



VCU Alumni

SAIL CROATIA

2025 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY



US DEPARTURE DATE: **AUGUST 13, 2025**
LAND TOUR START DATE: **AUGUST 14, 2025**
RETURN DATE: **AUGUST 21, 2025**

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$3,698

Visit our website www.aesu.com/vcu for more details and to book.

START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow VCU Young Alumni?

The VCU Alumni Alumni Travel Program, designed for recent grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to VCU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/vcu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bass
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations
Virginia Commonwealth University

Travel insurance is compulsory. Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate. If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or visit this link: <https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/get-a-quote.html?partner=AESU3922>

“ LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT OTHER CULTURES AND DEFINITELY GREW AS A PERSON. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY! ”

FORMER TRAVELER

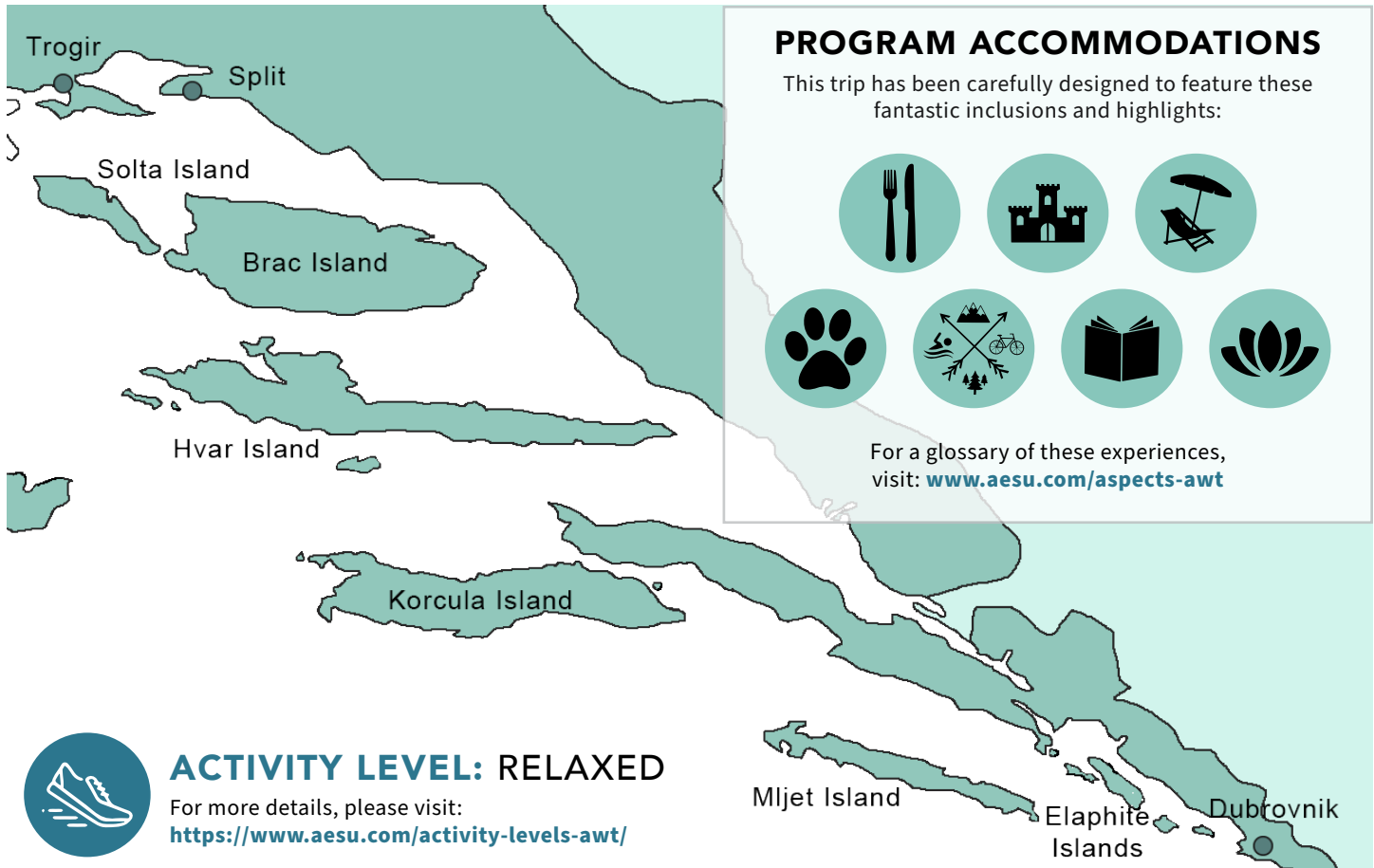


SAIL CROATIA

9 DAYS INCLUDING SAILING ALONG THE CROATIAN COAST ON THE MS MENDULA WITH LAND EXCURSIONS

PLACES VISITED

DUBROVNIK | TROGIR | SPLIT



ACTIVITY LEVEL: RELAXED

For more details, please visit:
<https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 1 night in superior tourist class hotels or better 2-share rooms with private bath/shower in Dubrovnik
- 6 nights on board the 'MS Mendula' 2-share cabins with private bath, cabins with either porthole or window in cabin, rates based on lower deck occupancy
