

CROATIA

The Dalmatian Coast

A Guided Walking Adventure





Table of Contents

Daily Itinerary	4
Tour Itinerary Overview	11
Tour Facts at a Glance.....	13
Traveling To and From Your Tour	15
Information & Policies	17
Croatia at a Glance	19
Packing List	23

Travel Style

This small-group Guided Walking Adventure offers an authentic travel experience, one that takes you away from the crowds and deep in to the fabric of local life. On it, you'll enjoy 24/7 expert guides, premium accommodations, delicious meals, effortless transportation, and local wine

or beer with dinner. Rest assured that every trip detail has been anticipated so you're free to enjoy an adventure that exceeds your expectations.

And, with our **optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **Dubrovnik Post-Tour Extension** to complement this destination, we take care of all the travel to simplify the journey. Refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

Overview

The southeastern tip of Croatia is one of Western Europe's best-kept secrets: a lush region of coves, forested islands, and its crowning jewel, the walled city of Dubrovnik. More than 1,000 unspoiled islands make up this archipelago along the Dalmatian Coast, and the region offers an astounding array of natural and historic wonders, from the grandeur that was Rome in Diocletian's palace in Split, to the rich Renaissance architecture of Hvar. You experience the area as it should be explored, by boat and on foot, immersing yourself in a unique culture that draws on Greek, Roman, and Venetian influences. The riches of these former empires unfold as you follow ancient trails through fertile countryside and along rocky coasts that lead to pristine beaches. You move in step with local life as you make your way through lively fishing villages, bustling markets, and charming hamlets preserved as UNESCO World Heritage sites. Your seaside accommodations combine comfortable amenities and gracious hospitality. Each day brings a new discovery, walking through dramatic landscapes adorned with fragrant rosemary and olive groves on Brač and Korčula. Each evening you are rewarded with authentic coastal fare accompanied by local wines.





Daily Itinerary

DAY 1

Walking tour of Trogir and Split; 2-3 hours, easy

You gather in the lobby of the meeting point hotel for a brief orientation followed by a visit to Trogir—a beautifully preserved walled town that boasts a profusion of Romanesque and Renaissance architectural styles, along with a magnificent cathedral. Afterward, you transfer to Split for a guided walking tour of Split’s UNESCO-preserved old town. You are transported back to Roman times, strolling inside what used to be the retirement residence of the emperor Diocletian, past the Temple of Jupiter and into the mausoleum, now the town’s cathedral. You then venture outside the city walls to Split’s vibrant market and bustling bayside promenade, the Riva. After this tour, you enjoy a delicious lunch that may include grilled vegetables, octopus salad, and black risotto.

In the late afternoon, you board a public ferry for an hour transfer to Brač, the third-largest island of the archipelago, best known for its luminous white stone, from which both Diocletian’s palace and the White House in Washington, D.C., were constructed. A short minibus transfer along the tranquil northern coast brings you to your hotel, a comfortable property with private beach overlooking the sleepy village of Postira. After getting settled, you gather for a welcome meeting and the first of many delicious dinners featuring the bounty of this distinctive coast.

Hotel Pastura, Brač

A comfortable hotel with swimming pool and private beach overlooking the sleepy village of Postira on Brač's tranquil northern coast.

DAY 2

Postira to Splitska and Skrip; 5 miles, easy to moderate, 800-ft. elevation gain;
Skrip to Milovica quarry; 3 miles, easy to moderate, 700-ft. elevation gain



Today's walk takes you along a pine-clad northern coastal path from Postira to the fishing village of Splitska. A steady ascent winds through olive groves and cultivated terraces, culminating at the village of Skrip, the island's first settlement, founded by the Illyrians in 1000 BC. Remains of the original wall can still be seen around the citadel. You stop for a brief visit to the tower and Roman mausoleum, today a museum dedicated to the history of the island, before indulging in a memorable lunch of *pastičada*, a traditional Dalmatian specialty of slowly braised beef served with homemade gnocchi.

