

by Anonymous traveler (2015)

I recently embarked on a remarkable journey to Croatia, venturing beyond its borders to discover the captivating beauty of Ljubljana in Slovenia, the enchanting Bled Lake and Castle, the historic towns of Brtonigla and Postojna, the picturesque Rovinj and Pula, the charming Plitvice Lakes National Park, the lively city of Split, the idyllic Hvar Island, the iconic walls of Ston town, the majestic Dubrovnik, the stunning Boka Bay in Montenegro, and the culturally rich cities of Mostar and Sarajevo in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This extraordinary trip allowed me to witness the diverse landscapes, rich history, and warm hospitality that make this region so intriguing.



My adventure began in the beautiful city of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. The city's vibrant atmosphere, lined with charming cafes, stunning architecture, and a relaxed ambience, immediately captured my heart. Strolling along the picturesque Ljubljanica River, I admired the cobblestone streets and colorful buildings. The impressive Ljubljana Castle, perched on a hill overlooking the city, offered breathtaking panoramic views that made it a highlight of my visit.

Leaving Ljubljana behind, I made my way to the fairytale-like Bled Lake. The emerald waters surrounded by the Julian Alps created a truly mesmerizing sight. I couldn't resist taking a boat ride to the little island in the middle of the lake, where I discovered a charming church. Climbing up to the Bled Castle, I marveled at its medieval architecture and enjoyed panoramic vistas of the lake and its surroundings. Bled was a true haven of tranquility, offering a much-needed escape from the bustling world.



Continuing my journey into Croatia, I headed to the village of Brtonigla via Postojna. The scenic drive through the countryside allowed me to soak in the natural beauty of the region. Brtonigla, with its quaint

charm and friendly locals, felt like a hidden gem. The nearby Postojna caves provided an awe-inspiring underground adventure, showcasing intricate formations that had formed over millions of years.

The historic towns of Rovinj and Pula showcased the fascinating blend of Venetian and Roman influences that prevail in the region. I was captivated by Rovinj's narrow streets, colorful houses, and the stunning Saint Euphemia Church, offering a panoramic view of the Adriatic Sea. In Pula, I explored the Triumphal Arch of the Sergi, the Hercules' Gate, the Twin Gates, the Temple of Augustus, and the magnificent arena, which evoked the rich history that unfolded within its walls.



My journey then led me to the magnificent Plitvice Lakes National Park. The park's cascading waterfalls, crystal-clear turquoise lakes, and lush greenery created a fairytale setting. Exploring the network of wooden walkways that wended through the park, I marveled at the untouched beauty of the thriving flora and fauna. It was a true feast for the senses and a nature lover's paradise.

Upon arriving in Split, I was immediately immersed in the vibrant energy of the city. Split's historical center, located within the walls of the ancient Diocletian's Palace, was a bustling hub of activity. The narrow streets were filled with shops, cafes, and charming squares. Exploring the historical sites, I appreciated the blend of Roman, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture that made Split truly unique.

Next on my itinerary was a visit to the stunning Hvar Island. This paradise in the Adriatic Sea offered pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and a charming old town. Exploring the UNESCO protected Stari Grad fields, I admired the centuries-old agricultural terraces, a testament to the island's rich history. The colorful sunsets and vibrant nightlife added to the island's allure, making it a perfect blend of relaxation and excitement.

On my way to Dubrovnik, I stopped by the small town of Ston. Famous for its defensive walls, Ston offered a glimpse into the region's rich history. Wandering through the narrow streets, I discovered ancient buildings and enjoyed the freshest oysters, a local delicacy. The town's tranquil ambiance and



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