

Jewels of Croatia, Slovenia and Venice

Highlight Photo Tours; from April 27 to May 8, 2024

This photo workshop is available to all levels of photographers, from the novice wanting to learn the basics, to the advanced amateur that wishes to tweak their skills. The workshop is offered by Highlight Photo Tours and its owner, René Bastien. We have been offering successful workshops since 2018.

Highlights of the trek

There is a lot of history and culture to be seen in Croatia, Slovenia, and Venice. Romans gave this region of the world some of its unique features; monuments are still present, as well as a certain way of life. Venetians gave the world today's banking system, celebrated artists (Antonio Vivaldi, Tintoretto, Bellini) as well as Marco Polo and Casanova. The workshop will offer:

- A view of some of the region's historical jewels
- Unbelievable vistas
- Beautiful sunrise and sunset opportunities
- Photo learning with our professional photographer, Reed Hoffmann
- Review sessions with Reed at your request

Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two with jobs at newspapers in the Midwest, South and Eastern U.S. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of

Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the other instructors through 2018. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include successful workshops by Highlight Photo Tours since 2018 (Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Rockies and Hawaii). Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/> and <https://www.instagram.com/reedhoffmann/>.

Itinerary

This is an overview of the proposed itinerary.

Day 1: Dubrovnik, April 27

Arrive at your convenience in Dubrovnik (airport code DBV). It is your choice to rest in the afternoon or to visit the old city. We will have an introduction meeting at 6 PM, then go for dinner together. We will stay at the Hotel Lapad, close to the city walls.



Figure 1; Dubrovnik Old City, ©Reed Hoffmann

Day 2: To Split, April 28

Our day will begin with a guided tour of Old Dubrovnik. We will then make our way to Split, where we will explore the city and set up a sunset shoot. Overnight at the Hotel Globo.



Figure 2; Split Old City, ©Reed Hoffmann



Figure 3; Split Old City, © iStock Photos

Day 3: Split and Trojir, April 29

We will start the day with a walking tour of Split: Roman temples, the Diocletian Palace, vistas on the hill of Marjan and the waterfront. In the afternoon, we will drive to Trojir, a Unesco World Heritage Site famous for its medieval city.



Figure 4; Split Diocletian Palace, © iStock Photos

Day 4: to Plitvice National Park, April 30

We will leave early and make our way to Plitvice Lakes National Park, famous for its waterfalls, where we'll shoot through the afternoon. We will stay at Hotel Degenija, just by the entrance to the Park.



Figure 5; Plitvice Lakes National Park, © Reed Hoffmann

Day 5: to Rovinj, May 1

We'll re-visit the waterfall first thing in the morning, then make our way to Rovinj, famous for its medieval city. We will shoot there until dinner time, then overnight at Hotel Eden.



Figure 6; laundry day in Rovinj, © Reed Hoffmann



Figure 7; Rovinj Old City, © iStock Photos

Day 6: to Ljubjana, May 2

Today sees us driving to Ljubjana, the capital of Slovenia. We will stop for a visit of the Lipica stud farm, famous for the Lippizaner breed of horses (the breed used by the Spanische Hofreitschule in Vienna). On arrival to Ljubjana, we will visit the fortress, with spectacular views of the city and Julian Alps. We will stay at City Hotel Ljubjana.



Figure 8; Lippizaner Stallion, © iStock Photos

Day 7: in and around Ljubjana, May 3

We will get up early to shoot sunrise in the city. After breakfast, we will make our way to a beautiful Alpen village called Velika Planina; it is inhabited by herdsmen who graze their cattle in the mountain pastures. We will then continue our exploration of Ljubjana for the rest of the day.



Figure 9; over the Ljubljana River in Ljubljana, ©Reed Hoffmann



Figure 10; Velika Planina, ©René Bastien

Day 8: to Lake Bled, May 4

Today we head to Lake Bled, one of the most scenic lakes in central Europe. On arrival we will make our way to the famous church on Lake Bled's island. We will then visit Vintgar Gorge. First of two nights at Hotel Astoria.



