Discover the best of Croatia and Slovenia before exploring the cities of Mostar and Sarajevo in Bosnia, and historic Belgrade and Novi Sad in Serbia.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Croatia - the capital Zagreb, picturesque Plitvice Lakes, coastal Zadar, beautiful Split & historic Dubrovnik
- Slovenia - the capital Ljubljana & stunning Lake Bled
- Bosnia & Herzegovina - historic Mostar & the capital Sarajevo
- Serbia - the capital Belgrade & Novi Sad

**What’s Included**
- 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 8 dinners
- 10 nights 3 - 4 star accommodation
- Airport arrival departure transfers on days 1 & 11
- Guided sightseeing in Zagreb, Ljubljana, Plitvice Lakes, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Novi Sad and Osijek
- English speaking local guide
- All transport and transfers in a/c vehicles

**What’s Not Included**
- International flights and visas. Note: this tour travels through Bosnia & Herzegovinia - Please see arrangements of day 5 on our tour Trip Notes for further details relating to visa requirements for this section of the trip
- Entrance fees to sites, other than those listed
- Tip for your tour leader. As a guideline we suggest EUR 3–5 per person per day

**DETAILED ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Zagreb**

Wednesday. Welcome to Zagreb and the start of your holiday. Included transfer from the airport to your hotel in the city. The remains of the day offer free time for you to head out and explore this beautiful city which marks the crossroad between the Adriatic coast and Central Europe. **Overnight - Zagreb (D)**

**Day 2: Bled**

Zagreb - Bled. We start the day with a sightseeing tour of the city. We will make our way to the fortified Upper Town (the city’s historical centre), passing St Mark’s Church with its stunning multi-coloured tiled roof, the Croatian National Theatre, University and Zagreb Cathedra, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with its towering Gothic spires.

This afternoon we continue to Bled in the Julian Alps - famous for its thermal lake. **Overnight - Bled (B, D)**

**Day 3: Ljubljana**

After breakfast we drive to Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital and take part in a guided tour of the old city. We’ll see the Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, Robba’s Fountain and visit the colourful open-air central Market, selling beautifully smoked cheeses, meats and fresh fruit and vegetables. Nibble your way around!

Later continue onto the Plitvice Lakes region for the evening. This 20-km long karst cave system with its web of underground passages, galleries and chambers is the largest karst...
Balkans Odyssey

cave open for visitation in all of Europe. Walk around the wooden promenades this evening and enjoy the magnificent views over the waters with its 16 clear blue lakes that cascade into 92 waterfalls. **Overnight - Plitvice Lakes (B, D)**

### Day 4 : Plitvice Lakes

Plitvice - Zadar - Split. This morning we continue on to discover Zadar, we take a guided tour of the 2nd century BC Roman Forum and see the 9th Century pre-Romanesque church of St. Donatus.

Later this afternoon arrival into Split where we explore the city including learning the secrets of the UNESCO protected Diocletian’s Palace. The narrow streets of Split are fascinating maze of history and stunning ancient architecture. **Overnight - Split (B, D)**

### Day 5 : Split & Dubrovnik

Split - Dubrovnik. Leaving Split we drive south along the Dalmatian coastline, crossing the Neum Corridor of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Dubrovnik - the Jewel in the nation’s crown. This afternoon you'll enjoy a walking tour of this UNESCO listed old city with its towering fortress wall and the Dubrovnik Cathedral, built in Roman Baroque architectural style.

