



Breakaway Adventures

walking and cycling holidays

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Current as of: May 20, 2019 - 12:42

Valid for departures: From April 20, 2018 to December 31, 2019



Castles to Coast Self-Guided Walk Trip Notes

-  **Ways to Travel:** Self-Guided
-  **Destinations:** Croatia
-  **Programmes:** Walking & Trekking

Trip Code:
W07IS



7 Days Land only
Min age: 12

Trip Overview

This walking holiday opens up a timeless world that in the oldest towns takes you back 2000 years. The coastline sparkles with bays and inlets, while inland, castles and palaces in hilltop villages float in the early morning like stone battleships on a swirling sea of valley mist.

At a Glance

- 7 Nights, hotel-to-hotel
- 6 Days walking
- Departs on selected Tuesdays from 30 Apr '19 to 28 Sep '19
- Route directions and maps
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Countries visited: Croatia

Trip Highlights

- Croatia's Istrian peninsula: Venetian castles, Renaissance palaces, hilltop villages, Adriatic Riviera
- Diverse regional cuisine: local wines, homemade pasta, truffles and fresh fish
- Panoramic walking paths, ghost villages, lush orchards
- Natural bounty: bee and green-winged orchid, orange fire lily, amethyst sea holly, truffle-rich woods
- Charming hotels: a converted palace, beautiful townhouse and a 19th century villa

Is This Trip for You?

Classification: Self-Guided

You begin in Motovun where walks follow high ridges and an abandoned railway offers panoramic views over truffle-rich valleys of oak and fruit orchards, and emerald ranks of vines. From Motovun you walk above the Mirna River valley to the fortified hill town of Buzet. You then head east to the bright lights of the Adriatic Riviera, summiting Istria's highest peak Mt Vojak (1401m) for incredible 360° views as far as the Dolomites and Switzerland. Your final two nights are spent in Opatija, once the playground of the wealthy classes in the 19th century. Impressive villas line the shore, shops and cafes cluster around 17th century churches, and fishermen land their catch just outside bustling local restaurants on crowded marinas. there are swimming opportunities every day.

Adult min age: 18

Child min age: 12

Child max age: 17

Itinerary



Land Only

Start City: Motovun

End City: Opatija

Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Motovun

Arrive at your hotel in hilltop Motovun. Dinner is included on the panoramic terrace tonight.

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2

At Motovun - Circular Walk

The Kaldir Valley below Motovun is well known locally for fruit, and your ascent through orchards of apples, peaches, cherries and plums passes country shrines and tiny hamlets. A high ridge affords excellent views east to Mt Vojak and west to the sea. Picnic amid olive groves; look out for honey buzzards and listen to lesser spotted woodpecker rattling the pines as you descend back into the valley. Stroll along the castle sentry's walkway around the ancient city walls before dining out in the village.

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 17 km / 11 miles

Activity (hours): 5

Day 3

At Motovun - Motovun to Groznjan

Today's shorter option starts with a transfer (10 mins) to Livade; the longer option departs from the hotel with a steady descent through vines before reaching Livade from where a panoramic walking track (originally a railway abandoned in 1935) leads over aqueducts and bridges. Then it's on through apple orchards and smreka bushes - the berries are used to make local raki - to reach the artists' village of Groznjan. Time to relax, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the views as far as Slovenia's Julian Alps and Venice whilst waiting for your transfer back to Motovun (20 mins).

Walking distance either 20km/12.5mi/5hr or 25km/16mi/6hr

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 20 km / 12.5 miles

Activity (hours): 5

Day 4

Motovun to Buzet

After a transfer (10 mins) to the ghost village of Bentonici, a winding ascent on a forest trail sprinkled with green-winged orchid leads you high above the clear Mirna River. Church bells chime across valleys of beech from pointed steeples that crown every hilltop. Blue rock thrush flit between branches as you ascend an amazing stone-slab trail used since the Middle Ages by traders and travellers, before descending to Buzet, a Roman settlement on a hilltop with intact 18th century Venetian fortifications.

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 14 km / 9 miles

Activity (hours): 4.5

Day 5

At Buzet - Circular Walk

High above Buzet, a limestone escarpment runs east to west above shady oak woods peppered with smallholdings. Chickens scatter as you pass through villages leading up onto the ridge for uninterrupted views back to Motovun. You follow the escarpment edge across wind-scoured limestone as Buzet floats on a blanket of cloud below, and paragliders launch themselves into the sky. A descent past country churches and tumbledown villages leads back to the hotel.

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 12 km / 7.5 miles

Activity (hours): 4.5

Day 6

Buzet to Opatija

Mt Vojak, Istria's highest peak, towers 1401m over the east coast in Ucka Nature Park, a haven for many protected flowers and plants. After a transfer (40 mins), you zigzag to the summit for 360° views of Croatia's islands and Alpine peaks in Slovenia, Italy and Switzerland. Look out for orange fire lily, amethyst sea holly and bee orchids on the descent. It's then a short transfer (20 mins) to Opatija, where your waterfront hotel in a converted 9th century villa awaits. Dine in one of the local restaurants near the marina.

