

The Balkans & Beyond



Wes Fugate & Cody Ward



PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

NOVEMBER 3RD- 15TH, 2024

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:

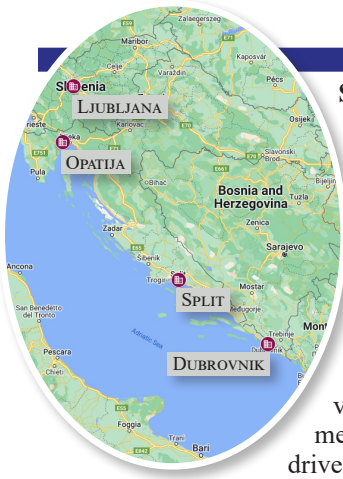
LAND ONLY (no airfare included): **\$ 6000**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 1350**

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 11 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides where noted on the itinerary
- BAGGAGE:** Portorage 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.*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD - Departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH - 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, NOVEMBER 5TH - 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 6TH - 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, NOVEMBER 7TH - 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, NOVEMBER 8TH - 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 9TH - 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**



BLLED CASTLE & LAKE



KRKA NATIONAL PARK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH - 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 11TH - 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, explore the shops, market stalls, and the St. Martin's Day festivities. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SPLIT**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH - 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 13TH - 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 14TH - 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 15TH - Morning transfer to Dubrovnik Airport for returning flights to the USA. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner



YOUR HOST: DR. WESLEY R. FUGATE, PRESIDENT OF WILSON COLLEGE

Dr. Wes Fugate began service as the 20th president of Wilson College in January of 2020, steering Wilson through the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic challenges. Under his leadership, the College launched a new strategic plan, Future Wilson: The Phoenix Rises. The plan led to the second highest enrollment in the College's history and a 12 percentage point increase in first-year to second-year retention of traditional aged students, along with fundraising success and budget surpluses.

As a result of the plan, the College created eleven undergraduate majors, one graduate program, one endorsement, and one certificate program, and launched Wilson College Online, providing a number of Wilson's programs entirely online. The College will soon offer

hybrid, accelerated graduate healthcare programs in Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology. Additionally, Fugate has created the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and appointed task groups seeking to help strengthen Wilson's financial position.

Fugate's tenure has been marked by open communication, transparency, and collaboration. The alumni and friends of the College have responded to this transparency by increasing support of the Wilson Fund by 73% in three years, setting an annual fund record for most dollars raised in a year and the highest number of consecutive years of the annual fund being over \$1 million. The success of the We Rise campaign has led to the third highest giving year in the history of the College.

Fugate is married to Cody Ward, a student development and international education professional.

REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please type or print.
2. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on this form.
4. Complete both sides of this form.
5. Detach the bottom section and return to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person, if this has not already been paid. Keep the top section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

NAME(S). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Please also include your "Known As" or preferred name, if applicable.

PASSPORT DETAILS. This information is required by airlines and having it helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

ADDRESS. If you have a temporary address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.

HEALTH INFORMATION. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult with your physician if have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

Prefer Digital? Scan the following QR code to register online



EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

1. If transatlantic flights are not already included as part of your tour, or if you wish to deviate from the group flights, Discover Europe will be happy to make your flight arrangements for you. The fee for this service is \$40 per ticket.
2. If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. Transportation to and from the hotel for arrival and departure arrangements that are separate from the group can be made at an additional cost. It is essential that we receive your complete flight information at least 90 days prior to your trip departure.

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please use this section to let us know your preference.

We will always book non-smoking rooms when available.

If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.



TRIP DETAILS FOR THE BALKANS & BEYOND

PASSENGER DETAILS - One form per traveler

Name (known as) _____

Name as listed on Passport: _____

Passport #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ DOB: _____

HEALTH & DIETARY INFORMATION

Special Dietary Requirements or Allergies: _____

Health Information: _____

241101WCC

PASSENGER CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Preferred Telephone: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

Wilson College Class Year: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Primary Telephone: _____

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
4. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., Wilson College, Alumni Association of Wilson College, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
5. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
6. Conduct During the Tour: You are responsible for respecting the authority and laws of the countries in your itinerary, including local health and safety regulations, and following the directions of the tour guide. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your health, condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form (if it has not already been paid).
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure. A late fee of \$100 per person may be added to balances still outstanding 60 days prior to departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However, we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.
3. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 20 participants. Should we end up with less than 20 people, we will determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
4. Late registrations (received within 60 days of departure) may also incur extra fees and charges as discounted rates for hotels and airfares may no longer be available so close to departure. Participants will be made aware of any such charges before their registration is accepted.

REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty per person.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
 - 90 - 61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
 - 60 - 31 days prior to departure: \$2000 per person
 - 30 or fewer days prior to departure: no refund
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the payment schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Trip insurance information will be mailed to you upon the receipt of your reservation.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferable.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.



FLIGHT INFORMATION *(Please check one)*

Departure Airport or City: _____

Would you like Discover Europe to book your flights? Yes No

If yes, what class of seating would you prefer? *(Pricing to be confirmed upon booking)*

- Standard Economy Premium Economy Business Class

If self-arranged, please provide us with the full details by mail or email at least 90 days prior to departure.

EXTENSION INFORMATION

I/we plan on extending before or after the tour:

- Yes, before tour Yes, after tour No extension

EXTENSION INFORMATION CONT.

If yes, please provide details: _____

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS *(Please check one)*

- I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)
 I would like a shared room

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like One Double Bed Two Twin Beds

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list.

- Yes No

SIGNATURE: The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Discover Europe Ltd., Wilson College, Alumni Association of Wilson College, and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____