The afternoon presents two options. You may continue on foot along a paved road that turns to a dirt trail to the Milovica quarry (along a steep, 25-minute, ascent) that rewards with views to the sea. Or, you may opt to return to the hotel via minibus with time to relax or swim before reuniting for a meal of local specialties at a traditional family-run *konoba* (tavern).

Hotel Pastura, Brač

DAY 3

Blaca Monastery and boat transfer to Zlatni Rat; Gazul and Vidova Gora; 3-5 miles, moderate, 1400-ft. elevation loss

After a breakfast of fresh fruit, homemade bread, cheese, and *prsut* (Dalmatian smoked ham), you set out to explore some of the island's finest attractions. After a 45-minute transfer by minibus, you reach the trailhead that leads to the 16th-century Pustinja Blaca, originally a hermitage founded in 1551 by Glagolitic priests during the Ottoman advance. A rocky dirt path descends gradually to the monastery, where we stop for a visit before continuing to a secluded cove. Here a short transfer by private boat brings you past the famous Zlatni Rat, or "Golden Cape." Afterward you proceed to a former shepherd's hamlet for a



traditional *peka* lunch (meat and vegetable stew simmered slowly over hot coals under a dome-shaped lid).

This afternoon we take a drive to Vidova Gora, the highest point on the island, for a panoramic view over the islands you will explore during the course of the journey.

Later today, you board a large catamaran ferry for a short transfer to the chic island of Hvar, famous for its lavender production. After checking into your comfortable seaside hotel, the evening is yours to stroll the promenade and admire Hvar town's main historical buildings, including the old theater—the first in Europe to be open to the public. For dinner you are free to choose from among the many restaurants and cafés, with recommendations from your guides and hotel staff.

Hotel Adriana, Hvar

Croatia's first and only member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World. A boutique hotel overlooking the marina in the center of Hvar town. The property features a saltwater swimming pool and spa.

DAY 4

Brusje to Milna; 3-4 miles, easy to moderate. Milna to Hvar; 5.5 miles, moderate, 600-ft. elevation loss

This morning you may wish to relax on the harborside terrace over a copious breakfast before departing for a short walk to Spanjol Fortress. The climb to the citadel rewards with a bird's-eye view over the picturesque harbor and the nearby Pakleni islets. A short minibus transfer takes you inland to just outside the former shepherd's settlement of Velo Grablje and the trailhead. The rocky path winds past terraced hillsides dotted with olive trees, lavender and drystone walls. You reach the abandoned village of Malo Grablje, (a name that derives from the Croatian "grab" or hornbeam bush, which grows on these uplands) recently restored and transformed into a wonderful open-air museum. You take time to explore the village before continuing on to the peaceful cove of Milna, where you may opt for a swim in the turquoise sea. You savor a seafood lunch at a seaside café before returning to Hvar either on foot or by minibus. Some guests may wish to indulge in a spa treatment, or simply unwind at the hotel, while

others may prefer to shop or explore prior to dinner at one of our favorite family-run restaurants.

Hotel Adriana, Hvar

DAY 5

Hvar's southern coast: Sveta Nedjelja and Sveti Nikola; 4.5 miles, easy to moderate



After a buffet breakfast of fresh fruits, cereals, pastries, and eggs, you embark on a scenic island excursion. Today's exploration takes you east along Hvar's southern coast through the wilderness of vineyards and lavender fields for which the island is famous. Your destination is the tiny coastal settlement of Sveta Nedjelja, situated below the island's highest peak, Sveti Nikola, which towers over the sea at 1,800 feet. A cluster of stone houses comprises the original village, situated on a rocky outcropping below a cave with remains of an Augustinian monastery, founded in the 15th century and in use until 1787.

