

# 2026 Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik

*with Dr. Thomas Noble*

August 5-13, 2026



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**August 5-13, 2026**

From \$9,480

*double occupancy, per person*



## **2026 Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik**

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**The Dalmatian Coast, stretching along the eastern Adriatic, is a region where history and culture converge. Ancient Greek and Roman settlements, Venetian fortifications, medieval cathedrals, and Renaissance palaces reveal the many civilizations that shaped this landscape, while natural wonders such as national parks and fjord-like bays frame the story in dramatic beauty.**

Throughout the voyage, you will travel in the company of distinguished Professor Thomas F. X. Noble—an expert in medieval, Mediterranean, and Byzantine history—whose lectures provide a rigorous framework for understanding each site. Onboard, his presentations illuminate themes such as the maritime networks that linked Venice to the Balkans, the political and religious significance of cities like Split and Kotor, and the enduring cultural identity of the Adriatic world. Onshore, Professor Noble brings context directly into the places you explore, ensuring that every cathedral, fortress, and UNESCO World Heritage Site becomes not just a destination, but part of a deeper narrative of empire, identity, and the shifting tides of history.

Questions? Call 1-855-476-5080

[TheGreatCoursesJourneys.com](https://TheGreatCoursesJourneys.com)



# Your Journey Expert



**Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble** is Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. Due to his passion for ancient Greece and Rome, plus world of late antiquity, Professor Noble has led numerous tours throughout Europe and the Mediterranean for decades. Professor Noble received his MA in History and Latin and PhD in Medieval History from Michigan State University. He is a widely published scholar, and is the author, coauthor, or editor of 12 books, including the coauthored textbook, *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment*, now in its 7th edition. Professor Noble produced 4 Great Courses, including all-time customer favorite *Foundations of Western Civilization*, plus *Popes and the Papacy: A History*, and *The World of Late Antiquity: Crisis and Transformation*.

## Highlights

- Travel alongside your expert for a uniquely immersive journey, connecting Adriatic ports and UNESCO sites with the histories, cultures, and maritime networks that shaped the Dalmatian Coast.
- Trace the transformation of the Adriatic world from the Roman Empire to medieval Europe, exploring cities where imperial ambition gave way to new cultural and political identities.
- Walk through Diocletian's Palace in Split, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that illustrates Roman imperial power and its transformation into a thriving medieval city.
- Gain a deeper understanding of how trade, faith, and geography intertwined to shape the emerging Mediterranean world—an evolution still visible in the stones, stories, and seascapes of the Adriatic today.
- Discover Kotor's UNESCO-listed Old Town, a maze of cobblestone streets, Venetian architecture, and historic churches set against the dramatic backdrop of the Bay of Kotor.



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[Discover More](#)

# Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik

with Dr. Thomas Noble

## Itinerary



### Day 1: Arrival in Venice

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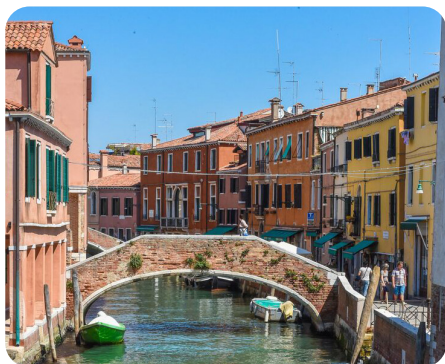
Arrive at Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE), in Venice, Italy, where you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Hotel Splendid Venice (or similar). This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys Expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure.

**Included Meal:** Reception

**Accommodation:** Hotel Splendid Venice (or similar)

### Day 2: Your Odyssey Begins

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After breakfast, join your expert and a local guide for a walking tour of central Venice that highlights two of the city's most enduring traditions. Begin in the studio of a master mascheraro, where you will examine the centuries-old craft of molding, decorating, and painting Carnival masks—objects that reveal not only artistic skill but also the social and political history of Venice's famous festival. Continue through the narrow alleys to a squero, one of the few remaining gondola workshops, where construction and maintenance techniques passed down for generations underscore the importance of maritime life in the city's development. A stop at a local gelateria is followed by time at leisure for an independent lunch. Later in the afternoon, transfer to the pier to embark on your ship, *Le Bougainville*.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*

### Day 3: Culture and Heritage in Croatia

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Although once under Venetian rule, Rovinj has long nurtured its own maritime identity, centered on the emblematic flat-bottomed boats known as batane. At the Batana Eco-Museum, you will explore how these vessels remain vital to local fishing practices and cultural heritage, offering a lens into the community's enduring relationship with the sea. Continuing to the 18th-century Church of Saint Euphemia, discover the story of Rovinj's patron saint, whose 9th-century relics represent the city's place within the broader Christian world. Together, these visits highlight how Rovinj preserves its traditions while reflecting centuries of religious and cultural exchange along the Adriatic. Some leisure time is included before returning to the ship.

