



GRAND CIRCLE CRUISE LINE®

Cruising the Adriatic: Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina 2017

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Zagreb, Croatia

Your Travel Handbook

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PASSPORT, VISAS & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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** 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 vacation.

- **Main trip only:** For the main trip only, you will require 5 blank passport pages.
- **Optional extension to Ljubljana, Slovenia:** You will need 1 more page for a total of 6.
- **Optional extension to Zagreb, Croatia:** This extension does not require any additional pages beyond the 5 needed for the main trip.
- **Both the pre- and post-trip extensions:** You will need a total of 6 blank passport pages.

No Visas Required

Travelers with a U.S. passport do not need any visas for this vacation, 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**.

Trusted Traveler Programs

Some travelers have found that Trusted Traveler programs can expedite long waits at customs when re entering the U.S. There are currently three programs available: Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI. These three programs also include TSA Pre-Check, which allows you to use a dedicated security line at participating airports, or you can apply solely for TSA Pre-Check.

TIP: Keep in mind that not all airports and airlines participate in these programs. You may want to consider checking with your airport prior to applying to find out if these programs would benefit you.

To apply for a Trusted Traveler program or TSA Pre-Check, typically you will be asked to pay an application fee (varies by program) and schedule a background check and/or an interview. If you are approved, you will be issued a Known Traveler Number (KTN). Your KTN is valid for a set number of years, based on the conditions of the program. Please see the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details on each of these programs: www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs. You can also find more information about TSA Pre-Check at www.tsa.gov/precheck.

If you are enrolled in TSA Pre-Check (or a Trusted Traveler program that includes it), **you must provide your KTN to the airlines**. If you have purchased air with us, you can enter your KTN through your My Account and we will enter it into your airline reservation.

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.

HEALTH

Keep Your Abilities in Mind

Please review the information below prior to departing on this vacation. *We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.*

PACING

- **Zadar to Ploce cruise itinerary:** 14 days, with 10 nights aboard the M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*, and three 1-night hotel stays
- **Ploce to Zadar cruise itinerary:** 14 days, with 11 nights aboard the M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*, and two 1-night hotel stays

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs
- Good agility, balance, and strength needed 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 throughout the trip
- The *Artemis* and *Athena* do not have elevators onboard
- We reserve the right for Program Directors 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 archeological sites, unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones, which can be slick in wet or colder conditions
- Travel by 50-passenger small ship and 45-seat coach

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 52–54°F during cruising season

Health Check

Feeling healthy and confident of your mobility is essential to fully enjoy your trip abroad. If you have ongoing medical conditions or concerns about your health, we highly recommend that you schedule a checkup with your personal physician at least six weeks in advance of your departure date.

- Discuss with your doctor any aspects of your itinerary that may affect your health and be guided by his or her advice. (You can use the “Keep Your Abilities in Mind” on the previous page as a guideline to discuss with him or her.)
- You may want to have a dental exam before your trip. A loose filling or developing cavity would be difficult to remedy while you are traveling.
- If you have a condition that requires special equipment or treatment, you must bring and be responsible for all necessary items related to your condition.

No Vaccines Required

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 Program Directors 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 this site for medication restrictions by country: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/customs.html>. (Follow the links to “Local Laws & Special Circumstances” for each country; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned, 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 Traveler Support team at **1-800-321-2835**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Tap water aboard ship and in the countries you visit is safe for drinking, however if you know that your stomach is particularly sensitive to changes in diet/water you may want to drink bottled water instead.
- Bottled water is usually for sale in hotels, food shops, and restaurants.

MONEY MATTERS

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.** They can be difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high. It's more practical to view them as a last resort in the event of a special situation.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Bosnian Mark (KM) is the official currency of Bosnia–Herzegovina. It is divisible into 100 *feninga*. Banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 maraka
- Coins: 5, 10, 20, and 50 feninga; 1, 2, and 5 maraka

U.S. dollars are **not** accepted for payment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; local currency is required.

Croatia

The basic unit of currency in Croatia is the *kuna* (Kn). Banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 Kuna
- Coins: 5, 10, 20, and 50 Lipa; 1, 2, 5, and 25 Kuna

U.S. dollars are **not** accepted for payment in Croatia; local currency is the only accepted currency.

