



VISIT **CROATIA**[®]
Tasteful Croatian Journeys

ADVENT IN ZAGREB, LJUBLJANA & LAKE BLEĐ

A fully customizable 10 day/9 night luxury itinerary
created by the team of destination specialists at
Tasteful Croatian Journeys

THE TCJ DIFFERENCE

Custom Luxury Itineraries

Composed of Discovery,
Culture & Relaxed Elegance

02

DESTINATION SPECIALISTS LED BY THE AWARD-WINNING AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PIONEER IN CROATIAN TRAVEL, WANDA S. RADETTI

The TCJ Team

WANDA S. RADETTI, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



TIA L. MOREIRA
TRAVEL DESIGNER



MIRELA BENIC
LOCAL CONCIERGE




For more than 25 years, Tasteful Croatian Journeys has been creating bespoke, luxury journeys to Croatia and the surrounding regions. TCJ itineraries focus on immersive experiences designed to encourage meaningful engagement with local people and culture, while providing the excellence in quality and service that our company has become known for.

Our team of passionate professionals is led by Wanda S. Radetti, who since 2006 has consistently been listed as Condé Nast Traveler's World Top Travel Specialist for Croatia. Wanda's expertise of Croatia is second to none. Her philosophy of borders as opportunities to build bridges of friendship and cultural exchange has served as a guiding principle to the team which she has trained and developed. For the sophisticated, educated traveler, TCJ opens a little-known country to reveal its untainted natural beauties and ancient local traditions.

CELEBRATE THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...



...TAILORED TO YOU



Every custom holiday Tasteful Croatian Journeys designs is comprised of luxury elements such as upscale lodging, chauffeured transport, and culturally immersive experiences – chosen with intention and thoughtfully arranged to satisfy the individual traveler’s vision. We offer the following sample itinerary to serve as inspiration. Consider it an outline; fully customizable to fit your unique travel style and please even the most discerning of guests.

05

Private, Custom Journey

10 days/ 9 Nights



ZAGREB

4 nights - 5* accommodation

Explore Croatia's elegant capital, at once a part of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, a former Kingdom in its own right



LJUBLJANA

3 nights - 4* accommodation

Experience the enchantment of Ljubljana's Festive Fair, brimming with colorful lights and holiday cheer



LAKE BLEED

2 nights - 4* accommodation

Discover the magic of Lake Bled at Christmas, where history intertwines with legend and fairytales come to life

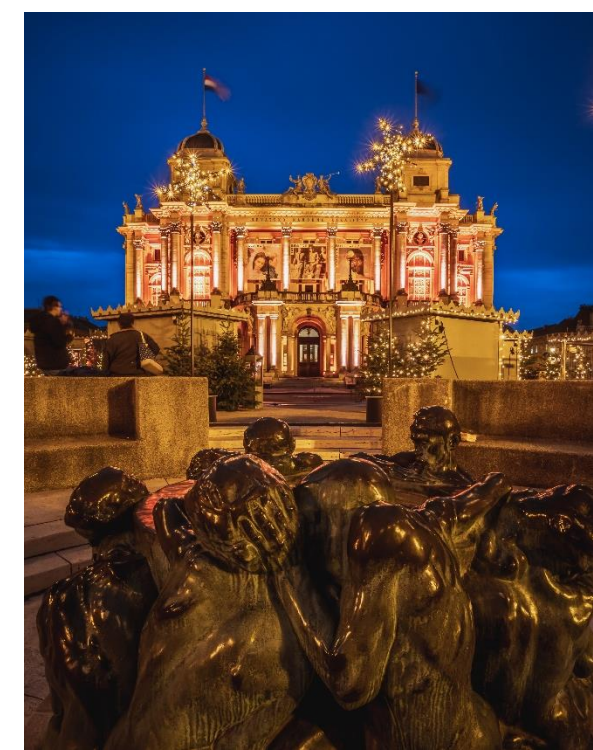
ZAGREB

- PRIVATE TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- AFTERNOON/EVENING AT LEISURE TO RELAX AND ADJUST TO THE TIME DIFFERENCE
- 5 STAR ACCOMMODATIONS IN ZAGREB - 4 NIGHTS

Croatia's vibrant capital is a living city, home to a quarter of the country's population, and serving as the cultural and political heart of the nation.