**Including Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*





## Day 4: Zadar, Past and Present

Your exploration of Zadar weaves together the city's rich past and its vibrant present. You'll sample two of the region's most iconic specialties—the sheep's milk cheese of Pag and Zadar's maraschino liqueur—both centuries-old symbols of the Adriatic's agricultural ingenuity and trade with the wider Mediterranean. As you explore the Old Town, layers of Roman and Venetian influence emerge in landmarks such as the pre-Romanesque Church of St. Donatus and the Cathedral of St. Anastasia, the largest in Croatia. Along the waterfront, the Sea Organ and "Greeting to the Sun" installations illustrate how Zadar continues to blend art, science, and environment, reflecting a city that honors its traditions while embracing innovation.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*

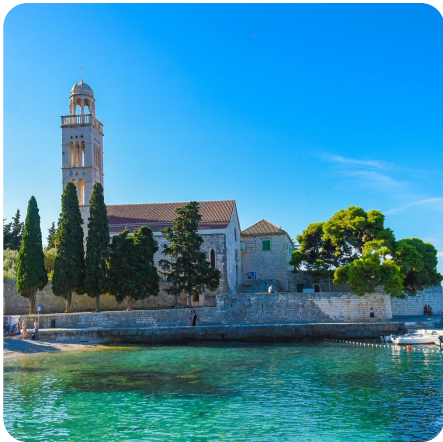


## Day 5: National Parks and Imperial Palaces

From the port of Primošten, travel inland to Krka National Park to study the natural forces that shaped its dramatic landscapes. At Skradinski Buk, a series of 17 linked cascades, see how water has long influenced settlement and industry in the region, from ancient mills to modern preservation. Continue through the Croatian countryside to Split, where you will explore the Palace of Diocletian, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best-preserved Roman imperial residences in existence. Built in the 4th century as both imperial retreat and fortified city, the palace reveals how Roman architecture, politics, and daily life intertwined. *Le Bougainville* remains in port until midnight, providing ample time for you to enjoy an evening ashore if you wish.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*



## Day 6: Hvar's Layered History

Begin your exploration with a visit to the Hvar Fortress alongside your local guide, taking in sweeping views of the Adriatic before descending into the heart of the city and arriving at St. Stephen's Square. Here, the Franciscan Monastery and surrounding Renaissance architecture reflect Hvar's transformation from a Byzantine frontier outpost into a prosperous Venetian naval and cultural hub. This setting provides a rich backdrop for discussing the island's layered history, from its Byzantine origins to its flourishing under Venetian rule, and for observing how art, religion, and maritime trade shaped civic life. *Le Bougainville* remains in port until late evening, allowing ample time to enjoy the evening ashore.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*



## Day 7: Island Hopping in Korčula, Pomena, and Mljet

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Begin your day on the storied island of Korčula, often linked with the legacy of Marco Polo, where a guided tour of the medieval town includes St. Mark's Cathedral, a striking example of Dalmatian Gothic architecture. Continue to the village of Lumbarda to visit the Milina-Bire Winery, where vineyards preserve the rare Grk grape varietal. More than a local specialty, its cultivation reflects centuries of adaptation to Korčula's limestone soil and Mediterranean climate, illustrating how wine production has shaped identity and economy across the Adriatic.

Sail onward to Mljet Island, most of which is protected as a National Park. Here, explore the islet of St. Mary, where a 12th-century Benedictine monastery stands amid pine forests and saltwater lakes, underscoring the interplay of monastic life, nature, and spiritual devotion.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*



## Day 8: Kotor on Land and Sea

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The final day of your voyage is devoted to exploring the UNESCO World Heritage city of Kotor, a settlement whose architecture and layout reflect centuries of cultural exchange. Within its fortified walls, walk through a maze of cobblestone streets and lively squares that reveal the strong Venetian influence of the Adriatic trading world. Visit the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Tryphon, dedicated to the city's patron saint, where medieval sculpture and relics testify to Kotor's religious and artistic heritage. Time is included for independent exploration, allowing you to reflect on the city's layered history. In the early evening, *Le Bougainville* sails through one of the Adriatic's most breathtaking natural wonders—the Bay of Kotor, where limestone mountains rise dramatically along the shoreline, a sight reminiscent of Norwegian fjords.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Bougainville*



