

Value World Tours

TIPS ON TRAVEL

Croatia, & the Adriatic 2017

To Our "Valued" Guests!

Welcome to the fascinating world of cruising!

We are excited to introduce this unique destination and brand new cruise ships to you!

Before we begin, however, please bear in mind that the recent changes in the economic and political ideologies of Croatia and the surrounding countries have contributed to rapid economic growth - and to all the growing pains that go with it. Your participation in traveling to these countries not only helps their economies but also spreads the friendship and understanding between our people. **Therefore, you act as an "Ambassador" of the United States when visiting this part of the world. The impression you leave will have an everlasting effect on future relations between these countries and your own.**

It is therefore important that we advise and prepare you for some of the cultural and social differences you will encounter. These **Tour and Travel Tips** have been designed to provide useful information and helpful suggestions to ease your adjustment and help you get around any obstacles you may encounter. Your journey will be greatly enhanced **if you take the time to prepare for it.** Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the information provided herewith - but also talk to others who have been, study one of the many comprehensive guide books available – and **browse the Internet.** The effort you put into planning your trip before you go will make all the difference. *Thank you!*

A few courtesy reminders:

Make it your responsibility to be on time so as not to hold up the group. Be attentive and refrain from talking to your neighbor while the guides are speaking or providing information regarding the tour. Wait for all information to be given before asking questions. Any special requests regarding group activities should be directed to the Tour/Cruise Director who is responsible for representing the interests of the whole group. Your local guides will refer all requests back to the Tour/Cruise Director. Your cooperation in these matters will not only be greatly appreciated but will increase both the groups' and your personal enjoyment of the tour.

VALUE WORLD TOURS, INC.

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GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Vouchers: If traveling within a group or on any **set program** vouchers will **not be required** or issued. If traveling as an individual and/or deviating from the regular itinerary, we may issue vouchers for services paid for. **When included, vouchers will be listed on the check-off list sent/mailed with your final documents.**

Air Tickets: Whenever tickets are issued by our company, they will be sent/mailed with your final documents. **In some instances, when tickets are issued directly by the airlines involved, they may be sent to you under separate cover or electronically.**

Transfers: If you have purchased your airfare or **have prepaid** your arrival transfers through us, **please look for our Tour Guides holding your NAMES and/or our triangle sign after exiting the Customs Area of the airport!**



If you have purchased **land/cruise only** and are arranging for your own arrival and departure transportation, the names and addresses of your hotel and the port locations will be listed on the **Contact List** enclosed and sent with your final documents!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: Before leaving home, please ensure that you have your valid **PASSPORT** and appropriate **VISAS if necessary**. Based on our programs and countries visited, at the time of printing, US citizens **do not need** a visa for entering **Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina**. Please make sure your **US passport has a validity of at least 6 months beyond** your scheduled travel dates and check for visa updates with the U.S. or the appropriate foreign consulates at least 90 days prior to your departure. **If you are a foreign national** – please check with each country’s consulate, as rules may be different. **Obtaining a visa and proper travel documents are YOUR responsibility!**

BAGGAGE: Make a detailed list of everything you pack for the trip, and then leave this list at home. We cannot be responsible for lost baggage, but most airlines will make every effort to recover baggage or to offer some compensation if you are able to itemize the suitcase contents. It is also a good idea to tape a piece of paper **INSIDE** your luggage, which shows your full name, home address and telephone number. **The purchase of Travel Insurance is always strongly recommended!**

BAGGAGE WEIGHT: Please remember that weight allowances vary and are lower when flying domestic, and intra-continental routes, utilizing smaller aircraft. Check with the respective airline for instructions and pack accordingly – or you may face overweight surcharges!

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OUR FINAL DOCUMENTS – TRAVEL PORTFOLIOS

FREE ELECTRONIC DELIVERY: *Once final payment is received all paper documents including: day by day itinerary, travel tips, airline tickets, contacts and other related information will be sent to you electronically via email. **This service is free, provided we have your email address.***

PHYSICAL DELIVERY OF OUR PORTFOLIO OF GIFTS & PAPER DOCUMENTS:

*If you do not have email OR would prefer to receive paper documents along with our set of useful, travel related items as outlined below, **YOU MUST NOTIFY US AT THE TIME OF BOOKING** and prior to the **FINAL PAYMENT** deadline so that these items can be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to your departure via registered or overnight mail. The items are complimentary, you will only be billed the cost of delivery which is usually around \$20 per address.*

The cost of this service will be added to your invoice.