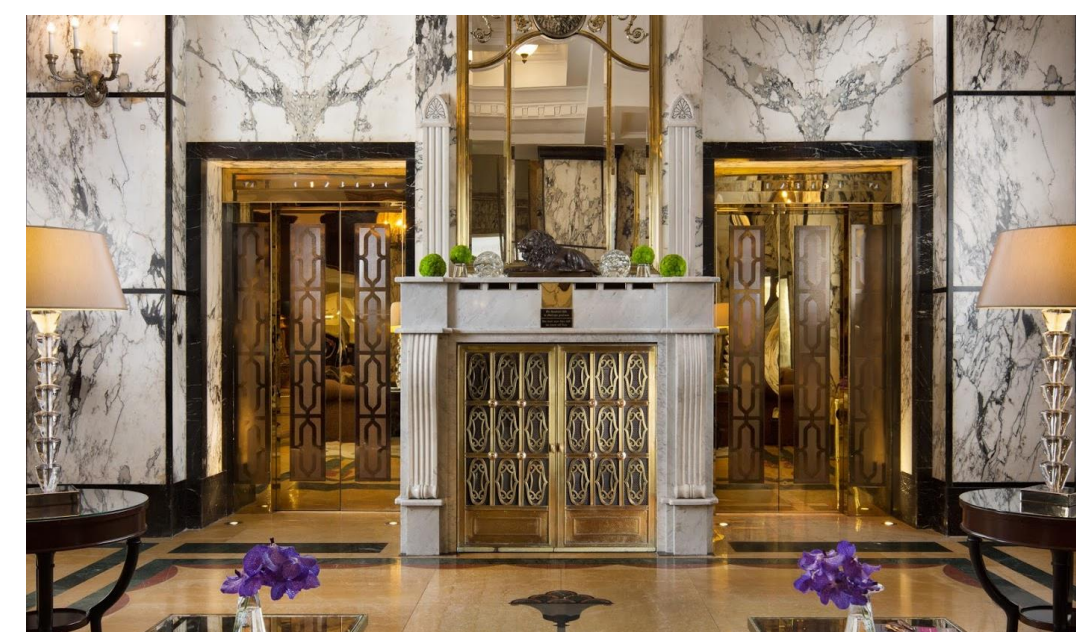
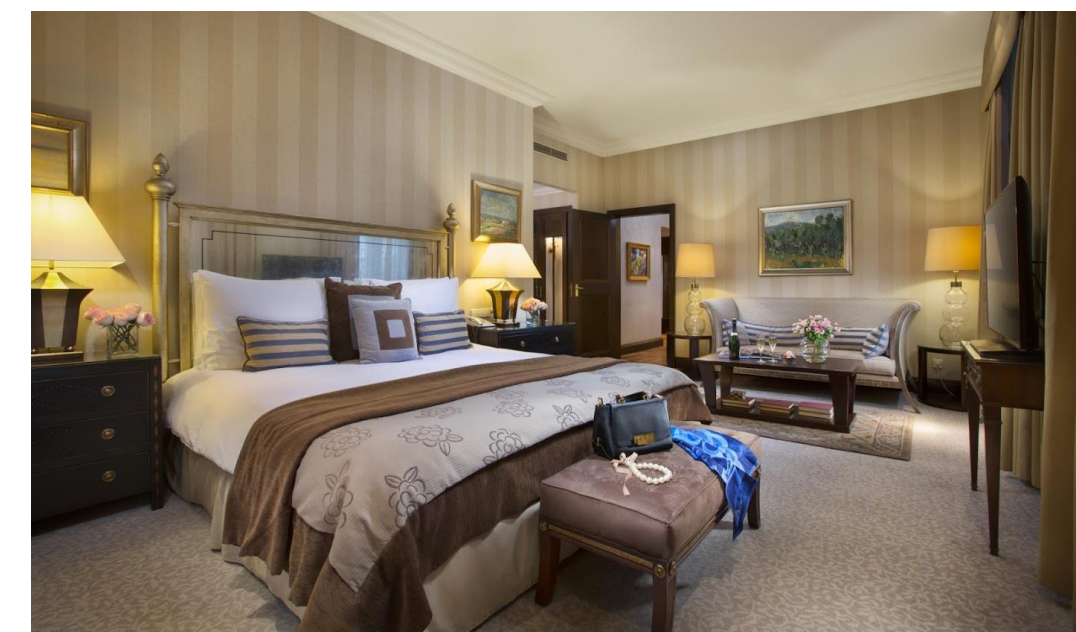
An amalgamation of cultures, Zagreb perfectly blends the sophistication of Central Europe with the laid-back charm of the Mediterranean. It is home to a thriving creative scene, countless cultural institutions, and some of the country's finest restaurants, as well as one of the best Christmas markets in all of Europe. A dynamic, yet unhurried metropolis and capital city, Zagreb's design beckons one to stroll, relax, and observe, with its many gardens, squares, landscaped promenades, and secret courtyards. Zagreb's location has inevitably influenced its character. At an intersection of cultures, empires, and ethnic boundaries, Zagreb, a former Kingdom in its own right, is at once European, Mediterranean, and Austro-Hungarian. Today, Zagreb's long history is evident in every structure and sidewalk, while its vibrant and cutting-edge art scene energizes contemporary society.

After your arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.



THE HOTEL ESPLANADE - 5* HOTEL IN THE HEART OF ZAGREB

Dating back to 1925, The Esplanade Zagreb is a property of distinction – it speaks to tradition, elegance, and exceptional service. It is located near the upper town, with 4 chic restaurants, a lavish cocktail bar, elegant lounge & opulent ballroom. The Esplanade offers luxurious rooms, a health spa, and fitness center. Chef Ana Grgic, a young star of Croatia's culinary scene, leads the award-winning collection of restaurants.



