

HISTORIC CITIES & ISLANDS OF CROATIA

With Professor Bart D. Ehrman

June 14 - 23, 2021



Enhance your learning adventure and enjoy special savings when you join Professor on Ehrman on "Pagans and Christians in the Roman World," June 4-14, 2021! See details inside.

Dear Friends,

The coast of Croatia is one of the loveliest in Europe. Ancient Greek settlers, Roman, Byzantine and Austro-Hungarian emperors, Venetian doges, and Ottoman caliphs have coveted this sun-dappled, island-dotted stretch of the Adriatic Sea. The well-preserved medieval towns, idyllic islands lining the coast, the phenomenal monuments, the palm-fringed promenades, and the exquisite landscapes and seascapes have retained their authenticity and original character.

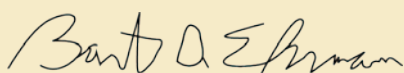
I invite you to join me as we explore the most important and magnificent historic cities and islands of Croatia, found along its fabled Dalmatian coast. We will start our exploration in vibrant Split, where the formidable seafront palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian dominates the modern city as it did in antiquity. The palace is one of the most important Roman monuments in the world. From Split, we will also visit other significant places, including the archaeological site of Salona, the capital of this region in the Roman period; the perfectly-preserved medieval town of Trogir; and the idyllic island of Hvar.

From Split, we will sail to Korcula, which, along with Hvar, comprise Dalmatia's most beautiful and architecturally important islands. In Korcula, walls enclose its main town whose narrow lanes and alleyways are lined with Venetian-inspired palaces, churches and houses that date from the 13th – 16th centuries. Dubrovnik, which we will reach after a short sail from Korcula, is undoubtedly one of Europe's best preserved medieval cities and one of the most beautiful. A powerful and prosperous maritime republic called Ragusa, Dubrovnik's wealth during the medieval period is reflected in the elegance and beauty of its places and other buildings.

In addition to exploring the historic towns and sites in an unhurried manner, this journey also provides time to travelers for independent activities.

I hope you can join me in exploring Historic Cities and Islands of Croatia and discovering one of Europe's most interesting and attractive regions.

Kind regards,



Prof. Bart D. Ehrman
James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PS. Our tour operator for this program is Thalassa Journeys, which brings over four decades of experience in operating distinctive educational journeys throughout the Mediterranean. So that you may reserve with peace of mind, Thalassa Journeys will refund your deposit in full for cancellations received by April 8, 2021, and is extending relaxed cancellation fees. Special Health and Safety protocols have been implemented by Thalassa Journeys and their partners overseas to insure the safety of travelers and staff. Please read further for complete details.

**FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
THALASSA JOURNEYS TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611**

Cover: Dubrovnik

EXPERT GUEST LECTURER



Bart D. Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 1988. Professor Ehrman has published extensively in the fields of New Testament and Early Christianity, having written or edited thirty-one books, including six New York Times Bestsellers: *Misquoting Jesus*; *God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer our Most Important Question – Why We Suffer*; *Jesus Interrupted*; *Forged: Why the Bible's Authors are Not Who We Think They Are*; *How Jesus Became God*; and *The Triumph of Christianity*.

His Introduction to the New Testament has been the most widely used textbook in colleges and universities for over twenty years. He has recorded eight lecture courses for The Great Courses (The Teaching Company). More than two million copies of his books and courses have been sold, and his books have been translated into twenty-seven languages. Professor Ehrman's work has been featured in the New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, the New York Times, the Washington Post and other print media. He has appeared on NBC's Dateline, CNN, The History Channel, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, the BBC, Fresh Air, other major NPR shows, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, the Colbert Report, and other top media outlets. A widely sought after lecturer, and winner of numerous university awards and grants, Professor Ehrman is the recipient of the J. W. Pope "Spirit of Inquiry" Teaching Award, the UNC Undergraduate Student Teaching Award, the Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement, and the Bowman and Gordon Gray Award for excellence in teaching.



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Travel and learn with Professor Bart D. Ehrman, whose lectures and informal discussions will enrich your experience.

