

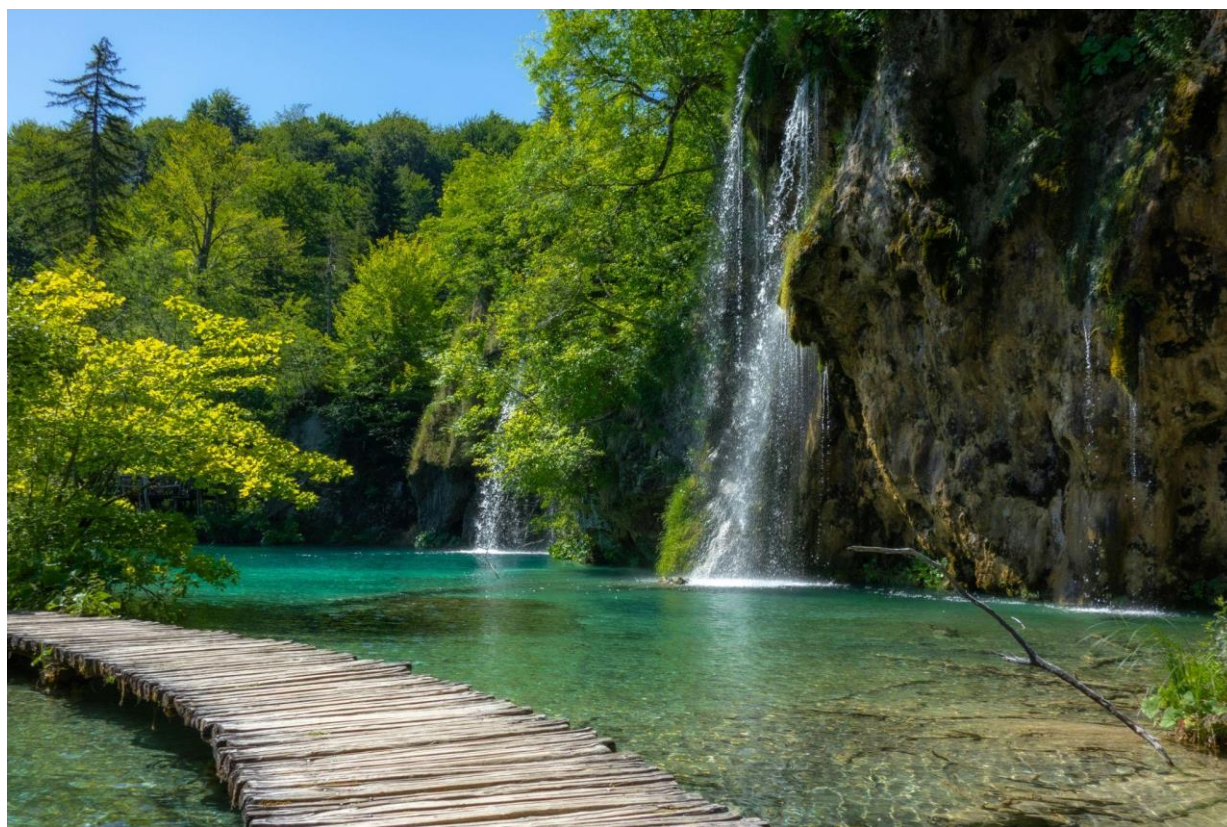


**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN CLUB**
SINCE 1876

Hiking, Kayaking & Culture: The Best of Croatia

September 16 – 27, 2027

Trip # 2751



Plitvice Lakes National Park by Ilse on Unsplash

TRIP OVERVIEW

Experience the very best of Croatia on an unforgettable journey from Zagreb to Dubrovnik. This immersive twelve-day adventure blends **scenic hiking, coastal exploration, island life, and rich cultural history**, offering a dynamic balance of activity and relaxation.

From forested mountain trails and panoramic summits to cascading waterfalls in Plitvice Lakes National Park, each day reveals a new landscape. As the journey unfolds, transition to the Adriatic coast—where medieval towns, turquoise waters, and island culture create a distinctly Mediterranean rhythm.

