



Exploring Balkan Tour - 17 Days (#16499)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **27-05-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Trip Highlights

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

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

Day 1, Sunday, Arrival ZAGREB, CROATIA

On arrival at ZAGREB airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is free. Meet your fellow travelers tonight at Welcome Dinner (D)

Meal: Dinner

Day 02

Day 2, Monday, ZAGREB



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 03

Day 3, Tuesday, to LJUBLJANA & BLEĐ, SLOVENIA

After breakfast head towards 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 Bled. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 04

Day 4, Wednesday, BLEĐ

An Alpine Lake surrounded by high peaks, Bled was "discovered" by travelers in the middle of the 19th century. Since then, a small town of hotels, villas, and restaurants has developed around the lake, turning Bled into a lively, all-seasons resort. 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 relax and enjoy the enchanting scenery. (B)

Meal: Breakfast

Day 05

Day 5, Thursday, to POSTOJNA to OPATIJA & PLITVICE, CROATIA

Journey continues to Postojna, home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterward, continue to the coast, have a stop in Opatija. Enjoy the walking tour of this fashionable resort in the 19th century, dotted with Habsburg era villas. After some free time, continue towards Plitvice Lakes. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 06

Day 6, Friday, to SPLIT

After breakfast, 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. After the tour, head to Split. Overnight in Split (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 07

Day 7, Saturday, 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 08

Day 8, Sunday, to DUBROVNIK

After breakfast travel to Dubrovnik. Day at leisure (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 09

Day 9, Monday, in 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 or join us for Optional Excursion home hosted Dubelj with dinner. (B)

NOTE: Because of the narrow and historic roads in Dubrovnik, walking is the primary way of getting around. Pack good walking shoes.



Meal: Breakfast

Day 10**Day 10, Tuesday, to TIVAT, MONTENEGRO**

After breakfast, our journey takes us to Montenegro viewing Kotor Bay, the only South European fiord and tour of old town Kotor, a UNESCO heritage Site. On to Tivat for the night. (B,D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11**Day 11, Wednesday, to TIRANA, ALBANIA**

After breakfast we leave Tivat and drive via Budva and Bar towards town of Shkodra, nowadays a major Albanian 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 the Rozafa Castle, magnificently situated on a rocky outcrop of limestone high above the city. Continue drive to Tirana (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12**Day 12, Thursday, TIRANA**

On a 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 13**Day 13, Friday, to OHRID, the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA**

Drive to the lakeside resort of Ohrid, an important cultural and spiritual center, classified as UNESCO's World Heritage site. Enjoy sightseeing tour will take you strolling through the cobblestone streets of the old town. Visit the Cathedral of St. Sofia, containing some magnificent frescoes from the 10th century. (B,D)



Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 14

Day 14, Saturday, to KALAMBAKA, GREECE

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. We will visit either Roussanou or the Great Meteoro*. On to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15

Day 15, Sunday, to ATHENS

Your first stop 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 Athens. (B)

Meal: Breakfast

Day 16

Day 16, Monday, 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. Join us for Farewell Taverna Dinner in the Plaka beside the Acropolis. (B,D)

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 17

Day 17, Tuesday, departure ATHENS, GREECE

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

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

Included Features:

First class hotels

Arrival transfer Zagreb airport to hotel on day 1

Departure transfer hotel to Athens 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:

Zagreb

Bled

Postojna Cave

Plitvice Lakes

Split

Dubrovnik

Kotor

Tirana

Ohrid

Kalambaka

Athens

Exclusions



International airfares

Optional activities

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

Personal equipment

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers

Travel and medical insurance

Any items not mentioned as included

Note

Hotels:

- Zagreb: Zonar (F) or similar
- Bled: Kompas (F)/ Bled Rose (F) or similar
- Plitvice: Jezero (F) or similar
- Split: Hotel Corner (F) or similar
- Dubrovnik: Lero (F) or similar
- Tivat: Palma (F) or similar
- Tirana: Colloseo (F) or similar
- Ohrid: Granit (F) or similar
- Kalambaka: Grand Meteora (F) or similar
- Athens: Stanley (F)/ Titania (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.

**Due to border crossing conditions and opening times of the monasteries, the exact monastery that we will visit be determined at the spot.*

Program Touring / Guide

Escorted Experience



Fixed Departure

16 Jun, 2024

First Class Hotels

AUD 8,682 P P twin share

AUD 10,700 P P single

AVAILABLE

28 Jul, 2024

First Class Hotels

AUD 9,226 P P twin share

AUD 11,972 P P single

AVAILABLE

08 Sep, 2024

First Class Hotels

AUD 8,939 P P twin share

AUD 11,446 P P single

AVAILABLE

