



# BALKAN & EASTERN EUROPE TOURS

Season 2023



**Balkan**  
&more

# About us

**Balkan&more** is a brand of **TOUR OPERATOR L.L.C.** - one of the region's leading Destination Management Companies, specialized in travel to the Balkans and Southeast Europe. We offer a wide range of DMC services for tour operators and individual clients including, but not limited to:

- Scheduled & tailor-made multi-day tours
- Private & shared daily excursions
- Active, Adventure & Family travel
- FIT and group accommodation
- Land transfers: private cars, mini-vans, mini-buses, coaches
- Premium boat tours
- Corporate travel
- Meetings & Events
- Incentives & Team Buildings
- Sports events, training camps

Our brands and branch offices:

**Balkan&more** provides extraordinary private and small group experiences, combining the very gems of the region into scheduled or tailor-made tours. Our mission is to provide our clients with an unparalleled level of personalized service, so that they may enjoy seamless travel arrangements throughout the region.

**Customice** provides a full spectrum of MICE services throughout the Balkans. From designing incentives, arranging meetings, product launch events, gala dinners, company anniversaries to organizing conferences, congresses, seminars and workshops. We provide a luxury or business type of transportation, plan every element of corporate travel, meticulously craft programs for team buildings and will gladly create any kind of special event that you may have.

**Serbia Tour Operator DMC** is a Serbia-based branch office of Tour Operator L.L.C. Location in Belgrade, the biggest city, transportation hub and main business centre at the Balkans, allows Serbia Tour Operator DMC to focus on organization and operation of a wide range of leisure, business or sports-connected activities within Serbia and region.

**Boccatto DMC** is a Montenegro-based branch office of Tour Operator L.L.C. Boccatto DMC is an exclusive agency that caters to the finest hospitality, culture and business travellers, ensuring they receive the maximum level of service and experiences throughout the Adriatic region.

**Balkan**  
&more









## BALKAN the best kept secret destination in Europe!

The Balkan peninsula for centuries has been the area where great empires and religions confronted, where main routes to East and West met and where nations mixed and co-existed. Influence of Roman, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires is now seen in riches and varieties of language, traditions, cuisine and cultural heritage. From Roman chambers to Turkish fortifications, from Habsburg palaces to medieval Orthodox monasteries: numerous monuments and locations are protected by states and UNESCO.

Mediterranean, continental and mountain climate impacted on presence of fantastic contrasts on this relatively small land. Picturesque mountainous villages, sandy shores and

great rivers valleys, numerous national parks and natural monuments will take your breath away!

Food is another aspect that makes you want to visit the Balkans! Nowhere in Europe you will find such a diverse gastronomic offer. Moreover the Balkans up to these days represent a rare oasis where organic food is a part of everyday meal.

Finally, traditional Balkan hospitality, fantastic night life and clubs on seashores or rivers, live music in authentic kafanas and taverns, ingenuous and open-minded local people are just several things that you will find in the Balkans, the best kept secret-destination in Europe!





# Content

Balkan and Eastern Europe Tours  
Season 2023

<b>2</b>	<b>About Us</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Balkan – The Best Kept Secret Destination in Europe</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Why Book with Us?</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Your Local Experts</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Experience Balkan</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Engage in Balkan Traditions</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Taste Balkan Flavours</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Balkan Essentials 6N/7D</b> Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Croatia
<b>22</b>	<b>Balkan Essentials 9N/10D</b> Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Croatia
<b>28</b>	<b>Balkan Extended 12N/13D</b> Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro
<b>34</b>	<b>Balkan Extended with Budapest 13N/14D</b> Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro
<b>40</b>	<b>Balkan &amp; Adriatic 9N/10D</b> Serbia, Flight to Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia
<b>46</b>	<b>The Best of Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria 11N/12D</b> Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria
<b>52</b>	<b>Hidden Balkan – 7 Countries 13N/14D</b> Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria
<b>58</b>	<b>Hidden Balkan with Greece 14N/15D</b> Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Greece
<b>64</b>	<b>Balkan Grand Circle – 16 Days</b> Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Montenegro, Croatia
<b>72</b>	<b>Balkan Grand Circle with Adriatic – 19 Days</b> Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Montenegro, Croatia
<b>80</b>	<b>Imperial Cities of Europe – 6 Countries 8N/9D</b> Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia
<b>84</b>	<b>Imperial Cities of Europe – 8 Countries 11N/12D</b> Serbia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia
<b>90</b>	<b>Discover Serbia</b> Serbia
<b>94</b>	<b>General Tour Info</b>

# Why book with us?



## **We Know The Balkans**

We are based in Belgrade and have travelled the length and breadth of the Balkans. We know every inch of the region and have picked the most beautiful and scenic destinations for you to visit. Our primary focus and expertise is bringing travelers to the most magnificent locations, equipping them with the most relevant historical and current information and ensuring that they have a safe and comfortable traveling experience.



## **Authentic Experiences**

We are very proud of the paramount importance of the Balkan region in the formation of the historical heritage of Europe. Rich with vast natural abundance, ethnic, linguistic, religious, social and political diversity, and warm hospitality which is characteristic for the region, the Balkan remains an inspiration for travelers worldwide.



## **Reliable Suppliers**

Over the years, we have worked diligently to make our local network of hotels, museums, transportation services, and tour guides see us as lifetime partners. Every person or organization involved in the operation of our tour is personally invested and is genuinely trying to make our tours the best possible experience for our clients. We work only with reliable local suppliers and, after many years of successful collaboration, we now call them our partners.



## **Experience and Expertise**

Our experience and expertise are closely linked to the quality of work that we have been producing over the years. Our goal from the beginning has been to elevate the traveling experience to the highest level possible, while keeping competitive pricing schemes. Our returning travelers are a confirmation that we are good at what we do. Years of experience have qualified us to be one of the best tour operators in the Balkans.



## **No Hidden Information**

Trust and respect are of outmost importance to us. There is no small print (or additional fees) when booking a tour with us. We will provide you and your clients with all the information you need and stay behind all the information that you have received. We are at your service anytime, for any questions that you may have. We will be happy to assist you!



## **Guides That Are the Best at What They Do**

Our guides will share with your clients all of their precious knowledge accumulated through their travels. History facts, traveling tips and tricks, combined with anecdotes, and local cultural experience, will make their trip a long-lasting memory.





### **Balanced Tours**

Our programs are carefully created, so that we can allow your travelers to have enough time to explore cities on their own pace. We pride ourselves in creating programs that take your travelers to the most popular and significant sights, while also allowing them to have plenty of free time to independently explore locations on their own. Balance is key, which is why we combine rich storytelling and planned agendas with a relaxed, independent approach where clients are able to set their own pace and get immersed into nature on their own.



### **Office on Hand 24/7**

We pride ourselves in always being available to assist your clients throughout their journey. All travelers will receive full support prior, during or after the trip. They can feel free to contact us at any time if they need help or have any questions. We are always happy to help them and ensure that they have the best experience possible!



### **Comfortable Stay is a Priority**

Our priority is having your clients stay in the best 4\* and 5\* hotels, ensuring that they have the highest quality accommodation possible. After exploring various destinations, we want to make sure that your travelers are well rested and they have everything they need in order to continue their journey relaxed and happy.



### **Small Groups**

Your clients will have the advantage to get to know the Balkans in small groups with English and Spanish speaking guides. A unique small group travel experience (max. 20-25) allows your clients to get to know the destination, local culture and cuisine better, have a more direct relationship with our tour managers and guides, and of course enjoy more free time.

# Your Local Experts

**Balkan&more** IS A TEAM OF PEOPLE UNITED BY EXPERIENCE, RELIABILITY, DILIGENCE AND, WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, BY LOVE FOR THE BALKANS. WE ARE REALLY PROUD OF OUR SOULFUL PENINSULA AND WANT MORE PEOPLE TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE RICHES OF BALKAN NATURE, OPEN-HEARTED PEOPLE, DELICIOUS FEAST AND CENTURIES OF HISTORY.

## Slobodan Tour guide

To move forward not only you need to learn about the past, you also need to walk through paths of those times and try to relive them all. I began my journey 15 years ago, discovering hidden gems of Europe and honoring the past which shaped them better than I could ever imagine. The more I discovered, the more questions surfaced. How has Dubrovnik endured all this time? Could Adriatic Sea be more blue and strong or its coast even more magnificent? Why do dragons stand on the bridge in Ljubljana? What are the secrets of



Munich's best brew beer? Was Danube River so jealous of beautiful Budapest so it had to cut the city in half? Did someone paint the town of Hallstatt and breathe a life in it? Was Dracula a real person? Walk in his castle and its walls will make you believe.

There are so many questions out there and, perhaps, my mission is to show you how to take in all of these stories searching for answers.

## Hristina Tour guide

When it comes to traveling, it is all about passion, passion for knowledge, for new experiences, for meeting different kind of people or catching perfect sunsets. When it comes to travelling, it is all about creating memories in the bar with the best gin tonic in Belgrade, hidden coffee place near the mosque in Mostar where the



past meets the present and you can taste Turkish coffee and the best elderflower cordial ever. When it comes to traveling, it is all about breathtaking landscapes in Plitvice, homemade pasta in Opatija and glass of wine with Diocletian's palace view in Split while you smiling at strangers. I am Hristina and those are my little short cuts to happiness, my little secrets to make you love the unique place in Universe, my place in Universe. The Balkans.

## Uroš Destination expert – Montenegro

Born and raised in Belgrade, after completing my formal education I decided to move to the coast and enjoy everything the sea has to offer. I moved from Serbia to Montenegro, where I had spent every summer as a child at my grandparents' house.

The years I have spent in the town of Herceg Novi have helped me get to the core of the local mentality, and today I will happily share all the secrets of Montenegro with my guests.



If you want to discover Boka Bay from both the land and the sea, I will make it happen – in addition to my expert local knowledge, I am a professional skipper with years of experience. I will take you to try the most delicious local food with pleasant hosts, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views, and I know just where the cleanest water in the Adriatic is! For an authentic experience of this hidden gem of the Balkans, I am the best man for the job.

## Dejan Tour guide

Hi! I am Dejan, your local expert! My adventurous spirit has taken me all around the globe, as both a traveler and a tourist guide!



Today, here I am, doing the thing I know best – helping people explore the Balkans and experience its true essence. My energy and enthusiasm have been guiding me through this job for almost two decades and I have even managed to teach my kids how to explore each destination we visit – tourism is not just my career, it is my way of life.



## Zorica

### In-office Balkan tours expert

Hi! I am Zorica and I was born and raised in Serbia. After traveling out and about of Europe, Serbia and ex-Yugoslavia, on my own, and spent a year in North Macedonia, I have decided to settle down in the office and share my vast experience as a traveler and a local and help other people not to miss a thing worth of visiting or seeing. When I am not in the office, I still enjoy trips with my family and seize every opportunity to go out of town. Today, I create customized itineraries for our clients, suggest hotels with superb service and recommend all the best local restaurants. Since I am on a gluten-free diet myself, I will gladly assist you in a search of a special meal restaurant or shop if necessary. As a mother of two, I know exactly what will keep your kids amused and interested.



Once you get on your adventure with us, I won't leave you and will still be available for any advice or assistance needed.

## Marko

### Tour guide

Hi, my name is Marko! I'm from Užice, a small city in Western Serbia, with rich history, edgy appearance and unique atmosphere. This city, nature surrounding it, my interest in history, and extrovert personality have led me to become a tourist guide. I love touring with travelers, getting to know them, sharing my stories and listening to theirs. When I am not on the tour I like spending time on one of many lakes of Western Serbia, steering my boat and absorbing peace of its beautiful landscapes. I absolutely enjoy watching history



movies and reading about past, and it is always great pleasure to share some lesser-known interesting facts and tales with tourists. My goal on every tour is to create fun and relaxing Balkan experience for our travelers and get them to learn something new and I believe I am quite good at it. I have been a guide and tour leader for 10 years now, and I am still doing it with the same enthusiasm as the very first year and for that I do consider myself very lucky.

## Milan

### Tour guide

My name is Milan and, as a child of mountain climbers, let me invite you to my playground. Should you choose to visit the region's natural wonders like Durmitor, Kopaonik or Fruška Gora, I'll be there to lead the way to hidden spots where you can enjoy the beauty of the scenery and untouched nature at its finest. If you're a Libra like me, it will be hard for you to pick just one, so let's explore them all. An ideal day for me is exploring new corners of the planet, and good travel companions are a must as I am extremely sociable and love to laugh.



Bring something sweet with you and we are sure to get along! Deciding to become a tour guide was an easy decision, and it will be my pleasure to

show you the beautiful Balkan region in which I was born and raised. Let's start with a cup of traditional black coffee in my favorite Belgrade neighborhood Dorćol. Just like ladies did in the good old days, we can read our future in the coffee grounds and see which path we should take. Just make sure you wear some comfortable shoes and unlock your spirit of adventure, I will take care of the rest.

## Jelena

### In-office Balkan tours expert

Born and raised in Southern, educated in Western and Northern part of Serbia, I moved to Belgrade, fell in love with it and naturally never left. Why would I? Belgrade has it all – from historical neighbourhoods and healing nature areas to awesome cultural and bar/pub scene. The vibe of this city is so seductive and I would be delighted to share with you the treasure of my adopted city. Nearly two decades in tourism have made it clear that my favourite part of the job is to be a host!

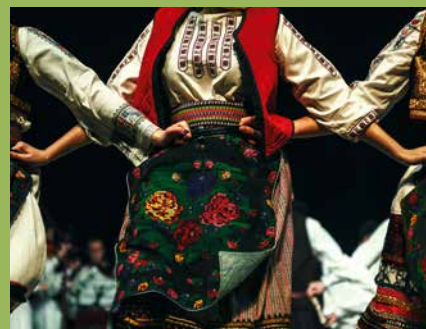


Chitchatting with guests, storytelling about interesting historical figures and moments, showing local rituals is the endless source of my energy. The fact that I'm always on the run explains why, when I'm not in the office creating new tours, you can find me guiding or researching some new thought-provoking anecdotes from the Balkan's heritage. I enjoy being on the lookout for new details which enliven facts, especially those connected to medieval era. It feels so good to spice up our tours and discover spectacular viewpoints and enchanting landscape of the Balkan's nature to you.





# Experience BALKAN



## Serbia Serbian Folklore Show

An authentic Serbian folklore show is full of color, from the beautiful craftsmanship in the traditional wear, the cheerful choreography accompanying the vibrant melodies, and the happy smiles of the dancers that brighten any room they walk into. The best part is, you will have the unique opportunity to savour the most delicious dishes in the Balkans, while having a fully immersive experience observing the spectacular “kolo” dance being performed. This UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, representing joy and unity, is the most prominent dance at weddings and family celebrations in Serbia.



## Serbia Rakija Tasting

What is wine for Frenchmen, beer for British, or vodka for Russians, Rakija is for Serbia. Authentic Serbian product, Rakija, is fruit brandy that may be even 55-60% strong! It is made of local fruits, first of all from plum, apple, raspberry, grape, apricot, pear... It has special taste when tried with cheese, smoked meat and similar specialties. After tasting this liquid gold and getting acquainted with the technology of production of one of the most famous brands of rakija, you will surely be able to say that you know what Serbian hospitality and local spirit are, literally and metaphorically.



## Bosnia

### Sarajevo Film Festival

The Sarajevo Film Festival is the leading film festival in the Balkan region, with a special focus on the region of South-East Europe. The mission of the Sarajevo Film Festival is to promote freedom of expression, tolerance and understanding between nations, ethnicities and people by providing a platform for the presentation of world cinema.



Every year in August, world-renowned actors, directors and producers gather alongside cinephiles to shine an international spotlight on films, talent and upcoming projects. Attracting audiences of over 100,000, the festival offers a great opportunity to experience high-quality programming, as well as paying special attention to young filmmakers and providing them with an educational and networking platform.

### Montenegro Šipčanik Wine Cellar

The Šipčanik Wine Cellar is perhaps one of the most unique places you will visit, set in the underground aircraft hangar of the Yugoslav People's Army. One of the biggest wine producers in Eastern Europe from Podgorica, Montenegro



started the reconstruction of the underground facility that is today a wine cellar and a wonderfully arranged area for special events. The 2007 restoration of the aviation hangar marks a new era of wine tourism in Montenegro, setting in motion a popular site for conferences, family gatherings and special events.



## Bosnia

### Home hosted Cooking Class

You have surely heard about the incredibly warm hospitality of Bosnians, and now you will have the opportunity to be a guest in their home and prepare an authentic three-course dinner using the freshest, local ingredients and authentic recipes. Enjoy traditional drinks, Bosnian coffee, Herzegovina wine or plum brandy in a joyous and happy atmosphere. Spend your time learning about the history and culture of Bosnia while enjoying the conversation with a local, Bosnian family that will happily share the secrets of Bosnian cuisine and the preparation of meals that have been passed down by generations and generations in history.



## Montenegro

### Tara rafting

Imagine a river in emerald green and turquoise color variations surrounded by lush and vibrant nature. Now, imagine having a rafting adventure on that same river, full of joy, excitement and exhilaration. Being a part of a team, you will have the most experienced guides be there for you every step of the way for the 22 km ride that stretches from Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The idea of this tour is to show you the spectacular nature surrounding you, while paddling down the river and to enjoy a great conversation. Break ties with urban life and give yourself the present of nature, adventure, sport, and teamwork.





## Croatia

### Olive Oil Tasting

We would like to provide you with the most unique experiences that you can possibly find and one of them surely is an olive tasting experience taking place in a gorgeous garden offering an all around immersive experience combining nature, food and history. Welcome to a family estate that has grown olives, figs, and has produced the finest quality olive oil and wine since the mid 20th century. The sweetest part of this family story is that they have carefully collected traditional desert recipes long safeguarded by families and joyfully make them for the visitors, inspiring a culinary legacy that will continue for many, many years to follow. You will be in awe, once you visit the scenic botanical collection, take a tour of the manufactory where the sweets are handmade, explore the lush Mediterranean garden, and visit the olive oil museum.



## Croatia

### Sailing in Croatia

Offering everything from relaxing cruises to action-packed adventures, Croatia is truly the perfect destination for any sailing experience. The Dalmatian Coast is long and has countless inlets and coves that offer a variety of approaches to the charming islands, making it the perfect place to explore from the sea. Even during the busiest time of year, when weather is perfect, you may still discover serene anchorages hidden in this beautiful archipelago of Croatia. With a feel similar to that of the

French Riviera, it is no surprise that this idyllic Mediterranean haven has been named the "Croatian Riviera". Split is the country's second-largest city and the ideal place to start a sailing tour as it is close to some of the most popular and well-known islands, such as Hvar, Brač and Korčula. Another significant sailing destination is undoubtedly Dubrovnik – an ancient city dating back to the 7th century when it was called Ragusa, more recently it is known for being a filming location for the Game of Thrones series.



## Slovenia

### Lipica Tour

For an absolutely unique equestrian experience, tour the original stud farm of one of the oldest cultural horse breeds – The Lipizzan horse breed. Established in 1580, the Lipica farm demonstrates the haute école or "high school" movements of classical dressage, in an ethereally beautiful setting of pastures and meadows. Travel back in time as you discover a period in history when the horse was considered an ideal and it represented a crucial strategic advantage. This tour would be the perfect tour for animal lovers! The history of Lipica Stud Farm is so rich that it tells a thousand different stories of cultural and natural heritage. Combine that with scenic nature and the beauty of the horses in the pastures, and you have a recipe for a relaxed and enjoyable day.



## Hungary

### Thermal Bath & Spa

In the land of thermal waters and spa culture, paying a visit to at least one wellness center is a must when planning

a trip to Hungary. With more than 1,500 mineral springs known to have medical benefits, visitors can receive hydrotherapy and other treatments. Hungary's spa culture is more than 2,000 years old, dating back to the Romans, and further developed and enhanced under the Ottoman influence. To this day, the historical character has been preserved. Not only providing recreation, rejuvenation and relaxation, but also a beautiful spectacle, these peaceful havens are located in alluring buildings that are more than a hundred years old. To add to the wonder of the architecture, many feature an octagonal pool beneath a classic cupola through which natural light bounces off the water beneath.

## North Macedonia

### Matka Lake & Canyon and Boat Ride

Lake Matka is a unique natural spot due to its beauty and the opportunities it presents. Nestled in the northwestern part of North Macedonia, the lake is located on the Treska river, just 15km from the capital city of Skopje. It is the oldest artificial lake in the country, the majority of which was built in 1938. Lake Matka provides an ideal environment for lovers of extreme sports, with climbing and mountaineering on the steep sedimentary rocks rising high above the lake a popular activity. This destination has also been recognized as one of the top fishing spots in North Macedonia. However the adventures do not stop at the surface of the lake, they venture deep into the waters of Matka Canyon.



The underwater cave Vrelo is one of the deepest in Europe, with a depth of more than 203 meters. Locals recommend taking a boat ride to fully admire the stunning cliffs of Matka Canyon, which sharply cut into the serene surface of the lake. The beautiful landscape, with its unique geological and speleological features, and the interesting flora and fauna make Lake Matka and Matka Canyon an ideal destination for those seeking adventure or relaxation.





## Bulgaria

### Rila Mountain Trail (Seven Rila Lakes Hiking)

To compete with the Seven Wonders of the World, Bulgaria has an ace up its sleeve – the Seven Rila Lakes. Without a doubt one of the most notable attractions on the Balkan Peninsula, the beauty of these lakes touches thousands of Bulgarian and international visitors who spend their holidays there. Set amidst rugged mountains and abundant with wildlife, this region is a dream destination not to be missed. A natural wonder of astounding beauty, these glacial lakes are located in the Dangskiya region of the northwestern Rila Mountains. They are scattered at the foot of a massive cirque that includes the peaks Suhi Chal (Dry Peak), Otovishki, and Haramiya. The lakes have been named for their shapes and qualities. The highest of them is Tear Lake, which gained its name for its crystal-clear water. The lowest lake is appropriately called Lower Lake, and it feeds the Dzherman river. One of the most famous tourist trails in the country, the Rila Lakes make a memorable hiking adventure for all nature lovers.



## Romania

### Bran (Dracula) and Peleş Castles

Feel like you are jumping into the pages of a fairytale and explore the two most famous castles in Romania – Bran Castle, also known as Dracula's Castle, and Peleş Castle, the summer residence of the Romanian royal family. Bran Castle is the former residence of the Romanian royal family and more commonly known as Dracula's Castle. This Gothic fortress built in the 13th century, set strategically atop a 60-meter cliff, provides visitors with an irresistible journey back to Middle Ages and an era that inspired Bram Stoker's novel Dracula. When King Carol I of Romania visited the location on which the beautiful Peleş Castle now stands, he was amazed by the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains. The castle is considered a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece. In addition to the magnificent exterior with hand-painted stained-glass windows and numerous sculptures surrounding the castle, the interior of over 160 rooms was decorated by more than 400 artisans and artists.

## Greece

### Greek Night

Party your problems away just like Zorba the Greek. The nightlife in Greece is as varied as it is vibrant. In Athens, the old neighborhood of Plaka, in the shadow of the Acropolis, is full of colorful restaurants where you can enjoy great Greek food and performances of traditional folk dances – make sure to break some plates for good luck! Competing with Athens is the second largest city in Greece – Thessaloniki. This lively city, with its rich history, prides itself as the country's capital of nightlife. There you will find the perfect mix of traditional taverns and contemporary restaurants, as well as bustling bars and cafés and an eclectic music scene. Of course, the best way to see which is better is to check them both out.