The village and beach are separated by a winding path which runs through a small pine wood. Sveta Nedjelja is a famous center for the production of the best types of Hvar red wine (known as *plavač*), which you may have an opportunity to sample before transferring back to Hvar town and indulging in a gelato. Late afternoon is spent relaxing on a scenic ferry catamaran transfer to Korčula Island, the sixth-largest Adriatic island. There is time to refresh at your hotel, a seaside property and your base for the next two nights, before another memorable dinner.

Hotel Liburna, Korčula

A recently renovated seaside hotel with outdoor swimming pool, and panoramic restaurant ideally located within walking distance of the historic town center.

DAY 6

Zrnovo Circuit; 3-5 miles, easy to moderate

After breakfast in the panoramic dining room, you set out to explore the wooded hills above Korčula, an island rich in vineyards and olive groves, and sprinkled with picturesque villages. Traditional culture has been preserved on this island, from religious festivals to folk music and dance to shipbuilding. A short transfer brings you to Zrnovo, where you explore the village and St.



Martin's Church before continuing along a wide, rocky path dotted with cypress and aromatic Mediterranean maquis (low-lying vegetation).

Emerging from the wooded trail, beautiful views of the Peljesac Peninsula lie just across the channel. A special lunch rewards your efforts.

This afternoon affords time to rest, swim, or peruse town on your own before a guided visit of the UNESCO-preserved old town—often referred to as a miniature Dubrovnik for its beautiful medieval buildings and stonework. Dinner is at a restaurant in the heart of town where a typical feast awaits, featuring prawns, calamari, and salad of sheep's cheese and olives, all topped off by a creative confection for dessert. An after-dinner stroll along the narrow streets of Korčula town provides perfect closure to the day.

Hotel Liburna, Korčula

DAY 7

Peljesac Peninsula: Viganj to Orebic; 5 miles, easy to moderate, 700-ft. elevation gain and loss. Mali Ston walls; 2 miles, easy

After breakfast, you bid farewell to Korčula to walk the hills along the Peljesac Peninsula, home to some of the best beaches in Southern Dalmatia, with wide, sandy coves bordered by groves of tamarisk and pine. After a short boat transfer to the tiny town of Viganj, you ascend a rocky trail for approximately 20 minutes. You are quickly graced with gorgeous views across the channel to Korčula before descending to Orebic, once an important maritime center and now home to a small maritime museum. You are free to enjoy lunch on your own at one of the local bakeries, pizzerias, or seaside restaurants before transferring to Ston, whose former importance was linked to salt production. Today it is revered as a gastronomic capital, famous for its fresh seafood and, in particular, oysters, which you have an opportunity to taste. Afterwards we proceed to a luxury hotel in magnificent Dubrovnik. A final celebration takes place at an excellent local restaurant where you toast your week's adventures.

Grand Villa Argentina, Dubrovnik

A luxury hotel with private beach, swimming pool, and spa, within walking distance of the historic city center.

DAY 8

Tour of Dubrovnik; 2 miles, easy city walking

Your tour concludes with a walking tour of “The Pearl on the Adriatic,” as Lord Byron so famously described Dubrovnik. This much-celebrated town, a World Heritage site, is completely encircled by over a mile of beautifully preserved walls built between the 13th and 16th centuries. Historically, they provided protection against all intruders, from the Saracens to the Turks, coming by way of sea. You explore the town’s main works of art, learn about its history of proud and fierce economic and political independence from Venice, marvel at the loving way the town was restored after the shelling in 1991, and take pleasure in discovering its architectural details and narrow alleys. Late morning you say goodbye, continuing on your exploration of this enchanting coast or making connections to Dubrovnik Airport for your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual activities, sites, and accommodations may vary due to season, special events, weather, or transportation schedules. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary, since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance and unforeseen circumstances may arise that mandate change. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Country Walkers is a leader in active travel with responsible tourism an integral part of our core values. Our tours reflect our dedication to best travel practices—and to the preservation of indigenous cultures and the environment. Country Walkers has made a donation on behalf of every traveler to the CW Travelers Fund, which supports designated projects in the communities and habitats in which we travel. We invite you to learn more about our efforts and initiatives for giving back.

