

BEST OF THE BALKANS



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

www.mytravelxp.com

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1300 168 910



12 Days Best of the Balkans Coach Tour

Duration: 12 days

Departs: 2022 select dates

Stay: 11 nights hotels (5-star rating)

Travel style: Escorted small group tour - max. 12 people

Booking code: EUBALK12M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

12 Days Best of the Balkans Small Group Tour

About the holiday

The Best of the Balkans takes you on a spectacular journey through 7 countries over an incredible 12 days!

Meet the colourful cultures and people of the Balkans. Take in the stunning natural beauty and unparalleled cultural diversity of the marvellous Balkan countries. Witness the captivating shift of the landscape, from the vibrant streets of Sofia and Belgrade, to the serenity of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania.

This small group tour helps you connect with the authentic culture, while discovering medieval ramparts, charming villages and unforgettable highlights!

Why you'll love this trip...

First class tour with 5-star accommodation, suited to travellers 35+ years

Small group tour up to 12 people per departure

City tours in each of the cities visited

Less-visited highlights like St Naum Monastery and Matka Canyon

Travel with an experienced English-speaking tour guide to make the most of your trip

Travel dates

Departs Sofia, ends in Skopje

2022 - 29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 15 July, 05 Aug, 26 Aug, 13 Sept, 07 October

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date.

Want to stay longer or add international flights?

Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.



Escorted tour includes:

Accommodation

- 11 nights 5-star hotels in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities
 - *Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room*

Meals - 11 breakfasts, 10 dinners

- *Vegetarian options available for all meals on request*

Transport

- Modern air-conditioned coach with reclining seats and toilet onboard
- Private airport transfers

Tour Guide

- Services of your English-speaking tour leader, who will be on hand with advice and tips to ensure that you get the most from your trip

Services

- Luggage portering
- All taxes and fees included

Package excludes:

International flights - please request airfare quotes

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

See www.mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



Flexible Tour Bookings!

Pay 21 Days Before Departure

To offer more flexibility and greater peace of mind, the due date for the final balance of payment is now reduced to 21 days prior to the departure date. This reduces risk and means you won't lose your money by locking in a great deal early.

Pay Less Up Front

Pay only \$210 per person deposit to lock in a great deal for the tour of your dreams.

No Change Fees

There will be no penalties or fees to alter your tour booking up to 21 days prior to your departure date. This includes changes to: the tour, departure date, destination and/or passenger name.

If you need to change your tour booking:

- Notify us in writing at least 21 days before your departure if you are unsure about travelling and you will be given the option to keep any monies paid toward the original booking as Future Travel Credit, usable on a tour departing until 31 December 2022.
- If you change to a trip or departure that is more expensive than your original booking, you will need to cover the difference in price. If the trip or departure is less expensive than the original, a Future Travel Credit will be issued for the difference.
- If you wish to make a change with less than 21 days to your departure date, standard Terms & Conditions apply.

Visit www.mytravelxp.com for more information

Call our office on 1300 168 910 - we're here to help!

Itinerary:

Day 1: Sofia

Prepare for an intriguing adventure through the 'powder keg of Europe' over twelve days and seven countries. Upon arrival in Sofia, you will be transferred to your hotel by a local representative at the airport. In the afternoon, join the welcome meeting at the hotel lobby with your fellow travellers and Tour Director. Greet the delicious Balkan cuisine starting with a Bulgarian twist at a group dinner. Always allow some room for the myriad of tasty desserts available. Optional Experiences: Group Dinner

Day 2: Sofia - Belgrade

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel before embarking on an adventure through the streets of Sofia with our expert local guide visiting a myriad of impressive sights such as National Library, Sofia University, The Parliament, and continue on to The St. Alexander Nevsky Patriarchal Cathedral, the National Theatre and St. Sofia Church. Your guide will provide insightful commentary about the diverse history of Bulgaria and the communist era as you visit the houses of the Council of Ministers, presidency and the former communist party headquarters. Take a scenic drive passing hills and green forests, arrive in the Serbian capital, Belgrade. Presenting stunning views of the Sava and Danube rivers with the Belgrade Fortress in the background. After we check into our hotel, enjoy personal time to explore at your leisure. Sample the local cuisine in fine fashion at your hotel and roam the vibrant shopping streets.

