



**BOSTON COLLEGE**

**BC BEYOND** EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

With **Dr. Aleksandar Tomic**,  
Associate Dean at Boston  
College's Woods College of  
Advancing Studies

# A VOYAGE FROM VENICE TO ATHENS

**Aboard the New All-Suite EXPLORA II**

**June 5 – 15, 2026**



Dear BC Alumni and Friends,

The Dalmatian Coast, on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea, is one of the most intriguing destinations in the Mediterranean. The region offers spectacular scenery, ancient, medieval, and renaissance history and art, and charming towns and villages. I invite you to join us on this voyage as we sail from Venice, Italy to Athens, Greece and discover the rich culture and history of this majestic corner of the world. This special tour will highlight BC Beyond Educational Travel's threefold mission to provide lifelong learning through educational travel, to showcase BC faculty, and to expand the global reach of Boston College.

Begin our itinerary by strolling across Venice's Piazza San Marco, viewing St Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, and the Grand Canal. Marvel at the intricate canals, bridges, and gondolas as well as the city's acclaimed art and sculptures. We'll then depart the center of the former Venetian Empire to explore the historic coastal towns of Croatia, including Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities.

Further south, we venture into Italy's Puglia region to marvel at the trulli houses of Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before continuing to Santorini, Greece. There, we explore the Bronze Age town of Akrotiri, remarkably preserved under layers of ash and pumice from a massive volcanic eruption 3,700 years ago. With its intact houses, streets, and squares, Akrotiri stands as one of the world's most important archaeological sites.

Joining the voyage to offer expert insights into the complex history of the Mediterranean region is **Dr. Aleksandar Tomic**, Associate Dean at Boston College's Woods College of Advancing Studies.

Our vessel for this ocean journey, EXPLORA II, launched in 2024, is equipped with the most advanced safety and environmentally responsible technology available and is designed to maximize luxury in a relaxed, informal, and friendly environment. The emphasis throughout is on comfort, wellness, and extraordinary culinary experiences. The smallest of the all-suite accommodations is 377 square feet, including a private terrace. The extensive wellness facilities include multiple indoor and outdoor exercise spaces, four heated pools, and a large spa. Dining options, available in six different restaurants, range across cuisines from Europe to East Asia.

Please review the enclosed details and begin making plans to join fellow Boston College Alumni travelers for a special trip of discovery and comradery.

Experience the world through BC,

Patricia Tyler, Director  
BC Beyond Educational Travel  
Boston College

Cover photo: Grand Canal, Venice, Italy

## FACULTY

### DR. ALEKSANDAR TOMIC Associate Dean



**Dr. Aleksandar "Sasha" Tomic** serves as Associate Dean at Boston College's Woods College of Advancing Studies, where he also directs the MS programs in Applied Economics and Applied Analytics. Holding a PhD in Applied Economics from Clemson University, Dr. Tomic has built a distinguished career in academia and international consulting, with expertise in economic modeling, public policy, and data-driven decision-making. He has led Eurostat-sponsored multinational projects and developed academic programs across the US. A sought-after media commentator, Dr. Tomic regularly provides expert analysis on economic and policy issues. A native of Montenegro, Dr. Tomic brings a personal and professional connection to the Adriatic region, offering travelers a unique perspective on the economic and historical forces that have shaped this part of the world.



St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy



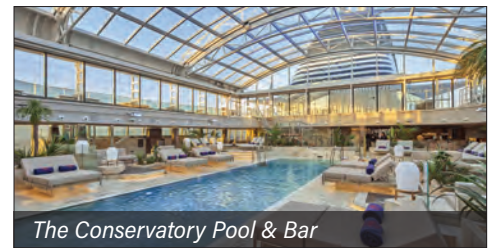
# THE EXTRAORDINARY ALL-SUITE EXPLORA II



