

THE BEST OF THE BALKANS 17 DAYS

WITH GLOBUS THE DETAILS ARE DONE

You'll always visit the key sites and enjoy more inclusions; inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description, including admission charges where applicable. For standard inclusions, see page 8.

TRIP SCALE Leisurely On the Go

LOCAL FAVOURITES

Globus has created special experiences that will bring you behind the scenes, spotlight the unique stories of your journey, and bring to life the local flavour of your destination. Just look for the **LF** icon to see what we've included for you.

ALL THIS IS INCLUDED

■ SIGHTSEEING AND MORE

DUBROVNIK Guided walking tour; visit Rector's Palace

MOSTAR Take pictures of the famous Mostar Bridge

SARAJEVO Guided sightseeing, **LF** visit the Sarajevo Tunnel

BELGRADE Guided sightseeing, see Kalemegdan Fortress

TIMISOARA Admire the Orthodox Cathedral

SIBIU Orientation

SIGHISOARA Stop in the walled town

BRASOV Guided sightseeing, visit the Black Church; **LF** dinner at a local restaurant

BRAN CASTLE **LF** Visit *Dracula's* castle

BUCHAREST Guided sightseeing, visit the People's Palace

RUSE Stop in Bulgaria's "Little Vienna"

SOFIA Guided sightseeing, visit Holy Sofia Church

RILA **LF** Guided visit of the monastery

THESSALONIKA Guided sightseeing, visit the Basilica of St. Demetrios


ATHENS Guided sightseeing, visit the Acropolis; farewell dinner

■ **HOTELS** DUBROVNIK Valamar Lacroma Resort (SF), SARAJEVO Europe (F), BELGRADE Radisson Blu Old Mill (SF), SIBIU Hilton (SF), BRASOV Kronwell (SF), BUCHAREST Radisson Blu (D), SOFIA Hilton (SF), THESSALONIKA The Met (SF), ATHENS Crowne Plaza (SF) or Wyndham Grand Hotel (SF)

■ **MEALS** Full buffet breakfast (B) daily; 10 three-course dinners (D) with wine, including a welcome dinner in Dubrovnik, a special dinner in Brasov, and a farewell dinner in Athens

■ **TRANSPORTATION** Motorcoach; cruise ship (Tour REK)

