

Brilliant BALKANS



TRAVEL CLUB
travel without judgement

22 DAYS | 21 NIGHTS

11 MAY - 1 JUNE 2027

HI THERE



CLUBBERS!

G&T'S 'BRILLIANT BALKANS'

THE BEST PARTS OF EUROPE ARE THOSE LESS TRAVELLED

This time G&T are discovering The Balkans. The 11 countries that are considered to make up The Balkans are **Albania**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, **Croatia**, Kosovo, **Montenegro**, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.

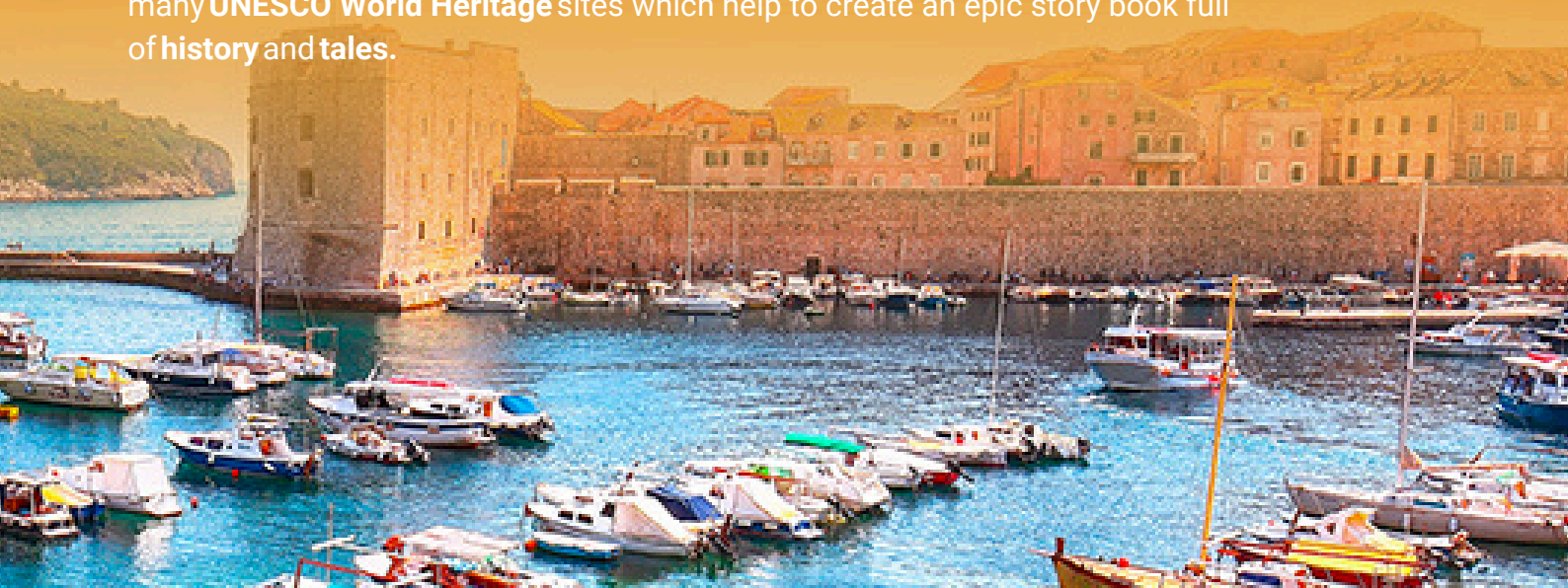
To **get the full experience** G&T have split our time between 3 countries. We have chosen Albania, Montenegro and Croatia in that order as the best combination to collectively visit. All 3 countries have their very **own identity** and **rhythm**, cultural **charm** and **history**. The fact that they share a region makes it very easy to travel between them all with little fuss.


Did you know that Balkanization is the fragmentation of larger sovereign countries or regions into smaller, often ethnically similar, countries or regions.

This **22-day** adventure is a **Premium Luxury Tour** taking advantage of the best located hotels and lodges throughout. **Coastal overnight stops** are seaside with ocean views, Inland overnights are right in the mountainous **countryside**, and **city stops** are right in the middle of the action. There are plenty of old mid-range hotels but our high-end hotels etc are hard to get so we have locked in 13 rooms for G&T Travel Club.

*You can fly into Albania from many European cities or from Istanbul if you are **linking this tour with our 'Timeless Turkey'** Therefore, we are starting in Albania which borders with Montenegro, then Croatia is a short drive around the coast from Montenegro.*

Albania, one of the smallest and least developed countries in Europe, offers a **unique and genuine travel experience**. The Albanian **Riviera** both pristine and unspoilt overlooks the **Adriatic Sea** as the **Albanian Alps** behind link up to make this one jaw-dropping destination. Almost three-quarters of the country is mountainous and amazingly unpopulated. This along with **300 days of sunshine** creates a nature lovers paradise. This little gem has many **UNESCO World Heritage** sites which help to create an epic story book full of **history** and **tales**.





Montenegro has a tranquil calm **Mediterranean** feel which seems confusing as it shares a **Switzerland** like snowy peak backdrop. Places like Perast look like a little chunk of Venice while Boka Bay holds its own as the most southern **European Fjord**.

Montenegro packs most of its jewels into a very small area so you can appreciate the **sweeping gorges** and **cascading waterfalls** all surrounded by **lush forests** and **pristine lakes**. The cuisine is typically southern European with all the **freshness of the 'Med'** along with some traditional **culinary surprises**.

