

# Overseas Adventure Travel<sup>®</sup>

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide<sup>®</sup>



Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece  
2026

# Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will enjoy the thrill of off-the-beaten-path discovery coupled with the convenience of unpacking just once. Aboard our privately owned small ship, you will visit lesser-known ports that larger vessels cannot access—and enjoy intimate interactions with local people in your small group of no more than 25 travelers. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation.

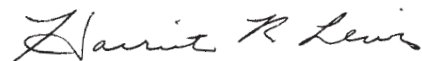
But your personal connections are not limited to your time on land—while onboard, you will enjoy the warm hospitality provided by our friendly, English-speaking crew, as well as the camaraderie of your fellow American travelers. Whether you travel with a partner, sister, friend, or independently, you will feel welcomed and included throughout your journey. And if you do choose to travel solo, you will enjoy an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis

Chair

Overseas Adventure Travel

# CONTENTS

---

## **HIDDEN GEMS OF THE DALMATIAN COAST & GREECE**

### Your Adventure at a Glance:

Where You're Going, What it Costs,  
and What's Included ..... **4**

Your Detailed Day-To-Day Itinerary ..... **6**

Pre-Trip Extension ..... **18**

Post-Trip Extension ..... **21**

Deck Plans ..... **25**

## **ESSENTIAL TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Travel Documents & Entry Requirements... **27**

Rigors, Vaccines & General Health ..... **29**

Money Matters: Local Currency &  
Tipping Guidelines. .... **32**

Air, Optional Tours & Staying in Touch ..... **36**

Packing: What to Bring & Luggage Limits... **40**

Climate & Average Temperatures ..... **46**

Aboard Your Ship: Cabin Features,  
Dining & Services on Board ..... **49**

## **ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE**

The Cultures of the Dalmatian Coast ..... **54**

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs,  
Shipping & More ..... **62**

## **DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY**

Croatia ..... **64**

Montenegro..... **66**

Albania ..... **68**

Greece..... **70**

Slovenia ..... **72**

## **RESOURCES**

Suggested Reading ..... **75**

Suggested Films & Videos ..... **77**

Useful Websites ..... **80**

Useful Apps ..... **81**





Bay of Kotor, Kotor, Montenegro

## Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece small Ship Adventure

**Croatia:** Zadar, Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes, Split, Dubrovnik | **Montenegro:** Kotor  
| **Albania:** Saranda, Butrint | **Greece:** Corfu, Delphi, Athens

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

**17 days starting from \$6,695**

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **Free** or \$995

For departure dates & prices, visit [www.oattravel.com/das2026pricing](http://www.oattravel.com/das2026pricing)

Visit Croatia, a destination that has enchanted travelers for more than a millennium. Witness turquoise lakes linked by soaring waterfalls, islands enrobed in lavender and myrtle, and whitewashed villages perched on sun-baked cliffs. You'll also spend **A Day in the Life** of a rural Croatian village, helping out with hands-on activities around the estate. At the heart of your journey will be 11 nights aboard one of our privately owned 50-passenger small ships, the **M/V Arethusa** or **M/V Athena**, as you cruise to Montenegro, Albania, and gems of ancient Greece.

### IT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodation, including 11 nights aboard the privately owned 50-passenger M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- 40 meals: 15 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 dinners—including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks
- 23 guided tours (with personal headsets) and cultural experiences
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

*Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.*

**Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece**





## WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

**Pacing:** 16 days, with 11 nights aboard the M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*, one three-night hotel stay, and one single-night hotel stay

**Physical Requirements:** Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day, including activities with several sets of stairs and days with possible rough seas requiring good agility, balance, and strength

**Flight time:** Travel time will be 10-20 hours and will most likely have one connection

View all physical requirements at [www.oattravel.com/das](http://www.oattravel.com/das)

## THE DALMATIAN COAST & GREECE: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

**Unbeatable Value:** Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

**People-to-People Experiences:** Get an intimate view of rural Croatian life on our *A Day in the Life* experience in the hinterland of Zadar, where you'll enjoy people-to-people connections and hands-on activities at one of two agricultural estates for an up-close look at daily life in the countryside.

**O.A.T. Exclusives:** We'll go beyond the major cities to Croatia's remote gems like the port of Split and the countryside Gromača village, where you'll meet village residents and learn more about their way of life when you sit down for a **Home-Hosted Dinner** with a local family. Plus, explore Montenegro and Greece, two other countries that make up the Dalmatian Coast.

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Depart U.S.
2-4	Zagreb, Croatia
5-10	Split • Embark ship • Croatian coast
11	Montenegro
12	Albania
13-16	Greece • Corinth Canal • Disembark ship
17	Athens • Return to U.S.

## PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

### OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Alpine Wonders of Slovenia:  
Lake Bled & Ljubljana

PRE-TRIP: 3 nights from **\$1,295**

Athens & the Peloponnese: From  
Homer to the First Olympics

POST-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$1,395**

### ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Bled** before your Slovenia pre-trip extension from **\$130** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Zagreb** before your main adventure from **\$120** per room, per night

# Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece

## YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

### BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

#### 3 nights in *Alpine Wonders of Slovenia: Lake Bled & Ljubljana*

**Day 1** Depart U.S.

**Day 2** Ljubljana, Slovenia • Arrive Bled

**Day 3** Explore Bled

**Day 4** Bled • Optional Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle tour

**Day 5** Bled • Explore Ljubljana • Zagreb, Croatia • Join main trip

#### **Day 1** Depart U.S.

Fly from the U.S. to Zagreb, Croatia.

#### **Day 2** Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

- Destination: Zagreb
- Accommodations: Sheraton Zagreb Hotel or similar

**Morning:** Arrive in Zagreb in the late morning or early afternoon. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to your hotel, where you'll join travelers arriving from the *Alpine Wonders of Slovenia: Lake Bled & Ljubljana* pre-trip extension and travelers who arrived early in Zagreb before the main adventure.

**Lunch:** On your own—you'll find numerous restaurants and cafés within walking distance. You may choose to seek out a restaurant that serves regional classics like *Punjene paprika* (stuffed peppers). Your Trip Experience Leader will provide recommendations for his or her favorite local spots.

**Afternoon:** After you settle into your room, you might take a stroll to the nearby central square, where you'll find markets, boutiques, and cafés.

**Dinner:** On your own this evening. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to provide suggestions. Perhaps you'll look to find a restaurant that serves typical Croatian dishes, such as *Kotlovina*—a fried meat and vegetables dish that is popular in Zagreb.

**Evening:** The rest of the evening is free. This might be a good time to adjust to the time difference by relaxing in the hotel's public areas or in the comfort of your room.

#### **Day 3** Explore Zagreb

- Destination: Zagreb
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Sheraton Zagreb Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Gather for a Welcome Briefing in the hotel. Afterward, your Trip Experience Leader will guide you on a short orientation walk around the vicinity of your hotel.

Then, you and your fellow travelers step out on a 2.5-hour city tour of Zagreb. Begin with a stroll through the Lower Town, whose well-designed street grid was laid out in the 19th century. Here, you'll be introduced to many of the city's civic and historic monuments, including the fortified Lotrščak Tower and the sprawling Ban Jelačić Square.

Then, take the funicular to discover Zagreb's medieval landmarks, such as St. Mark's Church and the neo-Gothic Cathedral of the Assumption, which you will have the opportunity to admire from the inside as well.

After, you'll visit Dolac, Zagreb's most vibrant open-air market. Here, you'll find vendor stalls of colorful produce and a variety of local ingredients. Peruse the lively stalls as you stroll beneath a canopy of bright red umbrellas.

**Lunch:** On your own. Perhaps you'll sample some fresh, local produce you picked up at Dolac. Or you may seek out a popular local dish like *strukli*, which is a cottage cheese- and sour cream-stuffed pastry.

**Afternoon:** The afternoon is free for you to make your own discoveries. Maybe you'll visit the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla; you might seize the opportunity to discover many of Tesla's inventions that changed the world.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant, where you'll dine on local cuisine as you get acquainted with your fellow travelers over a Welcome Drink and Dinner.

**Evening:** On your own to explore at your own pace. Tkalciceva Street is a good place to enjoy the city's nightlife. Or, if you prefer the

Lower Town, you might check out the bars and nightclubs set between Trg Petra Preradovića and Bogovićeve.

#### **Day 4 Zagreb • Explore Varazdin • Family estate visit**

- Destination: Varazdin
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Sheraton Zagreb Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Today, you'll venture into the Croatian countryside to Varazdin, a beautifully preserved Baroque city that's often compared to Vienna. For centuries, this was the home of several aristocratic families, who built magnificent palaces and churches that continue to grace the city today. Upon arrival, you'll then take a short walk to the city's centerpiece: its castle. Surrounded by a moat and entered via drawbridge, it is now a museum featuring antique furniture from different eras. Begun in the twelfth century, the castle was still used as a seat of local government until 1925, and is set in a park with striking landscaping. Enjoy an hour-long tour with a museum curator in this historical setting.

Then, you'll embark on a walking tour of Varazdin with a local guide. You'll then have some free time at leisure to roam the streets and admire the Baroque architecture of this "Little Vienna."

Next, you and your small group will head to a local family estate. Your visit gives you a unique perspective on rural life in Croatia. You'll meet with the owner of the family estate who will share insights into the inner workings of the property. Then, you'll continue to savor the flavors of the estate when your hosts lead you to their wine cellar for a tasting of the varieties that are cultivated here.

**Lunch:** At the estate. Savor a farm-fresh lunch with ingredients that were harvested on the property.

**Afternoon:** Return to Zagreb. The rest of the afternoon is free. You might venture to the Museum of Broken Relationships and discover the ever-growing collections about how we love, grieve and more.

**Dinner:** On your own—there's always someplace new to try within walking distance of the hotel, with choices ranging from cozy to elegant and from burgers to French, Eastern European, African, and Japanese.

**Evening:** You may wish to retire to your room after dinner tonight. Or enjoy a nightcap at the hotel or at a nearby bar.

## **Day 5 Explore Plitvice Lakes • Zadar • Embark ship**

- Destination: Zadar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Activity Note:** Today's activities features a 4.5-hour overland transfer, with a stop along the way in Plitvice to break up our drive. Your 3-hour walking tour of the Plitvice Lakes region includes uneven ground and several sets of stairs (up to 300 stairs, uphill and downhill). Also, please note that agility will be required to board the M/V *Athena* or M/V *Arethusa*. When embarking your small ship, keep in mind that the gangplank may be steep, and elevators are not available onboard. This Small Ship Adventure includes long stretches of sailing, where rough sea conditions are possible.

**Also, please note that the Corinth Canal may close unexpectedly throughout the year.** Your Trip Experience Leader will advise if your departure is impacted.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** This morning you will drive to the Plitvice Lakes National Park. This 114-square-mile national park has at its heart 16 vibrant turquoise lakes linked by a multitude of crashing waterfalls and dramatic cascades. The magnificent natural wonder has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. Enjoy a 3-hour exploration of this beautiful region's lakes, during which you can choose to follow more or less strenuous paths depending on your preference.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** You'll drive to Zadar, the oldest inhabited city on the Adriatic seacoast in the Croatian province of Dalmatia. When you arrive, you'll embark your small ship. For the next eleven nights, our privately owned 50-passenger vessel will be your home. The ship is staffed by a friendly, English-speaking crew who will be eager to welcome you aboard and show you to your room.

After settling in, your Captain will conduct a safety briefing. At the conclusion, you'll have time to get acquainted with the ship's inviting common areas.

**Dinner:** In the ship's dining room. As with all the dinners during your cruise, the dress code is relaxed and smart casual, and you are free to sit at whichever table you please. You'll be offered a choice of appetizer, soup, entrée, and dessert—including regional options—and complimentary house beer, house wine, and soft drinks.

**Evening:** The rest of the evening is free. Your ship remains moored at Zadar overnight. You might take advantage of the opportunity to stroll along the lovely and well-lit Riva seaside promenade, just a short walk from the ship.



## Day 6 Zadar • *A Day in the Life of a Croatian village*

- Destination: Zadar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** We step ashore and split into two groups to begin our **NEW A Day in the Life** experience in one of two Croatian villages—both activities are sure to offer equally memorable insights into day-to-day rural Croatian life. The first group will travel to the village of Sopot, while the second will head to the agricultural estate of a local family in the Ravni Kotari countryside. Travelers in the second group will explore in the company of the farm’s gregarious owner and help out with hands-on activities around the estate, such as planting seeds, watering crops, making wine, and preparing lunch in the kitchen.

For those who will visit Sopot, our journey begins when we drive to a farm owned by our hosts. Upon arrival, we’ll be greeted by the matriarch of the family and we’ll toast the occasion with a sip of homemade brandy.

We will meet the rest of her family, and we’ll get to know each other during a conversation to learn about the history of the farm and the family’s ties to the area.

After, we’ll begin a walking tour of the farm to learn about the various produce they grow here. The bounty of this 2-acre land is diverse, and includes dozens of olive and almond trees, as well as facilities for the production of prosciutto, brandy, wine, a variety of fruit and vegetables, and herbal teas and cosmetics.

Then, we’ll split into groups to help out with some more hands-on activities on the farm. You might choose to head to the kitchen to

help prepare a lunch that we’ll soon share together; others might be assigned another task depending on the needs of the season, such as curing prosciutto, tending to the olive trees, or helping out in the cosmetics workshop.

**Lunch:** After working up an appetite, we’ll sit down at the family table to enjoy a farm-fresh lunch together. We’ll likely enjoy traditional dishes that the family makes frequently.

**Afternoon:** After we clear the table, we’ll set off on a short stroll around the village. Sopot is a small, tightly-knit community of about 300 people; our host knows just about everybody, and since the farm gladly shares its bounty with the local community, she is one of the village’s most well-loved residents. The first group might enjoy a firsthand view of what life is like in the Croatian countryside during a walk with our host.

We’ll bid farewell and drive back to our ship. You’re welcome to spend the remainder of the afternoon relaxing on board.

Later, your Trip Experience Leader will deliver the first in a series of nightly Port Talks. These informative discussions, led by your Trip Experience Leader, will give you an overview of the following day’s itinerary and prepare you for the destination ahead.

**Dinner:** Join your fellow travelers in the dining room for a Welcome Dinner with the Captain and his crew.

**Evening:** You may want to relax in the lounge this evening, or head up to the Sun Deck and gaze at the sky. Your ship lifts anchor and begins its voyage to Split.

## Day 7 Explore Split

- Destination: Split
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** We'll disembark the ship to meet a local guide for a roughly 2.5-hour walking tour of Split's Old Town. Here, you'll discover the Imperial Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the greatest Roman ruin in southeastern Europe. As modern Split grew, it built around the site—incorporating their ancient heritage with the new. Built like a fortress with walls 590 feet by 705 feet, the palace was occupied by the Emperor Diocletian from AD 300–313.

The medieval town of Split took shape within the palace walls; Diocletian's Temple of Jupiter was converted into a Christian baptistery and his mausoleum became a cathedral. The entire old section of Split, with the palace as its centerpiece, is a virtual open-air museum with the city's contemporary life bustling through it. At the end of your tour, you'll have some free time to explore the shops and alleyways on your own before returning to the ship.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** Explore more of Split at your own pace. You might climb the bell tower for sweeping views of the city and the Adriatic beyond. Browse the stone carvings, jewelry, armor, and other exhibits of the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments, or admire the sculptures and other artwork by a famous Croatian native son at the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery. Or join the locals on a stroll through Strossmayer's Garden, a public park whose centerpiece is a beautiful fountain.

Later, join your small group in the lounge for tonight's Port Talk.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Perhaps you'll relax in the lounge or gaze at the night sky from the Sun Deck as your ship sails to Korcula.

## Day 8 Explore Korcula • Dubrovnik

- Destination: Korcula
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** You'll step off your ship and into the heart of historic Korcula.

You'll visit the spot believed by many historians to have been Marco Polo's birthplace (only one stone wall of the house remains). You will also get acquainted with Korcula town's history, which included centuries of rule by Venice, during a visit to its local museum, set in a 16th-century palace.

The next highlight of your tour is St. Mark's Cathedral on the main square. Here, a local guide will share the historical importance of the Roman Catholic Church in Korcula. Admire the church's detailed Romanesque portal by Bonino of Milano depicting Adam and Eve on either side and St. Mark perched at the top. Inside the cathedral, you'll see a 16th-century painting by the master Tintoretto above the main altar. Even more treasures await as you visit the Bishop's Treasury—a sketch by Da Vinci, drawings by Raphael, and paintings by Italian masters like Carpaccio are standouts. Your explorations also include the treasury of the 14th-century Abbey Palace.

