



LIBERTY ADRIATIC

[www.liberty-adriatic.com](http://www.liberty-adriatic.com)  
[www.impact-tourism.net](http://www.impact-tourism.net)

**Head office Slovenia**  
Dunajska cesta 109, Ljubljana  
T: +386 1 232 11 71  
E: [adriatic@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic@liberty-int.com)

**Croatia offices**  
Zagreb: Ilica 92/1; T: +385 91 761 08 85  
Dubrovnik: Na Rivi 30a; T: +385 98 188 21 32  
E: [adriatic-croatia@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic-croatia@liberty-int.com)

**Serbia office**  
Terazije 45, Belgrade  
T: +381 11 334 13 48  
E: [adriatic-serbia@liberty-int.com](mailto:adriatic-serbia@liberty-int.com)

# SLOVENIA, CROATIA, SERBIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO, ALBANIA, MACEDONIA, BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

15 days / 14 nights

*Discovering secrets of Balkan*

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire glorious Belle Époque buildings in Bucharest in Romania
- Feel 7,000 years of history in Sofia (Bulgaria)
- Enjoy the charming Slovenian capital, Ljubljana
- Discover the picturesque nature of Plitvice national park in Croatia
- Explore the winding alleys of walled Old town of Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Get to know Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Visit Mostar, a city victim of recent ethnical clash
- Enjoy the wild beauty of Montenegro
- Feel a mixture of cultures, landscapes and religions from Albanian Orthodox to Sunni Muslim, and from beautiful beaches to Rocky Mountains
- Visit one of the oldest human settlements in Europe



# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## SLOVENIA

The country of Slovenia lies in the heart of the enlarged Europe. It has a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The capital Ljubljana is a modern, fresh, young, creative and surprising city.

Slovenia, a green and diverse country between the Alps and the Mediterranean, boasts all the beauties of the Old World. When you want to experience Europe in one stroke, come to Slovenia. In just 20,273 square kilometres there are snow-covered mountains, a sea coast bathing in the Mediterranean sun, beautiful karst caves and thermal springs, narrow white-water canyons and wide slow moving rivers, high mountain lakes and lakes that disappear mysteriously underground at the start of summer, ancient villages and medieval cities, the antique castles and modern entertainment, countless vineyards with top quality wines, and the only primeval forest in Europe. Here in this small and easily covered area, where hundreds of birds migrating south make a briefly stop and where dozens of unique indigenous plants find their home, more diverse experiences await you all year round than can be found anywhere else.

## CROATIA

Travelling through Croatia, Dalmatia or Dubrovnik Region offers immense and rich experiences to every visitor. From the coastal to the continental parts, Croatia's rich cultural heritage, combined with its magnificent natural beauties, make it the perfect place to spend your vacation at. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, a charming medieval city of exceptional beauty known for its spirit and architecture, with a population of approximately 1 million.

The uniqueness of Croatia lies in its diversity. Situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, Croatia provides visitors with the opportunity to ski in the winter and swim during the summer months, all within driving distance. With its 1,185 islands, islets and reefs, it is the most diverse coast on the Mediterranean.

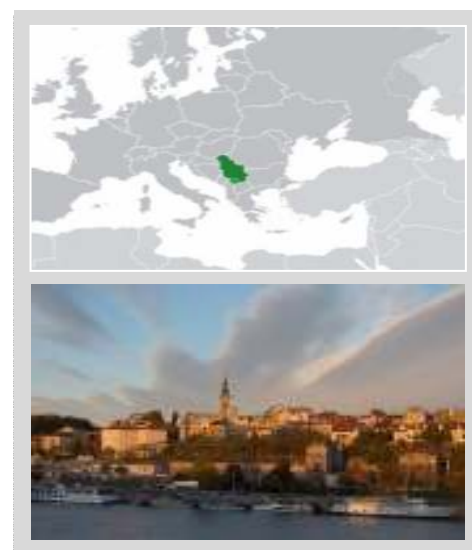
There are seven national parks in Croatia, three being in the mountainous regions (Risnjak, Paklenica and Plitvicka Jezera), and four in the coastal regions (Kornati, Brijuni, Krka and Mljet). To mention a few, Croatia is home to the Old City of Dubrovnik, Diocletian's Palace in Split, Euphrasies Basilica in Porec, and many others. Croatia boasts the largest number of developed settlements in southeast Europe, in addition, many of which date back to Roman and medieval times. Rarely can you find so many examples of cultural and historical significance from different periods in such a small region.

