

SKEPTIC

With Guest Lecturer **Dominique
Kirchner Reill**, Professor of
History, University of Miami



CROATIA IN THE QUIET SEASON

November 7 - 14, 2025

SKEPTIC

Dear Friends,

Blessed with one of the lovelier coastlines in The Mediterranean, Croatia is an ideal place to visit. Lining the country's shore are islands and towns that have withstood the vicissitudes of time to present today with one of the best-preserved collections of medieval towns in Europe. Visitors are struck by the beauty of the old towns and the monuments they house.

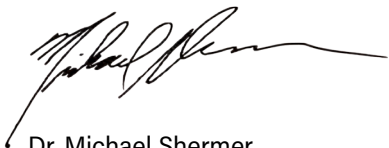
No wonder Croatia is now one of Europe's primary holiday destinations, attracting huge crowds of tourists during the high travel season. But the small old historic towns were not built for today's mass tourism. They become overwhelmed, making it impossible to have a meaningful visit. That is why we have scheduled our journey to Croatia in November, the "Quiet Season," when the crowds of tourists are gone, the places return to the local communities, and travelers can savor the beauty of Croatia and experience its treasures leisurely and thoroughly. The temperature at the time of our journey is usually in the 60s, which is ideal for strolling the old streets and alleyways of the places we will explore.

Our itinerary focuses on what is perhaps Croatia's most important stretch of its coastline, that between Split and Dubrovnik. The vibrant port city of Split features an attractive old quarter that is centered around the incredible palace of Emperor Diocletian, the most complete Roman palace to survive from antiquity. From Split, we will also explore Trogir, a delightful medieval town, and Hvar, the iconic island with its characteristic Venetian architecture. On our scenic drive from Split to Dubrovnik we will stop at Mali Ston, whose strong fortifications, which still circle the small town, guarded the approach to Dubrovnik, one of the most magnificent and best-preserved medieval towns in Europe, where we will explore its treasures and also venture into Bosnia Herzegovina to visit the old Ottoman town of Trebinje.

We are pleased to have **Professor Dominique Kirchner Reill** accompany us on the journey as guest lecturer. Her deep knowledge of Croatia's history from the ancient past to the present will add meaning and content to our travel experience.

At the attractive rate of \$ 4,990 per person, we expect this journey will fill up quickly. Reserve your participation soon.

Warm regards,



Dr. Michael Shermer
Executive Director
The Skeptics Society

P.S. 9% of your cruise fee will be a tax-deductible donation to The Skeptics Society – a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

Cover photo: Dubrovnik

GUEST LECTURER

DOMINIQUE KIRCHNER REILL



Dominique Kirchner Reill is a Professor in History at the University of Miami and currently President of the Central European History Society in North America, co-founder and co-organizer of the first Central European History Convention, member of the board of the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies, and member of the board of the journals *Contemporary European History*, *Central European History*, *Journal of Austrian-American History*, and *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*. Her first book, *Nationalists Who Feared the Nation: Adriatic Multi-Nationalism in Habsburg Dalmatia, Trieste, and Venice*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2012 and was awarded the Center for Austrian Studies' Book Award and Honorable Mention from the Smith Award. Her next book, *The Fiume Crisis: Life in the Wake of the Habsburg Empire* came out in 2020 with Harvard University's Belknap Press and received an Honorable Mention from the Jelavich Book Prize. *The Fiume Crisis* was translated into Croatian in 2024 and published by Ljevak. She is currently putting the finishing touches on her latest book titled *The Habsburg Mayor of New York: Fiorello LaGuardia*. Professor Reill's research is based on the archives, life stories, and mysteries of the eastern Adriatic: she lived in Croatia for years during her first years as a professional historian and she takes every opportunity she can to return to it.



Mali Ston



Dubrovnik's Franciscan Church and Monastery

ITINERARY



The colorful open-air market, Trogir



Peristyle in Diocletian Palace, Split, Croatia

Friday, November 7, 2025

DEPART THE US

Depart the United States for Split, Croatia.

