



## **Adriatic Discovery: Northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia 2025**

Lakes like turquoise gemstones, local wines that dance with flavour and picture-perfect Riviera-style villages await – get ready to be enraptured by the beautiful diversity of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. Carve your path through these Adriatic wonders as you uncover the remains of Medieval frescos, spy cascading waterfalls and share stories with artists that call this region home. What hidden secrets will you discover?

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# About your tour notes

*These tour notes* contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

**Important: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.**

**Hotel Ca' dei Conti @ 18:00**

Fondamenta del Remedio, 4429, Venice,  
30122

**Heritage Hotel Fermai Split MGallery @  
14:00**

Split



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## Tour highlights

Savour a unique wine tasting experience at the Poli Grappa Museum in Bassano del Grappa

Take in the scenery on a traditional *pletna* boat across Lake Bled in Slovenia

Explore the beauty of Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

## More inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- 9 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- Luxury minicoach

## Tour currencies



## Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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# Your itinerary

## Day 1 | Venice

Welcome to Venice – the magnificent floating city boasting unparalleled elegance, grandeur and romance. Meet your travel companions and Tour Leader at the hotel, before settling into a delicious welcome meal at a local restaurant. *Saluti!*

### Included on this day

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Hotel Ca' dei Conti<br>(or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Dinner |
|---|--------------------------|

## Day 2 | Bassano Del Grappa

After breakfast, we'll board the mini-coach and set a course for our first stop – Maser, where a wine tasting session at the historic Villa di Maser winery awaits us. Grapes from this ancient winery are grown in 33 hectares of carefully selected, eco-friendly vineyards – and our palettes are sure to appreciate the care and attention placed in each bottle. Then: onwards to Bassano del Grappa, a historic town that's famous for its 13th century Ponte Vecchio. After getting better acquainted on an orientation tour, we'll enjoy some free time for lunch. Later, we'll pay a visit to the Poli Grappa Museum – where we'll learn about the history of the local tippie and enjoy a tasting, of course! This evening will be ours to explore Bassano Del Grappa at our own pace or put our feet up back at the hotel.

### Included on this day

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Belvedere Hotel (or<br>similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast |
|---|-----------------------------|



## Day 3 | Bassano Del Grappa

Today we'll delve into Rovereto's fascinating history on a locally guided walking tour. As we go, we'll have the opportunity to visit the imposing Rovereto Castle, Italian Historical War Museum and the Bell of the Fallen – which commemorates those who fell in the Great War in Trentino. Cast with the bronze of all nations who participated in World War I, it's 100 tolls at dusk are a testimony to world peace. Following our tour, we'll enjoy a sumptuous included lunch at a local restaurant – before returning to Bassano Del Grappa for an evening spent at our leisure.

### Included on this day

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Belvedere Hotel (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast<br>Lunch |
|--|--------------------------------------|

## Day 4 | Lake Bled

Before we bid farewell to Italy, we'll make one more stop in picturesque Belluno. A historic old town with breathtaking views and Renaissance-era buildings – we'll enjoy an orientation tour with our Tour Leader before lunching at our leisure. Then: we'll cross the border into spectacular Slovenia. Enjoy the scenic back roads as we travel to the enchanting Lake Bled region – our home for the next two nights. This evening, we'll be free to spend some time relaxing before tomorrow's trip to the iconic lake.

### Included on this day

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Bled Rose Hotel (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast |
|--|-----------------------------|

## Day 5

First on today's agenda: we'll enjoy a guided tour of mesmerising Bled Castle. One of the oldest castles in Slovenia, our guide will educate us on the fascinating history and let us in on a few secrets, before we settle down to an included lunch in the castle restaurant. This afternoon we'll take to the water for a locally-crafted *pletna* boat ride to the small island in the centre of Lake Bled – where we'll visit the Baroque Church of the Assumption. Upon returning to the mainland, we'll savour an afternoon spent at our leisure or dining at our hand-picked accommodation's restaurant.

