

## Coast To Coast Walking Tour Istria 8 days / 7 nights



### OVERVIEW

Imagine walking through green countryside full of vineyards, olive trees, rivers and forests, full of beautiful villages and medieval towns situated on hills. Indeed it sounds like a dream. This dream can come true! Join us on a walking adventure through green Istria. Learn about the natural beauty that will open before you every step of the way and with every new winding of the road. Learn about the culture and heritage of Istria and visit picturesque towns on the hills with unforgettable views which will leave you breathless. Visit Hum, the smallest town in the world and experience the spirit of the past in Motovun and Grožnjan, the town of artists. To get to know the best of Istria, walk through Učka Nature Park which contains a wealth of life and finally round off this green adventure with the delicious flavors of indigenous Istrian delicacies and wines.

Trip style:	Guided walking/hiking tour	Duration:	8 days / 7 nights
Start / finish:	Buje / Lovran	Departures:	April 25-May 02, 2021 October 10-17, 2021
Total distance:	84 km		
Group size:	6 – 16 persons		
Transportation:	9-seater vans or 20-seater minibus		

**Grade:** Distances on this holiday are bit longer with ascents and descents which require good level of fitness. This trips is perfect for those who are active and can enjoy in longer walks. Daily distances are 13 km to 18 km.

### ITINERARY:

#### **DAY 1 ARRIVAL**

Arrival to Pula airport and group transfer to our hotel in Buje area. Brief orientation meeting with our guide followed by a welcome dinner. Overnight in hotel in Buje area.

**Accommodation:** B&B Lovac 3\* in Buje area or similar

**Meals:** dinner

**Walking distance:** -

**Transfer:** transfer from Pula airport to Buje, approx. 50 minutes.

## DAY 2 BRTONIGLA - BUJE

Today starts with a very brief transfer (10mins) to Brtonigla, a small Istrian village almost hidden from the view and home to a pretty church and quaint architecture. This area is famous for its acres of vineyards and olive groves and today's trails lead us through meadows, woods and beautiful snippets of nature. Producing olive oils and wine is a way of life for many families in this wonderful area so here is easy to enjoy some time away from modern civilisation. The trail also takes us to the hilltop town of Buje located at 220m. Buje is known as the Guard of Istria and is a superb place to see the traditional landscape of Istria including fertile, terraced fields. The town grew in importance under the Venetians who took hold following the collapse of the Roman Empire. What is truly delightful is that most of the churches and architecture dates from the time of the Venetians. The town's walls have been restored and include a stunning medieval tower. The church was renovated in baroque style in 1784 and today is considered one of the most important churches in Istria. Buje has been inhabited since the Bronze Age and is a great place to stroll through. Our walk finishes near the famous old railway line - the Parenzana. This line was once a lifeline for the rural communities of Istria and tomorrow we'll enjoy a walk along it. Tonight we'll enjoy a second night in the area of Buje.

**Accommodation:** B&B Lovac 3\* in Buje area or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch, wine tasting, dinner

**Transfer:** local transfers

**Walking distance:** 3-4 hours hiking, 15km, ascent 300m, descent -300m

## DAY 3 GROŽNJAN - MOTOVUN

Today we wave goodbye to the area of Buje and take a brief transfer to the stunning medieval town of Groznan. Superbly perched on a hill and surrounded by spectacular scenery, Groznan is truly beautiful and from here you can see how Istria has earned the name „The Tuscany of Croatia“. Looking out we'll be able to see an abundance of Istrian villages amongst rolling hills. There will be time to explore meandering streets which are filled with elaborate sandstone houses, hidden art galleries, a towering castle and pretty floral courtyards. Enclosed in walls, the town was once a home to two gates. The larger of the two can be seen today, whilst a Venetian column stands on the site of the smaller gate. Upon leaving Groznan we join the Parenzana Heritage Line. Once a narrow gauge Austrian railway connecting Trieste in Italy with Porec in Croatia, the Parenzana meanders for 123kms and was used to link the small towns of Istria. In use from 1902 until 1935, it's a great way today to walk and learn about the railway's history. We'll hike through several tunnels and over bridges whilst enjoying the views. Next we reach Livade, one of the most famous truffle centres of the world. Spread out over the hillside, our walk ends here and we'll have time to visit the small shops that sell Istria's wonderful truffle oil. On the neighbouring hill sits the charming town of Motovun which is our base for tonight.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Villa Borgo 3\* in Motovun or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch

**Transfer:** local transfers, luggage transfer

**Walking distance:** 6 hours, 25 km, ascent 700, descent -700

## DAY 4 ROVINJ FREE DAY

Today starts after breakfast with a transfer to the coastal gem of Rovinj for a free day. In 1283., the town swore an allegiance to the Venetian republic in exchange for protection against piracy and today it's this wonderful architecture that makes it one of the prettiest towns in Croatia. Situated on an oval-shaped peninsula, Rovinj is home to wonderful cobbled streets, hidden piazzas and a fantastic variety of pavement cafes. The old town is dominated by a tall church tower which rises from the highest point. Originally an island, Rovinj was only connected to the mainland in 1763., when the narrow channel that separated it from the mainland was filled in. From the end of WW1 until 1947. Rovinj remained part of Italy, however it was made part of Yugoslavia in 1947. and although many Italians fled, the town still feels and looks incredibly Italian. The famed Balbi Arch is the official entrance to the old town and a symbol of Venice's rule over Rovinj. On the top of the arch stands the Venetian Lion of St Mark holding an open book to signify the town's acceptance to the Venetian Republic without war. On entering the old town don't forget to look up as you'll see Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and neoclassical windows and balconies. St Euphemia's Church is the largest baroque church in Istria and dominates the town from its hilltop location in the middle of the old town. It is home to a 61m-high bell tower which is older than the present church. The imposing tower was modelled on the campanile of St Mark's in Venice, and is proudly topped by a 4m copper statue of St Euphemia. This rather elaborate statue shows the direction of the wind by turning on a spindle. Rovinj Heritage Museum is located in a wonderful Baroque palace and displays collections by old masters, a maritime section and archaeological findings. Tonight we stay in Rovinj so you can explore the town as the sun sets and the evening lights create an almost fairytale

atmosphere.

**Accommodation:** B&B Baron Gautsch 3\* in Rovinj or similar

**Meals:** breakfast

**Transfer:** local transfers

**Walking distance:** -

#### DAY 5 OPRTALJ - BUZET

This morning we leave Rovinj and head to the picturesque little town of Oprtalj - the official start of the Istrian Mountain Trail. Initially we head through rich forest which leads us to the pretty villages of St. John and St Lucija. St Lucija has a beautiful church and along the way we'll be rewarded with wonderful views over the Mirna Valley, which is home to the atmospheric castle of Pietrapelosa. Hidden in lush vegetation, this 10th Century ruined fortress is a great place to explore and has a fantastic location. We'll walk through Mali Mlun and pass a host of traditional villages and an aqueduct. Towards the end of the walk we hike through lush forest and traditional fields to reach Buzet and our hotel for the next two nights. Buzet was first settled by the Romans but achieved real prominence under the Venetians, who built great walls, gates and churches. With its cobbled streets, Buzet is a lovely place to stay.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Vela Vrata 4\*, Buzet or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch, grappa tasting, dinner

**Transfer:** 15 min transfer, luggage transfer

**Walking distance:** 5-6 hours, 18 km, ascent 600, descent -750m

#### DAY 6 BUZET - HUM - BUZET

This morning's walk starts by a river which meanders through forest before passing waterfalls and lakes. Next we reach Korita, which is home to natural springs and an old watermill. Our trail follows a river and takes us through a wonderful abandoned village where we'll be able to see some examples of traditional Istrian stone houses. From here we'll be able to see Hum and its church tower in the distance. On reaching Hum there will be time to explore the smallest town in the world before enjoying lunch in an Istrian Konoba. These small local restaurants specialise in simple but typical Istrian dishes and are popular with locals. After lunch we pick up a lovely trail called the Way of Mistletoe which leads us back to Buzet for a second night.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Vela Vrata 4\*, Buzet or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, lunch in local tavern