You may then return to the ship or remain in Korcula and explore on your own. You might admire the Baroque palaces that line the town square. Visit the Icon Museum, located near the 14th-century All Saints' Church. Or view the exhibits at the Memorial Collection of Maksimilijan Vanka on the waterfront nearby.

**Lunch:** Revel in sunlight and sea breezes over lunch on the Sun Deck (weather permitting). Or remain in Korcula and find a café for lunch on your own.

**Afternoon:** After your ship sets sail for Dubrovnik, you have the remainder of the afternoon free to relax onboard. You might head up to the Sun Deck to enjoy the open air and scrolling sea views, take a nap in your cabin, or head to the lounge for conversation with new friends you've made on your cruise. Later, gather for a Port Talk.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Your ship arrives in Dubrovnik. Behold a sea of red roofs, illuminated by the city lights, reflecting in the shimmering waters that surround Dubrovnik.

## **Day 9 Explore Dubrovnik • Gromača village • Home-Hosted Dinner**

- Destination: Dubrovnik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusia* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** With its old section, the *Stari Grad*, surrounded entirely by white stone walls, Dubrovnik gleams like the proverbial City on a Hill. Regarded today as one of the world's most exquisite walled cities, Dubrovnik's character reflects its storied past as an independent city-state that rivaled Venice. Also known by its Latin name, Ragusa, this was a fortress

city that served as the base for a fleet of ships that carried trade between much of Europe and the Middle East. The city-state's period of autonomy extended from 1358 to 1808. In the early 1990s, some of Dubrovnik's historic sites sustained damage during the Balkan conflicts, but the city has been peaceful for more than 20 years and largely restored under UNESCO supervision. This restoration work has been supported with a donation from Grand Circle Foundation.

This morning, you'll discover the highlights of this historic gem on a walking tour, which will last a little over 1.5 hours.

The rest of the morning is free. Perhaps you'll stroll the Stradun, the pedestrian-only main street through the heart of the Old Town, and admire the ornate Onofrio's Fountain. You can catch a shuttle back to the ship whenever you'd like.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship, or you may stay in Dubrovnik and enjoy one of the city's many cafés on your own.

**Afternoon:** Relax onboard this afternoon, or continue your exploration of Dubrovnik. You might take in a bird's-eye view of the city on a cable car ride. Or visit some of Dubrovnik's hidden museums, such as the state archives at Sponza Palace, a 16th-century former customs house and mint. Later, gather for a Port Talk.

**Dinner:** Drive by to Gromača, a village of around 150 people near Dubrovnik where we'll split into smaller groups, and join a local family for a **Home-Hosted Dinner**.

We arrive in Gromača and take a stroll through the village with our hosts to meet the residents and catch a glimpse of daily life here. Then, we'll sit down at the table and share a meal with our host family.



By separating into smaller groups, we'll have an exclusive opportunity to enter the homes of Gromača's residents and connect intimately with them to learn about what life is like here. Our hosts hail from a variety of working- or middle-class backgrounds, and multiple generations of the family might be present during our meal, offering a broad view of village life in Croatia. Long-term residents may also be able to offer their perspective of what life here was like during wartime in the 1990s—Gromača was pillaged by the Yugoslav People's Army during that conflict.

We'll also enjoy a taste of authentic home-cooked Croatian cuisine as we share a typical meal that our host family would enjoy in their day-to-day lives. We might enjoy a traditional dish like *sporki makaruli* (colloquially known as "dirty macaroni"), a meat and pasta dish historically enjoyed by the servants of Dubrovnik's aristocracy, who would prepare it with the leftovers of feast day meats.

**Evening:** The rest of the evening is free to enjoy the ship's amenities.

### Day 10 Dubrovnik • Optional Konavle tour

- Destination: Dubrovnik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** You are welcome to join an optional tour to the Konavle region of Croatia. In this scenic landscape of mountains, vineyards, and orchards, you'll glimpse everyday life as you visit an art gallery and an olive mill.

Or, if you prefer, you may spend the day pursuing your own interests in Dubrovnik. Perhaps you'll head to the beach. Banje Beach is located within walking distance of the Ploče Gate to the Old Town. Take a short walk north

of the Old Town along the Vlaha Bukovca to Sveti Jakov, a beautiful and less crowded beach with golden sands.

The optional tour begins with a bus transfer to the Rusković gallery and silk factory, where you'll gain insights into the region's textile history and traditional clothing styles, and even try your hand at silk production and embroidery—if you wish. Then, we'll visit an olive mill, where you will have the opportunity to witness traditional techniques.

**Lunch:** For travelers on the optional tour, a farm-fresh lunch will be included, followed by a traditional music performance. Travelers who choose independent explorations can gather for lunch onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** Travelers on the Konavle region optional tour begin their transfer back to the ship.

After free time, our small group gathers for tonight's Port Talk in the lounge.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Take a last look at the ancient walls of the city, bathed in the evening light as the ship sets sail for Kotor.

### Day 11 Explore Kotor, Montenegro

- Destination: Kotor
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Activity Note:** Today's walking tour includes several sets of stairs (up to 50 stairs, uphill and downhill).

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** Montenegro is a small Mediterranean country at the foot of the Balkan mountain range. Your destination is Kotor, a picturesque

walled city nestled at the head of Kotor Bay, Europe's deepest fjord. This morning, as your small ship sails this historic waterway, soak in views of the steep, verdant slopes reflecting in the pristine water below.

You'll also enjoy a brief conversation with your Trip Experience Leader that reveals Kotor's turbulent history as a strategic port that has been variously ruled over the centuries by Bulgaria, Serbia, the Ottoman Empire, the Venetian Republic, Napoleon's French Empire, and Austria-Hungary. Then, you'll dock right in the heart of town—something larger ships cannot do.

In the Middle Ages, Kotor was a walled city and an important artistic and commercial center, with well-known schools of masonry and iconography. Discover the well preserved historic center of this ancient Montenegrin city on a walking tour. Admire the architectural splendor that surrounds you as you explore the narrow lanes of the *Stari Grad* (Old Town) on a walking tour, including its historic walls, which have existed in some form or another since before Byzantine rule, and the bustling town square, known as the Square of Weapons after the city arsenal which was once located here.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** At leisure. Perhaps relax in your cabin as we begin sailing toward Saranda, Albania. Later, gather for a Port Talk.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Your ship continues sailing for Saranda. Perhaps you'll turn a few pages in that book you brought with you, or catch up on your travel journal.

## Day 12 Saranda, Albania • Explore Butrint

- Destination: Saranda
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** The ship arrives in Saranda early this morning. Saranda's crescent-shaped bay spreads out before you as you arrive. You'll step ashore to visit the ruins of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint was the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city, and a bishopric of the Byzantine Empire. Following a period of prosperity under the Byzantines, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, you'll have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore Saranda independently. Then, gather for tonight's Port Talk.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Delight in the lights of Corfu winking on the water as you gaze at this picturesque island from the comfort of your ship.

### Day 13 Explore Corfu

- Destination: Corfu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Activity Note:** Today's walking tour includes several sets of stairs (up to 90 stairs, uphill and downhill).

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** This morning, start your day by driving to Corfu, where we'll enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. Along the way, we'll stop at the Bella Vista viewpoint on Paleokastritsa Bay to take in scenic, panoramic views. We'll also take a short walk through Lakones village, located nearby.

During your tour, you'll see the highlights of this picturesque and historic town.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** We'll return to the ship and have the rest of the afternoon to relax in the lounge or your cabin.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** You'll get a preview of the treasures that await you in Delphi during this evening's Port Talk. Then, you may enjoy a free evening onboard.

### Day 14 Itea • Explore Delphi

- Destination: Delphi
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Activity Note:** Today's walking tour includes steep ground and several sets of stairs (up to 150 stairs, uphill and downhill).

**Also, please note that the Corinth Canal may close unexpectedly throughout the year.** Your Trip Experience Leader will advise if you will be able to sail through it today.

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** Disembark in Itea for today's half-day discovery of Delphi. Drive to the site for a tour that features the Temple of Apollo, where the oracle once prophesied. This ancient sanctuary is beautifully set at the foot of a mountain with a vista overlooking olive groves and the Bay of Itea.

Those entering this place in ancient times first purified themselves at the nearby Sanctuary of Athena, where the enigmatic Tholos—a round building of unknown purpose—stands as it has since the fourth century BC. As we approach the Temple of Apollo, you'll walk the Sacred Way used by ancient Greeks, such as the historian Plutarch, who was a priest of Apollo at Delphi. You'll see treasures built here by the Athenians, the Thebans, the Corinthians, and the Syracusans—the great societies of their day—and enter the theater, built to seat 5,000 people, from which it's possible to get an amazing view if you climb to the top row.

Then, enter the nearby Delphi Archaeological Museum. The unmatched holdings here include the larger-than-life bronze Charioteer, dating to about 470 BC, one of the finest surviving works of antiquity. The museum is filled with other masterpieces from the Archaic, Classical, and Roman periods, including scenes of the gods watching the Trojan War, a nine-statue family monument from the fourth century BC, and a sculpture of Roman Emperor Hadrian's son Antinous. Enjoy browsing these treasures before making the return trip to the ship.

**Lunch:** On the Sun Deck (weather permitting).



**Afternoon:** The remainder of the afternoon is free. You might continue to enjoy the view from the Sun Deck as your ship departs Itea and resumes its cruising route. Be sure to position yourself for a good view as your ship sails through the legendary Corinth Canal, a passage too narrow for larger ships to traverse. You'll also sail beneath the Rio Anti Bridge, which was built for the much-anticipated 2000 Olympics in Greece.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** You may enjoy an evening at your leisure. Perhaps you'll have a drink at a local bar.

## Day 15 Explore Athens

- Destination: Athens
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Arethusa* or M/V *Athena*

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** Your ship arrives in Athens overnight, and today you will enjoy a walking tour of this storied city. You'll stroll through the historic Plaka district, which is closed off to traffic so you can wander as you please. During your time here, a local guide will show you the best places to shop for traditional Greek jewelry, shoes, and more.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant, where you'll savor traditional Greek dishes like *moussaka*.

**Afternoon:** You are free to continue your exploration of Athens or return to the ship. Shuttles will be available for those who wish to stay in the city. Perhaps you'll stroll the ancient streets of the Plaka, a lively neighborhood set in the shadow of the Acropolis. Take the bus or taxi to the Acropolis and see the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the Erechtheion up close. Admire still more classical architecture at

the ancient Agora. Gain a greater appreciation for the city's antiquity. Enter the bustle of daily life at Syntagma Square. The city is yours to discover.

Or return to the ship and begin gathering your belongings for tomorrow's disembarkation. Then, join your fellow travelers to toast to your discoveries with a Farewell Drink in the lounge.

**Dinner:** Gather for your Captain's Farewell Dinner this evening, featuring a special menu and a chance to share the many memories you've made with your small group. While the dress code remains relaxed and smart casual, some travelers opt to wear a day dress or slacks to this event.

**Evening:** Feel free to enjoy an evening on your own pace.

## Day 16 Athens • Disembark ship • Visit Acropolis Museum

- Destination: Athens
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Cypria Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** We'll disembark our ship and drive to the Acropolis Museum. Founded in 2003, the museum is most famous for housing every archaeological artifact ever found on the site of the Acropolis of Athens—which is one reason it's ranked as one of the best museums in the world. Upon arrival, we'll begin our tour of the museum with a local guide exploring the exhibitions areas. Then, you're free to break away from the group to make your own discoveries.

**Lunch:** On your own in Athens. Your Trip Experience Leader will recommend his or her favorite local spots.

**Afternoon:** Continue exploring independently after lunch. Reconvene with your Trip Experience Leader to check in to the hotel, where the remainder of the afternoon is free.

**Dinner:** Enjoy your Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** After dinner, you're free to make your own discoveries, or retire to your hotel room to prepare for your flight home tomorrow.

## **Day 17 Return to U.S. or begin your post-trip extension**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to the airport for your return flight home. Or transfer to Olympia to begin your *Athens & the Peloponnese: From Homer to the First Olympics* post-trip extension.

## **END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION** **5 nights in *Athens & the Peloponnese: From Homer to the First Olympics***

**Day 1** Overland to Olympia • Explore Corinth Canal

**Day 2** Explore Olympia

**Day 3** Overland to Nafplion • Discover Epidaurus

**Day 4** Explore Mycenae • Athens

**Day 5** Explore Athens • Optional Athens food tour

**Day 6** Athens • Return to U.S.

## OPTIONAL TOURS

---

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

**Please note:** *Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.*

### Konavle

(Day 10 \$150 per person)

Gain a broader understanding of the Croatian experience when you visit Konavle, a quaint and sparsely populated valley region. Over 30 villages pepper the vast area, which is home to about 10,000 people. You'll travel to Gruda and visit a local gallery to learn about centuries-old traditional embroidery and the entire silk culture. You'll get to learn how silk is produced and browse the extensive selection of handmade products.

Then, you'll visit an old mill and meet with the mill owner before heading to a family-owned homestead. Here, you'll sit down to lunch and enjoy a demonstration of Croatian music using traditional instruments before returning to the ship.



## PRE-TRIP

### *Alpine Wonders of Slovenia: Lake Bled & Ljubljana*

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

---

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| » 3 nights accommodation                                       | » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader       |
| » 6 meals: 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners                | » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers |
| » Guided tours (with personal headsets): Lake Bled • Ljubljana | » All transfers                                      |

#### PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

---

*With spectacular mountain scenery and idyllic medieval towns, Slovenia is an amazing corner of the world. Explore Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj, situated in an area with infinite unspoiled natural treasures, including stunning cliffs and majestic mountains. You'll also enjoy visits to a handful of stunning landmarks.*

##### **Day 1 Depart U.S.**

Fly overnight from the U.S. to Ljubljana, Slovenia.

##### **Day 2 Ljubljana, Slovenia • Arrive Bled**

- Destination: Bled
- Accommodations: Hotel Lovec or similar

**Morning/Afternoon:** You land in Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana, today. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to Bled, where you'll check into your hotel.

After settling in, enjoy a guided walk around the vicinity of the hotel with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, including those who arrived early in Bled before their pre-trip extension. The peaks of the Julian Alps rise above the waters of Lake Bled, while a cliff-top castle and an island church give the scene a fairy-tale aura.

**Dinner:** On your own. Slovenian cuisine has Slavic, Mediterranean, and Germanic influences. You might give it a try at one of Bled's traditional restaurants.

**Evening:** You are free to return to your room to rest after your flight, or you may venture out to experience Bled at night.

##### **Day 3 Explore Bled**

- Destination: Bled
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Lovec or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** You'll gather for a Welcome Briefing in the hotel.

Then, you'll head out to explore Bled. Blessed with natural hot springs regarded as having healing powers, Bled has been a popular fresh-air retreat since the mid-19th century. Two prominent features in Bled's vistas date from earlier in its history: Bled Castle, which

for 800 years was the seat of the bishops of Brixen (now South Tyrol); and a 17th-century church located on an island in the lake. You'll probably hear the pealing of this church's "wishing bell," which dates from 1534, since legend has it that a wish made by someone who rings it will come true. You may choose to visit both these sites during time on your own.

Behold views of deep blue Lake Bohinj during your independent discoveries. Lake Bohinj is located in the Julian Alps about 16 miles southwest of Bled and is higher in the mountains and larger than Lake Bled. Steep mountain slopes rise directly from parts of the shore of Lake Bohinj, and the 15th-century Gothic Church of St. John graces its eastern end. The valley that contains the lake also cradles a rural landscape dotted with farm villages.

**Lunch:** On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader might guide you to a hidden gem favored by locals. Or, you may want to seek out a restaurant that serves classics like *Štruklji*, a traditional rolled dumpling.

**Afternoon:** The afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps you'll rent a rowboat or take a ride on a *pletna*, a traditional, flat-bottomed boat. Go for a swim in Lake Bled, if the weather's warm. Admire the view as you take a walk on the boardwalk, or take one of the marked trails up lush green hills to a spectacular viewpoint. Enjoy a slice of Bled cream cake, a local specialty, at a café.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant. Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner, featuring traditional cuisine.

**Evening:** The rest of the evening is free for you to relax in your room, enjoy the hotel's amenities, or venture out to experience the nightlife of Bled. Your central location makes it easy to find a pub.

