

Roman Empire in Istria – private guided tour – 1 day



OVERVIEW

Sightseeing of Pula and Poreč

The Romans introduced a new type of organization in Istria, just as throughout entire Europe they were the first to start the urbanization, building roads and connecting towns, thus greatly encouraged the development of trade. Istria is famous as a region rich in high quality stone, a fact well known to the Romans, so today there are numerous places along the west coast of Istria that were once Roman quarries from which stone was taken to erect their magnificent buildings.

Trip style: guided tour

Duration: 1 day

Start / finish: Poreč / Grožnjan / Završje/ Oprtalj / Motovun

Availability: March to November

Total distance: 4-5 km / WALKING/

Departures: Any day in a week

Grade: EASY

PULA

Although the amphitheatre in the town announces Pula's Roman origins, its history in fact stretches far, far beyond this period. Archeological findings in the area suggest that Pula's history stretches back 40,000 or even 1 million years BC! It was however in the 11th century BC that Pula rose to prominence when it became a major settlement for the Illyrian tribe, the Histri. After expansion by the Roman Empire into Istria in 177 BC, in 40 BC Pula became a Roman colony and grew rapidly during the years 27 BC to AD 14 under Emperor Caesar Augustus. During this time several important buildings were constructed (including the amphitheatre) and the town rose in strategic and economic significance for the Romans, with local trade being prominent.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Pula fell under the control of various groups, including the Eastern Goths for 45 years to 538 when it became part of the Byzantine Empire, until the Slavs began their colonisation in the early part of

the 7th century. The Triumphal Arch of the Sergii was built between 29 and 27 BC in honour of the Sergi family who fought on the side of Octavian, who later became Emperor Augustus, in the Battle of Actium in present-day Greece.

The Temple of Augustus, was built between AD 2-14 in honour of Emperor Augustus. It stands at a site next to which there was also an accompanying Temple of Diana (of which only a very small part remains). The Temple now contains Roman sculpture.

The Forum, where the Temple of Augustus stands, was once the main square in Roman times, is still today a bustling piazza with many cafes.

The cathedral contains parts from various centuries, with its rear wall from the 4th century; its sanctuary from the following century; the internal part from the 15th century; and the bell tower from the 17th century.

Hercules Gate is the oldest standing Roman monument, dating from the 1st century BC.

POREČ

The area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. During the 2nd century BC, Roman Castrum was built on a tiny peninsula with approximate dimensions of 400 m × 200 m where the town centre is now. During the reign of Emperor Augustus in the 1st century, it officially became a city and was part of the Roman colony of Colonia Iulia Parentium. In the 3rd century the settlement had an organized Christian community with an early-Christian complex of sacral buildings. The earliest basilica contained the remains of complex and was dedicated to Saint Maurus of Parentium and dates back to the second half of the 4th century. The floor mosaic from its oratory, originally part of a large Roman house, is still preserved in the garden of the Euphrasian Basilica. The Basilica was later built as an extension to the original church in the 6th century when bishop Euphrasios issued an order for its construction. This old part, today main core of the town with its narrow streets, like more than thousands years ago, today is still in typical untouched geometric pattern of an old Roman town. Remains of the temples of Roman gods Neptune and Mars that took place at the former Roman Forum, today on the spot of the Marafor square still can be seen. Walking on the streets of Porec that were built at Roman times really means visiting and walking through the history from present time. After the fall of Rome, Porec came under the rule of various empires until it became part of the Venetian Empire in 1267 under whose control it remained until it fell in 1797

Euphrasius Basilica: The most valuable cultural monument in Porec. It was built on the remains of an earlier tri-naval basilica, in the first half of the 6th century, during the period of Bishop Euphrasius, whose name it bears.

Square Marafor: In the 1st century it prides itself with the biggest Roman sanctuary in Istria. Mars's temple or the Big temple was one of the biggest on the Adriatic.

The Great Temple: northwest of the Marafor Square. The remains (a part of the wall and foundation) of an ancient temple from the beginning of the 1st century.

The Temple of Neptune: in a park, west of the Marafor Square, only fragments of the ancient temple, which was dedicated to the god of the sea, Neptune, are preserved.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Visit Pula

The Triumphal Arch of the Sergii

The Temple of Augustus

The Forum and the cathedral

Hercules Gate

Visit Poreč

Euphrasius Basilica and square Marafor

The Great Temple and the Temple of Neptune

ITINERARY:

In the morning we drive to Poreč. The whole old city of Porec is monument of culture. The old city has preserved the structure of old Roman castrum. The main streets, Decumanus and Cardo Maximus, are still preserved in their original forms. Decumanus connected the square Marafor in the western part of old city with city gates at its eastern end. Roman Forum with temples to Roman gods was located on the Marafor square. There is still today a Romanic house and a few beautiful Venetian gothic palaces. The Istrian Assembly Hall, originally a 13th century Gothic Franciscan church, was remade in baroque style in the 18th century.

Porec was surrounded with fortification walls from 12th to 19th century. Three defense towers still exist at the entrance of the old city. The most important cultural monument of Porec is the complex of Euphrasian Basilica dating from the 5th century. The original church was extended in the 6th century under Byzantine Empire and bishop Euphrasius. The interior of the basilica is ornamented with unique mosaics. From 1997 Eufrasius basilica is protected by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

Later we are going to explore Pula, the largest town of Istrian county with lot of great monuments like Arena, (UNESCO) the most important monument in Istria from the Roman antiquity, erected in the 1st Century AD. When strolling around the Old Town, you will view the grandeur of Pula's impressive monuments, such as The Arch of Sergii, Hercules's and the Double Gates. Drive back to your hotel.

