

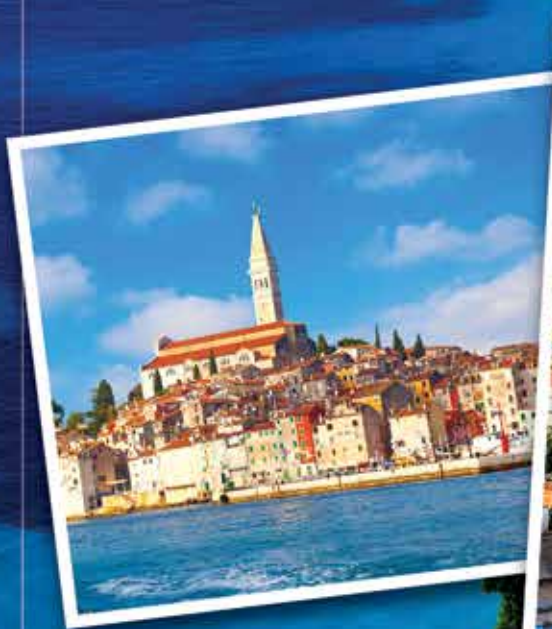
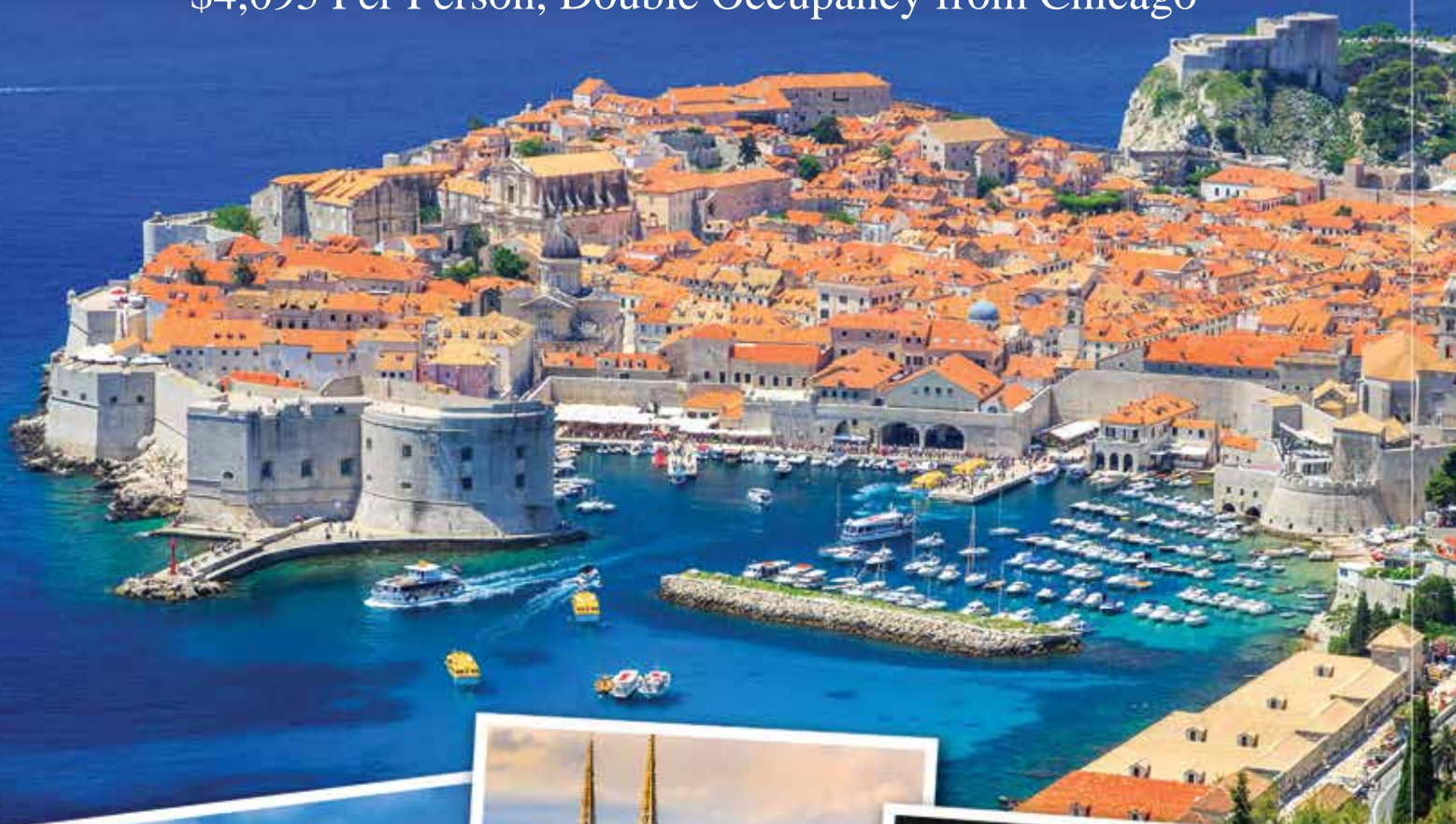


