

FAMILY SELF DRIVE ADVENTURE

If you prefer not to fly, you can still take your own car! You start your journey with glamping in Slovenia and a trekking tour in Slovenian Alps. Your next destination is Buje where you will discover Istria's hinterland on a bike. Via the Plitvice lakes you drive to Zadar, where we have arranged three days/ two nights sailing trip. You continue to D Resort Šibenik to discover National Park Krka on e-bikes and hinterland on quads. Then you make a loop and drive north again to the heart of Rovinj. An electric bike tour along the Kamenjak peninsula is your last sporting adventure before you return home.



**Local
Heroes**

We are a team of experts who are dedicated to make your travel experience unforgettable. **Travelling with Local Heroes is always exclusive, private and away from the crowds!** Find your travel inspiration in our signature trips, but only consider them as an example. Local Heroes will 100% tailor make your holiday until it fits you like a glove. We are totally flexible and we compose every trip from scratch.

FAMILY SELF-DRIVE ADVENTURE

19 days |18 nights

Price for family of four from 13.890,00 € to 16.956,00 € depending on travel season. All mentioned transfers, tours and accommodations are included in the stated price.

SLOVENIA

DAY 1 - 4
LJUBNO

HERBAL GLAMPING RESORT Three nights in a Luxury Tent, B&B service.
TREKKING with private guide

CROATIA

DAY 4 - 7
BUJE, ISTRIA REGION

SAN CANZIAN VILLAGE & HOTEL Three nights in a Family Suite, B&B service.
PARENZANA BIKING TOUR with private guide
TRUFFLE HUNTING with private guide

DAY 7 - 8
NATIONAL PARK
PLITVICE LAKES

FENOMEN PLITVICE RESORT Overnight in a 2-bedroom Luxury Suite, B&B service.
PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK TOUR with private guide

DAY 8 - 9
ZADAR, NORTH DALMATIA REGION

BASTION HERITAGE HOTEL Overnight in two Deluxe Rooms, B&B service.

DAY 9 - 11
ADRATIC SEA - NORTH DALMATIA
ARCHIPELAGO

SAILING ON THE ADRIATIC SEA with private skipper

DAY 11 - 15
ŠIBENIK, DALMATIA REGION

D-RESORT ŠIBENIK Four nights in two Superior Marina View Rooms, B&B service.
ROŠKI SLAP, ZIPLINE AND PEKA with private guide
QUAD BIKE TOUR THROUGH THE HINTERLAND OF SPLIT with private guide

DAY 15 - 19
ROVINJ, ISTRIA REGION

GRAND PARK HOTEL ROVINJ Four nights in a Family Sea View Room, B&B service.
e-BIKE TOUR ALONG THE KAMENJAK PENINSULA with private guide

SLOVENIA

Slovenia is a secret pearl full of natural beauty: mountains and forests, hills and meadows, idyllic villages and towns. And water is to be found everywhere: lakes, rivers, streams and many medicinal springs. Throughout the country, this abundance creates lush green landscapes. The capital Ljubljana is a gem, a super nice (student) town that has not yet popped up on the radar of mass tourism. Add the best, the exceptionally friendly people, the delicious and honest food, the surprising local wines and the conclusion is clear: this is a highly recommended destination.

SLOVENIAN ALPS

Much of the scenery in Slovenia is extremely lovely and you expect to see a Teletubbie hopping around every moment. Beautiful rounded green hills with cute houses and farms scattered on the slopes. The Slovenian Alps in the north-east of Slovenia are a few degrees rougher than the rest of the country and are reminiscent of the Austrian and Swiss big brothers. Beautiful landscapes, mountain peaks, roads and roads and all rivers, streams and lakes. Nice villages everywhere where you are always welcomed with open arms by the locals who greet every visitor as a very welcome guest. Tourists are not seen too much here.



DAY 1 - 4: Your adventure starts in north part of Slovenia called Ljubno and Herbal Glamping Resort where you will be staying for three nights in a Luxury tent with private jacuzzi (B&B service).

