



EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences included in the tour:

Goriška Hills Wine Tasting Day 3

> Truffles of Istria Day 4

Oyster & Seashell Tasting Day 5

> **Balkan** &more

BALKAN EXTENDED

8 NIGHTS | 9 DAYS

Slovenia and Croatia

Day 1 **Welcome to Ljubljana** Ljubljana

Day 2 **Slovenian Highlights Tour** Ljubljana - Lake Bled - Ljubljana

Day 3 **The Diversity of Slovenia** Ljubljana - Postojna Cave - Goriška Hills - Portorož

> Day 4 **Istrian Hilltop Treasures** Portorož - Grožnjan - Motovun - Poreč

Day 5 **The Soul of Istria** Poreč - Rovinj - Lim Bay - Winery - Pula - Poreč

> Day 6 **The Devil's Garden** Poreč - Opatija - Plitvice Lakes NP

Day 7 **Dalmatian Coastal Charm** Plitvice Lakes NP - Trogir - Split

Day 8 **Hvar Island Adventures** Split - Hvar Island - Split

> Day 9 **Farewell, Split** Split

BALKAN EXTENDED

8 NIGHTS | 9 DAYS | 2 COUNTRIES | 4 EXPERIENCE MORE

Start in eco-chic Ljubljana, explore Lake Bled's beauty, and marvel at Postojna Cave. Savor Istria's charm with Motovun and truffle tasting, then immerse in Plitvice Lakes' splendour. Discover Trogir's medieval allure, Split's rich history, and Adriatic paradise - Hvar island.

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 OR code.



This tour offers predefined Pre and Post-Tour Extensions that can be added separately or combined with the core program. For details, see the next page. Note: The first day of the Post Tour Extension is the last day of the core program, and the last day of the Pre Tour Extension is the first day of the core program.

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO LJUBLJANA Ljubljana

Upon arrival in Ljubljana, the magical capital of **Slovenia**, you will be greeted by the charming blend of historic architecture and modern sustainability initiatives, reflecting Slovenia's status as an eco-conscious country. After hotel check-in, take some time to relax and begin exploring Ljubljana's lively atmosphere. Enjoy a taste of the city with its delightful and diverse restaurant options around you. Overnight: Ljubljana

DAY 2 | SLOVENIAN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR Ljubljana - Lake Bled - Ljubljana

Start your guided tour of Ljubljana, a picturesque city known for its greenery, stunning architecture, and relaxed vibe. Nestled between the Julian Alps and the Adriatic Sea, it's one of Europe's greenest capitals, offering dining experiences and numerous museums.

Explore key landmarks such as Mestni Trg (Town Square), the iconic Triple Bridge, and the banks of the charming Ljubljanica River. These sites capture the true essence of Ljubljana, with its historical attractions and cultural heritage.

During your Slovenia tour, a visit to the alpine gem, Lake Bled, is a must - for centuries, this green pearl of the Slovenian Alps has captivated visitors with its natural beauty and mystical charm. Use your free time to visit the Bled Castle and try the famous Bled "krempita", a delectable cream cake.

Return to Ljubljana and indulge in the city's rich and diverse gastronomic scene at your leisure. Overnight: Ljubljana

DAY 3 | THE DIVERSITY OF SLOVENIA Ljubljana - Postojna Cave - Goriška Hills - Portorož

Say goodbye to the capital of Slovenia after hotel



check-out.

Just an hour from Liubliana, visit the stunning Postojna Cave. Board an electric train to explore its underground wonders, including stalactites, stalagmites, limestone pools, gorges, and waterfalls.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Goriška Hills Wine Tasting:

For a full immersion into Slovenian charm, head to the Goriška Hills, shared between Slovenia and Italy. Known for wine production, the highlight is the 14th century village of Šmartno. Visit a local As we continue, prepare to uncover more winery to sample the region's finest wines.

Finally, arrive in Portorož (from the Italian "Portorose", meaning "rose port"), and check-in to our hotel.