Experience hiking through Risnjak and Paklenica National Parks, exploring UNESCO-listed towns, kayaking among island archipelagos, and enjoying local cuisine and wine. Designed for active travelers, this trip offers **variety, beauty, and meaningful connection** throughout.

Highlights:

From Zagreb to Dubrovnik – Travel across Croatia from mountains to coast

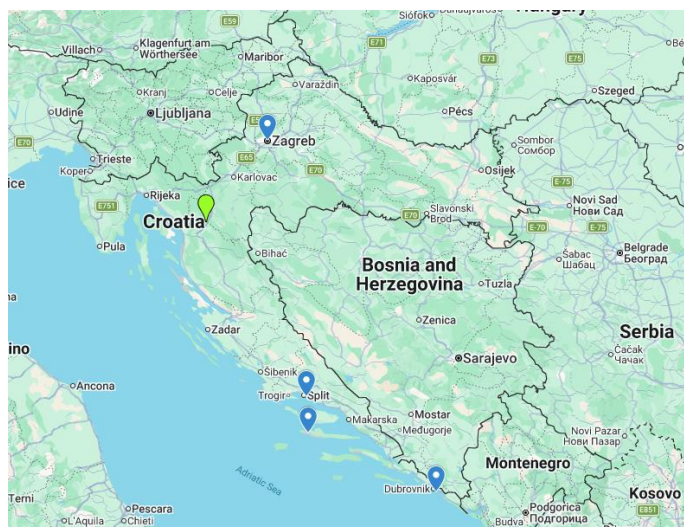
Plitvice Lakes & Waterfalls – Walk boardwalks past cascading lakes and falls.

Paklenica Canyon Hike – Trek beneath towering limestone cliffs.

Hvar & Korčula Islands – Explore coastal towns, beaches, and island trails.

Sea Kayaking & Wine Tasting – Paddle the Lumbarda archipelago, then sample local wines.

Some stops along the way.



TRIP STYLE

This trip is for people who are active and social, and who enjoy exploring new places with a group of new and old friends. On our scheduled activities, there is always an option for an off day to rest and explore locally on your own.

TRIP DIFFICULTY

This trip is rated Moderate (#4) on the AMC Activity Rating Scale: <https://www.outdoors.org/trip-rating/>

This itinerary includes multiple days of hiking, walking and exploring ranging from **3 to 6 hours**, with distances typically between **7–13 km (4–8 miles)** and elevation gains of up to **600 meters (2,000 feet)**. Terrain varies from well-maintained forest trails and coastal paths to rocky mountain sections and uneven terrain.

Participants should be comfortable hiking on terrain and mileage rated moderate for several consecutive days, maintaining a steady pace, and navigating moderate elevation changes. Additional activities such as sea kayaking and cultural explorations provide additional opportunities for all to gather an understanding of this remarkable country.

DAILY ITINERARY

The daily schedule assumes safe weather conditions, our participants' optimal strength and skill, and other safety considerations. The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip. Factors that may require changes could include safety, weather considerations, natural disasters, or recommendations by governmental agencies. All transfers will be made by private vans or public ferries.

Meals paid by the trip abbreviations: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D – dinner

Day 1 September 16 – Arrival · Zagreb

Step into Croatia's vibrant capital and ease into the journey ahead. Arrive in Zagreb and settle into your hotel. Enjoy a guided walk through the historic center, including Zagreb Cathedral, Dolac Market, Upper Town, and St. Mark's Church. A relaxed introduction to Croatia and your fellow travelers. Wander through cobblestone streets and lively squares as you begin to absorb the rhythm of the city. This first evening sets the tone—welcoming, cultural, and unhurried—as you ease into the journey ahead.

Activity: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs. | **Meals:** D **Overnight:** Zagreb

Day 2 September 17 – Gorski Kotar & Risnjak National Park

Leave the city behind and step into Croatia's quiet mountain wilderness.



