**Croatia’s Istrian Peninsula**

Best biking on the Istrian Peninsula along the Adriatic Sea

Italy’s neighbor to the east, Croatia offers idyllic cycling through a medieval landscape of castles and vineyards, all with a beautiful view of the Adriatic Sea.

In addition to the historical landmarks, including medieval villages and fantastic Byzantine cathedrals, the natural beauty of the Northern Adriatic Coast is astounding. Bright blue waters line a coast littered with architectural wonders, against a backdrop of deep green, truffle-filled forests. The terrain on this peninsula’s coast is perfect for the cyclist who wants to combine slightly rolling and hilly terrain with images of Croatia’s history and unspoiled beauty. This bike tour in Croatia is not to be missed!
TRIP ESSENCE

- Ride on peaceful roads linking historic hilltop villages and a picturesque seaside town
- Discover Trieste, where Germanic, Latin and Slavic cultures converge
- Admire the beauty of the coast with a boat transfer and enjoy the blue and pristine Adriatic Sea on the Croatian side
- Explore the coastal towns of Rovinj, Umag and Pula
- Discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Porec and its Byzantine Basilica
- Learn about Croatia’s growing wine industry and taste the latest vintages
- Visit the unspoiled Brijuni National Park, once the vacation spot for aristocrats of centuries past

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Use of a carbon road bike (see page 6 for details)
- Service of local, professional guides throughout the program
- Ciclismo jersey and water bottle
- All accommodations
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 6 dinners
- Wine tasting
- Ferry ride to Brijuni National Park and bike rental
- Guided tours of Trieste, Pula, Brijuni National Park and Rovinj
- Cycling clinics and one-on-one coaching
- Group shuttle at the end of the tour

TRIP DETAILS

2019 Trip Dates
- Jun 1 - Jun 8
- Jun 22 - Jun 29
- Jul 6 - Jul 13
- Sep 7 - Sep 14
- Sep 15 - Sep 22

Ability Level
- Intermediate

Summary of Daily Distances
- Day 1: 20/21.5 miles
- Day 2: 44.8/53.3 miles
- Day 3: 48/53 miles
- Day 4: 40 miles
- Day 5: 32/41.7 miles
- Day 6: 52/59 miles
- Day 7: 24 miles
- Day 8: Zdravo! (Goodbye)

Optional extra loops available

Trip Price
- $5,295
- Single Supplement: $800

Have something else in mind?
- Itinerary available as a private tour or...
- Create a custom itinerary with help from our experienced travel consultants!

Contact Us
CROATIA’S ISTRIAN PENINSULA 2019
Ability Level: Intermediate / Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

DAY 1
TRIESTE, ITALY
Daily Mileage - 20/21.5 miles
Riding Terrain - Hilly on the Carso plateau above Trieste
Hotel - Urban Hotel Design
• Location: Trieste
• Duration: 1 Night
• www.urbanhotel.it/en/
Meals - L, D

Highlights
Welcome to Trieste! We begin our tour in Trieste, a city that has for centuries been the natural gateway to Eastern Europe. Rich in Italian, Austro-Hungarian and Slavic cultural influences, Trieste is the biggest city and capitol of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. We meet at 1 pm in the lobby of our hotel for greetings, then we have an intro lunch at Le Botti, a very popular local restaurant. Afterwards, we have a bike fitting and warm-up ride in the area and later on, a walking tour of Trieste to get a better introduction to the city.

Situated in the vital center of Trieste, close to Piazza Unità, the splendid square by the sea, the Urban Hotel offers a cosmopolitan comfort. Each room is designed in a contemporary style, emphasizing elegance and technology.

DAY 2
UMAG
Daily Mileage - 44.8/53.3 miles
Riding Terrain - Hilly
Hotel - Sol Umag
• Location: Umag
• Duration: 2 Nights
• www.istraturist.com/en/hotels/sol-umag/overview
Meals - B, D

Highlights
Today we leave Italy, cross through a small part of Slovenia—the medieval port of Koper also known for its Venetian architecture and then enter Croatia. Our Croatian experience starts riding not so far from the sea and then reaching the nice coastal summer resort town of Umag, famous for its Roman remnants and the Croatia Open ATP tennis tournament. Other highlight of the day includes the bike path along the beautiful ancient salt pond of Sicciole. We have dinner at Konoba da Lorenzo tonight.

Make sure you have your passport on hand for entering Croatia. We reward the day with a delicious feast in a local restaurant.

The Sol Umag hotel is situated by the sea and is a perfect starting point for discovering the beauties of Umag and Istria. It was awarded the city’s best wellness center in Croatia in 2009.