Here's just one example that highlights our sustainable practices:

Bracki pupoljci: Country Walkers makes a donation on behalf of every tour participant to this nonprofit organization. They offer horseback riding therapy for disabled children on the Island of Brač and are in desperate need of funds to help them buy more horses. On tour, a representative from the organization will come and visit guests at dinner and explain what they do and thank the group for their generous donation.

Tour Itinerary Overview

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Atrium Hotel (lobby), Split, Croatia. 9:30 a.m.

Domovinskograta 49a
Split, Croatia
Tel 011 385 21 200 000

NIGHTS 1 & 2

Hotel Pastura

Postira, Croatia
Tel 011 385 21 740 000
Email info@hotelpastura.hr
hotelpastura.hr
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 3 & 4

Hotel Adriana

Hvar, Croatia
Tel 011 385 21 750 200
Email adriana@suncanihvar.com
suncanihvar.com/Adriana-hvar-spa-hotel.html
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 5 & 6

Hotel Liburna

Korčula, Croatia
Tel 011 385 20 726 006
Email repcija-liburna@korcula-hotels.com
korcula-hotels.com/en/hotels/hotel-liburna/overview
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHT 7

Grand Villa Argentina

Dubrovnik, Croatia
Tel 011 385 20 440 555
Email reservations@alh.hr
adriaticluxuryhotels.com/en/grand-villa-argentina/
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Grand Villa Argentina, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11:30 a.m.

TRAVEL DELAY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you are delayed while traveling, or experience any unforeseen situation en route to your tour, assistance is only a few, easy steps away:

As a Country Walkers guest, you benefit from 24-hour, toll free access to One Call Emergency Hotline and Travel Assistance. Call the numbers below from anywhere in the world to get immediate assistance (regarding everything from lost luggage, to missed connections, to health concerns or notifying your guides or our local partners of a delayed arrival).

To contact One Call, please use one of the following methods:

By Email: mail@oncallinternational.com

By Text: 603.945.0103

By Phone:

If calling from within the USA: 800.555.9095

If calling from outside the USA: 800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710

When calling from outside the USA, you will need to dial the access code for the country you are calling from (a complete list of access codes, provided by AT&T, can be found on the Country Walkers website under Travel Planning and Travel Resources: AT&T International Access Codes. If you receive an automated response, when prompted, you can then enter either of the numbers above; One Call accepts collect calls 24/7.

In the unlikely event you are unable to connect by phone with One Call, or the region you are calling from does not have an access code, you should speak with a live international operator and ask them to place a collect call to **800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710**.

Should there be any problems placing a collect call (as is occasionally the case depending on the country), dial, email, or text One Call directly and ask them to return your call immediately to minimize any out of pocket costs.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We offer guests the opportunity to purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please contact us for details.

Tour Facts at a Glance

TOUR LENGTH (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)

8 days, 7 nights

DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICE

Please refer to our website for the most current list of departure dates, scheduled group tour and private tour prices.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Atrium Hotel (lobby), Split, Croatia. 9:30 a.m.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Grand Villa Argentina, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11:30 a.m.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures. It is rated easy to moderate, with most walks more on the moderate side and an average of 4 to 6 miles per day, with options on some days. There are daily ascents and descents, with climbing time on the ascents ranging from about 15 to 45 minutes. The terrain varies from paved and cobblestone streets (during organized city tours and other easy village exploration) to uneven, single-track trails with loose stones or gravel, rocky coastal paths, ancient ruins, and sets of ancient stone steps. The trails are often exposed to the sun. Days are quite full on this tour due to the inclusion of many ferry and catamaran transfers in order to island hop.