ADVENT IN ZAGREB

Advent in Zagreb is a spectacular city-wide experience which transforms the capital into a winter wonderland. More than 25 individual Christmas Markets are spread throughout the city's main squares and promenades, each with its own unique theme and atmosphere, yet blending together to give the feeling of one all-encompassing market.

Zagreb's many markets are best explored independently during an evening at leisure, when they shimmer with the soft white glow of glittering lights and ample time allows for lingering to enjoy the atmosphere. Your team at Tasteful Croatian Journeys is on hand to direct you to our favorite markets across the city, as well as provide practical information such as opening hours, event schedules, and tips to make your holiday truly unforgettable.



ZAGREB

- MORNING PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF THE HISTORIC CENTER OF ZAGREB WITH LOCAL GUIDE
- PRIVATE CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING CLASS
- AFTERNOON & EVENING AT LEISURE

Begin your day with a private guided walking tour of the Upper town & Lower town of historic Zagreb.

Your tour begins with a visit Zagreb's main square, Trg Bana Josipa Jelačića, before continuing to the historic settlements on Kaptol and Gradec. You'll have the opportunity to learn about Croatia's largest Cathedral, as well as see St. Mark's Church with its colorful roof tiles.

Your tour will conclude at the Dolac farmers' Market where you will meet your chef.

Indulge in the seasonal cuisine of Croatia! Head into the kitchen to learn traditional recipes and techniques for baking homemade Croatian Christmas cakes and cookies, an experience which will provide you with plenty of goodies to bring home.

Enjoy your evening at leisure.



VARAŽDIN & TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE

- FULL DAY EXCURSION TO EXPLORE THE BAROQUE CITY OF VARAŽDIN & TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE WITH PRIVATE GUIDE
- PRIVATE ROUND TRIP TRANSFER IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- EVENING AT LEISURE IN ZAGREB

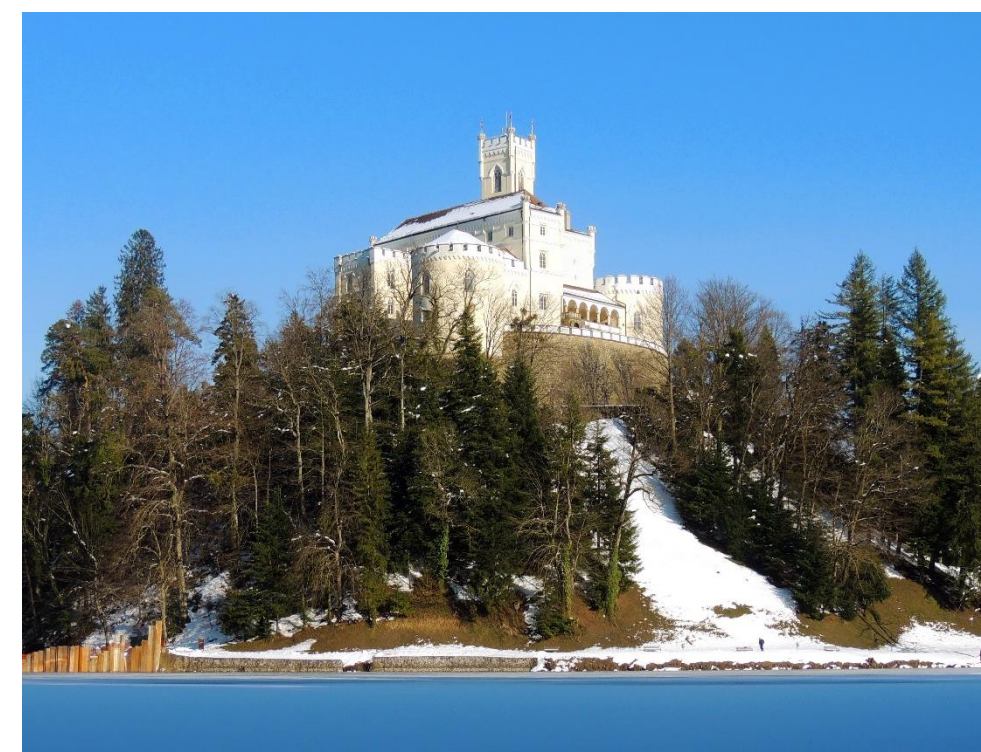
Begin by departing Zagreb in the morning by private car and driver to Varaždin, a city on the Drava River, known as the, "City of the Angels."

A quaint, beautifully preserved city, Varaždin is appreciated for its Baroque and Rococo architecture. Having once briefly served as Croatia's capital, this splendid small city has much to offer curious travelers. Together with your guide, stroll through the charming cobblestoned center learning of the city's past, stopping by the town's delightful museums, churches, and medieval castle before finishing with a steamy cup of mulled wine at the festive Christmas Market.

Continue your journey to explore the Krapina-Zagorije region and stop to visit Trakošćan Castle.

