



## The Great Balkan Tour - 17 Days (#16470)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **08-09-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Trip Highlights

Athens-Kalambaka-Ohrid-Tirana-Dubrovnik-Split-Plitvice Lakes-Postojna Cave-Bled-Zagreb

### Detailed Itinerary

#### Day 01

#### Day 1, Saturday, Arrive in ATHENS, GREECE

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is free. Meet your fellow travelers tonight at Welcome Taverna Dinner in the Plaka beside the Acropolis. (D)

**Meal:** Dinner

#### Day 02

#### Day 2, Sunday. ATHENS



See the highlights of Athens this morning on a sightseeing tour. This cosmopolitan and bustling capital city is set amid reminders of a long and a glorious past: graceful temples, centuries – old monasteries and ornate Byzantine churches. Visit the immortal Acropolis, the Parthenon, said to be the most perfectly proportioned building of all time, Also, see the Erechtheion with the Porch of the Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike and the Wingless Victory. Below the Acropolis lies the Ancient Agora and the Theaters of Dionysus and Herodus Atticus. Your afternoon and evening are free. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 03

### Day 3, Monday, ATHENS to KALAMBAKA

Your first stop this morning is Delphi, where the famous Oracle once foretold the destiny of men. The temple of Apollo in which the Oracle functioned, was built in the 6th century B.C. Also see the Sacred Way, the Stadium and the Castilian Fountain, where pilgrims cleansed themselves in preparation for consulting the Oracle. Visit the Archaeological Museum of Delphi, which contains an impressive collection of finds from the site, including the beautiful “Bronze Charioteer”, before continuing to Kalambaka. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

### Day 04

### Day 4, Tuesday, KALAMBAKA to OHRID, the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA

After breakfast, admire the fantastic landscapes of Meteora, known as “the rocks that fell from the sky”, where monks built their rock – top monasteries far away from civilization. Out of the 13 large and 20 small monasteries and hermit’s cells, only four are now active. The most important is Megalo of Great Meteoro, of peculiar architecture with its tall and intricate dome, twelve sides and fine frescoes. Continue across the border to the Republic of North Macedonia, and to Ohrid. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

### Day 05

### Day 5, Wednesday, OHRID to TIRANA, ALBANIA

The lakeside resort of Ohrid is an important cultural and spiritual center, classified as UNESCO’s World Heritage site. Start morning sightseeing with a walk through the cobblestone streets of the old town. Visit the Cathedral of St. Sofia, containing some magnificent frescoes from the 10th century. This afternoon we travel to Tirana, capital of Albania. (B, D)



**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 06**

**Day 6, Thursday, TIRANA**

During morning sightseeing tour, see Sheshi Skenderbej (Skanderbeg Square) the Mosque of Ethem Bey, the Clock Tower, and the statue of G.K. Skanderbeg, Albania's national hero; the Palace of Culture, built with Soviet assistance, and the National History Museum with a mosaic on its façade portraying Albanian history. Your afternoon is free to continue exploring on your own, shop, or simply just relax. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 07**

**Day 7, Friday, to TIVAT, MONTENEGRO**

After breakfast we leave Tirana towards town of Shkodra, nowadays a major cultural center. Shkodra was the center of the Illyrian tribe Labeat and was taken by the Romans in the year 168 B.C. We will see of the Rozafa Castle, magnificently situated on a rocky outcrop of limestone high above the city, before we cross the border to Montenegro and drive to Tivat. Dinner upon arrival. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 08**

**Day 8, Saturday, TIVAT to DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**

After breakfast, our journey takes us to Dubrovnik. On the way you will see Kotor Bay, the only South European fiord and we stop for orientation tour of old town Kotor, a UNESCO heritage Site. Continue to Dubrovnik. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 09**