DAY 3
UMAG LOOP TO GROZNJAN
Daily Mileage - 48/53 miles
Riding Terrain - Hilly with some climbing
Hotel - See Day 2
Meals - B, D

Highlights
Today is arguably one of the best rides as we cycle to Groznjan, a veritable magnet for Istrian artists and musicians, and a perfect place to buy pieces of art. Many claim this village—atop a large hill—to be the most beautiful medieval town in Istria. The Mirna River flows below the hill, and across the river, we see thick green forests, rich with white truffles. This mysterious forest makes many appearances in Croatian folklore as the home to monsters and giants. The finest Istrian white wines hail from vineyards in this area and today, we also discover and savor the local Malvasia and Moscato in Kozlovic, visiting one of the leaders among Istrian wine makers.
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DAY 4
UMAG TO ROVINJ

Daily Mileage - 40 miles
Riding Terrain - Rolling (inland and sometimes along the coast)

Hotel - Monte Mulini
- Location: Rovinj
- Duration: 2 Nights
- www.montemulinihotel.com/

Meals - B, D

Highlights
Our ride today leaves the quiet and hilly mainland for the flat and warm shores of the “Istrian Riviera”. On our way we’ll visit and have lunch at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Porec. It’s possible to stop at every bend of the road for a glimpse of ocean as we cycle towards Rovinj. This Istrian village is a popular tourist resort due to its exceptional climate and exuberant Mediterranean greenery. The arrival into Rovinj will be quite unique and scenic: we take a boat through the Limsky Kanal, a spectacular way to reach the city. Dinner will be at La Puntolina tonight, a top restaurant in the area with stellar views of the sea.

The 5-star boutique hotel Monte Mulini succeeds in combining natural materials and comfort with elegant design, offering the modern traveler a sanctuary accommodation for relief and relaxation in Istria. All rooms and suites have large balconies with panoramic views of the picturesque cove and protected Zlatni rt park forest.

DAY 5
OPTIONAL LOOP AROUND ROVINJ

Daily Mileage - 32/41.7 miles
Riding Terrain - Mostly rolling with some climbs

Hotel - See Day 4

Meals - B

Highlights
Today is an optional ride. You can take the shorter route to Dvigrad and be back at the hotel by lunch, or choose to relax and spend the day enjoying the hotel’s facilities, take a dip in the Adriatic, or wander the streets of Rovinj. If you choose to ride, take note of the rich blues and greens of our surroundings, heading east and leaving the Venetian city of Rovinj. This city’s majestic bell tower is reminiscent of the famous San Marco Square in Venice and provides a coastal landmark. We’ll have a guided walking tour of the town before dinner on your own in the evening.

Cycling around Dvigrad (Two Castles) is worth it! Visit the beautiful Roman settlement of Bale, and take advantage of the town center’s winding cobblestone lanes – they’re reserved for pedestrians only. Enjoy the afternoon here before returning to Rovinj. Other highlight of the day includes also the discovery of the authentic and rural area of the Istrian Peninsula like the village of Barat.

DAY 6
THE CAPITAL: PULA

Daily Mileage - 52/59 miles
Riding Terrain - Rolling

Hotel - Hotel Valsabbio
- Location: Pješčana Uvala
- Duration: 2 Nights
- https://valsabbion.hr/hotel

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights
Today we ride inland from Rovinj to Pula. In the morning we visit the well preserved medieval village of Svetvinčenat which features the famous Grimaldi Castle. Pula is situated near the point of the peninsula, this is the largest city in Istria and often considered the capital of the area. Pula is home to a large and elegant Roman amphitheater. Boasting some of the Adriatic’s finest beaches, Pula is replete with breathtaking, colorful views that you will never forget. As with all the Adriatic cities, Pula is home to some spectacular seafood restaurants.

Lunch will be in Loborika, which is home to one of the few cycling teams in Istria.

Offering first class service, attention to detail, and luxurious accommodation, the Hotel Valsabbio makes an excellent choice for visitors to Pula. The recently created spa and wellness program offers a wide range of facilities and treatments.
CROATIA’S ISTRIAN PENINSULA 2019
Ability Level: Intermediate / Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

DAY 7

THE BRIJUNI ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Daily Mileage - 24 miles
Riding Terrain - Island hopping
Hotel - See Day 6
Meals - B, D

Highlights

Today we ride back up the coast and catch a ferry to the Brijuni Islands, which are known for their Roman and Byzantine archaeological ruins. Two large and twelve small islands comprise the Brijuni National Park and Marshal Tito’s museum. We’ll ride to the harbor and take a short ferry ride across to the national park, filled with lush green forests. Many exotic animals roam the national park, including herds of deer, wild peacocks, zebras and ostriches.

On the island we’ll rent beach cruisers and take a leisurely spin to the zoo and have a guided tour of the Brijuni National Park. Returning to the harbor, we’ll stop at Tito’s photography museum, then return by ferry to the mainland for lunch. The ride after lunch will take us back to the center of Pula where we meet our local guide for a walking tour of historical sights, such as the Pula Arena, the second largest amphitheater after the Coliseum in Rome. This evening we’ll have our final dinner celebration at La Lanterna!

