

Croatia and Montenegro



TRIP OVERVIEW

Find yourself at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe on this inspiring eight-day tour into Croatia and Montenegro, which also ventures in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Discover the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', Croatia's stunning historic coastal city of Dubrovnik. See iconic Islamic architecture in Mostar and revel in the dramatic coastal setting of Split. Tiny Montenegro brings enormous pleasure, from the beaches of Budva to the Cathedral and cafes of Kotor. The tour abounds with UNESCO World Heritage Sites, awe-inspiring scenery and culinary as well as cultural feasts.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Iceland. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Budva D

Depart London on a scheduled flight to Dubrovnik. Be met on arrival and transfer to the beautiful resort of Budva in Montenegro, your hotel base for two nights.

DAY 2: Budva – Kotor – Budva B

This morning set off on a short trip to Kotor, stopping en route at the beautiful little town of Perast, described as "a piece of Venice that has floated down the Adriatic". See its most famous landmark, a man-made islet with a chapel known as 'Our Lady of the Rocks', built by sailors who believed they had encountered a miracle at this spot. Continue on to a tour of Kotor Old Town, an atmospheric delight set between the bay and the mountains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is characterised by soaring defensive walls, ancient café-filled squares, palaces, churches and museums. Most impressive of all is the Cathedral of St. Tryphon, originating from the 12th century and evolving over time after numerous earthquakes. Marvel at the magnificent Renaissance and Romanesque architecture, with vaulted roofs supported by columns and pillars of pink stone. Don't miss its most valuable treasure, the gilded bas-relief altar screen. Built in honour of the city's patron Saint Tryphon, this is one of only two Roman Catholic Cathedrals in Montenegro.

DAY 3: Budva to Dubrovnik B

After breakfast transfer back to Dubrovnik, Croatia's picture-perfect medieval city which has featured as a backdrop to many a Hollywood production. Today's guided walk around the walled old town, is a cultural and visual feast and takes in the many highlights of the city. Stroll along Stradun, the limestone-paved main pedestrian thoroughfare, which buzzes with bars, cafes and street performers before passing the 14th century Franciscan Monastery at Stradun's west end, which has a beautiful garden and Europe's oldest working pharmacy. Afterwards, proceed to nearby Onofrio's Fountain, built in 1438 to bring water into town via an aqueduct seven miles away. Observe Orlando's Column, carved in the form of the ancient Knight Orlando, and admire the stunning Baroque Church of St Blaise, patron saint of Dubrovnik who saved the city from attack by Venetians. This afternoon enjoy time to explore this awe-inspiring city at your leisure before checking into the hotel for the first of two nights.

DAY 4: Dubrovnik B

Today is yours to discover more of Dubrovnik's attractions at your own pace. You might choose to walk the iconic 2km circuit atop the city wall, which offers ever changing vistas across the terracotta rooftops of the city

and the shimmering Adriatic. A different and more leisurely way of getting equally spectacular views is to take a ride in the cable car, opened in 2010. Alternatively, wander through the Old Town and enjoy its many attractions - historic churches and buildings, medieval sculptures, modern galleries, designer shops, cosy cafes, bars and restaurants - it's all here. On the other hand, there are numerous beaches offering a more laid-back option and a chance to relax.

DAY 5: Dubrovnik – Mostar – Split B

Today, depart Dubrovnik after breakfast and travel towards Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Acting as the country's central economic and cultural capital, Mostar is an enchanting and fairy-tale like city which boasts a number of picturesque restaurants and markets. View the country's most recognisable landmark, the Stari Most (Old Bridge), an amazing example of Islamic architecture. The restored bridge again connects numerous sights and attractions on both sides of the city, including the mosque, an old style Turkish house and the old bazaar. Ramble over the cobbled streets of the bazaar and immerse yourself in Mostar's local craft shops and traditional restaurants. Journey onwards to Split, Croatia's 2nd largest city and transfer to tonight's hotel.

DAY 6: Split B

After breakfast, explore the vibrant Croatian city of Split. Occupying a dramatic coastal position, Split is a city in which the architecture and surroundings fluctuate between traditional and modern. Tour the grand Diocletian Palace, built as a luxury villa, summer house and military camp for Roman emperor Diocletian in the fourth century and wonder at the palace's majestic Peristyle and golden gate. Afterwards wander down the waterside promenade lined with lively restaurants, shops and cafes, which contrast with Split's medieval centre.

DAY 7: Split – Krka National Park – Split B/D

Depart Split after breakfast at the hotel and travel to Krka National Park and the Skradinski Buk Waterfalls. Located near Sibenik, these 17 stunning falls along the Krka river are one of the best-known natural beauties of Croatia. Get the best seat in the house by embarking on a boat ride across the river, unquestionably the ultimate way to soak in the sights and sounds of the park. Depart Krka National Park and stop off en route to relax in the historical town of Šibenik, idyllically located on the banks of the river Krka. Overlook the calming blue waters before returning to Split for a dinner at your hotel.