HERBAL GLAMPING RESORT

Natural luxury and private jacuzzi

Charming Slovenia is just over an hour's drive from Ljubljana, situated in a beautiful part of Slovenia. The term glamping is often misused, but here it's completely deserved. It is small but fine and exceptionally well organized resort with only ten tents and a restaurant. The "tents" look great and are beautifully furnished for four people. Piece de resistance is private jacuzzi that belongs to every canvas chalet.

The day starts with a breakfast that many five-star hotels can look up to. Super fresh ingredients and top quality food. In the evening, excellent four-course meals are served in the restaurant, which also look and taste exquisite. We recommend you choose a nice Slovenian wine from the menu and the evening cannot go wrong.

In the resort you can also visit the wellness area and a very nice natural swimming pool. An herbal massage and the aromas in the sauna will ensure that all your senses will be a part of this magical story.



What is most surprising is that Herbal Glamping can maintain the quality at such a high level. You would think they are actually too small for that. The tents are highly maintained, and the service is excellent in every way.

Slovenia specialist Joep



DAY 3: Trekking tour with private guide

TREKKING IN SLOVENIAN ALPS

On foot through paradise

Herbal Glamping is located in beautiful surroundings. Hills and valleys, roads and roads, fields and meadows surround the accommodation. This area is a true hiking paradise. Of course you can walk around here on your own, but if you go out with one of the guides, you can be sure that you will get to know the region in the best way (and that you will not get lost) The difficulty and length of the tour is determined together with Bojan - our Local Hero. We promise you a wonderful day!!

On your trekking route you will pay visit to small farms and meet local people who will warmly welcome you and invite you to taste they produce. You will have opportunity to taste regional food and learn more about the area listening to the stories. A nice homemade meal will be served to regain your strength after a long walk.



CROATIA

You will find that Croatia is much more than just sun, sea and beach. Croatia also offers alluring landscapes such as the impressive Plitvice lakes and breath-taking Krka waterfalls, captivating coastline, ancient Roman cities and villages, UNESCO monuments in Split, Šibenik, Korčula and Dubrovnik. We organize beautiful bicycle tours through Istria and a quad bike tour through the hinterland of Split. Don't forget the sea; there are hundreds of islands and islets surrounded by crystal clear water. You can go on a speedboat, a sailing yacht or an impressive gulet. This can be arranged as a day trip, but we are also happy to arrange multi-day tours for you. Croatia is also full of culinary surprises, from a delicious peka in a local konoba to a splendid dinner in a Michelin star restaurant; always accompanied by unique local wines.

LOCAL HEROES has its own office in Croatia, and we know the best way to travel around. We make it a wonderful and memorable journey. And that is a promise!!

ISTRIA

Croatia's largest peninsula with captivating sights and extraordinary gastronomy has prehistoric, Byzantine, Habsburg and Italian past, but the most important influence came from the Romans. Istria has the six largest Roman amphitheatre in the world situated in Pula. This arena was also used in the Middle Ages for tournaments and fairs. The most valuable cultural monument acknowledged by UNESCO is the Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč.

Many visitors compare Istria with Tuscany due to its medieval hilltop towns, stunning views and excellent wines and restaurants.

Istria is also a well-known beach destination, but its countryside is full of historic cities is well worth a visit as it is much quieter, especially when you explore it together with one of our local heroes. Istria is a culinary paradise and many of the refined Mediterranean dishes are flavoured with truffle and accompanied by the unique wines produced in Istria vineyards. After an extraordinary meal you can get rid of the gained calories by one of our cycling tours.



DAY 4: Self - drive from Herbal Glamping Resort in Slovenia to Istria and San Canzian Village & Hotel, a ride of approximately 2,5 hours.

DAY 4 - 7: Three nights in a Family Suite in San Canzian Village & Hotel, B&B service.

