

Cycling Safaris

CROATIA 2024

Cycling Cruise - Highlights of Istria Peninsula

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 224 km/139 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 sailor - your floating home. Get on your bicycle after breakfast, enjoy your lunch break ashore or on board, when meeting our ship in one of the pretty harbours. In the evening our ship awaits us in the next harbour. Enjoy the outstanding cuisine aboard while watching the sunset or stroll around historical harbour towns before going to sleep under the stars... either on deck or in your cabin.

The itinerary of the Istria Highlights tour is the same as the itinerary of the Istria Highlights PLUS tour, making the PLUS tour on board the Deluxe ship a great alternative should you have difficulties finding availability on this trip.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 (Fri) Omisalj (Embarkation) - Cres

Individual arrival to Omišalj, a charming pirate's nest on the island of Krk. If you decide to arrive by car, we can gladly organize a secure parking space for your car for the week. If you are arriving from Zagreb, we can also arrange a transfer for you to the harbor of Omišalj. Check-in on board is possible from around 2pm. Once we have made ourselves comfortable in our cabins, we enjoy the first crossing to Cres. If the weather is good, we stop for a swim in a beautiful bay and you can take a dip in the Adriatic Sea. Our destination is the island capital of the same name, where we spend the night. The Venetian-influenced old town of Cres, with its beautiful alleys and many churches, entices you to take an extensive evening stroll.

DAY 2 (Sat) Cres - Pula (aprx. 11 mi./ 19 km by bike)

After breakfast on board, the first task is to adjust our bikes in the idyllic harbor of Cres and take a first bike tour to the lighthouse. Afterwards, we take a longer crossing to Pula at the southern tip of Istria, where a guided tour of the old town awaits us. The secret capital of Istria awaits us with impressive evidence of its Roman past. Take your time for an extensive stroll and explore impressive ancient monuments, such as the famous amphitheater reminiscent of the Colosseum in Rome, the Temple of Augustus and the Golden Gate.

Day 3 (Sun) Pula - Vrsar (approx. 23 mi./38 km by bike)

In the morning we explore some picturesque places in and around Pula. Via Galizana we go to Vodnjan and further through the fishing village Fazana before coming back to Pula. Once there, the boat takes us to Vrsar with the chance for a swim break at the Limski Fjord. In Vrsar, where you will spend the night, the heartbreaker Casanova is believed to have sought temporary refuge from the husbands of his lovers.

Day 4 (Mon) Vrsar - Poreč (aprx. 18 mi/29 km by bike)

From Vrsar we cycle along the Limski Canal to Kloštar in the rural hinterland. During a longer break we fortify ourselves with a local meal before the tour continues onwards to the destination of Poreč. In the afternoon, we encounter the colourful history of Poreč at every turn as we stroll through the charming old town with its beautiful buildings from bygone eras. There is a real energy to be felt in the shopping alleys. A visit to the famous Euphrasius Basilica with its magnificent early Christian mosaics is also worthwhile.

Day 5 (Tue) Poreč - Novigrad - Rovinj (aprx. 36 mi/59 km)

In the morning we follow the "Parenzana", an abandoned railroad line, which leads us to the famous artists' village of Groznanj. The picturesque artists' village is a medieval jewel in the Istrian hinterland. It awaits us with romantic alleys, flower-filled squares and diverse galleries that have made their home in old natural stone houses. In the afternoon, we bike through rural Istria via Buje to Novigrad, where we hop on board, with the chance for a quick swimming break, before continuing onwards to Rovinj for our overnight stay.

Day 6 (Wed) Rovinj - Fažana - Rabac (aprx. 25 mi/41 km)

Our morning bike ride takes us near the coast, mostly on natural forest paths to Fažana, with its quaint little harbor and promenade lined with colorful houses. Afterwards, we continue to Pula, where our boat will take us on a longer crossing to Rabac. Here, located on a picturesque bay on the east coast of Istria, we can enjoy gorgeous white pebble beaches, crystal clear waters and a beautiful harbor. Not to be missed is an evening cocktail in a local bar.

Day 7 (Thu) Rabac - Njivice - Omišalj (aprx. 23 mi/38 km)

In the early morning, we cross to the island of Krk, where a final cycling stage awaits us. The route will lead us from Njivice to Omišalj. The largest island in Croatia and home of the delicious Zlahtina white wine impresses with its diverse landscapes. Don't miss the opportunity to cover yourself in the mineral rich mud in the bay of Soline - it will not only leave you looking ten years younger, but also makes for a wonderful holiday memory! Back in the harbor of Omišalj, our boat awaits us with a delicious last evening meal on board which can be spent in great cheer in the company of the fellow travelers, crew and guides.

