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An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik 2024

15 SEP – 30 SEP 2024 *Code: 22430*

Tour Leaders Tony O'Connor, Martin Muhek

Physical Ratings

Enjoy Croatia's Plitvice Lakes & one of the Mediterranean's loveliest coasts with Dalmatia's rich heritage of classical, medieval & Venetian monuments & towns incl. Hvar Island.

Overview

Journey along Croatia's magnificent panoramic coastline. Tony O'Connor shows how Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Croat, Venetian, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish culture and trade travelled the sparkling Adriatic. Tony will be accompanied by Martin Muhek, who brings a profound knowledge of the Balkan region to ASA tours.

Visit 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Ancient Roman and early Christian city of Aquileia: with brilliant mosaics in the 1000-year-old Patriarchal Basilica and an archaeological museum housing one of the most important collections of Roman artefacts in the world.
- Plitvice Lakes National Park: one of Europe's scenic wonders.
- Euphrasian Basilica, Porec: a masterpiece of the Byzantine world with mosaics to rival Ravenna.
- Historical centre of Trogir: a tiny island city, the Adriatic's best-preserved Romanesque-Gothic complex. Trogir Cathedral's portal sculptures are a particular delight.
- Old City of Dubrovnik: with spectacular city walls and a rich heritage as a great maritime power. Learn how this city-state avoided dominion by Venice and the Ottomans, and appreciate masterpieces of Venetian architecture in the city's churches and palaces.
- Diocletian's monumental palace at Split: the 4th-century Roman emperor's palace later transformed into a medieval fortified town and now forms the heart of the city of Split.
- Cathedral of St James in Šibenik: Croatia's most important Renaissance architectural monument, the magnificent architecture marks the transition from Gothic to Renaissance styles.
- Stari Grad Plain, Hvar: an agricultural landscape established by Greek colonists in the 4th century BC, and remaining in use today.

Other highlights include:

- Enjoy cosmopolitan Trieste and the picturesque Miramare Castle.
- Chart the Roman Empire's Balkan history through grand monuments like Pula's huge amphitheatre.
- View some of Europe's greatest Romanesque monuments in Zadar.
- Spend two leisurely nights on the island of Hvar, famous for its crystal blue seas, mild climate, lavender fields and the medieval Venetian port.
- Stay in beautiful, boutique hotels, including the grand Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik at the gates to the Old City.

Overnight Trieste (3 nights) • Porec (2 nights) • Plitvice Lakes (1 night) • Zadar (2 nights) • Split (2 nights) • Hvar (2 nights) • Dubrovnik (3 nights)

Testimonials

The Adriatic Journey was really remarkable – the scenery was stunning, the ancient towns so clean and interesting and the museums proved far more fascinating than I imagined possible. The lectures and informal discussions were excellent! The other tour participants were pleasant and interesting. This was a beautifully organised, stimulating experience with many wonderful highlights. Judith, WA.

All the delights of the Adriatic are on this tour, plus a couple of inland forays that shouldn't be missed – Plitvice Lakes, for their breathtaking beauty, and Mostar and Kotor, for their own unique character and flavour. This is a region which is fascinating to explore on many levels. ASA has done the research and hired the experts to make this program exceedingly rewarding. The very best

cultural holiday of my life. Miriam, VIC.

Overview

The sparkling azure waters of the Adriatic Sea served both as frontier between Europe and the Balkans, and trade corridor between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean. We travel from the Italian port city of Trieste down the stunning Dalmatian coast to Dubrovnik, 'pearl of the Adriatic'. In territories once dominated by Venice and beautified by her colonial art and architecture, we encounter the legacies of many cultures: Aquileia was one of the Adriatic's largest and richest Roman cities; Trieste and Pula proudly display their Roman past, with theatres and temples embedded into the heart of their later urban fabric; while the vast palace of the Emperor Diocletian metamorphosed into the medieval town of Split. We explore the mosaics and frescoes in the famous Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta in Aquileia, the Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in Porec, and the Cathedral of St James in Sibenik, reflecting the commingling of eastern (Byzantine) and western (Latin) worlds; Porec rivals Ravenna as the most complete Byzantine ensemble in the world. We amble through the island town of Trogir, Greek colony of the 4th-3rd centuries BC – a remarkable example of urban continuity – and explore the semi-independent trading city of Ragusa (Dubrovnik), rival of mighty Venice. Her magnificent monuments reflect past prosperity built on Balkan land trade and Mediterranean seafaring. Driving inland to the karst landscapes of Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park, boardwalks lead us past beautiful lakes, mysterious caves and sparkling waterfalls. We spend two days on the sleepy island of Hvar enjoying her crystal blue waters, mild climate, grand panoramas of lavender fields, peaceful villages and pine-covered hills. Medieval Hvar town has beautifully ornamented buildings with fine stone carving developed under Venetian rule.

Learn about the remarkable history of this area in Tony O'Connor's illustrated lecture, Croatia: Archaeology and Culture between Rome and Constantinople.

https://youtu.be/qIuf32fQatQ

Leaders

Tony O'Connor

Archaeologist, museum professional and highly experienced tour lecturer. Tony leads tours throughout the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa including programs to Lebanon, Sicily, Algeria, Tunisia & Croatia.