DAY 8: Split to UK or Extension B

This morning, leave the hotel and transfer to Split Airport for your return flight to the UK or onto your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Croatia or Montenegro. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you have booked a triple share, please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Dubrovnik you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Perfecta Travel**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Perfecta Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Perfecta Travel

Contact Number: 00385 91 2660 018
 Email Address: account@perfecta-travel.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Perfecta Travel

Contact in Croatia Telephone number
 24 hr: 00385 91 266 3205
 E-mail: account@perfect-travel.com

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Croatia or Montenegro (or Bosnia and Herzegovina). Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Sunspot Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Croatia & Montenegro is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 12, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 12 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tipping

It is at your customary/discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 2 Euros per person per day. This is a total of €16 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Tour Guides - Local Guides

It is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Currency Exchange Montenegro and Croatia

The currency in Montenegro and Croatia is the Euro. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The currency in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Bosnia - Herzegovina Convertible Mark.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Croatia and Montenegro is 230 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

FLIGHT INFORMATION

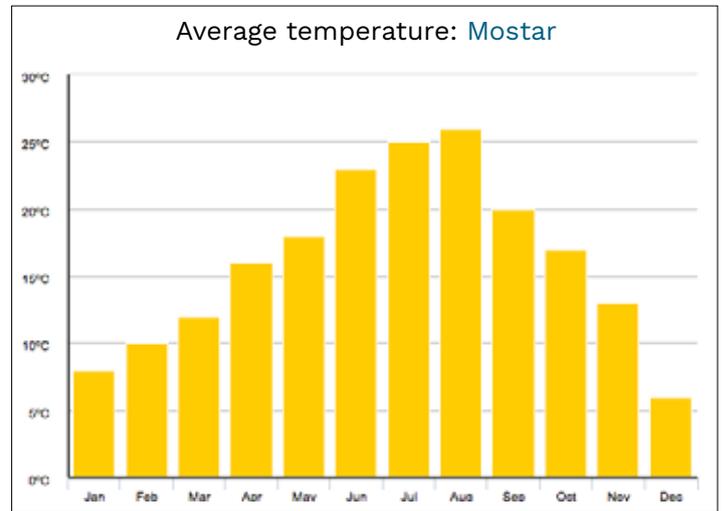
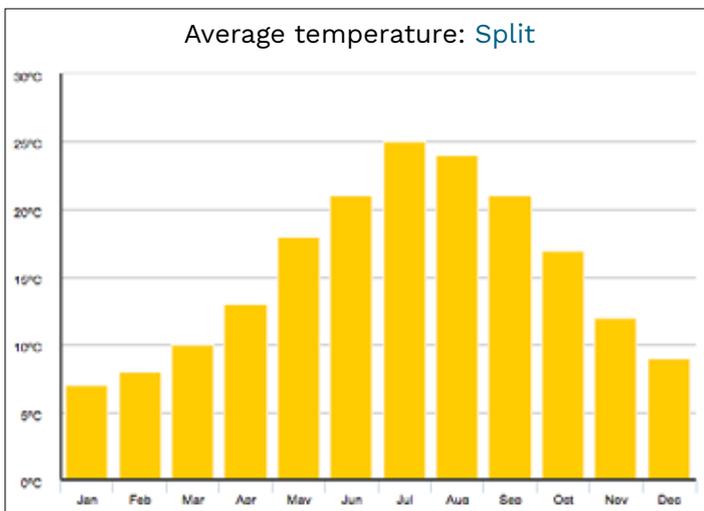
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport and boarding pass to the staff at the desk.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



Split Beach Stay

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



Le Meridien Lav

TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 4 night stay in Split on the Adriatic Seafront is just a few kilometres from Split's city centre, from here you can explore all that this beach area of Croatia has to offer.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Split.

Split (4 nights)

The second-largest city in Croatia, Split is a great place to see the real Dalmatian life. This exuberant city has just the right balance of tradition and modernity. Step inside Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments) and you'll see dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thriving amid the atmospheric old walls where Split life has been going on for thousands of years.

Hotel Information

Your stay will take place at the following hotel:

5★ Le Meridien Lav Split on Bed & Breakfast.

Le Meridien Lav is a five star hotel in Split that features 381 modern rooms, perfect to accommodate a family or a group. The hotel's unique beach front location invites guests to immerse themselves in the inspirational panoramic views of the Adriatic sea.

Hotel information:

Address: Grljevačka 2A, Podstrana, 21312, Split, Croatia.
Contact number: 00385 (21) 500500

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Split is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0333 003 0522**

Tucepi, Makarska Beach Stay

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your island adventure comes to an end with a 4 night, 5 day beach extension to Tucepi. A small town located on the Adriatic coast known as the Makarska Riviera.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Tucepi.

Tucepi, Makarska (4 nights)

Tucepi is located 4 km south-east of Makarska is a popular tourist destination thanks to its glorious coastline. Tucepi's white pebble beaches are edged by pine and olive trees and enjoy a mild climate, due in part to the shelter provided by Mt Biokovo.

Hotel Information

Your stay will take place at the 4★ Bluesun Hotel Alga on Bed and Breakfast.

The Bluesun Hotel Alga is located in Tucepi, one of the most beautiful destinations of the Makarska Riviera. Only a few steps away from the best known beach in Tucepi, the Hotel Alga is ideal for guests who primarily want to have fun, meet new people, enjoy numerous sports activities in the nearby Slatina Sports Centre or go on various excursions.

Hotel information: Dračevica 35, 21325, Tučepi, Croatia.

Contact number: 00385 (2)1601111

Any alternative board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Tucepi is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

Please note:

This extension takes place after your main tour.



Bluesun Hotel Alga



Bluesun Hotel Alga

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0333 003 0522**