

SANTA BARBARA  
MUSEUM OF  
**ART**

*In co-sponsorship with  
World Affairs Council  
of Philadelphia*

# *Cruising* **CROATIA AND SLOVENIA**

Featuring 7 Nights Aboard the 18-Cabin *Queen Eleganza*

May 23–June 3, 2026

With Eric Frank, Art Historian  
*and Rickey Bevington, Emmy Award-Winning Journalist*







## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

**Join the Santa Barbara Museum of Art** and our co-sponsoring organization, the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, aboard the intimate 18-cabin *Queen Eleganza* for a cruise along the spectacular Adriatic coast. Throughout history, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Ottomans, and Austrians have vied for control of this strategic coastline that is dotted with over 1,000 islands. In a region well worth exploring for its natural beauty alone, visit spellbinding archaeological sites, impressive castles, dramatic palaces, and ancient city centers.

Begin the program in the magnificent walled city of Dubrovnik, Croatia before embarking on a 7-night Adriatic cruise. Launched in 2018, the beautiful and intimate 18-cabin *Queen Eleganza* yacht features a casual ambiance and the ability to call at small, inviting islands and ports not accessible to large cruise ships. Cruise the Croatian coast from Dubrovnik to Zadar, calling at Mljet, Korčula, Hvar, Split, and Trogir. On free evenings, enjoy the ease of stepping off the yacht and right into the towns to explore and dine independently. After disembarking the ship, travel by motorcoach to walk amongst the waterfalls at Plitvice Lakes National Park then continue to Slovenia's captivating capital city, Ljubljana, and magical Lake Bled.

You will be joined by educational experts: Art Historian Eric Frank and Emmy Award-Winning Journalist Rickey Bevington, who will enrich the journey through a series of illustrated lectures and informal discussion. The planned content from Rickey and Eric will be an exploration of the intersection of politics and art in the region we are visiting. This program is co-sponsored with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, and with limited space I encourage you to reserve your spot today!

With kind regards,

Lisa Benshea

Office phone: (805) 884-6431

Email: [travel@sbma.net](mailto:travel@sbma.net)

Web: [www.sbma.net/travel](http://www.sbma.net/travel)



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to register online.



## STUDY LEADERS



### ERIC FRANK

*Art Historian*

Educated at Dartmouth College and New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, Eric Frank is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome and an expert in Italian Renaissance art with a special interest in the history of art and architecture of the classical tradition, from Greece and Rome to the Renaissance. Dr. Frank is an ideal study leader for this program, which will examine the ancient Roman, Medieval, and Venetian Renaissance sites of Slovenia and Croatia, including the great Palace of the Emperor Diocletian in Split. A noted scholar, Dr. Frank served as Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Occidental College in Los Angeles and as Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He is the recipient of Occidental's Linda and Tod White Teaching and Mentorship Prize. Dr. Frank has previously lectured on SBMA programs, where his engaging insights into the history of art architecture in the Adriatic and Mediterranean were highly praised.



### RICKEY BEVINGTON

*President of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, Emmy Award-Winning Journalist, and Executive in Residence at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business*

Rickey Bevington, an Emmy award-winning journalist, serves as President of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and is an Executive in Residence at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business. She spent two decades as a decorated broadcaster for NPR and PBS, notably hosting NPR's All Things Considered on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Voted "Best On Air Personality" by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Bevington is also a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College with a degree in Comparative Literature.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Delve into the historic sights of Dubrovnik, Pearl of the Adriatic.
- Marvel at the well-preserved Roman Forum in Zadar and the ruins of Emperor Diocletian's Palace in Split.
- Investigate the UNESCO World Heritage site of Trogir, an island dating back to the Hellenistic period embellished by successive rulers with Romanesque, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture.
- Visit the Meštrović Gallery, a stunning villa that served as the summer home for the talented Croatian artist and architect Ivan Meštrović and now displays his powerful sculptures.
- Explore Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital city, and ride gondola-like pletnas, flat-bottomed wooden boats, on the remarkably blue waters of Lake Bled.
- Take guided walks at Plitvice National Park on wooden walkways and bridges through the magical landscape of cascading waterfalls, picturesque pools, and lush vegetation.
- Moor at or near town centers aboard the yacht *Queen Eleganza*, with easy walk-off access to explore and dine independently during evenings at leisure.
- Learn from enriching onboard lectures by tour study leaders Eric Frank and Rickey Bevington.





## ITINERARY

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 23-24**

### DEPART U.S. / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Dubrovnik, Croatia. Upon arrival, transfer to Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, overlooking the Adriatic Sea, for a reception and Welcome Dinner.