INCLUSIONS

- » Two expert, local guides (for groups of 8 or more), with you 24/7
- » All meals except for one lunch and one dinner; local wine or beer included with dinners
- » All accommodations while on tour
- » Transportation from the meeting point to the departure point
- » Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary
- » Destination information (weather, visa requirements, etc.) and other travel assistance available 24/7 provided by One Call International

» The unbeatable and cumulative experience of the Country Walkers staff

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

Prior to your adventure you will be asked to sign a Passenger Participation Agreement and you will receive:

- » Luggage tags
- » List of travel companions and guide biographies

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for all hotels, meals, and services that are included in your tour price will be paid by Country Walkers. Should you wish to tip your Country Walkers guide(s), the standard in the industry ranges from \$10 to \$15 per person, per guide, per day (or \$20 to \$30 per couple, per guide, per day), and can be paid in USD or local currency.

Traveling To and From Your Tour

If you are interested in reserving the **optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **pre- or post-tour extensions**, please refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Atrium Hotel (lobby), Split, Croatia. 9:30 a.m.

Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for city walking.

MOST CONVENIENT ARRIVAL AIRPORT

Split International Airport (SPU)

split-airport.hr

GETTING TO THE MEETING POINT

A taxi from the airport to the Atrium Hotel is approximately 225-250 Croatian kunas (approximately 30-35 euros). Travel time is 20-30 minutes. You may also arrange a private transfer directly through the Atrium Hotel for approximately 300 Croatian kunas (approximately 40 euros). Public Pleso Prijevoz buses depart shortly after the arrival of all regularly scheduled domestic and international flights. A bus from the airport to the center of Split costs approximately 30 kunas (approximately 4 euros) and takes 20-30 minutes. The Atrium Hotel is approximately a 25-minute steep walk from the bus station, located down at the harbor, or you may switch to bus number 7 that stops one block from the hotel. For further information visit plesoprijevoz.hr.

PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the Atrium Hotel in Split, your meeting point hotel, for the night before your tour. Please note that this is a four-star business-style hotel located 10 minutes (on foot) from the Riva, or waterfront promenade. For reservations, contact the hotel directly, refer to the fact that you are joining a “Country Walkers Group” and request a faxed or written reply. Offer your credit card number as a guarantee when making the reservation. The staff at the hotel speaks English, so you should have no problem in communicating with them. We recommend that you make your pre-tour reservations at your earliest convenience, as this is a popular hotel.

Atrium Hotel

Domovinskograta 49a
Split, Croatia
Tel 011 385 21 200 000
Email reservations@hotel-atrium.hr
hotel-atrium.hr

Room rates vary according to season and room type. A superior double is 200 euros in May and October; 210 euros in June, August and September. A superior single is 170 euros in May and October; 180 euros in June, August and September. Rates include breakfast and VAT, use of fitness area, pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and wireless internet. A tourist tax of approximately 1 euro per person is additional. Should you prefer a boutique hotel in the heart of the old town, we recommend the impeccably restored Vestibul Palace (vestibulpalace.com).

DELAYS AND LATE ARRIVALS

If you are delayed or miss the scheduled group meeting for any reason, we kindly request that you contact our emergency assistance provider, One Call International. This service is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to assist you with any type of travel delay. Please refer to the Emergency Contact details on your Tour Itinerary Overview page for One Call International contact details.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Grand Villa Argentina, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11:30 a.m.

There is a guided city tour of Dubrovnik on the last day of the tour. You may choose to continue your explorations of this beautiful coast or connect to your next destination. If you are departing Dubrovnik the day the tour ends, the hotel reception and/or your guides will assist you in arranging a taxi to Dubrovnik Airport at your own expense (20-30 minutes).

MOST CONVENIENT DEPARTURE AIRPORT

Cilipi International Airport in Dubrovnik (DBV) is the most convenient airport for your departure (requires connection if traveling to the U.S.)

airport-dubrovnik.hr

Depending on your destination, it may not be possible to depart Croatia on the last day of the tour. Please check airline schedules carefully. If you plan to schedule return flights immediately following the tour's conclusion, please call your airline directly for specific check-in requirements.