Day 3: Belgrade

The day is yours to soak in all the beauty Belgrade offers. Launch your adventure with a comprehensive guided tour of the city at the bustling shopping street Knez Mihailova. Roam the Belgrade Fortress overlooking a merge of Danube and Sava Rivers with feudal cannons in display - declared a Monument of Culture of Great Importance. Uncover the marvellous blend of medieval and modern through a myriad of impressive sites at the heart of the city. You will have plenty of free time in the afternoon to shop around, continue your cultural discovery or sip delicious cocktails at a local bar. Your dinner seat is reserved at our hotel's impressive restaurant.

Day 4: Belgrade - Sarajevo

Bidding farewell to the buzzing Belgrade, we embark on a journey through green forests to meet the multi-coloured fabric of Bosnia & Herzegovina at Sarajevo. Home to people of various religions, ethnic and cultural background, the diverse architectural and cultural landscape is reflected all around the town. Witnessing the start of World War 1, splitting of the Eastern and Western Roman Empire, and the devastating Yugoslav War in recent history; the marks of history are hidden around every corner. As your Travel Director and local expert guide you through the charming old town and the Bascarsija, learn all about the rich history of the country. Sarajevo is well known for its various delicious meat dishes and desserts. Make sure to try traditional Turkish coffee for the best finish to your dinner.

Day 5: Sarajevo - Mostar - Trebinje

Drive through lush fields and valleys towards the adorable village of Mostar. Famously known for the gorgeous stone bridge in the old town, a prime example of Islamic architecture in the Balkans, designed by a student of the Great Ottoman architect, Sinan. Join your guide for a walking tour through the Stari Most and the old carsija (market), still presenting the authentic style of 15th century in its splendid architecture. Sample the delicious cuisine over lunch at one of the lovely venues and complete your discovery. In the afternoon, we depart for Trebinje, located by the border with Croatia. We arrive just in time for dinner at our hotel, where we will spend two nights.

Day 6: Trebinje - Dubrovnik - Trebinje

Ready your cameras and sunscreen as we head out to the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', Dubrovnik. Crossing into Croatia with a short ride, soak in the unique sight of terracotta tiled roofs encircled by might medieval walls, preserved in incredible condition. Stop for an amazing view of the old town from the overlooking hills, and meet your local expert at the gates to launch your guided tour of Dubrovnik. Learn about the intriguing history of the once-great city state, thriving through its maritime connections and protected by its gigantic ramparts. As we cover the must-see highlights, relax at a breezy restaurant over a delicious seafood lunch. You will have personal leisure time in the afternoon for your preferred activities, whether strolling on the walls, taking an optional boat trip, discovering the quaint streets and pedestrian avenues, or taking a refreshing dip in the Adriatic Sea. We drive back to Trebinje for dinner at our hotel.

Optional Experiences: Dubrovnik Boat Trip

Day 7: Trebinje - Kotor - Shkodra

Our adventure continues to a less crowded, but just as impressive location. Driving along the skirts of mountains along the coast, we reach Kotor surrounded by monumental walls. Join a walking tour in the old town fortress with your expert local guide and Travel Director, wandering the labyrinthine narrow streets. Enjoy a refreshing lunch at a local restaurant and pace your adventure with personal leisure time in the afternoon. You can hike to the top of the incredible fortress for spectacular views over Kotor Bay or capture the prettiest pictures of the remarkable medieval village. Travel to one of the oldest cities in the Balkans as we cross into Albania, Shkodra, for dinner and a relaxing stay at our hotel.

