

# 16 DAYS / 6 COUNTRIES

# Wonders of BALKANS

(Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Medjugorje, Serbia, Turkey)



## TOUR ITINERARY

## April 16 - May 04, 2016

### Day 1: SALZBURG, AUSTRIA (B,D)

Arrive Salzburg, the birth place of Mozart.

### Day 2: SALZBURG / BLEED, SLOVENIA (B, D)

Sightseeing remembers the "Sound of Music" it exudes and undefinable charm with its historic buildings, gardens and fountains. Walk down the Schwarzstrasse pass by the castles Miraeil, Hell-brunn and Frohnburg. Leave for lovely lake Bled. You're in for a romantic setting you'll relish throughout your life.

### Day 3: BLEED / LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA (B,D)

Visit the imposing castle with a panoramic view towering over the lake. Take a traditional boat ride in the romantic lake to the idyllic church on Bled Island. A dream will come by ringing the wishing bell in the miraculous chapel. After a bus ride around the lake a guided tour of Bled castle will start. Then you will be taken by Bled's typical 'pletna' boat to the island. Continue to LJUBLJANA.

### Day 4: LJUBLJANA / POSTOJNA / ZAGREB, CROATIA (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel and then check out. Guided visit to Ljubljana Castle, National Museum, and National Gallery. Continue to Postojna, the mysterious underworld of caves, most famous in the world, a UNESCO Heritage Site. Afterwards, visit Predjama Castle then proceed to Zagreb

### Day 5: ZAGREB / PLITVICE, CROATIA (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, check-out and then enjoy sightseeing of Zagreb. View St Mark's church, walk through the stone gate and visit the Little Chapel of Our Lady of the Stone Gate. See Ban Jelacic Square, Zagreb Cathedral, Dolac Market. Visit Lotrscak Tower. Afterwards long drive to Plitvice

### Day 6: PLITVICE (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Visit Plitvice Lake National Park, one of the oldest national parks in Southeast Europe and the largest national park in Croatia. It contains a series of beautiful lakes, caves and waterfalls. These have been formed by processes typical of karst landscapes such as the deposition of travertine barriers, creating natural dam. Drive back to hotel for dinner and overnight.

### Day 7: PLITVICE / ZADAR, CROATIA (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel, check out. And then to Zadar region which is famous for its cultural heritage and historic monuments and buildings. Visit City Gates (Land Gate, Harbour Gate, Bridge Gate), St Simeon St Donatus Church, A Salute to the Sun, view the Roman Forum. Drive to SPLIT.

### Day 8: ZADAR / TROGIR / SPLIT, CROATIA (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel, and then check out. Make your way to Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic town on the coast. Walk along the stone streets to the Cathedral of St Lawrence, whose portal is considered to be the masterpiece of Gothic art in the Dalmatia region. And then visit tour of Split's historical center. Learn from your guide how this city centers around the ancient Roman Palace of Emperor Diocletian, who spent his last days in the sunny harbor. You'll see this palace as well as former mausoleum, which was converted into a cathedral and baptistery.

### Day 9: SPLIT / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA (B,D)

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, board your coach and transfer to Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik is a Croatian city on the Adriatic Sea. In 1979, the city of Dubrovnik joined the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

### Day 10: DUBROVNIK / KOTOR, MONTENEGRO / DUBROVNIK (B,D)

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, meet your local guide and enjoy a half day guided city tour. Highlights of the tour are the medieval town with the Rector's Palace, Franciscan Monastery, which houses one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe. In the afternoon, pass by Kotor, Montenegro and indulge in its Mediterranean landscape and view of Gulf of Kotor and Triphun Church. Visit the Rectors Palace. Transfer back to Dubrovnik. Dinner and overnight in Dubrovnik.

### Day 11: DUBROVNIK / MEDJUGORJE (B,D)

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, board your coach and enjoy a picturesque drive to Medjugorje. Medjugorje is a town located in the Herzegovina region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 1981, it has become a popular site of Catholic pilgrimage due to reports of alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary to six local Catholics. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. Remainder of the day to be spend on leisure. Dinner and overnight in Medjugorje. Take part in the evening program with Mass Rosary in St. James Church and pray with pilgrims from around the world.