Information & Policies

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

Country Walkers guarantees the departure of every tour*—no exceptions and no disappointments! From the moment you make your deposit, you can start preparing for your adventure. We take care of all the details to ensure a seamless, small-group experience (with an average of 6 or 7 guests per guide). For best availability, reserve your trip today!

**except in cases of force majeure*

GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES

Each guest has the responsibility to select a trip appropriate to his/her abilities and interests and to prepare for the trip by carefully reading the confirmation materials. To join this trip, you must be in good health and capable of completing activities as described in the day-to-day itinerary. Our in-house experts welcome the opportunity to discuss the tour in more detail. In order to meet your needs, we ask that you please share any relevant physical limitations or health conditions when you make your reservation.

SCHEDULED GROUP INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS

Reservations for this tour may be made by calling Country Walkers at 800.464.9255 and providing a \$350 per person deposit. The Balance of your payment (final tour cost) is due 90 days prior to the tour departure date.

SCHEDULED GROUP CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150; cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. Up to 91 days prior to departure, you may transfer your reservation, depending on availability, from one departure to another in the same calendar year at no cost*. Please notify us in writing.

**One transfer per year; afterwards a modest per person transfer fee will apply. Please note that tours with seasonal prices may involve a higher price.*

PRIVATE ADVENTURE RESERVATION & CANCELLATION POLICIES

If you are booking a Private Adventure, a \$500 nonrefundable group deposit is required to secure hotel reservations and guides. Once these arrangements are

confirmed, the deposit will be applied as the provider's deposit for the trip. If we are unable to secure the hotel and/or guides for your requested dates, this deposit will be refunded.

Once your Private Adventure is confirmed, your individual \$350 per person deposit is required within 14 days. The balance of your payment (final tour cost) is due 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150 (plus the nonrefundable group deposit of \$500); cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. **Please note that Private Adventure tour pricing is based on a guarantee of a specified number of guests. Should the group decrease in size, we reserve the right to alter the per person price, if necessary.**

Croatia at a Glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



U.S. citizens: Passports are required and must be valid for at least three months beyond the dates of travel. Visas are not required for stays of up to 90 days. For more information, see travel.state.gov.

CURRENCY

Croatia uses the kuna (HRK). While the official currency is the Croatian kuna, euros are accepted at many large hotels and restaurants. For current exchange rates, visit oanda.com.

Many businesses in Europe will no longer accept credit cards without PIN numbers (chip and pin cards). Always contact your bank or your credit-card company for details on fees and card use when traveling.

Travel Tip

Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), some dollars to exchange.

TIME ZONE

Croatia is in the Central European Time Zone, Eastern Standard Time plus six hours. For more information on worldwide time zones, see worldtimezone.com.

PHONE & INTERNET

Croatia country code: +385

Cell phone coverage throughout Croatia is extensive, but cannot be guaranteed to be accessible on all American mobile carriers or to function at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to countrywalkers.com/phones.



Internet access is generally very good in towns and villages; however, it is not guaranteed at all of the hotels used on the tour. For more details regarding Wi-Fi availability, please refer to the Tour Itinerary Overview.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Croatia is Croatian.

While knowledge of the local language is not necessary, you may want to learn some fun and useful phrases; see bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/croatian.shtml or the enclosed Reading Guide for a suggested phrase book.

Travel Tip

- Bringing your own hair dryer or other electrical device? You'll need a travel converter, available at most hardware, travel, or consumer electronic stores.
- For laptops or an electronic device with a dual voltage switch, you'll need the adapter plug but not a converter.

ELECTRICITY

Alternating current of 220V and 50Hz is used in Croatia. Plugs have two prongs. For a full listing of electrical outlets worldwide, see electricaloutlet.org.

