

BALKAN TOUR - 8 COUNTRIES

12 Days

DAY 1 - Arrival – BUCHAREST

Arrival at Bucharest airport
Airport assistant
Transfer to the hotel

Accommodation in the hotel.
Dinner at hotel and overnight,
Bucharest

DAY 2 – BUCHAREST – VELIKO TARNOVO

07:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel

09:00 Sightseeing of Bucharest with local h/d guide

Bucharest is a booming city with many large infrastructure projects changing the old face of the city. Known in the past as "The Little Paris," Bucharest has changed a lot lately, and today it has become a very interesting mix of old and new that has little to do with its initial reputation. Finding a 300 year old church, a steel-and-glass office building and Communist-era apartment blocks next to one another is a common sight. Bucharest offers some excellent attractions, and has, in recent years, cultivated a sophisticated, trendy, and modern sensibility that many have come to expect from a European capital. Bucharest has been undergoing major construction and modernization works in recent years, such as the Basarab Overpass and the National Arena. You will visit Parliament, The Arch of triumph, Revolution square.

12:00 Lunch in a local restaurant
13:00 Transfer to Veliko Tarnovo
16:30 Sightseeing of Veliko Tarnovo with a local guide

After the Liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman dominion in 1878 Veliko Tarnovo was the temporary capital of



the country. In 1879 the First Constituent Assembly was called, on which the so called Tarnovo Constitution was adopted. Here was the First Grant National Assembly was also established. It elected Prince Alexander I of Batenberg (1857 – 1893) for Bulgarian ruler. In architectural terms, the appearance of the old part of the town takes the visitors in the past. Walking along Gurko street or Samovodskata Charshia (the crafts streets), the town guests have the possibility to see houses built over 200 years ago, as well as to sense a completely different atmosphere. The market street is a kind of an ethnographic complex with crafts workshops, souvenir shops and galleries.

18:30 Dinner and accommodation at hotel
Overnight, Veliko Tarnovo

DAY 3 – VELIKO TARNOVO – KAZANLAK – PLOVDIV – SOFIA

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Transfer to Kazanlak
09:30 Kazanlak sightseeing with a local guide

An original Thracian tomb from 4th – 3rd century BC is situated in the Tyulbeto park. It is known as the Kazanlak Tomb. It is under a special storage regime. Its duplicate,

constructed in scale 1:1, which presents the architecture, the archaeological materials and the wall-paintings of the Kazanlak Tomb, is situated next to it. This Tomb is one of the most significant monuments of the Thracian culture in the Bulgarian lands, included in the list of the global cultural inheritance of UNESCO in 1979. The tomb was accidentally found in 1944 in the north-east region of Kazanlak, and it is a significant monument of the Thracian art from the early Hellenistic age.

Demonstration of rose aroma therapy.

Free time to enjoy the rose festival (**The rose festival takes place in June, exact dates to be advised**)

11:30 Transfer to Plovidiv
13:30 Lunch in a local restaurant
14:30 Plovidiv sightseeing with a local guide

Plovidiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria, situated on the Maritsa River. Its unique location on these ancient crossroads has stimulated strong cultural and political influences from East and West civilizations, and yet maintained its unique cultural identity. Being older than most of the oldest towns like Rome, Athens, Carthage or Constantinople, an almost contemporary of Troy, Plovidiv is a town built upon layers of towns and a

culture developed upon layers of cultures. Plovdiv is a picturesque town, with many parks and gardens, museums and archaeological monuments. Its old part, called the Old Town, with houses from the National Revival period (18-19th century), is an imposing open-air museum situated on the three hills of the ancient Trimontium. One of the most remarkable sights of the town, the Ancient Theater (a well-preserved Roman theater), is located there and is still used for open-air performances.

16:30 Transfer to Sofia
18:30 Dinner and accommodation at hotel
Overnight, Sofia

DAY 4 – SOFIA – RILA MONASTERY - SKOPJE

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Sightseeing of Sofia with a local guide
Today you can enjoy a complete tour of the city of Sofia and see the highlights of the capital. Among the most impressive sites are the Alexander Nevski Cathedral that dominates the city, the round church of St. George, which is the best preserved Byzantine building, the church St Russian. Nikolas, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the ruins of ancient Serdica and some more.

11:30 Lunch in a local restaurant
12:30 Transfer to Rila
14:00 Rila monastery sightseeing with a local guide
16:00 Transfer to Skopje
19:00 Dinner and accommodation at hotel
Overnight, Skopje

DAY 5 – SKOPJE – KOSOVO – PRIŠTINA

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Skopje sightseeing with a local guide
Skopje, capital of Macedonia, lays on the river Vardar. Sightseeing of Skopje,

old stone bridge (symbol of Skopje), Clock tower (Saat kula), famous and oldest market in Skopje Bitpazar, Skopje Bazaar.