Euro Countries

The euro is the official currency in many member countries of the European Union. Unless otherwise listed, the countries you will be visiting will use the euro. Euro banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 euros

- Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 cents; 1 and 2 euros

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–\$5 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.)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: ATMs are readily available throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia: ATMs are available throughout large cities and small towns in Croatia.

Montenegro: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in Montenegro.

Slovenia: ATMs are available throughout large cities and small towns in Slovenia.

Credit & Debit 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 the Discover card is accepted in some countries outside the U.S., it is not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia: Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Croatia, though you may need cash for small purchases or at markets.

Montenegro: Credit and debit cards are readily accepted throughout Montenegro.

Slovenia: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Slovenia. You may still need cash for small purchases or at markets.

Chip Cards

Many countries are moving to a new type of credit card that has 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.

This new technology is only now gaining traction in the U.S., so occasionally there are machines in Europe 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.) Or you can use another form of payment. For example, a debit card that has a PIN.

Notify Card Providers

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 U.S. dollars. You can pay this bill by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept only U.S. dollars. 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. You can pay for this bill by credit/debit card 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.) Other forms of payment, such as cash or checks are not accepted. For more information on optional tours, see the "Optional Tours" 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: Policy Update

Due to international banking laws, we are no longer 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. To make it easy for you to budget, we have quoted the amounts in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars. Do not use personal or traveler's check for tips.

- **Grand Circle Program Director:** It is customary to express a personal "thank you" to your GCCL Program Director at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$8–\$12 per traveler for each day their Program Director is with them. *Please note that tips for your Program Director can only be in the form of cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Program Director 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–\$2 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.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Land Only Travelers

If you plan on booking your own international flights or arranging with our air department to arrive/depart on an earlier/later date than standard for your program, airport transfers will NOT be included in your program price. Transfers must be purchased separately, as an optional add-on, and are subject to availability. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Traveler Support team at **1-800-321-2835**.

Please note: *You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as Grand Circle travelers who purchased included airfare, and transfers are only available the same day that the group arrives or departs.*

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with Grand Circle Cruise Line, 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 Grand Circle Cruise Line travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have a Grand Circle Cruise Line 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 Zagreb:** Once you arrive overseas, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. A Grand Circle 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 Grand Circle Cruise Line travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, a Grand Circle Cruise Line 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 Grand Circle Cruise Line 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 vacation 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 Program Director can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard and Visa 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 Program Director 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 Account at www.gct.com/myaccount).

Communications

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

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype or FaceTime. These services are usually less expensive than making a traditional call, but you'll need a Wi-Fi connection 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.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: +387

Montenegro: +382

Croatia: +385

Slovenia: +386

PACKING

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>One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: 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>Luggage rules: 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. Portage 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.
- **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 don “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 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.

What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Program Directors 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.

What not to pack: Do not pack aerosol cans, as they tend to leak during air travel. Leave behind any credit cards that are not essential for your trip, valuable jewelry, and anything that you would hate to lose.

Your cabin already has: Shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer, soap, body lotion, shower cap, and towels.

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

Seasonal Clothing Recommendations

This trip does not run in the spring or summer.

For winter (December–February)

- For 95% of the trip, you’ll want long, warm jeans or trousers, and not shorts.
- You’ll mostly want long-sleeved shirts, but might want a couple short sleeves for days on the coast.

- Snow is common this time of year, so factor that into your footwear choice.
- Warm outer gear is a must. This means a winter coat, hat, and gloves.
- Bring clothing you can layer (sweater, fleece, jacket, etc.); thermal or long underwear adds warmth without bulk and doesn't take up much room in your luggage.

For fall (October–November)

- As the season progresses, you'll want to lean more towards long sleeves and long trousers, but still keep a few lighter things for the coastal part, where it could still be warm.
- Snow can occur as early as late October in the central part of Croatia or during the extension in Slovenia, so factor that into your footwear choice.
- Layers (sweater, fleece, jacket, etc.) are key for this season, so you can adjust to the varied weather. As the season progresses, the more warm layers become useful.
- November is a transitional month into winter.