WEATHER

Croatia's climate varies from Mediterranean along the Adriatic coast to continental in inland areas (Zagreb). The sunny, coastal areas experience hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Wind

patterns cool the coast with refreshing breezes in the summer, while the sea stores heat in the summer. Temperatures may range from the mid-60s to mid-80s. Be prepared to layer your attire if your itinerary includes boat journeys, since weather at sea can be variable.

For up-to-date forecasts, see qwikcast.com. For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see weatherbase.com.

FOOD & DRINK



Croatian cuisine is a savory blend of tastes reflecting the cultures (from Italian to Austro-Hungarian) that have influenced the country over the course of its history. Coastal cuisine is typically Mediterranean, generous with olive oil, garlic, and herbs. Appetizers may include *menestra* (a vegetable and bean soup akin to minestrone), *salata od bobotnice* (octopus salad), *prsut* (a tasty Croatian version of prosciutto), and Pag cheese, which is a sheep cheese often accompanied with olives. Dalmatian *brodet* (mixed fish stewed with polenta) and *pastiçada* (beef stewed in wine and served with prunes and gnocchi) are regional delicacies.

Fresh grilled fish figures prominently on the menus. Desserts may include *amareta* (round, rich cake with almonds) and *keremsnite* (custard pie).

Croatia has good-quality wines that are typically only available locally, especially from the Istria region, including white, sparkling Prosecco-type, and red. Many grappa-style fruit and/or herb brandies are also enjoyed at the end of the meal.

LIFE IN CROATIA

Shopping and banking hours

Shops and stores are generally open Monday to Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and on Sundays some stores in shopping malls may be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Banks are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Mealtimes

Breakfast is served at hotels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In restaurants, lunch is served from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and dinner is usually served from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. In tourist areas, restaurants serve continuously from noon until late in the evening.

Tipping

In restaurants and bars, it is customary to round up your change on the table. In upscale restaurants, a 10 to 15 percent tip is customary. Taxi drivers receive 10 percent of the fare. For luggage assistance, offer 5 to 10 HRK per bag.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

National Croatian tourist board official site:

croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada

Public holidays

To assist in travel planning, it may be helpful to be aware of Croatian public holidays, festivals, or calendars of events. Visit the Croatian tourist board's website: croatia.hr/en-GB/Journey-through-Croatia/Useful-information/Public-holidays?Y2IcNzUscFwxNDc%3d.

Travel Tip

The world's largest white

truffle was found in the Croatian region of Istria—a gigantic 2.88 pounds. In Croatia, dogs are favored over pigs for sniffing out these gourmet delicacies

Travel Tip

Was Marco Polo not Italian? One of world's greatest travelers is thought to have come from Croatia's Korčula Island.

TRAVEL IN CROATIA

A wealth of travel information is available at croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada.

Airports

The majority of international flights arrive at the international airports of Dubrovnik (airport-dubrovnik.hr) or Zagreb (zagreb-airport.hr/), both requiring connections within Europe from the United States. Internal flights are available on Croatia Airlines to larger cities.



Trains

Croatia Railways: hzpp.hr/en, the national railway company site with schedules, fares, and pass options.

Raileurope: raileurope.com or 800.622.8600: a U.S.-based company that provides schedules, reservations, and ticketing for all European train networks (their multi-day/-week/-month passes in one country or combinations of countries may be an economical and convenient choice for European train travel.)

Travel Tip

Did you know that canoeing is a tradition that has been going on for centuries here? Traditional Croatian canoes, which are called *trupice*, are used for fishing and transportation on the Neretva River delta even today

Other local transportation

In addition to rail and airlines, Croatia also has an extensive long-distance bus network that, for some towns and cities, may be more convenient and affordable than rail or air travel. Because there are a number of local companies and online ticket booking is not available, it is best to buy tickets and seats at the local bus station.

