

Athens, Greece



# 25DATHBUH MAGNIFICENT BALKAN TOUR

25 days in Athens, Kalambaka, Ohrid, Tirana, Tivat, Dubrovnik, Split, Plitvice, Bled, Zagreb, Belgrade, Droneta-Turnu Severin, Sibiu, Brasov, and Bucharest.



## INCLUDED CITY TOURS

- Athens
- Kalambaka
- Ohrid
- Tirana
- Kotor
- Dubrovnik
- Split
- Plitvice Lakes
- Postojna Cave
- Bled
- Zagreb
- Belgrade
- Novi Sad
- Horezu
- Sibiu
- Sighisoara
- Brasov
- Bucharest

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- First-class hotels
- Arrival transfer from Athens airport on Day 1
- Departure transfer to Bucharest airport on Day 25
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch and 16 dinners
- Professional English-Speaking Tour Director
- Licensed Local Guides
- Touring with modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Whisper technology for enhanced touring
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Service charges and hotel taxes
- Entrance fees included where indicated in bold

## TRIP ITINERARY

B - Breakfast | D - Dinner

Entrance fees included where indicated in bold.

### Day 1 - Saturday: Arrive in Athens

You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free before meeting your fellow travelers and Tour Director for a Welcome Taverna Dinner. Dinner will be in the Plaka area, next to the Acropolis. (D)

### Day 2 - Sunday: Explore Athens

Begin the day with a sightseeing tour of Athens, exploring its cosmopolitan and bustling capital city. Amidst the city's reminders of a glorious past, visit graceful temples, centuries-old monasteries, and ornate Byzantine churches. Marvel at the immortal **Acropolis**, including the Parthenon, known as the most perfectly proportioned building of all time. Admire the Erechtheion with its iconic Porch of the Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the Wingless Victory. Below the Acropolis lies the Ancient Agora, the Theaters of Dionysus and Herodus Atticus. Enjoy the afternoon and evening at your leisure. (B)

### Day 3 - Monday: To Kalambaka

Embark on a journey to Delphi, where the famous Oracle once foretold the destinies of men. Explore the 6th-century B.C. **Temple of Apollo**, as well as the Sacred Way, Stadium, and Castalian Fountain. Visit the **Archaeological Museum of Delphi**, which houses an impressive collection of artifacts from the site, including the beautiful Bronze Charioteer. Continue your trip to Kalambaka. (B, D)

### Day 4 - Tuesday: To Ohrid

After breakfast, marvel at the breathtaking landscapes of Meteora - known as the *rocks that fell from the sky*. These towering rocks were once home to remote monasteries built by monks seeking isolation. Of the original 33 monasteries, only four are active today, with the **Megalo (Great) Meteoro** being the most important. Its unique architecture, intricate dome, twelve sides, and exquisite frescoes make it a must-see. Cross the border to the Republic of North Macedonia and proceed to Ohrid. (B, D)

### Day 5 - Wednesday: To Tirana

Explore Ohrid, an important cultural and spiritual center recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Take a morning sightseeing tour through the cobblestone streets of the old town and visit the **Cathedral of St. Sofia**, featuring magnificent 10th-century frescoes. In the afternoon, travel to Tirana - the capital of Albania. (B, D)

### Day 6 - Thursday: Explore Tirana

Embark on a morning sightseeing tour of Tirana, where you'll visit notable landmarks such as Skanderbeg Square, the Mosque of Ethem Bey, the Clock Tower, and the statue of G.K. Skanderbeg, Albania's national hero. Explore the Palace of Culture, built with Soviet assistance, and the **National History Museum**, adorned with a mosaic depicting Albanian history on its façade. The afternoon is yours to continue exploring, shopping, or relaxing. (B)





#### Day 7 - Friday: To Tivat

After breakfast, depart Tirana and head to Shkodra, a cultural hub with ancient origins. Explore the magnificent **Rozafa Castle**, perched high on a rocky limestone outcrop overlooking the city. Cross the border into Montenegro and continue to Tivat. Enjoy dinner upon arrival. (B, D)

