



CROATIAN ODYSSEY

SEPTEMBER 13 TO 27, 2026
15 DAY CLASSIC CAR TOURING RALLY



RETURN MOTORAIL WITH PRIVATE COMPARTMENT
FROM DUSSELDORF AND TWO NIGHTS IN VENICE



A CROATIAN ODYSSEY

3,000 KM ACROSS
2,000 YEARS OF
HISTORY.

SET OFF ON AN EXHILARATING JOURNEY THROUGH 2,000 YEARS OF HISTORY, FROM THE MIGHTY REIGN OF DIOCLETIAN'S WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE INTRIGUE OF THE BYZANTINE, HUNGARIAN, VENETIAN, FRENCH, AND AUSTRIAN DYNASTIES.

WHERE EMPIRES FADE, ADVENTURE BEGINS

Over 3,000 thrilling kilometres by rail, road, and ferry, this Bespoke Rallies adventure takes you across intriguing Croatian islands, rugged mountains, and sweeping coastal roads that hug the Adriatic at its most spectacular.

By night, unwind in carefully chosen hotels where comfort meets character, and by day, embrace the spirit of exploration on a journey that blends history, scenery, and the pure joy of the open road.





MOTORAIL FROM DUSSELDORF TO VILLACH IN SOUTHERN AUSTRIA

Our journey begins in Düsseldorf, where we meet at Classic Remise, the centre for classic cars and restorers housed in an old railway turntable building. From there it's a very short drive to the Urlaubs Express, one of Europe's last remaining motorail experiences. Overnight, the train speeds through industrial Germany into the Austrian alps, while you sleep in your private compartment with your car securely on board..

Villach to Portoroz

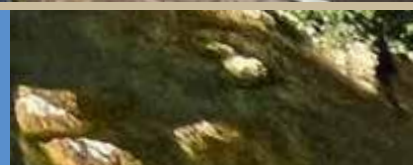
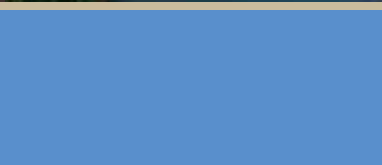
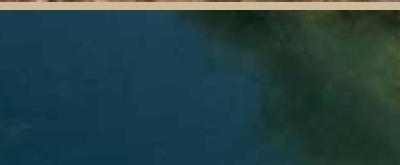
Upon arrival in Villach, Austria, we disembark and continue our adventure by road, winding through the breathtaking mountain passes of Slovenia before reaching the sparkling coastline of the Adriatic. Our first stop is in Portoroz, or port of roses, which has a history that dates back over 2,000 years to Roman times. Its old town, Piran, is a treasure trove of historical architecture, reflecting Roman, Byzantine and Venetian influences.

DISCOVER THE ISTRIAN MAGIC: FROM PORTOROZ TO CRES

Portoroz to Cres

From Portoroz we take the scenic road to Motovun. Perched high above the Mirna River valley, Motovun is a beautifully preserved medieval town where stone walls, winding cobbled streets, and sweeping views define every moment. Surrounded by vineyards and truffle-rich forests, it offers a timeless Istrian escape blending history, culture, and unforgettable scenery. Then we drop down to the coast to Pula, a city steeped in Roman history. Parking by the Pula Arena you see one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world - Better than Rome, some say - We continue along the Istrian peninsular and take the ferry at Brestova.

The short ferry ride takes you to Porozina, the gateway to Cres. From here we head across the island to Cres town, where we spend two nights at the brand-new Isalano Hotel.



Our Itinerary

Day	Date	Town	Hotel	Kms	Notes
1	Sept 13	Dusseldorf	Urlaubs Express	0	Meet at Classic Remise & Motorail train to Villach
2	Sept 14	Portoroz	Kempinski Palace	230	Drive from Villach to Portoroz
3	Sept 15	Cres	The Isolano	200	Visit Pula & Ferry to Cres
4	Sept 16	Cres	The Isolano	0	Rest day
5	Sept 17	Zadar	Hyatt Regency	235	Ferries to Krk & Pag islands
6	Sept 18	Split	Ambasador	172	Ferries to Ugljan & Pasman islands , Sibenik and Trogir
7	Sept 19	Dubrovnik	Hilton Imperial	246	Ferry to Hvar island, Ston
8	Sept 20	Dubrovnik	Hilton Imperial	0	Discover Dubrovnik
9	Sept 21	Mostar	Mepas Hotel	140	Cross border to Bosnia Herzegovina, Blagaj
10	Sept 22	Plitvice	Lyra Hotel	310	Old underground air base
11	Sept 23	Opatija	Hotel Milenij	180	Plitvice Waterfalls, Elegant Riviera
12	Sept 24	Venice	San Clemente Palace	230	Miramare Castle
13	Sept 25	Venice	San Clemente Palace	0	Enjoy Venice
14	Sept 26	Innsbruck	Urlaubs Express	320	Dolomites, board Motorail train to Dusseldorf
15	Sept 27	Dusseldorf			





