



LIBERTY ADRIATIC

www.liberty-adriatic.com
www.impact-tourism.net

Head office Slovenia
Dunajska cesta 109, Ljubljana
T: +386 1 232 11 71
E: adriatic@liberty-int.com

Croatia offices
Zagreb: Ilica 92/1; T: +385 91 761 08 85
Dubrovnik: Na Rivi 30a; T: +385 98 188 21 32
E: adriatic-croatia@liberty-int.com

Serbia office
Terazije 45, Belgrade
T: +381 11 334 13 48
E: adriatic-serbia@liberty-int.com

CLASSIC BALKAN TOUR 1

11 days / 10 nights

Discovering Slovenia, the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the charming capital, Ljubljana and head to Slovenia's gem, lake Bled, located in the heart of the Julian Alps
- Check Croatian Split with its remarkable Diocletian palace
- Explore the winding alleys of walled Old town of Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Discover the national park of Montenegrin Durmitor, Unesco World heritage site
- Conclude the tour in Belgrade, the beating heart of Serbia



GENERAL INFORMATION

SLOVENIA

The country of Slovenia lies in the heart of the enlarged Europe. It has a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The capital Ljubljana is a modern, fresh, young, creative and surprising city.

Slovenia, a green and diverse country between the Alps and the Mediterranean, boasts all the beauties of the Old World. When you want to experience Europe in one stroke, come to Slovenia. In just 20,273 square kilometres there are snow-covered mountains, a sea coast bathing in the Mediterranean sun, beautiful karst caves and thermal springs, narrow white-water canyons and wide slow moving rivers, high mountain lakes and lakes that disappear mysteriously underground at the start of summer, ancient villages and medieval cities, the antique castles and modern entertainment, countless vineyards with top quality wines, and the only primeval forest in Europe. Here in this small and easily covered area, where hundreds of birds migrating south make a briefly stop and where dozens of unique indigenous plants find their home, more diverse experiences await you all year round than can be found anywhere else.

CROATIA

Travelling through Croatia, Dalmatia or Dubrovnik Region offers immense and rich experiences to every visitor. From the coastal to the continental parts, Croatia's rich cultural heritage, combined with its magnificent natural beauties, make it the perfect place to spend your vacation at. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, a charming medieval city of exceptional beauty known for its spirit and architecture, with a population of approximately 1 million.

The uniqueness of Croatia lies in its diversity. Situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, Croatia provides visitors with the opportunity to ski in the winter and swim during the summer months, all within driving distance. With its 1,185 islands, islets and reefs, it is the most diverse coast on the Mediterranean.

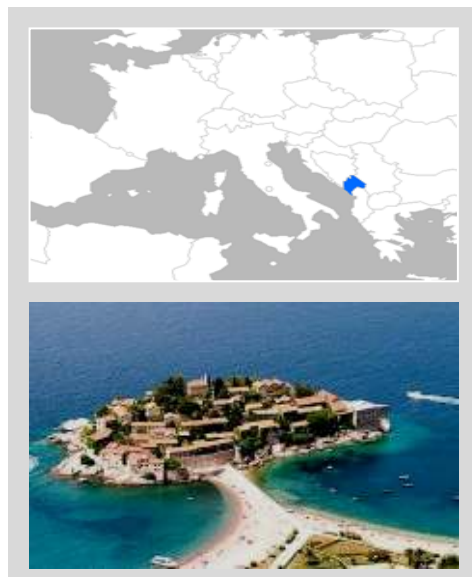
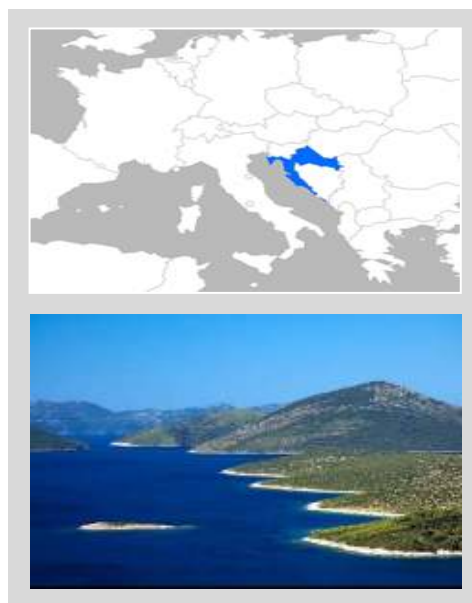
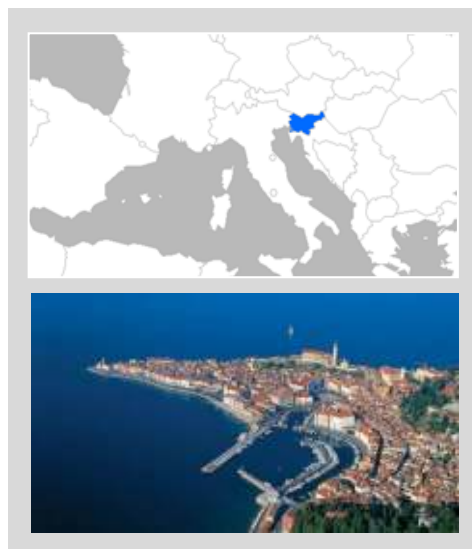
There are seven national parks in Croatia, three being in the mountainous regions (Risnjak, Paklenica and Plitvicka Jezera), and four in the coastal regions (Kornati, Brijuni, Krka and Mljet). To mention a few, Croatia is home to the Old City of Dubrovnik, Diocletian's Palace in Split, Euphrasies Basilica in Porec, and many others. Croatia boasts the largest number of developed settlements in southeast Europe, in addition, many of which date back to Roman and medieval times. Rarely can you find so many examples of cultural and historical significance from different periods in such a small region.

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro is the smallest of ex - Yugoslav republics. It offers wide range of investment possibilities and great geographic diversities which make this country worth visiting and exploring. 293 km of coast with its beautiful beaches and amazing beauty of its unique bay are a total opposite to the lakes, canyons, rivers and high mountains of Inner Montenegro.

It is unique in many ways. It is extremely wild and beautiful. It has it all, small medieval cities on the coast, wild mountains, the biggest lake on the Balkan, the longest and the deepest canyon in Europe, Mediterranean climate and most beautiful fjord in Mediterranean. It has wide range of hotels on the coast and in land and venues that can host up to 1000 participants.

Different cultures have left their traces here. Today in Montenegro one can feel the influence of Venetian, Roman, Byzantine, French and Turkish culture. Moreover, all of that could be experienced in a relatively small distance.

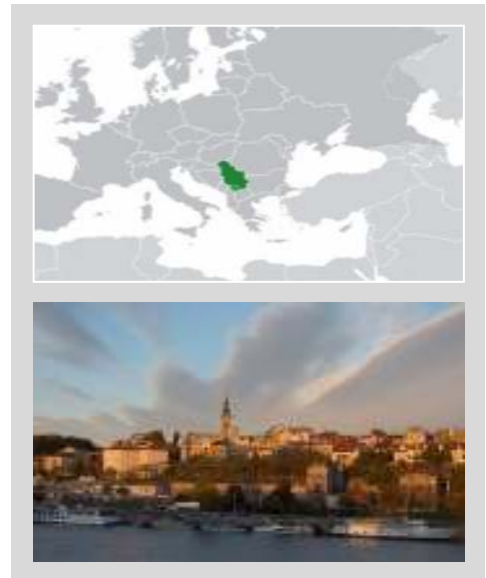


SERBIA

A great variety of beautiful scenery and cultural and historical monuments, curative spas, hunting grounds and fishing areas give the basis for Serbia's tourism. Serbia has connected West with East for centuries – a land in which civilizations, cultures, faiths, climates and landscapes meet and mingle.

It is located in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula, in south-eastern Europe. The northern portion belongs to central Europe, but in terms of geography and climate it is also partly a Mediterranean country. Serbia is landlocked but as a Danube country (its longest river) it is connected to distant seas and oceans. Serbia is a crossroad of Europe and a geopolitically important territory. The international roads and railway lines, which run through the country's river valleys, form the shortest link between Western Europe and the Middle East.

The cultural and historical heritage of Serbia begins with prehistoric archaeological sites and its legacy from classical antiquity. Perhaps its greatest riches, though, are in the many mediaeval Serbian churches and monasteries, some of which are included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Ljubljana airport
Meet and greet at the airport and drive to Bled (25km)
Visit Bled Castle and ride pletna boat to Bled island
Drive to Ljubljana (60km) and check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Ljubljana

BLED – Alpine pearl of Slovenia

The picture-postcard of the Alpine town of Bled was once the preferred choice of the Austro Hungarian Empire's elite. Its many charms include a medieval castle, perched high on a rocky cliff, a scenic lake studded by a tiny wooded island, and the alpine splendour of the nearby Triglav National Park, a natural wonderland of glacial valleys, glittering peaks, Limestone canyons, ice-cold tarns, flowered meadows, Alpine forests, Pretty hamlets and cascading waterfalls. It is a tourist place, surrounded by the wreaths of the Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains, placed in a dish shaped basin of a glacial lake, the warmest in Europe.

LJUBLJANA - a charming mixture of styles of Central Europe

One of Europe's best-kept secrets, the ancient walled city of Ljubljana lies at the very heart of Slovenia and boasts a vibrant history that traces 3,000 years of Roman, Medieval, Baroque and Italian influences. A friendly and cosmopolitan city Ljubljana offers a broad selection of diversions that range from strolling the shimmering reaches of the Ljubljana River to exploring the formal gardens and fortified battlements of the city. There is also wandering the cobbled streets of the Old town and a bright café society to be enjoyed plus plenty of atmospheric bars, a broad range of regional restaurants and a host of cultural events.



DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel
Ljubljana sightseeing tour
Drive to Postojna (60km) and visit the caves
Continue to Piran (50km) for sightseeing and free for lunch
In the afternoon a short stop in Portoroz and return to Ljubljana
Free for dinner
Overnight in Ljubljana

MARVELLOUS POSTOJNA CAVES – the most visited caves in Europe

The Postojna cave system is the largest known cave system in Slovenia. A visit to a cave such as Postojna deserves full attention due to the diversity of shapes, expansive cave areas, stalactite and stalagmite formations and water characteristics. Admire its unique Karst underground world of beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites. You can also see an unusual and rare underground animal Proteus Anguinus - the so-called "human fish". A visit to Postojna cave is a special experience, as an electric train takes visitors to their hour and a half circle tour visit to the cave. From train station inside the cave guides accompany visitors as they walk amongst magnificent creations of nature.



PIRAN - historical gem on Slovenian coast

Piran, a typical Mediterranean town designated by a lovely St. Georges Church and square, named after Piran's most famous citizen - musician Giuseppe Tartini. It is situated at the cape of the Piran peninsula on the Northern side of Istria. The town is actually one large museum with the medieval architecture and rich culture heritage. Narrow streets and tight houses form a special charm of the town. Piran is also an administrative centre of the local area and important Slovenian tourist centre.

PORTOROZ – the Slovenian Monte Carlo

Sea, wind, salt, Mediterranean odours, palms, roses and evergreen plants, relaxation, entertainment and companionship are the words, with which we can easily introduce Portoroz, a seaside resort in the heart of Europe. The intermingling of various cultures and music expressions, nature, culinary delights and turbulent historical events, create an atmosphere, in which the everyday life stress and tensions disappear in a relaxed state of mind. The relaxing stroll on the shoreline, recuperating run on the beach, swimming in the sea and pools, beauty and health programmes in spas or sports and recreational activities, will fill you with new energy. Portoroz is a great departure point for the sailing in the Adriatic.



DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Pleterje (80km) and continue to Kostanjevica on Krka (11km)
Continue to Zagreb (55km) for lunch (not included) and a sightseeing tour
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Zagreb

PLETERJE – open air museum

The Pleterje Open-Air Museum is an important monument of traditional Slovene architecture and the way of life in the 19th century. Here, craft skills, old customs, and folk singing are presented periodically, and especially children will enjoy the farm animals. Pleterje is also known for a Charterhouse which is today the only Carthusian monastery in Slovenia.

KOSTANJEVICA ON KRKA – the oldest city of Dolenjska region

The smallest Slovenian town, situated on the island of the Krka river is a real treasure. The castle – kloster at the bottom of the Opatovac hill boasts with one of the most beautiful courtyards with arcades. Spacious rooms of the castle are home to the Gallery of Slovenian famous painter Bozidar Jakac, while more than 100 wooden sculptures of Forma viva, an international exhibition once held in several places in Slovenia from 1961 to 1988 whereby sculptors worked with materials associated with the area, decorate the former gardens of the monastery.



ZAGREB – the capital and the largest city of Croatia

Zagreb is the capital city of the Republic of Croatia. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now became a centre of commerce and industry as well. Zagreb is also the hub of the business, academic, cultural, artistic and sporting worlds in Croatia. Many famous scientists, artists and athletes come from the city, or work in it. The city boasts a charming medieval 'old city' with architecture and cobbled streets reminiscent of Vienna, Budapest, Prague and other Central-European capitals, though mixed with a strong Italian influence. It can offer its visitors the Baroque atmosphere of the Upper Town, picturesque open-air markets, diverse shopping facilities, an abundant selection of crafts and a choice vernacular cuisine.

Zagreb is a city of green parks and walks, with many places to visit in the beautiful surroundings. In spite of the rapid development of the economy and transportation, it has retained its charm, and a relaxed feeling that makes it a genuinely human city.

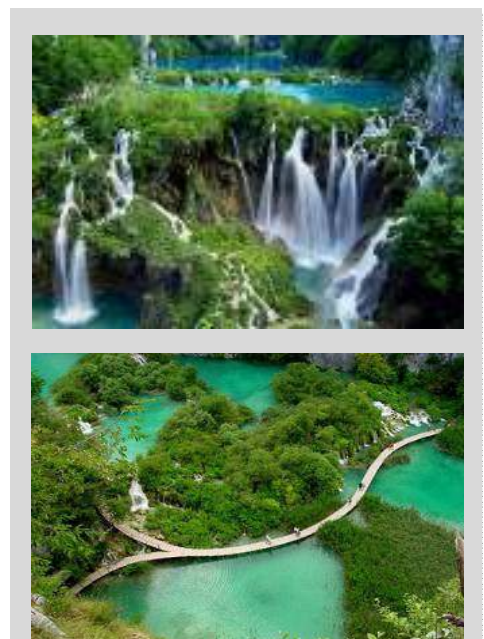


DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Plitvice waterfalls (135km) for a visit and free for lunch
Continue to Split (255km)
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Split

PLITVICE - a misty natural wonderland

Located in a deep mysterious ancient forest known as the "Devil's Garden" between Zagreb and Zadar lies Plitvice Lakes National Park, composed of 19.5 hectares of woods, lakes and waterfalls. Imagine Niagara Falls diced and sprinkled over a heavily forested Grand Canyon. This lush valley of terraced lakes is laced together by waterfalls and miles of pleasant wooden-plank walks. It is one of Croatia's top sights and the oldest national park in Europe, deservedly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. Countless cascades and strangely clear and colourful water make the Plitvice Lakes National Park a misty natural wonderland.



SPLIT – the cultural and economic center of Dalmatia

Split is the largest and most important town in Dalmatia. The town was developed around the palace, which was erected in the 4th century by the Roman Emperor, Diocletian. You can also visit the ancient cellars, Cathedral, Temple of Jupiter and the Golden Gate. The town of Split is situated in the central part of the eastern Adriatic coast and is bordered by the mouths of the small river Ćrnovnica in the Southeast, and the river Jadro in the North. Split offers you its many charms; the pines of the Marjan forest in the Western part of the peninsula, the murmur of the sea and the sound of the Dalmatian song in the stone streets of the city. Split has a very favourable climate characterized by an extremely bright sky with about 2700 sunny hours per year.



DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Split sightseeing tour
Drive to Ston (190km) for a visit and free for lunch
Continue to Dubrovnik (55km)
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Dubrovnik

STON - the second largest defensive walls in the world

In an area known for its rugged natural beauty, few man-made sights are more magnificent than the grizzled fourteenth-century walls of Ston which with the backdrop of the mountainous countryside look scarily like the Great Wall of China. The walls date back to 1334, when the Republic of Dubrovnik gained Ston and the neighbouring Peljesac peninsula, and immediately set about securing it against potential Venetian or Ottoman attack. The area was well worth the investment: the salt pans of Ston went on to become a key source of Dubrovnik's revenue, and helped to keep the republic's fleet on the seas.

Spanning the isthmus that connects the Peljesac peninsula to the mainland, and consisting of 40 towers and 5 fortresses, the walls comprise one of the longest stretches of surviving fortifications in the whole of Europe.

DUBROVNIK – the pearl of the Adriatic

The city of Dubrovnik is situated in the very South of the Republic of Croatia. The particularity and uniqueness of Dubrovnik is in its permanent live connection to its rich past and its cultural heritage, while it keeps vibrantly in pace with contemporary life, echoing its spiritual identity and its presence in the European cultural environment. Dubrovnik, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is rich in cultural and historical monuments.

The most recognizable feature which defines the History of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic are its intact city walls which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in the Europe is the main attraction for the city's visitors. This is a tour which will show you the finest sites of the Old Walled City and will reveal why Dubrovnik is often referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". We will lead you through the streets of the Old Town introducing you to the history and culture of this magnificent city. Other splendid buildings such as Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Church, Sponza Palace will be viewed along the way. You will be able to visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's oldest pharmacy, the Cathedral with its famous Treasury and the Rector's Palace which once used to be the seat of the government in the Dubrovnik Republic.



DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel
A sightseeing tour around Dubrovnik and free for lunch
In the afternoon optional tour to Elaphiti islands or free at leisure
Free for dinner
Overnight in Dubrovnik

ELAPHITI ISLANDS – one of the high points of your visit to Dubrovnik

The Elaphiti Island is a small archipelago consisting of several islands stretching northwest of Dubrovnik. Blessed with lush woodland and white, rocky outcrops that enhance the deep blues and greens of the Adriatic, you will not want to leave! This is one of the most interesting, full-day trips that can be done whilst staying in or around Dubrovnik.

DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kotor (80km) and continue via Lovcen to Podgorica (70km)
Stop for lunch (not included) and a visit
Continue to Kolasin (60km)
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Kolasin

KOTOR – rich medieval monument

Surrounded by mountains ranging from 1,000m to 1,700m high, situated at the eastern tip of Kotor Bay, lies the picturesque city of Kotor. Its city-core is the best preserved of the cities along the Montenegrin coast and it is rich in medieval monuments. The walled medieval city centre with its winding, narrow little streets, squares and small churches, appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Of its religious monuments, the most notable is the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon, dating from the 12th century.

LOVCEN – Montenegrin symbol of pride

Lovcen is a mountain and a national park in south-western Montenegro. It rises from the borders of the Adriatic Basin closing the long and twisting bays of Boka Kotorska and making the hinterland to the coastal town of Kotor. The mountain has two imposing peaks, slopes are rocky, with numerous fissures, pits and deep depressions giving its scenery a specific look. Standing on the border between two completely different natural wholes, the sea and the mainland, Lovcen is under the influence of both climates. The biggest and most important monument of Lovcen national park is Njegos's Mausoleum. The location for his burial place and the mausoleum at the summit of Jezerski vrh was chosen by Njegos himself (Serbian orthodox priest and poet) as his last wish.

PODGORICA – a party city

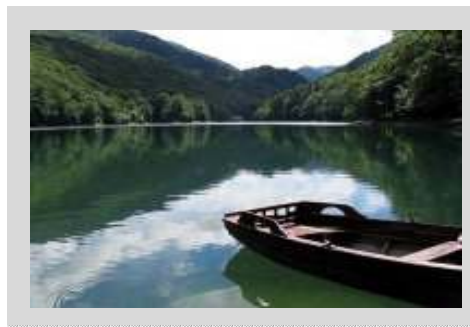
Podgorica is located in the central Montenegro and it is its capital and largest city. Podgorica's favourable position at the confluence of two rivers (Ribnica and Moraca) and the meeting point of the fertile Zeta Plain and Bjelopavlici Valley has encouraged settlement. The city is close to winter ski centres in the north and seaside resorts on the Adriatic Sea. Podgorica is the administrative centre of Montenegro and its economic, cultural and educational focus and has many examples of Turkish architecture. It is home to



three main religious groups: Orthodox Christians, Sunnite Muslims and Catholic Christians.

KOLASIN – wild beauty of Montenegro

Kolasin is a small paradise, pure nature. There are unlimited mountaineering and canyon adventures; you will find nature and adventure, rest and pleasure, with many options for leisure in both winter and summer time. Due to its altitude and favorable climate, Kolasin has also health spa qualities. The area covers the upper courses of the rivers Tara and Moraca, while peaceful mountain lakes lead Bjelasica and riveting canyons.



DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Visit of the mighty Tara canyon (option for rafting)
Free for lunch
Drive to Zlatibor (130km)
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Zlatibor

THE TARA RIVER CANYON – wild and untamed beauty

The Tara River Canyon, also known as the Tara River Gorge is the longest canyon in Montenegro. Its 82 kilometres and 1,300 meters of its deepness make it the deepest river canyon in Europe. The canyon is protected as a part of Tara national park and it is a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Tara River cuts through the canyon and makes it unique by creating significant depths averaging around one thousand meters, and in some places up to one thousand-three hundred meters. It is ranked right behind the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. The Tara River, at its end makes confluence with Piva, becomes the Drina, and is some hundred and fifty kilometres long.

ZLATIBOR – the most beautiful mountain in Serbia

Zlatibor, one of the most visited mountains in Serbia, is Serbian top tourist destination after Belgrade. Zlatibor meaning "golden pine" is a mountain of outstanding beauty with a mild climate, woodland glades, and rich grasslands with mountain brook and pines. This location has been known as a climatic spa due to its favourable environmental conditions numerous sunny days. There is also a large scale of opportunities for active holiday pursuits like walking, bike riding, horseback riding, etc.



DAY 9

Breakfast in the hotel
Full day trip of Sargan eight (operates only from 15th of April until 31st of October) and free for lunch
Return to Zlatibor
Free time for dinner
Overnight in Zlatibor

SARGAN EIGHT STEAM TRAIN

The romantic sound of a steam-powered train going through a beautiful countryside is not the Orient Express Story but our reality. Not far away from the Zlatibor and Tara Mountain there is the Sarganska Osmica, in English called The Figure of Eight of Sargan, which is the narrow railroad shaped as a number eight (osmica). Sargan eight is known as one of the most attractive tourist railways in Europe. It was built in 1925 to connect Belgrade with Sarajevo and Dubrovnik and is today still considered as a technical wonder.

The large elevation change in so short a distance will leave you breathless. Not far away from here is the village of the most famous Serbian film producer Emir Kusturica. The popular film *The Time of Miracles* was shot here.



DAY 10

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Belgrade (230km)
Check-in to a hotel
Lunch (not included) followed by a sightseeing
Free for dinner
Overnight in Belgrade

BELGRADE – a 7,000 years old town

Belgrade is the capital and the "soul" of modern Serbia. Because of its strategic position by the confluence of the Sava and the Danube rivers, where the Panonian Plain meets the Balkans, the city has battled over in 115 wars and was all together destroyed 44 times. Consequently, during its lively history it was inhabited by Celts, Romans, Slavs and then has been a possession of Byzantine, Frankish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ottoman and Serbian rulers. It was a principal city of Ottoman Europe, the capital of Yugoslavia and then a metropolitan capital of Serbian Republic. Today, it is a modern city of about 2 million inhabitants. In Belgrade a visitor can find not only important museums, cultural and historic monuments, but also a rich program of cultural, artistic and sports events.



DAY 11

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Transfer to Belgrade airport for your departure flight

SERVICES

SERVICES INCLUDED:

TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Ljubljana, 1 night in 4*/5* hotel in Zagreb, 1 night in 4*/5* hotel in Split, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Dubrovnik, 1 night in 4*/5* hotel in Kolasin, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Zlatibor, 1 night in 4*/5* hotel in Belgrade

GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour, local guides for visits in Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor and Belgrade

ENTRANCE FEES:

Bled Castle, Pletna boat ride & visit of St. Mary church, Postojna caves, Plitvice lakes, Diocletian cellars and palace in Split, Ston walls, Cathedral, Rector's palace and Franciscan Monastery in Dubrovnik, Kotor, Lovcen mausoleum, Sargan eight tour, Museum 25 may in Belgrade

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Meals unless where specified
- Porterage
- Tips

OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Tour to Elaphiti islands
- Rafting on the Tara River