Figure 11; Lake Bled, Assumption of Maria Church; © René Bastien



Figure 12; Vintgar Gorge, © René Bastien

Day 9: in and around Lake Bled, May 5

Today we'll explore the surroundings of Lake Bled. Weather permitting, we will shoot sunrise at the Jamnik and St-Thomas church. After breakfast, we will visit the Triglav National Park and then the Tolmina River Gorge, the Pericnik Waterfall and the Kozjak Waterfall. We will come back to Lake Bled for dinner and the night.



Figure 13; Lake Bled, © René Bastien

Day 10: to Venice, May 6

This morning our bus driver will take us to the Trieste train station and we say goodbye. From there we'll take the train to Venice and hopefully arrive in time for lunch and a spritz on a terrazza! We will spend the afternoon walking around the city, slowly making our way to Piazza San Marco for Golden Hour. We will stay at Hotel Aquarius. Note that we have arranged for luggage transfer from the train station to the hotel. We will also offer a 2-day vaporetto pass to each participant (vaporetto is the water-based transit service).



Figure 14; San Giorgio Maggiore Golden Hour, © René Bastien

Day 11: Venice, May 7

We will take the vaporetto to visit Murano Island and see a glass blowing demonstration. Then we'll head to the famously colorful Burano Island. The rest of the day will be spent exploring other areas of Venice, such as the fish market, the Rialto Bridge, the Jewish Quarter, the Fenice (a world-famous opera house) and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. That evening we'll have our farewell dinner.



Figure 15; colorful Burano Island, © René Bastien



Figure 16; sunset in Venice, © Reed Hoffmann



Figure 17; Murano, making a glass horse. © René Bastien



Figure 18; Rialto Bridge, © René Bastien

Day 12: Return home, May 8

Return home at your convenience. Transfer to the airport can be done through vaporetto (not included), or the hotel can arrange a private transfer for you.

Requirements

The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great shots!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended.

Walking sticks are not required unless you have equilibrium issues.

What to expect

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Wall power outlets are different by country and you will need different adapters (types C, F and L). Current is 220 V, which most laptops and battery chargers are usually compatible with; please check in advance. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads. Our hotels have free WiFi.

All countries visited are at UTC+2 (European time zone).

All three countries use the Euro. As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Euros with you, for tips and some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds in most cities and ATMs are readily available in the cities.

Photo Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure.

Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763 and email rbastien@highlightphototours.com

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444 and email reed@reedhoffmann.com

Inclusions, exclusions

Included

- All guide and photo instructor services.
- All lodging, double occupancy, from April 27 to May 8, 2024.
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor.
- All in-country transportation with the group.
- Park fees.
- Water and in-field snacks while in the vehicle.
- In-city Vaporetto pass for 2 days, in Venice.
- Luggage transfer from the Venice train station to the hotel.

Excluded

- Flights to Dubrovnik (airport code DBV) and from Venice (airport code VCE).

- Visas if required.
- All hotel incidentals, meals, and beverages, including alcoholic beverages.
- Airport transfers.
- Participants are required to purchase their own travel insurance, that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary for them to cancel after payment, or to return home in case of a medical emergency.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for the driver and hotel staff.

Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US \$6,550, taxes included. Single occupancy extra US \$1,250.
- Payment through PayPal.
- Deposit of US \$1,000 required to reserve your seat.
- The deposit is refundable until 90 days before start of the workshop.
- Balance required on invoicing 90 days before departure.
- No refund 90 days before trip departure, as we need engage funds on your behalf. This is one reason why we required purchase of travel insurance.
- Minimum of 4 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 10 attendees.

Reservations

To reserve seats, please send me an email at rbastien@highlightphototours.com and I will send you a PayPal invoice.



Figure 19; masked in Venice, ©Reed Hoffmann