Cres

Our stylish retreat offers a private beach and pool, while the lively town—just a short stroll away—beckons with its charming restaurants, bars, and vibrant atmosphere.

Cres, a gem of the Adriatic Sea, stands out for its lush landscapes, rich wildlife and untouched shores, making it a prime destination for nature and history lovers alike. As the largest island in the Adriatic, it offers a blend of cultural heritage and breathtaking natural scenery.

The town of Cres, a harmonious blend of past and present, welcomes visitors with its medieval architecture, winding streets and amazing people. Highlights include the Moise Palace and Cres Tower, echoing centuries of history.

Cres to Zadar

We continue north via Krk before crossing to the mainland, where the legendary Adriatic Highway leads you along a ribbon of cliffside roads, turquoise coves and timeless seascapes on the approach to Zadar. It's a breathtaking trip combining island roads, a ferry crossing and coastal views. Expect narrow roads, sheep on the road, big Adriatic views and one of the most beautiful island-to-coast journeys in Croatia.

Krk Bridge is a highlight and one of the most photographed views on the route.

Senj, the landscape becomes stark and powerful with medieval Nehaj Fortress crowning the town. This is one of the most dramatic coastal sections in Croatia.

We stay at Hyatt Regency Zadar, a stunning hotel set in one of Zadar's most architecturally distinguished buildings. Located in the heart of the city, it offers breathtaking views of the old town and of the Adriatic Sea.

DALMATIA COUNTRY

Zadar to Split

Our scenic journey from Zadar to Split is an island-hopping coastal adventure, using ferries



to Ugljan and Pašman Islands and continuing through Biograd and Šibenik to the postcard-perfect peninsula of Primošten and the medieval charm of Trogir, every bend offers another unforgettable view on your way to Split.

Split is the largest city and heart of Dalmatia, a historic region along Croatia's Adriatic coast, famous for its stunning scenery, rich Roman history centered around Emperor Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO site).

Spend an afternoon following ancient footsteps –starting from the Peristil (the colonnaded open courtyard) and cathedral, wander through the ancient maze of Venetian influenced narrow streets and little squares..

We stay at Hotel Ambassador, located on Split's waterfront West Coast neighbourhood's Riva Promenade

Split to Dubrovnik

Travel the dramatic Makarska Riviera, where mountains plunge into crystal-clear waters. Cross the elegant Pelješac Bridge and pass through vineyard-clad hillsides before reaching the ancient salt town of Ston. The road then sweeps south to Dubrovnik, revealing the Adriatic at its most spectacular.

Thanks to a new bridge that connects mainland Croatia in the villages of Komarna and Brijesta on the Peljesac peninsula, you no longer have to cross the borders into and out of Bosnia & Herzegovina, which saves a lot of time.

En route, stop at Ston and Mali Ston, two charming villages renowned for ancient salt pans and the impressive Walls of Ston, the longest defensive wall in Europe and the second longest in the world after the Great Wall of China. The area is also world-famous for its delicious oysters, considered some of the best you can get!

In Dubrovnik we stay for 2 nights in the iconic

Hilton Imperial hotel, located as close to the old city as one can get, the hotel overlooks the ancient walls and historic red roofs.

Explore Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik, often called the "Pearl of the Adriatic," is all about the stunning medieval architecture and well-preserved city walls that encircle the Old Town, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For a perfect day in Dubrovnik, walk the ancient City Walls for incredible views, then explore the limestone alleys of the UNESCO Old Town, visiting Rector's Palace and St. Blaise Church, before catching the Cable Car up Mount Srđ for wonderful panoramic vistas.

While "Game of Thrones" tours may have put Dubrovnik in the spotlight, the city's incredible food scene deserves equal recognition. Perched on the Adriatic coast and surrounded by ancient walls, Dubrovnik is renowned for its rich history and mouthwatering local food.

From charming local taverns to seaside eateries, discover where to find the freshest seafood and hearty, slow-cooked meals, or a little of both.

