

Cycling Safaris

CROATIA 2017

Cycling Cruise - Istria Peninsula

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 240 km/150 mi | 7 nights / 8 days



"The heart of Europe" is what the Istrians call their peninsula, inspired by its shape and its position at the crossroads of European arteries, cultures and nations. This is where Central Europe and the world of Mediterranean meet. On this one week tour we explore the most popular part of the Croatian coast.

Fall in love with the Adriatic Sea on this tour. Relax while being on a romantic motor sailer - your floating home. Get on your bicycle after an invigorating breakfast, enjoy your lunch break ashore or on board, when meeting our ship in one of the pretty harbors. In the evening our ship awaits us in the next harbor. Enjoy the outstanding cuisine aboard while watching the sunset or stroll around historical harbor towns before going to sleep under the stars... either on deck or in your cabin.

This tour will occasionally be operated parallel with a beginners Mountain bike tour on the same boat.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 (Sun) Pula - Pula (Embarkation) (Cycle route approx. 15 km)

Individual arrival at Pula. The secret capital of Istria with its town full of impressive remains of its Roman past awaits your visit. If you arrive by car, we arrange a secure parking place for you. Between 2 and 2:30 pm check-in on the motor yacht. Our first cycle tour starts at 3 pm and takes us in a large circle around Pula and back to the ship. You might get the chance to have closer look of the famous Amphitheatre. After your cycle tour you go on your first cruise just a couple of miles north to a quiet bay for your overnight stay.

DAY 2 (Mon) Vrsar - Poreč (Cycle route approx. 35 km)

In the early morning, before breakfast we go on a very scenic, approx. 3 h cruise to Vrsar, the town where lady killer Casanova found temporary refuge from lovers pursuing him. Starting from Vrsar, we cycle along the Lim fjord to Klostar in the hinterland. After a break, long enough to taste some fresh suckling pig, takes us our route to Poreč. On a guided walk, we encounter the evidence of the town's eventful past at every step along the way. While strolling through the charming historical centre, with its beautiful buildings of many different periods as well as the bustling shopping lanes, we will not miss the famous Euphrasian Basilica, with its gorgeous early Christian mosaics.

DAY 3 (Tues) Poreč - Višnjan - Umag (Cycle route approx. 50 km)

Today's cycle tour takes us from Poreč through extensive vineyards to Visnjan, home of the famous white Boskarin-Cattle. After a coffee break we continue cycling through the gentle hills of the hinterland to Vizinada. After a lunch break we cycle back to Poreč. We will not miss to visit Baredine Cave on our cycle tour. Our excursion takes us through five amazing halls which are beautifully illuminated. It leads us 60 m under ground to a subsurface lake and if we are lucky we'll meet a native - the famous amphebia (Proteus anguinus): the olm. This little cave dweller is a unique one. It is endemic to this karst area. Back at the ship we hop on our boat and enjoy a lovely cruise to Umag.

DAY 4 (Wed) Umag - Grožnjan - Novigrad (Cycle route approx. 55 km)

After breakfast our cycle takes us to the north starting at the headland and further along the coastline. After a climb we get to the artist's village of Grožnjan, followed by a long relaxing stop and continuing on cycling to Novigrad passing the Mirna river valley. The Mirna river valley is well known as an area where white truffles can be found. A gourmet's heart will jump of joy. Getting to Novigrad we will find the impressive battlement of the city wall as well as the 7th Century Pelagius Basilica. Around the pretty, picturesque harbor you will find many bars and cafes to round off your day. Dinner on board.

DAY 5 (Thurs) Novigrad - Poreč (Cycle route approx. 25 km)

After breakfast we leave Novigrad and cycle along the coast all the way to Poreč. There is time to take a stroll through the beautiful old town and to enjoy the regional cuisine for lunch. The boat awaits you in the harbour of Poreč and will take you into the direction of Rovinj. Overnight stay on mooring.

DAY 6 (Fri) Rovinj (Cycle route approx. 30 km)

After breakfast our ship leaves the mooring in the morning and takes us to Rovinj, which really is an Adriatic gem. Your midmorning cycle tour allows ample time for a refreshing bath in the Adriatic Sea. Afterwards you have lunch on board that will vitalize you for the afternoon stroll through the winding alleyways of this picture perfect town. It'll leave you enchanted. The night is spent in Rovinj.

DAY 7 (Sat) Rovinj - Fažana - Vodnjan - Pula (Cycle route approx. 30 km)

A longer crossing takes us to Fažana. We get ashore, have some lunch and hop on our bicycles. Our cycle tour leads us via Vodnjan back to Pula our port of departure. There is enough time to take a walk through the town and to visit the many heritage sites which the city has to offer. A celebrative evening meal with guests, guides and crew brings a fantastic week to a happy end.

