

RIT

EXPLORE CROATIA: CULTURE, HISTORY & ECOLOGY

A Balkan Adventure for RIT Alumni

May 17—24, 2020

Hosted by RIT's Dr. James Myers

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️
EST 2014

DUBROVNIK



An invitation from Dr. James Myers

Associate Provost of International Education and Global Programs

RIT has been an important part of Croatia's story since 1997, when we opened what was then called the American College of Management and Technology. At that time, the country was emerging from a devastating war and years of socialist rule—events that had decimated its once vibrant tourism industry and depleted many of its natural resources. Today, Croatia has emerged as one of the world's premier destinations. Its wine and local food scene is considered one of the best in Europe. The rich diversity of its natural resources, combined with its extraordinary history at the cross-roads of Europe, make it a unique cultural and ecological destination. RIT has changed during this time too—expanding our footprint and presence across the country. RIT-Croatia continues to influence and positively impact the country in numerous ways. I look forward to sharing the extraordinary culture, history, and ecology of Croatia with you, and along the way exposing you to all the good work that RIT faculty, students, and alumni are doing in this beautiful country.



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Connecting with the RIT community in Croatia

Picnicing as you sail through the bright blue Bay of Kotor

Sleeping within the walls of an ancient Roman palace

Welcome to Zagreb!

DAY 1: SUNDAY MAY 17

- Experience dynamic Zagreb through a local's eyes
- Toast your traveling companions over a gourmet Croatian dinner

You'll arrive in Croatia at Franjo Tuđman International Airport, named for the country's first president. It's a short transfer to the heart of Zagreb, where our group will convene at our centrally located boutique hotel for a light lunch. Meet your fellow travelers from around the United States as well as RIT's Dr. James Myers and Žana, your local Croatian host and guide for the week.

After some refreshments, you'll set out with Žana to explore her beloved home city together. Zagreb is located in the northwestern part of the country, along the Sava river, at the southern slopes of the Medvednica Mountain. The old town dates back to the medieval era, yet despite its nearly thousand-year history, Zagreb remains young and playful at heart. In 1669 the first university in Croatia was established here, and today the University of Zagreb is among the continent's oldest universities. The city has numerous interesting and beautiful attractions of architectural and historical significance, as well as many open squares and parks which make up the vibrant "Green Heart" of the city. The energy of Zagreb is sure to pull you in!

By now it's time to check in to your hotel rooms to enjoy a little time to refresh and relax, or take a meandering walk through the small lanes of the old town. This evening we'll set out for a fun and festive dinner at a lively, upscale restaurant near the hotel. *Živjeli!*

Meals Lunch, Dinner

RIT IN CROATIA

- RIT has two campuses in Croatia, one in Zagreb and one in Dubrovnik
 - RIT Croatia has over 850 students
- 30% of the student body is international: coming from North and South America, Asia, Africa and across Europe
- Students earn both an American diploma and a Croatian diploma
- Undergraduate degrees are offered in International Business, IT/ Web & Mobile Computing, and Hospitality and Tourism Management
- M.S. degrees are granted in Service Leadership and Innovation, and Information Sciences and Technology

Castles in the Countryside

DAY 2: MONDAY MAY 18

- Marvel at not one, but two, gorgeous hilltop castles
- Enjoy a friendly welcome at the RIT Campus in Zagreb

A full breakfast is included at the hotel this morning, as it will be each day of the trip. After breakfast we're headed out of town for a memorable day exploring the northern part of the country. Our first stop, an hour's drive north of Zagreb in the hills just below the Slovenian border, is the most attractive and romantic castle in the country. Trakošćan Castle, built in the 13th century with heavy fortifications on a perch above a shimmering lake, is like something plucked from a fairytale. Today it contains a fascinating museum and our visit will transport you back to another time.

After Trakošćan we head deeper into the rolling hills near the northwestern border for a delicious lunch at a country restaurant with unforgettable views over another castle, Veliki Tabor. This is one of Croatia's best preserved examples of late medieval architecture and as you enjoy lunch Žana will fill you in on the local legend, a dramatic love story really, with which the history of this beautiful place is forever intertwined.

As we make our way back to Zagreb, we'll stop to visit the village of Kumrovec, established in 1463. In this UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site you'll find preserved original rural homes from the 19th and 20th century, comprising a kind of open air ethnographic experience. Each house has its own story representing a different aspect of peasant life and the craftsman skills that were so important then. On top of that, what really makes this place stand out is its most famous son: Josip Broz Tito. Today the birthplace of the famous Yugoslav leader, his elementary school, and of course a great bronze statue, commemorate his life in his home town.

In the afternoon we'll return to Zagreb with one more stop: RIT's Zagreb Campus. Our group will be welcomed on campus by local faculty and given an introduction to RIT's work in the Balkans.

