

TOUR ITALY, GREECE, CROATIA & THE BALKANS



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Italy, Greece & The Balkans Tour with Flights

Duration: 28 days

Departs: 2024

Stay: 26 nights hotels

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: ETGBT28M

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

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

28 Days Italy, Greece & Balkans Tours with Flights

About the holiday

This fantastic itinerary takes you on a spectacular journey through 11 unique countries over 4 exciting weeks.

Begin with la bella vita tour of Italy. Walk in the footsteps of ancient emperors and modern-day movie stars on the Isle of Capri. Explore Pompeii in the shadow of the notorious Mount Vesuvius. Traverse the five villages of the magical Cinque Terre. Drink in the charm of the Italian lake region. See Juliet's balcony in Verona and discover San Marino. Enjoy free days in Rome, Sorrento and Venice to explore as you wish. Eat pasta, drink wine and see Italy like a local.

Then go Greek and discover the history of Athens, Delphi and Meteora. Travel Croatia and explore Dubrovnik - made famous by Game of Thrones. Marvel at the waterfalls in the Plitvice Lakes National Park and soak in the thermal baths of Budapest on this exciting Balkan tour. Visit Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Balkan tours are an intoxicating blend of the Mediterranean, central Europe and Eastern Europe. Adventure definitely awaits in this spectacular corner of Europe!

Why you'll love this trip...

- Walking tours of Rome and Florence with local guides
- Guided tour of the ancient ruins of Pompeii
- Visit Verona, Florence, Pisa and the Italian Lakes
- Explore every country in the Balkan Peninsula
- Free days to enjoy Dubrovnik, Budapest and Sofia
- Explore Delphi, Meteora and Plitvice Lakes National Park
- Visit Kotor, Budva, Tirana, Ljubljana, Belgrade and Thessaloniki
- It's unbeatable value, with flights from Australia included!

Travel dates

2024 - Departs Australia on select dates from July to September

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date. Contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Email hello@mytravelxp.com or call 1300 168 910 for current prices



Escorted tour includes:

Flights - Return economy airfares to Rome & from Athens

Fly from Australian capital cities (*prices may vary*)

One-way economy airfare from Rome to Athens

Accommodation - 26 nights in hotel rooms with private en-suite facilities, twin share

Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement for private rooms

Meals - 26 breakfasts, 1 antipasto, 13 dinners

Transport - Touring in modern coaches with reclining seats & toilet on board

Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)

Escorted Tour

Services of an experienced tour leaders, to get the most from your trip

Sightseeing with entrance fees included, as per itinerary

Package excludes:

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi 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 airlines, hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

Want to extend your stay & see more of Europe?

Email hello@mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910

Italy tour highlights & experiences:

- Discover Rome on a walking tour
- Welcome dinner in Rome
- See Mount Vesuvius; an ancient volcano
- Explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii
- Visit Montecassino; a famous abbey
- Explore the ancient sites of Assisi; home of St Francis
- Visit San Marino; one of the oldest republics in Europe
- Explore the heart of Venice on an orientation tour
- Visit Juliet's balcony in Verona
- Spend a night in the Italian Lake District
- See the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Explore Cinque Terre's picturesque villages
- Explore the highlights of Florence
- Watch a leather-making demonstration
- Taste Italian wine in Tuscany
- Marvel at the views in San Gimignano
- Visit Siena; a popular Tuscan town home to the Palio horse race
- Farewell dinner in Rome

Greece & Balkans tour highlights and experiences:

- Explore Athens; Greece's ancient capital city
- Enjoy a welcome dinner in Athens
- Explore the ancient ruins of Delphi
- Visit Meteora; see the formation of Eastern Orthodox monasteries
- Guided tour of Ohrid
- Walking tour of Tirana
- Explore Budva and Kotor in Montenegro
- Guided walking tour of Dubrovnik
- Visit Mostar; a medieval Balkan town
- Visit Plitvice Lakes National Park
- Guided walking tour of Ljubljana
- See the best-loved sights in Budapest on a driving tour
- Visit Novi Sad in Serbia
- Guided walking tour of Belgrade
- Visit Tinkers Alley and enjoy a lunch stop in Niš
- Enjoy a guided tour of Sofia
- Discover Thessaloniki; a Greek port city
- Visit Kamena Vourla; a scenic coastal Greek city
- Farewell dinner in Athens