DAY 8 (Sun) Disembarkation at Pula

After breakfast disembarkation until 9 am and individual trip home or extended stay in Croatia.

Changes:

We reserve the right to make changes to the planned itinerary due to changing wind and weather conditions as well as organizational requirements.

2017 TOUR DATES & COSTS

Comfort Ship - Tarin

€1070 per person sharing (all cabins above deck)

€1470 single occupancy

Departure Dates (Sundays)

April 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4, 11,

August 27

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Services included:

- 7 nights on a motor yacht in a double cabin above deck with shower/toilet
- 7 x half board on the ship (breakfasts and dinners are included but not lunch)
- Bike rental - 21 speed trekking bike with pannier
- Bed linen and towels
- Guided cycling tours and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- English/German speaking cycling guide
- Overview-maps for the daily tours (on board)

Not included

- Water rate, visitor's tax and local charges 40 Euro (to be paid to the captain)
- Drinks on board (tally sheet)

Optional extras

- Taxi transfer Split airport - ship in Trogir on request
- Tips for crew and tour guides
- Additional night (B&B) in Pula
- Electric Bike (i:SY Flyer Eco) with pannier: +€80 limited number, on request)
- Insurance against theft and damage of the bike: €10/week, for e-bike €20

THE BOAT

Comfort Ship TARIN

With its dark green painted hull and the white stripes the Tarin is in each port an eye catcher from afar. Completed at the beginning of the 2004 season, it is the one of newer ships in our fleet.

The furnishings of the cabins attest to the care, that captain Nevio put into the building of his ship. Bright wood, curtains at the large windows and the nicely furnished cabins will immediately make you feel at home on the Tarin.



The ship has 11 cabins, from which 10 are above deck. Four cabins have a double bed (4.6 ft./ 140 cm) and a single bunk. Two cabins are equipped with a double bed 4.6 ft. (140 cm). The five remaining cabins have two bunks, which are arranged one above the other or next to each other. A cozy cabin is below deck. It has one small desk, separate beds and two portholes. Each cabin has a private shower/toilet.



WHAT TO BRING

Specialised cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ leggings
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- good shoes
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume
- extra towel for swimming
- soap/ insect repellent
- helmet (Rental helmets are available on board in limited number, reservation requested)

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

There is no support vehicle available on this tour, but there is no time pressure to finish the stages. You also have the option to stay on the boat if you wish.



Our 21-gear-trekking-bikes are basic bicycles that are available in four different frame sizes: 46 cm and 52 cm for ladies, 56 cm and 60 cm for men. All bicycles are equipped with a precise Shimano gear shift, Shimano V-brakes with strong "bite", 28 inch hollow chamber rims with quick clamps, safety mudguards and a comfortable touring saddle of Selle Royal.

This tour requires a moderate level of fitness from participants, we would recommend that you do try to do some cycling before the tour in order to make your trip more enjoyable, if possible do it on varied terrain and include some hill climbing. The routes reach a maximal height of 980 ft. / 300 m. The daily routes of 15 mi. (25 km) on average.

As maritime harbours are located at sea level, a climb is to be expected at the start of every trip. However, there is no rush and you have plenty of time to complete the daily distance even if you push your bicycle uphill! Once you are at the top, the route mostly undulates along the ridge before you are rewarded with a long and often spectacular descent to the next harbour where you meet the ship.

We will cycle on mostly asphalted roads, which are rarely travelled on outside the holiday seasons. Each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join a tour guide (please a tour guide is offered only if there are more than 6 clients booked the tour), if guide is not available you will have your own maps and GPS devices to navigate you on the route).

If you feel like a break from the saddle you are of course free to set aside a half or full day to swim or spend on board the boat.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bringing Children:

We believe that only children in a good physical condition and of a minimum age of 10 and previous bicycle tour experience are able to master the bike-tours on their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1,40 m (4.6 ft.)

Catering:

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and two warm meals a day. The full board starts with the lunch on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.

Guided tour:

The tour will generally be guided in German language. One of the guides will translate into English for non-German-speaking participants.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Our Istria tours start and end in the harbour of Pula in Southern Istria.

The embarkation will take place between 2 and 2.30 pm.

The first cycling tour will start at 3 pm.

For your journey to Pula there are four possible airports:

- Pula (distance to the harbor of Pula: 10 minutes)
- Trieste (distance to the harbor of Pula: 1 hour)
- Ljubljana (distance to the harbor of Pula: 2 hours)
- Zagreb (distance to the harbor of Pula: 3,5 hours)
- Venice (distance to the harbor of Pula: 4 hours)

To investigate and book a suitable flight you can for example use the website www.opodo.com

Exclusive transfers can be booked on request.