

11 DAYS SPECIAL BALKANS

Valid Till 31 Dec 2018

DAY 01

BLED – BOHINJ – LJUBLJANA

- Arrival to Ljubljana airport
- 9.00 – 10.00 Transfer to Bled
- 10.00 – 12.00 Bled sightseeing with local guide, including entrance to the castle
“Slovenia has only one island but its uniqueness makes it more attractive than many an archipelago. Sheltered by picturesque mountains, the island reigns in the middle of an Alpine lake. Its charm has made it a symbol for centuries of a town to which guests from all over the world love to return. This town, which has already existed for a thousand years, is Bled. The town, already famous at the beginning of the 20th century as the most beautiful health spa of the then Austrian empire, attracted the European aristocratic elite. After WWII, one of the most attractive state residences of the former regime was located in Bled. Many of the world’s most important people thus enjoyed the beauties of Bled. And now, for decades already, the pilgrims of the new age have been discovering this town.”

***** Including entrance to Bled castle**

- 12.00 – 13.00 Free time for lunch
- 13.00 – 14.00 Transfer to Ljubljana
- 14.00 – 16.00 Ljubljana sightseeing with local guide
“Ljubljana is the capital of a state, but it is small and pretty, easy to get around, and full of surprises. While during winter it is its dreamy central European character that prevails, during summer it has a relaxed Mediterranean feel to it. It is remarkable for its rich tradition, youthful vibrancy, cultural creativity, feel for entertainment, and numerous green spaces.

Ljubljana has preserved evidence of all the five millennia of its history, including, among others, the remains of the Roman city of Emona and the old city centre with its medieval castle and beautiful buildings with Baroque façades, decorative portals and uneven roofs. Other significant bits in the mosaic of Ljubljana are its picturesque bridges across the river Ljubljanica and its vast Tivoli park, stretching into the very city centre.

In the second half of the 20th century, it was the world famous architect Jože Plečnik that put an indelible personal stamp on his native city, and the so called Plečnik's Ljubljana ranks among the 20th century's most prominent total works of art.”

***** Including ride with the funicular to the Old town.**

- Accommodation at hotel and some free time before dinner
- 19.00 Dinner in a local restaurant/hotel
- Overnight. Ljubljana

DAY 02

LJUBLJANA – POSTOJNA – ZAGREB

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 10.00 Transfer to Postojna
- 10.00 – 12.00 Postojna sightseeing with audio guide
“Postojna Cave is a network of 20 kilometres of passages, galleries and chambers into which experienced guides have accompanied more than 35 million visitors in the last 188 years. It is the largest cave in the “classic karst” and the most visited show cave in Europe. In 1872 railway lines were laid in the cave; electricity arrived in 1884. Today you begin your visit aboard the cave train; the electric lighting allows you to admire the size and splendour of the underground world, where the geological past is recorded in a unique manner. Visitors to the cave are dazzled by a wealth of speleothems: calcite formations, stalactites and stalagmites abounding in a variety of shapes, colours and age. The constant temperature in the caves ranges from 8 to 10° C.”
- 12.00 – 13.00 Free time for lunch
- 13.00 – 16.00 Transfer to Zagreb
- 16.00 – 18.00 Zagreb sightseeing with local guide
“Zagreb has served as the cultural and political focus of the nation since the Middle Ages. The city grew out of two medieval communities, Kaptol to the east and Gradec to the west, each sited on a hill and divided by a (long since dried up) river. Zagreb grew rapidly in the nineteenth century, and many of the city’s buildings are well-preserved, peach-coloured monuments to the self-esteem of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Zagreb is more than just a gateway to Central Europe; it is a melting pot. The city incorporates all the benefits of the West with the promising opportunities of the developing regions in South and East Europe, making it an ideal location for your company. A vibrating city on the river Sava, at the heart of a politically and economically stable market, Zagreb has a long history, rich culture, offers high quality life-style, excellent prospects and a highly educated population boasting over 1 million people. The city offers a uniquely vivacious café life and a year-round programme of heavy-duty art exhibitions and at least one genuine cultural flagship in the shape of the recently opened Museum of Contemporary Art. The Croatian capital’s growing reputation for arty fun also extends into its nightlife, with cutting-edge clubs, live gig venues and summer festivals.”
- 18.00 -19.30 Dinner in a local restaurant/hotel
- Accommodation in hotel, Zagreb

