

## Cycle the Wine roads of Istria 8 days / 7 nights



### OVERVIEW

Immersed in the blue of the Adriatic Sea, there is something magical about Istria, the largest (3600 square kilometres) and most northerly of the Croatian peninsulas. The coastal strip, known locally as Blue Istria, is popular with sun-seekers during the summer months, while the interior, or Green Istria, is another story entirely. Here, we will find a world of shading forest, historic hilltop towns, vineyards, olive groves and picturesque rivers. It's the perfect place for a leisurely cycling holiday.

We start our exploration at Buje, close to Croatia's northern border with Slovenia, then head south slowly, picking out all of the highlights of this delightful corner of Europe. From the lighthouse at Savudrija to medieval settlements such as Groznanj, we will ride on country roads and then for 2 days on the delightful dismantled railway track of Parenzana through the rolling hills of the 'Croatian Tuscany'. We'll make a visit to a wine cellar to sample some of the local favourites, such as Malvasia and Teran and take every opportunity to chill out in pavement cafes overlooking the rolling Istrian countryside. Spending time in the coastal towns of Porec, Rovinj and Pula, enjoying local Istrian culinary specialities. we will be able to appreciate their beauty whilst learning a little of their rich histories. If you are looking for a leisurely cycling holiday with a stunning mix of landscape, culture, delicious food and excellent wines, this is definitely one to consider.

**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 cycling. Daily distances are 30 to 52 km.

Trip style:	Guided cycling tour	Duration:	8 days / 7 nights
Start / finish:	Buje / Pula	Departures:	May 9-16, 2021
Total distance:	251 km		August 29 -September 05, 2021
Group size:	6 – 16 persons		October 17 -24, 2021
Transportation:	9-seater vans or 20-seater minibus		

## **ITINERARY:**

### **DAY 1 ARRIVAL TO BUJE**

Meet the group at the hotel in Buje. Depending on your arrival time, you may have some time to explore. The town of Buje is 3 -4 kilometers away along the old rail track of Parenzana. In the afternoon you will pick up your bikes and meet the guide and the rest of the group. Info meeting and welcome dinner at the hotel.

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

**Meals:** welcome dinner

**Transfer:** group transfer from Pula airport to hotel in Buje (fixed timing)

**Biking:** set up of bikes

### **DAY 2 BUJE – UMAG - MOMJAN**

We start our first ride on a quiet backroad which takes us down to the coast through olive groves and vineyards. Arriving to the sea at Lovrecica, we head north, passing a couple of small bays en route to the colourful harbour and town of Umag, which we'll reach after 23 kilometers of cycling. Umag provides us with great introduction to Croatia's Mediterranean way of living, so we'll explore amongst renaissance and baroque buildings and churches and take the opportunity to stop for a cafe on a promenade. Heading north again, we pass a number of low-key resorts and after further 8 kilometers we reach the north-eastern tip of the Istrian Peninsula. Here is the oldest lighthouse in the Adriatic, the 36-metre tall Savudrija, still in use and still manned. Protecting the southern approaches to the Gulf of Trieste, the lighthouse was Italian-financed, its construction beginning in 1817. From here, we cycle back inland and alongside Croatia's northern border with Slovenia. This part of our ride is very gradually uphill - during the final 20 kilometres of cycling we gain around 200 metres of elevation. We end our ride at a vineyard and wine cellar close to Momjan. Muscat, Malvasia and Teran are just 3 of the local wines worth sampling. After our wine tasting, we have a short transfer back to our hotel outside Buje.

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

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking, wine tasting

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 52 km / 32 miles, total ascent 490, descent -400m

### **DAY 3 PARENZANA TRAIL FROM MOTOVUN TO GROŽNJAN**

For the next 2 days we will cycle the old railway track of Parenzana and use mountain bikes that provide us a more comfortable ride. We head inland on this easy gravel cycle path, through tunnels and over old bridges, into the heart of rural Istria (known as the Croatian Tuscany). Parenzana, known as the wine railway, was built to link Porec with Trieste and was operational between 1905 and 1935. The first stop on our route is the pretty, medieval hill-top settlement of Groznjan which overlooks the valley of the Mirna River. Dating from around the year 1100., Groznjan is today a centre of artists and artisans. We will explore its timeless streets on foot, where it look like that every doorway leads to an artist's studio. Once again, we are in no hurry and it will be hard to resist the attraction of one of the town's pavement cafes. This part of the peninsula is known as Istria County and we continue our ride eastwards through rolling countryside above the Mirna River, to the truffle centre Livade, where we visit a truffle shop and have the chance to taste this much sought-after fungal growth. Our overnight hotel is now just a couple of kilometres away, in the beautiful hill-top village of Motovun on the opposite (south) bank of the river.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Villa Borgo or Kaštel 3\*, Motovun or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 30 km / 19 miles, total ascent 460, descent -600m