Alternatively, you can opt to join an optional excursion to the island of Korcula, enroute a stop is made to one of the well-known wine cellars of the Peljesac peninsula to sample local wine. **Overnight - Dubrovnik (B, D)**

### Day 6 : Dubrovnik & Korcula

Dubrovnik – Mostar – Sarajevo. This morning we drive to Mostar to see The Old Bridge. Commissioned by the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1557 and rebuilt in 2003, it is still one of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s most recognizable landmarks, and is considered one of the most exemplary pieces of Islamic architecture. After an orientation walk of the city and free time for lunch we drive onward to Sarajevo. Arriving in the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo is one of the historically most interesting cities in Europe and is a vibrant and cosmopolitan place to live. We will explore this capital city on a walking tour, taking in some of the highlights. **Overnight - Sarajevo (B, D)**

### Day 7 : Mostar & Sarajevo, Bosnia

Sarajevo – Zvornik – Belgrade. This morning we depart towards Belgrade and the fourth country on this trip, Serbia, we enjoy a short stop enroute in the charming town of Zvornik in northeastern Bosnia. Once we arrive into Serbia’s capital we enjoy a guided tour of this beautiful city set between two rivers. **Overnight - Belgrade (B, D)**

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Day 9: Novi Sad, Serbia

Belgrade - Novi Sad - Osijek/Vukovar. This morning we visit Serbia’s second largest city - Novi Sad located on the Danube River, with it’s imposing fortress on one side and the churches of numerous denominations on the other it’s an exciting city with cultural sights that many larger cities would be envious of. After a morning walking tour in Novi Sad, we cross the border back in to Croatia and continue for a stop at Ilok where you’ll have the option to partake in a wine tasting experience in one of Croatia’s most famous wine cellars ‘Ilocki Podrumi’. We then enjoy a traditional lunch. Late this afternoon we continue into Osijek or Vukovar where we will spend the night. Overnight - Osijek or Vukovar (B, L)

Day 10: Djakovo & Star Kepela, Croatia

Osijek/Vukovar - Zagreb. Today we start with a walking tour of Osijek - the largest city in eastern Croatia. A popular destination known for its Baroque style and amazing cuisine - we visit the cathedral and the Tvrdja (Old Fort). Continuing on we drive to Djakovo - dominated by its magnificent red bricked cathedral. Before we reach our final destination of Zagreb we stop to visit the Ethno Village of Stara Kapela where we will enjoy lunch before continuing onto Zagreb. Overnight - Zagreb (B, L)

Day 11: Zagreb

Saturday. A leisurely day for you to further see the sights of this beautiful city, before included departure transfer to the airport. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Hotel Astoria

Part of Best Western's Premier range, the elegant Hotel Astoria offers a high level of comfort and style, fitting with the brand. Guests can choose from a variety of different sizes of room, each offering plush, attractive furniture and a range of modern amenities, including a minibar and satellite TV. The hotel's Ragusa restaurant has a great ambiance and serves a wonderful selection of local and international dishes. The accommodation is conveniently located just 300m from the train station and offers free parking for guests.

Hotel Lero

The elegant Hotel Lero is a spacious accommodation that offers free WiFi to all of its guests and has an onsite salon as well as a massage parlour. The air-conditioned rooms are comfortable and stylish, ensuring that guests have a wonderful night's sleep. The hotel's bar is the perfect location for a leisurely drink before dinner, which can be taken in either of the two restaurants and consists of local and international dishes. A buffet breakfast is served each morning. The hotel is situated just minutes from the beach and 20 minutes on foot from the Old Town.

Jezero Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Plitvice Lakes National Park, Jezero Hotel is the perfect base for any overnight stay in this stunning locale. The property offers a selection of guest rooms and suites, and while the hotel interior is modern in design, the building has been constructed to sit perfectly amongst the natural surroundings. A short walk away is Kozjak – the park’s largest lake. Hotel amenities include an in-house restaurant and lobby bar, a night club and complimentary spa facilities including a gym, whirlpool massage and two Finnish saunas. There’s also a small gift shop on site, plus room service and free WiFi.

Hotel Atrium

As the only 5-star hotel in Split, you cannot go wrong with this luxurious property. The rooms are elegantly furnished in neutral tones and are sound-proofed for a comfortable night’s sleep and provide complimentary bathrobes, slippers and bathroom cosmetics. Guests have the choice of enjoying breakfast from their rooms or at Cardo Restaurant, which serves a choice of Mediterranean and international dishes for lunch and dinner. Meanwhile the City Bar serves cocktails and hot drinks. The Filomena Wellness & Spa centre features an indoor pool, hot tub, sauna and fitness room, and in the evening guests can enjoy live music at the Platinum Casino – the largest of its kind in Dalmatia and open 24 hours a day.