After this busy day the rest of the evening is yours to explore and enjoy Zagreb!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Exploring a Natural Paradise

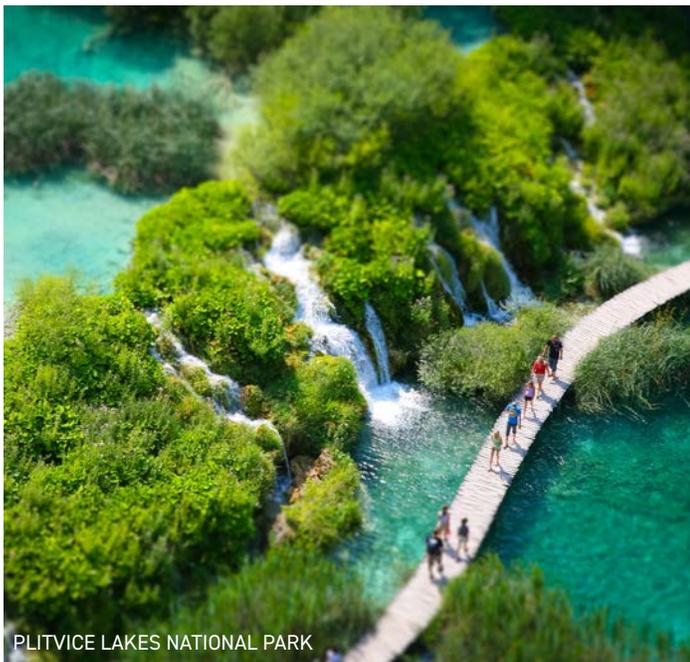
DAY 3: TUESDAY MAY 19

- Immerse yourself in an unbelievable national park
- Go to sleep inside the walls of an ancient Roman palace

This morning we'll say goodbye to Zagreb and begin our journey south to the Dalmatian Coast. We'll bring along packed lunches, and on our way we'll spend most of the day at a unique natural oasis so beautiful it's hard to imagine, Plitvice Lakes National Park. Considered one of the most stunning natural phenomena in the world, the lakes have always attracted nature lovers and in 1949 they were proclaimed Croatia's first national park. UNESCO recognised the beauty of the lakes in 1979, placing the park on the World Heritage list. It's hard to describe, but if you can imagine... There are sixteen lakes cascading from one to another, connected by stunning waterfalls. Depending on the angle of the sun's rays and the mineral in the water the lakes change color throughout the day, from bright turquoise to gray... It's a continuous play of light and water. Visitors can walk along the forest paths and across wooden foot bridges, and ride on an electric boat and train, all while enjoying amazing and breathtaking panoramic views.

After this exciting day in a natural paradise we continue south to our destination for the night, Split, stopping for dinner on the way. We'll reach our comfortable hotel within the walls of the Diocletian Palace in the evening.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK



SPLIT'S FAMOUS SEASIDE PROMENADE

Centuries of Culture Converge

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY MAY 20

- Explore a fascinating city where Ancient Rome meets present day
- Visit a fun, family operated winery in the hills near Split

This morning we set out from our hotel to get to know Split with a local guide. Split is located in the heart of Dalmatia, and the city is enduringly unique as it is risen from the ancient ruins of the Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace which was built between the late 3rd and early 4th century C.E. Today the Diocletian's Palace is one of the most preserved and complete remains of a Roman palace in the world, and much of the city actually exists inside the palace walls. This morning we'll see 12th and 13th century Romanesque churches, medieval fortifications, 15th century Gothic palaces and other palaces built in the Renaissance and Baroque style. And all of this exists in a modern, lived in urban context for a truly unique city experience.

Take some time to explore Split on your own and maybe visit a museum, do some shopping or enjoy a leisurely lunch. Later this afternoon we'll reconvene to visit Trogir, a beautiful little island just north of Split. Trogir is a real treasure and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a perfect example of a medieval town built on Hellenistic and Roman ruins, in fact the town is the best preserved Romanesque-Gothic complex in Central Europe. Trogir features remarkable urban continuity with beautiful Romanesque churches and buildings from the Venetian and Baroque periods giving way to a palm tree lined waterfront promenade. In fact, the island city is so striking that Game of Thrones was even filmed here.

At the end of the afternoon we'll visit a picturesque family winery in the hills near Split. This is an ancient winemaking region and we'll get to learn the family history and winemaking process and of course taste plenty of wine along with local meats and cheeses and their own olive oil. Enjoy the rest of the evening back in Split as you like.

Meals Breakfast, Light dinner

From the City to the Sea

DAY 5: THURSDAY MAY 21

- Spend time on your own to wander Split's ancient alleyways
- Check in to a seaside hotel on the edge of stunning Dubrovnik

Enjoy a relaxing morning in Split today, sleep in or get up early to explore and visit a museum or do some shopping. After lunchtime we will continue our journey down the coast to captivating Dubrovnik.

We arrive in Dubrovnik late in the afternoon, and will relax over a casual dinner together near our upscale seaside hotel.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Dive In to Dubrovnik

DAY 6: FRIDAY MAY 22

- Lose yourself in one of Europe's most beautiful cities

Today we explore Dubrovnik with Žana. First we will visit RIT's Dubrovnik Campus where Dr. Myers served as the Associate Dean. Then we'll make our way to the Old Town. The entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with over one thousand years of history, it is an almost perfectly preserved medieval settlement. A powerful city-state for centuries beginning in the the Middle Ages, by its Golden Age in the 16th century Dubrovnik had one of the largest merchant naval fleets in the world, with consulates in more than 50 foreign ports. Bursting with breathtaking historical sites amid its iconic overlapping red and orange tiled rooftops, the magic of this charming city surrounds you. George Bernard Shaw was enchanted by Dubrovnik, about which he said, "those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik." This afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy the city on your own - be sure to walk the city walls!