DAY 03

ZAGREB – PLITVICE – ZADAR

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 12.00 Transfer to Plitvice lakes
- 12.00 – 16.00 Plitvice lakes sightseeing with local guide (including free time for lunch in the park)

“The area of Plitvička jezera, declared to be National park in 1949., is considered one of the prettiest natural notability of Europe. It is forested mountain area throughout which, one under another, line sixteen beautiful lakes and ponds of crystal blue-green colour. They are filled with water from many streams and brooks, interconnected with foamy cascades and murmuring waterfalls. Throughout the ages water from these lakes was breaking, corroding and melting the rocks and beds through which they have flown. Through sedimentation of calcium carbonate from the flow and through interference of special algae and mosses, spongy kind of rock, sedra or travertin, has been and still is created. Near the lakes there are a couple of caves, and there were even discoveries from ancient history. The national park covers the area of 29.482 hectares in size, most of which falls of on woods, then grasslands with village spaces and waters. This natural resource is rich with diverse flora and fauna. In the park alongside many kinds of birds (around 161 different kinds), butterflies, there is also some small game, followed by large game, bears, wolves, boars and wild cats. Flora of the park is made from about 1200 herb sorts, of which 55 sorts are in the orchid family.”

- 16.00 – 18.00 Transfer to Zadar
- 18.00 – 19.30 Zadar sightseeing with local guide
- Accommodation at hotel and dinner in hotel/local restaurant

DAY 04

ZADAR – SPLIT – SARAJEVO

- Breakfast at hotel
 - 9.00 – 11.00 Transfer to Split
 - 11.00 – 13.00 Split sightseeing with local guide
- “Split, Croatia's second largest city, not only serves as a convenient base from which to explore this beautiful country, it also boasts a number of excellent tourist attractions of its own. The city was continuously inhabited for thousands of years starting with the Romans, followed by the Byzantines, Croats, Venetians, and finally the Austrians who only left in 1918. Highlights of Split's beautifully preserved Old Town include the famous Palace of Diocletian; the Archeological Museum; and what many consider to be Croatia's best art museum, the Ivan Meštrović Gallery.”*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Free time for lunch
 - 14.00 – 19.00 Transfer to Sarajevo
 - 19.00 Accommodation at hotel and dinner in hotel/local restaurant
 - Overnight. Sarajevo

DAY 05

SARAJEVO – MOSTAR – NEUM

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 11.00 Sarajevo sightseeing with local guide
“Visit to old Bašćaršija from the Ottoman times and a part of the town built during Austro-Hungarian rule. Start with Vijednica (town hall from the 19th century), House of spite, Latin Bridge – the place of assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke, Brusa bezistan (covered market), Gazi Husrev Beg mosque and madrasah, the oldest synagogue in Bosnia and Hercegovina, The Sacred Heart Cathedral, Markale market, The Eternal Flame (memorial to the military and civilian victims of WWII), Serbian Orthodox Cathedral and stroll through the streets adorned with nice coffee shops, restaurants and handicraft workshops.” *** No entrances included.
- 11.00 – 15.00 Transfer to Mostar (including a short lunch break)
- 15.00 – 17.00 Mostar sightseeing with local guide
“The historic town of Mostar, spanning a deep valley of the Neretva River, developed in the 15th and 16th centuries as an Ottoman frontier town and during the Austro-Hungarian period in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Old Bridge area, with its pre-Ottoman, eastern Ottoman, Mediterranean and western European architectural features, is an outstanding example of a multicultural urban settlement. Famous Old bridge of Mostar, a UNESCO heritage site is also considered one of the most exemplary pieces of Islamic architecture in the Balkans and was designed by Mimar Hayruddin, a student and apprentice of the famous architect Mimar Sinan.”
- 17.00 – 17.30 Continue to Blagaj
- 17.30 – 18.00 Photostop in Blagaj ***No entrance included
“The small town of Blagaj is a famous Dervish tekke situated above the spring of river Buna (the largest karst spring in Europe. Throughout the history Tekke belonged to the different dervish orders.”
- 18.30 – 20.00 Continue to Neum
- Accommodation and dinner at hotel/local restaurant