**Transfer:** local transfers

**Walking distance:** 4-5 hours, 13km, ascent 450, descent -200m

#### DAY 7 UČKA

For our final day of walking we start with a brief transfer to Poklon which is nestled between hills and trails to the top of Učka (1401m), the highest mountain. Our mountain trail takes us from the mountain of Učka all the way to Lovran on the beautiful Adriatic Coast. We'll be surrounded by rich oak and chestnut forests and will have fantastic views over the bay of Kvarner and its coastal towns. Behind us sits the mountains of Obruc, Snjeznik and Risnjak whilst the complete Istrian peninsula lies in front of us. If we are lucky we'll be able to see as far as Venice and the Slovenian Alps. Today is a wonderful grand finale to the week as we reach the coast and get to enjoy our last night on the wonderful Istrian east coast.

**Accommodation:** B&B Štanger 3\* in Lovran or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch

**Transfer:** 30 min transfer from Buzet to Poklon (Startpoint), luggage transfer

**Walking distance:** 5-6 hours, 13km, ascent 500m, descent -1400m

#### DAY 8 DEPARTURE

After breakfast organized group transfer to Pula airport.

**Accommodation:** -

**Meals:** breakfast

**Transfer:** from Lovran to Pula airport, approx. 1 hour

**Walking Distance:** -

## **PRICES AND AVAILABILITY**

Prices are in EUR per person, sharing a double/twin room.

Rates in EUR per person	April 25-May 02, 2021	October 10-17, 2021
In double/twin room	1300	1300
Single room supplement	180	180

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Local English-speaking hiking guide
- Transfer from Pula airport to Buje and from Lovran to Pula airport (fixed timing)
- All accommodation as described in the trip dossier
- All breakfasts, 4 packed lunches and one lunch in local restaurant, 3 dinners
- Wine and grappa tasting
- Luggage transport between accommodations
- All land transport required by the itinerary

## **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Airport taxes
- Airport transfers other than group transfers
- Some meals as detailed in the meal plan
- Extra activities and excursions not part of the itinerary
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure

## **LIST OF PREFERRED HOTELS USED ON THIS TOUR:**

### **B&B Lovac 3\***

Bed and Breakfast Lovac is located 1.9 mi / 3 km from the center of Buje. This charming property is surrounded by a lush garden and an olive grove. The on-site restaurant serves Istrian specialties. Free Wi-Fi and parking are available. All accommodations units are air-conditioned and feature a wardrobe and a TV. Private bathrooms are fitted with a shower. Breakfast is served daily at the on-site restaurant. A bike and tool storage is at the guests' disposal. The restaurant serves local foods such as truffle and fish dishes, wild asparagus and game specialties. The towns of Grožnjan and Motovun can be reached in 6.2 mi / 10 km, while the coast is 9.3 mi / 15 km away. Pula Airport can be reached in 43 mi / 70 km.

**OR**

### **Hotel Casa Romantica La Parenzana 3\***

The family-owned Casa Romantica La Parenzana is a rugged former farmhouse with thick stone walls, wooden beams and open fireplaces, offering fine Istrian cuisine and free internet. Located close to Buje in Istria, on the former tracks of the Parenzana Railway Line, the historic towns of Motovun and Grožnjan are just about a few meters from the Casa Romantica La Parenzana. Traditional local food like Čripenja - roasted meat or fish and potatoes cooked in a cast iron pot over an open hearth fire - or dishes with truffles are served in the Konoba restaurant. All 16 rooms are heated and have an private bathroom and a TV. Internet access is available for free at the reception. Trieste airport is 29 mi / 46 km away, while Pula airport is 39 mi / 63 km away from hotel.

### **Hotel Villa Borgo 3\***

This B&B, situated close to the main square, the walls and the main Motovun street filled with restaurants and souvenirs, has the most beautiful view of the natural beauty of the interior of Istria from its terrace. Formerly old traditional stone house (formerly a seashell) is now newly renovated with all together nine rooms with private bathrooms. There is also the neighboring building "Baka Ljubica", which contains six newly renovated rooms, with private bathrooms and a street view. Pula Airport is 44 mi / 71 km from Villa Borgo, while Rijeka Airport can be reached within 62 mi / 100 km. A bus stops at the foot of Motovun.