### Day 12: MEDJUGORJE (B,D)

Throughout your time in this special place of "prayer and Reflection" experience the beauty and peace of this simple village. During your stay you will have the opportunity to share faith with pilgrims from all over the world. Your local guide will accompany you throughout your stay. Here are some of the activities you can be sharing with your fellow pilgrims: Each morning at 10am we assemble at St. James Church for the English-language Mass (Feast days and Sundays English Mass is at Noon). Follow the path up Apparition Hill (Podbrdo) where the visionaries first encountered Our Lady. Touch and pray before the cross that commemorates the spot where our Blessed Mother, Our Lady Queen of Peace first appeared to the visionaries. Each evening at 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm daylight savings time, we will join the villagers and pilgrims in the the Rosary. Our Lady comes to the visionaries wherever they may be at 6:40pm daylight savings time, you may then stay on for the Croatian Mass. Each evening after the Croatian Mass, there is the Blessing of the Sick and blessing of the holy items you have with you. In your free time, you will have the opportunity to climb Mt Krizevac, where in 1933 the villagers built a 30' high cross on the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion. Visit and pray at "Blue Cross", which is a place of great healings and graces- a very special place at the base of Apparition Hill. Dinner and overnight in Medjugorje. Take part in the evening program with Mass Rosary in St. James Church and pray with pilgrims from around the world.

### Day 13: MEDJUGORJE / BELGRADE, SERBIA (B,D)

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, board your coach and enjoy a picturesque drive to Belgrade, Serbia. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and enjoy a short panoramic tour. Here you will see the main highlights of the city, such at Sveti Marko and Sveti Sava Cathedral. After your tour, check in at your hotel. Remainder of the day to be spend on leisure. Dinner and overnight in Belgrade.

### Day 14: BELGRADE / ISTANBUL, TURKEY (B,D)

Breakfast at your hotel, check out. Rest of the day is free, dinner and ten board your coach to airport for flight to Istanbul.

Arrival to Istanbul airport. You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 15: ISTANBUL (B,D)

Following breakfast, we drive to the 'Old City' where we visit the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, famous for its delicate blue ceramic tiles, and Haghia Sophia. This church - turned mosque - turned museum takes the breath away with the sheer architectural size of its interior and magnificent dome. Next we visit the spectacular Topkapi Palace that was built on one of the seven hills of Istanbul, this huge complex commands views of the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. It was the seat of government for the Ottoman Empire for many centuries (1453-1852). We see the extravagant Treasury, the priceless Chinese porcelain and more.

### Day 16: ISTANBUL (B,D)

Our morning starts with a visit to the aromatic Spice Bazaar, where the smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme, rise from hundreds of colorful muslin bags at every store front. We then board our ferry boat for a relaxing cruise along the shores of the legendary Bosphorus, the natural gateway that divides Asia and Europe. As you sit back and may enjoy Turkish coffee or well-brewed tea from traditional small cups, numerous summer palaces and palatial homes will pass by on either side. Disembarking at the northern end of the Strait, we proceed to a restaurant for a tasty meal of local fish. The last stop will be Grand Bazaar which is amongst attractive shopping centers and the biggest "souk" in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, gold, jewelry, carpets and leatherwear.

### Day 17: ISTANBUL DEPARTURE (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight.

\*\*\*END OF SERVICES\*\*\*

# \$5080pp

Min of 30 adult passengers

### INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip economy Airfare
- 16nights hotel accommodation using first class hotels
- Daily Buffet breakfast at the hotel / Dinner at hotel or local restaurant
- Entrance fees to the sights mentioned in our itinerary
- A/C coach service
- English speaking Guide as per itinerary
- Souvenir Kit
- Personalized Luggage Tags
- Local Escort

### EXCLUSIONS:

- Airline Taxes, PH Travel Tax and Terminal Fee = USD 190.00 (STC)
- Schengen Visa All Lunches and other meals not specified
- Beverages during meals
- Porterage at the airport & Porterage at hotels (In and Out)
- Travel Insurance
- Tips for Guide, Driver and Restaurants

### BOOKING CONDITIONS:

- Non Refundable / Non Transferable deposit of USD 500.00 pp upon booking
- Full Cancellation will be applied to any cancellation made 3weeks before departure
- Minimum of 30 full paying adult passengers to run the program
- Supplement of USD 480.00 pp if only have 25 adult paying passengers



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