



University of Illinois  
Alumni Association

 **Duration**  
11 days

 **Activity Level**  
Active Travel

 **Journey Type**  
Land  
River

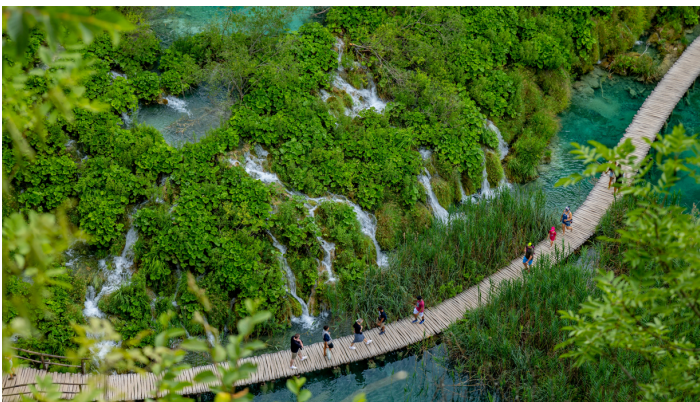


# Croatia & the Dalmatian Coast

September 21 – October 2, 2027

Starting from \$7,545/pp

Evocative cities ... refined cuisine ... coastal havens ... discover Croatia's bounty on this incredible 10-night journey, including a seven-night Adriatic cruise! Board your small yacht in Dubrovnik, a marvelous medieval town, and sail along the Dalmatian coast to enchanting islands and timeless ports of call. Taste fresh oysters along the Pelješac Peninsula, indulge in the beauty of Hvar and Korula, and unravel history in Split and Zadar. Wrap up your adventure in Plitvice Lakes National Park, followed by a three-night stay in wonderful Zagreb! Enjoy an extensive meal plan and all the wonders that Croatia holds.



# Day-by-Day Itinerary

## Croatia & Cruising the Dalmatian Coast

**Air Program: 12 days/11 nights (includes 1 air night)**

**Land Program: 11days/10 nights**

**Breakfasts: 10**

**Lunches: 7**

**Dinners: 4**

**Receptions: 3**

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, dinners and receptions.

- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- This active program is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. The itinerary may feature full days of ongoing activities.
- Excursions on this program require: walking distances of up to 3-5 miles, sometimes uphill or downhill
- walking up/down and along cobblestones, unpaved terrain and paths and/or uneven and slippery surfaces.
- getting on/off motor coaches and motor yacht.
- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.
- Due to specific mooring conditions and requirements in some Croatian ports, the cruise line's vessels may be moored side by side, making it necessary for guests to cross from one vessel to another with gaps in between to get to the shore. In such cases, guests need to take special care when crossing and do this at their own risk. It is advised to ask a crew member for assistance when crossing. Note that movement between the ships is the passenger's responsibility.
- During rough weather, movement on the ship should be minimized and done with care as floors can be wet and slippery.

## Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Zagreb, Croatia. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: ZAG.

## Day 2 | Zagreb, Croatia

### Esplanade Zagreb Hotel

#### R | D

Arrive at Zagreb Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you.

Transfer to the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Gather with your fellow travelers to enjoy a Welcome Reception, followed by a Welcome Dinner.

## Day 3 | Zagreb

### Esplanade Zagreb Hotel

#### B

Enrichment: Contemporary Croatia . Join a local expert to gain a thorough understanding of recent events that have shaped the stable, independent Croatia of today.

Zagreb. Tucked between the sparkling Sava River and the forested slopes of Mount Medvednica, Zagreb intertwines European elegance with a delightful Balkan spirit. Following a panoramic tour of Zagreb's modern Lower Town, drive outside the city center to visit Mirogoj Cemetery. Designed by architect Hermann Bollé, this gem is filled with tiled arcades, creeping ivy, sculptures and green copper domes. Back in Zagreb's beautifully preserved Upper Town, admire a rich array of Austro-Hungarian architecture and see more treasures by Bollé: The Cathedral of Assumption and St. Mark's Church. Originally erected in the 13th century, St. Mark's Church features a brilliantly tiled mosaic roof.

Free Time: Spend the remainder of the day at leisure in Zagreb. The city offers many wonderful museums to fill your time.

## Day 4 | Zagreb

### Esplanade Zagreb Hotel

#### B

Free Time: Take part in today's Elective Activity to Ljubljana or enjoy a full day at leisure in this vibrant capital city. Treat yourself to an idyllic morning browsing the Museum of Contemporary Art or enjoying the quirky Museum of Broken Relationships. Observe local life in Zagreb's Jelačić Square or wander through the farmer's market and sample organic fruits and honey.