Most major car rental agencies are available at airports and train stations, although it may be best to rent through a local agency branch. Taxis are available at all major

airports, train stations, and in smaller towns, and can be reserved in advance (your hotel can usually provide assistance). For more information contact Country Walkers, or go to croatia.hr/en-GB/Representative-offices/United-States-Canada.

Packing List

PACKING TIPS

Pack light! Keep in mind there will be times you may have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially before and after your Country Walkers tour. Due to space constraints, we require you to limit your luggage to one medium piece (approximately 18x15x29 inches or 8,000 cu. in.) and one small carry-on, per person. We recommend packing any personal necessities, medications, your hotel itinerary/emergency contact information, your hiking boots (or shoes), and extra clothes in your carry-on luggage in the event that your baggage is delayed. We suggest leaving valuable jewelry at home. A copy of your passport or other important documents should be kept in a separate area of your luggage. Always be alert when carrying a purse, camera, money belt, or backpack in busy cities, airports, and train stations.

LUGGAGE & PORTERAGE

Due to the fact that this tour involves several transfers between islands, there may be times when you will have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially on and off ferries and/or catamarans. Please be assured that our guides and local partners will help you as much as possible, but we ask that you keep this factor in mind when preparing for your tour and remember to pack lightly.

FOOTWEAR

- » Hiking boots or shoes. There are many brands to choose from. Proper fit is crucial, so try on new boots or shoes while wearing socks you plan to use on tour. Be sure to break in new footwear well before your tour begins. By the time you're ready to join your walking tour, you should be able to complete 4-6 miles of walking without discomfort. We require lightweight boots or shoes with proper ankle support and good tread to ensure stability on all types of terrain. Waterproof footwear keeps feet dry in heavy rain and water resistant footwear keeps feet dry in heavy dew. Country Walkers reserves the right to deny participation to any guest not wearing appropriate footwear.
- » » Tevas or similar sandal or water shoe for us at the beaches
- » Synthetic, moisture-wicking socks (cotton socks are not recommended for walking as they will quickly cause blisters)
- » Blister remedy

CLOTHING

- » Lightweight, wash-and-wear long pants
- » Long-sleeved, wash-and-wear shirt
- » T-shirts and shorts
- » Polar fleece or light wool pullover (it will keep you warm even when wet)
- » Dinner attire: dress is smart casual
- » Light jacket or sweater for evening strolls and alfresco dining

OUTERWEAR

- » Waterproof rain gear: jacket, pants, hat, or hood
- » Windbreaker with hood (your rain gear may be suitable)
- » Hat with a broad brim or visor

EQUIPMENT

- » Pack (minimum size of 25L): large enough to carry water, extra clothing, rain gear, and personal items (camera, etc.)
- » Waterproof cover for pack
- » Water bottle, canteen, or CamelBak-type water reservoir or hydration pack to carry your own water while walking (equivalent of one to two liters)
- » Sunblock and lip balm
- » Insect repellent
- » Sunglasses
- » Toilet kit for when facilities are not available on the walks. Include zip-lock baggies, tissues, and moist towelettes, which can be disposed of upon return to the hotel
- » Personal first-aid kit including any medications you ordinarily take (in their original container)

OPTIONAL

- » Telescopic walking sticks (Please note that while telescopic walking sticks are recommended for this tour, they are not provided by Country Walkers. Therefore please plan on bringing your own should you wish to use them.)
- » Scarf (for women to cover shoulders when entering churches)
- » Binoculars

- » Bathing suit for optional swimming in the sea or hotel pools
- » Camera and charger and/or extra batteries
- » Zip-lock bags (to keep camera and valuables dry)
- » Small notebook and pen
- » Field guides (see enclosed reading list)
- » Folding umbrella
- » Bandana
- » Washcloth (many European hotels do not provide them)
- » Hand sanitizer and/or moist towelettes
- » Motion sickness bracelets or other non-sleep-inducing remedy if prone to motion sickness on bus, ferries & catamaran rides
- » Alarm clock (not all hotels have alarm clocks or provide wake-up calls)