## Day 4 Bled • Optional Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle tour

- Destination: Bled
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Lovec or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Spend the day exploring on your own. Perhaps you'll venture beyond Bled on a day trip to visit the medieval town of Radovljica. View beautifully preserved architecture dating to the 15th and 16th centuries, stop in at the Gothic Church of St. Peter, and visit any of the many museums here—including the Museum of Apiculture, dedicated to the art of beekeeping, and the Live Gingerbread Museum, a living museum that preserves the traditional art of decorated pastry. Nearby, the village of Kropa keeps alive a 700-year-old history of blacksmithing.

Another possibility is to head to the coast to visit the well-preserved Venetian town of Piran. Surrounded on three sides by the sparkling Adriatic, the city is crowned with a hilltop cathedral and fringed with beaches. Start your discoveries in Tartini Square and branch out through a warren of medieval streets, enjoying the bustle of markets and cafés.

Or, you might join our optional tour to visit the Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle. You'll explore Slovenia's Karst region, where the eroded limestone environment gave rise to exotic landscapes and magnificent caves. On this optional tour, you'll drive to Predjama Castle, a remarkable cliffside fortress complete with a labyrinth of secret underground passages and tunnels carved from solid bedrock. Originally built in the 13th century, the nearly impregnable fortress served as a stronghold for many bandits and robber barons throughout its fascinating history.

You'll spend some time at Predjama Castle before continuing on to the country's most famous natural attraction, Postojna Caves. With names like Upturned Ship, Gothic Hall, and Tiger Hall, these underground chambers enthrall with their singular rock formations, including Brilliant, the most famous stalagmite in the world. Upon arrival, view a seemingly endless display of stalagmites and stalactites, pools, and colorful limestone formations as you journey by foot and on the only cave-system railway in the world.

**Lunch:** Travelers who chose to stay in Bled and travelers on the optional tour will enjoy lunch on your own today.

**Afternoon:** Travelers on the optional tour will return to Bled. The remainder of the afternoon is free. All other travelers can continue their day-long independent exploration.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant in Bled.

**Evening:** You have another evening to immerse yourself in the nightlife of Bled.

## Day 5 Bled • Explore Ljubljana • Zagreb, Croatia • Join main trip

- Destination: Zagreb
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** You'll drive to Ljubljana, a city of about 300,000 on the banks of the Ljubljanica River. Because much of the city was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1895, Slovenia's capital has a unique architectural style that has integrated surviving historic structures with more modern designs. The work of Joze Plecnik, a 20th-century architect and Ljubljana native, is particularly remarkable for the way it incorporates Roman, medieval, Baroque, and Habsburg elements. A number of buildings that survived the earthquake still stand in the historic part of town, Old Ljubljana. Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a two-hour walking tour with a local guide. Then, enjoy some time on your own.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** You'll continue overland to Zagreb, Croatia. Upon arrival, you'll check into your hotel and join travelers arriving for their *Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece* adventure.

## OPTIONAL TOUR

---

### Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle

(Day 4 \$120 per person)

This optional tour takes us across Slovenia's Karst region, where the eroded limestone landscapes gave rise to exotic landscapes and magnificent caves. At the country's most famous natural attraction, Postojna Cave, we'll journey by foot and underground train to view a seemingly endless display of stalagmites and stalactites, pools, and colorful

limestone formations. After free time for lunch on your own, continue to Predjama Castle, a remarkable cliffside fortress complete with a labyrinth of secret underground passages and tunnels carved from solid bedrock. Originally built in the 13th century, the nearly impregnable fortress served as a stronghold for many bandits and robber barons through its fascinating history.

## POST-TRIP

### *Athens & the Peloponnese: From Homer to the First Olympics*

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

---

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| » 5 nights accommodation  | » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader       |
| » 9 meals: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners   | » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers |
| » Guided tours (with personal headsets):<br>Epidauros • Nafplion • Mycenae • Olympia &<br>Archaeological Museum • Acropolis | » All transfers                                      |

#### POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

---

*Discover a land steeped in ancient myths and enveloped in scenic beauty. Explore the splendor of Nafplion, the Bronze Age culture of Mycenae, and the sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia, home of the first Olympic Games. Conclude your exploration of the ancient Greek world with a two-night stay in Athens.*

##### **Day 1 Overland to Olympia • Explore Corinth Canal**

- Destination: Olympia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Europa or similar

**Morning:** Today you'll begin your transfer to Olympia. En route, you'll pause at the historic Corinth Canal, gateway to the Peloponnese. Construction on the Corinth Canal was originally initiated by the Roman Emperor Nero as a way to link the Aegean with the Gulf of Corinth. But the four-mile-long ribbon cut through solid rock proved too difficult and the project was quickly abandoned. Since digging didn't begin again until 1881, in ancient times ships were simply dragged across the isthmus along a paved road. At one time, the great city-state of Corinth rivaled Athens in power and prestige, but its reputation for bawdy living caused St. Paul to criticize it mercilessly during his stay here in AD 52.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Continue driving to Olympia.

After checking in to the hotel, the rest of the afternoon is free for you to settle into your room and get acquainted with your home for the next two nights.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** The evening is free. Nights tend to be quiet in Olympia, though you might find a café or two open late.

##### **Day 2 Explore Olympia**

- Destination: Olympia
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Europa or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** You'll set out on a roughly three-hour walking tour of Olympia—the site that gave birth to the Olympian Games, forerunner of our modern Olympic Games. The



renowned athletic competition began here to honor Zeus in 776 BC and continued for the next thousand years. Plato, Socrates, Alexander the Great, and Nero are just a few of the historical figures that watched or participated in the games. After a visit to the original site of the games, you'll explore the vast holdings of the Archaeological Museum, which features a wealth of exhibits spanning Greek prehistory up to the Roman era, including the statue of Hermes and the infant Dionysus.

**Lunch:** On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a nearby café or restaurant. You may want to find a traditional, refreshing Greek salad, made with feta, kalamata olives, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

**Afternoon:** You're free to explore Olympia at your own pace. You might delve deeper into sports history at the Museum of the History of the Ancient Olympic Games, with antiquities ranging from the second millennium BC to the 5th century AD. Visit the Temple of Zeus, with its gold-and-ivory statue of the god, and the Heraeum, a temple dedicated to his wife Hera. Or return to the stadium grounds for a closer look.

**Dinner:** On your own—you might sample a fusion of Greek, Mediterranean, and international cuisine at the hotel restaurant, or venture out to a nearby taverna.

**Evening:** Enjoy another quiet evening on your own in Olympia. Perhaps you'll sip a glass of ouzo by the pool at your hotel. An indoor bar is also available.

### Day 3 Overland to Nafplion • Discover Epidaurus

- Destination: Nafplion
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Nafplia Palace Hotel & Villas or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's activities feature a 4-hour transfer, with a stop along the way at the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus to break up our drive.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy a free morning to make any last-minute discoveries in Olympia on your own.

**Lunch:** AT a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** You'll begin your transfer to Nafplion. We'll stop en route at Epidaurus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most famous ancient sites in Greece. Since early Greeks recognized Epidaurus as the birthplace of Asklepios, the god of healing, the entire site was renowned for its extensive medical facilities and healing treatments from the sixth century BC until about AD 200. Today, Epidaurus is perhaps more famous for its well preserved fourth-century theater, which you'll visit. It is renowned for its near-perfect acoustics: a coin dropped at the center of this 14,000-seat structure can easily be heard from its farthest reaches.

You'll spend some time at Epidaurus, then continue your transfer to Nafplion. A lovely seaside town nestled between the mountains and Gulf of Argolis, Nafplion features charming Venetian homes and a picturesque harbor dominated by citadels. While the fortresses attest to a checkered military history, after independence from the Ottomans early in the 19th century, Nafplion became the first capital of liberated Greece. After checking in to your

hotel, join your Trip Experience Leader for an orientation walk to acquaint yourself with the neighborhood.

**Dinner:** At your hotel.

**Evening:** The evening is free. To experience the nightlife of this charming city, head to the waterfront, where you'll find a number of options for relaxing and enjoying views of the city lights reflecting on the waves. You'll also find bars along the streets of the Old Town. Or relax at the hotel.

#### Day 4 Explore Mycenae • Athens

- Destination: Athens
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Cypria Hotel or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's discoveries features a 4-hour transfer to Athens, stopping along the way in Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as a local pottery workshop to break up our drive.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Begin your journey to Athens, stopping along the way in Mycenae, your next UNESCO World Heritage Site. A destination linked to Homer and his tales of glory and war, Mycenae was a sophisticated Bronze Age culture that occupied the region from about 1700 BC until they mysteriously vanished after the Trojan War in about 1180 BC. While Homer wrote about Mycenae in his ninth-century BC epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, its actual location was thought to be lost to the mists of time until the amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann found a treasure trove of gold masks, jewelry, and weapons here in 1874. Highlights of the ruins include a series of *tholos*, or beehive-shaped tombs where Mycenaean kings were buried with their weapons and enough food and drink for their journey to the underworld.

Then, you'll visit a pottery workshop to watch local artisans at work and admire their wares. They'll show you their craft and the process of creating handmade designs, and they may even give you the opportunity to make something yourself. After our visit, our transfer to Athens continues.

**Lunch:** We'll stop en route for you to enjoy lunch on your own.

**Afternoon:** Arrive at your Athens hotel and check in. The rest of the afternoon is on your own. Perhaps you'll ride the funicular up Mount Lycabettus for sweeping views.

**Dinner:** On your own. There are myriad options in your hotel neighborhood.

**Evening:** At leisure. Feel free to relax after today's long drive, or discover some of Athens' night life.

#### Day 5 Explore Athens • Optional Athens food tour

- Destination: Athens
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Cypria Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We'll begin today with a drive to a UNESCO World Heritage Site—the Acropolis. As you explore, you'll discover what this birthplace of civilization was like in ancient times. The Acropolis is crowned by the majestic ruins of the Parthenon, perhaps the most architecturally perfect structure in the West.

The rest of the morning is free in Athens. Perhaps you'll browse the exhibits of the Acropolis Museum, view the Temple of Zeus and Hadrian's Arch, or admire still more classical architecture at the ancient Agora.

**Lunch:** On your own—you might wander to the ancient streets of the Plaka, a lively neighborhood set in the shadow of the Acropolis, where options abound.

**Afternoon:** Continue exploring Athens on your own. Gain a greater appreciation for the city's antiquity as you browse the exhibits of the National Archaeological Museum. Enter the bustle of daily life at Syntagma Square. Or find a serene oasis nearby at the National Gardens.

If you wish, you may join an optional tour of Athens' historic Monastiraki neighborhood, famous for its vibrant street food culture. As we explore, sample an array of authentic Greek dishes as your Trip Experience Leader helps facilitate connections with the local vendors who will share how these traditional foods are made.

**Dinner:** On your own—you might see what appeals to you at the city's lively Central Market. Afterwards, you may seek out a café that serves *revani*, a traditional lemon cake.

**Evening:** The evening is free for you to gather your belongings for tomorrow's departure or have one last nighttime adventure in Athens' many lively tavernas and clubs.

## **Day 6 Athens • Return to U.S.**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## **OPTIONAL TOUR**

---

### **Athens Food Tour**

(Day 5 \$100 per person)

Discover Athens' historic Monastiraki neighborhood, famous for its vibrant street food culture. As we explore, sample an array of authentic Greek dishes as your Trip Experience Leader helps facilitate connections with the local vendors who will share how these traditional foods are made.

## YOUR MEDITERRANEAN SMALL SHIP

### Small Ship Adventures aboard our privately owned, award-winning, 50-passenger small ships

---

During your travels in the Mediterranean—including the Aegean and Adriatic seas and French and Italian Rivas—you'll be cruising aboard one of our 50-passenger small ships, rated excellent by 96% of travelers. The M/V *Athena*, M/V *Artemis*, and M/V *Arethusa* were designed and built to carry just two groups of 20–25 (average of 22) travelers, each with its own local Trip Experience Leader. These ships are the perfect size to navigate the islands and shores of the Mediterranean—and then slip into the smaller ports and harbors for the night, well away from the larger cruise ships.

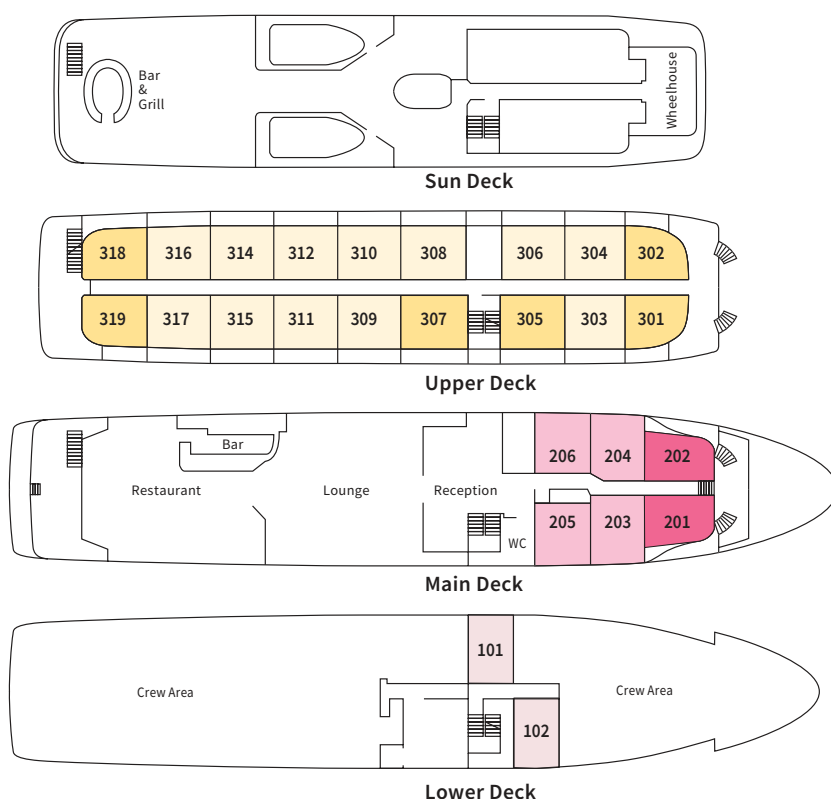


#### SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Restaurant with single, open seating:** Savor regionally-inspired dishes or American favorites during all meals.
- **Comfortable lounge:** Relax with old friends and new, and participate in onboard discussions and lectures.
- **Complimentary beverages:** Enjoy house beer and house wine—as well as soft drinks—at any time of day while onboard.
- **Wireless Internet access:** Connect online in cabins and common areas. **Please note:** Connectivity may be limited at certain points throughout your cruise.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Relish coastal views from your seat on the Sun Deck—perhaps with a cocktail from the outdoor bar.
- **English-speaking crew:** Enjoy dedicated attention from our international staff throughout your voyage. Plus, all shipboard announcements are made in English for your convenience.



## MEDITERRANEAN SMALL SHIPS



### CABIN CATEGORIES

	<b>A</b>	Cabin with private balcony – 150-170 sq. ft.
	<b>B</b>	Cabin with private balcony – 150-170 sq. ft.
	<b>C</b>	Cabin with portholes – 160 sq. ft.
	<b>D</b>	Cabin with portholes – 160 sq. ft.
	<b>S</b>	Single cabin with portholes – 140 sq. ft.

**Registry:** Malta

**Length:** 193 ft.

**Beam:** 35 ft.

**Draft:** 10 ft.

**Cabin Size:** 150-170 sq. ft., with 2 single cabins of 140 sq. ft.

**Number of Cabins:** 26

**Passenger Capacity:** 50

**Built:** 2007

**International crew:** 21

**Passenger Decks:** 3

**Group Size:** 25 travelers, maximum, with 1 Trip Experience Leader

**Stairs, no elevator**

*This ship complies with the latest international and U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology. It has retractable fin stabilizers to help reduce discomfort during rough seas.*

## CABIN FEATURES

- 24 double-occupancy cabins from 150–170 sq. ft.; 2 single-occupancy cabins at 140 sq. ft.
- All outside-facing with either portholes or a balcony
- Two single beds (convertible to one full); one single bed in single-occupancy cabins
- Wireless Internet access, closet, bed-side tables with lamps, desk with mirror, flat-screen TV, telephone, safe, mini-refrigerator, individually controlled air-conditioning, and dual electrical outlets
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer, and toiletries



*Cabin on the Upper Deck of the M/V Athena*

# TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

---

## Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

## Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit their website at **[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport

## Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this adventure.