Itinerary:

Day 1: Board your overnight flights from Australia Italy

Day 2: Start of tour in Rome

Welcome to Rome! Arrive in Italy's capital city in the morning and check into the hotel. Meet up with your tour leader who will provide the group with an overview of the upcoming itinerary. Then, set out on a guided walking tour of the city. See Ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more. Highlights include the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps and more. Make a stop at the Trevi Fountain to toss a coin in the hopes that it will bring you both luck and the opportunity to return to Rome one day! Tonight, enjoy an included welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Included Experiences

Walking tour of Rome: This city has so much to see and do that we can't list everything here! Embark on a walking tour of Rome with a professional local guide. The tour gives you a great start for further exploration in your free time. You will see the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Arch of Septimus Severus, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona (Fountain of the Quattro Fiumi) and the Spanish Steps.

Welcome dinner in Rome: It's the start of the tour so that calls for celebrations! Tonight you will enjoy a welcome dinner where you can taste delicious Italian food and get to know your tour leader and the rest of your group at a local Roman restaurant.

Meals - Dinner

Day 3: Rome: Free Day

Enjoy a full free day in Rome, Italy's "Eternal City". Explore more of the city's top sights, go shopping or simply stroll through the buzzing streets, and soak up the atmosphere. Alternatively, use this free day to head to the Vatican City and learn more about the world's smallest country and home of the Pope. Here, see the famous Sistine Chapel and the spectacular Vatican Museums. Or, stay in Rome and explore at your leisure. Spend some time exploring the city's top sights in depth or simply relax at a café or do some shopping.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 4: Pompeii - Sorrento region

Today, it's time to head to the coast! Leave Rome behind and travel to the Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii. See the legendary Mount Vesuvius from the road and explore the well-preserved ruins of this ancient Roman city which was destroyed by a catastrophic volcanic eruption thousands of years ago. Later, arrive in the Sorrento peninsula, where the tour will be based for the next two nights.

Amongst other things, this area is famous for limoncello (a sweet lemon liqueur), and this beverage is the perfect way to finish off tonight's included dinner!

Included Experiences

See Mount Vesuvius and explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii: Preserved since ancient times under metres of ash and pumice, Pompeii offers superb insights into life (and death) in the ancient Roman Empire. An expert local guide will accompany and introduce you to the history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was destroyed in 79 AD in a catastrophic volcanic eruption.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Optional On Tour Excursions

Positano and the Amalfi Coast

Explore the stunning coastline of the Amalfi Coast and its most famous village, Positano, on a locally guided tour!

Day 5: Sorrento region: Free Day

A gorgeous old town hugging the coastline, the Sorrento peninsula is the base for today. Explore the surrounding towns in your own time, and seek out little shops producing lace-work, ceramics and specialising in marquetry (the art and craft of applying pieces of veneer to create incredible artwork). Alternatively, choose to join the optional excursion to the famous Isle of Capri. Capri has charmed everyone from Roman emperors to the biggest names in Hollywood! Enjoy exploring the vibrant mix of cafés, rugged coastline views, ancient Roman ruins and stylish piazzas with a locally guided tour.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Isle of Capri

Discover the glamorous Isle of Capri! Enjoy a visit to Capri Town, a tour of the Gardens of Augustus, a private cruise and free time to swim and explore.

Day 6: Montecassino - Assisi

Today, depart the coast and head north to Assisi, stopping en route in Montecassino. Famed for the site of the Abbey of Montecassino, along with its rolling green hills, vineyards and rivers, the city was also the scene of fierce fighting in World War II, which left the town almost completely destroyed. After a comfort stop here, continue on to the region of Umbria and the medieval town of Assisi which is known for being the birthplace of St Francis in 1181. A charming town and the most popular pilgrimage site in Italy, admire the ancient churches and basilicas - many of which are just as St Francis would have seen them almost one thousand years ago!

Included Experiences

Montecassino: Make a comfort stop at the Abbey of Montecassino, the site of fierce battles during World War II. Visit the famous Abbey, which has been totally restored to its original glory, and is still in use today.