Originally built in the late 13th century, the castle is a cultural treasure, rising above the forest as if in a fairy tale. In 1953, it was opened to the public as a museum, home to examples of baroque furniture and historical weapons. Encircled by romantic gardens, and overlooking a picturesque lake, the castle grounds should not be missed.

Return to Zagreb in the late afternoon to enjoy your evening at leisure.



ZAGREB

- FULL DAY AT LEISURE IN ZAGREB

Enjoy your day at leisure. We suggest spending the morning discovering one of Zagreb's more than 50 wonderful Museums, followed by an afternoon perusing the city's many colorful Christmas Markets.

With more museums per square foot than any other city in the world, there is plenty to see and do in Zagreb. Perhaps start the day with a visit to the Croatian Naïve Art Museum, housing artworks by self taught Croatian artists, or the Museum of Broken Relationships, displaying the sentimental artifacts of love stories that have ended. After, make your way to one of Zagreb's festive markets located throughout the city. We recommend visiting the Strossmayer Promenade in Zagreb's medieval Upper Town, which offers stunning views across the city. Lined with a number of small markets, including Advent on the Vranyczany Plateau and Advent on Stross, this area is a favorite for its romantic atmosphere and spirited entertainment. In addition to the views, visitors can enjoy smooth Jazz, DJs spun tunes, and choir performances along with gourmet food. Eclectic décor adds to the ambiance. In the evening, be sure to visit the ever-popular open-air skating rink at King Tomislav Square, the live nativity scene staged in Kaptol outside the Zagreb Cathedral, and one of the many live concerts performed on stages and balconies throughout the city.



SAMOBOR

- PRIVATE TRANSFER/EXCURSION FROM ZAGREB TO LJUBLJANA IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- COMFORT STOP IN THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF SAMOBOR
- EVENING AT LEISURE IN LJUBLJANA
- 4 STAR ACCOMMODATIONS IN LJUBLJANA - 3 NIGHTS

Depart Zagreb in the morning by private car and driver to Ljubljana with a stop along the way to discover the medieval town of Samobor.

Located on the eastern slopes of the Samoborsko Gorje, in the foothills of the Žumberak Mountains, Samobor is a charming town known for its baroque architecture and relaxed atmosphere. We suggest stopping for lunch at family-owned Restaurant Gabreku, which has been serving hearty regional cuisine since 1929. Located beneath the walls of the Old Town, Restaurant Gabreku offers homecooked meals prepared according to ancestral recipes, such as soup made from wild mushrooms, stuffed veal breast, or venison and wild boar served with local wines. All the dishes are made with local, seasonal ingredients from the immediate area – food that does not travel far from its source to your plate, but which is very much worth traveling to taste!

Your day concludes with drop off at your hotel in Ljubljana. After check in, enjoy your evening at leisure.



GRAND HOTEL UNION - 4* HOTEL IN LJUBLJANA'S OLD TOWN

Boasting Art Nouveau details and a distinguished guest list, this 173-room hotel at the doorstep of Ljubljana's historical city center abounds with Old World charm. The hotel features a restaurant, indoor pool, and spacious rooms - many with castle views. Guests are sure to be impressed by the outstanding customer service; the Grand Hotel Union's Concierges are the first in Slovenia to be admitted to the prestigious international association of professional concierges, Les Clefs d'Or.



LJUBLJANA

- MORNING PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF LJUBLJANA WITH LOCAL GUIDE
- AFTERNOON & EVENING AT LEISURE

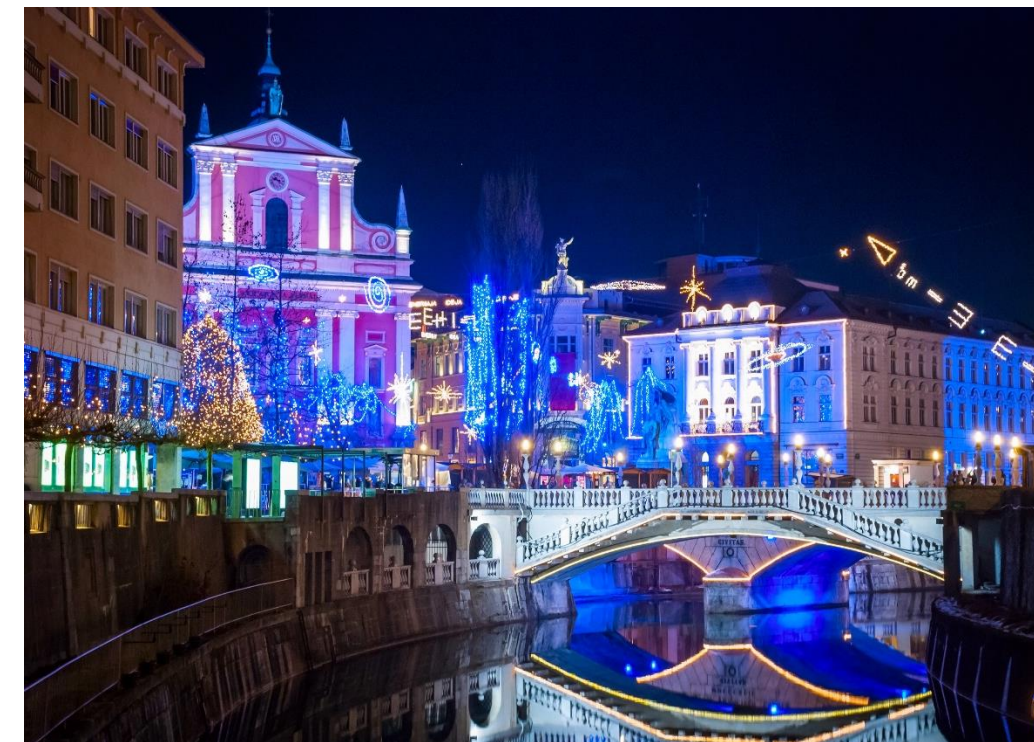
Surrounded by the lofty peaks of the Julian Alps, Ljubljana is a lively, green city which exudes effortless charm.