Dubrovnik to Mostar

Leave the coast behind and venture into the serene landscapes of Herzegovina. Pass through Trebinje's leafy promenades and riverside cafés, glide along quiet rural valleys, and approach Mostar through a world of rugged karst hills—until the famous Old Bridge rises above the emerald Neretva.

Stop in Blagaj, near Mostar, a popular day trip destination, to see the stunning Blagaj Tekija (Dervish Monastery), an Ottoman-era monastery built in the 1520s, set dramatically against the cliff face next to the Buna River spring. We will stay overnight in Mostar to experience its magical evening atmosphere and see the illuminated Old Town after the day-trippers leave.



Mostar to Plitvice

Our route climbs into the wide-open Bosnian highlands, crossing peaceful meadows, shimmering lakes, and alpine-style plateaux. From Kupres to Livno, the scenery is vast and unspoiled. Re-enter Croatia and journey into the deep forests surrounding Plitvice Lakes, where waterfalls and woodland trails await. We will visit the massive, abandoned Zeljava Airbase, a former Yugoslavian underground military complex built into the Plješevica mountain near the Croatian/Bosnian border. One of Europe's largest underground airbases, built to house MiG-21 jets and support personnel, featuring five runways and extensive tunnels designed to withstand nuclear attacks. You will see an abandoned Douglas C-47 transport plane left on the runway, offering a unique exploration site just a short drive from the popular Plitvice Lakes.

Plitvice to Opatija

Today we head back to the coast to discover the idyllic "Austrian riviera".

We travel West through the cool green mountains of Gorski Kotar, a land of quiet villages and pine forests. Descend gradually toward the Adriatic, where elegant Opatija greets you with Belle-Époque villas, seaside promenades and a timeless Riviera ambience.

Opatija is unlike other coastal towns in Croatia. It has captivated the hearts of many since the Habsburg era in the late-19th century. During the fin de siècle, it became popular with the Austro-Hungarian royals and nobility, whose pastel-coloured villas still dot the surrounding hills. During the Cold War, when Croatia was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Opatija became a favourite vacation spot for Yugoslavia's political elites.

In Opatija we stay in the elegant Amadria Park Hotel Milenij

Opatija to Venice

Follow the coast through Istria and the charming Slovenian Riviera. From Piran's Venetian squares to Trieste's grand waterfront, the road unfolds with gentle Mediterranean charm.

Just outside Trieste, Miramare Castle sits directly above the water. This is a perfect stop: walking the gardens, breathing the sea air and absorbing the quiet elegance of the place.

Continue across the peaceful Veneto countryside before reaching the timeless canals and bridges of Venice. As you reach Venice and park safely at Tronchetto, boats will replace cars to take you to San Clemente Palace Hotel private island for your two-night stay in the world's most elegant and celebratory city.

Venice

A day to relax in Venice between a masterpiece at the Accademia, a trip to the Guggenheim, a visit to the dome of the Salute and a tour of the Doge's Palace. San Clemente Palace hotel is just ten minutes by boat from San Marco.

This former monastery converted into a palace is where the crowds disappear, where time stands still, and where the dome of San Marco can be contemplated from the restaurant terrace by the flickering light of candles.

Let yourself be enchanted by the extraordinary richness of Venice!

Venice To Innsbruck for Motorail back

Climb into the Dolomites, where jagged peaks and sweeping passes create one of Europe's most memorable drives.

Travel through the South Tyrol's alpine villages before crossing the Brenner Pass and descending into Innsbruck, framed by the soaring Austrian Alps.

Arrive at the Innsbruck terminal.





ACCOMMODATION

Each night you will have a luxury hotel room with en-suite. Breakfast is included each day, so are most of the evening meals. On rest days you have the chance to choose your own restaurant.

BACK UP

We aim to keep man and machine together so provide mechanical back-up

VEHICLES

We suggest you take a well prepared classic car on this tour. All roads have been recced and the route is completely open. The entire route is on tarmac.

CLIMATE

We are going at one of the best times of the year when the summer heat has died down providing a much more pleasant environment. Evenings

are still warm, allowing us to eat outside on many occasions. During the day there is usually a coastal breeze making open top driving a pleasure.

HOW TO ENTER

**Early Bird Event fee
(2 people plus car) £23,750.**

Contact us to discuss an entry or simply fill out an entry form which is available from our website.

Strictly limited to 20 places. Please see full T&Cs including cancellation and refund policies on our website. <https://bespokerallies.com/terms-and-conditions/>

Call us to reserve your place
Phone +44 (0)1483 271699