Croatia, where the sunset is much more than just a picture. Much of the **coast faces west** so there are plenty of places where you can enjoy the **unforgettable sunsets**. Some say the most beautiful in the world! **Exceptional local wine** and amazing **gastronomy** will surely entice you to enjoy a meal as the sun sets. **Rich** in cultural and historical heritage the **small medieval towns** with narrow winding streets share a **unique** and **turbulent history**. The national and **cultural treasures** which are visible on almost every corner are revealed by numerous **architectural** works that are on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.

The **Game of Thrones** was filmed in parts of Split and Dubrovnik, two of the better-known **picturesque harbours**, but the **Dalmatian Coast** certainly has many more. The heart shaped islands (over 1200 of them) are dotted all along the coast which is why a **Cruise in Croatia** is the **ultimate experience**. This part of the Adriatic **Sea is crystal clear** and known to be the cleanest and most beautiful in the world. The wonderful, almost **turquoise colour** is so clear you can see the pebbles on the seafloor. This is the **postcard image** of the country.

The **G&T Cruise** will sail through this **exceptional sea archipelago** while having time to **explore** the best of the many islands. Our **7-night cruise** is on a **Luxury Small Ship** with just 18 cabins. This has been on 'our bucket list' for ever! **Careful consideration** was given to get the right ship.

She is a beauty! She offers **modern luxury, comfort** and **space**, along with **Gourmet meals**, prepared with **fresh local ingredients**, this will not just be an **adventure**, but also a **culinary journey**.

This exceptional ship boasts a **sleek design** with spacious, elegantly furnished cabins with air-conditioning and **private ensembles**. The expansive **sun/shade deck**, complete with a **jacuzzi** and plenty of **loungers**, is perfect for you to soak in the **warmth of the sun** while admiring the **stunning Croatian scenery**.

May is the **perfect time** to sail '**The Dalmatian Coast**' as we will be avoiding the flocks of tourists and big cruise ships along with enjoying the **mild comfortable weather**. True **Magic!**

COME ALONG AND JOIN G&T FOR THIS BRILLIANT TOUR OF THE BALKANS.



HOW WE DIFFER

The following are some of the considerations we made, while developing this Balkans programme.

1. G&T always develop an **exciting itinerary** with natural flow to maximise our time and experience. We choose our tour dates with regard for the best possible weather and less crowds. Importance for The Balkans was given to the appreciation of the abundance of natural beauty and **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** but not forgetting the Culture & Lifestyle aspects. The Croatian Cruise portion is designed to indulge in a Small Ship experience and to avoid all those big, overcrowded cruise ships that visit in June/July/August. 'Believe us when we say you need room to move in the small villages'
2. G&T **handpicked superb accommodation** with the concept of **adding to your overall experience**. Several, multi night stops have been added so you'll have time to enjoy the facilities and have time to immerse yourself into the local scene. Our choices were made with consideration of location and proximity to the action, spectacular views, style, feel and facilities, not just a star-rating. As for our Croatian Cruise choice this is on the bucket list for most, so we want it to be the 'Ultimate Experience' for all.
3. G&T always make choices that allow easy access to **excellent food**. Whether it be our daily breakfast or the proximity to great restaurants and cafes nearby. We also like to check that the obvious dietary requirements can be catered for. For the Croatian Cruise portion, we are in port each night with a great selection of excellent restaurants to choose from.
4. **G&T always host every Club Tour**. This gives you something no one else can match. We will be with you the entire time, assisting with your needs and looking after you personally. On top of that we will always employ our own National Tour Guides along with localised city guides to better understand the local areas. Croatian Cruise has a professional English Speaking Captain, Crew and Cruise Director.
5. G&T most importantly make sure that the product is '**Great Value**'. Not necessarily the cheapest but well worth the few extra dollars to ensure an amazing experience! The value will be evident in our chosen hotels, diverse itinerary and Luxury Small Ship.
6. G&T always design a tour program with the Clubbers in mind. The concept of the Club remains the same and that is: Our Club is **invite only and not open to the general public**. Clubbers are always encouraged to bring along their immediate family and or friends as we feel that they too will be a good fit for the G&T Travel Club.

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Day 1 'MIRE SE VINI' - WELCOME TO ALBANIA!

Arrival Airport - Hotel Transfer

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be warmly welcomed by our local team. They will greet you with a friendly smile and ensure you feel right at home. Our team will then guide you to your designated vehicle for your transfer to the hotel.

Once checked in you can relax or go adventuring in your new neighbourhood.

NB: Transfers are included on **Arrival Day (Day 1)** and **Departure Day (Day 22) only!** Outside of this we can help to arrange and cost up transfers separately to meet your flights if required.

Our chosen start and finish hotels are well located for self-exploration with many restaurants and cafes nearby so you can easily extend with pre or post tour nights.

NB: We will have a pre departure meeting in the hotel (**time and place TBA**) so please bring along your tipping kitty cash.

Meals: Breakfast & Welcome Dinner

Overnight: Rogner Hotel (or similar) **Tirana (2 nights)**



Day 2 TIRANA CITY TOUR: A DAY OF CONTRASTS UNCOVERED

After a relaxed breakfast we will start the day with a guided exploration of Tirana, Albania's lively and colourful capital.

