

IMPERIAL CITIES AND AUSTRIAN ALPS

12 NIGHTS | 13 DAYS

Serbia, Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia



EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences
included in the tour:

The Strudel Show

Day 5

Czech Brew Experience

Day 8

Alpine Lake Glide

Day 10



Balkan
&more

Day 1

Welcome to Belgrade

Belgrade

Day 2

Vibrant Capital of Serbia

Belgrade

Day 3

Scenic Routes of Vojvodina

Belgrade - Novi Sad - Budapest

Day 4

Danube's Grand Landmarks

Budapest

Day 5

Echoes of the Viennese Past

Budapest - Vienna

Day 6

The Royal Legacy of the Habsburgs

Vienna - Prague

Day 7

The Golden City

Prague

Day 8

On the Roads of Charles IV

Prague - Karlovy Vary - Loket - Prague

Day 9

Czech Fairytale

Prague - Český Krumlov - Austrian Countryside

Day 10

Alpine Mirrors

Austrian Countryside - Hallstatt -
St Wolfgang im Salzkammergut - Austrian Countryside

Day 11

Symphony of the Alps

Austrian Countryside - Salzburg - Lake Bled - Ljubljana

Day 12

The Diversity of Slovenia

Ljubljana - Postojna Cave - Goriška Hills - Ljubljana

Day 13

Farewell, Ljubljana

Ljubljana

IMPERIAL CITIES AND AUSTRIAN ALPS

12 NIGHTS | 13 DAYS | 5 COUNTRIES | 10 EXPERIENCE MORE

Discover the heartbeat of Central Europe on this exhilarating 13-day journey! Immerse yourself in Belgrade's vibrant spirit, marvel at Budapest's iconic bridges, and lose yourself in Vienna's elegance. From Prague's majestic cathedrals to Hallstatt's enchanting charm, every stop unveils a new treasure. Conclude your adventure in the picturesque Ljubljana — an experience that lingers long after you leave!

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

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 panoramic 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 3 | SCENIC ROUTES OF VOJVODINA Belgrade - Novi Sad - Budapest

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

Your first 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.

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.

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 next part of your European adventure.

Overnight: Budapest

DAY 4 | 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.

Feel the pulse of the city as you traverse the majestic 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**.

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 soak in the city's architectural splendour 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 local cuisine while taking in the breathtaking night views of Budapest.

Overnight: Budapest

DAY 5 | ECHOES OF THE VIENNESE PAST Budapest - Vienna

Check-out and set off towards **Vienna**, an imperial city with a powerful and influential past, which was often called "**the capital of Europe**".

To truly appreciate the royal city of Vienna, one day simply won't suffice! Begin your first day by exploring the magnificent **Schönbrunn Palace**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with over 300 years of rich history. As you wander through its

rooms and chambers, you'll feel the regal atmosphere and gain insight into **the elegance of 18th century court life**.

EXPERIENCE MORE / The Strudel Show: Experience the delicious art of Viennese pastry-making at **The Strudel Show** inside the charming **Café Residenz**, nestled in the **Schönbrunn Palace courtyard**. Watch as skilled bakers prepare **the original apple strudel** right before your eyes. The irresistible aroma fills the air as you learn the secrets behind this iconic dessert, and best of all, you get to **savour a fresh slice** while watching.

After the Strudel Show, enjoy free time to relax at your hotel after *check-in* or explore Vienna's attractions at your own pace.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Evening of Viennese Elegance (Optional): For an unforgettable 19th century evening, we offer **an optional experience** to delve deeper into Vienna's rich cultural heritage with an evening at the world-renowned **Vienna State Opera** or **the historic Burgtheater**. Both of these iconic venues offer **an authentic glimpse into Viennese elegance**, making it a perfect way to conclude your day in the imperial capital.

*Kindly inform us in advance, and we'll be delighted to take care of all the details, from securing your tickets (subject to availability) to providing a guide who will escort you to the venue.

Overnight: Vienna

DAY 6 | THE ROYAL LEGACY OF THE HABSBURGS Vienna - Prague

After *check-out*, the second day of your Vienna experience will be dedicated to the legacy of one of Europe's most powerful royal families, as you explore the city's imperial heart.

Your journey begins with a **panoramic drive**, passing by the stately **Parliament**, the historic **Burgtheater**, and the soaring **Rathaus**. Passing by the Votivkirche and the tranquil banks of the Danube, you'll feel the city's regal past and contemporary present blend seamlessly.