Travel into the forested mountains of Gorski Kotar and hike through Risnjak National Park along the scenic Leska Trail. A peaceful and invigorating start surrounded by nature. Towering trees, fresh mountain air, and quiet trails create a sense of calm as you transition from city to wilderness. Scenic viewpoints along the way offer your first glimpses of Croatia's diverse landscapes.

Hiking: 4.5–5.5 hrs., 7 miles Elevation gain 1200' | **Meals:** B, L, D **Overnight:** Gorski Kotar **Transfer:** Zagreb to Gorski Kotar: 1:40 min, 75 miles

Photo Credit: [Mesh](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Day 3 September 18 – Mount Snježnik Summit Hike

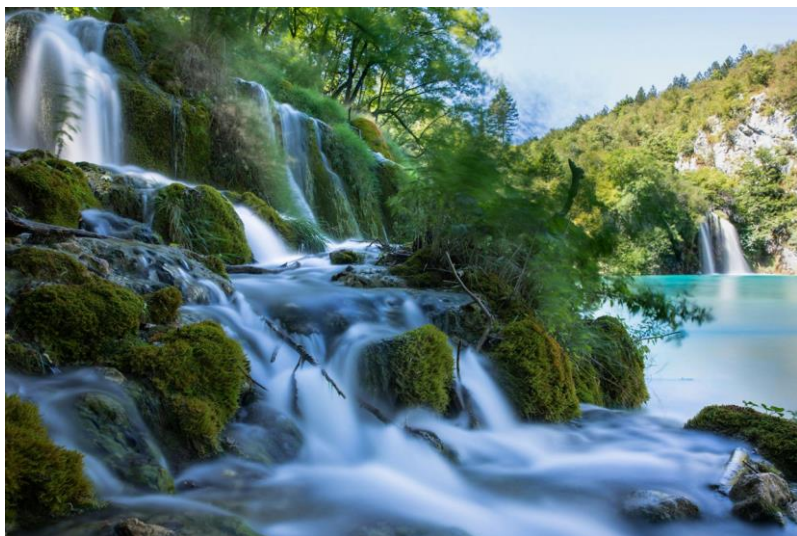
Climb to sweeping views where mountains meet the sea. Climb to one of the region's most scenic peaks. Forest trails lead to a limestone ridge with sweeping views across the Adriatic and surrounding mountains. As you emerge above the tree line, the landscape opens dramatically, rewarding your effort with expansive vistas. On clear days, you may see as far as the islands and distant alpine peaks.

Hiking: 4–5 hrs., 7 miles Elevation gain 1300' | **Meals:** B, L, D | **Overnight:** Plitvice Lakes **Transfer:** Gorski Kotar to Plitvice : 2hrs, 75 miles

Day 4 September 19 – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Walk through a landscape of waterfalls, lakes, and natural wonder.

Explore Croatia's most iconic national park, walking along wooden boardwalks past cascading waterfalls and emerald lakes. The sound of rushing water accompanies you as you move through this breathtaking landscape. Every turn reveals another waterfall, another shimmering pool, making this a truly unforgettable day.



Plitvice National Park By Oliver Plattner on Unsplash

Hiking: 3–4 hrs., 5 miles Elevation gain minimal | **Meals:** B, L, D | **Overnight:** Plitvice Lakes

Day 5 September 20 – Paklenica National Park to Split

Hike dramatic canyon landscapes before reaching the Adriatic coast.

Hike through the dramatic Velika Paklenica canyon before traveling to the

Adriatic coast and the vibrant city of Split. Massive limestone walls rise around you as you follow shaded trails deeper into the canyon. By day's end, the shift from rugged mountains to the sparkling coastline feels both striking and rewarding.

Hiking: 5–6 hrs., 8 miles Elevation gain 1300' | **Meals:** B, L, D | **Overnight:** Split **Transfer:** Plitvice to Paklenica: 1:40 min, 70 miles | Paklenica to Split 1:40 min, 70 miles

Day 6 September 21 – Split & Marjan Peninsula



Explore ancient history and coastal beauty on one unforgettable day.

