



Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina, a region with a turbulent recent history and a melting pot of different nations, cultures and religions. This trip travels north to south through three former Yugoslavian countries: from Slovenian Alps to the Croatian coast, and as well as Bosnia & Herzegovina.

While enjoying the stunning natural & cultural sights along the way, we will dig behind the curtains and dive into the history, learn about the Balkan war from different perspectives, get to know the political and economical situation of all countries, and meet interesting local characters. We will be pampered by local hospitality and amazing & diverse local food.

Definitely a spectacular educational journey to feel, understand and fall in love with Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina!

For more information and registration, visit us at
www.uaf.edu/summer/travel or call (907) 474-7021.

Important notes:

Travelers will be required to have their COVID-19 vaccinations including booster(s). Guidelines regarding facial coverings and distancing will be followed in accordance with local governments.

Travel insurance is always recommended especially in the era of COVID for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency. Whatever you choose make sure that any expense related to COVID is covered.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:

Oct. 11-27, 2022

Tour Cost:

\$5300 double occupancy

\$850 single supplement

\$155 extra room night,
10/10/22, Ljubljana

\$165 extra room night,
10/27/22, Dubrovnick

Inclusions

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground transportation
- Entry fees
- Educational Programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from tour destinations are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Day 1: Ljubljana

Arrival to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

- Airport transfer to your hotel in the city center. Free time in the city.
- In the afternoon, official welcome and orientation by the guide/tour leader.
- Orientation and review of the tour itinerary.
- Welcome drink and dinner in Ljubljana.

Day 2: Ljubljana

Ljubljana, Europe's hidden gem, is one of the smallest capital cities in the world and Europe. Together with an amazing historical background, Ljubljana is a modern, growing, international European city and Slovenia's cultural, educational, business, geographical, traffic, governmental and political center.

- Biking tour with local guide will to us reveal us why Ljubljana holds the title of European Green Capital 2016.
- Note: To get the best overview of main city attractions in the city center and surroundings a bike is perfect. It is easy to ride off the beaten tourist tracks and find amazing places visited mainly by the locals. Ljubljana is a bike-friendly city with many cycling lanes and urban areas are mostly flat.
- Lunch at university cafeteria among students.
- Lecture on the educational system at the University of Ljubljana.
- Slovenian cuisine dinner in Ljubljana.

Day 3: Ljubljana

Walking tour through Metelkova City Autonomous Cultural Centre – one of the main areas where NGO'S are located.

- Presentation by creators of a unique Slovenian NGO's society project that you will be able to experience.
- Lunch in the area of the Republic Square that houses the National Assembly Building, Slovenian Parliament.
- Gain insight on the political system when touring the parliament.
- Dinner in Ljubljana.



Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina



Day 4: Lake Bled

Today we will drive to the stunning Lake Bled. Located at the foothills of the Julian Alps, this picture-postcard lake with its island is one of Slovenia's main attractions.

- Visit a local bee-keeper where you will learn about the peculiarities of bee-keeping in Slovenia and try some first class honey while learning about local stories and tales & much more!
- Walk by the lake and enjoy the views of the island from the terrace of Vila Bled - now a hotel, but formerly the residence of Yugoslav president and communist leader, Tito, where you'll get a taste of the communist glamour.
- Enjoy Slovenian folk music and meet some interesting local characters.
- Return to Ljubljana in late afternoon. Dinner in Ljubljana.

Day 5: Postojna Cave & Lipica Stud Farm

Today we explore south-western Slovenia, the land of caves, horses and wine!



- Visit Postojna Cave, the largest Karst cave in Slovenia with 14.5 miles of underground tunnels. We drive into the cave by a little train and then proceed on foot with a guide. Stalactites, stalagmites, underground halls and other rock formations are truly amazing.
- Enjoy lunch at a local winery, taste the fantastic wines, dried meats, and the friendly locals.
- Visit Lipica Stud Farm, the birthplace and 'cradle' of Lipizzaner horses with its 400-year history for a guided tour. Today it is a cultural landmark of national importance and a home to almost 400 amazing Lipizzaner horses.
- Dinner in Ljubljana.

