

# 17 DAYS – EXPLORING BALKAN

(Validity : May 2018 - Oct 2019)

Experience the very best of the Balkans! Explore the sun-soaked Adriatic coast, the rejuvenated cities of Tirana, Mostar and Belgrade, and the historic sights of ancient Greece in one exciting tour!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Athens

Welcome to Athens! If you arrive early enough, head into the city to see for yourself all the treasures this ancient city has to offer. Meet up with your tour leader at our hotel in the afternoon, and then enjoy an orientation tour of Greece's capital. Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner.

Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Delphi - Meteora - Kalambaka

Today we'll head north through the Greek mainland, stopping off on the way in Delphi. In antiquity, Delphi was considered the "omphalos" (navel) of the earth, and the place where people from around the world would visit in order to receive an "oracle" from "Pythia". We will admire the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians and we will also visit the museum of Delphi. This afternoon we'll arrive in Meteora. The dramatic 'columns of the sky' were settled on by monks from the 11th century, and by the 1400s there were 24 in total. We'll visit St. Stephen's Monastery, which was founded in 1400 by St. Antoninus Cantacuzene and is now a nunnery. This evening we'll stay in the nearby town of Kalambaka.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Kalambaka - Ohrid

This morning we'll travel on into Macedonia and the undiscovered jewel of Ohrid. A UNESCO World Heritage Site on the shores of Lake Ohrid, this city is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe, and is notable for once having had 365 churches, one for each day of the year. We'll explore the Old Town on a guided tour, where you'll see the famous sights, including the Church of St. John at Kaneo, which is situated on a cliff overlooking Lake Ohrid. To finish off the day we'll enjoy an included dinner this evening.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Ohrid - Tirana

This morning we'll leave Macedonia for its Balkan neighbour Albania, driving onto the capital city, Tirana. In a story typical of many cities in this part of Europe, Tirana has undergone a remarkable transformation, shaking off communism to become a vibrant, fun city. You'll be introduced to the city on a walking tour, from the buildings painted in bright colours, to the architecture influenced by the Ottomans, Italians and of course communism. This evening, we will stay at a resort, where dinner will be included.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Budva - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Heading north, we leave Albania behind and travel through Montenegro. Our first stop is at the picturesque coastal town of Budva, known for its well preserved medieval



walled city, which you will have some free time to explore. We then make a comfort stop at the UNESCO World Heritage listed town of Kotor. The old port of Kotor is surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period, and is a picturesque Mediterranean landscape. It is then time to make our way to the walled city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, where your tour leader will take you on a walking guided tour of the old town to see the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery, Cathedral, Onofrio fountain, Orlando's column, Sponza Palace, Rector's Palace, Stradun and the City Walls.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Dubrovnik - Free day

You have a full free day to explore Dubrovnik's incredible history! Want the best views of the 'old town' and islands? Catch the cable car to the top of Mount Srdj and enjoy! It is highly recommended for a scenic sunset photo or two. Visit one of the city's many museums; the Maritime Museum is one of the most popular, or maybe just browse the shops, including the traditional jewellery shops where you can find unique handmade silver or gold jewellery.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 7: Mostar - Northern Croatia**

Today you will travel to another country, Bosnia-Herzegovina and head to the town of Mostar. Mostar is an enchanting and historical town, and you will have some free time to explore the numerous religious buildings, and see the the Roman and Ottoman influences. After your time in Mostar, the coach will travel back into Croatia for an overnight stay.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 8: Plitvice Lakes - Ljubljana**

Your European tour continues today with a mix of sublime scenery and a stunning Slovenian capital. Today you will be treated to some of the most picturesque natural landscapes in the whole of Europe. The Plitvice Lakes National Park is known internationally for its cascading lakes, waterfalls and dynamic landscape. We will take you into the reserve, so you can stroll along the boardwalks and marvel at the incredible natural scenery of Croatia's largest national park. This is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour and is home to numerous rare animals, so make sure you have plenty of space in your cameras! After your brush with nature, it's off to the pint-sized city of Ljubljana in Slovenia. A local guide will escort you on a walking tour of this fairytale city, pointing out the numerous bridges and brilliantly preserved baroque, gothic and medieval architecture. This evening you will have the option of joining the Slovenian evening optional excursion, a fun night of live music, singing and dancing with a three-course meal..