Tony O'Connor, an archaeologist, museum professional and highly experienced tour lecturer, has led tours throughout the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. With an honours degree in Ancient History and Archaeology (Manchester), he has worked extensively as a field archaeologist on major North African sites, including the city of Ptolomais in Libya and many Roman villas, small towns and military sites.

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Tony is a polymath, combining archaeological research with important roles in museums. He is a past committee member of the Society of Museum Archaeologists, Chairman of Museums of East Anglia, Chairman of the West Essex Archeological Group and a trustee of Museums Essex. He has been Deputy Keeper at the Verulamium Museum, St Albans, Keeper of Antiquities at the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, and Museum Heritage and Culture Manager, Epping Forest District Museum. ASA welcome such a passionate and experienced tour leader and lecturer to our team. In 2021 Tony was named a finalist in the 'Best Specialist Guide' category at the 2021 Wanderlust World Guide Awards!

Martin Muhek

Scholar of ancient and modern languages and National Guide with a profound knowledge of the Balkan region. Martin leads ASA tours to Croatia and Slovenia.

Martin is from Zagreb, Croatia, and holds a postgraduate degree in Ancient Greek and Latin from the University of Zagreb. He is an accomplished linguist – as well as Croatian, he speaks English, French, Hungarian, Italian, Greek and Turkish. He translated *History of the Czech Republic* from Czech into Croatian, has translated numerous articles from German into Croatian, and a long-term project is a Croatian-Modern Greek dictionary, soon to be published. Martin is an accredited National Guide in Croatia and has a deep, broad knowledge of the history of the Balkan region, from antiquity to the present day, as well as Central and Mediterranean Europe. Martin has been guiding groups around Slovenia, Croatia and other parts of Europe for more than 15 years. He has been co-leading ASA's tours to Croatia since 2007; his outstanding knowledge of the region and his good-natured sense of humour have endeared him to numerous ASA groups. Martin leads ASA's Adriatic Journey tour, and with Dr Adrian Jones, leads ASA's new tour to Slovenia in 2023.

Combine this tour with

Slovenia: Villages, Castles, Vineyards, Scenic Valleys and the Julian Alps 2024
29 AUG – 15 SEP 2024

Cyprus: Civilisations of the Eastern Mediterranean 2024
3 OCT – 16 OCT 2024

Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands 2024
4 OCT – 24 OCT 2024

London, Glasgow & the Cotswolds: Art, Architecture and Design 2024
1 OCT – 12 OCT 2024

Great Libraries and Stately Homes of England 2024
7 OCT – 22 OCT 2024

Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches and dinners, indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner.

Trieste - 3 nights

Day 1: Sunday 15 September, Arrive Venice – Trieste

- Tour commences at the Venice Marco Polo Airport at 2.30pm
- Welcome Meeting & Welcome Drinks
- Orientation Walk

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 2.30pm in the Arrivals Hall of Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE).

We commence the tour with a private coach transfer to the Modernist Hotel, located in the heart of Trieste. After checking into our hotel, there will be time at leisure followed by a Welcome Meeting and drinks, and a short orientation walk within the vicinity of our hotel. (Overnight Trieste)

Day 2: Monday 16 September, Trieste

- Trieste walking tour, incl. Colle di San Giusto, Ancient Theatre, Basilica di San Giusto, Borgo Teresiano
- Afternoon at leisure
- Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant

Trieste is a thriving port situated on the Gulf of Trieste in the northeast Adriatic. Today it is a border city, with a population of Italians, Slovenians and Croats that reflects its geographical location and chequered history. Excavation of a Roman theatre in the 20th century showed that it prospered in antiquity until eclipsed by Aquileia. It then declined somewhat, becoming a Byzantine military outpost and then a Frankish city, a free commune which warred with Venice, and then a dependent of the Habsburg Empire. It revived during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, of which it became a major port. With the collapse of the Austrian Empire at the end of World War I, Trieste came to be annexed by Italy.

The core of the old city is the Colle San Giusto that overlooks the port. Here are clustered the main civic, defensive and religious buildings of Trieste. One of the main monuments on the hill, which constitutes an important symbol of the city, is its castle. Construction commenced in 1470 on the site of a Venetian fort, but the citadel was not finished until 1630. The cathedral of San Giusto, which also occupies Colle San Giusto, gained its present plan in 1300 when two pre-existing basilicas were merged to form its wide central nave. The cathedral has a beautiful sandstone façade and a bell tower that was built in 1337. Inside are important Byzantine mosaics and a 13th-century chapel behind a rich Baroque rail. The right nave is the chapel dedicated to San Giusto. We shall also visit Trieste's Roman theatre as well as Borgo Teresiano, the 19th-century precinct comprising beautiful Neoclassical and Art Nouveau (Secession) buildings constructed when Trieste was an important Austrian port and resort.