The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents

Hidden Treasures of the Dalmatian Coast – Croatia and Slovenia

September 12 – 21, 2019

\$4,095 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, September 12 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Austrian Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Vienna, Austria.

Friday, September 13 – VIENNA / DUBROVNIK (I,L,HD)

As the sun begins to rise on the Austrian capital, we arrive in Vienna and continue by connecting flight to Dubrovnik, Croatia. On arrival, we'll meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us throughout our vacation. A short drive takes us into the heart of the city where the remainder of the day is at leisure. As we'll soon find out, Dubrovnik is not only beautiful, but it is an architectural gem more than 1,000 years old.

Saturday, September 14 – DUBROVNIK (B)

We begin our day with a walking tour of Dubrovnik's Old Town. We'll start from Pile Gate, the entrance to the old walled city, and walk down Stradun to visit the 14th century Franciscan Monastery whose "cloister" ranks among the most inspiring sites of the city and is also home to the oldest working pharmacy in all of Europe. We'll also visit the Rector's Palace which used to be the seat of the Government in the historic Independent Republic of Dubrovnik. Next, we'll visit the Cathedral, built on the remains of its fallen parent that was destroyed in 1667 by an earthquake. Our tour will come to an end with a view of Sponza Palace, notable for its columned courtyard and elaborate stone carvings. Following our tour, the afternoon is free to explore Dubrovnik at your leisure. Relax at a sidewalk café, listen to the chimes of the 14th-century bell tower, or wander the palace-lined avenue known as the Stradun.

Sunday, September 15 – DUBROVNIK / ZADAR (Split) (B,HD)

This morning we depart Dubrovnik and travel to the coastal town of Split, a city with a 1700-year old tradition, and a variety of archaeological, historical, and cultural monuments, among which is the Palace of Diocletian, inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List. We'll begin our tour of the historic inner city with a visit to the Emperor Diocletian's Palace, the only imperial palace from Roman times in which residents dwell. We'll also see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, the Temple of Jupiter, Peristyle Square, and the Cathedral of St. Domnius. Afterward, free time will be set aside to visit the colorful open-air market before relaxing with a cappuccino along the Riva, a pedestrian paradise offering a spectacular view of the sea. Then we'll be on our way to the city of Zadar, the oldest Slavic city on the Adriatic.

Monday, September 16 – ZADAR (B,HD)

Today we'll immerse ourselves in Zadar's ever-present heritage. We'll see the Roman Forum and visit the 9th century St. Donatus' Church, the city's trademark and famous medieval basilica. Nearby, we'll see the Bell Tower of St. Mary's Church built by the Croat Hungarian King Coleman, and the Bishops Palace, a showcase of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. We'll also visit

the Cathedral of St. Anastasia, an impressive melding of Romanesque and Gothic styles featuring a rose window and triple-nave edifice. Then we're headed to the People's Square where we'll see the City's Lodge and Guardhouse, as well as the mighty fortification walls and the two city gates, Land Gate and Sea Gate. Land Gate, intricately carved with the city's coat of arms, is in the shape of triumphal arches found throughout Italy and France. The Sea Gate is incorporated with a Roman Arch. Following our tour, the afternoon is free to stroll through Zadar's Old Town at your leisure.

