

# BALKAN ESSENTIALS 9 DAYS

8 NIGHTS | 9 DAYS

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Montenegro, Croatia

Day 1

**Welcome to Belgrade**  
Belgrade

Day 2

**Vibrant Capital of Serbia**  
Belgrade

Day 3

**“Serbian Tuscany” Delights**  
Belgrade - Šumadija Region - Zlatibor Mountain

Day 4

**Vivid Western Serbia**  
Zlatibor Mountain - Wooden-Town -  
Šargan Eight - Višegrad - Sarajevo

Day 5

**Balkan Soul Capital**  
Sarajevo

Day 6

**The Beauty of Herzegovina**  
Sarajevo - Mostar - Blagaj - Trebinje

Day 7

**The Mediterranean Essence**  
Trebinje - Perast - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Day 8

**The Pearl of the Adriatic**  
Dubrovnik

Day 9

**Farewell, Dubrovnik**  
Dubrovnik



## EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences  
included in the tour:

### Belgrade Sundown Cruise

Day 2

### Mostar Cooper Artistry

Day 6

### Our Lady of the Rocks

Day 7



**Balkan  
&more**



# BALKAN ESSENTIALS 9 DAYS

8 NIGHTS | 9 DAYS | 4 COUNTRIES | 9 EXPERIENCE MORE

Discover the vibrant capital of Belgrade, explore Serbia's rich heritage in Šumadija, and traverse the scenic Šargan Eight railway. Experience Mostar's iconic Old Bridge, Dubrovnik's ancient city walls, and Kotor's stunning bay. Enjoy local delicacies and breathtaking landscapes across the Balkans.



## EXPERIENCE MORE

EXPERIENCE MORE is at the core of our travel philosophy, elevating each tour beyond the ordinary. These carefully curated moments enrich our itineraries, offering deeper insights and unique perspectives of every destination. From exclusive cultural encounters to hidden local gems, EXPERIENCE MORE ensures each journey is unforgettable and engaging.

## FOR TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

For dates, prices and to choose your group size contact your Balkan&more Local Expert or visit the tour on our website by scanning the QR code.



**PRE-STAY:** 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 | WELCOME TO BELGRADE Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, Serbia's vibrant capital, your driver will welcome you and escort you to your hotel. Enjoy the sights of **New Belgrade**, featuring Socialist architecture and modern business centres, during the ride from Nikola Tesla Airport. After hotel *check-in*, use your free time to rest and prepare for the journey ahead. In the evening, we recommend a leisurely stroll through one of Belgrade's oldest quarters to **Skadarlija**, the city's bohemian heart. This charming 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbled street is lined with "**kafanas**" where you can enjoy delicious local specialties and traditional music.

**Overnight:** Belgrade

### DAY 2 | VIBRANT CAPITAL OF SERBIA Belgrade

On your first day in Serbia, you will embark on a walking and driving tour around Belgrade, starting at **Knez Mihailova Street**, the city's bustling pedestrian zone, filled with shops, cafes, and historic buildings.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Serbian Morning Routine:** Your guide will take you to a hidden gem close to the main district, **the city's oldest tavern** intriguingly known as "**?**" (Question Mark), where you'll try Serbia's most cherished traditional drinks: **coffee and rakija**, but also learn about the UNESCO-protected art of making "**šljivovica**", Serbia's renowned plum brandy.

Having started the day like a true local, we will walk through **the historical Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park** and be amazed by the view of the mighty Sava and Danube rivers.

Crossing Branko's Bridge into New Belgrade, our panorama tour begins. You'll experience the bold **Brutalism architecture** and see the emerging **Belgrade Waterfront**, a symbol of the city's modern transformation. Continuing the journey, you'll gain **insight into Serbia's past**, from its 19<sup>th</sup> century struggle for independence

to its turbulent 1990s. We'll stop for a visit and devote time to the impressive **Temple of Saint Sava**, the symbol of the city and the fourth-largest Orthodox temple in the world, adorned with stunning mosaics.

Our tour concludes in **the lively heart of Serbia's bustling capital** - The Republic Square, having offered you an insight into both the city's and the country's diverse culture, heritage, and history.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Belgrade Sundown Cruise:** Set sail on an enchanting evening **river cruise** through Belgrade, where the grand Sava and Danube Rivers unveil the city's splendour. Cruise past iconic landmarks, absorb the vibrant riverside ambience, and capture stunning views of Belgrade's **skyline, bridges, and historic landmarks**.