Begin your day with a private guided walking tour of Ljubljana’s Old Town.

Explore the historic heart of the city and learn about its stunning Art Nouveau buildings, the work of world-famous architect Jože Plečnik. Visit Ljubljana’s most important landmarks, such as Prešeren Square, Triple Bridge, and Ljubljana Castle, which crowns a hill east of the Old Town. The castle’s tower is depicted on the city’s coat of arms, mounted by a dragon, the symbol of the city, representing power, courage, and greatness – an apropos image for the cultural, educational, economic, and political center of Slovenia.

After your guided tour, enjoy your afternoon and evening at leisure exploring the city’s vibrant Christmas Market, known as the Festive Fair.

The market comes to life in the evening with its Christmas lighting display. The theme of the lighting display changes every year but is inspired by the infinite expanses of the universe. Past themes have included Cosmic Ljubljana, The Path of Life, Bearers of Light, and A Celebration of Existence, among others. The result is both beautiful and uniquely Ljubljana. Soak up the atmosphere as you enjoy some mulled wine and local street food.



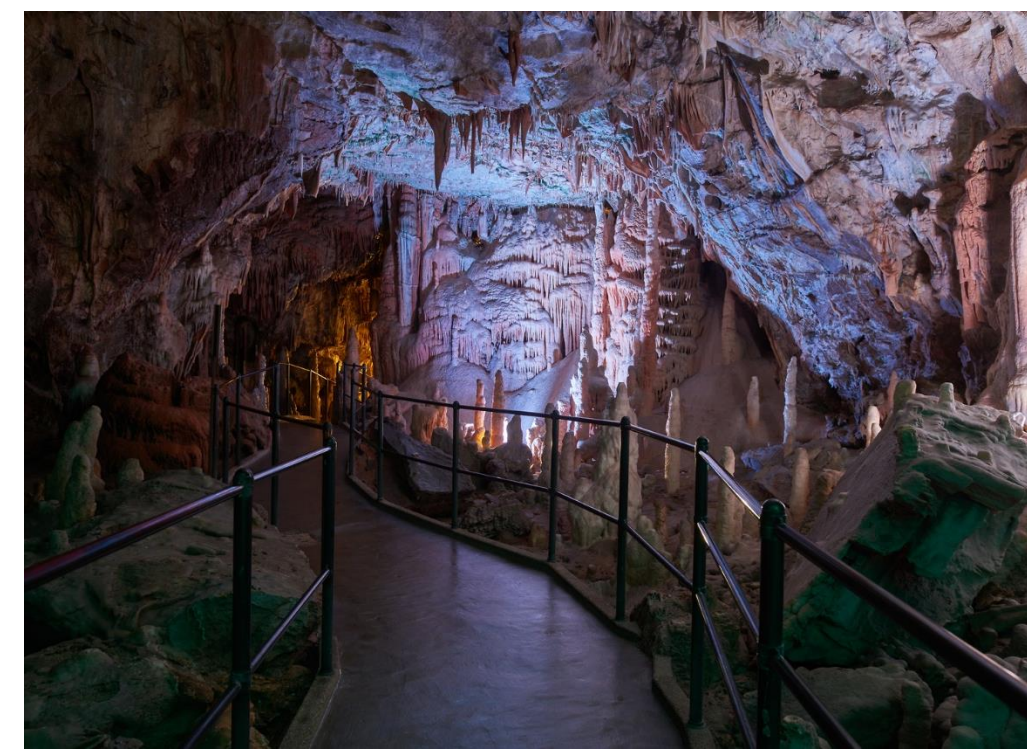
POSTOJNA CAVE & PREDJAMA CASTLE

- FULL DAY PRIVATE GUIDED EXCURSION FROM LJUBLJANA TO EXPLORE POSTOJNA CAVE & PREDJAMA CASTLE IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- EVENING AT LEISURE IN LJUBLJANA

Together with your guide, depart Ljubljana in the morning by private car and driver to explore Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle.

