

Castle tour - Day excursion from Zagreb - 2020

Trakošćan Castle – Lunch (local food & wine) – Veliki Tabor Castle

We leave your hotel in Zagreb around **9.00am** and drive to Trakošćan castle (1h 15min drive from Zagreb), park the car there and walk up the hill to the castle. Trakošćan castle was built in the late 13th century as part of the defense fortification network of the Zagorje principality, fended Western Europe's border against Turkish army (Ottoman Turks Empire).

It was a small fortress serving as an observation post overlooking the road from Ptuj (Slovenia) towards the Bednja valley (Croatia). Today it's best preserved castle in Croatia, with beautiful nature surrounding the castle (forest, lake). It takes 1 hour to do walk through the whole castle.



Trakošćan castle



Trakošćan castle - interior

Lunch: local food and wine

After Trakošćan castle visit, we would do brief walk along the lake, which is located in Trakošćan foothill (circa 20 minutes' walk). Then, we would return to the car and drive to farm restaurant 'Grešna Gorica' in town of Desinić or 'Pod lipom' in a town of Gornja Stubica. It's 1 hour drive from Trakošćan. 'Stubica' area is important place in history of Croatia, where peasant uprising happened 1573.



'Grešna Gorica' farm restaurant



'Pod lipom' farm restaurant

These farm restaurants have view over surrounding hills, which is best described as – tranquility!



Roasted duck with 'Mlinci'



Apple strudel

Sitting on the terrace, we would have lunch (depends on the weather). We will taste traditional cuisine of 'Zagorje' region: home-made soup, roasted duck with 'mlinci', salad. Lunch is paired with local wine. Mlinci – home-made dough, boiled, and baked with duck: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mlinci>

For dessert you'll try local delicatessen: apple or cheese strudel!

Veliki Tabor Castle

After lunch, we would continue our drive to second castle - 'Veliki Tabor'. This is my favorite castle in Croatia. Architects didn't follow strict castle design related to 16th century. It looks more like a 'rural big house' from a fairy tale.

Legend of 'Veronica from Desinić' is also very intriguing love story (Desinić is village in proximity of Veliki Tabor). According to legend Veronica was walled-in into walls of castle. From time to time people of Desinić area still can hear her crying, during cold winter nights ...



Castle 'Veliki Tabor'

Tour price:

- **2 people - 170 EUR per person** (by car)
- **3 people - 145 EUR per person** (by car)
- **4-8 people - 135 EUR per person** (by mini-van)

Included:

- transportation (car or mini-van)
- guided tour
- 'Trakošćan' castle admission fee
- lunch (soup, roasted duck with 'mlinci', salad, 1 drink)
- 'Veliki Tabor' castle admission fee

Complimentary 'welcome drink'! – Before we enter the 'Trakošćan' Castle

Contact:



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Nothing's worse for us than being chained to a tour bus and a group schedule, so Mladen was perfect for us. He tailored two days of excursions from Zagreb just the way we wanted, and we enjoyed his conversation on history, politics and Croatian society. His restaurant tip directed us to our best lunch in Croatia. He's had a lot of experience in English-speaking companies so communication is no problem.

Visited September 2012

TripAdvisor review – full review list [here](#)