



CLASSIC
EDELWEISS TOURS

CROATIA BY SCOOTER

“ Croatia is an outstanding holiday destination. And on a scooter it’s even better! ”

CROATIA BY SCOOTER

RIDING DAY 1 : OPATIJA - OPATIJA

Standard Route (206 km / 128 miles)

Today we ride west, across the Istrian peninsula. The ride combines beautiful, twisty roads and breathtaking views along the coastline. Crossing the peninsula in the morning to Poreč will give you firsthand insights into Croatian culture.

Our destination will be the Limski Ria, or Limski Canal in English. It is 11 km long and winds its way from the coast to the Croatian hinterland. The nature reserve offers numerous beautiful viewpoints. A visit to the picturesque old town of Poreč should not be missed during a holiday or visit to Istria. In the old town, the Roman town planning has been preserved to this day.

We will head back to Opatija in the afternoon trying to arrive early enough to be able to go for a swim!

Highlights:

#1: Limsky Channel



Lim bay might be the most fascinating sight on the Istrian peninsula. The fjord is 9 km (5.6 miles) long and 600 m (1,968 ft.) wide. The steepest walls are up to 100 m (328 ft.) high. The water is deep green and is excellent for mussel and oyster farming.

#2: Poreč



Poreč, a 2000 year old town on the most western part of the Istrian Peninsula, originally built around the Harbour, used mainly for fishing boats, now primarily yachts will sail round the area. It's naturally protected from strong tides by the island of Saint Nicholas. Its major landmark is the 6th century Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997.

RIDING DAY 2 : OPATIJA - OPATIJA

Standard Route (180 km / 112 miles)

Today's journey takes us to Slovenia, also known as "green Slovenia", as 60% of the country is covered with forest. Due to its geographical location, Slovenia offers a dreamlike mixture of impressive mountains, idyllic valleys, highlands and lowlands, and the Mediterranean coast. We ride through this unspoiled landscape, stopping for a short coffee break in between, before reaching our destination for the day, the Postojna Caves.

In the afternoon, on our way back to Croatia, we take side roads to the area around Buzet. Another short coffee break and soon we return to Opatija.

There are over 11,000 karst caves in Slovenia, of which around 20 caves & grottos are open to tourism. The most famous one is the Postojna Cave (Adelsberg Cave). With its underground cave system full of stalactites, passages, galleries, and halls it fascinates over half a million visitors every year.

Highlights:

#1: Postojna Cave



The caves of Postojna (or Adelsberger caves in German) are a 12.4-mile karst cave system, one of the largest in the world. With access to 3.3 square miles, the Postojna caves are the world's second-largest flowstone caves open to tourists. There is quite a bit of walking to do when visiting the caves, but the largest distance is covered by a specially made train that takes you underground.

The caves are very famous for their endemic olm: the largest troglodytic olm in the world. It will be hard to spot in the underground rivers, but you can see a few in aquariums, just before reaching the end of the visit in the immensely impressive underground hall. So huge that very large concerts have been hosted here in the past!

#2: Opatija



Opatija is located 15 km west of Rijeka on the Adriatic coast and is one of the most spectacular places in Croatia. Its breathtakingly beautiful location and pleasant climate made Opatija the most elegant seaside resort of the fine Viennese society of the K.u.K. monarchy. Between the two World Wars and under Yugoslavian rule, the villas of the belle époque lost their glamour. But, supported by rising tourism, Opatija has nearly regained its pre-war charm.

RIDING DAY 3 : OPATIJA - OPATIJA

Standard Route (170 km / 106 miles)

Are you ready to explore the islands? Another great day awaits us: we start early to take the ferry from Brestova to the island of Cres. The freshwater lake Vrana is a crypto depression whose lake bottom lies at a depth of 74 m below the sea surface, while the surface of the lake is higher than that of the surrounding sea. After exploring half of the island, we continue to the second ferry of the day, which takes us to the neighboring island of Krk. With an area of 405 km², it is, together with the island of Cres, the largest island in Croatia. The island of Krk itself is unique - be it because of its long history, its valuable cultural heritage, its nature, or its beautiful bathing bays. There are 60 small villages, towns, and municipalities on Krk with about 18,000 inhabitants. In the high season, the number of inhabitants rises to about 100,000 due to holidaymakers - a sign of how popular the island is with people from all over Europe.