TIME SCHEDULE

08:30 – 09:15 Pick up and transfer to Poreč

09:15 – 09:30 Briefing about visit Poreč

09:30 – 11:00 Visit Poreč, old city.

11:00 – 11:30 Short break

11:30 – 12:30 Drive to Pula

12:30 – 12:45 Briefing about visit Pula

12:45 – 14:45 Visit Pula, Amfiteatar ans city center.

14:45 – 15:45 Break, free time.

15:45 – 16:30 Departure and arrival to Poreč hotels



PRICES AND AVAILABILITY

This tour is available to start on any day of the week from March to November.

Prices are in EUR per person.

PRICES FOR DAILY TRIPS – PRIVAT DEPARTURE

Privat departure	2-3 persons	4-7 persons	8+ persons
Net price per person in EUR	220	130	90

Guaranteed departure / group size: min. 2 pers to max. 12 pers

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Transfer in car/minivan
- English speaking guide
- Entrance Fee in Amphitheater in Pula
- Entrance fee in Euphrasius Basilica in Poreč
- **Bottled water**
- Insurance
- Information package including detailed route description
- transport between accommodations

NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks
- Meals
- Tips
- Entrance fees

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fiore tours that operates within the company Fiore d.o.o., travel agency, Mate Vlašića 6, 52440 Poreč, Croatia, corporate ID number: 040009121, VAT number: HR58088454926.

Website / webshop: www.fiore-tours.com/www.fiore.hr

Phone: **+385 52 431397**

E-mail: adventure@fiore.hr

The general conditions of business are part of the contract between a travel agency Fiore tours that operates within Fiore d.o.o., and the traveler who accepts the offered arrangement. By agreeing to the service (i.e., concluding a contract), the guest confirms that he is fully familiarized with these general terms and that he will adhere to them in their entirety.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

A booking for a trip with Fiore Tours can be made by first checking price and availability and then sending booking form and a deposit. A deposit is 30% of the price of the total price. A booking is not confirmed before we receive the booking form and deposit at which point a receipt and invoice for the final balance will be issued. The balance is due four weeks before departure. Full payment is required for a booking made less than four weeks before departure. Payment can be accepted with bank transfer or online by credit card. If the balance is not paid at the specified time, unless previously arranged with us in writing, we reserve the right to cancel the booking.

TRAVEL PACKAGES

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2015/2302. Therefore, you will benefit from all EU rights applying to packages. Company FIORE d.o.o., travel agency will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole.

Additionally, as required by law, company FIORE d.o.o., travel agency has protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that it becomes/they become insolvent.

More information on key rights under Directive (EU) 2015/2302 (to be provided in the form of a hyperlink).

Following the hyperlink the traveller will receive the following information:

Key rights under Directive (EU) 2015/2302

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.
The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance, fuel prices) and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8 % of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, are changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction and/or compensation for damages where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser or, in some Member States, the retailer becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser or, where applicable, the retailer becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Fiore .o.o. has taken out insolvency protection with Triglav odiguranje d.d. (the entity in charge of the insolvency protection, e.g. a guarantee fund or an insurance company). Travellers may contact this entity Triglav Osiguranje d.d., Antuna Heinza 4, Zagreb, OIB: 29743547503, Phone +385 52 526402. Policy number: 990007051412 if services are denied because of Fiore d.o.o. insolvency.

Directive (EU) 2015/2302 as transposed into national law : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015L2302>

INSURANCE

1) INSURANCE IN CASE OF CANCELLATION OF RESERVATION

If, during the reservation, the traveler expects he could cancel the reservation for some reason, Fiore tours recommends Cancellation insurance. Cancellation insurance can't be paid afterwards, only during initial request for the travel.

2) TRAVEL INSURANCE

The cost of travel does not include the package of travel insurance. Fiore advises their guests to pay the travel

insurance: insurance against risks of accidents and diseases, travel insurance from loss or damage of luggage as well as health insurance during travel and stay abroad, and insurance to cover the costs of assistance and return of passengers to the starting place in case of accidents and illnesses.

3) **INSURANCE IN THE EVENT OF PAYMENT INCAPABILITY OR BANKRUPTCY OF THE TRAVEL ORGANIZER**

Fiore has concluded with Triglav d.d. a Contract on Insurance in Case of Insolvency or Bankruptcy of the Fiore, where the travel service might not be performed, or for the refunding the cost of the Guest's way back to the place of departure. In case of occurrence of the insured event, the Guest should contact the Insurer as soon as possible: Triglav Osiguranje d.d., Antuna Heinza 4, Zagreb, OIB: 29743547503, Phone +385 52 526402. Policy number: 990007051412

4) **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Fiore has concluded with the insurance company Triglav osiguranje d.d. a Liability Insurance Contract for damages caused to a guest by failure to meet obligations or by partially or inconsistently meeting obligations. In the event of insured case, the guest should as fast as possible contact the insurer: Triglav Osiguranje d.d., Antuna Heinza 4, Zagreb, OIB: 29743547503, Phone +385 52 526402. Policy number: 990007051413

CANCELLATION BY YOU

Cancellations must be made in writing. The following charges will apply:
from reservation – 60 day before departure 10%
59 – 29 days before departure 30%
28 – 15 days before departure 50%
less than 14 days before departure 100%

TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: <https://fiore-tours.com/terms-conditions/>

INFO AND BOOKING: Email: adventure@fiore.hr / Phone +385 52 431 397