Essential Items

- Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc.
- Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- Sunglasses with a neck strap
- Sunscreen, SPF 15 or stronger
- Travel money bag or money belt
- Moisturizer, lip balm
- Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- Pocket-size tissues
- Moist towelettes (packets) and/or anti-bacterial hand lotion
- Light folding umbrella
- Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards
- Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards

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

Optional Gear

- Travel alarm
- Compact binoculars
- Hanging toiletry bag with pockets
- Washcloth
- Travel-size tissues
- Basic sewing kit
- Hand-wash laundry soap (Woolite), clothespins/travel clothesline/stopper
- Electrical transformer and plug adapter—see “Regional Electricity” section.
- Reading materials
- Travel journal/note pad
- Swimsuit, if your ship/hotel has a pool or whirlpool
- Addresses for postcards
- Photos, small gift for Home-Hosted visit

- Phrase book
- Pocket-size calculator for exchange rates
- Insect repellent
- Washcloths
- For hotel stays: Many hotels will provide hair dryers, but not all. If a hair dryer is essential to you consider a travel-size version. Hair dryers are provided on your ship.

Electricity

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, MP3 players, 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:

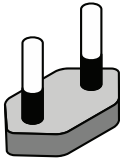
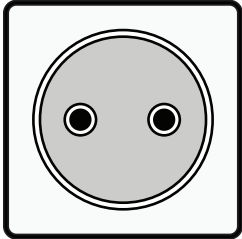
Bosnia and Herzegovina: C and/or F

Croatia: C and/or F

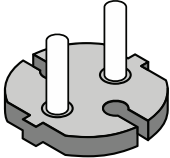
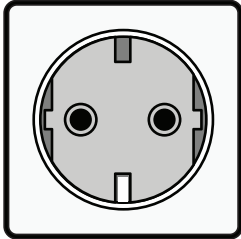
Montenegro: C and/or F

Slovenia: C and/or F

Type C



Type F



CLIMATE

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 during June and August, temperatures can hit peaks as high as 100. 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.

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.

Ljubljana, Slovenia: Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, is situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea; both the warmth of the sea and the cool air of the mountains influence its climate. Although coastal regions of the country have a Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters, Ljubljana's weather reflects a continental climate. The city's summer days from June to September are moderately warm and dry, with comfortably cool evenings, while autumn brings mornings of sunshine occasionally interspersed with some showers or haze. Winter months, beginning in January, can be quite cold with temperatures dropping below freezing, while the warmth of spring brings refreshing breezes. This continental climate is changeable, and a day with some passing showers is to be expected during any two-week interval.

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.

Climate Charts & 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 go online to www.gct.com/myaccount for your 10-day forecast.

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

MONTH	DUBROVNIK, CROATIA			ZAGREB, CROATIA		
	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	37 to 27	--	2.0
FEB	53 to 41	66 to 62	13	46 to 30	--	1.9
MAR	57 to 45	68 to 60	14	56 to 36	--	2.2
APR	62 to 50	66 to 58	14	58 to 39	--	2.7
MAY	70 to 57	66 to 58	12	67 to 50	--	3.2
JUN	77 to 64	60 to 55	9	73 to 56	--	3.7
JUL	82 to 69	52 to 49	6	81 to 60	--	3.1
AUG	82 to 69	55 to 51	6	81 to 59	--	3.1
SEP	76 to 64	62 to 56	8	71 to 51	--	3.1
OCT	69 to 56	69 to 62	12	59 to 44	--	3.7
NOV	59 to 48	70 to 64	14	46 to 35	--	3.4
DEC	54 to 43	68 to 65	14	39 to 30	--	2.6

MONTH	LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA			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	36 to 23	91 to 77	1.6	52 to 38	70 to 58	12
FEB	40 to 25	90 to 65	1.6	53 to 39	67 to 54	12
MAR	50 to 31	91 to 57	1.6	58 to 43	72 to 55	12
APR	57 to 37	88 to 52	2.0	63 to 48	70 to 54	13
MAY	67 to 45	86 to 52	2.0	71 to 56	69 to 54	12
JUN	73 to 52	87 to 55	2.0	79 to 63	63 to 49	10
JUL	77 to 55	87 to 53	2.0	85 to 67	58 to 42	5
AUG	77 to 55	90 to 53	2.0	84 to 67	62 to 44	7
SEP	69 to 49	95 to 60	2.4	78 to 61	73 to 51	8
OCT	58 to 41	95 to 68	2.8	69 to 54	76 to 59	12
NOV	44 to 31	93 to 78	2.8	60 to 46	73 to 60	13
DEC	37 to 26	92 to 84	2.0	54 to 41	72 to 60	13

ABOARD YOUR SHIP

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

Owned, operated, and staffed by Grand Circle Cruise Line, this ship was designed exclusively for our travelers. 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

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 Account at **www.gct.com/myaccount**. 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 two complimentary drinks per traveler; 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. 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 or vegetarian, can be accommodated, as well as the recognition of an anniversary or birthday. Please call Grand Circle Cruise Line 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 main trip, complimentary headsets will be provided on all of your included and optional tours, so that you can better hear your Program Director or local guide.