The experience deepens as you continue on foot. As you wander through the expansive courtyards of **the Hofburg Palace**, imagine the royal intrigue and lavish events that once filled its halls. Continue towards the awe-inspiring **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, its towering spires a



symbol of Vienna's enduring spirit. With every step, you'll feel **the influence of the Habsburgs** and **the presence of a dynasty** that left an indelible mark on Vienna's soul.

After soaking in the grandeur of Vienna's aristocratic heritage, it's time to bid farewell to Austria and journey onward to the alluring city of Prague. As you cross the border, the landscapes shift, and Vienna's refined cultural legacy gives way to **the medieval charm of the Czech capital**. Upon arrival in **Prague**, you'll *check into* your hotel, ready to unwind and prepare for the next chapter of your adventure.

Overnight: Prague

DAY 7 | THE GOLDEN CITY

Prague

This day will be entirely dedicated to exploring the city of Prague - **the Golden City**, nestled on both sides of **the Vltava River**, which offers a captivating blend of history and culture. Home to **the best-preserved medieval town center in Europe**, Prague beautifully balances its rich historical heritage with the sophistication of a modern European metropolis.

Begin your Prague journey with a visit to its famous **Hilltop Hradčany**, home to the awe-inspiring **Prague Castle** (Pražský hrad), **the largest ancient castle** in the world. Stroll by the grand Saint Vitus Cathedral and the Old Royal Palace, and discover hidden historical treasures.

Descend from the castle to cross **the Charles Bridge**, where you'll feel like you've stepped into a medieval fairytale. Meander through the quaint, charming streets of Prague, until you reach Old Town Square, home to the iconic Town Hall and **the Astronomical Clock**, one of the oldest and most fascinating timepieces in the world.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Eat like a Bohemian: Head to a *carefully chosen restaurant in the heart of Prague, dedicated to tradition and authentic local dishes*. Enjoy **a true Czech eating experience** with *specialties like crispy pork knuckle, homemade goulash, or other offerings available that day*. Each dish will be complimented by **a handpicked starter and dessert**.

Return to your hotel and savour the rich

memories of the Bohemian past and present you've experienced today.

Overnight: Prague

DAY 8 | ON THE ROADS OF CHARLES IV Prague - Karlovy Vary - Loket - Prague

This day will be mostly dedicated to the delightful town of **Karlovy Vary**, named after Charles IV, who founded the city in the 14th century. As you arrive, you'll be greeted by the charm of this **historic spa town**, famous for its elegant colonnades and therapeutic mineral springs, making it a perfect destination for relaxation and rejuvenation.

From there, make your way to **Loket**, a captivating village set against the backdrop of the Ohře River. As you cross the bridge, you'll be greeted by the striking view of **the historic Loket Castle**. Known as **the "Key to the Kingdom of Bohemia"**, this castle that profoundly influenced the young Charles IV.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Czech Brew Experience: Enhance your visit with a *unique beer tasting experience at a historic brewery dating back to the 14th century*. Nestled in the original *malthouse, this authentic venue offers a glimpse into the country's brewing legacy*. Sample **three distinct craft beers** from their diverse selection. Experience firsthand **the Czech beer tradition** and savour the flavours that have been perfected over centuries.

Return to your Prague hotel with a treasure trove of new memories, rich flavours, and authentic experiences.

Overnight: Prague

DAY 9 | CZECH FAIRYTALE

Prague - Český Krumlov - Austrian Countryside

After *checking-out* from your Prague hotel, continue your journey to **Český Krumlov**. This gem of South Bohemia is bisected by the scenic Vltava River and dominated by its impressive **medieval castle**. The castle, a blend of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles, features a **17th century Baroque theater** - one of only two in Europe still in excellent condition. As you explore the narrow, cobbled streets of **the Old Town**, admire the blend of Renaissance and Baroque architecture. **The picturesque setting,**

rich history, and unique attractions make Český Krumlov a truly authentic, fairytale-like destination.

Continue your journey towards Austria, where you'll check into your accommodation in the widely known **Salzkammergut region**, celebrated for its six beautiful lakes, verdant plateaus, and vivid natural scenery. As the day draws to a close, take a moment to reflect on the contrast between the elegant architecture of Czech Republic and the breathtaking landscapes of Austria.

Overnight: Austrian Countryside

DAY 10 | ALPINE MIRRORS

Austrian Countryside - Hallstatt - St Wolfgang im Salzkammergut - Austrian Countryside

The Salzkammergut region is a must-see region of Austria, renowned for its collection of lakes, rolling hills, and pristine natural beauty.

