CYCLING ISTRIA’S WINE ROADS

- The medieval hilltop villages of Grožnjan and Motovun, each with their unique charms
- The Momjan muscat wine and white truffles famous to the region
- The popular coastal city of Poreč with its UNESCO World Heritage listed Basilica
- The picturesque fishing port of Rovinj and its colourful old town.

Sample local wines and delicacies, while you soak up the Mediterranean sun and meet the locals on your cycling holiday. Your journey takes in the best Istria has to offer, from the untouched interior with its medieval hilltop villages, to the glistening Adriatic Coast and its popular resorts.

Starting out from Buje, in the north of the Istrian Peninsula, you will soon see why this area is often referred to as the “Adriatic Tuscany”, with its rolling green hills and terracotta roofed villages. Leaving Buje, cycle through the Mirna River Valley on your way to the artists colony of Grožnjan. Passing through the village of Oprtajl, you will enjoy views of the Mirna River as you head towards Livade, the truffle centre of Istria. Finally you will reach your next stop, the Medieval hilltop town of Motovun with views over the valley below.

From Motovun, you will cycle back out to the Adriatic Coast to the popular coastal town of Poreč. On the way stop in Visnjan and visit the many wine cellars, sampling some of the Malvasia wine produced in this area. The next day starts with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Euphrasiana Basilica. Your final destination is the colourful coastal port of Rovinj. Still an active fishing village, it is now also a popular tourist destination. Explore the narrow streets, passing market stalls brimming with local produce and handicrafts. Walk along the waterfront taking in the warm Mediterranean setting before stopping at one of the many seafood restaurants to celebrate the end of your cycling adventure.

WHY CHOOSE A SELF GUIDED CYCLING HOLIDAY WITH US?

Macs Adventure specialise in great value self guided cycling holidays. As passionate and regular cyclists we know what makes for an unforgettable trip and we pride ourselves on delivering outstanding cycling holidays with every last detail taken care of. Great cycling routes, breathtaking scenery and warm, good food and welcoming accommodation are all part of our winning formula.

HIGHLIGHTS

Code: CCrSI
Days: 8 (6 Days Cycling)
Nights: 7
Overnights: 3 Buje, Motovun, 2 Poreč, Rovinj

DAY 1

Arrive in Buje

Buje is a charming hilltop town located 10km inland from the Adriatic, where you will spend your first three nights. Take some time to visit the 16th century Baroque church, wander through the old city, and enjoy views over the surrounding landscape dominated by olive groves and vineyards.
**Overnight:** Casa la Parenzana ***

The family run Casa la Parenzana is a peaceful oasis, and is ideally situated for exploring the highlights of the surrounding area. It takes its name from the “Parenzana” - the old disused Austro Hungarian railway line which once connected Trieste with Poreč. The old railway is currently under restoration as a bike trail.

**DAY 2**

**Circular cycle to Umag**

Leaving Buje you will start with an easy downhill ride to the coast, on the northernmost point of the Istrian Peninsula. Visit Savudrija, one of the oldest lighthouses in the Adriatic, built in 1818. Continue south along the trail to the small town of Umag, which was founded by a Roman nobleman who decided to make it his summer residence. Explore the city walls and fortifications and wander the streets with their Venetian houses and baroque buildings. On the way back to Buje visit a wine cellar and have the opportunity to see how the wine is produced. The road back towards Buje passes many vineyards enroute to your hotel in Volpija, near Buje.

**Cycle:** 43km / 27m  
**Overnight:** Casa la Parenzana ***

**DAY 3**

**Cycle the Mirna River Valley**

After breakfast you will pass through Buje and have the opportunity to visit the old town with its artistic buildings, churches and museum. Leaving Buje, follow the trail through Krasica, before heading downhill over the Ponte Porton. Cycle the road alongside the river to Nova Vas village above the Mirna Valley. This area produces some of the best wine and olive oil in Istria, and you will have the opportunity to see how the oil is produced. The road back towards Buje passes many vineyards enroute to your hotel in Volpija, near Buje.

