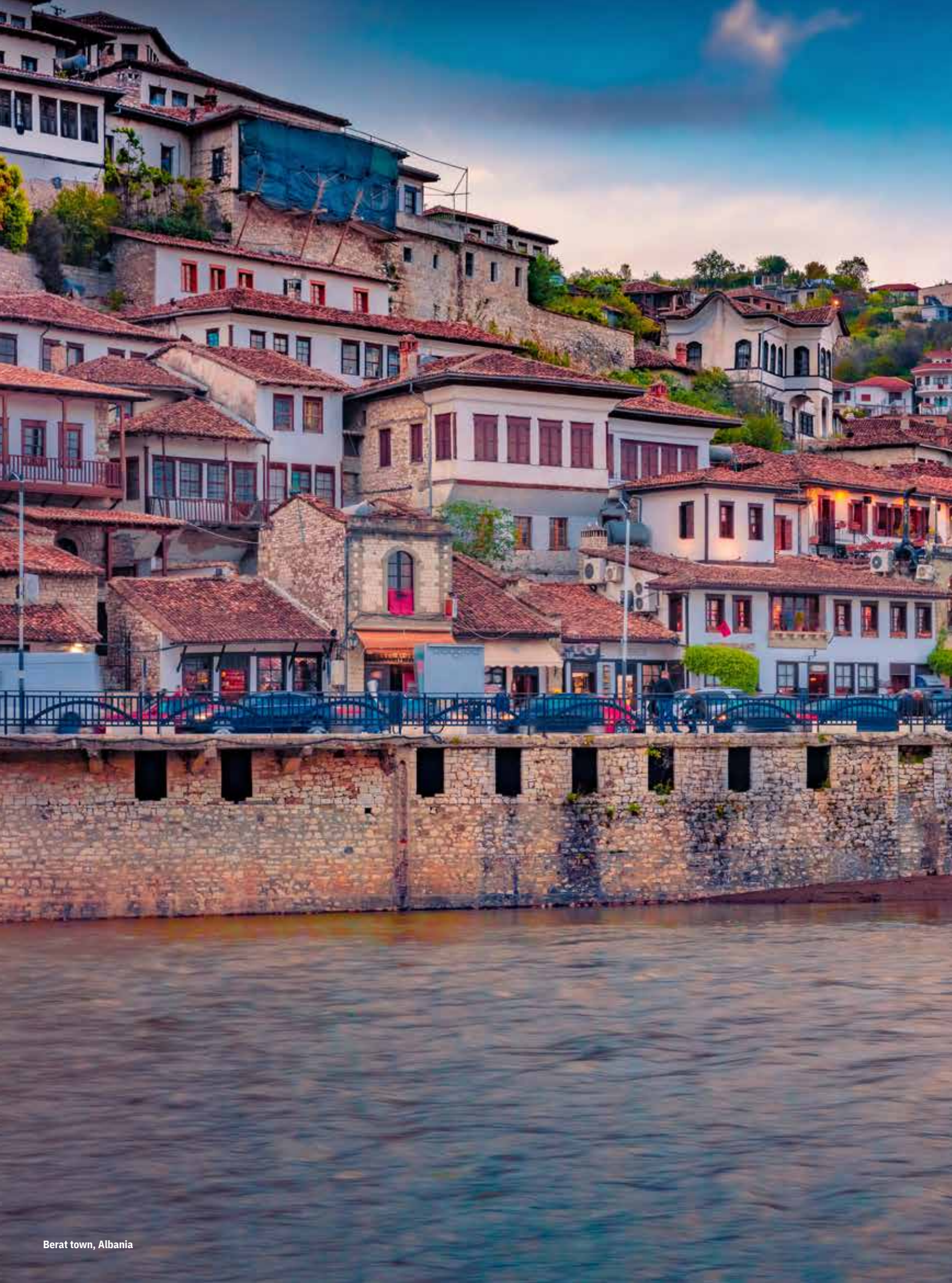




Berat town, Albania

BALKAN ROOTS

11 DAYS

10 NIGHTS | 11 DAYS

Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania,
Montenegro

Day 1

Welcome to Belgrade
Belgrade

Day 2

Vibrant Capital of Serbia
Belgrade

Day 3

Central Serbia Landscapes
Belgrade - Manasija - Resava Cave - Lisine Waterfalls - Niš