## Albania

### Bunk'Art Museum

Originally built as underground bunkers, the Bunk'Art museum now serves as a symbol of the political history of Albania. Separated into two museums, each represents one significant part of the history of Shqipëria. Bunk'Art 1 presents the political paranoia during the rule of Enver Hoxha, Albania's former dictator and leader of the country's brutal communist government, and shows the daily lives of the people during the communist regime. Bunk'Art 2 is more focused on the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and reveals the secrets of the "Sigurimi", the political police used by Enver Hoxha.





# Engage BALKAN *traditions*

**Serbia** has a rich heritage including some centuries old traditions, celebrations and rituals. For such a kind hearted nation, the traditions are mostly centered around joy, happiness, respect, love and community. One of the biggest Christian holidays is Easter and traditionally Serbs greet each other with a "Hristos Voskrese", honoring a very special Easter Sunday with their families and placing beautifully decorated eggs in a basket for the whole family to enjoy.



A very fun custom is the competition among family members and friends to find the strongest egg, as they crack the eggs one against another in a festive competition. Moving from spring to autumn, Serbia enjoys one of the most wonderful times of the year celebrating the patron Saints (slava) of each home with delicious food, music, laughter and all dear and near around. To make things even sweeter, Serbian slava is included in UNESCO's list as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity. For a turn on more informal and modern traditions, the flourishing "café culture" takes center stage in Serbia, connecting friends and family over pure and warm beverages to be enjoyed during all seasons.



**Bosnians** are very family oriented and enjoy hosting old and new friends at their home. If you are ever invited for a feast, you can expect to be treated as family, having the best seat in the house and enjoying warmly prepared food and beverages. From coffee to sweets, to home prepared food, Bosnians are known to treat their guests with a lot of care and attention. The main cities of **Bosnia** are very vibrant and have a stunning mix of tradition and heritage, but also a flourishing café and “kafana” culture.



Getting to the heart of Bosnia, it is all about generosity, warmth, excitement, joy and sharing incredible drinks and food while being surrounded with all near and dear. The picturesque city of Mostar, holds a unique tradition each year as young men jump off the Stari Most Bridge, to literally “jump” into manhood. While in the past, the privilege to jump was open only to locals, today the city of Mostar is open to all citizens of the world inducting them in the Mostar Diving Hall of Fame if the jump is successful.

**Slovenia** has immense natural abundance and has developed beekeeping to be a flourishing activity inspiring further artful creations such as the decorations of a beehive. It is very unique that one of the most popular crafts in the country is lace making,



practiced in 129 locations across this small country, motivating Slovenia's citizens to hone their creative skills. The small town of Piran on the

spectacular coast of the Adriatic, is blooming thanks to its fleur de sel and salt production using centuries-old-salt-making processes, natural crystallization, and working by hand. Labor Day is particularly respected and celebrated, taking place on May 1st and 2nd. The tradition is to decorate a May tree, which is a wooden pole with a wheel decorated with flowers and colorful ribbons fixed on its top. According to beliefs, the May tree is the axis of the world around which the universe revolves. In autumn, the Old Vine festival takes place in the city of Maribor, a home to its 450 year old wine, one of the oldest wines on the planet.

## Greek Tradition

Greek culture is thousands of years old and the ancient Greeks built the pillars of modern society – democracy; philosophy from Plato and Aristotle; mathematics from Pythagoras; theater from Sophocles; and sporting competitions, such as the Olympic Games.



With 18 UNESCO sites and more archaeological museums than any other country, Greece is one of the most culturally rich countries of the world. As a Christian country, Greece has several sites of pilgrimage such as Meteora and Mount Athos, on which more than 20 monasteries can be found. On the island of Crete (the biggest among the 6,000 Greek islands) the remains of the Minoan civilization can be found. The island is best known from the Greek myth of the Labyrinth and the Minotaur. If you head to the town of Delphi on the mainland, you can explore the ancient seat of Pythia, an oracle who was asked for her advice on important decisions throughout the ancient world. On the other side of the Corinthian Bay, another archaeological site can be found in the mountains – Mycenae. This is said to be the residence of Agamemnon, the mythical king whom Homer sang about in the Iliad.

## Hungarian Tradition

Although a part of European history as a whole, the role of Hungary in creating the more recent history of the region is far greater than its current size and population let on. While shifting between monarchy and republic and living under several influences, such as Roman, Christian, Ottoman and Austrian, the Magyars have been able to preserve their heritage and tradition, and leave a mark with their distinct culture and customs.



The once-famous province of the Roman Empire called Pannonia gradually evolved into the Pannonian Basin, also called the Great Hungarian Plain, with its borders roughly corresponding to those of modern Hungary. After embracing Christianity in the 10th century and forming the Christian Kingdom of Hungary, the Magyars were ruled by the Árpád dynasty for the following three centuries. The extinction of the dynasty marked the end of the Hungarian Kingdom, with its territories gradually reduced with the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. Eventually, the remains of the former kingdom became part of the Habsburg Empire, and the lost territory was recovered with the conclusion of the Great Turkish War, thus the whole of Hungary came under Habsburg rule. Later, by joining with the Austrian Empire, Hungary elevated its status to a joint monarchy, forming Austria-Hungary, a major European power until the early 20th century. After the First World War and the dissolution of the monarchy, followed by the loss of some of its territories, Hungary shifted again between monarchy and republic, before becoming the Third Republic of Hungary in 1989. European Union membership followed in 2004.

The Hungarian endonym is Magyarország, composed of “magyar” (Hungarian) and “ország” (country). The word “magyar”, which refers to the Hungarian people, mirrors the name of the country in some other languages including Turkish (Magyaristan or Land of Magyars).





# Taste **BALKAN** *flavours*



## Serbian Cuisine

The traditional Serbian cuisine is one of the heartiest and freshest in the world, wrapping you up in pure joy as you savor every bite. The most beautiful and intriguing thing about it is that it represents a subtle mix of the Byzantine-Greek, Mediterranean, Turkish-Oriental, and Austro-Hungarian cuisine. Stuffed cabbage leaves with minced meat and rice sarma (pictured), grilled meats with a delicious flavor that can be found only in the Balkans (roštilj), a fresh and seasonal variety of soups and stews, homemade kajmak (creamy, dairy product specific to the region), ajvar and kačamak (corn porridge) served with warm milk are only a few examples of Serbia's extraordinary cuisine.



## Bosnia Cuisine

The Bosnian cuisine is one of the world's most famous due to the delicious melting of flavors, reflecting the distinct influences from the 400 year long Ottoman rule and the sweet, and light wind from the Mediterranean. The hands down best thing you can try in Bosnia is ćevapi (pictured), small, oblong-shaped kebabs made from lamb and beef, served in a somun with raw onions and sour cream on the side. For those whose favorite meal of the day is breakfast, you will enjoy homemade burek, a flaky and tender pastry with meat, cheese or spinach filling.





## Croatian Cuisine

Imagine sun-soaked, fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs on the coast of the Adriatic, rich with flavor and picked off of Croatia's abundant fields and valleys. "Pepper in" influences from Vienna, Turkey, and Italy mixed with Greek, Roman, Illyrian and Mediterranean flavors and let your taste and imagination travel across centuries of natural and cultural heritage.



From the sensational variety of fish, octopus and shellfish, to fresh cottage cheese dishes, Dalmatian dry-cured ham (pršut), a spicy, flavored sausage called kulen, delicious black risotto, and pasta with fabulous local truffles (pictured), this jewel offers beautiful dishes even for the most sophisticated food aficionados of the world.



## Slovenian Cuisine

The tastes of Slovenia are closely connected to nature, its green territory a wonderful foundation for organic and healthy produce. Vegetables from lush gardens, grains from local valleys, fruits from orchards and forests, traditionally prepared meat dishes, dairy goods from pastures and honey produced by the world-renowned Slovenian honeybees. Think about a food paradise made of the freshest, local ingredients with a taste that clearly indicates that you are sampling high quality food derived from

a natural source. Some specialties that you will enjoy in Slovenia are dairy and honey products from the foot of the Alps, the Carniolan sausage, potica (pictured), Prekmurian layer cake, Karst delicacies, as well as a variety of incredible wild herbs such as sage, fennel, chamomile, thyme and mint. Prepare to enrich your senses as you enjoy the best of nature!

## Montenegrin Cuisine

The Montenegrin cuisine is a beautiful blend of its contrasting regions, the Mediterranean climate in the south, and high mountainous region in the north.



The lightness of the southern region is best represented with the juicy flavors of vibrant oranges, lemons, figs, fish and oysters. The natural abundance in mountain region lies in the variety of meats and dairy that the local animals provide. Naturally living in those hills, they are eating healthily and breathing fresh air which certainly contributes to the high quality of the products. Add the influence from the Venetians, the Ottomans, and the Austro-Hungarians and you will understand the exceptional authenticity and high quality of this cuisine: "njeguški pršut" (pictured), lamb, veal and creamy cheeses from the mountains, colorful fishes from the Adriatic Sea, olives and wine from the south, sarma and baklava as culinary influences from Turkey, and home-made bread similar to the pane casareccio variety in Italy.





6 Nights / 7 Days

# BALKAN ESSENTIALS

Serbia – Bosnia – Montenegro – Croatia

- Travel back in time on Ćira, the retro train that rides along the Šargan 8 heritage railway
- Blend in with the locals in the vibrant Baščaršija bazaar in Sarajevo
- Enjoy a boat ride to the charming islet Our lady of the Rocks in Perast
- Try to find all the Game of Thrones filming locations in Dubrovnik





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower.

Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel.



Skadarska Street

Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for

its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the



St. Sava Temple

stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava river meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia'

train which runs along the narrow-gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on a route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden-town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others. After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel.

## Day 4

### Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina river near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's novel The Bridge on the Drina and in honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called



Sarajevo

Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Tereščenko. After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel. After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in Europe. Next you will head on to the Latin Bridge where Gavrilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War. After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

## Day 5

### Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva river, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairytale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna. The next destination of the day is

Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the



world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

## Day 6

### Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Breakfast and check-out. This day is devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop at the town of Perast, a little settlement baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. The next destination is Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in



the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems. Hotel check-in and overnight.

## Day 7

### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



### GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Wooden-town and Blagaj
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan eight\*
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad superior 4\* / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar



9 Nights / 10 Days

# BALKAN ESSENTIALS

Serbia – Bosnia – Montenegro – Croatia

- Experience the welcoming vibes of Belgrade
- Walk across the bridge over the Drina, described by Nobel Prize winning writer Ivo Andrić
- Feel the charm of Kotor's Old Town – one of Europe's "must-see" destinations
- Listen to the peaceful sounds of the stunning waterfalls of National Park Plitvice Lakes







*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

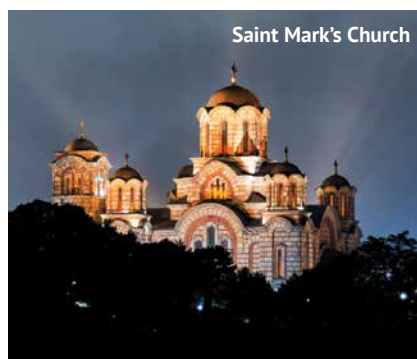
## Day 2

### Leisure day

#### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for

its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive



building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava river meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from

aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow-gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on a route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others. After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor



Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel.

## Day 4

### Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina river near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's novel The Bridge on the Drina and in

honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Tereščenko. After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel. After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in



Bridge on the Drina

Europe. Next you will head on to the Latin Bridge where Gavrilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War. After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

## Day 5

### Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar



Mostar

for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva river, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairytale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna. The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years



Blagaj

back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

## Day 6

### Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Breakfast and check-out. This day is

devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop at the town of Perast, a little settlement baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century.



Kotor

A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. The next destination is Dubrovnik, one of the most popular destinations in the world. After check-in at the hotel, use your free time to rest or head out for an evening stroll to Stradun, the main street of Dubrovnik. Enjoy walking the illuminated streets, surrounded by white stone, and take the opportunity to dine on fresh seafood in the fantastic setting of this incredibly romantic city. Overnight in the hotel.

## Day 7

### Dubrovnik - Split

Breakfast. Start sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real



must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems. At the end of the tour, you will have time to sit and enjoy a coffee at one of the charming piazzas or explore Dubrovnik on your own.



At 2pm we continue further. Drive along the beautiful Makarska coast - with wonderful views of Croatian islands, wine & olive plantations and stone-made villages. Afternoon arrival in Split, the largest Dalmatian city, founded 1700 years ago, with a well preserved, enormously rich history. Check-in at your hotel. In the evening, relax in the charming Mediterranean atmosphere and while your free time enjoy coffee or dinner in a restaurant by the sea.

## Day 8 Split – Šibenik – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Breakfast and check-out. Split sightseeing tour - your guide will lead you through the narrow streets of Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO Heritage Site), built in the 4th century for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and show you former Temple of Jupiter in the central square of the imperial complex. Today, the temple is now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral that remains in use in its original structure. You will also pass through the Golden and Silver Gates and walk around lively markets and Riva, the city's shopping zone. The tour will then head towards Plitvice, with a short break in Šibenik, a medieval



Venetian city famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the city walls. It is home to many significant landmarks, among which the Cathedral of Saint James (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), constructed by locals for hundreds of years, has a special place. Šibenik is the perfect place for a short break. Spend your free time strolling through the charming streets and enjoying lunch in a square surrounded by Venetian architecture.



In the late afternoon, you will arrive at world-famous destination - Plitvice Lakes National Park. In the refreshing atmosphere, you can relax and enjoy dinner either in the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby.

## Day 9 Plitvice Lakes National Park – Zagreb

Breakfast. Start exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park, a beautiful park that contains 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On old maps, it was called 'Devil's Garden' and it is the first site in the Balkans to get UNESCO World Heritage status. You will enjoy a 3-hour guided tour that includes a visit to the upper and lower lakes. While swimming is forbidden, you will find the best places for relaxing and contemplating the untouched beauty of this lush paradise. The final stop on this great Balkan tour is the Croatian capital, Zagreb. This small



gem of European culture and civilisation is located in the heart of the continent. Sightseeing around Zagreb, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him.

## Day 10 Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Wooden Town and Blagaj
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan eight \*\*
- 3 hour tour to Plitvice Lakes National Park, includes entrance tickets, boat ride and tram ride
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

- 2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Split** in Hotel Globo 4\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Art 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Grabovac 3\* / Hotel Macola 3\* or similar\*
- 1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton 4\* / Hotel International 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

- 2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad superior 4\* / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Split** in Hotel Radisson Blu Resort & Spa 4\* / Hotel Cornaro 4\* / Hotel Jupiter Heritage 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Degenija 4\* / Hotel 16 lakes 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel Esplanade 5\* / Hotel Sheraton 5\* / Hotel Westin 5\* or similar







12 Nights / 13 Days

# BALKAN EXTENDED

Serbia – Croatia – Slovenia – Bosnia – Montenegro

- Learn why Novi Sad is called the Serbian Athens
- Don't miss the chance to hone your photography skills at Otočec Castle, a picturesque water castle in Slovenia
- Be captivated by Postojna Cave - "The Queen of the Underground World"
- Delve into Istria's beauty – the home of Malvasia wine and the breathtaking beaches of the Adriatic sea
- Walk through the chambers of Diocletian's Palace in Split







Sava river

*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. Overnight.

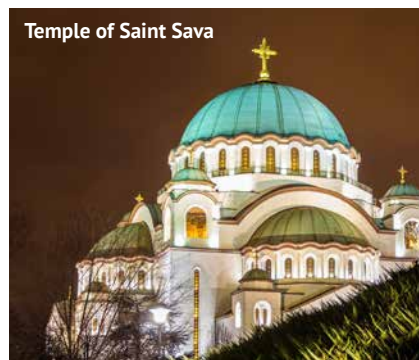
## Day 2

### Leisure day

### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint

Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the



Temple of Saint Sava

oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants.
- Skadarlija bohemian night: a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora

### – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

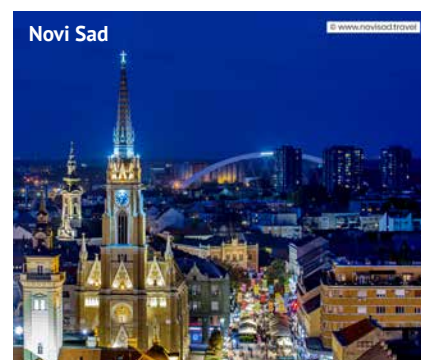
Breakfast. Today you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque

scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks.



Novi Sad

The tour continues on to the town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries. As Sremski Karlovci lies on the banks of Danube, you will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch on the shore of Central Europe's longest river. Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a



Novi Sad

synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. On the place where you can enjoy wonderful view of Danube and the entire city, you can take a chance and end this day with dinner in wonderful ambience before heading back to Belgrade.

#### Day 4

#### Belgrade – Zagreb – Otočec – Ljubljana

Breakfast. The tour continues to the Croatian capital of Zagreb. This small gem of European culture and civilisation is located in the heart of the continent.



Sightseeing around Zagreb, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him.

After the lunch break, you will be driven to Slovenia, the world's first green destination. On your way, you will make a stop at Otočec Castle. A jewel rising above the misty Krka river, this landmark is the only water castle in Slovenia and the surrounding area, and the short break here will refresh you. Afterwards, you will continue on to Ljubljana. Check-in at the hotel and take your time to rest for next days of this amazing tour.

#### Day 5

#### Ljubljana – Postojna Cave – Piran – Portorož

Breakfast and check-out. Start your guided tour around Ljubljana, the magical capital of Slovenia that boasts of real charm and a great cultural scene. You will be led along the riverfront to

the city's beautiful cultural landmarks, including the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, the baroque Town Hall, the medieval town square "Mestni Trg" and Robba's Fountain, as well as the picturesque central open-air market and the Triple Bridge. After the tour, you will have free time to take a lunch on the banks of the romantic Ljubljana river.



The afternoon is reserved for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – a visit to the spectacular limestone Postojna Cave. Inside you will see incredible stalactites, stalagmites, limestone pools, subterranean gorges and underground waterfalls. The most popular Slovenian tourist attraction, the cave is a definite must-see on your trip through Slovenia. After the cave, the next stop is Piran, one of the most beautiful towns of Slovene Istria. The town is actually a large museum with its medieval architecture and rich cultural heritage. Narrow streets and cramped houses give the town a special charm. After exploring the small yet delightful Tartini Square, climbing to the Cathedral of Saint George and wonderful view from the top of the hill will further add to your feeling that Piran is a special place. Your final stop of the day is Portorož, which has been a tourist destination for as far back as the 13th century, when people were treated with seawater. It reached its golden age at the beginning of 20th century when the majestic Hotel Palace opened its doors and Portorož hosted almost 7000 guests yearly, becoming internationally renowned. Check-in at the hotel in Portorož.

#### Day 6

#### Portorož – Pula – Rovinj

Breakfast. Drive to Istria, an amazing part of the Croatian coast and the perfect place to enjoy first-class gourmet food, Malvasia wine, gorgeous beaches and Venetian history. Your first stop will be Pula, a beautiful town possessing a wealth of historical sites

and examples of Roman architecture. The star of the show is the remarkably well preserved Roman amphitheatre, the 6th biggest Roman coliseum in the world. The Temple of Augustus, the Triumphal Arch of Sergius, the Twin Gates and other sites of the old town will make you feel like you have stepped back in time.

After Pula, you will proceed to Rovinj, the pearl of the Adriatic. Wander the cobbled streets of this historic town and let your tourist guide show you why this town is called an Istrian gem. With beautiful architecture that dates back to the 1700s, the narrow streets lead you up to the top of the peninsula, where, at the plateau of the Church of Saint Euphemia you can enjoy the view of the old town, surrounded by amazing Istrian nature. Walking back down, past a cute row of seafood restaurants, you can visit the old neighbourhood of Grisja, famous for its small shops and art galleries. At the bottom, you will come across a typical Istrian market where you can get a real feel for the flavours of the region.



After the tour, you will have free time to relax and enjoy on the shore of Adriatic Sea, or continue exploring along Rovinj's coast. The evening will be spent soaking up the relaxing atmosphere of one of the many great hotels in Istria.

#### Day 7

#### Opatija – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Breakfast. Drive to Opatija, an aristocratic town that is just 80 km away yet so different in its history, architecture and atmosphere compared to other towns on the Istrian Peninsula. With its picturesque surroundings, Opatija's rich history is visible in the buildings built in different architectural styles, including Renaissance, Venetian, Secession and Baroque. Enjoy the sights and feel the pulse of Opatija as you walk along the famous Lungomare promenade, complete with panoramic

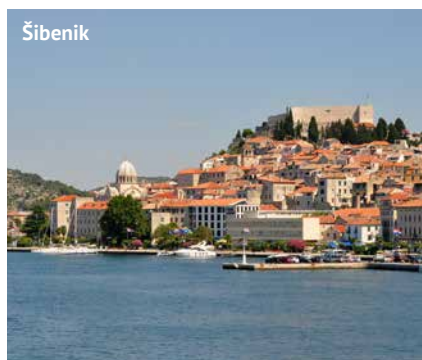




views of the sea. Free time for lunch in one of the restaurants by the sea. In the afternoon, you will arrive at the famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. In the refreshing atmosphere, you can relax and enjoy dinner either in the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby.

### Day 8 Plitvice Lakes National Park – Šibenik – Split

Breakfast. Start exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park, a beautiful park that contains 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On old maps, it was called 'Devil's Garden' and it is the first site in the Balkans to get UNESCO World Heritage status. You will enjoy a 3-hour guided tour that includes a visit to the upper and lower lakes. While swimming is forbidden, you will find the best places for relaxing and contemplating the untouched beauty of this lush paradise.



In the afternoon, you will drive along the Dalmatian coast to Šibenik, a medieval Venetian town famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the city walls. It is home to many significant landmarks, among which the Cathedral of Saint James (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), constructed by locals for hundreds of years, has a special place. Šibenik is the perfect place for a break during our trip to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Spend your free time strolling through



the charming streets and enjoying lunch in a square surrounded by Venetian architecture. Drive to Split and check-in at the hotel.

### Day 9 Leisure day Split – Trogir – Split

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Split, the largest Dalmatian city, founded 1700 years ago, with a well preserved, enormously rich history. Your guide will lead you through the narrow streets of Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO Heritage Site), built in the 4th century for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and show you former Temple of Jupiter in the central square of the imperial complex. Today, the temple is now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral that remains in use in its original structure. You will also pass through the Golden and Silver Gates and walk around lively markets and Riva, the



city's shopping zone. The afternoon will be devoted to the beautiful town of Trogir, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you are a lover of photography, this is the perfect spot for you. Located on a tiny island, it boasts beautiful architecture, stunning sea views and palm trees that spread along its pleasant waterfront promenade. Watch out, or you will find yourself lost in medieval times. Walking its charming streets, you will find yourself immersed in the blend

of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Look out for the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, the Clock Tower, the Loggia, the Land Gate, Kamerlengo Castle and Saint Mark's Tower. Return to Split.

In the evening, relax in the charming Mediterranean atmosphere and while your free time enjoy dinner in a restaurant by the sea.

