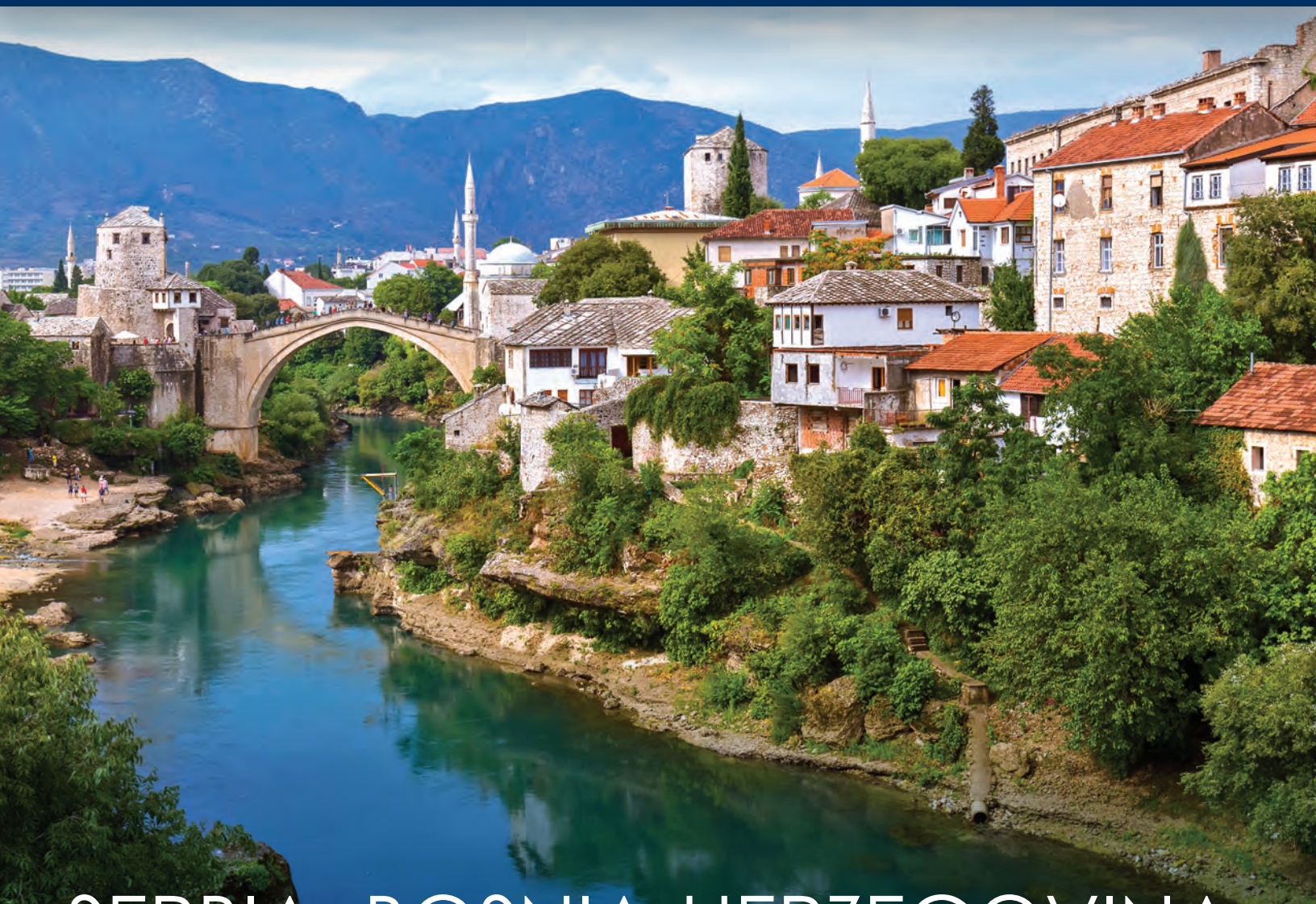
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA & PARTNERS

With Distinguished Guest Lecturer **Rickey Bevington**



SERBIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, AND MONTENEGRO

Europe's Crossroads of History From the Ancient Past to the Present

May 16 – 28, 2027

Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA & PARTNERS

Dear Curious Travelers,

As questions of nationalism, democracy, identity, and regional security continue to shape headlines around the globe, we invite you to join an extraordinary journey through Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro in May 2027. Together with distinguished guest lecturer **Rickey Bevington**, President of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and an award-winning journalist whose work has focused on democracy and media freedom across Central and Eastern Europe, we will explore a region where history and geopolitics remain deeply intertwined.