1. LUGGAGE TAGS: Will be provided. *If you would like your luggage to take the same vacation you do – please use them! **Please note:** The tags have been designed to allow you to list up to 6 points of travel (hotel to ship, ship to hotel, etc.). **DO NOT DISCARD THEM!** Simply **cross out** your previous location and **write in your next destination** (and room or cabin number if you know it). This will help our staff and porters deliver your luggage to you in the shortest possible time!*

2. SQUARE LUGGAGE STICKERS: **If provided,** please stick them visibly on your suitcases when possible - the stickers will allow you, our guides and porters to recognize them quicker and get them to their destination faster!

3. BADGES: **If provided,** please **wear the badges** at all airports, transfer points, hotels, and at any time you are embarking/disembarking the ship. Not only does your badge assist us in providing adequate security on the vessel by identifying you as a group member to our guides, staff and security personnel, it also allows you to get to know your fellow passengers sooner!

NOTE: Since people go by nicknames, our badges come **blank**. Please print your name the way you would like to be addressed and wear them at least for the first few days.

4. PENS & TRAVEL BAGS: Our unique pens and practical travel bags are not only “**good looking**” but superbly designed to hold everything from your documents to cameras to water bottles! People love them- and you will too!

5. SURPRISE GIFT: Depending on your travel destination and time of year, we **may** include a surprise gift, which may be a hat, an umbrella or “cool shades”...who knows, maybe even a winning lotto ticket! (*but you must promise to give us a fair share if you win ☺*)

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CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS: The dress code on our cruises is INFORMAL!

So please - **PACK LIGHTLY!** *Combine a few tee shirts, a few shirts, wrinkle free slacks, one skirt, a few shorts, a wind-breaker and a sports jacket – and swimming gear with a big beach towel!* Leave your formal evening clothes at home; ***tuxedos and evening gowns are not required!*** The only time you may wish to "dress up" is for the Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard the ship; on this occasion, a shirt/blouse and slacks/skirt is fine. This is a casual, laid back tour and cruise program, **the dress code is informal (and that goes for excessive jewelry too!)** Remember - you are traveling to see - not to be seen! Keep it simple and you'll thank yourself later! **DO pay particular attention to footwear** - you should have a good pair of comfortable walking shoes with thick rubber soles and firm arch supports. If you buy new shoes, "**break them in**" before the trip. Suitable footwear aboard the ship would be sneakers, deck shoes, tennis shoes and similar rubber-soled shoes.

**Our cruises involve extensive walking during visits ashore, so you need to be comfortable!
And don't forget your swimming trunks!**

PASSENGER MIX: Onboard the vessels there is usually an international mix of people from all over the world – Europeans, Australians, Kiwi's and North Americans! A great way to meet the people of the world and make new and long lasting friends! **The on board language is English.**

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: Please note that the majority of passenger vessels **have limited services for the physically impaired. Steep staircases are the norm.** In addition, the itinerary warrants **that most of the shore excursions are done on foot.** Therefore, severe walking disabilities may limit the passengers' overall enjoyment on these programs.

Regretfully, we do not recommend these cruises to severely disabled or wheelchair bound passengers!

GENERAL INFORMATION

DOCKING LOCATIONS: For those passengers arriving directly to our ships on the day of embarkation, please note the docking location of our ships, which are:

Port of Split

Obala Kneza Domagoja, 21000 Split, Croatia

Port of Dubrovnik, Passenger terminal

Dubrovnik Harbour "**Gruž**" - the main ferry harbor (200m for the central main bus station).

Address: [Obala Pape Ivana Pavla II.](#)

Port of Zadar,

Liburnska obala 6/1. Zadar 23000. Croatia

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CAUTIONS FOR EXPORTING

ART / ANTIQUES: Antiques such as icons, old coins, weapons, furniture, can be taken out only if you have a permit from the Ministry of Culture from each respective country.

YES Items such as coats, carpets, jewelry and crystal, in reasonable quantities and purchased at legitimate shops can be taken out of the country and NO custom fees are applicable.

SUGGESTED SOUVENIRS: Any types of handicrafts are usually of the highest quality. Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro are also famous for a number of internationally recognized wines (*“Posip, Postup, Dingac, Vranac, Plavac Mali*).

PHOTOGRAPHY: Please do not photograph people without first asking for their permission to do so. Do not take photographs of airports or other military bases. Remember to bring all the film you will need, because outside of major cities, new film may be hard to find and may not of the same quality you are used to from home.