Elective Activity: Ljubljana, Slovenia. Cross into Slovenia to discover colorful Ljubljana. Stroll along the Ljubljanica River, passing iconic bridges, shop like a local at the Central Market and browse Prešeren Square, home to the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation. Then, enjoy a cruise along the Ljubljanica River to cap off the day! (Moderate) Available at an additional cost.

## Day 5 | Zagreb | Plitvice Lakes National Park | Zadar

### MV Infinity

#### B | L | R | D

After breakfast, transfer to Zadar. Along the way, stop at Plitvice Lakes National Park to explore this scenic wonder.

Plitvice Lakes National Park. Enjoy a refreshing escape to one of Croatia's most spectacular natural wonders. This UNESCO World Heritage site flaunts sixteen crystal lakes that are laced together in a series of awe-inspiring waterfalls and cascades. The vibrant landscape is a vision of unsurpassed beauty where the waters shimmer and constantly change color, a result of the karst terrain. Wander planked walkways and trails amid a fragrant forest of beech and pine. The park is also home to nearly 160 species of birds as well as many rare, endemic species, including the endangered European brown bear.

Following this sojourn, enjoy a lunch of regional dishes.

Continue to Zadar and board your ship. Later tonight, after unpacking and exploring the amenities of your ship, gather for a Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner. If you wish, walk along Zadar's promenade to see modern attractions, including the sea organ, a musical art installation that is fueled by the ebb and flow of the currents.

## Day 6 | Zadar | Šibenik

### MV Infinity

## B | L

Zadar. This storied university city features a bevy of cosmopolitan cafes, museums and Roman ruins. Witness the impressive Roman Forum and the St Donat church. Enjoy the city's modern attractions at its waterfront promenade, including the sea organ, a musical art installation. Listen to its unending melody, which is fueled by the ebb and flow of the sea's currents. Nearby is the 72-foot Monument to the Sun, which celebrates Zadar's incredible sunsets. During your outing, pause to taste some unique Maraschino cherry liquor and other locally made sweets. The first recipes of the Maraschino liquor emerged from Zadar during the 16th century!

Sail on to Šibenik this afternoon and enjoy lunch on board.

## Day 7 | Šibenik | Split

### MV Infinity

## B | L

Made entirely of stone, Šibenik is a proud city built entirely by Croats. Due to the town's strategic position in the Adriatic, it was a desired location by larger Mediterranean powers. Thus, the city's rulers built large, sturdy fortresses, fortified city walls and commanding towers to protect themselves. Today, the city welcomes visitors with historical sites, lovely alleys and squares, and striking buildings.

Šibenik . Uncover the architecture of Šibenik while visiting the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of St. James, one of Europe's most significant monumental cathedrals. This magnificent church was built only in stone during the 15th and 16th centuries. It was also featured on the "Game of Thrones." (Moderate)

Sail to Split. Watch the scenery unfold before you: picturesque islands, hidden coves and azure seas! If luck is on your side, you may see dolphins!

Exploring Split. Continue on a walking tour of Split and delight in the city's historical wonders. Visit the incredible living ruin of Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site that has been continuously inhabited since the Roman emperor abdicated his throne in A.D. 305. See the cellars, temple ruins, the elaborate Cathedral of St. Domnius and the Golden Gate, and witness the Peristyle, a rectangular open court that was the heart of the palace. Roaming this complex's tangle of passageways, courtyards and underground chambers is one of Croatia's most enchanting experiences.

The boat overnights in Split.

## Day 8 | Hvar Island | Kor ula

### MV Infinity

## B | L | D

Hvar's Stari Grad. Visit sunny Hvar, a Croatian favorite lauded for its sunny shores, lavender plantations, olive groves and idyllic beaches. With a history dating back to 6,000 B.C., Hvar brims with cultural and historical heritage, plus a tranquil Mediterranean ambience. Uncover a slice of paradise in the ancient port town of Stari Grad, Croatia's oldest town. Admire the churches, quaint squares and orange-tiled rooftops clustered around the charming marina.

AHI Connects: Lavender Farm . Soak up the purple beauty and delightful fragrance of lavender during a visit to family-run lavender farm. The blossoms are grown for medical, cosmetic, cooking and other products.

Winery & Vrboska. Continue to a family winery. Learn about the history of winemaking on the island and enjoy a guided tasting of the family's legendary wines. Next, get to know Vrboska, a hidden treasure filled with fig-covered courtyards, intricate dwellings and pretty alleyways.

Chat about your day during dinner at a local restaurant with a beautiful view.

## Day 9 | Kor ula

### MV Infinity

## **B | L**

Relax over breakfast on board. Continue your sailing journey to Kor ula.