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 9: Ljubljana - Budapest**

Today we'll cross into Hungary and head for the capital, Budapest a city cited as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Straddling the historic Danube River, Budapest is well preserved and boasts numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites - its natural geo-thermal springs are a highlight. Enjoy a driving tour of the city, and then use your free time this evening to explore, or join our optional excursion to the Széchenyi Medicinal Bath, one of the most famous icons of the city and Europe's largest medicinal bath.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 10: Budapest - Free day**

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details, this is your chance to get up close and personal with Budapest. Look out for remnants of the conflicts of WWII and the uprising of 1956, try Hungarian cuisine (so much more to it than just goulash), sample world-renowned wines, and soak your weary rambler's bones in one of the city's bath-houses - something Budapest has been known for since the Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources. Then, maybe catch the sunset with an evening stroll along the Danube.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

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#### **DAY 11: Budapest - Belgrade**

Saying goodbye to Budapest, we make our way to the Serbian capital of Belgrade. On arrival in Belgrade we'll enjoy a tour of Serbia's capital city with a local guide, who will introduce us to the city's highlights, including Republic Square, Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan park and Belgrade fortress.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 12: Nis - Sofia**

Our first destination today is a stop off in Nis, a historic city in south-eastern Serbia that was ruled by the Turks from the 14th-19th centuries. Included in your tour package is a visit to the Tower of Skulls, one of the most prominent reminders of its Ottoman past. We'll then make our way to Sofia, where we'll enjoy a driving and walking tour of Bulgaria's capital city to introduce you to the main sights and help you plan for your free day tomorrow.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 13: Sofia - Free day**

Enjoy a free day to explore Sofia. A young and city, the capital combines a pleasing east-meets-west atmosphere against a backdrop of contrasting communist and contemporary architecture. There's a partially exposed 1,800-year-

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old Roman city to discover, plenty of relaxing green spaces, and a variety of churches and mosques to explore. Alternatively, the hiking trails of Mt Vitosha are a short bus ride away.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 14: Sofia - Thessaloniki**

Today we head back to Greece, arriving in the northern port city Thessaloniki in the afternoon. Its compact size makes it a delightfully walkable city, which you'll discover for yourself on an orientation tour of the historic centre. The tour will finish on the waterfront close to the famous White Tower, where you will find plenty of restaurants and bars to enjoy the evening.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 15: Thessaloniki - Athens**

Today we'll head south through the Greek countryside back to Athens. On our way we'll stop off in Kamena Vourla, a small town on the south coast of the Malian Gulf, and a beautiful spot to grab lunch. On arrival in Athens we'll check into our hotel before enjoying a farewell dinner on the last night of the tour.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 16: Free day in Athens**

Today you will have a free day in Athens. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 17: End of tour**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Athens sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 16 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private ensuite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 16 breakfasts, 8 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.

- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 18 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **Athens**