### Day 10 Split – Međugorje – Mostar – Trebinje

Breakfast. Drive along the beautiful Makarska coast - with wonderful views of Croatian islands, wine & olive plantations and stone-made villages towards Mostar. On the way, you will stop for a visit to the famous pilgrimage site of Međugorje.

Since 1981, alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been reported in the town and it has become a must-see destination for many travellers to the Balkans. In Međugorje, you will visit the Church of Saint James with the outer altar and statue of Christ. Continue on to Mostar.



Walking tour around Mostar starts with a visit to the symbol of this city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva river, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you.

The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk



Trebinje

through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role.

Overnight in the hotel.

### Day 11

#### Trebinje – Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Breakfast and check-out. This day is devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop at the town of Perast, a little settlement baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of



Our Lady of the Rocks

Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the



Kotor

Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. Drive to Dubrovnik. Check-in at the hotel and overnight.

### Day 12

#### Leisure day

#### Dubrovnik Sightseeing

Breakfast. Start walking tour around Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old



Dubrovnik

town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems.

#### Optional excursions in Dubrovnik:

- Cable Car: the Dubrovnik Cable Car will take you to the top of Srđ Hill, where you can stretch your view up to 60 km across Adriatic coast, and this wonderful city.

- Seafood dinner in Dubrovnik: in the evening, you'll have opportunity to visit a local restaurant where you can enjoy Croatian seafood dishes and wines.

### Day 13

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



### GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Postojna Cave, Arena in Pula and monastery Krušedol
- 3 hour tour to Plitvice Lakes National Park, includes entrance tickets, boat ride and tram ride
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

- 3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Austria Trend 4\* / M Hotel 4\* / Hotel Exe Lev 4\* or similar,
- 1 BB in Portorož** in double room in Hotel Wellness Apollo 4\* / Hotel Act-ION Neptun 4\* / Hotel Lucija 3\* or similar
- 1 BB in Istria** (Rovinj or Poreč) in Hotel BO Palazzo 4\* / Hotel Valamar Riviera 4\* / Hotel Valamar Diamant 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Grabovac 3\* / Hotel Macola 3\* or similar\*
- 2 BB in Split** in Hotel Globo 4\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Art 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

- 3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar
- 1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Grand Union 4\* / Hotel Radisson Blu Plaza 4\* / U Hotel 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Portorož** in Hotel Remisens Premium Metropol 5\* / Hotel Mind Slovenija 5\* / Hotel Grand Portorož 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Istria** (Rovinj or Poreč) in Hotel Eden 4\* / Hotel Valamar Parentino 4\* / BO Hotel Palazzo 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Degenija 4\* / Hotel 16 lakes 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Split** in Hotel Radisson Blu Resort & Spa 4\* / Hotel Cornaro 4\* / Hotel Jupiter Heritage 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar



13 Nights / 14 Days

# BALKAN EXTENDED with Budapest

Hungary – Serbia – Croatia – Slovenia  
– Bosnia – Montenegro

- Budapest – the number one European destination in 2019.
- Discover new flavours of wine at one of Fruška Gora's most prominent wineries
- Reach the top of the hill for the best views of the coastal town of Piran
- Visit Međugorje – an essential pilgrimage destination







Budapest

*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Budapest

Upon arrival in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Ferenc Liszt International airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of Budapest, the city of bridges and thermal baths. Known by its youthful atmosphere and beautiful architecture, Budapest is with good reason nicknamed "Paris of the East". Check-in at your hotel.

Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

#### Budapest Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will set off on a tour (walking and driving) around Budapest. With a unique, youthful atmosphere, a world-class classical music scene as well as a pulsating night life and, last but not least, an exceptionally rich offering of natural thermal baths, Budapest is one of Europe's most delightful and enjoyable cities. Due to its scenic setting and its architecture, it is nicknamed the 'Paris of the East'. Thanks to their cultural and architectural significance, the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andr ssy Avenue were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Budapest sightseeing tour will show you all the major landmarks of the city: Chain Bridge,

Margaret Bridge, the Castle District with Matias Church, the Fishermen's Bastion with the beautiful panoramic views, Gell rt Hill (Citadel) with the most spectacular view of Budapest, Elisabeth Bridge, the Central Market Hall, the largest synagogue in Europe, the City Park, Heroes' Square with statues of the most famous Hungarian kings and dukes, the Opera House, Saint Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament Building and many others.

#### Optional excursion in Budapest:

Danube Cruise – experience the beautiful sights of Budapest from a different perspective, during a 1.5 hour cruise along the Danube River. On board you can enjoy a welcome drink and one glass of wine, with the option of a traditional Hungarian buffet dinner.

## Day 3

### Budapest – Zvonko Bogdan Winery – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. Drive to Belgrade. Today you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. After a leisurely drive through the Pannonian Plain, you will reach the pearl of secessionist architecture, the Zvonko Bogdan Winery. The magnificent building, which clearly points to the almost inevitable blend of wine and art, was built in the style of traditional architecture of the nearby town of Subotica. During a one-hour guided tour, pay attention at different works of art displayed in the winery and enjoy tasting three different wines made from grapes from the Palic vineyard.



Zvonko Bogdan Winery

Your next stop will be Novi Sad. The 2021 European Capital of Culture, this multi-cultural city is famous as the home of EXIT, the biggest musical festival in south-eastern Europe. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house



Novi Sad

of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. On the place where you can enjoy wonderful view of Danube and the entire city, you will have a time to take a dinner in wonderful ambience. Drive to Belgrade. Check-in at the hotel.

## Day 4

### Leisure day

#### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace,



Kalemegdan

and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as “?” (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

#### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants.
- Skadarlija bohemian night: a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

#### Day 5

#### Belgrade – Zagreb – Otočec – Ljubljana

Breakfast. The tour continues to the Croatian capital of Zagreb. This small gem of European culture and civilisation is located in the heart of the continent.



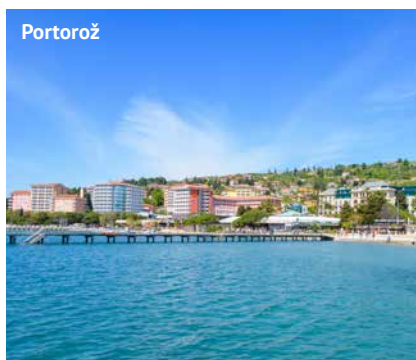
Sightseeing around Zagreb, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour

will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him. After the lunch break, you will be driven to Slovenia, the world's first green destination. On your way, you will make a stop at Otočec Castle. A jewel rising above the misty Krka river, this landmark is the only water castle in Slovenia and the surrounding area, and the short break here will refresh you. Afterwards, you will continue on to Ljubljana. Check-in at the hotel and take your time to rest for next days of this amazing tour.

#### Day 6

#### Ljubljana – Postojna Cave – Piran – Portorož

Breakfast and check-out. Start your guided tour around Ljubljana, the magical capital of Slovenia that boasts of real charm and a great cultural scene. You will be led along the riverfront to the city's beautiful cultural landmarks, including the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, the baroque Town Hall, the medieval town square “Mestni Trg” and Robba's Fountain, as well as the picturesque central open-air market and the Triple Bridge. After the tour, you will have free time to take a lunch on the banks of the romantic Ljubljanica river. The afternoon is reserved for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – a visit to the spectacular limestone Postojna Cave. Inside you will see incredible stalactites, stalagmites, limestone pools, subterranean gorges and underground waterfalls. The most popular Slovenian tourist attraction, the cave is a definite must-see on your trip through Slovenia.



After the cave, the next stop is Piran, one of the most beautiful towns of Slovene Istria. The town is actually a large museum with its medieval architecture and rich cultural heritage. Narrow streets and cramped houses give the town a special charm. After exploring the small yet delightful Tartini Square, climbing to the Cathedral of Saint

George and wonderful view from the top of the hill will further add to your feeling that Piran is a special place. Your final stop of the day is Portorož, which has been a tourist destination for as far back as the 13th century, when people were treated with seawater. It reached its golden age at the beginning of 20th century when the majestic Hotel Palace opened its doors and Portorož hosted almost 7000 guests yearly, becoming internationally renowned. Check-in at the hotel in Portorož.

#### Day 7

#### Portorož – Pula – Rovinj

Breakfast. Drive to Istria, an amazing part of the Croatian coast and the perfect place to enjoy first-class gourmet food, Malvasia wine, gorgeous beaches and Venetian history. Your first stop will be Pula, a beautiful town possessing a wealth of historical sites and examples of Roman architecture. The star of the show is the remarkably well preserved Roman amphitheatre, the 6th biggest Roman coliseum in the world. The Temple of Augustus, the Triumphal Arch of Sergius, the Twin Gates and other sites of the old town will make you feel like you have stepped back in time.



After Pula, you will proceed to Rovinj, the pearl of the Adriatic. Wander the cobbled streets of this historic town and let your tourist guide show you why this town is called an Istrian gem. With beautiful architecture that dates back to the 1700s, the narrow streets lead you up to the top of the peninsula, where, at the plateau of the Church of Saint Euphemia you can enjoy the view of the old town, surrounded by amazing Istrian nature. Walking back down, past a cute row of seafood restaurants, you can visit the old neighbourhood of Grisia, famous for its small shops and art galleries. At the bottom, you will come across a typical Istrian market where you can get a real



feel for the flavours of the region. After the tour, you will have free time to relax and enjoy on the shore of Adriatic Sea, or continue exploring along Rovinj's coast. The evening will be spent soaking up the relaxing atmosphere of one of the many great hotels in Istria.

## Day 8

### Opatija – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Breakfast. Drive to Opatija, an aristocratic town that is just 80 km away yet so different in its history, architecture and atmosphere compared to other towns on the Istrian Peninsula. With its picturesque surroundings, Opatija's rich history is visible in the buildings built in different architectural styles, including Renaissance, Venetian, Secession and Baroque. Enjoy the sights and feel the pulse of Opatija as you walk along the famous Lungomare promenade, complete with panoramic views of the sea. Free time for lunch in one of the restaurants by the sea.



In the afternoon, you will arrive at the famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. In the refreshing atmosphere, you can relax and enjoy dinner either in the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby.

## Day 9

### Plitvice Lakes National Park – Šibenik – Split

Breakfast. Start exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park, a beautiful park that contains 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On old maps, it was called 'Devil's Garden' and it is the first site in the Balkans to get UNESCO World Heritage status. You will enjoy a 3-hour guided tour that includes a visit to the upper and lower lakes. While swimming is forbidden, you will find the best places for relaxing and contemplating the untouched beauty of this lush paradise. In the afternoon, you will drive along the Dalmatian coast to Šibenik, a medieval

Venetian town famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the city walls. It is home to many significant landmarks, among which the Cathedral of Saint James (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), constructed by locals for hundreds of years, has a special place. Šibenik is the perfect place for a break during our trip to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Spend your free time strolling through the charming streets and enjoying lunch in a square surrounded by Venetian architecture. Drive to Split and check-in at the hotel.

## Day 10

### Leisure day Split – Trogir – Split

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Split, the largest Dalmatian city, founded 1700 years ago, with a well preserved, enormously rich history. Your guide will lead you through the narrow streets of Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO Heritage Site), built in the 4th century for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and show you former Temple of Jupiter in the central square of the imperial complex. Today, the temple is now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral that remains in use in its original structure. You will also pass through the Golden and Silver Gates and walk around lively markets and Riva, the city's shopping zone.



The afternoon will be devoted to the beautiful town of Trogir, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you are a lover of photography, this is the perfect spot for you. Located on a tiny island, it boasts beautiful architecture, stunning sea views and palm trees that spread along its pleasant waterfront promenade. Watch out, or you will find yourself lost in medieval times. Walking its charming streets, you will find yourself immersed in the blend of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Look out for

the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, the Clock Tower, the Loggia, the Land Gate, Kamerlengo Castle and Saint Mark's Tower. Return to Split.

In the evening, relax in the charming Mediterranean atmosphere and while your free time enjoy dinner in a restaurant by the sea.

## Day 11

### Split – Međugorje – Mostar – Trebinje

Breakfast. Drive along the beautiful Makarska coast - with wonderful views of Croatian islands, wine & olive plantations and stone-made villages towards Mostar. On the way, you will stop for a visit to the famous pilgrimage site of Međugorje. Since 1981, alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been reported in the town and it has become a must-see destination for many travellers to the Balkans. In Međugorje, you will visit the Church of Saint James with the outer altar and statue of Christ. Continue on to Mostar.



Walking tour around Mostar starts with a visit to the symbol of this city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva river, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where





you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

### Day 12

#### Trebinje – Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Breakfast and check-out. This day is devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop



at the town of Perast, a little settlement baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town,

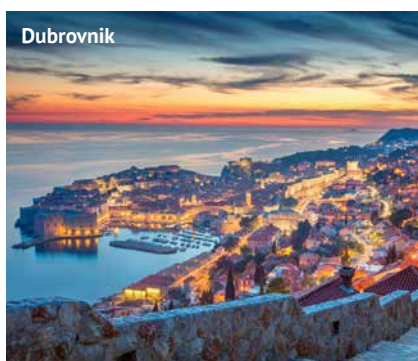


or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. Drive to Dubrovnik. Check-in at the hotel and overnight.

### Day 13

#### Leisure day Dubrovnik Sightseeing

Breakfast. Start walking tour around Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems.



#### Optional excursions in Dubrovnik:

- Cable Car: the Dubrovnik Cable Car will take you to the top of Srđ Hill, where you can stretch your view up to 60 km across Adriatic coast, and this wonderful city.

- Seafood dinner in Dubrovnik: in the evening, you'll have opportunity to visit a local restaurant where you can enjoy Croatian seafood dishes and wines.

### Day 14

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Postojna Cave, Arena in Pula and monastery Krušedol
- Guided tour of the Zvonko Bogdan winery and tasting of three wines from the Palić vineyards
- 3 hour tour to Plitvice Lakes National Park, includes entrance tickets, boat ride and tram ride
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Expo Congress 4\* / Hotel Danubius Arena 4\* / Hotel Hungaria City Center 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Austria Trend 4\* / M Hotel 4\* / Hotel Exe Lev 4\* or similar,

**1 BB in Portorož** in double room in Hotel Wellness Apollo 4\* / Hotel Act-ION Neptun 4\* / Hotel Lucija 3\* or similar

**1 BB in Istria** (Rovinj or Poreč) in Hotel BO Palazzo 4\* / Hotel Valamar Riviera 4\* / Hotel Valamar Diamant 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Grabovac 3\* / Hotel Macola 3\* or similar\*

**2 BB in Split** in Hotel Globo 4\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Art 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Ambra 4\* / Hotel Continental Budapest 4\* / art'otel budapest, by Park Plaza 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Grand Union 4\* / Hotel Radisson Blu Plaza 4\* / U Hotel 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Portorož** in Hotel Remisens Premium Metropol 5\* / Hotel Mind Slovenija 5\* / Hotel Grand Portorož 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Istria** (Rovinj or Poreč) in Hotel Eden 4\* / Hotel Valamar Parentino 4\* / BO Hotel Palazzo 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Degenija 4\* / Hotel 16 lakes 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Split** in Hotel Radisson Blu Resort & Spa 4\* / Hotel Cornaro 4\* / Hotel Jupiter Heritage 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar



9 Nights / 10 Days

# BALKAN & ADRIATIC

Serbia – Flight to Montenegro – Bosnia – Croatia



OUR MOST  
COMFORTABLE  
TOUR

- Take a look at the fascinating turquoise colour of the Neretva river from the Old Bridge in Mostar
- Discover new flavours of wine at one of Fruška Gora's most prominent wineries
- Seize the opportunity to visit 7 UNESCO protected sites on only one tour
- Take a break and listen to the Sea Organ, the world's first musical pipe organ played by the wind and sea in Zadar
- Explore the hidden gems of Dubrovnik's Old Town





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia.



Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

#### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former

European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.



#### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

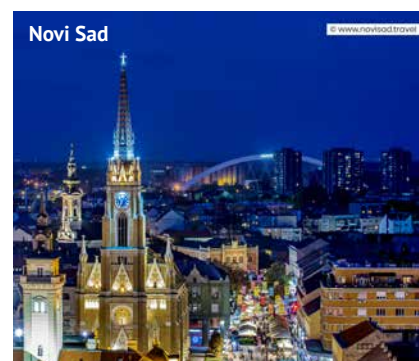
- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants
- Skadarlija bohemian night: a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora

#### – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. Today you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina,



a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.

Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right





bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

#### Day 4

#### Flight to Montenegro – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Breakfast. Hotel check-out and transfer to Belgrade Airport for the flight to Tivat, Montenegro. Upon arrival, you'll take a tour around the Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape, a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers during a year. The best way to explore is a walking tour around the old Mediterranean town of Kotor, a UNESCO site that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town and perhaps have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares.



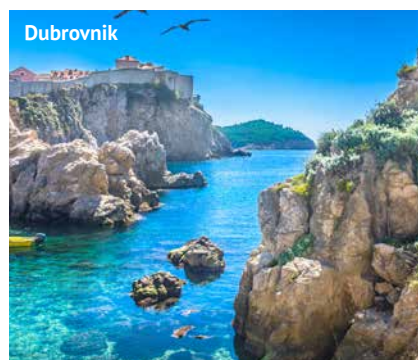
The next stop in Kotor Bay is the town of Perast, little settlement in baroque style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride around the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. Drive to Dubrovnik. Check-in at the hotel.

#### Day 5

#### Leisure day Dubrovnik Sightseeing

Breakfast. Start walking tour around Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of

marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems.



#### Optional excursions in Dubrovnik:

- Cable Car: the Dubrovnik Cable Car will take you to the top of Srđ Hill, where you can stretch your view up to 60 km across Adriatic coast, and this wonderful city.
- Seafood dinner in Dubrovnik: in the evening, you'll have opportunity to visit a local restaurant where you can enjoy Croatian seafood dishes and wines.

#### Day 6

#### Dubrovnik – Mostar – Međugorje – Split

Breakfast. Drive along the beautiful Makarska coast – with wonderful views of Croatian islands, wine & olive plantations and stone-made villages towards Mostar. Walking tour around Mostar starts with a visit to the symbol of this city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most



photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the

Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva river, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. On the way to Split, you will stop for a visit to the famous pilgrimage site of Međugorje. Since 1981, alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been reported in the town and it has become a must-see destination for many travellers to the Balkans. In Međugorje, you will visit the Church of Saint James with the outer altar and statue of Christ. Drive to Split. Check-in at the hotel.

#### Day 7

#### Leisure day Split – Trogir – Split

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Split, the largest Dalmatian city, founded 1700 years ago, with a well preserved, enormously rich history. Your guide will lead you through the narrow streets of Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO Heritage Site), built in the 4th century for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and show you former Temple of Jupiter in the central square of the imperial complex. Today, the temple is now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral that remains in use in its original structure. You will also pass through the Golden and Silver Gates and walk around lively markets and Riva, the city's shopping zone.



The afternoon will be devoted to the beautiful town of Trogir, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you are a lover of photography, this is the perfect spot for you. Located on a tiny island, it boasts beautiful architecture, stunning sea views and palm trees that spread along its pleasant waterfront promenade. Watch out, or you will find yourself lost in medieval times. Walking its charming streets, you will find yourself immersed in the blend of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Look out for the





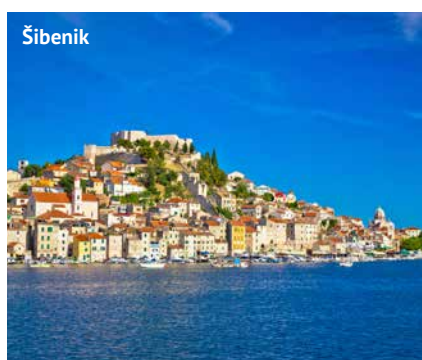
Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, the Clock Tower the Loggia, the Land Gate, Kamerlengo Castle and Saint Mark's Tower. Return to Split.

In the evening, relax in the charming Mediterranean atmosphere and while your free time enjoy dinner in a restaurant by the sea.

### Day 8

#### Split – Šibenik – Zadar – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Breakfast. The tour will then head towards Šibenik, a medieval Venetian city famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the city walls. It is home to many significant landmarks, among which the Cathedral of Saint James (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), constructed by locals for hundreds of years, has a special place. Šibenik is the perfect place for a short break. Spend your free time strolling through the charming streets and enjoying lunch in a square surrounded by Venetian architecture.



The next stop on your discovery of the Dalmatian coast is Zadar, an ancient city and the oldest continuously inhabited city in Croatian Central Adriatic. With your guide, you will explore this Gothic-Romanesque city on a relaxing walking tour. While you wander down cobbled streets and past old houses, surrounded by ancient city walls and gates, you'll visit the 12th century Romanesque



Church of Saint Mary, the Church of Saint Chrysogonus and the Cathedral of Saint Anastasia. Another must-see on this walking tour is the Sea Organ, an experimental music instrument whose melodies are created by the breaking waves on tubes located underneath a set of marble steps.

In the late afternoon, you will arrive at the famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. In the refreshing atmosphere, you can relax and enjoy dinner either in the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby.

### Day 9

#### Plitvice Lakes National Park – Zagreb

Breakfast. Start exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park, a beautiful park that contains 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On old maps, it was called 'Devil's Garden' and it is the first site in the Balkans to get UNESCO World Heritage status. You will enjoy a 3-hour guided tour that includes a visit to the upper and lower lakes. While swimming is forbidden, you will find the best places for relaxing and contemplating the untouched beauty of this lush paradise.



The final stop on this great Balkan tour is the Croatian capital, Zagreb. This small gem of European culture and civilisation is located in the heart of the continent. Sightseeing around Zagreb, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan



monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him.

#### Optional excursion in Zagreb:

In the evening, dinner in one of Zagreb's authentic Croatian restaurants will allow you to discover the tastes of Croatian continental cuisine. Try different specialties and see how it compares to the local food from other Balkan countries.

### Day 10

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



### GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Flight ticket Belgrade – Tivat (Montenegro)
- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance ticket to the Museum of Yugoslav History and monastery Krušedol
- 3 hour tour to Plitvice Lakes National Park, includes entrance tickets, boat ride and tram ride
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Split** in Hotel Globo 4\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Art 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Grabovac 3\* / Hotel Macola 3\* or similar\*

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton 4\* / Hotel International 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Split** in Hotel Radisson Blu Resort & Spa 4\* / Hotel Cornaro 4\* / Hotel Jupiter Heritage 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice** Lakes National Park in Hotel Degenija 4\* / Hotel 16 lakes 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel Esplanade 5\* / Hotel Sheraton 5\* / Hotel Westin 5\* or similar







*11 Nights / 12 Days*

# THE BEST OF SERBIA, ROMANIA AND BULGARIA

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria

- Take a cruise on Danube and Sava and meet Belgrade and its fortress from a different perspective
- Travel through time as you seek inspiration from Bram Stoker for the story of the infamous Count Dracula
- Visit a complex of rock-hewn churches and monasteries, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in Ivanovo, Bulgaria
- Be shocked by the famous Skull Tower in Niš and meet the birthplace of Constantine the Great





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel.



Belgrade

Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

### Belgrade Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around

Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.