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 3G-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. Bed linens are changed once a week (twice during the 14-night cruise); towels are changed daily.

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 1 am, with soft drinks, beer, wine, and liquors for sale. Prices are in U.S. dollars.

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. Your Program Director will provide information on these optional excursions on your arrival. Please note that optional tours can only be purchased with a credit card (and debit cards as noted under Optional Tour Payments previously)

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

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS

Your Program Director

Grand Circle Cruise Line is committed to showing you a destination through the perspective of those who live, work, and play there. How better to do that than to have a resident with you every step of the way? We are proud to be the only cruise line to provide you the dedicated services of an expert Program Director, a resident or native of the country who is delighted to share their in-depth knowledge of local history, culture, and hidden gems.

Fluent in English and skilled in fostering camaraderie among travelers, our Program Directors are constantly cited by our travelers as the main reason they continue to travel with us. During your cruise, you'll enjoy multiple Program Directors aboard your ship, who will each be with you and your group of no more than 25 travelers throughout your journey—both on ship and on land. And with personal headsets on every included and optional tour, you'll be able to enjoy their perspective and enthusiasm as you explore at a level deeper than most Americans go.

Culture & Points to Know

Accommodations

The hotels featured on this itinerary may offer air conditioning on a seasonal basis only. Also, please note that most European hotel rooms are smaller than what you may be used to in the U.S.

Cuisine in Croatia

In Croatia, you can sample fresh seafood, including oysters, accompanied by local wines. 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. In Dalmatia, local dishes include *pasticada* (stuffed beef cooked in wine), a black risotto, and *prsut*, a distinctively flavored smoked ham. For a sweet treat in Dubrovnik, order the caramel cream called *rozata*.

Language Barrier

You can have some great “conversations” with local people who do not speak English, even if you don't speak a word of the local language. Indeed, this non-verbal communication can be a highly rewarding part of travel. To break the ice, bring along some family photographs, or a few postcards of your hometown. If you want to meet kids, bring a puppet or other interactive toy. Keep in mind, however, that it is always good form to know at least a few words in the local language.

Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing most people in Europe 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.

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 in your pocket. Carry most of your money, and your passport, in a travel pouch or money belt under your shirt. Replenish your pocket supply when you are in a safe and quiet place, or in our vehicle. 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 them.

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. Con artists sometimes target travelers.

Cuisine in Slovenia

If you care to sample typical foods of Slovenia, head for a local *gostilna* (inn or tavern). Soups include jota (sauerkraut and beans with pork) and *goveja juha* (beef broth with egg noodles). *Struklji* are dumplings stuffed with fillings that come in many varieties, some sweet and some savory. A variety of fillings are also used in preparing the festive dessert called *potica*. Other dishes served in Slovenia show the influences of neighboring countries: *rizota* (like Italian risotto), *zavitek* (like Austrian strudel), and *golaz* (like Hungarian goulash).

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. The Isle of Mljet, nicknamed the Green Island because of the richness of its vegetation, contains a national park of protected land and waters (according to lore, Odysseus washed ashore at this lush island). Korcula is nearby, known to be Marco Polo's birthplace. As mentioned earlier, a short boat ride 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 New 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 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 buy maps of the city and get information on local buses.

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 Tkalčićeva. 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.

Shopping

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your vacation. 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. Grand Circle 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, red coral jewelry (note that red coral is illegal import into the U.S. but allowed if in jewelry), neckties, vegetable spices, Zagrebački melem ointment, and ballpoint pens.

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. Idrija lace and Rogaska crystal are Slovenian specialties.

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 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

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Facts & Figures

- **Area:** 19,767 square miles
- **Capital:** Sarajevo
- **Language:** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- **Geography:** Bosnia (as the country is commonly known) is located in the western Balkans, bordering Croatia to the north and southwest, and Serbia and Montenegro to the east. The country is mostly mountainous, encompassing the central Dinaric Alps. The northeastern parts reach into the Pannonian basin, while in the south it almost borders the Adriatic. The country has only 12 miles of coastline, around the town of Neum in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, although it's enclosed within Croatian territory.
- **Population:** 3,867,055 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, other 14%
- **Time Zone:** Bosnia-Herzegovina is on Central European Time, which is six hours ahead of U.S. EST: when it's noon in New York, it's 6 pm in Sarajevo. Daylight Saving Time is in effect from the last Sunday of March until the last Sunday of October.