#### Day 8 - Saturday: To Dubrovnik

Embark on a journey to Dubrovnik, Croatia stopping en route to admire the scenic Kotor Bay, a South European fjord. Enjoy an orientation tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed old town of Kotor. Continue to Dubrovnik and arrive before dinner. (B, D)

#### Day 9 - Sunday: Explore Dubrovnik

Embark on a walking tour of Old Dubrovnik after breakfast. Visit notable sites such as the **Rector's Palace**, the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, the Dominican Monastery, and the Franciscan Monastery with its ancient **Pharmacy**. The rest of the day is yours to explore at your own pace. Consider joining the optional excursion for a home-hosted Dubelj experience with dinner. (B)

#### Day 10 - Monday: To Split

Travel north along the stunning Adriatic coast, passing old fishing villages and new resorts, until you reach the city of Split. (B, D)

#### Day 11 - Tuesday: Explore Split

Begin the morning with a sightseeing tour of Split. Explore the historic inner city, centered around the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site of **Diocletian's Palace**. Discover remnants of Split's Roman heritage, Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle, and the Cathedral. The rest of the day is free to stroll through the beautiful streets of Split, relax on the beach, or join the optional excursion to the glamorous island of Hvar, a popular spot for the rich and famous. (B)

#### Day 12 - Wednesday: Trogir & Plitvice Lakes

After breakfast, head to Trogir - known for its vibrant artistic scene. Scholars from around the world gather here to study and paint. Next, travel inland to the spectacular **Plitvice Lakes National Park**. Take a walking tour around the lower lakes and capture the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder. Marvel at the sixteen terraced lakes surrounded by lush vegetation and thickly wooded mountains. (B, D)

#### Day 13 - Thursday: Opatija, Postojna & Bled

Return to the coast and drive along the beautiful bay of Kvarner to the popular resort town of Opatija. Enjoy some free time before continuing north to Postojna, Slovenia - home to one of Europe's largest **caves**. Explore this fantastic subterranean world on a miniature electric train. Continue to Bled - a picturesque town nestled in the Julian Alps. (B, D)

#### Day 14 - Friday: Explore Bled

Discover the beauty of Bled, an Alpine Lake surrounded by towering peaks. Take a sightseeing tour of the charming town and stroll along the lakeshore. Visit the impressive **Bled Castle**, perched high on a cliff above the lake. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Consider joining the optional excursion to the small island in the middle of the lake, browse through shops and boutiques, or simply revel in the enchanting scenery. (B)

#### Day 15 - Saturday: Ljubljana & Zagreb

Leave the mountains behind and head to Ljubljana - the capital of Slovenia. Embark on a walking tour of the old city center, exploring significant landmarks such as the Central Market, the Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, and Robba's Fountain. Continue to Zagreb - the capital city of Croatia. (B, D)

Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Romania



**Day 16 - Sunday: Explore Zagreb**

In the morning, enjoy a city tour of Zagreb including the historic Upper Town, St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the **Cathedral**, Parliament, and Government Palace. The rest of the day is free to explore the winding streets of the old town or take an optional excursion to the countryside. (B)

**Day 17 - Monday: Journey to Belgrade**

After breakfast, we will drive you to Belgrade - the capital of Serbia. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay. (B, D)

**Day 18 - Tuesday: Excursion from Belgrade**

Embark on a full-day excursion from Belgrade. Our first stop is **Krusedol Monastery**, founded in the early 16th century and considered one of Serbia's most significant monasteries. Continue to the picturesque town of Sremski Karlovci - known for its baroque and neoclassical architecture. After an orientation tour, we will visit one of the famous local wineries for lunch and wine tasting. Afterwards, explore the intriguing **Petrovaradin Fortress**, with its underground trenches and tunnels. Our last stop is the city of Novi Sad, where you'll have a quick orientation tour and some free time before returning to your hotel in Belgrade. (B, L)