Saturday, November 8

SPLIT, Croatia

Arrive in Split and transfer to the *Hotel Park* (or similar). In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. Built around a spacious bay and mountains, Split is one of the most vibrant cities in the Adriatic Sea. Said to derive its name from an ancient Greek settlement called Aspalathois, Split's official history began with the construction of the palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian in AD 305. Medieval Split grew within the walled grounds of the enormous palace. Inhabited continuously since antiquity, Diocletian's palace still plays a key role in the city's life and urban development. (D)

Sunday, November 9

SPLIT & TROGIR

Visit Diocletian's palace in the morning, including the Underground Halls, the elegant courtyards, the Peristyle with its arcades, the well-preserved Mausoleum of Diocletian which was converted to the Cathedral of Saint Domnius in 652, and the Temple of Jupiter which was later adapted as the cathedral Baptistry. Spend time at leisure to explore the fascinating old medieval town. Near the entrance to the palace there is a colorful open-air market you may also wish to visit. In the afternoon, drive to nearby Trogir, one of the most attractive and interesting old towns along Croatia's coast. Built compactly on a small island connected to the mainland by a bridge, Trogir is notable for its beautifully preserved medieval quarter, with its many Romanesque and Gothic buildings and historic sites, and its 12th-century Cathedral of St. Lawrence, considered to be one of the finest in Croatia. (B)

Monday, November 10

SPLIT/HVAR ISLAND/SPLIT

In the morning, sail to the lovely island of Hvar. Land at its delightful small main harbor town, also called Hvar, built at the foot of twin hills, and surrounded by walls. The town's strong flavor of Venetian architecture reveals the times when the island was under the control of Venice. The town's beautiful square is dominated by the 16th-century Cathedral of St. Stephen, and the old Venetian Arsenal, whose upper floor was adapted in 1612 to house the town's Theater, one of the first in Europe. Explore the town, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and return to Split in the afternoon. (B, L)

Tuesday, November 11

SPLIT/MALI STON/DUBROVNIK

In the morning, drive to Dubrovnik. Stop on the way at Mali Ston, an attractive old town enclosed within its fortifications. The town is famous for its oysters, which we will enjoy for lunch, along with other delicacies. After lunch, continue to Dubrovnik and check in at the *Hotel Excelsior* (or similar), conveniently located at the edge of the Old Town. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)



Along Dubrovnik's main street

Wednesday, November 12

DUBROVNIK

Situated on a small rocky peninsula at the foot of a mountain, Dubrovnik thrived from the 12th to the early 19th centuries as the independent republic of Ragusa. The wealth attained during this time from the maritime activities of its large fleet is evident in the exceptional beauty of the streets and buildings of its historic center, which is one of the most perfectly preserved medieval entities in Europe. Explore the historic center in the morning, seeing its architectural gems, including the Sponza Palace; the old custom house; the Rector's Palace, dating from the 11th century; the church of the Franciscans, with its monastery and garden cloisters; and the fountain of Onofrio, among others. Surrounding the old town are the medieval walls, which provide wonderful views of the town and its coastline. Spend the afternoon at leisure to enjoy this unique place on your own. (B)

Thursday, November 13

DUBROVNIK/TREBINJE, Bosnia Herzegovina/ DUBROVNIK

Take a morning excursion to Trebinje, a town in Bosnia Herzegovina. Built along the banks of a river, Trebinje was built in the early 18th century, when at that time the Ottoman Empire ruled this area. The town retains intact its old fortifications and many buildings, with their characteristic architecture that combines Oriental and Mediterranean elements. Surviving is also the Arslanagić Bridge, a fine stone bridge. Explore the town, enjoy lunch, and then return to Dubrovnik for an afternoon at leisure. A farewell dinner will be served at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Friday, November 14

DUBROVNIK/USA

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)



Trebinje, Bosnia Herzegovina



Diocletian's mausoleum in Split's palace of Diocletian, now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius



Hvar Town, the main town of Hvar Island

RATE PER PERSON

\$ 4,990 per person, double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$ 680

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Fine hotel accommodations: three nights at the *Hotel Park* (or similar) in Split and three nights at the *Hotel Excelsior* (or similar) in Dubrovnik.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Three lunches and three dinners at local restaurants, with soft drinks, wine or beer.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage on program arrival and departure dates.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide/tour manager.
- Lecturers and discussions with Professor Dominique Kirchner Reill.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Entrance fees to museums and other sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers.
- Complete pre-departure material.

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



In the old town of Trogir, Croatia



Portal of the Cathedral of St. Lawrence, Trogir

GENERAL INFORMATION

SKEP 25L-1107

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. 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 Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida 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.

CST 2138603-50

ST 42048

CROATIA IN THE QUIET SEASON

With Guest Lecturer
Professor Dominique Kirchner Reill



Split

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL

THALASSA JOURNEYS AT

866-633-3611

or email

reservations@thalassajourneys.com