Panoramic View from Sava River

### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants.
- Skadarlija bohemian night: a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija

– the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries. Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

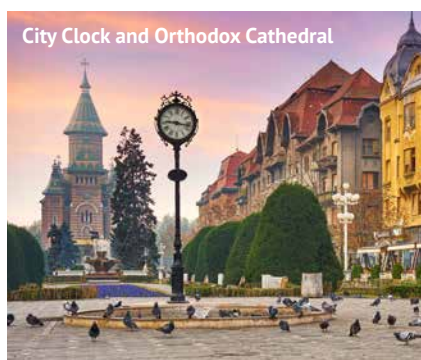
## Day 4

### Belgrade – Timișoara – Sibiu

Breakfast. Hotel check-out. The tour continues to Timișoara, the largest city in western Romania and one that has been influenced by many cultures. The charm of this city, settled on the northern bank of the River Bega, lies in its distinctive architectural character and vibrant cultural life, and it is frequently referred to as 'Little Vienna'. Its historical significance is further



confirmed by the fact that it was the first European city to have electric street lighting. A guided tour will leave from Unirii Square, the city's main square surrounded by beautiful mediaeval buildings among which the Catholic Cathedral of Saint George is a decorative highlight. The tour will take you to Liberty Square, Victory Square home to the Romanian National Opera and National Theatre, and the 15th century Huniade Castle which today represents the best example of Gothic architecture in this region. Continue on to Sibiu, the European Capital of Culture in 2007.



Before sightseeing tour check-in to the hotel and take a short rest. Sibiu was the largest and richest of seven fortified towns built by German settlers in the 12th century. In Sibiu, the first hospital and pharmacy in Romania were established, the first Romanian book was printed and the oldest museum in Romania, the Brukenthal National Museum, was built. The wealth acquired by the trade guilds of Sibiu was used to build impressive buildings and fortification, and today the old town has retained its former splendour. Parts of the mediaeval walls still surround the historic centre, where narrow streets intersect 17th century buildings. During the tour you will visit the Large Square with Brukenthal National Museum, the Small Square, the Council Tower, the Bridge of Lies, Stairs Passage and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, modelled on the magnificent Agia Sofia. Overnight.

## Day 5

### Sibiu – Sighișoara – Brașov

Breakfast and check-out. From Sibiu you will travel to Sighișoara, a town in Transylvania, with a history dating back to the 1100s. With cobbled streets and colourful buildings, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a must during your visit to Romania. Sighișoara is also famous as the birthplace of Vlad III, also known

as Vlad the Impaler or Vlad Dracula. His birthplace is still there, marked with the placard 'Casa Vlad Dracul'. You will also see the Church of the Dominican Monastery, the Clock Tower, Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, the Tailors' Tower, the Covered Stairway and other important sights.



The tour continues to Brașov. Founded by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century and built as one of the seven walled citadels, this amazing city exudes a distinctive mediaeval setting and has been used as a backdrop in many recent films. Numerous mediaeval towers continue to glitter over the city. Between them sparkles baroque buildings and churches, while relaxed cafés line the main square, Piața Sfatului. In Brașov, your sightseeing will start with the story of the main square and the House of Council (Casa Sfatului). You will then walk down one of the narrowest streets in the world toward the Gothic style cathedral Biserica Neagră, famously called the Black Church, and further on to Catherine's Gate, the only original city gate to survive from mediaeval times. After a pleasant afternoon spent in this picturesque city, check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 6

### Brașov – Bran Castle – Peleș Castle – Bucharest

After breakfast, check-out and drive through the beautiful landscape to Bran Castle, the former residence of the Romanian royal family and commonly known as Dracula's Castle. The fairy-tale appearance of this gothic fortress built in the 13th century, set strategically atop a 60 metre cliff, provides visitors with an irresistible journey back to middle ages and an era that housed Bram Stoker's horror novel, entitled 'Dracula'. Stoker was fascinated by stories of the dark mysteries of the Carpathian Mountains and the legend of Vlad Ceper, a Romanian hero known as a very cruel

ruler, and used it all as inspiration for his world-famous novel. Thanks to the fact that Vlad the Impaler was held as a prisoner in this beautiful mediaeval castle, a belief was created that Bran Castle is the place where Stoker placed his story and it became known as Dracula's Castle.



Afternoon hours will be devoted to the visit to Sinaia and Peleș Castle. When King Carol I of Romania visited the location on which the beautiful Peleș Castle now stands, he was amazed by the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains that surrounded it.



The royal family decided to build their summer residence there and they made a splendid creation of noble taste and intelligent engineering. The castle, with its stunning turrets, great attention to detail and unbelievable views across the mountains, is considered a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece. In addition to the magnificent exterior with hand-painted stained glass windows and numerous sculptures surrounding the castle, the interior of over 160 rooms was decorated by more than 400 artisans and artists. After sightseeing, you will depart for the Romanian capital, Bucharest. Hotel check-in and free time. Overnight.

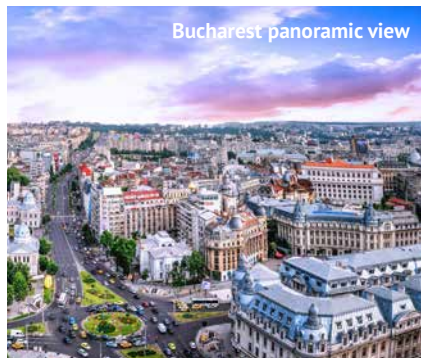


## Day 7

## Leisure Day

## Bucharest Sightseeing Tour

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Bucharest. Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned it the nickname of 'Little Paris'), today Bucharest is a bustling metropolis.



While exploring this magnificent city adorned with parks, you will see the fascinating blend of French, Byzantine and communist architecture in the many stylish building. Though much of the centre is modern and garish, you will find splendid 17th and 18th century Orthodox churches and graceful art nouveau villas tucked away in quiet corners. You will visit all of the city's best-known sights, including the Piața Unirii for a view of the colossal Palace of the Parliament, the second-largest building in the world (after the Pentagon).



From there, the tour continues to the mediaeval Old Town, one of Bucharest's earliest settlements, which has been the seat of Romanian princes. You will see the Old Princely Court and its church, the peaceful Stavropoleos Monastery, Lipscani Street and the National Museum of Romanian History. Continue toward the Calea Victoriei Avenue, and see the beautiful French-style buildings. When you arrive at Revolution Square,

hear the story about what communist rule meant for Romania and how this square earned its name, and don't forget to take a photo in front of many of its important sights.

In the afternoon, use your free time to rest or head to the old city centre and enjoy the open air terraces, bars, coffee shops, pubs and clubs that can be found at every turn. This is the perfect place to go out for dinner and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of Bucharest while sipping Țuică, Romania's national drink made from plums.

## Day 8

## Bucharest – Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo

Breakfast and check-out. Start the day tour of Northern Bulgaria and visit its most important sights. As soon as you enter the territory of Bulgaria close to the village of Ivanovo, you will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site, a complex of rock-hewn churches, chapels, monasteries and cells. This is where the first hermits dug out their cells and churches in the rock during the 12th century. The 14th century murals are wonderful examples of mediaeval art and testify to the exceptional skill of the Bulgarian artists. Admire and find out why this authentic preserved heritage is attractive and popular with tourists. Continue your tour with a short photo stop in the small village of Arbanasi, an architectural and museum reserve. A picturesque open-air museum of cultural heritage includes 80 houses, some of which still have original Ottoman decor and design. If you are lucky you may catch performance by traditional Bulgarian dancers, with colourful costumes and positive energy. In this small village you can also visit one of its five churches, which together house more than 3,600 frescoes.

The final stop of the day will take you back in time to the rise and fall of the mighty capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185 – 1396). By walking the winding cobblestone streets of Veliko Tarnovo, you will learn and feel how its proud population lived under Turkish rule, developed fabulous architectural masterpieces and established a cohesive and powerful craftsmen's guild. The legends and stories, interesting history and picturesque location of Veliko Tarnovo and the Tsarevets fortress have gained them numerous admirers in both Bulgaria and abroad, making the

region a top tourist attraction in the Balkans. Check-in to the hotel and free time to enjoy the evening in this charming town. Overnight.

## Day 9

## Veliko Tarnovo – Etar Ethno Village – Plovdiv Sightseeing – Sofia

Breakfast and check-out from the hotel. Drive to the Open Air Ethnographic Museum Etar, which contains a collection of 50 objects including water-powered installations and houses with craftsmen's workshops. The complex exhibits the architecture, way of life and economy of central Bulgaria during the Bulgarian National Revival. Using original instruments and following old traditions, it presents the Bulgarian customs, culture and characteristics of 20 regional crafts. Etar has gained popularity for being the only unique collection of old water-powered machines in Bulgaria, 10 of which are still active today and work as they would have done back in the day, and it is considered one of the best kept active technical collections in European open air museums.



Continue the tour and explore the beautiful and ancient city of Plovdiv, one of the oldest cities in Europe and the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Located on the banks of the Marica River and built around seven hills, the city has a cultural mix of different civilisations and a unique blend of architectural elements, itself a museum under the open sky. You will visit one of its most famous landmarks, the architectural complex of the Ancient Plovdiv, where many beautiful houses from the time of the Bulgarian Renaissance have been preserved and restored. The most significant monument of the cultural capital of Bulgaria is certainly the Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis; built in the 2nd century with perfect acoustics, in which theatrical performances,





concerts and various cultural events are still held today. You will also visit the Roman Stadium and the Church of Saint Constantine and Helena before finishing the tour in Kapana, the creative heart of the city and a pedestrian area full of shops, restaurants and galleries. Drive to Sofia and check-in to the hotel.

#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Dinner at a traditional restaurant: Enjoy a delicious dinner at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant and try the best local specialties, such as: banitsa pastry (phyllo cheese pie), lukanka salami, lyutenitsa (spicy red pepper chutney), tripe soup, stuffed vine leaves, kebabche (grilled, spiced mince meat) and moussaka. To drink, why not try boza (a fermented drink) or rakia (brandy), the two favourite drinks of the Bulgarians.

### Day 10

#### Leisure Day Sofia Sightseeing

Breakfast. Today, you will explore Sofia, a modern, youthful Eastern European capital, distinguished by a unique combination of communist-style architecture, Ottoman mosques and



onion-domed churches. The home to many of Bulgaria's finest museums, galleries and restaurants, Sofia will reveal to you its most interesting landmarks, such as the impressive Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the colourful Church of Saint Nicholas the

Miracle-Maker, the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, the Church of Saint George, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Sofia Synagogue, the National Palace of Culture and Largo, one of the prime examples of Socialist Classicism architecture and one of the Sofia's main landmarks.

#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Half-day tour of Rila Monastery: High up in the Rila Mountain, where the forest touches the sky, you will find the largest and most famous monastery in Bulgaria, the Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila.



Surrounded by beautiful mountainous nature and nestled beneath Bulgaria's highest peak, Musala, it is the most photogenic, peaceful and authentic place in Bulgaria. Despite its remote location, it attracts thousands of visitors every day. The significance of this literary and cultural centre of the region was confirmed in 1983 when it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. When you stand in the huge, stone-paved courtyard, surrounded by 24 metre high walls, you will see that the monastery is also an impenetrable stronghold. The natural beauty of this monastery is enhanced by the main church The Nativity of the Virgin Mother, covered wooden stairs, carved verandas, arches and colonnades, 300-400 monastery cells and incredible sacred frescoes.

### Day 11

#### Sofia – Niš – Belgrade

Breakfast and check-out. Return to Serbia, this time to the eastern region, of which the city of Niš is the most important destination. Niš, mostly known for being the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, is a crossroad between East and West and therefore sometimes called the 'Gate of East and West'. As the host of the most visited jazz festival of

Southeast Europe, you will remember it for its frequent restaurants and cafés, always filled with the warmth and hospitality of the local people. During the tour of Niš, you will see several unique sights of global significance. The most important landmark of Niš is the archaeological park Mediana (temporarily closed), a cultural property of exceptional importance as it contains the remains of the residence of one of the most important Roman emperors, Constantine the Great. Another landmark you won't forget easily is Skull Tower. Made of 952 human skulls, it is one of the most macabre historical sites in the world. You will also visit the Niš Fortress, the largest monument in the city of Niš and the best preserved Turkish military fortress in Serbia, located in the city centre, on the bank of the Nišava River. At the end of the tour, head to the cobbled Tinkers Alley and feel the spirit of the only remaining part of Niš's old čaršija (market), now home to numerous cafés and restaurants. For an authentic local experience try the grilled meat, arguably the best in the country. After an exciting day, drive to Serbia's capital city, Belgrade. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

### Day 12

#### Belgrade Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out.

As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are written in this program, except those marked as optional tours
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Skull Tower, Bran Castle, Peleş Castle and Open Air Ethnographic Museum "Etar", monastery Krušedol
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, Accommodation taxes and City taxes in every country
- Tour logistics and organization by licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Best Western Silva 4\* / Hotel Continental Forum 4\* / Hotel Mercure Sibiu Airport 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Grand Hotel Belvedere 4\* / Hotel Golden Time 4\* / Hotel Ambient 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Capital Plaza 4\* / Hotel Parliament 4\* / Hotel Ambassador 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Premier 4\* / Hotel Tsarevets 3\* / Hotel Alegro 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Hotel BW Premier Collection City 4\* / Best Western Terminus Hotel 4\* / Triada Hotel 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Ramada by Wyndham 4\* / Hotel Golden Tulip Ana Tower 4\* / Hotel Hilton Sibiu 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Hotel Aro Palace 5\* / Hotel Kronwell 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Grand Continental 5\* / Hotel Athénée Palace Hilton 5\* / Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Yantra Grand 4\* / Hotel Augusta Spa 3\* / Hotel Studio 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Grand Hotel Sofia 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

13 Nights / 14 Days

# HIDDEN BALKAN – 7 Countries

Serbia – Bosnia – Croatia – Montenegro  
– Albania – North Macedonia – Bulgaria

- Seize a moment and enjoy the picturesque nature while on the retro train Nostalgia
- Overeat yourself by tasting ćevapi, burek, tufahija, and other well-known Bosnian delicacies
- Relax and enjoy the sun at one of the magical sandy beaches in Budva
- Feel the unique Albanian spirit in the charming town of Shkodër
- Indulge yourself with the finest authentic salt water pearls in Ohrid





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal

Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.



Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 3

### Leisure day Belgrade Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital.

After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National



Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as '?' (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

## Day 4

### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava River meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow-gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by

prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others.



After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel. Overnight.

### Day 5

#### Zlatibor – Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina River near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's novel *The Bridge on the Drina* and in honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Tereščenko. After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel. After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of

which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in Europe. Next you will head on to the



Latin Bridge where Gavrilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War. After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

### Day 6

#### Sarajevo – Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva River, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairy-tale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the

emerald green river Buna.

The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

### Day 7

#### Trebinje – Dubrovnik – Budva

Breakfast and check – out. Drive and arrival in Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems.



Drive to Budva, the town known as the tourist capital of Montenegro and for all the right reasons. Highlights include



walk through the mediaeval cobbled streets of Budva's Old Town, a cocktail on the warm sandy beach and incredible views of the natural beauty of Budva, the bay and neighbouring islands. Located on a small peninsula, the Old Town represents a treasure chest of cultural heritage. Along the narrow streets and around the squares you will find famous buildings such as the Church of the Holy Trinity, which houses the tomb of the exquisite writer Stjepan Mitrov Ljubiša, and the churches of Saint Ivan, Santa Maria in Punta and Saint Sava. At the end of the tour, you will have some free time and we suggest using it to enjoy some fresh seafood and local wines at one of the many restaurants. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 8

### Leisure day

#### Budva – Kotor – Budva

Breakfast. Today you will head to the Bay of Kotor. With its unique landscape, it is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers during a year. Our first stop a stop will be at the town of Perast, little settlement in baroque style. From Perast you'll start a relaxing boat ride along Boka Kotorska Bay to picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rock. This manmade Island hosts a church with valuable paintings of local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry.



After the boat ride, you will continue to Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. Back to Budva and free time for individual activities and enjoying in modern Mediterranean town. Overnight.

## Day 9

### Budva – Shkodër – Tirana

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues through pristine nature, a national park and past Lake Skadar, the largest lake in Southern Europe. The Albanian spirit is best felt by visiting charming town of Shkodër, one of the oldest towns in Europe, unique by its narrow streets, stone walls and ancient houses. At the entrance of the town, the tour will start with a visit to the remains of the Venetian fortress Rozafa, one of the biggest and most famous castles in Albania. It rises imposingly on a rocky hill, surrounded by the Buna and Drin rivers, and offers amazing views of Shkodër, Lake Skadar and its water-intersected surroundings. Continue on the tour to the centre of the town, walking through the well preserved and most popular pedestrian street Kole Idromeno towards the other sights of the town, including the Ebu Bekr Mosque, the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity and the monument of Mother Teresa.

Drive to Tirana, the capital city of Albania as well as its largest city. Situated on the banks of the Lana river, Tirana has outstanding architecture, wide boulevards, parks, shops and cafés. The heart of Tirana is the Skanderbeg Square, where you will find many important ministry buildings, as well as the National Opera, the National Bank and the National Library. The square is dominated by a statue of Lord Skanderbeg, an Albanian hero and symbol of freedom and independence. During the sightseeing tour, you will be introduced to the architecture of the Mussolini period and see the city's most important landmarks, including the Et'hem Bey Mosque, the National Museum of History, the Clock Tower and the Presidential Palace. As you stroll through the central part of the city, you can enjoy the many murals and works of art painted on the buildings by various artists and understand why Tirana is known as 'the city of colourful buildings'. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 10

### Tirana – Elbasan – Ohrid – Skopje

Breakfast and check-out. On the way to North Macedonia, we will make a stop in Elbasan, the third largest city in Albania, located on the Shkumbin River. While the city was the main centre of Albanian nationalism during Ottoman rule,

Elbasan is best known for its castle district. Here you can still admire the old city walls built by the Ottoman sultan Mehmet II on the ruins of the Roman and Byzantine fortifications, which gave the city the name of Eli-Bashan ("I put the hand"). Inside the fortress, while walking the cobblestone streets past old houses and excellent restaurants, you will see the Royal Mosque that dates back to the 15th century, the Orthodox Church of Saint Mary and the Sahati Clock Tower.



Continue to Ohrid, the soul of the Balkans and the cradle of Slavic literacy. Thanks to its extraordinary natural beauty and rich historical and cultural heritage, Ohrid was proclaimed as both a Cultural and Natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO. One of the oldest lakes in the world will welcome you with a photographic setting, impeccably clear water that reflects the lake's picturesque high mountain surroundings. This former capital of the First Bulgarian Empire is the spiritual and national centre of Northern Macedonia. In the same area where the first Slavic university was founded, you will have the chance to visit over 300 Orthodox churches and monasteries. Drive to Skopje. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 11

### Leisure day

#### Skopje Sightseeing Tour

Breakfast. The capital of North Macedonia, for a long time Skopje has been the meeting point of different nations and cultures in the heart of the Balkans. After an earthquake in 1963, Skopje was rebuilt and it is now a modern city with a population of almost one million. With its fortress, cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites and the nearby Matka canyon, it is a very attractive tourist destination. Start your sightseeing tour in the old part of city with a stroll through the

narrow streets of the Old Bazaar, the biggest bazaar preserved in the Balkans today. With the 1500-year old Kale fortress perched above, listen to stories about the Sultan Murad Mosque and Daut Pasha Hamam before walking across the Stone Bridge, close by the Archaeological Museum of North Macedonia, towards Macedonia Square and its amazing fountain with the 'Warrior on a Horse' monument. In the newer and more modern part of the city, you will also see the Porta Macedonia, the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, the Art Bridge and numerous statues of prominent North Macedonian figures.



For the remainder of the day, we suggest you use your free time to rest in the hotel before heading out to experience the city's nightlife. We recommend heading to Debar Maalo – an area famed for its restaurants – and trying numerous North Macedonian delicacies including shopska salad, ajvar (roasted red pepper spread), sarma (minced meat rolled in cabbage/vine leaves), tavče gravče (baked beans) and stuffed peppers. Back to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 12 Skopje – Rila – Sofia

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to Bulgaria and visiting the Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. The monastery was destroyed in the fire at the beginning of the 19th century, but was rebuilt and now it is not just a tourist attraction, but one of the holiest places in Bulgaria. In 1983 the monastery was declared a monument of culture under UNESCO protection and because of their importance, the frescoes are protected by glass walls. Later on we are driving to Sofia. Surrounded by sprawling parkland, Sofia, the capital and the largest city of the Republic of Bulgaria, lies at the foot of popular ski mountain, Vitosha. Founded thousands of years ago, the city

continues to develop as the country's cultural and economic center. With a population of 1,250,000, Sofia is a dynamic Eastern European capital, distinguished by its unique combination of European and Communist-style architecture as well as many beautiful orthodox churches. On the tour through Sofia you will be able to see the impressive Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the multicolored Russian Church, Church of St. Sophia, as well as the National Theatre, one the city's most important landmarks, Jewish Synagogue, National Art Gallery, Archeological Museum and Parliament square, the Ruins of Serdica,



the Mosque.

Use your free time in the evening to feel like local in Vitosha Boulevard. Here you can find world-famous brands shops, and since it is a pedestrian zone, it is a very pleasant place for strolling and relaxation. Overnight.

## Day 13 Sofia – Niš – Belgrade

Breakfast and check-out. Return to Serbia, this time to the eastern region, of which the city of Niš is the most important destination. Niš, mostly known for being the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, is a crossroad between East and West and therefore sometimes called the 'Gate of East and West'. As the host of the most visited jazz festival of Southeast Europe, you will remember it for its frequent restaurants and cafés, always filled with the warmth and hospitality of the local people. During the tour of Niš, you will see several unique sights of global significance. The most important landmark of Niš is the archaeological park Mediana (temporarily closed), a cultural property of exceptional importance as it contains the remains of the residence of one of the most important Roman emperors, Constantine the Great. Another landmark you won't forget easily is Skull Tower.

Made of 952 human skulls, it is one of the most macabre historical sites in the world. You will also visit the Niš Fortress, the largest monument in the city of Niš and the best preserved Turkish military fortress in Serbia, located in the city centre, on the bank of the Nišava River. At the end of the tour, head to the cobbled Tinkers Alley and feel the spirit of the only remaining part of Niš's old čaršija (market), now home to numerous cafés and restaurants. For an authentic local experience try the grilled meat, arguably the best in the country. After an exciting day, drive to Serbia's capital city, Belgrade. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 14 Belgrade Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out.

As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are written in this program
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Wooden Town, Blagaj, Rozafa Castle and Skull Tower
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan Eight\*\*, monastery Krušedol
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, Accommodation taxes and City taxes in every country
- Tour logistics and organization by licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

- 4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** Hotel Moskva 4\* / Hotel Bracera 4\* / Hotel Tre Canne 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in Hotel Senator 4\* / Hotel Golden City & My Spa 4\* / Hotel Prestige 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Hotel Premium 4\* / Hotel Ibis Skopje City Center 4\* / Hotel Queen's 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sofia** in Hotel BW Premier Collection City 4\* / Best Western Terminus Hotel 4\* / Triada Hotel 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

- 4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad 4\* superior / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** Hotel Majestic 4\* / Hotel Budva 4\* / Hotel Avala Resort & Villas 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in Hotel Rogner 5\* / Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana 5\* / Hotel Mak Albania 5\* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Park Hotel & Spa 5\* / Hotel Arka 5\* / Bushi Resort & Spa 5\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sofia** in Grand Hotel Sofia 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

*14 Nights / 15 Days*

# HIDDEN BALKAN WITH GREECE

**Serbia – Bosnia – Croatia – Montenegro – Albania  
– North Macedonia – Greece**

- Enjoy the most delicious food, wine and traditional music of the 'tamburaši' in Belgrade's Bohemian quarter
- Find out why Sarajevo is known as "Little Jerusalem"
- Stroll down the streets of Tirana and discover the architecture of the Mussolini period
- Try to sense the will and desire of the monks who created the Meteora monasteries
- Visit the incredible complex of Acropolis in Athens and understand the importance of Greek democracy





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower.

Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal

Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.



Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 3

### Leisure day Belgrade Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of

the capital.



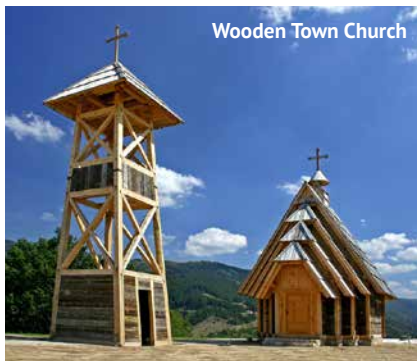
After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

## Day 4

### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava River meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow-gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village

Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Bellucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others.



Wooden Town Church

After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel. Overnight.

#### Day 5 Zlatibor – Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina River near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's novel *The Bridge* on the Drina and in honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Terešenko. After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel.

After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all

the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in Europe. Next you will head on to the Latin Bridge where Gavrilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War.

After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

#### Day 6 Sarajevo – Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva River, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairy-tale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna. The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way

to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

#### Day 7 Trebinje – Dubrovnik – Budva

Breakfast and check – out. Drive and arrival in Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems.



Budva alley

Drive to Budva, the town known as the tourist capital of Montenegro and for all the right reasons. Highlights include walk through the mediaeval cobbled streets of Budva's Old Town, a cocktail on the warm sandy beach and incredible views of the natural beauty of Budva, the bay and neighbouring islands. Located on a small peninsula, the Old Town represents a treasure chest of cultural heritage. Along the narrow streets and around the squares you will find famous buildings such as the Church of the Holy Trinity, which houses the tomb of the exquisite writer Stjepan Mitrov Ljubiša, and the churches of Saint Ivan, Santa



Maria in Punta and Saint Sava.

At the end of the tour, you will have some free time and we suggest using it to enjoy some fresh seafood and local wines at one of the many restaurants. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 8

### Leisure day

#### Budva – Kotor – Budva

Breakfast. Today you will head to the Bay of Kotor. With its unique landscape, it is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers during a year. Our first stop a stop will be at the town of Perast, little settlement in baroque style. From Perast you'll start a relaxing boat ride along Boka Kotorska Bay to picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rock. This manmade Island hosts a church with valuable paintings of local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will continue to Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. Back to Budva and free time for individual activities and enjoying in modern Mediterranean town. Overnight.

## Day 9

#### Budva – Shkodër – Tirana

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues through pristine nature, a national park and past Lake Skadar, the largest lake in Southern Europe. The Albanian spirit is best felt by visiting charming town of Shkodër, one of the oldest towns in Europe, unique by its narrow streets, stone walls and ancient houses. At the entrance of the town, the tour will start with a visit to the remains of the Venetian fortress Rozafa, one of the biggest and most famous castles in Albania. It rises imposingly on a rocky hill, surrounded by the Buna and Drin rivers, and offers amazing views of Shkodër, Lake Skadar and its water-intersected surroundings. Continue on the tour to the centre of the town, walking through the well preserved and most popular pedestrian street Kole Idromeno towards the other sights of the town, including the Ebu Bekr Mosque, the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity and the monument of Mother

Teresa.

Drive to Tirana, the capital city of Albania as well as its largest city. Situated on the banks of the Lana river, Tirana has outstanding architecture, wide boulevards, parks, shops and cafés. The heart of Tirana is the Skanderbeg Square, where you will find many important ministry buildings, as well as the National Opera, the National Bank and the National Library. The square is dominated by a statue of Lord Skanderbeg, an Albanian hero and symbol of freedom and independence. During the sightseeing tour, you will be introduced to the architecture of the Mussolini period and see the city's most important landmarks, including the Et'hem Bey Mosque, the National Museum of History, the Clock Tower and the Presidential Palace. As you stroll through the central part of the city, you can enjoy the many murals and works of art painted on the buildings by various artists and understand why Tirana is known as 'the city of colourful buildings'. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 10

#### Tirana – Elbasan – Ohrid – Skopje

Breakfast and check-out. On the way to North Macedonia, we will make a stop in Elbasan, the third largest city in Albania, located on the Shkumbin River. While the city was the main centre of Albanian nationalism during Ottoman rule, Elbasan is best known for its castle district. Here you can still admire the old city walls built by the Ottoman sultan Mehmet II on the ruins of the Roman and Byzantine fortifications, which gave the city the name of Eli-Bashan ("I put the hand"). Inside the fortress, while walking the cobblestone streets past old houses and excellent restaurants, you will see the Royal Mosque that dates back to the 15th century, the Orthodox Church of Saint Mary and the Sahati Clock Tower.

Continue to Ohrid, the soul of the Balkans and the cradle of Slavic literacy. Thanks to its extraordinary natural beauty and rich historical and cultural heritage, Ohrid was proclaimed as both a Cultural and Natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO. One of the oldest lakes in the world will welcome you with a photographic setting, impeccably clear water that reflects the lake's picturesque high mountain surroundings. This former capital of the First Bulgarian Empire is the spiritual and national centre of Northern Macedonia. In the same area

where the first Slavic university was founded, you will have the chance to visit over 300 Orthodox churches and monasteries. Drive to Skopje. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 11

### Leisure day

#### Skopje Sightseeing Tour

Breakfast. The capital of North Macedonia, for a long time Skopje has been the meeting point of different nations and cultures in the heart of the Balkans. After an earthquake in 1963, Skopje was rebuilt and it is now a modern city with a population of almost one million. With its fortress, cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites and the nearby Matka canyon, it is a very attractive tourist destination. Start your



sightseeing tour in the old part of city with a stroll through the narrow streets of the Old Bazaar, the biggest bazaar preserved in the Balkans today. With the 1500-year old Kale fortress perched above, listen to stories about the Sultan Murad Mosque and Daut Pasha Hamam before walking across the Stone Bridge, close by the Archaeological Museum of North Macedonia, towards Macedonia Square and its amazing fountain with the 'Warrior on a Horse' monument. In the newer and more modern part of the city, you will also see the Porta Macedonia, the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, the Art Bridge and numerous statues of prominent North Macedonian figures. For the remainder of the day, we suggest you use your free time to rest in the hotel before heading out to experience the city's nightlife. We recommend heading to Debar Maalo – an area famed for its restaurants – and trying numerous North Macedonian delicacies including shopska salad, ajvar (roasted red pepper spread), sarma (minced meat rolled in cabbage/vine leaves), tavče gravče (baked beans) and stuffed peppers. Back to the hotel. Overnight.

**Day 12****Skopje – Thessaloniki**

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city and one of the oldest in Europe. For many tourists all over the world, Thessaloniki is the perfect destination for leisure tourism, with its quality museums, concerts and rich nightlife. The main sights of Thessaloniki date back to the Roman and Byzantine times and include the Roman Arch of Galerius, the Monument of Rotunda, the Church of Saint Demetrius and the mediaeval castle Heptapyrgion.



During the Thessaloniki city tour, you will visit Aristotelous Square, the city's most central square and home to monumental mansions. It is one of the biggest and most impressive squares in Greece and offers a wonderful view of the Thermaic Gulf – with clear skies, you can see Mount Olympus in the distance. A walk along Nikis Avenue will take you along the coast, from the city's port to the statue of Alexander the Great. Lined with many cafés, bars and stores, this avenue is one of the city's most favoured places to walk for locals and visitors alike.

Continuing on the tour, you certainly will not miss a visit to the White Tower, the most popular monument and a symbol of the city; the Arch of Galerius erected to commemorate the victory of the Roman Emperor Galerius over the Persians; the Rotunda which served as a mausoleum for Galerius and is now the Church of Saint George; and one of the oldest churches in city, the Church of Hagia Sofia, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Use your free time in the evening to further explore this ancient city and afterwards, enjoy some local Mediterranean specialties and a glass of delicious Greek wine in one of the many restaurants overlooking the Bay of Thessaloniki. Overnight.

**Day 13****Thessaloniki – Meteora – Athens**

Breakfast and check-out. On the way to Athens, you will have a chance to visit the Meteora, a unique complex of Orthodox monasteries named after the Greek word for levitating stones.



A place that, until 100 years ago, could only be reached by a rope net, today it is must-see location on a tour of Greece. Set on huge, steep cliffs, the monasteries evoke a mixture of awe and amazement, and it will come as no surprise that it is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List and considered as a unique cultural heritage phenomenon and one of the most important points on a cultural map of Greece. The stunning natural phenomenon of great geological age is also home to a resilient community of monks that inhabits six of the original 24 monasteries. On the way to the Greek capital, enjoy the picturesque scenery of southern Greece, the part of Europe where the sun always shines. Check-in to the hotel. Free time to rest or to get out and catch the vibes of modern and vibrant capital. Overnight.

**Day 14****Leisure day  
Athens Sightseeing**

Breakfast. Start the day by exploring Athens, the capital of Greece, birthplace of democracy and home to the most important archaeological sites. The historic capital of Europe is best known for the Acropolis of Athens, the site of masterpieces of world architecture and art, among which the Parthenon – the greatest symbol of Ancient Greece and democracy – stands out. As you explore the Acropolis, you will also see the Erechtheion, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the world-famous sight Odeon of Herodes Atticus. Besides the Acropolis, the sights of this wonderful city not to

be missed are the city's main central squares: Syntagma Square, at the foot of the Old Royal Palace, and Omonoia Square, where you will find some of the city's most beautiful neoclassical buildings. On the sightseeing tour you will also visit the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympic Games in modern history were held, as well as Monastiraki, a characteristic area of "old" Athens, with narrow streets and small buildings surrounding one of the oldest churches in Athens, the beautiful Church of Panagia Kapnikarea. No visit to Athens is complete without seeing the historic Plaka district, also known as the 'Neighbourhood of the Gods'. With its tight, twisting alleys and colourful 19th century facades, this area is packed with small shops selling handmade souvenirs and local home-made food.

The afternoon is free for you to explore Athens on your own and discover the fashionable boutiques, sophisticated restaurants, cool bars and traditional taverns. Overnight.

**Day 15****Athens Departure**

Breakfast and hotel check-out.

As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are written in this program
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Wooden-town, Blagaj, Rozafa castle, Meteora monasteries and Acropolis of Athens, monastery Krušedol
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan Eight\*
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, Accommodation taxes and City taxes in every country
- Tour logistics and organization by licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

- 3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** Hotel Moskva 4\* / Hotel Bracera 4\* / Hotel Tre Canne 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in Hotel Senator 4\* / Hotel Golden City & My Spa 4\* / Hotel Prestige 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Hotel Premium 4\* / Hotel Ibis Skopje City Center 4\* / Hotel Queen's 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Thessaloniki** in Egnatia Palace Hotel & Spa 4\* / Hotel Davitel Tobacco 4\* / Hotel City 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Athens** in Hotel Avenue 4\* / Hotel Best Western Plus Embassy 4\* / Hotel Novus City 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

- 3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar
- 1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad 4\* superior / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** Hotel Majestic 4\* / Hotel Budva 4\* / Hotel Avala Resort & Villas 4\* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in Hotel Rogner 5\* / Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana 5\* / Hotel Mak Albania 5\* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Park Hotel & Spa 5\* / Hotel Arka 5\* / Bushi Resort & Spa 5\* or similar
- 1 BB in Thessaloniki** in Hotel Electra Palace 5\* / Hotel Makedonia Palace 5\* / Hotel Daios Luxury 5\* or similar
- 2 BB in Athens** in Hotel Wyndham Grand 5\* / Hotel Grecotel Pallas Athena 5\* / Hotel Radisson Blu Park 5\* or similar

15 Nights / 16 Days

# BALKAN GRAND CIRCLE - 16 Days

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria – Bosnia  
– Montenegro – Croatia

- Feel the Montmartre-style charm of Belgrade's Skadarlija
- Explore the castle of the infamous Count Dracula in Bran
- Discover the ancient city of Plovdiv and taste the famous lyutenica in Sofia
- Look for the Game of Thrones filming sites in the maze of narrow, marble streets





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel.



Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

### Belgrade Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around

Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital.



After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "Q" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

#### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants.
- Skadarlija bohemian night:

a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.

Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 4

### Belgrade – Timișoara – Sibiu

Breakfast. Hotel check-out. The tour continues to Timișoara, the largest city in western Romania and one that has been influenced by many cultures. The charm of this city, settled on the northern bank of the River Bega, lies in its distinctive architectural character and vibrant cultural life, and it is frequently referred to as 'Little Vienna'.

Its historical significance is further confirmed by the fact that it was the first European city to have electric street lighting. A guided tour will leave from Unirii Square, the city's main square surrounded by beautiful mediaeval buildings among which the Catholic Cathedral of Saint George is a decorative highlight. The tour will take you to Liberty Square, Victory Square home to the Romanian National Opera and National Theatre, and the 15th century Huniade Castle which today represents the best example of Gothic architecture in this region.



The bridge of lies Sibiu

Continue on to Sibiu, the European Capital of Culture in 2007. Before sightseeing tour check-in to the hotel and take a short rest. Sibiu was the largest and richest of seven fortified towns built by German settlers in the 12th century. In Sibiu, the first hospital and pharmacy in Romania were established, the first Romanian book was printed and the oldest museum in Romania, the Brukenthal National Museum, was built. The wealth acquired by the trade guilds of Sibiu was used to build impressive buildings and fortification, and today the old town has retained its former splendour. Parts of the mediaeval walls still surround the historic centre, where narrow streets intersect 17th century buildings. During the tour you will visit the Large Square with Brukenthal National Museum, the Small Square, the Council Tower, the Bridge of Lies, Stairs Passage and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, modelled on the magnificent Agia Sofia. Overnight.

## Day 5 Sibiu – Sighișoara – Brașov

Breakfast and check-out. From Sibiu you will travel to Sighișoara, a town in Transylvania, with a history dating back to the 1100s. With cobbled streets and colourful buildings, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a must during your visit

to Romania. Sighișoara is also famous as the birthplace of Vlad III, also known as Vlad the Impaler or Vlad Dracula. His birthplace is still there, marked with the placard 'Casa Vlad Dracul'. You will also see the Church of the Dominican Monastery, the Clock Tower, Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, the Tailors' Tower, the Covered Stairway and other important sights.



Brasov

The tour continues to Brașov. Founded by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century and built as one of the seven walled citadels, this amazing city exudes a distinctive mediaeval setting and has been used as a backdrop in many recent films. Numerous mediaeval towers continue to glitter over the city. Between them sparkles baroque buildings and churches, while relaxed cafés line the main square, Piața Sfatului. In Brașov, your sightseeing will start with the story of the main square and the House of Council (Casa Sfatului). You will then walk down one of the narrowest streets in the world toward the Gothic style cathedral Biserica Neagră, famously called the Black Church, and further on to Catherine's Gate, the only original city gate to survive from mediaeval times. After a pleasant afternoon spent in this picturesque city, check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 6 Brașov – Bran Castle – Peleș Castle – Bucharest

After breakfast, check-out and drive through the beautiful landscape to Bran Castle, the former residence of the Romanian royal family and commonly known as Dracula's Castle. The fairy-tale appearance of this gothic fortress built in the 13th century, set strategically atop a 60 metre cliff, provides visitors with an irresistible journey back to middle ages and an era that housed Bram Stoker's horror novel, entitled 'Dracula'. Stoker was fascinated by stories of the dark mysteries of the Carpathian Mountains

and the legend of Vlad Căpșă, a Romanian hero known as a very cruel ruler, and used it all as inspiration for his world-famous novel. Thanks to the fact that Vlad the Impaler was held as a prisoner in this beautiful mediaeval castle, a belief was created that Bran Castle is the place where Stoker placed his story and it became known as Dracula's Castle.



Statue Bran Castle

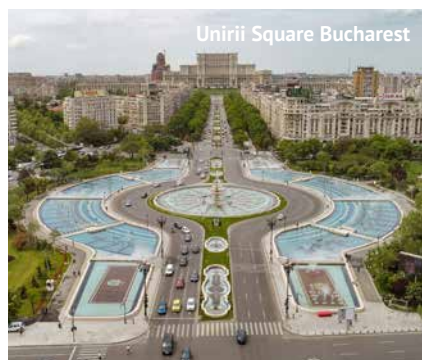
Afternoon hours will be devoted to the visit to Sinaia and Peleș Castle. When King Carol I of Romania visited the location on which the beautiful Peleș Castle now stands, he was amazed by the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains that surrounded it. The royal family decided to build their summer residence there and they made a splendid creation of noble taste and intelligent engineering. The castle, with its stunning turrets, great attention to detail and unbelievable views across the mountains, is considered a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece. In addition to the magnificent exterior with hand-painted stained glass windows and numerous sculptures surrounding the castle, the interior of over 160 rooms was decorated by more than 400 artisans and artists. After sightseeing, you will depart for the Romanian capital, Bucharest. Hotel check-in and free time. Overnight.

## Day 7 Leisure Day Bucharest Sightseeing Tour

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Bucharest. Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned it the nickname of 'Little Paris'), today Bucharest is a bustling metropolis. While exploring this magnificent city adorned with parks, you will see the fascinating blend of French, Byzantine and communist architecture in the many stylish building.



Though much of the centre is modern and garish, you will find splendid 17th and 18th century Orthodox churches and graceful art nouveau villas tucked away in quiet corners.



You will visit all of the city's best-known sights, including the Piața Unirii for a view of the colossal Palace of the Parliament, the second-largest building in the world (after the Pentagon). From there, the tour continues to the mediaeval Old Town, one of Bucharest's earliest settlements, which has been the seat of Romanian princes. You will see the Old Princely Court and its church, the peaceful Stavropoleos Monastery, Lipsani Street and the National Museum of Romanian History. Continue toward the Calea Victoriei Avenue, and see the beautiful French-style buildings. When you arrive at Revolution Square, hear the story about what communist rule meant for Romania and how this square earned its name, and don't forget to take a photo in front of many of its important sights.

In the afternoon, use your free time to rest or head to the old city centre and enjoy the open air terraces, bars, coffee shops, pubs and clubs that can be found at every turn. This is the perfect place to go out for dinner and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of Bucharest while sipping *Țuică*, Romania's national drink made from plums.

## Day 8

### Bucharest – Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo

Breakfast and check-out. Start the day tour of Northern Bulgaria and visit its most important sights. As soon as you enter the territory of Bulgaria close to the village of Ivanovo, you will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site, a complex of rock-hewn churches, chapels, monasteries and cells. This is where the first hermits dug out their cells and

churches in the rock during the 12th century. The 14th century murals are wonderful examples of mediaeval art and testify to the exceptional skill of the Bulgarian artists. Admire and find out why this authentic preserved heritage is attractive and popular with tourists. Continue your tour with a short photo stop in the small village of Arbanasi, an architectural and museum reserve. A picturesque open-air museum of cultural heritage includes 80 houses, some of which still have original Ottoman decor and design. If you are lucky you may catch performance by traditional Bulgarian dancers, with colourful costumes and positive energy. In this small village you can also visit one of its five churches, which together house more than 3,600 frescoes. The final stop of the day will take you back in time to the rise and fall of the mighty capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185 – 1396). By walking the winding cobblestone streets of Veliko Tarnovo, you will learn and feel how its proud population lived under Turkish rule, developed fabulous architectural masterpieces and established a cohesive and powerful craftsmen's guild. The legends and stories, interesting history and picturesque location of Veliko Tarnovo and the Tsarevets fortress have gained them numerous admirers in both Bulgaria and abroad, making the region a top tourist attraction in the Balkans. Check-in to the hotel and free time to enjoy the evening in this charming town. Overnight.

## Day 9

### Veliko Tarnovo – Etar Ethno Village – Plovdiv Sightseeing – Sofia

Breakfast and check-out from the hotel. Drive to the Open Air Ethnographic Museum Etar, which contains a collection of 50 objects including water-powered installations and houses with craftsmen's workshops. The complex exhibits the architecture, way of life and economy of central Bulgaria during the Bulgarian National Revival. Using original instruments and following old traditions, it presents the Bulgarian customs, culture and characteristics of 20 regional crafts. Etar has gained popularity for being the only unique collection of old water-powered machines in Bulgaria, 10 of which are still active today and work as they would have done back in the day, and it is considered one of the best kept active

technical collections in European open air museums.



Continue the tour and explore the beautiful and ancient city of Plovdiv, one of the oldest cities in Europe and the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Located on the banks of the Marica River and built around seven hills, the city has a cultural mix of different civilisations and a unique blend of architectural elements, itself a museum under the open sky. You will visit one of its most famous landmarks, the architectural complex of the Ancient Plovdiv, where many beautiful houses from the time of the Bulgarian Renaissance have been preserved and restored. The most significant monument of the cultural capital of Bulgaria is certainly the Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis; built in the 2nd century with perfect acoustics, in which theatrical performances, concerts and various cultural events are still held today. You will also visit the Roman Stadium and the Church of Saint Constantine and Helena before finishing the tour in Kapana, the creative heart of the city and a pedestrian area full of shops, restaurants and galleries. Drive to Sofia and check-in to the hotel.

#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Dinner at a traditional restaurant: Enjoy a delicious dinner at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant and try the best local specialties, such as: *banitsa* pastry (phyllo cheese pie), *lukanka salami*, *lyutenitsa* (spicy red pepper chutney), *tripe soup*, stuffed vine leaves, *kebabche* (grilled, spiced mince meat) and *moussaka*. To drink, why not try *boza* (a fermented drink) or *rakia* (brandy), the two favourite drinks of the Bulgarians.

## Day 10

### Leisure Day Sofia Sightseeing – Rila Monastery (optional)

Breakfast. Today, you will explore Sofia, a modern, youthful Eastern European capital, distinguished by a unique

combination of communist-style architecture, Ottoman mosques and onion-domed churches. The home to many of Bulgaria's finest museums, galleries and restaurants, Sofia will reveal to you its most interesting landmarks, such as the impressive Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the colourful Church of Saint Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, the Church of Saint George, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Sofia Synagogue, the National Palace of Culture and Largo, one of the prime examples of Socialist Classicism architecture and one of the Sofia's main landmarks.



#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Half-day tour of Rila Monastery: High up in the Rila Mountain, where the forest touches the sky, you will find the largest and most famous monastery in Bulgaria, the Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila. Surrounded by beautiful mountainous nature and nestled beneath Bulgaria's highest peak, Musala, it is the most photogenic, peaceful and authentic place in Bulgaria. Despite its remote location, it attracts thousands of visitors every day. The significance of this literary and cultural centre of the region was confirmed in 1983 when it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. When you stand in the huge, stone-paved courtyard, surrounded by 24 metre high walls, you will see that the monastery is also an impenetrable stronghold. The natural beauty of this monastery is enhanced by the main church The Nativity of the Virgin Mother, covered wooden stairs, carved verandas, arches and colonnades, 300-400 monastery cells and incredible sacred frescoes.