### **DAY 4 MOTOVUN TO POREČ**

From Motovun, we cycle back towards the coast, again following the old track Parenzana. We drop down out of the village and follow the track through a 200 metre tunnel, emerging to find views across the Mirna Valley as we leave Motovun behind us. We stop for a coffee in Vizinada after an hour or so and then continue towards the coast. At times, although we are still following the route of the Parenzana, we find ourselves cycling on the bare, red Istrian soil, as we pass on farm tracks amongst pretty vineyards and olive groves. We stop for lunch in Visnjan, a hilltop village notable for its architecture and for its astronomical observatory. From the village square, at an elevation of around 250 metres, we can actually see the sea. After lunch we have an enjoyable 15 kilometre ride out to the coast, passing the last of the old Parenzana railway stations just before we reach Porec, a town famous for its UNESCO listed Basilica and charming old quarter. We will finish our day cycling around the wall that surrounds the old town of Porec

to reach our hotel.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Poreč 3\*, Poreč or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 39 km / 25 miles, total ascent 400, descent -570m

#### DAY 5 POREČ LOOP

No need to pack our bags this morning as we will be staying another night at our Porec hotel. So, after breakfast, we start our scenic ride with a visit to the 6th century cathedral of the Euphrasiana, the most important monument in Porec. The interior of the cathedral is very impressive and well worth the admission charge. Leaving Porec, we head inland on quiet roads to the village of Bacva, the highest point of today's ride and a good place for a cafe stop. After our break at Bacva, we head southwards and back down to the coastal village of Vrsar. Strategically located, with a commanding view of the coast, Vrsar was fortified in the 12th century as a part of the Istrian Peninsula's coastal defence system. We will take the opportunity to visit the remains of the castle and enjoy the sea views, before cycling northwards to the fishing village of Funtana. Now heading back to our hotel in Porec, we cycle through the resort areas of Zelena and Plava Laguna.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Poreč 3\*, Poreč or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 48 km / 30 miles, total ascent 470, descent -470m

#### DAY 6 KANFANAR TO ROVINJ

This morning's leisurely ride starts from Kanfanar, after a short transfer. However, anyone feeling energetic can choose to make an early start and cycle an additional 20 kilometres, accompanied by the cycling guide. Kanfanar is a small inland town above the Lim Valley and our ride today is the flattest of the tour. Our route will take us back through the Bale region. At Svetvincenat, we will be able to explore the imposing Morosini-Grimani fortress and relax in its renaissance town square surrounded by cypress trees. This is another very attractive Istrian settlement, although one with a chequered history - including a 17th century witchcraft trial. At the pretty village of Bale we can make a stop to visit the Soardo-Bembo Palace, a very distinctive 15th century Venetian Gothic building. Here, too, we can visit a famous olive oil producer, where we can learn about the trees, the harvest and the processing of the oil. Arriving at our hotel in Rovinj, we have time to look around this 'Pearl of Adriatic', with its colourful houses, distinctive church and bell-tower. Fresh fish (combined with a glass of Malvasia) is a popular choice at dinner this evening. Everybody can enjoy Rovinj, its charm and magic.

