

# The Great Balkan Tour

17 days – Athens, Kalambaka, Ohrid, Tirana, Tivat, Dubrovnik, Split, Plitvice, Bled, Zagreb

PLITVICE LAKES

## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Monday: Arrive in Athens, Greece

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is free. Meet your fellow travelers tonight at a Welcome Taverna Dinner in the Plaka beside the Acropolis. **(Dinner Included)**

### Day 2 - Tuesday: Explore Athens

See the highlights of Athens this morning on a sightseeing tour. This cosmopolitan and bustling capital city is set amid reminders of a long and a glorious past: graceful temples, centuries – old monasteries and ornate Byzantine churches. Visit the immortal **Acropolis**, the Parthenon, said to be the most perfectly proportioned building of all time. Also, see the Erectheion with the Porch of the Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike and the Wingless Victory. Below the Acropolis lies the Ancient Agora and the Theaters of Dionysus and Herodotus Atticus. Your afternoon and evening are free.

**(Breakfast Included)**

### Day 3 - Wednesday: Athens to Kalambaka

Your first stop this morning is Delphi, where the famous Oracle once foretold the destiny of men. The **temple of Apollo** in which the Oracle functioned, was built in the 6th century B.C. In addition, visit the Sacred Way, the Stadium and the Castilian Fountain, where pilgrims cleansed themselves in preparation for consulting the Oracle. Visit the **Archaeological Museum of Delphi**, which contains an impressive collection of finds from the site, including the beautiful “Bronze Charioteer”, before continuing to Kalambaka. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

### Day 4 - Thursday: Kalambaka to Ohrid, The Republic of Macedonia

After breakfast, admire the fantastic landscapes of Meteora, known as “the rocks that fell from the sky”, where monks built their rock – top monasteries far away from civilization. Out of the 13 large and 20 small monasteries and hermit’s cells, only four are now active. The most important is Megalo of **Great Meteoro**, of peculiar architecture with its tall and intricate dome, twelve sides and fine frescoes. Continue across the border with the Republic of North Macedonia, and on to Ohrid. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

### Day 5 - Friday: Ohrid to Tirana, Albania

The lakeside resort of Ohrid is an important cultural and spiritual center, classified as UNESCO’s World Heritage site. Start morning sightseeing with a walk through the cobblestone streets of the old town. Visit the **Cathedral of St. Sofia**, containing some magnificent frescoes from the 10th century. In the early afternoon, travel to Tirana, the capital city of Albania. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

### Day 6 - Saturday: Explore Tirana

On a Morning sightseeing tour, see Sheshi Skenderbej (Skanderbeg Square) the Mosque of Ethem Bey, the Clock Tower, and the statue of G.K. Skanderbeg, Albania’s national hero; the Palace of Culture, built with Soviet assistance, and the **National History Museum** with a mosaic on its façade portraying Albanian history. Your afternoon is free to continue exploring on your own, shop, or simply just relax. **(Breakfast Included)**

### Day 7 - Sunday: Tivat, Montenegro

After breakfast we leave Tirana towards town of Shkodra, nowadays a major cultural center. Shkodra was the center of the Illyrian tribe Labeat and was taken by the Romans in the year 168 B.C. We will see of the **Rozafa Castle**, magnificently situated on a rocky outcrop of limestone high above the city, before we cross the border to Montenegro and drive to Tivat. Dinner upon arrival. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

### Day 8 - Monday: Tivat to Dubrovnik, Croatia

After breakfast, our journey takes us to Dubrovnik. On the way you will see Kotor Bay, the only South European fiord and we stop for orientation tour of old town Kotor, a UNESCO heritage Site. Continue to Dubrovnik. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

### Day 9 - Tuesday: Dubrovnik

After the breakfast, walking tour of Old Dubrovnik visit the **Rector’s Palace**, and see the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando’s Column, Sponza Palace, see Dominican Monastery, and with the Franciscan Monastery with its **Pharmacy**, one of the oldest in the world. **(Breakfast Included)**. **Optional Excursion:** Home hosted Dubelj with dinner.