The Balkans have long stood at the crossroads of empires, religions, and cultures. The legacies of the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Austro-Hungarian empires converge in landscapes of remarkable beauty and cities rich with stories that continue to shape Europe today. As we travel, Rickey will provide valuable context for understanding both the region's complex past and its contemporary significance.

Our journey takes us from vibrant Belgrade to the medieval monasteries of Studenica and Sopoćani, then to Sarajevo, where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand sparked World War I. We'll also discover Mostar's iconic stone bridge and Montenegro's spectacular Bay of Kotor, where medieval towns line one of Europe's most beautiful coastlines.

Through expert lectures, lively conversations, and the company of fellow travelers from the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and Tulane University, this journey promises intellectual enrichment, meaningful camaraderie, and unforgettable discoveries. We hope you'll join us!

Sincerely,

Andrew Haught
Director of Travel, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

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BALTIMORE ♦ BOSTON ♦ BUFFALO ♦ CHARLESTON ♦ CHARLOTTE ♦ CHICAGO GREATER ♦ CINCINNATI ♦ CLEVELAND ♦ COLORADO SPRINGS ♦ COLUMBUS
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WESTERN COLORADO ♦ WESTERN MICHIGAN ♦ WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER

RICKEY BEVINGTON

Rickey Bevington, an Emmy award-winning journalist, serves as President of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and is an Executive in Residence at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business. She spent two decades as a decorated broadcaster for NPR and PBS, notably hosting NPR's *All Things Considered* on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Voted "Best On Air Personality" by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Bevington is also a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College with a degree in Comparative Literature.

Bevington is a 2014 recipient of the Marshall Memorial Fellowship of the German Marshall Fund of the United States examining transatlantic relations in Montenegro, Belgium, Sweden, Poland and Germany.

Novi Sad, Serbia

Studenica Monastery, Serbia

Bascarsija Square, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

The entrance gate of Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade, Serbia

Historic bridge over the Drina River, Višegrad, Bosnia-Herzegovina

ITINERARY

Sunday, May 16, 2027

DEPART THE US

Outbound flights to Belgrade, Serbia. With command of a superb strategic position at the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers, the site has been inhabited since the Neolithic Period: dominated by Greeks, Illyrians, Celts, Romans, Byzantines, and Ottoman Turks, among other powers, throughout its long history.

Monday, May 17

ARRIVE BELGRADE, Serbia

The capital of Serbia and the former Yugoslavia, bustling Belgrade is a city of broad, tree-lined boulevards and fashionable boutiques, cafés, and restaurants, with a modern vitality. Upon arrival, transfer to the elegant *Bristol Belgrade Hotel* (or similar), accommodations for the next three nights. Meet fellow travelers over a welcome dinner. (D)

Tuesday, May 18

BELGRADE/NOVI SAD/SREMSKI KARLOVCI/ BELGRADE

Journey through gently rolling hills planted with vineyards to Novi Sad. The city earned its nickname "the Serbian Athens" as a major center of culture and learning in the 18th century, and was more recently designated the 2021 European Capital of Culture. Tour the picturesque old section and visit the 17th-century Petrovaradin Citadel that towers above the Danube River. Discover next the art treasures in the Matica Gallery, Serbia's oldest cultural institution. On the return to Belgrade, stop in lovely Sremski Karlovci, with squares and streets lined with impressive old buildings. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 19

