

Balkan Express – 4 countries in one week



8 days | 4 countries | 7 cities

Departure months: Apr-Oct

Small groups
up to **15**
participants

tourradar™
4.7 ★/5

If you're looking to cover multiple countries in a short span, this tour is designed for your convenience. In just one week, you'll explore four Balkan capitals - Belgrade, Sofia, Skopje, and Tirana. From Belgrade's cultural scene and vibrant nightlife to the UNESCO sites of Bulgaria and North Macedonia and Albania's stunning mountain scenery, this tour is a hassle-free way to experience the best of the Balkans.



○ Start of the tour ● End of the tour ● Overnight ● Optional activity ● Sightseeing

Day 1. Welcome to Serbia

Arrive at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla International Airport, where our guide will greet you in the arrivals hall, holding a signboard with your name. They will assist you with currency exchange, provide essential insights about Belgrade, guide you to your accommodation, and offer tips on navigating the city and visiting key attractions. Your guide will also inform you about Belgrade's latest events and happenings, ensuring you make the most of your stay. In case of a delayed flight, there's no need to worry—we monitor arrivals closely, and your guide will be there whenever you land. There are no extra charges for delays. After a short 20-minute ride, you'll arrive in the heart of Belgrade. Check in to your hotel and take the rest of the day to unwind or explore the city at your own pace. You can choose to soak in the lively atmosphere of Belgrade's streets or follow your guide's dinner recommendations for



Belgrade

a taste of Serbian cuisine. The choice is yours, making your experience more personalized and enjoyable. Note: Arriving in Belgrade early? Book additional nights with us at €55 (Classic package) or €75 (Upgraded package) per person per night in a double or twin room.

Overnight: Belgrade

Day 2. Explore Belgrade

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on a comprehensive tour of Belgrade. Your day begins at the historic Belgrade Fortress, strategically perched above the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. You'll have the opportunity to marvel at its key landmarks, including the Victor

Monument, Zindan Gate, and the Clock Tower, gaining a deep understanding of the city's rich history and culture. From there, embark on a panoramic drive through New Belgrade, the city's modern hub. Pass architectural highlights such as the Genex Tower, Sava Center, and the Palace of Serbia, showcasing the area's striking post-war design. Next, you'll visit Zemun, a district that feels like a step into a Central European village. Its cobblestone streets, charming small houses, and riverside fish restaurants offer a unique glimpse into a different side of Belgrade, promising an exciting and memorable experience. Continue the tour by driving through Dedinje, a luxurious residential area, and visit the majestic Saint Sava Temple. As one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world, it is a breathtaking symbol of Serbian culture and spirituality. Spend the afternoon exploring at your own pace. Consider visiting the Nikola Tesla Museum, where you'll discover fascinating inventions and contributions from the famed scientist, or stroll through Belgrade's vibrant shopping streets.

In the evening, visit the Old Bohemian Quarter of Skadarlija, known for its artistic vibe, traditional cuisine, and lively atmosphere. Often compared to Montmartre in Paris, Skadarlija is the perfect spot to enjoy Serbian music, food, and nightlife. Optional dinner and entertainment: €30 per person.

Overnight: Belgrade

Day 3. North Serbia - Novi Sad & Sremski Karlovci

After breakfast, set out for a full-day excursion to Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city and a cultural gem. En route, stop in Sremski Karlovci, a picturesque town steeped in history. Walk its cobbled streets to visit the Old Patriarch's Court, the Assembly Church, and the Theological Lyceum. Sremski Karlovci is located in the heart of Serbia's wine region, making it the perfect place to visit a local winery and sample Bermet wine, a renowned local specialty. Continue to Petrovaradin Fortress, located on the banks of the Danube River. This imposing structure played a crucial role in conflicts between the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman

Empires. Explore its underground tunnels and learn about its strategic importance throughout history.



Novi Sad

Arrive in Novi Sad and stroll through the city's vibrant pedestrian zone. Admire landmarks such as Zmaj Jovina Street, the monument to Svetozar Miletic, and the Novi Sad Cathedral. Afterward, enjoy free time to explore the city's museums, cafes, and parks before returning to Belgrade.

Overnight: Belgrade

Day 4. Goodbye Serbia, Hello Bulgaria

Depart Belgrade for Bulgaria, with a stop in Niš, a city of great historical significance. Known as the birthplace of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, Niš boasts a rich cultural heritage. You'll visit the Niš Fortress, a well-preserved Ottoman stronghold, and explore landmarks such as King Milan Square and the chilling Skull Tower, a haunting reminder of resistance against Ottoman rule.



Niš

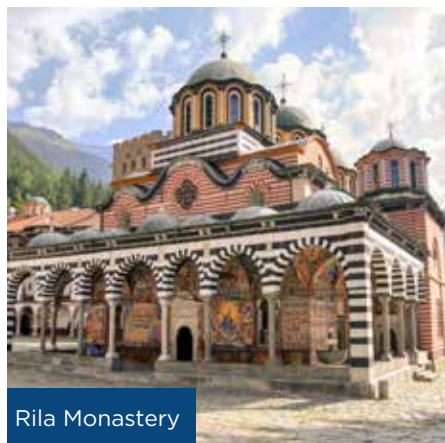
This visit will provide you with a deeper understanding of the region's history and culture. Conclude your visit to Niš with a

tour of the Red Cross Concentration Camp, a moving World War II site that serves as a testament to the resilience of those who suffered there. After a hearty lunch, continue your journey to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely evening. Stroll through Sofia's vibrant streets, or relax and prepare for the adventures ahead.