Overnight: Portorož

and unique lifestyle.

DAY 4 | ISTRIAN HILLTOP TREASURES Portorož - Grožnjan - Motovun - Poreč

Today, we head to Grožnjan, a charming hilltop village renowned for its vibrant arts scene and medieval charm. Explore its galleries and workshops while taking in spectacular panoramic views of Istria.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Truffles of Istria: Join a **truffle-hunting demonstration** in the scenic forest known for white and black truffles. With guidance from an expert hunter and his dog, learn how to find these treasures. Conclude with a tasting of local truffle-infused cheese, sausages, and Istrian wine, while meeting a local family who will share their truffle cultivation stories

Our journey leads us towards the hidden gem called Motovun. Stroll the narrow, cobblestone streets to see medieval architecture and the iconic town walls.

Finally, we check into a hotel in **Poreč**, where we rest and recharge for the adventures ahead. Overnight: Poreč

DAY 5 | THE SOUL OF ISTRIA

Poreč - Rovinj - Lim Bay - Winery - Pula - Poreč

Today, you'll explore the historic town of Rovinj, often called the gem of Istria. From the lively atmosphere of the authentic Old Town, then Grisia Street, renowned for its local art and charming shops, to the panoramic vistas that

showcase the town's scenic Mediterranean beauty, Rovinj offers an unforgettable blend of cultural heritage and natural beauty.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Oyster & Seashell Tasting:

Following the Istrian coastline, we head to the *Lim Channel*, a stunning 11-km-long estuary where freshwater meets seawater, creating a haven for marine life. Here, you can **savour the** freshest and finest shellfish, including oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops.

hedonistic gems of the region - its exceptional wines.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Istrian Wine Tasting: Indulge in the charm of another local treasure of Istria: a family-owned winery that captures the heart of Istrian winemaking. After a guided winery tour, immerse yourself in the artistry and passion that infuse every bottle.

The final stop is **Pula**, renowned for its historical sites and Roman architecture. Visit the remarkably well-preserved Roman amphitheatre, the Temple of Augustus, the Triumphal Arch of Sergius, and Stroll along the lively Riva promenade, other ancient landmarks. Return to Poreč in the evening, reflecting on the day's discoveries and flavours.

DAY 6 | THE DEVIL'S GARDEN

Overnight: Poreč

Poreč - Opatija - Plitvice Lakes NP

Today, check-out from Poreč and bid farewell to the stunning Istrian peninsula and head toward **Opatija**, an aristocratic town known for its history, architecture, and lively atmosphere.

As we continue, enjoy the picturesque countryside with charming villages, rolling hills, and glimpses of the Adriatic Sea before reaching the mountainous landscape of our next stop.

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.

rest and unwind. **Overnight:** Plitvice

Soak in the nature as you check-in to your hotel,

DAY 7 | DALMATIAN COASTAL CHARM Plitvice Lakes NP - Trogir - Split

After check-out, head towards the coast. The first part of the day will be devoted to the beautiful town of Trogir. Located on a tiny island, this UNESCO World Heritage Site 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. Discover its medieval charm, including the **Clock Tower**, and enjoy the picturesque sea views and historic architecture.

The day concludes in Split, the largest city in Dalmatia. Enter through the Golden Gate and wander through narrow cobblestone streets, where bustling markets, charming cafés, and hidden courtyards reveal the rich history and timeless grandeur of the Diocletian's Palace. Visit the former Temple of Jupiter, followed by the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, the oldest Catholic cathedral still in its original structure. soaking up the Mediterranean sun and vibrant atmosphere. End the day with a hotel check-in. **Overnight:** Split

DAY 8 | HVAR ISLAND ADVENTURES Split - Hvar Island - Split

To start your day, drive to the ferry port and board a high-speed catamaran bound for Hvar, Croatia's renowned island gem.

