

Treasures of Adriatic Italy & the Dalmatian Coast

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
of SMITH COLLEGE

A Voyage to Historic Towns, Landmark Sites, and Idyllic Islands

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest *Corinthian II*

May 5 - 14, 2010



OF THE MANY SEABORNE IDYLLS POSSIBLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE LOVELIEST.

Our adventure aboard the all-suite *Corinthian II* begins in the romantic waterways of Venice and continues to central Italy's Ancona, and to Monopoli, in Italy's Puglia region where we will visit the unique *Trulli* villages. *Corinthian II* then sails across the Adriatic Sea to Albania for an excursion to the archeological site of Butrint. Next, we'll visit town of Kotor in Montenegro, reached through southern Europe's only fjord before continuing on to the historic town of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Croatia we will visit Korcula Island, caressed by gentle breezes and graced with Venetian spires, and we'll stroll through the lavender-scented lanes of Hvar, which is quietly becoming the Mediterranean's newest Riviera. Before returning to Venice, visit the charming and seldom-visited town of Piran in Slovenia with its well-preserved Venetian-inspired architecture.



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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



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ITINERARY

Wednesday, May 5

USA

Fly from the U.S. to Venice, Italy.

Thursday, May 6

VENICE, ITALY | EMBARK

Arrive in Venice and board *Corinthian II*. Quite possibly the world's most unusual and romantic city, lovely canalled Venice is a feast for the senses. At the height of its prosperity, this incomparable city of water and light possessed an empire that stretched throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

Friday, May 7

ANCONA | URBINO | ANCONA

Arrive in Ancona, Italy's principal port on the central Adriatic. Drive to nearby Urbino, one of Italy's best-preserved Renaissance towns, overlooking the glorious countryside of the Marches. Visit the famed Palazzo Ducale, a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, which houses the National Gallery of the Marches. Also, see the Church of San Giovanni Battista, with its frescoes, and the house of native son Raphael, the great Renaissance master. Return to Ancona in the afternoon and spend time at leisure.

Saturday, May 8

MONOPOLI AND THE TRULLI VILLAGES, PUGLIA, ITALY

The fishing port town of Monopoli in Puglia, Italy's lovely extreme southeast region, is dominated by its polygonal castle built in 1552. From here, explore the region's fascinating and unique *Trulli* villages, with their curious whitewashed conical dwellings built without mortar. We will focus on two of the most important villages, Alberobello, where classic *trulli* line the narrow streets, and Locorotondo, a striking hilltop town designed on a circular plan, which provides beautiful views of the *trulli* dwellings below. We will also stop at Ostuni, an ancient town enclosed within ramparts and with medieval alleyways.

Sunday, May 9

SARANDA, | BUTRINT | SARANDA, ALBANIA

From the Albanian port of Saranda, drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Butrint. Inhabited since prehistoric times, the city was founded by the Trojans, or so claimed the poet Virgil. A gem of an archeological site, its ruins span 2,500 years, and include, among other build-

ings, the remains of a Greek acropolis, a Roman theater, a 6th-century baptistery, and a fortress erected by the warlord Ali Pasha Tepelena in the 19th century.

Monday, May 10

KOTOR, MONTENEGRO | DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

In the morning, *Corinthian II* will navigate the fantastic fjord-like Bay of Kotor, where soaring mountains flank the scenic waterway. Disembark in Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, whose lovely palaces, churches and other imposing buildings reveal the town's domination by Venice. Tour Kotor on foot, and then drive via a scenic road to Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. Our tour of this glorious city will include its most prominent landmarks, including the Sponza and Rector's palaces, the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries, and the Baroque cathedral, with paintings by Titian and Andrea del Sarto. One of the most pleasant activities is to walk Dubrovnik's narrow streets, and time will be provided to enjoy this activity on your own.

Tuesday, May 11

PLOCE, CROATIA | MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | PLOCE, CROATIA

Sail to Ploce for an excursion to Mostar, which became a thriving center in the 15th century under the Ottoman Turks. Admire the ethereally graceful Stari Most bridge, originally built in 1566, and the nearby Tabacica Mosque.

Wednesday, May 12

KORCULA | HVAR

As the ship approaches Korcula Island, enjoy the regal skyline with its white limestone towers, spires, and domes resting against a background of green hills. On a walking tour, note the unique layout of the medieval town, with western streets running straight to funnel the refreshing *maestral* breezes, while the eastern streets are slightly curved to minimize the *bura* winds. See the dominating Venetian influence in St. Mark's Cathedral, which houses works by Tintoretto, and visit the Cathedral Treasury, Bishop's Palace, Town Museum (located in the 16th-century Gabriellis Palace), Church of All Saints, and Icon Museum. There will also be an opportunity to explore the island's interior by driving to Blato, a beautiful village and the main center of Korcula's wine-growing district. In the afternoon, sail to the island of Hvar and enjoy a swimming stop en route. Explore Hvar's lavender-scented

lanes, stopping at the Renaissance cloister, the old refectory of the Franciscan monastery, the Cathedral and the Arsenal inside—Europe's oldest theater.

Thursday, May 13

PIRAN, SLOVENIA

Built on a narrow peninsula that projects into the sea, Slovenia's Piran is one of the most delightful towns of the Adriatic. Possessed by Venice in 1283, Piran is rich in well-preserved Venetian-inspired architecture, its arched alleyways lined with exquisite homes, palaces, and churches. Among the highlights of our tour of Piran is the spacious marble-surfaced Tartini Square flanked by historic buildings; the temple-like Church of St. George, originally built in the 14th century; and the Sergej Masera Maritime Museum, housed in the elegant Gabrielli Palace. There will be free time to explore and enjoy on your own Piran's maze of streets.

Friday, May 14

VENICE, ITALY | DISEMBARK | USA

Disembark in Venice and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- 8-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the cruise
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying guest lecturers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program departure and arrival dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers



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For further information about this travel program, please contact Liz Bigwood at Smith Travel at:

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