

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JULY 28 - AUGUST 5, 2025

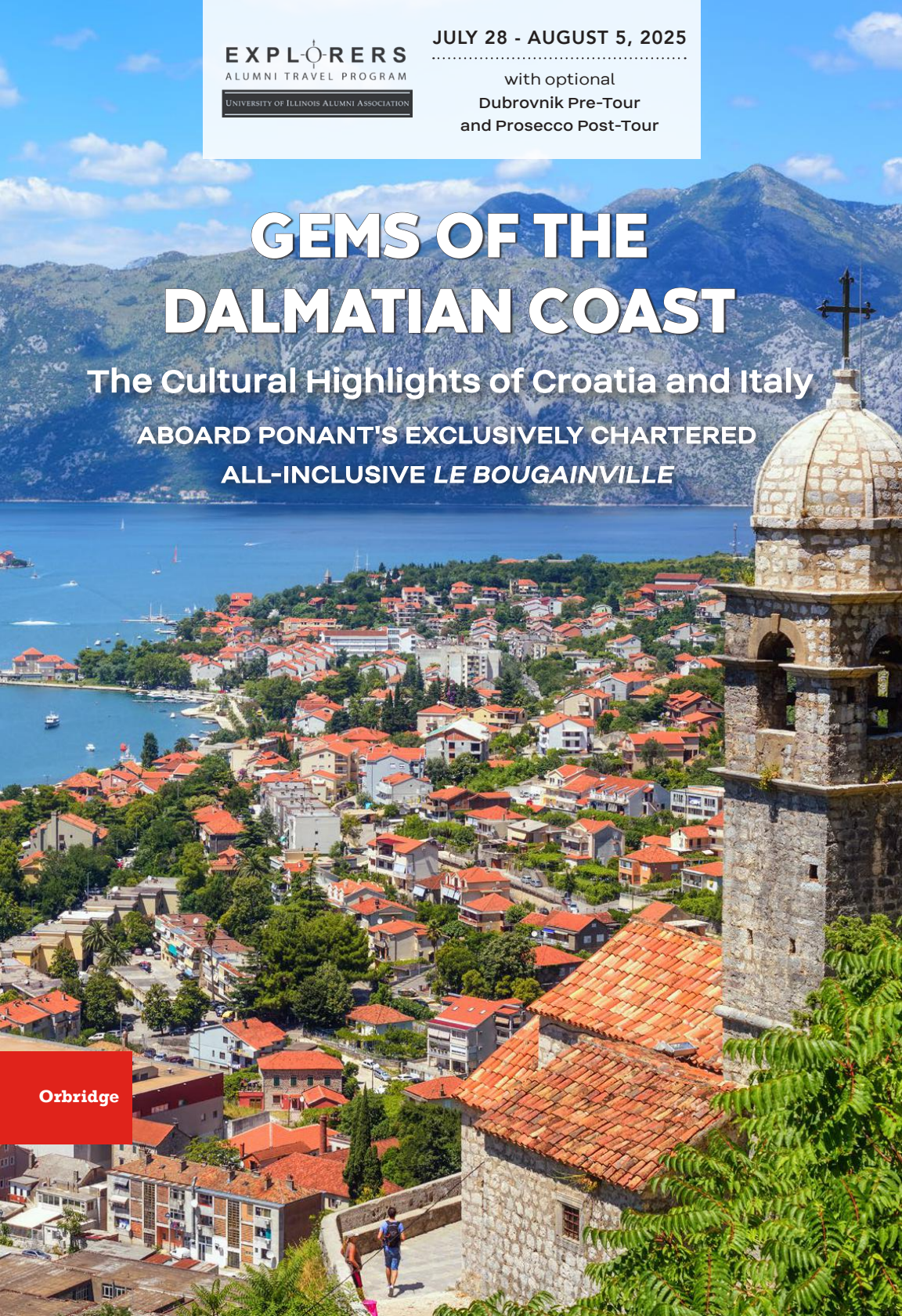
with optional  
Dubrovnik Pre-Tour  
and Prosecco Post-Tour

# GEMS OF THE DALMATIAN COAST

The Cultural Highlights of Croatia and Italy

ABOARD PONANT'S EXCLUSIVELY CHARTERED  
ALL-INCLUSIVE *LE BOUGAINVILLE*

Orbridge





# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

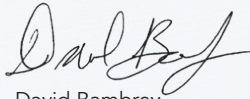
Join alumni and friends as we weave through a tapestry of enchanting destinations, ancient ports and extraordinary antiquities spanning Croatia, Montenegro and Northern Italy.

