




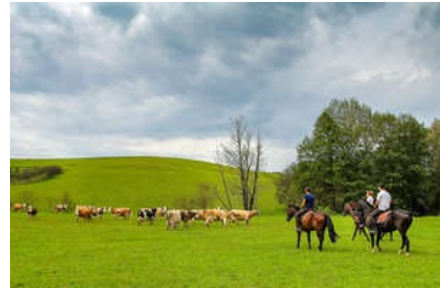


## Valleys of Central Croatia

### CROATIA

**A riding holiday in Croatia** and a stay at a farmhouse surrounded by picturesque countryside ideal for riding and exploring. **Discover on horseback** central Croatia's oak forests, lush swampland, challenging ascents, and valleys and prairies waiting to be cantered across. Visit a country with a rich heritage, including the magnificent Plitvice National Park with its intricate lake formations and thousands of cascading waterfalls. Relax also in Croatia's naturally forming thermal baths on a holiday suited to both riders and non-riders alike.

Centre based holidays	 8 days/ 5 days riding -	 From £0	
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### ITINERARY

## Highlights

- Enjoy over 60 hectares of beautiful Croatian farmland to ride across
- Visit the stunning Plitvice national park - a UNESCO site - renowned for its lakes and waterfalls
- Experience the warmth and generosity of genuine Croatian hospitality

## Day 1 — 1: LONDON - ZAGREB - GVOZD - No riding



International flights to Zagreb are not included. You should aim to arrive before 18:30.

You will be welcomed at the airport by one of our team and once all the riders have arrived, you will be driven to the farmhouse at Gvozd. After being shown to your room, you will have a chance to look around the farm with one of your guides (provided your flight arrives early enough).

There will be a welcome drink waiting for you on your arrival and dinner will be taken at the farm.

## Day 2 — 2: CROATIAN VILLAGES AND FORTRESSES - 5 hours riding



After breakfast, you will be taken to the stables and introduced to the horses before setting off on your first day's ride. You will pass through beautiful typically Croatian villages as well as the ruins of a fortress dating back to the 17th and 18th century. There will be the occasion for some lovely canters across the meadows before passing an old water mill and heading into the forest.


You will return to the farm for lunch.

The afternoon ride will be slower as you ride across 60 hectares of farmland, perhaps helping move some of the sheep and cattle between different pastures.

Dinner will be had on the farm.

## Day 3 — 3: KUPA RIVER - 5 hours riding

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
 Croatian Farm

After breakfast, you will head out riding along an old hunter's path through the forest and picturesque meadows before reaching the Kupa river. Taking a break from the saddle, you will set off on a boat trip along the river - ending up on a sandy beach for your picnic lunch of freshly caught fish.

In the afternoon, you will ride back to the farm following a different route.

## Day 4 — 4: PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK - No riding

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 Croatian Farm

A day of rest for the horses so that you can explore the beautiful Plitvice national park known for its many stunning waterfalls and lakes. The park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated in the mountainous Karst area of central Croatia and boasts scenery that is absolutely breathtaking. The entrance fee to the park is payable locally and is between £12 and £20 per person.

You will have your lunch in a restaurant within the park, making the most of the fantastic surroundings, and later in the afternoon you will be driven back to the farm for dinner.

## Day 5 — 5: TOPUSKO VILLAGE - 5 hours riding

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 Croatian Farm

Your day's ride will take you through a magnificent oak forest, home to a variety of the local wildlife - deer, wild boar, foxes and hares. After picnicking in the forest for lunch, you will head out of the woodland to canter across some of Croatia's wild prairies.

Your ride will take you to the Top Terme Spa, a wellness centre in Topusko village, where you can relax in the hot thermal pools and jacuzzi.

For dinner you will dine in the spa's restaurant, sampling a special menu, before heading back to the farm and your cabin.

## Day 6 — 6: KING PETER'S MOUNTAIN - 5 hours riding

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 Croatian Farm

After breakfast, you will set out on the most challenging ride of your holiday. On horseback you will ascend King Peter's mountain, at its summit 512m above sea level, where you will find a solemn World War II war memorial and truly breathtaking views across Croatia.

