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Croatia, by Sea & Shore Adriatic Explorer | September 22 – October 3, 2027

Sep 22, 2027 - Oct 3, 2027

Information & Documents

PRICING and INCLUSIONS

Accommodations and ship

- **Dubrovnik:** Heritage Hotel Lucia, two nights.
- **Cruise:** Katarina Line's deluxe superior **Ave Maria**, seven nights, September 25–October 2.
- **Zagreb:** Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, one night.

Estimated package pricing

- **Lower-deck cabin: $6,300 per person**, based on double occupancy.
- **Upper-deck cabin with balcony: $6,930 per person**, based on double occupancy.
- **Single occupancy:** Quote on request.
- **Booking: $1000 per person deposit due at booking. Deposit insurance to cancel for covered reason: $98.00 per person. (Not cancel for any reason)**
- **Final Payment due July 10, 2027.**

On our **September 25, 2027 sailing on Ave Maria**, the choice is mainly about the view and private outdoor space:

	Lower deck	**Upper deck**
Cabin	In the hull, with a small porthole and no balcony	VIP cabin with a private balcony
Feel	Cozy, with less natural light	Brighter, with a place to sit outside and enjoy the coast
Your package price	**$6,300 per person**	**$6,930 per person**

Both have a private bathroom and air conditioning, and guests share the same cruise amenities and itinerary. Katarina says the portholes on newer Deluxe Superior ships such as Ave Maria cannot be opened.

The **upper deck is great for** those who'll use the balcony for morning coffee or quiet time. The lower deck is a good value for guests who expect to spend their time ashore or up on the sun deck.

These are package estimates from the supplied proposal, subject to availability, final supplier confirmation and any applicable changes *before booking.* No space is represented as held--this ship is filling fast! On these very small vessels, they don't reserve rooms.

Included

- Three hotel nights as listed, with breakfast.
- Seven nights aboard Ave Maria in the selected cabin category, with en-suite bathroom.
- Private transfers: Dubrovnik airport–hotel; Dubrovnik hotel–ship; round trip to the Opatija group dinner; ship–Zagreb hotel; Zagreb hotel–airport.
- Private three-hour Dubrovnik walking tour and one-day City Pass.
- Special group dinner at Plavi Podrum near Opatija.
- Onboard wine and olive oil tasting
- Shipboard welcome reception and cocktail, daily buffet breakfast, daily three-course lunch with cheese and salad bar, Captain's Dinner with live entertainment, one additional onboard dinner as scheduled, water from the fountain, coffee and tea after lunch, and fresh fruit.
- Professional tour manager, luggage handling, daily cabin service and towel change, midweek linen change, and onboard Wi-Fi.
- Guided walks in Korčula, Zadar, Rab and Opatija; Neretva barge excursion and Narona Museum; winery tasting and light tapas lunch; Rab cake tasting; and Krka National Park admission.

Additional costs

- **There is 60 euro per person fee payable on boarding--local tax**

International airfare; passports and any required visas; local hotel/room taxes collected directly by hotels; drinks and meals not listed above; optional excursions including the Dubrovnik cooking class; gratuities; personal expenses; and travel protection. Travel protection is strongly recommended.

We are happy to assist with airfare, travel insurance, and any other pre and/or post travel. We will offer a post cruise tour for those of you interested in exploring Croatia's interior. Istria is the Tuscany of Croatia. Zinfandel wine is native to Croatia, and there's so much more!

Why Katarina? Why this cruise?

1. **The ship feels personal.** Ave Maria carries up to **38 guests**. People can get to know one another over the week, and our group will feel like a group without taking over an enormous vessel.
2. **Ave Maria is a lovely choice within the fleet.** She's a **Deluxe Superior** ship with en-suite, air-conditioned cabins, a sun deck and a jacuzzi. Her **11 upper-deck balcony cabins** give you a particularly appealing upgrade.
3. **The route actually explores Croatia.** This sailing travels one way from Dubrovnik to Opatija, taking in island towns, the Neretva Delta, Krka National Park, Zadar and Rab. You'll see distinct parts of the country instead of returning to the same port.
4. **The experiences have a sense of place.** This cruise includes guided walks, a traditional barge excursion and Narona Museum visit, winery visits and an onboard olive-oil tasting, Rab cake, and Krka admission. Those are wonderful stories to bring home!
5. **There's a pleasing rhythm to the days.** Breakfast and lunch are generally aboard, with time to explore the towns where the ship stays overnight. That leaves room for you to choose a waterfront restaurant or wander after dinner rather than following a packed schedule every evening. The included meals and overnight ports support that rhythm; the freedom you feel is my take on why it works so well.
6. **The logistics are refreshingly easy.** Unpack once for seven nights while the scenery changes around them. A tour manager, guided walks, cabin service and onboard Wi-Fi are included.
7. **It's made for the way we like to travel.** We've added time in Dubrovnik before sailing, a special dinner near Opatija, and a final night at the Esplanade in Zagreb. (Gorgeous hotel--they restored after the earthquake but kept its opulent old world charm!)
8. Katarina provides the coastal journey; we give it the thoughtful beginning, finish and personal care that make this a Renaissance trip.