We will explore the Albanian capital on foot, including **Skanderbeg Square**, the **Et'hem Bey Mosque**, Italian-era government buildings, the **Pyramid area** and the lively **Bloku district**, once reserved for communist leadership and today one of the city's most popular neighbourhoods.

We will then visit **Bunk'Art 2**, an underground '**Cold War Bunker**' now a museum located near Skanderbeg Square, offering an insightful introduction to **Albania's communist-era history** and secret police system. The bunker vividly recounts Albania's communist past through **immersive exhibits and personal stories**.

Afterwards you will have **free time** to stay longer at the bunker if you wish or for individual exploration of the city.

Return to the hotel or perhaps take a stroll to soak in more of the lively city atmosphere.

You may wish to take advantage of the Hotel pool or book a spa treatment.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Rogner Hotel (or similar) **Tirana**

Day 3 TIRANA - BERAT: THE CITY OF A THOUSAND WINDOWS

This morning after a delicious breakfast we will leave the city behind and head off to Berat.

Today we travel to one of Albania's **most picturesque** and historic cities, set along the banks of the Osum River. Renowned for its **UNESCO World Heritage** listed **Ottoman architecture**, Berat's hillside is dotted with distinctive **whitewashed houses** and stacked facades that reflect light in a way that inspired its nickname, '**The City of a Thousand Windows**'.

Next, we will explore **Berat Castle** and the historic quarters. Climb up to the **magnificent Berat Castle**, a sprawling fortress complex, that dates to the 13th Century and remains partially inhabited by locals today. Enjoy **sweeping views** of the surrounding valleys and mountains. Stroll through the **charming old quarters**, where **cobbled streets, ancient stone bridges**, and traditional homes reveal the deep layers of **Berat's history and culture**. In the late afternoon you can **enjoy some free time** to wander through **Berat's atmospheric Old Town**, discovering hidden cafes, **artisan shops**, or quiet corners perfect for photography.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hotel Colombo (or similar) **Berat**



Day 4 **BERAT - SARANDE:** **SCENIC COASTAL DRIVE** **TO THE ALBANIAN RIVIERA**

Departure this morning will have us driving through the central and **southern Albanian countryside** with ever changing landscapes of hills, farmland and **small villages**. We will then continue along the **coastal road** via the spectacular **Llogara Pass**, where dramatic mountains plunge straight into the sea. **Europe's hidden coastal gem!** The panoramic mountain and **Ionian Sea views are spectacular** so have your cameras handy.

Our **Scenic coastal drive** today will go through **villages like Palermo** where we aim to stop for lunch overlooking Porto Palermo Bay and the historic fortress.

Continue south towards Sarande with additional scenic views along the way.

On arrival in Sarande which is known as '**The Albanian Riviera**' a coastline famed for its natural beauty and **laid-back charm**. We will check in to the hotel for a 2-night stop where you will be free to explore a little, perhaps taking a **stroll along the waterfront** or just simply relaxing.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hotel Butrinti (or similar)
Sarande (2 nights)



Day 5 **EXPLORING BUTRINTI:** **A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME**

Today after a relaxing breakfast we will be exploring the highlights of southern Albania.

First up we visit **Butrinti National Park**, one of Albania's most treasured **archaeological wonders** and one of many **UNESCO World Heritage** sites in this small country. We will wander among the remarkably **preserved ruins** of a city that once stood at the crossroads of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Venetian civilizations. Imagine performances in the ancient **Greek Theatre**, walk through the remnants of **Roman Baths**, and admire the beautiful **Byzantine Basilica** and its **hidden mosaics**. As you explore, you will feel the layers of history unfold under the shade of cypress and olive trees, all surrounded by tranquil lagoon waters.

Next stop will be **Gjirokaster**, also a **UNESCO World Heritage** site. Clinging dramatically to the mountainside, known as the '**City of Stone**' for its characteristic slate-roofed Ottoman houses, Gjirokaster offers an atmospheric blend of history, architecture, and local life. Today you can poke around the village streets and choose a cute cafe for your lunch or **climb up** to the mighty **Gjirokaster Castle**, one of the **largest fortresses in the Balkans**. The sweeping views over the Drino Valley are worth the climb.

Return drive to Sarande for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Overnight: Hotel Butrinti (or similar) **Sarande**



Day 6 SARANDE - KRUJE - SHKODER:

Today after breakfast we start our drive north and this time through inland Albania passing river valleys, mountain scenery and rural countryside as we make our way to Kruje.

Perched dramatically on the slopes of Mount Kruje, this **historic town** was once the stronghold of **Albania's national hero**, Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg. Here, we visit the **Skanderbeg Museum**, housed within the imposing **medieval Kruje Castle**, where tales of Skanderbeg's courageous resistance against the Ottoman Empire come vividly to **life through artifacts and exhibits**. Following, we can wander the **charming old bazaar**, a bustling stretch of cobblestone lined with shops where **local artisans** sell **traditional crafts**, handwoven textiles, **delicate filigree jewellery**, antiques, and souvenirs – maybe pick up **a unique piece of Albania's cultural heritage**.

Continue onto Shkoder and check-in to the hotel. Evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hotel Colosseo and Spa (or similar)
Shkoder



Day 7 SHKODER - MORACA - KOLASIN:

Departing the hotel, we will head off to explore Shkoder, one of the **oldest and most culturally vibrant cities** in Albania. This **northern jewel** has long been a crossroads of cultures, known for its rich history, arts, and **architectural charm**.

