

# Discover Croatia, Slovenia and the Adriatic Coast & Exploring Greece and Its Islands

Departing Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> to Mon 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Experience Collette!

 **collette**  
guided by travel

Enjoy the best value in four-star touring, with more inclusions, perfectly located hotels and the best tour managers.

## YOUR COLLETTE

### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Days 1–3	Valamar Lacroma Resort, Dubrovnik
Day 4	Atrium Hotel, Split
Day 5	Jezero Hotel, Plitvice
Days 6, 7	Hotel Bristol, Opatija, Opatija
Days 8, 9	Hotel Lev, Ljubljana
Day 10	Sheraton Zagreb Hotel, Zagreb
Days 11, 12	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
Day 13	Famissi Eden Hotel, Kalambaka
Day 14	Domotel Anemolia Resort & Conference, Arachova
Days 15, 16	Europa Hotel Olympia, Olympia
Day 17	Nafplia Luxury Hotels, Nafplio
Days 18, 19	San Marco Hotel, Mykonos
Days 20–22	El Greco Hotel Resort, Santorini
Day 23	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Tour days and dates are subject to change

**26 Days • 40 Meals:**

**23 Breakfasts • 1 Lunch • 16 Dinners**

Base per person rates from: **Double**  
**\$13135.00 inc airmiles**

**Single \$16285.00 including airmiles**

**Book and deposit by the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 and  
receive \$900 per person discount**

## Highlights

Dubrovnik • Choice On Tour • Cilipi Family-Style Dinner • Split • Diocletian's Palace • Plitvice Lakes National Park • Opatija • Isthrian Peninsula • Farm-to-Table Dinner • Ljubljana • Lake Bled • Pletna Boat Ride • Zagreb • Athens • Taverna Dinner Show • Choice on Tour • Metéora • Delphi • Olympia • Greek Farm Visit • Cooking Class • Greek Dance Class • Mycenae • Nafplio • Mykonos  
• Santorini • Ancient Akrotiri



For enquiries please contact **Victor Tours (08) 8552 8001**

# Experience It! Dubrovnik

A group of refugees from Epidaurum (today's Cavtat) founded Dubrovnik in the first half of the 7th century. After being under the protection of the Byzantine Empire and falling under the sovereignty of Venice, Dubrovnik ruled itself as a free state, and the Republic of Dubrovnik, and flourished in the 15th and 16th centuries to become Venice's chief shipping rival. The beginning of the end for the Republic arrived, care of a devastating earthquake in 1667 that claimed more than 5,000 citizens. The Republic met its official demise in 1808 when it was abolished and integrated in to the Illyrian provinces after Napoleon's armies conquered the city. Since 1808, Dubrovnik has

fallen under attack and been occupied and annexed several times, most recently as part of the second Yugoslavia (1945-1991). Dubrovnik, however, has survived and continues to reign as one of the most beautiful and fascinating cities on the entire Adriatic, with its medieval walls that surround its old city, protecting the ancient buildings contained within. This is Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage site unlike any other.



## Collette Experiences

- Visit Europe's oldest pharmacy at Dubrovnik's Franciscan Monastery.
- Stroll through Split and see the famous Diocletian's Palace.
- Experience old-world charm with a Pletna boat ride to the picturesque island in the centre of Lake Bled.
- Come to know two breathtaking Byzantine monasteries in Metéora, built over 600 years ago.
- Experience the Delphi Museum with its priceless collection of ancient artefacts.
- Broaden your knowledge of traditional Greek music with a delightful Greek dance class.

## Must-See Inclusions

- Spend three nights in Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic."
- Explore Opatija, "Croatia's Riviera," a retreat for Habsburg Monarchs.
- Experience the wonder of 16 cascading lakes at Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park.
- Join a local expert to explore Athens and its famed sites.
- Explore the grandeur of Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games.
- Have a day to explore Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands.

## Culinary Inclusions

- Visit a local family for dinner in the Konavle region outside Dubrovnik.
- Sample farm-to-table delicacies of the Istrian Peninsula during dinner at a local restaurant.
- Feast on local food and wine at a traditional "taverna."
- Partake in a Mediterranean cooking experience followed by a traditional Greek lunch.
- Sample the finest wines in Greece during a winery tour in Santorini.

**Day 1: Friday, September 6, 2019**  
**Dubrovnik, Croatia - Tour Begins** Your tour begins in the medieval city of Dubrovnik. Get to know your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

**Day 2: Saturday, September 7, 2019**  
**Dubrovnik** Join a local guide on a tour of "Old Dubrovnik," a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the Franciscan Monastery, where Europe's oldest pharmacy resides, and see Dubrovnik's many historical sites, from Rector's Palace to the City Walls. This afternoon, **it's your choice!** Join a local

expert in Dubrovnik's Old Town harbour for a cruise\* with magnificent views of the medieval city walls before visiting nearby Lokrum Island where you can swim, marvel at exotic plants or take a walk with peacocks **-OR-** receive a ticket to access the walls that contain the old city of Dubrovnik and gain a different perspective on this remarkable place (this choice gives you more leisure time to explore the city). This evening, travel to Cilipi in the culturally-rich Konavle region, where you'll be welcomed for dinner at a family-owned local restaurant. Visit with the family and learn about life in the Croatian

heartland as you sample regional wines. At dinner, servers introduce you to a culinary feast, prepared in the way of their ancestors. (B, D)

