



**EXETER**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Balkan Trilogy**

**Belgrade, Sarajevo, Mostar &  
Dubrovnik**







### Itinerary at a Glance:

Day 1	April 24	Arrival into Belgrade
Day 2	April 25	Belgrade
Day 3	April 26	Belgrade – Kovačica – Belgrade
Day 4	April 27	Belgrade – Sarajevo
Day 5	April 28	Sarajevo
Day 6	April 29	Sarajevo
Day 7	April 30	Sarajevo – Mostar – Dubrovnik
Day 8	May 1	Dubrovnik
Day 9	May 2	Dubrovnik
Day 10	May 3	Departure

## Why Exeter International?

At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting our trademark extraordinary journeys to Central Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, and Central Asia for 25 years. Our specialty is to distill the best of the best in iconic places that are on so many people's travel must-do list.

We are not a call center of nameless, faceless people. We do not try to be everything to everyone. We are a small team of specialists. We are all committed to providing the best travel experiences to our destinations. Each member of our team has travelled extensively throughout our destinations, giving them insider knowledge lacking in many other tour operators.

Our Extraordinary Experiences are different, unusual, and often closed to the general public. We can offer special insider access that takes you beyond the typical tourist sites. We know how important it is to remain authentic and increasingly going beyond the well-known sites is what is important to our guests—discovering the little-known museum or street market that adds to their experience. We do this through our local knowledge, cultivating our extensive contacts and regularly visiting each destination to enable us to share the most up-to-date insider information with you, our valued partner.

The most important part of your trip will be your guides. Guides come in many quality levels, especially in our part of the world. We have worked with a core group of the best of the best for over 20 years. We know them like family and if they weren't the best, they wouldn't work for us. Simply stated, a guide can make or break your experience. You should have 100% confidence in who is introducing you to your guide and the level of guiding that you are going to get throughout the countries you will be visiting. The best does indeed cost more and we pay our guides at the very top of the market, with pride.

You'll also want to know what kind of vehicle your tour will include. We use luxury late-model vehicles, often Mercedes, Audi, BMW, or Volkswagen, depending on the size of the vehicle you need. You'll want to see things that may or may not be open to the public and go in early or after hours before the crowds whenever possible. We also make every effort to skip lines whenever possible. Avoiding long museum lines is one of our top priorities and we work hard to minimize the wait time to get into the most popular sights in each city, maximizing your time in each destination.

You'll want impeccable planning and someone to bounce ideas off before your trip and speak English as well as you do while planning your trip so there are no cultural misunderstandings when you arrive. You'll also want someone to talk to if your trip is not perfect when you get home. These are all ways that we distinguish ourselves from all other companies.

A lot goes into our travel program design. We arrange the program so that it is flawless and effortless for our travelers from the time they set foot in the first city until they leave us. The expertise to set up an itinerary like this comes after years of investing in staff on both sides of the Atlantic, and this too is a value that is incorporated into our traveler's trips with us.

## Overview

See the highlights of this politically complex and culturally fascinating region.

Belgrade has always been at the crossroads of empires and played a central role in history: Ottoman to the East, Austro-Hungarian to the West, Russian to the North. These varied empires have left their mark, which is what makes Belgrade a fascinating and vibrant capital with bustling streets filled with varied architecture—from Austro-Hungarian grandeur, to eye-catching Modernism, Brutalism, and Art Nouveau—museums, galleries, restaurants, and nightlife.

Sarajevo is truly a melting pot of Eastern and Western cultures. Founded in the 15th century by the Ottoman Turks, and given to the Habsburg Empire in 1878, Bosnia became an outpost of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result, the city has two distinct parts: one Ottoman and one European. Although settlement on this site existed since prehistoric times, the modern city arose as an Ottoman stronghold in the 15th century. In 1914, it was here that the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie were assassinated, an event which sparked World War I. Seventy years later it became the host city of the 1984 Winter Olympics. More recently, Sarajevo underwent the longest siege in modern military history during the Bosnian war.

Mostar and its famous landmark, the Old Bridge, were destroyed in the last Bosnian War but then were completely restored. Mostar is the capital of Herzegovina and has a very charming Old Town located on the banks of the Neretva River and numerous examples of Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian architecture.

End in Dubrovnik, described as paradise on earth by George Bernard Shaw and famously christened the “Pearl of the Adriatic” by Lord Byron. This historic UNESCO World Heritage site has influences ranging from Venetian and Spanish to Roman and Genoese.