Day 4

Roman Roots to Modern Skopje
Niš - Mediana - Skopje

Day 5

Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija
Skopje - Prizren - Priština - Gračanica - Skopje

Day 6

North Macedonian Highlights
Skopje - Matka Canyon – Ohrid

Day 7

A Passage Through Heritage
Ohrid - St. Naum - Berat

Day 8

Journey Through Albania
Berat - Durrës - Tirana

Day 9

Craft, Cuisine, and Coastal Towns
Tirana - Krujë - Albanian Agrotourism - Budva

Day 10

Boka Bay Charm
Budva - Perast - Kotor Old Town - Budva

Day 11

Farewell Budva
Budva



EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences
included in the tour:

Serbian Daily Routine
Day 2

Wines of Vardar Valley
Day 4

Albanian Felt Hat Craft
Day 9



BALKAN ROOTS 11 DAYS

10 NIGHTS | 11 DAYS | 4 COUNTRIES | 6 EXPERIENCE MORE

Discover Serbia’s hidden gems, from medieval monasteries to striking caves. Savor North Macedonian wines in the scenic Vardar Valley. Explore Albania’s UNESCO towns, hilltop castles, and authentic local life through crafts and agrotourism. Experience the Balkans’ rich mix of cultures, flavors, and religious heritage.

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 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

Your journey through **Belgrade** begins with a panoramic tour highlighting its architectural diversity and history, from **bold Brutalism** to the emerging **Belgrade Waterfront**, a symbol of modern transformation. As we cross **Branko’s Bridge**, you’ll get a glimpse of **New Belgrade’s** distinctive skyline, featuring landmarks like the **Palace of Serbia**, **Belgrade Arena**, and the modern **Ada Bridge**. Continuing, we pass through the **Dedinje district**, home to the **Residence of Miloš the Great**, embassies, grand villas, and the **Museum of Yugoslavia**, reflecting the country’s complex history. Our route then takes us past the monument of **Stefan Nemanja**, a key figure in Serbian history, and through **Slavija Square** before arriving at one of Belgrade’s most iconic landmarks – the **Temple of Saint Sava**. We’ll stop for a visit and devote time to this impressive sanctuary, the symbol of the city and the fourth-largest Orthodox temple in the world, adorned with stunning mosaics. From there, we continue along **King Alexander Boulevard**, passing notable sites such as the National Assembly,



before reaching the city’s bustling pedestrian zone, where the walking part of our tour starts. Strolling through Belgrade’s vibrant streets, we arrive at **Republic Square** and continue down **Knez Mihailova Street**, the city’s lively cultural and shopping centre.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Serbian Daily 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**. Engage in lively conversation with your guide, who will share fascinating stories about local customs and the UNESCO-protected art of making “**šljivovica**”, Serbia’s renowned plum brandy.

Refreshed and immersed in the city’s spirit, we will walk through the historic **Belgrade Fortress** and **Kalemegdan Park**, where you’ll be amazed by the stunning views of the mighty Sava and Danube rivers. This vantage point offers an impressive contrast in Belgrade, where the old meets the modern and the land merges with the flowing water.

But the day isn’t over yet – get ready to experience Belgrade from a whole new perspective, offering a waterway panorama that ties together everything you’ve discovered so far.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Belgrade Sundown Cruise: As the day winds down, set sail on an enchanting 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 feel the soothing evening breeze as you take in the stunning views of Belgrade’s skyline, bridges, and historic landmarks.

Overnight: Belgrade

DAY 3 | CENTRAL SERBIA LANDSCAPES Belgrade - Manasija - Resava Cave - Lisine Waterfalls - Niš

Upon completion of breakfast, we say farewell to Belgrade and set out through the rolling landscapes of Central Serbia toward our first destination – the **Manasija Monastery**. As we approach, the Monastery rises like a fortress from another era, surrounded by massive stone walls and striking defense towers. Built in the early 15th century under **Despot Stefan Lazarević**, Manasija stands as one of the most

important monuments of Serbian medieval culture. Inside, the **Church of the Holy Trinity** reveals **vibrant frescoes** and rare mosaics, while the remains of the monastery’s library and refectory whisper of the once thriving **Resava School of Transcription**, where manuscripts were meticulously copied and preserved. Here, your guide will open a window into the world of the medieval Serbian state and its turbulent history of conquests and restorations.