Hvar, a charming island-city with Venetian architecture, is known for its traffic-free cobbled streets lined with restaurants and bars. On your walking tour, explore the harbour, Renaissance Cathedral, Benedictine Convent, Franciscan Monastery, and Church of Our Lady of Mercy.

We've set aside plenty of free time for you to fully enjoy all that the island has to offer. Based on your interests, we recommend you to: Enjoy a delightful Mediterranean lunch at a local restaurant, relax on the sun-kissed beaches, embark on a boat excursion to discover the enchanting Pakleni Islands, or explore the picturesque trails to Milna Bay for a memorable adventure.

In the late afternoon, return to Split, with departure timing subject to seasonal variations. Overnight: Split

DAY 9 | FAREWELL, SPLIT

Split

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.

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:

Postojna Cave, Pula Arena, Catamaran Split - Hvar - Split, NP Plitvice Lakes

Experiences:

Wine tasting in a local winery in Western Slovenia (Goriška Hills Wine Tasting); Truffle tasting in Croatian Istria (Truffles of Istria); Oyster & Seashell Tasting in Croatian Istria (Oyster & Seashell *Tasting);* Wine tasting in a local winery in Croatian Istria (Istrian Wine Tasting)

Meals:

8 x breakfast

- 1 x dinner 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 Ljubljana in Best Western Premier Slon 4* / Exe Lev 4* / City Ljubljana 4* or similar **1 BB in Portorož** in Neptun 4*/ Wellness

Apollo 4* / Remisens Metropol 5* or similar

2 BB in Poreč in Valamar Diamant 4* / Valamar Riviera & Residence 4* / BO Palazzo 4* or similar

1 HB in Plitvice Lakes National Park in Zrinka House 4* / Plitvice Inn 4* / Plitvička kuća 4* or similar

2 BB in Split in Art 4*/ Globo 4*/ Marul 4* or similar

HOTELS / SUPERIOR package

2 BB in Ljubljana in Eurostars uHotel 4* / Occidental Ljubljana 4* / Grand Plaza & Congress Center 5* or similar

1 BB in Portorož in Grand Hotel Portorož 4* / Hotel Slovenia - Terme & Wellness 5* / Grand Hotel Bernardin 5* or similar

2 BB in Poreč in Valamar Parentino Hotel 4* / Martis Forum Heritage Hotel 4* / Hotel Parentium Plava Laguna 4* or similar

1 HB in Plitvice Lakes National Park in Degenija 4* / 16 Lakes 4* / Palcich 4* or similar 2 BB in Split in Luxe 4* / Marmont Heritage 4*/ AC Marriott 4* or similar





HUNGARY

O Palić

Novi Sad



SERBIA



BALKAN EXTENDED TOUR **EXTENSIONS**

Enhance your travel experience with our four unique extension options, designed for those who wish to delve deeper into their adventure.

Whether you're looking for more cultural immersion, outdoor activities, or simply want to relax and explore more of the region, our extensions allow you to tailor your tour to your personal preferences.

Note: The first day of the Post Tour Extension is the last day of the core program, and the last day of the Pre Tour Extension is the first day of the core program. The core program, Balkan Extended, is on page 50.



TOUR EXTENSION 1 VENICE TO LJUBLJANA

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO VENICE Venice (Mestre)

Welcome to Mestre, the gateway to Venice's timeless beauty and enchanting canals. Upon your arrival on the mainland, you'll *check-in* to your hotel and have some time to relax and refresh. In the evening, you'll meet your guide, who will introduce you to the upcoming tour and provide you with a special travel card. which offers unlimited access to Venice's water and land transportation, allowing you to explore the city at your leisure. For those who wish, the guide will accompany you to Venice, where you can enjoy the evening atmosphere of this magical place. You may choose to enjoy a delightful dinner at one of the local restaurants, with the experience being entirely at your own leisure and arrangement. **Overnight:** Venice

DAY 2 | THE TIMELESS VENICE Venice

Prepare for an enchanting journey through Venice, a city of romance and mystery. Your adventure begins with a scenic ride along **the** Grand Canal, where the timeless beauty of Venice unfolds with every turn.