### Day 10 - Wednesday: Split, Croatia

Travel north along the spectacular Adriatic coast, past old fishing villages and new resorts, to the city of Split. **(Breakfast & Lunch Included)**

## Day 11 - Thursday: Explore Split

In the morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor **Diocletian's Palace**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Then see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle, and the Cathedral. The rest of the day at leisure to stroll through the beautiful streets of Split, enjoy at the beach or join us on an Optional Excursion to Jet Set spot of rich and famous – Island of Hvar. **(Breakfast Included)**

## Day 12 - Friday: Explore Trogir & Plitvice Lakes

After breakfast, head to Trogir, the center of artistic activities. Scholars from around the world gather here to study and paint. Then, turn inland and travel to spectacular **Plitvice Lakes National Park**. Have your camera ready as you take a walking tour around the lower lakes. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder of sixteen terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation. **(Breakfast & Lunch Included)**

## Day 13 - Saturday: Opatija, Postojna, Bled, & Slovenia

Return to the coast and travel along the beautiful bay of Kvarner to its popular resort, Opatija. After a bit of free time, journey continue north to Postojna, home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterward, continue to Bled, beautifully set in the Julian Alps. **(Breakfast & Dinner Included)**

## Day 14 - Sunday: Explore Bled

An Alpine Lake surrounded by high peaks, Bled was "discovered" by travelers in the middle of the 19th century. A sightseeing tour features the charming town and the lakeshore, and visits imposing **Bled Castle**, perched on a cliff high above the lake. The balance of the day is at leisure. **(Breakfast) Optional Excursion:** Visit the small island in the middle of the lake, browse through the shops and boutiques, or simply enjoy the enchanting scenery.

## Day 15 - Monday: Ljubljana & Zagreb, Croatia

Leave the mountains and head to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. See the most significant sights of the old city center on a walking tour. Highlights include the picturesque open-air Central Market, the Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, and Robba's Fountain. Then, continue to Zagreb, Croatia's capital city. **(Breakfast Included)**

## Day 16 - Tuesday: Zagreb, Croatia

This morning, enjoy a city tour featuring the historic Upper Town, St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, Parliament, and Government Palace. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the winding streets of the old town or take an optional excursion to see the countryside. **(Breakfast Included)**

## Day 17 - Tuesday: Depart Zagreb, Croatia

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. **(Breakfast)**



### Included Features:

- First class hotels
- Arrival transfer Athens airport to the hotel on day 1
- Departure transfer hotel to Zagreb airport on day 17
- Breakfast daily and 10 dinners
- Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Professional Tour Director throughout
- Luggage handling (1 pc per person)
- Whisper technology enhanced touring
- Service charges and hotel taxes

### Sightseeing Tours Included:

- Athens
- Kalambaka
- Ohrid
- Tirana
- Kotor
- Dubrovnik
- Split
- Plitvice Lakes
- Postojna Cave
- Bled
- Zagreb

### Hotels Included:

- Athens: Stanley (F)/ Titania (F) or similar
- Kalambaka: Grand Meteora (F) or similar
- Ohrid: Hotel Granit (F) or similar
- Tirana: Hotel Colosseo (F) or similar
- Tivat: Palma Hotel (F) or similar
- Dubrovnik: Lacroma (F)/ Argosy (F) or similar
- Split: Hotel Corner (F) or similar
- Plitvice: Hotel Jezero (F) or similar
- Bled: Park (F)/ Rikli Balance (F) or similar
- Zagreb: Sheraton (DLX)/ The Westin (DLX) or similar

### K804 2023

maximum: 24 passengers

Start:	End:	Per Person in Twin:
May 22, 2023	June 07 , 2023	\$4,697
June 12, 2023	June 28, 2023	\$4,697
June 26, 2023	July 12, 2023	\$4,697
Sept 11, 2023	Sept 27, 2023	\$4,697
Sept 25, 2023	Oct 11, 2023	\$4,697
Oct 16, 2023	Nov 01, 2023	\$4,377

Single Room Supplement: \$1,349

**Note:** Because of the narrow and cobbled streets, walking is the primary way of getting around. Please make sure you pack comfortable walking shoes.