

THE GRAND BALKAN TOUR - BTCAB

Day 1 – Wednesday – Zagreb – Arrival

Upon arrival at Zagreb Airport, transfer to hotel. Meet the tour guide, dinner and overnight.

Day 2 – Thursday – Zagreb – Plitvice Lakes National Park

Morning city tour of Zagreb, including the fortified Upper Town, city's historical centre, St. Mark's church with its multicolored roof, the Cathedral, the Croatian National Theatre and the University. Afternoon departure for Plitvice and then tour the Plitvice Lakes National Park on the UNESCO's List of World Natural Heritage. Sixteen lakes, each at a different level, are connected in a series of cascading waterfalls. Surrounded by dense wood, Plitvice Lakes are a natural phenomenon of a rare and unique beauty. Dinner and overnight at Plitvice.

Day 3 – Friday – Plitvice Lakes- Trogir – Split

Morning departure for Trogir, where we visit the Cathedral of St. Lawrence. Continuation to Split: city tour of Split, including the Diocletian's Palace on the UNESCO's List of World Cultural Heritage with the Peristyle, the Jupiter's Temple and the Cathedral. Dinner and overnight in Split.

Day 4 – Saturday – Split – Dubrovnik

After breakfast, departure for Dubrovnik. Sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik, included on the UNESCO's List of World Cultural Heritage. You will visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's third oldest pharmacy, the Rector's Palace and the Cathedral. Dinner and overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 5 – Sunday – Dubrovnik

Day at leisure in Dubrovnik. Dinner and overnight.

Day 6 – Monday – Dubrovnik – Budva (Montenegro) – Shkodra (Albania) – Tirana

Departure for Tirana: Continuation to Shkodra, once the capital of the Illyrian Kingdom (3rd Century B.C.). Dinner and overnight in Tirana.

Day 7 – Tuesday – Tirana – Ohrid (Macedonia)

Morning sightseeing tour of Tirana, the capital of Albania, including Skender Bey Square, the Mosque of Ethem Bey, and a visit to the National Museum representing the flow of Albanian history, also housing the finds from archeological sites across the country. Afternoon departure for Ohrid, driving via Elbasan and crossing the Macedonian border at Cafasan. Dinner and overnight in Ohrid.

Day 8 – Wednesday – Ohrid

Full day in the lakeside resort of Ohrid, classified at UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage site. Through the activity of St. Clement and St. Naum of Ohrid, the first pan-Slavic University in Europe, the famous "Ohrid Literary School", was founded here. Morning sightseeing tour includes the Church of St. Sofia (11th century), the most eminent medieval monument in Macedonia with magnificent Byzantine fresco paintings and St. Clement Church with its icon of Annunciation. Afternoon short drive to St. Naum Monastery, built on the shores of Ohrid Lake in 900 A.D. and dedicated to the Slavic missionary and educator St. Nauym of Ohrid. Dinner in a local restaurant Macedonian-style. Return to hotel for overnight.

Day 9 – Thursday – Ohrid – Skopje

Morning departure for Skopje. Sightseeing tour of Skopje, including the Kale Fortress, Church of the Holy Savior with its iconostas, one of the finest samples of traditional walnut woodcarving, Old Bazaar and Stone Bridge. We drive to the slopes of the Vodna Mountain where we visit the Monastery of St. Panteleimon with its 12th century iconostas and frescoes ranking among the highest achievements of Byzantine art of this period. Dinner and overnight in Skopje.

Day 10 – Friday – Skopje – Kolasin (Montenegro)

Morning departure for Kolasin, driving via Pec and Berane and along the impressive Moraca River Canyon. Afternoon arrival at Kolasin, the town spreading on the left bank of the river Tara, situated at the altitude of 954m. The whole area is surrounded by the thick pine forest of the Bjelasica Mountain and is a popular skiing and air spa resort. Dinner and overnight in Kolasin.

Day 11 – Saturday – Kolasin – Cetinje – Kotor – Dubrovnik

Morning departure for Cetinje where we visit King Nikola's Museum, once the residence of the Montenegrin King Nikola I Petrovic. Continuation to Kotor, classified as UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage site, where we visit its Romanesque Cathedral dedicated to St. Triphon, the city's patron saint. We continue to Dubrovnik, driving along the picturesque Bay of Kotor. Dinner and overnight in Dubrovnik.

Day 12 – Sunday – Dubrovnik – Departure

Breakfast, followed by departure transfer to Dubrovnik Airport.

Tour includes:

Arrival transfer from Zagreb Airport and departure transfer from hotel to Dubrovnik Airport, on the first and the last day of the tour. Accommodation in 4* hotels (except in Dubrovnik 3* hotel) on half-board basis (except for the 2nd night, in Ohrid where we dine in a local restaurant). Local guides for sightseeing tours of Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Tirana, Ohrid, Skopje and Kotor. Entrance fees to the Plitvice Lakes National Park, St. Lawrence Cathedral in Trogir,

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Diocletian's Palace and St. Duimus Cathedral in Split, the Franciscan Monastery and Rector's Palace in Dubrovnik, the National Museum in Tirana, churches of St. Sofia and St. Clement, St. Naum Monastery in Ohrid, the church of The Holy Saviour and monastery of St. Panteleimon in Skopje, the residence of King Nikola (Nicholas) I in Cetinje and St. Triphun Cathedral in Kotor. ATLAS air-conditioned coach for the duration of the tour. ATLAS tour leader for the duration of the tour.

Prices and departure dates – per person – twin /double occupancy:

May 18 and June 08 – Euro 1606,00

July 06, August 03, 24, September 14 – Euro 1671,00

Single supplement: Euro 453,00

Hotels: (listed below or similar)

Zagreb – International 4*

Plitvice - Park 4*

Split – Katarina 4* or similar

Dubrovnik – Ivka 3*

Tirana – Sky Tower 4*

Ohrid – Metropol 4*

Skopje – Karpos 4*

Kolasin – Bianca 4*

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