Hotel Astoria

Part of Best Western’s Premier range, the elegant Hotel Astoria offers a high level of comfort and style, fitting with the brand. Guests can choose from a variety of different sizes of room, each offering plush, attractive furniture and a range of modern amenities, including a minibar and satellite TV. The hotel’s Ragusa restaurant has a great ambiance and serves a wonderful selection of local and international dishes. The accommodation is conveniently located just 300m from the train station and offers free parking for guests.

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TOURING ARRANGEMENTS

This tour is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. Some travellers may have different start and end points for their holiday so the group mix may change on a day to day basis. For sightseeing
**Balkans Odyssey**

and transfer the group size may vary between 10 - 38 persons.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**Visas**

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Croatia.

UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA passport holders don’t require a visa for a stay of less than 90 days.

South African passport holders REQUIRE a visa (issued before departure). Requirements for the procurement of a Croatian visa are subject to change but application requirements include the need to show proof of sufficient funds to cover duration of stay, proof of pre-paid accommodation or documentation regarding the purpose and means of travel (such as a return or onward ticket, details of holiday arrangement etc).

**Health Requirements**

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Croatia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Diphtheria, Hepatitis A and Tetanus is strongly recommended. The tap water in Croatia is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

**Holiday Money**

The official currency in Croatia is the Croatian Kuna. Any money paid locally for optional excursions that you may wish to partake in can be paid in local currency only - Kuna.

If travelling with Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies these can be exchanged locally or in advance of departure. Internationally recognized debit/credit card can be used for cash machine withdrawals (available in all bigger towns).

It’s advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

**Time & Voltage**

Croatia is 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October, Croatia observes Daylight Saving and is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, AC 50Hz. Primary sockets generally require European plugs, of the two round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

**Climate**

Croatia is a northern hemisphere destination with Mediterranean and continental climatic conditions. The continental climate is predominant with hot summers and cold winters. Along the Adriatic coast, dry summers are experienced with mild winters. Our cruises operate during the Croatian summer, when temperatures are generally high (particularly from June through September), so pack sunscreen and a hat, as the sun can be strong.

**Bosnia And Herzegovina Country Guide**

**Bosnia: Fact File**

**Official Name:** Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Capital:** Sarajevo  
**Population:** 4.6 million  
**Total Area:** 51,129 square kilometres  
**Official Language:** Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian. The Croats and Bosniaks use the Latin alphabet, whereas the Serbs use the Cyrillic.  
**Religions:** 45% Muslim, 36% Orthodox, 15% Roman Catholic, 4% Protestant, Jews and other denominations.

**Village:**  
**Voltage:** 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Two-pin plugs are in use.  
**Dialing Code:** +387  
**Time Difference:** GMT/UTC + 1. For other time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com

**Bosnia: Brief history**

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been inhabited since the Neolithic age (around 9500 BC) and has been occupied by the Illyrians, the Romans, the Byzantines and later the Slavs in the medieval period. The Turks dominated during the 400 year-long Ottoman rule of 1463-1868 and reorganised society along class and religious lines. During this period of relative peace and prosperity, Islam became the dominant religion with Orthodox and Catholic Christians in large minorities. Many of the country’s most important architectural achievements were made during this time, including the Stari Most (bridge at Mostar) and Gazi Husrev-Beg Mosque in Sarajevo. During the last 100 years of Ottoman rule, the situation deteriorated with plagues, military failures and revolts, and in 1875 a widespread peasant rebellion lead to the Ottomans succeeding power to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878. The Austro-Hungarian leaders built catholic cathedrals and encouraged a pluralist multi-religious nation, as well as introducing coal mining, railways and other infrastructure. Political unrest rose as Bosnia’s Catholic and Orthodox population started to identify themselves with neighbouring Croatia or Serbia respectively. After a Serb nationalist assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne in Sarajevo in 1914 sparking the beginning of World War I, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the South Slav Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which became known as Yugoslavia in 1929. Tensions remained over national identities within the kingdom and the map was redrawn many times in an effort to erase traditional geographical divisions between major ethnic groups and formerly separate nations. Yugoslavia was invaded by Germany in 1941 during World War II and Croatia sided with Germany to persecute Croatia’s and Bosnia’s Jewish and Serbian population. Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence from the former Yugoslavia on 3 March 1992.
Balkans Odyssey

