

Croatia Mountain Trek



Duration: 5 days

The Istria Peninsula in northern Croatia is relatively unknown, a hidden gem which feels a world away from the well-touristed Adriatic coast to the south.

With spectacular, diverse scenery of lush green forested hills and limestone mountain peaks, vineyards and olive groves, meandering rivers, untouched stone villages and medieval hilltop towns, the region offers rich rewards for those who like to trek away from the crowds.

Following the Istria Mountain Trail across the peninsula, we trek from the wooded hills around Buzet east into Učka National Park, where we crest three mountain peaks, culminating in fabulous views over the entire region from the rocky summit of Mount Učka.

This trip generates around **48 kg of CO₂ per person**. Because of our commitment to responsible travel, **we offset 100% of these emissions**, including flights booked with us.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly and transfer to Buzet

We arrive into the region and transfer to the characterful town of Buzet, known for its production of local grappa (schnapps). There should be time to explore the old town, and visit the local distillery for a chance to sample the different brandy flavours! Night hotel.

Drive approx. 2 hours

NB: We do not always fly into the same airport for this challenge; Ljubljana (Slovenia), Trieste (Italy) and Pula (Croatia) are all suitable options. Group flight details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Day 2: Buzet - Oprtalj - Buzet

A 30-minute drive takes us to Oprtalj, a small and very picturesque town marking the start of the Istrian Mountain Trail. Our trek starts fairly gently on undulating wooded trails, passing small villages and farmland before climbing to a wonderful viewpoint over the River Mirna, with vistas stretching to Mount Učka. We then pass the imposing ruins of Pietrapelosa castle as we head downhill into the valley. After more undulating trails passing small villages, we enjoy beautiful views across to Buzet, perched picturesquely on a forested hilltop, and return there for the night. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 6-7 hours; 12 miles

Day 3: Buzet - Hum - Buzet

A long but absolutely beautiful day awaits! Walking alongside the river, dwarfed by sheer rock faces, we walk through woodland, gradually gaining height, and pass lakes and waterfalls. We pass an old abandoned village with traditional Istrian stone houses, and an old watermill beside natural pools, before reaching Hum for lunch. Officially listed as the world's smallest town, Hum is also known for its herb-infused brandy and is our mid-way point. We continue climbing through the wooded valley to a stunning viewpoint, before heading back to Buzet on a scenic, undulating path passing yet more waterfalls. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 8-10 hours; 17 miles

Day 4: Buzet - Učka - Lovran

A half-hour drive takes us to Brgudac, we set off uphill through oak forests onto a mountainous plateau and onto Korita Peak (1050m); once above the treeline we can enjoy wonderful views of the Učka massif. Here we can fill our bottles from the wooden troughs, always brimming with pure spring water. We continue over the undulating karst plateau to the bare rocky peak of Veliki Planik (1272m), the highest point on the Ćićarija plateau. Mesmerising views over Central Istria are our just reward for this more strenuous haul. Descending to a saddle between the mountains, we are spurred on by fabulous sea views to Mount Učka – our highest point at 1401m. The limestone massif dominates the surrounding countryside and features heavily in local folk-lore. It's a long haul to the top, but it's possible to see the Alps to the north and the Adriatic islands to the south, as well as all over Istria: a fitting end to our trek! After soaking up the views, we drive to Lovran, a lovely historic town on the east coast of the peninsula where our hotel and celebration meal await. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 7-8 hours; 11 miles

Day 5: Transfer to airport; fly to UK

After breakfast there is free time to explore Lovran before we transfer back to the airport for our flight home, dependant on return flight time. *(Lunch not included if not in-flight)*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from UK
- All transfers as part of itinerary
- All accommodation in hotels on twin-share basis
- All meals except where specified
- Discover Adventure crew (number dependent on group size)
- Local support and back-up equipment
- Entry to National Park and any other sites included in the itinerary
- Distillery visit and brandy tasting
- Airline taxes
- **We offset 100% of the carbon emissions from your trip, including flights booked with us**

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending money, souvenirs, drinks and tips for the local guides/support crew
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

GRADE | YELLOW

All our trips are designed to provide a challenge. Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **YELLOW** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors. Trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account. Some sections will feel more challenging than others, but the grade reflects the overall trip. Unusual weather conditions can also have a significant impact.

The Accommodation icon indicates the living conditions while trekking/cycling. While there are usually several factors that present a challenge, the Challenge icon indicates the trip's most challenging element, for most people.

[Trip grading explained](#)



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Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 3 Jul 2025, and the challenge is subject to change.