

The Balkans & Beyond



Wes Fugate & Cody Ward



KRKA, CROATIA

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Join Wilson College President Wes Fugate and Cody Ward, along with fellow alumni, friends, and family for an unforgettable exploration of *The Balkans & Beyond*. When the Alumni Association of Wilson College asked Cody, an international educator with experience in nearly 60 countries, to organize a trip for the Wilson community, he chose to focus on his favorite country, Croatia. Seeing Croatia for the first time is a life-changing experience.

Blessed with magnificent scenery and fascinating history, the region is further enriched with folk traditions and delicious provincial foods and wines. Places so divine they have been named among the best travel destinations in the world. Mediterranean, European, and Balkan influences have formed ancient and distinctive cultures throughout the pastoral countryside and along shimmering coastlines.

Powerful mountain ranges have carved legacies in their midst while fairy tale castles and walled seaside villages stand as testimony to the tumultuous past. From its lush national parks teeming with flora, fauna, and stunning waterfalls to its glistening chain of lavender and citrus-scented islands in the sun-drenched Adriatic Sea, this is truly one of the most beautiful spots on Earth. A journey to the westernmost Balkans is a lovely and indelible memory that lives with you forever.

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (<i>no airfare included</i>)	\$ 6550
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 1430

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities.
Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

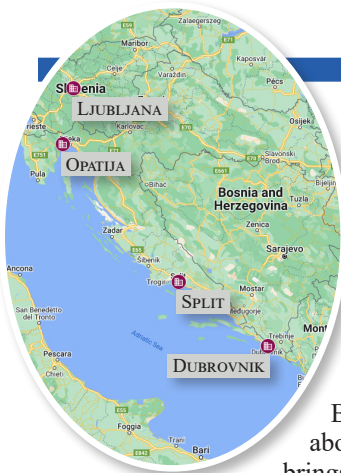
HOTELS: 11 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS: Breakfast daily, 1 lunches, 5 dinners
GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides where noted on the itinerary
BAGGAGE: Portage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH - Departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27TH - Your arrival in Ljubljana, Slovenia will be met for the transfer to our central hotel. The rest of the day is free to unpack, relax, and begin exploring the neighborhood. A welcome dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LJUBLJANA**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH - A morning walking tour of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, with a local guide takes us behind the scenes of the ancient capital and includes visits to Ljubljana Castle, Dragon Bridge, and the Metelkova Art Centre. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LJUBLJANA**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH - This morning, we take a day trip to the town of Bled which is located on the shores of an emerald green glacial lake that has been sacred to the local inhabitants for millennia. We will visit Bled Castle or Blejski Grad in Slovene, the oldest Castle in Slovenia, perched atop a cliff towering 130 metres above Lake Bled. We will have time for lunch in town and personal exploration of the area before a short drive brings us back to our hotel in Ljubljana for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LJUBLJANA**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH - Today we cross the border with Italy at Trieste. We'll make a brief stop here with time for lunch before we drive south, crossing the border into Croatia and arriving at the town of Opatija. Originally a quiet fishing village, Opatija became popular in the 19th century as a winter retreat for the nobility of the Austro-Hungarian empire and their magnificent villas remain. Upon arrival at our hotel, there will be time to settle in before we regroup for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: OPATIJA**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST - Our tour today takes us through the heart of the Istrian Peninsula. We'll stop first at Porec, where we visit the Basilica of Euphrasias containing some of the most wonderful mosaics in the world—easily the equal of those at Ravenna. We continue south down the coast to Rovinj to wander the seafront, stop for lunch and perhaps sample the local truffles for which the region is famous. We continue along the coast to visit the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheater in Pula before returning to Opatija where you will have a free evening to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: OPATIJA**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST - Leaving Opatija, we continue our journey south, stopping along the way at Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's largest national park covering almost 30,000 hectare. Interconnected by many waterfalls and watercourses above and below ground, the lakes are grouped into the upper and lower lakes. The former are formed on dolomites, with mild relief, not so steep shores and enclosed by thick forests, whereas the latter, smaller and shallower, are situated in limestone canyon with partially steep shores. There will plenty of time for exploring the park, along with lunch at a nearby restaurant before we make our way to our hotel in Split where dinner awaits us. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: SPLIT**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND - A morning excursion to Krka National Park, situated along the Krka River. Known for its series of 7 waterfalls—to the south, Skradinski Buk waterfall is flanked by traditional watermills, and to the north, a nature trail passes another striking cascade, Roški Slap, and the Krka Monastery, built above ancient Roman catacombs. Continuing on, we'll stop in Trogir—a small island connected to the mainland and the island of Čiovo by bridges—for lunch and exploration of its preserved old town, known for its mix of Renaissance, baroque and Romanesque buildings. We return to Split for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SPLIT**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD - This morning, discover the city of Split on a sightseeing tour with a local guide. The historic city center lies within the walls of the Palace of Diocletian, built for his retirement between 295—305 AD, before the city itself was founded. Your afternoon and evening are free to wander the harbor front or explore the many shops and market stalls. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SPLIT**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH - Today we leave the city of Split, driving south along the Dalmatian Coast. On the way we'll detour briefly inland crossing the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina to visit the town of Mostar. We'll pass by the world-famous Marian shrine at Medjugorje and stop briefly in Metkovic to visit the remains of the ancient Roman city of Narona. We'll continue to our hotel in Dubrovnik where dinner awaits us. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH - A full-day excursion to Montenegro, nestled between the Adriatic's Gulf of Kotor and surrounding mountains. Our first stop will be Perast, where we will visit the island church. Our next stop will be the medieval-walled city of Kotor—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the narrow streets, cathedrals, and historic squares that served as important commercial and artistic centers in the Middle Ages. There will be time for lunch before we return to Dubrovnik and a free evening to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH - After a leisurely start to the day, a local guide will introduce you to Dubrovnik on a walking tour of the city. Explore ancient city walls, the old town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the harbor. You will have ample time to explore and shop on your own before we gather tonight for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DUBROVNIK**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH - Morning transfer to Dubrovnik Airport for returning flights to the USA. **(B)**