Overnight: Sofia

Day 5: Sofia, Rila Monastery and North Macedonia

Begin the day with breakfast and a walking tour of Sofia, a city rich in history and culture. Built on the ruins of the Roman town of Serdica, Sofia's highlights include the iconic St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the St. George Rotunda, and the ruins of ancient Serdica. After a coffee break, take a trip to Rila Monastery, one of the holiest places in the country and another UNESCO World Heritage site.



Rila Monastery

Rila Monastery is the most important spiritual and literary center of the Bulgarian national revival, with an uninterrupted history from the Middle Ages until now. Next is North Macedonia and its capital, Skopje. Take a guided tour of the city, where old meets new in fascinating ways. Visit Macedonia Square, the Stone Bridge, the Skopje Fortress, and the Ottoman-era Old Bazaar. See Mother Teresa's Memorial House, celebrating the city's most renowned native. End the day with an evening exploring Skopje's culinary delights and warm hospitality.

Overnight: Skopje

Day 6. Matka Canyon & Ohrid

After breakfast, travel to Matka Canyon, one of North Macedonia's most beautiful natural sites. A one-

hour boat ride offers stunning views of its steep cliffs and emerald waters. Continue to Ohrid, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its cultural and natural significance. Walk through the Old Town's cobbled streets to explore landmarks like Samuel Fortress, the Church of St. John at Kaneo, and the Roman amphitheater.



Matka Canyon

Enjoy Ohrid's serene atmosphere in the evening with a lakeside stroll, boat tour, or a meal at one of its excellent restaurants.

Overnight: Ohrid

Day 7. Welcome to Albania

Journey to Albania, stopping in Elbasan, a city with a fascinating blend of cultures. Visit the Castle of Elbasan, the King's Mosque, and the Clock Tower before heading to Tirana, Albania's vibrant capital.



Tirana

Take a guided tour of Tirana's key landmarks, including the Mosque of Et'hem Bey, the Roman Mosaic, and Kaplan Pasha's Tomb. In your free time, visit the Bunk'Art museum or take the Dajti Cable Car for spectacular views of the city and its surroundings.

Overnight: Tirana

Day 8. Departure

Enjoy breakfast and some leisure time before your transfer to the airport. Reflect on your unforgettable journey through the Balkans, or explore a little more of Tirana if time permits. Optional: Extend your stay with additional hotel nights, available upon request.

Included highlights and must-sees:



Explore with Local Specialists:

Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Sofia, Skopje, Ohrid, Elbasan, Tirana



Visit Must-see Landmarks:

Belgrade Fortress, St. Sava Temple, Victor monument, Old Patriarch's Court, Petrovaradin Fortress, Skull Tower, Red Cross Concentration Camp; St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the St. George Rotunda, the Skopje Fortress, Mother Teresa's Memorial House, Matka Canyon, the Church of St. John at Kaneo, the Castle of Elbasan, Mosque of Et'hem Bey, etc



Overnights:

3 nights in Belgrade; 1 night in Sofia; 1 night in Skopje; 1 night in Ohrid; 1 night in Tirana



Meals:

7 x breakfast in a hotel



Entrance fees:

Saint Sava Temple, Wine tasting during the Novi Sad trip, The Skull Tower, The Red Cross Nazi Concentration Camp, Rila Monastery, Matka Canyon boat ride

Prices per person:

	in double/ twin room	in single room	in triple room
Classic package	1,289 €	1,549 €	1,229 €
Upgraded package	1,439 €	1,795 €	1,369 €

Available dates: 12-19.04; 10-17.05; 07-14.06; 12-19.07; 09-16.08; 13-20.09; 11-18.10.

Visit www.victortours.com for your full itinerary, sightseeing highlights, dates, and prices.

Alternatively, contact your preferred Travel Advisor.





Emily Thompson, USA

“This tour was absolutely amazing! I loved exploring Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro, and each country offered something unique. The itinerary was well-paced, and our guide was incredibly knowledgeable. From the Old Bridge in Mostar to the stunning Bay of Kotor, it was a trip I’ll never forget!”

Michael Bennett, Canada

“The Balkan Express tour exceeded my expectations. The mix of history, culture, and breathtaking landscapes was perfect. Our group enjoyed delicious local food, and the accommodations were comfortable. Big thanks to Victor Tours for such a seamless and memorable experience!”

Samantha Reynolds, Australia

“This tour was the highlight of my year! I particularly enjoyed the diversity of each country, from the lively streets of Belgrade to the serene beauty of Montenegro. The guide’s passion for the region was infectious, making every stop even more special. Highly recommended!”

Wei Ling Tan, Singapore

“What a fantastic way to explore multiple countries in just one week. The itinerary was well-planned, giving our small group a taste of each country’s history and culture. Our guide was very friendly and organized, and I appreciated how smooth everything was. Definitely a great introduction to the Balkans!”

***“A Balkan music library is a hospital
for the heart and the soul”***

Anonymous