In the afternoon, continuing through open countryside you will arrive at a local hunting cabin, where you will try a traditional hunters' meal.

You will then head back to the farm for the night.

## Day 7 — 7: GORGES OF CROATIA - 5 hours riding

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 Croatian Farm

Your final day of riding will take you across a variety of different terrains - tricky passes through hills, plains to canter across, dense forests, swamps and steep gorges.

In the evening, you will enjoy your final dinner, accompanied by fine wine and bathed in candlelight.

## Day 8 — 8: GVOZD - ZAGREB - LONDON - No riding

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After breakfast, you will travel back to Zagreb airport at 10:00am to catch your flight home.

### DATES & PRICES

We are currently updating our dates and prices they will be online soon. If you want details of this holiday, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Price details

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No departure for this destination. Please contact our travel advisers for more information.

- International flights are not included.

- The above prices are for one person (sharing a room)

- Return airport transfers are not included - €30 per person return rate, payable locally in cash.
- Groups are made up of 4-8 riders
- The cost to visit Plitvice National Park is paid locally: €15 - €25
- If you wish to have a single room, you can pay a single-room supplement of approx. £185 (€210) subject to availability. There is no single room supplementary charge if you are willing to share
- Non-riders, accompanying riders, are welcome and there is a 40% discount; however, no activities are included in this price. Activities are available (see the list below) and are paid for locally - prices may vary depending on the exchange rate. Teenagers 16 yo and older are welcome to participate in this trail.

Accompany the riders in a 2 seat horse-driven carriage (carriage suitable for uneven terrain) £63 per day

- Line fishing £16 per hour
- Horse riding lessons for beginners £24 per hour
- Explore the equestrian farm and its surroundings in a 5 seat horse-driven carriage £34 per hour
- Bike hire £2.50 per hour
- Jaunt in a vintage tractor £16 per hour
- Rafting £44 per person - for a group of 4 people (min.)
- Bird watching - price dependent upon number of people in the group
- Visit Zagreb - price dependent upon number of people in the group
- Foraging for mushrooms - price dependent upon number of people in the group

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

## Price includes

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### SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking horse guide

### LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle

### ACCOMMODATION

Double room in a local hotel - two people sharing

### MEALS

Full board from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on the final day

### EXTRAS

Entry fees to sites mentioned in the itinerary (except entrance fee to Plitvice National Park)

## Price doesn't include

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### MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

### TRANSPORT

Return airport transfers - see above for details

### EXTRA

Tips to local team

Plitvice Park entry fee

## **INSURANCE**

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

## Optional

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### **ACCOMMODATION**

Single room supplement

## EQUESTRIAN INFO

### Horses

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There is a small herd of around a dozen horses to choose from. Most are cross breeds (Thoroughbred, paints, Croatian farm horses etc.) that have been bred on the farm and are ideally suited to trail riding. There are also two Haflingers and a pony for children or beginners.

There is a maximum weight limit of 90kg/ 14st/ 198lbs

### Minimum riding ability

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#### **MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY**

You should be a capable rider and comfortable at all three paces in open spaces, with good control of your horse in an outside environment.

There is a maximum rider weight of 90kg/ 14st/ 198 lbs.

#### **PACE**

There are long stretches of walking, but plenty of opportunities for trots and canters when the terrain allows, mainly across open fields. Opportunities for gallops during the ride.

#### **TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

You are expected to assist with grooming, tacking and untacking your horse each day. You may also help with feeding and watering if you wish.

#### **TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE**

Some sections of this ride are both narrow and steep so you need to have a well-balanced seat.

Previous experience of riding trails over several days is an advantage but not required.

#### **EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT**

Both English and Western style saddles are available.

Helmets are mandatory on this ride. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit

## TRAVEL INFO

### **COMFORT**

You will be staying in a traditional Croatian country-style accommodation with 8 double bedrooms. Each room has a private bathroom and there is also a swimming pool and jacuzzi on site.

