



Free & Easy Traveler - Travel Prep Guide

10 Days in Croatia/Italy: Free & Easy Yacht Week

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The Basics

Duration: 10 Days

Start: Venice, Italy

Finish: Split, Croatia

Adventure Type: Backpackers (age 18 to 27)

Trip Size: 15 – 22 (+2 group leaders)



Epic Experiences

Included in the Price

- 7-days on a deluxe Yacht
- Venice, Italy - walking tour
- Plitvice Lakes - day trip & entry fee
- Various parties and excursions organized

Optional Activities

- Party in a Cave Bar
- Whitewater raft down the Centina River

Trip Details

What's included?

- All Taxes (GST, PST, Airport tax***)
- Return international flights and airport transfers***
- Accommodations for the 10 day trip
- 7-days on a deluxe yacht with air-con cabin
- 2 meals/day on the yacht (14 meals total)
- Group travel between destinations
- 2 knowledgeable and fun Free & Easy leaders
- Free and Easy Travel Guidebook
- 15 years of trip leading experience!

***Land Only prices do not include your international flight, airport taxes or transfers

What isn't included?

- All meals and drinks (except those mentioned above)
- Activities outside of the ones listed above
- Any Visa or Visa fees

Trip Leaders

Every Free & Easy trip is accompanied by at least two leaders. We like to call them "Leaders" and not "Guides" because they are essentially your well traveled, experienced friends! We hire local guides whenever knowledge of culture, history or safety are necessary (ie; temple tours or jungle treks). Our Leaders main goals are to ensure everyone on the trip is having the best time possible. Our leaders will arrange the group transportation between destinations, sort out rooms at the accommodations, plan any group meals or activities and assist in any additional activities that anyone may wish to take part in, and ultimately show you the best that each destination has to offer. They know the trip locations well, and have great relationships with all our contacts in each destination. Not to mention they are all extremely fun and easy going people who continue to showcase the essence of what makes us Free & Easy!

Flying to Italy/

Upon registration you can choose between booking your own flights or requesting Free & Easy to book flights for you.

If you book flights with Free & Easy:

- A flight itinerary will be emailed to you approximately 2 – 3 months before your trip's departure. (Assuming you have paid enough money on your account)
- One or both of your leaders will be at the airport in Venice to pick you up and arrange transport back to the guesthouse.
- Transportation will be arranged for you to get from the guesthouse at the end of the trip to get to the airport to catch your flight.
- You can also ask for any custom flights, and our flight team will give you a price quote for booking this for you.

If you don't book flights with Free & Easy:

- You will be contacted with information on meeting up with your group for the start of the trip in Venice.

Meals

The ability to experience local food, whether it's from a street vendor or a restaurant, is a huge part of travelling. You'll be able to ask your guides for great options to check out at every destination we go, but for the most part. There will be times that meals will be provided for you, if you have any allergies or food preferences, i.e. vegetarian, please let your guides know!

Allergies!

For the most part allergies in Italy and Croatia wouldn't be much different than at home. Come prepared! Bring Antihistamines for mild allergies and keep an EpiPen on hand if your allergies are severe. You can also check out [Killer Peanut](#) to get any allergy you're worried about translated into Italian and Croatian.

Types of Transportation on this trip

- Plane
- Yacht!!
- Big bus: Use this to get from Venice to Plitvice Lakes and to the Yacht

Accommodations

We have a wide range of accommodations on this trip from beautiful hostels/hotels to guest houses to sleeping on a Yacht! We have chosen each of our accommodations based on quality, location, and relationships with the establishments.

All our accommodations are based on at least two-person occupancy. If you wish to have your own room you can pay an additional fee in order to do so. Please contact travel@fnez.com before your trip begins if you are interested.

Solo Travelers

Lots of solo travelers come on our trips and it's a great way to step outside your comfort zone and make lots of new friends. Since all our accommodation is based on at least two-person occupancy you will be rooming with other members of the same sex in your group.

Packing Suggestions

For this 10 day trip, you won't need to pack much, here are some ideas for what you might want to pack:

Travel Essentials

- Passport (digital and hard copies)
- Travel insurance (digital and hard copies)
- Airline tickets (digital and hard copies)
- Credit or debit card
- Any entry visas, additional passport photos or vaccination certificates required
- Cover for backpack/ziplock bags for travel essentials

Electronics/Entertainment

- Alarm clock
- Headlamp
- iPods, tablets
- Books, eReaders
- Camera (bring a few memory cards)
- Speakers
- All chargers

Clothing

- Swim wear
- Walking shoes/sport sandals
- Shorts
- Shirts/T-shirts
- Underwear
- Sarong (travel towel)

First-aid kit (all can be purchased in Turkey)

Toiletries

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of the places we stay. Ask your leaders to point out the best places to get laundry done. There will be times when there are no laundry facilities, however your guides will tell you this in advance.