Assisi: Arriving in Assisi in the late afternoon, take the opportunity to explore the city, which is famous for its historic churches and basilicas.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7: San Marino - Venice

Leaving the churches and basilicas of Assisi behind, head to Venice, stopping off in Europe's third-smallest state, San Marino, on the way. Claiming to be the oldest surviving sovereign state in the world, San Marino was founded by Saint Marinus in the early 4th century, and is now one of the most popular day-trip destinations for visitors to the area. Situated on a hilltop, San Marino offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside and the Adriatic Sea. Later, arrive in Venice in the early evening. The evening is free to relax at the hotel or join the tour leader on an optional twilight water taxi cruise of the Venetian canals.

Included Experiences

Visit San Marino: This impressive fortress town is located on a hilltop and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside and the Adriatic sea. As one of Europe's oldest states, San Marino boasts intriguing history and is also a popular day-trip destination.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Venice by Night

Take a water taxi night cruise of Venice's iconic waterways. Soak up the sights and sounds from the palazzos and tavernas.

Day 8: Venice: Free Day

This morning, take an orientation walking tour through the heart of Venice. See top sights including the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square. The rest of the day is then free to explore as you wish. Every visit to Venice should include a traditional gondola ride, which can be organised by your tour leader. An optional trip further out into the lagoon to visit Murano and Burano is also highly recommended. These islands are famous for their local crafts and rows of beautiful multi-coloured houses. Later in the afternoon, there is an option to join a food tour and sample delectable local treats while wandering Venice's enchanting streets. For the ultimate Venice itinerary, why not enjoy all three optional excursions today?

Included Experiences

Orientation tour of Venice: Your tour leader will take you into the heart of this unique floating city. On the orientation tour, explore Venice and see St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, St Mark's Museum, Campanile, Doge's Palace, Rialto Market, Scuola Grande di San Rocco and more.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Venice Lagoon Tour

Take a private boat across the lagoon to Venice's colourful islands. Enjoy a glass-making demonstration in Murano and learn about lace-making in Burano.

Venice Gondola Ride

No visit to Venice is complete without a traditional gondola ride! Experience an ancient Venice tradition as you cruise the city's famous canals.

Venice Food Tour

Explore top cultural spots while tasting delicious Venetian food! Taste local seafood, sip on Aperol Spritz and end off with gelato or tiramisu.

Day 9: Verona - Italian Lakes

First up today, stop off in "fair Verona" to catch a glimpse of Juliet's balcony, where Romeo wooed Juliet in Shakespeare's classic play. Beset by family feuds, drama and romance since its founding in Roman times, Verona has its share of stories to tell, and is an unmissable stop on Italian tours. Look out for the 2,000-year-old arena and the ancient city gates during an orientation tour. Later, head to the Italian Lakes and find out why famous writers like DH Lawrence and Hemingway were so inspired by this stunning region of Italy. Arrive in Sirmione, a picturesque town on Lake Garda and enjoy free time to explore before settling into the hotel for the evening.

Included Experiences

Visit Verona: Stop in Verona and enjoy an orientation tour of this romantic and historic city. Admire Juliet's balcony - where Romeo is said to have wooed Juliet in the classic Shakespearean tragedy.

The Italian Lake District: Explore the picturesque town of Sirmione on Lake Garda and enjoy a night in the Italian Lake District. This is one of Europe's most beautiful settings and has inspired many famous poets and novelists. Make sure the camera batteries are fully charged!

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10: Italian Lakes - Cinque Terre - Pisa - Northern Tuscany

Today, leave the Italian Lakes and travel to another one of Italy's most beautiful destinations; Cinque Terre. Located on Italy's west coast, Cinque Terre is made up of five picturesque Italian towns: Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. They are all connected by hiking routes and trains making it a beautiful and unique section of the world to explore by train or on foot! Enjoy several hours here to explore! Next, visit the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. Be sure to snap some great photos of this iconic Italian landmark! Later, travel to Northern Tuscany and settle into the accommodation for the night.

Included Experiences

Explore Cinque Terre: Recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, enjoy plenty of free time to experience this picturesque region, which also offers some of the best seafood in Italy. Catch a train to Cinque Terre from La Spezia and explore the five towns Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore by train or using the walking routes and absorb the Italian atmosphere and scenic views!

Visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa: See the Leaning Tower of Pisa which is one of Italy's most iconic monuments! Enjoy some free time to snap photographs and enjoy the scenery.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 11: Pisa - Florence - Southern Tuscany

Get ready for a day filled with Italian adventure! Travel to Florence this morning. Arrive and enjoy a locally guided tour of the city which is beloved for its incredible Renaissance art and architecture. Then, visit a local Italian leather shop to learn more about local leather crafting and why Italian leather brands have been dominating the fashion world for centuries. Enjoy free time to explore the city this afternoon! Join the Taste of Tuscany optional excursion to experience local culinary traditions and delicious Tuscan recipes! Later, travel to the hotel in Southern Tuscany and enjoy a complimentary wine tasting on arrival followed by a free evening to spend at your leisure.

Included Experiences

Locally guided tour of Florence: A local guide will introduce the city's main sights, including the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Ponte Vecchio, Piazza Della Signoria and the replica statue of David, on a walking tour.

Leather-making demonstration: Visit Leonardo Leather and Gold, a well-loved local shop, and learn all about the world of Italian leather crafting. See why Italy has been famous for leather production for centuries.

Italian wine tasting: Arrive at the hotel in Tuscany, and enjoy a complimentary wine tasting accompanied by some tasty snacks.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Taste of Tuscany

Get a true taste of Tuscany with this culinary experience in Florence! Sit down for a family-style meal and indulge in classic Tuscan dishes.

Day 12: San Gimignano - Siena - Rome

Travel through one of the world's most picturesque countryside landscapes this morning. Admire Tuscan farmhouses, vineyards and olive groves along the way. The first stop of the day is the walled hilltop town of San Gimignano. Known as the "Town of Fine Towers", it offers exceptional Romanesque and Gothic architecture and 12 well-preserved tower houses. Then, drive to Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for the Palio horse race held twice a year in the main piazza. Here, enjoy a wine tasting accompanied with antipasto before heading back to Rome. Round off the day with a farewell dinner together on the last night of the tour.

Included Experiences

Visit San Gimignano: Prepare to be impressed by the views from this hilltop Tuscan town! San Gimignano's medieval streets are home to impressive Romanesque and Gothic architecture and 12 well-preserved tower houses.

Visit Siena: This historic city is famous for hosting the 'Palio' horse race which is held twice a year in the main piazza, or public square. In addition to the Palio, Siena boasts incredible medieval architecture including the magnificent Duomo of Siena, and is widely loved for its great local culture, food and wine!

Farewell dinner in Rome: Make a toast to the last night on the first leg of the tour journey at the final group dinner. Enjoy great food, and swap memories from an incredible Italian adventure.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13: End of tour in Rome - Fly to Athens for start of tour

After an unforgettable Italian tour, the tour concludes after breakfast this morning. Arrivederci, Italia and make your way to the airport for the flight to Greece.

On arrival in Athens, make your own way to the hotel and meet up with your tour leader and tour group. An overview of the upcoming itinerary will be given.

Then, enjoy an orientation tour of Greece's capital city and explore some of the incredible sights that this ancient city is known for. See top attractions like the Academy, National Library, Greek parliament, Panathinaikos marble stadium, Hadrian's Arch, and the temple of Olympian Zeus. Tonight, get your first taste of Greek cuisine with an included welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Included Experiences

Orientation tour of Athens: Get to know Greece's bustling capital city on an orientation tour with your tour leader. See top attractions like the Academy, National Library, Greek parliament, Panathinaikos marble stadium, Hadrian's Arch, and the temple of Olympian Zeus. Witness the ceremonial changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Welcome dinner in Athens: Greek cuisine is one of the world's most delicious cuisines, renowned for fresh flavours and ingredients. Get your first taste of Greek food in Athens as you get to know your fellow travellers over a welcome dinner.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Optional On Tour Excursions

Athens Food Tour

Journey through authentic Greek cuisine in Athens! Taste delicious local coffee, meze, seafood, pastries and more as you wander through Athens.