10:00 Transfer to Prizren
13:00 Lunch in a local restaurant
14:00 Sightseeing of Prizren with local guide

Prizren is a historic city located in Kosovo. It is the administrative center of the eponymous municipality and district. The city has a population of around 178,000 making it the second largest city in Kosovo. The residents of Prizren are mostly ethnic Albanians. Prizren is located on the slopes of the Šar Mountains in the southern part of Republic of Kosovo The municipality has a border with Albania and the Republic of Macedonia. It was a historic capital of the Serbian Empire.

15:30 Transfer to Gračanica monastery
17:00 Visit of Gračanica monastery with a local guide
18:00 Transfer to Priština
19:00 Accommodation and dinner at hotel
Overnight, Priština

DAY 6 – PRIŠTINA – TETOVO – OHRID

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Priština sightseeing with a local guide

To see the city from street-level is best: start off in the Dardania neighborhood, in front of the three-storey portrait of Bill Clinton, and stroll past the university to the Grand Hotel and UNMIK. Follow Nena Tereze street towards the Skenderbeg monument and the new Government Building, then point yourself toward the historic mosques and meander through the tight lanes of the old quarter. You will see street market stalls, kids hawking cigarettes and phone cards, qebabtores and cafes, and the vibrant community

life of Kosovo's biggest city. If you have more time, it's also worthwhile wandering up into Dragodan / Arberia or Velania.

10:00 Transfer to Tetovo
13:00 Lunch in a local restaurant
14:00 Tetovo sightseeing with a local guide

Although there may have been inhabitants in Tetovo's area as early as the Bronze Age, Tetovo was officially mentioned for a first time in the beginning of 13th century as a small medieval Orthodox settlement around the Sveta Bogorodica church in the upper part of town. At the end of the 14th century, Tetovo, along with all of Macedonia, fell under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. As the Muslim population in Macedonia began to expand in the early Ottoman period mosques, baths, and markets began to appear as early as the 15th century. Tetovo under Ottoman tutelage became an important trade center for the local farmers and craftsmen, as well as an important military fortification. Turkish influence deeply impacted Tetovo and it was renamed Kalkandelen to reinforce the new Islamic presence. In 1912, due to the Balkan wars, Tetovo became a Serbian city. In World War II Tetovo was jointly ruled by Italy and its regime in Albania. The Communist Party of Macedonia, was formed on March 19th 1943 in Tetovo. Today, Tetovo is prosperous city with many private companies, stores, two universities and lots a things to see.

16:00 Transfer to Ohrid
18:00 Accommodation and dinner at hotel
Overnight, Ohrid

DAY 7 – OHRID – BERAT – TIRANA

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Ohrid sightseeing with a local guide, town protected by UNESCO,

cultural and spiritual center of Republic Macedonia located on a beautiful Ohrid lake.

Ohrid, town protected by UNESCO, cultural and spiritual centre of Republic Macedonia located on a beautiful Ohrid lake. Discovering Ohrid you will discover the history of Macedonia in miniature. Ohrid was the centre of the Slavonic literacy, the capital of the feudal Macedonian state, where 365 churches used to exist once upon a time, very often called the Balkan Jerusalem. Visit of old town Ohrid, houses made in old traditional architecture, narrow streets, Church of St. Sophia, St. Clement (protector of Ohrid) Monastery. Visit The Gallery of Ohrid Icons, located within the complex of the church of St. Clement, with impressive collection of icons; masterworks created in a longer period that lasted from 11th to 19th century.

11:30 Lunch in a local restaurant
12:30 Transfer to Berat
16:00 Berat sightseeing with a local guide

Berat, city in southern Albania. It lies along the Osum River, just west of Tomorr Peak. The town is situated among steep hills cut through by the Osum. The terraced houses and several mosques and churches are surmounted by the ruins of a citadel. The town is still renowned for its historic architecture and scenic beauty and is known as the "Town of a Thousand Windows", due to the many large windows of the old decorated houses overlooking the town. Visit the castle.

18:00 Transfer to Tirana
20:00 Accommodation and dinner at hotel
Overnight, Tirana

DAY 8 – TIRANA – departure

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Tirana sightseeing with local guide

Tirana is the capital and the largest city of Albania. It is the administrative, cultural, economic, and industrial center of the Republic of Albania. Tirana has been the capital of Albania since 1920. It is relatively new city established in 1614 from Suleiman Bargjini, feudal of the area at the time. Today Tirana is not only the most populated city in Albania, but also the biggest political and economic center in the country. You will visit Ethem Beg Mosque.

