

# HIDDEN BALKAN - 7 Countries

13 NIGHTS | 14 DAYS

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,  
Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria



## EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences  
included in the tour:

### A Taste of History

Day 5

### Bunk'Art Tirana

Day 9

### Wines of Vardar Valley

Day 12



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|---|--|
| Day 1<br><b>Welcome to Belgrade</b><br>Belgrade   | Day 11<br><b>North Macedonia Routes</b><br>Tirana - Ohrid - Skopje             |
| Day 2<br><b>Vibrant Capital of Serbia</b><br>Belgrade   | Day 12<br><b>Southern Soul<br/>Discovery</b><br>Skopje - Matka Canyon - Skopje |
| Day 3<br><b>"Serbian Tuscany"<br/>Delights</b><br>Belgrade - Šumadija Region -<br>Zlatibor Mountain                 | Day 13<br><b>Sofia's Cultural Fusion</b><br>Skopje - Rila Monastery - Sofia    |
| Day 4<br><b>Vivid Western Serbia</b><br>Zlatibor Mountain - Wooden-<br>Town - Šargan Eight -<br>Višegrad - Sarajevo | Day 14<br><b>Farewell, Sofia</b><br>Sofia                                      |
| Day 5<br><b>Balkan Soul Capital</b><br>Sarajevo   |  |
| Day 6<br><b>The Beauty of Herzegovina</b><br>Sarajevo - Mostar - Blagaj -<br>Trebinje                               |  |
| Day 7<br><b>The Mediterranean<br/>Essence</b><br>Trebinje - Dubrovnik - Budva                                       |  |
| Day 8<br><b>Boka Bay Charm</b><br>Budva - Perast - Kotor - Budva  |  |
| Day 9<br><b>Adriatic Coast to Albania</b><br>Budva - Old Bar - Albanian<br>Agrotourism - Tirana                     |  |
| Day 10<br><b>Highlights of Albania</b><br>Tirana - Berat - Durrës - Tirana  |  |

# HIDDEN BALKAN - 7 Countries

13 NIGHTS | 14 DAYS | 7 COUNTRIES | 12 EXPERIENCE MORE

Explore the Balkans on a journey from Belgrade's vibrant streets to Serbia's scenic treasures. Discover Bosnia's Sarajevo, Herzegovina's beauty, and the Mediterranean charm of Dubrovnik and Budva. Experience Albania, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria's highlights.



## 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 - Dubrovnik - Budva

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 continue towards 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.

Your day ends in **Budva**, Montenegro's top tourist destination. Explore the medieval streets of Budva's **Old Town**, enjoy a cocktail on the beach, and take in the bay's stunning views. After free time to savour seafood and local wines, *check-in* to your hotel and rest.

**Overnight:** Budva

## DAY 8 | BOKA BAY CHARM

### Budva - Perast - Kotor - 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**, 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.

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

**Overnight:** Budva

## DAY 9 | ADRATIC COAST TO ALBANIA

### Budva - Old Bar - Albanian Agrotourism - Tirana

After *check-out* from Budva, the tour continues

towards **Old Bar**, nestled at the foot of Mount Rumija, where centuries-old stone walls and winding cobble streets tell the stories of Montenegro's past. Enjoy a leisurely walk through this **open-air museum**, where we recommend you to **savour a coffee** or **indulge in a traditional dessert** at one of the local cafés.

We bid farewell to Montenegro and make our way into **Albania**, where our first 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.*

*You'll get to know the local lifestyle while savouring dishes crafted from **the finest organic products**. Freshly prepared meats and an array of seasonal ingredients which are expertly transformed into **a delightful tasting menu** for lunch will demonstrate **the true spirit of Albania's vibrant culinary traditions**.*

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**. During the sightseeing tour, you will be introduced to **the architecture of the Mussolini period** and see the city's most important landmarks.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Bunk'Art Tirana:** *As a living relic of Albania's tumultuous past stands **Bunk'Art 2**, an underground museum dedicated to the victims of communist terror, sheds light on the horrors of **Enver Hoxha's regime**, preserving the collective memory of a dark past.*

*Check-in* to your hotel and rest well before continuing your Balkan journey.