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace (R,D)

**MONDAY, MAY 25**

### DUBROVNIK

Take in iconic sites on a morning walking tour of historic Dubrovnik. Noted for its expansive walls and red tile rooftops, Dubrovnik is perhaps the most-visited destination on the Adriatic coast. Explore the sites along the marble-clad Stradun, including Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Church, and the Franciscan Church and Monastery, a large complex belonging to the Order of the Friars Minor and consisting of a monastery, church, library, and pharmacy, the latter of which dates from 1317. Take advantage of free time in the afternoon to explore the maze of alleyways and Renaissance-era architecture before embarking *Queen Eleganza* for a welcome reception aboard the ship, followed by dinner.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L,R,D)*

**TUESDAY, MAY 26**

### MLJET

Following a morning lecture by one of our study leaders, relax on the sun deck while cruising to the island of Mljet. At Mljet National Park, walk or e-bike amongst shady forests of Aleppo pine or swim in a saltwater lake. Dinner is at leisure this evening so that you can discover local cuisine in nearby restaurants.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L)*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**

### KORČULA

After breakfast, enjoy a talk offered by one of our study leaders. En route to the fortified town of Korčula, there will be an option to swim in a calm cove (weather permitting). Perched on a promontory on its namesake island, Korčula is rich in vineyards and olive groves, picturesque villages, and a glorious old town, as well as age-old religious ceremonies, folk music, and dance traditions. Following an insightful walking tour, sample local delicacies and some of Croatia's most famous wines at a family-owned winery.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L)*

**THURSDAY, MAY 28**

### HVAR

Today cruise to lavender-scented Hvar Island, known as the "Queen of

the Dalmatian islands." Stroll along the elegant main square and visit the Franciscan Monastery to see Ptolemy's Atlas and the magnificent painting of the Last Supper by Matej Ponzoni. Next admire lace carefully made by nuns from agave threads at the Benedictine Monastery. Independently walk the yacht-filled waterfront and restaurant-lined avenues this evening.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L)*

**FRIDAY, MAY 29**

### SPLIT

After a morning lecture, call at sophisticated Split, Croatia's second largest city. Call at sophisticated Split, Croatia's second largest city. Upon arrival, tour Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, an imposing ancient structure spread along the waterfront. Enjoy ample time at leisure to wander the pedestrian Old Town, and in the evening, take the opportunity to try local delicacies.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L)*

**SATURDAY, MAY 30**

### TROGIR

Begin the morning with a tour of Meštrović Gallery, the former summer residence of sculptor Ivan Meštrović which now showcases his large works of art.





Cruise to Trogir with another possible swimming opportunity in a quiet cove. A walking tour introduces the tiny, but charming Old Town of Trogir, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. For dinner, savor a traditional *peka*, meat and potatoes slowly roasted over coals under an iron bell.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L,D)*

**SUNDAY, MAY 31**

## **AT SEA/ZADAR**

Enjoy a morning at sea with time for a final on-board lecture en route to Zadar, a city which boasts a rich history dating as far back to the Neolithic era. Take a walking tour of Zadar and admire the ancient Roman Forum and the cylindrical-shaped Church of St. Donat. The streets of the old town are paved with shining white marble, and the inviting waterfront is a magnet for art lovers. Gather on board this evening for a final dinner on the *Queen Eleganza*.

*Queen Eleganza (B,L,D)*



**MONDAY, JUNE 1**

## **LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA**

Disembark this morning and travel to Plitvice Lakes National Park, one of Croatia's most-loved national parks. Walk on wooden pathways amongst cascading waterfalls, picturesque pools, and lush vegetation before arriving in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Check in to the well-located Grand Hotel Union and take the opportunity to dine independently in Slovenia's vibrant capital this evening.

Grand Hotel Union (B,L)

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2**

## **LJUBLJANA**

This morning tour Ljubljana's historic Old Town, which is off limits to automobiles, and explore the cobblestone streets, bridges, and markets found in Slovenia's charming capital city. See the famous Dragon Bridge and stroll along the ancient Roman wall. Travel by motorcoach to picturesque Lake Bled and take a gondola-like *pletna*, a flat-bottomed wooden boat, with a history dating to the 12th century, to visit Slovenia's only island—a church-crowned islet in the center of the lake. Return to Ljubljana for a Farewell Dinner.

