

The best of Croatia

From **4/9/2020**
to **11/9/2020**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

From **Venice**
to **Venice**

Discover the beauty of the Adriatic with **PONANT** on an exceptional **8-day cruise** in **Croatia**. Aboard **Le Lyrial**, fall under the spell of the hidden treasures of the Croatian coast and its turquoise waters.

Your voyage will begin in Italy with an embarkation in **Venice**. An opportunity to discover or rediscover the sublime city of the Doges, with its many canals, its *vaporetti* and its mythical gondolas.

Le Lyrial will then call at **Korçula**, full of olive groves, vineyards and ancient buildings. An island marked by history, the birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo.

You will then head to the aptly named "Pearl of the Adriatic", **Dubrovnik**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. Surrounded by medieval ramparts, its terracotta-tiled roofs, its palaces, cloisters and fountains are bound to impress you and will plunge you into the heart of Croatian history.

Your ship will then set sail towards **Montenegro**, for an unforgettable cruise in the **Bay of Kotor**. This impressive gash between two mountain ranges is home to a veritable inland lake with a magical atmosphere; the medieval city of Kotor and its many historical monuments are its jewels.

Your exploration of the Croatian coastlines will conclude with visits of **Hvar**, **Pula** and **Rovinj**, before you head back to Venice.





The information in this document is valid as of 1/6/2020

The best of Croatia

YOUR STOPOVERS :

VENICE

Embarkation 4/9/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 4/9/2020 at 18h00

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark's square**, the **basilica**, **Doges palace**, the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas**. Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

KORCULA

Arrival 5/9/2020 early afternoon

Departure 5/9/2020 evening

This harbour town has a very special location, presiding on a spur on the north-eastern coast of the island of Korčula. The ramparts in its medieval district provide perfect vantage points over the Pelješac peninsula. To get there, you can take the monumental staircase in the **Revelin Tower**. Another way is to climb the steps in the shade of palm trees from the **Morska Vrata** (Marine portal). As you make your way through the little streets, you'll see the bell-tower of **Saint-Mark's cathedral** rise above you. This landmark will help you locate the **house** where **Marco Polo** was born. The island also has some of its own famous wines like the red Plavac and the white Posip.

SIBENIK

Arrival 6/9/2020 early morning

Departure 6/9/2020 early morning

Located at the heart of central Dalmatia, Sibenik is proud of its pure Croatian architecture, unlike its neighbours which were founded by the Romans. Behind its walls, along its steep narrow streets with their almost Italian charm, the old town has conserved a **prestigious built heritage of churches** and palaces dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. The magnificent **Cathedral of Saint James** is one of the emblematic sites of the city. The remarkable ornate frieze of 71 sculpted portraits of women, men and children, illustrates the successful merger of **Gothic and Renaissance art**.

SPLIT

Arrival 6/9/2020 midday

Departure 6/9/2020 evening

On the Dalmatian coast, the town of Split offers cultural visits in a seaside atmosphere. Close to the seafront shaded by palm trees, the historical centre listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasts a unique building: **the Diocletian's Palace**. Here you will explore its galleries, courtyards with carved columns, as well as a former mausoleum converted into a church, namely **Saint Domnius Cathedral**. If you get peckish, stop off at a terrace in the **Pjaca**, the main square in the old town, where you can try a palacinka, a kind of pancake topped with melted cheese.

DUBROVNIK

Arrival 7/9/2020 early morning

Departure 7/9/2020 late evening

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts**. But what's inside **Fort Saint John**, adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

KOTOR

Arrival 8/9/2020 early morning

Departure 8/9/2020 evening

Situated in one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays, **the medieval city** of Kotor is a small town full of charm, truly imbued with the traditions and stories of another time. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has preserved many historical monuments from this epoch. During your stop, be sure to admire the impressive castle that dominates the town, and let yourself fall under the charm of its maze of small streets and intimate squares on which folk festivals featuring magnificent colourful costumes are often organised.

HVAR

Arrival 9/9/2020 early morning

Departure 9/9/2020 late afternoon

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that haven't changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad**, is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil

manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers. The picturesque village of **Vrisnik** is also a good place to try some of local produce.

PULA

Arrival 10/9/2020 early morning

Departure 10/9/2020 midday

The Pearl of the Adriatic, lying at the southern tip of the Istrian Peninsula, Pula is undoubtedly the most Roman of all Croatian towns. Some of the greatest pages in history were written here, as the **brehtaking ancient remains** testify. Take your pick exploring the **amphitheatre**, the Twin Gates, the Gate of Hercule and the triumphal Arch of the Sergii. Stroll through the busy lanes in the old town, enjoying the warm welcome of the locals, and perhaps you will be tempted to try the famous Kvarner scampi or Istrian ham.

ROVINJ

Arrival 10/9/2020 early afternoon

Departure 10/9/2020 evening

Rovinj is located in Istria, a region bordering Slovenia. This becomes apparent as you walk through its old cobblestoned town. There are many **monuments of Venetian influence** here. If you study the Balbi arch, you will see the winged lion, symbol of Venice. The bell-tower erected beside **Saint Euphemia Cathedral** was designed like the bell of St. Marc in Venice. From the top of the tower, you can scan the entire historical district. To absorb its quaint atmosphere, take a walk in the ochre and sepia-coloured streets leading to bustling squares and terraces shaded by canvas awnings.

VENICE

Arrival 11/9/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 11/9/2020 at 07h00

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark's square**, the **basilica**, **Doges palace**, the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas**. Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.