*Ocean Terrace Suite*



*Journeys Lounge*



*The Conservatory Pool & Bar*



*Marble & Co. Grill*

**Launched in 2024, EXPLORA II** is dedicated to maximizing luxury in a relaxed, informal, and friendly environment. With a gross tonnage of 63,900 GT, the ship is comparable in size to vessels that carry over 2,500 passengers, but EXPLORA II has only 461 suites, accommodating fewer than 900 guests. This allows for spacious suites (the smallest suite is 377 square feet) and extensive public areas, including 67,000 square feet of outdoor deck space, twelve bars and lounges, multiple indoor and outdoor pools, and over 10,000 square feet of fitness and wellness facilities. All of this with a staff to guest ratio of 1 to 1.25.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, EXPLORA II is at the cutting edge of environmentally responsible operations. It is equipped with a selective catalytic reduction system to reduce harmful emissions; its water treatment and waste management systems are state-of-the-art; it is equipped throughout with LED lighting and high-efficiency, energy-saving appliances; its recycling protocols exceed the highest industry standards; and no single-use plastics are employed aboard. It is also RINA Dolphin-certified, ensuring reduced underwater noise and contributing to the

preservation of marine life.

Dining options aboard include six restaurants offering a variety of cuisines—Italian, Pan-Asian, French, Mediterranean, and European steakhouse—as well as in-suite dining. Unlimited beverages, fine wines and premium spirits, as well as specialty coffees, teas and soft drinks are available at all times. High-speed WIFI is complimentary throughout the ship, as are 24-hour concierge services and 24-hour in-suite dining. Twice-daily housekeeping services include an evening turndown service.



# ITINERARY



Friday, June 5, 2026  
**DEPART THE UNITED STATES**

Saturday, June 6  
**VENICE, Italy**

Arrive in Venice and transfer to the *Splendid Hotel* (or similar) for overnight. La Serenissima, the most serene Republic of Venice, founded in the 8th century as a small city-state at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea, by the 13th century had come to dominate not only the surrounding Veneto but also much of the Mediterranean Sea. The massive wealth generated by Venetian trade with the East is still evident in the great public squares and monuments of the city. Gather this evening with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)



The unique trulli houses of Puglia's Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Italy

Sunday, June 7

**VENICE**

After breakfast, explore St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace. The interior of the Basilica is covered with 14,000 square feet of gold mosaics, mostly from the 12th and 13th centuries, and the altarpiece known as Pala d'Oro is universally considered the most refined expression of Byzantine sensibility in the world. The Doge's Palace, combining Gothic, Renaissance, and Mannerist elements, was the working center of Venetian government when Venice dominated the entire eastern Mediterranean. In the afternoon, enjoy time at leisure for independent exploration. (B)

Monday, June 8

**VENICE/EMBARK**

In the morning, tour the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, whose walls and ceilings are covered with murals by Tintoretto, and the Basilica Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, with its treasure trove of paintings and sculptures by artists including Titian, Canova, Sansovino, Donatello, and Bellini. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to nearby Fusina to embark EXPLORA II and sail in the evening. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 9

**ROVINJ, Croatia**

From the 14th through the 18th century, Rovinj was the center of Venetian government on the Istrian peninsula of Croatia. On your walking tour of the old city, you will see the Venetian influence everywhere, including in the emblematic bell tower of the main church of the town. After lunch aboard the ship, a short drive north of Rovinj brings you to the historic town of Poreč, home to the 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its gem-studded mosaics, which we will visit. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 10

**ZADAR**

Arrive in Zadar, a city whose early history was shaped by Roman and Byzantine rule, and later came under Venetian control from the 15th to the 18th century, when it served as a critical port for the Venetian navy. Explore the historic core of the city, including the Roman Forum; the 9th-century Church of St. Donatus; the Cathedral of St. Anastasia—one of the finest Romanesque churches in Dalmatia; and the Archaeological Museum, which traces the city's long and layered history. (B,L,D)

Thursday, June 11

**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





Dubrovnik, Croatia

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,L,D)

Friday, June 12

#### **BRINDISI, Italy**

From Brindisi in Italy's Puglia region, take an excursion to nearby Locorotondo, rated as one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. Set on a hilltop, its stone-paved streets lead to the pedestrian historic center, where the public garden offers panoramic views of the Valle d'Itria, the surrounding countryside and valley. Continue to Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features over 1,500 trulli buildings. These remarkable, white-washed structures have pyramidal, conical or domed roofs built of corbelled local limestone without mortar, using a prehistoric building technique that has survived to this day. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 13