**Overnight:** Belgrade

### DAY 3 | "SERBIAN TUSCANY" DELIGHTS Belgrade - Šumadija Region - Zlatibor Mountain

Morning *check-out* from Belgrade marks the beginning of your journey southwards, towards the heart of Serbia. You'll explore **Oplenac**, a place where royals are laid to rest and history comes to life.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Šumadija Royal Wine:** Delve into a royal wine journey through the enchanting Šumadija region, often called **the "Serbian Tuscany"**. At one of Serbia's leading century-old wineries, where natural beauty meets urban elegance, you will taste **three sorts of wine** crafted using traditional recipes and learn about **the Royal Karađorđević dynasty**, who led Serbia through pivotal moments in its history.

After this exquisite wine experience, continue to **Zlatibor Mountain**, home to Serbia's first royal resort. *Check-in* to your mountain hotel and enjoy a leisurely walk through the picturesque town centre, followed by a delightful dinner of traditional Serbian cuisine typical to the region.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Zlatibor Gourmet Session:** Explore **the essence of Serbian cuisine** at one of Zlatibor Mountain's finest **traditional kafanas**. Indulge in rich **ajvar**, creamy **kajmak**, artisan-cured meats, and hearty traditional **pies or proja**. Join us for this unforgettable dining experience and try **the rich, irresistible flavours** of Serbian cuisine against the stunning backdrop

of Zlatibor's natural beauty.

**Overnight:** Zlatibor Mountain

### DAY 4 | VIVID WESTERN SERBIA Zlatibor Mountain - Wooden-Town - Šargan Eight - Višegrad - Sarajevo

After *check-out*, continue to the ethno village **Drvengrad** (Wooden-Town), built by renowned film director Emir Kusturica. This village features natural wood constructions, the Mećavnik Hotel, galleries, shops, a cinema, and a church, hosting the **Küstendorf Film and Music Festival** since 2008.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Šargan Eight Railroad:** You will truly experience the charm of the mountains while riding the authentic, **retro "Nostalgia" train** along the narrow gauge heritage railway, **Šargan Eight**. This railway, named for its figure-eight shape, takes you from the base of Šargan Mountain and transports you back in time as you enjoy stunning scenery, numerous tunnels, and viaduct.

The tour concludes in **Višegrad**, with a visit to **Andrićgrad**, or Stone-Town, built by Kusturica on the emerald Drina River, featuring cultural facilities and the UNESCO-protected bridge. After lunch, continue to **Sarajevo**, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for hotel *check-in*.

**Overnight:** Sarajevo

### DAY 5 | BALKAN SOUL CAPITAL Sarajevo

Our Sarajevo exploration starts at **Vječna Vatra** (Eternal Flame), from where we will delve deeper in the cultural and historical treasures and engage **all your senses** - sight, sound, and taste - offering an extraordinary experience that truly captures the essence of Sarajevo.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / A Taste of History:** Start your Sarajevo tour with none other than a taste of the city's culinary crown jewel - **the famous burek**. Enjoy this savoury pastry at a local bakery before we continue through the vibrant **Ferhadija pedestrian zone** and discover how Sarajevo's **diverse Orthodox, Catholic, and Islamic cultures influence** its rich traditions and heritage. Our journey continues to **Baščaršija**, the heart of Sarajevo's old town, where you'll find some of **the best ćevapi** around, a minced meat dish which the entire Balkan swears by. In the city centre

area, make sure to experience **the local tradition of coffee**, a key part of Sarajevo's daily life. We'll also visit iconic sites like the **Vjećnica (City Hall)**, wrapping **the entire tale** of this soulful city. End this unforgettable experience with a taste of heavenly **baklava** and savour the true essence of Sarajevo's history and cuisine.

In the afternoon, take the opportunity to **explore Sarajevo at your own pace**, revisit your favourite sights or unwind in one of the city's cosy cafes.

**Overnight:** Sarajevo

### DAY 6 | THE BEAUTY OF HERZEGOVINA Sarajevo - Mostar - Blagaj - Trebinje

Today, bid farewell to Sarajevo after *check-out* and embark on a journey to one of the Balkan Peninsula's most stunning cities, **Mostar**. Begin with a walking tour visiting the iconic **Old Bridge**, a UNESCO landmark, Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge, and the old tanner's quarter, Tabhana.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Mostar Copper Artistry:** Step into a workshop in Mostar's Old Town to explore **the ancient art of copper modelling**. Guided by a master artisan, create stunning **jewellery pieces** or intricate reliefs, delving into Bosnia's rich coppersmithing tradition passed down through generations.

Enjoy free time by **the Neretva River** for lunch with a breathtaking view of the bridge.