National Holidays: Bosnia and Herzegovina

In addition to the holidays listed below, Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrates a number of optional holidays, such as Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox Easter, and Ramadan. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 New Year's Day (observed)

03/01 Independence Day

05/01 Labor Day

05/02 Labor Day (Day 2)

05/09 Victory Day

11/25 Statehood Day

Croatia

Facts & Figures

- **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:** 4,464,844 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 86.3%, Orthodox 4.4%, Muslim 1.5%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.5%, none 3.8%
- **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.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

06/25 Statehood Day

08/05 Homeland Thanksgiving Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/08 Independence Day

11/01 All Saints' Day

12/25 Christmas

12/26 St Stephen's Day

Historical Overview of Croatia

The Croats are believed to be a purely Slavic people who migrated from present day Poland and settled in present-day Croatia during the 6th century. After a period of self-rule, Croats agreed to the Pacta Conventa in 1091, submitting themselves to Hungarian authority. By the mid-1400s, concerns over Ottoman expansion led the Croatian Assembly to invite the Habsburgs, under Archduke Ferdinand, to assume control over Croatia. Habsburg rule proved successful in thwarting the Ottomans, and by the 18th century, much of Croatia was free of Turkish control.

In 1868, Croatia gained domestic autonomy while remaining under Hungarian authority. Following World War I and the demise of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Croatia joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes became

Yugoslavia in 1929). Yugoslavia changed its name once again after World War II. The new state became the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and united Croatia and several other states together under the communistic leadership of Marshal Tito.

After the death of Tito and the fall of communism throughout Eastern Europe, the Yugoslav federation began to crumble. Croatia held its first multi-party elections since World War II in 1990. Long-time Croatian nationalist Franjo Tudjman was elected President, and one year later, Croats declared independence from Yugoslavia. Conflict between Serbs and Croats in Croatia escalated, and one month after Croatia declared independence, war erupted.

The United Nations mediated a cease-fire in January 1992, but hostilities resumed the next year when Croatia fought to regain one-third of the territory lost the previous year. A second cease-fire was enacted in May 1993, followed by a joint declaration the next January between Croatia and Yugoslavia. However, in September 1993, the Croatian Army led an offensive against the Serb-held Republic of Krajina. A third cease-fire was called in March 1994, but it, too, was broken in May and August 1995 after Croatian forces regained large portions of Krajina, prompting an exodus of Serbs from this area. In November 1995, Croatia agreed to peacefully reintegrate Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Dirmium under terms of the Erdut Agreement. In December 1995, the Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian governments signed the Dayton peace agreement, making a commitment to a permanent cease-fire and the return of all refugees.

The death of President Tudjman in December 1999, followed by the election of a coalition government and president in early 2000, brought significant changes to Croatia. The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Ivica Racan, progressed in implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, regional cooperation, refugee returns, national reconciliation, and democratization.

These changes, along with the November 23, 2003 national elections, which ushered in Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, lead the European Commission to report favorably on the country's development, and to encourage Croatia to apply for EU (European Union) membership. Negotiations began in 2004 but were slowed down by resistance from Slovenia, due to concerns about the designation of their border with Croatia. In September 2009, when Jadranka Kosor took over as Croatia's Prime Minister, she reached an agreement with the Slovenians that ended the blockade, allowing negotiations to continue. Croatia officially became a member of the EU in July 2013.

Europe

Montenegro

Facts & Figures

- **Area:** 5,332 square miles
- **Capital:** Podgorica

- **Population:** 653,474 (2013 est.)
- **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 a 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.

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)

Slovenia

Facts & Figures

- 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.

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

Historical Overview of Slovenia

In ancient times the region was inhabited by the Illyrian and Celtic tribes. In the 1st century B.C. they fell under the Roman provinces of Pannonia and Noricum. The region was settled in the 6th cent. A.D. by the South Slavs, who set up the early Slav state of Samo, which in 788 passed to the Franks. At the division of Charlemagne's empire (843) the region passed to the dukes of Bavaria. In 1335, Carinthia and Carniola passed to the Hapsburgs. From that time until 1918 Slovenia was part of Austria and the region was largely comprised in the Austrian crownlands of Carinthia, Carniola, and Styria.