- All ground transportation by private motor coach as per itinerary
- Airport transfers with purchased AESU group airfare
- Private motor-sailing ship 'MS Mendula' including crew

Meals

- 15 meals: 7 continental breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Coffee, tea, and water daily on board the MS Mendula

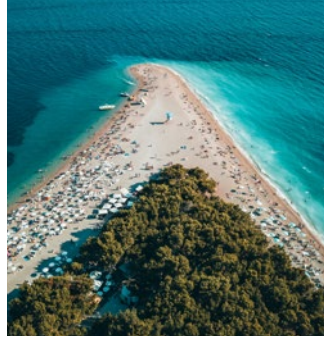
Activities & Admissions

- Guided tour of Dubrovnik, Mali Most National Park, Korčula, Hvar and Split led by a local English-speaking expert
- Admission to Dubrovnik's city wall
- Private sailing cruise ship MS Mendula
- Swim stops at Elaphite Islands, Korčula Island, Paklinski Islands, Zlatni Rat beach, 'Golden Horn,' Solta Island
- Mali Most National Park
- Excursion to Sveta Marija Island, led by a local English-speaking expert
- Boat ride across the inland lake of Mali Most National Park
- Admission to the UNESCO-listed Diocletian Palace

Optional Excursions

(not included in land package price):

- Optional off-road excursion on the Isle of Brač
- Optional Hvar wine tasting



SAIL CROATIA ITINERARY

About the Trip!

Picture this: crystal-clear waters as far as the eye can see, an array of islands to explore, and coastal towns brimming with vibrant energy. Croatia becomes our playground, with secret coves and underwater wonders waiting to be discovered. Sail along the Dalmatian Coast, where ancient cities like Dubrovnik and Split offer history and nightlife in equal measure. Hvar, a chic destination, and Brac, known for its stunning Zlatni Rat beach, are our stops along the way. Croatia's sunny Mediterranean climate ensures endless days of aquatic adventures, making our private sailing trip the ultimate experience for explorers.