Oscar Hotel

##### **Meteora**

Hotel Orfeas Kalabaka

##### **Ohrid**

Hotel Tino Ohrid

##### **Tirana**

Te Stela Resort

##### **Dubrovnik**

Hotel Adriatic

##### **Starigrad**

Hotel Vicko

##### **Ljubljana**

Hotel Park

##### **Budapest**

Ibis Budapest City

##### **Belgrade**

Hotel Park

##### **Sofia**

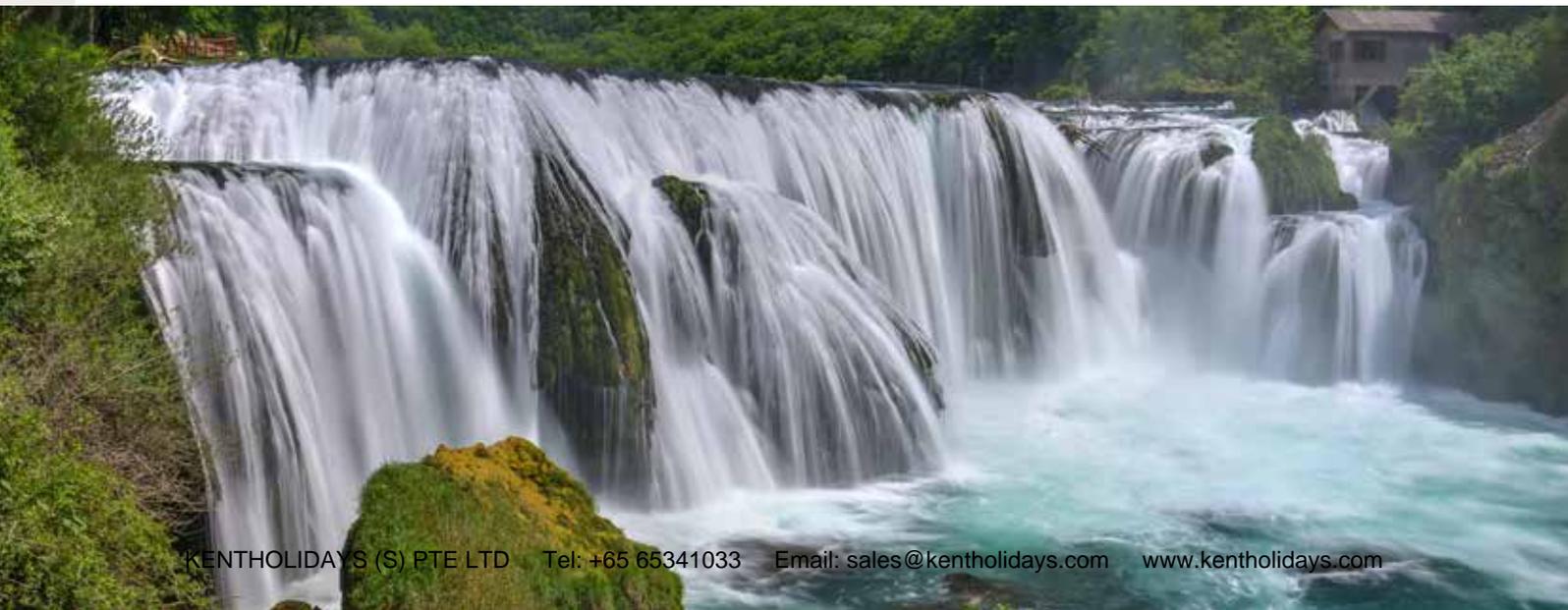
Park inn by Radisson Sofia

##### **Thessaloniki**

City Hotel Thessaloniki

##### **Athens**

Oscar Hotel



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17 days - Exploring Balkan

**START DATE**

**END DATE**

**PRICE IN GBP**

26-May-18

11-Jun-18

£1,890

16-Jun-18

2-Jul-18

£1,890

12-Jul-18

28-Jul-18

£1,890

11-Aug-18

27-Aug-18

£1,890

6-Sep-18

22-Sep-18

£1,890

22-Sep-18

8-Oct-18

£1,890

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# European Guaranteed Tours Terms & Conditions

## 1. Guaranteed departures

All Comfort tours operated by Happy Tours are guaranteed departures and will operate unless force majeure circumstances arise or other unforeseen circumstances. Due to the traveller numbers on a specific tour, Happy Tours reserves the absolute right to change the type or style of transportation or other elements, to enable the tour to operate. Tours where Happy Tours acts as an agent on the behalf of the Principal operator in Turkey and Croatia are also guaranteed to operate unless force majeure circumstances arise or the Principal operator ceases trading. Under these circumstances an alternative tour of comparable standard or a full refund of monies paid will be offered.

Force Majeure: We will not pay you compensation if we have to cancel or change your travel arrangements in any way because of unusual or unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control. These can include, for example, war, riot, industrial dispute, terrorist activity and its consequences, acts of God, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport.

## 2. Accommodation

### a) All Tours

On any of our Comfort, Europe Short Trips, Turkey & Greece Tours and Croatia Tours, accommodation is provided in twin accommodation. Singles travellers will be accommodated in same-gender twin rooms. Two travellers booking together will be accommodated in a twin room. Three travellers booking together will be accommodated in one twin room, the third person will be accommodated in a same gender twin share room. Happy Tours will use astute discretion at allocating the third person to a room share; unless we are otherwise advised in writing as to who will be sharing with whom. Triple rooms can be requested, in writing, but cannot be guaranteed in every location in which event the above situation applies. In certain locations, particularly in Austria and Switzerland, a twin is commonly accepted as referring to two separate mattresses and duvets contained in one large frame. Most hotels have rooms that will take an extra bed if required. These extra beds may be bunk beds, fold-away beds or sofa beds. Where an extra bed is added this may limit the space available. Rooms with extra beds are still bookable for two person occupancy although, in this case, the hotelier may allocate a standard-sized twin bedded room without extra beds. Single rooms do not always match up either in size or facilities to twin bedded rooms. Please note that in some properties, lifts may not directly service all floors and access to and from these floors may be by stairway only.