Day 8: Shkodra - Tirana - Ohrid

Starting our journey into Albanian culture, we embark on a walking tour of Shkodra witnessing the influence of Romans, Byzantine, Greek and Ottomans reflected in the town's fabric. Continue towards the centre of culture, religion, arts and entertainment, the charming capital of Tirana. With a panoramic city tour, savour the finest samples of Albanian architecture portraying the influence of various cultures. After a sightseeing tour of the popular sights and the bustling Skenderbeg

Square, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Our journey resumes into Macedonia, Ohrid. Enjoy your dinner and a relaxing rest at the hotel, or you can join the exciting optional experience Balkan Night over dinner and familiarise with the local culture. Optional Experiences: Balkan Night Show

Day 9: Ohrid - St. Naum - Ohrid

Ohrid is home to the dazzling Ohrid Lake at the backdrop of a charming village ascending towards the hills, up to the marvellous castle - an immense site of UNESCO World Heritage. Join the optional experience of a calming boat trip on the Lake Ohrid, one of the deepest and oldest lakes of Europe, presenting splendid views of the village and monasteries along the coast. Disembark at the old town to launch your guided tour. Join your expert guide as we discover the hidden chapels, ancient crafts and all the stunning sights scattered along the narrow cobble-stone streets. We then depart for St. Naum Monastery complex and natural wonderland. Perched on the hills with astounding views of the lake, the incredibly well-preserved Eastern Orthodox monastery stood for more than a thousand years. Blessed with lakes, waterfalls and a beach to Lake Ohrid, we will enjoy our afternoon relaxing at St. Naum, never wanting to leave. We return to our hotel in Ohrid in time for dinner and a refreshing rest.

Day 10: Ohrid - Skopje

Following breakfast, we part with the marvellous Lake Ohrid and drive to the Macedonian capital. With a scenic ride through lush fields, hills and mountains, we arrive in Skopje and check-in to our hotel around noon. Join a guided tour with our local expert and follow the footsteps of Alexander the Great. Discover the immense cultural heritage with countless monuments and samples of fine architecture scattered all around the vibrant town. Personal leisure time in the afternoon, so you can dive deep into history and find every hidden landmark around town, and enjoy the vibrant main street hosting many local cafes, bars and restaurants. You may return to the hotel for dinner and a relaxing rest, or enjoy the town centre.

Day 11: Skopje - Matka Canyon

Enjoy a filling breakfast at our stylish hotel, it is time to savour the stunning nature of nearby Matka Canyon. Home to diverse endemic life, wonderful lakes, medieval monasteries, caves, valleys and trekking routes, the canyon offers a myriad of unique experiences. You can join an optional boat trip in Matka Lake, visiting the fascinating caves only accessible via water, and have lunch with spectacular views after trekking through the canyon on a nature adventure.

Day 12: Skopje

Our incredible Balkans adventure comes to an end following breakfast. Make sure to bid farewell to your newfound friends and exchange numbers before checking-out of the hotel (at 11:00). Complementary airport transfers are available all day, have a safe and smooth journey!

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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Want flights, car hire, escorted tours, airport transfers, travel insurance & more? My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike other online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include whatever travel services that you want to pre-book.

Plus, we are with you all the way - from your first enquiry, until your departure and when you safely return home. You will always be able to reach us. Email us today on reservations@mytravelxp.com with your preferences for any of our travel packages!

Book with Confidence!

New safety measures, more flexibility and greater peace of mind.

The wellbeing and safety of our passengers and staff is always a priority, especially as we adjust to a new world for travellers. My Travel Experience is committed to ensuring your peace of mind with customer-friendly booking practices and enhanced health & safety standards on our trips. We work closely with tour operators that have received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which enables travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols. We are also able to offer our clients as much flexibility as possible when making bookings, will let you know of all travel operator conditions and will help you if any unexpected situations arise.

Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. Between 21-90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 14 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically or via Express post.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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