

The best of Croatia

From **15/6/2023**
to **22/6/2023**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

From **Venice**
to **Venice**



With the exceptional presence of Jean-Marie ROUART, writer, essayist and columnist.

Discover the beauty of the **Adriatic** with **PONANT** on an exceptional 8-day cruise in Croatia and Montenegro. Aboard *Le Lyrial*, fall under the spell of the hidden treasures of the Dalmatian coast and its turquoise waters.

Your voyage will begin in Italy with an embarkation in **Venice**. An opportunity to discover or rediscover the sublime city of the Doges, with its many canals, its vaporetti and its mythical gondolas.

Split will open its doors to you to discover its historic centre, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, with treasures such as **Diocletian's Palace** or the **Cathedral of Saint Domnius**.

Le Lyrial will then call at **Korcula**, full of olive groves, vineyards and ancient buildings. An island marked by history, this is the birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo.

You will then head to the aptly named 'Pearl of the Adriatic', Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Surrounded by medieval ramparts, its terracotta-tiled roofs, its palaces, cloisters and fountains are bound to impress you and will plunge you into the heart of Croatian history.

Your ship will then set sail towards **Montenegro**, for an unforgettable cruise in the **Bay of Kotor**. This impressive gap between two mountain ranges is home to a veritable inland lake with a magical atmosphere; the medieval city of Kotor and its many historical monuments are its jewels.

After a stop on the magnificent island of **Hvar**, the last stage of your trip will take you to **Rovinj**, giving you an opportunity to discover this city with Venetian influences. Moreover, it proudly bears Venice's symbolic winged lion on the Balbi's Arch, which you'll be able to admire during a stroll through its picturesque town centre.

As a grand finale, your voyage will draw to a end in **Venice the Serenissima** and its lagoon.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VENICE

Embarkation 15/6/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Departure 15/6/2023 at 5:30 pm

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark's square**, the **basilica**, **Doges palace**, the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas**. Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

SIBENIK TO KRKA FALLS (OPTIONAL)

Arrival 16/6/2023 early morning
Departure 16/6/2023 late morning

When your ship drops anchor across from the Croatian village of **Sibenik**, in the heart of Central Dalmatia, you will have the possibility of discovering the exceptional **Krka Waterfalls**. Krka National Park, with its eight waterfalls formed by calcium carbonate deposited by the water as it flows along the Krka river, is one of the most spectacular in Croatia. During an optional excursion, visit this lush natural site boasting an incredibly rich fauna and flora.

SPLIT

Arrival 17/6/2023 mid afternoon
Departure 17/6/2023 late evening

On the Dalmatian coast, the town of Split offers cultural visits in a seaside atmosphere. Close to the seafront shaded by palm trees, the historical centre listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasts a unique building: **the Diocletian's Palace**. Here you will explore its galleries, courtyards with carved columns, as well as a former mausoleum converted into a church, namely **Saint Domnius Cathedral**. If you get peckish, stop off at a terrace in the **Pjaca**, the main square in the old town, where you can try a palacinka, a kind of pancake topped with melted cheese.

KORCULA

Arrival 17/6/2023 early afternoon
Departure 17/6/2023 evening

This harbour town has a very special location, presiding on a spur on the north-eastern coast of the island of Korčula. The ramparts in its medieval district provide perfect vantage points over the Pelješac peninsula. To get there, you can take the monumental staircase in the **Revelin Tower**. Another way is to climb the steps in the shade of palm trees

from the **Morska Vrata** (Marine portal). As you make your way through the little streets, you'll see the bell-tower of **Saint Mark's cathedral** rise above you. This landmark will help you locate the **house** where **Marco Polo** was born. The island also has some of its own famous wines like the red Plavac and the white Posip.

DUBROVNIK

Arrival 18/6/2023 early morning

Departure 18/6/2023 late evening

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts**. But what's inside **Fort Saint John**, adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

KOTOR

Arrival 19/6/2023 early morning

Departure 19/6/2023 late afternoon

Situated in one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays, **the medieval city** of Kotor is a small town full of charm, truly imbued with the traditions and stories of another time. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this village, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, has preserved many historical monuments from this epoch. During your stop, be sure to admire the impressive castle that dominates the town, and let yourself fall under the charm of its maze of small streets and intimate squares on which folk festivals featuring magnificent colourful costumes are often organised.

HVAR

Arrival 20/6/2023 early morning

Departure 20/6/2023 late afternoon

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that have not changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad**, is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.

ROVINJ

Arrival 21/6/2023 early morning

Departure 21/6/2023 evening

Rovinj is located in Istria, a region bordering Slovenia. This becomes apparent as you walk through its old cobblestoned town. There are many **monuments of Venetian influence** here. If you study the Balbi arch, you will see the

winged lion, symbol of Venice. The bell-tower erected beside **Saint Euphemia Cathedral** was designed like the bell of Saint Mark in Venice. From the top of the tower, you can scan the entire historical district. To absorb its quaint atmosphere, take a walk in the ochre and sepia-coloured streets leading to bustling squares and terraces shaded by canvas awnings.

VENICE

Arrival 22/6/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 22/6/2023 at 8:00 am

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