Accompanied by a dedicated team of expert tour directors, each day promises new discoveries and unforgettable moments highlighted by medieval architecture, historic charm and artistic treasures along the Dalmatian coast.

Between fascinating excursions on land, cruise in unparalleled style aboard state-of-the-art *Le Bougainville* where the delicate balance between modern luxury and responsible travel is seamlessly achieved. This floating sanctuary of comfort and rejuvenation features spacious staterooms, inviting common spaces and restaurants offering gourmet dining experiences.

With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. To reserve visit [uillinois.orbridge.com](https://uillinois.orbridge.com) or call (866) 639-0079.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President  
University of Illinois Alumni Association  
<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

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





# Gems of the Dalmatian Coast | Itinerary Highlights (subject to change)

Day EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

1

Day ARRIVE IN DUBROVNIK, CROATIA – EMBARKATION (R,D) Upon arriving an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the ship. *Le Bougainville* is a masterpiece of luxury cruising. During embarkation take time to unpack and become familiar with your accommodations. This evening gather for a welcome reception and gala dinner to celebrate the exciting journey ahead.

Day KOTOR, MONTENEGRO (B,L,D) Join a local guide for a walking tour of Kotor's iconic landmarks including the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon. Built in 1166, the cathedral was dedicated to Kotor's patron saint, Saint Tryphon—with its twin towers and Romanesque architecture dominating the skyline. Step inside to peruse the rich collection of religious artifacts, frescoes and the beautifully decorated altar. The cathedral also houses an impressive array of relics including a silver casket containing the remains of Saint Tryphon. This evening on board, delight in a gourmet dinner crafted from locally sourced ingredients expertly paired with exquisite wines. (OPT EXCURSIONS<sup>†</sup> *Mussel and Oyster Farm Visit; Blue Cave Boat Tour*)

Day HVAR, CROATIA (B,L,D) Immerse yourself in the spiritual and historical significance of Hvar during a guided walking tour. Begin in the town center at the Benedictine Monastery. Founded in the 17th century, this site is best known for its tradition of lacemaking, a craft passed down through generations of Benedictine nuns. The lace, made from agave fibers, is so exquisite that it has been recognized by UNESCO as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage. Tour the monastery's peaceful cloisters and chapel, and visit the small museum showcasing intricate lace pieces, historical artifacts and religious art. Continue to the Franciscan Monastery—a beautiful example of Dalmatian Renaissance architecture—along the waterfront. (OPT EXCURSIONS<sup>†</sup> *Carić Winery Tour and Tasting; Guided Stari Grad Tour*)

Day SPLIT (B,L,D) Set off on a guided walking tour through Old Town. The area is centered around Diocletian's Palace, an ancient Roman palace built for the Emperor Diocletian at the turn of the 4th century AD. Continue to the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, one of the oldest cathedrals in the world still in use in its original structure. Next visit the Ethnographic Museum to peruse exhibits that feature traditional costumes, textiles, tools and household items that illustrate the daily life and customs of the local people over the centuries. (OPT EXCURSIONS<sup>†</sup> *Full-Day Blue Lagoon Adventure; Roman Square Food Tasting*)

Day BRIJUNI ISLANDS (B,L,D) Relish in a relaxing day at the beach to swim and soak up the sunshine. Back on board take time to freshen up before visiting the main lounge for snacks and beverages accompanied by live music. (OPT EXCURSION<sup>†</sup> *Half-Day Brijuni National Park Adventure*)