### Included on this day

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Bled Rose Hotel (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast<br>Lunch |
|--|--------------------------------------|

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## Day 6 | Rovinj

This morning we'll bid a fond farewell to Lake Bled and continue our journey to Slovenia's capital: Ljubljana. Here, we'll learn more about the city's major sights on a locally guided walking tour and take the funicular up to the famous castle for incredible views over this enchanting city. Then: we'll have the opportunity to visit the impressive Postojna Cave and take an unforgettable train ride through the mesmerising subterranean system. We'll round up our day in the quaint seaside town of Rovinj – where the evening will be free for us to leisurely explore the narrow, cobbled streets in search of a local restaurant for dinner.

### Included on this day

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Villa Valdibora (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast |
|--|-----------------------------|

## Day 7

Today, we'll have a full day to explore Rovinj at our own pace. Whilst you're here, we recommend paying a visit to the Church of St Euphemia – the largest Baroque building in Istria with spectacular views over the city. We'll regroup for lunch where a unique culinary experience awaits at a local restaurant. Then, enjoy some more free time wandering through the winding cobbled streets and picturesque squares of the Old Town before we return to our hotel for an evening at leisure.

### Included on this day

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Villa Valdibora (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast<br>Lunch |
|--|--------------------------------------|

## Day 8 | Plitvice Lakes

Today's first stop will be the chic coastal town of Opatija – where we'll have some free time to wander at our own pace and enjoy coffee at a local cafe. Then: we'll continue on to the charming village of Rastoke – which is known for its many beautiful waterfalls and 18th-century mills. After paying a visit to a local mill, we'll arrive at our final destination: the stunning Plitvice Lakes region. This evening we'll be free to relax at our hotel and enjoy the excellent restaurant at our leisure.

### Included on this day

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ● <b>Hotel</b><br>Hotel Fenomen (or similar) | ● <b>Meals</b><br>Breakfast |
|--|-----------------------------|



## Day 9 | Zadar

A tour highlight is on the agenda this morning! After breakfast, we'll visit one of Croatia's most astounding natural sites: the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Plitvice Lakes National Park. Here, we'll explore the walking trails that hug the lakes – and watch as the water transforms from emerald green to azure blue. Once we've finished exploring, we'll continue north to the village of Smiljan – the birthplace of famous inventor Nikola Tesla. Here, we'll have the opportunity to visit the Tesla House Museum before moving on to the coastal city of Zadar. Tonight, we'll look back on our incredible adventure and clink glasses over a delicious farewell dinner.

### Included on this day

- **Hotel**  
Hotel Kolovare (or similar)
- **Meals**  
Breakfast  
Dinner

## Day 10 | Split

The tour may be coming to an end, but we have a few historical treasures to uncover before we say our goodbyes. Our Tour Leader will show us around the ancient Roman and Venetian ruins within Old Town, as well as the grand 12th-century St Anastasia's Cathedral – before we board the mini-coach one final time to reach our final destination. Upon arrival in Split, our tour will come to a close.

### Included on this day

- **Meals**  
Breakfast





# Travel advice

## Finances

### Changing money

**Cash:** Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

**Credit cards:** Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

**Cash machines:** ATMS are widely available.

### Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

## Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

## Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain

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countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

## Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

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## Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

## Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

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# What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

## Clothing

- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sleepwear
- Warm jacket
- Underwear
- Long-sleeved tops
- Short-sleeved tops
- Shorts/skirts
- Socks
- Smart casual evening wear
- Light jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Trousers
- Swimwear
- Walking/comfortable shoes

## Other essentials

- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sleepwear
- Warm jacket
- Long-sleeved tops
- Short-sleeved tops
- Shorts/skirts
- Socks
- Light jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Trousers

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## How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag  
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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# FAQs

## How long are the driving journeys on this tour?

During longer periods of travelling, your group will make regular stops at various sites, so you can stretch your legs and take in the picturesque surrounds.

## That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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