

CRUISING THE ADRIATIC - CROATIA & SLOVENIA



operatunity

Travel

Venice, Slovenia, private cruise
of Croatia, opera and song,
folklore concerts

22 AUGUST - 15 SEPTEMBER 2019

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The 'jewel in the crown', the Adriatic Sea beckons us for a truly remarkable, escorted tour of Croatia and Slovenia. Starting in Venice and ending in "the pearl of the Adriatic", we experience the music, colour and culture of this magnificent region.

Experience the Exceptional...

- With sparkling seas of sapphire, rich coral buildings and a history steeped in both tragedy and triumph, we journey through Slovenia by land and Croatia by land and sea.
- Our exclusive luxury small ship charter ensures we enjoy the best of everything, complete with the Operatunity 'feel' provided by Sue, John and Paul on piano.
- Rich with music, we experience our own private concert in the Postojna Caves, folklore concerts, concerts on board our private cruise as well as Vivaldi in Venice. We travel through magnificent lakes and mountains, glistening seas, wondrous castles, stunning churches and quaint, charming villages.
- If this region is the 'jewel in the crown of the Adriatic', our tour is surely the finest white diamond!



PLACES WE STAY

Avangard (Katarina Line) is a five star small ship with only 18 cabins. Her maiden voyage was in May 2017 so she is brand new! *Avangard* is ours exclusively for our seven-night cruise down the Adriatic Coast. This allows us to enjoy our own special flavour, our own destinations and include several themed concerts from Sue, John and Paul on piano as well as the opportunity to bring music groups onboard for our sole entertainment.

Hotel Ca' dei Conti is a romantic, elegant hotel set in the heart of Venice, built in the 18th century and situated around the corner from St Marks Square.

Rikli Balance Hotel (formerly Hotel Golf), Bled is situated in a beautiful park full of old trees in the very heart of Bled. Boasting magnificent views of Lake Bled, Bled Castle and the Julian Alps, we enjoy lake view rooms at this hotel.

Remisens Hotel Admiral, Opatija is a four star hotel, set right next to the sea, just above the Opatija Seaside Promenade. We enjoy sea view rooms at this hotel.

Cornaro Hotel, Split is an award-winning hotel, which enjoys an excellent central city location complimenting its ancient history surroundings and interior elegance.

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace (five star) is located a short distance from the Dubrovnik Old Town on the beautiful peninsula of Lapad and enjoys spectacular views of the Elaphiti islands.



DUBAI (3 nights - stopovers return plus early check in)

- Sheraton Mall of the Emirates Hotel

As we arrive into Dubai early in the morning we have arranged another night's accommodation so we can go to our rooms immediately. On return, we arrive into Dubai late at night so we will again have access to our rooms immediately.

VENICE (3 nights)

- Hotel Ca' dei Conti

City of love, iconic buildings, San Marco Square, palazzi and canals.

Highlights include:

- Opera at the stunning Teatro La Fenice Opera House.
- Boat ride entrance to Venice.
- Dinner at local restaurant preceded by a Gondola ride.
- Morning guided sightseeing tour including reserved entrances to Doge's Palace and St Mark's Basilica.
- Venetian mask making demonstration and a chance for us to make our own mask!
- Time to stroll and enjoy the beauty of this most romantic of cities.

BLED (2 nights)

- Rikli Balance Hotel (formerly Hotel Golf)

Bled, a Slovenian resort town in the foothills of the Julian Alps, is set along the glacial Lake Bled.

Coach from Venice to Bled via Trieste and a visit to Miramare Castle near Trieste.

Highlights include:

- Gorgeous drive through countryside of Slovenia.
- Gala Slovenian evening programme with wine tasting in the wine cellar, accompanied by accordion music and dinner with local folklore performance.
- Pletna boat ride to the St. Mary's Island located on the lake (church visit included).
- Tour of Bled and a custard cake tasting!



Venice



Doge's Palace, Venice



Lake Bled

OPATIJA (2 nights)

- Remisens Hotel Admiral

An elegant tourist destination, lies at the foot of Učka mountain, with the longest tradition of tourism in Croatia.

TRANSFER TO OPATIJA via the POSTONJNA CAVES and PREDJAMA CASTLE.

