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Sample Tour Program

featuring *Bled, Ljubljana, Postojna, Zagreb, Plitvice, Zadar, Split, Mali Ston, and Dubrovnik*

day 1 – Overnight flight

Begin your 10-day performance tour with this evening's overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

day 2 – Ljubljana

Arrive at Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, where your **full-time bilingual tour manager** will welcome you abroad. Explorations begin right away as you make your way for an afternoon visit of Bled. Explore the beautiful **Bled Castle**—a symbol of Slovenia—and its wine cellar, Gutenberg's press chamber, and the castle's chapel and museum, while viewing stunning images of the lake and Julian Alps. Afterward, enjoy a **boat trip** across Lake Bled, a glacial body fed by hot springs, to Bled Island to see the oft photographed **Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary**. Continue to Ljubljana to check-in to your hotel, with **dinner** served at a local restaurant.

day 3 – Ljubljana

Breakfast is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. Join a **local guide** for a walking tour to introduce you to the city's Old Town, a maze of cobbled lanes, plazas, and riverside promenades. Ride the **funicular** to **Ljubljana Castle**, for great views of the city, before continuing to see the highlights of the Cathedral, Triple Bridge, Preseren Square, Dragon Bridge and the Central Market, the perfect stop for lunch on your own to try local specialties including struklji pastries and jota soup, a bean and sauerkraut hotpot. This afternoon tour the nearby **Postojna Caves** for sightseeing with included **audio guides**. Begin your visit aboard the cave train, and marvel at the size and splendor of the underground world and geological past. You will be dazzled by a wealth of speleothems: calcite formations, stalactites and stalagmites abounding in a variety of shapes, colors, and age. Your approximately 90-minute visit will cover 5 kilometers of galleries and chambers. **There is the opportunity for an informal sing in the cave halls during your visit!** Return to Ljubljana and enjoy a traditional **Slovenian dinner and show**, including folk dances and games.

day 4 – Zagreb

Breakfast at the hotel. Your journey continues as you travel across Slovenia and cross the border. Arrive in Croatia's largest metropolitan area, and political and economic center; Zagreb is one of Europe's greenest and most livable capitals. Meet with your **local guide** and visit Upper Town (Gornji Grad). Begin at Ban Jelacic Square, and from there ride the **funicular** into Zagreb's medieval history. Stroll along Strössmayer Promenade, and admire the cityscape from above the rooftops, to see **Lotrscak Tower**, St. Catherine's Church, and the seat of the Croatian Parliament. See the Stone Gate, and continue to the popular Tkalciceva Street with free time for lunch on your own. Included today is a visit to the **Zagreb City Museum** with museum guide, showcasing prehistory to the present day, and highlighting the collection of Ivan pl. Zajc, Croatian composer, director, and teacher, who dominated Croatia's musical culture for over

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forty years, and revitalized the musical community with his artistic and institutional reforms, paving the way for significant achievements in the 20th century. Check-in to your hotel, and refresh from your travels. Enjoy a **dinner** of Croatian specialties this evening at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

day 5 – Zagreb

Breakfast at the hotel. Join a **local guide** for a tour of Lower Town (Donji Grad), the modern center of Zagreb, highlighted by Lenuci's Horseshoe, a series of seven interconnected parks encircling the area's top sights. Visit the **Ethnographic Museum**, housing more than 85,000 items from all over Croatia and neighboring countries, and including their collection of traditional musical instruments holding more than 600 elements. The afternoon is at leisure for lunch and additional exploration on your own, or with your tour manager. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

day 6 – Split

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full-day's travels and sightseeing throughout Croatia today. This morning join a **local guide** in the **Plitvice National Park** for a tour of the Lower Falls. Croatia's most popular attraction, its beauty lies in its sixteen lakes, inter-connected by a series of waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars, and rare bird species. Enjoy a guided walk and a boat ride across a lake, to admire the pristine natural surroundings; **lunch** is included at a restaurant in the park today (instead of dinner). Continue with a stop in Zadar, and take a stroll with your tour manager. The peninsular Old Town is well known for its Roman and Venetian ruins. Witness the Sea Organ's clever engineering, and the resulting unique undulating chime-like notes that occur with each shift of the sea. Your day ends in the Split and Trojir area. This evening, dinner is under your own arrangements.

day 7 – Split

Breakfast at the hotel. Explore Split this morning, along with a **local guide** for an introduction to the city. Journey through ancient history and enter the imposing **Diocletian's Palace**, containing some of the most valuable surviving Roman buildings. Located inside, visit the **Cathedral of St. Domnius** and the **Temple of Jupiter**, both beautiful cultural wonders of the Adriatic. See the Peristyle in the center of the palace, Roman temples (today Christian ones), the famous Golden Gate, and the big statue from Grgur Ninski. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

day 8 – Dubrovnik

Breakfast at the hotel. Continue your travels along the coast, as you head south toward the bewitching city of Dubrovnik. Note there is a short border crossing of the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina, before returning to Croatia. Next there is a stop at the Peljesac Peninsula in Southern Dalmatia for a short sightseeing with your tour manager and a visit to the charming fishing hamlet of Mali Ston. As part of your visit, you'll participate in an **oyster tasting** event, including a sail on Mali Ston bay, where you will learn about the process of cultivation, gathering, and shucking, as they are taken from the sea while you float above the surrounding oyster beds. There is free time for lunch under your own arrangements, before continuing to Dubrovnik. Enjoy a panoramic introduction with views of the local waters and a relaxing evening, and check-in to your hotel. **Dinner** is shared at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

day 9 – Dubrovnik

Breakfast at the hotel. Dubrovnik was the seat of a small but powerful state which maintained its independence for 450 years, developed its merchant fleet activities, and rose as one of the strongest navies during the 16th century. Join your **local guide** this morning for a panoramic drive, with magnificent views over the city, Lokrum Island, and the Elaphite islands in the distance. Enter the **City Walls** and discover the UNESCO Old Town, well preserved over centuries. Walk along the elegant main street of Stradun, with Onofrio's Fountains, Orlando's Column, and the **Franciscan Monastery**. Enjoy leisure time for lunch, shopping, or further exploration with your tour managers. **Present**

an area concert finale this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance. **Dinner** is provided at a local restaurant, where you can celebrate your performance tour of Croatia.

day 10 – Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last *dovidenja*!