SAN CANZIAN VILLAGE & HOTEL

In the heart of culinary Istria

San Canzian Village & Hotel is a perfect base to explore northern part of Istria. This Small Luxury Hotel has just 24 rooms and is actually a perfectly restored hamlet, rebuilt on the remains of a 14th century fortress. The hotel is located on a hilltop, surrounded by olive trees in the middle of the truffle area and there are a few lovely wineries and excellent restaurants nearby. The infinity pool is a wonderful place to relax after a busy day and enjoy the view in combination with a glass of local wine or a delicious cocktail from the in-house mixologist. The culinary enthusiast will find what they want here: food and drink are very important in this part of Croatia and the Luciana Restaurant is deeply rooted in the local society. Almost everything that is served is local or inspired by local inheritance. The same goes for the impressive wine cellar: of the 600 different labels, a large part is from the neighbouring wineries.



Sunsets at San Canzian are just wonderful. Take your time and enjoy the moment while drinking your favourite cocktail made with special care by in-house mixologist and admire picturesque landscapes of North Istria.

Croatia specialist Lucija



DAY 3: Biking tour Parenzana with private guide

BIKE TOUR PARENZANA

With a mountain bike on the wine train route

At the beginning of the last century, the Parenzana was a ramshackle railway line connecting the Italian Trieste with Poreč in Istria for several dozen years. The 123-kilometer journey will take you past villages and towns and through beautiful dramatic landscapes. It was nicknamed the Wine Train, because of the countless vineyards along the route.

Trains have long since disappeared and the Parenzana has been converted into a highly regarded cycle route between Istria's northern hills. Today you will explore one of the most beautiful parts of this route. You will be picked up at the hotel and head your way to the village of Livade. From here you and your guide set off on a tough mountain bike. The ascent and descent rates are small - after all, the train had to be able to cope with them - so it is a comfortable ride through wonderfully untouched landscapes. After 27 kilometres you will arrive at Motovun, the end of the tour. From here you will return to San Canzian Hotel & Village



DAY 4 Truffle hunting with private guide**TRUFFLE HUNTING***The dogs love this exclusive treat*

Istria is a culinary paradise and the truffle is the main gastronomic symbol of that fine cuisine. Grandpa Karlič started truffle hunting in Motovun forest in 1966. The very best truffles in all of Istria are found here. And now, for more than 50 years, the Karlič family is still searching for this refined delicacy with three generations and a pack of dogs.

After a short exposé on the history of the family, the first dishes are soon on the table: local cheese and ham, enriched with truffle and accompanied by a carafe of red and white wine, which comes from their own vineyard. Then mama Karlič prepares masterpiece of this luxurious ingredient: the truffle omelette. The eyes almost pop out when you see how generously the truffle is shaved into and over the omelette. Then it is time for a real truffle hunt. You set off to the forest where wildly enthusiastic dogs start their diligent research. It is also important that the guide keeps a close eye on them to prevent the truffles from being swallowed in one bite. The dogs are also very fond of this exclusive treat. After about 1.5 hours the "hunt" has come to an end and you continue your way, enriched with beautiful experience in nature



DAY 7 - 8 An overnight in a Luxury Suite in Fenomen Plitvice hotel, B&B service.

PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

The Plitvice Lakes are magical nature reserve that has been under the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is a truly impressive and very busy area, where one scenery is even more beautiful than the next. It is a large park with a total of 16 lakes, divided into the 'upper lakes' and the 'lower lakes'. The spectacular routes lead you along streams and waterfalls. Everywhere you look you will see the unbelievably blue and crystal-clear water.



FENOMEN PLITVICE HOTEL

Luxury chalets in the middle of untouched nature

Plitvice Fenomen Resort is located in a park-like setting and is the most luxurious accommodation in the Plitvice National Park area. The hotel has a restaurant for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving local and international specialties. In a good weather you can have breakfast outside in the morning, a wonderful start of the day. The main reason to stay here is Plitvice lakes, the very first national park in Croatia that was already on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1979.



If you are looking for peace and privacy, you arrived to the right place. Excellently equipped chalets in the middle of nature provide a very relaxed atmosphere.