- DAY 1 TRAVEL TO CROATIA**
Sparkling azure seas and endless golden skies appear on the horizon as our overnight flight takes us to Dubrovnik, the Pearl of the Adriatic.
Meals: In-flight
- DAY 2 DUBROVNIK: LAND TOUR START DATE**
Dubrovnik greets us with a breathtaking combination of stunning coastal beauty, and well-preserved historic architecture. The robust city walls have never been breached by a hostile army and symbolize the city's enduring strength and ability to protect its rich cultural heritage throughout centuries of tumultuous history. Meet your tour director and join fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and orientation.
Meals: In-flight | Dinner
Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Welcome orientation | Welcome to Croatia dinner
- DAY 3 DUBROVNIK – BOARD MS MENDULA – ELAPHITE ISLANDS – MLJET ISLAND (POMENA)**
Our morning city tour of Dubrovnik is a captivating journey through history and beauty. We stroll along the ancient city walls, with breathtaking views of the Adriatic Sea and the red-tiled rooftops of the Old Town. Continue to historic Stradun, the city's main street lined with charming cafés and boutique shops, and the Rector's Palace, a stunning example of Renaissance architecture that offers a glimpse into Dubrovnik's past as a wealthy maritime republic. After lunch on your own, we transfer to Zaton where our ship, the 'MS Mendula' is anchored.
Prepare to embark on an unforgettable sailing voyage as we chart our course towards the enchanting Elaphite Islands, where you can dive into the aquamarine waters of Sunj Beach, renowned for its breathtaking beauty. We continue to the island of Mljet, and dock in the idyllic port of Pomena, surrounded by lush greenery and overlooking the serene Mljet National Park. After dinner aboard, venture out and discover the charm of this picturesque village, with its quaint stone buildings and centuries-old olive groves, creating the perfect backdrop for an evening of exploration.
Meals: Breakfast | Dinner
Inclusions: Guided tour of Dubrovnik, led by a local English-speaking expert | Admission to Dubrovnik's city wall | Private transfer to Zaton port | Private sailing cruise ship MS Mendula | Swim stop at Elaphite Islands | Mljet Island with idyllic Pomena port | Water, coffee & tea on board

DAY 4 **MLJET ISLAND – KORČULA ISLAND**

Kickstart your day with breakfast on board before we take a short stroll to the Mali Most National Park, one of the main protected nature areas of Dalmatia, with incredibly lush inland lakes and forests. A boat ride across the lake takes us to the mystical island of Sveta Marija, known for its 12th-century Benedictine monastery which is among the oldest church complexes in the Adriatic. We sail to Korčula Island around noon, have lunch on board, and take a refreshing dip in the clear blue waters before docking.

Join us on a guided walk of Korčula, often called ‘Little Dubrovnik.’ It is believed to be the birthplace of legendary explorer Marco Polo and renowned for its well-preserved medieval town, where narrow, winding streets reveal hidden gems of Venetian architecture. Explore some of the city’s restaurants together with newfound friends and taste delicious seafood dishes and locally produced wines, such as the renowned Grk and Pošip varieties.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Mali Most National Park | Excursion to Sveta Marija Island, led by a local English-speaking expert | Boat ride across the inland lake of the park | Swim stop off the coast of Korčula | Korčula town | Guided walking tour of Korčula city, led by a local English-speaking expert | Water, coffee & tea on board

DAY 5 **KORČULA ISLAND – HVAR ISLAND**

Today, our voyage takes us to the enchanting Paklinski Islands, a hidden gem of the Adriatic known for its pristine waters and lush greenery. Indulge in a refreshing swim stop amidst this natural paradise, then enjoy lunch on board. We arrive at the vibrant island of Hvar, renowned for its historic architecture, picturesque Old Town, and the charming Fortress overlooking the town and offering stunning panoramic views. Immerse yourself in Hvar’s rich history during a captivating city tour. For wine enthusiasts, an optional wine tasting experience awaits. As the day unfolds into evening, take time to explore Hvar’s bustling streets and discover the culinary delights of the island’s exceptional cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Paklinski Islands with pristine waters and lush greenery | Swim stop at Paklinski Islands | Vibrant island of Hvar | Guided walking tour of Hvar town, led by a local English-speaking expert | Water, coffee & tea on board

Optional activity: Hvar wine tasting

DAY 6 **HVAR ISLAND – BRAC ISLAND**

This morning, we set sail for Brac Island. It is the largest island in central Dalmatia and famous for its white limestone, which was used to build Diocletian’s Palace in Split and the White House in Washington, D.C. Enjoy lunch on board and a swim break at the renowned Zlatni Rat beach often referred to as the ‘Golden Horn.’ This unique beach changes shape with the tides and winds, making it one of the most iconic beaches in Croatia. Later in the day, our ship continues to Pucisca or Postira on Brac, offering opportunities to explore the Olive Oil Museum or take an off-road adventure in a Pinzgauer military vehicle. Enjoy leisure time tonight with fellow travelers.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Brac Island | Swim stop at famous Zlatni Rat beach, ‘Golden Horn’ | Pucisca or Postira town exploration (Captain’s choice/weather conditions) | Water, coffee & tea on board