Discover the best of Croatia, one of the most beautiful countries in Europe with a spectacular, island-laden coastline.

Explore Diocletian's Palace, dating from 295 A.D., which contains within its walls the medieval town of Split.

Sail to the evocative islands of Hvar and Korcula, whose architecture reveals centuries of Venetian dominance.

Enjoy time for independent exploration of Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities.

ITINERARY

Monday, June 14, 2021

DEPART THE USA

Depart the United States for Split, Croatia.

Tuesday, June 15

SPLIT, Croatia

Arrive in Split and transfer to the *Hotel Cornaro*, an elegant hotel located near the sea and many of the city's attractions, including the Palace of Diocletian and the old town. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

Wednesday, June 16

SPLIT / SALONA / SPLIT

Built between the turquoise waters of the Adriatic and a range of mountains, Split is Croatia's most vibrant and exuberant city. Originally a Greco-Illyrian settlement called *Aspalathos*, Split entered history when the Roman Emperor Diocletian decided to build his retirement palace near the sea, in AD 295. A formidable structure of enormous proportions, the palace contains within its walls Split's medieval town, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since antiquity. To understand properly the history of Split and this part of Croatia, we will visit in the morning the

archaeological site of Salona. Spread across the side of a hill just inland from Split, Salona was the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia and the probable birthplace of Diocletian. With a population of about 60,000, it was one of the finer provincial cities of the Roman Empire. In the early 7th century, Salona was sacked by Slavs and Avars and the population took refuge in the Palace of Diocletian. After exploring the evocative sprawling remains of Salona and enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, we will tour the Palace of Diocletian, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the underground cellars; the Mausoleum of Diocletian, now the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the Peristyle, the main forecourt of the palace; and the Temple of Jupiter, becoming later the Baptistery of the cathedral. We will also have time to explore the old town, whose narrow streets are lined with cafes, restaurants and shops.

Meals: B, L

Thursday, June 17

SPLIT / TROGIR / SPLIT

Drive in the morning to Trogir. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trogir is built on a small island connected to the mainland by a bridge. Within its walls is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved medieval towns along Croatia's Dalmatian coast. Settled originally by Greeks in the 4th century BC, it subsequently became



Hvar is known for its lavender fields



The well-preserved medieval town of Trogir



Dubrovnik's historic architecture

Roman, Byzantine, Hungarian and Venetian. Many intact buildings survive from the 13th – 15th centuries, including the splendid cathedral of Saint Lawrence, the Venetian Loggia, and the Cippico Palace, as well as several houses in Gothic and Renaissance styles. On the way back to Split, we will visit the Mestrovic Gallery, the villa of Ivan Mestrovic, Croatia's premier sculptor. Sited beautifully by the sea, the villa contains a permanent collection of his work. Spend the afternoon at leisure to enjoy and explore Split on your own.

Meals: B

Friday, June 18

SPLIT / HVAR / SPLIT

Sail for the day to Hvar, one of the most celebrated islands that line Croatia's coast. A fertile island of pale stone houses surrounded by rosemary, lavender and laurel, the architecture of the island's main town, also called Hvar, is unmistakably Venetian. We will explore the town and its beautiful historic buildings, including the 16th-century cathedral, which faces a small harbor; the adjoining Bishop's Palace and its interesting museum; the Arsenal, completed in 1559, and its theater, one of the earliest surviving in Europe;

and the Franciscan Monastery, founded in 1461. Near the main square stands the spectacular Gothic façade of an unfinished palace. We will also drive to the top of the fortified hilltop for spectacular views of Hvar's red-tiled rooftops and harbor. After lunch, time at leisure will be provided for independent activities at this delightful island before returning to Split.