Day 14: Delphi - Meteora - Kalambaka

Travel north through the Greek mainland, stopping off in Delphi along the way. In antiquity, Delphi was considered the "omphalos" (navel) of the earth. Admire the Sanctuary of Apollo, see the Treasury of the Athenians, and visit the museum of Delphi. Arrive in Meteora this afternoon. This dramatic series of rock formations is home to a large complex of Eastern Orthodox monasteries. Explore St. Stephen's Monastery, founded in 1400 by St. Antoninus Cantacuzene, which is now a nunnery. Peruse the 18th-century main cathedral and take in the views of Kalambaka. Catch a glimpse of the Holy Trinity Monastery perched atop a single rock formation before departing. Stay over in the nearby town of Kalambaka this evening.

Included Experiences

Explore the ancient ruins of Delphi: Visit the ruins of Delphi and its Archaeological Museum. Delphi is recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site for having had a major influence in the Ancient world. You get to see why for yourself!

Visit Meteora: See the formation of Eastern Orthodox monasteries. Explore Meteora and its formation of Eastern Orthodox monasteries perched dramatically on massive monolithic pillars. The most notable of which is St Stephen's Monastery, founded in 1400 by St. Antoninus Cantacuzene and now a nunnery.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 15: Kalambaka - Ohrid

This morning, travel onwards to North 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. Explore the Old Town on a guided tour and see famous sights, including the Church of St. John at Kaneo, which is situated on a cliff overlooking Lake Ohrid. To finish off the day, enjoy an included dinner this evening.

Included Experiences

Guided tour of Ohrid: Enjoy a tour of Ohrid's Old Town, and see sights including Upper Gate, Holy Mary Perybleptos, Antique theatre, Tsar Samoil Fortress, Plaoshnik, Church of St John at Kaneo and Church of St. Sophia.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 16: Ohrid - Tirana

This morning, depart North Macedonia and journey to its Balkan neighbour Albania, driving into 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. Enjoy an introduction to the city on a walking tour. Discover Tirana; from the buildings painted in bright colours to the architecture influenced by the Ottomans, Italians and, of course, communism, this city is a fascinating destination to explore and learn about!

Included Experiences

Walking tour of Tirana: Embark on a walking tour of Tirana and see sights like Skanderbeg Square, Clock tower, Et'hem Beu Mosque, National Historical Museum, National Gallery of Arts and Tabak Bridge.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 17: Budva - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Heading north, bid farewell to Albania and travel through Montenegro. Today's first stop is the picturesque coastal town of Budva, known for its well-preserved medieval walled city, with free time to explore. Next, it's time to 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 as well as magnificent fjord-like cliffs - it is a picturesque Mediterranean landscape! Later, the tour continues onwards to Croatia. On arrival in Dubrovnik, your tour leader will take you to the entrance gate to the Old Town. Enjoy a free evening to explore Dubrovnik.

Included Experiences

Explore Budva and Kotor in Montenegro: This small Balkan country is full of beautiful destinations! Travel to the coast where you will have free time to explore the historic towns of Budva and Kotor.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 18: Dubrovnik

This morning, join a local guide for a walking tour of the Old Town to see the Franciscan Monastery, the City Walls and more. The rest of the day is free 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 Srd 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. The Game of Thrones walking tour is another popular optional excursion!

Included Experiences

Guided walking tour of Dubrovnik: This morning a local guide will take you on a walking tour of Dubrovnik, where you will be acquainted with this stunning medieval walled city. The city is a tapestry of spectacular architecture - including churches, monasteries, fountains and museums all of which you can explore further during your free time. See sites including the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery, Cathedral, Onofrio Fountain, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, Rector's Palace, Stradun and the City Walls.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Game of Thrones Walking Tour

Discover the real-life setting for the fictional world of Westeros in Game of Thrones! This tour is led by an expert guide connected to the TV series.

Day 19: Mostar - Northern Croatia

Today, a true Balkan gem is on the itinerary. Hop aboard the coach and cross the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina - a Balkan country filled with rich history and culture, which is also home to beautiful towns and scenic landscapes! Arrive in Mostar, a historic Balkan town. This enchanting town has been rejuvenated following the tumultuous years of the Bosnian War. Its most famous site is Stari Most Bridge which is an icon of the city. Enjoy free time to explore Mostar's numerous religious buildings and see the Roman and Ottoman influences before travelling back to Northern Croatia this evening.