- **Main trip only:** If you are taking only the main trip, you will need 5 blank passport pages.
- **Optional extension to Bled, Slovenia:** You will need an additional page, for a total of 6.
- **Optional extension to Athens & Peloponnese:** No additional pages are needed.
- **Both a pre- and post-trip extensions:** You will need a total of 7 blank passport pages, unless you are taking the Athens and Peloponnese extension, then you will need a total of 6 blank passport pages.
- **Stopover in Amsterdam, Helsinki, Munich, or Rome:** You will need to add 2 additional pages to the applicable total listed above.
- **Stopover in Barcelona, Copenhagen, Istanbul, London, Madrid, or Paris:** You will need to add an additional page to the applicable total listed above

## No Visas Required

Travelers with a U.S. passport do not need any visas for this adventure, including the optional trip extensions.

## **Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?**

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **[www.pvsinternational.org](http://www.pvsinternational.org)**.

## **Traveling With a Minor?**

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

## **Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents**

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

## **Overseas Taxes & Fees**

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

## RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

---

### Is This Adventure Right for You?

**Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure.** We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

#### GROUP SIZE

- Travel in two small groups, each no more than 25 travelers aboard our privately owned 50-passenger ship with a local Trip Experience Leader exclusive to O.A.T.

#### PACING

- Zagreb to Athens: 16 days, with 11 nights aboard M/V *Athena* or M/V *Arethusa*, one three-night hotel stay, and one single-night hotel stay
- Athens to Zagreb: 16 days, with 10 nights aboard M/V *Athena* or M/V *Arethusa*, one three-night hotel stay, and one two-night hotel stay

#### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day
- Day 5 (or Day 14 on the reverse itinerary) includes several sets of stairs (up to 300 stairs, uphill and downhill)
- Good agility, balance, and strength are required for possible rough seas
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

#### TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven walking surfaces, including ruins and archaeological sites, unpaved paths, hills, and stairs
- Gangway incline can be steep when docked at a pier
- Travel by 50-passenger small ship, 45-seat coach, and funicular
- The *Athena* and *Arethusa* does not have elevators onboard
- You must be cleared by a country's local port authorities before disembarking



- Weather conditions and tides may require adjustments to your itinerary

## **CLIMATE**

- Daytime temperatures range from 52–95°F during cruising season; June–August are warmest months

## **Steps to Take Before Your Trip**

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

## **No Vaccines Required**

### **Recommended Vaccines**

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

## **Medications for This Trip**

When you visit your doctor, we suggest that you get a prescription for an antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness. Our staff do not carry prescription medications of any kind, and getting an antibiotic can be difficult in Europe.

## **Traveling with Medications**

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don't see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

## Staying Healthy on Your Trip

### Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

### Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

### Water

- The tap water on this trip is safe to drink. Previous travelers have suggested packing a refillable water bottle for this purpose.
- If you prefer bottled water—or if you know your stomach is particularly sensitive to changes in diet/water—you can find it on sale in shops, hotels, and restaurants.
- Note that if you order water in a restaurant, you will probably get bottled water as a matter of course. This is common throughout Europe. If you want tap water, you should specify.

# MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

---

## Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card. Traveler's checks are not recommended.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip**; you will need euros instead.
- Previous travelers have suggested thinking ahead about where cash might be needed (tipping, taxis, cafes, open-air markets) so you can plan accordingly. Or you can rely on local ATMs to pull cash as needed.

## Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like **[www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter)**, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

**Euro Countries:** European Euro (€)

**Montenegro:** European Euro (€)

**Albania:** Albanian Lek (L)

## How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best.

Please note that many banks in Europe will only exchange money for their own customers. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

## ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

**Albania:** ATMs can be easily found in large cities and small towns but can be scarce in rural villages.

## Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

**Greece:** Credit cards are widely accepted in Greece. Some small shops and restaurants may still require cash so it's always good to ask before making a purchase.

## Chip Cards

Many countries have adopted credit cards that have an embedded computer chip. These cards are inserted into the reader instead of swiped. The card owner then authorizes the purchase using a PIN instead of signing.

Though this technology is common in the U.S., occasionally there are machines in other countries that can't read U.S. cards or the machine can read the card, but asks for a PIN. This doesn't happen often, and is nothing to worry about. You can usually resolve the situation by asking the cashier to let you sign. (If you don't speak the language, just mime signing on your hand.) If you are not able to sign for a purchase, such as at an automated ticket booth, you can use another form of payment, such as a debit card that has a PIN.

## Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.



You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

### On Board Ship: Two Separate Bills Will be Issued

- **Shipboard account:** This bill is for any on board purchases (drinks, souvenirs, etc.) and is calculated in Euros. This bill is payable at the front desk by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept only Euros. For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, and American Express are not accepted.
- **Optional tour account:** This bill is for any optional tours taken during the trip and is calculated in U.S. dollars. This bill is paid with your Trip Experience Leader (they will have you fill out a form) by credit/debit card only; other forms of payments such as cash and checks are not accepted. For more information on optional tours—including which cards we accept for payment—see the “Preparing for Your Trip” chapter.

***Please note:** Payments made by credit card may take up to three months to process. We ask that you use a credit card that will not expire until three months after your trip ends. Because our headquarters are in Boston, the charges may appear to be from Boston or might be labeled as “OPT Boston” (depending on your credit card company).*

### Exchange Services

Due to international banking laws, we are not able to exchange money onboard the ship. If you need to obtain local currency, please see the “How to Exchange Money” section for helpful tips and information.

## Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Shipboard Crew:** We recommend a flat tip of \$16–\$18 U.S. per traveler, per day. You'll give this tip once—at the end of your cruise—and it will be pooled among the entire crew. **Policy Update:** *Due to international banking laws, we are no longer able to process crew tips on a credit card; crew tips can only be in the form of cash*
- **Housekeeping at Hotels:** We recommend \$1 per traveler, per day. (This is for hotels only; on the ship Housekeeping are part of crew, so you don't need to tip them separately.)

- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

### **Time at Leisure**

When you are exploring on your own, it's useful to know when to tip and how much, because local customs often differ from the U.S. Here are a few helpful guidelines for the most common services a traveler might use:

- **Taxis:** Tipping is not customary, but many locals will round up the fare and let the driver keep the change. If the driver helps you with heavy luggage, then 10% is a nice gesture.
- **Restaurants, cafes, and bars:** Throughout Europe, the tip for the waiter or bartender is usually included in the prices or added on as a service fee. Look for a statement on the menu that service is included, or for a service charge on the bill. If you would like to leave a tip on top of the service fee (or in the cases when the service is not included) then 10% would be considered generous.
- **Public Restrooms:** Most public restrooms in Europe have attendants that take care of cleaning and supplies. It is customary to leave a small tip for them—so hold on to those coins! Some restrooms are pay-toilets; you pay the staff at the entrance to the restroom or drop the appropriate coin into the slot on the stall door. Many restaurants, cafes, and shops offer only pay-toilets or reserve their restrooms for patrons only.

## AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

---

### Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

#### Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner) under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

### Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: [www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)

## Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: [www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)

## Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **Arrival in Athens or Zagreb:** Once you arrive overseas, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. An O.A.T. representative will meet you outside of customs and assist you with your transfer to the hotel or ship. Important note on porters: Airport porters are NOT allowed in the baggage claim area. On arrival, you must take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a cart, which you will then move through customs. When you exit customs, you'll handle your cart until reaching your transfer vehicle. Your driver will load your luggage into the transfer vehicle.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.

## Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

## What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner)).

## Communicating with Home from Abroad

### Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

### Calling Apps

We recommend you use WhatsApp while abroad to communicate home and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will



need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

### Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

### How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

**Croatia:** +385

**Greece:** +30

**Montenegro:** +382

**Slovenia:** +386

**Albania:** +355

## PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

### Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on bag per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
<p><b>One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person:</b> Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person for flights to Europe and other international flights.</p> <p><b>Luggage rules:</b> Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p>	

#### Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

## Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** Consider a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to space limitations on our motorcoaches, you are allowed one piece of checked luggage per person. Porterage at airports and hotels is provided for **one** bag per person. All bags should have luggage tags.
- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

## Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits. For more packing and luggage tips, you might want to visit [www.travelite.org](http://www.travelite.org).
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy.
- **Plan to dress in layers on shore excursions.** Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions: warm days with sun, chilly temperatures with showers, and evenings that could dip into the 40s or 50s, depending on your travel season.
- **Bring rain gear:** Regardless of your month of travel, rainfall is certainly a possibility. We suggest you bring a folding umbrella and waterproof shell. Water-resistant walking shoes are advantageous in case heavy downpours pass through.
- **Good walking shoes are critical.** This program features many included tours that follow steep, unpaved or cobbled routes; and even an average day of light sightseeing or shopping can put great demands on your feet. If you prefer more ankle support, take light hiking boots. In case you get caught in the rain, we suggest you bring an extra pair of walking shoes, and rain boots or galoshes. Aboard ship, you'll want non-slip shoes with rubber soles.

## Style Hints

- **Pack casual clothes:** Comfortable, informal apparel is acceptable at each of your destinations. At dinner, you will not need to wear “dressy” clothing; men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need fancy dresses. You may want one or two “smart casual” outfits for the Welcome Reception or Farewell Dinner, but it’s completely up to you.
- **Dress modestly at religious sites in Greece, Croatia and Slovenia.** Modestly dressed usually means covered from shoulders to below the knees—no shorts, no sleeveless shirts, and no low or revealing necklines. On days touring other sites in Greece, basic jeans, sleeveless shirts, everyday skirts or slacks, and shorts are perfectly acceptable.

## Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. You may also want to consult the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

**And don’t forget a reusable water bottle**—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

## Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Socks and undergarments
- ☐ A jacket or sweater, depending on the time of year

## Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, moisturizer, etc.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- ☐ Sunglasses with a neck strap
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 15 or stronger

- ☐ Travel money bag or money belt
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand lotion
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards
- ☐ Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards
- ☐ Plug adapter—see the “Electricity” section
- ☐ A refillable water bottle, as tap water is safe to drink

### Medicines

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Vitamins
- ☐ Cold remedies: Sudafed/Dristan
- ☐ Pain relievers: Ibuprofen/naproxen/aspirin
- ☐ Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- ☐ Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- ☐ Band-Aids, Moleskin foot pads
- ☐ Antibiotics: Neosporin/Bacitracin

### Home-Hosted Visits

It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture



as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all of our adventures include a home-hosted visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

## **Electricity Abroad**

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

### **Voltage**

Electricity at hotels in this region is 220–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Aboard the ship, cabins are equipped with both 110-volt and 220-volt outlets.

### **Plugs**

Aboard ship, there are both standard American plugs and Western European Type C plugs.

In hotels, the shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Because you’ll be visiting multiple countries on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

*Note that Type C plugs can fit in E and F sockets.*

**Croatia:** C and/or F

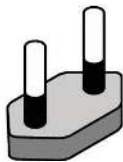
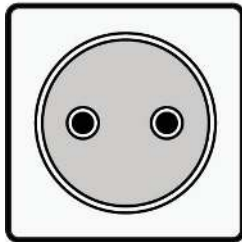
**Montenegro:** C and/or F

**Albania:** C and/or F

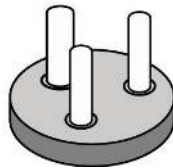
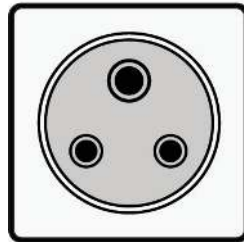
**Greece:** C, D, E and F

**Slovenia:** C and/or F

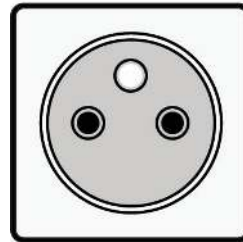
**Type C**



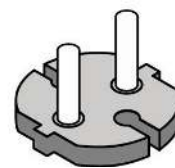
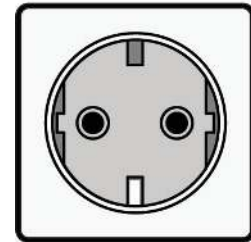
**Type D**



**Type E**



**Type F**



## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

---

**Zagreb, Croatia:** Because it is located further north and inland, Zagreb has a continental climate. Winters can be cold, sometimes snowy, autumn can be rainy and changeable, and spring can be very unpredictable. In late fall, winter, and early spring, it will get noticeably cooler in Zagreb than it does along the Adriatic seacoast.

**Split, Croatia:** Located on the Adriatic seacoast, Split has a Mediterranean climate, with very hot, dry summers and very rainy, windy winters (November–March). Be prepared when the north wind, the bura, blows in during the winter it can be quite cold. Split is one of the sunniest places in Europe, receiving an average of seven hours of sunshine per day in winter and twelve hours in summer.

**Dubrovnik, Croatia:** Located in the southern region of Croatia's Adriatic coast, where lush vegetation slopes down to the clear turquoise of the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik boasts a pleasant Mediterranean climate characterized by wet winters and hot, dry summers. A winter wind, the bura, is the strongest wind along the Adriatic coast. In Croatia, temperatures can hit peaks as high as 100 from June to October with July and August being the hottest months. Water temperatures are warm enough for swimming June–September, but are too cold the rest of the year.

**Greece:** The coastal regions of Greece have an almost ideal climate—plenty of sunshine and dry air most of the year. During spring and early fall, days are generally very comfortable. Although temperatures usually range from 60 to 80 degrees, occasionally they reach extremes of warm and cold. From May to July beaches are less crowded than during the heart of the summer and the water can be warm enough for swimming. In spring, Athens' surrounding hills come to life with gentle hues of green and colorful wild flowers. Coastal breezes often moderate summer heat, but on calm summer days, Athens can be very hot.

**Slovenia:** Slovenia has a Mediterranean climate. However, it can be quite cold in winter. Rain can come at any time and with it the temperature can drop dramatically. Water temperatures are warm enough for swimming June–September, but are too cold the rest of the year.

**NOTE:** If you are taking one of our optional stopovers before or after your OAT adventure, please be aware the climate and temperatures might be different from what you experienced during your tour. To prepare for weather differences and pack appropriate clothing, we recommend the following world weather sites:

- [www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)
- [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)
- [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

## Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

### Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	ZAGREB, CROATIA			SPLIT, CROATIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	37 to 27	--	2.0	52 to 38	70 to 58	12
FEB	46 to 30	--	1.9	53 to 39	67 to 54	12
MAR	56 to 36	--	2.2	58 to 43	72 to 55	12
APR	58 to 39	--	2.7	63 to 48	70 to 54	13
MAY	67 to 50	--	3.2	71 to 56	69 to 54	12
JUN	73 to 56	--	3.7	79 to 63	63 to 49	10
JUL	81 to 60	--	3.1	85 to 67	58 to 42	5
AUG	81 to 59	--	3.1	84 to 67	62 to 44	7
SEP	71 to 51	--	3.1	78 to 61	73 to 51	8
OCT	59 to 44	--	3.7	69 to 54	76 to 59	12
NOV	46 to 35	--	3.4	60 to 46	73 to 60	13
DEC	39 to 30	--	2.6	54 to 41	72 to 60	13

MONTH	DUBROVNIK, CROATIA			ATHENS, GREECE		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	52 to 41	66 to 62	14	57 to 45	75 to 63	1.9
FEB	53 to 41	66 to 62	13	57 to 45	75 to 62	1.6
MAR	57 to 45	68 to 60	14	60 to 47	76 to 60	1.6
APR	62 to 50	66 to 58	14	67 to 53	75 to 58	1.0
MAY	70 to 57	66 to 58	12	75 to 60	73 to 54	0.6
JUN	77 to 64	60 to 55	9	84 to 68	68 to 48	0.2
JUL	82 to 69	52 to 49	6	89 to 73	58 to 41	0.2
AUG	82 to 69	55 to 51	6	89 to 73	58 to 41	0.3
SEP	76 to 64	62 to 56	8	83 to 67	64 to 47	0.4
OCT	69 to 56	69 to 62	12	74 to 60	71 to 57	1.9
NOV	59 to 48	70 to 64	14	66 to 54	76 to 64	2.2
DEC	54 to 43	68 to 65	14	59 to 48	76 to 65	2.5

MONTH	BLED, SLOVENIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	39 to 27	--	15
FEB	48 to 27	--	7
MAR	52 to 34	--	17
APR	61 to 39	--	18
MAY	70 to 46	--	17
JUN	75 to 54	--	14
JUL	79 to 55	--	12
AUG	79 to 55	--	13
SEP	68 to 48	--	14
OCT	59 to 45	--	14
NOV	46 to 34	--	11
DEC	37 to 28	--	14



## ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

---

### **M/V Athena, M/V Artemis & M/V Arethusa**

Owned, operated, and staffed by us, these ships were designed exclusively for our travelers, and each features a similar layout. On the main deck, you'll find our reception area and the ship's library. For relaxation, the lounge/bar features inviting leather couches and soft chairs. Topside, a sun deck has classic wooden deck chairs for admiring the scenery. When it's time for meals, our large dining area at the stern features a single seating policy. While cruising, we'll enjoy daily breakfast and lunch buffets; sit-down dinners feature international and local specialties paired with regional wines.