This afternoon we will be at leisure to enjoy Trieste. In the evening we shall meet up again for a welcome dinner at a local seafront restaurant. (Overnight Trieste) BD

Day 3: Tuesday 17 September, Trieste – Aquileia – Trieste

- UNESCO World Heritage-listed Aquileia: Roman town and medieval Basilica with splendid mosaics
- Castello Miramare, Trieste

Today we leave Trieste for the small hill-top town of Aquileia, which was founded by the Romans in 181 BC. It rose in importance to become one of the largest and richest of the Roman Empire's Mediterranean cities. Aquileia boasts a fine, well-preserved Basilica built in the eleventh century by the Patriarch Poppone on the ruins of a fourth-century building. According to tradition, St Mark brought the message of the Gospel here. He converted Ermacora who became the first priest of the small Christian community. Ermacora was martyred with his Deacon Fortunato and, together with the Virgin Mary, became the patron saints of the Basilica. The frescoes in the Basilica's crypt tell their story and their relics are venerated with the other martyrs from Aquileia. After the Edict of Milan (312) when the Emperor Constantine 'legalised' Christian worship, the community of Aquileia – ruled at that time by Archbishop Theodore – was finally able to build its first Church and an inscription on the mosaic floor marks this event. Excavations in the Basilica's crypt have uncovered fine mosaic pavements dating from Roman and early Christian times. Aquileia was added to UNESCO's register of World Heritage Sites in 1998.

We return to Trieste and visit the Castello Miramare, which occupies an extraordinary site perched atop a spur above the sea. It was the home to the younger brother of Franz Joseph I of Austria, Maximilian, until he left to become the Emperor of Mexico. The next resident, Duke Amedeo of Savoy, made it the headquarters for various military commands. In 1955, it was transformed into a museum. The castle still has original furniture commissioned by Maximilian. There is a chapel, the Japanese and Chinese rooms, rich in oriental ornament, and the apartments where the Duke of Savoy lived. (Overnight Trieste) B

Porec - 2 nights

Day 4: Wednesday 18 September, Trieste – Koper – Porec

- Port city of Koper, Slovenia
- UNESCO World Heritage-listed 6th-century Basilica Complex (Cathedral, Baptistery, Bishop's Palace), Porec
- Porec: Romanesque House (exterior), Temple of Neptune (ruins), House of the Two Saints (exterior)

This morning we depart Trieste and, after crossing into Slovenia, we make a short stop in the city of Koper. Koper's medieval town centre is laid out around Titov Trg, a square bordered by Venetian buildings such as the 15th-century Praetorian Palace, and a Gothic style loggia. The 12th-century Cathedral of the Assumption houses one of the oldest bells in Slovenia, cast in 1333.

We continue our journey, crossing the border into Croatia, and drive south along the Adriatic coast to the magnificent port-town of Porec. Located on a narrow peninsula jutting out into the Adriatic Sea, Porec was an important centre of early Christianity and today boasts one of the finest, and most complete, early medieval religious complexes in Europe. We will visit the Basilica of Euphrasius (a Byzantine masterpiece with magnificent gold apse mosaics of the quality of Ravenna), the Sacristy and Votive chapel, the Baptistery and the Bishop's Palace. The Basilica is entered through an arcaded atrium, typical of early Christian churches. Flanking this is the fine octagonal 6th-century Baptistery and a 16th-century bell tower. The rare, triple-aisled Bishops' Residence and the Sacristy, also from the 6th century, make the complex one of the most cohesive, wonderfully preserved early medieval ensembles – well deserving of its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Porec also features some very important medieval domestic buildings. We will visit the 'Romanesque House'; a 13th-century building with an interesting wooden balcony that stands at a point where the ancient Roman road, the Decumanus, meets the Marafor Square (once the site of the forum). Nearby we will see the so-called 'House of the Two Saints', which is all that remains of the 12th-century abbey of St Cassius. This small, one-storey residence built in the 14th to 15th century in a Romanesque style, derives its name from the stone relief figures of two saints flanking a window on the top floor. We will also explore the remains of the pre-Roman 'Temple of Neptune'. (Overnight Porec) BD

Day 5: Thursday 19 September, Porec – Rovinj – Pula – Porec

- Rovinj: time at leisure in a coastal village
- Roman amphitheatre, Pula
- Gate of Hercules, Temple of Romae and Augustus, and Arch of the Sergii, Pula

We leave Porec this morning to visit the small fishing village of Rovinj, one of the most charming and relaxing places on the Istrian peninsula. After a stroll in Rovinj, we continue to nearby Pula – the ancient colony of 'Pieta Julia'. Now a large regional centre and university town with a busy harbour, Pula is noted for its many fine Roman monuments. 'Pieta Julia' became an episcopal see in 425 AD and fragments of 5th-century religious buildings still remain. Most of its churches, however, were reconstructed in later periods (especially during the 17th century). Pula's Roman monuments, on the other hand, are in a fine state of preservation. One such site is the imposing Pula Amphitheatre, built by Claudius and enlarged by Vespasian (79 AD) to house 23,000 spectators of gladiator fights and other Roman extravaganzas. A highlight of today's program, the amphitheatre, is one of the most complete in existence with its 30-metre-high outer wall almost fully intact. The first and second floors feature 72 arches whilst the third has 64 broad openings designed to illuminate the internal corridors.