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 10 km / 6.5 miles

Activity (hours): 4

Day 7

Opatija

The Adriatic Riviera was a playground for the social elite in the 19th century. Impressive villas with opulent gardens rich in local and exotic plants line the waterfront with views over to the Velebit mountains. A panoramic walkway leads along the sea between yachting marinas and swimming platforms, pretty coves, sea cliffs and azure bays for 6km into Lovran. Enjoy lunch (payable locally) on the waterside with a view over to Cres Island, then either catch the local bus back or stroll home above the waves.

Walking distance either 6km/4mi/2hr or 12km/7.5mi/4hr

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 6 km / 4 miles

Activity (hours): 2

Day 8

Leave Opatija

Leave Opatija

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotels

You'll spend three nights in hilltop Motovun in a converted 17th century palace with a stunning spa and indoor pool. In Buzet, your accommodation for two nights is a beautiful converted townhouse with indoor pool, set within the original 18th century Venetian battlements. Finally in Opatija your 5 star luxury waterfront hotel dates back to 1886 and offers beautiful rooms with period furniture. Dining options are excellent and varied so we have included two dinners with five nights free for you to enjoy local restaurants.

Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single only guarantees a room for single use. It does not always mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.

Single supplement from \$368.90 USD

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

All continental breakfasts, 5 picnic lunches and 2 evening meals.

Joining Instructions

Arrive at your first hotel in Motovun in time for dinner at the end of Day 1.

Fly to Pula airport (pick up at 12:25) (10:20 Jul 21 dep) and transfer to hotel 60 minutes. Transfer to airport 75 minutes to Pula airport to arrive in time for a flight departing at 13:40 (11:20 Jul 21 dep).

Alternative transfers

If you require alternative transfers (because you will be arriving at a different time to our standard transfers), then we can usually arrange these for you (there may be an additional charge).

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Transfers Details

Transfers included from Pula airport at 12:25, 10:20 21 Jul departure, and back to Pula airport at 10:15, 08:00 21 Jul departure.

Location start: Motovun

Location end: Opatija

What to Take

Essential Equipment

Waterproofs

Warm jumper/fleece

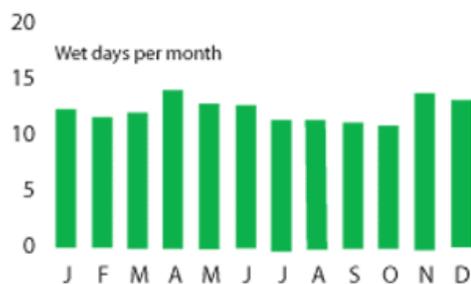
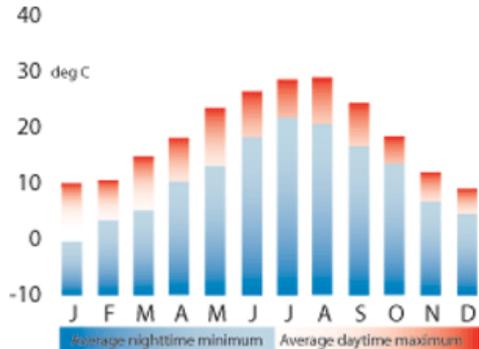
Walking boots

Suncream

Water bottle (1 litre) you will be able to refill each day at the accommodation.



Weather Chart



Practical Information

Passport

Croatia

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visa

Croatia

Visas are not required by the following nationalities: Nationals of Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada. Other nationalities should check with the relevant authorities.

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

Vaccination

Croatia

There are no specific health risks.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the USA we recommend the Travelex Travel Select travel insurance policy, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

Local Time

Croatia's Timezone: Europe/Zagreb CEST (GMT +02:00)

Electricity

Croatia's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Money

Croatia's Currency

The national currency of Croatia is the Croatian Kuna (HRK), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (November 2018) of approximately 6.5 to the USD, 4.9 to the CAD, 7.4 to the EUR, 4.8 to the AUD and 4.5 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available, but we recommend taking some Euros cash with you in case you can't get to a bank at the start of the trip. Cards are widely accepted.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will need spending money for meals not included in the itinerary and all drinks. We suggest €25 per day to cover a few drinks if not then €10 per day. On the days where lunch or dinner is not included expect to spend €10-€15 for lunch and €15-€35 for dinner.



Important Information

On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 5 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Breakaway office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

TRAVEL AWARE -STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD

The U.S. State Department has up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Advice can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our Travel Safety Advice page.

How to Book

Ready to book? Please contact **Breakaway Adventures on Tel: 1-800-567-6286; International Tel: +1-843-856-9771.**

<https://www.breakaway-adventures.com>

Version 1