### **Included features of your Small Ship**

#### **The Ship:**

- Restaurant with single open seating
- Open Sun Deck for prime viewing
- Shipboard activities
- Smoke-free environment
- All shipboard announcements made in English
- Ice machine in the lobby
- Water fountains in the lobby

#### **All Cabins:**

- All outside cabins
- Layout of 150-163 square feet (24 doubles) and 120-135 square feet (2 singles)
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer
- Color TV with movies, and a bow camera for ship-front views
- Ample closet and dresser space
- Direct-dial telephone

**An important word:** While our ship features larger-than-usual cabins, please keep in mind that this ship is a coastal vessel, not large ocean cruise ships. Coastal cabins, in comparison, are relatively small, and ship amenities, in general, are comfortable but not lavish.

## Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner). However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive on board the ship. (This is normal procedure for ships in many parts of the world, including Europe.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

## Dining

You'll enjoy fine cuisine and excellent views in your ship's dining room, featuring a warm decor of dark woods, rich carpeting, and white-linen and china table settings. Your ship's daily service includes breakfast and lunch buffets, and a more formal dinner. Our professional chefs will create unique menus for you that feature regional specialties. Included with both lunch and dinner are complimentary drinks; you'll be able to choose from house wine, draft beer, or a selection of soft drinks. In addition, a selection of other fine wines and beer is available for purchase, starting at approximately \$20–30 per wine bottle (prices vary according to vintage). Travelers may also bring a bottle of their own favorite wine to dinner to enjoy at their table. Should you care to avail yourself of this service, there will be a corkage fee of approximately \$10 per bottle, charged to your cabin account.

Please note that if you bring your own alcohol aboard, it can only be consumed in the dining room as described above, or in your cabin. Consumption of alcohol purchased outside the ship is not permitted in the lounge or public areas. We also offer complimentary coffee and tea throughout the day, available in the lounge.

**Open-table, single seating for all meals:** Each meal is open seating—reservations of any kind are not accepted. Dinner has only one designated time for its open seating, announced each day aboard ship.

**Dining times:** Dining times for all meals may vary depending on the day's sightseeing and sailing schedule, but in general, meal times are as follows:

- Early riser breakfast: 7:00 –7:30 am
- Breakfast: 7:30–8:30 am
- Lunch: 1:00–2:00 pm
- Dinner: 7:00 pm

**Special diets & celebrations:** Special diets, such as low-cholesterol, vegetarian, or gluten-free, can be accommodated, as well as the recognition of an anniversary or birthday. Please call us to submit your request no later than 45 days prior to departure. Religious dietary regimens, such as kosher or halal meals, cannot be prepared aboard ship.

**Dress code:** The dining-room dress code is casual, though most travelers dress nicely for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Farewell Dinner.

**Non-smoking policy:** The entire dining room is non-smoking at all times.

### **Embarkation/Disembarkation**

On the day of disembarkation, your cabin will no longer be available after breakfast. You may sit in the ship's lounge or on the Sun Deck until disembarkation.

### **Headsets**

During your trip, complimentary headsets (often called “whisper receivers”) will be provided on all of your included and optional tours, so that you can hear better over ambient noise. If you use a hearing aid or have a strong preference for a particular type of headphones, we highly encourage you to bring your own headphones/ear buds with you. The plug size is usually the same as that used by smartphones, computer jacks, etc. Headsets will also be available during the pre- and post-trip extensions, but not on the transfer day to/from the main trip.

### **Wireless Internet Access**

Limited complimentary Wireless Internet service is available on board the ship. If you want to use the Wireless Internet connection you'll need to bring your own device (laptop/tablet/netbook) — ships do not rent or loan these devices. Shipboard access is subject to the challenges of travel: ship location, signal availability, and usage volume on board will affect connectivity and speed. The ship's Internet connection demands a strong cell phone signal, which is unavailable in many of the areas we visit, and connectivity can be limited. You can expect disruptions of both long and short duration. You may be able to take advantage of available shoreside Internet cafes, or hotel access if available.

### **Laundry and Linen Service**

Laundry service is available for a fee. Please note that neither self-service laundry facilities nor dry cleaning services are available. Towels are changed daily, but only at your request. (We use the international signal that most green hotels have adopted — if you want a towel changed, leave it on the floor or in the shower. A towel on the rack or hung up indicates you'll reuse it.) Bed linens are not changed daily. Fresh bed linens are supplied at the start of every cruise, and if the cruise is longer than two weeks they will be changed every 14 days. For cruises less than two weeks long, you'll keep the same bed linens for the duration.

### **Medical Care**

Our entire fleet adheres to stringent European safety standards. Ships feature fully staffed reception desks for most of the day (from 7:00 AM to 10 PM) and each cabin is equipped with an emergency call button available to alert the Captain.

### **On Board Activities**

During your cruise you'll enjoy exclusive Discovery Series events, including group activities that relate to the region, theme dinners, organized discussions, and talks on upcoming ports of call.

## Recreational Facilities

These include a sun deck, lounge, library, bar and dance floor. The bar is open from 9:30 am to 11 pm, and features both complimentary drinks (soft drinks, house beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic cocktails/beer) and drinks for purchase (spirits, alcoholic cocktails, bottled beers, and a selection of wines). Prices are in Euros.

## Bicycles

We're pleased to offer complimentary bicycle rentals onboard your ship for use during free time, including all of the necessary safety gear, such as a helmet, brightly-colored safety vest, and a lock. Because there is a limited supply of bicycles available, they will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. For more information or if you are interested in using one of the bicycles, please speak to the Front Desk staff or Hotel Manager onboard your ship.

## Telephone Services

To make telephone calls from the ship, you will be charged on your shipboard account on the last day of the cruise. Phone calls are directly from your cabin and through satellite, and are charged per minute without regard to whether or not it is a local, international or Calling Card based call. We advise you to use it only for an emergency, as this is a satellite connection and a very expensive service (for example, calls will cost about \$10.00 per minute).

## Smoking/Non-Smoking Policy

All cabins are non-smoking. Smoking is permitted only outside on the sun deck. Smoking is not allowed anywhere else on the ship.

## Shore Excursions

Included during your cruise are many sightseeing tours. Other optional tours are available for purchase. We will provide information on these optional excursions on your arrival. Please note that optional tours can only be purchased with a credit card or a debit card that doesn't require a pin.

## Lost & Found

Any lost or forgotten items found on board the ship will be held for 90 days from disembarkation. After 90 days, all unclaimed items will be discarded or donated.

## Ship Specifications

### *M/V Artemis*

- **History:** Built in 2008
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members

- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no

#### **M/V *Athena***

- **History:** Built in 2007
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members
- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no

#### **M/V *Arethusa***

- **History:** Built in 2008
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members
- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no



## ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

---

### O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

### The Cultures of the Dalmatian Coast

On this adventure, you'll visit four fascinating countries—Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and Greece—and explore each of their captivating cultures.

Located at the crossroads of Europe, with more than 1100 miles of prime Adriatic coastline, Croatia has long been a prize for ambitious kings and emperors: Roman, Venetian, Austro-Hungarian influences are all apparent in the country's architecture and cuisine. But despite these outside influences, Croatia—which only gained independence in 1991—boasts an identity unlike any other. The jewel in its crown is the Dalmatian Coast, a sun-dappled stretch of pebbly beaches and clear, sapphire waters speckled with more than 1200 islands and alive with fishermen vying for the catch of the day. Further inland, dense forests teem with wildlife, alpine mountains cast long shadows over crystalline lakes, and pastoral farmlands roll across the countryside. But no matter where in Croatia you find yourself, you're sure to experience the warm welcomes and deep national pride inherent to the local identity.

When invited into the homes of locals, you'll be welcomed by a boisterous “*Jedi! Jedi! Jedi!*,” or “*Eat! Eat! Eat!*” Sharing food and drink is a cornerstone of Croatian culture, which demonstrates the country's hearty hospitality and quality of their local produce. Simple, homestyle cooking is a feature of many family-run taverns. Additionally, Croatian wines and olive oils are becoming internationally distinguished and garnering top awards.

Since the split of the Roman empire over 1600 years ago, Montenegro has sat at the intersection between the East and West. Many tribes and nations have tried to make this tiny hidden gem home—the Illyrians, Greeks, Celts, Slavs, Romans, Ottoman Turks, and Venetians—and their influences can be seen in the richness of Montenegro's cultural history: mosaic floors of Roman villas, intricately painted Orthodox monasteries, ornate Catholic churches, elegant minarets of mosques, and sturdy fortresses. The most dominant rulers were the Ottomans and the Venetians, so it's no surprise to see large Italian and Turkish influences in the country's cuisine. While there's a mixture of Mediterranean vegetables and seafood alongside succulent grilled meats, the cuisine is still distinctly Montenegrin.

Wrapped up in an area two-thirds of the size of Wales, miniscule Montenegro bursts with spectacular seaside scenery, ancient walled towns that cling to cliffsides, majestic mountain ranges, and larger-than-life locals. Montenegrins welcome visitors with warmth and kindness (and a lot of food). They are candid, friendly, and charming. They are also fiercely independent and have a strong sense of national pride. Additionally, there is a deep love and respect for family. Ancestry and lineage are extremely important, so much so that the advice and opinions of the oldest member of a family are always sought out.

Due to its isolation on the Adriatic and Ionian Sea, Albania has long been a bridgehead for various nations and empires seeking to conquest new lands. They've been conquered by the Romans and Byzantines and suffered centuries of invasions from the Visigoths, Huns, Bulgars, and Slavs. The Ottoman Turks were the last to conquer this nation in the 15th century and essentially cut Albania off from Western civilization. Albania has lived in isolation through most of its turbulent history—in part due to the rugged mountainous terrain.

The country was closed to outsiders for much of the 20th century until the end of communism in 1991. As a result, Albania opened its borders, and travelers could finally experience the country's sparkling beaches, crumbling ancient ruins, fortress towns, and awe-inspiring mountain ranges. Despite these years of isolation, Albanians are known for their warm and welcoming nature. Home to Muslims, Christians, and Jews, religious tolerance is one of the most important foundations of Albanian culture.

Playground of Zeus, Apollo, and Aphrodite, birthplace of the Olympic Games, academy of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, cradle of democracy and Western literature—although it's relatively small in size, Greece has had a legendary influence on world culture. From its classical capital of Athens, to a countryside speckled with grand amphitheaters and sacred temples, to the sun-soaked islands that dot its coast, it's no wonder mighty heroes and ancient thinkers found inspiration in this Mediterranean oasis.

In recent years, the country has fallen on harder times: A persistent economic crisis, frictions within the European Union, and immigration issues all present ongoing challenges. But in spite of it all, Greece's indomitable spirit lives on through its most valuable asset—its people. Warm, proud, and gregarious, Greeks cling fiercely to their long-held traditions—including a love of family and a passion for their famous cuisine—while focusing on shaping their future in a modern world.

### **Hotel Courtesy in Greece**

Greek hotels do not allow food and beverages to be taken from their breakfast rooms, nor is it courteous to eat or drink food or beverages purchased elsewhere in hotel common rooms. In conformity with municipal laws to promote urban decorum, hotels do not allow hanging laundry on room balconies. Travel clotheslines, used in your bathroom, are a more private and effective solution.

## Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

## Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

## Croatian Cuisine

Are Croatia's **Ston oysters** the best in the world? You can decide when you are exploring the Dalmatian coast, which is also famous for mussels, prawns, and all manner of fish and shellfish. The Zinfandel grape originated here, so you may want to try a local wine made from it. Croatia also has a stronger alcoholic beverage, **rakija**, in several differently flavored or spiced varieties, such as **travarica**, which has added herbs is one regional specialty. Pair it with some well known dishes like:

- **Crni rizot:** A black risotto made with squid.
- **Brudet:** A flavorful fish and tomato stew.
- **Pasticada:** A dish loved by carnivores, is this stuffed beef cooked in wine.
- **Rozata:** This sweet caramel cream is a Dubrovnik specialty.
- **Gregada:** A fish stew often made with fresh scorpion fish or grouper chopped into large chunks with sliced potatoes and lashings of olive oil.

- **Štrukli:** Delicious pillows of dough filled with cottage cheese and slathered in cream that are enjoyed as a dessert or a mid-morning snack.
- **Burek:** Flaky pastries layered with cheese, spinach, apple or meat that are enjoyed any time of day.

## Montenegrin Cuisine

Here you will find delicious Adriatic dishes. You might try the salted sheep's cheese that is arranged around a platter of veggies. While you are waiting for your food you can order a **jardum**, a drink made with only sheep milk and salt. Some other popular dishes include:

- **Buzara:** Shrimp, prawns and other shellfish simmered in red or white wine and herbs.
- **Sarma:** Cabbage leaves stuffed with ground meat served with fresh-caught octopus, grilled and drizzled with olive oil.
- **Njeguski Steak:** A veal or pork schnitzel filled with prosciutto and smothered with melted kajmak cheese.

## Albanian Cuisine

In the last 30 years due to massive immigration to Italy, Albanian cuisine has been also heavily influenced by Italian cuisine. The Italian restaurants in the bigger towns are easily noticeable and very good. Albanian food has many Greek and Turkish influences, so you'll see familiar dishes like spinach in filo pastry (**byrek**), sweet **baklava**, and grilled **qofte** meatballs. But it differs in its use of dairy, creating unique dishes like these:

- **Darilike tave kosi:** A popular quiche-like dish.
- **Perime ne zgare:** This vegetarian dish is a mix of grilled eggplant, zucchini, onions, and peppers.
- **Specia me gjize:** Another vegetarian dish that is made with peppers stuffed with rice, cottage cheese, and spices.
- **Tarator:** A cold soup of cucumber, garlic, walnut, fennel, vinegar, and spices. This soup is perfect for a hot day.
- **Kackavall:** Fried local cheese.

## Greek Cuisine

A perfect Mediterranean climate. More than 6,000 islands and no mainland location more than 90 miles from the sea. Bountiful (and mostly organic) olive groves, fruit orchards, pastures, and vineyards. With all this richness, Greece has had no reason to change or complicate its cuisine in thousand of years. Here, it is the quality and freshness of simple ingredients that makes every dish a flavorful standout. So, let's start as the Greeks do, with *mesethes*, or **mezes**. These are

frequently described as appetizers and though a specific *meze* may be offered as a first course, for most Greeks *mezes* is a separate event in and of itself. One goes out for *mezes* with friends and family, sharing various small plates of food, drinks, and conversation. You might be served one of the flavorful dishes below:

- **Pasta elias:** An olive paste to spread on breadsticks.
- **Feta or Kasseri:** A cheese that is used as a spread or topping.
- **Sea bream:** A white fish with a rich flavor that is not too fishy. It is often served as a fillet and accompanied by baby potatoes or seasonal herbs.
- **Keftedes:** These are seasoned meatballs also accompanied by a dip.
- **Kolokythokeftedes:** Also known as zucchini fritters. These are often accompanied by *tzatziki* (yogurt, cucumber, and garlic dip), or *melitzanosalata* (eggplant dip), or *fava* (bean dip).
- **Dolmathakia or dolmas:** Are grape leaves rolled and stuffed with rice, pine nuts, meat, or other seasonings.
- **Moussaka:** A layered casserole of eggplant, ground lamb, tomato sauce, and potatoes covered in béchamel sauce and cheese, and spiced with cinnamon.
- **Pastitsio:** A lasagna-like dish made with pasta and ground beef or lamb, béchamel, cheese, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
- **Gyros and souvlaki:** These chunks or slices of seasoned grilled meat (usually lamb or pork) with chopped tomatoes and onions in pita bread, with lashings of *tzatziki* are sold in stalls everywhere.
- **Spanakopita:** A phyllo pastry layered with feta cheese and spinach.
- **Kakavia:** A specialty in the Aegean. This rockfish soup is made with cured sardines and various grilled whole fish drizzled with *ladholemono* (a lemon and oil dressing).
- **Arni me votana:** A lamb casserole with vegetables, beans, tomatoes, potatoes and herbs.
- **Kaimaki:** A sweet cream topped with nuts and honey that is famous in the Peloponnese
- **Pastitsada:** This signature dish of the Ionian islands is made with savory chicken or beef simmered in wine, cinnamon, garlic and spices. It's often served with *bucatini* pasta, a nod to the area's Venetian past.
- **Glyko kastano:** A chestnut pudding with honey and orange found in western Greece.
- **Revani:** A moist semolina cake with lemon and orange.



