

Highlights of the Balkans - Globus

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For the travel lover who wishes to see it all, this tour of the beauty of Balkan countries delivers! Visit the must-see sites and hear about the long and fascinating histories as you journey through Serbia, Romania, North Macedonia, and Albania. Explore Serbia's capital city of Belgrade, along with the Romanian cities of Timisoara, Sibiu and Bucharest. Visit Brasov's impressive Black Church; Ruse, Bulgaria's "Little Vienna;" the byzantine Holy Sofia Church, built in the 6th century and today a symbol of Sofia; plus, Staro Nagorichane Monastery near Kumanovo, and Tirana's Bunk'Art, in Albania.

Revel in remarkable experiences along the way, including a visit to Romania's 14th-century Bran Castle of Dracula lore. See its torture chambers and enjoy dinner on the castle grounds. Embark on a boat cruise on Lake Ohrid and see the monastery of Saint Naum. This Eastern Europe tour is sure to thrill!

To know more about the visas for this vacation, [click here](#)

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Notes:

The Bran Castle visit requires guests to navigate many steps which may pose a challenge for those with physical limitations or reliant on mobility devices such as wheelchairs.

Itinerary

Day 1

ARRIVE IN BELGRADE, SERBIA Welcome to Belgrade! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

 Dinner

Day 2

BELGRADEA Strong Faith Follow a guided sightseeing featuring main sights like the Santa Sava Church and views of the fascinating Kalemegdan Fortress. Free afternoon and evening.

 Breakfast

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

PICTURE PERFECT The Church of Saint Sava is one of the largest churches in the world and the largest church building in the Balkans. The church is built on the site where the Ottomans burned the remains of Saint Sava in 1595 and it represents the resilience and continuity of the Serbian Orthodox Church and Serbian culture through centuries of foreign domination. A visit to Belgrade is not complete without a stop here.

Day 3

BELGRADE–TIMISOARA, ROMANIA–SIBIUCapital Cities TIMISOARA Admire the Romanian Orthodox Church, seat of the archbishop.

SIBIU An orientation tour reveals Sibiu's towers, churches, and buildings dating back to the 14th century

 Breakfast  Dinner 267mi / 430km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

A CITY OF FIRSTS Situated in Transylvania, Sibiu is a real gem with a local vibe which recorded many premieres in this part of Europe. It was here where the first hospital, the first library, the first school, the first pharmacy, the first Zoo garden, the first open-air cinema in Romania opened.

Day 4

SIBIU–BRASOVFact or Fiction BRASOV Follow your guide for a tour of the city and visit

the Black Church. Later visit Bran Castle and enjoy  dinner on the castle grounds at

Queen Mary Tea House.

 Breakfast  Dinner 93mi / 150km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

LEGENDS & LORE Legend has it that King Solomon, while escaping enemies in pursuit, fled into the Brasov forest, exchanged his clothes with a local peasant, and cast his crown on a tree trunk to evade being recognized. So the city of Brasov was dubbed Brasov, Kronstadt (Crown City). The fortress-castle was built in 1377 by master masons of Brasov, on a cliff, dominating the whole region. The most famous feature of the town is the castle associated with Vlad the Impaler, a true-life prince who stayed at the castle in the 15th century. His cruel habit of impaling his enemies on stakes inspired Bram Stoker's fictional tale of Dracula.

Day 5

BRASOV–SINAIA–BUCHAREST Romanian Royalty SINAIA Visit Peles castle

 Breakfast 118mi / 190km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

CULTURAL GEM From the very beginning, Peles Castle was one of the most modern in Europe. It was the first castle on the continent fully supplied by electrical power – it had its own electrical unit – and one of the few with a central heating system, an elevator, and the best comfort of the time. The castle was a museum from its first years, and the ticket sales were used to finance Romania's Queen Elisabeth's charity works. After the castle was confiscated by the communists, it was used only as a museum from 1953 to 1975, escaping the destructive whims of ruling dictator, Ceausescu.

Day 6

BUCHAREST Parisian Style and Palace Squares BUCHAREST Follow your guide for a sightseeing that includes views of the palace where former Romanian dictator Ceausescu lived.


 Breakfast

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORIC SPOT In the early 20th century, Bucharest was known as "Little Paris" due to its elegant architecture and vibrant cultural scene, reminiscent of the French capital. See the imposing Palace of the Parliament, former home of communist dictator, Ceausescu. Noted as the world's heaviest building and largest administrative building after the Pentagon.

Day 7

BUCHAREST–RUSE–SOFIA, BULGARIA Little Vienna RUSE Stop in Bulgaria's most important river port nicknamed "Little Vienna" due to its beautiful neo-baroque and neo-rococo architecture.

 Breakfast  Dinner 242 mi / 390 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

ARTISTRY & ARCHITECTURE Unique to the country of Romania is the architectural jewel of Ruse. Its leafy avenues and squares are reminiscent of Vienna, with a Central European feel found in its baroque and belle epoque architectural style.

Day 8

SOFIA City of Centuries SOFIA Hear the history of this fascinating capital city during your guided sightseeing tour.

Visit the Byzantine Holy Sofia Church.

 Breakfast  Dinner

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

CULTURAL GEM The capital of Bulgaria, Sofia is poised as it has been for centuries below Vitosha Mountain, with its landmarks reflecting more than 2,000 years of history, including Greek, Roman, Ottoman and Soviet occupation. Medieval Boyana Church has 13th-century frescoes. Built by the Romans in the 4th century, St. George Rotunda Church has medieval and Ottoman decoration dating to the 10th century. Sofia was known as Serdica centuries before Christ and was ruled at one time by Alexander the Great's father, Philip of Macedonia.

