



# FCT SENIOR TRAVEL

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## CROATIA

**Date: 5 – 18 June 2019**

### **Day 1, Wednesday 05.06.2019**

We fly from Johannesburg to Zagreb (one stop).

### **Day 2, Thursday 06.06.2019**

Arrive at the new Zagreb Airport in the Morning, thereafter we have an orientation City walk in the Capital City of Croatia.

Zagreb is distinguished by its 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Austro-Hungarian architecture. Upper Town is the site of the twin-spired Neo Gothic Cathedral Maria Assumption from the early 12<sup>th</sup>-century and St. Mark's Church from the 13<sup>th</sup>-century, with a colourful tiled roof. We walk through the pedestrian-friendly Tkalčićeva Street, lined with outdoor cafes, see the Stone Gate and take a Funicular Ride into Lower Town to see the main square, Ban Jelačić, after Lunch in a traditional Croatian Restaurant (included), we drive through to the Lakes in Plitvice. (approx. 170km)

**2 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, 16 Lakes Hotel\*\*\*\* (Grabovac)**

### **Day 3, Friday 07.06.2019**

We spend a full day at Plitvice Lakes National Park, with enjoyable walks and a lovely boat ride.

The Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's most popular tourist attraction, was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. The beauty of the National Park lies in its sixteen lakes, inter-connected by a series of waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars and rare bird species.

The National Park covers a total area of 300 square kilometres, whilst the lakes join together over a distance of eight kilometres. There's also quite an altitude difference – the highest point is at 1,280m, the lowest at 380m – although the total height difference between the lakes themselves is only 135m. (Veliki Slap, the largest waterfall, is 70m tall) Spend the rest of the afternoon in your lovely Hotel (approx. 30km).

**Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, 16 Lakes Hotel\*\*\*\* (Grabovac)**

### **Day 4, Saturday 08.06.2019**

Today we drive with our coach towards the coastline of Dalmatia. On arrival we experience the magic of Trogir on a walking tour and see the romantic buildings of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The relaxed walk will explore all the historic landmarks of the medieval city, situated on a small island between the Croatian mainland and the island of Čiovo.

Considered by many to be an open-air museum, Trogir will delight lovers of art, original architecture, and atmospheric streets. We will wander down narrow alleys to see up close Trogir's complex heritage, from Romanesque and Renaissance courtyards to modern interiors.

At its core is the grand Church of St. Lawrence (St. Lovro), a masterpiece by the Dalmatian architect Radovan. Almost no information exists about the career of this enigmatic artist, save for the monumental portal of Trogir's cathedral.

Along the way, our guide who will enchant us with stories of exciting battles, mysterious characters, and the beautiful architecture that flourished under Venetian rule through this interesting old village.

In the early afternoon we will go on-board the vessel MV Vapor (or similar), which will be our cruise -hotel for the next 7 days. Our cruise is especially designed for our group.

We depart at about 2pm and will experience our first swim in the Adriatic Sea (if time and weather permits) and head north towards the town of Šibenik. The fortified town of Šibenik was founded by Croats around the 9<sup>th</sup>-century. Due to the development of the medieval Croatian state the town Šibenik made progress and it was mentioned for the first time in the 11<sup>th</sup>-century in a document written by the king Petar Krešimir IV. Shortly afterwards there were many different nations fighting for this town – from the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy over Byzantium to Venice, but the town was still making progress, spreading and developing its culture, art, navigation, trade and economy in general. Šibenik was under the Venetian rule for a long 400 years, but from that period we have the most significant historical and cultural sites of Šibenik today. Among them is also the main symbol of the Town – the Cathedral of St. Jacob which was built in precisely 105 years in a unique Gothic and Renaissance style, with a frieze of 71 human heads in the exterior, and sculptures and mosaics in the interior – the Cathedral of St. Jacob was enlisted in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000.

(approx. 250km)

**6 nights Bed & Breakfast, 6 x 3 course Lunch, 1 Captains Dinner on board the Premium Class Ship MV Vapor or similar**

### **Day 5, Sunday 09.06.2019 – 14.06.2019**

A highlight awaits us today, after departing the harbour we go into the fjord like Krka River to the town of Skradin. Here we board a small boat to the Krka National Park.

The Krka National Park covers a total area of 109 km<sup>2</sup> of the loveliest sections of the Krka River, and the lower course of the Čikola River. The National Park is a vast and primarily unaltered area of exceptional natural value, including one or more preserved or insignificantly altered ecosystems. The purpose of the park is primarily to serve science, culture, education and recreation, while tourism activities have also been introduced for its visitors. Including the submerged part of the river at the mouth, the Krka River is 72.5 km long, making it the 22nd longest river in Croatia. The source is in the foothills of the Dinara mountain range. With its seven waterfalls and a total drop in altitude of 242 m, the Krka is a natural and karst phenomenon. The travertine waterfalls of the Krka River are the fundamental phenomenon of this river. Take your swimming costume along and have a bath in the fresh waters of the river after a long walk along all the steps and walkways surrounding the waterfalls. When we are back on our vessel we will sail out on the Krka River towards the town of Primošten or Rogoznica (depending on the captain).