#### **AT SEA**

Attend lectures, relax, and enjoy the many amenities of the ship as you sail. (B,L,D)



Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, Venice, Italy

Sunday, June 14

#### **SANTORINI, Greece**

In prehistoric times Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a sophisticated society. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town, now called Akrotiri, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Some have connected the disappearance of half of the island with the legend of Atlantis. In the morning, visit Akrotiri and the excellent Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which provides a fine introduction to Santorini's Bronze Age civilization, and whose exhibits include artifacts recovered during the excavations of Akrotiri. Continue to the picturesque and photogenic village of Oia, which commands the northern entry into the island's caldera, its colorful houses perched on top of the ridge. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and time at leisure to further explore this iconic island on your own. (B,L,D)

Monday, June 15

#### **PIRAEUS/DISEMBARK**

After breakfast aboard, disembark in Athens' port of Piraeus and transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



Santorini, Greece

## OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION IN ATHENS | June 15 – 17, 2026



For those interested there will be a 2-day optional extension with accommodations at the centrally located *Athens Capital Hotel* (or similar). Included are tours of the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum and the ancient Agora. Also included is a transfer on June 17th from the hotel to the airport, full breakfast each morning at the hotel, one lunch, and one dinner.

Rate: \$ 1,495 per person, double occupancy.  
Single room supplement, \$ 495.

### ALL ACCOMMODATIONS ABOARD THE EXPLORA II ARE SPACIOUS TERRACE SUITES THAT COMBINE ELEGANT SPACE and LIGHT. THEY FEATURE:

- The Ocean Terrace Suites measure between 377 - 420 sq ft.
- Oversize floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the sea.
- Bespoke king-sized bed sleep system. In some suites the bed can be converted to two twins.
- Lounge area with dining/coffee table.
- Heated marble bathroom floor and Mandala Blue custom bath toiletries and amenities.
- Spacious private ocean-front terrace with dining area and daybed or sun loungers for relaxation.
- Spacious walk-in wardrobe with a seated vanity area.
- Mini-bar replenished according to each guest's preferences.
- Espresso machine, a kettle and teapot.
- Infotainment system with on-demand TV options.
- Individual climate and lighting control.
- Wireless bedside device charging station.
- Gentle motion-activated bedroom night lights.
- Pair of binoculars for guests' use during the journey.

### RATES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
C (OT1)	Ocean Terrace Suite	\$ 8,590
B (OT2)	Ocean Terrace Suite	\$ 8,890
A (OT3)	Ocean Terrace Suite	\$ 9,190
Single occupancy supplement: Category C \$ 2,490; Category B \$ 2,690; Category A \$ 2,890.		

### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- Ocean journey aboard EXPLORA II as described in the itinerary.
- One night at the *Splendid Hotel* (or similar) in Venice.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Program of lectures and discussions with Dr. Aleksandar Tomic.
- Complete program of shore excursions, led by professional local guides.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during all meals.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour in-suite dining.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; experience fees in Chef's Kitchen and Anthology; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.





Along Dubrovnik's main street, Croatia



Scuola di San Rocco, Venice, Italy



Street scene, Zadar, Croatia



Byzantine mosaic in the Apsis of St. Euphrasius Basilica, a Unesco World Heritage Site, Porec, Croatia

## REGISTRATION

BOCO 26EII-0605

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **A VOYAGE FROM VENICE TO ATHENS**, June 5 – 15, 2026, with Boston College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit cards.

**For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611**

**or email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)**

**or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:**

**Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835**

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ Discover

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Double Occupancy

☐ Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

### PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Twin ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (HOME)

(CELL)

EMAIL

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,500 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 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 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 Boston College and Thalassa Journeys. Boston College and Thalassa Journeys act 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 Massachusetts, pursuant to applicable Massachusetts 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**





**BOSTON COLLEGE**

**BC BEYOND** EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

BC Beyond Educational Travel  
Boston College  
Office of the Provost  
140 Commonwealth Avenue  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

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# Join **Dr. Aleksandar Tomic**, Associate Dean at Boston College's Woods College of Advancing Studies on **A VOYAGE FROM VENICE TO ATHENS**

Rovinj, one of Croatia's prettiest old towns



For Reservations and Information, Please Call **866-633-3611**  
or email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)