We will visit the legendary **Rozafa Castle**, a hilltop fortress steeped in myths and offering **panoramic views** over Lake Shkoder, the Drin River, and the lush surrounding landscapes. The castle's **ancient stone walls** and towers tell **stories of centuries past**, from the Illyrian times and through Venetian and Ottoman periods. After exploring the castle, we will cross the **Montenegrin border** and travel along the scenic old **Moraca Canyon Road**, known for its dramatic mountain landscapes, **deep canyons**.

Along the way (time permitting) we may visit the **Moraca Monastery**, an important 13th Century Serbian Orthodox Monastery beautifully located above the Moraca River.

Arrive in Kolasin, a charming **alpine town** known for its fresh air and **natural beauty** and check in to our alpine retreat. Evening at leisure with some great little local restaurants to try.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hotel Bianca Resort & Spa (or similar)
Kolasin (2 nights)



Day 8

KOLASIN:

BIOGRADSKA GORA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we drive up to **Biogradska Gora National Park**, one of the oldest national parks in Europe and home to one of the continent's last remaining primeval forests.

Enjoy a relaxed walk around **Biogradska Lake** surrounded by dense forest, mountain scenery and peaceful natural landscapes.

NB: *A packed snack may be required this morning as lunch will be a little late today.*

After our morning exercise we will continue with a **scenic 4x4 excursion** towards the 'Mountain Katuns' (a self-governing rural community). Above the national park, we will be passing some forest tracks, meadows and **panoramic viewpoints**.

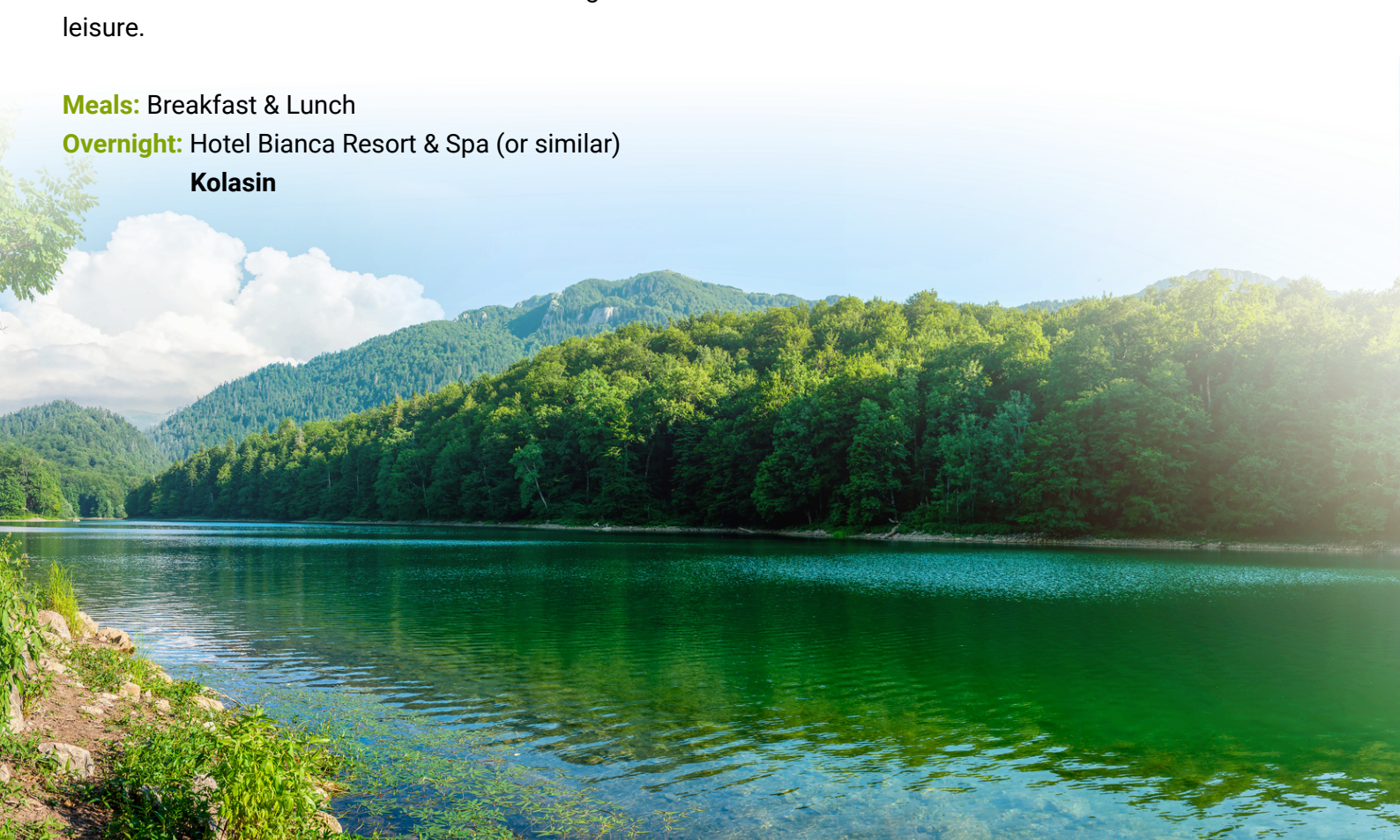
Lunch today will be a real treat as we experience a **traditional lunch at Katun Vranjak**. This katun is in the Bjelasica Mountains and will feature many local Montenegrin specialties all in an authentic mountain setting.