Day 8 (Fri) Omisalj (Disembarkation)

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

Itinerary changes

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

2024 TOUR DATES & COSTS

Comfort Ship - Linda

€1290 per person sharing a twin bed cabin below deck

+€150 per person supplement for cabin above deck

+€400 single supplement for cabin below deck

+€500 single supplement for cabin above deck

Departure Dates (Fridays)

May 10, 24

June 7, 21

August 30

September 27

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Services included:

- 7 nights on a motor yacht in a twin bed cabin below deck with shower/toilet
- 2x full board, 5x half board on the ship (breakfasts and dinners are included but not lunch)
- Bed linen and towels
- Guided cycling tours and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- English speaking cycling guide
- Guided tours in Pula and Rovinj
- Overview-maps for the daily tours (on board)

Not included

Bike hire is not included in the tour price

€85 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag,

€230 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag,

- Water rate, visitor's tax and local charges 60 Euro for adults / 30 Euro for children up to age of 16 (to be paid to the captain)
- Drinks on board (tally sheet)
- Meals and beverages ashore
- Entrance fee for sights
- Tips for crew and tour guides

Optional extras

- Tips for crew and tour guides
- Insurance against theft and damage of the bike: €15/week, for e-bike €25
- Collective transfers between Zagreb and Omisalj on day of embarkation/ disembarkation only (11:30am from Zagreb Centre or 12:15pm from Zagreb Airport / return transfer from Omisalj to Zagreb Airport starts at 8:00am: prices on request (reservation required two weeks in advance)
- Additional night in Omisalj

THE BOAT

Comfort Ship LINDA (all cabins with shower/toilet)

At 31 x 6 m, the Linda is a sleek wooden motor yacht rebuilt as a passenger ship in 2006. There are 14 friendly guest cabins each with a private shower and WC. The spacious and tastefully furnished salon with its wooden tables and upholstered benches provides a welcoming atmosphere. The large sundeck and the two shaded decks at the stern are furnished with sun mats and comfortable lounge furniture. Perfect to unwind for a relaxing cruise.



Catering

The on-board chef is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and one or two warm meals a day. The catering consists of 2x full board and 5x half board. Catering starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with breakfast on the departure day.



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.

You are free to set aside a half or full day swim or spend on board the boat, instead of taking a planned bike tour. We will traverse 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 the tour guides and other participants.

BIKE / FITNESS

Hybrid bikes are an additional €85.00



Those choosing to rent a hybrid bike will receive a reliable, low maintenance, aluminum frame bike in the suitable size. Our hybrid bikes are equipped with 28 inch hollow chamber rims with puncture-proof touring tires, high-quality derailleur gears and break systems, a carrier and a sturdy bike stand, touring saddle as well as mudguards and a pannier rack. All components are selected based on our twenty years of experience in bike tourism, insuring that they fulfill the necessary criteria to provide the rider with an uncompromised cycle experience.

Unfortunately there is no possibility to reserve one particular bike-brand in advance

Electric bikes are an additional €230.00



Clients who wish to be supported by a tail-wind and seek to hire an e-bike will receive a high-quality cycle, powered mainly by a Bosch motor capable of covering long distances, and characterized by their light weight and great components. Alternative drive systems may also be used. Standard components of our e-bikes in varying frame sizes include, 28 inch hollow chamber rims with puncture-proof touring tires, high-quality derailleur gears and break systems, a carrier and a sturdy bike stand, touring saddle as well as mudguards and a pannier rack. With our e-bikes you will conquer the hills with a smile, they are a true declaration of independence for all who wish to cycle and seek the support of a little push. Unfortunately there is no possibility to reserve one particular bike-brand in advance.

Helmet use is mandatory on all bike tours in Croatia. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well fitted) helmet. Rental Helmets are available on board in limited number (reservation requested).

The Bike tours require basic level of fitness from participants, which they should have acquired from steady cycling. The day tours from 20 - 60km will take you through hilly and mountainous terrain and may be completed without any time constraints. Participants will also need to master long and steep climbs during which they are, however, also able to push their bikes.

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 on-board chef is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and one or two warm meals a day. The catering consists of 2x full board and 5x half board. Catering starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with breakfast on the departure day.

Language

Due to our international audience the tour is conducted bilingually, in English and German.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Our Istria tours start and end in Omisalj

Transfer from/to Rijeka airport (on embarkation and disembarkation days only). Price on request

Collective transfers between Zagreb and Omisalj on day of embarkation/ disembarkation only (11:30am from Zagreb Centre or 12:15pm from Zagreb Airport / return transfer from Omisalj to Zagreb Airport starts at 8:00am: Prices on request (reservation required two weeks in advance)

To investigate and book a suitable flight you can for example use the website www.opodo.com
Exclusive transfers can be booked on request.