From here, our journey takes us underground into one of Serbia’s natural wonders – the **Resava Cave**. Known as one of the oldest and most fascinating caves in the country, this protected natural monument invites you to wander through eight chambers adorned with surreal formations of **stalactites, stalagmites, and cascading stone draperies**. As you move deeper, the air grows cooler, a reminder of the cave’s timeless natural beauty. Make sure to bring an extra layer for this unforgettable subterranean adventure.

Returning to the sunlight, we continue into the lush mountains where the sound of rushing water leads us to the **Lisine Waterfall**. Tumbling 25 meters down over mossy stone, this cascade is one of the tallest and most spectacular in Serbia. Here, you have the option to enjoy lunch amid the crystal-clear waters and peaceful forest surroundings, creating a tranquil setting.

As the day continues, we head south to the historic city of **Niš**, one of Europe’s oldest settlements and a crossroads of civilizations. Upon arrival, our first stop will be the striking **Skull Tower**, a unique and haunting monument that tells the story of Serbian resistance against Ottoman rule. We’ll then continue on to the impressive **Niš Fortress** and enjoy a short city tour that reveals the layered history of this remarkable city – from Roman times to the Ottoman era. By evening, we arrive at our hotel, where you can unwind and prepare for tomorrow’s discoveries.

Overnight: Niš

DAY 4 | ROMAN ROOTS TO MODERN SKOPJE Niš - Mediana - Skopje

In the morning we head to **Mediana**, an important archaeological site that reflects the

prosperity of the **Roman Empire** during the reign of **Constantine the Great**, who was born in **Niš**. This complex once served as a residence and retreat for Roman emperors traveling through the Balkans. As you explore the site, you’ll see beautifully preserved **mosaics**, remains of residential villas, granaries, and a bath complex, all of which illustrate the sophistication of Roman architecture and daily life. Mediana also highlights the role of **Niš** as a strategic and cultural center during the 4th century. Your visit here provides a fascinating glimpse into the city’s ancient past, perfectly setting the tone for the rest of the day’s discoveries.

Our journey continues towards North Macedonia. On the way to its capital, we’ll make a stop at one of region’s renowned wineries.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Wines of Vardar Valley: You can never have enough gourmet delights in the Balkans – so we invite you for a **wine tasting** featuring the finest North Macedonian wines from the **Vardar River Valley**, country’s central wine region. Discover the region’s winemaking traditions and savour a selection of local wines that highlight Macedonian craftsmanship and heritage.

Drive to **Skopje** – a city with 2,000 years of history. Begin your sightseeing tour in the old part of Skopje with a stroll through the narrow streets of **the Old Bazaar**, the largest preserved bazaar 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. Then, walk across the Stone Bridge, near the Archaeological Museum of North Macedonia, towards Macedonia Square and its stunning fountain featuring the “**Warrior on a Horse**” monument. In the city’s newer, more modern part, you will also see **the Porta Macedonia**, the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, the Art Bridge, and numerous statues of prominent North Macedonian figures.

In the evening, enjoy free time to relax at the hotel or explore this vibrant capital city. As the sun sets, the city comes alive with bars and cafés; consider enjoying a **drink with views of the Vardar River**. Don’t miss the chance to sample **traditional Macedonian cuisine** at a cosy restaurant - try dishes like “**tavče gravče**” and sip a glass of “**mastika**” for an authentic taste.



Overnight: Skopje

DAY 5 | HERITAGE OF KOSOVO AND METOHIJA

Skopje - Prizren - Priština - Gračanica - Skopje

After breakfast, depart for **Prizren**, a charming city nestled at the base of the **Šar Mountains**. Once the capital of Serbia in the 14th century, its skyline is a vibrant mix of churches, mosques, and historic houses. As you stroll through cobbled streets, you will have the opportunity to admire the Church of Ljeviška (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Orthodox seminary, Sinan-Pasha Mosque, cross the Old Stone Bridge, and Prizren Fortress.

Continue to **Priština**, where old and new merge in the city center. Discover landmarks like the Cathedral of Blessed Mother Teresa, **the National Library**, Ottoman-era mosques, and contemporary monuments such as the **Newborn Monument**.