which was followed by three years of civil war between Bosnian Serbian forces and Bosnian Muslims as well as between Muslims and Croats. A peace agreement was signed in 1995 and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was created (Muslim & Croat), alongside the Serb republic Republika Srpska. Parliament has since been centralised in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the country has a democratically elected parliament.

Bosnia: Geography and weather

Often referred to as 'heart shaped', Bosnia and Herzegovina share borders with Serbia in the east, Montenegro in the southeast, and Croatia to the north and west. It has a short Adriatic coastline of 20km (12 miles) to the south. Two major rivers to the north (Sava) and east (Drina) shape the countries borders.

Much of the terrain is mountainous and hilly. The climate is variable with moderate continental climatic conditions marked by very cold winters and hot summers. Snowfall can often last until April.

Visit www.weather2travel.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Bosnia: Visas

A valid passport is required for entry. You should also have a copy of your return ticket if requested. Most nationalities do not require a visa, however visa regulations change frequently so it is important you consult with the embassy prior to travelling to ensure you have the correct visas. In some cases you will be crossing the borders on overnight trains and if you do not have the correct visa you will not be allowed to enter the country and will be asked to leave the train. It is the responsibility of the traveller to obtain all correct visas needed prior to departure. Visa services like www.travcour.com can be very helpful.

Bosnia: Money

Please note: ALL prices stated in this dossier are given as a guide only and are subject to change.

Prices quoted in this country dossier are in euro or Konvertibilna Marka (KM) unless otherwise specified.

Local Currency

The monetary unit in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Konvertibilna Marka (KM). For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com.

Notes come in denominations of KM200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 and 50 feniga. Coins are available in denominations of KM2 and 1, and 50, 20 and 10 feniga. Euro notes (but not coins) are also widely accepted, prices can also be found in euros.

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

Most major currencies can be exchanged at banks and bureaux de change, however the pound sterling is less popular than the euro and US dollar. Credit cards are widely accepted. Most banks will give cash advances on credit cards with a passport. Cash machines can be found in cities like Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja and Luka. Travellers cheques can be changed in only in selected banks. Carrying cash is advisable.

Working out your budget

Our Europe pre-departure information booklet includes a general list of all the things you should take into consideration when budgeting and an estimate of what you should allow per day for spending money.

Entrance fees

Generally speaking most entrance fees will be covered by the recommended spending money on your tour dossier. There are, however, other sites and museums that are not part of the tour programme which you may wish to visit in your free time. If you have an International Student Card you will often be entitled to reduced entrance fees.

Tipping

It is customary to give round up the taxi fare and leave an extra 1-2 KM extra at restaurants. (If you are unsure your tour leader will advise a suitable amount). Tipping guides at the end of excursions is always appreciated and your tour leader will advise you on the amount for this.

Bosnia: Optional excursions

A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found on daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

Bosnia: Local transport

The safety and condition of urban roads in Bosnia and Herzegovina are generally fair, but rural road maintenance is poor. During winter and spring, block ice and landslides can make driving difficult. In Sarajevo you will find a fairly efficient tram network. Tickets are sold from kiosks. One of the most popular and reliable ways of getting around on your own in large cities in is by taxi and Sarajevo has many. Try to find out what the going rate for journeys is before you hop in to ensure you are not being overcharged – only some taxis will have meters. Your tour leader will be able to provide advice on this in each major city.