DAY 06

NEUM – DUBROVNIK – KOTOR – BUDVA – PODGORICA

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 10.00 Transfer to Dubrovnik
- 10.00 – 12.00 Dubrovnik sightseeing with local guide
“Dubbed the “Pearl of the Adriatic,” beautiful Dubrovnik offers a wealth of attractions for visitors. Famous for its spectacular seafront location on the Dalmatian coast coupled with its evocative and historic old city center, Dubrovnik was founded in the 7th century and has enjoyed its greatest growth in the 15th and 16th centuries, a fact reflected in the impressive architecture and its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to Croatia’s artistic and intellectual elite, Dubrovnik offers numerous cultural activities and festivals. Highlights of a visit include walking around its picturesque old streets and alleys while visiting such excellent attractions as its splendid cathedral and treasury, the broad Stradun pedestrian walkway, and its many fine old palaces and fortifications”
- 12.00 – 13.00 Free time for lunch in Dubrovnik
- 13.00 – 16.00 Transfer to Kotor
- 16.00 – 17.30 Kotor sightseeing with local guide
“Located along one of World’s most beautiful bays is Kotor, a city of traders and famous sailors, with many stories to tell. The Old City of Kotor is a well preserved urbanization typical of the middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th century. Medieval architecture and numerous monuments of cultural heritage have made Kotor a UNESCO listed “World Natural and Historical Heritage Site”. Through the entire city the buildings are criss-crossed with narrow streets and squares. One of these squares contains the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon (Sveti Tripun), a monument of Roman culture and one of the most recognisable symbols of the city. The Church of Saint Luke (Sveti Luka) from the 13th century, Church of Saint Ana (Sveta Ana) from the 12th century, Church of Saint Mary (Sveta Marija) from the 13th century, Church of the Healing Mother of God (Gospo od Zdravlja) from the 15th century, the Prince’s Palace from the 17th century and the Napoleon’s Theatre from the 19th century are all treasures that are part of the rich heritage of Kotor. Carnivals and festivals are organized each year to give additional charm to this most beautiful city of the Montenegrin littoral. Including entrance to Cathedral”
- 17.30 – 18.30 Transfer to Budva
“Budva is the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism thanks to the great number of beaches and hotels that make this a most desirable tourist destination. Apart from its natural beauty, its bay islands and beaches for example, Budva is rich in historic monuments. Budva Old Town lies on a small peninsula and represents a treasure chest of culture heritage. Crossed with narrow streets and squares are famous buildings, the Church Sv. Trojica, housing the tomb of the exquisite writer Stjepan Mitrov Ljubisa, the Churches of Sv. Ivan, Sv. Bogorodica and Sv. Sava. During the summer months it turns into a City Theatre with numerous local performances and shows from abroad. In the Stari Grad (Old town) you can also visit many shops, cafés, restaurants and galleries. Monasteries Stanjevici, Podostrog, Rezevici and Gradiste are important historic and religious monuments of Budva”
- 18.30 – 19.30 Dinner in a local restaurant
- 19.30 – 21.00 Transfer to Podgorica
- Accommodation in hotel
- Overnight. Podgorica.

DAY 07

PODGORICA – PRIŠTINA – SKOPJE

- Breakfast at hotel
- 8.00 – 13.00 Transfer to Priština
- 13.00 – 14.00 Free time for lunch
- 14.00 – 16.00 Priština sightseeing with local guide

“Pristina is the capital of the Republic of Kosovo. It is the largest city in the country with around 200.000 inhabitants. Enjoy the walking tour through the youngest European capital, exploring the lifestyle and historical and modern landmarks, such as the Newborn monument, the clock tower or the Mother Theresa promenade.