11:00 Transfer to Shkoder - photo stop at Shkoder castle
13:00 Lunch in a local restaurant
14:00 Continue to Budva - on the way, photo stop at Sveti Stefan
18:30 Accommodation at hotel
Dinner at hotel and overnight, Budva

DAY 9 – BUDVA – KOTOR – DUBROVNIK

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Transfer to Kotor

08:45 Kotor sightseeing with a local guide

Kotor, Located along one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays is Kotor, a city of traders and famous sailors, with many stories to tell. The Old City of Kotor is a well preserved urbanisation typical of the Middle Ages, built between the 12th and 14th century. Medieval architecture and numerous monuments of cultural heritage have made Kotor an UNESCO listed "World Natural and Historical Heritage Site". Through the entire city the buildings are criss-crossed with narrow streets and squares

10:45 Transfer to Dubrovnik

Drive through the beautiful Bay of Kotor, the deepest fjord in the Mediterranean sea.

The Montenegro Littoral provides incomparable natural beauties and an

abundance of historical cities. Our drive takes us to the mouth of the Bay of Kotor and along the curving roadway through the towns of Risan and Perast to Kotor. Here we will stop to capture forever on film one of the most beautiful parts of the bay, and learn some of the compelling history of this area.

13:30 Lunch in a local restaurant

14:30 Dubrovnik sightseeing with a local guide

Dubrovnik is rich in cultural and historical monuments and is included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Dubrovnik Summer Festival is held annually here, and the city is also the venue for scientific, scholarly and literary conferences and world tourist congresses. 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 to the city's visitors. Here you will take a ride on the cable car to mountain Srđ and enjoy the spectacular panoramic view of Dubrovnik Old city. Visit the city walls.

18:30 Dinner and accommodation at hotel

Overnight, Dubrovnik

DAY 10 – DUBROVNIK – MOSTAR – SARAJEVO

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel

08:00 Transfer to Mostar - On the way, photo stop at Počitelj

11:30 Mostar sightseeing with a local guide

Mostar, one of the most important cities of Ottoman Empire. Visiting old town of Mostar with famous "Stone

Bridge” on the river Neretva, recently rebuilt and opened in summer 2004. Visiting Bazaar, Turkish House, Museum of the city, Mosque. Walking through the narrow street of Bazaar and shopping in old traditional souvenir and handicrafts shops. Visit a Turkish house and Mosque.

13:00 Lunch at restaurant

14:00 Transfer to Sarajevo - photo stop at Jablanica to see the famous destroyed bridge on the Neretva river

16:30 Sarajevo sightseeing with a local guide

Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the city of Olympic games in 1984, city on the river Miljacka. You will see famous Bascarsija, with souvenir and shops, Gazi Husrevbegova Mosque, Old Orthodox Church, Catholic Cathedral, Latin Cuprija (bridge) so called Princip's bridge, where Prince Ferdinand and his wife were killed.

19:00 Dinner and accommodation at hotel

Overnight, Sarajevo

DAY 11 – SARAJEVO – BELGRADE

07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel

08:00 Transfer to Šabac

13:30 Lunch in a local restaurant

14:30 Transfer to Belgrade

16:30 Sightseeing of Belgrade, capital of Serbia with a local guide

You will visit Kalemegdan - Belgrade fortress where you will see the most important monuments of the city which was transformed in a park by the end of 19th century. Kalemegdan is the most popular park among Belgraders and for many tourists visiting Belgrade because of the park's numerous winding walking paths, shady benches, picturesque fountains, random statues, mammoth historical architecture and incredible river views (Sahat kula – The clock tower, Zindan kapija – Zindan gate, etc). Former canal which was

used for city supplying in the middle ages is completely covered by earth but the idea of recreating it resurfaced in the early 2000s. Kalemegdan is known for its kilometers long lignums, underground corridors and catacombs, which are still largely unexplored. In the true sense, Kalemegdan is today the green oasis in the Belgrade's urban area. Visit the house of Flowers.

19:00 Dinner in a local restaurant at Skadarlija street.

During dinner, enjoy the performance of a traditional Serbian music ensemble ('Starogradska' music).

Accommodation in the hotel

Overnight, Belgrade

DAY 12 – BELGRADE

07:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Sofia airport
Flight back home

Organised by:



SEAGULL
TOURS & TRAVELS
Travel Agents & Tour Operators

www.seagullindia.net