The main house is set right next to your accommodation. This is where you will find the daily living room area, equipped with a sitting room, a small dining room and a kitchenette. Guests are welcome to take drinks out of the fully stocked fridge, or make themselves a cup of tea or coffee or have a small snack. They are also most welcome to read a book from the hosts' small library, watch a show or a movie on the flat screen TV or use the laptop. The

common house has no working hours and the guests can enjoy themselves for as long as they like.

For an additional charge you will also have access to a sauna.

Other amenities included in the price: Wi-Fi access, outdoor pool, Jacuzzi and relax zone, traditional bowling, Ping-Pong table, open grass volleyball court, wildlife park, estate bicycle rides and forest walkway strolls.

Toiletries are not included, please bring your own.

## **MEALS**

Accommodation is full board with an additional snack on the trail provided on longer riding days.

Lunch is usually a picnic out on the trail.

Three-course dinners including an appetizer, main course and dessert.

Wine, beer and juice are included with the meals in reasonable quantities.

## **CLIMATE**

In central Croatia the climate is very mild in spring, ideal for trail riding, with plenty of flowers dotting the landscape. The summers can be hot with temperatures climbing to 25 - 30c.

Along the coast the climate is Mediterranean with mild winters and hot, dry summers (temperatures around 30c).

## **GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM**

Miso, has over 20 years experience and has created many different riding holiday experiences - he is extremely passionate about the region and his horses. Matija Novosel has been at the farm for two years and is always cheerful and patient. With experience in competition dressage, show jumping and long-distance riding he is a fantastic equestrian guide.

Both guides speak English.

## **TIPS**

Tipping will be very much appreciated if you enjoy the services provided by the team. Tipping is totally at your discretion.

## **PACKING LIST**

### Head

- You are required to wear a riding helmet and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. There are many lightweight options available nowadays
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

### Upper body

- Thermals (long or short sleeved)
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm fleece or jumper (and a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm and waterproof jacket - it can rain at any time of year and the evenings can be particularly cold

### Legs

- 2 Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Thermals
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms
- Waterproof over trousers

### Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps as an extra layer against inclement weather. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Waterproof shoes/boots can be useful for abundant dew in the mornings or when it rains
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for moving around the camp in the evenings
- Several pairs of warm, thick socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, cold or rain whilst riding. Waterproof gloves can be particularly useful

#### Other useful items

- Toiletries are not included, please bring your own.
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Swiss army knife (or equivalent)
- Small plastic bags for rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

#### In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.

#### Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

#### Our Recommendations

- In your hold luggage, take any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.
- Please don't take a hard sided suitcase. Your luggage should be soft sided with a capacity of 60-80 litres. We recommend taking a backpack or similar.
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals

## VISA & HEALTH

### Formalities

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British citizens: other nationalities, please contact us.

#### Passport validity

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

#### Visas

If you hold a British Citizen passport, you don't need a visa to enter Croatia.

The rules on travel will stay the same until 31 December 2020.

Please visit for the FCO website for up-to-date information - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/croatia/entry-requirements>

#### ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

- Ambassade de Croatie  
7, square Thiers  
75 116 Paris  
Tél. : 01 53 70 02 80  
Fax :  
vrh.pariz@mvpei.hr

- Ambassade de France en Croatie  
Hebrangova 2  
Zagreb  
Tél. : +385 1 48 93600  
Fax : +385 1 48 93660
- Ambassade de Croatie  
Avenue Louise 425  
1050 Bruxelles  
Tél. : +32 (0) 2 639 20 36  
Fax : +32 (0) 2 644 69 32

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## Health

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If you're visiting Croatia you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Croatian nationals. If you don't have your EHIC with you or you've lost it, you can call the Department of Health Overseas Healthcare Team (+44 191 218 1999) to get a Provisional Replacement Certificate. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Source and more information: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/croatia/health>

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## Insurance

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It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

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## Voltage

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In Croatia the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You will need an adapter.

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## Budget and money

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The currency of Croatia is the Croatian Kuna. Major credit and debit cards are accepted in most banks and hotels. Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged for local currency.

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## Telephone and jetlag

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Country code: +385