**Day 3: Sunday, September 8, 2019**  
**Dubrovnik** Spend today at leisure. Relax or independently explore the marble streets and beautiful baroque buildings of Dubrovnik's breathtaking Old Town. Or, you may choose to purchase our optional excursion to Montenegro; if so, leave in the morning to cross the border to Montenegro's Bay of Kotor, or "the Boka." Once known as

Europe's southernmost fjord, it is actually a ria (a long, narrow inlet). Your guide will introduce you to the history of the region and share stories of the many cultures and empires that have left their mark here. (B)

#### Day 4: Monday, September 9, 2019

**Dubrovnik - Split** Savour stunning sea views as you travel up the winding coastal road, hugging the sheer cliffs that drop dramatically into the aquamarine of the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy a stop in a quaint village in the Croatian countryside, where you'll have time to taste some of the local specialities and perhaps take a walk through the village square. Upon arrival in Split, set out on a walking tour featuring the impressive Diocletian's Palace, one of the most significant late-Roman historical monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Also, see the peristyle of the palace and the Temple of Jupiter. (B)

#### Day 5: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

**Split - Plitvice Lakes** Enjoy a morning at leisure in Split. This afternoon, travel to Plitvice Lakes, one of the oldest, largest, and most beautiful national parks in Croatia. Inspiring scenery is one of the wonders you'll experience at this designated UNESCO World Heritage site. (B, D)

#### Day 6: Wednesday, September 11, 2019

**Plitvice Lakes - Opatija** Travel among the park's dense forests and 16 terraced lakes, where waterfalls and free-flowing cascades connect one lake to the other. Enjoy a short cruise that takes you into the heart of this natural wonder that extends over 73,000 acres. From the forest landscapes of Plitvice Lakes, travel this afternoon to the seaside resort of Opatija, known as "Croatia's Riviera." This fashionable region was once the summer retreat for Roman Caesars and Habsburg Monarchs. (B)

#### Day 7: Thursday, September 12, 2019

**Opatija - Istrian Peninsula - Opatija** Known as "Croatia's Riviera," Opatija was once the summer retreat for Roman Caesars and Habsburg Monarchs. Discover the richness of the Istrian Peninsula with its Italian and Croatian influences. Pay a visit to



a local distillery, where the owners use regional plants, fruits, and herbs to produce brandies, snacks and other treats. Discover a picture-perfect example of a rural Croatian town. In the late afternoon, a delightful farm-to-table dinner at a local restaurant lets you sample the regional wines and culinary delicacies of the Istrian Peninsula. (B, D)

#### Day 8: Friday, September 13, 2019

**Ljubljana, Slovenia** Travel into picturesque Slovenia, to Ljubljana, a capital city in the midst of a cultural renaissance. Take in the spectacular scenery on the drive, and upon your arrival, an afternoon at leisure lets you relax and explore the city. (B, D)

#### Day 9: Saturday, September 14, 2019

**Ljubljana - Lake Bled - Ljubljana** This morning, meet a local expert who introduces you to this lovely town nestled along the banks of the river. Your tour includes the impressive City Hall and a visit to the magnificent Cathedral of St. Nicholas. After free time for lunch, drive a short distance to tranquil Lake Bled, and experience the old-world charm that comes with taking a Pletna boat to the picturesque island in the centre. Spend time exploring the 17th-century cathedral, St. Mary's Church, and the "wishing bell." Enjoy some time to stroll the quiet paths of this lakeside community at your own pace. (B)

#### Day 10: Sunday, September 15, 2019

**Ljubljana - Zagreb, Croatia** Today we travel to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. Embark on a tour of this fascinating city that has marked the intersection of Eastern and Central Europe for more than 1000 years. After free time this afternoon for independent exploration, celebrate the end of an unforgettable trip with dinner at a popular local restaurant. (B, D)

#### Day 11: Monday, September 16, 2019

**Zagreb, Croatia - Athens, Greece** Your first tour comes to a close this morning in Zagreb. Your second tour begins in the capital city of Athens. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner in Athens' historic Plaka district. In a traditional taverna, feast on local cuisine and wine while enjoying Greek entertainment. (B, D)^

#### Day 12: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

**Athens Enjoy a panoramic tour of the highlights in Athens** showcasing the city's ancient and glorious monuments, such as the Temple of Zeus, the Royal Palace, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Olympic Stadium. Next, it's your choice! Choose a comprehensive tour of the incredible Acropolis - OR - embark on a walking tour of some of the city's hidden gems, including Pnyx - where democracy was formed in Greece - and the Temple of Hephaestus. (B)

**Day 13: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 Athens - Thermopylae - Metéora - Kalambaka** Travel north through central Greece to Thermopylae. Stop to see a monument dedicated to Leonidas who died defending the city against the Persians. Arrive in Metéora and **visit two remote monasteries** situated in a unique landscape of limestone rock “towers” that extend nearly 900 feet into the air. Over 600 years ago, Byzantine monks chose to build their monastic community perched atop these virtually inaccessible rocks. End your day at a family-owned taverna where you will savour a delicious meal with recipes passed down from generations. (B, D)