### **Day 6, Monday 10.06.2019**

An enjoyable cruise is awaiting you today, as we head south to the town of Split where we also stay overnight in the harbour. We will have the opportunity to have a refreshing swim in the Adriatic Sea before reaching our destination.

Travel back in time on walking tour of Split and discover the largest city of the Dalmatia region with a local guide. Explore 1 700 years of the city's history, from the construction of the Diocletian Palace in 305 CE, to its place as Croatia's 2nd largest city. We meet our guide at the Golden Gate of the Diocletian Palace, and marvel at the remains of an ancient palace of the Roman Empire, including the open colonnades of the Peristyle. Continue to the impressive Cathedral of St. Dujice (Saint Dominus), considered the oldest Catholic cathedral in the world to still be in use in its original structure. Learn about Gregory of Nin by his statue in Giardin Park and go to the Riva promenade to admire views of Marjan Hill and the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy the evening on the promenade between the locals.

### **Day 7, Tuesday 11.06.2019**

Croatia has over 1000 islands (1244 islands, islets and crags, to be exact), of which 48 are inhabited. Today we will cruise towards the Island Hvar. Hvar is also an ancient town with a rich history on the island in the Croatian Adriatic Sea with the same name. Hvar has the most "sunny hours" of all the islands in the Adriatic Sea. Many people say of the town Hvar that it is a town straight from a fairy-tale because of its architecture, wonderful nature and its mild climate. In Hvar we experience a sense of peace to the soul and relaxation to the body. From our view from sea, we get the sight of a waterfront promenade strip bordered with a row of palm trees and seven centuries old walls, overtopped by the fortresses protecting Hvar, extending downwards to the town

and to the Venetian loggia. Visit the fortress Fortica (Spanjola), the cathedral of Hvar, the theatre of Hvar (established in 1612) with the arsenal and the Franciscan monastery. Our vessel will be docked in the harbour of Hvar.

### **Day 8, Wednesday 12.06.2019**

After leaving the harbour in the morning we will continue towards the Island of Korčula. We might have another swim in the sea.

The city of Korčula lies beside the sea on the north-east end of the island Korčula. The old medieval part of the city was built on a small oval peninsula, a Baroque suburb spreads under the old city walls, and newer town quarters stretch along the shore to the east and west of the old centre. Today the city has about 3 000 inhabitants, most of them living in new parts of the city.

The 10<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantine historian Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus was the first to mention a medieval city on the island of Korčula. He wrote about a "walled city". There are many indications that this city was located on the site of today's old part of Korčula, but no remains of Romanesque architecture from that time have been found. What remains of the old city walls, decorations, and most of all archive documents, show that a walled city existed on this site in the 13<sup>th</sup>-century. It had squares and streets, churches, public buildings and houses. Some biographers claim that Marco Polo was born in the town of Korčula, which was then part of the Venetian Republic.

### **Day 9, Thursday 13.06.2019**

On our way to Dubrovnik we will pass the Elaphiti Islands, which is actually a small archipelago consisting of 13 islands stretching northwest of Dubrovnik, in the Adriatic Sea. The Elaphites have a total land area of around 30 square kilometres and a population of 850 inhabitants. The islands are covered with characteristic Mediterranean evergreen vegetation and attract large numbers of tourists during the summer tourist season due to their beaches and pristine scenery. The name comes from the Ancient Greek word for deer, which used to inhabit the islands in large numbers. Šipan, Lopud and Koločep are the largest Islands, some even say that the Island of Lokrum belongs to the Elaphiti Islands. After a last swim we will soon reach the harbour of Dubrovnik, where we will stay the last night on board our vessel.

### **Day 10, Friday, 14.06.2019**

We disembark at about 8.30am and take a walk through Dubrovnik's beautiful Old Town and discover how the city became one of the most prosperous and advanced of all the historic maritime republics. As we step through the gates of Dubrovnik's old city walls, we will be taking a step back in time, losing oneself in the grandeur and beauty of this culturally influential city.

Beginning at Pile Gate, at the storied western entrance to the Old Town, our local guide will lead us to Dubrovnik's most significant historical landmarks. See D'Onofrio's Fountain, Orlando's Column, Rector's Palace, and many more. Take in the beautiful sights and listen as our guide shares mesmerizing stories and remarkable facts from over 1 400 years of Dubrovnik's dramatic history, including the classical period of the Republic of Ragusa. The tour will give us a thorough background on the essential role Dubrovnik played in the civilized world's history. You will learn about the city's impressive economic, social, and cultural achievements over the centuries, and immerse yourself in the city's electric atmosphere. In the afternoon we will have a transfer to the Hotel for our check in.

**3 Nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, Valamar Hotel\*\*\*\*, Dubrovnik**

### **Day 11, Saturday 15.06.2019**

Day of Leisure

We have another day in Dubrovnik at our own pace, whether it be early in the morning or late in the afternoon to walk the more than 800 steps along the Dubrovnik City Walls. The Walls of Dubrovnik are a series of defensive stone walls surrounding the city of Dubrovnik in southern Croatia.