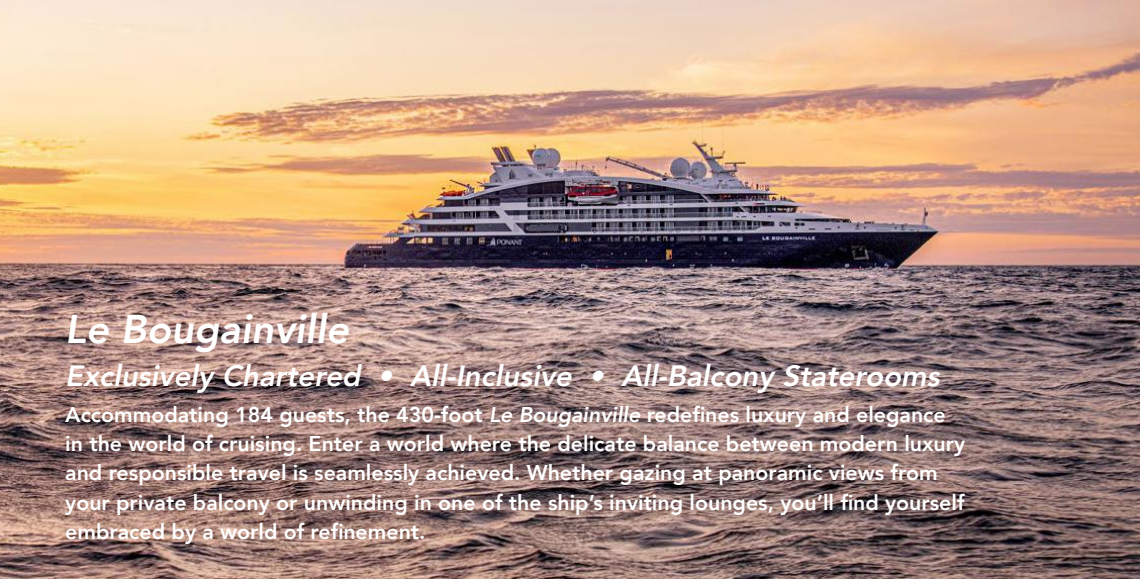
Day RAVENNA, ITALY (B,L,D) Discover Ravenna's enchanting blend of ancient and medieval splendor during a guided tour. Once the capital of the Western Roman Empire, Ravenna boasts a rich cultural heritage. See the Basilica di San Vitale—one of Ravenna's most famous landmarks. Completed in 547 AD, this octagonal basilica is celebrated for its intricate mosaics that depict biblical scenes, saints and emperors. Continue to the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, originally built in the early 6th century by Theodoric the Great. (OPT EXCURSIONS<sup>†</sup> *Full-Day Guided Tour of UNESCO Site Ferrara; Pomposa Abbey Visit*)

Day RAVENNA (B,L,R,D) During a full-day guided city tour see the historic and cultural highlights of Bologna including Piazza Maggiore's expansive square, the Basilica di San Petronio and the Archiginnasio. (OPT EXCURSION<sup>†</sup> *Full-Day Emilia-Romagna Region Food Tasting Tour*)

Day VENICE – DISEMBARKATION | DEPART FOR U.S. (B) After breakfast take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

(† = Additional fee applies; view full details online)  
(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)

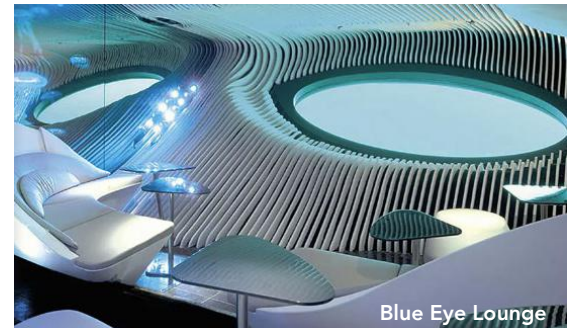
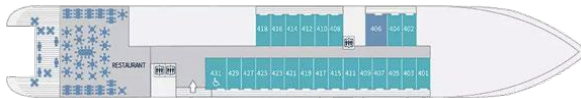
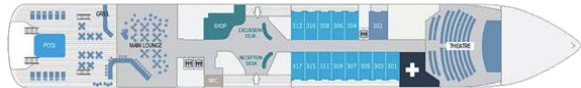
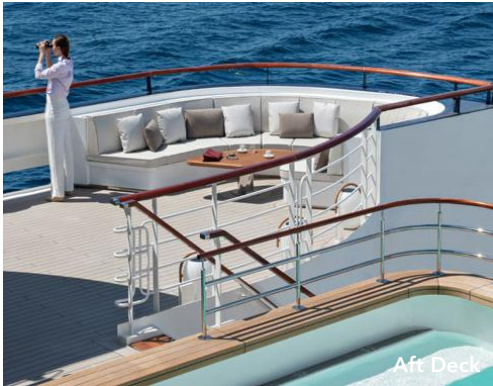




# Le Bougainville

**Exclusively Chartered • All-Inclusive • All-Balcony Staterooms**

Accommodating 184 guests, the 430-foot Le Bougainville redefines luxury and elegance in the world of cruising. Enter a world where the delicate balance between modern luxury and responsible travel is seamlessly achieved. Whether gazing at panoramic views from your private balcony or unwinding in one of the ship's inviting lounges, you'll find yourself embraced by a world of refinement.





**Deluxe (Deck 3) approx. 204 sq. ft.**

One king or two single beds, private bathroom with shower, glazed panoramic swing door and rectangular window, private balcony with two armchairs.



**Prestige (Decks 4, 5, 6) approx. 204 sq. ft.**

One king or two single beds, one chaise lounge chair, private bathroom with shower, panoramic sliding bay window or panoramic swing door, panoramic sliding bay window, private balcony with two armchairs.