#### Day 11

##### Sofia – Niš – Belgrade

Breakfast and check-out. Return to Serbia, this time to the eastern region, of which the city of Niš is the most

important destination. Niš, mostly known for being the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, is a crossroad between East and West and therefore sometimes called the 'Gate of East and West'. As the host of the most visited jazz festival of Southeast Europe, you will remember it for its frequent restaurants and cafés, always filled with the warmth and hospitality of the local people. During the tour of Niš, you will see several unique sights of global significance. The most important landmark of Niš is the archaeological park Mediana (temporarily closed), a cultural property of exceptional importance as it contains the remains of the residence of one of the most important Roman emperors, Constantine the Great. Another landmark you won't forget easily is Skull Tower. Made of 952 human skulls, it is one of the most macabre historical sites in the world. You will also visit the Niš Fortress, the largest monument in the city of Niš and the best preserved Turkish military fortress in Serbia, located in the city centre, on the bank of the Nišava River. At the end of the sightseeing of Niš, head to the cobbled Tinkers Alley and feel the spirit of the only remaining part of Niš's old čaršija (market), now home to numerous cafés and restaurants. For an authentic local experience try the grilled meat, arguably the best in the country.

After an exciting day, drive to Serbia's capital city, Belgrade. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

#### Day 12

##### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava River meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village

Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood.



Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others. After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel. Overnight.

#### Day 13

##### Zlatibor – Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina River near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's novel The Bridge on the Drina and in honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Tereščenko.

After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel. After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all



the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in Europe. Next you will head on to the Latin Bridge where Gavrilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War. After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

#### Day 14

#### **Sarajevo – Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje**

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva River, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you.



Trebinje - Arslanagic Bridge Protected

The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairy-

tale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna.

The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Belluci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

#### Day 15

#### **Trebinje – Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik**

Breakfast and check-out. This day is devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop at the town of Perast, a little settlement baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. The next destination is Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of

famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems. Hotel check-in and overnight.



Dubrovnik - View at City Walls

#### Day 16

#### **Departure**

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are written in this program, except those marked as optional tours
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Skull Tower, Bran Castle, Peleş Castle, Open Air Ethnographic Museum "Etar", Wooden-town and Blagaj, monastery Krušedol
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan Eight\*
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, Accommodation taxes and City taxes in every country
- Tour logistics and organization by licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Best Western Silva 4\* / Hotel Continental Forum 4\* / Hotel Mercure Sibiu Airport 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Grand Hotel Belvedere 4\* / Hotel Golden Time 4\* / Hotel Ambient 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Capital Plaza 4\* / Hotel Parliament 4\* / Hotel Ambasador 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Premier 4\* / Hotel Tsarevets 3\* / Hotel Alegro 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Hotel BW Premier Collection City 4\* / Best Western Terminus Hotel 4\* / Triada Hotel 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Ramada by Wyndham 4\* / Hotel Golden Tulip Ana Tower 4\* / Hotel Hilton Sibiu 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Hotel Aro Palace 5\* / Hotel Kronwell 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Grand Continental 5\* / Hotel Athénée Palace Hilton 5\* / Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Yantra Grand 4\* / Hotel Agusta Spa 3\* / Hotel Studio 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Grand Hotel Sofia 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad 4\* superior / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar





Boka Bay



18 Nights / 19 Days

# BALKAN GRAND CIRCLE WITH ADRIATIC - 19 Days

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria – Bosnia  
– Montenegro – Croatia

- Discover new flavours of indigenous wine at one of Fruška Gora's most prominent wineries
- Explore the city of Bucharest, impressive with its palaces, gardens and the grandiose Palace of the Parliament
- Relax in the gentle sea breeze on the boat ride through the Boka Bay in Montenegro
- Listen to the peaceful sounds of the stunning waterfalls of the National Park Plitvice Lakes



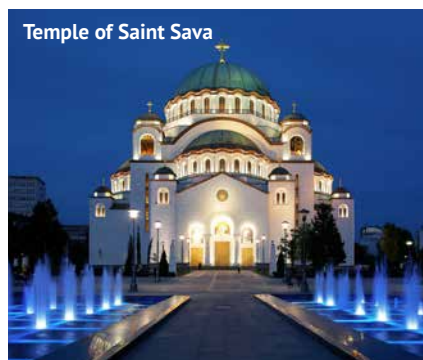


*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel.



Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

### Belgrade Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around

Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital.



After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "Q" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

#### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants.
- Skadarlija bohemian night:

a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Fruška Gora – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Belgrade

Breakfast. On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.

Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 4

### Belgrade – Timișoara – Sibiu

Breakfast. Hotel check-out. The tour continues to Timișoara, the largest city in western Romania and one that has been influenced by many cultures. The charm of this city, settled on the northern bank of the River Bega, lies in its distinctive architectural character and vibrant cultural life, and it is frequently referred to as 'Little Vienna'.

Its historical significance is further confirmed by the fact that it was the first European city to have electric street lighting. A guided tour will leave from Unirii Square, the city's main square surrounded by beautiful mediaeval buildings among which the Catholic Cathedral of Saint George is a decorative highlight. The tour will take you to Liberty Square, Victory Square home to the Romanian National Opera and National Theatre, and the 15th century Huniade Castle which today represents the best example of Gothic architecture in this region.



Timisoara river

Continue on to Sibiu, the European Capital of Culture in 2007. Before sightseeing tour check-in to the hotel and take a short rest. Sibiu was the largest and richest of seven fortified towns built by German settlers in the 12th century. In Sibiu, the first hospital and pharmacy in Romania were established, the first Romanian book was printed and the oldest museum in Romania, the Brukenthal National Museum, was built. The wealth acquired by the trade guilds of Sibiu was used to build impressive buildings and fortification, and today the old town has retained its former splendour. Parts of the mediaeval walls still surround the historic centre, where narrow streets intersect 17th century buildings. During the tour you will visit the Large Square with Brukenthal National Museum, the Small Square, the Council Tower, the Bridge of Lies, Stairs Passage and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, modelled on the magnificent Agia Sofia. Overnight.

## Day 5

### Sibiu – Sighișoara – Brașov

Breakfast and check-out. From Sibiu you will travel to Sighișoara, a town in Transylvania, with a history dating back to the 1100s. With cobbled streets and colourful buildings, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a must during your visit

to Romania. Sighișoara is also famous as the birthplace of Vlad III, also known as Vlad the Impaler or Vlad Dracula. His birthplace is still there, marked with the placard 'Casa Vlad Dracul'. You will also see the Church of the Dominican Monastery, the Clock Tower, Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, the Tailors' Tower, the Covered Stairway and other important sights.



The tour continues to Brașov. Founded by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century and built as one of the seven walled citadels, this amazing city exudes a distinctive mediaeval setting and has been used as a backdrop in many recent films. Numerous mediaeval towers continue to glitter over the city. Between them sparkles baroque buildings and churches, while relaxed cafés line the main square, Piața Sfatului. In Brașov, your sightseeing will start with the story of the main square and the House of Council (Casa Sfatului). You will then walk down one of the narrowest streets in the world toward the Gothic style cathedral Biserica Neagră, famously called the Black Church, and further on to Catherine's Gate, the only original city gate to survive from mediaeval times. After a pleasant afternoon spent in this picturesque city, check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 6

### Brașov – Bran Castle – Peleș Castle – Bucharest

After breakfast, check-out and drive through the beautiful landscape to Bran Castle, the former residence of the Romanian royal family and commonly known as Dracula's Castle. The fairy-tale appearance of this gothic fortress built in the 13th century, set strategically atop a 60 metre cliff, provides visitors with an irresistible journey back to middle ages and an era that housed Bram Stoker's horror novel, entitled 'Dracula'. Stoker was fascinated by stories of the dark mysteries of the Carpathian Mountains

and the legend of Vlad Căpeș, a Romanian hero known as a very cruel ruler, and used it all as inspiration for his world-famous novel. Thanks to the fact that Vlad the Impaler was held as a prisoner in this beautiful mediaeval castle, a belief was created that Bran Castle is the place where Stoker placed his story and it became known as Dracula's Castle.



Afternoon hours will be devoted to the visit to Sinaia and Peleș Castle. When King Carol I of Romania visited the location on which the beautiful Peleș Castle now stands, he was amazed by the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains that surrounded it. The royal family decided to build their summer residence there and they made a splendid creation of noble taste and intelligent engineering. The castle, with its stunning turrets, great attention to detail and unbelievable views across the mountains, is considered a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece. In addition to the magnificent exterior with hand-painted stained glass windows and numerous sculptures surrounding the castle, the interior of over 160 rooms was decorated by more than 400 artisans and artists. After sightseeing, you will depart for the Romanian capital, Bucharest. Hotel check-in and free time. Overnight.

## Day 7

### Leisure Day Bucharest Sightseeing Tour

Breakfast. Start the sightseeing tour of Bucharest. Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned it the nickname of 'Little Paris'), today Bucharest is a bustling metropolis. While exploring this magnificent city adorned with parks, you will see the fascinating blend of French, Byzantine and communist architecture in the many stylish building.



Though much of the centre is modern and garish, you will find splendid 17th and 18th century Orthodox churches and graceful art nouveau villas tucked away in quiet corners.



Bucharest panoramic view

You will visit all of the city's best-known sights, including the Piața Unirii for a view of the colossal Palace of the Parliament, the second-largest building in the world (after the Pentagon). From there, the tour continues to the mediaeval Old Town, one of Bucharest's earliest settlements, which has been the seat of Romanian princes. You will see the Old Princely Court and its church, the peaceful Stavropoleos Monastery, Lipsani Street and the National Museum of Romanian History. Continue toward the Calea Victoriei Avenue, and see the beautiful French-style buildings. When you arrive at Revolution Square, hear the story about what communist rule meant for Romania and how this square earned its name, and don't forget to take a photo in front of many of its important sights.

In the afternoon, use your free time to rest or head to the old city centre and enjoy the open air terraces, bars, coffee shops, pubs and clubs that can be found at every turn. This is the perfect place to go out for dinner and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of Bucharest while sipping *Țuică*, Romania's national drink made from plums.

## Day 8

### Bucharest – Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo

Breakfast and check-out. Start the day tour of Northern Bulgaria and visit its most important sights. As soon as you enter the territory of Bulgaria close to the village of Ivanovo, you will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site, a complex of rock-hewn churches, chapels, monasteries and cells. This is where the first hermits dug out their cells and

churches in the rock during the 12th century. The 14th century murals are wonderful examples of mediaeval art and testify to the exceptional skill of the Bulgarian artists. Admire and find out why this authentic preserved heritage is attractive and popular with tourists. Continue your tour with a short photo stop in the small village of Arbanasi, an architectural and museum reserve. A picturesque open-air museum of cultural heritage includes 80 houses, some of which still have original Ottoman decor and design. If you are lucky you may catch performance by traditional Bulgarian dancers, with colourful costumes and positive energy. In this small village you can also visit one of its five churches, which together house more than 3,600 frescoes. The final stop of the day will take you back in time to the rise and fall of the mighty capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185 – 1396). By walking the winding cobblestone streets of Veliko Tarnovo, you will learn and feel how its proud population lived under Turkish rule, developed fabulous architectural masterpieces and established a cohesive and powerful craftsmen's guild. The legends and stories, interesting history and picturesque location of Veliko Tarnovo and the Tsarevets fortress have gained them numerous admirers in both Bulgaria and abroad, making the region a top tourist attraction in the Balkans. Check-in to the hotel and free time to enjoy the evening in this charming town. Overnight.

## Day 9

### Veliko Tarnovo – Etar Ethno Village – Plovdiv Sightseeing – Sofia

Breakfast and check-out from the hotel. Drive to the Open Air Ethnographic Museum Etar, which contains a collection of 50 objects including water-powered installations and houses with craftsmen's workshops. The complex exhibits the architecture, way of life and economy of central Bulgaria during the Bulgarian National Revival. Using original instruments and following old traditions, it presents the Bulgarian customs, culture and characteristics of 20 regional crafts. Etar has gained popularity for being the only unique collection of old water-powered machines in Bulgaria, 10 of which are still active today and work as they would have done back in the day, and it is considered one of the best kept active



Streets of Plovdiv

technical collections in European open air museums. Continue the tour and explore the beautiful and ancient city of Plovdiv, one of the oldest cities in Europe and the European Capital of Culture for 2019.



Pillars of amphitheatre Plovdiv

Located on the banks of the Marica River and built around seven hills, the city has a cultural mix of different civilisations and a unique blend of architectural elements, itself a museum under the open sky. You will visit one of its most famous landmarks, the architectural complex of the Ancient Plovdiv, where many beautiful houses from the time of the Bulgarian Renaissance have been preserved and restored. The most significant monument of the cultural capital of Bulgaria is certainly the Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis; built in the 2nd century with perfect acoustics, in which theatrical performances, concerts and various cultural events are still held today. You will also visit the Roman Stadium and the Church of Saint Constantine and Helena before finishing the tour in Kapana, the creative heart of the city and a pedestrian area full of shops, restaurants and galleries. Drive to Sofia and check-in to the hotel.

#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Dinner at a traditional restaurant: Enjoy a delicious dinner at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant and try the best local specialties, such as: banitsa pastry (phyllo cheese pie), lukanka salami, lyutenitsa (spicy red pepper chutney),

tripe soup, stuffed vine leaves, kebabche (grilled, spiced mince meat) and moussaka. To drink, why not try boza (a fermented drink) or rakia (brandy), the two favourite drinks of the Bulgarians.

## Day 10

### Leisure Day Sofia Sightseeing – Rila Monastery (optional)

Breakfast. Today, you will explore Sofia, a modern, youthful Eastern European capital, distinguished by a unique combination of communist-style architecture, Ottoman mosques and onion-domed churches. The home to many of Bulgaria's finest museums, galleries and restaurants, Sofia will reveal to you its most interesting landmarks, such as the impressive Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the colourful Church of Saint Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, the Church of Saint George, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Sofia Synagogue, the National Palace of Culture and Largo, one of the prime examples of Socialist Classicism architecture and one of the Sofia's main landmarks.



#### Optional excursion in Sofia:

- Half-day tour of Rila Monastery: High up in the Rila Mountain, where the forest touches the sky, you will find the largest and most famous monastery in Bulgaria, the Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila. Surrounded by beautiful mountainous nature and nestled beneath Bulgaria's highest peak, Musala, it is the most photogenic, peaceful and authentic place in Bulgaria. Despite its remote location, it attracts thousands of visitors every day. The significance of this literary and cultural centre of the region was confirmed in 1983 when it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. When you stand in the huge, stone-paved courtyard, surrounded by 24 metre high walls, you will see that the monastery is also an impenetrable stronghold. The natural beauty of this

monastery is enhanced by the main church The Nativity of the Virgin Mother, covered wooden stairs, carved verandas, arches and colonnades, 300-400 monastery cells and incredible sacred frescoes.

## Day 11

### Sofia – Niš – Belgrade

Breakfast and check-out. Return to Serbia, this time to the eastern region, of which the city of Niš is the most important destination. Niš, mostly known for being the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, is a crossroad between East and West and therefore sometimes called the 'Gate of East and West'. As the host of the most visited jazz festival of Southeast Europe, you will remember it for its frequent restaurants and cafés, always filled with the warmth and hospitality of the local people. During the tour of Niš, you will see several unique sights of global significance. The most important landmark of Niš is the archaeological park Mediana (temporarily closed), a cultural property of exceptional importance as it contains the remains of the residence of one of the most important Roman emperors, Constantine the Great. Another landmark you won't forget easily is Skull Tower. Made of 952 human skulls, it is one of the most macabre historical sites in the world. You will also visit the Niš Fortress, the largest monument in the city of Niš and the best preserved Turkish military fortress in Serbia, located in the city centre, on the bank of the Nišava River. At the end of the sightseeing of Niš, head to the cobbled Tinkers Alley and feel the spirit of the only remaining part of Niš's old čaršija (market), now home to numerous cafés and restaurants. For an authentic local experience try the grilled meat, arguably the best in the country. After an exciting day, drive to Serbia's capital city, Belgrade. Check-in to the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 12

### Belgrade – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava River meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow gauge

heritage railway, Šargan Eight. Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo.



After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others. After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel. Overnight.

## Day 13

### Zlatibor – Višegrad – Sarajevo

Breakfast and check-out. The tour continues to Bosnia and Herzegovina and a short drive takes you to Višegrad, where Emir Kusturica used his imagination and creativity to build Andrićgrad (also known as Stone Town). It is a cultural centre with numerous buildings and facilities built on the banks of the Drina River near the famous bridge (a monument under the protection of UNESCO). The bridge is referenced in the title of Ivo Andrić's



novel *The Bridge on the Drina* and in honour of the Nobel Prize winning author, Kusturica's town was called Andrićgrad (literally translated as Andrić's Town). In Andrićgrad, the tour will stop for lunch at an unusual restaurant called Zlatna Moruna, the interior of which is decorated with frescoes by well-known artist Bisenija Tereščenko.



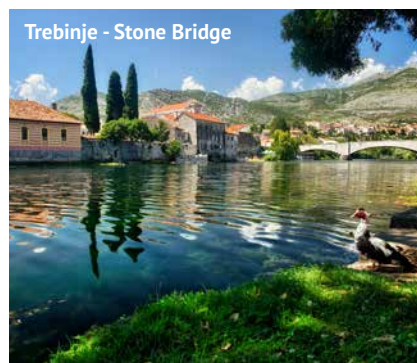
After lunch, the tour will continue on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Check-in at the hotel. After a short rest, the Sarajevo sightseeing tour will start, covering all the main sights including: Vijećnica or Sarajevo City Hall, the building of which was finished during the Austro-Hungarian period; the old downtown of the city called Baščaršija; the historical and cultural centre of Sarajevo with authentic shops and souqs from the Ottoman era; the Orthodox Church from the 16th century; the Gazi Husrev-bey mosque; the Sahat Tower from the 17th century; and the first public toilet in Europe. Next you will head on to the Latin Bridge where Gavriilo Princip shot the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand, consequently starting the First World War. After crossing the bridge, you will reach Bezistan, a market complex from the 16th century, and then on to the main pedestrian zone Ferhadiya with the Sarajevo Synagogue from 1580 and a Catholic cathedral from 1881. Return to the hotel and overnight.

#### Day 14

#### **Sarajevo – Mostar – Blagaj – Trebinje**

Breakfast and check-out. Drive to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. During the walking tour, you will visit the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). You will then proceed to

Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. Free time in Mostar for getting lunch on the banks of the Neretva River, with an amazing view of the bridge that rises above you. The excursion continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosača noble family ruled. Blagaj was also the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, when dervish Sari Satluk built a khanqah at the riverhead of Buna. During the short tour, enjoy the view of the monastery located in a fairytale environment, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna.



The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful mix of sights originating from a mix of different cultures. The tour starts with a visit to Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike; this stone bridge with its peaceful atmosphere will take you 400 years back in time. During the leisurely walk through the narrow streets of the old town, you'll see the most important sights of Trebinje as you make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' where you can sit under the 115 year old trees, which are the symbol of the town. In this beautiful town, Emir Kusturica, the world famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Bellucci in the leading role. Overnight in the hotel.

#### Day 15

#### **Trebinje – Perast – Kotor – Dubrovnik**

Breakfast and check-out. This day is devoted to the Republic of Montenegro, a country that boasts of rich heritage and immense natural beauty. The Bay of Kotor with its unique landscape is a must-see location for more than 500 cruisers per year. On the way to the marvellous Kotor, you will make a stop at the town of Perast, a little settlement

baroque in style. From Perast, you'll start a relaxing boat ride along the Bay of Kotor to the picturesque island of Our Lady of the Rocks. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets and a famous votive tapestry. After the boat ride, you will arrive in Kotor, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th century. A walking tour will allow you to explore this UNESCO site, including the churches of Saint Nicholas and Saint Luke, the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon and other cultural moments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares. The next destination is Dubrovnik, one of the most popular destinations in the world. After check-in at the hotel, use your free time to rest or head out for an evening stroll to Stradun, the main street of Dubrovnik. Enjoy walking the illuminated streets, surrounded by white stone, and take the opportunity to dine on fresh seafood in the fantastic setting of this incredibly romantic city. Overnight in the hotel.

#### Day 16

#### **Dubrovnik – Split**

Breakfast. Start sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. The old town is surrounded by a 2 km long wall that gives a great opportunity to see old Dubrovnik from above during a one hour relaxing walk; the city's churches, fortifications and monuments are a real must-see. Dubrovnik has enchanted a lot of famous persons to devote their pieces of art to the city, thus in this city of marble and light coloured stone, you will find numerous art galleries and unique shops. In the historical centre of Dubrovnik, you will visit the main street



Stradun, the main square Placa, Pile Gate, the Rector's Palace, Sponza Palace, the walls of the Old Town, the church of Saint Blaise, the cathedral, the Jesuit church, Orlando's Column, Big Onofrio's Fountain, the city port and other hidden gems. At the end of the tour, you will have time to sit and enjoy a coffee at one of the charming piazzas or explore Dubrovnik on your own.

At 2pm we continue further. Drive along the beautiful Makarska coast - with wonderful views of Croatian islands, wine & olive plantations and stone-made villages. Afternoon arrival in Split, the largest Dalmatian city, founded 1700 years ago, with a well preserved, enormously rich history. Check-in at your hotel. In the evening, relax in the charming Mediterranean atmosphere and while your free time enjoy coffee or dinner in a restaurant by the sea.

### Day 17

#### Split – Šibenik – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Breakfast and check-out. Split sightseeing tour - your guide will lead you through the narrow streets of Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO Heritage Site), built in the 4th century for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and show you former Temple of Jupiter in the central square of the imperial complex. Today, the temple is now the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral that remains in use in its original structure. You will also pass through the Golden and Silver Gates and walk around lively markets and Riva, the city's shopping zone.



Plitvice Lakes - Nature Reservat

The tour will then head towards Plitvice, with a short break in Šibenik, a medieval Venetian city famous for its narrow curvy streets, stone-made houses, stairs and remains of the city walls. It is home to many significant landmarks, among which the Cathedral of Saint James (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), constructed by locals for hundreds of

years, has a special place. Šibenik is the perfect place for a short break. Spend your free time strolling through the charming streets and enjoying lunch in a square surrounded by Venetian architecture.

In the late afternoon, you will arrive at world-famous destination - Plitvice Lakes National Park. In the refreshing atmosphere, you can relax and enjoy dinner either in the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby.

### Day 18

#### Plitvice Lakes National Park – Zagreb

Breakfast. Start exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park, a beautiful park that contains 16 interconnected cascading lakes. On old maps, it was called 'Devil's Garden' and it is the first site in the Balkans to get UNESCO World Heritage status. You will enjoy a 3-hour guided tour that includes a visit to the upper and lower lakes. While swimming is forbidden, you will find the best places for relaxing and contemplating the untouched beauty of this lush paradise.



Zagreb Towers

The final stop on this great Balkan tour is the Croatian capital, Zagreb. This small gem of European culture and civilisation is located in the heart of the continent. Sightseeing around Zagreb, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him.