**Day 9, Sunday, DUBROVNIK**

After the breakfast, walking tour of Old Dubrovnik visit the Rector's Palace, and see the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, the Dominican Monastery, and Franciscan Monastery with its Pharmacy, one of the oldest in the



world. The rest of the day is free. Optional Excursion: home hosted Dubelj with dinner. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 10**

**Day 10, Monday, to SPLIT**

Travel north along the spectacular Adriatic coast, past old fishing villages and new resorts, to the city of Split. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 11**

**Day 11, Tuesday, in SPLIT**

In the morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Then see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle, and the Cathedral. The rest of the day at leisure to stroll through the beautiful streets of Split, enjoy at the beach or join us on an Optional Excursion to Jet Set spot of rich and famous – Island of Hvar. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 12**

**Day 12, Wednesday, to TROGIR and PLITVICE LAKES**

After breakfast, head to Trogir, the center of artistic activities. Scholars from around the world gather here to study and paint. Then, turn inland and travel to spectacular Plitvice Lakes National Park. Have your camera ready as you take a walking tour around the lower lakes. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder of sixteen terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation. (B, D).

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 13**

**Day 13, Thursday, to OPATIJA, POSTOJNA, BLED, SLOVENIA**



Return to the coast and travel along the beautiful bay of Kvarner to its popular resort, Opatija. After a bit of free time, journey continue north to Postojna, home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterward, continue to Bled, beautifully set in the Julian Alps. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 14**

**Day 14, Friday, BLED**

An Alpine Lake surrounded by high peaks, Bled was discovered by travelers in the middle of the 19th century. A sightseeing tour features the charming town and the lakeshore, and visits imposing Bled Castle, perched on a cliff high above the lake. The balance of the day is at leisure. Perhaps join an optional excursion visiting the small island in the middle of the lake, browse through the shops and boutiques, or simply enjoy the enchanting scenery. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 15**

**Day 15, Saturday, to LJUBLJANA and ZAGREB, CROATIA**

Leave the mountains and head to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. See the most significant sights of the old city center on a walking tour. Highlights include the picturesque open-air Central Market, the Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, and Robba's Fountain. Then, continue to Zagreb, Croatia's capital city. (B, D)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 16**

**Day 16, Sunday, ZAGREB, CROATIA**

This morning, enjoy a city tour featuring the historic Upper Town, St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, Parliament, and Government Palace. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the winding streets of the old town or take an optional excursion to see the countryside. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast



**Day 17**

**Day 17, Monday, depart ZAGREB, CROATIA**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. (B)

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

Included Features:

First class hotels

Arrival transfer Athens' airport to the hotel on day 1

Departure transfer hotel to Zagreb airport on day 17

Breakfast daily and 10 dinners

Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach

Professional Tour Director throughout

Luggage handling (1 pc per person)

Whisper technology enhanced touring

Service charges and hotel taxes

Sightseeing Tours Included:

Athens

Kalambaka

Ohrid

Tirana

Kotor

Dubrovnik

Split

Plitvice Lakes

Postojna Cave

Bled

Zagreb

## Exclusions



International airfares

Optional activities

Other meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers

Travel and medical insurance

Any items not mentioned as included

## Note

Hotels:

Athens: Stanley (F)/ Titania (F) or similar

Kalambaka: Grand Meteora (F) or similar

Ohrid: Hotel Granit (F) or similar

Tirana: Colosseo (F) or similar

Tivat: Hotel Palma (F) or similar

Dubrovnik: Lero (F) or similar

Split: Hotel Corner (F) or similar

Plitvice: Hotel Jezero (F) or similar

Bled: Kompas (F)/ Bled Rose (F) or similar

Zagreb: Zonar (F) or similar

*Because of the narrow and cobbled streets, walking is the primary way of getting around. Please make sure you pack comfortable walking shoes.*

## Program Touring / Guide

Escorted Experience

## Fixed Departure



**21 Sep, 2024**

First Class Hotels

AUD 8,518 P P twin share

AUD 10,535 P P single

AVAILABLE

