

Charles' Tours for 2016.

We are planning two tours for 2016. The first, to Croatia, is now open for booking!

The second for which booking will open in the New Year when we have fuller details of hotels and flights will be to the classical cities of southern Turkey and run from 8th to 15th October. We have already booked in the lovely Nedime (from our Istanbul tour) as our guide. I have no objections to you registering your interest (with no commitment) to Tony at Millennium Tours for this tour but once booking opens, it will be strictly first come, first served on receipt of the deposit.

Booking now open for:

'From Roman Palaces to Venetian Ports- travels along the Croatian Coast with Charles Freeman.' Saturday 14th May to Saturday 21st May, 2016.

Those who have not booked before please note that booking is direct with Millennium Tours Ltd on the attached booking form and your place is secured when its Director Mr Tony Giambruno has confirmed receipt of your deposit. You then have all the protections of a normal travel company since Millennium Tours Ltd are ATOL bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL no. 10040.

Please also note that it is obligatory to let Millennium Tours have details of travel insurance before you depart if you do not know them now. We don't carry emergency cash!

I am primary lecturer but we always have a local back-up guide to deal with emergencies, local glitches in the schedule, etc. These guides often contribute local gossip, extra historical material as well as shopping suggestions.

As usual we will run a minibus for Suffolk participants from Oak Farm to Gatwick and back at cost price if there is demand.

Flights. Easyjet flights including priority boarding, preselected seats at the front of the plane, 20 kgs checked luggage.

Flight out. Leave Gatwick, Saturday, 14th May, 11.45. Arrive Split 15.10.

Flight back. Saturday 21st May. Leave Dubrovnik 10.45. Arrive Gatwick 12.30.

Hotels. Three nights in the five star Hotel Atrium at Split, four nights at the four star Hotel Uvala in Dubrovnik.

These are well respected modern hotels with full facilities and peacefully away from the touristy centres.

Included are six light lunches and dinners every night in the hotels. As wine is expensive in Croatia, this will be an optional extra for those who would like it.

The following itinerary will be confirmed after a recce by Lydia and myself in April and will include the major centres of Split and Dubrovnik together with a number of smaller historic coastal towns with wonderful views and a heritage of Roman, Ottoman and Venetian buildings. The coastline is one of the most beautiful in the Mediterranean.

Saturday 14th. On the way to the hotel from the airport, we will have a break at the lovely little town of Trogir, known for its fine Romanesque and Renaissance buildings. Arrival at hotel Atrium(porterage of cases to rooms included) and dinner there.

Sunday, 15th. We will start with a visit to the finest archaeological site in Croatia, Solin, the ancient Solana, close to Split, and once capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia. Then we will visit the archaeological museum, which contains many of the best finds from Solin, leaving the famous palace of Diocletian and the cathedral in Split itself to to the afternoon. Lunch provided and dinner in the hotel.

Monday, 16th. Leave c. 8-30 for a day further north. Our main visit will be to Zadar (two hours on the motorway), beautifully set on its peninsula and, despite war damage, crammed with interesting buildings from Roman to Venetian times. After lunch we will drive back along the stunning coast road to Sibenik and its fifteenth

century cathedral of St.James, seen by many as the finest on this coast.

Tuesday, 17th. We leave our hotel and take the ferry to Hvar island and, probably after a stop at the sixteenth century fortress of Tvdalj, the bustling atmospheric town of Hvar itself with its ornamented Gothic palaces. Lunch here and then a scenic drive to pick up the ferry at the southern end of the island to take us back to the mainland and on to our hotel in Dubrovnik. Dinner in hotel.

Wednesday, 18th. A full day in Dubrovnik seeing the main sights of this extraordinarily well preserved medieval /Renaissance city.

Thursday, 19th. Into Montenegro to see the wonderful little towns of Perast and Kotor. We will take a boat out from Perast to see the Church of Our Lady (Gospe od Skrpjela) on an artificial island in the bay. In Kotor where we will lunch, we will enjoy its position on the water, its Romanesque cathedral and its fine Venetian walls. It is one of the best preserved of all the Adriatic towns.

Friday 20th. Free morning in Dubrovnik for shopping and sights we did not visit on Wednesday. Afternoon excursion, probably to Lokrum Island with its peaceful walks, Benedictine monastery and botanical garden.

Saturday, 21st. Leave hotel for the airport.

The cost, which will include everything except gratuities for driver and our back-up guide (and alcohol!), will be £1750. I am sorry that we cannot avoid a single supplement of £295 but that guarantees you a double room. The total price is a saving of at least £200 a head over more commercial set-ups.

A deposit of £250, acknowledged by Tony Giambruno, secures you your place. The booking form and conditions are attached.

N.B. partly because several of you have already expressed interest and partly because we cannot make an advance block booking on Easyjet, early booking is advisable. Later bookings may need you to be rerouted on alternative flights via Germany!

Once again, Lydia and I look forward to welcoming old friends and new to what promises to be a fascinating tour of this wonderful and historically rich coast.

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