One of the highlights of the trip: a private concert presented by Sue, John, Paul and local musicians in the Postonjna Caves with drinks and nibbles and a private special train to transport us within the caves.

Highlights include:

- Guided Opatija walking tour, including Villa Angiolina, the Croatian Museum of Tourism, Juraj Šporer Arts Pavilion, situated next to Abbey and Angiolina Park.
- Chocolate tasting - watch you don't leave Sue behind when you leave - she loves chocolate!
- Rest of the day is free to enjoy a walk along the promenade of Lungomare.
- Folk dance ensemble with live music, performed by traditional Opatija folk dancers in traditional costumes.
- Visit Amphitheatre de Pula and a local and family owned olive oil farm for a tour and tasting before a tour of Rovinj.



Slovenian Folk Dancing

ZADAR (1 night)

- Hotel Pinija

Zadar, a city on Croatia's Dalmatian coast, is known for the Roman and Venetian ruins of its peninsular Old Town. Surrounding the Roman-era forum is 11th-century St. Mary's Convent, with religious art dating to the 8th century.

Highlights include:

- Morning walking tour including visit to Zadar Cathedral and Sea Organ.

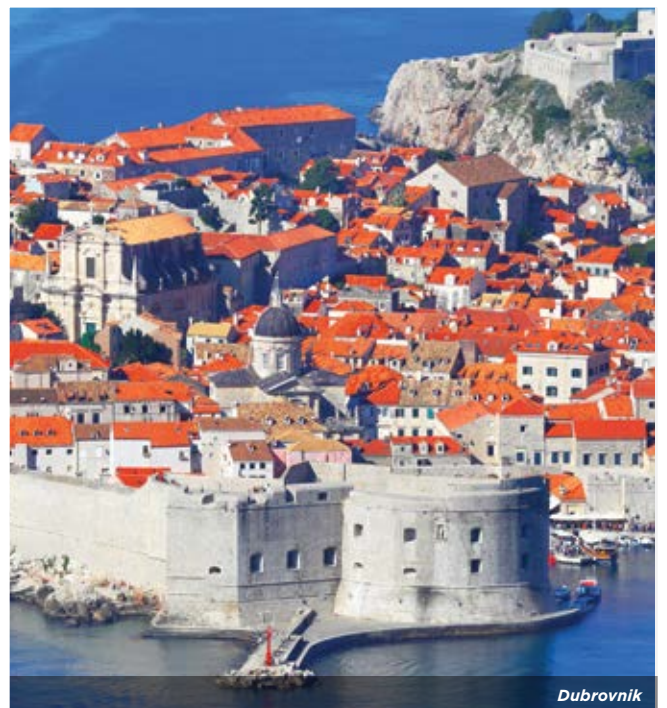
DUBROVNIK (3 nights)

- Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

Dubrovnik's proud and turbulent history goes back to 6th century and this magnificent city is known as "*the pearl of the Adriatic*".

Highlights include:

- Lovely hotel with views over the sea and village.
- Guided walking tour of this magical town ending with the cable car from the Old Town to Srđ mountain to enjoy scenic views of the walls and Elaphiti Islands.
- A full day tour to Montenegro, Croatia's neighbouring country, visiting the UNESCO site of Kotor, alongside the nearby "Our Lady of the Rocks Islet".
- Visit to Lokrum Island near the Old Town.



Dubrovnik

AVANGARD (KATARINA LINE) **- 7 night private chartered cruise**

Avangard is a state of the art small ship with only 18 cabins. Her maiden voyage was in May 2017 so she is brand new!

Avangard is for our exclusive use during our seven-night cruise down the Adriatic Coast. This allows us to enjoy our own special flavour, our own destinations and including several concerts, soirées, sing-alongs and Irish jokes from Sue, John and Paul as well as music groups we will bring onboard, especially to entertain us. Being a small ship it also allows us to enjoy the smaller ports and coastal villages.

Highlights include:

- Concerts provided by Sue, John, Paul and local artists on board.
- Welcome meet & greet cocktail party and dinner on board.