The town of Gracanica was built on the eastern side of old Roman city Ulpiana (Municipum Ulpiana Splendissima) which reached its peak of development between III and IV century. After the devastating earthquake in 518, the city was reconstructed by tsar Justinian after whom it was named Justiniana Secunda (Iustiniana Secunda). The city was the main trading center since Romans came, but probably even before since, because of tens of mines are located nearby. On the foundation of Byzantium basilica from VI century, king Milutin started building the Gracanica Monastery whose construction took place from 1310 to 1321, which is the last of his 42 endowments and it is dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary.”

- 16.00 – 18.00 Transfer to Skopje
- 18.00 – 19.30 Skopje sightseeing with local guide

“Skopje is the capital of the Republic of Macedonia, the City that lies in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, at the crossroad of important communications, a city with a 2000 years old tradition. Skopje is a modern city with population of almost one million and presents Macedonia’s major political, economical, educational and cultural center. It continues to be a focus for new residents, economic development, construction and refurbishment. Skopje urban area extends across the Skopje valley for approximately 30 kilometers (18.75 mi) in width and comprises 10 municipalities. Skopje also is a very attractive tourist destination with its fortress, cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites, sport halls, caves in the canyon of the River Treska and Lake Matka and a health spa in the eastern part of the city. Skopje is steadily becoming a vital regional route for international flight operators. The town with the beautiful quay of the Macedonian river “Vardar”, the narrow streets in the Old Bazaar which is the biggest bazaar preserved in the Balkans today, the town is internationally famous for being the birthplace of Mother Teresa. He has blossomed into a thriving, stimulating city to explore, defining itself as an exciting tourist destination with the 1500 years old fortress Kale and monastery St. Pantelejmon with the fresco “Lamentation of Christ”, with the first signs of the Renaissance, the Islamic monuments Sultan Murat’s-Hjunkar Mosque, the Daut Pasha’s bath.”

- Accommodation at hotel and dinner in hotel/local restaurant
- Overnight. Skopje

DAY 08

SKOPJE – OHRID – ST NAUM – OHRID

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 12.00 Transfer to Ohrid
- 12.00 – 13.00 Free time for lunch upon arrival
- 13.00 – 15.00 Ohrid sightseeing with local guide

“The city of the immortal Ohrid is the sublime lakeside point that for many represents the culmination of the Macedonian experience, a kingdom of light and water, a repository of ancient ruins from Macedonia’s earlier kingdoms. Ohrid’s major attractions are all located within a remarkably concentrated and eminently walkable area, among and above the narrow streets of the Old Town lined with restaurants and cafés perfectly suited for relaxing in the cool summer evenings. Ohrid’s many café bars and nightclubs also make for a vibrant nightlife. As for the lake itself, it is so large and so deep that one might mistake it for a small sea. Full range of water sports, fishing and boating is available, and numerous churches alongside Ohrid’s lake shores make for fascinating side trips and walks. The wooded ridge above the lake’s eastern shore is largely taken up by the National Park of Galichica, an unspoiled wilderness ideally suitable for nature enthusiasts. The uniqueness of Lake Ohrid and the city’s historical architecture has been attested by UNESCO, adding it to the World Heritage List.”

- 15.00 – 16.00 Boat ride to St Naum
- 16.00 – 17.00 St Naum sightseeing
- 17.00 – 18.00 Transfer to hotel
- Overnight. Ohrid

DAY 09

OHRID – VRANJE – NIŠ

- Breakfast at hotel
- 8.00 – 12.00 Transfer to Vranje
- 12.00 – 12.45 Vranje sightseeing with your tour guide

“Vranje is the economic, political and cultural centre of southern Serbia, it lies in the valley of the Vranjska River, not far from its confluence to the South Morava River. A good geographical location, long tradition in a spa treatment, healing and natural health resources, significant monasteries, museums and archaeological places, important cultural and historical monuments, the holiday resort at the Besna kobila, enviable accommodation and traditional cuisine in many restaurants, represent just some of the tourist offer in this part of Serbia.”