Feel the energy of the iconic **St. Mark's** Square, the pulsating heart of Venice, where every step echoes with the grandeur of the past, and admire the splendour of St. Mark's Basilica. Nearby, the majestic Doge's Palace stands as a symbol of Venice's storied history, a place where art, politics, and intrigue once intertwined.

As you wander through the labyrinthine streets, cross the Rialto Bridge, a centrepiece famously depicted in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice", offering captivating

views of this island - city. Picture the days of Casanova, with each turn revealing a new scene of masked figures, hidden courtyards, and artistic treasures.

After the city tour, if you wish to make your day even more special, we suggest taking a gondola ride through the canals, where you can admire the fading light reflecting off the water and the elegant architecture that defines this timeless city. As evening falls, Venice transforms into a magical realm. Consider dining at a local restaurant, where the flavours of the sea blend with rich Italian traditions. This is Venice - a place where the past and present merge into an unforgettable poetic experience.

Overnight: Venice

DAY 3 | THE ISLANDS OF VENICE Venice - Murano - Burano - Ljubljana

After check-out, we head to the two famous islands of the Venetian Lagoon.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Murano Glass Factory:

Murano is an island renowned worldwide for its exquisite glass production, where you will have an opportunity to visit a local glass factory, and you may even find a unique souvenir to bring home.

Afterwards, we head to Burano, another delightful island in the Venetian Lagoon, famous for its brightly coloured houses and traditional lace-making. Visit Galuppi Square, wander through the quaint streets, explore local shops, and discover the delicate, handcrafted lace that has been a Burano speciality passed down through the generations.

After exploring Venice's rich craft history, we head to Ljubljana, Slovenia's magical capital. Enjoy the blend of historic architecture and modern sustainability. After hotel check-in, take some time to relax and begin exploring Ljubljana's lively atmosphere. Enjoy a taste of the city with its delightful and diverse restaurant options options around you.



TOUR EXTENSION 2 BUDAPEST TO LJUBLJANA

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO BUDAPEST Budapest

Upon arrival in Budapest, check into your hotel and enjoy the sights of this vibrant city, known for its bridges and thermal baths. Explore Budapest's beautiful architecture and youthful atmosphere. Use your free time to rest and prepare for the upcoming European adventure. **Overnight:** Budapest

DAY 2 | DANUBE'S GRAND LANDMARKS Budapest

To make the most of your Hungarian part of the tour, embark on a walking and driving exploration of Budapest. Known for its vibrant atmosphere, world-class music, lively nightlife. and rich thermal baths, Budapest is often called the "Paris of the East" for its scenic beauty and architecture.

Experience the rich tapestry of Budapest as you journey through its UNESCO World Heritage sites, where each landmark tells a story of cultural and architectural grandeur.

Feel the pulse of the city as you traverse the maiestic Chain Bridge, connecting you to the heart of Budapest and one of its main sites the Castle District, from where you can admire the Elisabeth Bridge and the Hungarian Parliament Building. At Heroes' Square, witness the regal statues that honour Hungary's heroes. Continue towards the city centre and marvel at the impressive architecture of the grand Hungarian Synagogue, the largest one in Europe. Each site invites you to feel the city's vibrant spirit and explore its storied past in a way that truly resonates.

Indulge in some free time for personal exploration or a leisurely lunch, then prepare for an enjoyable experience that awaits.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Evening Danube Cruise: Discover Budapest from a new perspective on a one-hour evening Danube cruise. Sip a glass of wine as you glide past the illuminated Royal Palace, Parliament, and stunning bridges, and

vibrant atmosphere. **Optional:** You can optionally upgrade to a delightful two-and-a-half-hour cruise featuring a traditional Hungarian dinner, live music, and exceptional service. Enjoy a longer evening on the water as you savour exquisite cuisine while taking in the breathtaking night views of Budapest.

Overnight: Budapest

the north of Serbia.