**Accommodation:** B&B Baron Gautsch 3\* or Hotel Villa Lili 3\*, Rovinj or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking, olive oil tasting

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 35 km / 22 miles, total ascent 160, descent -420m

#### DAY 7 ŽMINJ TO PULA

After breakfast, we have a 20-minute transfer to the medieval town of Zminj, before setting off on the last ride of the trip, southwards to Pula. Cycling through a distinctly rural region, we will see lots of traditional drystone toolsheds, known locally as 'kazuni'. These are similar to the 'trulli' found in Puglia and the 'bories' in Provence. We pass through pretty countryside with several small villages and an obvious lunch stop is in the colourful town of Vodnjan. Finally, we cycle into Pula, the largest town on the peninsula with a population of almost 60,000. Located in a superb natural harbour, Pula has been occupied, destroyed and rebuilt on numerous occasions since Roman times. We will finish the day with a sightseeing tour of the old part of the city, where the triumphal Arch of the Sergil and the great amphitheatre Pula Arena are the standout attractions. Overnight at our Pula hotel and a final farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Amfiteatar 3\*, Pula or similar

**Meals:** breakfast, picnic lunch and refreshment during biking, farewell dinner

**Transfer:** support van during biking

**Distance:** 47 km / 30 miles, total ascent 210, descent -560m

#### DAY 8 DEPARTURE DAY

Departure after breakfast.

**Accommodation:** -

**Meals:** breakfast

**Transfer:** group transfer from hotel to Pula airport at fixed time

**Distance:** -

### **PRICES AND AVAILABILITY**

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

Rates in EUR per person	May 9-16, 2021	August 29 - September 05, 2021	October 17 -24, 2021
In double/twin room	1375	1435	1375
Single room supplement	210	210	210

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Local English-speaking hiking guide
- All accommodation as described in the trip dossier
- All breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches, 3 dinners
- Wine and olive oil tasting
- Luggage transport between accommodations
- Bike rental
- Support minivan

### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Airport taxes
- Airport transfers other than group transfers
- Travel and bike insurance,
- Transfer from airport to hotel and re-tour (can be organized)
- Lunches, dinners and drinks if not listed in the itinerary

### **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.

**Hotel Poreč 3\***

Hotel Poreč, located directly beside the Marina of Poreč, takes only a short walk to the city center or the town beach. The parking is located in front of the hotel, a garage for motorcycles and bicycles is available for guests. Rooms, 54 of them, are modernly decorated, air-conditioned and have a balcony and a private bathroom with a shower. Satellite TV, a minibar, a safe and a free WI-FI internet are available. A breakfast buffet is served in a restaurant with possibility to book lunch or dinner at the reception desk. Pula airport is 28 mi / 44,3 km away, while Trieste airport is 42 mi / 67,5 km away.

**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.

**OR**

**Hotel Vila Lili 3\***

Located a 15-minute walk from Rovinj's historic center and a 10-minute walk from the seafront, this bright villa offers a restaurant and a cafe-bar with summer terrace. Facilities include a sauna. Hotel Vila Lili is located in a quiet area close to the marina, about one kilometer from St. Euphemia's Basilica. Its air conditioned rooms are equipped with flat-screen satellite TV, a minibar and free Wi-Fi. They all have hypoallergenic pillows and bathrooms with shower and hairdryer. The restaurant at Vila Lili serves Mediterranean specialties and there is a large summer terrace where guests can enjoy a drink from the bar. Guests can also relax in the sauna or visit the hotel's library. The nearest airport is Pula Airport, 25 mi / 29,5 km from the property.

**Hotel Amfiteatar 3\***

A few steps from the Pula Arena amphitheater and Pula Marina, this hotel offers stylish, air-conditioned rooms with flat-screen TVs and free internet. Mediterranean cuisine is served in the restaurant. Hotel Amfiteatar's spacious rooms are decorated in bright lime green and beige colors. Each of 18 room has a mini-bar and a large, modern bathroom with rain shower. A breakfast buffet is provided each morning. Guests can taste a range of characteristic Istrian dishes or enjoy international cuisine and wines in Amfiteatar's chic restaurant. A terrace is available in warm weather. The city beach and Pula Airport are each 12 minutes away by car.

**OR**

**Hotel Galija 3\***

Located in the heart of Pula, the family-run Hotel Galija offers modern 3-star accommodation. It is open all year round and features a renowned restaurant with a large terrace. The restaurant specializes in Istrian and sea food dishes, as well as a wide selection of quality wines. Accommodations is provided in modern rooms and suites. All are equipped with air-conditioning, a satellite TV, a telephone, a mini-bar, an internet access, a safe and a hair dryer. The nearest airport is Pula Airport, 4,5 mi / 6,7 km from the property.

**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)

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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