Croatia specialist Joep

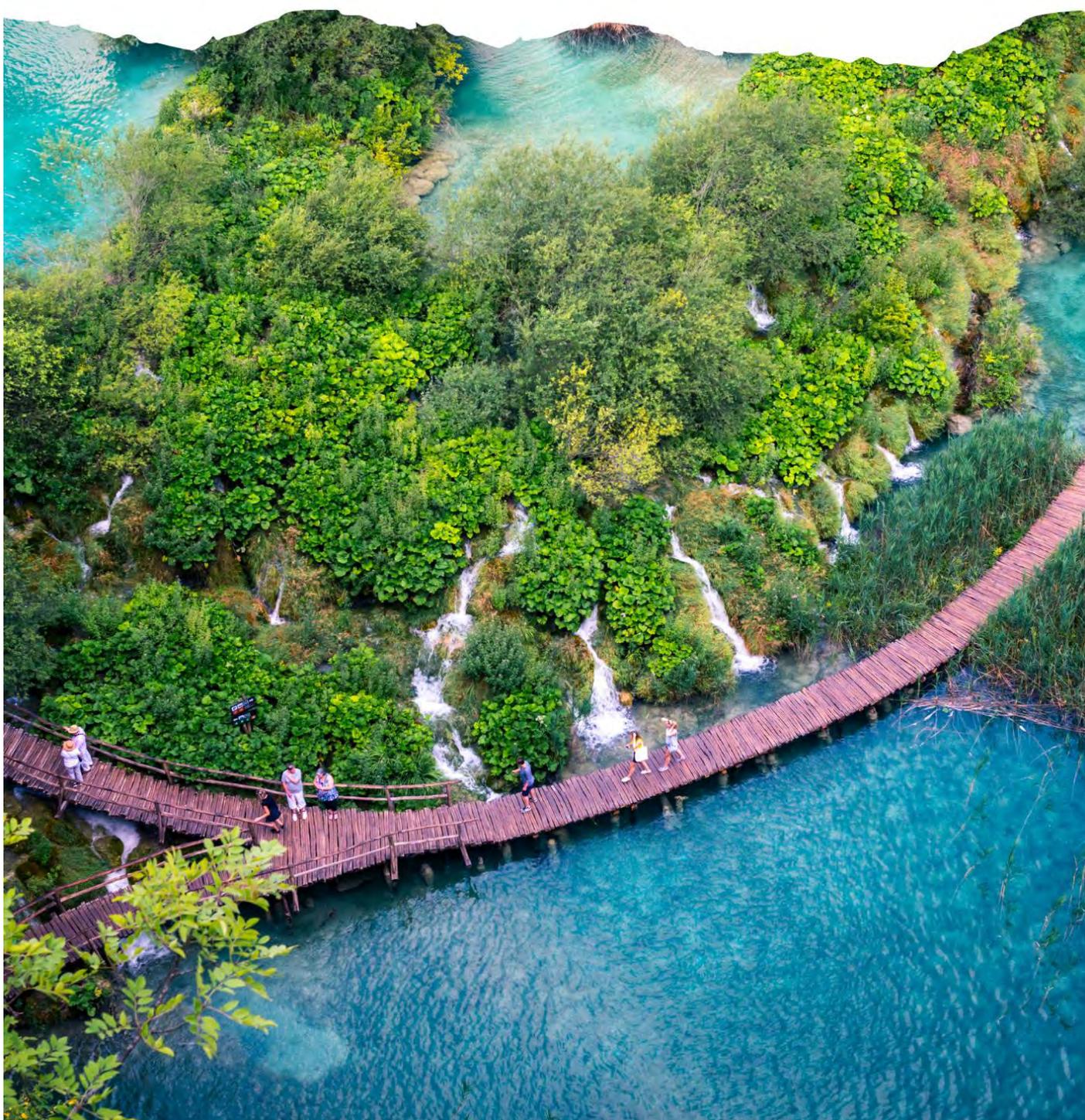
DAY 8 Plitvice Lakes National Park walking tour with private guide

EXPLORING PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

The most beautiful (UNESCO) National park in Croatia

National park Plitvice are an extremely impressive park under the protection of the UNESCO World Heritage. It is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Croatia, therefore, it is very busy.

The area with a total of 16 lakes offers a huge range of hiking trails, each time with unique views. The different routes can be combined with boat connections. Together with your guide you will avoid the greatest crowds and you'll determine the intensity of this walking tour. Don't forget to get a beautiful picture of this unique destination.