■ **HEADSETS** Throughout the tour

■ **FREE WI-FI**  available on your motorcoach and in most hotel lobbies

CUSTOMISE YOUR HOLIDAY

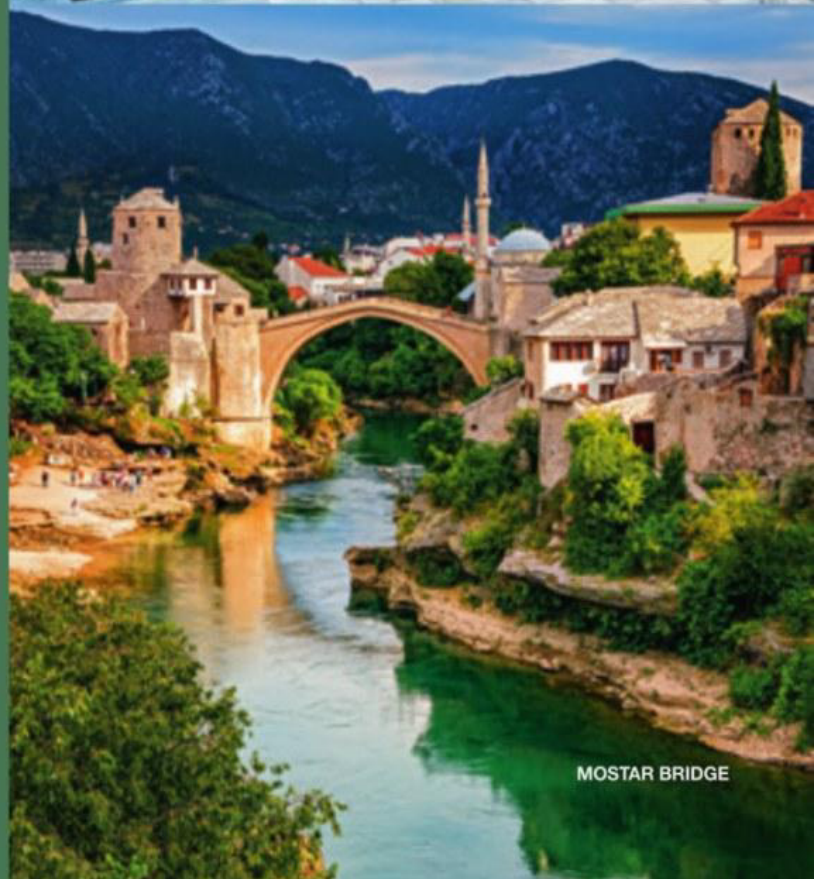
■ **EXTRA NIGHTS** in Dubrovnik, Athens

■ **EXTEND YOUR HOLIDAY** with a 3-night sea cruise (Tour REK)

■ **MyACCOUNT** Personalise your tour ahead of time with additional excursions. Visit our website for details and conditions.

NOTE Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveller.

COMBINATION Tour RE with RZ (page 200); take advantage of the second tour discount (see page 23).



MOSTAR BRIDGE



- 1 = Overnights
- 2 = Start City
- 3 = End City

Cruise itinerary subject to change; please contact us for final details.

LOCAL FAVOURITE VISIT IMPRESSIVE RILA MONASTERY, A BEACON OF THE BULGARIAN NATION DURING A HALF-MILLENNIUM OF OTTOMAN RULE.

DAY 1 DUBROVNIK, CROATIA. (Wed.)

Welcome to Dubrovnik! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

DAY 2 DUBROVNIK. (Thu.)

Dubrovnik was once an independent maritime republic rivaling Venice. Enjoy a walking tour with a Local Guide and see the impressive ramparts, erected during the Crusades to protect the town against land attacks, and the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries. You will also visit the 15th-century RECTOR'S PALACE. Afternoon and evening at leisure; an optional boat cruise is available. (B)

DAY 3 DUBROVNIK–MOSTAR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA–SARAJEVO. (Fri.)

Enter Bosnia-Herzegovina and stop in the city of Mostar. Admire the OLD BRIDGE, the city's symbol, ordered by Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman ruler in 1566, to replace the older wooden bridge. Continue to Sarajevo, where the 1984 Olympics took place, and the first city in Europe to own an electric tram network. (B,D)

DAY 4 SARAJEVO. (Sat.)

Hear about the assassination of the Archduke of Austria in 1914, the recent Bosnian War, and see the main sights with a Local Guide. **LF** A visit has been included to the SARAJEVO TUNNEL, built between 1992 and 1995 during the Bosnian War to supply the inhabitants with food and war supplies. Balance of the day is at leisure to further explore this fascinating city. (B)

DAY 5 SARAJEVO–BELGRADE, SERBIA. (Sun.)

A scenic drive through Bosnia brings you to Belgrade, capital of Serbia. (B,D)

DAY 6 BELGRADE. (Mon.)

First mention of Belgrade was in the 3rd century. Morning guided sightseeing features a drive to see the main sights, like the Santa Sava Church and a walking tour through the fascinating Kalemegdan Fortress, located at the confluence of the Danube and Sava Rivers, and symbol of the strategic importance of the city in the past. For centuries, the city population lived within the walls of the fortress. Afternoon at leisure. Choose from our exciting optional excursions. (B)

DAY 7 BELGRADE–TIMISOARA, ROMANIA–SIBIU. (Tue.)

In Timisoara, admire the Romanian Orthodox Church, seat of the archbishop, before arriving in elegant Sibiu with its towers, churches, and buildings dating back to the 14th century. (B,D)

DAY 8 SIBIU–SIGHISOARA–BRASOV. (Wed.)

Enter the heart of Transylvania and stop at the fortified town of Sighisoara, one of the most beautiful, well-preserved inhabited citadels in Eastern Europe. Continue to Brasov, where guided sightseeing features the Old Town Hall, the Merchants' Hall, the 15th-century Monastery and School of St. Nicholas, a walk through the Old Town, and a visit to the impressive BLACK CHURCH. **LF** This evening, you can try the local food at one of Brasov's excellent restaurants. (B,D)



LOCAL FAVOURITE VISIT DRACULA'S 14TH-CENTURY BRAN CASTLE, DRAMATICALLY LOCATED ON TOP OF A HILL.



