



Bucharest, Romania

25DBUHATH GRANDE EXPLORING BALKAN TOUR

25 days in Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Drobeta Turnu-Severin, Belgrade, Zagreb, Bled, Plitvice, Split, Dubrovnik, Tivat, Tirana, Ohrid, Kalambaka, and Athens.



INCLUDED CITY TOURS

- Bucharest
- Brasov
- Sighisoara
- Sibiu
- Horezu
- Drobeta Turnu-Severin
- Novi Sad
- Belgrade
- Zagreb
- Bled
- Postojna Cave
- Plitvice Lakes
- Split
- Dubrovnik
- Kotor
- Tirana
- Ohrid
- Kalambaka
- Athens

INCLUDED FEATURES

- First-class hotels
- Arrival transfer from Bucharest airport on Day 1
- Departure transfer to Athens airport on Day 25
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch and 16 dinners
- Professional English-Speaking Tour Director
- Licensed Local Guides
- Touring with modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Whisper technology for enhanced touring
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Service charges and hotel taxes
- Entrance fees included where indicated in bold

TRIP ITINERARY

B - Breakfast | L - Lunch | D - Dinner

Entrance fees included where indicated in bold.

Day 1 - Saturday: Arrive in Bucharest

You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. There's time to relax before meeting your fellow travelers and Tour Director for a Welcome Dinner. (D)

Day 2 - Sunday: Explore Bucharest

Get acquainted with the Romanian capital known as *Little Paris*, on a sightseeing tour. Visit the Parliament Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world and a National Treasure. Learn how the Romanian people finally succeeded in toppling the last communist dictator in Eastern Europe at the Revolution Square. The tour will also bring you to the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the National Military Club, the Military Academy, Triumphal Arch, and the **Village Museum**. The rest of the day is free. (B)

Day 3 - Monday: To Brasov

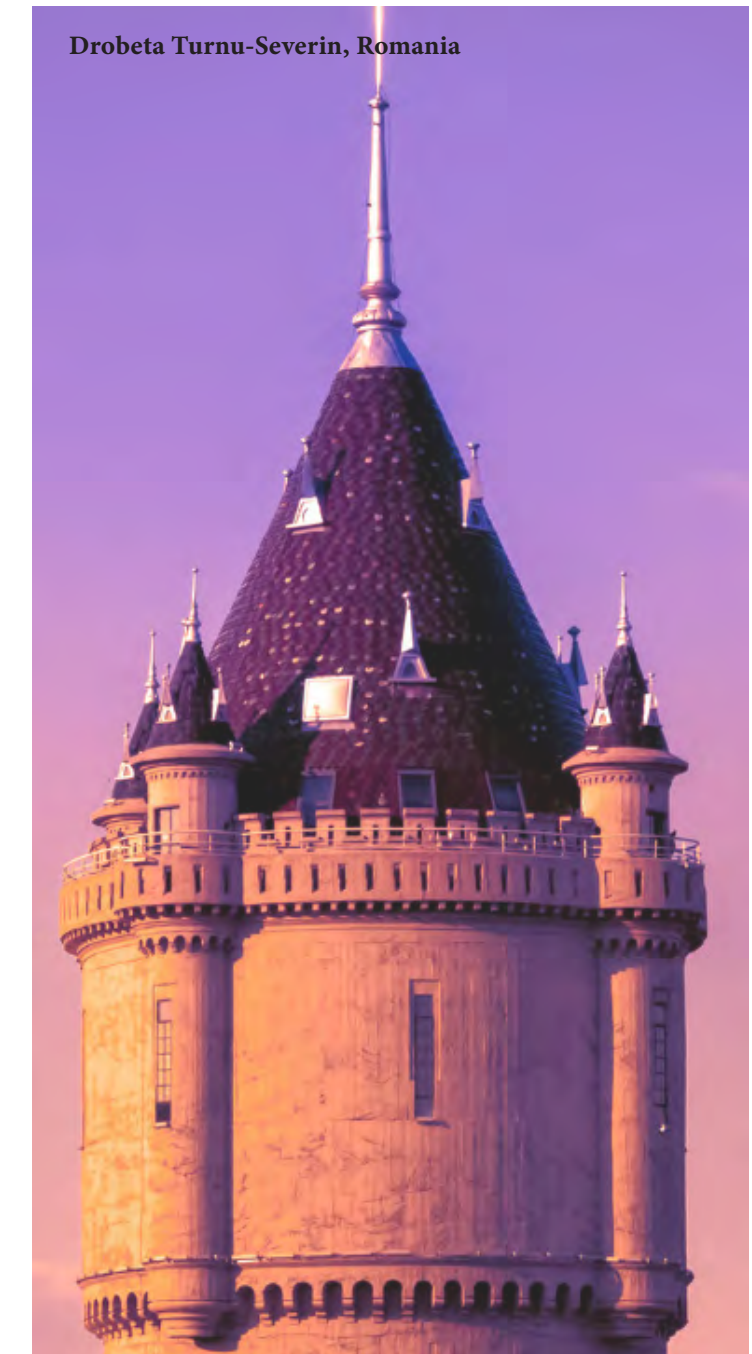
Depart Bucharest towards the beautiful 17th-century **Sinaia Monastery** and visit **Peles Castle**, built as the summer residence of King Carol I. Head to Bran for a visit to **Bran Castle**, made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the sinister vampire, Count Dracula. Continue toward Brasov for the night. (B, D)

