



INSTANT EXPERT

a travel professional's guide to Italy, Croatia, Montenegro & Slovenia

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THE A&K DIFFERENCE

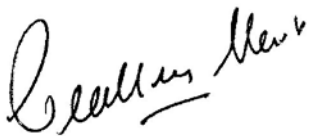
WELCOME

Italy and Croatia remain hugely popular destinations and, with such diversity of landscape, architecture and gastronomy alongside an undeniably alluring culture, it's easy to see why.

At A&K Italy & Croatia, not only do we make it our mission to keep up to date with new developments, hotels, restaurants and activities, we also ensure long-standing connections and a network of on-the-ground colleagues which allow us to uncover local secrets and experiences beyond the reach of the ordinary traveller. Anyone can bring you to a winery, but only Abercrombie & Kent allows you the opportunity to have your own vine in a noble vineyard.

With a team of dedicated staff, our passion and expertise extends into every aspect of your tour, from superb hotels and private transport services to the best local guides and unique Insider Access experiences. We know how to balance your bespoke requirements to seamlessly reveal our destination.

Allow us to introduce you to our extraordinary countries of Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia and experience that extra special A&K touch for yourself.



Geoffrey Kent
Founder, Chairman and CEO



A&K ITALY & CROATIA SERVICES

- Individual FIT travel arrangements, supported by our Guardian Angel network
- Tailor-made group programmes including private dining venues, activity options, luggage handling and Italy and Croatia's best Tour Directors/Event Managers
- Special interest itineraries with themes such as gastronomy, art, architecture or history
- Incentive programs & special event handling in selected destinations
- Cruise ship private shore excursions

EXPERIENCED MULTI-LINGUAL TOUR CONSULTANTS

Our well-travelled and experienced Tour Consultants offer expert knowledge and passion which extends into every tour we produce. Fluent in multiple languages, our friendly team are able to offer an exceptional and truly personal service.

MULTI-COUNTRY/REGIONAL ITINERARIES

Why deal with several different suppliers to arrange a multi-country tour when you can work with just one specialist providing consistent support? With A&K Italy & Croatia you can build up an itinerary to any number of destinations within Italy, Croatia, Montenegro & Slovenia, dealing with one central contact point and one simple transaction, without losing any of the competitive edge or local detail.

Our A&K Europe team will also be happy to help with any multi-country tours combining Italy with the Rest of Europe.

A&K ITALY & CROATIA'S GUARDIAN ANGELS

Our unique network of on-the-ground staff allows A&K Italy & Croatia to provide unparalleled support, available to your clients 24/7. After a personal

meeting at the airport and an orientation meeting at their hotel, our Guardian Angel will be working behind the scenes to ensure your clients enjoy every minute of their trip. He/she is always only a phone call away for support and advice.

CONCIERGE RAIL

Rail travel in Europe is fast, comfortable and inexpensive, but train stations are confusing and handling luggage is strenuous. A&K Italy & Croatia's innovative Concierge Rail Service provides the perfect solution with the reassurance and practicality of escorted transfers, seat reservation and portage.

THE BEST EXPERT GUIDES, TOUR DIRECTORS & EVENT MANAGERS

Thanks to the stringent selection criteria employed by A&K Italy & Croatia, our expert local guides and Tour Directors are renowned for being the best in the industry. Professional, knowledgeable and supremely organised, an A&K Tour Director or Event Manager is an indispensable ingredient for a successful group tour.

PEACE OF MIND

All of A&K Italy & Croatia's suppliers are required to comply with stringent health and safety requirements and guests are covered by our comprehensive corporate liability insurance.

& MOMENTS

Over 25 years of networking has enabled A&K Italy & Croatia to build up an impressive array of 'Insider Access' opportunities, those special moments that give a visitor a deeper insight into their chosen destination and reward them with experiences and memories that only A&K can unlock.