Meals Breakfast



BUREK is a delicious Balkan specialty of phyllo dough stuffed with meat, cheese or spinach

Montenegrin Boat Adventure

DAY 7: SATURDAY MAY 23

- Cruise through the gorgeous, unspoilt waters of the Bay of Kotor
- Laugh into the evening over a lovely seaside dinner

Today we'll cross another international border, as we continue south along the Dalmatian Coast to captivating Montenegro. Just over the border we'll arrive at a harbor where our own boat and captain await us. We'll spend a nice part of the day cruising through the crystal blue waters of the Bay of Kotor, Europe's southernmost fjord. Stop to explore the "floating church," Our Lady of the Rocks, a shrine visited by sailors over the centuries. Then, back on board, enjoy a delicious lunch (with wine, of course!) as we continue to sail towards Kotor.

After arriving in Kotor, our local guide will show us around this medieval city. The Old Town of Kotor is a well-preserved urbanization typical of the Middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th centuries. Kotor is surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period, and we've found ourselves in another UNESCO World Natural and Historical Heritage Site. Throughout the city, the buildings are crossed by narrow streets and squares, in one of these squares stands the Cathedral of St. Trifone (Sveti Trifun), a monument of Roman culture and one of the city's most recognizable symbols.

Back in Dubrovnik tonight our group will enjoy a festive farewell dinner together, sharing toasts and laughing into the night as we recount this wonderful journey we've enjoyed together!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Doviđenja!

DAY 8: SUNDAY MAY 24

Doviđenja means goodbye, and unfortunately our wonderful time together has come to an end. Onward Travel will arrange transfers for flights home from Dubrovnik Airport, or perhaps you'd like to extend your stay on the Dalmatian Coast for a few more days. Either way, safe travels!

Meals Breakfast

Trip Essentials

BEGINS	<p>Sunday, May 17 2020 Zagreb</p> <p>Franjo Tuđman International Airport (ZAG)</p> <p>Arrival transfer provided mid-morning from the airport to the hotel in central Zagreb. Make plans to land at ZAG by 11:00 AM.</p>
ENDS	<p>Sunday, May 24 2020 Dubrovnik</p> <p>Departure transfer provided from Kompas Hotel to Dubrovnik Airport (DBV).</p> <p>No activities are scheduled for this day.</p>
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<p><u>This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, including stairs, cobblestones and uneven terrain.</u></p> <p>Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.</p>
TRIP LENGTH	8 days, 7 nights
LODGING	<p>Hotel Jägerhorn 2 Nights A small boutique hotel full of charm and style located in the very heart of Zagreb.</p> <p>Split Old Town Hotel 2 Nights A comfortable and classy hotel will be selected within the Diocletian walls</p> <p>Hotel Kompas 3 Nights A lovely hotel overlooking Lapad Bay just outside of Dubrovnik's historic center, set on a seaside promenade with restaurants and nightlife</p>
TOUR DATES & PRICE	<p>May 17–24, 2020</p> <p>Double Occupancy \$3350 per traveler</p> <p>Single Supplement \$700 (please inquire, limited availability)</p> <p><i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Croatia. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i></p>

Trip price includes the following:

- Ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- 7 nights accommodations at classy, comfortable and thoughtfully chosen hotels.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 5 dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Croatia and a dedicated local host guide at your service.
- All activities, gratuities and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co/RIT to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by February 1, 2020.

If you'd like some extra free time to explore Zagreb or Dubrovnik, why not come early or stay an extra day or two? Onward Travel is happy to help you arrange extended travels.

AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will begin in Zagreb and end in Dubrovnik so travelers will want to look for multi-city itineraries, flying into one city and out of the other. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance finding suitable flights. Onward Travel is also happy to assist travelers with arranging extra time in Croatia before or after the scheduled tour.

TRIP INFORMATION Explore Croatia: Culture, History & Ecology

About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a small group tour operator owned by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Dhand. Onward Travel is focused on unique, thoughtful small group tours with itineraries that are researched and pieced together carefully to ensure authentic, engaging trips that foster genuine connection to places and people.

Croatia in May

May is a lovely time to visit Croatia. Summer is making her presence known, but the seasonal crowds haven't fully arrived yet. The region is looking lush, the sea is ready for swimming, and long days complement sightseeing. Temperatures are pleasant, expect 60s—high 70s and be prepared for sunshine and rainfall. Onward Travel will provide detailed packing notes in advance of the trip.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

- *Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Europe. Visas are not required until 2021. Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.*
- *To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to HRK."*
- *Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704. For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294*

Get in Touch!

Contact Molly with questions or special requests:

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845-293-2729



TRAKOŠĆAN CASTLE