Next, visit **Gračanica Monastery**, a masterpiece of Serbian medieval architecture and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Built in the 14th century by King Stefan Milutin, the monastery is renowned for its stunning **frescoes**, which vividly depict biblical scenes and the lives of saints. The serene setting, with its quiet courtyards and beautifully preserved interiors, offers a peaceful contrast to the bustling cities you’ve visited, providing an immersive glimpse into the spiritual and artistic heritage of the region.

Conclude the day with a scenic drive back to **Skopje** for your overnight stay.

Overnight: Skopje

DAY 6 | NORTH MACEDONIAN HIGHLIGHTS

Skopje - Matka Canyon - Ohrid

After breakfast, *check-out* from your Skopje hotel. Following the tour, we continue to the nearby **Matka Canyon**, known for its striking lake nestled among **rugged cliffs and lush forests**. Here, you can take a boat ride on the clear turquoise waters and enjoy stunning views of the canyon's dramatic landscape.

Continuing our journey, we arrive in **Ohrid**, often called 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**.

After the tour, *check into* your hotel and have the evening free to enjoy the city of Ohrid.

Overnight: Ohrid

DAY 7 | A PASSAGE THROUGH HERITAGE Ohrid - St. Naum - Berat

Check out of your hotel in **Ohrid** and head southeast to the **St. Naum Monastery**, a historic spiritual center on the southern shore of **Lake Ohrid**. Explore the monastery’s beautiful **frescoes** and tranquil grounds before enjoying a scenic boat ride along the **Black Drim River**, taking in the lush landscapes and crystal-clear waters as the river flows toward **Albania**.

Our first stop is the enchanting town of **Berat**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the pride of Albanian architecture. This authentic town beautifully blends Eastern and Western cultures, showcasing a rich history through its iconic landmarks. From the arched Gorica Bridge and the Byzantine Church of Saint Michael to Ottoman treasures like the Red Mosque, this **“town of a thousand windows”** tells the story of diverse traditions and civilisations that once thrived here. Beyond its historical charm, Berat is also a **gourmet destination**, renowned for traditional dishes like “pula me përsesh” and “çorba e Tomorrit”, served in authentic restaurants that preserve centuries-old recipes. Conclude the day by *checking into* your hotel in Berat and enjoy a relaxed evening exploring the city at your own pace, soaking in its historic charm and vibrant atmosphere.

Overnight: Berat

DAY 8 | JOURNEY THROUGH ALBANIA Berat - Durrës - Tirana

Check out of your hotel in **Berat** and drive toward **Durrës**, Albania’s historic port city on the **Adriatic coast**. Durrës will welcome you with its vibrant seaside charm and rich atmosphere, where the past and present blend seamlessly. As we stroll through this **lively coastal city**, you'll feel the energy of its ancient roots and modern rhythm. History resonates in the streets, as the sea breeze and **lively promenades** invite you to embrace the local ambience. This brief but memorable visit will leave you with a true taste of Albania's coastal soul.

Continue your journey 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**, dominated by the 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”**.

Settle into your hotel, then we recommend visiting Ish-Blloku (the “Block”), Tirana’s vibrant upmarket district, famous for its boutiques, cafes, bars, and lively nightlife.

Overnight: Tirana

DAY 9 | CRAFT, CUISINE, AND COASTAL TOWNS

Tirana - Krujë - Albanian Agrotoursim - Budva

Depart Albania’s capital and head north to **Krujë**, a town steeped in history and perched on a scenic hilltop. Begin your visit with a tour of **Krujë Castle**, a fortress that stands as a symbol of Albanian resistance and pride, famously linked to the national hero **Skanderbeg**. Wander through the castle walls, explore its towers and museums, and enjoy **panoramic views** of the surrounding valleys.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Albanian Felt Hat Craft:

Immerse yourself in local culture with a visit to a traditional artisan workshop, where skilled craftsmen continue the centuries-old tradition of making Albanian felt hats, known as “qeleshe” or “plis.” Witness the meticulous process as artisans shape the wool by hand, boil and press it into the iconic hat’s distinctive form, and add finishing touches with precision and care. Guests will have the opportunity to create their own hat, gaining hands on experience while learning about the rich history and cultural significance of this traditional Albanian craft.