## SERBIA

A great variety of beautiful scenery and cultural and historical monuments, curative spas, hunting grounds and fishing areas give the basis for Serbia's tourism. Serbia has connected West with East for centuries – a land in which civilizations, cultures, faiths, climates and landscapes meet and mingle.

It is located in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula, in south-eastern Europe. The northern portion belongs to central Europe, but in terms of geography and climate it is also partly a Mediterranean country. Serbia is landlocked but as a Danube country (its longest river) it is connected to distant seas and oceans. Serbia is a crossroad of Europe and a geopolitically important territory. The international roads and railway lines, which run through the country's river valleys, form the shortest link between Western Europe and the Middle East.

The cultural and historical heritage of Serbia begins with prehistoric archaeological sites and its legacy from classical antiquity. Perhaps its greatest riches, though, are in the many mediaeval Serbian churches and monasteries, some of which are included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the last undiscovered regions of the southern area of the Alps, with vast tracks of wild and untouched nature attracting adventurers and nature lovers. According to an estimation of the World Tourism Organization, Bosnia and Herzegovina will have the third highest tourism growth rate in the world between 1995 and 2020.

Most notable among its charms is its lush, mountainous landscape, best seen from the vantage point of one of the national parks. The central Dinaric Alps are favoured by hikers & walkers, containing both Mediterranean & Alpine climates. White-water rafting with 3 rivers (including the deepest river canyon in Europe, Tara River) is something akin to a national pastime. Bosnia has also become an increasingly popular skiing and Ecotourism destination. For some, the country remains synonymous with the Yugoslav wars that ravaged the Balkan region in the 1990s; it still bears the legacy of this, having a fractured infrastructure and a countryside that remains littered with mines in some regions.

However, there are plenty of positives to take from Bosnia and Herzegovina's urban centres, especially the cosmopolitan capital of Sarajevo with its Turkish heritage and lively cafe scene. Lonely Planet, in ranking the best cities in the world, ranked Sarajevo ahead of Croatian Dubrovnik. Tourism there is chiefly focused on historical, religious, and cultural aspects. Elsewhere there are historic fortresses, splendid old mosques, monasteries and Catholic shrines to enjoy. But perhaps above all else, it is the reconstructed Ottoman bridge at Mostar that symbolizes both the past and a positive new beginning for the country.

## MONTENEGRO

Montenegro is the smallest of ex - Yugoslav republics. It offers wide range of investment possibilities and great geographic diversities which make this country worth visiting and exploring. 293 km of coast with its beautiful beaches and amazing beauty of its unique bay are a total opposite to the lakes, canyons, rivers and high mountains of Inner Montenegro.

It is unique in many ways. It is extremely wild and beautiful. It has it all, small medieval cities on the coast, wild mountains, the biggest lake on the Balkan, the longest and the deepest canyon in Europe, Mediterranean climate and most beautiful fjord in Mediterranean. It has wide range of hotels on the coast and in land and venues that can host up to 1000 participants.

Different cultures have left their traces here. Today in Montenegro one can feel the influence of Venetian, Roman, Byzantine, French and Turkish culture. Moreover, all of that could be experienced in a relatively small distance.

## ALBANIA

In the heart of the Mediterranean, on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, Albania is fast becoming one of the world's most interesting getaways. Still relatively unspoiled by globalization, tourists will notice an inspiring mixture of civilizations and cultures - making this European country truly unique.

Home of both Mother Theresa, Albania today offers not only beach and mountain holidays, a vibrant city life and a relaxing outdoor cafe culture, but also something increasingly rare in Europe these days, a glance into a culture that is all its own. Raised on a diet of separation and hardship, Albania is distinctly Albanian.

Not just the preserve of the adventurous, Albania is a warm and sincerely hospitable country – with enough rough edges to keep it interesting.



