

SGK310 ~ THE BALKAN ADVENTURE FROM ZAGREB FROM ZAGREB TO SOFIA (VIA ALBANIA)

15 DAYS INCLUDING ZAGREB, PLITVICE, SPLIT, KORČULA, DUBROVNIK, KOTOR, BUDVA, SHKODER, TIRANA, ELBASAN, OHRID, SKOPJE, SOFIA AND RILA



Included Features:

- 4* and 5* hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Airport transfers
- Professional English-speaking Tour Director throughout
- Licensed local guides
- Entrance fees included where indicated in bold letters
- Luggage handling at hotels
- Service charges and hotel taxes

Sightseeing Tours Included:

- Zagreb (Cathedral)
- Plitvice (Plitvice Lakes National Park)
- Split (Diocletian's Palace)

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- Korčula
- Dubrovnik (Rector's Palace, Franciscan Monastery)
- Kotor
- Shkoder (Mosque)
- Tirana (Et'hem Mosque)
- Elbasan (Elbasan Castle)
- Ohrid
- Skopje (Mother Teresa Memorial Center)
- Sofia (Alexander Nevski Cathedral)
- Rila (Rila Monastery)

Itinerary:

Day 1, Sunday, arrival to Zagreb

Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

Day 2, Monday, in Zagreb

This morning enjoy a city tour featuring the historic Upper Town, St Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, Parliament, and the Government Palace. The rest of the day is free to explore the winding streets of the Old Town.

Day 3, Tuesday, to Plitvice and Split

Travel to spectacular **Plitvice Lakes National Park**. Have your camera ready as you take a walking tour around several of the lower lakes. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder of 16 terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation. Then we continue our journey to Split.

Day 4, Wednesday, in Split

Enjoy a city tour featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor **Diocletian's Palace**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Finally, see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle and the Cathedral.

Day 5, Thursday, to Korčula

Today we head to the island of Korčula. Upon arrival free time to enjoy this beautiful island.

Day 6, Friday, to Dubrovnik

The beautiful medieval town Korčula has streets arranged in the shape of a fish bone, which ensures the flow of fresh air and protects from strong winds. According to legend, the famous adventurer Marco Polo was born here. After the visit, head to Dubrovnik.

Day 7, Saturday, in Dubrovnik

Start the day with a walking tour of Old Dubrovnik this morning. Visit the **Rector's Palace**, and see the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando's Column and Sponza Palace. Next, see the Dominican Monastery and **Franciscan Monastery with its Pharmacy**, one of the oldest in the world. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore on your own, enjoy the picturesque setting, shop or simply relax.

Day 8, Sunday, to Kotor and Budva

First travel to the Bay of Kotor, the deepest fjord in Southern Europe and stop in the city of Kotor to visit this beautiful town. Stroll the Weapons Square and admire the city bulwarks before continuing

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the journey to Budva. The Budva riviera is the center of Montenegrin tourism, known for its well preserved medieval walled city, sandy beaches and diverse nightlife. Budva is 2,500 years old, which makes it one of the oldest settlements on the Adriatic coast.

Day 9, Monday, to Shkoder and Tirana

Following the Montenegrin coast and its spectacular landscapes we enter Albania and visit Shkoder, a cultural center and one of the oldest cities in Albania. The city tour includes a visit to the **Mosque**, views of the Rozafa castle, as well as other points of interest in the city. In the afternoon the trip will take us to Tirana, the capital of Albania.

Day 10, 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 11, 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 12, 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 13, Friday, to Sofia

Today, we travel to Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria, where you will have free time upon arrival.

Day 14, Saturday, in Sofia

Today, we enjoy a complete tour of the city of Sofia. Among others, the most emblematic places are the **Alexander Nevski Cathedral** that dominates the city, the Church of Saint George, considered the best-preserved Byzantine church, the Russian Church of Saint Nicholas, the Banya Bashi mosque and the ruins of the ancient Serdica. In the afternoon, travel to the Rila Mountains to visit one of the most famous places in Bulgaria - the **Rila Monastery**. This monastery is a sanctuary of Bulgarian literature and spiritual life. Founded in the middle of the 10th century by San Iván de Rila, it played a key role in preserving Bulgarian culture and the language for centuries. After visiting the monastery church with its impressive fresco paintings, return to Sofia.

Day 15, Sunday, depart Sofia

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

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Hotel list:

- Zagreb: Hotel Westin 5* / Sheraton 5* / Dubrovnik 4* or similar
- Split: Hotel Briig 4* or similar
- Korčula: Hotel Liburna 4* / Marko Polo 4* or similar
- Dubrovnik: Hotel Valamar Lacroma 4* / Argosy 4* or similar
- Budva: Hotel Adria 4* or similar
- Tirana: Hotel Tirana International 4* or similar
- Ohrid: Hotel Unique Resort & Spa 4* or similar
- Skopje: Hotel Marriott 5* or similar
- Sofia: Hotel Balkan 5* / BW Premier Collection City 4* or similar

START	END	PRICE PER PERSON IN DBL/TWN
18-Apr	2-May	2.380 €
2-May	16-May	2.420 €
16-May	30-May	2.485 €
30-May	13-Jun	2.510 €
13-Jun	27-Jun	2.595 €
27-Jun	11-Jul	2.600 €
11-Jul	25-Jul	2.760 €
1-Aug	15-Aug	2.760 €
22-Aug	5-Sep	2.700 €
5-Sep	19-Sep	2.665 €
19-Sep	3-Oct	2.580 €
3-Oct	17-Oct	2.400 €
17-Oct	31-Oct	2.380 €
HALF BOARD SUPPLEMENT		290 €
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT		795 €