



# The Balkan Dream From Tirana To Bucharest

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **03-05-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

**Visit:** TIRANA, ELBASAN, OHRID, SKOPJE, NIŠ, BELGRADE, SREMSKI KARLOVCI, TIMISOARA, HUNEDOARA, ALBA IULIA, SIBIU, SIGHISOARA, TARGU MURES, BUCOVINA PAINTED MONASTERIES, BRASOV, BRAN, SINAIA AND BUCHAREST

# **Small Group Tour**

• Local Guide Service



#### **Tour Guide**

Local English only guide

# **Detailed Itinerary**

# Day 01: Day 1, Monday, arrival to Tirana

Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

# Day 02: Day 2, Tuesday, in Tirana

The panoramic city tour of Albania's capital includes views of 'The Albanians' - the mosaic in front of the Museum of National History, the Statue of Skanderbeg in Skanderbeg Square, the 'Et'hem' Mosque with the Clock tower, the monument to Mother Teresa and other monuments of the city. Rest of the day free at leisure.

## Day 03: Day 3, Wednesday, to Elbasan and Ohrid

Today we travel along the old 'Egnatica' road to Elbasan to visit the Castle. We continue to Struga, famous for being the place where you can see the Black Drin river flowing out of Lake Ohrid. Then we continue to Ohrid, the city that has its place on the UNESCO list for its natural, cultural and historical values.

#### Day 04: Day 4, Thursday, to Skopje

In the morning, we visit Ohrid, also known as "the Jerusalem of the Balkans" with its 365 churches. A town of vast history and heritage was honored as UNESCO heritage site in 1980. Nestled between high mountains up to 2,800 m and Lake Ohrid, it is not only a place of historic significance but also of outstanding natural beauty, it is the jewel in North Macedonia's crown. Continue to Skopje where we take a walking tour of the North Macedonian capital city upon arrival. Skopje has been occupied by many different peoples since its foundation. However, the group that left the greatest mark was the Ottomans. The Ottomans ruled North Macedonia for hundreds of years and built a large number of mosques and other buildings. The visit of Skopje includes the Mother Teresa Memorial House, dedicated to the humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mother Teresa.

#### Day 05: Day 5, Friday, to Niš and Belgrade

Today we travel to Serbia. Our first stop is Niš, considered one of the oldest cities in Europe. Niš is a university center but also one of the most important industrial centers in Serbia. Continue to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia



# Day 06: Day 6, Saturday, in Belgrade

With a history dating back more than 7,000 years, Belgrade is a fascinating city to visit. Your morning sightseeing tour includes the city's main attractions: the imposing Kalemegdan Fortress, dramatically situated at the joining of the Sava and Danube Rivers; Republic Square and Mihajlova Street; Saint Sava Temple, the largest Orthodox Church in the city; and Tito's Memorial. The afternoon is free.

#### Day 07: Day 7, Sunday, to Sremski Karlovci and Timisoara

In the morning, departure to Sremski Karlovci, the museum-city that was the center of culture and religion in Serbia during the 18th and 19th centuries. After a short stop we continue to Timisoara. Romania's third-largest city (after Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca) is also one of the country's most attractive urban areas, built around a series of beautifully restored public squares, and lavish parks and gardens. With western Romania's nicest hotels and finest restaurants, it makes a perfect base for exploring the Banat region.

#### Day 08: Day 8, Monday, to Hunedoara, Alba Iulia and Sibiu

In the morning, we travel to Hunedoara, where iron has been extracted since the Iron Age. One of its most memorable buildings is the Corvin Castle, a fine example of secular Gothic architecture with spiky, spooky fantasy topped with asymmetrical pointed towers and turrets. Continue to the city of Alba Iulia, a symbol of national unity in Romania. Built on 13th century foundations, the imposing Habsburg citadel is star-shaped with seven bastions and successive walls. Head to Sibiu for overnight.

#### Day 09: Day 9, Tuesday, in Sibiu

Morning free at leisure. In the afternoon we take a panoramic walk through the city of Sibiu. Sibiu is one of the most important cultural centers of Romania and bears a strong resemblance to a southern German or Austrian town. The old city center has retained a largely Saxon aspect and managed to fuse the Middle Ages with the new.