Discover Split's historic old town and Diocletian's Palace, followed by a light hike on Marjan Hill with sweeping coastal views. Step back in time as you wander through ancient Roman architecture and lively stone streets. Later, enjoy a peaceful escape above the city with panoramic views of the sea and nearby islands.

Activity: 3–5 hrs. 3.5-mile Tour/Walk/Hike Elevation gain 500' | **Meals:** B **Overnight:** Split

Day 7 September 22 – Hvar Island

Sail to island life and soak in the rhythm of the Adriatic Take a scenic ferry to Hvar. Explore its charming harbor, historic streets, and enjoy optional beach time. The island atmosphere invites you to slow down and take it all in. From the Spanish Fortress, enjoy sweeping views over the harbor and surrounding islands.

Activity: 2–3 hrs. | **Meals:** B, D | **Overnight:** Hvar Town | **Transfer:** to Hvar by Ferry 1 hour

Day 8 September 23 – Hvar Coastal Hike

Follow scenic trails along one of Croatia’s most beautiful coastlines. Follow a coastal trail through olive groves, stone terraces, and quiet bays, with optional extensions for those seeking additional distance. The trail winds past hidden coves and traditional landscapes that feel unchanged by time. It’s a day of simple beauty—sun, sea, and the rhythm of walking.

Hiking: 3–4.5 hrs., 6 miles Elevation gain 650’ | **Meals:** B, L, D | **Overnight:** Hvar Town

Day 9 September 24 – Korčula & Kočje Nature Reserve

Step into a medieval town and a hidden forest world. Explore the medieval town of Korčula and walk through the unique Kočje Nature Reserve, a shaded stone labyrinth surrounded by forest. Narrow streets and historic architecture give Korčula a storybook feel. In contrast, the Kočje Reserve offers a cool, quiet world of moss-covered rocks and twisting paths.

Activity: 3–4 hrs. | **Meals:** B, D | **Overnight:** Korčula Town | Elevation gain 600’ | **Transfer:** Hvar to Korčula: 1:15 min ferry ride

Day 10 September 25 – Sea Kayaking & Wine Tasting

Paddle crystal-clear waters and savor the flavors of the region. Glide across calm waters in kayaks through the Lumbarda archipelago, exploring hidden coves and islets as you move between islands and quiet bays. The day ends with a relaxed wine tasting, celebrating local traditions and flavors.

Kayaking: 3.5–4.5 hrs., 5-6 miles | **Meals:** B, L | **Overnight:** Korčula Town | **Transfer:** Korčula to Dubrovnik: 2hrs. Ferry ride



Day 11 September 26 – Dubrovnik

End your journey in one of the world’s most iconic coastal cities. Travel to Dubrovnik and explore its UNESCO-listed old town. Walk the historic city walls and enjoy a farewell dinner. The iconic walls offer sweeping views of the Adriatic and the city below. It’s a memorable finale—rich in history, beauty, and shared experiences.

Activity: 3–4 hrs. 3 miles, Elevation gain: 400’ | **Meals:** B, D | **Overnight:** Dubrovnik

Day 12 September 27 – Departure

Depart with lasting memories of Croatia’s landscapes and culture. Depart Croatia or continue your travels independently. Take time to reflect on the journey—from mountain trails to coastal waters—and the connections made along the way.

Meals: B

ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, AND TRANSPORTATION

Accommodations include a mix of **comfortable hotels and locally owned properties** in city centers,

coastal towns, and national park regions. Rooms are typically double occupancy with private bathrooms.

Meals include a combination of **group dinners, local restaurants, and picnic-style lunches** during hiking days. Breakfast is provided daily.

Transportation includes **private vehicle transfers, and local public transport**, ensuring a smooth and seamless travel experience.

WEATHER

Croatia offers warm, pleasant conditions ideal for hiking and coastal exploration. Daytime temperatures typically range from **70–85°F (21–29°C)**, with cooler evenings inland and along the coast. Sea conditions are generally calm during summer months, making it ideal for kayaking and swimming.