Our next destination promises a delightful introduction to the country's natural landscapes, sustainable practices and diverse gastronomic scene.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Albanian Agrotourism Experience: *Feel the essence of Albanian agrotourism, where farm-to-table experience comes to life in the heart of the countryside. Here, you'll immerse yourself in the local lifestyle while savoring dishes crafted from the finest organic products. Freshly prepared meats and an array of seasonal ingredients are expertly transformed into traditional delicacies, ensuring an authentic and flavorful experience. Indulge in a delightful tasting menu for lunch, allowing you to sample a variety of these gastronomic treasures. This dedication to using local, sustainably sourced ingredients captures the true spirit of Albania's vibrant culinary traditions.*

Your day ends in **Budva**, the renowned **tourist capital of Montenegro**, and discover why it's a top destination. Explore the medieval streets of Budva's Old Town, enjoy a cocktail on the sandy beach, and marvel at the stunning views of the bay and neighbouring islands. **The Old Town**, perched on a small peninsula, is a cultural treasure, with landmarks like the Church of the Holy Trinity and the churches of Saint Ivan, Santa Maria in Punta, and Saint Sava. Enjoy some free time to savour fresh seafood and local wines at one of the many restaurants, after which you'll *check-in* to your hotel and rest.

Overnight: Budva

DAY 10 | BOKA BAY CHARM

Budva - Perast - Kotor Old Town - Budva

Today we are heading to the **Boka Bay**, a hidden gem renowned for its rich heritage and stunning natural beauty. Our first stop will be at the town

of **Perast**, a charming baroque-style settlement nestled in the heart of the 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. This manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets, and a famous sacred tapestry. As you explore, you'll uncover the rich history and legends that make this small island a cultural treasure in the heart of the bay.*

After the short boat ride, you will continue towards **Kotor**, an old Mediterranean town that dates back to the 12th and 14th centuries. 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 monuments. You will have free time to continue wandering around the old paved town, or have lunch in a restaurant on one of romantic squares.

Return to **Budva** for free time to explore and enjoy this modern Mediterranean town.

Overnight: Budva

DAY 11 | FAREWELL BUDVA

Budva

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 arrangements, **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, Resava Cave, Lisine Waterfalls, Skull Tower, Mediana, Gračanica Monastery, Matka Canyon Boat ride, Black Drim boat ride, St. Naum Monastery, Krujë Castle, Kotor Old Town

Experiences:

Coffee & rakija in a Belgrade tavern (*Serbian Daily Routine*); Sava and Danube Rivers Cruise (*Belgrade Sundown Cruise*); Wine tasting in a local winery in North Macedonia (*Wines of Vardar Valley*); Traditional Albanian artisan workshop (*Albanian Felt Hat Craft*); Farm-to-table food tasting in Albania (*Albanian Agrotourism Experience*); Boat ride to the island and entry ticket to the church (*Our Lady of the Rocks*)

Meals:

- 10 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 Niš** in New City 4* / Zen 4* / Helm 4* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Queen's 4* / ibis Skopje City Center 4* / City Park 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Ohrid** in Tino Hotel&Spa 4* / Boutique Villa Arte 4* / City Hotel 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Berat** in Onufri 4* / Muzaka 4* / Vila Aleksander 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in ART Tirana 4* / Senator 4* / Opera 4* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** in Moskva 4* / Bracera 4* / Kadmo by Aycon 4* or similar

HOTELS / SUPERIOR package

- 2 BB in Belgrade** in Envoy 4* / Museum 4* / Moskva 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Niš** in Ambasador 5* / New City 4* / Radisson Park 4* or similar
- 2 BB in Skopje** in Macedonia Square 4* / Holiday Inn 5* / Limak Skopje Luxury 5* or similar
- 1 BB in Ohrid** in Tino Sveti Stefan 4* / Unique Resort & Spa 4* / Hotel & Spa Laki 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Berat** in Berat in Portik 4* / Plaza Berat 4* / Colombo 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Tirana** in Xheko Imperial 5* / Lot Tirana 5* / Rogner Tirana 5* or similar
- 2 BB in Budva** in Majestic 4* / Budva 5* / Iberostar Waves Slavija 5* or similar