Day 4 - Tuesday: To Sighisoara & Sibiu

Start the morning in Brasov with a walking tour including the **First Romanian School Museum**, which houses an impressive collection of rare books, documents, and art. Continue to Sighisoara, the best-preserved medieval city in southeastern Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the **Clock Tower Museum** on a city tour. End the day in Sibiu - once the richest town in Transylvania. See the Huet Square, the Great Square, the Evangelical Cathedral, Liar's Bridge and more. In the evening, enjoy dinner in a local farmhouse in the Village of **Sibiul**. Return to Sibiu for the night. (B, D)

Day 5 - Wednesday: To Drobeta Turnu-Severin

Continue your journey through Hunedoara, where you will visit one of the largest castles in Europe, the **Corvinesti Castle**. Then, travel to Drobeta Turnu-Severin for an orientation tour before check in. Get settled for dinner and an overnight stay. (B, D)



Drobeta Turnu-Severin, Romania

Day 6 - Thursday: To Djerdap & Belgrade

Drive towards the Djerdap, and cross the border of Serbia. Take a cruise through the gorge and view the most beautiful sections of the Danube River. Continue to Golubac Fortress to see visit the fortified ten-tower town located on the hill slope, overlooking the river. End the day in Belgrade, Serbia. (B, D)

Day 7 - Friday: Belgrade Excursion

After breakfast, embark on a full-day excursion from Belgrade. Our first stop is **Krusedol Monastery**, founded in the early 16th century and considered one of Serbia's most significant monasteries. Continue to the picturesque town of Sremski Karlovci - known for its baroque and neoclassical architecture. After an orientation tour, we will visit one of the famous local wineries for lunch and wine tasting. Afterwards, explore the intriguing **Petrovaradin Fortress**, with its underground trenches and tunnels. Our last stop is the city of Novi Sad, where you'll have a quick orientation tour and some free time before returning to your hotel in Belgrade. (B, L)

Day 8 - Saturday: In Belgrade

Start your morning with a city sightseeing tour including a visit to the imposing **Kalemegdan Fortress**, strategically located at the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers. Discover Republic Square, Knez Mihailova Street, Saint Sava Temple (the largest Orthodox Church in the city), and Tito's Memorial. Continue to Avala. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace. In the afternoon, you have the option to join an excursion to Topola, where George Petrovic, also known as Karadjordje, was chosen as the leader of the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. A short drive away is St. George's Church, also known as Oplenac, the burial place of the Ducal and Royal Family of Serbia and Yugoslavia. After a lunch break (not included), we will return to Belgrade. The evening is yours to enjoy. (B, D)



Day 9 - Sunday: To Zagreb

After breakfast, travel towards Zagreb, Croatia. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner and an overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 10 - Monday: Explore 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 yours to explore the winding streets of the old town or join us for an optional excursion to see the countryside. (B)

Day 11 - Tuesday: Ljubljana & Bled

After breakfast, head towards Ljubljana - the capital of Slovenia. Take a walking tour to see the most significant sights of the old city center. Highlights include the picturesque open-air Central Market, the Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, and Robba's Fountain. Then, continue to Bled. (B, D)

Day 12 - Wednesday: Explore Bled

Bled, an Alpine Lake surrounded by high peaks, was "*discovered*" by travelers in the middle of the 19th century. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the lakeshore and charming town, and visit the imposing **Bled Castle** - perched on a cliff high above the lake. The rest of the day yours to continue exploring. Browse through the shops and boutiques, or simply relax in the enchanting scenery. Join us for an optional excursion to the small island in the middle of the lake. (B)

Day 13 - Thursday: Journey to Plitvice

Continue to Postojna - home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterward, continue to the coast and have a stop in Opatija. Enjoy a walking tour of this fashionable resort from the 19th century, dotted with Habsburg-era villas. After some free time, continue towards Plitvice Lakes. (B, D)

Day 14 - Friday: Plitvice Lakes

After breakfast, have your camera ready as you take a walking tour around the lower lakes. The breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder includes sixteen terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation. After the tour, head to Split. Overnight in Split. (B, D)

Day 15 - Saturday: Explore Split

In the morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor **Diocletian's Palace**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Then see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle, and the Cathedral. The rest of the day is yours to stroll through the beautiful streets of Split, enjoy the beach, or join us on an Optional Excursion to the Jet Set spot of the rich and famous - the Island of Hvar. (B)