**Cycle:** 39km / 24 m  
**Overnight:** Casa la Parenzana ***

**DAY 4**

**Cycle to Motovun**

Leaving the area of Buje you will cycle toward the medieval hilltop village of Grožnjan. Visit the beautiful St. Vitus and Modesto’s baroque church built in 1770. Art galleries and studios line the cobbled alleyways of this artists colony, and the sounds of musicians rehearsing can be heard throughout the village. Continue on to Oprtalj, with its narrow streets, and covered passages. Cycling downhill you will enjoy views over the Mirna River enroute to Livade, the truffle centre of Istria. Take the chance to visit the speciality truffle shop before heading on to the beautiful village of Motovun, perched high above the Mirna River Valley.

**Cycle:** 35km / 22m  
**Overnight:** Fiore Kastel Hotel ***

The family run Fiore Hotel Kastel, is located in the ancient medieval town of Motovun. Relax in the garden or take advantage of the swimming pool and spa.

**DAY 5**

**Cycle to Poreč.**

**Today you will cycle from the inland Istria back to the coast. Follow the road towards Visnjan passing its popular observatory. Continue on the the town of Visnjan and enjoy the views along the Istrian coastline to the town of Poreč. Visit one of Visnjan’s many white wine cellars and sample the local Malvasia wine. Continue on towards the villages of Tar and Nova Vas before reaching the coastal town of Poreč. Explore the Old Town and enjoy a refreshing drink and meal in one of the many bars and restaurants.**

**Cycle:** 39km / 24m  
**Overnight:** Hotel Porec ***

**DAY 6**

**Circular cycle to Vrsar**

From Poreč the trail starts with a visit to the 6th century Euphrasius Basilica - the most valuable cultural monument in Poreč. Continue on to the village of Bacva, the highest point on todays trip. Sample some traditional Istrian dishes in the local restaurant. The trail continues on through the southern villages, before reaching the coastal town of Vrsar. With a commanding view of the coast, it was natural for Vrsar to become a defended fortress. Only parts of the fortification system, built in the 12th century, have been preserved, but the fortress-castle used as a summer residence of the Poreč bishops, is well worth a look. After Vrsar the trail passes Funtana fishing village, and Zelena and Plava Laguna villages on the way back to Poreč.

**Cycle:** 43km / 27m  
**Overnight:** Hotel Porec ***

**DAY 7**

**Cycle to Rovinj**

After breakfast you have the choice of cycling or taking a transfer to the small town of Kanfanar above the Lim Valley. Leaving Kanfanar, you will start the flattest ride of the trip, passing inland villages enroute to Bale. Visit the Kastel Bembo, the city square and the museum within the towns.

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**Cycle:** 39km / 24m  
**Overnight:** Hotel Porec ***
paved streets. From Bale you will pass the prehistoric hilltown of Monkodonja which was inhabited around 1800-1200BC. Continuing on you will reach your final destination, the colourful fishing port of Rovinj. Rovinj was originally an island, but the channel that once separated it from the mainland was filled in to form this picturesque coastal town. Wander the narrow streets of the old town, and explore the many historic attractions such as the baroque Church of St. Euphemia. Soak up the magic and charm of Rovinj while you dine on fresh fish, and a glass of the local Malvasia wine. Cycle: 31km / 19m (optional extra 31km / 19m) **Overnight:** Hotel Vila Lili *** This small family run hotel is located in a quiet residential street between the Old Town and the beaches. Enjoy a breakfast of homemade rolls and jam with local hams and cheeses, served in the hotels charming garden .

### DAY 8

**Depart Rovinj**

After breakfast take a bus to Pula Airport for your onward travel. If you have pre-booked a transfer you will be collected from your accommodation and transferred to the airport. If you are departing from Trieste Airport pre-booking a transfer is recommended.

### Additional Nights and Extensions

You can add additional nights at any point along the route or elsewhere in Croatia.

### Tailor Made Holidays

We are always more than happy to tailor our standard itineraries to suit. Just let us know what you would like and we will be happy to arrange your tailor made holiday.

### Grade & Fitness

This cycling tour is graded easy to moderate. The trip is planned on local roads with some short connections on main roads but generally the cycling is relaxed and traffic light.

### Navigation

Full route instructions, maps and sightseeing information will be provided.

### Accommodation

The accommodation on this cycling trip consists of small charming family run three star hotels. Many are renowned for their excellent cuisine and all offer a warm welcome to cyclists, traditional hospitality and an authentic experience.