Continue to **Blagaj**, a 15<sup>th</sup> century town near the spring of the emerald green river Buna, and visit the monastery nestled beneath towering cliffs. Then, explore **Trebinje**, known for its picturesque **Arslanagića Bridge** and a leisurely walk through the old town's narrow streets. Conclude your day at "**Poet's Square**", where century-old 16 plane trees symbolize the town's charm, before *check-in* to your hotel.

**Overnight:** Trebinje

### DAY 7 | THE MEDITERRANEAN ESSENCE Trebinje - Perast - Kotor - Dubrovnik

After *check-out*, explore Trebinje's **local market** before continuing towards Montenegro.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Trebinje Market Delights:** Savour the fresh delights of Trebinje's **vibrant local market**, a rare gem where **traditional tastes and methods** still thrive. Amidst the





friendly chatter of vendors and the inviting aromas of fresh produce, indulge in creamy, fresh cheese, flavourful dried meats, and sun-ripened fruits, all grown by **small local producers** using time-honoured techniques.

Wave farewell to Herzegovina as you journey towards **Montenegro's Boka Bay**, renowned for its picturesque landscapes and historical significance. Your first stop is the town of **Perast**, a charming baroque-style settlement nestled in the heart of Boka Bay.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Our Lady of the Rocks:**

From Perast, you have the opportunity to discover **a quiet wonder of the Boka Bay**, the picturesque island of **Our Lady of the Rocks**, a manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets, and a famous sacred tapestry.

Arrive in **Kotor** for a guided tour of this **UNESCO site**, including ancient churches and the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon.

The final destination of the day is **Dubrovnik**, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Hotel *check-in*.

**Overnight:** Dubrovnik

**DAY 8 | THE PEARL OF THE ADRIATIC**

**Dubrovnik**

Discover the true essence of Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic", as you explore its iconic landmarks, from the bustling **Stradun** to the historic Placa Square and beyond. Immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of this city, where the breathtaking settings of "**Game of Thrones**" come to life. Uncover the fascinating tales of **the Republic of Ragusa** and experience firsthand why Dubrovnik stands as one of the world's most captivating destinations.

Our mission is to showcase **Dubrovnik from every angle**, allowing you to fully embrace its unique charm. After the city tour, we recommend making the most of your **free time** by having lunch atop the city walls, taking **a cable car to Srđ Hill** for breathtaking views, walking **the 2 km City Walls** for a stunning perspective from above. In the evening, set sail on **a sunset cruise on the Karaka**, a replica of a traditional 16<sup>th</sup> century wooden galleon, and admire the breathtaking views of the old town and the centuries-old

impregnable walls of Dubrovnik from the sea.

**Overnight:** Dubrovnik

**DAY 9 | FAREWELL, DUBROVNIK**

**Dubrovnik**

After hotel *check-out*, it is time to conclude your Balkan tour. 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.

**POST-STAY: 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*

**Transportation:**

- Airport arrival transfer
- Transportation as per the itinerary with modern, comfortable vehicles tailored to your group size

**Entrances & tickets:**

Temple of Saint Sava, Oplenac Royal Complex, Wooden-Town, Blagaj Tekke, Kotor Old Town

**Experiences:**

Coffee & rakija in a Belgrade tavern (*Serbian Morning Routine*); Sava and Danube Rivers Cruise (*Belgrade Sundown Cruise*); Wine tasting in a local winery in Central Serbia (*Šumadija Royal Wines*); Dinner in a traditional Western Serbian restaurant (*Zlatibor Gourmet Session*); Train ride tickets on a heritage railway (*Šargan Eight Railroad*); Traditional Bosnian street food tasting (*A Taste of History*); Copper modelling workshop (*Mostar Copper Artistry*); Visit to the local market in Herzegovina (*Trebinje Market Delights*); Boat ride to the island and entry ticket to the church (*Our Lady of the Rocks*)

**Meals:**

- 8 x breakfast
- Additional meals included in our experiences

**Additional:**

- Professional English-speaking tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organization with dedicated service and care
- 1 bottle of water (0.5l) daily for each passenger

**HOTELS / STANDARD package**

**2 BB in Belgrade** in Royal Inn 4\* / Mercure Excelsior 4\* / Central Point 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Zlatibor** in Palisad standard 4\* / Mona 4\* / Buket 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Sarajevo** in Old Town 4\* / Colors Inn 4\* / Movenpick 4\* (Novotel) or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Central Park 4\* / Sesto Senso 4\* / Platani 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Lapad 4\* / Lero 4\* / Valamar Tirena 4\* or similar