## MACEDONIA

Landlocked in the heart of the Balkans, The Republic of Macedonia is one of Europe's youngest, smallest countries, but is simultaneously one of its oldest nations. Mountainous Macedonia still has an air of mystery to it. Simultaneously ancient and brand new, it's struggling to find its place in the post-communist world. Black-clad Orthodox monks are just as much a part of this renewal as the hordes of teenagers, bedecked in the latest Italian fashions, sipping coffee in the stylish bars of the capital.

For outdoors types Macedonia is a paradise. Its extensive wilderness allows ample opportunities for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers. Meanwhile, ancient ruins and monasteries will fascinate anyone with even a smidgen of interest in history. In short, for a little place it's crammed with something for just about everyone. Quite apart from Macedonia's spectacular peaks, lakes and rivers, it's the hospitality of the people of this most southern of Slavic nations that will make your visit truly memorable.

## ROMANIA

Romania was one of the least visited countries in Europe, till 1989. Closed for more than 40 years behind the "Iron Curtain" and almost isolated from the rest of the world by a tough communist regime, Romania is a land of many genuine treasures that are waiting to be discovered.

The most popular and unique place in Romania is Transylvania - "the Land across the woods", a vast province of Romania with its lovely medieval towns and fortresses at the foothill of the Carpathians. If you are a Dracula fan, you wouldn't want to miss Dracula's Castle in Bran, the Borgo Pass or his birthplace in the medieval "Upper Town" of Sighisoara.

This country is probably also the last place in Europe where you can still see unspoiled countryside, with the traditional rural civilization still alive. You can be sure of forgetting all the stress and strains of the western world.

## BULGARIA

Despite being a relatively small country, Bulgaria has a lot to offer to anyone that is interested in experiencing the mysticism and enchantment of Eastern Europe, where ancient culture and contemporary history are continuing to leave their mark on a nation that many find marvellous, fascinating, and bizarre at the same time. Bulgaria offers a wide variety of nature escapes with the mountains, sea, lakes, and postcard-like villages and since the country is home to all four seasons, your trip into any of these gorgeous sceneries will make it worth it. The symbol of Bulgaria is a rose, as rose oil is made in Bulgaria, and has gained an international reputation of high quality organic oil. Similar to Chinese silk, Bulgaria has been recognized with the country's primary exported item for centuries.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

Arrival to Zagreb airport  
Meet and greet at the airport and drive to Bled (190km)  
A visit of Bled Castle and a ride by pletna boat  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Bled

### **BLED – Alpine pearl of Slovenia**

The picture-postcard of the Alpine town of Bled was once the preferred choice of the Austro Hungarian Empire's elite. Its many charms include a medieval castle, perched high on a rocky cliff, a scenic lake studded by a tiny wooded island, and the alpine splendour of the nearby Triglav National Park, a natural wonderland of glacial valleys, glittering peaks, Limestone canyons, ice-cold tarns, flowered meadows, Alpine forests, Pretty hamlets and cascading waterfalls. It is a tourist place, surrounded by the wreaths of the Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains, placed in a dish shaped basin of a glacial lake, the warmest in Europe.



## DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Ljubljana (50km)  
A visit of Ljubljana  
Drive to Postojna (50km) and visit the caves  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Drive towards Plitvice National Park (240km)  
Check-in to a hotel, dinner and overnight in Plitvice National Park

### **LJUBLJANA - a charming mixture of styles of Central Europe**

One of Europe's best-kept secrets, the ancient walled city of Ljubljana lies at the very heart of Slovenia and boasts a vibrant history that traces 3,000 years of Roman, Medieval, Baroque and Italian influences. A friendly and cosmopolitan city Ljubljana offers a broad selection of diversions that range from strolling the shimmering reaches of the Ljubljana River to exploring the formal gardens and fortified battlements of the city. There is also wandering the cobbled streets of the Old town and a bright café society to be enjoyed plus plenty of atmospheric bars, a broad range of regional restaurants and a host of cultural events.

### **MARVELLOUS POSTOJNA CAVES – the most visited caves in Europe**

The Postojna cave system is the largest known cave system in Slovenia. A visit to a cave such as Postojna deserves full attention due to the diversity of shapes, expansive cave areas, stalactite and stalagmite formations and water characteristics. Admire its unique Karst underground world of beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites. You can also see an unusual and rare underground animal Proteus Anguinus - the so-called "human fish". A visit to Postojna cave is a special experience, as an electric train takes visitors to their hour and a half circle tour visit to the cave. From train station inside the cave guides accompany visitors as they walk amongst magnificent creations of nature.



## DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
A visit of Plitvice National park  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Transfer to Zagreb (140km)  
A visit of Zagreb  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Zagreb

### PLITVICE – a misty natural wonderland

Located in a deep mysterious ancient forest known as the “Devil’s Garden” between Zagreb and Zadar lies Plitvice Lakes National Park, composed of 19.5 hectares of woods, lakes and waterfalls. Imagine Niagara Falls diced and sprinkled over a heavily forested Grand Canyon. This lush valley of terraced lakes is laced together by waterfalls and miles of pleasant wooden-plank walks.

It is one of Croatia’s top sights and the oldest national park in Europe, deservedly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. Countless cascades and strangely clear and colourful water make the Plitvice Lakes National Park a misty natural wonderland.

### ZAGREB – the capital and the largest city of Croatia

Zagreb is the capital city of the Republic of Croatia. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now became a centre of commerce and industry as well. Zagreb is also the hub of the business, academic, cultural, artistic and sporting worlds in Croatia. Many famous scientists, artists and athletes come from the city, or work in it. The city boasts a charming medieval 'old city' with architecture and cobbled streets reminiscent of Vienna, Budapest, Prague and other Central-European capitals, though mixed with a strong Italian influence. It can offer its visitors the Baroque atmosphere of the Upper Town, picturesque open-air markets, diverse shopping facilities, an abundant selection of crafts and a choice vernacular cuisine.

Zagreb is a city of green parks and walks, with many places to visit in the beautiful surroundings. In spite of the rapid development of the economy and transportation, it has retained its charm, and a relaxed feeling that makes it a genuinely human city.



## DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Belgrade (400km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Belgrade  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Belgrade

### BELGRADE - a 7,000 years old town

Belgrade is the capital and the "soul" of modern Serbia. Because of its strategic position by the confluence of the Sava and the Danube rivers, where the Panonian Plain meets the Balkans, the city has battled over in 115 wars and was all together destroyed 44 times. Consequently, during its lively history it was inhabited by Celts, Romans, Slavs and then has been a possession of Byzantine, Frankish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ottoman and Serbian rulers. It was a principal city of Ottoman Europe, the capital of Yugoslavia and then a metropolitan capital of Serbian Republic. Today, it is a modern city of about 2 million inhabitants. In



Belgrade a visitor can find not only important museums, cultural and historic monuments, but also a rich program of cultural, artistic and sports events.

## DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer towards Sarajevo (430km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Sarajevo  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Check-in to a hotel  
Overnight in Sarajevo

### **SARAJEVO - the capital and largest city of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Sarajevo is one of the most historically interesting cities in Europe. It is the place where the Western & Eastern Roman Empire split; where the people of the Eastern Orthodox, the Southern Ottoman and the Western Roman Catholic met, lived and warred. It has been an example of historical turbulence and the clash of civilizations, as well as a beacon of hope for peace and tolerance through multi-cultural integration.

Today the city has physically recovered from most of the war damage caused by the Yugoslav Wars of the early nineties. It is a cosmopolitan European capital with a unique Eastern twist that is a delight to visit. The people are very friendly, be they Bosnian, Serb, or Croat.



## DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Mostar (130km)  
A visit of Mostar  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Transfer to Dubrovnik (140km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### **MOSTAR - the city with the largest population of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Mostar is the biggest and the most important city in the Herzegovina region in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is situated on the Neretva River and is the fifth-largest city in the country. Mostar was named after "the bridge keepers" (natively: mostari) who guarded the Stari Most (Old Bridge) over the river. The bridge was ruined during the war and then rebuilt in 2004. Today it is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. Together with the Old town became a listed UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The Old Town with its towers, oriental shops, and restaurants, which are specialized in aromatic cooking, take you back for many centuries. Traces of 'old' times are imprinted in the market, the mosques, Herzegovina's museum and in the typical Turkish houses, a few of which have been kept in original style.

The city excels in the spheres of art, cuisine, music, theatre, museums, and literature. It is also widely celebrated in popular lore, featured frequently as the setting for books, movies, and television programs.