Included Experiences

Visit Mostar: Journey to Bosnia and Herzegovina and visit the beautiful medieval town of Mostar. Arrive and enjoy free time to explore this charming medieval Balkan town. Mostar is famous for the historic Stari Most bridge as well as its rich mix of cultures and beautiful buildings.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 20: Plitvice Lakes - Ljubljana

The tour continues today with a mix of sublime scenery and the stunning Slovenian capital! Begin with a visit to one of the most picturesque natural landscapes in the whole of Europe. The Plitvice Lakes National Park is known internationally for its cascading waterfalls and dynamic landscape. Take a tour of the reserve, stroll along the boardwalks and marvel at the incredible natural scenery of Croatia's largest national park. Next, travel onwards to the pint-sized city of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Join a local guide on a walking tour of this fairytale city. Later, choose to join the Slovenian evening optional excursion for a fun night of live music, singing and dancing with a three-course meal.

Included Experiences

Visit Plitvice Lakes National Park: Explore the world-famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. Filled with waterfalls, lush vegetation and countless lakes, this is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour. It's home to gorgeous scenery and numerous rare animals, so make sure you have plenty of space in your cameras!

Walking tour of Ljubljana: Meet up with an expert local guide who will lead a walking tour of the city. On foot, encounter the inimitable scenery of the medieval old town, Preseren Square, the City Centre, the Riverfront, Dragon Bridge and Cobblers Bridge. When the formal tour is done, there will still be some time to explore on your own. A visit to the 13th-century St. Nicholas Church is highly recommended - the Baroque architecture is truly spectacular.

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Slovenian Evening

Enjoy an evening of traditional live Slovenian music and dance along with a delicious three-course Slovenian dinner!

Day 21: Ljubljana - Budapest

Today it's time to travel into Hungary and head for the capital. Budapest is 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 incredible architecture and natural geothermal springs are definite highlights of this famous Eastern European city! Arrive and enjoy a driving tour of the city with a local guide to see top sights such as the Castle District and the Hungarian Parliament buildings. Enjoy an included dinner with the group tonight and toast to the first night in Budapest!

Included Experiences

Driving tour of Budapest: Meet up with a local guide who will accompany us on a driving tour of the city and point out all the best-loved sights. Learn more about Hungarian culture and language and the city's fascinating history. Drink in incredible views from atop Gellert Hill and the Citadel, make a stop at Heroes Square and get an eyeful of other must-see attractions like Budapest Parliament, St Stephen's Basilica, the State Opera, the castle district, and more.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 22: Budapest: Free Day

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details found across the city, today 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 (there is so much more to it than just goulash!), sample world-renowned wines or soak your weary rambler's bones in one of the city's famous bath-houses. Budapest has been known for its thermal spas since Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources located in the city! Tonight, why not enjoy a mesmerising view of Budapest during an optional dinner cruise on the Danube? It's sure to be an unforgettable night!

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Danube Dinner Cruise

Indulge in a traditional Hungarian feast as you admire Budapest's top sights from the water with a nighttime cruise along the Danube River.

Day 23: Budapest - Belgrade

Say goodbye to Budapest as the tour continues onwards to Belgrade in Serbia. Make a comfort stop in Novi Sad before arriving in Serbia's capital city and embarking on a walking tour with a local guide. Look forward to seeing the city's highlights including Republic Square, the Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress. Serbia is nestled in the heart of the Balkans and Belgrade is the vibrant city at the centre of it all. The city is located where the Sava and Danube rivers meet and it is an exciting mix of history, culture, grit and character! Tonight, enjoy an included dinner with the group.

Included Experiences

Visit Novi Sad: Cross the border into Serbia and make a comfort stop in Novi Sad. This Serbian city is the second largest in the country and is well-lived for being a liberal destination full of art, music and culture!