Travel Essentials

There is nothing more important than your health and safety so make sure you read this carefully!

Passports

Everyone **MUST** have a passport for international travel. If you already have a passport, double check to make sure that it is still valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip. If it is not valid for a full 6 months from the day you plan on returning to your passports issuing country, you'll have to apply for a new passport before you leave.

The application process for getting a passport may seem simple, but for most people it ends up taking longer than it first appears. Sometimes it can take a few weeks to complete the entire process, so we definitely recommend not leaving it to the last minute.

There are passport offices in most major Canadian cities. Typically, if you bring in your application it takes 10 business days to process your application. For those of you who do not live close to a passport office, you can also mail your application but you should expect that this would take longer.

Insurance

Everyone **MUST** have Travel Medical Insurance of some kind and bring proof with you for this trip. You might not need to purchase a medical insurance policy though because you may already be covered through some other way:

- Your parent's work health plan.
- With a credit card.
- Through a student or work health plan.
- Through private insurance.

While you are away traveling with us, if you decide to extend your plane ticket, you also have the ability to purchase an extension to your insurance policy. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is your own responsibility to be making any extension to your insurance so you cannot expect this will automatically happen when you extend your plane ticket.

If you need to extend your TIC insurance please call 1-800-670-4426

Please Note: At this time we only provide Travel Medical Insurance for individuals with a valid Canadian Citizenship.

Immunizations

For none of the countries we visit are there immunizations that are ‘required’ for entry into the country (please see your specific adventure’s guidebook for any specific country information). For your own safety, there are some shots that are always recommended for travel to tropical countries.

- Hepatitis A.
- Hepatitis B.
- Tetanus.
- Up to date on ordinary Flu shots.

We also want to warn you that sometimes travel clinics are over cautious to the extreme and try to sell you everything under the sun. If you want a second opinion about something, do some more research online or contact us. Often they will say that you should take malaria pills. We suggest you try to learn more about the exact locations of any malaria danger before you commit to taking the pills. We can say truthfully, that currently none of the Free & Easy staff or owners take malaria medication when we are on any of our adventures. The feeling amongst many people is that the side effects of the pills are not worth the minimal risk in the regions we travel to. Rather than subject ourselves to the medications we choose to be cautious with mosquito repellent whenever they are present. Since we are not medical professionals we urge you to do your own research and make your own informed decision.

Banking & Money

The easiest way of getting and carrying your money is to simply use the bank machines in the country you are travelling. You can use your regular bank card, using your regular pin number, and the money will come out in the local currency (You need to make sure that you have “cirrus” or “plus” written on the back of your card). At nearly every destination on our trips, you’ll have easy access to a bank machine. This also means you won’t have to get local currency before you leave. Once you arrive, you can just use a bank machine right there at the airport.

Every time you need to make a transaction your account will be charged approx. \$5 fee from your bank and then a possible fee from the local bank. It can get a bit pricey if you’re making withdrawals every few days—so it makes more sense to take out a large sum and then just watch your spending! Although theft does happen sometimes we have found that it is quite rare. So we, ourselves, practice this method.

Be aware that if you are pulling money out on your credit card that this counts as a “cash advance” and you will immediately be charged interest on this amount and not have a grace period or get reward points like you typically would with other credit card purchases. Additionally, you will still be charged those \$5 fees from your bank and the

local bank. With this in mind the best option is always to pull out money using your debit card instead of your credit card.

Another suggestion we would like to reinforce is that we highly recommend that you have online banking during the trip. It allows you to check your balances, transfer money, and monitor your transactions from any internet café. In case of any issue with your bank card, online banking always simplifies a situation since you can easily transfer money to another traveler in your group who could then pull out money for you.

Another little helpful hint is signing over power of attorney to someone you trust (i.e., a parent). This means that they can have access to your accounts while you are away. This can help if you lose your bankcard, or there is a problem with it while overseas. It is also useful if you need someone to pay your bills, or make money transfers while you are away.