Other Roman monuments we will visit include the 1st-century 'Temple of Romae and Augustus' with its well-preserved 1st-century façade. This treasure of Roman architecture was built on simple, elegant lines and features six plain columns with intricate carved capitals. The oldest and most intact monument we will see is

the single-arched 1st-century 'Gate of Hercules' which has a carving of Hercules at the head of the arch. The fine 'Arch of the Sergii', built in the 1st century BC to honour three brothers who held important posts in Rome's government, will be another ancient site to admire. (Overnight Porec) B

Plitvice Lakes National Park - 1 night

Day 6: Friday 20 September, Porec – Beram – Opatija – Plitvice Lakes NP

- Church of St Mary of the Rocks, Beram
- Nineteenth-century resort town, Opatija

We farewell Porec this morning and travel to the little church of St Mary of the Rocks, just outside of Beram. This 15th-century church, tucked away in the woods, is seldom visited by tourists but contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes in Croatia. The frescoes date to 1474 and are the work of Vincent of Kastav and his workshop. Many of the frescoes depict scenes from the lives of Mary and Jesus; others show a procession of figures led by a skeleton playing a bagpipe, in the 'Dance of Death'. This version of the *danse macabre* is the only example of this iconographic motif in Croatia. In an eighteenth-century expansion and renovation of the church, many of the frescoes were damaged and painted over, but they were subsequently rediscovered and restored in the early 20th century.

We continue our drive across the beautiful Istrian peninsula to the resort town of Opatija. In 1845, a Rijeka nobleman built the grand Villa Angioline, which, a few years later, was visited by the Austrian Empress, Maria Anna. This royal visit sparked a tourist boom and Opatija became the most fashionable resort-town of the Austro-Hungarian Empire up until World War I. The coast came to be lined with elegant Viennese villas with pretty parks and gardens, and today, Opatija still retains much of the ambience of a nineteenth-century Central European spa town. Next we turn inland to the Plitvice Lakes National Park, where we spend the night. (Overnight Plitvice Lakes National Park) BD

Zadar - 2 nights

Day 7: Saturday 21 September, Plitvice Lakes – Zadar

- UNESCO World Heritage-listed Plitvice Lakes National Park

Situated in the mountainous heartland of Croatia, this intricate network of sixteen lakes, placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979, is set against mountains whose slopes are covered with dense fir, pine and beech forests. There are wonderful walks through the park where you can see some of its 160 bird species. There are no settlements in this region, only hotels. We shall spend the morning in the park with our Croatian National Guide, who will explain its bounteous fauna and flora. In the afternoon we return to the coast and continue our journey south to the beautiful town of Zadar. (Overnight Zadar) BD

Day 8: Sunday 22 September, Zadar

- Museum of Gold & Silver (Museum of Sacred Art, St Mary's Convent)
- Romanesque Cathedral of St Anastasia
- Church of St Chrysogonus (exterior)
- Pre-Romanesque Church of St Donat
- Bishop's Palace (exterior)
- 16th-century fortifications
- Time at leisure

Today we will explore some of the Roman ruins, medieval churches and interesting museums to be found in the marble, traffic-free streets of the old town of Zadar. Illyrians once inhabited the narrow peninsula upon which a Roman port – trading timber and wine – was built. During the Middle Ages, Zadar became the main Adriatic base of the Byzantine fleet. The Hungarians and Venetians contested control of Zadar until Ladislaus of Hungary sold the city to Venice (1409).

We shall spend the morning exploring the Museum of Gold and Silver (Museum of Sacred Art, St Mary's Convent). It holds a fine gold collection and painting gallery that includes an important polyptych by the Venetian Vittore Carpaccio (1487). We will also see the beautiful Cathedral of St Anastasia, located on the site of the ancient forum. Founded in the 9th century by the Byzantines and rebuilt in the 12th and 13th centuries, it features a particularly fine Romanesque façade. Equally fascinating are the 9th century pre-Romanesque church of St Donat; a circular building with three apses and a women's gallery (now solely used as a concert hall), and the church of St Chrysogonus with its external apsidal gallery. Another interesting site we will see in Zadar is the massive 'Land Wall'; the 16th-century fortification featuring the Land Gate (by the great Veronese architect, Sanmicheli), upon which sits a relief of St Chrysogonus on horseback and the lion of St Mark, symbol of Venetian rule. The rest of the day is at leisure to further explore this charming city. (Overnight Zadar) B

Split - 2 nights

Day 9: Monday 23 September, Zadar – Sibenik – Trogir – Split

- Cathedral of St James, Sibenik
- UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Trogir

Today we drive south along the Dalmatian coast to visit the Cathedral of St James, Sibenik, recently restored after suffering damage during shelling in 1991. The Cathedral of St James is a fine Venetian Gothic and Renaissance building constructed between 1432 and 1555. The Venetian, Antonio dalle Masegne, built the lower Gothic levels and the great Dalmatian architect, Juraj Dalmatinac, the upper Renaissance sections. The Cathedral is particularly noted for its fine stonework, especially its magnificent stone vaults and dome.