Discover the fascinating subterranean world of Postojna Cave, a jaw-dropping series of caverns, halls and passages adorned with needle-like stalactites and towering stalagmites. In the week between Christmas and New Year, the two-million-year-old cave system becomes the stage for an incredible live nativity scene, with hundreds of costumed performers and musicians breathing life into the biblical story of Christ's birth. After, head to nearby Predjama Castle, the impregnable medieval fortress built into a cavernous opening halfway up a 400-foot cliff. Behind the castle, a network of secret tunnels brings to life the legend of rebellious knight Erazem, also known as the Slovenian Robin Hood, who withstood the imperial army's siege of the castle for over a year - a tale of valor, romance, and daring exploits sure to thrill.

Return to Ljubljana in the late afternoon to enjoy your evening at leisure.



LAKE BLEDED

- PRIVATE TRANSFER FROM LJUBLJANA TO LAKE BLEDED IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- FULL DAY AT LEISURE TO EXPLORE LAKE BLEDED
- 4 STAR ACCOMMODATIONS IN LAKE BLEDED – 2 NIGHTS

Nestled in the foothills of the Julian Alps, glacial Lake Bled shimmers like a jewel, its mirrored surface reflecting the lush forest and snow-capped peaks that surround it.

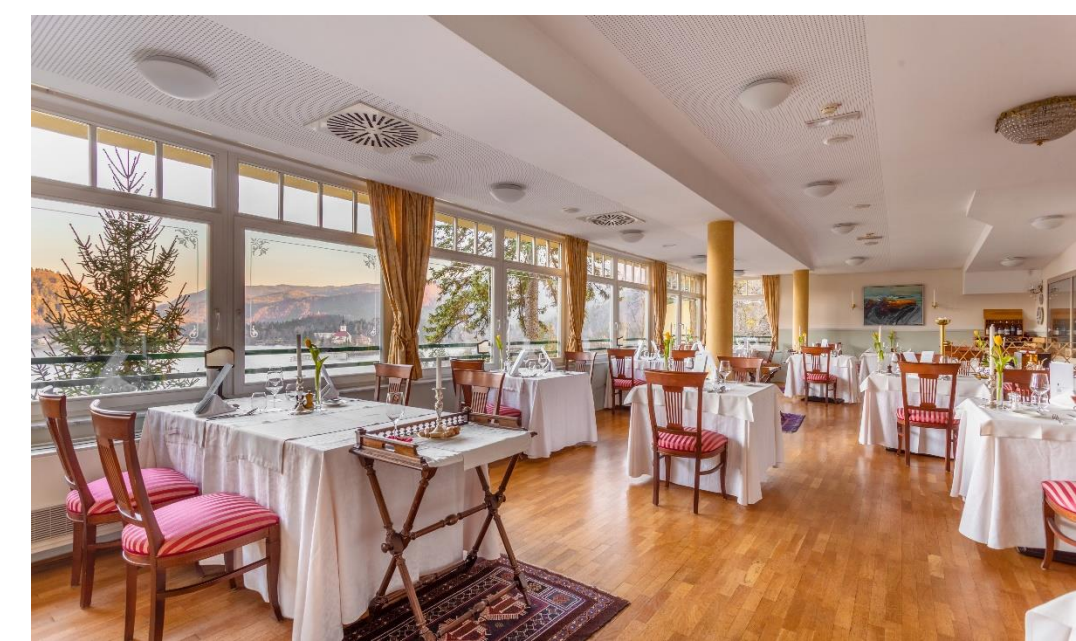
Depart Ljubljana in the morning by private car and driver to Lake Bled. Check into your hotel and enjoy the day at leisure.

In the center of the lake sits a small island, home to the picturesque Assumption of Mary Church and object of many fables. To reach the island, ride a traditional Pletna, a wooden, awning-covered boat, rowed by a standing oarsman, and climb the 99 stone steps up to the church, bell tower, curacy and provost's house, and small hermitage. On Bled's shore, its charming lakeside town plays host to the annual Christmas Market, known as the Bled Winter Fairytale. Located on the Lakeside Promenade, wooden stalls adorned with twinkling lights offer a range of festive food, drink, and gifts. Those wishing to explore Slovenia's natural wonders will find Bled an ideal home base, conveniently located within easy reach of Vintgar Gorge, Triglav National Park, and Lake Bohinj. Adventure seekers are sure to enjoy the multitude of winter sport possibilities such as skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, dog sledding, ice-climbing, and more.



HOTEL TRIGLAV - 4* HOTEL OVERLOOKING LAKE BLED

Located on a hill above the northern shore of Lake Bled, this elegant hotel resides in a restored inn dating from 1906. The property features 22 comfortably equipped rooms with hardwood floors, oriental carpets and antique décor. Nearly every area of the hotel – the dining room, the patio, garden, guest rooms, and even the pool – boasts spectacular views of the lake and fairytale landscape.