DAY 8 Afternoon self - drive from Plitvice Lakes National Park to Zadar and Bastion Heritage Hotel, a ride of approximately 2 hours.

DAY 8 - 9: An overnight in two Deluxe Rooms in Bastion Heritage Hotel, B&B service.

ZADAR

The 3000-year-old World Heritage town is beautifully situated in the Adriatic Sea with traces of the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Venetians who were all temporarily in charge during history. Historic old town of medieval churches, Roman ruins, cosmopolitan cafes and quality museums set on a small peninsula, Zadar is an intriguing city. It's not too crowded, it's not overrun with tourists, and its two unique attractions - the sound-and-light spectacle of the Sea Organ and the Sun Salutation - need to be seen and heard to be believed. The location is a great base for contemporary traveller. For example, you will find the islands of Ugljan and Dugi Otok, which are less crowded than the other more famous islands off the Croatian coast, just 30 minutes away. And while Ugljan is a beautiful island to explore by bicycle, Dugi Otok has beautiful villages and is one of the best places in Croatia for kayaking.

With a sailing boat or a private speedboat, you can visit the hundreds of islands of the Kornati national park. But there is also plenty to do on the mainland: The ancient royal city of Nin is less than 20 kilometers away and a bike ride over narrow gravel paths and along the coast is highly recommended. In short, Zadar has a lot to offer and will definitely be one of the highlights of any trip through Croatia.

BASTION HERITAGE HOTEL

Brilliant mix of Medieval beauty and top technology

In the ancient history, the Bastion Hotel was the stronghold from which Zadar was defended against unwanted invaders. Today Relais & Chateau Bastion hotel is in shiny condition. After the renovation in 2020 it regained the status of our favourite hotel in Zadar. The formerly somewhat old-fashioned hotel has been transformed into a technological 'state of the art' accommodation. You will stay in a real 'smart room', which is equipped with ultramodern features. What has remained the same is the perfect service level. You don't even have to leave the property for an excellent dinner: *Kaštel* is one of the best restaurants in all of Zadar and confirms the culinary reputation of the Relais & Chateau chain at a very high level.



The hotel has always been charming, and we liked to work with them because they always put extra effort to please our guests. After the recent renovation, it has resurrected as a phoenix. We recommend the Bastion Relais & Chateau again without any reserve.

Croatia specialist Joep

DAY 9 - 11: Three days/ two nights sailing in the Zadar's archipelago on a sailing boat

SAILING THROUGH ZADAR'S ARCHIPELAGO

Sail in one of the most beautiful areas of the Adriatic

Today you will go out for three days / two nights tour on a sailing boat with your own captain. The Zadar's archipelago is the best starting point to explore the beautiful Croatian coast. In this exceptionally varied sailing area of over 400 km² you will find hundreds of islands, of which only 20 are inhabited.

Everywhere you are surrounded by crystal clear water and every island is different: wherever you look you will see fascinating landscapes. There are two National parks in this area: Kornati Islands National Park and Telašćica National Park. Weather and wind determine where you are going and together with the captain you decide on the route. Swimming, snorkelling, a delicious lunch on board or an excellent dinner in one of the many restaurants. A few wonderful days on the sea are guaranteed!

DURATION: Three days/ two night

INCLUDED: Sailboat, skipper, fuel, insurance, snorkel gear

NOT INCLUDED: Meals, drinks, harbour fees, meals for the skipper (+/- 20euros per day)



DAY 11: After the sailing you will head off to Šibenik, a ride of approximately 1,5 hours.

ŠIBENIK

Where cities like Zadar and Dubrovnik attract a lot of visitors, Šibenik stays a bit behind for some incomprehensible reason. It is the underdog of the Adriatic coast even though it is the one of the very few cities to have two buildings under UNESCO protection: the famous St James Cathedral and St. Nicholas Fort. This city has much more to offer than medieval splendour. The surrounding nature is also magnificent: the beautiful Kornati islands National Park are easily accessible while the world-famous waterfalls of Krka are only a fifteen-minute drive away. The city also has a great culinary trump: restaurant Pelegrini is one of the best in all of Croatia and was awarded a Michelin star in March 2018. Add to that the very beautiful city centre and the excellent price/quality ratio and you will understand why we strongly recommend staying in Šibenik.