We will spend the rest of the day in Trogir, the lovely UNESCO World Heritage-listed island town. Trogir was settled by the Greeks in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC and, in the 1st century AD, became the Roman municipium 'Tragurium Civium Romanorum'. With the fall of the Roman Empire, Trogir became an independent town. In the 6th century, the Croats settled in the area and began creating monumental works of art. Masons built churches and decorated them with interlaced ornamentation. In their struggle against the Venetians for dominion in the western Balkans, the kings of Hungary guaranteed Trogir independence in return for an alliance. Communal institutions prospered and citizens elected city leaders. Despite Venetian raids, the fortified island's population grew throughout the 11th century. Trogir had its own Bishop and, at the beginning of the 13th century, Rector Ilija from the Kacic family built a new cathedral. Forty years later, Radovan carved its main portal, arguably the most important medieval sculpture in Croatia. From 1420 to 1797, the Venetians occupied the town. After initially devastating the town, the Venetians built many new palaces, houses, towers and fortresses. A brief Napoleonic interlude followed, then the town became subject to the Austro-Hungarian empire (1814-1914). We will visit the Cathedral of St Lawrence, concentrating on its magnificent medieval sculpted portal, 13th-century octagonal stone pulpit and fine Renaissance Chapel of St John Orsini. We will also view a number of civic and military buildings and visit the Church of St Nikola. Finally, we continue the short distance to the ancient city of Split, where we will spend the next two nights. (Overnight Split) B

Day 10: Tuesday 24 September, Split – Salona – Split

- Split Archaeological Museum
- Archaeological Site of Salona
- Palace of Diocletian
- Cathedral of St Domnius (Mausoleum of Diocletian)
- Temple of Jupiter
- Chapel of St Martin

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of Split grew from the palace built by the Roman Emperor Diocletian on the bay of Aspalathos in 293 AD. After abdicating in 305, Diocletian spent the last years of his life here. The bay is located on the south side of a short peninsula running out from the Dalmatian coast into the Adriatic, four miles from the site of Salona (once the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia). The terrain on which the palace was built slopes gently seaward. The palace complex became the kernel of a city when, in the 7th century AD, the inhabitants of Greek and Roman Salonae (present-day Solin) took refuge from the Avars within its walls. In the Middle Ages, Split was an autonomous commune. After two centuries of subsequent Byzantine rule and the establishment of Croat communities, Split fell to Venice in 1409.

This morning we visit Split's archaeological museum, where we view a number of intriguing finds dating from prehistoric and Roman times. We then drive a short distance to the archaeological site at Salona. Neglected by many visitors to Croatia, this is a very interesting Roman site. Once the administrative capital of the Dalmatian coast, Salona was sacked by the Slavs and Avars in the 7th century, and the town was never rebuilt. Salona has the ruins of a fine amphitheatre, aqueduct, public baths and early Christian churches.

In the afternoon we visit the magnificent Palace of Diocletian, the largest Roman building along the Adriatic. The ground plan of the Palace is trapezoid, with towers projecting from its western, northern and eastern façades. Fortunately, later housing built within it did not destroy the coherence of its plan or much of its decoration. Thus, it stands today as – arguably – the most complete example of a Roman palace anywhere. It alone gives a clear idea of the spatial, architectonic and decorative make up of a vast imperial residence and demonstrates the court ritual and grand status of a late-Roman emperor. As well as exploring in detail the Palace of Diocletian and its substructures, we shall visit the Temple of Jupiter and the Cathedral of St Domnius (originally Diocletian's Mausoleum), and view a number of Renaissance palaces. (Overnight Split) B

Hvar - 2 nights

Day 11: Wednesday 25 September, Split – Hvar

- Stari Grad, one of Croatia's oldest towns
- Stari Grad Plain, a rare glimpse into 2400 years of human history
- Old town of Hvar

Early this morning we make our way to the Split ferry terminal, where we board a ferry to the island of Hvar – a jewel of the Adriatic famed for its gentle weather, the perfume of its lavender fields and its cultural treasures. Two days will be spent exploring the island and, in particular, Hvar Town and Stari Grad, where we shall also view the Stari Grad Plain. Greeks from Paros in Asia Minor established the city of Pharos here and set up the Stari Grad Plain for agricultural use in the 4th century BC, centring mainly on grapes and olives. The plain is generally still in its original form and has remained in use since Greek times to the

present. The landscape features ancient stone walls and trims, or small stone shelters, and bears testimony to the ancient geometrical system of land division used by the ancient Greeks. The town of Stari Grad became Roman and then Byzantine, and then in the eighth century, was populated by Slavs.

Hvar Town, on the other hand, began as a haven for pirates but was transformed in 1240 when the Venetians drove the marauders out and moved the population here from Stari Grad. Like many places in Croatia, Hvar then became a self-governing commune that swore nominal loyalty at different times to the Venetians, or the Hungarian and Bosnian monarchies, until 1420, when it passed under the control of Venice. Popular revolts by the maritime population against the landed aristocracy marked the city's later history.

Today Hvar is considered one of the most beautiful and fashionable of all Dalmatian towns after Dubrovnik and its narrow streets are dotted with a number of lovely palaces. In the lower storey of Hvar's Venetian arsenal are arched areas where galleys could be shipped for repairs. Above this is one of Europe's oldest theatres (1612) built, some believe, to relieve tensions between the seafaring population and the aristocracy by creating a space for communal entertainment. The island of Hvar is long and narrow, and a high, spinal ridge dominates its less populated western portion.

