



Croatia & Slovenia Highlights

Balkans⁴day

Natural Wonders & Adriatic Coast

Tour code : MV-CRO Product Code : MVSP000533

Standard Room (USD) \$**1379**/pp

DAY 1 Zagreb → Varaždin → Slovenia – Maribor

HOTEL : Four star or similar

In the morning, our driver-guide will meet you at the pre-arranged time and location to begin the journey.

Varaždin – rich in heritage and arts, known as Croatia's "Baroque architecture capital". Varaždin Castle & Old Town: a signature landmark—once a medieval fortress, later rebuilt in Renaissance and Baroque styles. The castle houses a museum showcasing local history, culture and art.

Cathedral of the Assumption: a Baroque cathedral renowned for its magnificent interior and ornate altars—an important local religious site.

National Theatre: a grand Neo-Renaissance building and the city's main venue for cultural performances.

King Tomislav Square: surrounded by historic buildings such as the Town Hall, cathedral, palaces and academic buildings.

Maribor – known as the "city of the world's oldest vine" and a former European Capital of Culture. Old Vine House: its façade is covered by the "world's oldest vine" (Guinness-recognised, 400 years). Learn about local wine history and taste Styrian wines. Lent District: the oldest and most charming quarter along the Drava River, featuring well-preserved medieval defensive towers such as the Water Tower and the Judgement Tower.

Main Square : lined with colourful historic buildings. At the centre stands a Baroque plague memorial column.

Maribor Castle (closed Mondays): a 15th-century administrative residence castle located in the center of Maribor, Slovenia, which now houses the Maribor Regional Museum.

DAY 2 Maribor → Celje → Ljubljana (B)

HOTEL : Four star or similar

Celje – known as Celeia in Roman times, once a prosperous settlement, famous for its impressive castle.

Celje Castle: built in the 12th century. Though now in ruins, it still conveys its former glory. The best-preserved tower is Frederick's Tower, named after Frederick II of the Counts of Celje, who was imprisoned here during family power struggles. The hilltop location offers sweeping views of Celje, the Savinja River and surrounding mountains.

Celje Regional Museum: one of Slovenia's largest regional museums, presenting Celje's history from Roman times to the modern era. Museum of Recent History: exhibits covering history from World War I to the present, including wartime and post-war life in Slovenia. The special "Children's Museum" is also worth a visit. Roman Ruins (beneath the Palace): an underground exhibition displaying preserved Roman streets, city gates and house remains—often dubbed the "second Troy" of the region.

Ljubljana – picturesque and leafy, crowned as the "European Green Capital". Ljubljana Castle: with around 900 years of history. Take the funicular from the Old Town to the castle courtyard (about 1 minute), then climb the panoramic tower for views over red rooftops, the winding Ljubljanica River and the Alps.

Triple Bridge: a city icon connecting the Old Town and the modern centre—three bridges side by side, a masterpiece of architect Jože Plečnik.

Dragon Bridge: spanning the Ljubljanica River and adorned with four vivid green dragon statues. The dragon symbolizes strength, courage and the city's guardian.

Prešeren Square: surrounded by Baroque and Art Nouveau buildings and named after the national poet France Prešeren. His statue stands at the centre, symbolising Slovenia's cultural spirit. Across the square is a relief of his beloved Julija—facing him in a romantic, poetic dialogue.

DAY 3 Ljubljana → Lake Bled → Postojna Cave → Croatia – Opatija (B)

HOTEL : Four star or similar

Lake Bled – famous for its island church and cliff-top medieval castle, a national symbol of Slovenia.

Bled Island / Church of the Assumption: ride the traditional colourful Pletna boat (about 15 minutes, rowed standing up by the boatman) to the island. After landing, climb 99 stone steps to reach the church—one of Slovenia's most iconic sights. Legend says that ringing the 'wishing bell' three times will make your wish come true. Inside, admire the ornate Baroque gilded main altar depicting the seated Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus.

Postojna Cave (advance booking recommended) – one of Europe's largest karst cave systems, renowned for its spectacular underground scenery and cave-train experience.

Cave Train: take a unique electric mini-train about 2 km into the cave, admiring early-stage stalactite formations along the way. This is the only show cave in the world with a double-track cave railway.

Red/White Halls: the Red Hall's formations take on reddish tones due to iron and manganese during calcification. The White Hall remains pure white because no impurities entered the limestone.

The cave's 'treasure': the Brilliant Pillar - about 5 metres tall, strikingly white - paired with a neighbouring column, resembling a bride and groom at a wedding.

'Human fish' (olm): a rare cave-dwelling creature with a pale body and slender limbs. Living in darkness, its eyes have regressed. It is Europe's only cave-dwelling vertebrate.

DAY 4 Opatija → Rijeka → Zagreb (B)

Opatija – an elegant aristocratic seaside resort, often called the "Nice of the Adriatic".

Lungomare Promenade: a 12-km seaside walkway along the Adriatic, perfect for strolling with sea views and historic architecture.

Maiden with the Seagull: the iconic statue standing on seaside rocks overlooking the bay—now a symbol of Opatija. It represents a blend of loyalty, longing and hope.

Rijeka – known for its port and maritime history, cultural heritage and modern vibe; selected as the 2020 European Capital of Culture.

Trsat Castle: the city's key historic landmark with panoramic views over Rijeka. The complex includes the Shrine of Our Lady of Trsat, an important pilgrimage site visited by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Korzo Street: the main pedestrian boulevard lined with Austro-Hungarian architecture, boutiques, cafés and restaurants—great for experiencing local life.

Peek & Poke Computer Museum: a quirky retro computer and video game museum, popular with tech enthusiasts.

Arrive in Zagreb in the early evening. Your driver-guide will drop you off at the designated location. End of service.



What's Included?

5–9-seat business van + 4-star hotels with breakfast + professional driver-guide (10 hours/day); includes driver's meals & accommodation, fuel and parking. Door-to-door pick-up & drop-off for joining/leaving the tour (city centre only).

What's not Included?

Airfare & visas; lunch and dinner; attraction tickets; driver-guide tips (EUR10 per person per day). Themed activities (e.g., winery visits, truffle hunting), other transport (trains/boats), city taxes, insurance, and driver-guide overtime (EUR 50 per hour).

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