

Abercrombie & Kent



CROATIA: JEWEL OF THE COAST – A CONNECTIONS BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEY (2020)

Discover Croatia, the gem of the Adriatic, with visits to ancient Zagreb, the scenic island of Brac and the Adriatic Coast, enjoying a private tour of Split's Meštrović Gallery and a tasting of oysters in Ston, followed by three nights in Dubrovnik.

Small Group Journeys, Connections Boutique Group Journeys



Europe, Croatia



9 days, from AU\$6,225



24 Guests

Journey Overview

Explore Croatia, the gem of the Adriatic, with visits to ancient Zagreb, the scenic island of Brac and the Adriatic Coast, enjoying a private tour of Split's Meštrović Gallery and a tasting of freshly harvested oysters in Ston, followed by three nights in Dubrovnik.

Journey Highlights

Contrast a glimmering Mediterranean coast with ancient cities, private tours and unforgettable meetings with locals

Explore stunning Montenegro and the fjord of Boka Kotorska

Visit Split's Meštrović Gallery, as its curator opens the doors to you for a private guided tour

Meet a local fisherman and sample his harvest of Croatia's famous oysters

Learn about the Balkan Wars during a talk in Dubrovnik with a local who shares her experiences of the conflict



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

On arrival, transfer to your historic Art Deco hotel, set within a gracious building dating back to 1925. Gather for a welcome dinner tonight.

Esplanade Zagreb Hotel | Meals: D

Day 2: Zagreb | The Stately Capital

Zagreb is Croatia's capital and largest city, and its history stretches back to Roman times. This morning, take a panoramic tour of the city. Drive past the National Theatre, Mimara Museum, and Academy of Arts and Sciences, and then walk among the loveliest parts of Zagreb, including St. Mark's Square, where you can view the Parliament building and charming St. Mark's Church. Ride a funicular built in 1889 to reach the charming Upper Town quarter from Lower Town. Visit the Ban Jelačić Square, which divides the old and new regions of the city. Its two prominent landmarks — the clock at the west end of the square and the statue of Count Josip Jelačić on horseback — have passed into the Zagreb lexicon, with locals often making plans to meet each other "under the clock" or "under the horse's tail." Take the rest of the afternoon to explore the capital.

Esplanade Zagreb Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 3: Zadar | Along the Scenic Adriatic

Drive to the coastal city of Zadar, the oldest city in Croatia and one of the most scenic along the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy lunch and a maraschino liqueur tasting — unlike its namesake cherry, maraschino has a sourer flavour, and is a key ingredient in the Hemingway daiquiri, one of the legendary author's favourite drinks. Then take a short walking tour that introduces you to St. Donat's Church and the Sea Organ, an art installation designed by local architect Nikola Bašić, which converts the movement of the waves into music. Continue to Split, where you check in to your boutique hotel in the heart of the city.

Cornaro Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Split | The Emperor's Palace

Begin the day with a private tour of the Ivan Meštrović Gallery with its curator, marvelling at the 86 bronze, marble and wood sculptures he fashioned. Anyone familiar with Chicago's Grant Park knows Meštrović's bronze masterpieces, The Bowman and The Spearman. Afterward, set off on a walking tour of Split, starting with the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian. This massive complex takes up around half of Split's Old Town and has been immaculately preserved and restored, giving visitors a palpable sense of life in the days of the Roman Empire. Visitors who find its basement oddly familiar may recognize it as the location for Danaerys' throne room on the hit TV series Game of Thrones. Other noteworthy sites within the palace are Peristil Square, where the emperor gave speeches, and his mausoleum, now a church. Afterward, explore more of captivating Split at your leisure.

Cornaro Hotel | Meals: B

Day 5: Brač | Rustic Village Visit

Board a ferry to Brač, a Dalmatian island famous for its stone, used in Split's Diocletian Palace and the White House in Washington, D.C. Visit Skrip, the oldest village on the island, and the Museum of Brač. While short on people (with a population of barely 200), its location provides jaw-dropping views of the coast and mainland. Stop at a traditional restaurant for lunch, sampling local specialties of lamb, cheese, olives and wine before returning by ferry to Split.