LOCAL FAVOURITE VISIT THE SARAJEVO TUNNEL, BUILT DURING THE BOSNIAN WAR TO ACCESS THE CITY OF SARAJEVO, WHICH WAS ENTIRELY CUT OFF BY SERBIAN FORCES.



BELGRADE

DAY 9 BRASOV-BRAN CASTLE-BUCHAREST. (Thu.)

Highlight today is **LF** a visit to *Dracula's* BRAN CASTLE, built in the 14th century. The castle is dramatically located on top of a hill and has, because of the legends, attracted people from all over the world. Next stop is Bucharest, capital of Romania. (B,D)

DAY 10 BUCHAREST. (Fri.)

Morning sightseeing with a Local Guide features a drive along flower-festooned parks, gardens, and wide boulevards shaded by century-old trees. Also see the palace where Ceausescu, the former Romanian dictator, lived, and visit the impressive PEOPLE'S PALACE, the second-largest government building in the world after the Pentagon. (B)

DAY 11 BUCHAREST-RUSE, BULGARIA-SOFIA. (Sat.)

Stop in Ruse, Bulgaria's most important river port and nicknamed "Little Vienna" because of its neo-baroque and neo-rococo architecture. Arrive in Sofia, proud capital of Bulgaria. (B,D)

DAY 12 SOFIA. (Sun.)

Hear about the history of this fascinating city during your guided sightseeing tour. Sofia was known a Serdica centuries before Christ, and was even ruled at one time by Alexander the Great's father, Philip of Macedonia. Visit the HOLY SOFIA CHURCH. (B)

DAY 13 SOFIA-RILA-THESSALONIKA, GREECE (Mon.)

Head south to reach the village of Kocherinovo, from where **LF** a scenic trip takes you high up towards the RILA MONASTERY, a beacon of the Bulgarian nation during a half-millennium of Ottoman rule. The monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, because throughout the centuries, it has always been the spiritual, educational, and cultural centre of Bulgaria. Continue through the Struma Valley, Spartacus' mountainous homeland, before crossing the Greek border and arriving in Thessalonika. (B,D)

DAY 14 THESSALONIKA-THERMOPYLAE-ATHENS. (Tue.)

During your guided sightseeing, see the White Tower; the Arch of Galerius, the biggest triumphal arch of the Roman Empire; the Rotonda; and visit the BASILICA OF SAINT DEMETRIOUS. Enjoy a panoramic view of the city and the bay from the walls of the Upper City. On the way to Athens, drive along the eastern and southern side of Mount Olympus and through the battlefield of Leonidas and the 300, the Spartan forces he led during the Second Persian War and the famous Battle of Thermopylae. (B,D)

DAY 15 ATHENS. (Wed.)

Sightseeing with a Local Guide features a visit to the world-famous ACROPOLIS, perched high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the city. Here, see the Parthenon, the Erechtheum with its Porch of Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike, and enjoy a panoramic view that includes glimpses of the Temple of Olympian *Zeus*, Theatre of *Dionysus*, and the beautifully preserved Theseum, where Socrates taught. Later, a city orientation tour features the Old Parliament House and a picture stop at the Panathenaic Stadium. Built in the 2nd century AD, it is the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble, and was host to the opening and closing ceremonies of the first modern Olympics in 1896. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 16 ATHENS. (Thu.)

A full day at leisure to further explore this fascinating city or take an optional cruise to the islands. This evening, a farewell dinner awaits at the hotel to celebrate the success of your holiday. (B,D)

DAY 17 ATHENS. (Fri.)

Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)



PEOPLE'S PALACE, BUCHAREST



DUBROVNIK

ADD A 3-NIGHT GREEK CRUISE TO YOUR HOLIDAY

TOUR REK 21 DAYS



PRICED FROM \$1,250^{US}

DAY 17 ATHENS–PIRAEUS/LAVRION (EMBARKATION)–MYKONOS. (Fri.)