Guided walking tour of Belgrade: A fascinating place, Belgrade radiates gritty exuberance in its many architectural contrasts with socialist blocks set amongst more grandiose buildings. Belgrade is where the Sava River meets the Danube. Knez Mihailova (Prince Mihailo Street) is a pedestrian street with historical buildings on either side, with many grand coffee houses, and is protected by law as one of the oldest and most valuable landmarks of the city.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 24: Niš - Sofia

See more of Serbia this morning. Today's first destination is Niš. Enjoy a lunch stop in this historic city in south-eastern Serbia that was ruled by the Turks from the 14th to the 19th century. Visit the quaint cobbled streets of Tinkers Alley (Kazandžijsko Sokače). This nostalgic alley in Niš is the last preserved portion of the craftsman quarter from the age of the Ottomans. Afterwards, travel onwards to Sofia, Bulgaria's capital city. Get to know the main sights on a driving and walking tour of Sofia - this is a perfect introduction to this bustling Bulgarian capital city! Enjoy an included dinner with the group tonight.

Included Experiences

Visit Tinkers Alley and enjoy a lunch stop in Niš: Visit Niš, a historic Serbian city with Turkish influence. Enjoy time for lunch and then wander through Tinkers Alley which used to be the craftsmen alley of this Niš Bazaar. Even though the old architecture has been preserved, it's home to a number of fine restaurants, hotels and taverns that add to its authentic charm. It's also home to one of the famous selfie spots in Niš: the sculpture of writer Stevan Srema, his fictional Kalca and his dog.

Enjoy a guided tour of Sofia: Embark on a guided tour of Bulgaria's capital city. Follow in the slipstream of a local guide and tick Sofia's main sights off your "must-see" list.

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 25: Sofia: Free Day

Enjoy a free day to explore Sofia! A young and vibrant city, the capital of Bulgaria offers a mesmerising east-meets-west atmosphere against a backdrop of contrasting communist and contemporary architecture. There's a partially exposed 1,800-year-old Roman city to discover, plenty of green spaces to relax in and a variety of churches and mosques to explore.

Alternatively, the optional excursion to Rila Monastery is highly recommended today. This ancient Eastern Orthodox monastery features striking architecture, important historical relics and beautiful frescoes and is surrounded by the stunning Rila Monastery Nature Park. Don't miss out on one of Bulgaria's top cultural sights!

Meals - Breakfast

Optional On Tour Excursions

Trip to Rila Monastery

Explore Rila Monastery, high in the forests of the majestic Rila Mountains. Visit the Tower of Hrelja, ethnographic museum, monastery and church.

Day 26: Sofia - Thessaloniki

After two weeks spent encountering the magic of the Balkans, today the tour heads back to Greece! In the afternoon, arrive in the northern port city of Thessaloniki and embark on an orientation tour of the historic centre. Its compact size makes it a delightfully walkable city! The orientation tour wraps up at the Thessaloniki waterfront, close to the famous White Tower. Here, there are plenty of restaurants and bars. Make the most of a free evening tonight - why not choose a spot and enjoy an evening of delicious Greek food and lively nightlife?

Included Experiences

Discover Thessaloniki: Enjoy an orientation walking tour of Thessaloniki with your tour leader and see historic sights like the Arch of Galerius, the old Byzantine walls, the Rotunda and the White Tower.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 27: Thessaloniki - Athens

Buckle up once again and head south through the Greek countryside. Today the tour returns to Athens. Along the way, enjoy a stop in Kamena Vourla which is located on the south coast of the Malian Gulf. Here, find a local spot to grab lunch in this scenic destination. Next, it's time to get back on the road. Arrive in Athens later today. Check into the hotel in Athens before enjoying a farewell group dinner. It's officially the last night of the tour which means it's the perfect opportunity to reminisce about an incredible time spent exploring the Balkans and make a few more memories before the tour ends tomorrow.

Included Experiences

Visit Kamena Vourla: Enjoy a comfort stop in Kamena Vourla with time to grab lunch in this scenic coastal Greek destination.

Farewell dinner in Athens: Enjoy your final night on tour with your tour leader and fellow travellers and take this opportunity to share contact details with your new friends!

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 28: End of tour in Athens - Fly to Australia

After breakfast, this Balkan extravaganza concludes. The time has come to say your goodbyes to your fellow travellers. We hope you have enjoyed your tours of Italy, Greece and the Balkans.

Meals - Breakfast

Please note: The daily schedule is intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road & sea conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and 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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