**Day 19 - Wednesday: Explore Belgrade**

Start your morning with a sightseeing tour of Belgrade, including a visit to the imposing **Kalemegdan Fortress**, strategically located at the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers. Discover Republic Square, Knez Mihailova Street, Saint Sava Temple (the largest Orthodox Church in the city), and Tito's Memorial. Continue to Avala. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace. In the afternoon, you have the option to join an excursion to Topola, where George Petrovic, also known as Karadjordje, was chosen as the leader of the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. A short drive away is St. George's Church, also known as Oplenac, the burial place of the Ducal and Royal Family of Serbia and Yugoslavia. After a lunch break (not included), we will return to Belgrade. The evening is yours to enjoy. (B)

**Day 20 - Thursday: To Drobeta-Turnu Severin**

Drive towards the Golubac Fortress, located on a hill slope overlooking the Danube River, to visit this fortified ten-tower town. Afterward, embark on a cruise through the gorge, witnessing the most beautiful sections of the Danube. Cross the border into Romania and head to Drobeta-Turnu Severin for dinner and an overnight stay. (B, D)

**Day 21 - Friday: To Sibiu**

Continue your journey through Hunedoara, where you will visit one of the largest castles in Europe, the **Corvinesti Castle**. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay in Sibiu. (B, D)

**Day 22 - Saturday: Sibiu, Sighisoara & Brasov**

Take a sightseeing tour of Sibiu, once the richest town in Transylvania. Explore Huet Square, the Great Square, the Evangelical Cathedral, and the famous Liar's Bridge, among other attractions. Continue to Sighisoara, the best-preserved medieval city in southeastern Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the **Clock Tower Museum** on a city tour. Then, travel to Brasov for a walking tour including the **First Romanian School Museum**, which houses an impressive collection of rare books, documents, and art. (B, D)

**Day 23 - Sunday: Brasov & Bucharest**

Head to Bran for a visit to **Bran Castle**, made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the sinister vampire, Count Dracula. Continue toward Bucharest, stopping in Sinaia to visit **Peles Castle**, built as the summer residence of King Carol I. Afterward, visit the beautiful 17th-century **Sinaia Monastery**. End the day in Bucharest - known as *Little Paris*. (B, D)

**Day 24 - Monday: Explore Bucharest**

Get acquainted with the Romanian capital on a sightseeing tour. Visit the Parliament Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world and a National Treasure. Learn how the Romanian people finally succeeded in toppling the last communist dictator in Eastern Europe at the Revolution Square. The tour will also bring you to the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the National Military Club, the Military Academy, Triumphal Arch, and the **Village Museum**. Celebrate your Balkan Adventure tonight with a Farewell Dinner and folklore show. (B, D)

**Day 25 - Tuesday: Depart Bucharest**

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to Bucharest airport for your departure. (B)

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

Bucharest, Romania



**INCLUDED HOTELS**

- **Athens** - Stanley (F)/ Titania (F) or similar
- **Kalambaka** - Grand Meteora (F) or similar
- **Ohrid** - Hotel Granit (F) or similar
- **Tirana** - Colosseo (F) or similar
- **Tivat** - Hotel Palma (F) or similar
- **Dubrovnik** - Lero (F) or similar
- **Split** - Hotel Corner (F) or similar
- **Plitvice** - Hotel Jezero (F) or similar
- **Bled** - Kompas (F)/ Bled Rose (F) or similar
- **Zagreb** - Zonar (F) or similar
- **Belgrade** - Hotel Moskva/ Courtyard by Marriott (F) or similar
- **Drobeta-Turnu Severin** - Continental Drobeta (SF) or similar
- **Sibiu** - Continental Forum/ Golden Tulip (ST) or similar
- **Brasov** - Aro Palace (F) or similar
- **Bucharest** - Hilton Garden Inn (F) or similar

**DATES & PRICING - 25DATHBUH**

Start:	End:	Per Person in Twin:
April 6	April 30	\$6,899
May 18	June 11	\$6,999
June 29	July 23	\$6,999
August 10	September 3	\$6,999
September 21	October 15	\$6,899
Single Room Supplement		\$1,959