Bosnia: Safety & Security

Generally people find Eastern Europe to be safe and feel confident wandering alone during the day. However if you are unfamiliar with an area it is recommended that you exercise more caution at night and take taxis rather than walk, especially if you are a lone female traveller. In some cities bag snatching can occur so always keep a firm hand/eye on your personal items. Petty theft is becoming increasingly common. If there is a safe available in your hotel it is recommended you use it for any items of value.

The risk of landmines has decreased in recent years, as most mines remaining from the war are now clearly marked. However, visitors are still advised to exercise caution when travelling outside main cities and towns and you should be careful not to stray from roads and paved areas without an experienced guide. Caution should also be taken when driving at night or during winter. Drivers should keep to the main roads. There are also many abandoned houses which are booby trapped with mines, even within towns and cities so it is advisable to stay well clear.

Bosnia: Local food and drink

Some breakfasts are included in your tour. Breakfasts can be basic so if you tend to get hungry it may be a good idea to buy some fruit or snacks to eat during the day. All other

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USA: 1 866 606 2960 SA: 0800 990 311

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- 5 -
meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense.

Ask your tour leader if they can recommend any restaurants in the area to suit your taste or budget or have fun exploring independently.

Food
You will find that the region's traditional cuisine exhibits Turkish influences, with plenty of grilled meat dishes. You may want to try national specialities such as jagnjetina (flame-grilled lamb or mutton), bosanski ionac (meat stew cooked on an open fire), cevapcici (small sausages made from a lamb and beef mix), burek (layered meat or cheese pie made with filo pastry), Baklava (sweet nuts and honey in pastry) and tufahije (apple cake).

All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with wine and beer generally being the cheapest options. The legal drinking age is 18 years-old.

Vegetarians
Vegetarians may occasionally struggle to find suitable dishes, although you may find vegetarian versions of dolma (vegetables such as peppers or aubergines stuffed with rice) and zeljanica (spinach in a flaky filo pastry), as well as plenty of pastry options, kljukva (batter with shredded potatoes, baked) and tufahije (batter with vegetables, baked).Meat dishes are served without the bone on these trip notes. All prices given are in euros unless otherwise specified.

Drink
Spirits made from fruit are popular, so look out for slijovica (homemade plum brandy) and ioza (made from grapes). Turkish-style coffee is also widely available. Popular wines to try are zilavka (white) and blatina (red).

Religion:
Roman Catholic 88%, Orthodox 4.4%, Muslim 1.3%

Voltage: 220-240V. Sockets are of European two pronged round pin variety.

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Bosnia: National holidays

1 January - New Year’s Day.
6 - 7 January - Orthodox Christmas.
15 January - Orthodox New Year.
27 January - St Sava’s Day.
1 March - Independence Day.
2 - 5 April - Easter.
1 May - Labour Day.
15 August - Velika gospa (Western Christian Assumption).

1 November - All Saints’ Day.
25 November - National Statehood Day.
25 December - Christmas.

Croatia Country Guide

Croatia: Fact File

Official Name: Republic of Croatia
Capital: Zagreb
Population: 4.5 million
Total Area: 56,542 square kilometres

Official Languages: Croatian (others Serbian, Italian, Slovenian, Hungarian, Czech)

English is widely spoken in the main cities, if you tour also spends time in smaller towns and villages you may wish to bring along a phrasebook to help you pick up a few words of the local language.

Religion: Roman Catholic 88%, Orthodox 4.4%, Muslim 1.3%

Time Difference: GMT/UTC + 1. For all time differences please visit timeanddate.com

Croatia: Brief History

Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known as Yugoslavia. Following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal independent Communist state under the strong hand of Marshal TITO. Although Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, it took four years of sporadic, but often bitter, fighting before occupying Serb armies were mostly cleared from Croatian lands. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998.

Croatia: Geography and weather

Croatia is situated in southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. Geographically diverse, the country has flat plains along the Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coastline and islands. The climate is predominantly continental with hot summers and cold winters, although the coast is more Mediterranean with mild winters and dry summers.