## Day 9: Departure

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After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Dubrovnik Ruđer Bošković Airport (DBV) in Dubrovnik, Croatia, for flights homeward.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik

with Dr. Thomas Noble



## What's Included:

- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Bougainville*
- One pre-night at the Hotel Splendid Venice (or similar) in Venice, Italy, with welcome reception (dinner on own) on August 5, 2026
- One PONANT EXPLORATIONS Tour Director dedicated to The Great Courses Journeys from the Pre-Night on August 5, 2026, through the end of the voyage/disembarkation on August 13, 2026
- Half day of touring in Venice, lunch on own, with transfer to pier for embarkation on August 6, 2026
- One exclusive The Great Courses Journeys onboard hosted cocktail reception
- 2-3 onboard lectures given by The Great Courses Journeys Expert
- One shore excursion exclusively custom for The Great Courses Journeys at each port of call led by expert guides
- Captain's gala dinners and cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee and pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner
- Open bar aboard ship excluding premium alcohol, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- 24-hour complimentary room service
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite)
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on official arrival and departure days, August 5, 2026 and August 13, 2026, respectively
- Port taxes and charges
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers on tours





# Accommodations



## Luxury Ship *Le Bougainville*

The five-star *Le Bougainville*, part of the PONANT Explorers expedition yacht series, features 92 cabins accommodating 184 guests. Designed with advanced ecofriendly technology, its “Clean Ship” certification highlights energy efficiency and marine protection. Compact yet luxurious, it navigates shallow bays and sensitive environments while offering safe, comfortable voyages with custom stabilizers. **(7 nights)**

### Hotel Splendid Venice

*Venice, Italy*

The Hotel Splendid Venice—Starhotels Collezione, a refined four-star property in the heart of Venice, sits between St. Mark’s Square and the Rialto Bridge. Elegant interiors blend Venetian tradition with modern comfort, while canal-side views, a rooftop terrace, and a private dock make it an ideal base for exploring the city. **(1 night)**



SPA



RESTAURANT

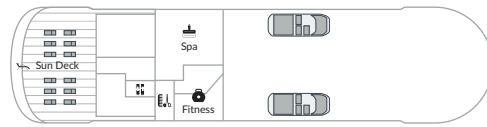


OWNER'S SUITE

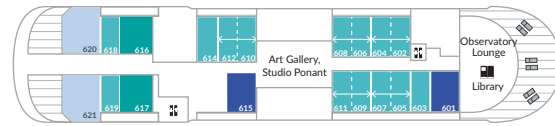


# Le Bougainville Deck Plan & Pricing

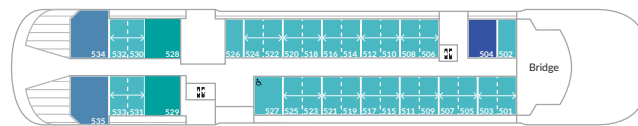
DECK 7



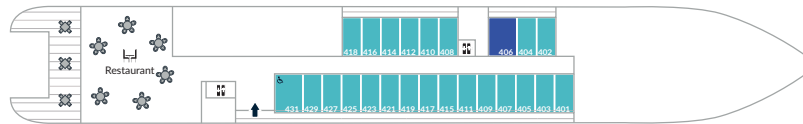
DECK 6



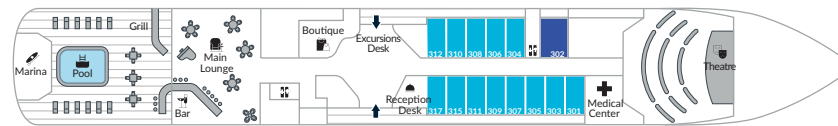
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 0 / The Blue Eye underwater lounge

- Deluxe Stateroom Deck 3
- Prestige Stateroom Decks 4-5-6
- Deluxe Suite Decks 3-4-5-6
- Prestige Suite Decks 5-6
- Privilege Suite Decks 5-6
- Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6
- Owner's Suite Deck 5

Suites 431 and 527 are designated for guests with reduced mobility.

CATEGORY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>	SINGLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>
Deluxe Stateroom - Deck 3	\$9,480	\$13,110
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 4	\$9,760	\$13,530
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 5	\$10,040	\$13,950
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 6	\$10,370	\$14,450
Deluxe Suite - Decks 3, 4, 5, 6	\$14,200	\$20,190
Prestige Suite - Deck 5	\$15,310	\$21,860
Prestige Suite - Deck 6	\$15,580	\$22,260
Privilege Suite - Decks 5, 6	\$16,140	\$23,100
Grand Deluxe Suite - Deck 6	\$18,640	\$26,850
Owner's Suite - Deck 5	\$23,660	\$44,640

**Departure: Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik**  
**August 5-13, 2026 | Deposit: 25% of Tour Fare**

You will be allocated a cabin within The Great Courses Journey's allotment, specific cabin requests based on availability.

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