VIDEO CAMERAS: Please remember that Europe utilizes a different standard (*PAL/SECAM*) than the United States (*NTSC*). **THEY ARE NOT COMPATIBLE!** Remember to bring enough blank tapes and **if purchasing videotapes locally**, make sure they are marked **NTSC**. **Important:** European DVDs are encoded differently from US DVDs. If you purchase a DVD in Europe, even if it is without a Region code, you may **only** be able to play it in laptop computers but not your DVD player.

NOTE: Most museums and galleries now either charge a fee for taking photos or videos (from €3 to €7 depending on institution) or may not allow photography at all.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS (when applicable)

HOTELS: Wherever hotels are part of your itinerary, we always use Deluxe, First Class or best available hotels. Breakfast is always included and other meals are provided per your itinerary (please consult your final documents for specific information). In all cases, the hotels are carefully selected to provide **the best combination of location, comfort and value**. The actual hotels used on your particular departure will be listed on your "Hotel and Contact List"

CRUISE RULES

Your enjoyment of the trip will depend in large part on your positive attitude. Here are a few pointers that will help you prepare for your journey regardless of the country you are visiting.

1. **Maritime Law** - As with a pilot on a plane, the Captain of a ship is the **ultimate law**. He/she is responsible for the ultimate safety and comfort of the vessel and its passengers. It is within the Captain's jurisdiction to change the sequence of stops, ports if necessary due to inclement weather conditions, high or low water levels, dock and lock schedules, technical reasons etc. The Captain has the right to remove unruly passengers, quarantine the ship in case of disease and similar. Therefore, although unlikely, **certain changes in schedules may happen**. Though we expect to provide sightseeing of all of the major attractions listed in our cruise programs, there is always a possibility that the sequence of touring may be altered to take into account the operating hours at museums, galleries and monuments. Shore excursions may be changed in response to sailing conditions and other factors. **Your understanding and cooperation in such instances is highly appreciated!**

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2. **Cultural Differences** - Remember that you may be traveling through countries whose political, social and cultural backgrounds may be different from your own. Do not let political differences govern your perspective. Instead, travel with an open mind, and you will satisfy your curiosity about the people, their lands, their history and their culture.
3. **Service** - If you receive poor service at any point, try to take it in good humor and solve it directly. If you have any serious complaints, take them to your guide and/or Tour/Cruise Director.
4. **Bureaucracy** - Expect a little bit of red tape, and try not to be bothered by bureaucratic rituals, which may be different from country to country.
5. **Do not compare things you see by American standards.** Although clean and comfortable, all our vessels are small and practical and should not be compared with the huge mega ships. Above all, keep your sense of humor and enjoy the cultural legacies, physical geography and rich variety of people you will encounter as you sail along the splendid Adriatic Coast.

Our SHIPS: M/Y "Aloha" & M/Y "Prestige"

We are delighted to introduce to you 2 of the newest Mega Yachts exploring the Adriatic. The "Aloha" and the "Prestige", built in 2013/2015, share similar layouts with a maximum of 18 cabins/36 berths. Both ships feature a restaurant/bar that accommodates up to 40 people and 2 sun deck areas that provide plenty of outside space to enjoy the weather and the views! A Captain and crew of 7 including a multilingual Cruise Director will take care of all of your wishes and make sure you have a great travel experience regardless of what ship you sail on!

KEYS: Old style turn keys are used to minimize loss. It is suggested that you leave your keys with the crew whenever exiting the ship in order for them to see who is off and who is on board.

LINEN/TOWELS: Cabins are cleaned every day but due to limited space and care for the environment bath towels are exchanged every second day. Hand towels daily. Bed linens are changed twice a week.

LAUNDRY: Light laundry is available for a fee. Please note that there is no dry cleaning on board.

COMMUNICATION: Ship to shore is provided by the Captain's radio. The cruise Director and crew members have cell phones but these are for emergencies and their private use. Therefore, in an **emergency**, we recommend that your family contact our US office or our authorized overseas representatives who will forward urgent messages via the port authorities.

NEW! – FREE WI-FI: Free wi-fi is available in the salon's for up to 5 laptops (in ports)!

TABLE ASSIGNMENTS:

These are laid back cruises where all meals are served in a casual atmosphere in the restaurant/bar. While meal times are pre-set to conform to port stops and sightseeing excursions, table reservations are not required and changing tables for meals is encouraged! **Best way to make new friends fast!**

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MEALS: Depending on the ship and the itinerary, buffet style breakfast and lunch are served on board both vessels and **dinner is left out to enable passengers to experience many of the lovely restaurants in ports visited (unless otherwise pre-arranged)**. Breakfast and Lunch are self serve buffets. The accent is on local and domestic specialties. Coffee/tea are free and 1 small bottle of natural water per person are free. Additional water, soft drinks, beer, wine and alcohol may be purchased from the bar and signed to your cabins. In case you have special dietary meals, the kitchen staff will make every effort to please you. Fresh fruit is free and replenished and available daily!