DUBROVNIK (on cruise)

SLANO - STON

- Visit to Slano, a peaceful fishermen's village and Ston, once fortified small village with medieval ramparts.
- Visit to oyster farm to learn more about oysters and tasting this delicious treat.
- Captain's dinner with entertainment.

MLJET

- Island of Mljet with a stroll to the famous salt lakes in the Mljet National Park.
- Boat ride to the St Mary's Islet to visit an ancient Benedictine monastery dating back to the 12th Century.

KORČULA ISLAND -VIS

- Korčula Island, the birthplace of Marco Polo.
- Lunch in one of the secluded bays en route.
- Korčula guided walking tour.
- Excursion to small village near Korčula for traditional Dalmatian dinner.

VIS - HVAR

- Croatian wine and appetiser tasting.
- Cruise towards small island Biševo to visit the Blue Cave.
- Island of Vis, once a strategic naval Yugoslav base and closed to the public.
- Cruise to Hvar.
- Hvar sightseeing tour late afternoon (cathedral, theatre, Benedictine monastery convent).



HVAR / STARI GRAD

- The jet set island Hvar with lunch on board at the Pakleni Islands. Hvar is the longest and sunniest island in the Adriatic known for lavish lavender fields and breathtaking beauty.
- Brač Island with swimming at the most famous beach in Dalmatia – Zlatni Rat in Bol.
- A short presentation of lavender products and a tour of the town's historical landmarks.
- Town fort and free evening to enjoy abundance of entertainment.

SPLIT (2 nights)

- Cornaro Hotel

Split is a 1700-year-old city and a UNESCO world heritage site, with the magnificent Diocletian Palace, once inhabited by the Roman emperor.

Highlights include:

- Split guided walking tour includes the massive substructures of Diocletian's Palace, the cathedral (one of the smallest in the world) and the Temple of Jupiter.
- Visit to Trogir, a town of many churches and history, often known as 'the monument town'.
- Final farewell dinner with music.



Diocletian Palace - Split, Croatia



Zlatni Rat in Bol, Dalmatia



\$17,850 *per person
twin share*

Single Room supplement add \$7,150

Initial Deposit on booking **\$2,000**

Second Deposit due 24 January 2019 **\$3,000**

Final Balance due 24 April 2019

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Return airfares, Auckland - Dubai - Venice // Split - Dubai - Auckland on Emirates, including taxes.
- 24-day extensive tour of Slovenia by land and Croatia by land and sea, fully guided and inclusive of exceptional music and cultural events.
- Music content includes Teatro La Fenice Opera House in Venice, exclusive private concert with Sue, John and Paul plus local musicians in the Postojna Caves, folklore concerts at Opatija and Bled plus concerts, singalongs and the odd joke or 2 onboard by Sue, John, Paul and local artists.
- 7 nights exclusive charter of the five star small ship *Avangard*, Dubrovnik to Split, including music and special events.
- Accommodation in 4 or 5 star hotels in Venice (3 nights), Bled (2 nights), Opatija (2 nights), Zadar (1 night), Dubrovnik (3 nights), Split (2 nights), Dubai stopovers (3 nights including early check-in).
- Numerous tours with special flavours, including guided tours of Venice, Bled, Split, Dubrovnik, Trieste, Montenegro, plus all shore excursions on cruise, Diocletian Palace tour, church tours, castles, wine, chocolate, custard and olive oil tastings, Venetian mask making and gondola ride.
- All tours, boat cruises, coach transfers included as listed on itinerary plus reserved entrance and entrance fees to all sights and sites as listed in itinerary.
- All breakfasts, 10 dinners and 8 lunches, 1 morning tea, tips, portorage and taxes included.
- Limited to 32 people.
- Escorted by Susan Boland, John Cameron and pianist Paul Carnegie-Jones.

EXPLORING TOUR

This is still a moderately paced tour, but you will be required to walk longer distances, walk on cobblestones and stand in museums. To really get the best out of this tour you need to be able to stand or walk for a couple of hours comfortably, be it at a leisurely pace.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All trips are subject to change but any changes will be of equal or greater value.
- Deposits refundable until final payment date minus any costs incurred, or an administration fee of up to \$150.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Travellers are required to obtain comprehensive travel insurance for all international trips.
- Please refer to terms & conditions on our booking form.



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