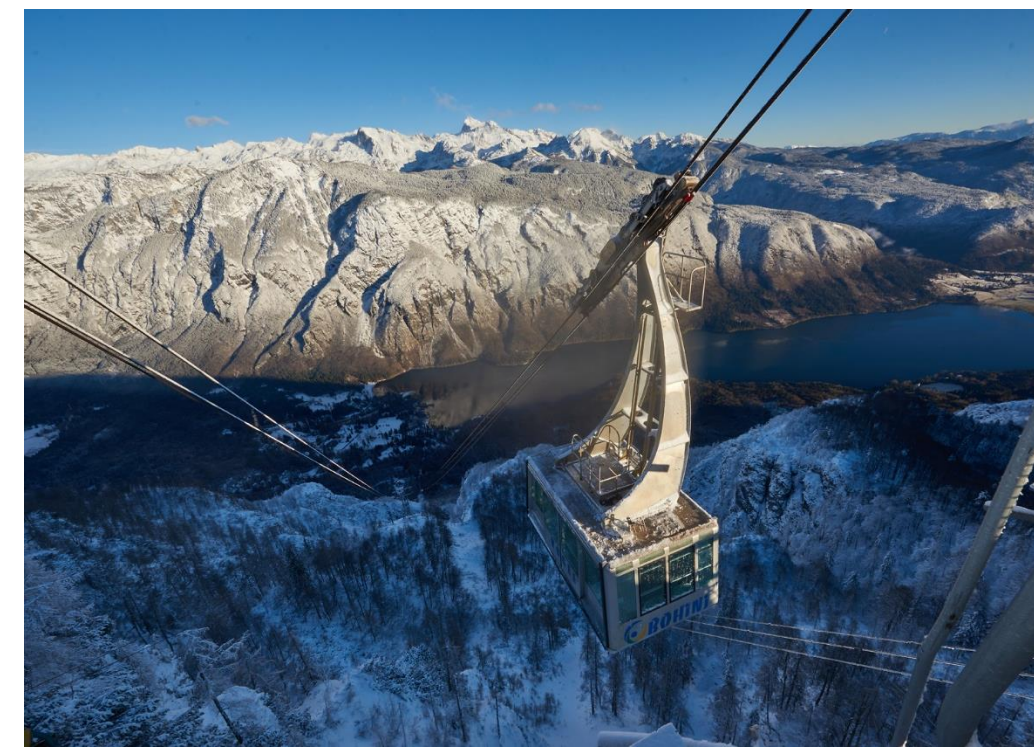
SNOWSHOEING

- FULL DAY PRIVATE EXCURSION FROM LAKE BLEĐ TO EXPERIENCE SNOWSHOEING IN THE JULIAN ALPS
- EVENING AT LEISURE IN LAKE BLEĐ

Depart Lake Bled in the morning by private car and driver to explore the breathtaking wilderness of the Julian Alps on a Snowshoeing Adventure!

There is no denying that Slovenia has been blessed with extraordinary natural beauty. Situated in the heart of Europe, cradled between the Alps and the Mediterranean, Slovenia is small in size, but plentiful in pristine environment. Its interior is replete with turquoise-green rivers, charming pastel villages, densely wooded forests, vast subterranean caves, and snow-capped mountain peaks. No trip to Slovenia is complete without spending some time in the great outdoors. Start the day with a scenic cable car ride to the top of Mount Vogel for spectacular views of Lake Bohinj and Mount Triglav, the highest peak in Slovenia. The panoramic ascent lifts visitors 1,535 m (5,036 ft) above sea level in just a few minutes. Here, take in the stunning landscapes of the surrounding national park before beginning your guided hike with a local expert along powdery white trails with snowshoes and walking sticks. The hiking route will be tailored to your individual needs based on your experience and the snow conditions.

Return to Lake Bled in the late afternoon to enjoy your evening at leisure.



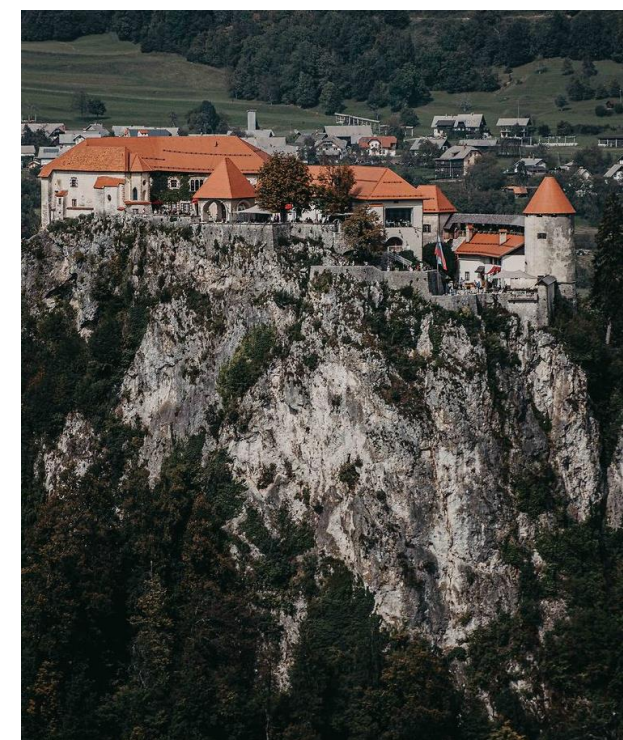
DEPARTURE

- PRIVATE TRANSFER TO AIRPORT IN LUXURY VEHICLE

On your final morning, enjoy a hearty breakfast while you await your transfer to the airport.

