

# SLOW TOURS

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Full Itinerary and Tour details for

## Northern Croatia's National Parks 8-day Self-guided Cycling Tour



Prices starting from.

**1190 €**

Trip Duration.

**8 days**

Max Passengers.

**12**

Start and Finish.

**Fužine to Karlovac**

Activity Level.

**2**

Experience.

**Cycling Tours Europe**

Tour Code.

**#B1/2212**

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## Tour Details and Description

This tour is an ideal supplement to a Bike & Boat Tour. Alone, in couples or in a group of your choice, you can go for one week on a tour traveling between selected hotels. Your luggage is transported for you, and you can cycle at your own speed, following especially prepared instructions and supported by a GPS device. The tour presented here is probably not what first comes to mind when you think of this multifaceted and interesting country. You go to the mid-range and high mountain regions of the Croatian hinterland. Only 12.5 mi/20km away from the more or less developed tourist areas of the coast, you enter a rough region of deep forests and stone deserts, where the Bora wind has had a strong impact and where the snow is meters deep in winter. En route, you cycle through three national parks, where bear, wolf and lynx can still be encountered in the wild. The variety and beauty of nature will constantly surprise you, and the fabulous vistas across the Croatian islands will stay with you for a long time. The highlights of the tour are the Plitvice Lakes and their spectacular waterfalls, which are known far beyond Croatia's borders. The tour described here leads mainly along asphalted roads. Some forest tracks, however, make the use of a MTB worthwhile.

### Fitness requirements (Level 2 - 3)

This bicycle tour requires good basic fitness, which one should have obtained by daily bicycling. The individual stretches of 16 – 55 mi. (25 - 88km) cover elevations of up to 3,900 ft./1,270m and lead through hilly and mountainous terrain. The bike tours are designed for a whole day, so that there is no reason for rushing. Although most of the roads are asphalted and little used, MTBs are recommended (180 Euros per week ) Helmets are obligatory. Please bring your own well-fitted helmet with you. A limited number of rental helmets are available (reservation necessary)

**Children:**

We believe that only children in a good physical condition and of a minimum age of 10 and previous bicycle tour experience are able to master the bike tours on their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1.20 m.

**Accommodation:**

Good to very good medium class hotels in the 3\* and 4\* range.

**Catering:**

Breakfast is included in the price. In the evenings, you can dine a la carte at your hotel, or we supply you with tips and suggestions for restaurants, where you can try out the excellent local cuisine. Half-board can be booked for an additional charge of 100 EUR/person

**Included in the National Parks Cycling Tour:**

- 7 x overnights with breakfast in double room in good to very good medium class hotels in the 3\* - 4\* range
- 6 individual bicycle tours according to program
- GPS and printed road book with detailed map material and route descriptions for each bike tour
- Luggage transfer between hotels plus roadside assistance
- Parking space at the first hotel and transfer from Karlovac back to Fužine
- Transfer from train station Rijeka/airport Rijeka or Zagreb to Fužine, on request
- Transfer from Karlovac to airport, train station or to Fužine, on request

**Not included in the tour:**

- Journey to Fužine

- Entrance fees for the national parks: Risnjak: 45 kuna (approx. 6 EUR); Plitvice Lakes (seasonal prices): 110 Kuna (April – June and Sept – Oct / 150 Kuna (approx. 20 EUR): July – Aug 250 kuna (approx 35 EUR)
- Tips at the hotels and for the transfer drivers
- Lunch & dinner
- Special activities in Karlovac (payable on the spot)

**Extras: (on request)**

- Exclusive transfers to Fužine from train station Rijeka: 80 EUR / Rijeka Airport: 90 EUR / Zagreb Airport: 250 EUR
- Transfer from Karlovac to Rijeka train station: 100 EUR / Rijeka Airport: 120 EUR / Zagreb Airport: 40 EUR / Fužine: 50 EUR
- Insurance against theft and damage of the rental bike: hybrid bicycle: 10 EUR/week; e-bike or fully: 20 EUR/week (not insured: grossly negligent damages)

**If you would like to rent a bike or e-bike, please contact our office when booking:**

[sales@slowtours.com](mailto:sales@slowtours.com)

**Bike Rental:**

- Rental bike hybrid bicycle: 80 EUR/week;
- Rental e-bike: 180 EUR/week (limited);
- Full suspension MTB : 180 EUR/week (limited) each with an air-pump, lock and basic tool kit



**WHAT SLOW TOURS OFFERS YOU:**

**Customer Service:** Hand-picked partners in whom we trust to deliver great service.

**Best Selection:** The best range of escorted and self-guided tours in Europe

**Secure payment:** Secure booking onsite through Stripe, the largest online provider of financial payment services.

**Support:** Contact us for support services on any Slow Tour - email or telephone support.

**Reviews:** Customer reviews available, and being constantly updated

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrival at Fužine You travel individually either by car as far as Fužine, by train to Rijeka or by plane to the airport of Rijeka or Zagreb. On request, we gladly organize a fee-based transfer from Rijeka train station or Rijeka or Zagreb airport to your hotel. You have the rest of the day for a short introductory bike tour along the three lakes, located in the immediate vicinity of the village, or in the surroundings. If you still have time, there are several possibilities to extend the bike tour. A detour to the 300 m-deep Vrelo Cave, which is only a few kilometers away and one of Fužine's main attraction, is also a rewarding excursion. You spend the first night in a hotel in or near Fužine.