BELGRADE

This morning, tour the imposing Kalemegdan Fortress and admire breathtaking views over the Danube from its hilltop setting. Continue with a panoramic tour of Belgrade's highlights, including Republic Square, Terazije Square, the Old and New Palaces, and Kneza Miloša Street. A visit to the Museum of Yugoslav History follows, whose collections chronicle Yugoslavia's eventful past. After lunch visit the magnificent Church of Saint Sava, built to honor Serbia's patron saint of education and medicine, and the Nikola Tesla Museum, dedicated to the innovations and achievements of the prominent eponymous scientist. Discover the city's vibrant café life independently during the evening at leisure. (B, L)

Thursday, May 20

BELGRADE/MANASIJA/KRALJEVO

Check out and depart Belgrade for Manasija Monastery, nestled in a forested valley surrounded by massive defensive walls and towers. Built in the early 1400s and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, Manasija quickly became an important cultural and literary center, and the interior of its church is adorned with expressive Byzantine frescoes. Nearby is the colorful Resavska Cave, carved into limestone by subterranean rivers some 80 million years ago and renowned for its

Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

fantastical display of multi-color cave formations. Continue to the historic town of Kraljevo and check in at the *Hotel Botika* (or similar) for two nights. (B, L, D)

Friday, May 21
STUDENICA & SOPOĆANI MONASTERIES

Today's excursion brings an exploration of two medieval monasteries, both designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Admire scenic vistas on the drive to white marble Studenica, founded in 1190 amongst high mountains and dense forests. The elaborately carved doorway to the interior of the Church of the Virgin reveals some of the world's best surviving examples of Byzantine-era frescoes. After lunch in the Ottoman-influenced town of Novi Pazar, visit 13th-century Sopoćani. Once the tomb of Serbia's earliest kings, it was decorated by painters from Constantinople. Return to Kraljevo in the late afternoon. (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 22
KRALJEVO/VIŠEGRAD, Bosnia-Herzegovina/ SARAJEVO

Leave Kraljevo in the morning for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Stop in the village of Višegrad to view the iconic bridge across the Drina River, a UNESCO World Heritage Site shrouded in local lore, then continue to Sarajevo. Built along the banks of a river, the region surrounding Bosnia-Herzegovina's fabled capital has been inhabited since the Neolithic era, and was successively controlled by Romans, Goths, Byzantines, and Slavs. In 1428, it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. They held the area until 1878, when it became a possession of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Check into the *Hotel Europa* (or similar) for two nights. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 23
SARAJEVO

Though Sarajevo suffered greatly during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, the damage has been repaired and its restored city center is vibrant and welcoming. Explore the covered markets and maze of stone streets, alleyways and squares lined with cafés and workshops of coppersmiths and other artisans in the Old Town. Visit the historic Svrzo House; the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque; City Hall, considered Sarajevo's finest building of the Austro-Hungarian era; and the Latin Bridge where, in 1914, Garvrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Habsburg throne, in the precipitating event of World War I. The afternoon is free to explore independently. (B)

Sremski Karlovci, Serbia

Monday, May 24

SARAJEVO/MOSTAR

Pass through staggering mountain landscapes en route to Mostar, on the banks of the Neretva River. During an overnight stay, admire the town's centerpiece: the renowned stone bridge that spans the river in a single arch, originally built in 1566; and explore its old section, including the historic Kajtaz House which is set amidst picturesque cobbled alleyways and surrounded by a distinctive blend of architectural styles, collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Accommodations for one night will be at *Hotel Pension City Star* (or similar). (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 25

MOSTAR/BLAGAJ/STOLAC/TREBINJE/TIVAT, Montenegro

Transfer through Bosnia-Herzegovina's wine country with stops at Blagaj, set intriguingly into a karst cliff; historic Stolac on the steep bank of the Regava River; and Trebinje, with characteristic architecture that blends Oriental and Mediterranean elements. Enjoy lunch in Trebinje before crossing the border to Tivat, Montenegro via a picturesque drive along the fjord-like Bay of Kotor. Founded in the Middle Ages on the shore of the Bay, Tivat is a town of old stone mansions and a profusion of sub-tropical trees and flowering plants. Check into the beautiful bayside *Regent Porto Montenegro* (or similar) for the next three nights. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 26

