



Slovenia & Croatia

Ljubljana, Adriatic Coast & the Istrian Peninsula



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WISCONSIN
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

September 16-25, 2026
Other dates available upon request.



Dear Badger Traveler,

There's much to discover on this wonderful, eight-night journey to Slovenia and Croatia. Experience a crossroads of history, culture and traditions, plus an enticing mix of Central European, Mediterranean and Slavic influences. Along the way, dreamlike visions of rolling vineyards and quaint villages will come to life, and you'll lean into the region's slower pace of living.

Begin in Slovenia, brimming with rich heritage, old-world architecture and sensational gastronomy. Stay for four nights in vibrant Ljubljana and visit bewitching villages, including Lake Bled and sun-splashed Piran. Roam through Postojna Cave and gaze in awe at a fortress built into a cliff. Get to know local culture in Ptuj, Slovenia's oldest town, and see Maribor's famous grapevine. Cross into Croatia to stay in Rovinj, a relaxing and photogenic fishing port. Here, delve into the many wonders of Istria, including Pula's Roman theater, Grožnjan's artistic heritage and the truffle, a favorite delicacy. Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Space is limited, so please make your reservation today by calling AHI Travel at **888-462-5831**. Please be sure to review the tour's Terms and Conditions on the AHI website so that you can know what to expect should the tour be unable to operate or should you make the decision to cancel prior to departure.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schutt
Chief Alumni Officer & Executive Director of the WAA

UNESCO World Heritage

The works of Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana –
Human Centred Urban Design, Slovenia

Jože Plečnik's Triple Bridge, Ljubljana



P.S. This program is open to all alumni and friends of UW – Madison. Traveling with the Wisconsin Alumni Association® (WAA) is a member benefit, so although anyone - UW – Madison graduate or not - is welcome to explore the world with Badger travelers, at least one person in your party must be a WAA member to participate in a WAA tour. Membership information is available at uwalumni.com/membership.

Please review the WAA Travel Disclaimer in detail at: <https://www.uwalumni.com/resources-services/travel/travel-disclaimer/>. If you no longer wish to receive travel-related brochures, please contact WAA Travel at 888-WIS-ALUM (888-947-2586).



Discovery begins here



On this one-of-a-kind journey through Slovenia and Croatia, discover one of Europe's most enticing cultural cities, travel to iconic seaside villages and explore the beauty of Istria, the charming and unspoiled peninsula in Croatia's northwest. Step back in time in the region's emerald forests, tranquil waterscapes, massive cave systems and well-preserved Roman ruins. Tempt your taste buds with locally made honeys, wines and truffles. This multifaceted travel experience checks all the boxes!

Top: Ljubljana, Slovenia | Above: Motovun, Croatia

Cover: Rovinj, Croatia | Mail panel: Bled Castle, Lake Bled, Slovenia | Traditional Slovenian dancers

Inspiring Moments



- Discover the boundless Mediterranean treasures and timeless charms of **Slovenia** and **Croatia**.
- Sample sumptuous **Slovenian wines** during a private tasting at a family winery.
- Explore fascinating **Postojna Cave** and **Predjama Castle**, built into a hillside.
- Stroll through the hilltop towns of **Motovun** and **Grožnjan**.
- Be enchanted by **Lake Bled** and **meet local beekeepers** to learn about the significance of Slovenia's apiculture.
- Witness **fairy-tale Piran**, a village tucked along the shimmering Adriatic coastline.
- Indulge in **magical Rovinj**, a delightful fishing port with a photogenic harbor.
- Soak up Croatia's sunny **Istrian peninsula** and enjoy tastings of local wine, olive oil and truffles.
- Admire the **UNESCO-listed** works of architect Jože Plečnik in **Ljubljana**.



Lake Bled

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for Ljubljana, Slovenia. 🌍

Day 2 | Ljubljana, Slovenia

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the hotel. Gather tonight for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Ljubljana

Enrichment: *An Insider's Guide to Slovenia.*

A local expert shares insights into Slovenia's modern society and economic future.

Slovenia's Capital Walking Tour. Witness Ljubljana's old town filled with baroque, Art Nouveau and Renaissance buildings. Browse the Central Market and Prešeren Square, named after Slovenia's national poet France Prešeren. Pass through Congress Square, see the University of Ljubljana and enter the pretty Ljubljana Cathedral. Next, enjoy cruising on the Ljubljanica River, bordered with weeping willows, outdoor bistros and pastel buildings. Gather for a group dinner tonight. Meat and fish dishes, strudels, risottos and pastas characterize Slovenian cuisine.

Day 4 | Lake Bled | Ljubljana

Alluring Lake Bled & Bled Castle. This special alpine setting boasts sweeping vistas. Soak up the panoramas from your vantage point at cliff-top Bled Castle. Tour the towers, ramparts and terraces, and browse the museum with its collections of jewels and weaponry. Descend to the lake and glide aboard a pletna boat to Bled Island, home to the Church of the

Assumption of Mary and a fabled wishing bell.

🌍 **AHI Connects | Apiary Visit.** Drive to a bee farm to learn about the significance and history of Slovenia's thriving api-tourism industry. With over 10,000 beekeepers spread across the country, Slovenia is aptly referred to as the "cradle of beekeeping." Gain insight into the Carniolan honey bee and discover the variety of products produced with their honey.

Dine on regional favorites for an authentic lunch. Dinner is at leisure this evening. Explore the local food scene to find a variety of dishes including burgers, Mediterranean cuisine and more.