Meals: B, L

Saturday, June 19

SPLIT / KORCULA

Sail the Adriatic Sea to Korcula, another island of exceptional beauty and interest. Dock at the town of the same name, situated on a promontory at the eastern tip of the island. Settled by Greeks in the 4th century BC, later coming under the rule of Rome, Byzantium, and Venice, the latter having controlled the island, on and off, for over eight centuries, starting in the 10th century. Korcula attained its greatest prosperity during the 13th – 15th centuries, when most of the stately public buildings and the walls that still encircle the town were constructed. The strong influence of the Venetians is evidenced in the architecture of the town. Marco Polo is claimed to be a native and the old house of the De Polo family is pointed out as his birth-place.

Accommodations for the next two nights will be at the lovely *Hotel Korsal*, facing the sea.

Meals: B, L

Sunday, June 20

KORCULA

Explore in the morning the medieval core of Korcula Town and note its unique layout: western streets run straight to funnel refreshing summer *maestral* breezes; eastern streets slightly curve to minimize the strong bura winds that blow mostly in winter. Visit the Cathedral of St. Mark, dating from the 13th – 16th centuries, with paintings by Tintoretto and other artists. The Cathedral Treasury, housed in the Bishop's Palace, originally built in the 14th century, is home to one of Croatia's finest art collections. Also visit the church of All Saints and the adjoining Guildhall, which contains a collection of Byzantine icons. Then drive to the old country town of Blato, the center of the island's vineyards and wine making, where we will enjoy lunch and taste the local wines. Return to Korcula Town to spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Meals: B, L

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THALASSA JOURNEYS TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611



The Palace of Diocletian, Split

Monday, Sunday, June 21

KORCULA / DUBROVNIK

Leave Korcula for Dubrovnik, sailing by the Peljesac peninsula and the islands of the southern Adriatic. Dubrovnik was founded in AD 656 by the inhabitants of the nearby Greco-Roman city of Epidaurus (now the town of Cavtat) after it was sacked by the Avars. Called Ragusa until the 17th century, Dubrovnik became a powerful and wealthy independent maritime republic. Its ships were to be found in every port not only of the Mediterranean, but all over Europe. Set on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of Europe's best preserved medieval towns, and also one of its most beautiful cities. Accommodations will be at the *Hotel Hilton Imperial*, a grand hotel located near one of the gates to the medieval town.

Meals: B

Tuesday, Sunday, June 22

DUBROVNIK

Within its walls Dubrovnik contains buildings of outstanding beauty, which we will tour in the morning. Among them are the Franciscan Monastery, erected in 1343, with its elegant cloister, garden and pharmacy that still has its

old instruments; next to it is the small church of the Holy Savior, built in 1520-28; the 15th-century Rector's Palace, a harmonious blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles; nearby is the equally attractive 16th-century Sponza Palace, the old Customs House; the Dominican Church and Monastery, originally dating from the early 14th century; and the Cathedral, which contains paintings by Titian, Padovanino and Andrea del Sarto. The afternoon is at leisure for independent activities. A walk around Dubrovnik's spectacular walls is highly recommended. A farewell dinner will be served in the evening at a local restaurant.

Meals: B, D

Wednesday, Sunday, June 23

DUBROVNIK / USA

Transfer to the airport for the flight home.

Meals: B



Roman ruins of Salona



Green Market in Split

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THALASSA JOURNEYS TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611



Hvar and its nearby islets

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We at Thalassa Journeys share in the universal joy at the arrival of vaccines proven effective against Covid-19, and we look forward to a time when their widespread distribution allows us to return to travel free of concern. Because our primary interest will always be the safety and well-being of our travelers, we continue to implement strict health and safety protocols on all of our programs. First, we anticipate that our guests will have been vaccinated before joining one of our programs, or provide evidence of a negative Covid-19 test within three days of departure. We also require an agreement to follow specified protocols during the trip, which include wearing a face mask in social settings. Working in concert with our hotels and ground providers overseas, we ensure that recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and other governing bodies are strictly followed. Guests will be pre-registered at hotels to avoid lines at check-in, and luggage will be disinfected upon arrival. All hotels follow strict protocols of cleanliness and frequent disinfection. Tour vehicles carry less than half of their seat capacity. Drivers and Tour Guides wear face masks and have been tested for Covid-19. The temperature of guests, guides, drivers and field staff will be taken each morning, and while on excursions, guests will be provided with a sterilized whisper audio device that aids not only in hearing the tour guide but also in practicing social distancing. All of the restaurants on our programs have been certified by local authorities as Covid-19 safe and will offer outdoor dining in many circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, and know that as conditions evolve, we will continue to place your safety first.