DAY 8

ZDRAVO (GOODBYE)!

Highlights

At around 9 am after breakfast, we provide a 2.5-hour transfer back to the train station in Trieste, Italy. Why not stay in Croatia? Spend a bit more time in Pula, take a flight to Dubrovnik, or explore the many gorgeous islands of the Adriatic Sea.
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ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO TRIESTE, ITALY
Fly to Trieste-Friuli Venezia Giulia Airport (TRS), where you can take a taxi to the hotel (about 60 Euro) or the #51 bus (direction: Trieste) to the city center and take a taxi to the first hotel. **Option 2:** Fly to Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) and take a taxi or shuttle to Mestre train station (25 minutes), then a train ([www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)) to Trieste (2.5 hours) and the hotel will be a 10-minute taxi ride.

DEPARTING FROM PULA, CROATIA
Around 9 am we have one group shuttle to the Trieste train station (2.5 hours), but we **must clear customs**, so do not make travel plans from Trieste until after 12 pm. If you don’t use the group shuttle, there are ferries that leave Pula for Venice and other locations. Visit [www.venezialines.com](http://www.venezialines.com) and [www.airport-pula.com](http://www.airport-pula.com) for travel options.

BIKE INFORMATION

**Bianchi Intenso and Vertigo**
- The carbon frame guarantees maximum performance with minimum stress for the riders, thanks to Bianchi’s special C2C (Coast to Coast) frame design/geometry and different material combination. Carbon bikes are equipped with compact crank and 11/32 cassette.
- Bianchi Vertigo included **free** (new for 2018) on all Easy and Athletic Beginner tours.
- Bianchi Intenso included on all Intermediate and Advanced tours.

**Bianchi C-Sport 2.5**
- More relaxed riding at a look-around-you pace, this is a high-performance aluminum hybrid bicycle with straight handlebars. It has a sloping design for superior comfort and bigger tires and hydraulic disc brakes. Included on all tours.

**Tandems**
- **Cannondale RT 2:** Racing position with 700 c wheels. Available for $400, limited availability.
- **Honey bicycles:** Racing position with 700 c wheels. Available for $400, limited availability.
- **Co-motion Periscope:** Racing position with 700 c wheels. Accomodates smaller team or even children. Available for $400.
- **Cannondale Hybrid MT800:** Upright position with 26 c wheels and straight handlebars. Available for $400.

**E-Bike: Bianchi Manhattan**
- Available on all Easy and Athletic Beginner tours, and some Intermediate and Advanced tours. Please contact us for more information. Available for $400.

ON THE BIKE

**Included:**
- Ciclismo Classico water bottle
- Two water bottle holders
- Map holder on handlebars and a Garmin Edge GPS
- Handlebar bag
- Tire pump
- Combination bike lock
- Gel-padded saddle
- Choice of pedals
- Card with your tour leaders’ mobile phone numbers

**Pedal Options:**
- Flat pedals
- Half-toe pedals (without straps)
- Toe cage pedals

**Things to Bring:**
- Helmet
- Optional: clipless pedals with shoes
- Optional: your own saddle

OTHER INFORMATION

For Flight Reservations
Valerie Wilson Travel
Call: 1-855-780-2022 or
E-mail: ciclismoair@vwti.com

Travel Insurance
World Nomads
Call: 1-816-905-3963 (Direct/Collect)
1-844-207-1930 (Toll-Free within USA)
[https://www.worldnomads.com/travel-insurance/](https://www.worldnomads.com/travel-insurance/)

Transportation
Rome2rio
[http://www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)
CROATIA’S ISTRIAN PENINSULA 2019

Ability Level: Intermediate / Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

INSURANCE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Insurance
Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you via email once trip deposit is received. We recommend MH Ross, but travelers may choose the insurance carrier of their choice.

Cancellations and Refunds
All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to their cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. The purchase of short-term travel insurance policy is strongly recommended. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

Days before departure – Cancellation fee
121+ days - 50% of the deposit*
91-120 days - 100% of the deposit*
61-90 days - 30% of the trip price
31-60 days - 60% of the trip price
0-30 days - 100% of the trip price

*You may transfer your trip deposit to another departure in the same tour season up to 90 days before your original departure with payment of a $100 per person transfer fee. Prices quoted are subject to adjustment without prior notification. OR your deposit (currently $600) may be carried forward to the following year as a credit toward the final balance of a tour. At the time of booking, we will ask for another $600 deposit to secure your spot. Carried-forward credits expire at the end of the year to which they are applied.

Alterations to the tour itinerary
Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

To review our policies, please visit http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/policies/.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at 800-866-7314. Or, mail your deposit and contact information to:

Ciclismo Classico
attn: Rosa
30 Marathon St
Arlington, MA 02474

At the time of registration, a deposit of $600 per person is due, payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or check, made payable to Ciclismo Classico, along with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days before departure payable by check, credit card, wire transfer or money order. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and a waiver form.