Kor ula. The spectacular “Emerald Isle” juts into the Peljesac Channel and brims with beauty, harbor-side restaurants and thriving vineyards. Its medieval streets are designed like fish bones, branching off from a central square, and the medieval old town is decorated with red rooftops, similar to those found in Dubrovnik. In the center of town sits a pretty Gothic-Renaissance church. The island is also rumored to be the birthplace of famous Italian explorer Marco Polo! (Allegedly, the home of Marco Polo is located in the old town on Ulica Depolo street.)

## **Day 10 | Ston & Mali Ston | Dubrovnik**

### **MV Infinity**

## **B | L | R | D**

Idyllic Pelješac Peninsula . Beloved for its stunning beauty, the Pelješac Peninsula is abundant with fjords, quiet bays and vineyards. Today, gain insight into a centuries-old practice while visiting some of the world's oldest salt harvesting sites. See the Great Wall of Ston, which links Ston to Mali Ston.

AHI Connects: Mali Ston Oyster Farm . Board a boat in the fishing village of Mali Ston. Following a ride across Mali Ston Bay, enjoy a visit to an oyster farm. Taste delicious bivalves, fresh from the sea, accompanied by wine.

Reunite with your ship in Dubrovnik and gather for a Farewell Reception and Captain's Dinner.

## **Day 11 | Dubrovnik**

### **MV Infinity**

## **B | L**

Dubrovnik. This beautiful city was relentlessly shelled during Croatia's Homeland War in the early 1990s, but the medieval churches, graceful fountains and squares have been restored to their former glory. Visit the baroque cathedral and admire the loggia and ornamentation inside of the Rector's Palace. Pass by the medieval Sponza Palace, which houses priceless ancient manuscripts, and visit the 14th-century Franciscan Monastery's Romanesque cloister.

Free time: You may wish to walk around the old walls of the city, an experience that offers splendid views of Dubrovnik's distinctive orange rooftops, the harbor and the vast stretch of blue sea. For dinner at leisure, consider trying manestra, a typical bean soup found along coastal Croatia, or brudet, a fish stew simmered with chili pepper and polenta. Finish off your meal with rozata, a sweet pudding with a flan-like texture.

## **Day 12 | Depart for gateway city**

## **B**

After breakfast, bid farewell to this beautiful region of Europe. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Dubrovnik Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.



# What's Included

## Program Overview

- 3 nights in Zagreb, Croatia, at the deluxe Esplanade Zagreb Hotel.
- Cruise for 7 nights aboard the first-class MV Infinity.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

## Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

## On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

## FlexAir Travel Program

**Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.**

### Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

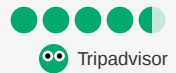
### Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

# Travel and Hotel Accommodations

## Esplanade Zagreb Hotel

Built in 1925 as a stylish art nouveau sanctuary for passengers of the equally grand Orient Express, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel upholds its reputation for impeccable service and sumptuously appointed accommodations. Zinfandel's, the hotel's fine-dining restaurant, is considered by many to be the best in the country. Three additional eateries offer indoor and outdoor dining of traditional Mediterranean cuisine. A health club, spa and gift shop are available as a revitalizing distraction. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



## MV Infinity

Sail the Adriatic aboard the MV Infinity, one of the first-class cruise ships of the family-owned Katarina Line. Step aboard and discover the wonders of the Adriatic while indulging in the sophisticated style and state-of-the-art amenities of this sleek yacht! Enjoy the beautifully appointed furnishings of polished wood and warm Mediterranean blues. Outside, gather with friends by the hot tub to enjoy dramatic Dalmatian views or discover a quiet reading nook. With just 19 cabins, guests are guaranteed an intimate setting and personalized service from the friendly staff. Meals on board are a special treat! Dine on traditional Croatian gastronomy featuring fresh ingredients bought at local markets. All well-appointed cabins are designed for comfort and feature air conditioning, a sofa and desk, en-suite bathrooms with shower, slippers and bathrobes, life jackets and complimentary beach towels.



# Pricing

\$500 Full Payment Discount expires April 24, 2027

\$250 Special Savings expires November 30, 2026

| Category/Deck           | Base Price | Special Savings* | Full Payment Discount* | Special Price |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| A-Upper Deck w/ Balcony | \$9,545    | -\$250           | -\$500                 | \$8,795       |
| B-Main Deck Forward     | \$8,545    | -\$250           | -\$500                 | \$7,795       |
| C-Lower Deck Forward    | \$7,745    | -\$250           | -\$500                 | \$6,995       |
| D-Lower Deck Midship    | \$7,545    | -\$250           | -\$500                 | \$6,795       |

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is \$1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

\*\* Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