Those leaving later in the day may also enjoy a final stroll along the walking path that skirts the perimeter of the lake. Watch the mist rise off the water as you stroll under snow-laden trees, taking in the beauty that surrounds you. If time permits, head to Bled Castle for panoramic views. Perched atop a steep cliff overlooking the lake, the medieval castle stands guard over the storybook setting below. The castle is home to a restaurant and a coffee shop, both of which offer unparalleled views of the lake. This is the ideal place stop and try the famous Kremšnita (Bled Cream Cake), the areas most popular dessert. There is no sweeter way to end your journey!

As you depart for your home, we hope you will look back on your Christmas holiday with great joy, fondly remembering the journey as “A Trip of a Lifetime!”



Every Tasteful Croatian Journeys Trip Includes

Meticulous, personal attention from our team of Croatia experts

Private, chauffeur-driven transfers and excursions in luxury vehicles with professional, English-speaking drivers

Private guided tours with passionate professional guides who are friendly, knowledgeable, and fluent in English

Luxury lodging in our carefully curated collection of 4/5 star luxury hotels and elegant boutique properties

Real time, personalized concierge support guaranteeing stress free travel while in journey

TCJ EXCLUSIVES

— Travel Notes

Every customized itinerary includes Tasteful Croatian Journey's personally vetted, detailed suggestions for sightseeing, dining, shopping, and other leisure activities; our “Travel Notes”. In this digital document, you will also have access to details about the history and culture of each destination. Our team is constantly updating our selections to bring the latest and finest of Croatia to our guests.

— In-Country Concierge

Upon arrival in Croatia, our travelers gain exclusive access to our local Tasteful Croatian Journeys Concierge who works to ensure all services are executed to perfection. Our Tasteful Croatian Journeys Concierge is at your service to provide assistance and to support with booking of additional experiences such as VIP dining reservations and horse drawn sleigh rides, as well as to provide care and support that might be required due to unforeseen circumstances.

ADVENT IN ZAGREB AND LJUBLJANA

Starting at
\$4,947.70
per person

(based on double occupancy)

Included

- 4 NIGHTS 5* HOTEL ESPLANADE, ZAGREB – DELUXE DOUBLE ROOM
- 3 NIGHTS 4* GRAND HOTEL UNION, LJUBLJANA – DELUXE DOUBLE ROOM
- 2 NIGHTS 4* HOTEL TRIGLAV, LAKE BLEĐ – DOUBLE ROOM WITH BALCONY AND LAKE VIEW
- PRIVATE CHAUFFEURED TRANSFERS IN LUXURY VEHICLES
- PRIVATE GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF ZAGREB WITH PROFESSIONAL, LICENSED, ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDE
- PRIVATE CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING CLASS
- PRIVATE, FULL DAY GUIDED EXCURSION TO EXPLORE VARAŽDIN & TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE WITH LUXURY VEHICLE AND CHAUFFEUR
- PRIVATE TRANSFER/EXCURSION FROM ZAGREB TO LJUBLJANA IN LUXURY VEHICLE WITH STOP IN SAMOBOR
- PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF LJUBLJANA WITH PROFESSIONAL, LICENSED, ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDE
- FULL DAY PRIVATE GUIDED EXCURSION FROM LJUBLJANA TO EXPLORE POSTOJNA CAVE & PREDJAMA CASTLE IN LUXURY VEHICLE
- FULL DAY PRIVATE EXCURSION FROM LAKE BLEĐ TO EXPERIENCE SHOWSHOEING IN THE JULIAN ALPS
- TASTEFUL CROATIAN JOURNEYS CONCIERGE SERVICE AND TRAVEL NOTES
- BREAKFASTS DAILY, ALL TAXES AND VAT

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LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVENT IN ZAGREB, LJUBLJANA & LAKE BLEĐ

ON OUR WEBSITE:

[Christmas Markets](#)

[Christmas in Zagreb](#)

[Christmas in Ljubljana](#)

[Christmas in Lake Bled](#)

IN OUR BLOG:

[The History of Europe's Christmas Markets](#)

[Krampus: the Christmas Devil of Alpine Folklore](#)

[Exploring Zagreb's Award-Winning Christmas Market with Wanda](#)

[Christmas! It is the Holiday that calls you home. Wanda traveled to Croatia and Slovenia and went "home" for Christmas.](#)

[Lake Bled: Land of Myth and Legends](#)

[Slovenia: Europe's Next Winter Sport Hotspot](#)

[Christmas traditions in Croatia - by our Croatia Concierge](#)





FROM YOUR TEAM AT
TASTEFUL CROATIAN JOURNEYS,

Thank you

FOR TRAVELING WITH US