Croatia in Perspective: Program Itinerary

Saturday, July 30: Dubrovnik
Rich in historical lore and architecture, Dubrovnik is the perfect place to begin our exploration of this country. We begin our tour with a guided walk around this small European capital. Dubrovnik’s Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site—an almost fairytale setting that could easily be mistaken for the set in a fantasy adventure film. Our guide will introduces us to Dubrovnik’s rich history, including its 500-year rivalry with Venice for domination of the Adriatic. The city boasts of many old buildings and you will soon appreciate that this is a near miracle of historic preservation with fine limestone buildings, red-tiled roofs and quaint streets. An afternoon stroll along the scenic city’s town walls is the perfect vantage point for looking down into the city, discovering over twelve centuries of development and imagining the centuries of knights and sailors who’ve walked the streets. Our grand family-friendly hotel has a sunlit indoor pool. Dinner is at a favorite quayside restaurant.

*Overnight: Dubrovnik (D)*

Sunday, July 31: Lokrum Island
Following breakfast, we head to the harbour where we board a boat and motor along the coast. The placid conditions are perfect for kayaking. Outfitted with stable, easy to paddle two-person kayaks, our expert guides will lead us through the protected waters between the coast and Lokrum, a small island in the Adriatic Sea. Austrian archduke Maximilian built a holiday home on the island in 1859 and a monastery and a botanical garden survive from his era. We’ll spend the day on this beautiful, uninhabited island exploring its subtropical vegetation, natural swimming-places, and historical heritage. Maximilian brought peacocks from the Canary islands and in the past 150 years they adjusted well to this new habitat and still roam Lokrum today. The island offers some of the country’s best rock beaches and the waters surrounding the island are calm, clean, and clear. We’ll enjoy a well-stocked picnic before navigating our kayaks back to the mainland. We suggest one of the cafés overlooking the floodlit buildings of the enchanting main square.

*Overnight: Dubrovnik (B, L)*
Monday, August 1: Peljesac Peninsula - Split
Departing Dubrovnik at midmorning, we drive along the coast to the Peljesac peninsula. The area became part of the Roman province of Dalmatia after the Illyrian Wars around 220 BC. Roman migration soon followed. In the 6th century, Peljesac came under Byzantine rule and the great migrations of the 6th and 7th centuries, brought the Slavic invasions and Avar into this region. The peninsula retains a thriving agricultural business especially in winemaking and is Croatia’s version of Napa Valley. Our first stop is at a Franciscan monastery where two caretaker monks tend the grounds that were once home to a large monastic order. They break from their usual tranquillity to tell us about their lives—an eye-opening story for all of us who live wired, always connected lives. Afterward, we set off along the same paths used by local vineyard workers. We will enjoy lunch at the first privately owned winery to resume operations after the fall of communism in Croatia. Our host welcomes us with a tasting of the family treasures, accompanied by local cheeses, meats, olives and fruits served in the cellar and tasting room. By late afternoon, we head back to our seaside hotel and enjoy a dip in the vanishing edge pool before dinner.
*Overnight: Podstrana (Split) (B, L, D)*

Tuesday, August 2: Cetina River - Split
The Cetina River is one of the most beautiful places in Croatia, situated in a luscious region surrounded by quaint little villages. Today, we are going river rafting along Cetina River while discovering the region’s historical and archaeological importance. This beautiful river threads through a deep canyon with steep walls. Along the way, there are waterfalls, caves and jungle-like vegetation. As always, we’re in the hands of expert guides so you can focus on sharing the thrill. At the end of the ride, we’ll relive our new memories over lunch at an open-air restaurant that’s part of a beautiful old water mill. Then it’s back to the hotel with the second half of the afternoon off.
*Overnight: Podstrana (Split) (B, L, D)*
Wednesday, August 3: Hvar
Coastal ferries are a part of everyday life as the Croatians commute from town to town. So we’ll do the same by taking a ferry ride from Split. Along the way, we’ll see amazing coastline as we head to Hvar, ranked as one of the world’s ten most beautiful islands. The island is unusual in the area for having a large fertile coastal plain, and fresh water springs and vineyards, lavender fields, and honey-colored buildings line our route to the coastal village of Jelsa. Our walk continues past olive groves and fields of fragrant herbs to a working olive mill where a cooperative of small-scale olive growers brings their crops to be crushed. We’ll get to see the giant grinding wheel, and during a demonstration of ancient pressing techniques, we’ll taste the oils by dipping in the local crusty bread. In the afternoon, we continue to the village of Hvar. Our accommodations for the night are just the kind of retreat you’d expect—a gleaming white former villa, right on the water, and surrounded by palm and citrus trees. Participants can join our guides for an exploration of the fortress on the hill above the town and clamber on its medieval walls.

*Overnight: Hvar (B)*

Thursday, August 4: Hvar
Early in the week, you couldn’t believe how big a Dalmatian Coast breakfast could be. The fresh sea air is good for the appetite, so eat up. We’re off for a morning walk through lavender fields to the village of Dol, tucked into the foothills of the mountains that form the spine of the island (Kids can leave the adults behind in favor of a biking excursion with one of our guides). We’ll stop for lunch at a friend’s local agriturismo, featuring a variety of favorites you’ve tried during the week—as well as distinctive local specialties like smoked fish, goat carpaccio and roasted lamb under bell. You’ll marvel at the crystalline Adriatic. Boats look like they’re floating on air. You can easily see down to depths of 30 feet or more, and that makes for fantastic snorkeling. This afternoon, our guides will help everyone who’s interested slip on their flippers and masks. The whole family is welcome, but we’ll look after the children if you want to loll or go shopping instead. Tonight, we’ve planned a festive farewell dinner to cap our week together.

*Overnight: Hvar (B, L, D)*

Friday, August 5: Split
We leave Hvar this morning for the ferry to Split. Like Dubrovnik, this city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At its heart is a palace built by the Roman emperor Diocletian in the third-century. We’ll spend a couple of hours exploring it before we part company at the airport or return you to our favorite hotel near town.
Program Information

Trip length: 7 days/6 nights

Cost per person:  
Register by March 1, 2016:  
$4,800 per person

Register on March 2, 2016 or later:  
$4,900 per person

Program includes
- Transportation within Croatia
- Hotel accommodations for 6 nights as designated on itinerary
- All meals as designated on itinerary when taken with the group
- Daily excursions, lectures, activities as designated on itinerary
- Fully guided program

Not Included in Tour Price
Airfare, airport transfers to and from hotel; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; passports, visas; travel protection insurance; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section above. Please note, we strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended.

Program Notes
All prices listed are in U.S. dollars. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed price and itinerary as described, they are subject to modifications due to availability of services. Rates are per person based on double occupancy. Single supplements are available. All reservations are subject to CTY Policies, Terms and Conditions found on our website at www.cny.jhu.edu/family/travel.