### Day 19

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out.

As most of our clients decide to extend

their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are written in this program, except those marked as optional tours
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Skull Tower, Bran Castle, Peleş Castle, Open Air Ethnographic Museum "Etar", Wooden-town and Blagaj, monastery Krušedol
- Ticket for the 90-minutes ride on Museum Train - Šargan Eight\*\*
- 3 hour tour to Plitvice Lakes National Park: includes entrance tickets, boat ride and tram ride
- Boat trip from Perast to the island of Our Lady of the Rocks
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, Accommodation taxes and City taxes in every country
- Tour logistics and organization by licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Best Western Silva 4\* / Hotel Continental Forum 4\* / Hotel Mercure Sibiu Airport 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Grand Hotel Belvedere 4\* / Hotel Golden Time 4\* / Hotel Ambient 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Capital Plaza 4\* / Hotel Parliament 4\* / Hotel Ambasador 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Premier 4\* / Hotel Tsarevets 3\* / Hotel Alegro 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Hotel BW Premier Collection City 4\* / Best Western Terminus Hotel 4\* / Triada Hotel 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Holiday 4\* / Hotel Bosnia 4\* / Hotel Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Platani 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Lapad 4\* / Grand Hotel Park 4\* / Hotel Uvala 4\* or similar

**1BB in Split** in Hotel Globo 4\* / Hotel Art4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice Lakes** National Park in Hotel Grabovac 3\* / Hotel Macola 3\* or similar\*\*

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton 4\* / Hotel International 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**4 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Sibiu** in Hotel Ramada by Wyndham 4\* / Hotel Golden Tulip Ana Tower 4\* / Hotel Hilton Sibiu 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Braşov** in Hotel Aro Palace 5\* / Hotel Kronwell 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Bucharest** in Hotel Grand Continental 5\* / Hotel Athénée Palace Hilton 5\* / Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Old Town 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Veliko Tarnovo** in Hotel Yantra Grand 4\* / Hotel Agusta Spa 3\* / Hotel Studio 3\* or similar

**2 BB in Sofia** in Grand Hotel Sofia 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad 4\* superior / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sarajevo** in Hotel Europe 5\* / Hotel President 4\* / Hotel Residence Inn by Marriott 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Hotel Nar 4\* / Hotel SL Industry 4\* / Hotel Central Park 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Dubrovnik** in Hotel Rixos Libertas 5\* / Hotel Neptun 4\* / Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Split** in Hotel Radisson Blu Resort & Spa 4\* / Hotel Cornaro 4\* / Hotel Jupiter Heritage 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Plitvice Lakes** National Park in Hotel Degenija 4\* / Hotel 16 lakes 4\* or similar\*\*

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel Esplanade 5\* / Hotel Sheraton 5\* / Hotel Westin 5\* or similar



8 Nights / 9 Days

# IMPERIAL CITIES OF EUROPE - 6 Countries

Hungary – Austria – Slovakia – Czech R.  
– Germany – Slovenia

- Cruise along the Danube River and experience the beautiful sights of Budapest
- Admire the beautiful gardens and Rococo interior of the majestic Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna
- Feel the medieval spirit of the Golden city – Prague
- Enjoy the German way, tasting sausages and beer in a centuries-old restaurant
- Ring the wishing bell on the island in the middle of the picturesque Lake Bled





*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Budapest

Upon arrival in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Ferenc Liszt International airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of Budapest, the city of bridges and thermal baths. Known by its youthful atmosphere and beautiful architecture, Budapest is with good reason nicknamed "Paris of the East". Check-in at your hotel.

Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day Budapest Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will set off on a tour (walking and driving) around Budapest. With a unique, youthful atmosphere, a world-class classical music scene as well as a pulsating night life and, last but not least, an exceptionally rich offering of natural thermal baths, Budapest is one of Europe's most delightful and enjoyable cities. Due to its scenic setting and its architecture, it is nicknamed the 'Paris of the East'. Thanks to their cultural and architectural significance, the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Budapest sightseeing tour will show you all the major landmarks of the city: Chain Bridge, Margaret Bridge, the Castle District with Matthias Church, the Fishermen's Bastion with the beautiful panoramic views, Gellert Hill (Citadel) with the most spectacular view of Budapest, Elisabeth Bridge, the Central Market Hall, the largest synagogue in Europe, the City Park, Heroes' Square with statues of the most famous Hungarian kings and dukes, the Opera House, Saint Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament Building and many others.



### Optional excursion in Budapest:

- Danube Cruise: Experience the beautiful sights of Budapest from a different perspective, during a 1.5 hour cruise along the Danube River. On board you can enjoy a welcome drink and one glass of wine, with the option of a traditional Hungarian buffet dinner.

## Day 3

### Budapest – Vienna

Breakfast. Drive to Vienna with expected arrival around noon. Visiting Vienna is an architectural dream! You cannot help but be impressed by the sheer scale and beauty of some of Vienna's most iconic landmarks. The sightseeing tour starts with buildings and attractions within Ringstrasse, which are excellent examples of 16th and 17th century architecture. After passing the old university, your attention will be caught by Vienna City Hall, a building in the neo-Gothic style. The Parliament building, Burgtheater, Naturhistorisches Museum, Kunsthistorisches Museum and Hofburg Imperial Palace all give you the impression that you are travelling through history. Walking along the main pedestrian street, you will see the newer and renovated part of Vienna, before you reach Saint Stephen's Cathedral, the most important Gothic structure in Austria. Continuing along the street from Stephenplatz, right after Hotel Sacher and the famous Albertina museum, you will stumble upon the impressive Vienna State Opera, considered one of the most important Opera houses in the world and the home of the famous Vienna Opera Ball.

In the afternoon and evening, use your free time to explore the city further, or visit some of its great museums, or try the famous Wiener Schnitzel and other local specialties in one of the many traditional restaurants.

## Day 4

### Schönbrunn Palace – Bratislava – Prague

Breakfast. For visiting royal city of Vienna one day is not enough! Start your second day in Vienna with a visit to the astonishing Schönbrunn Palace, one of the most important architectural and historical landmarks in all of Austria, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The history of the palace and its gardens spans over 300 years and reflects the changing tastes and aspirations of Austria's monarchy. While you are visiting the former imperial summer residence, you can feel how the imperial family once lived. At the end of the tour, you will have time to take a stroll through the palace labyrinth gardens or to enjoy a cup of original Viennese coffee and a piece of delicious apple strudel. In the afternoon, Bratislava is waiting for you. Start the tour with a visit to the most important and historical sights of the city, such as the Presidential Palace, Eurovea – the modern city centre, the National Theatre, the Art Nouveau church and others.



The tour will stop at Bratislava Castle for you to take pictures, as well as at the Slavín memorial monument, which not only highlights the tragedy of war but also offers fantastic views. Drive to Prague. Check-in at the hotel.

## Day 5

### Leisure day Prague Sightseeing

Breakfast. Prague – a European city of culture, the Golden City, the City of a Hundred Towers – is a magical city of bridges, cathedrals, gold towers and church domes, situated on the river Vltava. It has the best preserved medieval town centre in Europe and all the attributes of one of the most modern European cities. Start your sightseeing at Prague Castle (Pražský

hrad), the most popular attraction and officially the largest ancient castle in the world. Within its walls lies a varied and fascinating collection of historic buildings, museums and galleries. Listen to interesting stories and walk around Saint Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Basilica of Saint George and other historical gems inside the walls. Before heading down to the old city, you will stop at two viewpoints with amazing views over Prague. Below the castle, cross the amazing Charles Bridge and feel like you are in a medieval storybook. Wander through the small, charming streets of the old town until you arrive at Old Town Square, the location of the Town Hall and Astronomical Clock, one of the oldest clocks in the world and a symbol of Prague.

#### Optional excursion in Prague:

- Vltava Cruise with dinner: Sip a glass of Moravian plum brandy, sit back, relax and enjoy the views of Prague's illuminated attractions. On the leisurely 3 hour cruise, feel the magic of Prague by night and taste different Czech specialties from the delicious buffet.

#### Day 6

#### Prague – Regensburg – Munich

Breakfast. Drive to Regensburg, one of the top 10 sights and travel attractions in Germany. The medieval centre of the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testimony of the city's status as the cultural centre of southern Germany in the middle Ages. The old stone bridge over the Danube, the cathedral and Krauterermarkt square with the Collegiate Church of Saint John, the Cathedral Treasury Museum, Heuport house and the historic Adler Pharmacy are Regensburg's most significant architectural landmarks.

The evening is reserved for Munich, famous for its beautiful architecture, fine culture and the annual Oktoberfest beer celebration. Germany's unofficial southern capital, proud of its pretzels, BMW and football club Bayern Munich, is considered the most liveable city in Germany. Walking around the centre of the city, you will see some world-class sights and typical Munich architecture with alpine influence. Sights on your tour include the Pinakotheken art museums, the world famous Hofbrauhaus, the National Theatre with the Royal Palace, Marienplatz and the Viktualien market with its colourful outdoor stalls and many others. Hotel check-in and overnight.

#### Day 7

#### Munich – Salzburg – Hallstatt – Villach

Breakfast. Continue your journey with a visit to Salzburg, a cultural hub of Austria, famous as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Its picturesque old town with its world famous baroque architecture is one of the best preserved city centres in the German-speaking world and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a relaxing walk with your guide, listen to unheard stories and see the Mirabell Gardens, Mozarteum – a music academy, the Marionette and Regional Theatres, Markart Square, Blasius Church, Mozart's Square... and many more! Make the most of your time in the city by taking a walk along the Salzach River or climbing up to the Hohensalzburg fortress, and don't forget to try the popular Mozartkugeln, chocolate-covered marzipan balls inspired by the famous composer, Salzburg's most famous son, Mozart.



The next stop in Austria will be the breathtaking village of Hallstatt. With pastel-coloured houses that cast shimmering reflections onto the glassy waters of the lake and with towering mountains on all sides, Hallstatt's beauty alone would be enough to guarantee it fame. Boats chug tranquilly across the lake from the train station to the village, situated precariously on a narrow stretch of land between mountain and shore. Until the 19th century, the beautiful Austrian village of Hallstatt was accessible only by boat or mountain trail. Today, this beautiful village is easily accessible and willing to show its main attractions: the Kalvarienberg Church, Market Square, numerous archaeological artefacts, Hallstatt Museum, The Charnel House in Michael's Chapel with 1200 skulls, among others. The small Austrian tour will be finished with an evening visit to Villach, the second largest Austrian city, well known for its legendary carnival. Surrounded by

spectacular mountain scenery, close to one of the crossroads of central Europe, the city attracts many visitors. In this so-called walker's paradise, you will see Villach Main Square with Trinity Column, Holy Cross Church, the Parish Church of Saint Jacob and many others. Hotel check-in and overnight.

#### Day 8

#### Villach – Bled – Ljubljana

Breakfast. Start the Slovenian daily tour with a visit to Bled. This alpine lake with its beautiful island (the most photographed sight in Slovenia) has been a world renowned paradise for centuries, impressing visitors with its natural beauty, wealth of legend and reported special powers believed to help restore wellbeing. You will get to try the famous Bled cream cake and rest your soul looking at the picture-postcard in front of you - emerald green mountain lake that is decorated with island and a church in the center of it, and the medieval castle on a top of the rocky cliff, which reflects in the lake in order to complete this lifelong memory. Proceed to Ljubljana, the magical capital of Slovenia that boasts of real charm and a great cultural scene. You will be led along the riverfront to the city's beautiful cultural landmarks, including the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, the baroque Town Hall, the medieval town square "Mestni Trg" and Robba's Fountain, as well as the picturesque central open-air market and the Triple Bridge. After the tour, you will have free time to take a lunch on the banks of the romantic Ljubljanica River. Check-in at the hotel.

#### Day 9

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like their agent to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance tickets to Hallstatt Charnel House
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Expo Congress 4\* / Hotel Danubius Arena 4\* / Hotel Hungaria City Center 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Vienna** in Hotel Renaissance Wien 4\* / Hotel Austria Trend Doppio 4\* / Hotel Best Western Plus Amedia 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Prague** in Hotel Clarion Congress 4\* / Hotel Dorint Don Giovanni 4\* / Hotel Union 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Munich** in Hotel Residence Inn by Marriot City East 4\* / Hotel Leonardo Munich City Olympiapark 4\* / Hotel Courtyard by Marriott City East 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Villach** in Hotel City 4\* / Hotel Mosser 4\* / Globo Plaza 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Austria Trend 4\* / M Hotel 4\* / Hotel Exe Lev 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Ambra 4\* / Hotel Continental Budapest 4\* / art'otel budapest, by Park Plaza 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Vienna** in Hotel Grand Ferdinand 5\* / Hotel Kaiserhof 4\* / Hotel Austria Trend Savoyen 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Prague** in Hotel Grandium 5\* / Hotel Grandior 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Munich** in Hotel Westin Grand 5\* / Hotel Hilton Munich City 4\* / Hotel Holiday Inn City Centre 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Villach** in Hotel voco Villach 4\* / Hotel City 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Ljubljana** in Hotel Grand Union 4\* / Hotel Radisson Blu Plaza 4\* / U Hotel 4\* or similar

11 Nights / 12 Days

# IMPERIAL CITIES OF EUROPE - 8 Countries

Serbia – Hungary – Austria – Slovakia – Czech R.  
– Germany – Slovenia – Croatia



- Expect to be amazed by Hallstatt – Austria's fairy-tale town
- Ring a bell and make a wish at Bled lake and learn the story behind the tradition
- Don't forget to treat yourself – there are 2 shopping stops
- Explore baroque Salzburg – Mozart's birthplace



*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Leisure day

#### Belgrade Sightseeing

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you

about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

#### Optional excursions in Belgrade:

- Belgrade rivers cruise and Zemun: Danube & Sava, two great rivers and their shores will help you feel the Belgrade's spirit. You'll meet this great city from a different perspective and in the evening, explore the charming Zemun neighbourhood, enjoying dinner in one of the traditional fish restaurants
- Skadarlija bohemian night: a traditional Serbian dinner in Skadarlija – the bohemian heart of Belgrade (drinks not included).

## Day 3

### Belgrade – Novi Sad – Zvonko Bogdan winery – Budapest

Breakfast. Today you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. First stop: Novi Sad. The 2021 European Capital of Culture, this multi-cultural city is famous as the home of EXIT, the biggest musical festival in south-eastern Europe. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matica Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. On the place where you can enjoy wonderful view of Danube and the entire city, you will have a time to take a lunch in wonderful ambience.



After a leisurely drive through the Pannonian Plain, you will reach the pearl of secessionist architecture, the Zvonko

Bogdan Winery. The magnificent building, which clearly points to the almost inevitable blend of wine and art, was built in the style of traditional architecture of the nearby town of Subotica. During a one-hour guided tour, pay attention at different works of art displayed in the winery and enjoy tasting three different wines made from grapes from the Palic vineyard. Drive to Budapest. Check-in at the hotel.

## Day 4

### Leisure day

#### Budapest Sightseeing

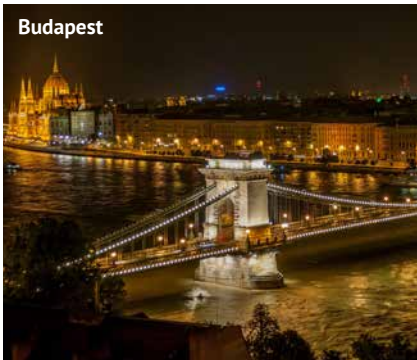
After breakfast, you will set off on a tour (walking and driving) around Budapest.



With a unique, youthful atmosphere, a world-class classical music scene as well as a pulsating night life and, last but not least, an exceptionally rich offering of natural thermal baths, Budapest is one of Europe's most delightful and enjoyable cities. Due to its scenic setting and its architecture, it is nicknamed the 'Paris of the East'. Thanks to their cultural and architectural significance, the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Budapest sightseeing tour will show you all the major landmarks of the city: Chain Bridge, Margaret Bridge, the Castle District with Matiasz Church, the Fishermen's Bastion with the beautiful panoramic views, Gellért Hill (Citadel) with the most spectacular view of Budapest, Elisabeth Bridge, the Central Market Hall, the largest synagogue in Europe, the City Park, Heroes' Square with statues of the most famous Hungarian kings and dukes, the Opera House, Saint Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament Building and many others.

#### Optional excursion in Budapest:

Danube Cruise – experience the beautiful sights of Budapest from a different perspective, during a 1.5 hour



cruise along the Danube River. On board you can enjoy a welcome drink and one glass of wine, with the option of a traditional Hungarian buffet dinner.

## Day 5

### Budapest – Vienna

Breakfast. Drive to Vienna with expected arrival around noon. Visiting Vienna is an architectural dream! You cannot help but be impressed by the sheer scale and beauty of some of Vienna's most iconic landmarks. The sightseeing tour starts with buildings and attractions within Ringstrasse, which are excellent examples of 16th and 17th century architecture. After passing the old university, your attention will be caught by Vienna City Hall, a building in the neo-Gothic style. The Parliament building, Burgtheater, Naturhistorisches Museum, Kunsthistorisches Museum and Hofburg Imperial Palace all give you the impression that you are travelling through history. Walking along the main pedestrian street, you will see the newer and renovated part of Vienna, before you reach Saint Stephen's Cathedral, the most important Gothic structure in Austria. Continuing along the street from Stephenplatz, right after Hotel Sacher and the famous Albertina museum, you will stumble upon the impressive Vienna State Opera, considered one of the most important Opera houses in the world and the home of the famous Vienna Opera Ball.

In the afternoon and evening, use your free time to explore the city further, or visit some of its great museums, or try the famous Wiener Schnitzel and other local specialties in one of the many traditional restaurants.

## Day 6

### Schönbrunn Palace – Bratislava – Prague

Breakfast. For visiting royal city of Vienna one day is not enough! Start your second day in Vienna with a visit

to the astonishing Schönbrunn Palace, one of the most important architectural and historical landmarks in all of Austria, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The history of the palace and its gardens spans over 300 years and reflects the changing tastes and aspirations of Austria's monarchy. While you are visiting the former imperial summer residence, you can feel how the imperial family once lived. At the end of the tour, you will have time to take a stroll through the palace labyrinth gardens or to enjoy a cup of original Viennese coffee and a piece of delicious apple strudel.

In the afternoon, Bratislava is waiting for you. Start the tour with a visit to the most important and historical sights of the city, such as the Presidential Palace, Eurovea – the modern city centre, the National Theatre, the Art Nouveau church and others. The tour will stop at Bratislava Castle for you to take pictures, as well as at the Slavin memorial monument, which not only highlights the tragedy of war but also offers fantastic views.

Drive to Prague. Check-in at the hotel.

## Day 7

### Leisure day Prague Sightseeing

Breakfast. Prague – a European city of culture, the Golden City, the City of a Hundred Towers – is a magical city of bridges, cathedrals, gold towers and church domes, situated on the river



Vltava. It has the best preserved medieval town centre in Europe and all the attributes of one of the most modern European cities. Start your sightseeing at Prague Castle (Pražský hrad), the most popular attraction and officially the largest ancient castle in the world. Within its walls lies a varied and fascinating collection of historic buildings, museums and galleries. Listen to interesting stories and walk around Saint Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal

Palace, the Basilica of Saint George and other historical gems inside the walls. Before heading down to the old city, you will stop at two viewpoints with amazing views over Prague. Below the castle, cross the amazing Charles Bridge and feel like you are in a medieval storybook. Wander through the small, charming streets of the old town until you arrive at Old Town Square, the location of the Town Hall and Astronomical Clock, one of the oldest clocks in the world and a symbol of Prague.

### Optional excursion in Prague:

Vltava Cruise with dinner – Sip a glass of Moravian plum brandy, sit back, relax and enjoy the views of Prague's illuminated attractions. On the leisurely 3 hour cruise, feel the magic of Prague by night and taste different Czech specialties from the delicious buffet.

## Day 8

### Prague – Regensburg – Munich

Breakfast. Drive to Regensburg, one of the top 10 sights and travel attractions in Germany. The medieval centre of the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testimony of the city's status as the cultural centre of southern Germany in the middle Ages. The old stone bridge over the Danube, the cathedral and Krauterermarkt square with the Collegiate Church of Saint John, the Cathedral Treasury Museum, Heuport house and the historic Adler Pharmacy are Regensburg's most significant architectural landmarks.

The evening is reserved for Munich, famous for its beautiful architecture, fine culture and the annual Oktoberfest beer celebration. Germany's unofficial southern capital, proud of its pretzels, BMW and football club Bayern Munich, is considered the most liveable city in Germany. Walking around the centre of the city, you will see some world-class sights and typical Munich architecture with alpine influence. Sights on your tour include the Pinakotheken art museums, the world famous Hofbrauhaus, the National Theatre with the Royal Palace, Marienplatz and the Viktualien market with its colourful outdoor stalls and many others. Hotel check-in and overnight.





### Day 9

#### Munich – Salzburg – Hallstatt – Villach

Breakfast. Continue your journey with a visit to Salzburg, a cultural hub of Austria, famous as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Its picturesque old town with its world famous baroque architecture is one of the best preserved city centres in the German-speaking world and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a relaxing walk with your guide, listen to unheard stories and see the Mirabell Gardens, Mozarteum – a music academy, the Marionette and Regional Theatres, Markart Square, Blasius Church, Mozart's Square... and many more! Make the most of your time in the city by taking a walk along the Salzach river or climbing up to the Hohensalzburg fortress, and don't forget to try the popular Mozartkugeln, chocolate-covered marzipan balls inspired by the famous composer, Salzburg's most famous son, Mozart. The next stop in Austria will be the breathtaking village of Hallstatt. With pastel-coloured houses that cast shimmering reflections onto the glassy waters of the lake and with towering mountains on all sides, Hallstatt's beauty alone would be enough to guarantee it fame. Boats chug tranquilly across the lake from the train station to the village, situated precariously on a narrow stretch of land between mountain and shore. Until the 19th century, the beautiful Austrian village of Hallstatt was accessible only by boat or mountain trail. Today, this beautiful village is easily accessible and willing to show its main attractions: the Kalvarienberg Church, Market Square, numerous archaeological artefacts, Hallstatt Museum, The Charnel House in Michael's Chapel with 1200 skulls, among others.

The small Austrian tour will be finished with an evening visit to Villach, the second largest Austrian city, well known for its legendary carnival. Surrounded by

spectacular mountain scenery, close to one of the crossroads of central Europe, the city attracts many visitors. In this so-called walker's paradise, you will see Villach Main Square with Trinity Column, Holy Cross Church, the Parish Church of Saint Jacob and many others. Hotel check-in and overnight.

### Day 10

#### Villach – Bled – Ljubljana – Otočec – Zagreb

Breakfast. Start the Slovenian daily tour with a visit to Bled. This alpine lake with its beautiful island (the most photographed sight in Slovenia) has been a world renowned paradise for centuries, impressing visitors with its natural beauty, wealth of legend and reported special powers believed to help restore wellbeing. You will get to try the famous Bled cream cake and rest your soul looking at the picture-postcard in front of you - emerald green mountain lake that is decorated with island and a church in the center of it, and the medieval castle on a top of the rocky cliff, which reflects in the lake in order to complete this lifelong memory.