### Day 2

(Risnjak National Park approx. 34mi./54km and 3,280 ft. | 1,000 m of altitude After a healthy breakfast at your hotel, you start on your first cycle trip. The destination you aim for is Risnjak National Park. Ris is the Croatian word for lynx, so that Risnjak means something like "Place of the Lynx". You reach the entrance to the park after about 16 mi./25 km. From here, you have the possibility to explore the park either on foot or by bike. There is a special trail for nature enthusiasts, where you can learn everything about the local fauna and flora. The park itself is home to many protected plant and animal species. Late in the afternoon, you return to your hotel for another night.

### Day 3

Fužine - Otočac approx. 55mi./88km and 3,840 ft. | 1,170 m of altitude Before leaving your hotel today, please get your luggage ready for the transfer driver. Then, well strengthened by a hearty breakfast, you're on your way, which takes you first along large fields and soon into a dense forest. Quite soon, right in the middle of the deepest woods, you come across a small, cozy restaurant named Vagabundo. The friendly owners are experts at creating delicious little snacks from what fields and woods supply. Even though it is still a bit early for lunch, you should not miss out on sampling a few tasty bits along with a cup of coffee. After more kilometres through a dense mixed forest such as it is rarely found in Europe anymore, you reach the hills sloping towards the Adriatic, which have partially been swept bare by the Bora. Here, you have breathtaking vistas across the islands of Kvarner Bay. Deep below, you recognize Krk and the moonscapes of Rab and Pag and on clear days, one sees as far as Dugi Otok. The destination of this leg of the tour is the small village of Otočac at the Gacka River, which is well known for

its abundance of trout. The night is spent in a hotel in Otočac.

#### Day 4

Otočac – Plitvice Lakes National Park approx. 30mi./48km and 1,968 ft. | 600 m of altitude From Otočac you continue your journey towards the Plitvice Lakes National Park. It is the largest national park in Croatia and the oldest in Southeast Europe. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. Through small villages you cycle through hilly landscape up to the forest belt of the Plitvice Lakes. Depending on your arrival time, the decision lies with you. You can either go on to Grabovac to your accommodation (12 km), check in there and later return by taxi to the National Park or stop in between to explore the National Park on foot before you cycle to Grabovac. Whatever you choose, let yourself be fascinated by the variety and lush greenery of the plants within the Plitvice Lakes National Park. You will be able to explore the otherwise unspoilt nature by using wooden footbridges, which have been specially constructed for this purpose. Admire the waterfalls cascading from one basin to the next. Discover the different fishes cavorting at the bottom of the clear lakes and marvel at the colourful dragonflies and butterflies that fill the air. In short, enjoy another wonderful day.

#### Day 5

Grabovac - Slunj approx. 24 mi./39km and 1,540 ft. | 470m of elevation After an extensive breakfast you start the day. Today's bike tour takes you along the Bosnian border through deep forests and small villages to Slunj, whose Rastoke district is known for its miniature Plitvice Lakes. Here the river Slunjska branches into many smaller arms and flows through numerous cascades and smaller waterfalls into the Korana. Another special feature of the area are the numerous old water mills along the course of the

river. You will spend the night in a hotel located in the middle of this romantic landscape.

#### Day 6

Slunj – Karlovac (aprx. 42.5 mi./68km and 2,100 ft. | 640 m of altitude After breakfast, you leave Slunj which, incidentally, just as the Plitvice Lakes, could be admired in the film version of Winnetou. An Indian village and the saloon were located in Slunj, and Mile Strk, a local villager, who is still a legend today, played the medicine man. Today's tour takes you to Karlovac, which is one of the youngest cities in Croatia. Founded in 1579 at the confluence of four rivers, the fortress is considered an outstanding example of Renaissance architecture. The Baroque historical centre was heavily damaged in the war but has largely been restored in the last few years and offers some attractive corners that are worth visiting. Give yourself some time in the evening to stroll around and taste a glass of the local Karlovacko beer.

#### Day 7

All around Karlovac approx. 15.6 - 47 mi. | 25 – 75km Today, you can choose your activities from a rich program. Because of its location at four rivers, the region around Karlovac offers various cycling tours of different lengths and grades of difficulty that we will show you. As an alternative, you have the possibility to participate through your local hotel in rafting tours, fishing courses, horseback excursions or hikes. Everybody can find something here to spend a pleasant and interesting day.

#### Day 8

Karlovac After breakfast, check-out and individual journey home – or you may prolong your hotel stay. On request, we organize a free return transfer to your first hotel in Fužine

## WHY SLOW TOURS EUROPE?

Slow Tours offers a selection of tours in [Europe](#) for unique experiences, active or relaxed, so you return home feeling relaxed, refreshed & re-energised.

Connect with the locals, take time to genuinely experience another culture, relax with the easy flow of life, enjoy fresh air and freedom from crowds. Savour the experience of our hand-picked tours of Europe!

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### 3 BIG BENEFITS OF BOOKING WITH US



#### TIME BECOMES A FRIEND

Yes, you'll see and do many wonderful things, but at a relaxed, easy pace that invites conversation and reflection.



#### DISTINCTIVE QUALITY

There's not a village you'll explore, or table at which you'll dine, that you won't remember with a smile.



#### PEACE OF MIND

Whether travelling directly with Slow Tours or one of our carefully selected, kindred-spirit partners, you'll have our complete and constant support.

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