In 1918, Slovenia was included in the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (called Yugoslavia after 1929), and in 1919 Austria formally ceded the region by the Treaty of Saint-Germain. In World War II Slovenia was divided (1941) among Germany, Italy, and Hungary. After the war, Slovenia was made (1945) a constituent republic of Yugoslavia and received part of the former Italian region of Venezia Giulia. In early 1990, Slovenia elected a non-Communist government and stepped up its demands for greater autonomy with the threat of possible secession. In February 1991, the Slovenian parliament ruled that Slovenian law took precedence over federal law. Slovenia declared independence on June 25, and federal troops moved in, but after some fighting withdrew by July.

The European Community and the United Nations recognized Slovenia, along with Croatia, as an independent country in 1992. Milan Kučan was elected president of Slovenia in 1990 and continued as president of the independent republic; he was reelected in November 1997. Slovenia became a member of NATO and the European Union in 2004, and adopted the Euro in 2007. In 2008 and 2009, Slovenia actively blocked the EU membership bid of Croatia due to disputes about its borders, but a compromise was reached by the end of 2009.

RESOURCES

Suggested Readings

General

Black Lamb and Gray Falcon: A Journey Through Yugoslavia by Rebecca West (History) This description of a journey through Serbia and Montenegro (then Yugoslavia) in 1937 is widely recognized as a masterpiece. The landscape and people of Yugoslavia, its history, cultures, religions, and politics are brilliantly observed.

Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends by Lonnie R. Johnson (History) A panoramic history of Central Europe. Stands out from other history books about the region because the author compares the underlying similarities between the different countries instead of just dividing them into East (Soviet Bloc) and West.

The Balkans, a Short History by Mark Mazower (History) Published in 2002, this book provides a concise survey of the region's complex history and modern nation-building.

The Impossible Country: A Journey through the Last Days of Yugoslavia by Brian Hall (Travel Narrative) As Yugoslavia was deteriorating in the mid-1990s, the author was touring the region by bicycle, allowing him a unique chance to document the people, politics, and mood of the times.

Yugoslavia, Death of a Nation by Laura Silber and Allan Little (History) A well-presented account of the breakup of Yugoslavia and its consequences.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Death and the Dervish by Mesa Selimovic (Literature) The sad tale set during the Ottoman rule in 18th-century Bosnia. Selimovic was a bestselling Bosnian Muslim author in the 1960s, this is considered a classic in Bosnia.

The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway (Literature) This international bestseller tells the haunting tale of four people living in war-torn Sarajevo as their lives are upended, forcing them to explore the very meaning of humanity.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks (Literature) Offered a coveted job to conserve a priceless book known as the Sarajevo Haggadah, rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins. By a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Croatia

A Taste of Croatia by Karen Evenden (Food) This engaging memoir of a three-year sailing odyssey includes 100 easy-to-use recipes.

April Fool's Day by Josip Novakovich (Literature) The razor-sharp and darkly humorous story of Ivan, a Croatian born on April Fool's Day in 1948 who must survive Tito, a labor camp, and a civil war.

Croatia, a History by Ivo Goldstein (History) Focuses on the history of Croatia from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Dubrovnik, A History by Robin Harris (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 (Literature) Romance, intrigue, and the adventures of a reluctant British spy set in turn-of-the-century Montenegro.

Slovenia

Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends by Lonnie R. Johnson (History) A panoramic history of Central Europe. Stands out from other history books about the region because the author compares the underlying similarities between the different countries instead of just dividing them into East (Soviet Bloc) and West.

Suggested Movies

Croatia

What is a Man Without a Mustache? (2005, Comedy) A Croatian comedy about a young widow who falls for the village priest and his tough decision between her and the church. In Croatian with subtitles.

The Duel (2010, Drama) A beautifully shot American production of a Russian novella starring Irish actors in Croatia turns out to be a complex and interesting period piece.

Useful Websites

Grand Circle Forum (tips from previous travelers)

www.gct.com/forum

Grand Circle Shop

www.grandcircleshop.com

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Electricity & Plugs

www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

NOTES

For information regarding your existing reservation:

Visit www.gct.com/myaccount

or call us toll-free at **1-800-321-2835**