TRAVEL WITH A SMALL GROUP

When you travel with Thalassa Journeys, you will travel with a small group of like minded travelers. Each of our programs normally consists of 18-22 persons. Traveling with a small group fosters a genuine sense of camaraderie, intimacy and exclusivity. The small size also allows for privileged access to places, less crowding at the sites and restaurants, and more meaningful discussions and interaction with the accompanying expert guest lecturer and local guide.

ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys was established by the principals and managers of Travel Dynamics, the company that 50 years ago pioneered the concept of educational travel for America's educational and cultural institutions. The belief that travel is primarily a learning experience forms the core principle of Thalassa Journeys. We bring an unrivaled depth of experience to make your journey with us meaningful, unique and seamless. We will take you not only to marvelous places, but we will also bridge the past with the present, illuminate the ancient sites we explore – what they were, how they came to be, and why they matter to us – make them come alive, and enrich your mind and inspire your senses. We are steeped in the culture of our destinations and know the secret places often overlooked by the guidebooks. We welcome you to the ever fascinating world of Thalassa Journeys.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THALASSA JOURNEYS TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611

RATE

\$5,190 per person, double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$895

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Fine hotel accommodations throughout: Four nights in Split's *Hotel Cornaro*; two nights at the *Hotel Korsal* in Korcula; two nights in Dubrovnik's *Hotel Hilton Imperial*.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Four lunches and two dinners at local restaurants, with wine or beer served.
- Airport/hotel transfers in Split and Dubrovnik and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours and excursions by private motor coach and professional English-speaking guide.
- Ship passage from Split to Korcula and from Korcula to Dubrovnik.
- Entrance fees to museums and other sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to drivers, guides, porters and restaurant personnel.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Complete package of pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and Program Inclusions.

**FOR RESERVATIONS
AND INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL
TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611**



Beyond the ordinary

8815 Conroy-Windermere Road, Suite 406
Orlando, FL 32835

Pagans and Christians in the Roman World June 4-14, 2021



Fresco Painting, Pompeii

Join Professor Ehrman on "Pagans and Christians in the Roman World," June 4-14, 2021 and enjoy special savings.

On Professor Ehrman's tour of Rome, Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast, organized by Thalassa Journeys, you will examine how the Christian faith first came to the Italian peninsula, and especially to Rome, which became the epicenter of Christianity. While visiting ancient Roman and Christian sites, we will explore the clash of religions and cultures between the pagan cults of Rome and the Christian church that was to become the official religion of the empire for centuries to come. In and around Rome we will tour such well-known churches as Basilica of St. John Lateran and St. Peter's Basilica, as well as Vatican City, and the Catacombs of San Callisto. From our based in Sorrento, on the Amalfi Coast, tour such important sites as Paestum, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the 9th century Cathedral of St. Andrew in Ravello.

When you combine these trips, your benefits and savings of over \$500 per person include transfer from Sorrento to the Rome Airport on June 14, non-stop flight from Rome to Split on Croatia Airlines, and one free night at the Hotel Park in Split, including breakfast, prior to the group's arrival on June 15 to begin the scheduled tour.

Call Thalassa Journeys at 866-633-3611 to request the descriptive itinerary and reserve your space. Participation is limited to 12 to 24 guests.



Fresco in the Franciscan Church, Dubrovnik

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due April 8, 2021.

Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: There is no cancellation fee for cancellations received by April 8, 2021. Cancellations received between April 8 and May 8 are subject to a 25% cancellation fee. Cancellations received on or after May 9 are subject to a 75% cancellation fee, or the equivalent amount may be transferred to a future trip. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THALASSA JOURNEYS TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611