**OR**

**Boutique Hotel Kaštel 3\***

Featuring an indoor swimming pool and à-la-carte restaurant, the family-run Hotel Kaštel is set at the top of a hill in the center of the medieval town of Motovun. Its guests can enjoy spa area with a sauna, a relaxing garden and various massage treatments. The wellness and spa area as well as most of the hotel rooms offer views of characteristic central Istrian landscape, the valley of the river Mirna and the famous Motovun vineyards. Amenities in each of 33 rooms include air-conditioning, satellite TV, a telephone, free Wi-Fi internet and central heating. All rooms consist of a bathroom with bathtub or shower and a hairdryer. The distance to the beach is 19 mi / 30 km from the Kaštel Hotel. Pula Airport can be reached within 44 mi / 71 km and Rijeka Airport is at a distance of 62 mi / 100 km.

**B&B Baron Gautsch 3\***

Set in a quiet residential area of Rovinj, Villa Baron Gautsch provides air-conditioned units and free WiFi. Guests can benefit from the sun terrace and a common lounge area with a fireplace. Each room at this bed and breakfast is air conditioned and has a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. All rooms have a private bathroom with shower. Ecomuseum Casa della Batana and St. Euphemia Church can be reached within a short walk. A variety of dining options, bars and shops can be found in the vicinity. Main Bus Station is only 50 m away. The nearest airport is Pula Airport, 25 mi / 40 km from the property.

**Hotel Vela vrata 4\***

Boutique Hotel Vela Vrata nests among old, stony streets of the town of Buzet. Carefully restored and transformed into a charming family hotel, from 150 metres high it offers an unreal view across the small hills, parted by the Mirna River Valley. All the 19 painstakingly furnished rooms, enriched by details, entirely breathe the spirit of past times. Wooden details, antique furniture and warm earthy colours, emphasised in all rooms, evoke a feeling of the olden days. Its restaurant famous for Istrian cuisine – always prepared locally, seasonally and home-made – according to chef Zoran's philosophy. Whether it concerns meat, pasta or forest crops, ingredients are carefully selected from the local farmers, or picked and prepared personally. Hotel also features Spa & relax zone with swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna. It is located 32 mi / 51.2 km away from Rijeka airport, 35 mi / 56.6 km from Pula airport and 38 mi / 60.5 km from Trieste airport.

**B&B Štanger 3\***

A boarding house with a long tradition in tourism is placed about 1 km from the center of Lovran, surrounded by the sea and green slopes of mt. Učka, in the peace of Mediteranian vegetation, at only few meters from the sea, is giving our guests a holiday to remember. All 21 rooms are of high quality, equipped with a bathroom, air-conditioning, satellite tv, refrigerator and a telephone. Beside all the comfort, each room has its own balcony with unforgettable views of the bay and the islands. Restaurant within hotel offers rich local and international cuisine. Pula airport is 47 mi / 75 km away, while Rijeka airport is 30 mi / 47,5 km away.

**OR**

**Hotel Park 4\***

Located by the main road, Hotel Park is 50 m from the sea and the famous Lungo Mare promenade in Lovran. It offers breakfast and free use of the indoor swimming pool and fitness area. Free WiFi is provided throughout the property. Restaurant offers meals as a buffet. The hotel's spa area can be used at an extra charge, upon availability and with a prior reservation. Lovran is located at the foot of the Učka Nature Park, which is blooming with Mediteranean vegetation. Hotel Park is 4.3 mi / 7 km from Opatija while the nearest airport is 15 mi / 24 km away.

**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](http://www.fiore-tours.com) / [www.fiore.hr](http://www.fiore.hr)

Phone: +385 52 431397

E-mail: [adventure@fiore.hr](mailto: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 total price. A booking is confirmed once we receive the booking form and the 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 osiguranje 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 cancellation fee will apply:

from reservation – 60 day before departure: 10% of the total trip cost

59 – 29 days before departure: 30% of the total trip cost

28 – 15 days before departure: 50% of the total trip cost

less than 14 days before departure: 100% of the total trip cost

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

**INFO AND BOOKING:** Email: [adventure@fiore.hr](mailto:adventure@fiore.hr) / Phone +385 52 431 397