Italian/Croatian Travel Visas

Upon entry to Italy & Croatia (by air) most countries (Canada, Australia, United States and the United Kingdom) are automatically granted a 90-180-day tourist visa. Both Italy and Croatia require that you have at least 6 months validity on your passport and enough unused pages in your passport, allowing for any necessary stamps upon arrival and departure.

Please visit this [link](#) to double check your countries Visa requirements.

Communication + Payment

Questions

Phone: 1-800-403-5208

Email: travel@fnez.com

Communication

So you have signed up for a Free & Easy adventure and we hope to help make this the easiest travel experience of your life. We want to help you out with anything you need help with. However, there are always things that you will need to take care of yourself and we will make it as easy as possible to explain these things. So we need to have a bit of cooperation from your part and it start with actually **READING** our emails :). Please, make sure you read the emails we send leading up to your trip because we are sending them to make sure that you are as ready as you can possibly be for this travel adventure.

Most of the information we send will be coming through your “Your Trip” account. Please make sure that you have all of the requirements taken care of prior to your trip as well you can also view your account and balance owing and a place for us to give you your downloads and hear news of the upcoming trip. You should receive an email in your

inbox notifying you when we do post something on there. Please notify us if you find that you're not getting the notifications.

Making Payments

Follow this link for a full outline of our payment options.

Check here for the payment schedule for all our trips.

The \$200 deposit reserves your placement on a trip. For all the trips, we have arranged the payment dates to allow you the maximum time to pay for your trip. If you would prefer to pay for the entire trip all at one time, that is no problem. You can also make larger payments earlier whenever it is convenient for you. The payment dates that we have listed are just guidelines that state the last possible date by which payments should be made.

We would greatly appreciate that all payments be made on time. Meeting this simple request makes our job much easier because it allows us to always be looking forward preparing for the trips, rather than figuring out who and where we need to collect money from. If you expect that a payment will be late, please email us to explain when we can expect the payment. Payment schedules for each of the trips can be reached by clicking the link above.

PLEASE NOTE: All additional costs (for flights, insurance, fees & extras) will be added to your statement of account on the 'your trip' page. Please, ensure that you add any additional charges to your final payment unless we require it sooner.

Cultural

Quick Facts on Italy

- Nobody really knows where Italy got its name. Italy comes from a root word that means "land of young cattle". Historians speculate that it might be named this because a bull was the symbol of early Southern Italian tribes but some believe that it comes from the name Italus, an early king of the region.
- Italy is the fourth most populated place in Europe, mostly because of high birth rates and low death rates. Italy is about the size of Arizona, but the population of Italy is about ten times the population of the state, with approximately 60 million people living in Italy as opposed to 6 million in Arizona. Approximately 320 people live in every square mile in Italy (about 200 per kilometer).
- Rome, Italy is home to hundreds of fountains, with the oldest being the Trevi Fountain. Rome has 50 large fountains and a great many small ones, not including the 'nasoni', which are small waterspouts used by pedestrians. The Trevi Fountain is more than eighty-six feet high, and comes from an aqueduct originally built in 19 B.C. The fountain was built by Pope Urban VIII in the mid 1600's. A popular legend states that visitors

who throw a coin into the Trevi fountain are assured of a return visit to Rome. The coins are collected weekly; Italian coins go to help pay for upkeep of the fountain, and foreign coins are donated to the Red Cross.

- Italy stands on a fault line. Italy is plagued by earthquakes because of this; also, three volcanoes have erupted there in the last one hundred years – Etna, Stromboli, and Vesuvius.
- Italy is home to the highest mountain in Europe. It is called Mont Blanc (or White Mountain in English) and it is part of the Alps mountain range. It is in Italy, on the border of France.
- More than 50 million tourists visit Italy each year. Tourism is an important part of Italy's gross national product; more than 60% of the country's income comes from tourist dollars spent there.
- Soccer is the most popular organized sport in Italy. Italians are rabid soccer fans; they are known as tifosi, which means typhus carriers. It's a national pastime, and Italians are highly passionate about the game.
- Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year in Italy. Christmas season is much longer, too: Christmas dinner is usually on Christmas Eve, and the season lasts until January 6th (until the Epiphany, or the date generally believed to have been when the three Wise Men found the manger of Jesus).
- Pasta wasn't eaten with tomato sauce until the 1600's in Italy.
- Until then, it was generally eaten with honey and sugar. Today, there are more than 500 varieties of pasta eaten in Italy.
- Musical notations are always in Italian. Allegro, Adagio...these are Italian words to indicate tempo, and came about because an Italian named Guido d'Arezzo came up with a system for modern-day musical notation.