DAY 11 - 15: Four nights in two Superior Marina View rooms in D-Resort Šibenik, B&B service.

D-RESORT ŠIBENIK

Top class hotel on the Adriatic coast

The D-Resort Šibenik is a member of the exclusive SLH (Small Luxury Hotels of the World). It is a beautifully designed and brand-new boutique design hotel on a peninsula close to the old town of Šibenik. The hotel offers everything you would expect from a top resort: plenty of facilities, two swimming pools, a spa and a fitness club.

The D-Resort is ideally located on the Dalmatian coast. Šibenik with its ancient city center is close by and the hotel has its own marina. You can be picked up less than 100 meters from the resort by your private boat with captain to explore beautiful waters around the Šibenik Archipelago. Krka National Park with its famous waterfalls is also only a 20-minute drive away. Here we have developed some very special cycling excursions. All in all, this is a great base to explore the still relatively undiscovered, but oh so beautiful Šibenik and its surroundings.

“ It took a while until we realized how special Šibenik really is. The first time I was there I got lost in the wrong part of the old town and the second time lunch ended in failure. With each next visit, I became more impressed by the charm of this undiscovered town on the Dalmatian coast and the endless possibilities the area offered. We get nothing but positive feedback from our customers and over the years it has become our No. 1 hotel in Croatia.

Croatia specialist Joep



DAY 13 Bike tour in Krka National Park with private guide

BIKING INTO THE UNDISCOVERED SIDE OF KRKA NATIONAL PARK

Adrenaline kick, waterfall swimming and a traditional lunch.

The tour starts with a real adrenaline rush, a spectacular zipline descent in three parts of 650 meters, 500 meters and 250 meters long, with a height difference of no less than 120 meter. You will enjoy the view over the impressive landscape like a bird. After this the cycling adventure begins. The first part leads to a beautiful view over the remains of the Kljucica fortress, situated high on a cliff. The canyon under it was one of the most important trade routes in the Middle Ages connecting the Ottoman Empire with Venice. The next stop offers a beautiful view over Lake Visovac with a 14th century Franciscan monastery in the middle, one of the photographic highlights of the national park. A beautiful descent to the Roški waterfalls follows. This is a green shaded oasis, a wonderful resting point on a hot summer day. Here you can take a walk along the series of waterfalls or enjoy the view from the Ozidjana cave. You can even take a boat trip to visit the Franciscan monastery that you previously admired from high up on the mountain. On a warm day it is also wonderful to take a refreshing dip in the Krka river. (of course, we provide towels).

After this we have a culinary surprise: a transfer to a private restaurant in an idyllic place and under a wonderfully cool canopy of trees. Here you enjoy a classic *peka*. This is the best-known Croatian rural dish; a large pan is filled with all kinds of goodies and is hermetically sealed on a hot layer of charcoal. After a few hours (don't worry, these are hours prior to your visit), it is ready, and you enjoy unbelievably tender and flavourful meat along with vegetables and potatoes. A delicious local wine accompanies this authentic culinary experience.



DAY 14 Quad bike tour in the hinterland of Split**QUAD BIKE TOUR IN THE HINTERLAND OF SPLIT**

Get in touch with your wild side.

You will be picked up at 9 a.m. in the morning for a spectacular tour that will show you a completely different face of Croatia. It is amazing to arrive in a completely different world in less than an hour.

After the arrival in Sinj you start with a short instruction. This tour is very suitable for beginners because the quad bikes have an automatic gear and are in perfect condition. Your guide is a skilled professional and you determine the pace with him. In the unspoiled hinterland of Split, this private quad bike tour takes you through ever-changing landscapes. Uphill and downhill, through green meadows, along deserted villages and sweeping views everywhere. The roads are partly paved, partly gravel and occasionally you drive through the fields. The chance that you will encounter other tourists during this adventure is basically non-existent. Today you and your guide are alone in the world. The tour ends with a delicious lunch with local specialties in an idyllic spot in a farm. After lunch, you have a transfer back to your hotel.