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ITALY



ITALY

A wonderfully diverse destination that never disappoints, visitors flock to marvel at Italy's rich cultural heritage and wealth of natural treasures and to enjoy the pleasures of la dolce vita.

NORTHERN ITALY

Venice is like no other place in the world with an air of pure romantic charm. Built entirely on water, this extraordinary floating city showcases a stunning mix of Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. The pretty islands of Murano, Torcello and Burano, famous for their lace and glass workshops, lie within a pleasant cruise from the city.

Liguria, or 'The Italian Riviera', has northern Italy's most attractive stretch of coastline, including the glamorous marina of Portofino and tiny but beautiful villages of the Cinque Terre, famous for the picturesque hiking paths that run between them.

Milan is Italy's most dynamic city, serving as the capital of fashion and design. Milan comes to life with designer boutiques, restaurants, museums and cultural experiences of the highest level and is also home to da Vinci's 'Last Supper', located at the 15th century Santa Maria delle Grazie.

In the Italian Lake District, the lakes of Como, Garda and Maggiore offer the visitor a haven of palatial villas, rose-laden belvederes, hanging wisteria and majestic Alpine vistas, while the soaring Dolomites dominate the north.

CENTRAL ITALY

Rome is a heady blend of artistic and architectural masterpieces, classical ruins and extravagant baroque churches and piazzas. A veritable living museum, you can see and touch the city's 2,700 years of history which are on display everywhere you look.

Umbria is an ancient region blessed with steep hills, deep valleys and fast-flowing rivers. The relatively untouched countryside and architecturally rich towns of Perugia, Assisi and Orvieto are well worth exploring.

Tuscany, with its beautiful landscape and fascinating towns, is surely the best known region of central Italy. Local festivals and pageants, such as the Palio in Siena, are held with ancient pomp and ceremony whilst towns such as San Gimignano and Lucca hold an abundance of archaic charm. A monument to the Renaissance, visitors to Florence cannot fail to delight in the architectural masterpieces, art galleries and artisan boutiques.

SOUTHERN ITALY

The Amalfi Coast, from Sorrento to Salerno, takes travellers past rocky cliffs plunging into the sea and sandy coves dotted with coloured boats. Amalfi, Ravello and Positano cling precariously to steep cliff sides whilst the islands of sophisticated Capri and its peaceful neighbour, Ischia, beckon. A short drive

away, the ancient sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum reveal towns frozen in time since their burial in AD79 under the molten lava of Mount Vesuvius.

The island of Sicily, possesses an old-world charm not found on the mainland, whilst historical influences from across the Mediterranean are evident in the temples of Agrigento, Syracuse and the Greek Theatre at Taormina. For gastronomes, Sicily offers the pinnacle of excellent local fish and wines.

Puglia is less well known but similarly charming, occupying the quiet 'heel' of Italy and resembling Greece with its whitewashed houses and stunning beaches.

"The only thing more striking than St Marks Basilica is the snake of people lining up to go inside it. Our guide walked us right past the line to an innocuous looking side door, a quick "ciao" from our guide to the security man and we were straight in!"



Learn the secrets of authentic pizza making from a Roman pizzaiolo • Enjoy lunch with a Prince on his wine estate and adopt one of his wines • Test drive a Ferrari, Maserati or Lamborghini • Gain private access to the Vasari's Corridor in Florence • Enjoy a private Visit to the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel • Learn how Florentine craftsmen create designer pieces of jewellery

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GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

From shore excursions to fully-inclusive programmes, our comprehensive services ensure seamless ground operations and distinct, creative proposals, so you won't have to worry about a thing. Our Tour Directors are the best in their field, with specialised knowledge ranging from art to architecture, from history to nature. Whatever your interests, we can tailor-make a proposal to suit you; gastronomes can enjoy the flavours of Croatia, history lovers may discover the ancient Roman and Greek empires of Sicily, while horticulturalists may like to explore the great gardens of Italy.