- 12.45 – 13.45 Free time for lunch
- 13.45 – 17.00 Continue to Niš
- 17.00 – 19.00 Niš sightseeing with local guide

“Niš is one of the oldest cities in the Balkans and with around 250,000 residents is the third largest in Serbia and the capital of the Nišava District. It is located in southern Serbia, at the crossroads of the most important Balkan and European routes connecting Europe with the Middle East. In Niš, the main road, which runs from the north via the Morava valley, forks southward via the South Morava-Vardar valley (towards Thessaloniki and Athens), while the east road runs through the Nišava-Marica valley towards Sofia, Istanbul and the Middle East. In the Roman period, the second road was called the Via militaris, whereas in the Middle Ages it was called the Constantinople Road.”

- Accommodation at hotel and dinner in hotel/local restaurant
- Overnight. Niš

DAY 10

NIŠ – BELGRADE

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9.00 – 12.00 Transfer to Belgrade
- 12.00 – 13.00 Free time for lunch
- 13.00 – 17.00 Belgrade sightseeing with local guide
“Serbia's beautiful capital was founded at the crossroads between Eastern and Western Europe and it is the only European capital on the banks of two international rivers, namely the Sava and the Danube. Visit to the fortress of Kalemegdan – primary built by Celts in the III century, Republica Square, Terazije, Knez Mihailova Street – main pedestrian zone and the bohemian quarter Skadarlija.
- *Visit of the House of Flowers or Mausoleum, the resting place of former Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito and the fascinating collection of the presents he received from all over the world during his reign. We will also see Saint Sava Temple, the largest Orthodox temple in the Balkan, one of the biggest construction projects in Belgrade in recent times.*
***** Including entrance to the Museum of history of Yugoslavia, the House of Flowers and the Tito's present collection**
- Accommodation at hotel and afternoon free at leisure
- Dinner in local restaurant with live music.
- Overnight. Belgrade

DAY 11

BELGRADE – FINAL DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to the airport
- END of services.

NO OF PAX	RATES IN EUR € (in TWN or DBL)			
	JUL – AUG	JUN – SEP	APR , MAY & OCT	NOV – MAR
15	1390	1334	1298	1247
20	1245	1191	1158	1108
25	1158	1106	1074	1024
30	1090	1049	1017	969
35	1058	1009	977	929
40	1027	978	947	899
SGL suppl.	350	357	353	331

RATES INCLUDE

- 10 nights accommodation in 4**** hotels:
 - Austria Trend 4* or similar <https://www.austria-trend.at/de/hotels/ljubljana>
 - Phoenix 4* or similar <http://www.hotelphoenix.hr/>
 - Hotel Kolovare 4* or similar <http://www.hotel-kolovare.com/>
 - Terme Sarajevo 4* or similar <https://hoteliilidza.ba/spa-hotel-terme/>
 - GH Neum 4* or similar <http://www.hotel-neum.com/>
 - City Podgorica 4* or similar <http://www.cityhotelmn.com/>
 - Continental 4* or similar <http://www.hotelcontinental.com.mk/>
 - Belvedere 4* or similar <http://hotelbelvedere.com.mk/>
 - Best Western My Place 4* or similar <http://www.hotelmypplace.com/>
 - Best Western M 4* or similar <http://www.hotel-m.com/en/>
- 49 seater bus 11 days on disposal, including all expenses, parking, tolls, insurance, driver's accommodation and meals
- English speaking tour guide 11 days on disposal, guide's accommodation and meals
- **Additional local guides in:** HD Bled, HD Ljubljana, HD Zagreb, HD Plitvice, HD Zadar, HD Sarajevo, HD Mostar, HD Dubrovnik, HD Split, HD Kotor, HD Priština, HD Skopje, HD Ohrid, HD Niš, HD Belgrade
- **Including entrance to:** Ljubljana cable car, Bled castle, Postojna cave+ audio, Zagreb funicular, Zagreb Cathedral, Plitvice lakes NP, Diocletian's palace (underground structures not included), Kotor cathedral, Kotor tax, Gračanica monastery, Ohrid boat ride to St Naum, Kalemegdan fortress, House of flowers
- **Meals:** 9 local dinners in restaurants/hotels included, 1 farewell dinner with live music in Belgrade
- **Other:** 1* Dubrovnik bus tax, 1* Kotor bus tax

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