Optional activities: Olive Oil Museum visit | Pinzgauer military vehicle off-road island excursion

DAY 7 **BRAC ISLAND - SOLTA ISLAND - TROGIR**

Our voyage takes us to the picturesque island of Solta. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by a refreshing swim stop in the Adriatic’s azure waters. Later, our ship gracefully navigates toward the captivating town of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its exceptionally preserved medieval architecture, including the stunning Cathedral of St. Lawrence and the Kamerlengo Fortress. Here, we’ll moor for the night, offering you the opportunity to explore Trogir’s labyrinthine alleyways, adorned with intricate stone carvings and centuries of history, creating a truly immersive cultural experience.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Solta Island | Swim stop off Solta Island | Trogir, UNESCO World Heritage Site | Water, coffee & tea on board

DAY 8 TROGIR - SPLIT

As our sailing adventure nears completion, we leave the enchanting town of Trogir behind and set our course for the vibrant city of Split. Along the way, we make a refreshing swim stop at the renowned Blue Lagoon. We arrive in Split, a city steeped in history, with its core being the UNESCO-listed Diocletian's Palace, a Roman marvel dating back to the 4th century. As we embark on a city walk, the cobbled streets reveal hidden treasures, such as the Peristyle Square, where ancient Roman emperors once held court, and the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, a stunning example of medieval architecture. The city's vibrant culture comes alive in its bustling markets, where you can savor local delicacies like pasticada and enjoy a taste of Dalmatian life. With each step through Split's historic streets, you'll be transported through the centuries, from the Roman era to the Renaissance and beyond, making this coastal gem a truly captivating destination for history and culture aficionados alike. Before enjoying a last night in town, our Captain invites us on board for our farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Inclusions: City of Split | Admission to the Diocletian Palace, UNESCO-listed | Guided tour of the city, led by a local English-speaking expert | Captain's farewell dinner | Water, coffee & tea on board

DAY 9 FLIGHT HOME

Today as we disembark the 'Mendula' for the last time, our home for the past six nights, we bid farewell to our crew and new friends with plans for our next young alumni adventure.

Meals: Breakfast | In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from ship to Split airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

The itinerary may be changed by the captain, depending on weather or operational conditions.

THE MS MENDULA

The MS Mendula, constructed in 2012, is a true sailing vessel, a rarity among Croatian cruise ships where many boast non-functional sails. The Captain of the MS Mendula prefers traditional sailboats, which ensures an authentic sailing experience.

The starting land package price in a 2-share includes accommodations on the lower deck. Max. number of guests per room is 2. Solo travelers will be accommodated in the same cabin types.

To upgrade from the lower to the main deck a surcharge of \$200 per person in a 2-share and \$400 for single occupancy applies. To upgrade from the lower to the upper deck a surcharge of \$300 per person in a 2-share and \$600 for single occupancy applies.

For more information visit: <https://www.aesu.com/mendula-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your land package tour includes the services of a professional tour director, who knows this is a trip of a lifetime for you. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer, sharing with you their vast knowledge, as well as interesting little-known facts.

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. We are very proud of our tour directors, therefore it is customary to include gratuity.

Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director and \$10 per person/per day for the ship crew.

HOTELS

We stay in superior tourist-class hotels or better, all with private bathrooms in 2-share rooms. Our hotels have been specially selected for their atmosphere, friendly hospitality, and cleanliness. They are centrally located or within a short walk of public transportation, taking you to the landmarks of your choice in the city you are visiting.

All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. You can book a single-room by paying an additional single supplement of \$1,875. The total single tour package for the 9 day trip is \$5,573.

If you are a solo traveler and don't want to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If we are unable to arrange a share, the single supplement will be added to your invoice.

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website:

<https://www.aesu.com/terms-conditions-awt/> | For details on our payment plan, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/payment-plan-awt/>