TRIP PRICE AND PAYMENT

The AMC Member price is \$7500; non-members' price is \$7600. If you would like to join the AMC, click [here](#). A deposit of \$3750 is due with your application. The final payment of \$3750 is due by February 1, 2027.

Price includes:

- 11 nights lodging with double occupancy rooms
- All breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 9 dinners
- All in-country group ground transportation on scheduled trip days
- Basic medical and evacuation insurance
- Kayaks and all associated gear, experienced kayak guides, and a local guide in Split and Dubrovnik
- All gratuities for local guides, meals, and any other group situations

Price does not include:

- Round trip airfare to Croatia
- Personal trip and medical insurance
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Meals not listed above in the daily itinerary; also, beverages, snacks, or any other meals you prefer that would normally be covered in the trip expenses
- Optional tips, and gratuities on an individual basis
- International airport pickups /drop-offs
- Other personal expenses

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATION

Social Trip: We are planning on a group size between 16-18 people, including the two leaders. We believe strongly that our enjoyment on a trip like this will be derived as much from our interactions with each other as it will from our unique and spectacular environment. As always, we plan to adopt a “go with the flow” approach to managing all events that may be beyond our control (for example: delayed flights, or rooms not ready for occupancy). Our ultimate goal is for all participants to have a wonderful, memorable experience together.

APPLICATION PROCESS

We anticipate a group size of 14-16 participants as well as your AMC Adventure Travel Leaders. As this is a unique experience, we expect the trip to be filled quickly. If you are interested, you should apply as soon as possible.



1. Review, complete & submit the [online trip application](#) materials which consist of: Application, Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk & Release form, medical questionnaire
2. Mail your \$3750 deposit check, made out to the *Appalachian Mountain Club* to David Cole, 641 Main Street, Boylston MA 01505 \$3750 - balance due by February 1, 2027.

You will not be accepted, and your check will not be deposited until you have completed the steps above, and the leaders have determined by a video conference/ telephone conversation with you that you and the trip are a good match. Deposit checks from waitlisted applicants will not be cashed until a spot is available; the applicant is accepted onto the trip, and they confirm their continued interest.

AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The [Adventure Travel Standard Terms and Conditions](#) are an integral part of this prospectus. Please refer to this link for detailed information about:

- Cancellation Policy
- Leaders' Right to Change Itinerary
- Leaders' Expectations of Participants
- Trip Price
- Travel Documents
- Safety
- Activity Rating System
- Essential Eligibility Criteria
- Code of Conduct

Until the trip is confirmed to run on schedule, you may cancel with a full refund of your trip deposit. Please review the full AMC-AT cancellation policy found in above this document. By applying for this trip, you agree to the provisions of the AMC-AT Terms & Conditions, including that you have read

and understand the stated Trip Cancellation Policy. You are welcome to contact the leaders with any questions you have about this policy before you submit your application.

TRIP LEADERSHIP



Dee Dice has been an Adventure Travel Leader for the past 5 years and has led trips in Glacier National Park, Baja Mexico, Spain, Morocco, Nepal, Croatia and a two-week hiking trip to Austria. She has been leading hikes, weekend trips, and paddling trips with the AMC Western Massachusetts since 2018. Her passion is hiking and kayaking which has taken her around the world, travelling extensively to Nepal, New Zealand, South America, and Europe. deedice29@gmail.com 508-566-9565



David Cole is an AMC Adventure Travel Leader, past Chair of the AMC Worcester Chapter, and current AMC Worcester Chapter Paddle Chair. Dave has been involved in AT Trips such as hiking in South Tyrol, Italy; biking in Portugal; and a kayaking adventure in Croatia. Along with hiking, kayaking, and biking, Dave enjoys the winter sports of skiing, both Nordic and downhill - but more importantly, engaging in his local community, as well as with old and new friends. davecolehismail@gmail.com or 508-887-2581

Photo credits: All unlabeled photos courtesy of Dave Cole.

Required Gear List - Will be provided by the leaders approximately 6 months before departure.

AMC's Mission: The mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors.