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TREASURES OF THE BALKANS



12 DAY TOUR FROM SOFIA TO BUCHAREST

Tour: 6720

Discover the treasures of the Balkans on this vacation through Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, and Romania. Visit the capitals—Sofia, Belgrade, Budapest, and Bucharest—as well as some of the fascinating towns and cities along the way. Discover Novi Sad, famous for its citadel; Cluj Napoca, the film capital of Romania, and Sinaia, a lovely ski resort town. Sighisoara is one of Romania's prettiest towns with 11 medieval towers within the city walls, cobblestone streets, ancient houses, and churches. Explore Brasov, a charming Transylvanian town featuring Saxon walls and bastions and an expansive square. Visit Sofia's Boyana Church, a medieval Bulgarian Orthodox church listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Marvel at Peles Castle, a masterpiece of German neo-renaissance architecture built in the 1880s and nestled at the foot of the mountains. It is considered one of the most stunning and romantic European castles. In Bucharest, visit the open-air Village Museum, showcasing traditional village life with a collection of traditional farmhouses, cottages, wind and watermills, and artisans' workshops

from all parts of the country. Last, but not least, visit Bran Castle, built in 1377 with imposing towers and turrets, and once inhabited by Vlad the Impaler—the Count who gave Bran Stoker the inspiration for his novel's character, the vampire known as Dracula. This Balkans and Transylvania tour is designed for value-minded, savvy travel lovers. It's a once-in-a-lifetime vacation!

All This. Included.

The world is within reach with everything you need for perfectly affordable touring. Cosmos includes hand-selected accommodations, guided sightseeing, and seamless transportation between destinations—with value-minded travel lovers in mind. Explore with expert Cosmos Tour Directors and Local Guides, complimentary headsets, private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach with free Wi-Fi. Enhance your free time to explore like a local with your CosmosGO mobile app!

Your Tour Includes:

- Guided sightseeing in Sofia, including Boyana Church, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Guided sightseeing of Belgrade
- Visit to Novi Sad on the Danube River
- Guided sightseeing in Budapest
- Orientation tour of Cluj Napoca
- Orientation tour of Sighisoara
- Visit to Bran Castle, of Dracula legend
- Walking orientation tour of Brasov with visit to the Black Church
- Visit to Sinaia Monastery and Pele's Castle
- Guided sightseeing in Romanian capital of Bucharest

12 4

DAYS

COUNTRIES

 COUNTRIES

Bulgaria
Hungary

Serbia
Romania

 MEALS

Breakfast 11

Dinner 2



Day  Day

Itinerary

.....

1 ARRIVE IN SOFIA, BULGARIA

Check into your hotel. Take advantage of the CosmosGO app to visit Sofia at leisure. In the early evening, meet your Tour Director and travel companions.

2 SOFIA

This morning, join a Local Guide for a city tour that includes the Parliament building, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the National Theater, and St. Sofia Church and Boyana Church, a medieval Bulgarian orthodox church listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase on your tour.

Bulgarian Dinner and Folklore

Enjoy this memorable excursion featuring vivacious Bulgarian folkloric entertainment and a dinner of local specialties!

3h 0m

Price Range: \$\$



3 SOFIA-BELGRADE, SERBIA

An interesting drive today as you leave Bulgaria and cross the border into Serbia. Continue to the lively capital that takes its name Belgrade (white city) from the fortress built on a white ridge overlooking the city.
Today's Distance: 245 mi/ 395 km

 Breakfast

4 **BELGRADE**

Today, discover more about Belgrade on a guided city sightseeing tour to see the main monuments including Novi Beograd, Ada Bridge, Topcider park, Tito's Memorial, Parliament House, Terazije and Kalemegdan Fortress. Enjoy some free time to explore more.

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase on your tour.

Historic Icons of Belgrade: Tesla Museum and The House of Flowers

Discover the vibrant culture, and innovation of Serbia's capital on this unforgettable look at two of Belgrade's iconic landmarks and historic figures: Nikola Tesla and Josip Broz...

3h 0m

Price Range: \$



5 **BELGRADE–NOVI SAD–BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

Stop in Novi Sad, capital of the province, built on the banks of the Danube River and famous for its Petrovaradin Citadel. Enjoy a stroll in the town center. Continue to Budapest, capital of Hungary, split in two by the River Danube. It is a treasure trove of architectural wonders and history. See the best of both Buda and Pest with an optional cruise on the Danube River, with refreshments and refreshing views of the magnificent Parliament, Fishermen's Bastion, and Castle Hill.

Today's Distance: 249 mi/ 400 km

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase on your tour.

Danube Dinner Cruise

Enjoy a dining and sightseeing experience like no other as you cruise along the Danube River while savoring a delightful 3-course dinner and marveling at the beauty of Buda a...

3h 0m

Price Range: \$\$\$



6 BUDAPEST

This morning, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour to discover the highlights of Budapest. Admire views of the Opera House, Saint Stephen's Basilica, Parliament, the Royal Palace, and Matthias Church. Stop to take a photo at Heroes Square and the Castle District. Free time this afternoon and evening to explore more.

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase

on your tour.

Hungarian Cooking Class and Dinner Experience in Budapest

Indulge in a unique culinary adventure during your stay in Budapest! Join us for an exciting cooking class followed by a delightful dinner featuring authentic local specialties.

3h 30m

Price Range: \$\$



7 BUDAPEST–CLUJ NAPOCA, ROMANIA

Drive through the Hungarian countryside, cross the border into Romania and continue to Cluj-Napoca, the film capital of Romania. En-route to the hotel, see some of the city's highlights during a panoramic city tour.

Today's Distance: 292 mi/ 470 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

8 CLUJ NAPOCA-SIGHISOARA-BRASOV

Stop in Sighisoara, a medieval town with 11 towers within the city walls surrounding cobblestone streets, ancient houses, and churches—one of Romania's prettiest towns. Legend says it is also the birthplace of the notorious Vlad who inspired the fictional character of Count Dracula. Continue to Brasov, a lovely medieval town famous for its town square filled with Baroque architecture and outdoor cafés.

Today's Distance: 168 mi/ 270 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

9 BRASOV: EXCURSION TO BRAN

Transylvania is commonly associated with vampires due to the influence of Bram Stoker's 1897 novel Dracula, and all the subsequent books and many films the tale has inspired. This morning, depart for Bran and visit the legendary Dracula castle. It was built in 1377 and inhabited by the Wallachian prince, Vlad the Impaler. In the afternoon, a walking orientation of the Old Town of Brasov includes a visit to the Black Church, followed by leisure time.

Today's Distance: 37mi / 60km

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase on your tour.

Flavors and Traditions of Transylvania

Enjoy a relaxed and flavorful lunch in Râșnov at a traditional Romanian restaurant, where you'll be served a generous platter of authentic local dishes prepared with regional...

3h 0m

Price Range: \$\$



10 BRASOV-SINAIA-BUCHAREST

Travel to Sinaia in the Prahova Valley. This is a lovely ski resort, almost 3,300 feet above sea level. While in Sinaia, there will be time to visit the Sinaia Monastery and Peles Castle, considered to be among the most romantic castles in the world. Continue to beautiful Bucharest with its flower-festooned parks, gardens, and wide boulevards shaded by century-old trees.

Today's Distance: 115 mi/ 185 km

 Breakfast

11 **BUCHAREST**

The highlight of the included sightseeing tour is a visit to the open-air Village Museum, a unique collection of traditional farmhouses, cottages, windmills, watermills, and artisans' workshops from all parts of the country. Your Local Guide will show you other places of interest, including the Government Victoria Palace, the Royal Palace, and the Savings Palace. Take your experience to another level with an optional afternoon visit to the massive site of the Romanian Parliament, known today as "The Peoples 'Palace," once the most extravagant symbol of Romania's communist era under Ceausescu's dictatorship.

 Breakfast

While we include select excursions on your trip, you may wish to explore other options to enhance your free time. Below is a selection of excursions that may be available for purchase on your tour.

Palace of the Parliament, the People's House

Visit Bucharest's colossal Palace of the Parliament--the second-largest and most expensive administrative building, and heaviest building in the world--on this...

2h 0m

Price Range: \$



12 BUCHAREST

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.



Notes



The Bran Castle visit requires guests to navigate many steps which may pose a challenge for those with physical limitations or reliant on mobility devices such as wheelchairs.

Your Local Expert

Tour Director



With Cosmos, there's no better way to get to know your destination than through the eyes of a Tour Director. We'd like you to meet one of our Tour Directors, who average over a decade of experience and are representative of the type of expert that will be with you on your vacation. Please note: This may not be your actual tour director on your tour.



ZSUZSANNA LUKA

Escorting tours for more than 20 years

Traveling, researching the history and culture of new places has always been a passion of mine so when the opportunity arose to become a Tour Director I did not hesitate, and I still enjoy it - sharing my knowledge, passion and experience with guests, doing my best to ensure that their trip exceeds their expectations and becomes a wonderful memory. On tour there are travelers from all around the world, so I also learn a lot from them, broadening my horizon with each tour. It is not easy to choose a favorite country or a favorite tour as there is something unique and delightful in every corner of the world, but perhaps the Balkans and Transylvania are closest to my heart, as they are regions I am closely linked to.

Hand-Picked Hotels



After a day of traveling, you want to relax at a comfortable, clean, and attractive hotel. We select hotels with the best guestrooms (always with a private bathroom), service, and food for the money.

SOFIA

Sofia Budapest Hotel

Budapeshta Street, 92 Sofia Bulgaria



First-Class

 WiFi

undefined

Hotel Amenities

Room Features

BELGRADE

Moxy Belgrade

Njegoseva 2 Belgrade Serbia

 Superior Tourist-Class

 WiFi

Located in the heart of Serbia’s vibrant capital, Moxy Belgrade offers a fresh and contemporary hospitality experience just steps from the city’s main attractions, shopping streets and cultural landmarks. The hotel features stylish guestrooms with smart design, comfortable bedding and modern amenities, creating the perfect base for exploring Belgrade.

Hotel Amenities

- Free WiFi
 - Restaurant On-Site
 - Business Center
 - Luggage Storage
- Fitness Room
 - Bar/Lounge
 - Laundry Available
 - Elevator

Room Features

- In-Room Safe
 - Climate Control
 - Hair Dryer
 - Cable/Satellite
 - Phone
- Air Conditioning
 - Desk
 - Television
 - Internet Access
 - Air Conditioning (Seasonal)

BUDAPEST

Intercity Hotel Budapest

Baross tér 7-8 Budapest Hungary



First-Class



WiFi

Intercity Budapest is a modern hotel just steps away from the city center and everything it has to offer in terms of shopping and entertainment. The onsite restaurant has a modern, bright ambiance and offers a selection of regional specialties and international dishes. All tastefully furnished air-conditioned guestrooms promise homey comfort at the highest level and feature soundproofed windows, flat-screen TV with international channels, work desk, safe, and one free bottle of water. Complimentary high-speed wireless internet access is available throughout the hotel.

Hotel Amenities

- Free WiFi
- Bar/Lounge
- Laundry Available
- Elevator
- Restaurant On-Site
- Business Center
- Luggage Storage

Room Features

- In-Room Safe
- Climate Control
- Desk
- Television
- Complimentary Toiletries
- Phone
- Air Conditioning
- Coffee Maker
- Hair Dryer
- Cable/Satellite
- Internet Access

CLUJ NAPOCA

Golden Tulip Ana Dome

Observatorului Street 129 Cluj-Napoca Romania



First-Class



WiFi

Located only a few minutes away from downtown Cluj-Napoca, the Golden Tulip Ana Dome hotel will impress you with its superb urban view. Close to shopping malls, business centers and recreation areas, Golden Tulip Ana Dome is the perfect choice for leisure or business travel. The newest Golden Tulip Hotel in Cluj-Napoca sets the highest standards of quality and elegance.

Hotel Amenities

- Free WiFi
- Restaurant On-Site
- Business Center
- Laundry Available
- Elevator
- Hot Tub
- Fitness Room
- Bar/Lounge
- Concierge Desk
- Luggage Storage
- Parking/Valet

Room Features

- Mini-Bar
- Alarm Clock
- Climate Control
- Desk
- Television
- Cable/Satellite
- Internet Access
- Voicemail
- Disabled Access / Rooms
- In-Room Safe
- Air Conditioning
- Wake-Up Calls
- Hair Dryer
- Window Opens
- Complimentary Toiletries
- Phone
- Air Conditioning (Seasonal)
- Non-Smoking Rooms

BRASOV

Aro Palace

Bdul Eroilor 27-29 Brasov Romania

 First-Class

 WiFi

Overlooking the Tampa Mountain and the medieval historic quarter of Brasov, the traditional Hotel Aro Palace faces the Central Park. It features spacious and luxurious accommodations and offers Free Wi-Fi internet access throughout. Both Romanian and European cuisine can be savored at the hotel's restaurant and the top floor Belvedere Club offers views over Brasov's Citadel. The hotel also has a Spa & Wellness Center offering various treatments and beauty procedures, a swimming pool, sauna and a gym. bathrobes, All of the soundproofed guestrooms have a private bathroom with complimentary toiletries, a hairdryer, slippers and bathrobes, other amenities include a flat-screen TV with cable channels and a mini-bar. The hotel enjoys a privileged location, right in the heart of Brasov, in the historical downtown.

Hotel Amenities

- Free WiFi
 - Restaurant On-Site
 - Business Center
 - Pool
 - Laundry Available
 - Luggage Storage
- Fitness Room
 - Bar/Lounge
 - Concierge Desk
 - Spa Services
 - ATM
 - Elevator

Room Features

- Room Service
 - In-Room Safe
 - Iron/Ironing Board
 - Hair Dryer
 - Cable/Satellite
 - Internet Access
- Mini-Bar
 - Air Conditioning
 - Desk
 - Television
 - Complimentary Toiletries
 - Phone

BUCHAREST

Ibis Bucharest Politehnica

Splaiul Independentei 313A Bucharest Romania

 Superior Tourist-Class

 WiFi

Ibis Bucharest Politehnica is a modern and vibrant hotel located within easy reach of the city centre, the Palace of Parliament, the Botanical Garden, and the popular AFI Cotroceni shopping centre. The hotel offers 158 contemporary, air-conditioned rooms, all equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV with international channels, minibar, and in-room safe. The hotel also features a lively restaurant serving international cuisine, a bar with outdoor seating area and a 24-hour snack service.

Hotel Amenities

- Free WiFi
 - Bar/Lounge
 - Luggage Storage
- Restaurant On-Site
 - Business Center
 - Elevator

Room Features

- Mini-Bar
 - Air Conditioning
 - Hair Dryer
 - Cable/Satellite
 - Internet Access
 - Air Conditioning (Seasonal)
- In-Room Safe
 - Desk
 - Television
 - Complimentary Toiletries
 - Phone