Our tour will include visits to the Franciscan monastery and the convent of the Benedictine nuns where they make the famous agava lace. (Overnight Hvar) BLD

Day 12: Thursday 26 September, Hvar

- Island tour with visits to several small villages
- Lunch and wine tasting at a family restaurant in one of Hvar's charming villages
- Time at leisure in late afternoon

This morning we will further enjoy the beautiful island of Hvar, taking a short drive to the Fortica, Hvar's fortress, to enjoy glorious views over the town and neighbouring islands. Our island tour will then continue with visits to some of the charming villages scattered along our route. Lunch will be at a small family restaurant where we'll enjoy delicious local produce and taste Hvar's local wines. We will return to Hvar town in the mid-afternoon and the rest of the day will be at leisure to relax. (Overnight Hvar) BL

Dubrovnik - 3 nights

Day 13: Friday 27 September, Hvar – Narona (Vid) – Dubrovnik

- Narona Archaeological Site, Croatia's first 'in situ' museum
- City Walls, Gates and Forts, Dubrovnik

Today we return to the mainland and drive along some of Croatia's most beautiful coastline. On the way we will pay a visit to Narona, a newly opened archaeological museum. Here the latest excavation and conservation techniques have been used to preserve the ancient monument and all unearthed artefacts within the one museum, proudly described as the first 'in situ' museum in Croatia. Strategically situated on the Neretva River, the area was already established as a trading centre by the 4th century BC. The town's strong Roman links began as early as the first Illyrian War in 229BC, when Narona was a Roman military stronghold, and the town was raised to the rank of Roman colony by either Julius Caesar or Augustus. During the late Empire Narona was the seat of a diocese, but the area rapidly declined with the barbarian invasions into the region in the 7th century, and the town was abandoned. Visitors to the museum see the remains of the forum and its accompanying buildings, particularly the Temple of Augustus, as well as the

monumental sculpture, mosaic pavements and smaller artefacts found during the 20th century excavations.

Dubrovnik is famed as the most picturesque city on the Dalmatian coast. Prior to the 1991 war, it was a hugely popular tourist destination and now with peace restored, the beautiful monuments and unique, welcoming atmosphere are yours to enjoy. Dubrovnik is situated on a promontory projecting into the sea under the bare limestone mass of Mount Srdj. Giant sea fortifications rise directly from the water's edge and a massive round tower defends the city on the landward side. Outside Dubrovnik's double line of city walls are many villas surrounded by gardens. Dubrovnik retains its historic city plan (1292), when the port was rebuilt following a fire. The main street (Stradun) is flanked by beautiful late-Renaissance houses. It runs along a valley that, before 1272, was a marshy channel dividing the Latin island of Ragusa from the Slavic forest settlement of Dubrovnik (*dubrava* in Serbo-Croatian means 'grove'). A picturesque maze of steep, winding, narrow streets, leads from the Stradun. Fourteenth-century Franciscan and Dominican convents stand at the western and eastern gates of the city. The Rector's Palace is one of the masterpieces of Dalmatian architecture. Lokrum, an offshore island, is famous for its gardens and orange groves.

Ragusa, or Ragusium, was founded in the 7th century by Roman refugees fleeing the Slav and Avar sack of Epidaurus (Cavtat) to the southeast. These Roman émigrés were joined by a colony of Slavs and thus became a meeting place of two ancient cultures. Dubrovnik came under the tutelage of Byzantium, which nevertheless allowed it a high degree of independence. Ties to Byzantium, meanwhile, encouraged the city's economic growth. From the 9th to the 12th century, Dubrovnik was able to avoid direct rule by foreign powers. Although the city was forced to acknowledge Venetian sovereignty between 1205 and 1358, in reality it maintained a high degree of independence. By means of treaty and tribute, the city-republic enlarged its territory along the Dalmatian coast. It became a great mercantile power as the Adriatic entrepot for overland trade routes to Byzantium and the Danube region, and its merchants traded successfully throughout the Balkans.

Despite the Hungarians' sale of Dalmatia to Venice in 1420, Dubrovnik remained a free city in all but name by skillfully manoeuvring between the East and Western Europe. A strategic treaty with Turkey protected Dubrovnik's liberty in return for an annual tribute. This allowed the city to mediate trade between the Ottoman Empire and Europe. In the 16th century, it even traded with India and the Americas. Between the 15th and 17th centuries, art and literature prospered in the city – playing a vital role in the evolution of southern-Slav literature. In 1667 an earthquake destroyed parts of Dubrovnik, killing approximately 20 per cent of the population and leading to an economic downturn. Only during the Napoleonic Wars did the republic revive economically. From 1800 to 1805, as the sole neutral Mediterranean state, it secured a large share of the carrying trade. Napoleon I subjugated Dubrovnik in 1808. The Congress of Vienna (1815) gave Dubrovnik to Austria and in 1918 it was incorporated into Yugoslavia.

In order to best gauge the layout of city, we will walk along its city walls – arguably the most complete and untouched in Europe. They are punctured by fine gates and defended by powerful towers and forts. We will see the Pile Gate (1537); Minceta Tower by Michelozzo (architect of the Medici Palace, Florence); Asimov Tower; Ploce Gate (1300s); Revelin Fort (1580); Fort St John and Bokar Fort, also by Michelozzo. (Overnight Dubrovnik) BL

Day 14: Saturday 28 September, Dubrovnik

- Cathedral and Treasury
- Church of St Blaise
- Fountain of Onofrio
- Franciscan Monastery
- Afternoon at leisure

This morning we continue our exploration of this splendid city. We begin with a visit to the cathedral, which was built after an earlier church was devastated by an earthquake in 1667. It, like the church of St Blaise, is an excellent example of Venetian Baroque. Its nave is dominated by a late Titian, an Assumption. The cathedral treasury displays a large number of reliquaries, including an important 13th-century Arm of St Blaise.