## Day 1



## Belgrade

Your private driver will greet you outside of customs for your private transfer to the Square 9 Hotel.

Our journey begins in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. The city lies on the confluence of two powerful rivers, the Sava and the Danube. The site of the city was settled in the 3rd century BC by the Celts before becoming a Roman settlement. The Slavic name Beligrad (literally meaning White City) was first recorded in 878 AD. Belgrade first became the capital of the Serbian Kingdom in the 13th century, and the Ottoman Turks ruled from the 14th century to the mid-19th century. After World War I, it was the capital of Yugoslavia from 1918 until 2006.

This evening we suggest you enjoy dinner in the charming district of Zemun on the banks of the rivers Danube and Sava.

### **Exeter Services**

Airport Transfers

### **Hotel**

Square 9 Hotel



## Day 2



## Belgrade

This morning you will meet your guide and journey through some of the more recent history of the city, starting with a visit to the temple of Saint Sava. Built in 1825, this Serbian Orthodox cathedral is the largest Orthodox Church in use in the world and one of the symbols of Belgrade.

Later enjoy a visit to the Royal Palace complex. There are two palaces: the Royal Palace, built in the Serbian-Byzantium style in the 1920s, and the White Palace, built a decade later. The Royal Palace is unique as it is the residence of the Royal Family HRH Crown Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine. During the Socialist period both palaces were closed to visitors and were used by Tito to entertain visiting dignitaries.

Before lunch visit the Museum of Yugoslavia, which is the best place to learn about Josip Broz Tito's rule and the history of Yugoslavia under his leadership. The museum is on the grounds of Tito's main Belgrade residence where he wanted to be buried and includes his mausoleum.

A beautiful spot for lunch is Kalemegdan Park, close to the Belgrade Fortress which was strategically built at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. The oldest historical center of Belgrade, dating back to the 1st century, the fortress is one of the most beautiful natural lookouts in the city and consists of an Upper and a Lower town.

After lunch visit the fortress and enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town (Stari Grad) which features some fine examples of neo-Renaissance (the School of Fine Arts), Art Nouveau (the Academy of Arts and Sciences), and neo-Baroque (the Krsmanovic House) architecture.

The remainder of your evening is at leisure.

### Exeter Services

Guide (8 Hours); Vehicle & Driver (6 Hours); Lunch

### Hotel

Square 9 Hotel

## Day 3



### Belgrade – Kovačica – Belgrade

This morning drive to Kovačica, 35 miles from Belgrade. This area of the countryside has been a Slovakian enclave since 1802. Today we will meet some of the artists at the Gallery of Naïve Arts. The gallery was established in 1955 by self-taught artists, 18 of which remain. They are all in their late 70s and 80s and still paint prolifically. Today their main purpose is to pass down and preserve the tradition of Naïve painting to the next generation.

Unmissable is a visit to the workshop of a master violin maker and restorer. Jan's son and granddaughter both have learned this artisanal skill, and it is wonderful to hear their story.

We suggest you have lunch in a charming, local country restaurant before returning to the city center.

Later this afternoon tour the National Museum. Housed over three floors of a neoclassical former bank building on Republic Square, the museum has a 400,000-piece collection. The museum was closed for 15 years and has just re-opened. The first floor covers prehistory and classical antiquity, as well as an abundance of Roman material (18 emperors, including Constantine the Great, were born in what is now Serbia). The second floor has a collection of Byzantine Serbian exhibits, and the top floor is devoted to paintings with a focus on Yugoslav and European art. The Impressionist collection is impressive, with works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, and Cézanne.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

#### **Exeter Services**

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours); Evening Transfers

#### **Hotel**

Square 9 Hotel





## Day 4

### Belgrade – Sarajevo

This morning, check-out of our hotel and depart for Sarajevo. Prior to departure to Sarajevo visit the Museum of Contemporary Art. This stunning modernist building, located in Usce Park in New Belgrade, contains more than 8,000 works. It was first opened in 1965. The building consists of six jutting concrete cubes that seem to float on top of glass walls. Inside, the five-story space is filled with light. The collection includes important Yugoslav works from the 20th and 21st century.

Transfer to the airport for our short flight to Sarajevo with Air Serbia at **1:50PM**, arriving in Sarajevo at **2:45PM**, where we will transfer to the Swissotel Sarajevo which offers panoramic views of the city.