**Day 14: Thursday, September 19, 2019 Kalambaka - Delphi - Arachova** This morning, visit a local studio to see painters at work creating beautiful Byzantine icons. Continue to the ancient city of Delphi, one of Greece’s most important religious centres during Classical times. A local expert guides you on a visit to the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Doric Temple, the ancient theatre, and the Delphi Museum with its priceless collection of ancient artefacts. It was here that the famous Oracle was consulted to foretell the destiny of Man. Continue on to charming Arachova, a popular ski resort town with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. (B, D)

**Day 15: Friday, September 20, 2019 Arachova - Olympia** Travel along the Gulf of Corinth, crossing into the Peloponnese to the historic city of Olympia, a testament to the grandeur of ancient Greek civilisation. Visit a local farm in the countryside and meet with the owners to learn about everyday life. Following the tour, enjoy a tasting of local

wines, olive oil, homemade jams, marmalades and sweets. (B, D)

**Day 16: Saturday, September 21, 2019 Olympia** Your guided visit to ancient Olympia includes a tour of the sanctuary of Zeus, the Olympic Stadium – where the first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C. – and the museum. Next, learn how to cook some of the region’s best dishes as you partake in a Mediterranean cooking experience followed by a traditional Greek lunch. This evening, broaden your knowledge of traditional Greek musical instruments and folkloric dances with a delightful Greek dance class. (B, L, D)

**Day 17: Sunday, September 22, 2019 Olympia - Mycenae - Nafplio** Enjoy spectacular scenery as you cross the Arkadian Mountains en route to the ancient city of Mycenae for a guided visit of the excavations featuring the Beehive Tombs and the Lion Gate. Your day ends in the picturesque seaside resort of Nafplio. (B)

**Day 18: Monday, September 23, 2019 Nafplio - Athens - Mykonos** This morning, transfer\*\* to the port of Athens for the high-speed ferry ride to Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands. Enjoy magnificent views as you cruise across the brilliant Aegean Sea to this island paradise. (B, D)

**Day 19: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 Mykonos** Enjoy a relaxing day to **independently explore the charms of Mykonos**. Don’t miss Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. (B)

**Day 20: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 Mykonos - Santorini** Cruise to the most spectacular destination in the Mediterranean, the fabled island of Santorini. (B, D)

**Day 21: Thursday, September 26, 2019 Santorini - Oia - Santorini** Begin your day with a visit to the excavation site of ancient Akrotiri, the most important prehistoric settlement found anywhere in the Eastern Mediterranean. Known as the “Minoan Pompeii,” the flourishing town was at once destroyed and preserved by a volcanic eruption around 1450 B.C. Next, **travel through a fascinating landscape of vineyards, whitewashed chapels and volcanic cliffs to the spectacular town of Oia**, where the best views of the crater are found. End your day with a visit to a local winery that produces the unique and famous wines of Santorini. (B)

**Day 22: Friday, September 27, 2019 Santorini** Your day is at leisure to relax or independently explore Santorini, considered one of the most stunning landscapes in the world. Shop in Thira’s charming town centre, take in the breathtaking scenery, visit a local museum or simply enjoy the amenities of your hotel. (B, D)

**Day 23: Saturday, September 28, 2019 Santorini - Athens** Bid farewell to the Greek Islands and fly back to Athens for your overnight stay. Celebrate the end of a memorable trip to Greece with a delightful farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 24: Sunday, September 29, 2019 Athens - Tour Ends** Your tour ends today. (B)

## Please Note:

\*The Dubrovnik By the Sea/Lokrum Island cruise choice (in Dubrovnik) is dependent on favorable weather conditions. If the cruise is unavailable, the city wall tickets will be available to everyone.

^Flight not included for this day.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Based on return flight options, an early morning departure from the hotel may be required on the last day.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline’s terms and conditions.

Passports are required at your own expense for travel outside of Australia. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity beyond the return date from the destination. Some

countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry into the country. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate embassy or consulate for specific information and entry requirements.

This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces, should be expected.

Due to the nature of this itinerary, both 3- and 4-star hotels that may be located in the vicinity of historic centres will be utilised.

Luggage handling is not available when getting on and off the ferries in Mykonos and Santorini.

Hotel accommodations while in Nafplio will be confirmed 60 days prior to departure at either Nafplia Palace Hotel & Villas or Amphitryon Hotel.

\*\*Due to the ferry schedule on day 8 of some departures, you may be required to depart the hotel in Nafplio as early as 4:00 a.m. Should this be the case, a boxed breakfast will be provided in place of the regular hotel breakfast.

The internal flights on this program are included in the land price of your tour.

Many activities in this itinerary include walking on uneven terrain, or require significant walking at times. Some of the unique experiences, such as visiting historical areas, mean accessing locations by foot because coaches are restricted. If you require a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may not be able to access some of these areas and may want to consider an alternate tour. Our travel counselors can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.