Proceed to Ljubljana, the magical capital of Slovenia that boasts of real charm and a great cultural scene. You will be led along the riverfront to the city's beautiful cultural landmarks, including the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, the baroque Town Hall, the medieval town square "Mestni Trg" and Robba's Fountain, as well as the picturesque central open-air market and the Triple Bridge. After the tour, you will have free time to take a lunch on the banks of the romantic Ljubljanica river.

On your way to another capital, Zagreb, you will make a stop at Otočec Castle. A jewel rising above the misty Krka river, this landmark is the only water castle in Slovenia and the surrounding area, and the short break here will refresh you. Continue on the drive to Zagreb.

### Day 11

#### Zagreb – Indjija – Belgrade

Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Zagreb, a small gem of European culture and civilisation located in the heart of the continent, touring the city's main attractions: Kaptol (the medieval part of Zagreb), the Franciscan monastery and the 13th century Church of Saint Francis. You will also get the chance to walk around Dolac, Zagreb's best known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will end in the heart of Zagreb, at Ban Josip Jelačić's monument in the square named after him.

On your way back to Belgrade, you will visit Fashion Park Outlet, the biggest retail shopping centre in Serbia. With 65 famous brand stores, you will find quality footwear, apparel, jeans and fashion accessories with discounts of up to 70%, as well as restaurants, cafés and an amusement park. This will be your last chance for shopping on the tour so it is a great time to snap up some bargains. Arrival in Belgrade.

### Day 12

#### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance ticket to Hallstatt Charnel House
- Guided tour of the Zvonko Bogdan winery and tasting of three wines from the Palić vineyards
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Expo Congress 4\* / Hotel Danubius Arena 4\* / Hotel Hungaria City Center 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Vienna** in Hotel Renaissance Wien 4\* / Hotel Austria Trend Doppio 4\* / Hotel Best Western Plus Amedia 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Prague** in Hotel Clarion Congress 4\* / Hotel Dorint Don Giovanni 4\* / Hotel Union 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Munich** in Hotel Residence Inn by Marriot City East 4\* / Hotel Leonardo Munich City Olympiapark 4\* / Hotel Courtyard City East 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Villach** in Hotel City 4\* / Hotel Mosser 4\* / Globo Plaza 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton 4\* / Hotel International 4\* or similar

### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**3 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**2 BB in Budapest** in Hotel Ambra 4\* / Hotel Continental Budapest 4\* / art'otel budapest, by Park Plaza 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Vienna** in Hotel Grand Ferdinand 5\* / Hotel Kaiserhof 4\* / Hotel Austria Trend Savoyen 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Prague** in Hotel Grandium 5\* / Hotel Grandior 5 or similar

**1 BB in Munich** in Hotel Westin Grand 5\* / Hotel Hilton Munich City 4\* / Hotel Holiday Inn City Centre 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Villach** in Hotel voco Villach 4\* / Hotel City 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Zagreb** in Hotel Esplanade 5\* / Hotel Sheraton 5\* / Hotel Westin 5\* or similar





*The Liberty Statue, Budapest*



6 Nights / 7 Days

# DISCOVER SERBIA

Belgrade – Novi Sad – Resava – Wooden-town  
– Zlatibor – Uvac

- Start your tour right with a bohemian night in the heart of Belgrade
- Take a deep breath on Zlatibor, the beautiful air spa mountain
- Spot the impressive griffon vulture in Uvac National Park
- Hop on a boat for an exciting ride along the meanders of the Uvac river







Belgrade

*The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*

## Day 1

### Arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, you will be welcomed by your driver and escorted to your hotel. On the short coach ride from the Nikola Tesla airport, sit back, relax and enjoy the sights of New Belgrade with its prominent 'blocks' – a classic example of Socialist architecture, built after World War II – and modern business centres, including the imposing Ušće Tower. Along the way, your driver will show you and tell some stories about the Western Gate of Belgrade, the famous Belgrade Arena and the monumental Palace of Serbia. Check-in at your hotel. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the trip. At 7pm in the hotel reception, you will be greeted by your guide who will introduce himself and provide you with detailed information about the entire trip. You will also meet the other travellers in the group. For the rest of the evening, we recommend you take a short, leisurely walk through one of the oldest quarters towards the bohemian heart of Belgrade - Skadarlija. In a charming 19th century cobbled street you will find many numerous 'kafanas' where you can try delicious local specialties while listening to traditional music. Overnight.

## Day 2

### Belgrade – Great Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, you will embark on a tour (driving and walking) around Belgrade, a capital city well known for its various architectural styles, dynamic

history and fantastic views of one of the biggest river confluences in the whole of Europe. Start the tour visiting the Museum of Yugoslav History, a memorial complex devoted to the life and deeds of Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of Yugoslavia. Next, you will pass by the stadium of FC Red Star – the former European and World Cup champions, and proceed to the Temple of Saint Sava, Belgrade's patron saint. Very much a symbol of the city, this impressive building can be seen from any part of the capital. After a short break at the Temple's plateau, the panoramic tour will then take you from Slavija Square, to Saint Mark's Church, the Serbian National Parliament and White Palace, and on to Republic Square. This most central point of Belgrade is surrounded by such cultural institutions as the National Theatre and National Museum. The tour will then head along the lively Knez Mihailo Street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone, before stopping for a visit to the Orthodox Cathedral Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is located just across from the Building of Patriarchate. Your guide will tell you about the tavern around the corner, the oldest in the city and intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), before continuing on to Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress, the most important cultural-historic complex of the city, situated on the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube.

## Day 3

### Novi Sad – Petrovaradin – Sremski Karlovci (Optional Excursion)

Breakfast. Choice between a free day in Belgrade or a trip to Novi Sad, Petrovaradin and Sremski Karlovci (optional excursion). On this tour, you will explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in the north of Serbia. You will be driven through picturesque scenery and Serbia's famous wine region towards the 'Serbian Holy Land', home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries. You will visit well preserved monastery Krušedol, where you'll have the opportunity to buy wine and rakija made by the monks. The tour continues on to town of Sremski Karlovci. A real gem of Serbian culture and spirituality, Sremski Karlovci feels like a 'museum town' with its Baroque centre, the Patriarchal Court, the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas and the first Serbian secondary

school (gymnasium). It is also famous for wine production and the town's annual Wineball festival. You will finish your tour of this charming town with a visit and wine tasting at one of the region's most prominent wineries.



Novi Sad

Further on the tour, you will visit the 2021 European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad. Located on the historical border of two former empires – the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman – as a result, the capital of Vojvodina is a multi-cultural city with an interesting mix of architectural influences. On a sightseeing tour around the city, you will walk around the city's pedestrian zone, past the City Hall, a Catholic church, the old city centre, the former house of Albert Einstein's wife Mileva, the cultural foundation Matka Srpska and a synagogue. Then you'll follow the right bank of Danube and visit Petrovaradin, or the so-called 'Danube's Gibraltar', where the fortress is located. Drive back to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 4

### Resava Treasury Tour: Manasija Monastery – Resava Cave – Lisina Waterfalls (optional excursion)

Breakfast. Choice between a free day in Belgrade or a trip to Resava Treasury tour – to visit the Manasija Monastery, Resava Cave and Lisina waterfalls (optional excursion). Departure from Belgrade in the morning hours, driving towards the first sights of the tour. The Manasija Monastery (Resava) with its Church of the Holy Trinity is located in central Serbia along the right bank of the Resava river. Like a military fortification with towers, large walls and trenches, Manasija was built during the rule of Despot Stefan Lazarević in the early 15th century. The Turks conquered the monastery in the 15th century and the Austrians in the 18th, so by the 19th century the monastery had been

restored twice. The Manasija floor mosaics and wall frescoes, along with various architectural styles of objects of Manasija represent a real rarity of Serbian medieval architecture and old Serbian paintings. There are also the preserved ruins of the refectory and library – home to the Resava School of Transcription. The tour then heads to Resava Cave, which was discovered long ago and is still one of the most interesting caves in Serbia. The cave and the surrounding 11 hectares of land are considered a natural monument and thus protected by the state.

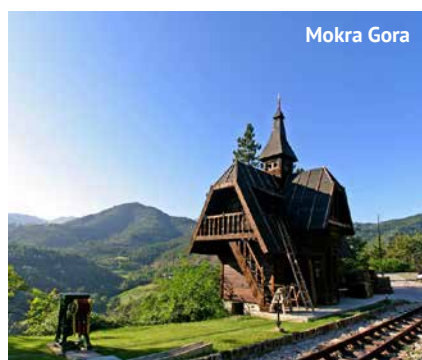


Lunch will be served at a restaurant near the Lisina waterfalls, another of Serbia's spectacular natural monuments. Return to Belgrade. Overnight.

## Day 5

### Belgrade – Mokra Gora Mountain – Šargan Eight – Wooden-town – Zlatibor Mountain

Breakfast and check-out. Morning departure from Belgrade, heading west towards the picturesque Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, through which the West Morava river meanders. The tour will continue on to Tara National Park, and you will have time to reflect on its beauty from



aboard the authentic, retro 'Nostalgia' train which runs along the narrow-gauge heritage railway, Šargan Eight.

Travelling from the bottom of Šargan mountain on a route shaped like the number eight (hence the name), you will be transported back in time while enjoying the stunning mountain scenery and numerous tunnels and viaducts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the railway used to be a part of the railway from Belgrade to Sarajevo. After enjoying the breathtaking nature, you will arrive at the ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by prominent movie director Emir Kusturica. The village, which includes the Mečavnik Hotel, houses, galleries, shops, a cinema and a church, is made of natural materials, mostly wood. Since 2008, the village plays host to the annual Küstendorf Film and Music Festival and Drvengrad has been visited by the likes of Johnny Depp, Monica Belucci, Jim Jarmusch and many others.



After exploring Drvengrad, there will be a short drive to the famous Zlatibor Mountain, home of the first royal resort in Serbia. Here you can enjoy a relaxing walk around the quaint town centre of this picturesque air spa. In the evening, an enjoyable dinner of traditional Serbian food typical of the region will be served in the hotel.

## Day 6

### Uvac Special Natural Reserve – Ethno Village Sirogojno

Breakfast and check-out. Departure from Zlatibor in the morning, transfer to Uvac Special Natural Reserve, located between the mountains Javor and Zlatar. The main attraction of the reserve is its population of griffon vultures. The griffon vulture is a relatively rare species of bird of prey whose population in Uvac is the biggest in Europe. The bird's wing span is about 3 m and they can weigh up to 11 kg, making it the biggest bird in Serbia. However, the griffon vulture is not the only attraction of the reserve; for centuries, the Uvac river has been making its way through the mountains,



leaving deep meanders and creating caves that annually attract lots of tourists. The tour will take a boat trip and follow the river as it twists and turns through the impressive landscape, stopping at two caves called Ušak and Ledena (Ice). After the exciting boat trip, the tour will return to Zlatibor and visit Sirogojno, a village famous for its ethnological museum and 'Sirogojno sweaters' made of raw wool. You will see Ethnological exposition of the open-air museum known as the Old Village before heading back to Belgrade. Hotel check-in. Overnight.

## Day 7

### Departure

Breakfast and hotel check-out. As most of our clients decide to extend their trip within their own organisation, transfer to the airport at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

*If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!*



#### GENERAL INCLUSIONS / VALID BOTH FOR STANDARD AND SUPERIOR PACKAGE

- Airport arrival transfer
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as 'optional excursion'
- Entrance tickets to the Museum of Yugoslav History, Wooden-Town, Uvac Special Natural Reserve, Sirogojno village
- Ticket for the ride on Museum Train - Šargan eight\*
- 1 bottle of water (0.5 l) daily for each passenger
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

#### STANDARD package / ACCOMMODATION

**5 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Royal Inn 4\* / Hotel Mark 4\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad standard 4\* / Hotel Mir 4\* / Hotel Iris 4\* or similar

#### SUPERIOR package / ACCOMMODATION

**5 BB in Belgrade** in Hotel Saint Ten 5\* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5\* / Hotel Hilton 5\* or similar

**1 HB in Zlatibor** in Hotel Palisad superior 4\* / Hotel Mona 4\* or similar

# General Tour Info

## Our Way of Traveling

### Accommodation

Accommodation is what we pay a great attention to. After all, this is where our clients stay at the end of a dynamic day. It is our priority to provide a well and comfortable place for them to rest, recharge and get ready for the next day's adventure. For all of these reasons, we choose best centrally 4\* hotels for Standard and high quality 4\* and 5\* hotels for our Superior packages. Somewhere, especially at national parks or rural parts of the countries with not many options available, we book 3\* hotels ensuring they all meet the high criteria and needs of our clients. You can check the listed lodgings in the part Included in price section. In 95% of the cases we book one of the named hotels. However, the final choice of the hotels depends on the current availability, and sometimes we have to book hotel that is not listed, but we guarantee the same category, service quality and similar location. Each type of accommodation, both in cities or countryside, always have breakfast included and in some places (depending on the program) even dinner. Both Standard and Superior package offers are based on accommodation in a DOUBLE or TWIN rooms. However, we have also predicted accommodation in TRIPLE rooms. Please note that the extra beds in most of the hotels are usually a sofa bed or even rollaway bed. Booking SINGLE room is also available for those who prefer more private accommodation. For more information about lodging arrangements, feel free to contact our office.

### Pre/Post Tour Accommodation

We are aware that our tour duration and end tour date might not be suitable for all of our clients, due to the flight schedule. If you are among them, or just feel like extending your trip with some additional overnights, get in touch with our agents and they will help you with booking your pre or post tour accommodation at the same hotel like the one that is already booked for your stay. Use your free time to get to know the city on your own and get ready for the tour, or relax few days more after a great adventure.

### Transportation

Just like the accommodation, comfortable ride is a very important part of our tours. Therefore we do not make any compromises and choose only vehicles to match high standards of ours and our clients'.

For our small or private tours with 2-3 people we usually choose a high quality sedan/saloon type of car (not more than few years old) which will keep our clients safe and allow comfort to relax during the ride through the beautiful landscapes. Mini Vans that feature Wi-Fi and AC of course, are reserved for small groups of 4-7 people.

High quality Mini Buses (Wi-Fi and AC) with 19 – 21 seats are for groups of 8-15 people.

For larger groups with 16+ people, we provide modern coaches (37 – 45 seaters).

### Leisure Day

We are fully aware that all our clients, as much as they enjoy the stories and anecdotes of their tour guides, have great appreciation of their time 'alone', too. Therefore, on our tours, we have introduced some slow paced leisure days when, after a main sightseeing, our travellers can create their own plan for the day - to rest in the hotel or beach, explore the destination on their own, spend time shopping or anyhow that suits them best. This is also a great opportunity to gather some energy for the adventures to follow.

### Safe Travel

Balkan&more Team takes care of their clients to feel safe and stay healthy. Our agents are available for all your questions, doubts and concerns from your 'first click' on the tour, throughout the trip itself and long after you safely come back home. We will provide all the necessary information, advices and help when needed, so you can have carefree vacation and focus on creating great memories while on the tour. Along with this, we have been working hard with our suppliers in order to implement all the measures recommended by the WHO, as well as the local authorities, to ensure protection from the Covid-19. We have had all our staff trained to recognize possible sources of disease and prevent further spreading. We have been following Safe Travel protocols issued by WTTC, and will continue doing it as long as needed.

### Responsible Travel

Our long experience in tourism made us realize what impact tourists can have of one area so we have developed a way to encourage our guides, drivers and clients to 'think green' and treat all the destinations with respect. Everything starts with encouraging to reduce the single use plastic bottles and bags, to make sure no waste is left behind, as well as to encourage our employees, suppliers and clients to recycle whenever is possible. The water bottles we provide to our clients are eco bottles, 100% suitable for recycling and 30% out of plant origin. Also, whenever is not essential, we have abandoned old habits of printing and started using electronic devices to confirm reservations with our suppliers etc. Along with all this, we are committed in informing our clients about the importance of preserving nature and wildlife habitats by respecting the environment throughout our adventures.

### Benefiting Local Communities

What we are very proud of is our commitment and efforts to support local businesses and communities. We have developed long lasting partnerships with small local entrepreneurs and as a result, our tours offer unique and authentic experiences to the tourists, increased awareness and knowledge of the local culture and at the same time has huge positive impact on the local communities. We find this extremely valuable for the economic development of each of the destination, especially in rural areas as well as for the conservation of the visited natural landscapes.

## Important to know

### Visa information

Due to the various number of nationalities of our customers it is hard to unify information regarding Visa requirements. Some nationalities can travel freely over borders, where others require advance permission to enter.

It is the responsibility of the passengers to get acquainted with visa requirements of all the countries they are travelling to or will be in transit.

In order to be helpful to our clients as much as possible, having in mind our largest markets, we have listed some of the countries whose citizens can travel without visa.

For the citizens of the following countries visa is not required for any of the countries from the provided itineraries:

USA  
Countries – members of EU  
Canada  
Australia  
UK  
Norway  
Switzerland  
Argentina  
Brazil  
Israel  
Singapore  
Hong Kong

Many of the European Countries on our tours are part of the Schengen agreement which as a result has an extremely simple process for our clients – if you require visa to enter Schengen area it will take you only one visa for the entire tour. It is really important to obtain multiple entry Schengen Visa which will allow you to go through several countries without additional hassle.

Please keep in mind that obtaining a visa can take up to several weeks for some countries. Make sure to get all of the information on time from official online sources, government's foreign travel advisories and relevant authorities, or contact your travel agent for help.

### Insurance

Balkan&more strongly recommends to all travellers to obtain their travel insurance and spend their holiday carelessly. Make sure your insurance covers all the activities listed in the itinerary, multiple countries that you will be visiting and the entire length of the trip.

### Special Diet / Food restrictions

If you have any kind of diet restrictions, inform our office in advance and we will do our best to provide the suitable meals. Some places we visit might offer limited number of options for special dietary requirements so, please, bare that in mind. We recommend all our clients to bring their own snacks for walks as the rural parts of the countries we visit might not be able to fulfil your needs. You will be advised in advance by our guides, so you will have enough time to prepare for the day



## Health & Vaccination

We request from all our clients to provide all the specific information regarding their medical condition and special requirements if needed. Travellers who are prone to develop severe reaction due to the respiratory, food or insect sting allergy will need to bring their own EpiPen (Epinephrine Auto Injector) as our office does not provide this sort of treatment. Make sure you inform your guide where the pen is kept, and in case of emergency they will do everything they can to help you. Please note our guides are well trained and already dealt with this kind of situation. Regarding vaccination, none is required. After the hard time the entire world has gone through we do recommend our clients to get Covid-19 shot and tetanus shot, but this is on a voluntary basis.

## Country Information

### Weather

#### *Mediterranean Countries*

MONTENEGRO, CROATIA, GREECE, SLOVENIA, ALBANIA

Countries mentioned above have Mediterranean climate, with plenty of sunny days, hot & dry summers and mild and wet winter. However, as you go further from Adriatic, climate turns into Continental with warm summers and cold, snowy winters and slightly lower summer temperatures. The best months for visiting are from March till October.

#### *Central and Eastern Europe Countries*

SERBIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, SLOVENIA, AUSTRIA, GERMANY, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA, NORTH MACEDONIA

These countries boast with Continental climate. This means cold winters and hot summers with well distributed rainfall. The highest touristic season is in spring, summer and early autumn, and of course for the Christmas & New Year's holidays. If you would like to avoid hot temperatures, visit these countries in fall and if you are a ski lover, do not miss out to visit in between December and February.

## Time Zones

Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, North Macedonia and Albania:

### **UTC +2 CEST**

Central European Summer Time (April through October)

### **UTC +1 CET**

Central European Time (November through March)

Romania, Bulgaria and Greece:

### **UTC +3 EEST**

Eastern European Summer Time (April through October)

### **UTC +2 EET**

Eastern European Time (November through March)

## Official Currencies

### **Serbia**

- Serbian Dinar RSD

**Montenegro, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Greece**

- Euro EUR

**Bosnia & Herzegovina**

- Bosnian Convertible Mark BAM

**Croatia**

- Croatian Kuna HRK

**Czech Republic**

- Czech Koruna CZK

**Hungary**

- Hungarian Forint HUF

**Romania**

- Romanian Leu RON

**Bulgaria**

- Bulgarian Lev BGN

**North Macedonia**

- Macedonian Denar MKD

**Albania**

- Albanian Lek ALL

Exchange offices are easy to find in all of the towns and cities and also, there is a possibility to pay by VISA, MASTER or American Express card in most of the restaurants, markets and shops. It is important to mention that most of the places support contact free payment method.

ATMs are available on almost every corner so you can easily withdraw cash in a local currency by applying the official rate of the responsible central bank, and the fees are rather symbolic. For any further details feel free to contact our office.

## Miscellaneous

### Pocket money budget

When it comes to how much money to bring, it is quite hard to make a standard. Everything is up to the personal spending habits. Still in order to make this decision easier to our clients, here are the

approximate average costs of meals in the countries from the program.

**Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria**

**Lunch:** €12-15 (3 course local menu)

**Dinner:** €13-16 (3 course local menu)

**Soft drink:** €2-3

**Coffee:** €1-2

**Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece\***

**Lunch:** €13-20 (3 course local menu)

**Dinner:** €13-30 (3 course local menu)

**Soft drink:** €2-5

**Coffee:** €1-3

**Germany, Austria**

**Lunch:** €15-25 (3 course local menu)

**Dinner:** €15-30 (3 course local menu)

**Soft drink:** €3-5

**Coffee:** €2-5

\*Prices depend on region – coastal regions are rather more expensive than the inland, hence the large price range.

Please note that most of the places accept card payment (VISA, Master, American Express...) and there are many ATMs where you can withdraw cash for some special purchases.

### Tips

According to our experience, most of the travellers wonder about the tips for their guide or driver. Of course, tips are not compulsory since we make sure our guides are fairly paid. However, if you feel your guide has done all in their power or beyond to make you feel comfortable throughout the trip, you are more than welcome to express your appreciation this way. It is a great satisfaction both to our carefully chosen employees and our agency to know that we have successfully met the needs and expectations of our clients. Once again, keep in mind that this is not the rule, only the practice, and it depends from your own impression after all.

### Water

Tap water is officially potable i.e. safe to drink in most of the destinations visited on our tours. However, due to the potential difference in the content of minerals present in the tap water, we recommend to all our clients to use bottled water. In order to reduce single use plastic consumption, we try to encourage purchasing of large packs and use of re-filled water bottles during the trip.

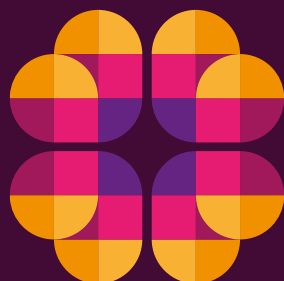
### Power Supply

All of the countries of the itinerary are supplied by electricity of 220 ~ 230V / 50Hz.

Standard plug used in the visited countries is type C, F and E.

## Mobile providers

Each country from the program offers prepaid SIM cards as well as prepaid mobile internet cards that can be purchased at local newsstands, Petrol stations or supermarkets, if needed. Wi-Fi is available in every hotel, restaurant and even in some squares and parks.



# Balkan &more

**TOUR OPERATOR LLC**

**Address:** St. Koste Glavinića 2, Belgrade, Serbia

**Telephone:** +381.11.3344.050

**Mobile:** +381.65.33.44.051

**E-mail:** office@serbia-touroperator.com

**Web:** www.balkan-more.com