Day 6: Ljubljana to Zagreb

Today we head to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. On the way, we will get to know the Slovenian region of Dolenjska - Lower Carniola.



- See “kozolec toplar” masterpiece of unique Slovenian vernacular architecture that marks Slovene identity.
- Learn more about Slovenian world class wines and the local specialty - Cvicek, a special wine of Europe and the pride of the Dolenjska wine-growing region.
- Enjoy a meal in a local home.
- Visit one of the most famous Dolenjska castles, the Brezice Castle, and learn why this region is full of castles, manors, fortresses, and fortification systems.

Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Day 7: Zagreb : Croatia's political, commercial and cultural heart

Zagreb here Central Europe where the Panonian basin, the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe/Balkan meet. This is a great introduction to Croatia, and like Croats say, "full of life".

- Walking tour with a local guide which may include of the shortest funiculars in the world.
- Gain insight on the political system at Saint Mark's Square, where the most important Croatian political institutions are located.
- Enjoy Croatian cuisine at lunch.
- Learn about the Croatian educational system and the Croatian NGO's society.

Note: University of Zagreb is the largest Croatian university and the oldest continuously operating university in Southeastern Europe. Here we will be able to see works from the famous Ivan Mestrovic, the most prominent modern Croatian sculptor.

Day 8: Zagreb - Plitvice National Park - Zadar

After an early breakfast in Zagreb, we drive straight to Plitvice National Park, Croatia's most stunning national park. There are lovely wooden boardwalks by the lakes, countless waterfalls, where we will learn about the local flora and fauna, as well as the fascinating geography & geology of this mesmerizing place.

- A wonderful hike of less than three miles will be followed by lunch and an afternoon ride to the Croatian coastline where we will settle down in Zadar for the next two nights. Other additional walking and hiking opportunities can be explored during the time in Plitvice.

Day 9: Zadar and Sibenik

In Zadar we will be able to witness different historical periods. The old city center is an "open air history museum". You will see buildings and monuments from the period of the Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, the Republic of Venice and other periods of the Modern age.

- Experience the Sea organ of Zadar, a modern architectural sound art object.
- Walking tour with a local guide through the historic center of Zadar.
- In Sibenik visit the Cathedral of St James, an outstanding example of how people from Dalmatia have a long history of limestone cutting craft.
- Dinner in Zadar/Sibenik area.



Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Day 10: Split - the capital of Dalmatia

- Walking tour through the historic center of Split, including the Diocletian's Palace - one of the best-preserved sights of Roman architecture in the world.
- Experience traditional Dalmatian klapa multipart singing, a great example of old traditions that are an integral part of the Dalmatian cultural landscape.
- Visit of the one of the best fish markets in Croatia. Fishing is one of the oldest traditions in this area.
- Relax in the afternoon: Relaxation is very important for people in Dalmatia. In fact, relaxation sometimes seems like a lifestyle.
- Dinner in Split.

Day 11: The Island of Hvar

Today we will explore Hvar, one of the most beautiful Croatian islands, following an hour-long catamaran ride from Split.

- Walk the back streets of Hvar old town and hike up to the Spanish fortress for a bird's eye view of the town.
- Learn about traditional island life: farming, wine & olive growing, cultivation of rosemary and lavender, and fishing.
- Visit a local wine maker and enjoy a fabulous lunch at the property.
- Explore a hidden gem - the town of Stari Grad - before boarding the ferry and returning back to Split.
- Dinner in Split.



Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina



Day 12: Split – Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Today you will check out of your hotel in Split and drive the Adriatic coastal road south to the fertile delta of the Neretva River.

