

SGK470 ~ THE BALKAN JOURNEY FROM BELGRADE FROM BELGRADE TO BUCHAREST (VIA BULGARIA)

15 DAYS INCLUDING BELGRADE, SREMSKI KARLOVCI, NOVI SAD, NIŠ, SOFIA, RILA, PLOVDIV, VELIKO TARNOVO, ARBANASSI, BAILE GOVORA, COZIA, SIBIU, SIGHISOARA, TARGU MURES, BUCOVINA PAINTED MONASTERIES, BRASOV, BRAN, SINAIA AND BUCHAREST



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:

- Belgrade (Kalemegdan)
- Sremski Karlovci (wine degustation)
- Novi Sad (Petrovaradin Fortress)

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- Sofia (Alexander Nevski Cathedral)
- Rila (Rila Monastery)
- Plovdiv
- Veliko Tarnovo (Tsarevets)
- Arbanassi (Nativity Church)
- Cozia (Cozia Monastery)
- 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

Itinerary:

Day 1, Tuesday, arrival to Belgrade

Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

Day 2, Wednesday, 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 3, Thursday, to Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad

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 with a **wine degustation** included, we continue to Novi Sad, the capital of Vojvodina. It is the administrative, economic, cultural and university center of the region, which also has the well-preserved **Petrovaradin Fortress** that faces the city from the other side of the Danube. Return to Belgrade.

Day 4, Friday, to Niš and Sofia

Today, we travel to Bulgaria. 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 Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

Day 5, 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 of the centuries. After visiting the monastery church with its impressive fresco paintings, return to Sofia.

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Day 6, Sunday, to Plovdiv and Veliko Tarnovo

Leaving Sofia behind, we head toward the second largest city in Bulgaria - Plovdiv. This is a city with an ancient history. During our city tour we will see the Roman Forum and the stadium, as well as the Roman amphitheater. We will walk through the cobbled streets of the small and ancient city surrounded by houses and beautiful churches. After the visit we will cross the Balkan Mountains through the historic Shipka Pass, which played a key role in the Russian-Turkish War for the Liberation of Bulgaria. Arrival in Veliko Tarnovo - the medieval capital of Bulgaria.

Day 7, Monday, to Arbanassi and Baile Govora

In the morning, panoramic visit of the city of Veliko Tarnovo with a walk to **Tsarevets**, where the kings of Bulgaria once lived. We will walk along the oldest street in the city called Samovodska Charshia. We will proceed to Arbanassi, a small village in Bulgaria located 4 km from Veliko Tarnovo, known for its interesting architecture. In the village, we can see the Konstancalieva house and the **Church of the Nativity**, whose wall paintings are a work of art. Then we head to the mountain resort of Baile Govora (long transfer).

Day 8, Tuesday, to Cozia and Sibiu

Head to Cozia for a visit of the Byzantine style **Cozia Monastery**. A model of harmonious proportions, the main church is richly decorated with frescoes dating back to 1390. Then we cross the Olt Valley into Transylvania. 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 9, 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 10, 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 11, 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 12, 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 13, Sunday, to Bran, Sinaia and Bucharest

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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 14, 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 15, Tuesday, depart Bucharest

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

Hotel list:

- Belgrade: Hotel Moskva 5* / Hotel Prag 4* or similar
- Sofia: Hotel Balkan 5* / BW Premier Collection City 4* or similar
- Veliko Tarnovo: Hotel Yantra Grand 4* or similar
- Baile Govora: Hotel Palace 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

START	END	PRICE PER PERSON IN DBL/TWN
27-Apr	11-May	2.210 €
11-May	25-May	2.210 €
25-May	8-Jun	2.210 €
8-Jun	22-Jun	2.210 €
22-Jun	6-Jul	2.210 €
6-Jul	20-Jul	2.210 €
20-Jul	3-Aug	2.210 €
10-Aug	24-Aug	2.210 €
31-Aug	14-Sep	2.210 €
14-Sep	28-Sep	2.210 €
28-Sep	12-Oct	2.210 €
12-Oct	26-Oct	2.210 €
26-Oct	9-Nov	2.210 €
HALF BOARD SUPPLEMENT		255 €
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT		620 €