TIVAT/MORINJ/PERAST/KOTOR/TIVAT

Enjoy the hotel's grounds and facilities at leisure this morning. Reconvene for lunch in seaside Morinj at a converted stone mill, operated by the same family for 200 years. Later, explore the historic towns that line the Bay of Kotor. Pass through pretty Risan and continue to Perast, with grand mansions and churches that reveal the wealth it attained as a valuable 15th-century Venetian possession and maritime hub. Proceed to striking Kotor, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with impressive palaces and unspoiled stone-paved streets to explore, enclosed within formidable walls. Return to Tivat for the evening at leisure. (B, L)

Thursday, May 27

TIVAT/SVETI STEFAN/BUDVA/TIVAT

Drive south from the mainland over a causeway to the small island of Sveti Stefan. Charming Sveti Stefan was founded in the 15th century as a fishing village and presents a quintessential visual representation of Montenegro, surrounded by deep blue Adriatic waters with clusters of stone houses lining narrow alleyways. Continue to Budva, a pretty seaside town with a fortified old quarter, then return to Tivat for an afternoon at leisure. Bid fellow travelers "safe travels" this evening over a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Friday, May 28

TIVAT/DUBROVNIK, Croatia/HOMEWARD

Transfer in the morning to the Dubrovnik International Airport for flights homeward. (B)

The well preserved Svrzo House, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Street scene in Perast, Montenegro

In the Old Town of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

RATE PER PERSON

$ 8,990 per person, double occupancy.
Single room supplement: $ 1,690.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations for three nights at the *Bristol Belgrade Hotel* (or similar) in Belgrade, Serbia; two nights at the *Hotel Botika* (or similar) in Kraljevo, Serbia; two nights at the *Hotel Europa* (or similar) in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; one night at the *Hotel Pension City Star* (or similar) in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and three nights at the *Regent Porto Montenegro* (or similar) in Tivat, Montenegro.
- Breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Eight lunches and six dinners at local restaurants, with soft drinks, wine or beer.
- Lectures and discussions with Distinguished Guest Lecturer Rickey Bevington.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage on program arrival and departure dates.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide.
- The services of an experienced Trip Director.
- Entrance fees to museums and other sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and the Program Inclusions.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Travelers can expect an estimated total of 2-4 hours of walking per day. Archaeological sites and touring activities may involve navigating inclined or uneven surfaces such as cobblestones, unpaved or rocky paths, or steps without handrails. Good balance, sure footing, and the ability to tolerate brief periods of standing are necessary, and elevators are not always available. Conditions may be hot so appropriate clothing, sun protection, and a spirit of adventure will help you get the most from this incredible journey.

REGISTRATION

WACP 27L-0516

I (we) wish to reserve _____ place(s) on ***SERBIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, AND MONTENEGRO***, May 16 – 28, 2027, with World Affairs Council. I/We understand that a deposit of $1,000.00 per person is required.

You may visit our website to submit your reservation online or send a check payable to Thalassa Journeys with this reservation form to:
Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Email: travel@wacphila.org
Phone: 800-942-5004

Visit our website to submit your reservation online.
https://wacphila.org/tour/balkans

Preference at hotels:

❑ Double accommodation ❑ Double Bed ❑ Single Bed
❑ Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

_____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

_____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

_____
ADDRESS

_____
CITY/STATE/ZIP

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

_____ _____
TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING) SIGNATURE DATE

_____ _____
E-MAIL SIGNATURE DATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $1,000 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 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 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 Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts 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 effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida 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.
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Join Distinguished Guest Lecturer **Rickey Bevington** on **SERBIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, AND MONTENEGRO**

The scenic fjord-like Bay of Kotor, Montenegro