## Slovenian Cuisine

Slovenia may only be the size of Massachusetts, but it still boasts 24 distinct gastronomic regions, and many dishes with EU protected status. Here are some dishes to try:

- **Idrijski zlikrofi:** Heavenly pasta pockets filled with potato, bacon and herbs.
- **Kremšnita:** This Bled Cream Cake is a confection of flaky crust, vanilla custard, icing sugar and whipped cream.
- **Kraški pršut:** (prosciutto from the karst lands) and Istrian olive oil give their Italian cousins a run for the money.
- **Štruklji:** Slovenia's version of strudel, filled with either savory or sweet ingredients like cheese, walnuts, apples and poppy seeds. In spring and summer, try it with fresh tarragon.

## Zagreb in Brief

### City Layout & Details

Zagreb's historic central area consists of two sections: the Upper Town (Gornji Grad), which as the name implies is on a hilltop, and the Lower Town (Donji Grad). Ban Jelacic Square, the city's central public space, is on the border between the Upper and Lower Towns. It's called Trg Bana Jelačića in Croatian; Trg means "city square." In the upper town, winding streets lead to the Croatian Parliament building. The city's central open-air market (Dolac) is here, as well as the charming, pedestrian-only street Tkalciceva. On the hill named Kaptol what was once a religious town merged in 1850 with secular Gradec to create the core of modern Zagreb. You can explore Gradec by following the major street Ilica from Ban Jelacic Square, then turning up Tomiceva where a funicular takes you up the hill.

The streets of the Lower Town were laid out in a neat grid in the late 19th century. In broad outline they form a "U" shape known as "the Green Horseshoe" that encompasses many of the city's main cultural institutions and public buildings. These include the Croatian National Theater, the Arts and Crafts Museum (featuring crafts from the Baroque period to the 20th century), and the Mimara Museum—highly recommended for its outstanding collections of textiles, paintings, sculpture, and ceramics. Here there are also a Technical Museum, the city's Botanical Garden, and the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters with works by famous Italian and Dutch painters.

### Local Transportation

Zagreb has an extensive bus and tram system that can get you around at minimal expense. You can purchase tickets from street kiosks (slightly cheaper) or on board; be sure to get your ticket time-stamped when you first board at tram. Regular tickets are good for one and a half hours; all-day tickets are also available. The tram system can get you as far as Sljeme on the outskirts of town for a popular excursion to the heights of Mt. Medvednica. Taxis are also readily available in central Zagreb and are metered at a regulated rate.

# Dubrovnik In Brief

## City Layout & Details

Dubrovnik is situated on an archipelago along the shore of the Adriatic. The rim of its medieval Old Town, known as Stari Grad, begins along the shore and circles around to the north, and is protected by fairly massive walls and stone fortifications. A jetty and small harbor offer views of the coastal area.

Stradun, many centuries old, is the Old Town's main street and the popular promenade of residents and visitors alike, narrowing as it extends away from the sea. You'll find an assortment of cafés, boutiques, and intriguing little shops along this ancient city lane. Most of the alleys of the Old Town are outlined by high walls and their pattern may seem complicated, but this historic walled section covers a fairly small area, making it easy to become familiar with the few main roads. Automobiles are not allowed, so you can thoroughly enjoy your strolls here and take your time browsing. You can even walk along the wall for an unparalleled perspective of the area's layout and architecture. You can gain entrance to this walkway at either end of the Stradun, at the Pile Gate on the western wall and beneath the City Bell Tower. Inside the Old Town you will find the historic old cathedral dating back to the 13th century, the graceful Sponza palace, and a Franciscan monastery that includes a museum. Beyond the walls of the Old Town is the New Town section of Dubrovnik. Walking these streets you will find more modern shops and more restaurants with fresh local cuisine.

There are many historic sites in Dubrovnik, and part of the intrigue of this city is happening upon some of the lesser-known ancient structures as you walk the city lanes. One of the more renowned sites is the Franciscan Monastery, one of the oldest functioning pharmacies in the world. Its apothecary shop dates back to 1317, and the building also holds very old musical scores and manuscripts, along with the works of local painters and jewelers.

The artistic life of Dubrovnik is celebrated at various festivals throughout the year, and many buildings house examples of the creative spirit of the residents. A small museum at the Dominican Monastery displays a good collection of 16th-century religious art done by local artisans. The Luza Art Center is one of many art galleries worth browsing, and the courtyard of the Sponza Palace often holds exhibits of contemporary art. The Sponza Palace is certainly worth visiting for its own merits. This graceful and ornate building combines both Venetian Gothic and Renaissance styles of design, and was once a customs house and mint.

One of the symbols of Dubrovnik is the impressive Minceta Fortress. This circular bastion along the city's walls was completed in 1464 according to plans detailed by the Renaissance architects Dalmatinac (of Croatia) and Michelozzi (of Italy). Another structure that draws much interest is the Onofrio Fountain, created in 1444 just inside the Pile Gate.

Near Luza Square, once the center of medieval Dubrovnik, stands the 18th-century baroque Church of St. Blaise. A statue of an armored knight stands on guard nearby, known as Orlando's Column. It was erected in the 1400s as a tribute to freedom. Government rulings were proclaimed here, and the right arm of Orlando became the state's standard of measure for length (the Ragusan cubit).

If you're seeking a museum to visit, Dubrovnik has several to offer. In addition to the museum of the Dominican Monastery mentioned above, there is also the gothic Rector's Palace, also known as Duke Palace, exhibiting baroque artwork, historical items of the region, and furnished rooms depicting medieval trappings and décor, housing more than 15,000 exhibits of cultural and historical significance. The Rupe Ethnographical Museum displays traditional occupations, architecture, and costumes of the nation. The museum itself is carved out of rock, the structure formerly used as underground storage units for grain, to protect food supplies during periods of siege. In addition, the Maritime Museum is situated in the fortress Sveti Ivan (Fort of St. John), along with the Aquarium of the Institute of Biology for those interested in the marine species of the region.

## **Attractions**

With a little planning, there are sites of interest just outside of the city's environs if you wish to venture further afield. Korcula is nearby, thought by some to be Marco Polo's birthplace. As mentioned earlier, a short boat ride (weather permitting) from Dubrovnik brings you to the lovely Island of Lokrum, said to be where Richard the Lionhearted was shipwrecked. Boat lines can also take you offshore to Sipan, Koločep, or Lopud.

## **Local Transportation**

Dubrovnik is a compact city and it is a delight to explore on foot, especially since Stari Grad (the Old Town) does not allow motor vehicles. If you want to roam further, there are many regular buses that can take you throughout the town and to destinations outside of Dubrovnik. You can buy bus tickets from the bus driver (exact change please) or from a local newspaper kiosk.

You can also take advantage of the marine mode of transportation and relax on a boat for a short ride (weather permitting) to Lokrum Island. This isle is a nature park complete with the medieval ruins of a Benedictine Monastery, a botanical garden, and rocky beaches where you can walk or just find a quiet spot to sit and take in the ocean vistas.

You enter the old town through Pile Gate, where you can obtain tourist information (open Mon-Sat 8 am to 8 pm and Sundays from 8 am to 3 pm). Here you can find maps of the city and get information on local buses.

## **Athens in Brief**

### **City Layout and Details**

Athens has two main centers: Syntagma (Constitution) Square and Omonia Square. Approximately a mile apart, these two squares are connected by two parallel avenues, Stadiou Street and Panepistimiou Street. From Syntagma Square, Mitropoleos Street leads, slightly downhill, to Monastiraki Square, near the flea market and the Plaka district. From Monastiraki Square, mile-long Athinas Street leads to Omonia Square. In the triangle formed by these three squares—Syntagma, Omonia, and Monastiraki—lies Athens's inner city, its shopping area, the central market, the main department stores, the post offices, banks, and many tavernas and restaurants.

Two helpful orientation landmarks are the Acropolis and Lycabettus Hill (the latter with the small white church and the Greek flag on top). Both are visible from most parts of the city.

## Local Transportation

The Athens Metro has been dramatically improved and expanded in the recent years making it one of the most modern and efficient systems in the world. It has 3 lines, which are distinguished by the colors used in maps and signs (green, blue and red). The green line, which is the oldest and for the most part runs on the ground, connects Piraeus to Kifissia. The blue line runs from Piraeus Port to Doukissis Plakentias and the Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport, and the red line from Athoupoli to Elliniko. The first train of the day departs at 5:30 am and the last departs at 12:10 am.

There are many taxis in Athens, which can be recognized by the yellow color of the vehicles. The minimum charge is 5 euros. The taxi fare between the airport and the city center is 40 euros during the day and 50 euros at night. Radio equipped taxis are available for a small extra fee.

## Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

## Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

## Crafts & Souvenirs

### Croatia

Typical Croatian souvenirs include gingerbread hearts (*licitar*), lavender oil, olive oil, and red coral jewelry (note that red coral is illegal import into the U.S. but allowed if in jewelry). Dry skin? Locals swear by the lanolin-based *Zagrebacki melem* ointment. Remember that the cravat was invented here, so be on the lookout for unusual and beautifully made neckties.

### Montenegro

Popular Montenegrin souvenirs include homemade rakija (a brandy-esque drink produced in the Balkans), grape vinegar, peasant cheese, Yugoslav memorabilia, *njeguški pršut* (Montenegrin prosciutto), cat-centric souvenirs in Kotor, *kapa* (traditional men's cap), *vranac* wine, and *brojanica* (an Christian Orthodox prayer rope).

## Albania

When visiting Albania, souvenirs you will want to keep an eye out for are homemade ceramics with traditional Albanian patterns, çifteli (a traditional guitar-like instrument), olive oil, a qilim (a handwoven rug), pupa (hand-knitted fabric slippers), bunker-shaped ashtrays, skënderbeu cognac, and handmade jewelry. A lot of hand stitching and lace work from women are available in Korca, Berat, Kruja. Another souvenir to consider is Gliko, a type of sweet fruit preserve from Permet that is very unique.

## Greece

Specialties include handicrafts, gold and silver jewelry, embroidered shirts and dresses, fabrics, flokati rugs of fluffy sheep wool, pottery, onyx, marble, green olive soaps, jars containing traditional marmalade, herbs, and honey bars. These are available in the main shopping area downtown around Syntagma, Omonia, and Kolonaki squares as well as in Monastiraki, the flea market, where shopping sometimes involves bargaining. Some of the best jewelry comes from Ioannina, ceramics from Sifnos and Skopelos, and embroidery from Skryos, Crete, Lefkas, and Rhodes. Thessaly and Epirus regions specialize in flokati rugs.

## Slovenia

Handicraft shops in Slovenia feature locally made ceramics, woolens, wood carvings, embroidery, tapestries, filigree jewelry, pumpkin seed oil, hand-painted beehive panels, honey brandy and handmade carpets. The fashion brands Sens and Akultura are popular, and for something more traditional, consider Idrija lace and Rogaska crystal.

## U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

---

### Croatia

#### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 21,851 square miles
- **Capital:** Zagreb
- **Government:** Presidential/parliamentary democracy
- **Language:** Croatian (Hrvatski), with Italian, German, and English also spoken by some.
- **Location:** Croatia is situated between the Pannonian Plain and the Adriatic Sea in southeastern Europe. Irregularities of its Adriatic coastline have created over 1,000 islands. The region in the north of Croatia is a highland area with a mountainous climate.
- **Geography:** Croatia is located in Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. The terrain of Croatia is geographically diverse; flat plains along Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coast, coastline, and islands.
- **Population:** 3,878,981 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 79%, Orthodox 3.3%, other Christian 4.5%, Muslim 1.3%, other 1.8%, unspecified 3.8%, none 6.3%
- **Time Zone:** Croatia is on Central European Time, which is six hours ahead of U.S. EST. Daylight Saving Time is in effect from the last Sunday of March until the last Sunday of October.



## National Holidays: Croatia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Croatia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Corpus Christi. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

05/30 Statehood Day

08/05 Homeland Thanksgiving Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/08 Independence Day

11/01 All Saints' Day

11/18 Remembrance Day

12/25 Christmas

12/26 St Stephen's Day

## Croatia: A Brief History

Though Croatia defines itself along ethno-nationalist lines, the first Croat tribes did not arrive here until the 6th century. Little is known about them, but they were likely Slavic people from the marshlands of Ukraine who migrated to the Pannonian plains and Dalmatian coast.

The Croats came after the Illyrians, Greeks, Celts and Romans, who arrived in 11 BC and ruled for 500 years, expanding their colony from the Adriatic to the Danube. In the decades after the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 AD, the Croats began to move in, banding with other groups in a series of shifting allegiances, and organizing around powerful clans. When Charlemagne came in 800 AD, he Christianized the Dalmatian Croats. Though the Byzantine Empire held political power, the Christian Croats still looked to Rome for cultural and spiritual leadership—a connection that endures today, with most Croats identifying as devout Roman Catholics.

In 925 AD, Tomislav united the Dalmatian and Pannonian Croats, establishing a unified kingdom that included modern-day Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro. Venice invaded Dalmatia, but the Croat kingdom lasted until 1102, when it merged with the kingdom of Hungary. By the mid-1400s, under widespread Ottoman occupation, the Croatian Assembly invited the Hapsburgs to assume control. The Hapsburgs ousted the Turks by the 18th century. But the dream of an independent Croatia reawakened during the mid 1800s, as Europe was swept by a wave of romantic nationalism. This brought a flowering of Croatian language and art.

Following World War I and the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1918 the Kingdom of Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes united as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The Axis takeover of Yugoslavia during World War II gave power to Croatia's far-right Ustase party, which built eight concentration camps to exterminate hundreds of thousands of Jews, Roma, and Serbs. Antifascist resisters rose up, but many, the Serbian Chetniks among them, enacted massacres against the Croats, exacerbating political and ethnic tensions.

The most effective partisans were led by the communist Josip Broz (aka “Tito”), who forced the Nazi retreat and became the architect of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, established in 1944. Though initially aligned with Moscow, Tito openly critiqued Stalin and continually asserted Yugoslavia’s independence. In 1961, he founded the Non-Aligned Movement, positioning its members as serious bargaining partners between the Soviet and western blocs.

Tito was determined to create a state in which no ethnic group dominated, and where church and state were separated. It was a fragile balance he maintained through a one-party system that suppressed all opposition. When he died in 1980, old tensions among the six Yugoslav republics resumed. In 1989, with the fall of communism, Yugoslavia fell apart. In 1990, Croatian nationalist Franjo Tudjman was elected President, and a year later, Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia. Conflicts between Serbs and Croats escalated, and within a month, war broke out.

The United Nations mediated a cease-fire in 1992, but hostilities resumed the next year when Croatia tried to regain lost territories. Multiple offensives and cease-fires ensued until 1995, when Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian governments signed the Dayton Peace Agreement, committing to a permanent cease-fire, regional cooperation and further democratization. When President Tudjman died in 1999, the subsequent coalition government brought major changes. Since then, Serbs and Croats have maintained a stable, albeit wary peace. Croatia joined NATO in 2009, and since joining the EU in 2014, its economy, powered by tourism, has grown.

## Montenegro

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 5,332 square miles
- **Capital:** Podgorica
- **Population:** 621,873 (estimate)
- **Languages:** Serbian 63.6%, Montenegrin (official) 22%, Bosnian 5.5%, Albanian 5.3%, unspecified 3.7%
- **Geography:** Montenegro is in Southeastern Europe, between the Adriatic Sea and Serbia. The country is only 13,812 sq km, which means it is roughly the same size as Connecticut, yet it borders on five countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, and Serbia. The country is mostly rugged high limestone mountains and plateaus that dip down to coastal plains.
- **Religions:** Orthodox 74.2%, Muslim 17.7%, Catholic 3.5%, other 0.6%, unspecified 4%
- **Time Zone:** Montenegro is on Central European Time, six hours ahead of Eastern Time. Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.

