

GRAND BALKAN TOUR

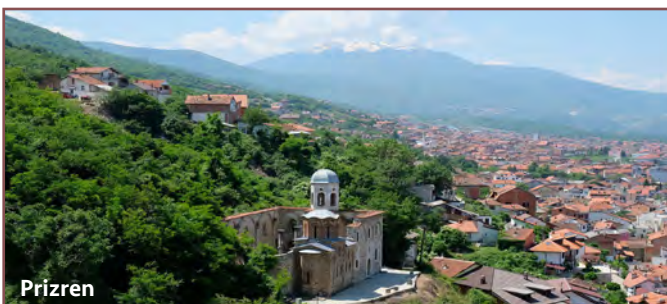
Escorted Private Tour

April 1 - October 31, 2023: Departure any day

10 days / 9 nights: 2 nights in Tirana, 1 night in Berat, 1 night in Pogradec, 1 night in Ohrid, 1 night in Skopje, 1 night in Prizren, 1 night in Shkodra, 1 night in Budva

Accommodation	Meals	Tours	Transportation	Transfer	Also includes
Tirana Hotel Opera 4* or Hermes 4* Berat Berat Mangalemi or Residencia Desaret Pogradec Hotel Perla or Pogradeci Ohrid Hotel Aleksandrija or de Lago Skopje Super 8 Skopje or De Koka Prizren Hotel Theranda or Centrum Shkodra Hotel Carmen or Rozafa Budva Hotel Hermes	Breakfast daily in each city	Professional English speaking driver and guide throughout. Explore Tirana, Kruja, Apolonia, Pogradec, Lake Ohrid, Drillon National Park, Skopje, Prizren in Kosovo and Podgorica - the capital of Montenegro.	Private, air-conditioned car throughout.	Arrival and departure transfers. Additional transfers are available at an additional cost.	Tax & service charge Museum entrance fees included.

GRAND BALKAN TOUR 2023		
10 days / 9 nights		
DATES US\$ Per Person	Land Only	
	Twin	Single
April 1 - October 31, 2023	\$3,297	\$3,842
Option to add 1 additional night in Dubrovnik at the end of the tour (Hotel Labad or similar). Departure transfer included from Dubrovnik. See details below:		
GRAND BALKAN TOUR 2023		
11 days / 10 nights with Dubrovnik		
DATES US\$ Per Person	Land Only	
	Twin	Single
April 1 - October 31, 2023	\$3,499	\$4,298
Minimum 2 people traveling per tour.		



GRAND BALKAN TOUR



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1.

Depending on the time of arrival in Tirana, we may do a short city tour. In the evening, we'll have and optional **dinner at a traditional restaurant** and then explore the nightlife of Tirana, walking in the ex-block area known as "forbidden town" where the villas of the communist leaders are still standing next to trendy boutiques, expensive jeweler shops and lively local pubs. Overnight in Tirana.

Day 2.

After breakfast, **drive to Kruja**-known for Albania's national hero Skanderbeg. Visit the Castle and the Skanderbeg and Ethnographic Museums. Explore the Old Bazaar and continue to Durrës, the ancient Greco-Roman port city "Dyrrachium". The visit to the town includes the Byzantine city walls, the Roman Amphitheater and the Archeological Museum. Drive back to Tirana for overnight. **(B)**

Day 3.

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, proceed to the ancient **Greek settlement of Apollonia**, founded in 588 BC. Continue to Ardenica with its medieval monastery surrounded by stonewalls. Visit Mary Church and St. Triadha Chapel. Drive to Berat - another "Museum City" also known as "the city of thousand windows". You will see the painted Mosque of the Bachelors and the Tekke of the Halvetis complex with its beautiful portico. End your day with a visit to Onufri Icon Museum. Overnight in Berat. **(B)**

Day 4

After breakfast depart to visit Pogradec. Stop at Elbasa to see the beautiful Ottoman walls. **Arrive at Lake Ohrid**, one of the deepest freshwater lakes in Europe - home to a great number of fish and birds found nowhere else in the world. **Enjoy an optional lunch at a local restaurant** in Drilon, decorated with willow trees and streams flowing down to the lake. Nice spot not far from Ohrid Lake which has been a preferred holiday destination for ex-dictator, Hoxha. Overnight in Pogradec. **(B)**

Day 5.

After breakfast, visit Drillon National Park on the shores of Lake Ohrid. **Cross the border into Macedonia** and visit the Monastery of St. Naum. Continue to the other side of the lake to Ohrid. Visit the 11th century castle and other important ancient churches and schools. Orthodox Byzantine monks brought Christianity to Ohrid in the 10th century from Greece through the efforts of St. Cyril and Methodios, who crafted the Cyrillic alphabet. Overnight in Ohrid. **(B)**

Day 6.

Skopje was an important city for the Ottomans from the end of the 14th century. The Skopje of today retains that influence and is a thriving modern city. The largest Turkish bath in the Balkans is located here and is now an Art Museum. **We will visit the Turkish Bazaar and the National Museum.** Overnight in Skopje. **(B)**

Day 7.

After breakfast, **drive to Prizren in Kosovo**, a true open air museum and one of the most beautiful towns in Kosovo, situated on the slopes of the Sharr Mountains and on the banks of the river Bistrica. The craftsmen of Prizren are well known for their beautiful gold and silver items. Optional dinner and overnight in Prizren. **(B)**

Day 8.

After breakfast, tour the old part of Prizren. Then cross the border to Albania to visit Shkodra. It has been an important city for over 2,000 years. Once part of the Venetian Empire, Italian influence is evident everywhere. Visit Rozafa Castle. **Optional dinner and overnight in Shkodra. (B)**

Day 9.

Tour the old town of Shkodra, then cross the border to Montenegro. **Drive to the capital Podgorica for a short city tour.** Continue to Budva, one of the oldest settlements on the Adriatic, now the most famous summer resort of Montenegro. Visit Old Town and listen to legends about the Theban King Cadmus and the development of the city from the Greek period to turbulent Middle Ages and the devastating 1976 earthquake. Overnight in Budva. **(B)**

Day 10.

Breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards, private car transfer to the Dubrovnik airport via the Scenic Kotor Bay. This is the end of your tour. **(B)**