#### Exeter Services

Guide in Belgrade & Sarajevo; Airport Transfers

#### Hotel

Swissotel Sarajevo



## Day 5



## Sarajevo

This morning you will meet your guide to start exploring the city. First, visit the magnificent city hall, *Vijećnica*, which was built under Habsburg rule in the Moorish style, for a private after-hours tour. The building was destroyed during the Balkan War and has been completely restored.

The compact Old Town makes for an easy and enjoyable exploration on foot, and the Ferhadija pedestrian street is lined with architectural monuments, cafes, and shops. You will also see the Moraca Han, a caravanserai which once provided accommodations, meals, storage, and stables for merchants and travelers. It has now been renovated and houses a courtyard surrounded by several restaurants, cafes, and shops. It is also mainly along the Ferhadija Street that you will notice some of the Sarajevo roses: marks of mortar shell explosions on the pavements, many of which have been filled in with red paint or resin and accompanied by plaques with the names of the victims of the particular explosion.

Stroll along the Miljacka River and see the bridges built during Ottoman times. One of these, the elegant stone Latin Bridge, is where the Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip shot and killed Franz Ferdinand and his wife. Nowadays, a plaque commemorates the place of the assassination, and a small museum stands on the northern bank of the river.

You may also want to visit the Jewish Museum, housed in the oldest synagogue in the region, before some free time for lunch and exploration of the old town independently.

After lunch visit Svrzo's House, a typical home from 18th century Ottoman times.

Later this afternoon visit the National Museum, which is close to your hotel and where the highlight is the Sarajevo Haggadah.

This evening is at your leisure.

### Exeter Services

Guide (8 Hours); Vehicle & Driver (4 Hours)

### Hotel

Swissotel Sarajevo

## Day 6



## Sarajevo

This morning visit the extraordinary War Childhood Museum, recipient of the 2018 Council of Europe Museum Prize. The museum came into being after its founder, a child during the conflict, asked other children that survived the war to explain what the war meant to them. It is a powerful, nuanced, and very moving experience that will be impossible to forget.

We will then transfer to the Sarajevo cable car for a ride to the mountains for some panoramic views of the city.

Enjoy the rest of your afternoon at leisure.

### **Exeter Services**

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (3 Hours)

### **Hotel**

Swissotel Sarajevo



## Day 7



### Sarajevo – Mostar – Dubrovnik

This morning check out and drive to Dubrovnik via Mostar, the unofficial capital of Herzegovina, which is situated on the Neretva River and is the fifth-largest city in the country. It also has a micro-climate and is usually significantly warmer than Sarajevo!

Mostar was named after its famous UNESCO-protected Old Bridge (*Stari Most*) and the towers on its sides, known as the 'bridge keepers' (*mostari*). Before its destruction during the Bosnian war in 1993, people from around the world used to come to see the 500-year-old bridge, a trend which now continues after it was rebuilt in 2004 and again connects the banks of the Neretva River.

Upon arrival, your guide will meet you for an overview walking tour of Mostar's Old Town. Walking along the Old Bridge, we will enter Mostar's cobbled Ottoman Quarter, which still houses the shops of many local artists and craftsmen, as well as beautiful 16th-century mosques, museums, and cafes. It is believed that before the Ottomans occupied this region in the 15th century, Mostar was only a small settlement with a suspension bridge over the river.

Enjoy a late lunch before continuing your journey to Dubrovnik, where you will check in to the Excelsior Hotel for an evening at leisure.

#### **Exeter Services**

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

#### **Hotel**

Excelsior

## Day 8



## Dubrovnik

This morning, your guide will meet you for an overview walking tour of the historic center of Dubrovnik, which is a UNESCO Heritage site. After a short stroll from your hotel, we will start at the Ploce Gate (East Gate), one of the two extremities of the walled city. As we descend the stone steps of the fortification, we will see the old Harbor Front of the city overlooking the Adriatic and the islands off the coast. As you continue, you will come to Dubrovnik's Main Square of the Loggia Loza, situated at the eastern extremity of the Stradun, which runs through the walled city from East to West. The square is at the heart of Dubrovnik and is surrounded by its most important buildings.

Step into the Rector's Palace - the Rector was the highest authority in the city and his palace now houses the Museum of Dubrovnik. Over 15,000 works are on display documenting the economic and cultural history of the city. Next door to the Rector's Palace is the ancient town hall, which today houses the National Theater of Dubrovnik.