Other interesting detours will be to the Church of St Blaise and to the lovely Square of the Loggia. This square – the political and economic heart of Dubrovnik – is located at the east end of its spinal main street, the Stradun. The square features loggias, a clock tower and guard-house; buildings which span a period from the 15th to 18th centuries. There is a delightful fountain, the Small Fountain of Onofrio (1438), which is the counterpart of the Large Fountain of Onofrio located on the other side of the city. We will visit this great mid 15th century fountain, one of Dubrovnik's best-known monuments and historically the heart of the city's water supply. This afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Dubrovnik) B

Day 15: Sunday 29 September, Dubrovnik

- Talk by a local academic
- Renaissance Rector's Palace and Museum of Dubrovnik
- Dominican Monastery
- Time at Leisure
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we will gather for a talk by a local academic. We then return to the old town of Dubrovnik where we will visit the remaining sites on our program. We start with a visit to the Rector's Palace, a beautiful 15th-century building which held the administrative seat of the city for centuries. It features a fine portico by Michelozzo and an atmospheric internal courtyard that plays host to concerts during the acclaimed Dubrovnik Music Festival.

The palace hosts the Museum of Dubrovnik, which documents the city's history with a Venetian/Dalmatian painting collection, precious objects, furniture, costumes and coins. This museum gives a vivid idea of the prosperity bestowed on Dubrovnik through its strategic location at the intersection of Balkan land and Mediterranean maritime trade.

Our final visit for the day will be to the Dominican Monastery. The various rooms of the monastery are arranged around a Gothic cloister which now houses a fine museum with some extraordinary Venetian and Croatian Renaissance paintings.

After some time at leisure in the afternoon, we meet up again in the evening to share a farewell meal together. (Overnight Dubrovnik) BD

Day 16: Monday 30 September, Depart Dubrovnik

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Dubrovnik after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Dubrovnik Airport. B

Accommodation

All hotels are rated 3-star, 4-star or 5-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

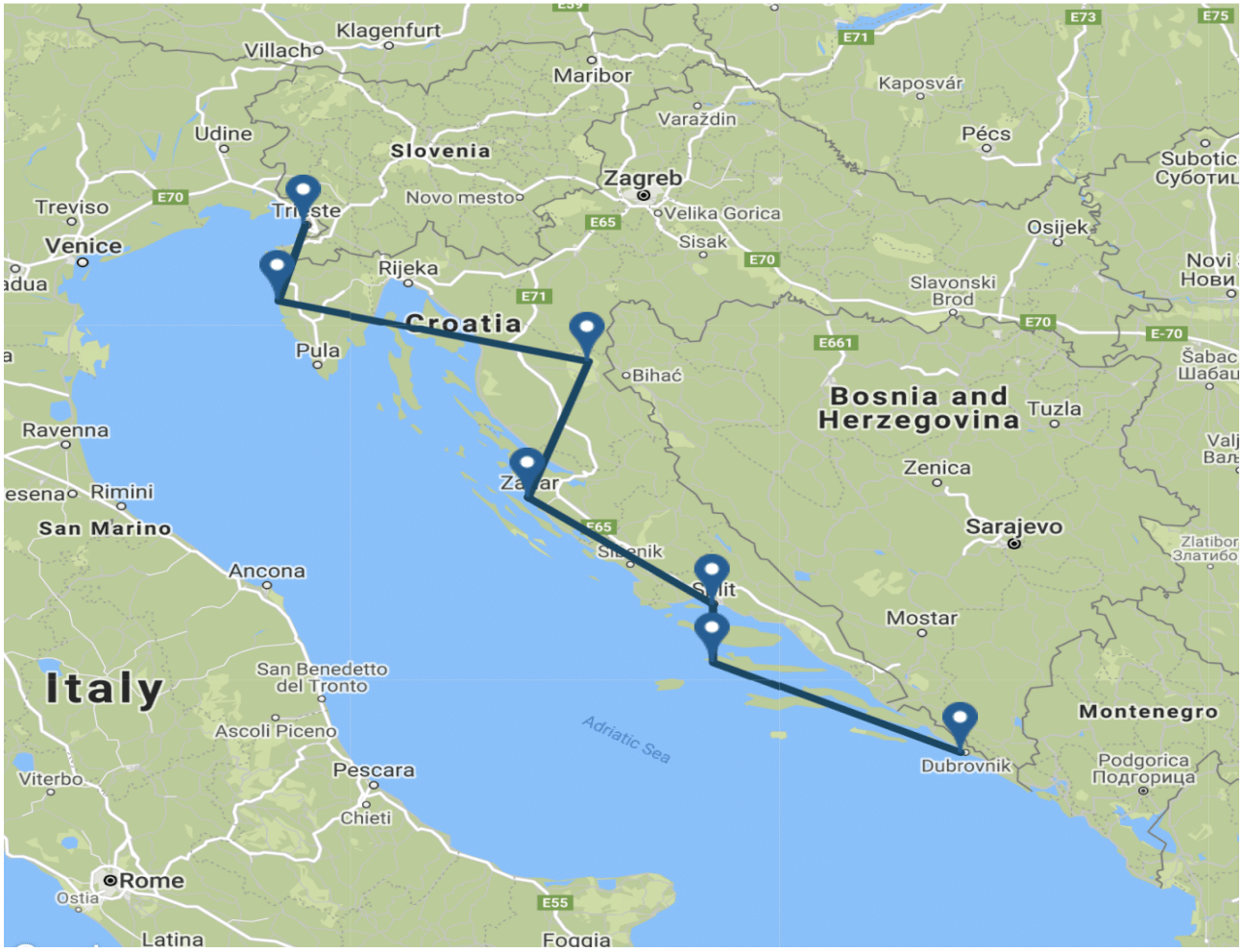
- Trieste (3 nights): 4-star Modernist Hotel – an elegant and historic building with a contemporary interior, located on the Corso d'Italia, 400m from Piazza Unità d'Italia, the monumental main square of Trieste. https://themodernisthotel.eu/
- Porec (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Valamar Riviera – a boutique hotel located on Porec's seaside promenade a short walk to the historic centre. www.valamar.com
- Plitvice Lakes (1 night): 3-star Hotel Jezero – a modern hotel located in the heart of the Plitvice Lakes NP, 300m from the largest lake, Kozjak. www.np-plitvicka-jereza.hr
- Zadar (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Bastion – a boutique hotel located in the historic centre, and built on the remains of the medieval fortress Kaštela from the 13th century. www.hotel-bastion.hr
- Split (2 nights): 4-star Marmont Heritage Hotel – named after Napoleon´s commander, Marshal Auguste Frédéric de Marmont, who first began building roads in Dalmatia in the early 19th century. The hotel is located in the heart of the city inside the walls of Diocletian's Palace. www.marmonthotel.com
- Hvar (2 nights): 4-star Amfora Beach Resort – a modern hotel with views of the Adriatic located just outside the town of Hvar, accessed by a leisurely walk along a waterfront path. www.suncanihvar.com/amfora
- Dubrovnik (3 nights): 5-star Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik Hotel – a luxury historic hotel, situated on the edge of Old Town with views of the Dubrovnik's iconic red roofs and the Adriatic, just 500 meters from the Pile Gate. www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dbvhihi-hilton-imperial-dubrovnik

