

Welcome to the Balkans – Central and Southern Europe Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Slovakia 11 days

This 11-day tour begins and ends in Vienna. During this trip you will travel south to discover the most interesting places in the picturesque Balkan Countries. Also along the way we will show you some famous cities in Central Europe. You will visit 14 cities in 7 different countries.

Highlights:

- ✓ **Go sightseeing Ljubljana, known as the Dragon City**
- ✓ **Visit Plitvice Lakes, a Wonder of nature in Croatia**
- ✓ **See pearls of Dalmatia – Trogir, Zadar, Split**
- ✓ **Visit the city picture in "Game of Thrones" series**
- ✓ **Try delicious Balkan sweets**
- ✓ **Relax on the cost of the Adriatic Sea**
- ✓ **Enjoy the view of the most picturesque Kotor Bay**
- ✓ **Feel the atmosphere of Muslim Old Town in Mostar**
- ✓ **Try Turkish coffee in Sarajevo**
- ✓ **Take an evening boat ride on the Danube River in Budapest**
- ✓ **Visit palace of Empress Sissi in Vienna**

Traveling by Platinum Couch Transport

Unique interior, friendly service, maximum comfort on board and complete safety. Our coaches are equipped with high-tech solutions designed to make your travel more attractive. There are only 30 seats in a 15-meter long bus. The on-board kitchen is fully equipped with a coffee machine, professional coffee grinder, drink refrigerator, wine cooler, ice crusher, two ovens, a microwave-oven as well as a water-heater. Our exclusive new Scania coaches are driven by experienced, competent drivers, who drive perfectly and safely along the crowded city streets and throughout all the European countries.

Traveling By Royal Class Transportation

This fleet includes only new coaches supplied by SETRA, SCANIA, Van Hool and VDL. They offer 51, 54, 64 or 78 seats and are fitted with: air-conditioning, DVD, CD, WC, a mini-bar, a refrigerator, comfortable reclining and sliding seats with safety belts. We also offer a professional sound system, WI-FI at the customer's request. The distance between the seats is at least 96 cm.



Interiary:

Day 1 - Vienna – Airport pick-up

Departure from Vienna airport and the transfer to a hotel will be followed by some resting time after and flight and dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 2 - Vienna – Ljubljana (400 km, 4 hours 30 minutes)

After breakfast we will start our Vienna city tour. First, we will visit Schönbrunn Palace which stands on a 60-metre-high hill, which was the main summer residence of the House of Habsburg. After visiting the Palace we will take a short city tour in the centre of Vienna where we will see the City Hall constructed in the nineteenth century in a Neo-Gothic style, Vienna State Opera built in the Neo-Renaissance style by a renowned Czech architect and contractor Josef Hlávka, Hofburg Palace which is nowadays an official residence and workplace of the President of Austria, the nineteenth century Austrian Parliament Building and, finally, Vienna University which is one of the oldest universities in the German-speaking world. Afterwards you will be transferred to a hotel in Slovenia's capital city. Ljubljana is considered to be a still undiscovered gem of Europe. It is often compared to Prague due to its beautiful architectural appearance, which is the result of legacy of different periods in history and, most notably, the work of the famous twentieth-century architect Jože Plečnik, who, among others, prepared a city plan for its central part. These events will be followed by dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 3 - Ljubljana - Postojna – Karlovac (200 km, 2 hours 30 minutes)

After breakfast at the hotel we will check-out and drive to the City center of Ljubljana where we will see the Prešernov trg square which developed from a road junction in front of one of the city gates leading to medieval Ljubljana, the Town Hall, the fifteenth-century seat of the Municipality of Ljubljana, St. Nicholas Cathedral, a three-nave Romanic style church which earliest mention dates back to 1262 and was re-vaulted in the Gothic style. Later, you will have a chance to see Dragon Bridge adorned with famous dragon statues which appears in the most recognizable images of Ljubljana. If you haven't been photographed next to a Dragon Bridge dragon you can hardly claim that you have visited Ljubljana. The four dragon statues are a true masterpiece which has been stimulating people's imagination since the bridge was built. Later, we will continue to Triple Bridge which consists of three separate picturesque bridges located next to one another. After sightseeing Ljubljana we will transfer to the town of Postojna which is famous worldwide for its underground caves and the nearby Predjama Castle. The Postojna Caves, one of Slovenia's most spectacular natural sights, consist of a 27-kilometre underground system of passages, tunnels, galleries and chambers with wonderful dripstones. After exploring the cave, we will drive to a hotel nearby Karlovac. Dinner and overnight stay will take place there.



Day 4 - Plitvice Lakes – Zadar (220 km, 3 hours 30 minutes)

After breakfast we will start visiting the Plitvice Lakes National Park with its exceptional natural beauty. This area has always attracted lovers of nature and already in 1949 it was proclaimed Croatia's first National Park. The process of tufa formation, which results in the building of the tufa or travertine and barriers and resulted in the creation of the lakes of an outstanding universal value. For this reason, Plitvice Lakes were internationally recognized as unique ones and included in 1979 in the UNESCO World Heritage List. After visiting Lakes and waterfalls you will be transferred to Zadar city, followed by dinner and an overnight stay there.

Day 5 - Zadar - Trogir – Split – Dubrovnik (400 km, 5 hours 30 minutes)

After breakfast we will take a walk around atmospheric streets of the Old Town, located on the peninsula where 34 old churches are located, all of them with a very rich history. Next, we will transfer to Trogir which has been officially included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the best preserved medieval towns in Europe. After Trogir we will drive to Split, the largest Dalmatian city where we will have an opportunity to admire a stunning panoramic view of the city from the Marjan Hill and we will visit the Old Town with its ancient palace of Emperor Diocletian. Afterwards, we will transfer for dinner and an overnight stay in a nearby Dubrovnik.