### Alternate accommodation

During high season, or when your stay falls on a closing day, you might be booked into a different accommodation which is not listed in the description. Any alternative accommodation will be of the same or better standard as those described.

### Single Rooms

If you require single rooms within your party we would be happy to accommodate you although there is a single room supplement payable.

### Meals

A delicious breakfast (usually buffet) is included each morning. Lunch and dinner are not included. Many accommodations are happy to provide a packed lunch - this should be requested on arrival. Or you can pick up lunch in the village or stop along the trail. Your route notes have details for each day. Dinner is available either at your accommodation or nearby bars, cafes and restaurants.

### Baggage Transfer

Your bags will be transferred between your accommodation as per your itinerary. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag of up to 20kg per person.

### Transfers

A transfer is included on day 1 from Porec to Buje. An optional transfer to Kanfanar is included on day 7 as outlined in the itinerary.

### Bike Hire (Not included)

We can arrange bike hire as an optional extra. Bike Hire includes helmet, lock and repair kit. Our adult bicycles are quality hybrids, made by FELT. The model is the QX80 and we have a range of sizes to ensure there is a good match between you and your hire bike. These are very comfortable bikes, with quality components, ideally suited for roads and gravel tracks. The bikes have 27 gears, operated by easy-to-use gear shifters.

### Getting to Istria

**By Air**—Pula is the regional airport and flights from the UK are available via Zagreb. Trieste Airport is the closest airport serviced by direct flights from the UK with Ryan Air and Alitalia offering services.

From Pula Airport to Porec - Buses are available from Pula airport to the bus station, and local buses go from the station to Porec (approx. 1hr 40m). We can also arrange airport transfers if pre-booked.

From Trieste to Porec - We recommend that you pre-book an airport transfer as public transport is very limited.

From Rovinj to Pula (End of Trip) - There are local buses from Rovinj to the main Pula Bus station, and from here you can take a bus on to the airport. Alternatively we can arrange airport transfers for you if pre-booked.

From Rovinj to Trieste (End of Trip) - We recommend that you pre-book an airport transfer as public transport is very limited.

### Travel Insurance

**HOLIDAY INFORMATION**

**ISTRIA’S WINE ROADS**

**CYCLING THE ISTRIAN PENINSULA**

Macs Adventure T: +44 (0) 141 530 8886 E: info@macsadventure.com W: www.macsadventure.com
It is a condition of booking with us that you have suitable travel insurance that covers you for cancellation, curtailment, illness or injury.

M.A.C.S. Responsible Travel Policy

We operate holidays in some of the most beautiful areas of the world and try to operate in an environmentally aware and sustainable manner. We do this by following our M.A.C.S. Responsible travel policy. The full policy is available online and the cornerstones of this policy are:

- Minimise Impact & Maximise Benefit
- Action & Advocacy
- Carbon & Communities
- Sensitive & Sustainable

Price & Availability

Please refer to our website for up to date prices. This trip is available from April to the end of October. Starting in September, though mainly taking place in October, the "Day of Truffles" events are actually a succession of truffle-themed days taking place every weekend. Enjoy tasting various food and dishes flavoured with truffles.

Included

- 7 nights in 3 star hotels
- 7 Breakfasts
- Daily luggage transport of 1 bag of up to 20kg per person as required.
- Detailed route descriptions and pre departure information pack
- Maps of the route and sightseeing information
- 24-hour assistance by phone

Excluded

- Flights and airport transfers
- Lunches, dinners, drinks & snacks
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, extra transfers, tips, etc.

Optional Extras

- Single room supplement(s) if applicable
- Bike hire
- Airport transfers
- Additional nights during the holiday.

Once you have read all the information in this factsheet or our website and would like to go ahead with your booking you can book securely online at www.macsadventure.com or by telephone on +44 (0) 141 530 8886

Financial Security

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations1992" all passengers booking with Macs Adventure Ltd are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required (this insurance will not cover repatriation to the country of origin for the passengers outside of the EU), arising from cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of Macs Adventure Ltd

Book with Confidence. We are a member of ABTA which means you have the benefit of ABTA's assistance and Code of Conduct. We provide full financial protection for your money.

ABTA Member Statement

As a Member of ABTA we are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by

ABTA's Code of Conduct. If you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street, London.