This will be my 4th time in Croatia, so clearly I love it. And I know you will, too! It will be my 3rd small ship cruise here, plus one all-land tour. The language is a bit difficult--it's nothing like Spanish, so you may be hard-pressed to limp along, but no worries. You'll find plenty of English geared to us tourists, and the currency is the euro, so you can use up your change from your previous trips.

September 22 - fly from US

Proposal introduction

Croatia is even better when you take it slowly. Begin with two nights beside Dubrovnik's old city, then board the intimate deluxe superior **Ave Maria** for seven nights among Adriatic islands, historic harbors, waterfalls, and coastal towns. A memorable group dinner near Opatija and a final night at Zagreb's grand Esplanade Hotel complete this 11-day journey.

Route: Dubrovnik → Korčula → Metković / Neretva Delta → Trogir → Skradin / Krka National Park / Šibenik → Zadar → Rab → Opatija → Zagreb

Dates: Thursday, September 23 through Sunday, October 3, 2027 (10 nights: 2 Dubrovnik, 7 aboard ship, 1 Zagreb).

Fly from US on the 22nd.

Dubrovnik
Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, HR

Fly from your home airport to Dubrovnik arrive tomorrow the 23rd

September 23 - Arrive Dubrovnik

Thursday, September 23 | Arrive in Dubrovnik

Arrive at Dubrovnik Airport, where a private transfer brings you to **Heritage Hotel Lucia** for a two-night stay. Settle in near the old city and enjoy your first evening on the Adriatic at your own pace.

Perched above Dubrovnik's historic center, Heritage Hotel Lucia is an intimate boutique retreat inspired by culture, refined gastronomy, and timeless Croatian hospitality. Through personalized service, local artistry, and immersive culinary experiences, offers an intimate experience shaped by Dubrovnik's heritage, Mediterranean light, and Adriatic way of life.

Overnight: Heritage Hotel Lucia, Dubrovnik. **Included:** Private arrival transfer.

September 24 - Dubrovnik Touring

Friday, September 24 | Dubrovnik's old city

Friday, September 24 | Dubrovnik's old city

Meet your private guide at Pile Gate for a three-hour walk through Dubrovnik's historic center. Your one-day Dubrovnik City Pass gives you time to continue exploring, including the option to walk the city walls independently. This afternoon is yours to enjoy.

Perched above the rocky coastline of the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik Old Town enchants visitors with its medieval architecture, labyrinth of limestone-paved streets, and massive, fortified stone walls. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was a primary filming location for the fictional city of King's Landing in HBO's Game of Thrones. Today, it's one of the most popular tourist destinations in Croatia.

- OPTIONAL COOKING CLASS: This afternoon at 4pm you will be collected and taken to the countryside outside of Dubrovnik City where you will have a farm tour and hands on cooking class at a fabulous private home. After your class you will enjoy dinner and wine before transferring back to the city. (About $150.00 with transportation--a recent guest cooked Homemade bread, salad, meat skewers, and carob cake. She brought home 5 bottles of the red wine, she loved it so much!)

Overnight: Heritage Hotel Lucia. **Included:** Breakfast, private walking tour, one-day City Pass.

September 25 - Embarkation, Korčula

Saturday, September 25 | Board Ave Maria; Korčula

Group will privately transfer to the harbor to board the Deluxe Superior Ship Ave Maria, on the Katarina Line.

Departure at 13:00h towards Korčula, famously known as the birthplace of explorer Marco Polo. Enjoy a swim stop and lunch on board before arriving in Korčula Town, often referred to as a *miniature Dubrovnik* thanks to its medieval stone ramparts and towers. Join a guided walking tour through the charming old town, where the narrow streets are laid out in a fishbone pattern—a clever design you'll learn more about during the tour.

Spend your evening exploring the town's lively atmosphere, with traditional taverns, seaside restaurants, and cool cocktail bars offering something for everyone. Overnight in Korčula.

Overnight: Ave Maria in Korčula. **Included:** Private hotel-to-ship transfer, shipboard lunch and guided walking tour.

Korčula
Korčula, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, HR

September 26 - Metković and the Neretva Delta

Sunday, September 26 | Metković and the Neretva Delta

Today, cruise inland to discover one of the last remaining wetland deltas in Europe. Arrive in Metković, located along the Neretva River, where vibrant mandarin groves line the water channels. Take a traditional barge ride through the delta to explore its rich flora, fauna, and birdlife, while getting a glimpse of the local way of life that feels delightfully untouched by time.

Visit the Narona Archaeological Museum in nearby Vid, Croatia's first *in situ* museum, built around the remains of a Roman Augusteum temple featuring 17 remarkable marble statues. This was once the sailing ground of ancient Illyrians, Greeks, Romans—and, if legends are true, even Neretva pirates!