Croatia: Visas

Many nationalities (including citizens of the UK, Australia, Canada, the US and EU citizens) do not need a visa to enter Croatia or Slovenia. However, visitors must hold an onward ticket, all documents required for their next destination and sufficient funds. If your nationality is not listed please consult your nearest Croatian consulate before you travel.

Croatia: Money

Croatia: Money

Prices quoted in this country dossier are in euros unless otherwise specified. ALL prices mentioned are for guidance only and are subject to change.

Local currency
The monetary unit in the kuna (HRK). For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com. You might find kuna difficult to obtain overseas, however it should be no problem to change currency on arrival.

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

The easiest way to obtain money in Croatia is to draw it out of an ATM (cash machine) on a credit or debit card (e.g. visa or cirrus). ATMs are widely available throughout Croatia and credit cards are accepted in many restaurants and shops. Another option is to bring cash, in either US dollars or euros (pounds sterling and other currencies cannot always be easily changed) but we advise against bringing all your money in this form, in case of theft. In all of the cities that we visit there are many places to change money and your tour leader will be able to show you where to get the best rates of exchange.

Tipping

In a restaurant, round up the bill unless a service charge has already been added or the service was not up to standard. You should also round up bar bills and taxi fares.

Croatia: Optional excursions

A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found in the daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are

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USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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Balkans Odyssey

approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

Croatia: Security
Most people find Croatia a very friendly and safe and feel quite comfortable wandering around alone during the day. However, as with any area you are not familiar with (particularly in the capital cities) it is recommended that you exercise more caution at night especially if you are a lone female.

Croatia: Local food and drink
Some breakfasts are included in your tour. Breakfasts can be basic so if you tend to get hungry it may be a good idea to buy some fruit or snacks to eat during the day. All other meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense.

Ask your tour leader if they can recommend any restaurants in the area to suit your taste or budget or have fun exploring independently.

Food
Croatian specialities include Dalmatian or Istrian prosciutto, Pag or Lika cheese, sheep’s cheese, Slavonian paprika-flavoured salami (‘kulen’ and Samobor or Zagorje garlic sausages). There is also a wide selection of meat dishes, including turkey with a special pasta known as ‘milinci’, roast lamb, roast suckling pig, and boiled or baked “štrukli” (pasta with cheese). Croatian vineyards produce reasonable wine – particularly red and you will almost certainly come across plum brandy, a national favourite.

Drink
All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with wine and beer generally being the cheapest options.

Croatia: National holidays
1 January - New Year’s Day
6 January - Epiphany; Easter Sunday & Easter Monday
1 May - Labour Day; Corpus Christi
22 June - Anti-Fascist Resistance Day
25 June - Statehood Day
5 August - Victory Day and National Thanksgiving Day

15 August - Assumption Day
8 October- Independence Day
1 November - All Saints’ Day
25-26 December - Christmas Holidays

Slovenia Country Guide

Slovenia: Fact File
Official Name: Republic of Slovenia
Capital: Ljubljana
Population: 2 million
Total Area: 20,273 square kilometres
Official Language: Slovenian (others Serbo-Croatian). English is widely spoken in the main cities, If you tour also spends time in smaller towns and villages you may wish to bring along a phrasebook to help you pick up a few words of the local language.

Religions: Roman Catholic 88%, Orthodox 4.4%, Muslim 1.3% / Roman Catholic 71%, Lutheran 1%, Muslim 1%
Voltage: 220-240 volts. European-style two-pin plugs are in use.
Dialling Code: +386
Time Difference: GMT/UTC +1. For other time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com

Slovenia: Brief history
Slovenia was part of the Holy Roman Empire and then the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918, when the Slovenes joined the Serbs and Croats in forming a new multinational state, renamed Yugoslavia. After World War II, Slovenia became a republic of the renewed Yugoslavia, and although Communist, distanced itself from Moscow’s rule. The Slovenes succeeded in establishing their independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 after a short 10-day war. Historical ties to Western Europe, a strong economy, and a stable democracy have assisted in Slovenia’s transformation to a modern state. Slovenia acceded to both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004.