- Join local farmers and pick delicious mandarins while learning about their way of life and have a home-cooked meal on the property.
- Head up the Neretva River and enter Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country where Islam, Judaism, Eastern Orthodox, and the Catholic Church were living long together in peace, tolerance and prosperity. In the last decades, politics were responsible for conflicts, but never religion. The country that is mostly known for the recent war after the break of Yugoslavia can offer us much more. We will learn, based on history and in practice, that coexistence and prosperity of different ethnic groups, religions and cultures is possible.
- You will be able to enjoy amazing and pristine hospitality, unique costumes and food, unique music, authentic craft and nature beauties of the limestone Dinaric Alps that form the Balkan Peninsula. Experiencing Bosnia and Herzegovina could be one of the best parts of the tour.
- Stop at the historic village of Pocitelj with an open-air museum. Pocitelj is an example of Ottoman-Mediterranean types of small settlement and will have a very different ambiance than those in Slovenia and Croatia.
- Enjoy a Bosnian dinner in Mostar.



Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Day 13: Mostar

Walking tour with local guide through the historic center of Mostar.

- One of the highlights of the tour: Mostar Bridge. The bridge is considered an exemplary piece of Balkan Islamic architecture. The Old Bridge was recently rebuilt and many of the edifices in the Old Town have been restored or rebuilt with the contribution of an international scientific committee established by UNESCO. The Old Bridge area, with its pre-Ottoman, eastern Ottoman, Mediterranean and western European architectural features, is an outstanding example of a multicultural urban settlement.
- Visit the Croatian/Bosnian Croat cultural heritage site.
- Visit the village of Blagaj, a national monument situated near the unique Vrelo Bune karstic spring, considered to be a most beautiful, most powerful and the largest amongst karst springs in Europe.
- Afternoon talk on the “ Breakup of Yugoslavia, Current Events and Disputes.”
 - After a string of inter-ethnic incidents, the Yugoslav Wars ensued, first in Croatia and then in multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina. We will give you insight on the point of view all three involved ethnic groups.
- Dinner in Mostar.

Day 14: Mostar - Dubrovnik

Drive through the Republika Srpska (Serbian part of Bosnia & Herzegovina) back to Croatia.

- Visit the Radimlja necropolis, one of the most valuable monuments of the medieval period in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Visit the Jewish/Bosnian Sephardic Jews cultural heritage site.
- Visit the Serbian/Bosnian Serb cultural heritage site. In the area there are some of the most known monasteries of Serbian Orthodox Church.
- Visit Popovo Polje, one of the largest polje (karstic plains) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the world, famous for its karstic phenomenon's and features.
- Walking tour with local guide of Trebinje.
- Lunch with a local family in the area of Trebinje.
- Drive to Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Evening arrival and dinner in Dubrovnik.

Fascinating Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Day 15: Dubrovnik

Perched in the brilliant blue waters of the Adriatic, the medieval and beautifully restored city of Dubrovnik is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the Mediterranean Sea, “The Pearl of the Adriatic.”

- Walking tour with a local guide through Old Town of Dubrovnik. Part of the insight into medieval Dubrovnik society will be the visit of Old Pharmacy in Franciscan Monastery which is one among the oldest pharmacies in Europe.
- Visit to The Rector's Palace for an insight into medieval Dubrovnik policy and diplomacy.
- Afternoon exploration of the medieval City Walls - UNESCO list of World Heritage.
- Dinner in Dubrovnik.



Day 16: Dubrovnik

Visit the Idyllic country life of the Konavle region – Dubrovnik’s countryside.

- Lunch with a local family.
- Note: There are 20 villages in Konavle, the largest of which are Cilipi and Gruda which is the region's administrative capital. As an agriculturally productive region, it was a tremendous asset to the Republic of Dubrovnik.
- Afternoon free time to relax, shop, and explore.
- Farewell Dinner



Day 17: Dubrovnik

- Morning transfer to airport.