Day 9

SOFIA–KUMANOVO, NORTH MACEDONIA–SKOPJE Prophecies, Prayers, and Promises

KUMANOVO Visit the Staro Nagorichane Monastery.

SKOPJE Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

 Breakfast  Dinner 155mi / 250km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

LEGENDS & LORE Visit the 11th-century church of Staro Nagorichane. Built by Byzantine emperor Roman IV Diogen in gratitude to the hermit and saint Prohor Pcinski. According to the legend, the emperor wounded a deer while hunting in the surrounding forests and followed its bloody trail to a cave in which it found refuge with the hermit Pcinski. The old man beseeched the emperor to spare the deer and prophesized he would become the

future king upon his return to Constantinople. With the prophecy ultimately fulfilled. Diogen built the church in honor of the beatified Saint Painski.

Day 10

SKOPJECity of Statues and Saint Theresa SKOPJE Guided sightseeing includes views of the city's landmarks.

 Breakfast

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORY & MONUMENTS The city of Skopje is located on the Vardar River and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Hear how it is often referred to as the "City of Statues," with over 190 statues scattered throughout the city, it truly lives up to its nickname. But it is also famous as Mother Theresa was born here.

Day 11

SKOPJE–OHRIDWater Colors OHRID Guided sightseeing includes a boat cruise.

 Breakfast 112mi / 180km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

NATURAL WONDERS Lake Ohrid is the oldest natural lake in Europe and one of the oldest lakes in the whole world and home to a high number of endemic species, found nowhere else in the world. Don't miss the chance to witness one of the lake's most enchanting spectacle at sunset when the golden hues reflect upon the tranquil waters for a mesmerizing sight.

Day 12

OHRID–TIRANA, ALBANIAMacedonian Marvels OHRID Visit the monastery of Saint Naum

 Breakfast 81mi / 130km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORIC SPOT The Monastery of St. Naum is built on a high rocky cliff over the shore of the most southern point of Ohrid Lake and is one of the most beautiful monasteries in Macedonia, which also represents one of the first monuments of Slavic church architecture and art in the Ohrid region – this is. The founder of the monastery is the medieval writer and teacher Naum, who is one of the founders of the Slavic and Macedonian literacy and education tradition. Take in the heavenly views surrounding this cliff-top marvel.

Day 13

TIRANA Underground Art TIRANA Guided walking tour of the city features a visit to the Bunk'Art and the main square. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

 Breakfast  Dinner

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

ART & ARCHITECTURE Discover a vibrant story of history, architecture, and art in Tirana – from the Tirana mosaic (Ancient Roman) to the Clock Tower (Kulla e Sahatit), a symbol of ottoman architecture, Italian buildings, and the construction style of the dictatorship. Visit the former Cold War bunker-turned-art-museum of Bunk'Art.

Day 14

TIRANA Safe Travels Until We Meet Again! Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast

Tour Director

With Globus, there's no better way to get to know your destination than through the eyes of your Tour Director. Averaging over a decade... we'd like you to meet a Tour Director, who is representative of the type of expert that will be with you on your vacation.

ANTHONY MICALEFF

Escorting tours for more than 20 years

" After years of extensive travelling and touring, I make it a priority to share my personal experiences and bring my guests inside the story that each country has to offer. After all, a wise man once said, "Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you rich.""



ALISON SKULIC

Escorting tours for more than 20 years

" Traveling and history have always been my passion. Being a Tour Director opens the door to hidden gems and local secrets. Born in Croatia, I know this part of Europe very well. Join me on a Globus tour to discover it all. Let me show you fascinating cities of art, where every corner represents a historical moment, and the beautiful Adriatic coast with its cultural treasure. I will be your storyteller of culture and local traditions and an architect of your memories. Adventure is out there. So, bring your curiosity and magnificent sights and stories are on me!"



Accommodations

BELGRADE

MERCURE BELGRADE EXCELSIOR

Hotel as shown or similar

First-Class

Free Wifi

SIBIU

MERCURE SIBUI ARSENAL

Hotel as shown or similar

First-Class

Free Wifi

BRASOV

RADISSON BLU AURUM

Hotel as shown or similar

Superior First-Class

Free Wifi

BUCHAREST

RADISSON BLU

Hotel as shown or similar

Deluxe

Free Wifi

SOFIA

HILTON SOFIA

Hotel as shown or similar

Superior First-Class

Free Wifi

SKOPJE

SKOPJE MARRIOTT

Hotel as shown or similar

Superior First-Class

Free Wifi

OHRID

METROPOL LAKE RESORT

Hotel as shown or similar

First-Class

Free Wifi

TIRANA

HILTON GARDEN INN TIRANA

Hotel as shown or similar

First-Class

Free Wifi

Optional Excursions

Contact your Travel Consultant for more information.

Price Ranges

\$ (\$50 USD and under)

\$\$ (\$51 - \$100 USD)

\$\$\$ (\$101 - \$150 USD)

\$\$\$\$ (Over \$150)

* The "Starting at" or listed price is based on the lowest price available to book. Price is per passenger based on double occupancy and does not include airfare; additional fees/charges are not included. If a price is crossed out, the new price includes a limited time promotional offer(s) – please review current promotions or deals for additional information. Some tours require intra-vacation flights (and in some cases intra-vacation segments must be purchased from Globus).

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