

# Croatia



CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

August 29 – September 9, 2025

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Experience the best of Croatia on this extraordinary 10-night adventure! Soak up absolute serenity aboard your first-class yacht while sailing the Dalmatian Coast, a region celebrated for its natural beauty and timeless charms. Plus, enjoy a stay in Zagreb!

Embark in Dubrovnik and spend seven unforgettable nights cruising the Adriatic! Sailing in an intimately sized yacht is the ideal way to visit Croatia's islands and ports. Your small cruise ship can reach tiny islets, ports and remote harbors that larger vessels cannot, allowing you access to some of Croatia's most spectacular destinations. By day, glide from one island to another, explore delightful towns and enjoy opportunities to swim, snorkel and sunbathe (weather dependent). Thoughtfully planned excursions introduce you to lauded sights and ancient ruins, local culture and natural wonders. By night, indulge in local gastronomic delights and fall asleep to the gentle rhythm of the sea. The adventure concludes with three nights in buzzing Zagreb, a capital city full of life and historical landmarks.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Space on this exclusive journey is limited, and the trip is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Plitvice Lakes National Park
2. Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian
3. Old City of Dubrovnik
4. The Cathedral of St James in Šibenik
5. Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: *Stato da Terra* — *Western Stato da Mar*
6. Stari Grad Plain





# A World of Discovery



This exhilarating itinerary introduces you to Croatia's familiar gems, such as Zagreb and Dubrovnik, as well as lesser-known fishing towns and unspoiled islets. Get a taste of cruising life as your small vessel glides away from the crowds, pausing at various ports so you can hop off and witness centuries of visible history or sip wine in a café. Back on board, soak up more seascapes before your next port of call! The adventure concludes with three evenings in electric Zagreb!

Top: Mali Ston, Pelješac Peninsula

Cover: Cruising the Dalmatian Coast

Mail panel: Walled city of Dubrovnik

## Inspiring Moments



- Fall under the spell of the **Dalmatian Coast**, where glistening waters, timeless beauty and alluring islands await.
- Bask in unrivaled relaxation during a **seven-night Adriatic cruise**.
- **Glide away from the crowds** on your small cruise ship, which can reach islets, delightful ports and remote harbors.
- Soak up the ancient sites of **Stari Grad on Hvar Island** and **idyllic Korčula**.
- Stand amid the magnificent Roman ruins of **Diocletian's Palace in Split**.
- Embrace Croatia's traditions during visits to a **lavender farm**, a **local winery** and a **Pelješac Peninsula oyster farm**.
- Trace the rich history of **Dubrovnik** and uncover the hum of **Zagreb**.
- Experience six **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.



### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Dubrovnik, Croatia. 🌐

### Day 2 | Dubrovnik, Croatia

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 and embark the ship. Take time to unpack and get to know your ship's amenities. Later tonight, gather for a convivial Welcome Reception and Dinner.

### Day 3 | Dubrovnik | Mali Ston & Ston

**Enchanting Dubrovnik.** The adventure begins! Start the day by discovering this historic city by the sea. Witness the Pile Gate, Europe's oldest working pharmacy and the Franciscan Monastery's cloister. See the medieval Sponza Palace and view a baroque cathedral with its collections of art and religious relics.

After free time, head back to the boat and refresh over a lunch of regional cuisine.

**Idyllic Pelješac Peninsula.** Beloved for its stunning beauty, the rugged Pelješac Peninsula is abundant with fjords, quiet bays and vineyards. Today, gain insight into a centuries-old practice while visiting some of the world's oldest salt harvesting sites. Also, see the Great Wall of Ston, which links Ston to Mali Ston.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Mali Ston Oyster Farm.** Board a boat in the fishing village of Mali Ston. Ride across the bay to visit an oyster farm. Taste delicious bivalves, fresh from the sea, accompanied by sensational wine.

Meet up with your group for a Captain's Dinner.

### Day 4 | Korčula

Settle on a sunny deck while sailing to Korčula.

**Korčula.** This spectacular isle, which is rumored

to be the birthplace of Marco Polo, juts into the Pelješac Channel and brims with natural wonders. Join a guide for a walk through the old town, filled with enduring architecture.

### Day 5 | Hvar

After a satisfying breakfast, cruise on to Hvar.

**Hvar's Stari Grad.** Uncover a slice of paradise in the ancient port town of Stari Grad, Croatia's oldest town. Admire the churches, quaint squares and orange-tiled rooftops clustered around the charming marina.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Lavender Farm.** Soak up the purple beauty and delightful fragrance of lavender during a visit to a family-run lavender farm in Jesla. The blossoms are grown for medical, cosmetic, cooking and other products.

**Vrboska & Winery.** Learn about the local viticulture at a family winery and enjoy a guided tasting of the family's legendary wines. Continue to the fishing town of Vrboska with fig-covered courtyards and pretty alleyways.

Stari Grad, Hvar





Chat about your day during dinner at a local restaurant with a dazzling view.