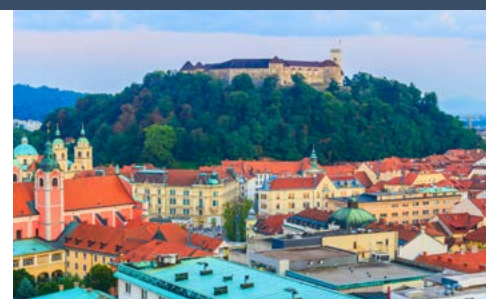
Grand Hotel Union (B,L,D)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3**

## **LJUBLJANA/HOME**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

(B)







## QUEEN ELEGANZA

The intimate and casual yacht, *Queen Eleganza*, launched in the spring of 2018, was beautifully crafted in Croatia specifically to cruise the Adriatic coastline. With a maximum of just 34 guests, there is a relaxed and informal atmosphere on board. The 18 cabins are finished to high standards with sleek lines and neutral colors. The bar/restaurant and lounge boast comfortable seating areas, large windows, and complimentary tea/coffee. Meals are served in a single seating and feature fresh and tasty Mediterranean cuisine with beer and wine included.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health. Daily programs involve walking one to two miles—through city centers, historic sites, and in museums, where there may also be extended periods of standing. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including dirt and cobblestoned paths, and must be able to walk at least 20 minutes up and down hills without stopping. Participants must be able to stand outside for up to two hours with limited shade and no available seating. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by SBMA and Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

### GROUP SIZE

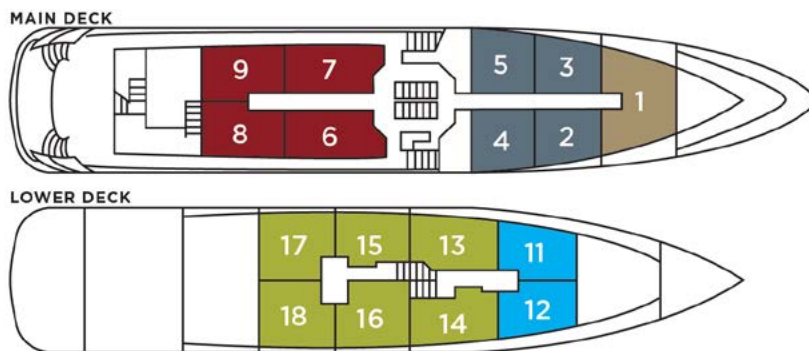
This program is limited to 28 participants including travelers from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

### HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

### ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.



### PROGRAM FEES (PER PERSON):

	CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A	<b>Lower Deck</b> 161 sq ft; queen bed; 2 portholes	\$7,990	\$12,790
B	<b>Lower Deck</b> 156-178 sq ft; twins or queen; 2 portholes	\$8,490	\$13,590
C	<b>Main Deck</b> 156-172 sq ft; twin beds; 3 windows	\$9,490	
D	<b>Main Deck</b> 151 sq ft; twins or queen; picture windows (cabin 8 & 9 have partially obstructed views)	\$9,990	
E	<b>Main Deck</b> 242 sq ft; king bed; 4 windows	\$11,990	

#### A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

#### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Reserve your space online at [https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/SBMA/260523\\_ADR/tour](https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/SBMA/260523_ADR/tour) or complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to: SBMA Travel, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. You may also fax the form to (805) 966-6840. An interim payment of \$2,000 per person is due 6 months prior to departure, which is **November 24, 2025**. Final payment deadline is **January 23, 2026** (120 days prior to departure). Interim and final payments may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

#### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing. Deposits are refundable, less a \$500 per person admin fee, if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the November 24, 2025 interim payment deadline: All payments are non-refundable after the interim payment. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the Santa Barbara Museum of Art nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred without the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this

are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

#### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **three hotel nights and seven nights aboard Queen Eleganza** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers on arrival and departure dates • **Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

#### AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Heather Schuyler Gray, CTA, at Robertson International Travel Consultants in Santa Barbara, can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 805-969-3221 or [heather@robertsontravel.com](mailto:heather@robertsontravel.com). You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

#### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Travel is a benefit of Museum Membership. Non-members will be required to join at the "Friend" level (\$100 or \$80 for seniors) or higher and will receive full membership benefits for a year. Members at the "Curator's Circle" (\$1,000) level and above receive advance notice about SBMA custom tours.

#### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations, if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone and internet charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature



RESERVE ONLINE

## Cruising Croatia and Slovenia

May 23-June 3, 2026

To reserve a place, please call (805) 884-6431, email [travel@sbma.net](mailto:travel@sbma.net), or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to SBMA, to: SBMA Travel, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. You may also fax the form to (805) 966-6840.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

☐ YES, \_\_\_\_\_

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to SBMA) for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Cruising Croatia and Slovenia**.

☐ Please charge my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to my (circle one): VISA/MC/AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

☐ I/we are not current SBMA members; please charge for "Friend" membership: ☐ \$100 **OR** ☐ \$80 (senior) **OR** ☐ \$1,000, which gives you advanced notice about SBMA's custom travel programs and many other benefits. Visit <https://www.sbma.net/support/join> for full details.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference: ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

☐ I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)

☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

*I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.*

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



**SCAN ME**  
with your  
phone or tablet  
to register online.