Your first destination in this area is **Hallstatt**, where the charm of its pastel-colored houses, mirrored in the serene lake, creates a scene straight out of a postcard. Experience the village's heritage as you wander through **the Market Square**, and explore the narrow streets that reveal centuries of history, culture, and authentic views at every turn.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Hallstatt Heights: For a *memorable adventure, discover the Hallstatt Skywalk, where you'll be treated to panoramic views of the awe-inspiring alpine landscape, 360 metres above the rooftops of Hallstatt*. Once here, you'll have the **free time** to wander along trails, or take a moment to relax and reflect, soaking in the vistas of the lake and surrounding mountains.

Next, you'll visit **the picturesque village of St. Wolfgang**, nestled by the tranquil Lake Wolfgang. The smallest of the nearby towns, it sits in the shadow of the Schafberg peak. Discover its unique local shops, offering handcrafted souvenirs that capture the essence of the Alpine region.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Alpine Lake Glide: To wrap up the day, enjoy **a leisure afternoon electric boat adventure on Lake Wolfgang**. Take the wheel yourself and glide across the serene waters. This **hands-on experience** allows you

to fully appreciate the region's mesmerizing beauty from a unique perspective, from the alpine clear waters mirroring the vistas of the Salzkammergut region.

Return to your countryside accommodation to relish the memories of this delightful day in the Austrian Alps.

Overnight: Austrian Countryside

DAY 11 | SYMPHONY OF THE ALPS

Austrian Countryside - Salzburg - Lake Bled - Ljubljana

Check-out and continue your journey towards **Salzburg**, Austria's cultural gem and the birthplace of Mozart. Delve into the city's baroque ambiance as you meander through its well-preserved old town. Discover **hidden tales and local legends** with your guide, and savour the beauty of Salzburg's historic streets. Stroll along the Salzach River and complete your day with a taste of Salzburg's sweetest tradition - **Mozartkugeln**, the city's iconic chocolate-covered marzipan delights, celebrating its most famous resident.

En route to Ljubljana 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.

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. Enjoy a taste of the city with its delightful and diverse restaurant options around you.

Overnight: Ljubljana

DAY 12 | THE DIVERSITY OF SLOVENIA

Ljubljana - Postojna Cave - Goriška Hills - 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**, 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.

Just an hour from Ljubljana, 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 winery to sample **the region's finest wines**.

You'll return to Ljubljana for your second and final night of the tour, where you'll rest and reflect on your journey.

Overnight: Ljubljana

DAY 13 | FAREWELL, LJUBLJANA

Ljubljana

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 Sava, Schönbrunn Palace, Postojna Cave

Experiences:

Coffee & rakija in a Belgrade tavern (*Serbian Morning Routine*); Wine tasting in a local winery in Northern Serbia (*Wines of Pannonian Plain*); Danube River Cruise in Budapest (*Evening Danube Cruise*); Traditional Strudel tasting in Vienna (*The Strudel Show*); Traditional Czech food tasting in Prague (*Eat like a Bohemian*); Czech craft beer tasting in a historic brewery (*Czech Brew Experience*); Visit to the alpine skywalk in Austria (*Hallstatt Heights*); Electric boat experience in Austria (*Alpine Lake Glide*); Wine tasting in a local winery in Western Slovenia (*Goriška Hills Wine Tasting*)
**Optional experience: Visit to the Vienna State Opera or the Burgtheater (not included in the price)*

Meals:

- 12 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

2 BB in Budapest in Leonardo Boutique Hotel Budapest M-Square 4* standard / Continental Budapest 4* / Three Corners Lifestyle Hotel 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

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

2 BB in Austrian Countryside in Hotel-Garni Schernthaler 3* / Radetzky 3* / Krone 4* or similar

2 BB in Ljubljana in Best Western Premier Slon 4* / Exe Lev 4* / City Ljubljana 4* or similar

HOTELS / SUPERIOR package

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

2 BB in Budapest in Eurostars Danube Budapest 4* / Ramada by Wyndham Budapest City Center 4* / Leonardo Boutique Hotel Budapest M-Square 4* superior or similar

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

3 BB in Prague in Grandium 5* / Grandior 5* or similar

2 BB in Austrian Countryside in Krone 4* / Seehotel Brandauer's Villen Superior 4* / Hotel Stroblhof 4*

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