Cornaro Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 6: Dubrovnik | The Culinary Road

Set out for Dubrovnik, stopping at Ston, world-renowned for its oysters. Meet a local fisherman and sample one of these tasty delights paired with a local wine for a true taste of Croatia. Complete a superb lunch at a local seafood restaurant before continuing on to Dubrovnik. During the Middle Ages, Dubrovnik was a centre of maritime trade, and its wealth and skill in diplomacy enabled it to become the only Adriatic city-state to rival Venice. Centuries later, the city emerged from the chaos of the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s with refurbished monuments and a welcoming, forward-looking spirit that has made it one of the most-visited on the continent. With its jumble of old buildings topped with brilliant terra cotta tile roofs, Dubrovnik looks like no other city in Europe, and is doubly familiar to Game of Thrones viewers as the city of King's Landing.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Kotor, Montenegro | Seaside Charms

Spend the day in marvellous Montenegro, which was finally established as a fully independent state in 2006, following the dissolution of Yugoslavia. With its rugged mountains that sweep down to the glittering blue Adriatic Sea, Montenegro features dynamic topography dotted with picturesque villages and fortified towns. Drive around the eastern edge of Boka Kotorska, Europe's southernmost fjord, where precipitous mountains rise from azure waters. Reach the coastal city of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site surrounded by fortifications that date back to the era when the region lay under Venetian rule. Enjoy a walking tour of the town, including its 12th-century Cathedral and Maritime Museum, followed by lunch and exploration at leisure. Take a boat ride back across the bay, past the Baroque Church of Our Lady of the Rocks. From the water, admire the famous church, built on an artificial island fashioned by a bulwark of rocks and the remains of old shipwrecks. Local legend has it that the island was created over the centuries by fishermen dropping rocks into the sea, a tale re-enacted every year on July 22, when locals sail to the island to attend church and deposit more stones along the shore. Afterward, drive back to Dubrovnik.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: B

Day 8: Dubrovnik | The City Museum

Enjoy a morning tour of Dubrovnik. Proclaimed a "city museum" by UNESCO, the Old Town is surrounded by impressive stone walls and towers that make it one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. Mingle with local traders and craftspeople in its markets. Then, reflect during an A&K exclusive as a survivor of the Balkan War shares memories of the conflict that secured Croatia's independence from the former Yugoslavia, a struggle that cost more than 20,000 lives. Spend the afternoon at leisure, followed by a memorable farewell dinner accompanied by a traditional klapa (a cappella choir) performance, arranged just for you.

Grand Villa Argentina | Meals: BD

Day 9: Depart Dubrovnik

Transfer to the airport for your flight home

Meals: B

Accommodation

Esplanade Zagreb Hotel



Built in 1925 as a glamorous stopover for passengers on the Orient-Express, the elegant Esplanade is unquestionably Zagreb's most upmarket hotel and offers an opulent stay in a beautiful Art Nouveau landmark. The hotel's 209 spacious rooms and suites are individually designed and luxuriously furnished in rich tones with marble en suite bathrooms and l'Occitane amenities. Dining ranges from the elegant Zinfandel's restaurant to the street-side Le Bistro. There is also a cocktail bar and health club.

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

May 9, 2020 - May 17, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,095 NOW ONLY AU\$6,660 pp	AU\$2,020	AU\$0	Available

May 16, 2020 - May 24, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,095 NOW ONLY AU\$6,660 pp	AU\$2,020	AU\$0	Available

May 23, 2020 - May 31, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,095 NOW ONLY AU\$6,660 pp	AU\$2,020	AU\$0	Available

Jun 6, 2020 - Jun 14, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,020	AU\$0	Available

Jun 20, 2020 - Jun 28, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,095 NOW ONLY AU\$6,660 pp	AU\$2,020	AU\$0	Available

Jul 4, 2020 - Jul 12, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,530 NOW ONLY AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,165	AU\$0	Available

Sep 5, 2020 - Sep 13, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,530 NOW ONLY AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,165	AU\$0	Available

Sep 12, 2020 - Sep 20, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,530 NOW ONLY AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,165	AU\$0	Available

Sep 19, 2020 - Sep 27, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,530 NOW ONLY AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,165	AU\$0	Available

Sep 26, 2020 - Oct 4, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$7,530 NOW ONLY AU\$7,095 pp	AU\$2,165	AU\$0	Available

Oct 3, 2020 - Oct 11, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$6,660 NOW ONLY AU\$6,225 pp	AU\$1,585	AU\$0	Available

Oct 10, 2020 - Oct 18, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$6,660 NOW ONLY AU\$6,225 pp	AU\$1,585	AU\$0	Available

Oct 17, 2020 - Oct 25, 2020

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$6,660 NOW ONLY AU\$6,225 pp	AU\$1,585	AU\$0	Available

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