### Day 6 | Split

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While cruising to Split, breathe in salty air and revel in lovely far-off islands on the horizon.

**Split.** Behold Split's many riches while walking through the courtyards and chambers of Diocletian's Palace. See the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, the Golden Gate and the Peristyle.

Craft your own path during time at leisure.

### Day 7 | Šibenik

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**Šibenik.** Šibenik is a proud city that welcomes visitors with winding alleys, squares and striking buildings. Visit the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of St. James, one of Europe's most significant monumental churches.

### Day 8 | Zadar

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Raise a toast over lunch accompanied by a Farewell Cocktail Reception.

**Zadar.** Get to know Zadar, a university town

that is home to an impressive Roman Forum and the Church of St. Donatus. Sample unique Maraschino cherry liquor and other locally made sweets. The first recipes of the Maraschino liquor emerged from Zadar during the 16th century.

**Free Time:** Perhaps return to see the famous sea organ and light show by the promenade.

### Day 9 | Zadar | Plitvice Lakes National Park | Zagreb

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Disembark your ship after breakfast. Head inland to tour Plitvice Lakes National Park.

**Plitvice Lakes National Park.** This park features 16 crystal-clear terraced lakes linked by a series of waterfalls. Wander along planked walkways and trails amid a fragrant forest. The area is also home to nearly 160 species of birds and numerous plant species.

After a lunch of regional dishes, continue to Zagreb and check in to the hotel.

*Cathedral of St. James, Šibenik*

*Korčula*



## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- Cruise for **7 nights** aboard the first-class MV Infinity.
- **3 nights** in Zagreb, Croatia, at the deluxe Esplanade Zagreb Hotel.

### Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **🕒 Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **🌍 AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **🌱 AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Plitvice Lakes National Park



## Day 10 | Zagreb

### Enrichment: Contemporary Croatia.

**Zagreb Panoramic Tour.** Zagreb weaves European elegance with a vivacious Balkan spirit. After a panoramic tour of the lower town, drive to Mirogoj Cemetery, designed by architect Hermann Bollé. Tour the cemetery, then return to the well-preserved upper town.

## Day 11 | Zagreb

**Free Time:** Make your own discoveries in Zagreb today or join our elective excursion.

**🕒 Elective | Ljubljana, Slovenia.** Cross into Slovenia to discover colorful Ljubljana. Stroll along the Ljubljanica River, passing iconic bridges, shop like a local at the Central Market and browse Prešeren Square, home to the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation. Then, enjoy a cruise along the Ljubljanica River. Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

## Day 12 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer 🚗 to the airport for the return flight ✈️ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈️ Flights and 🚗 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

🕒 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

### Excursions on this program require:

- walking distances of up to 3-5 miles
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved terrain and/or uneven and slippery surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats



## Accommodations



### Esplanade Zagreb Hotel | Zagreb



Built in 1925 as a stylish art nouveau sanctuary for passengers of the grand Orient Express, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel upholds its reputation for impeccable service and sumptuous decor. Enjoy the hotel's romantic Old World charm and classic style and appreciate your tastefully decorated guest room, featuring a luxurious marble bathroom. Dine on fine Mediterranean cuisine at the hotel's celebrated Zinfandel Restaurant. The property also features a health club, spa and gift shop. Wi-fi is complimentary.



## MV Infinity



Sail the Adriatic on the MV Infinity! Your sleek yacht features state-of-the-art amenities, beautifully appointed furnishings and warm Mediterranean colors. With just 19 cabins, guests are guaranteed an intimate setting and personalized service. Take advantage of expansive gathering spaces, inviting social areas and quiet nooks. Play in the water using complimentary sports equipment or just relax in the hot tub. Fuel your adventures with wholesome breakfasts and three-course lunch menus. Cabins are fully air-conditioned with en-suite bathrooms and Wi-Fi is complimentary (may be limited).



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**August 29 – September 9, 2025**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**August 30 – September 9, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Early Booking Special Price*
D-Lower	\$6,640	<b>\$5,890</b>
C-Lower	\$6,840	<b>\$6,090</b>
B-Main	\$7,740	<b>\$6,990</b>
A-Upper	\$8,640	<b>\$7,890</b>

**Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.**

\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

A category features a private balcony and large window. B category features a large window. Categories C and D feature a porthole.

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel. Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1854A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.







Sibenik

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Zadar

## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

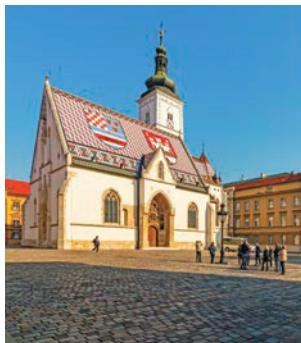
**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



St. Mark's Church, Zagreb



Lavender farm, Hvar

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**



**Discover Croatia's harbors, cities and Dalmatian Coast!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

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