## Day 10: Day 10, Wednesday, to Sighisoara and Targu Mures

Today, we travel first to the picturesque city of Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad Dracula. It is the only inhabited fortified citadel in Romania and is an enchanting city of sloping roofs, pastel facades and cobbled streets. We continue to Targu Mures.

# Day 11: Day 11, Thursday, to Piatra Neamt

Targu Mures remains a noticeably Hungarian town. Dating back at least to the 14th century it has long been an important commercial and academic center. After the visit that includes the Palace of Culture, we continue to Piatra Neamt through the Bicaz Gorge, the largest gorge in Romania, admiring the beauty of the landscape,



the Red Lake and its hill station.

## Day 12: Day 12, Friday, in Bucovina

Departure to the Bucovina region to visit its monasteries, the most representative monuments of Moldovan art. Declared a World Heritage Site, these monasteries are one of the most important legacies of Byzantine art in the world, in which their brightly colored interior and exterior fresco paintings stand out. Visit of the Monasteries of Sucevita and the black pottery workshops of Marginea. In the afternoon visit the Voronet Monastery, considered the best architectural and pictorial example in the region, called the "Sistine Chapel" in the East. Return to Piatra Neamt.

## Day 13: Day 13, Saturday, to Brasov

In the morning, we leave Piatra Neamt and travel south to Brasov. Arrival in the afternoon, followed by a tour of the fascinating medieval city of Brasov. Visit the old town and see the exterior of the Black Church, the most representative Gothic monument in Romania.

# Day 14: Day 14, Sunday, to Bran, Sinaia and Bucharest

Continuation towards the town of Bran. Visit of its famous Castle, also known as Dracula's Castle. In the afternoon arrival in the city of Sinaia, known as "the pearl of the Carpathians" because of its beauty. In the afternoon we will visit the wonderful Peles Palace, the former summer residence and retreat place of the royal family, built in the second half of the 19th century by the first King of Romania, Carlos I.

#### Day 15: Day 15, Monday, in Bucharest

We will get to know the Romanian capital, once known under the nickname "Little Paris". The visit will take us to the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the Military Club of the Nation, the Military Academy and the Arc de Triomphe. Bucharest is Romania's capital and largest city, as well as the most important industrial and commercial center of the country. With 2 million inhabitants in the city proper and more than 2.4 million in the urban area, Bucharest is one of the largest cities in Southeastern Europe.

# Day 16: Day 16, Tuesday, depart Bucharest

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight.

#### Inclusion

4\* and 5\* hotels
Daily breakfast
Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach
Airport transfers
Professional English-speaking Tour Director throughout
Licensed local guides

# GLOBAL GROUP TRAVEL SERVICES

#### The Balkan Dream From Tirana To Bucharest #1730

Entrance fees included where indicated in bold letters

Luggage handling at hotels

Service charges and hotel taxes

Sightseeing Tours Included:

Tirana (Et'hem Mosque)

Elbasan (Elbasan Castle)

Ohrid

Skopje (Mother Teresa Memorial Center)

Belgrade (Kalemegdan)

Timisoara

Hunedoara (Corvin Castle)

Alba Iulia

Sibiu

Sighisoara

Targu Mures (Palace of Culture)

Painted Monasteries of Bucovina (Sucevita and Voronet Monasteries, Ceramica neagra Marginea)

Brasov

Bran (Dracula's Castle)

Sinaia (Peles Palace)

**Bucharest** 

#### **Exclusion**

International airfares

Optional activities

Other meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program

Personal equipment

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers

Travel and medical insurance

Any items not mentioned as included

#### **Note**

Hotel Accommodation:

Tirana: Hotel Tirana International 4\* or similar Ohrid: Hotel Unique Resort & Spa 4\* or similar

Skopje: Hotel Marriott 5\* or similar

Belgrade: Hotel Moskva 5\* / Hotel Prag 4\* or similar

Timisoara: Hotel Continental 4\* or similar Sibiu: Hotel Continental Forum 4\* or similar

Targu Mures: Hotel Continental Forum 4\* or similar Piatra Neamt: Hotel Central Plaza 4\* or similar Brasov: Hotel Aro Palace 5\* / Ambient 4\* or similar

Bucharest: Hotel Capitol 4\* or similar

# **Tour Dates & Pricing**