

Hi everyone

Welcome to the first Croatia Odyssey newsletter for 2019.

We do still have a couple of cabins available though so if you have friends who you think might be interested do spread the word. There are twin cabins on the main deck and twin or double cabins on the lower deck still available.

Montenegro Extension

Would you like to extend your Adriatic holiday by three nights? We have tour members interested in travelling south to Montenegro at the conclusion of our tour and there is room for more tour members to join them.

With some of the most rugged mountains in the region and a short but spectacular stretch of Adriatic coastline Montenegro is scenically stunning. It's also historically and culturally fascinating because of the influences of Orthodox, Slav, Venetian and other invaders and neighbours.

The price of this extension will depend on the number of travellers.



Saturday, May 25 Spit to Budva

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This morning (after disembarkation) you will travel south from Split along Croatia's Adriatic coastline (seeing it from a different perspective from the views we had aboard Luna), passing through Dubrovnik and shortly after over the border into Montenegro.

The journey will then take you across the Bay of Kotor by car ferry and on to Budva, known

as the Montenegrin Riviera, for your three-night stay.

Sunday, May 26 Budva B

You have a guided morning tour of the old town of Budva today which is situated right on the harbour.

Budva is Montenegro's coastal jewel in the crown with its charming old town and waterfront. It has, however, been discovered by rich Russians and Ukrainians, which does rather add to its fascination – there are some eye-popping sights to be seen, not to mention multi-million-dollar superyachts in the marinas. The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore further and relax. There are some excellent seafood restaurants along the waterfront. B



Monday, May 27 Day trip to Kotor and Cetinje B, L

Today you have a day trip to Kotor and Cetinje via Niegusi. Often referred to as a fjord because of its sheer mountains and deep waters, the Bay of Kotor is actually a drowned river valley system, rather than a drowned glacial valley.

You will have a guided tour of the walled town of the same name (this is a Unesco-listed town) The wall, built between the 9th and 19th centuries, climbs up the mountain beside the town with its labyrinth of narrow lanes and tiny piazzas. An important town during the era of Venetian domination of the Adriatic it is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the region.

Then it's a climb up the Lovcen serpentine (the winding road that climbs about 1000 metres up from Kotor into the mountains). From the top there will be, weather permitting, a panoramic view of Boka Kotorska Bay.

Your destination is the old royal capital, Cetinje, the cradle of Montenegrin culture, to visit the museum of King Nikola. King Nikola was the country's only king, ruling from 1910 to 1918. En route there will be a light lunch with drink included at Niegusi, a mountain village, famed both as the birthplace of the Montenegrin royal dynasty but also for the production of excellent cheeses and prosciutto.

Return to Budva for overnight.

Tuesday, May 28 Budva to Dubrovnik Airport B

This morning you will be transferred to Dubrovnik Airport for your onward flights.

On this extension you will be accompanied by your Croatian tour manager all the way from Split to Budva. A local guide and driver will be provided for all tours and for the transfer to Dubrovnik airport at the conclusion of your tour.

Staying in Touch

Before our departure for Croatia on May 6, I will be in contact with further newsletters including a very detailed dossier of useful travel information such as money matters, climate and clothing, health and so on.

In the meantime, if you do have any queries about the tour or your travel arrangements don't hesitate to get in touch with either me (to do with the tour itself and country information) or Moray (flight and other travel arrangements).

Best wishes

Jill