WATER: Even though the tap water onboard is of comparably good quality, if you have a “touchy tummy” we suggest purchasing bottled water.

ELECTRICITY: Electrical current in the hotels and on board the ships is the European 220 volts/50MHZ. In order to use any appliances (*including shavers, chargers for movie camera's etc.*) you will need to bring 2 things:

- 1) **UNIVERSAL TRANSFORMER** to convert from the US 110 Volts to the 220.
- 2) **UNIVERSAL ADAPTER PLUGS** for sockets, which are different than at home. Since there are no supplies of converters/ adapters on board we highly recommend you purchase a transformer/ adapter plug set at any convenience or appliance store before you leave.

ELEVATORS: There are no elevators on board any of the vessels.

POOL: While the Prestige has a small Jacuzzi style dipping pool on is really not needed as **the beautiful blue, clean, warm Adriatic Sea will be your “giant pool”** with swimming stops scheduled throughout your sailing. **Do NOT forget your bathing suit and a big beach towel!** Fins, masks and other snorkeling gear will be available on board free of charge! Large Towels can also be rented for about **5 euros** for the week!

VALUABLES: Each cabin has a mini-safe, however, we **recommend that you do not bring valuables on your trip, including excessive jewelry (you won't need it!).**

GIFT SHOP: There are no gift shops on board as none are needed. Your daily stops will give you plenty of options to purchase whatever you may need from toothpaste to post cards.

Smoking in this part of the world is **still a habit**. On the ship, however, smoking is limited to sun decks and outside areas. ***Smoking in the restaurants and on buses, is not allowed.***

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS: Due to limited services for the disabled on board and because of extensive walking on our excursions, ***we do not recommend these cruises to people with severe disabilities***. Those passengers with *lighter physical disabilities* are kindly asked to report them to us at the time of booking. Most cabin doorways and public rest rooms are **not wide enough to allow access by standard wheelchairs**. Passengers with severe walking or other disabilities may find certain areas of the ship inaccessible. ***Passengers with physical impairments must therefore be self-sufficient since services of a personal nature cannot be provided by the vessel's crew or staff.***

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MEDICAL SERVICES: The Captain and Crew are trained in emergency services but are only equipped to provide basic medical care. They cannot offer care for conditions requiring specialized expertise or equipment. Passengers with any pre-existing conditions, or in the event of an emergency, will be evacuated to a medical care facility ashore at the passenger's own expense. If you require special medicines, it is essential that you bring them with you from home, as only a limited range of general type medication is available on board!

CURRENCIES: While most of Europe has adopted the **EURO**, *Croatia uses the KUNA, Bosnia the “convertible mark” and Montenegro the Euro.* **Payments in local currencies are required for most purchases on shore.** The best recommendation we have is to take along enough **US or Euro cash.** Your local Tour and Cruise Directors will gladly direct you to exchange offices as you travel through various countries. **Credit cards today are accepted everywhere in the major cities*** but may not be as widely accepted in the smaller towns and villages along the route. **CASH IS STILL KING! Having cash on hand in smaller 5/10/20 USD-EURO bills will come in handy!** How much cash to bring with you? Although everyone is different, we suggest that you bring at least **USD/EURO 700 per person** - If you are planning on purchasing more expensive items you may want to bring more....you can always bring it back! ☺

IMPORTANT NOTE ON PAYMENTS ON BOARD SHIPS:

Unfortunately no credit cards* are accepted on board the ships. On board currency is the KUNA/EURO. Your expenses will be signed to your cabin and the final amounts will be presented on the last day. You will have opportunities to use local ATM's to withdraw additional cash if needed. But it is better to come prepared! ☺

****Credit Card Note: As of May 2014, European Credit Card processors require credit cards with chips and a 4 digit PIN code. Your USA magnetic strip cards may NOT work at local ATM's requiring a PIN. Ask your bank for a chip card and/or bring along a Debit card with your PIN...or enough cash to cover your expenses!***

TIPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

TIPPING: Tipping today has become commonplace. Salaries are small, so tips do represent a substantial income, especially for the people in the tourism and service industries. Unlike the west, however, tips are **NOT** obligatory and are subject to your satisfaction – *but your generosity will sincerely be appreciated.*

TIPPING

While tips are discretionary, since we get asked for advice here are some suggestions:

- In restaurants, taxis etc. you should leave a 15% tip rounded off to the highest round figure.
- For porters at hotels a tip of **1€ per suitcase**
- For chambermaids a tip of **2€ per day**
- For **Local Guides in cities that host half-day tours and their drivers** - €3 guide €2 for driver.
- For **Tour Leaders that escort your motor coach tour portion, handle all your hotel, baggage, sightseeing and other arrangements, and are with you 24/7** we recommend a tip of **€5 to €7 per person/per day (€40-€50 per person for a 7 day motor coach tour).**

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CREW ABOARD THE SHIP: As the crew acts as a team, the TIPS are collected and pooled amongst all the Crew Members. As your new found “best friends” **we suggest a tip of €7 per person/per day (€50 per person for a 7 night cruise).** For Cruise Directors on board we suggest **€5 per person/per day.** Gratuity envelopes will be provided in your cabins prior to the end of the cruise.

SUMMARY: Of course you may leave as little or as much as you like and if any particular member of the staff or crew endears themselves to you it is OK to show your appreciation directly to them as well.

DAILY SCHEDULES AND INFORMATION

Information regarding sightseeing, meal hours and updated on-board activities for the next day, will be advised at dinner each evening. **However, as port arrival/departure times may change, updated information will always be displayed on the notice boards, in the restaurant/bar area. Please remember to check these boards during meal times since they will always be updated in case of any last minute changes.**

AVERAGE EAST MEDITERRANEAN TEMPERATURES

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
DBVK	Low	39	40	43	48	58	64	67	68	64	55
	High	47	49	56	64	74	78	85	83	76	67
Split	Low	42	45	48	54	60	66	72	74	67	58
	High	51	55	58	66	74	81	87	88	78	68
Zagreb	Low	29	32	38	48	54	58	60	62	58	48
	High	36	44	54	62	70	76	81	82	76	66

A FEW LOCAL PHRASES: Although Croatian, Bosnian and Montenegrin have slightly different inflections, the following phrases will be understood and appreciated by ALL! ☺

- DA - YES
- NE - NO
- MOLIM (moleem) - PLEASE
- HVALA (hvala or fala) - THANK YOU
- DOBAR DAN (dobar dan) - GOOD DAY
- ZDRAVO (zdraavo) - Used as HELLO and GOODBYE
- CIAO (chiao) - Italian but understood by all as casual HELLO and GOODBYE
- ZBOGOM (Bog – z bogoom) - Literally “Go with God” but used as FAREWELL
- KOLKO kosta? (kolko koshta) - HOW MUCH?
- MNOGO! (mnogo) - TOO MUCH
- KAKO SI? (kaako see) - HOW ARE YOU?
- DOBRO! (dobro) - GOOD!
- LOSE! (loshe) - BAD, LOUSY!
- SRECAN PUT (srechan poot) - SAFE JOURNEY!
- PRIJATNO! (priyatno) - VARIOUS...bye bye...Bon Apetit...

NUMBERS:

1. JEDAN (yedan), 2. DVA (dva), 3. TRI (tri), 4. CETIRI (chetiri), 5. PET (pet),
6. SEST (shest), 7. SEDAM (sedam), 8. OSAM, 9. DEVET (devet) 10. DESET (deset)
(using fingers works well too!)

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PACKING TIPS & SUGGESTIONS

Items You May Wish to Bring Along:

- Facial tissues, washcloths and shower caps, as they are not supplied on board.
- **Skin cream and other cosmetics for sun protection.**
- Insect repellent.
- **Spare set of eyeglasses** for emergencies. If you wear contact lenses, bring a pair of eyeglasses for occasions when contacts are bothersome to wear, such as in strong wind or dust.
- **Medications**, which are vital to your health. A letter should accompany these from your doctor (signed and dated), certifying that such medications are vital to your health. Dosage should be indicated. Always pack any personal medications in you carry-on luggage, not in your checked baggage.
- Common remedies such as laxatives, indigestion tablets, aspirin and travel sickness pills (*However, the latter will probably not be needed while in the generally calm waters of the Adriatic*)
- **Sunglasses.**
- **Bring plenty of film, flash bulbs and blank DVD's.**
- Sewing, cosmetic, shoe shine, first aid kits, and paper towels
- Laundry soap packets and flat sink stopper.
- *Diet sweeteners if you do not take sugar.*
- *Instant coffee especially if you prefer decaffeinated!*
- Binoculars (excellent for viewing scenes from the decks).
- **Batteries for cameras, shaver etc.**
- **Electrical Extension Cord** (not available on most ships)
- **Transformer and plug adapters** (purchased at K-Mart, Thrifty, appliance stores)

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CONTACT

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