Note: *hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a single-occupancy room throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map


Klagenfurt
Villach
Maribor
Kaposvár
Varaždin
Udine
Slovenia
Pécs
Zagreb
Novo mesto
Treviso
Trieste
Velika Gorica
Venice
Sisak
Osijek
Rijeka
Slavonski Brod
Croatia
Pula
Bihać
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tuzla
Ravenna
Zenica
Rimini
San Marino
Sarajevo
Šibenik
Ancona
Split
Mostar
Italy
San Benedetto del Tronto
Ascoli Piceno
Adriatic Sea
Montenegro
Viterbo
Pescara
Dubrovnik
Podgorica
Chieti
Rome
Ostia
Latina
Foggia

Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD $11,680.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2023

AUD $11,880.00 Land Content Only

AUD $2640.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4- and 5- star hotels (3-star in Plitvice Lakes for 1 night)
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L =lunch & D=dinner.
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included
- Transportation as outlined in the tour itinerary by air-conditioned coach
- Arrival Airport transfer from Venice Marco Polo Airport to Trieste according to the time as outlined in the tour itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Services of a Croatian National guide and local guides
- Tour Notes
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site excursions
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Venice, Dubrovnik-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Departure Airport transfer from Dubrovnik
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance

Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 16-day cultural tour of Italy and Croatia involves:

- Visiting some sites and towns (eg. Trogir) that require walking up steps or uphill on uneven/cobbled streets and through archaeological sites. Cobbled streets can be very slippery during rain showers!
- Walking on uneven surfaces during the visit to Plitvice Lakes National Park.
- A moderate amount of walking and standing during museum and other site visits.
- Extensive coach travel, involving winding coastal and mountain roads.
- Ferry crossing to and from the island of Hvar.
- The use of audio headsets, which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.
- 4-star hotels (3-star at Plitvice Lakes) with six hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel porterage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether

this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD $1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth __/__/____ GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

Passport

Number _____ Expiry date __/__/____ Nationality _____

☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate

☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date __/__/____

☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at **www.asatours.com.au**
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

	YES	NO
1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?	◯	◯
2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	◯	◯
3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	◯	◯
4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	◯	◯
5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	◯	◯
6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	◯	◯
7. Can you administer your own medication?	◯	◯
8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	◯	◯

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

	YES	NO
1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Do you carry an epipen?	◯	◯
3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

	YES	NO
1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?	◯	◯

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?	◯	◯
Are you insulin dependent?	◯	◯
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.	◯	◯

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
   a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
   b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
   c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
   d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of $500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of $1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of $1000.00 is non-refundable.**

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

**$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form

☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Payment Form

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of $ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel
- ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment
- ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance
- ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- *via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate*
- *via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg.Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.*

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank	ANZ
Branch	420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code	ANZBAU3M
BSB	013-423
Account No	3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

_____

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

_____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature

_____

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD
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