**Deluxe Suite (Decks 3, 4, 5, 6) approx. 290 sq. ft.**

One king or two single beds, an armchair and sofa, private bathroom with shower, glazed panoramic swing door and panoramic window (Deck 3), panoramic sliding bay window (Decks 4, 5, 6), private balcony with two armchairs.



**Prestige Suite (Decks 5, 6) approx. 409 sq. ft.**

Priority boarding (Deck 6), champagne and fruit basket upon arrival, assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with sofa bed convertible to one king or two single bed, armchair, two TVs, sliding courtesy door, two private bathrooms with showers, two panoramic sliding bay windows, private balcony with four armchairs, butler service (Deck 6).



**Privilege Suite (Decks 5, 6) approx. 344 sq. ft.**

Priority boarding, champagne and fruit basket upon arrival and assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily (Deck 6), one king or two single beds, lounge with chaise lounge and armchair, private bathroom with shower, panoramic sliding bay window, private balcony with two armchairs, butler service.



**Grand Deluxe Suite (Deck 6) approx. 484 sq. ft.**

Priority boarding, assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with sofa bed convertible to double bed, armchair, two TVs, private bathroom with shower and Baleno tub, two panoramic sliding bay windows, private terrace with two deckchairs and four-seat dining table, butler service.



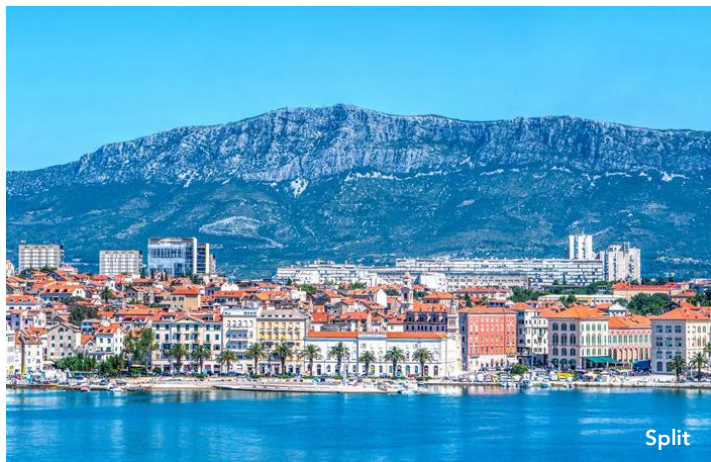
**Owner's Suite (Deck 5) approx. 505 sq. ft.**

Priority boarding, champagne and fruit basket upon arrival, assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with armchair and double sofa bed, two TVs, private bathroom with shower, Baleno tub, and smart mirror, two panoramic sliding bay windows, one-hour spa treatment (for two), selection of premium spirits at the bar, butler service.





**Activity Level:** Guests should be able to enjoy two hours or more of walking, be sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and walk up and down stairs without assistance.



Split



Kotor

## What's Included

- 7 nights aboard luxurious *Le Bougainville*
- All onboard hand-crafted meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners (served with wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverages) plus special welcome and farewell receptions
- Unlimited select complimentary beverages available 24/7 on board the ship, including in the comfort of your stateroom
- Private tours and special small-group excursions as noted in the 9-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of a team of Orbridge Travel Directors and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to ship crew, Orbridge Travel Directors, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



## Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.

# Optional Dubrovnik Pre-Tour

Experience Dubrovnik's timeless charm and uncover the hidden gems that make this city a true treasure trove of wonders. Delve into the city's rich history and vibrant culture, all set against the stunning backdrop of the Adriatic Sea.



Day +1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day +2 **ARRIVE IN DUBROVNIK, CROATIA** Upon arrival to Dubrovnik Airport transfer to the hotel. Later gather for a special welcome dinner in the town center.  
Overnight: Grand Hotel Park (D)

Day +3 **DUBROVNIK** Meet with a local guide for a panoramic city tour. First view the City Walls which are among the most iconic and well-preserved fortifications in the world. Fort Lovrijenac, also known as St. Lawrence Fortress, is a standalone fortress situated on a 121-foot high cliff outside Dubrovnik's western wall. Next see the Western Outer Wall, or Predzide, which is an extension of the main city walls designed to provide an additional layer of defense. Explore displays of ancient tools at Dubrovnik's historic metallurgic casting exposition. Finally see a series of beautifully preserved rooms at the Rector's Palace and peruse the impressive collection of artifacts at the museum inside Dubrovnik's Franciscan Monastery. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.  
Overnight: Grand Hotel Park (B)