### b) Star Categories / Country Standards

We use a range of star rated accommodation establishments, and standards differ from country to country. The star ratings are primarily intended to give a guide to the range of facilities and services available in each property. 2 and 3 star properties generally have a more limited range of facilities and services. In general the overall standard of services and facilities can sometimes vary within star categories. For example, an officially rated 3 star property may only possess 2 star standards (and vice versa) despite having an extensive range of services and facilities. This is because of the many different criteria that are used from country to country to assess star ratings.

Please note these criteria can differ significantly to those used in the UK by motoring and other organizations and UK ratings should not therefore be compared to those overseas. In certain instances, hotels and pensions in Austria do not have official star ratings, mainly due to taxation reasons, rather than levels of standard.

## 3. Food

Meals are included as stipulated in the tour itinerary, check your specific tour itinerary for details of which meals are included. Vegetarians or those with special dietary needs can be catered for, so please inform us at the time of booking, as well as your tour leader at the start of the tour. Non-included meals are at your own expense. This allows you the opportunity to try the local cuisine. The food is delicious and varied with restaurants providing an important insight into local ways of life.

There is always an excellent range of restaurants to choose from. You will also need to purchase drinks and snacks for long bus or coach journeys as there may not be the opportunity once on board. Please be aware that in many parts of the world vegetarian meals are classified as meals without meat or fish, and may not be what you are used to.

## 4. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory for all clients whilst on a tour organised by Happy Tours. Clients together with their personal property including baggage are at all times solely at their own risk. Clients are wholly responsible for arranging their own insurance. A suitable insurance policy should provide adequate cover for medical expenses arising through illness or accident prior to or during the holiday and loss of holiday monies through cancellation or curtailment of the holiday or other insurable reasons. Clients should ensure that there are no exclusion clauses limiting protection for the type of activities in their tour. The travel insurance cover automatically provided with credit card purchases does not provide adequate cover as standard.

## 5. Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is the responsibility of the client to be in possession of a valid passport, visa permits, vaccination and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Happy Tours. Visa support documents can be provided if the request is received in writing - please email us after your booking has been confirmed, allowing 5 working days for the documents to be produced. Visa support documents do not supplement or replace tour documents which can be found on the website.

Please allow sufficient time to complete the visa process (at least 4 weeks). Should your visa application be unsuccessful, you will be able to change or cancel your tour, but standard terms and conditions (and therefore fees) will apply. Please see sections 3a. Changes by you and 4. Cancellation by you.

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides travel advice for each destination we visit – each country has a summary and general information as well as advice on safety & security, local laws & customs, entry requirements and health.

## 6. Age, Fitness and Participation

All clients are expected to satisfy themselves prior to booking that they are fit and able to complete the itinerary of their chosen tour as described in the itinerary.

Clients are also expected to accept that the components described constitute "Adventure Travel" and that travel to and facilities in developing countries will not be to similar standards which they may be accustomed to at home. Persons over 65 years of age may be asked to provide medical evidence of fitness to travel on certain itineraries. Minors (those under 18 years of age) are accepted on some group tours operated by Happy Tours at our discretion provided they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who accepts full responsibility for them. Unaccompanied minors will not be accepted. Happy Tours has recommended ages for participation in group tours which act as a guide only.

Clients agree to accept the authority and decision of Happy Tours employees, tour leaders, and agents whilst on tour with Happy Tours. If in the opinion of such person that the health or conduct of a client before or after departure appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a tour, the client may be excluded from all or part of the tour, without any refunds. In the case of ill health Happy Tours may make such arrangements as it sees fit and recover the costs from the client.

If a client is excluded from the tour as above or chooses to leave the tour of their own free will or leaves the tour due to ill health or any other reason there will be no refund of the tour price, extra services, surcharges, local payments/funds or any local surcharges. All services forming part of the whole package booked will be forfeited though may be recovered through travel insurance in some circumstances.

## 7. Local Laws

All participants in tours operated by Happy Tours are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Happy Tours of any obligation that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

## 8. Illness or Disability

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit. If you or any member of your party have any disabilities it is extremely important that you contact our offices by email via this link before completing any reservation to ensure compatibility for the holiday that you choose.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

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