Tuesday, September 17 – ZADAR / OPATIJA (Plitvice Lakes National Park) (B,HD)

This morning we depart Zadar and travel inland to visit Plitvice Lakes National Park. Surrounded by dense woods, the Plitvice lakes are a natural phenomenon of rare and unique beauty. A tour of the region will introduce us to the scenery of this natural wonder with crystal blue lakes cascading into spectacular waterfalls. We'll walk on the wooden promenades to view the majestic waters where every turn leads to a vista and yet, another waterfall! This afternoon we're headed back to the coast where we'll spend the next two evenings in the resort of Opatija, one of the most famous resorts in the Mediterranean.

Wednesday, September 18 – OPATIJA (Istrian Peninsula) (B)

A delightful day is in store as we get set to explore Istria, Croatia's largest peninsula. We begin with a visit to the Roman port city of Rovinj. Originally a coastal island, today the Old Town extends onto a narrow peninsula. The focal point of town is the baroque church of St. Euphemia that stands guard over the narrow medieval streets of this former fishing village. Afterward, we'll travel to nearby Porec. In 1267 Porec was the first Istrian town to choose Venetian rule, and as a result, acquired a Venetian look as palaces, squares and religious buildings were erected. The most noteworthy is the 6th century Basilica of Euphrasius. To this day, the Old Town has remained intact and Porec is always under consideration for the best-kept town in Croatia. On our return to Opatija, we'll travel through central Istria, stopping along the way to visit the captivating hilltop town of Motovun, a typical example of Venetian colonial architecture, a characteristic symbol of the Istrian interior.

Thursday, September 19 – OPATIJA / ZAGREB (Postojna & Ljubljana) (B,HD)

Today we depart Opatija and travel into the rugged Slovenian countryside home to amazing scenery and mysterious folklore. Our first stop of the day will take us to Postojna, home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Here we'll tour the fantastic subterranean Postojna Caves by miniature electric train. The 20-kilometer-long underworld system is a miracle in itself, but one becomes truly astounded at the look of the mysterious "human fish", a strange form of life preserved in the underground kingdom. Afterward, we'll travel to Slovenia's beautiful capital city of Ljubljana. We'll have an opportunity to explore the Old Town that inspires visitors



with its rich antique and medieval heritage, see the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, and stop off at the city's open-air markets between the peaceful Ljubljanica River and Ljubljana Castle that looms high above the city. Late this afternoon, we'll return to Croatia as we travel to the capital city of Zagreb, located on the banks of the Sava River.

Friday, September 20 – ZAGREB (B,RD)

Our day will begin with an introductory tour of Zagreb. In the historical Upper Town, we'll visit the City Museum to learn of the history and culture of Zagreb from its origin to the present day. Next, we'll stop at St. Mark's Square and visit St. Mark's Church, the city's most photographed site, best known for its eccentric red, white, and blue tiled roof featuring the coat of arms for Zagreb and the kingdom of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia. In addition, we'll see the Croatian Parliament, the Archbishops Palace, and the Cathedral with its neo-Gothic façade and twin steeples. Then we'll make our way to Trg Bana Jelacica, the large piazza that

has been Zagreb's main square since the 19th century. From here we'll explore the Lower Town that is a series of green squares rimmed by Austro-Hungarian buildings erected from the 19th century. The most noteworthy sights include the Botanical Garden, the Old University Library, Mimara Museum, the Croatian National Theater, the University of Zagreb, and Zrinjevac Park. Following our tour, the afternoon is free to explore Zagreb at our leisure. A good place to start is a return visit to pedestrian Trg Bana Jelacica dominated by a statue of Croat hero Josip Jewlacic.

Saturday, September 21 – ZAGREB / CHICAGO (B,I)

Early this morning we'll travel to Zagreb Airport to begin our transatlantic journey home. No better time to reflect on memories that will last a lifetime and new friendships that we will have made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Austrian Airlines and Lufthansa German Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$420 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and Step-on Guides; travel insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

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**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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