Day 5 | Ptuj | Maribor | Ljubljana

Northeastern Slovenia. Journey through sunny hills and meadows bursting with color into northeastern Slovenia. Begin at Ptuj, Slovenia's oldest town. Then, continue to the heart of Maribor to see The Old Vine, a famous vine of the Žametovka variety, one of Slovenia's oldest indigenous varieties. Next, visit the Maribor Cathedral, built as a Romanesque building in 1248 and dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. Cap off the excursion at a local winery and settle in for a wine tasting and lunch. This prominent wine region is steeped in viticulture and is known for producing world-class vintages.

Day 6 | Postojna Cave | Piran | Rovinj, Croatia

Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle. At Postojna Cave, ride a mini-train into an expansive karst cavern lit with chandeliers. Pass by stalactites,



Venetian architecture, Piran



Rovinj

columns and other rock formations, and learn about the cave's fascinating ecosystem, which is home to 100 different species. Take a guided walking tour to gaze at the cave's most famous stalagmite. The next stop is Predjama Castle, an 800-year-old Renaissance fortress built dramatically up a 400-foot cliff face. Admire the magnificent construction; then step across the drawbridge and trace a path through the Middle Ages while browsing the castle chambers and living quarters.

Piran Along the Slovene Coast. Succumb to the allure of the Adriatic coast in the pretty fishing village of Piran. During a walking tour, discover Piran's Venetian-style architecture and view Gabrielli Palace and Tartini Square, named after violinist Giorgio Tartini. Enter St. George's Parish Church, overlooking Piran. Visit a shop that produces sea salt, a popular souvenir. Piran salt is known for its outstanding quality and one can find an assortment of bathing salts, salt mixtures and salt scrubs.

Continue to Croatia and check in to the hotel.

The Old Vine, Maribor



Dinner is on your own this evening. Istrian cuisine is flavorful and fresh.

Day 7 | Pula | Rovinj

Enrichment: Istria, a Blend of Cultures & Traditions. Gain an understanding of the traditions running deep on the Istrian coast.

Pula & Rovinj. Explore two beloved towns of Istria today, beginning at the coastal city of Pula. Enter Pula's well-preserved Roman theater, the sixth largest of its kind. Stroll through a farmer's market where locals sell fresh fruit, souvenirs, sachets of lavender and truffle products. After an included lunch, head back to romantic Rovinj. The town's small harbor is filled with colorful fishing vessels and flat-bottomed batana boats. Walk through the endearing old town, passing rainbow-hued buildings, Venetian architecture, twisting narrow streets and the Church of St. Euphemia, Istria's largest baroque church.

Postojna Cave, Slovenia



Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **4 nights** in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at the deluxe InterContinental Ljubljana.
- **4 nights** in Rovinj, Croatia, at the deluxe Grand Park Hotel Rovinj.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.



Day 8 | Motovun | Grožnjan | Rovinj

Motovun & Grožnjan. Following breakfast, start the day at medieval Motovun, perched on a hill above the Mirna River. After a walking tour through the car-free narrow streets, sit down to a lunch featuring Istrian gold, the truffle — a pungent, earthy and delicious fungus lauded around the world. Continue to enchanting Grožnjan. Famed as a musicians' and artists' village, Grožnjan is a hub of creativity and boasts art galleries, film schools, traditional Croatian restaurants and boutiques. Soak up the artistic vibe and charming stone houses.

Day 9 | Rovinj

Free Time. Head off to spend leisure time in Rovinj today or join our elective excursion.

Elective | Brijuni National Park. Bask in the natural, unspoiled beauty of the Brijuni archipelago, a series of sensational islands! Raise a toast this evening at a Farewell Reception, followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Day 10 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the Ljubljana airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

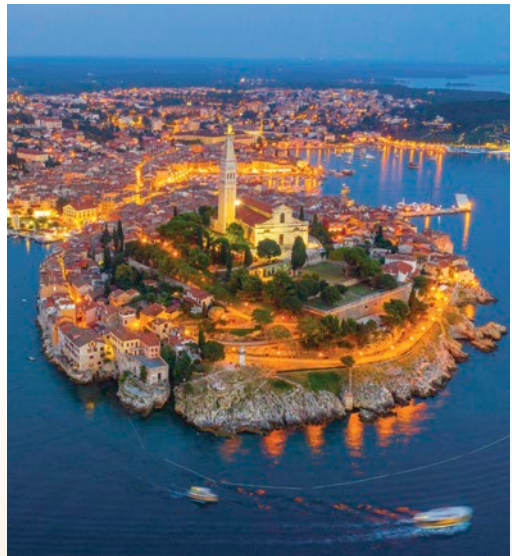
Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Church of St. Euphemia, Rovinj





Roman amphitheater, Pula



Predjama Castle, Slovenia



Grožnjan



Ptuj

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **September 16-25, 2026**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **September 17-25, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$5,145**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$4,395**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,495 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://wiscon.ahitravel.com/destinations/1928A?schoollid=190>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Accommodations

Our travel experts have carefully chosen these first-class hotels for their prime locations and historic character. Sample flavorful dishes at each property's on-site restaurant or unwind with a cocktail while taking in picturesque views. Each hotel offers thoughtfully designed spaces and a tranquil atmosphere. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of their services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



InterContinental Ljubljana | Ljubljana



Grand Park Hotel Rovinj | Rovinj



Slovenian Carniolan honey bee



Decadent truffle dish, Motovun



Book your journey today!

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