



Magnificent Balkan Tour - 25 Days (#16496)

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-Bled-Zagreb-Belgrade-Craiova-Sibiu-Brasov-Bucharest

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 for a 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 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 your 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 the 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, the journey continues 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, to BELGRADE, SERBIA**

After breakfast, we will drive you to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Dinner, overnight. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 18**Day 18, Tuesday, in BELGRADE**

After breakfast, full day excursion from Belgrade: Our first stop is Krusedol monastery, founded in the beginning of the 16th century and considered one of Serbia's most significant monasteries. Continue to Sremski Karlovci, a picturesque town with its baroque and neoclassical houses and buildings. After the orientation tour, we will departure to one of the famous local wineries for lunch and wine tasting. Afterwards, we visit the intriguing Petrovaradin fortress, with its underground trenches and tunnels. The last stop is the city of Novi Sad, where we'll have a quick orientation tour and some free time before returning to Belgrade and your hotel. (B, L)

Meal: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 19**Day 19, Wednesday, in BELGRADE**

Your morning sightseeing tour includes a visit to the imposing Kalemegdan Fortress, dramatically set at the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers. You'll also see Republic Square and Knez Mihailova Street, Saint Sava Temple, the largest Orthodox Church in the city, and Tito's Memorial. Continue to Avala. The rest of the day is free. In the afternoon, Optional excursion to Topola, where George Petrovic, better known by his sobriquet Karadjordje, was chosen as the leader of the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. A very short drive away is the local St. George's Church, also known as Oplenac, the burial place of the Ducal and Royal Family of Serbia and Yugoslavia. After a lunch break (on own), we are going back to Belgrade. Evening is on own. (B)

Meal: Breakfast

Day 20**Day 20, Thursday, BELGRADE - DJERDAP – TURNU SEVERIN**

Drive towards the Golubac Fortress, to visit the fortified ten- tower town located on the hill slope, overlooking the Danube River. On for a cruise through the gorge, seeing the most beautiful sections of the Danube. Afterwards, we cross the border to Romania and heading to Turnu Severin for a dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 21**Day 21, Friday, TURNU SEVERIN – SIBIU**

Continue our journey via Hunedoara, where we visit one of the largest European Castles: the Corvinesti Castle. Dinner, overnight. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 22**Day 22, Saturday, SIBIU - SIGHISOARA – BRASOV**

Take a sightseeing tour of Sibiu, once the richest town in Transylvania. See the Huet Square, the Great Square, the Evangelical Cathedral, Liar's Bridge and more. On to Sighisoara, the best-preserved medieval city in southeastern Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. On a city tour, visit the famous Clock Tower Museum. Continue to Brasov, where a walking tour includes a visit to the First Romanian School Museum with an impressive collection of rare books, documents, and art. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 23**Day 23, Sunday, BRASOV – BUCHAREST**

Head to Bran for a visit to Bran Castle, made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the sinister vampire, Count Dracula. Continue toward Bucharest, stopping in Sinaia to visit Peles Castle, built as the summer residence of King Carol I. Afterward, visit the beautiful 17th-century Sinaia Monastery. End the day in Bucharest, known as "Little Paris." (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 24**Day 24, Monday, in BUCHAREST**

Get acquainted with the Romanian capital on a sightseeing tour. Visit the Parliament Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world and a National Treasure. Learn how the Romanian people finally succeeded in toppling the last communist dictator in Eastern Europe at the Revolution Square. The tour will also bring you to the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the National Military Club, the Military Academy, Triumphal Arch, and the Village Museum. Celebrate your Balkan Adventure tonight with a Farewell Dinner and folklore show. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 25**Day 25, Tuesday, depart BUCHAREST**

Check out from your hotel. (B)

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

Included Features:

First class hotels

Arrival transfer Athens' airport to the hotel on day 1

Departure transfer hotel to Bucharest airport on day 25

Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 16 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
Belgrade
Novi Sad
Craiova
Horezu
Sibiu
Sighisoara
Brasov
Bucharest

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: Park (F)/ Rikli Balance (F) or similar
- Zagreb: Zonar (F) or similar
- Belgrade: Hotel Moskva/ Courtyard by Marriott (F) or similar
- Turnu Severin: Continental Drobeta (SF) or similar
- Sibiu: Continental Forum/ Golden Tulip (ST) or similar
- Brasov: Aro Palace (F) or similar
- Bucharest: Hilton Garden Inn (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 12,104 P P twin share

AUD 15,540 P P single

AVAILABLE