Day 6 – Dubrovnik – Budva (100 km, 3 hours)

After breakfast, we will take an all-day city tour of Dubrovnik officially included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. We will start our tour from a walk around the spectacular city walls, the finest in the world and the city's main claim to its fame. From the top there we will be able to admire the view of the old town and the Adriatic Sea basking in the sun. Afterwards, we will visit Rectors Palace built in the late fifteenth century for the elected rector who governed Dubrovnik. This Gothic-Renaissance palace contains the rector's office and his private chambers, public halls, administrative offices and a dungeon. Next, we will see Stradun, the place where locals and visitors gather day and night to watch as the world's life passes by. Undoubtedly, it is one of Europe's most picturesque pedestrian thoroughfares with boasts, numerous cafés and restaurants. Afterwards, you will be able to admire the Cathedral and Treasury standing on the site of an older cathedral from the sixth century and destroyed by earthquakes as well as beautiful Dubrovnik Cathedral which was designed in Baroque style by Andrea Buffalini of Rome. It will be followed by a visit to city Gates, the Square of the Loggia which is a central gathering point for both the citizens and the visitors. Highlights of Loggia Square include Orlando's Column, Loggia of the Bells dated on 1480 used as an early warning system, Baroque Church of St. Blaise and the Clock Tower from the fifteenth century. After all day sightseeing we will transfer to Budva where dinner and an overnight stay in the hotel will take place.

Day 7 – Budva – Kotor – Mostar (200 km, 4 hours)

After breakfast, early in the morning we will visit Budva and Kotor, two of the most beautiful cities in Montenegro. Budva is often called "Montenegrin Miami" as it is the most crowded and most popular tourist resort in Montenegro but beside that has a truly charming Old Town which we will have a chance to admire. After Budva we will visit Kotor well-known for its UNESCO World heritage medieval structures and its stunning natural setting at the very edge of the mountain-rimmed Kotor Bay. In Kotor we will see the Old Town which is the most famous part of the city where Kotor history, culture, and tradition has been fully



preserved. The Old Town of Kotor has a great number of monuments of the medieval architecture including churches, cathedrals, palaces and museums. They are accompanied by a great number of narrow streets, squares and markets. The Old Town of Kotor today is considered to be the best preserved medieval urban site in the Mediterranean. After visiting Kotor we will head for Bosnia and Herzegovina where you will receive dinner and an overnight stay in nearby Mostar.

Day 8 - Mostar – Sarajevo (350 km, 6 hours)

After breakfast, early in the morning we will visit Mostar where we will be able to see world-famous Stari Most (Old Bridge) and we will take a short walk around the city Old Town. Next, we will drive to Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina capital city. There we will take a few hours walk in the charming Old town famous for cobbled streets, mosques and orientally- styled shops. When the call-to-prayer starts you can actually be thinking that you found yourself in the Middle East. We will be passing by a Catholic church, Orthodox church and a Synagogue and hear the Islamic call to prayer at the same time. In the evening after visiting the city we will transfer to the hotel nearby the Croatian border.

Day 9 – transfer to Budapest (350 km, 4 hours 40 minutes)

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the Budapest will take place on that day. In the afternoon, we will visit the most important Budapest highlights such as The Royal Palace which is the most popular attraction on the hill with the view of the city. The first known buildings where the Royal Palace stands today were built by Charles Robert's eldest son, Stephan Duke of Anjou. It was later remodelled but the reign of King Matthias brought about the Golden Age of Buda. After several changes the unique building we can see today is the reconstruction from the nineteenth century. You will have a possibility to admire the biggest European Parliament from the nineteenth century, The Fisherman's Bastion from where we can admire impressive views across the Danube to Pest, The Central Market Hall, being one of the most frequently visited tourist attractions. It is the largest and the oldest roofed market of the city and the right place to buy Hungarian souvenirs or to eat traditional food. St. Stephen Cathedral often called "the Basilica" is the highest church in Budapest while Matthias Church, a dominant Neo-gothic church crowning Budapest's cityscape will be our highlight too. The church shows the beauty of its wonderful and unusual roof made of coloured shingles and elegant pinnacles. At the end, we will walk along the most famous promenade called Váci Utc. After sightseeing, you will receive dinner and an overnight stay in the hotel.

Day 10 - Budapest - Bratislava (200 km, 2 hours 30 minutes)

After breakfast we will departure to the Bratislava, the capital and largest city in Slovakia. After hotel check-in we will start sightseeing of the Castle which is the former seat of the rulers and today the symbol of Bratislava and the location of the Museum of History. There is a wonderful view of the city and the neighboring countries from its 47-metre-high crown tower in which royal coronation jewels used to be deposited. After castle we will go to a three-nave St Martin Gothic Cathedral from the fifteenth century and the former coronation church and. We will also take a walk in the Old Town where we will see City Hall, Primate's Palace, Michael's Gate and Rococo-styled Grassalkovich Palace which nowadays serves as the seat of the President of the Slovak Republic. After sightseeing you will receive dinner and an overnight stay in the hotel.



Day 11 – Bratislava - Vienna Airport (80 km, 1 hour 30 minutes)

On the last day we will have breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out and departure according to flight schedule from Vienna Airport.

Our service includes:

- sightseeing according to the program
- Platinum class coach transport during all trip (bar, air conditioning, toilet, DVD, on board service)
- cold and hot drinks and snacks in the bus
- 10 nights (hotels ***/****/***** stars),
- 10 breakfasts and 10 dinners – big variety of food, different types of meals (non – vegetarian, vegetarian, halal, kosher ect,)
- departure and airport pick ups
- insurance,
- professional tour guide system
- English speaking tour leader
- local guides service
- entrance fees