DAY 15 Self - drive to Grand Park Hotel Rovinj. It will take approximately 4,5 hours, the longest ride on this trip.

DAY 15 - 19 Four nights in a Family Sea view room in Grand Park Rovinj Hotel, B&B service.

GRAND PARK HOTEL ROVINJ

Where the sea meets the park, and the park meets the town - three elements that come together in the new Grand Park Hotel Rovinj.

The Grand Park hotel in Rovinj is the most prestigious hotel of the Croatian Maistra chain. No expense has been spared here to create an accommodation that will delight even the most spoiled traveller. The rooms, the restaurants and the facilities meet the highest possible standards; state of the art perfection.

Hotel is situated at the best imaginable location in Rovinj, right on the promenade connecting the Golden Cape Park Forest to Rovinj. If you turn left you will immediately arrive at the beautiful Mulini beach and when you turn right you it is only a few minutes' walk to the old town of Rovinj. Grand Park offers a wide choice of culinary adventures; the dizzyingly rich breakfast is served in the Laurel & Berry restaurant, the Cap Aure Signature Restaurant serves Mediterranean and international delights and from Viva Eufemia Lobby Bar the view of Rovinj is breathtaking.

Hotel has an enormous wellness area that is spread over five floors and is no less than 3500m² in size. A large selection of saunas and steam baths and three swimming pools provide a unique Spa experience.



In the construction phase, the construction of the Grand Park hotel has caused great annoyance to the residents of Rovinj for many years. The view from the city of the construction site hurt the eyes and the western entrance to Rovinj along the sea side was completely blocked. After the princess woke up kissing the Grand Park frog, this displeasure turned to utter satisfaction.

Croatia specialist Joep



DAY 17: e-bike tour on Kamenjak peninsula with private guide

E-BIKING ON THE KAMENJAK PENINSULA

Cycling through one of the most beautiful natural areas in Croatia

You will be picked up at your hotel and Daniel will take you a little south by car. Once you arrive at Kamenjak, "electric" mountain bike will wait for you - a wonderfully stable bike, with which climbs can be taken effortlessly. In summer it is very busy in Istria, but on this bike tour you will hardly be bothered by anybody. You are staying far away from the traffic and the crowds.

The route takes all kinds of back roads and paths through rolling hills, full of wonderful fragrant of Mediterranean shrubs and flowers as well as great view of the crystal-clear green-blue water of the Adriatic Sea. You will follow "the trail of the Dinosaur" and pass by interesting beach bars and restaurants. You can stop for a delicious lunch (not included). Don't forget to bring your swim gear, because you can take a dip on the way. By the way, you do not have to worry that route might be too difficult or tiresome. Daniel is extremely flexible and ensures that the rhythm and pace of the day is exactly according to your wishes.



Start planning.

We have created this example trip and itinerary with different activities just as an example or better say guideline of what you can do. If you like what you see then of course you can copy them exactly, but we like to take individual approach to every new trip.

We will discuss your desired experiences as well as budget to optimise your choice. After you tell us your preferences, we get to know you better and we create a journey just for you. As ever, you can always side-step our forms and example itineraries and get in contact with us by email or phone. You are in the hands of experts therefore prepare for bespoke, once in the lifetime, perfectly tailored experience.

»» **Contact us**

»» **FAQ**

Start planning your perfect trip and fill out our Local Heroes **Online Enquiry Form**. Tell us a few details about your travel plans and we'll create the perfect experience for you.

Everything we do is tailor-made and adapted just for you, so when filling out our form give us as many information as possible so we can create perfect journey. After we receive your Booking Form, our Local Hero Expert will contact you, listen to your ideas and guide you to your dream trip. Your Local Hero Expert will begin to tailor and mould an itinerary around what you want.

Some of the parts in our offer are extremely exclusive and they can get booked quickly as the number of the available units, seats or tables is limited. Travelling with Local Heroes will get you that exclusive and luxurious adventure, so don't wait any longer and get in touch!