Day 16 - Sunday: To Dubrovnik

After breakfast, travel to Dubrovnik. The rest of the day is yours to explore. (B, D)

Day 17 - Monday: Explore Dubrovnik

After breakfast, take a walking tour of Old Dubrovnik. Visit **Rector's Palace** and see the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, the Dominican Monastery, and the Franciscan Monastery with its **Pharmacy** - one of the oldest in the world. The rest of the day is free to continue exploring Dubrovnik. Otherwise, join an Optional Excursion to a home-hosted dinner in Dubelj. (B)

Day 18 - Tuesday: Continuing to Tivat

After breakfast, our journey takes us to Montenegro, with a view of Kotor Bay - the only South European fiord. Take a tour of the old town of Kotor, a UNESCO heritage Site. Continue to Tivat, Montenegro for the night. (B, D)

Day 19 - Wednesday: To Tirana

After breakfast, drive through Budva and Bar towards the town of Shkodra - a major Albanian cultural center. Shkodra was the center of the Illyrian tribe Labeat and was taken by the Romans in 168 B.C. View the **Rozafa Castle**, magnificently situated on a rocky outcrop of limestone high above the city. Continue the drive to Tirana, Albania. (B, D)

Day 20 - Thursday: Exploring Tirana

On a morning sightseeing tour, see Sheshi Skenderbej (Skanderbeg Square), the Mosque of Ethem Bey, the Clock Tower, and the statue of G.K. Skanderbeg - Albania's national hero. Visit the Palace of Culture, built with Soviet assistance, and the **National History Museum** with a mosaic on its façade portraying Albanian history. Your afternoon is free to continue exploring. Visit local shops, restaurants, or simply relax. (B)



Day 21 - Friday: To Ohrid

Drive to the lakeside resort of Ohrid, Macedonia - an important cultural and spiritual center classified as UNESCO's World Heritage site. Enjoy a sightseeing tour through the cobblestone streets of the old town. Visit the **Cathedral of St. Sofia**, containing some magnificent frescoes from the 10th century. (B, D)

Day 22 - Saturday: Kalambaka

After breakfast, admire the fantastic landscapes of Meteora - known as the *rocks that fell from the sky*, where monks built their rock-top monasteries far away from civilization. Out of the 13 large and 20 small monasteries and hermit's cells, only four are now active. We will visit either **Roussanou or the Great Meteoro***. Continue to Kalambaka, Greece for dinner and an overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 23 - Sunday: To Athens

Your first stop is Delphi - where the famous Oracle once foretold the destiny of men. Visit the **temple of Apollo** which was built in the 6th century. Visit the Sacred Way, the Stadium, and the Castalian Fountain - where pilgrims cleansed themselves in preparation for consulting the Oracle. Visit the **Archaeological Museum of Delphi**, which contains an impressive collection of finds from the site, including the beautiful Bronze Charioteer. Continue our journey to Athens. (B)

Day 24 - Monday: Explore Athens

Begin the day with a sightseeing tour of the highlights of Athens, Greece. Visit the **Acropolis**, the Parthenon - said to be the most perfectly proportioned building of all time. Next, visit the Erectheion with the Porch of the Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the Wingless Victory. Below the Acropolis lies the Ancient Agora and the Theaters of Dionysus and Herodus Atticus. The rest of the day is free to continue exploring on your own. In the evening, join us for a Farewell Taverna Dinner in the Plaka - located beside the Acropolis. (B, D)

Day 25 - Tuesday: Depart Athens

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to Athens airport for your departure. (B)

Note: Because of the narrow and cobbled streets, walking is the primary way of getting around. Please make sure to pack comfortable walking shoes.

INCLUDED HOTELS

- **Bucharest** - Hilton Garden Inn (F) or similar
- **Brasov** - Aro Palace (F) or similar
- **Sibiu** - Continental Forum/ Golden Tulip (SF) or similar
- **Drobeta-Turnu Severin** - Continental Drobeta (SF) or similar
- **Belgrade** - Hotel Moskva/ Courtyard by Marriott (F) or similar
- **Zagreb** - Zonar (F) or similar
- **Bled** - Kompas (F)/ Bled Rose (F) or similar
- **Plitvice** - Jezero (F) or similar
- **Split** - Hotel Corner (F) or similar
- **Dubrovnik** - Lero (F) or similar
- **Tivat** - Palma (F) or similar
- **Tirana** - Colloseo (F) or similar
- **Ohrid** - Granit (F) or similar
- **Kalambaka** - Grand Meteora (F) or similar
- **Athens** - Stanley (F)/ Titania (F) or similar

DATES & PRICING - 25DBUHATH

Start:	End:	Per Person in Twin:
March 16	April 9	\$6,499
April 27	May 21	\$6,899
June 8	July 2	\$6,999
July 20	August 13	\$6,999
August 31	September 24	\$6,999
Single Room Supplement		\$1,959