## DUBROVNIK – the pearl of the Adriatic

The city of Dubrovnik is situated in the very South of the Republic of Croatia. The particularity and uniqueness of Dubrovnik is in its permanent live connection to its rich past and its cultural heritage, while it keeps vibrantly in pace with contemporary life, echoing its spiritual identity and its presence in the European cultural environment. Dubrovnik, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is rich in cultural and historical monuments.

The most recognizable feature which defines the History of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic are its intact city walls which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in the Europe is the main attraction for the city's visitors.

This is a tour which will show you the finest sites of the Old Walled City and will reveal why Dubrovnik is often referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". We will lead you through the streets of the Old Town introducing you to the history and culture of this magnificent city. Other splendid buildings such as Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Church, Sponza Palace will be viewed along the way. You will be able to visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's oldest pharmacy, the Cathedral with its famous Treasury and the Rector's Palace which once used to be the seat of the government in the Dubrovnik Republic.



## DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
A visit of Dubrovnik  
Transfer to Kotor (90km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Kotor  
Transfer to Budva (25km) for a visit  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Budva

### KOTOR – rich medieval monument

Surrounded by mountains ranging from 1000m to 1700m high, situated at the eastern tip of Kotor Bay, lies the picturesque city of Kotor. Its city-core is the best preserved of the cities along the Montenegrin coast and it is rich in medieval monuments. The walled medieval city centre with its winding, narrow little streets, squares and small churches, appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Of its religious monuments, the most notable is the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon, dating from the 12th century.

### BUDVA - the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism

Budva is Montenegro's main tourist centre. The secret of the city's popularity rests mainly on its beautiful, mostly sandy coastline, diverse nightlife and examples of Mediterranean architecture. In addition to the splendid beaches of the "Budva Riviera", the city also possesses a tiny, but beautiful, historic centre. Surrounded by a wall, the historic centre is located on a small peninsula which extends as a harbour-side promenade.





## DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Tirana (240km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Tirana  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Check-in to a hotel  
Overnight in Tirana

### TIRANA - the capital and the largest city of Albania

Tirana is the capital and the largest city of Albania. It is also country's administrative, cultural, economic, and industrial center. The founding and later development of the city of Tirana were made possible by its geographic position on a fertile plain, rich in forest lands and water. The year 1614 is considered the date that Tirana was founded, when Sulejman Pasha Bargjini built a mosque, a hamam (Turkish bath), a bakery, and several shops. Tirana began to develop in the beginning of the sixteenth century, when a bazar was established, and its craftsmen made silk, cotton, and leather fabrics, ceramics, iron, silver, and gold artefacts. On February 8th, 1920, the provisional government formed at the Congress of Lushje moved to Tirana, and at this point Tirana became the capital of the country. This played an important role for the development of the town.



## DAY 9

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Ohrid (140km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Ohrid  
Check-in to a hotel and some free time for a refreshment  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Ohrid

### OHRID – the jewel in the crown of Macedonia

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, honouring it with an official designation as one of the few places on the cultural institution's list "World Inheritance".



## DAY 10

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Skopje (185km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Skopje  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Skopje

### SKOPJE – the capital and largest city of the Republic of Macedonia

In its 2,500 years of existence, Macedonia's welcoming capital city has had many different embodiments. All of them – from Roman to Byzantine, from Ottoman to Yugoslav – have left permanent traces on the city as is evidenced by Skopje's varied architecture and its mix of cultures. Yet in addition to its strong historical associations, Skopje is a forward-looking city offering an abundance of modern amenities and attractions.

Here one can find sleek modern hotels above the cobblestoned Ottoman streets, outstanding neoclassical homes right around the corner from grand old Yugoslav-era buildings, red-bricked Byzantine churches and rounded Turkish mosques, chic cafés, shopping malls and brightly-coloured new offices.



## DAY 11

Breakfast in the hotel  
Transfer towards Rila Monastery (220km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of the monastery  
Departure to Sofia (125 km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Sofia

### RILA MONASTERY

The Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, better known as the Rila Monastery is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated in the south-western Rila Mountains, 117 km south of the capital Sofia in the deep valley of the Rilska River at an elevation of 1,147 m above sea level. The monastery is named after its founder, the hermit Ivan of Rila (876 - 946 AD). Founded in the 10th century, the Rila Monastery is regarded as one of Bulgaria's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments and is a key tourist attraction for both Bulgaria and Southern Europe. The monastery is depicted on the reverse of the 1 lev banknote, issued in 1999.

