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## Performance Tour to Croatia and Slovenia May 23 - June 6, 2018 – 15 days/13 nights

ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
#1, 9/14/17

### Day 1 Wednesday May 23 Depart USA for Zagreb.

Assemble at JFK Airport and check in for British Airways flight 112 to London Heathrow.

6.30 PM Flight 112 departs.

Dinner and overnight on the airplane.

### Overnight on board flight

### Day 2 Thursday May 24 (D) Arrive Zagreb

06.25 AM Arrive London and transfer to British Airways flight 848 to Zagreb, Croatia.

08.15 AM Flight 848 departs.

11.35 AM Arrive Zagreb, transfer to your hotel for check in.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to rest and unpack.

A short rehearsal (1-1.5 hours) will take place in the hotel before the welcome dinner.

A welcome dinner is provided in a traditional local restaurant.

*\*Today's activities are pending flight schedules.*

Overnight Zagreb - Hotel Dubrovnik <https://hotel-dubrovnik.hr/>

### Day 3 Friday May 25 (B) (Concert) Zagreb

After breakfast begin a city tour. Zagreb, Croatia's north western capital, is distinguished by its 18th- and 19th-century Austro-Hungarian architecture. At its center, Upper Town is the site of the Gothic, twin-spired Zagreb Cathedral and 13th-century St. Mark's Church, with a colorfully tiled roof. Nearby is pedestrian-friendly Tkalciceva Street, lined with outdoor cafes. Lower Town has the main square, Ban Jelačić, plus shops, museums and parks.

This afternoon is at leisure to prepare for your evening concert.

**This evening you will perform a full concert in Zagreb, a joint concert with a local choir will be requested.**

Overnight Zagreb - Hotel Dubrovnik

#### **Day 4 Saturday May 26 (B) (Concert)**

##### **Zagreb to Ljubljana, Slovenia (100 miles, 2.25 hours)**

After breakfast depart for Ljubljana, Slovenia.

On arrival, meet your guide and begin a walking city tour. *Ljubljana is Slovenia's capital and largest city. It's known for its university population and green spaces, including expansive Tivoli Park. The curving Ljubljanica River, lined in outdoor cafes, divides the city's old town from its commercial hub. Ljubljana has many museums, including the National Museum of Slovenia, displaying historic exhibitions, and the Museum of Modern Art, home to 20th-century Slovene paintings and sculptures.*

The tour ends at your hotel for check in. Your luggage will be transferred to the hotel while you are on the walking tour.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to prepare for your evening concert.

**This evening you may perform a full concert in Ljubljana, a joint concert with a local choir will be requested.**

**Overnight Ljubljana - Grand Hotel Union** <http://www.union-hotels.eu/en/grand-hotel-union/>

#### **Day 5 Sunday May 27 (B)**

##### **Ljubljana, excursion to Postojna Cave and Lipica stud farm (100 miles, 2.5 hours total drive time)**

After breakfast depart for Postojna cave. *Postojna Cave is the second-longest cave system in Slovenia. You'll travel by train deep into the cave system. An informal performance will be requested in the Great Hall of the cave.*

After your cave visit transfer to Lipica stud farm, one of the oldest stud farms in the world with a tradition dating back to 1580. *Here you'll see the white mares with their dark foals, admire the historical center of the stud farm and visit the interactive Lipikum museum.*

Pending timing you may also see a Lipizzaner performance.

Return to Ljubljana.

**Overnight Ljubljana - Grand Hotel Union**

#### **Day 6 Monday May 28 (B)**

##### **Ljubljana, excursion to Lake Bled (35 miles, .75 hours)**

After breakfast depart for Lake Bled. *The lake is situated in a picturesque environment, surrounded by mountains and forests. The medieval-era Bled Castle stands above the lake, built on a precipice overlooking Lake Bled. The lake surrounds Bled Island, on which is the Church of the Assumption.*

Meet your guide and tour the town of Bled before boarding a traditional Pletna boat and travel across the lake to island where you can walk the 99 steps to the church.

Continue on to Bled Castle (entrance and tour included).

Return to Ljubljana late afternoon.

Evening at leisure in Ljubljana.

**Overnight Ljubljana - Grand Hotel Union**

**Day 7 Tuesday May 29 (B) (Concert)**  
**Ljubljana to Opatija** (70 miles, 1.75 hours)

After breakfast depart for Opatija.

On arrival, meet your guides and begin a walking tour of Opatija. *Genteel Opatija was the most chic seaside resort for the Austro-Hungarian elite during the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as evidenced by the many handsome belle-époque villas that the period bequeathed. Although it lost a lot of its sheen during the Yugoslav period, the town has spruced itself up in the last decade and once again attracts a crowd, drawn to its grand spa hotels, spectacular location and agreeable year-round climate. The town sprawls along the coast between forested hills and the sparkling Adriatic, and the whole waterfront is connected by a promenade.*

The tour ends at your hotel for check in. This afternoon is at leisure to prepare for your evening concert.