**Overnight:** Tirana

## DAY 10 | HIGHLIGHTS OF ALBANIA

### Tirana - Berat - Durrës - Tirana

On today's **journey through Albania's heritage and beauty**, our first stop is the enchanting town of **Berat**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the pride of Albanian architecture. This authentic town - often called the “**town of a thousand windows**” - beautifully blends Eastern and

Western cultures, and 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 përshesh” and “çorba e Tomorrit”, served in authentic restaurants.

Further along the way, **Durrës** will welcome you with its vibrant seaside charm and rich atmosphere. 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.

As you return to your Tirana hotel, enjoy a leisurely evening and take a moment to reflect on the unforgettable memories created today. You might also explore the lively **Blloku area**, famous for its eclectic blend of restaurants, stylish bars, and local shops that showcase the city's vibrant spirit.

**Overnight:** Tirana

## DAY 11 | NORTH MACEDONIA ROUTES

### Tirana - Ohrid - Skopje

*Check-out* and wave goodbye to Tirana. On our way to the capital of North Macedonia, we will make a stop in **Ohrid**, 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. In the same area where **the first Slavic university** was founded, you will have the chance to visit **over 300 Orthodox churches and monasteries**.

Our final stop of the day is **Skopje**, where you'll *check-in* to your hotel and have the evening free to explore this vibrant capital city - consider enjoying **a drink with views of the Vardar River**, or 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 12 | SOUTHERN SOUL DISCOVERY

### Skopje - Matka Canyon - Skopje

Start your Skopje tour with a stroll through the **Old Bazaar**, the largest preserved bazaar in the Balkans. Cross the Stone Bridge near the Archaeological Museum towards **Macedonia Square**, featuring the “**Warrior on a Horse**” monument. In the modern part of the city, visit Porta Macedonia, the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, the Art Bridge, and statues of prominent North Macedonian figures.

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.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Wines of Vardar Valley:** *Indulge in a wine tasting of North Macedonia's **finest wines** from the **Vardar River Valley**. Discover winemaking traditions and savour local wines that showcase Macedonian **craftsmanship** and heritage.*

Afterwards, we drive back to **Skopje**, where you'll have the evening to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

**Overnight:** Skopje

## DAY 13 | SOFIA'S CULTURAL FUSION

### Skopje - Rila Monastery - Sofia

*Check-out* and bid farewell to North Macedonia, as we continue our journey towards Bulgaria.

High up in **the Rila Mountains** lies the largest and most renowned monastery in Bulgaria, the Rila Monastery. Perched beneath Bulgaria's highest peak, Musala, and surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, this **UNESCO World Heritage Site** is renowned for its serene atmosphere and authentic charm. It stands as **one of Bulgaria's most photogenic** and peaceful locations, offering an unparalleled glimpse into the country's rich cultural and historical heritage.

**Sofia** is a modern, youthful Eastern European capital, distinguished by a unique combination of onion-domed churches, communist-style architecture and Ottoman legacy. 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** and **Largo**, one of the prime examples of Socialist Classicism architecture and one of Sofia's main landmarks. Finish the day by *checking into* your hotel in Sofia and rest well.

**Overnight:** Sofia

## DAY 14 | FAREWELL, SOFIA

### Sofia

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, Matka Canyon Boat ride, Rila Monastery

### 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*); Farm-to-table food tasting in Albania (*Albanian Agrotourism Experience*); Visit to an underground museum in Albania (*Bunk'Art Tirana*); Wine tasting in a local winery in North Macedonia (*Wines of Vardar Valley*)

### Meals:

- 13 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 Budva** in Moskva 4\* / Bracera 4\* / Kadmo by Aycon 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Tirana** in ART Tirana 4\* / Senator 4\* / Opera 4\* or similar

**2 BB in Skopje** in Queens 4\* / ibis Skopje City Center 4\* / City Park 4\* or similar

**1 BB in Sofia** in Central Sofia 4\* / Coop 4\* / Abrazo Sofia 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\* or similar

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

**2 BB in Budva** in Majestic 4\* / Budva 5\* / Iberostar Waves Slavija 5\* or similar

**2 BB in Tirana** in Black Diamond 4\* / Lot Boutique 5\* / Rogner Tirana 5\* or similar

**2 BB in Skopje** in Macedonia Square 4\* / Holiday Inn 5\* / Limak Skopje Luxury 5\* or similar

**1 BB in Sofia** in Grand Sofia 5\* / Sense Sofia 5\* / Crystal Palace Boutique Sofia 4\* or similar