This evening, enjoy a Captain's Dinner with live entertainment on board. Overnight in Metković.

Overnight: Ave Maria in Metković. **Included:** Breakfast, lunch, delta excursion, museum visit, Captain's Dinner.

September 27 - Trogir

September 27, Monday TROGIR

From Metković, the cruise continues to Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Dalmatia's most enchanting coastal towns. This small island town is a treasure trove of historical architecture, surrounded by medieval walls and packed with Romanesque and Renaissance buildings.

Upon arrival, join a guided walking tour through the stone-paved streets and discover highlights such as the Cathedral of St. Lawrence, Kamerlengo Fortress, and charming hidden courtyards. Overnight in Trogir.

This is a great stop!

September 28 - Sibenik

September 28, Tuesday SIBENIK

Next, a perfect blend of wine and waterfalls. Cruise towards Skradin, then board a coach to visit a local winery for wine tasting and a light tapas lunch.

Back in Skradin, explore the stunning Krka National Park, home to the famous Skradinski Buk waterfalls—17 cascades tumbling over travertine cliffs, creating a spectacular natural amphitheatre.

After your nature-filled adventure, the journey continues to Šibenik, a historic town nestled along Croatia's central Adriatic coast.

Discover its UNESCO-listed Cathedral of St. James, a Gothic-Renaissance masterpiece, and wander the old town's narrow streets or enjoy some boutique shopping along the waterfront. Dinner on board and overnight in Šibenik.

if you prefer to eat in town, you sure can.

September 29 - Zadar

September 29, Wednesday ZADAR

After breakfast, set course for Zadar, Croatia's oldest university town, renowned for its rich cultural heritage of global significance.

At every turn, history comes alive: visit the Roman Forum from the 1st century, and admire St. Donat's Church, a 9th-century gem and one of the city's most iconic landmarks. The 16th-century City Gate and mighty defensive walls encase a charming old town filled with over 30 churches, elegant family palaces, and standout museums, especially the Museum of Ancient Glass.

On the waterfront, Zadar's modern flair shines through with two award-winning installations: the Sea Organ, playing music powered by waves, and the Greeting to the Sun, a dazzling solar-powered light display.

Zadar has a soundtrack all its own. At the edge of the old town, sit beside the Adriatic and listen to the Sea Organ—an extraordinary installation played by the waves themselves. The music rises through the waterfront steps, sometimes soft and contemplative, sometimes wonderfully odd. I've been there, and it's every bit as cool as it sounds. Stay a while; this is a place to experience, not just photograph.

Overnight in Zadar.

September 30 - Rab Island

September 30, Thursday RAB ISLAND

Departure towards Rab, famously known as the Happy Island, and its charming old town of the same name. Known for its beautiful beaches--and we'll be here overnight so you can enjoy it!

Upon arrival, join a guided walking tour through the historic center, where you'll explore the medieval city walls, the iconic four bell towers, as well as elegant palaces, churches, and lively squares.

The town has a Montmartre-like vibe, with local artists painting and displaying their work in the open air.

After the tour, enjoy a tasting of the legendary Rab cake, a delicacy originally created by local nuns for a visiting Pope. The recipe remains a closely guarded secret, but the flavor speaks for itself.

Overnight in Rab.

October 1 - Opatija

October 1, Friday OPATIJA

The journey continues towards the grand finale—Opatija, often dubbed Croatia's Riviera for its Belle Époque elegance and glamour.

The best way to admire it? From the sea, as royal families, celebrities, and artists once did.

Upon docking, join a guided walking tour to learn about the town's storied past and its architectural jewels.

Then, stroll the famous Franz Joseph promenade (Lungomare) to Volosko, a traditional fishing village now known for some of Croatia's top seafood restaurants.

Or simply soak up the café culture with a coffee, cocktail, or gelato on one of many sea-view terraces.

Overnight in the port of Opatija.

- This evening, we will transfer to Plavi Podrum for a special meal together featuring some of the delicacies of the region, White Truffle! opatija

October 2 - Zagreb

October 2, Saturday ZAGREB

Disembark the ship this morning and privately transfer to Zagreb (a bit over 2 hours away) where you will stay overnight at **Esplanade Zagreb Hotel.**

The historic Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, built in 1925 for passengers of the legendary Orient Express, offers 208 elegant rooms and suites in the heart of Zagreb.

Combining Art Deco charm with modern comfort, the hotel features spacious accommodations, marble bathrooms, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, and convenient access to the city's main cultural, shopping, and business destinations.

Ideal for both business and leisure stays, the Esplanade remains one of Zagreb's most iconic hotels.

The restaurant here is great and the bar scene is interesting--you never know who you might meet there!

October 3 - Zbogom Hrvatskoj! (Farewell Croatia)

October 3, Sunday Fly home or continue your travels

October 3, Sunday DEPART

Privately transfer to the Zagreb Airport where you will board your return flight home--

OR continue your travels!