Quick Facts Source [here](#)

Quick Facts on Croatia

- Croatia invented the necktie.
- It's home to the "World's most beautiful sunsets," according to Alfred Hitchcock, anyway. But the man certainly had a sense of the cinematically magnificent, and Zadar is the city he claimed had the best. During a visit in 1964, he filmed the sunset, and made it world famous.
- Croatia is home to King's Landing (sort of). You're probably far more familiar with Croatia than you may have realized, and we have Game of Thrones to thank for it. Though the show has taken viewers all over the world, seasons 2 and 3 showcased Croatia's most famous city, the walled seaside fortress of Dubrovnik, which was chosen as King's Landing.
- It is tied with Spain for the highest number of UNESCO Intangible Goods of any European country. Croatia stands in first place among European countries, tied with Spain, at 14, as of the year 2014. Crafts such as lacemaking, gingerbread baking, and

wooden toy carving stand alongside festivals and singing traditions as part of Croatia's intangible cultural heritage.

- Croatia is home to the world's smallest town. Over in Croatia's northwest, you'll find the quiet town of Hum, a sleepy hamlet of cobblestone streets. And although you wouldn't expect such bucolic modesty to be in possession of a world record, Hum is officially the world's smallest town, with a population that has varied between 17 and 23.
- The Croatian currency is the kuna, which is the Croatian word for the marten, a ferret-like little bastard prized for its luxurious fur. Trappers traded the furs widely enough that, much like the U.S. Dollar being nicknamed the buck, the furs became practically synonymous with money itself.
- The kuna has only been the currency of Croatia since 1994, succeeding the Yugoslav Dinar after the breakup of Yugoslavia, and since Croatia is taking steps to join the Euro.

Quick Facts Source [here](#).

Trip Locations

Venice

Piltvice Lakes

7-days on a Yacht!

Split

Ultra Music Festival **

PLEASE NOTE: You will receive your confirmed Free & Easy Traveler trip itinerary with the exact routing at least 30 days prior to your departure. Ultra Music Festival** is an optional 3 day extension to the trip, but if you desire you can spend 3 extra days at one of the biggest EDM festivals in Europe! Click here for more details on the [3-day Ultra Extension Trip](#).

Please be advised we are constantly keeping an eye out for warnings and are well informed on the happenings in the places we go. Our ground team is frequently sending us first hand updates, ensuring the destinations we bring our groups to are safe!

Community Forests International (CFI)

Free & Easy Traveler has joined forces with Community Forests International (CFI) to turn the joy of world travel into an act of global conservation. Travel is an extremely important part of our lives, getting to see and experience the world is what keeps us all connected and reminds us that we all live in the same world and deal with the same problems. But traveling around the world comes at a price and we are well aware of the many buses, planes, ships, etc. that we use to travel that harm the environment. Greenhouse gas emissions are driving increasingly dangerous climate change to the point that some of the places we love most are under threat and we don't want to contribute to the continuing destruction. So we decided to take action.

We Travel Carbon-Free

By tracking the flights of our staff members and calculating the resulting greenhouse gasses, we support CFI to go out and protect and manage a forest in Canada to pull those gasses back out. These emissions become securely stored at CFI's Whaelghinbran Farm. [Read more about how CFI offsets our carbon here.](#)

One Traveler, One Tree

But we didn't stop there. Much of the work that CFI does supports community tree planting efforts in Africa and Canada. This work is having incredible results, and we wanted to strengthen their efforts so we decided that for each traveler that comes on a trip with us, we'll provide CFI with the support to plant a tree to help offset that traveler's carbon emissions.

These trees are being used as tools of environmental and social restoration. In Canada, some of these trees were planted along a degraded watercourse and will go on to provide habitat for salmon, trout, hawks and king fisher, just to name a few. In Africa, where CFI was born, these trees were planted as a part of ongoing restoration of degraded lands on the island of Pemba, Tanzania. These trees rebuild the soil that was too poor to grow crops, allowing for trees like mangoes and cassava to thrive and produce food.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with CFI and, along with your help, making the world a greener place to live and travel in! If you want to offset your travel emissions with CFI, or want to support tree planting around the world, [find out how here.](#)