**This evening you may perform a full concert in Opatija, a joint concert with a local choir will be requested.**

**Overnight Opatija - Remisens Hotel Palace Bellevue** <http://www.remisens.com/en/hotel-palace-bellevue>

**Day 8 Wednesday May 30 (B)**

**Opatija, excursion to Istrian peninsula** (160 miles, 4 hours drive time)

After breakfast depart for the Istrian peninsula, for a visit to Porec, Rovinj and Pula. *In the historic old town of Porec, the 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica complex is famous for its gem-studded Byzantine mosaics. Rovinj is a Croatian fishing port on the west coast of the Istrian peninsula. The old town stands on a headland, with houses tightly crowded down to the seafront. A tangle of cobbled streets leads to the hilltop church of St. Euphemia, whose towering steeple dominates the skyline. Pula, a seafront city on the tip of Croatia's Istrian Peninsula, is known for its protected harbor, beach-lined coast and Roman ruins. Settled in the prehistoric era and valued for its strategic location, Pula has been occupied, destroyed and rebuilt numerous times.*

Return to Opatija and enjoy the evening at leisure.

**Overnight Opatija - Remisens Hotel Palace Bellevue**

**Day 9 Thursday May 31 (B)**

**Opatija, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Split** (290 miles, 6 hours)

After breakfast, depart for Split via Plitvice Lakes National Park, a 295-sq.-km forest reserve in central Croatia. *It's known for a chain of 16 terraced lakes, joined by waterfalls that extend into a limestone canyon. Walkways and hiking trails wind around and across the water, and a Lake Kozjak ferry links the upper and lower lakes. The latter are the site of Veliki Slap, a 78m-high waterfall.*

Continue on to Split.

On arrival, check into your hotel. The evening is free.

**Overnight in Split - Hotel Dioklecijan** <http://www.hotel-dioklecijan.com/>

## Day 10 Friday June 1 (B) (Concert)

### Split

After breakfast, meet your local guide and begin a tour of Split. *Split is known for the fortress like complex at its center, Diocletian's Palace (entrance included), erected by the Roman emperor in the 4th century. Once home to thousands, its sprawling remains include more than 200 buildings. Within its white stone walls and under its courtyards are a cathedral and numerous shops, bars, cafes, hotels and houses.*

This afternoon is at leisure for independent sightseeing and to prepare for your evening concert.

**Tonight you may perform a full concert in Split, a joint concert with a local choir will be requested.**

### Overnight in Split - Hotel Dioklecijan

## Day 11 Saturday June 2 (B,L)

### Split

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today you will cruise Croatia's Dalmatian coastline. The cruise will include stops in Postira for olive oil tasting and in Pucisca to visit the stone working school. A lunch of grilled seafood, prepared on the boat, is included, followed by a swim in the Adriatic!

Return to the hotel and have the evening at leisure.

### Overnight in Split - Hotel Dioklecijan

## Day 12 Sunday June 3 (B) (Worship Service)

### Split, Dubrovnik (150 miles, 3.5 hours)

After breakfast depart for Dubrovnik.

A stop will be made in Ston (or other seaside village) for an independent lunch. *Ston is surrounded by 13th century medieval city walls. Five kilometres long, they are the second longest defensive walls in the world, second only to the Great Wall of China. Condé Nast Traveller, named eating oysters in Mali Ston in 7th place on its recent '50 Things to do in Europe before you die' list.*

On arrival in Dubrovnik, check into your hotel.

Independent dinner.

**This evening you may take part in worship services in Dubrovnik. It will be requested to sing several pieces following the service.**

### Overnight Dubrovnik - Dubrovnik Palace <http://www.adriaticluxuryhotels.com/en/hotel-dubrovnik-palace>

## Day 13 Monday June 4 (B)

### Dubrovnik

Breakfast at the hotel.

Meet your guides and tour Dubrovnik, known for its distinctive Old Town, encircled with massive stone walls completed in the 16th century. *Its well-preserved buildings range from baroque St. Blaise Church to Renaissance Sponza Palace and Gothic Rector's Palace, now a history museum. Paved with limestone, the pedestrianized Stradun (or Placa) is lined with shops and restaurants.*

Afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Dubrovnik.

### Overnight Dubrovnik - Dubrovnik Palace

## **Day 14 Tuesday June 5 (B,D)**

### **Dubrovnik, excursion to Cavtat (15 miles, .5 hours)**

After breakfast depart for Cavtat. *The original city was founded by the Greeks in the 6th century BC under the name of Epidaurus (or Epidauros, Greek). The surrounding area was inhabited by the Illyrians, who called the city Zaptal. The town changed its name to Epidaurum when it came under Roman rule in 228 BC. Justinian I the Emperor of the Byzantine Empire sent his fleet to Cavtat during the Gothic War (535–554) and occupied the town. The city was sacked and destroyed by the Avars and Slavs in the 7th century. Refugees from Epidaurum fled to the nearby island, Laus (Ragusa) which over time evolved into the city of Dubrovnik.*

After your visit, return to Dubrovnik.

Your farewell dinner tonight is at a local, traditional restaurant.

### **Overnight Dubrovnik - Dubrovnik Palace**

## **Day 15 Wednesday June 6 (B,D)**

### **Dubrovnik, flight to USA**

After breakfast depart for the Dubrovnik airport and check in for British Airways flight 2679 to London Gatwick.

11.20 AM Flight 2679 departs.

1.10 PM Arrive London Gatwick and transfer to British Airways flight 2273 to JFK.

4.35 PM Flight 2273 departs.

7.30 PM Arrive JFK.