## National Holidays: Montenegro

In addition to the holidays listed below, Montenegro celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Orthodox Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Orthodox Christmas Eve

01/07 Orthodox Christmas

01/08 Orthodox Christmas (Day 2)

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

05/02 Labor Day/May Day (Day 2)

05/21 Independence Day

05/22 Independence Day (Day 2)

07/13 Statehood Day

07/14 Statehood Day (Day 2)

## Montenegro: A Brief History

Montenegro is only the size of Connecticut, but its status has changed seven times since World War II. This is nothing new, as Montenegro's entire history has been one of dynastic struggle, conquest, and shifting alliances—shot through with a continual quest for independence.

While Montenegro's history is intimately bound with that of its neighbors, there are many unique factors. The first people to settle here in the Bronze Age were Illyrians. Not much is known about them, but they were warlike seafarers who settled the southeastern Adriatic coast. Though Greeks and Celts had settlements here during the 6th and 7th centuries BC, in the 3rd century BC much of Montenegro was part of an indigenous, Illyrian kingdom.

When the Romans arrived in Dalmatia in 168 BC, they mounted expeditions against Illyrian pirates, annexed their lands, and incorporated Montenegro into their larger Illyrium province. But Montenegro was considered a backwater. Rugged and largely inaccessible, devoid of known riches or mineral wealth, it became a haven for various clans who had resisted Romanization.

Once the Slavs arrived in the 7th century, their rival chieftains engaged in shifting alliances, often with outside states like Bulgaria, Venice and Byzantium. The clans who settled around the former Roman hub of Doclea in Montenegro were Serbs, and their realm was called Duklja. Between 931 and 960, the chieftain Ceslav further unified a number of Serb tribes, operating from Zeta near the Gulf of Kotor. The rest of Montenegro's medieval history involved a succession of kingdoms that eventually became the Serbian principality of Zeta in the 14th century. By the late 15th century, Zeta was known as Montenegro, meaning "black mountain"—a reference to Mount Lovćen, the geographic and spiritual heart of the country.

Though Montenegro fell under Ottoman rule from the 14th to the 19th century, it managed to elude tight Ottoman control thanks to the resistance of its people, its rugged terrain, shrewd diplomacy, and the protection afforded to its prince-bishops by the Eastern Orthodox church. The country became an independent constitutional monarchy in 1852. During World War I, Montenegro fought with the Allies but was defeated by Austro-German forces. When King Nicholas fled, the country was annexed to Serbia, which in turn became part of the unified Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in 1918. In 1929, it was renamed Yugoslavia.

Montenegro's World War II history was quite different than its neighbors'. As Axis powers took over Yugoslavia, Italians occupied Montenegro in April, 1941. Three months later, Montenegrin communist partisans fomented Europe's first armed uprising against the Nazis. Some 32,000 Montenegrins succeeded in ousting the Italians. But by August, bolstered by 67,000 Italian troops redeployed from Albania, the Fascists returned. Still, Montenegrin partisans continued their resistance, despite internal schisms between the communist flank and the royalist Chetniks, who eventually collaborated with the Italians. Montenegro was finally liberated in 1944, when it became part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Josip Broz Tito.

When the Yugoslav republic fell, Montenegro remained part of Serbia, and joined it in attacks against Dubrovnik in the 1991–1995 Bosnian and Croatian war. But in 1996, the new president Milo Dukanovic severed ties with Serbia, and the path to full independence was laid. In 2006, a referendum was narrowly passed declaring Montenegro a fully sovereign state. It became part of NATO in 2017, and aspires to full integration into the European Union by 2025.

## Albania

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 11,100 square miles
- **Capital:** Tirana
- **Languages:** Albanian
- **Geography:** Occupying an area slightly smaller than Maryland, Albania lies between Greece to the south and Montenegro and Kosovo to the north. The geography is mostly mountains and hills, small plains along the coast, with farmland in between the two.
- **Population:** 3,029,278 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Muslim 56.7%, Roman Catholic 10%, Orthodox 6.8%, atheist 2.5%, Bektashi 2.1%, other 5.7%, unspecified 16.2%
- **Time Zone:** Albania is on Central European Time (six hours ahead of Eastern Time). Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.

## National Holidays: Albania

In addition to the holidays listed below, Albania celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Ramadan. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 New Year's Day continued

03/14 Summer Day

03/22 Nevruz Day

04/09 Catholic & Orthodox Easter

04/22 Eid al Fitr

05/01 Labour Day/May Day

06/28 Kurban Bajram

09/05 Mother Teresa Beatification Day

11/28 Independence Day

11/29 Liberation Day

12/8 National Youth Day

12/25 Christmas Day

## Albania: A Brief History

Though many of the former Yugoslav republics can trace their ancient roots to the Illyrian people, Albania has the strongest connection to these seafaring marauders. The Albanian language is directly descended from Illyrian, and is completely distinct from Serbo-Croatian or any other European language.

When the Roman Empire split into its eastern and western spheres, Illyria fell within the eastern or Byzantine realm. Gradually, Illyrian pantheism was replaced by Eastern Orthodoxy. By the late Middle Ages, urban Albanian society prospered both culturally and economically, thanks to its wealthy mercantile class, and education and the arts flowered.

Byzantine rule declined as waves of Bulgarians, Venetians, Normans and Serbians took over. Then the Turks began invading Illyria in 1388, occupying all of it by 1479. An important effect of this was the Islamization of the people. Under Ottoman Janissary laws, Christian families had to give up one son to convert to Islam and serve in the military, but Muslim families were exempt. As a result, many Albanians embraced the new faith. The Turks ruled for 400 years.

When an Albanian independence movement arose in 1878, it was put down by the Turkish army in 1881. But the dream of nationhood did not die. Uprisings took place in 1910 and 1912 that resulted in the formation of an independent Albania. But the Great Powers (Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy) intervened, ceding the provinces of Kosovo to Serbia, and Çamëria to Greece. This left many ethnic Albanians outside the national borders. During World War I, the weak new nation was occupied by various neighbors. After the war, a deal to partition Albania among its neighbors was thwarted by US President Woodrow Wilson.

A republican government formed in 1920, but was overthrown in 1924 by Ahmed Bey Zogu, who declared himself king. He allied himself with Italy, until Mussolini invaded in 1939. Albania was occupied by the Nazis in 1943, but by 1944, it was liberated by the communist-led resistance. Its leader, Enver Hoxha, became Supreme Comrade of the People's Republic of Albania.

Hoxha undertook a radical modernization program that included agrarian reform, the nationalization of industries, the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, and elevation of women's status. It also instituted brutal purges and suppressed all civil liberties, foreign travel, and religion. Albania received substantial aid from the Soviet Union and China, but over time, Hoxha broke ties with those regimes, accusing them of having betrayed Marxist ideals in favor of rapprochement with the west. An isolated Albania suffered food shortages and widening unrest.

When Hoxha died in 1985, his successor, Ramiz Alia, instituted some democratic reforms, but failed to deliver on most promises and was ousted. The country descended into chaos, as smuggling operations and drug and human trafficking proliferated, and peasants were forced off farms. A 1997 pyramid investment scheme (which may have been supported by the government) robbed about 70% of Albanians of their savings. Widespread rioting ensued.

In the 2005 elections, the Democratic Party staged a comeback, promising to tackle crime and corruption. Progress on these and other fronts gained Albania's entry into NATO in 2009. Since 2015, the Socialist Party has gained power, subsequent elections have been peaceful, and Albania is further integrated with the west. This brings the elusive goal of EU membership more within Albania's reach.

## Greece

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 50,949 square miles
- **Capital:** Athens
- **Population:** 10,775,643 (estimate)
- **Languages:** Greek
- **Geography:** The peninsula that constitutes mainland Greece is surrounded by more than 5000 islands, of which 220 are inhabited—169 have more than 150 inhabitants. The islands are divided into six groups: the Cyclades, the Ionians, the Dodecanese, the islands of the Northeastern Aegean, the Sporades and the Saronic Gulf islands. The two largest islands, Crete and Evia, do not belong to any group. Roughly four-fifths of Greece is mountainous, with most land lying over 1500m (4920ft) above sea level. Epiros and Macedonia, in northern Greece, still have extensive forests, but goat grazing, felling and forest fires have seriously denuded the rest of the country.
- **Religions:** Greek Orthodox 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%
- **Time Zone:** Greece is on Eastern European Time, two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (seven hours ahead of Eastern Time). Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.



## National Holidays: Greece

In addition to the holidays listed below, Greece celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

03/25 Greek Independence Day

05/01 Labor Day

08/15 Dormition of the Holy Virgin

10/28 The Ochi Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

## Greece: A Brief History

The glory that was Greece reached its pinnacle during the Classical period, between 500 and 300 BC. But the seeds for that golden age, which has stood for centuries as a beacon of Western civilization, were sown at least 700,000 years ago, when humans first appeared in Greece. But it was during the Bronze Age, around 3,000 BC, when three major Greek civilizations emerged.

The Cycladic culture of the Aegean islands was sustained by farming and seafaring. But the small island populations made it hard for larger, more complex societies to organize. Not so for the Minoans of Crete, who created a palace culture, a written system of language, and effective military and mercantile sectors. Had Crete not been wracked by natural disasters, the Minoans may have prevailed against the mainland Mycenaeans who landed around 1400 BC. But their star faded in 1100 BC, when the Dorians took over, and Greece entered a Dark Age.

Light dawned again around 800 B.C., when the Greeks came into contact with the Phoenicians. The Greeks borrowed their alphabet, which Homer used to record his epics. This was followed by the Persian Wars, which continued from 520 to 480 BC, and prompted some Greek city-states to form an alliance under Athens called the Delian League. When Persia was beaten in 461 BC, the leader Pericles presided over Athens' golden age. He rebuilt the city, including its iconic Acropolis. Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were writing plays; and Socrates and Plato were teaching. But when the Delian League clashed with the militaristic Peloponnesian League of Sparta, a Peloponnesian war persisted for 27 years, with Sparta prevailing.

Athens was conquered by Philip II of Macedon in 360 BC. When he was assassinated, his son Alexander (the Great) was embraced by Athens. Though Alexander built an empire that reached as far east as India, his death left Greece vulnerable. By 200 BC, Rome had annexed all of Greece, but they venerated the culture. Athens remained an important seat of learning until Justinian closed its philosophy schools in AD 529. Under Byzantine rule (AD 300–1200), many temples were modified to Christian use, and Athens became a provincial backwater.

After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottomans seized Athens and ruled for almost 400 years, during which time the Acropolis was desecrated. The Ottoman yoke was shaken off with the bloody 1829 War of Independence. Through the intervention of Britain, France, and Russia,

Greece became a monarchy whose kings were largely foreigners. This helped to keep Greece out of World War I, but World War II was another story. The country was overrun by Hitler and the civilian population suffered greatly. More than half the nation's Jews were murdered.

In 1944, civil war broke out between the communist and monarchist resistance groups who had helped defeat the Nazis. It lasted for three years and took more lives than the entirety of World War II. A diaspora ensued, with many Greeks fleeing to Australia, the United States, and Canada. Greece joined NATO in 1952 and continued to be ruled as a monarchy until 1967, when former King Constantine fled Greece after a military junta. In 1974, democracy was restored and the monarchy was abolished in favor of a republic. In 1981, Greece joined the European Union.

The focus for 21<sup>st</sup> century Greece has been its economy. Integration with Europe brought a rising standard of living, but also skyrocketing costs and a serious debt crisis. This threatened to take down the EU, which provided bailouts that required strict austerity. Greeks endured record unemployment, protests, and successive governments. By 2018, Greece's credit rating improved and in 2019, the center-right New Democracy party of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis won a landslide election, with a term ending in 2022.

## Slovenia

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 7,827 square miles
- **Capital:** Ljubljana
- **Population:** 1,983,412 (estimate)
- **Languages:** Slovenian is the official language.
- **Religions:** Catholic 57.8%, Muslim 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other Christian 0.9%, unaffiliated 3.5%, other or unspecified 23%, none 10.1%
- **Time Zone:** Slovenia is on Central European Time, six hours ahead of Eastern Time. Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.

## National Holidays: Slovenia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Slovenia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Whit Sunday. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **[www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays)**.

01/01 New Year's Day

02/08 Preseren Day

04/27 Day of Uprising Against Occupation

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

06/25 Statehood Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/31 Reformation Day

11/01 Remembrance Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Independence and Unity Day

## Slovenia: A Brief History

While Slovenia experienced many of the same historical events as its neighbors, its development diverged in several important ways. For one thing, we know a little more about the Bronze Age inhabitants who predated the Illyrians here: they were marsh dwellers who lived in huts on stilts south of present-day Ljubljana, trading along the Amber Route that linked the Balkans with the rest of Europe. By 400 BC, the Celts established the first political entity on Slovenian soil, the Noric kingdom. The Romans annexed this and brought Slovenia into its larger province, Illyrium.

As Rome declined, Slavs arrived and eventually joined with the Frankish kingdom to form the Duchy of Carantania. Charlemagne sealed the deal when he made Carantania a vassal state called Carinthia, and established Roman Catholicism as the state religion. This brought Slovenia into the fold of the Holy Roman Empire, and far from the sway of eastern Orthodoxy. By the 10th century, control of the Holy Roman Empire fell to German nobility. They replaced local Slovenian lords with German ones, reduced the peasants to serfs, and divided Slovenia into six provinces that remained intact until 1918: Carniola, Carinthia, Styria, Gorica and the White March.

Between the late 13th and early 16th century, almost all of Slovenia passed to the Hapsburgs, who improved the infrastructure, opened mines, and lifted the economy. But soon, Germanic domination of the political and cultural scene faced a challenge. Slovenia was never occupied by the Ottomans, but under the Hapsburgs, it had to fight many battles against the Turks. Slovenian peasants were required to pay for their own defenses, and also pay tribute to their feudal lords. Between the 14th and 19th centuries there were more than 100 Slovenian peasant revolts.

Another turning point came when the Protestant Reformation reached Slovenia at the end of the 16th century. Many Protestant reformers wrote their treatises in the vernacular, elevating the status of Slovenian language. An awakening of Slovenian identity had begun.

When the Hapsburg dynasty was dismantled after World War I, Slovenia joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. But much of Slovenia's land was ceded to Italy, Austria, and Hungary, and there was dissatisfaction with the government, which was dominated by Serbs. But when the Nazis invaded in 1941, a larger threat had to be dealt with. Communists and other left-wing

groups formed a Liberation Front. The people took up arms, and fought in the best-organized anti-Nazi resistance in Europe. The communist partisan leader, Josip Broz Tito, became the leader of the new Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

When Tito died in 1980, Slovenian dissatisfaction with the Serb-dominated government deepened. In 1987, a Slovenian magazine published an article calling for political pluralism, democracy, a market economy and more Slovenian independence, but stopped short of calling for secession. But Yugoslavia's new de facto leader, Serbia's Slobodan Milošević, resolved to put an end to it. Slovenia doubled down and in 1990, it voted to become an independent republic. The Yugoslav army marched on Slovenia, but after meeting with unexpected resistance, units of the federal army began disintegrating.

Since no territorial or ethnic issues were involved, the Yugoslav government agreed to a truce and finally withdrew in October 1991. Slovenia enacted its own constitution in December, and was recognized by the European Community in January, 1992. In May, 1992, it became the 176th member state of the United Nations, and in 2004, it joined the European Union.

## RESOURCES

---

### Suggested Reading

#### The Balkans

***Balkan Ghosts*** by Robert D Kaplan (History) Sums up the history of the Balkans from the fall of the Soviet Union through the breakup of Yugoslavia. Recommended by previous travelers as a way to understand cultural divisions in the region.

#### Croatia

***Girl at War*** by Sara Novic (2016, Fiction) Ana, a New York college student, flashes back to her childhood in the former Yugoslavia in 1991. As civil war descends, ten-year old Ana's carefree existence dissolves in tragedy and she must become a child soldier. Later, even as she builds a seemingly normal new life in America, her war never ends. A moving meditation on family, identity, memory and redemption.

***Chasing a Croatian Girl*** by Cody McClain Brown (2015, Memoir) An incisive and often hilarious journey into everyday Croatian culture. The author, an ex-pat American and professor of political science, marries a Croatian woman and struggles to understand his indomitable mother-in-law, endless coffees with friends and neighbors, and a vast catalog of quirky customs.

***The Walnut Mansion*** by Miljenko Jergovic (2015, Fiction) A 97-year-old matriarch recalls five generations of her Yugoslav family—vividly drawn characters whose lives play out against the fall of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, two world wars, the rise of communism, and the dangers of war-torn Dubrovnik as one nation dissolves, and another emerges.

***The Hired Man*** by Aminatta Forna (2014, Fiction) Well reviewed novel about a family of newcomers from England who renovate a farmhouse in the Croatian village of Gost, befriend a local handyman, and unwittingly dredge up secrets of the village's dark past.