With numerous additions and modifications throughout their history, they have been considered to be amongst the great fortification systems of the Middle Ages, as they were never breached by a hostile army during this time period. In 1979, the old city of Dubrovnik, which includes a substantial portion of the old walls of Dubrovnik, joined the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The oldest systems of fortifications around the town were likely wooden palisades.

Today's intact city walls constructed mainly during the 12th–17th centuries, mostly a double line, have long been a source of pride for Dubrovnik. The walls run an uninterrupted course of approximately 1 940 metres in length, encircling most of the old city and reaching a maximum height of about 25 metres. The bulk of the existing walls and fortifications were constructed during the 14th and 15th centuries but were continually extended and strengthened up until the 17th century.

This complex structure, amongst the largest and most complete in Europe, protected the freedom and safety of a "civilised" and "sophisticated" republic that flourished in peace and prosperity for somewhat five centuries. The walls were reinforced by three circular and 14 quadrangular towers, five bastions (bulwarks), two angular fortifications and the large St. John's Fortress. Land walls were additionally reinforced by one larger bastion and nine smaller semi-circular ones, like the casemate Fort Bokar, the oldest preserved fort of that kind in Europe. The moat that ran around the outside section of the city walls, which were armed by more than 120 cannons, provided superb city defence capabilities

Other options available:

- go on a Game of Thrones tour
- take a cable car ride up the SRD Mountain overlooking Dubrovnik
- take a bus ride to the scenic Cavtat beach for a lovely swim
- go sea kayaking around Dubrovnik
- enjoy the amenities of our hotel

We will receive a 3-Day Dubrovnik Card, which allows us free bus rides through town, one free ride to Cavtat and offers us free entrance to the City Walls, the Rectors Palace and lot's more.

### **Day 12, Sunday 16.06.2019**

Day of Leisure

Or book an optional day trip to Kotor in Montenegro.

With a population of a bigger European's city suburb (650.000), Montenegro is an enchanting little country full of extreme geographical diversities.

Great mountains with snow peaks, steep fiord-like hills almost vertically diving into the Adriatic sea, mountain lakes full of fish, mystical monasteries carved in the solid rock, sandy and sunny beaches that go on for miles alongside the coast, which is all Montenegro.

This tour starts from Dubrovnik driving south alongside the Adriatic coast passing cities of Cavtat and Konavle region and soon cross the border to Montenegro (do not forget your passport). We drive alongside the Kotor bay (European's most southern fiord) passing the cities Igalo, Herceg Novi (two great Turkish, later Venetian fortresses), Bijela, Kamenari stopping for a photo-stop in front of magical Perast – city of Seamen and 2 small islands with churches (St. George and Our Lady of the Rocks/Gospa od Škrpjela), we continue through Risan, stop at Perast while guide explains major buildings and its rich history and finally reach the city of Kotor, nested in the very bottom of Kotor bay surrounded by formidable verticals of neighbouring mountains.

### **Day 13, Monday 17.06.2019**

Today we will bid farewell to Croatia, after breakfast we are transported to the Airport in Dubrovnik for the flight home to Johannesburg (one stop).

**Day 14, Tuesday 18.06.2019**

Arrive in Johannesburg during the morning.

**This tour is a relaxing tour to experience Croatia at its best.  
Mobility Essential (no walkers / wheelchairs).**

**TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- International Flights
- Accommodation
- 1 x Lunch
- 5 x Dinner
- Porterage, where available
- Guided City Walks, All Entrance and National Park fees during the trip
- 3-Day Dubrovnik Card, with free bus rides and entrance fees
- Transfer in Dubrovnik to the Hotel and to the Airport
- 3 days coach transfer from Zagreb, via Plitvice to Trogir
- 7 days – 6 nights charter with crew from Trogir to Dubrovnik on a Premium Ship Category, incl. Welcome drink, 6 x Half board (buffet breakfasts and three course lunches daily), Accommodation for obligatory minimum number of passengers in two bedded cabins with private facilities and A/C, Captain's dinner, Fuel for max 4 - 5 hours of sailing daily, Free wireless internet access (Wi-Fi), Air-conditioned dining room with bar area and LCD TV, Lounging sundeck, bathing platform for easy access into the sea
- English Speaking Tour Guide/Manager

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Visa fees / application (Schengen Visa)
- Travel & Medical Insurance
- Domestic Flights to and from OR Tambo International (if required)
- Items of a personal nature, beverages, laundry, gifts etc.

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**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

**ESTIMATED TOUR COST: R54 150.00 per person sharing**

Price is worked out on the current Rand/Euro rate and may fluctuate depending on the exchange rate.

**Single Supplement:** R7 500.00 (please enquire as limited single accommodation is available)

**IMPORTANT - Single accommodation available at hotels but no single accommodation available whilst on the cruise at sea. All cabins are shared.**

**Important – to avoid major price increases to the tour price, it is advisable to pay the full amount as soon as possible while the ZAR is strong against the Euro. Fluctuations are unpredictable and no fixed price can be guaranteed.**