### SOFIA – the capital of Bulgaria

Sofia is a city with a 7000-year history, which makes it a unique phenomenon in Europe, and places it among the settlements dating back to most distant antiquity. Surrounded by sprawling parkland lies at the foot of popular ski mountain, Vitosha. It's a largely modern, youthful city, while its old east-meets-west atmosphere is still very much evident, with a scattering of onion-domed churches, Ottoman mosques and stubborn Red Army monuments sharing the skyline with vast shopping malls and glassy five-star hotels. Sofia's grey, blocky civic architecture lends a lingering Soviet tinge to the place, but it's also a surprisingly green city. Home to many of Bulgaria's finest museums, galleries, restaurants and entertainment venues, Sofia may persuade you to stick around and explore further.



## DAY 12

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
A visit of Sofia  
Transfer to Veliko Tarnovo (220km)  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
A visit of Veliko Tarnovo and Tsarevets Fortress  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight

### VELIKO TARNOVO

Veliko Tarnovo is one of the most picturesque Bulgarian towns, preserving the atmosphere of the past century. It is standing in tiers above Yantra River which meanders through the elevations of Turnovo and the three hills - Tsarevets, Trapezitsa and Sveta Gora. The buildings, perching one above the other, overhang rocks and precipices and Yantra River below, standing close to one another along narrow winding streets.



## DAY 13

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Bucharest (180km)  
A visit of Bucharest including Parliament Palace  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Return to the hotel and overnight in Bucharest

### BUCHAREST – the capital of Romania

Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest is Romania's largest city and a bustling metropolis. Romanian legend has it that the city of Bucharest was founded on the banks of the Dambovita River by a shepherd named Bucur, whose name literally means "joy." His flute playing reportedly dazzled the people and his hearty wine from nearby vineyards endeared him to the local traders, who gave his name to the place. Remodelled in the late 19th century by French and French-trained architects, the city features large neoclassical buildings, fashionable parks, and even its very own Arc de Triumph on the elegant Soseaua Kiseleff, an avenue longer than the famed Champs-Élysées and home to the city's mansion district.



## DAY 14

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Sinaia (160km) and a visit of Peles Castle  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Transfer to Brasov (50km)  
A visit of Brasov  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner in the hotel  
Overnight in Brasov



## PELES CASTLE

Peles Castle is an exquisite piece of architecture which served the former Romanian Royal Family. This is one of the best-preserved royal palaces in Europe. It served as the summer residence of the first Hohenzollern king of Romania, Carol I. Built in the latter half of the 19th century, it was the king's attempt to imitate the styles of his former homeland, creating a Bavarian setting in the mountains of Romania. The palace is decorated, inside and out, with intricate wood carvings and paintings of scenes from Wagner operas.



## DAY 15

Breakfast in the hotel  
Transfer to Bran Castle (45km) for a visit  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Transfer to Bucharest airport for your departure flight

## BRAN CASTLE

Situated near Bran and in the immediate vicinity of Braşov, lies a national monument and a landmark of Romania. Bran Castle is commonly known as "Dracula's Castle". The castle is a museum open to tourists, displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie.



# SERVICES

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## SERVICES INCLUDED:

### TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

### ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

1 night in 4\* hotel in Bled, 1 night in 3\* hotel in Plitvice National Park, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Zagreb, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Belgrade, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Sarajevo, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Dubrovnik, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Budva, 1 night in 4\* hotel in Tirana, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Ohrid, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Skopje, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Sofia, 1 night in 4\* hotel in Veliko Tarnovo, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Bucharest, 1 night in 4\*/5\* hotel in Brasov

### GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour and local guides where obligatory

### ENTRANCE FEES:

Parliament house in Bucharest, Bran Castle, Peles Castle, Sinaia Monastery, Tsarevets Fortress, Konstaneliev and Nativity Church, Rila Monastery, Kotor tax, Franciscan monastery & Rector's Palace in Dubrovnik, Plitvice National Park, Postojna Caves, Kalemegdan Fortress.

### MEALS:

As per program

### OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

## SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Meals unless where specified
- Porterage
- Tips

## OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Rafting in Soca valley