

UNICA Rectors' Seminar: Quality in Pursuit of Excellence
Dubrovnik, 16th September 2011

Guided City Walls Tour
Saturday, 17th September 2011

Meeting point: CAAS lobby

Time: Saturday, 17th September at 09:00

Price: 15€ (includes entrance fee & guide)

City walls with forts



The Dubrovnik city walls are the major attraction for visitors and one of the best preserved fortification complexes in Europe. The 1940-metre long walls encompass five forts and sixteen towers and bastions. The world's second most attractive museum in the open air, the walls are open for visitors all the year round. The three entrances to the walls include those next to St Luke's Church in the east, next to St Saviour's Church at the Pile entrance to the Old City and next to the Maritime Museum located at St John's Fort. Taking a walk along the Dubrovnik city walls you will see some of the striking forts used for the defence of the Dubrovnik Republic. Of the five existing forts, Minčeta,

Bokar and St John were built within the city walls complex, whereas the two freestanding ones include Lovrjenac in the west and Revelin in the east. Located at the highest point of the city Fort Minčeta protected Dubrovnik from the north. The fort is the symbol of Dubrovnik's defence and the flag of our homeland waves on it all the time. In summer you can also see the Libertas flag flying on Fort Minčeta. In the southwest Fort Bokar, also called Zvezdan, stands at the corner of the city walls facing Lovrjenac. It was constructed in the 15th century for the purpose of protecting the small western City harbour, the moat and the Pile bridge. Today it houses a collection of stone fragments from the Dubrovnik area. St John's Fort is the first quadrangular pier tower built in 1346 in order to protect the city harbour from the southeast. A long time ago the city chain was pulled by means of a winch from the fort. An aquarium is situated in the fort's ground floor, whereas the first and the second floor house the Maritime Museum. At the foot of St John's Fort is a huge pier with a lighthouse - the well-known Porporela, the meeting place of lovers, a promenade and bathing place of residents of the Old City. From Porporela one can see Fort Revelin standing outside the city walls at the eastern entrance to the city. The stone and wooden draw bridge connects the imposing fort with the land side, and another stone bridge connects it with the city. Surrounded with a moat on three sides and the sea on the fourth, the fort was a part of the city which was quite difficult to take over. Although constructed in an earlier period, Revelin acquired its present day dimensions and size in the 16th century. The interior of the fort and its terraces are concert venues of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and the Dubrovnik Summer Festival.

Lovrjenac

Lovrjenac Fort is situated to the west of the Old City on a 37 metre-high rock.

The symbol of Dubrovnik's survival and freedom, the fort was used for the defence of the city and the western Pile gate. Above the entrance to the fort is the famed inscription: NON BENE PRO TOTO LIBERTAS VENDITUR AURO (Freedom is not sold for all gold in the world). The first official records mention the fort in 1301, although it is believed that its construction began earlier. Today Lovrjenac is well-known as one of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival open-air venues particularly suitable for works by William Shakespeare.

