35	
* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.		

DAY 13: Nuremberg – Munich (B)



On our way back to Munich, we take a comfort stop in Nuremberg. Bavaria's second-largest city, you'll find incredible architecture here, painstakingly restored using original stone after the bombings of the Second World War. Your last night of the tour sees you back in Munich for you to enjoy as you see fit. Relax in your hotel, get together with your new-found friends from the tour for a farewell dinner, or maybe revisit one of the beer halls that welcomed you so warmly at the beginning of your adventure.

Experiences

On our way back to Munich we take a comfort stop in the beautiful medieval town of Nuremberg.

Accommodation

Super 8 Munich City West

Other Foods to try

Nuremberg is known worldwide for its small sausages - why not try the Nuremberg bratwurst, served in a crispy bun?!

DAY 14: End of tour (B)



The tour concludes today after breakfast. Don't forget to swap details with your fellow travellers before your onward journey home!

Experiences

The tour concludes this morning after breakfast. If you are staying on in Munich, why not visit the beautiful Englisher Garten or Olympiapark, or take a tour of Bayern Munich FC's stadium, the Allianz Arena?

Other Foods to try

In your free time, why not try a classic German dish like curry wurst?