***Dubrovnik, A History*** by Robin Harris (2003, History) A scholarly but readable history of Dubrovnik from its origins in the 7th century, until the collapse of the Republic in 1808. Recommended for the history buff.

#### Montenegro

***Montenegro, A Novel*** by Starling Lawrence (1997, Literature) Romance, intrigue, and the adventures of a reluctant British spy set in turn-of-the-century Montenegro.

***The Black Mountain*** by Rex Stout (1954, Mystery) Part of the Nero Wolfe series, this book sees Nero leave his comfortable home in New York—something he rarely does—to follow leads in Montenegro.

## Albania

***The Sworn Virgin*** by Kristopher Dukes (2016, Historical Fiction) When Eleanora's father dies in the 1910s, she takes on a new role in her village as a "sworn virgin"—an Albanian tradition that let women take over as the head of the household

***The Albanians: An Ethnic History from Prehistoric Times to the Present*** by Edwin Jacques (1995, History). Albania lies near the center of age-old Balkan conflicts. In this book, Edwin Jacques explores the roots of Albanian civilization and the struggle of Albanians to maintain their cultural and linguistic integrity, as well as the impact of foreign influence on the country.

***The Albanians: A Modern History*** by Miranda Vickers (1995, History) An historical account that traces the history of the Albanian people from the Ottoman era to the formation of the Albanian Communist Party.

***Chronicle in Stone*** by Ismail Kadare (1971, Literature) A fictionalized account of the author's own experiences during World War II, this novel follows a sensitive boy struggling to grow up in an occupied town near the Albanian-Greek border. The author is considered one of Albania's most famous writers.

## Greece

***The Rise of Athens: The Story of the World's Greatest Civilization*** by Anthony Everitt (2017, History) This book traces the origins of modern Athens and goes well beyond it, with plenty of entertaining detail about the figures who made it great, as well as those who contributed to its demise.

***Ancient Greece: Art, Architecture, and History*** by Marina Belozerskaya and Kenneth Lapatin (2004, Art/Architecture) A lively guide to the architecture, painting, and sculpture of ancient Greece with color illustrations.

***Dinner with Persephone*** by Patricia Storace (1996, Travel Narrative) An American fluent in Greek, Storace recalls a year of living and traveling there and the complexities, heartbreak, humor, and resilience of a people rooted in their glorious past, yet uncertain of the future.

***The King Must Die*** and ***The Bull From the Sea*** by Mary Renault (1958, Fiction) Modern retellings of the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. Recommended by travelers.

***Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*** and ***Greek Mythology*** by Edith Hamilton (1942, Mythology) These classic introductions to Greek and Roman mythology is still used as the standard in high schools and colleges throughout the U.S. From the Olympians to the Trojan War, Hamilton presents the myths and adventure stories of the ancient world in a clear and accessible manner.



## Slovenia

***Slovenology: Living and Traveling in the World's Best Country*** by Noah Charney (2017, Memoir/Travel) A witty and wise guidebook from an American art historian. The title tells you something about his love for Slovenia's history, food and drink, sights, music and people.

***I Saw Her That Night*** by Drago Jancar (2010, Fiction) Explores the disappearance of a young woman from Ljubljana during a turbulent period in that city's history, as told by five different people.

***Forbidden Bread: A Memoir*** (2009, Memoir) A New York financial analyst leaves her home and job to marry her Slovenian poet-lover. As she struggles to understand her new family and Slovenia's complex history, language, traditions and old-fashioned sexism, Slovenia itself is being transformed. A love story with witty and worldly observations on the birth of a new nation.

## Suggested Films & Videos

### Croatia

***The Diary of Diana B.*** (2019, Drama) This film follows the unique and heartbreaking story of humanitarian Diana Budisavljevic, who rescues thousands of children from the Utasha camps in Nazi-occupied Croatia during World War II. This historical piece combines dramatized reenactments with archival material and interviews with survivors to create a harrowing retelling of Diana's perilous efforts.

***The Eighth Commissioner*** (2018, Comedy) Filmed on the Dalmatian coast islands of Brač, Hvar and Zlarin, this endearing film follows an arrogant politician whose career is derailed by scandal. Banished to a remote island with no telephone or internet, he is given the impossible task of organizing a local government. The islanders are as quirky as their incomprehensible dialect, and other residents include Italian smugglers, a Ukrainian porn star, and the previous Commissioner.

***What is a Man Without a Mustache?*** (2005, Romantic Comedy) A Croatian guest worker suffers a fatal fall in Germany, and his widow Tatjana uses her settlement to purchase a hillside in an idyllic Dalmatian Coast village. Magical things happen, including Tatjana falling madly but inexplicably in love with the hapless village priest. A sunny romance with an even sunnier setting.

***Harrison's Flowers*** (2000, Drama) This French film is about a *Newsweek* photojournalist who travels on his last assignment to Yugoslavia in 1991, during the Croatian War of Independence. He is presumed to be killed, but his wife (played by Andie MacDowell) searches for him through the war-torn landscapes and witnesses some of the horrors of the period. French with English subtitles.

## Montenegro

***Meet Me in Montenegro*** (2015, Romantic Comedy) This indie rom-com is a semi-autobiographical account of the two stars, who met on a train and ran off to Montenegro (here blissfully filmed) for a romantic seaside escape. They reunite by accident years later in Berlin, and the Montenegro mood is revived.

***Coriolanus*** (2011, Drama) Ralph Fiennes stars in and directs Shakespeare's classic, here updated to modern times. Though it is set in a nominal "Rome," it feels very much like the war-torn Balkans, and was in fact shot there, mainly in Montenegro.

***Force 10 from Navarone*** (1978, Drama) Shot 18 years after the WWII epic *The Guns of Navarone*, this sequel sees three of the Allied heroes (Harrison Ford, Robert Shaw, and Edward Fox) dispatched to Yugoslavia to destroy a bridge and dam that are crucial to Nazi aims. Most of the film was shot in Montenegro, and the actual bridge used for pivotal scenes was indeed blown up in 1942 by one of its engineers to stop the invading Italian army.

***When Father Was Away on Business*** (1985, Comedy/Drama) An Oscar-nominee for Best Foreign Film, this darkly comic tale unfolds in the 1950s, after Tito broke with Stalin and instituted harsh reprisals against any dissenters. A careless political joke, years of philandering and a lover's vengeance all come crashing down on Mesa, who is carted off to a work camp. But six year-old Malik is told simply that his father is away on business. When Dad returns, Malik learns exactly what that business was about.

## Albania

***The Delegation*** (2018, Drama). Based in October 1990, before the fall of communism, a delegation from the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe arrives in Tirana, Albania to judge the communist government for entry as a member into the intergovernmental organization. At the same time, Albania's government sends an official to release a political prisoner.

***The Forgiveness of Blood*** (2011, Drama). Medieval mores and modern dreams clash in this tale of teenaged siblings Nik and Rudina. Their lives are upended by Albania's centuries-old tradition of the blood feud, or Kanun, when their father and uncle kill a neighbor during a land dispute.

***Dear Enemy*** (2006, Drama). Based off the true story of the director's grandfather who, during World War II and the German occupation of Albania, befriended a German officer while harboring a partisan, a Jewish watchmaker, and an Italian soldier in his basement.

## Greece

***Mamma Mia!*** (2008) and ***Mamma Mia, Here We Go Again*** (2018) (Musical Comedy) Yes, there is Meryl Streep and an all-star cast. Yes, there are the bouncy, nostalgic soundtracks based on hits by the 70s supergroup, ABBA. But there are also idyllic Greek islands, and whimsical fantasies about the life you could live there.

**Troy** (2004, Drama) This may not have been 2004's best film, but it was its highest grossing one, thanks to an all-star cast (Brad Pitt, Peter O'Toole, Brian Cox, Diane Kruger, and Orlando Bloom), sweeping sets, and an epic story based on Homer's *Iliad*. It concerns the motivations of the central characters as they reach their destinies during the historic battle between the Trojans, and the various Greek armies at their gates.

**My Life in Ruins** (2009, Comedy) A romantic comedy about a tour guide (Nia Vardalos) set among the ruins of classical Greece. Vardalos also wrote and starred in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

**Zorba the Greek** (1964, Comedy/Drama) This classic still stands the test of time. Anthony Quinn plays the iconic Zorba, a lusty and exuberant musician, who strikes up a friendship with an uptight Englishman (Alan Bates) during a picaresque adventure in Greece.

**The Guns of Navarone** (1961, Action) Follows six Allied and Greek soldiers as they try to disable the two German guns that are preventing the evacuation of British troops from a Greek island in WWII. But the real heavy artillery is the cast—Gregory Peck, David Niven, and Anthony Quinn all won at least one Oscar each during their distinguished careers.

## Slovenia

**Good to Go** (2012, Comedy/Drama) A weary, disillusioned music teacher in his late 70s decides to retire—not just from his job, but from living. He buys a cemetery plot and moves into a retirement home. But once there, surprising turns make him rethink his decision, and his life.

**Cheese and Jam** (2004, Comedy) Lovely Slovenian Spela decides to leave her beer-drinking, jobless Bosnian husband, Bozo. Desperate to keep her, Bozo takes a job smuggling illegal immigrants, and things go wildly wrong. A black comedy about stereotypes, village life, and love.

**No Man's Land** (2002, Comedy/Drama) Filmed in Slovenia, this allegorical look at the Balkan War won the 2002 Golden Globes and the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Two soldiers, one Bosnian, one Serb, find themselves facing off in a trench in no man's land. Insults and concessions ensue until a third soldier awakens nearby, but cannot move as he is sitting above a bouncing mine. The men forge a truce as they try to get help, and to find common ground.

## Useful Websites

### **Overseas Adventure Travel**

[www.oattravel.com](http://www.oattravel.com)

### **Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions**

[www.oattravel.com/faq](http://www.oattravel.com/faq)

### **International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)**

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

### **Electricity & Plugs**

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

### **Foreign Exchange Rates**

[www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter)  
[www.oanda.com/converter/classic](http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic)

### **ATM Locators**

[www.mastercard.com/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/atm)  
[www.visa.com/atmlocator](http://www.visa.com/atmlocator)

### **World Weather**

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
[www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

### **Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)**

[www.travlang.com/languages](http://www.travlang.com/languages)

### **Packing Tips**

[www.travelite.org](http://www.travelite.org)

### **U.S. Customs & Border Protection**

[www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

### **Transportation Security**

#### **Administration (TSA)**

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

### **National Passport Information Center**

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

### **Holidays Worldwide**

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays)

### **History & Culture**

[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

## Useful Apps

### **Flight Stats**

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

### **LoungeBuddy**

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

### **Timeshifter**

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

### **GoogleMaps**

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

### **Triposo**

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

### **Rome2rio**

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

### **Flush or Sit or Squat**

Find a clean toilet anywhere

### **Uber**

Ride sharing around the world

### **Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus**

#### **ATM locations**

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

### **TunnelBear**

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

### **What's App, Skype, or Signal**

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

### **Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel**

Learn dozens of foreign languages

### **Google Translate**

Fast and simple translations

### **XE**

Currency conversions

### **SizeGuide**

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

### **Best Units Converter**

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

### **Tourlina**

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

### **Happy Cow**

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

### **Eatwith**

Dine with locals all over the world

### **Meetup**

Connects you with locals who share your interests

### **Skyview**

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

### **Travello**

Find travel friends on the road

### **ALIX for One**

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

### **TripWhistle**

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

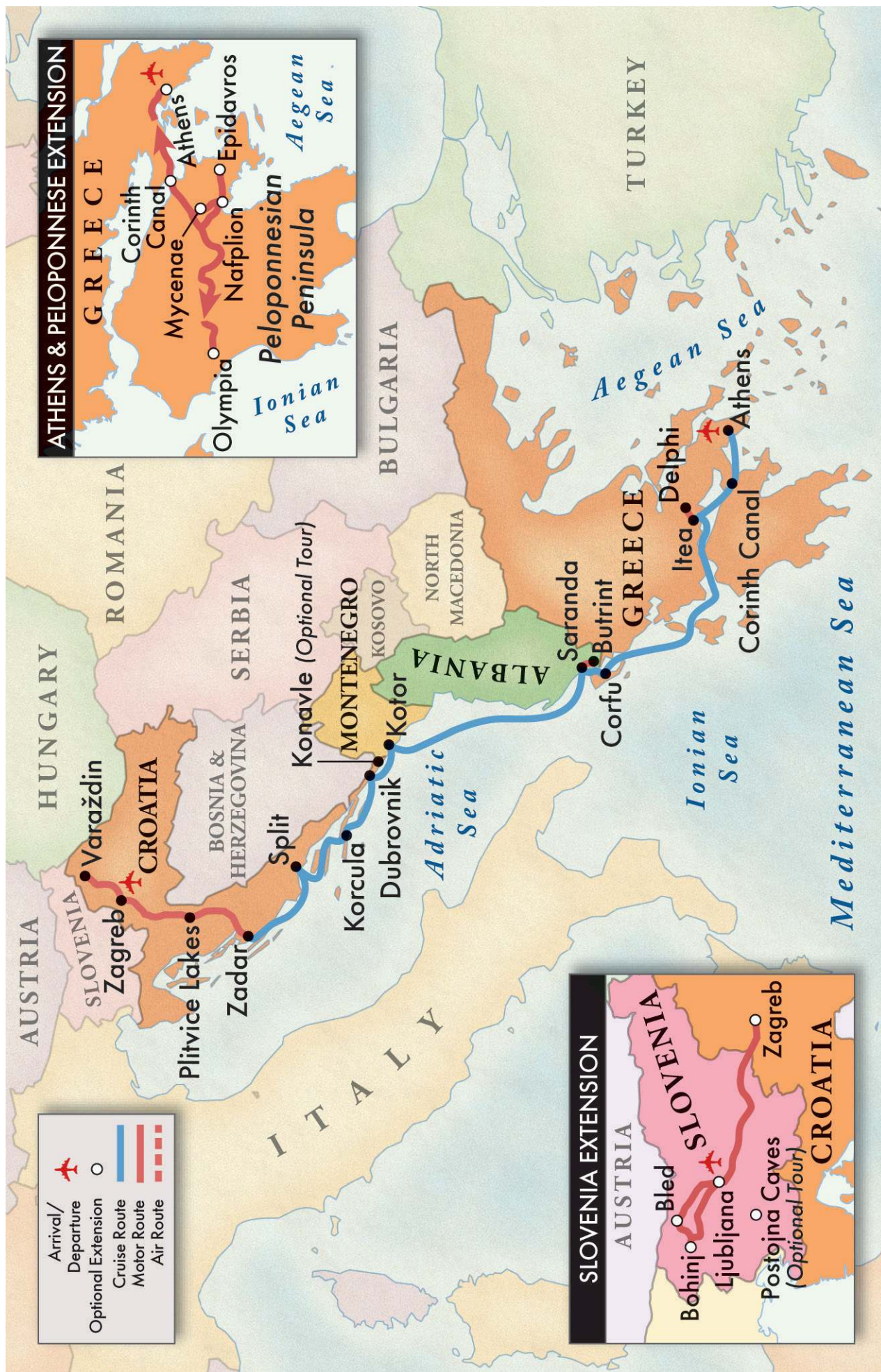
### **GeoSure**

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

### **Chirpey**

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more







# SHARE YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

We invite you to share your videos, slideshows, and photos of your past O.A.T. adventures to help inspire your fellow travelers. Go to [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner) to upload your photos or videos, and they may be featured on our website.

## Most Popular Videos, Slideshows & Photos from our O.A.T. Adventures Created by O.A.T. Travelers



Submitted by Joy and Don Janke,  
8-time travelers from Stevensville, MI



Submitted by Julia Schneider,  
5-time traveler from Pinellas Park, FL



Submitted by Martin Schwartzman,  
30-time traveler from Woodbury, NY



Submitted by Paul Stark, 17-time traveler  
from Edina, MN



Submitted by David Fong, 16-time traveler  
from Foster City, CA



Submitted by Steven dos Remedios,  
23-time traveler from Oakland, CA



1-800-955-1925 | [www.oattravel.com](http://www.oattravel.com)

CONNECT WITH US:  



**World's Best**  
#4 Best Intimate-Ship  
Ocean Cruise Line



**Readers' Choice**  
Named to the Best  
Tour Operators list



**USA Today**  
#6 Best Educational  
Tour Companies



**"Best Tours"**  
Named one of the  
"Best Tours"