To get back to the mainland, we will use the spectacular bridge, from where it is a short but beautiful drive back to Opatija.

Highlights:

#1: Island Cres



Although scarcely populated, island Cres has been inhabited since the late stone age. It's a long and narrow mountainous island stretching 66 km in length and between 2 to 12 km in width, featuring a spectacular array of pebble beaches and sheltered bays.

#2: Island Krk



Krk was long thought to be the biggest island of Croatia, with an area of 405 km², until new data revealed that neighboring Cres is actually just as large. The northwest coast is steep and stony, the southern part of the island, however, embraces a mild climate and a landscape comprised of beaches, bays and forests. For obvious reasons, much of the island's tourism is in the south around Malinska and Krk city.

RIDING DAY 4 : OPATIJA - OPATIJA

Standard Route (140 km / 87 miles)

A beautiful ride awaits us as we visit the Risnjak National Park, simply breathtaking.

The Risnjak National Park, located in the hinterland of Rijeka, covers an area of approximately 64 km². The park forms a barrier between the coast and the continental part of Croatia. The distance to the coast is about 15 km and the highest mountain is the peak of Risnjak at 1528 m. Risnjak is the geological cross-over in age and size between the Alps to the Balkan Mountains - the Alps being the youngest and highest, the Istrian range somewhat older lower, and the Balkans the oldest and lowest. In 1953, the region was declared a national park by the Croatian government. The national park was named after the lynx (Croatian "ris") living there. Lynxes and other wild animals such as bears, wolves, and eagles live in this beautiful nature reserve. There are also deer, chamois, wild boar, and over 110 different species of birds.

There are two observation stations in the park: the Lazac Hut and the Leski Observatory.

You may be surprised to see that for most of the day, we will be the only ones on these small but good quality roads of this mountainous area, although it may seem a short ride, the road is twisty and the scenery outstanding. While in the park, why not go for a short hike? Make sure you have some comfy shoes on board!

Highlights:

#1: Risnjak National Park



Risnjak National Park (ris means lynx in croatian) was declared as a national park on September 15th 1959. It covers 20 square miles and is located in the Western part of the Gorski Kotar Mountains. The highest peak is called Veliki Risnjak and raises 5000 feet above sea level. Located about 12 miles inland it offers, on a clear day, view to Kvarner Bay, the Naturpark Ucka, to the islands offshore

and towards the North, a view of the mountain ranges in Slovenia, which form a natural border with Austria. The river Kupa originates in the National park, it follows the Slovenia-Croatia border for 70 miles. It is a tributary of the Save river, and does sonear Sisak, almost 200 miles from the source! This forested mountain massif is a wild life habitat to brown bears, wolves, lynxes, eagles and other protected animals.

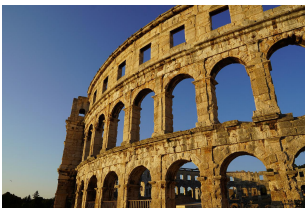
RIDING DAY 5 : OPATIJA - OPATIJA

Standard Route (200 km / 124 miles)

Our route takes us to the most southern part of the Istrian Peninsula, to Pula. A town full of history, dating back as far as the year 6000 BC! It possesses a huge amount of Roman ruins, between them, the best preserved Roman arena, the Pula Arena. Since we are taking the coastal road we will stop every now and then to enjoy many of the beautiful viewpoints. One of them will also serve us as an afternoon coffee stop and reward us with a superb panoramic view in the direction of Cres Island.

Highlights:

#1: Pula Arena




The city of Pula is best known for its many ancient Roman buildings, the most famous of which is its 1st-century amphitheater, one of the largest and best-preserved buildings of its kind. Locally known as the Arena, it is still in use today during the summer film festival. During World War II, the Italians wanted to dismantle the amphitheater to bring it back to Italy. Due to the high costs, this project

was quickly abandoned.

#2: Rovinj



This town is a popular tourist resort and an active fishing port. It was founded by the Romans in the 2nd century on a little island that is now connected to the mainland and it is dominated by the baroque St. Euphemia's Church. Its 60-meter tower provides a view of grey and red rooftops and chimneys, streets and squares. The beauty of Rovinj was particularly appreciated by artists who have painted the most beautiful motifs here and exhibited them on Grisia, the street of artists.



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