DAY 3 SCENIC ROUTES OF VOJVODINA **Budapest - Novi Sad - Belgrade**

Check-out and prepare to explore the most interesting sights of Vojvodina, a province in

EXPERIENCE MORE / Wines of Pannonian *Plain:* Inside the Pannonian Plain, the Zvonko **Bogdan Winery** stands as an architectural gem crafted in the elegant secessionist style. Relish the stunning artworks adorning the winery, and let your senses come alive as you sample three

distinctive wines from the Palić vineyard. Your next stop will be Novi Sad, the vibrant capital of Vojvodina and the 2021 European Capital of Culture. This multicultural gem is renowned for hosting EXIT, Southeast Europe's largest music festival. Wander through its lively pedestrian zone, where historic landmarks like the City Hall and the old city centre blend with cultural sites. Explore the impressive Petrovaradin Fortress, often called "Danube's Gibraltar", where you can enjoy stunning views of the Danube River and the cityscape, perfect

for capturing unforgettable moments.

After a short drive, you will reach **Belgrade**, the capital of Serbia and check-in to your the hotel. In the evening, we recommend a leisurely stroll through one of Belgrade's oldest quarters to Skadarlija, the city's bohemian heart, lined with "kafanas" where you can enjoy delicious

soak in the city's architectural splendour and

local specialties and traditional music. **Overnight:** Belgrade

DAY 4 | 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 "?" (Ouestion 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 19th 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.

In the evening, take a moment to unwind before diving into Belgrade's vibrant energy. We recommend exploring some of the many local and international restaurants the city has to offer, where you can savour a variety of flavours and experience the rich culinary scene.

Overnight: Belgrade



DAY 5 | THREE BALKAN CAPITALS Belgrade - Zagreb - Otočec Castle -Ljubljana

After *check-out* in Belgrade, continue to Zagreb. Croatia's vibrant capital nestled in the heart of the continent. Explore the medieval **Kaptol**, the 13th century Church of Saint Francis at the Franciscan monastery, and the vibrant **Dolac** market. Admire the baroque Church of Saint Mary before concluding your tour at the Ban Josip Jelačić monument in the city's central square.

After lunch, travel to **Slovenia**, the world's first green destination. Stop at **Otočec** Castle, a stunning water castle on the Krka River, for a refreshing break.

Continue to Ljubljana, Slovenia's enchanting capital, where historic architecture meets modern sustainability. After hotel check-in, take some time to relax and begin exploring Ljubljana's lively atmosphere. Enjoy a taste of the city with its delightful and diverse restaurant options around you.



TOUR EXTENSION 3 BELGRADE TO LJUBLJANA

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 guarters to **Skadarlija**, the city's bohemian heart. This charming 19th 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

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of flavours and experience the rich culinary scene. **Overnight:** Belgrade

DAY 3 | THREE BALKAN CAPITALS

Belgrade - Zagreb - Otočec Castle -Ljubljana

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TOUR EXTENSION SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK

DAY 9 | THE DALMATIAN COAST Split - Pelješac Peninsula - Dubrovnik

After *check-out*, drive along the scenic **Dalmatian coast**, taking in views of Croatian islands, vineyards, and villages. Arrive at the Pelješac Peninsula via the impressive Pelješac Bridge.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Pelješac Handcrafted

Wines: Pelješac Peninsula is known for its breathtaking vineyards and celebrated wines. Experience the essence of Dalmatian winemaking as **a local winery** invites you to try the robust **Plavac Mali**, the region's signature red wine, made from vines hand-tended as they grow in rocky terrain. Next, make a brief stop in the City of Ston to savour its famous oysters and capture the iconic Ston Walls. Arrive in Dubrovnik, check *into* your hotel, and enjoy a free evening to explore or dine on Mediterranean cuisine. **Overnight:** Dubrovnik

DAY 10 | 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 Srd 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 16th 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 11 | FAREWELL, DUBROVNIK Dubrovnik

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