This morning, head for Lavrion/Piraeus, where you will sail into the deep-blue waters of the Aegean Sea. Later, dock at the

mountainous island of Mykonos with its characteristic windmills and dazzling white houses. Time to wander at whim through narrow paved streets before returning on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 18 CRUISING: KUSADASI, TURKEY–PATMOS, GREECE. (Sat.)

Two ports of call today. First, Kusadasi on the Turkish coast. Visit the fascinating Greek, Roman, and Byzantine excavations of EPHEBUS. Next, discover the tiny Greek island of Patmos, where St. John the Divine wrote the *Revelation*. Also see the Grotto of the Apocalypse. (B,L,D)

DAY 19 CRUISING: HERAKLION, CRETE–SANTORINI, GREECE. (Sun.)

First port of call today is Heraklion on Crete. A few miles away is KNOSSOS, the centre of the 3000 BC Minoan civilisation. Afternoon call (weather permitting) at Santorini, the "Black Pearl of the Aegean." Join one of the optional shore excursions either to the volcano or up to the cliff-top village of Oia for one of the world's most breathtaking panoramas. (B,L,D)

DAY 20 PIRAEUS/LAVRION (DISEMBARKATION)–ATHENS. (Mon.)

After breakfast on board, disembark at Lavrion/Piraeus and return to Athens. Tonight is your chance to enjoy an optional dinner at a local restaurant. (B)

DAY 21 ATHENS. (Tue.)

Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

All cruise services are provided by Celestyal Cruises. Your cruise ship is the *Celestyal Olympia*. See page 213 for more details.

TOURS RE AND REK DATES & PRICES

PRICED FROM \$3,449^{US}

RE: 17 days from Dubrovnik to Athens

REK: 21 days from Dubrovnik to Athens including 3-night cruise

Departure Number	Start	TOUR RE			TOUR REK			Departure Number	Start	TOUR RE			TOUR REK		
		End	Land	Only	End	Land	Only			End	Land	Only	End	Land	Only
0502	Wed 02 May	18 May	3449		22 May	4699	0808	Wed 08 Aug	24 Aug	3469	-----	-----			
0516	Wed 16 May	01 Jun	3469		05 Jun	4719	0822	Wed 22 Aug	07 Sep	3469	11 Sep	4719			
0530	Wed 30 May	15 Jun	3469		19 Jun	4719	0905	Wed 05 Sep	21 Sep	3469	25 Sep	4719			
0613	Wed 13 Jun	29 Jun	3469		03 Jul	4719	0912	Wed 12 Sep	28 Sep	3469	02 Oct	4719			
0627	Wed 27 Jun	13 Jul	3469		17 Jul	4719	0919	Wed 19 Sep	05 Oct	3529	09 Oct	4849			
0711	Wed 11 Jul	27 Jul	3469		31 Jul	4719	0926	Wed 26 Sep	12 Oct	3529	-----	-----			
0725	Wed 25 Jul	10 Aug	3469		-----	-----	1003	Wed 03 Oct	19 Oct	3529	-----	-----			

Gratuities per person for Tour Director and Driver: \$154
Prices are per person, based on double room occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$959
Triple room reduction per person: \$97

Extra nights per person in Dubrovnik:
in single room \$203-\$304, in twin/in triple \$121-\$180

Extra nights per person in Athens:
in single room \$148, in twin \$80, in triple \$68
Post-cruise extra nights per person in Athens:
in single room \$153, in twin \$86, in triple \$69

Cruise Details:
Tour RE plus 3-night cruise; holiday REK:
The above prices are per person in category ID twin inside cabin.
Port Taxes \$138 & Gratuities \$30 to service personnel on board the ship are included in the Globus price.
Supplement per person to outside cabin XD: \$170
Supplement for single room on land and single occupancy in inside cabin ID: \$1264; in outside cabin: XD \$1501
Reduction for triple room on land and triple occupancy in inside cabin ID: \$148
No reduction for triple room on land and triple occupancy in outside cabin XD.
Cabin assignments and meal seatings are determined during the tour prior to boarding.