Slovenia: Geography and weather
Slovenia is wedged between Austria and Croatia. Often referred to as a microcosm of European geography as a whole, the geography varies from a short coastal strip on the Adriatic, an alpine mountain region adjacent to Italy and Austria and mixed mountains and valleys with numerous rivers to the east. Slovenia experiences a Mediterranean climate on the coast and a continental climate with mild to hot summers and cold winters in the plateaus and valleys to the east.

Our tours mostly operate from late spring (April/May) to early Autumn (in Eastern Europe) when the weather is generally at its best. Temperatures will vary but will still be cool in April/May and again in October. The warmest months tend to be July/August. The further south you are the higher the average temperatures. You can expect snow from December to late March.

Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Slovenia: Visas
Many nationalities (including citizens of the UK, Australia, Canada, the US and most of continental Europe) do not need a visa to enter Slovenia. However, visitors must hold an onward ticket, all documents required for their next destination and sufficient funds. If your nationality is not listed please consult your nearest Slovenian embassy or consulate before you travel.

Slovenia: Money
ALL prices stated in this dossier are given as a guide only and are subject to change.

Local currency
Slovenia is in the euro zone. For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com.

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs
The easiest way to obtain money in Slovenia is to draw it out of an ATM (cash machine) on a credit or debit card (e.g. visa or cirrus). ATMs are widely available throughout Eastern Europe and credit cards are accepted in many restaurants and shops. Another option is to bring cash in euros but we advise against bringing all your money in this form, in case of theft.

Working out your budget

Balkans Odyssey - 11 days
www.onthegotours.com
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AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
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USA 1866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Balkans Odyssey

Our Europe pre departure information includes a general list of all the things you should take into consideration when budgeting and an estimate of what you should allow per day for spending money. Below are some specific notes relevant to our tours in Slovenia.

**Entrance fees**
Generally speaking most entrance fees will be covered by the recommended spending money. There are, however, other sites and museums that are not part of the tour programme which you may wish to visit in your free time. If you have an International Student Card you will often be entitled to reduced entrance fees.

**Tipping**
In a restaurant, round up the bill unless a service charge has already been added or the service was not up to standard. You should also round up bar bills and taxi fares. In Slovenia tipping is not compulsory, but a 10% gratuity in restaurants will always be appreciated.

**Slovenia: Optional excursions**
A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found on daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

**Slovenia: Security**
Generally people find Eastern Europe to be safe and feel confident wandering alone during the day. However if you are unfamiliar with an area it is recommended that you exercise more caution at night and taxi taxis rather than walk, especially if you are a lone female traveller. In some cities bag snatching can occur so always keep a firm hand/eye on your personal items.

**Slovenia: Local food and drink**
Most meals are included when camping (please see your trip notes for a complete breakdown of meals included). Breakfasts can be basic so if you tend to get hungry it may be a good idea to buy some fruit or snacks to eat during the day. All other meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense.

Ask your tour leader if they can recommend any restaurants in the area to suit your taste or budget or have fun exploring independently.

**Food**
In Slovenia food is heavily based on fish, venison and the dumpling although popular everyday dishes also include cabbage, beans and potatoes. Every Slovenian region has its own various types of bread. Traditional dishes are best tried at an inn (gostilna).

**Drink**
Slovenia has been making wine since the time of the Romans, and it now produces many high quality varieties.

All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with wine and beer generally being the cheapest options. The legal drinking age is 18.

**Slovenia: National holidays**
1-2 January - New Year
8 February - Preseren Day (Slovenian Cultural Holiday)
28 March - Easter Monday
27 April - Resistance Day
1-2 May - Labour Day Holiday
15 May - Pentecost
25 June - National Day
15 August - Assumption
31 October - Reformation Day
1 November - All Saints’ Day
25 December - Christmas Day
26 December - Independence Day