After lunch we return to Kolasin for the evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Overnight: Hotel Bianca Resort & Spa (or similar)

Kolasin





Day 9 KOLASIN - RIJEKA CRNOJEVICA – BUDVA: LAKE TO THE SEA

Today we leave the mountains behind as we make our way back down to the coast. From Kolasin we'll take the new motorway and southern road connection towards the Skadar Lake region.

We will arrive in **Rijeka Crnojevica**, one of Montenegro's most **picturesque riverside villages**, beautifully located on the edge of Skadar Lake.

Today we will take a **boat ride** along the Crnojevica River through the peaceful landscapes of the **Skadar Lake National Park** area, **surrounded by water lilies**, mountains and traditional **stone bridges**.

Lunch today will be in one of the several **local riverside restaurants**.

After lunch we will continue towards the **Adriatic Coast** with scenic viewpoints over the **Budva Riviera** as we descend from the mountains.

Arrival in Budva and check into our hotel.
Evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Avala Resort & Villas (or similar)
Budva (2 nights)



Day 10 BUDVA - LOVCEN - CETINJE - BUDVA

Today after a delicious breakfast we will explore the surrounding region of Budva, starting with a scenic excursion high into the mountains above the Adriatic Coast. We will drive via the 'historic serpentine road' towards **Lovcen National Park** with **panoramic views** over the **Bay of Kotor** and the Montenegrin coastline, with a photo opportunity along the route.

Visit to **Njegos Mausoleum**, one of Montenegro's most important cultural landmarks, located high on Mount Lovcen with spectacular views over the surrounding mountains. The many stairs leading to the Mausoleum are optional and if you prefer, you can sit and enjoy a coffee instead.

After that we continue towards **Cetinje**, the historical royal capital of Montenegro.

NB: Lunch at the local Verige Restaurant is included today.

After lunch we return to Budva for an afternoon at leisure. The **Old Town of Budva** is right on our hotel doorstep so you can simply wander and find a great little spot for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Avala Resort & Villas (or similar) **Budva**





Day 11 **BUDVA - KOTOR - PERAST -
DUBROVNIK:**
LITTLE GEMS OF THE BAY

Depart Budva this morning towards the **Bay of Kotor**. This scenic drive along the coastline has views over the Bay of Kotor.

Enjoy a **guided walking tour** of Kotor's **UNESCO-listed Old Town**, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the Adriatic region. Explore its narrow stone streets, historic squares, and churches while learning about the town's Venetian and maritime heritage.

Continue to Perast, an elegant baroque town located right on the waterfront of the Bay of Kotor. **Short walking tour and free time** for photos. Lunch at a **local waterfront restaurant** in Perast.

Continue along the Bay of Kotor and **cross the border into Croatia** before arriving in Dubrovnik.

Arrival in Dubrovnik and hotel check-in.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hotel Kompas (or similar) **Dubrovnik**



Day 12 START OF 8-DAY DALMATION COAST CRUISE - DUBROVNIK:

Our Small Ship Luxury Cruise starts in Dubrovnik and finishes in Omis/Split and is on one of the newest ships in the fleet. With a total of just 18 cabins (9 on the main deck and 9 on the lower deck), she is one of the most stylish and elegant ships on the sea.

Offering a luxurious and intimate cruise experience as she has all the best facilities and added comforts to enjoy. She even has a jacuzzi on deck to relax in.

NB: We cannot hold all 18 cabins, so we are holding a mixture of main and lower deck cabins (13 in total). It will be as always first in first served for the cabin allocation.

NB: Solo cabin occupancy is costed at almost the total cabin cost so you may wish to bring a friend and share for the cruise portion and remain solo for the land portion. Contact us if you need further details.

Today's program starts with breakfast included at our hotel and then you have free time until our hotel to ship transfer (approximately 2pm). You can store your bags at the hotel during this time.

Once transferred to the ship, you will be allocated your cabin and given some time to freshen up before an **onboard orientation**. Afterwards we have a **guided tour of Old Dubrovnik Town** then free time at leisure to enjoy dinner at your choice of restaurant before transferring (at a time TBA) back to the ship.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 13 SLANO & MALI STON:

Today we will sail to the charming village of Slano. You can relax and enjoy the stunning scenery, as we cruise around Dubrovnik's city walls before heading in the direction of the **Elaphiti islands** for a swim stop.

Afternoon arrival in Slano, a **traditional fisherman's village**, from where we head towards Mali Ston, a sought-after seaside town which is known for its **oyster production**. You will take a small boat out into the **middle of the estuary** and enjoy sampling fresh oysters directly from the sea with a dash of lemon and some **locally produced wine**. This unique experience is often a guest's favourite!

NB: You don't have to enjoy oysters and wine to enjoy this experience.

Return to Slano for a **Welcome Dinner on board the ship**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Welcome dinner

Included Excursion: Oyster farm visit and tasting experience in Mali Ston



Day 14 MLJET NATIONAL PARK & KORCULA:

Today we depart early to visit the **tranquil** and **stunning Mljet National Park**. On arrival, our cruise director will take you for a stroll to **visit the famous salt lakes**, situated in the heart of the park. We **then sail** on to the island of **Korcula**, which is best known as the **birthplace of the famous explorer Marco Polo**. Relax and admire the stunning **secluded bays** on route. We will have a **guided walking** tour of the **charming Old Town**. The picturesque and **fortified town**, ruled by Venetians in the past, has an ingenious layout in the shape of a fishbone.

This evening, **enjoy dinner** on your own in one of **Korcula's many restaurants**.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Included Excursion: Entrance to the Mljet NP & Expert guided tour of Korcula town

Day 15 PAKLENI ISLAND & HVAR:

We depart from Korcula and sail on towards Hvar Island. **Sailing by the beautiful Pakleni island archipelago** which is known for its stunning secluded bays with **crystal clear water**. We will enjoy a swim stop in one of the **peaceful bays** before arriving to Hvar, with an exciting **Hvar family winery tour** planned. The first stop is an opportunity for you to sample some locally produced wines at a very sought-after family winery. **NB:** You don't need to enjoy wine to enjoy this experience. We then continue to the **cosmopolitan town of Hvar**, where you will have **free time to explore** this picturesque town at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Included Excursion: Hvar family winery tour



Day 16 BLUE CAVE & VIS ISLAND:

This morning, we set off from the island of Hvar and head to the **Island of Bisevo**, home to the **magical Blue Cave**. Enjoy an optional guided tour inside this beautiful natural phenomenon and marvel at the **beautiful colours** which will leave you mesmerised. *Please note that entry to the Blue Cave is subject to weather and sea conditions and therefore the entry fee of EUR30pp is payable on the day.*

After our visit to the Blue Cave, we will enjoy a short swim stop before arriving to the island of Vis. **Vis** was once a strategic **Yugoslav naval base** and off limits to visitors. Due to the island's **seclusion and isolation**, Vis has retained a **unique charm** that typifies 'the Mediterranean as it once was'. Enjoy the **afternoon at leisure** exploring the picturesque towns with its **charming seafront cafes** and labyrinth of **quaint streets**.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Optional Excursion: Optional guided tour of the Blue Cave (subject to weather conditions & payable locally)



Day 17 TROGIR:

The charming **medieval town** of Trogir is our next destination today. This **UNESCO World Heritage** listed gem with its **pristine marina** is often compared to a **mini-Venice**. On route to Trogir the **captain will find a secluded spot** for you to enjoy swimming from the back of the ship.

Today you will have a choice of tour:

You can join our **local guide** for a guided tour of Trogir, where our local expert will take you through the **labyrinth of backstreets and medieval alleyways** in this **hidden gem**.

OR

You can hop on a **bus** and join us for a **ride to Split**, where we will meet with our **local guide** for a **walking tour of Split**, a city known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning natural surroundings. This evening you will enjoy dinner on your own in either of the 2 towns.

NB: Today's itinerary will be reflected in our final port allocation. It could be Split or Omis depending on the port authority. This will also determine if the Captain's Dinner is to be tonight or tomorrow night.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Included Excursion: Guided tour of Trogir or a Guided tour of Split.



Day 18 SPLIT OR OMIS:

On the **final day of your cruise**, we make an early departure from the old medieval town of Trogir and **head towards Omis**. On route you will enjoy a refreshing morning swim stop prior to arriving at your destination. Omis is a **picturesque town** located on the central **Dalmatian Coast of Croatia**, where the Cetina River meets the Adriatic Sea. It's known for its **stunning natural beauty**, rich **history**, and charming **atmosphere**. Nestled between **dramatic cliffs** and lush **green landscapes**, Omis is a perfect blend of **rugged coastal terrain** and **tranquil Mediterranean charm**.

In the afternoon you will have **free time to explore the town** at your leisure.

This evening you will enjoy a **Captain's dinner on board** the vessel to celebrate this weeks' journey with your fellow passengers.

NB: If our final port is Split then our guided walking tour of Split will be upon arrival at Split port and not by bus from Trogir.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Captain's Dinner



Day 19

09.00 DISEMBARKATION IN SPLIT OR OMIS - SIBENIK - PLITVICE:

Sadly, today is the end of our **spectacular sailing adventure**. After breakfast we **say goodbye** to our crew and will meet again with our coach, driver and guide. Today we drive onto **Sibenik**, one of the **oldest Croatian towns** on the Adriatic Coast. We will explore the narrow winding streets that connect the stone houses with many staircases as we enjoy a **guided tour** which ends at the **St James Cathedral** which is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage** site. It is the most famous architectural masterpiece of Sibenik. Here along with the Cathedral stands the **renaissance Town Hall** which completes the impressive square. This is probably the most beautiful example of **heritage town planning** in Croatia.



You will have time to have lunch in Sibenik before we depart for **Krka National Park**. The area of the park covers a total of 109 square kms. The purpose of the park is primarily to serve science, culture, education and recreation. Along with the **cascading waterfalls** this is what makes it so **unique**.



We will arrive at our hotel late this afternoon but still with plenty of time to freshen up and enjoy dinner in this excellent hotel on the edge of the forest.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: The Lyra Hotel (or similar) **Plitvice**



Day 20 PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK - ZAGREB:

This morning we head off to see one of the most **spectacular natural wonders** of Croatia. **Plitvice Lakes National Park** is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and it is easy to see why. Upon arrival we will take a short walk over to see the largest of the towering waterfalls from a great vantage point.

After which and enroute to Zagreb (time permitting) we will have a short walk through the town of Rastoke and witness just how the locals do live right next to these flowing waterfalls. **This small, charming village is sometimes called 'Small Plitvice'.**

Zagreb, the capital of Croatia is a city rich in history, culture and **charm**. The backbone of Zagreb is a blend of both medieval and modern side by side and for this reason it does make it a great city to finish our adventure in.

Arriving in Zagreb we will check in at the hotel (if rooms are ready) and then head off on our **City Sights & Foodie Tour**. A culinary sensation that will satisfy your taste buds on every level. We will sample some Croatian specialties as we delve into **Zagreb's rich culinary heritage**.

NB: *Today's foodie tour will certainly be sufficient to cater for both your lunch & dinner so maybe have a snack handy in the coach to tide you over until then.*

Meals: Breakfast & Foodie Tour

Overnight: Amadria Park Hotel Capital (or similar)
Zagreb (2 nights)



Day 21 TRAKOSCAN CASTLE & VARAZDIN: DAY TRIP FROM ZAGREB

A day trip from Zagreb to **Trakoscan Castle** and **Varazdin** offers a perfect blend of history, stunning landscape and charming architecture, making it an ideal day out in northern Croatia.

This morning after breakfast we will head northwest through picturesque countryside which is **famous for medieval castles**, vineyards and **traditional villages**. After passing through this rural region with its small farms and wooden houses we will arrive at the castle, which was originally built in the 13th Century. After its years of defending the border, it became a **noble residence** and later a **Neo-Gothic estate**. Today it houses a museum featuring medieval weaponry, antique furniture, and portraits of the Croatian Nobility. The castle overlooks a lake, and this makes for a great photo opportunity from below.

Continue to Varazdin, once the capital of Croatia in the 18th Century. **This Baroque gem** has several elegant churches, grand boulevards and even its own castle. The city's core is a **well-preserved** masterpiece and a great place to wander to enjoy some lunch. The cobblestoned streets, **pastel-coloured facades** and ambience are **reminiscent of Vienna**.

We will then drive back to Zagreb and relax a little before our final farewell dinner. An evening of celebration surrounded by atmosphere and tradition.

Meals: Breakfast & Farewell Dinner

Overnight: Amadria Park Hotel Capital (or similar)
Zagreb



Day 22

TOUR END & TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

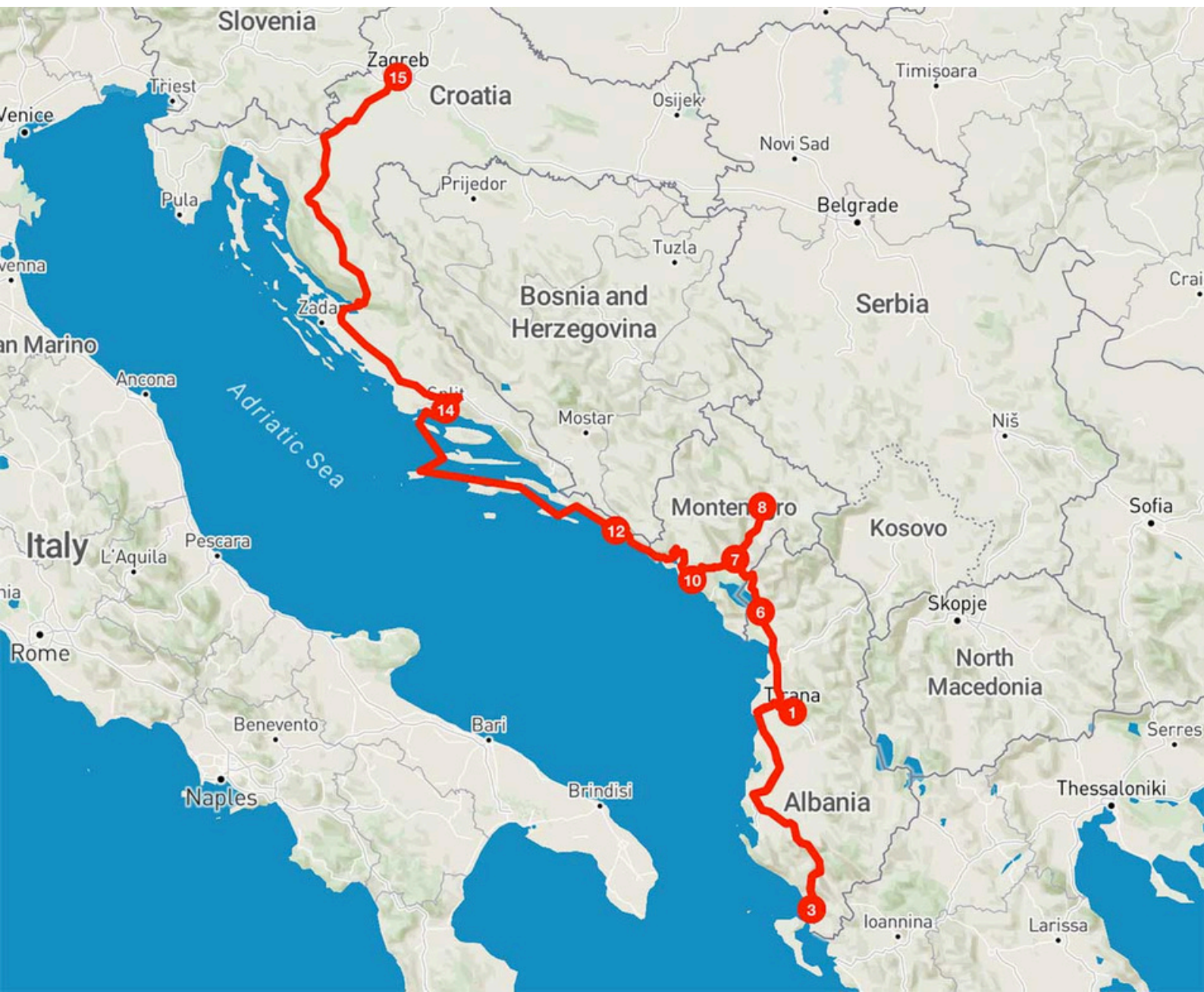
After breakfast you are free until you transfer to the airport. We trust that you will have many **unforgettable memories** and way too many photos to deal with until you get home. We hope you have enjoyed this region and everything it has to offer!

NB: Several Clubbers in 2026 did extend their journey by adding on a few independent extra days. Some in Zagreb and others in Slovenia. With those who added on Slovenia, some drove from Zagreb and some took the train. **SAFE TRAVELS EVERYONE!**

Meals: Breakfast



[CLICK HERE](#) to view interactive tour map online



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'BRILLIANT BALKANS' **Starts in Tirana, Albania** **11 May 2027**
Finishes in Zagreb, Croatia **1 June 2027**

Double or Twin Share **\$16,825.00 AUD per person**
Solo Traveller **\$26,420.00 AUD**

NB: Solo Travellers are charged at almost the full cruise cabin price as you will have cabin to yourself for 7 nights of the tour.

LAND INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in Double/Twin/ or Single rooms
- Breakfast daily in the hotels
- Lunches and dinners as indicated in the program
- Modern A/C touring minibus or larger coach depending on the group size
- English speaking escort/guide
- Local guides where required
- Entrance fees to all mentioned monuments/sites

CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

- Cruise Dubrovnik to Trogir with transfers to and from the ship
- Dubrovnik Old Town for sightseeing
- Welcome reception
- Daily buffet breakfast and an abundant of fresh fruit daily
- Lunches are a set 3 course with Fresh Salad & Cheese Bar & tea and coffee
- Captain's dinner with live entertainment
- Water available onboard as you require
- Daily cabin service and towel change
- Midweek bed linen change
- Luggage handling
- Half-day excursion to Ston Oyster Farm visit and tasting
- Mljet National Park entrance fee and sightseeing
- Professional Crew & Tour Manager
- Gools and Thommo as your hosts



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LAND EXCLUSIONS:

- Travel Insurance and visas (Compulsory)
- Expenses of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, snacks, laundry, etc.
- Any additional optional activities you may wish to add on.
- Staff and Crew Gratuities
- NB: Prices are subject to change if there are any government tax increases on hotels & transportation or any increases in included monument entry fees.

CRUISE EXCLUSIONS:

- Entrance to Blue Cave (as it is weather permitting APPROX Euro 30 per person)
- Croatian Port Taxes Euro 70 per person to pay locally for the entire cruise
- Any additional optional tours not included in the itinerary
- Any meals and drinks not included in the itinerary
- Crew Gratuities
- NB: Prices are subject to change if there are any government tax increases on hotels & transportation or any increases in included monument entry fees.

NOTE: Itinerary may change due to port conditions/availability and the decision made by your captain.

Note: *Tipping in The Balkans is customary. We have found from experience that the best way to deal with this is to generate a 'tips kitty' which takes away the guess work and the need for constant small change which can be embarrassing. Please budget Euro €275 cash for this kitty. Small denominations are best. Please have this cash ready for collection at our pre departure meeting on day 1.*

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR DEVALUATION REPRICE CLAUSE

G&T price our tours on a very narrow margin to give you, our clubbers, the best possible value for money.

In the event of a major currency fluctuation/devaluation, we reserve the right to recalculate the price until the final payment due date. If AUD / EURO rate drops below AUD 1.00 = EURO 0.55, we reserve the right to reprice the tour.

Note: This EURO 'trigger rate' of AUD 1.00 = EURO 0.55 is not the 'official rate' you see advertised by the bank, but our 'buy' rate when we purchase the currency through our bank which is the National Australia Bank (NAB).



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G&T NUTS AND BOLTS:

We are not a Tour Company, we are a Travel Club. This means this tour is not open to the general public at all. This invitation is only for those of you who have travelled with us before and extended to your family and friends.

GROUP SIZE

We do require a minimum of 10 guests on each tour to guarantee the departures.

Many of our chosen accommodations are in highly sort after locations and we have a maximum of 13 rooms/cabins blocked for us. This means, as we secure single room occupancy for our solo travellers our group sizes will decrease as we fill our maximum 13 rooms/cabins.

NB: Group size will then be a maximum of 18-20 guests on each tour

NB: Our average group size historically has been 13-16, depending on the number of solo travellers.

NB: For the Cruise Portion the tour is costed on Main Deck Cabins

NB: For our Solo Clubbers a '**SOLO Cabin**' is almost the full cost of the TWIN/DBL cabin Please ask if you wish for us to find a travel buddy to share the Cruise portion with.