Day +4 **KONAVLE | DUBROVNIK | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS** After breakfast depart by motor coach for the short, scenic drive to Konavle—a picturesque region with fertile soil and ideal conditions for olive cultivation, honey farming and viticulture. Enjoy the welcoming hospitality of the local producers as you visit an olive oil mill, honey farm, flour mill and winery for tours and tastings. Late afternoon join guests arriving at Dubrovnik's port for the main program and embarkation. (B,L)

## What's Included

- 2 nights hotel accommodations
- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- Guided Dubrovnik city tour including admission fees where applicable
- Tour and tastings through Konavle
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times





# Optional Prosecco Post-Tour

Nestled in the northeastern part of Italy, Prosecco is a picturesque region renowned for its rolling hills, charming villages and, of course, its world-famous sparkling wine. Located in the Veneto region just north of Venice, Prosecco offers a delightful blend of natural beauty, cultural richness and gastronomic excellence.



**Day 9** PROSECCO Visit Villa Valmarana ai Nani in Vicenza. This splendid property is renowned for its exquisite frescoes by the famous 18th-century painter Giambattista Tiepolo and his son, Giandomenico Tiepolo. The villa is surrounded by lush gardens offering stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The gardens are designed in a classical Italian style featuring manicured lawns, geometric flower beds and statues. The highlight of the garden is a series of 17 stone dwarf statues (“nani” in Italian) that give the villa its name. According to local legend, these statues represent the dwarf servants of a noble family and add a whimsical touch to the garden’s elegance. Check in to the property in Prosecco and relax before gathering for dinner. Overnight: Hotel Villa Michelangelo (L,D)

**Day 10** PROSECCO Prosecco is synonymous with its sparkling wine, and a visit to the region wouldn’t be complete without touring its stellar vineyards. After breakfast set out for tours and tastings at two unique wineries. Learn about the cultivation of Glera grapes, the traditional and modern methods of winemaking and the unique characteristics that make Prosecco so special. Guided tasting sessions provide the opportunity to savor different Prosecco varieties. There will be time to explore independently before dinner this evening. Overnight: Hotel Villa Michelangelo (B,L,D)

**Day 11** PROSECCO | VENICE | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

## What’s Included

- 2 nights hotel accommodations
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 2 vineyard tours and tastings
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guide, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times







## JULY 28 – AUGUST 5, 2025

Dubrovnik Pre-Tour: July 26-29, 2025

Prosecco Post-Tour: August 5-7, 2025

## RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

Online: [uillinois.orbridge.com](http://uillinois.orbridge.com)

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Category – Deck	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Deluxe – 3	\$7,549	\$7,045
Prestige – 4	\$8,049	\$7,545
Prestige – 5	\$8,749	\$8,245
Prestige – 6	\$9,349	\$8,845
Deluxe Suite – 3	\$10,549	\$10,045
Deluxe Suite – 4	\$11,649	\$11,145
Deluxe Suite – 5	\$12,749	\$12,245
Deluxe Suite – 6	\$13,799	\$13,295
Prestige Suite – 5	\$15,249	\$14,745
Prestige Suite – 6	\$16,049	\$15,545
Privilege Suite – 5,6	\$16,549	\$16,045
Grand Deluxe Suite – 6	\$17,749	\$17,245

Category – Deck	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Owner's Suite – 5	\$18,949	\$18,445
Single Deluxe – 3	\$12,149	\$11,645
Single Prestige – 4	\$12,949	\$12,445
Single Prestige – 5	\$14,549	\$14,045
Single Prestige – 6	\$15,749	\$15,245

*Category rates include the required  
\$450 per person port fee.*

Dubrovnik Pre-Tour\* \$2,195 | Single \$2,595

Prosecco Post-Tour\* \$2,195 | Single \$2,495

### DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON

\$500 pre-tour • \$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour

\*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included. \*\*An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](http://terms.orbridge.com). Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms. CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](http://orbridge.com/going-green).



# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
EXPLORERS Travel Program  
Alice Campbell Alumni Center  
601 S. Lincoln Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801

## What Guests Are Saying...

*You can always count on U of I EXPLORERS trips for interesting sites, quality tours, and fun companions!*

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

*I always enjoy being with fellow alumni and making new friends when visiting a new location.*

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

*Orbridge is an amazing company, I really appreciate and enjoy their approach to the details and comfort of our trip*

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

# GEMS OF THE DALMATIAN COAST

JULY 28 - AUGUST 5, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than \$1,000 per couple

**30-DAY REFUND GUARANTEE**

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY  
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY  
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by

**January 31, 2025\*\***

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