INCENTIVES

Originality, flexibility and attention to detail ensure the success of our Incentive Programmes. Based in the heart of Italy, we can effortlessly arrange private winery visits, tours of Rome on vintage Vespas, specialist speakers, gala dinner venues and many more custom-built services.

ROME

Sightseeing and Activities

- Imperial Rome Tour including the famous Colosseum, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
- Vatican Museums and spectacular Sistine Chapel (possibility of making an exclusive after-hours private visit)
- Visit to the Galleria Borghese and Gardens containing a stunning art collection first established by Cardinal Scipione Borghese; one of the world's greatest collectors
- Cooking Competition at one of Rome's respected culinary institutions

Gala Venues

- An elegant 19th century villa with unrivalled views over Rome
- A private noble palace containing priceless works of Baroque art
- The enchanting banquet rooms of a 19th century palace set in a beautiful park amid roman ruins, plants and fountains



FLORENCE

Sightseeing and Activities

- Tour of Renaissance Florence including a visit to the Duomo and the Galleria dell' Accademia to see Michelangelo's David
- Full day excursion through the Tuscan countryside
- Antinori Estate Wine & Olive Oil tasting
- Hiking the Medici Villas & Gardens of Castello & Petraia

Gala Venues

- An aristocratic villa situated on the green hills surrounding Florence

- The Room of Mirrors and Ball Gallery of a 15th century palace
- A magnificent medieval fortress in the heart of the Chianti Classico wine region

VENICE

Sightseeing and Activities

- Excursion to The Lagoon Islands of Burano and Torcello, famous for their architecture and mosaics
- Private Canal Cruise to Hidden Venice: Cruise along the famous Grand Canal before disembarking to visit the Ca' Rezzonico
- Evening Bacari Tour to experience the long established Venetian tradition of pre-dinner aperitifs with small bites of true Venetian cuisine

Gala Venues

- A candlelit dinner and masked ball in an enchanting 15th century palace, situated on the Grand Canal and accessed by gondola
- A unique historical museum situated in an imposing palace designed by Massari on the Grand Canal
- A performance and dinner in one of Venice's most famous and beautiful opera houses

Make your gala event truly memorable with private opera, classical or jazz concerts or even a dazzling fireworks display.



Our Key Services Meetings and events • Gala dinner venues • Technical equipment hire and technical support • Catering • Floral decoration • Entertainment • Hotel accommodation • Transportation • Restaurants • Sightseeing tours • Tickets for cultural events • Multi-lingual local guides • Corporate/pillow gifts • Multi-lingual event management personnel

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CROATIA, SLOVENIA & MONTENEGRO



CROATIA

Zagreb, Croatia's capital, is a cosmopolitan city rich with cultural institutions and theatres. Important museums include the Ethnographical Museum, Mimara Museum, the Gallery of Old Masters and the Gallery of Modern Art.

Dalmatian is a beautiful region with fascinating towns, a beautiful coastline and three National Parks. Porec's Roman heritage is evident in its palaces, squares and religious buildings whilst Pula is known for its Roman monuments, notably the ancient Roman amphitheatre and the Gate of Hercules. The Venetian city of Rovinj is a true delight and the truffle vineyard region around Motovun is truly intriguing. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Plitvice National Park is also famous for its spectacular waterfalls, enticing lakes and rich flora and fauna.

Split's Roman city centre is full of charm; principal sights include the Emperor Diocletian's Palace, once the home for the emperor, the Renaissance Town on People's Square and the Museum of Split with its 16th century works, paintings and books.

Dubrovnik was dubbed "the pearl of the Adriatic" by Byron and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site not to be missed. Be sure to visit the 14th century Riva Palace which houses the State Archives, the Franciscan Monastery, the Rector's Palace and the tower of the Loggia.