**HOTELS / SUPERIOR package**

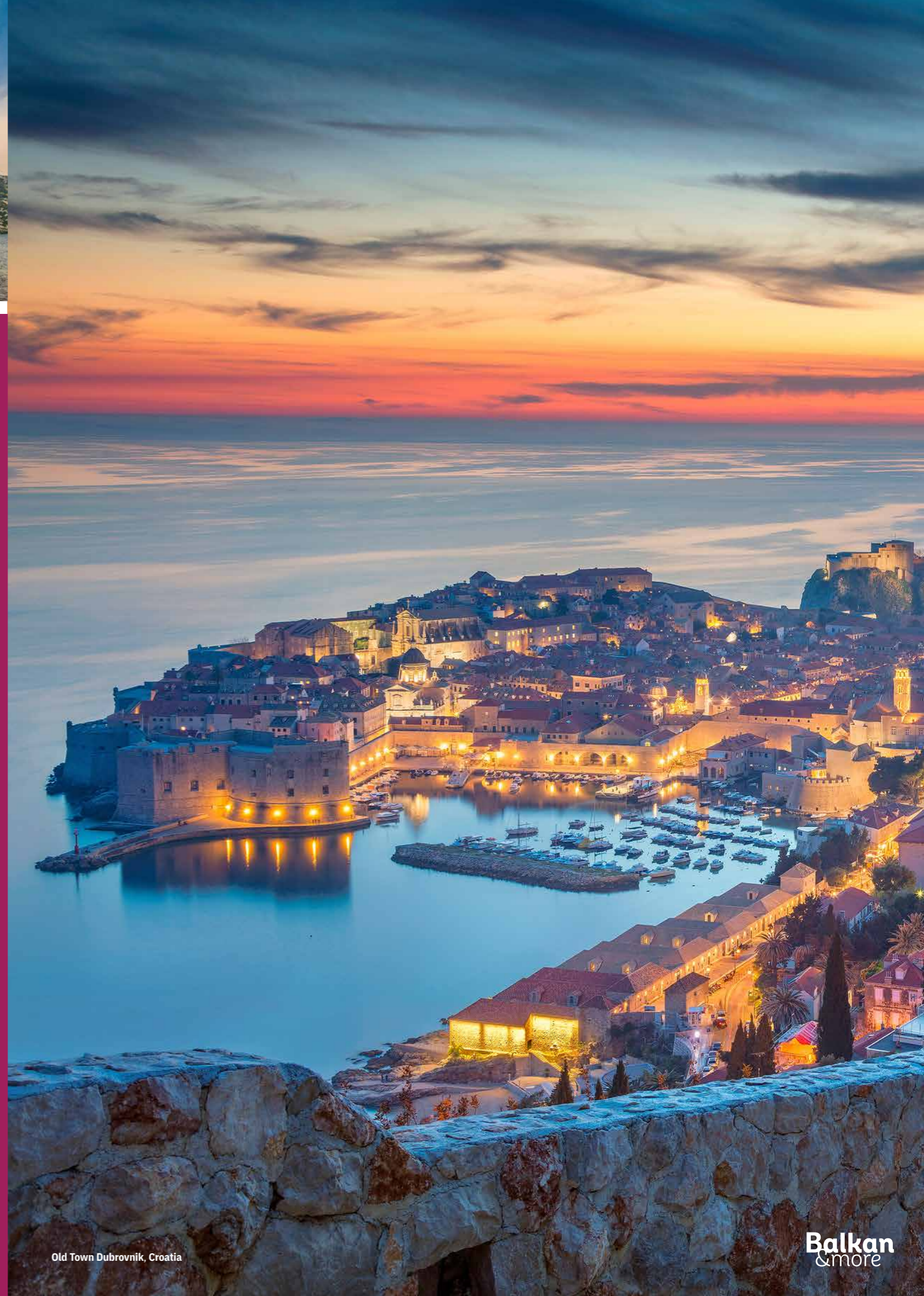
**2 BB in Belgrade** in Envoy 4\* / Museum 4\* / Moskva 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Zlatibor** in Palisad superior 4\* / Bor by Karisma 5\* / Zlatibor Residence 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Sarajevo** in Courtyard by Marriott 4\* / Europe 5\* / Baškuća 4\* Se or similar

**1 BB in Trebinje** in Central Park 4\* / Nar 4\* / Integra 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Dubrovnik** in Royal Neptun 4\* / Kompas 4\* / More 5\* or similar



Old Town Dubrovnik, Croatia