The Dalmatian Coast Islands, just a short boat ride from Dubrovnik or Split, boast great beaches, fields of scented lavender and plump olives, as well as authentic, little known but excellent, wines. The island of Hvar, a fashionable Mediterranean resort, is known for its wealth of wild flowers, whilst Korcula is home to a fascinating collection of Venetian and Dalmatian art and Byzantine icons. Croatia's most spectacular beach can be found on the beautiful and tranquil island of Brač.

SLOVENIA

Ljubljana is the relaxed and friendly capital of Slovenia, characterised by its beautiful Baroque architecture juxtaposed with the younger Art Nouveau designs. More recently, world-famous architect Jože Plečnik has made a notable mark on the city. The Three Bridges provide an elegant entrance into the Old Town which buzzes with restaurants, cafés, galleries and antique shops. A climb up the tower of Ljubljana Castle will be rewarded with stunning panoramic views of the city.

Bled is a must see spot for any visitor to Slovenia. Perched on a rock above the town lies Bled Castle, from which you are offered enchanting picture postcard views of the town and the Assumption of Mary Pilgrimage Church, famously positioned on a small island in the pristine glacial lake. In the town, be sure to try some Kremšnita, Slovenia's famous custard cream cake.

Postojna is home to the second largest cavern in Europe. This awe-inspiring 12-mile cave system has been continuously shaped and enlarged over millions of years into spacious chambers and intriguing passages sculpted by a myriad of stalactites and stalagmites. This phenomenal grotto can be explored aboard a special train.

MONTENEGRO

Kotor's magnificent medieval architecture and famous monuments have resulted in a UNESCO world heritage listing and the Cathedral of St Tryphon reflects a remarkable legacy of Roman culture. The striking city lies in an amazing fjord, rivalling those of Norway.

Budva dates back to the 5th century BC. Charmingly picturesque, the town sits upon a small peninsula, a treasure house of cultural heritage. With numerous beautiful sandy beaches and the exclusive resort of Sveti Stefan just a short excursion away, this is the perfect spot for a relaxing retreat.

"Whilst in Dubrovnik, we mentioned to our A&K guide that we would really love to experience a visit to a local family home. On hearing this, our guide called her mother and we dropped in at her family's house for coffee. Her grandfather, who used to be a sea captain, shared a lot of his fascinating memories and photographs and we came away with a visit we will always remember."



Visit a wine producer with a private underwater cellar on Hvar • Explore the rocky beach at Bale, where dinosaur prints can be seen • Visit silk producers in the village of Konavle • Enjoy a private A Cappella Performance by a Croatian choir • Join an expert hunting for Istria's elusive truffles • Enjoy a day sailing to the Blue Cave on the island of Via

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PERFECT FOR...



GASTRONOMY

- Private cooking class, Ravello
- Olive oil tasting, Sicily
- Wine tasting, Chianti
- Truffle hunting, Istria
- Bacari Tour of Venice



ADVENTURE

- Hot air ballooning, Chianti
- Helicopter flight over Venice
- Private motor yacht, Dubrovnik
- Golfing on the lava plains of Mount Etna
- Maserati track driving, Parma



FAMILIES

- Sea kayaking & snorkelling in Croatia
- Pizza making, Rome
- Gladiator School, Rome
- Cycling the Cetina river canyon
- Venetian mask making workshop



SHOPPING & FASHION

- Personal shopper in Florence
- Golden Triangle, Milan
- Hand-painted ceramics, Umbria
- Fashion houses, Via Condotti, Rome
- Jewellers and leather workers, Florence



ART & ARCHITECTURE

- Sistine Chapel, Rome
- Uffizi Gallery in Florence
- Doge's Palace, Venice
- Franciscan Monastery, Dubrovnik
- Duomo, Milan



MUSIC, THEATRE & FESTIVALS

- Opera at the Arena di Verona
- La Fenice Opera House, Venice
- Tour of La Scala Opera House, Milan
- Puccini Festival, Torre del Lago
- The Palio & Corteo Storico, Siena



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