Today you will also see the Dubrovnik Cathedral and its treasury, famous for its ancient relics including a fragment of the 'true cross' on which it is believed that Jesus was crucified. The treasury also houses a collection of gold and silver artifacts and sacred objects. It is believed that the English King Richard the Lionheart was shipwrecked nearby on his return from the Third Crusade, so he built the original cathedral on this spot to thank God for his salvation. This old Romanesque cathedral was unfortunately destroyed in an earthquake four centuries later and the current cathedral was erected in the Roman Baroque style.

After your tour, you will have some free time to explore on your own and the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

**Exeter Services**  
Guide (4 Hours)

**Hotel**  
Excelsior



## Day 9



## Dubrovnik

### ***Private Oyster Tasting***

This morning, depart Dubrovnik at around **11AM** for the Peljesac peninsula, which, similar to other coastal settlements, was first colonized by the Greeks, later by the Romans and Byzantines, and in the Middle Ages often changed hands between the Venetian and Ragusan Republics. The peninsula is known for its fine vineyards and the best oysters in Dalmatia, farmed in the town of Ston.

Upon arrival in Ston, enjoy a 45-minute private boat tour to the oyster banks and see how these rare oysters and mussels are being cultivated in the region. You will then join the oyster farmer on his private island. For lunch you will have an oyster tasting and a light lunch of local specialties, along with local wine.

### ***Private Wine Tasting***

After lunch continue to the Milos winery for a wine tasting. This family winery has 15 hectares of vineyards in the finest locations on the Peljesac peninsula. The vineyards have been planted on sandy soil formed on the dolomite rocks. Frano Milos produces 5 different wines: quality red Plavac Mali, premium red Stagnum, rosé, semi-sweet, and sweet wine, all made of Plavac mali grapes. The Milos family grows their grapes 100% organically. They don't use any pesticides or other chemicals.

Return to Dubrovnik at approximately **4:30PM**.

### **Exeter Services**

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours); Lunch

### **Hotel**

Excelsior

Day 10



## Departure

Departure transfer for your onward flight.

**Exeter Services**  
Airport Transfer



## What's Included



### Accommodations

#### **Belgrade**

**Three (3) nights at the Square 9 Hotel;** tax and breakfast included.

Set in the heart of Belgrade, in walking distance of the fortress, National Theater and National Museum, The Square Nine Hotel is Belgrade's best hotel. With just 45 rooms, the hotel, rooms are spacious, unpretentiously elegant and peaceful, with sound-proof windows ensuring complete comfort and serenity in the midst of the busy capital city.

#### **Sarajevo**

**Three (3) nights at the Swissotel;** tax and breakfast included.

Recently opened in 2018, the Swissotel is a short drive, or a brisk 25-minute walk from the old town and offers spacious comfortable and stylish rooms with panoramic views over the city, and, an excellent spa. Service is world-class and the hotel is smoke free. Several hotels in Sarajevo are alcohol free, and this is one of them.

#### **Dubrovnik**

**Three (3) nights at the Excelsior Hotel;** tax and breakfast included.

Hotel Excelsior is a luxury 5-star beachfront hotel. With a total of 158 rooms and suites, the hotel is located just a few steps from the Dubrovnik Old Town and overlooks the Adriatic Sea. First opened in 1913, the hotel was completely refurbished and renovated in 2018. Hotel Excelsior is the closest cliff-side hotel to the Old Town, and many rooms offer superb views of the Adriatic and the quintessential view of Old Town Dubrovnik.

### Meals

Breakfast included daily. Lunches and dinners included as noted above. Your final documents will include our top recommendations, and we will make all necessary reservations. *Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.*

### Gratuities

Gratuities are included in your tour price. Any additional gratuities are at your discretion.

## Services

Private vehicle, driver and guide at your service as described. The timing for each day is noted in your program.

Exeter International's local offices are available for your assistance 24 hours per day while you are traveling. Our local staff may also assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater and museum tickets at your request.

## Transportation

Transportation is included as noted. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have limited English-speaking skills. Timing for each day is noted in your program.

## Guides

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art, and architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

## Tickets

All entrance tickets as described in the program.

## Exeter International Travel Information

### BAGGAGE

The vehicles reserved for your itinerary can accommodate up to two medium-sized suitcases per person. If you intend to travel with additional luggage, please advise your travel consultant so appropriate arrangements may be made. In general, we schedule a sedan for parties of two, a minivan for parties of three to four, and a minibus for parties of five or more.

### SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

### OPTIONAL EXPENSES

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

### SMOKING

Please be aware that Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina are countries that both continue to allow smoking inside restaurants and hotels.

Every meal that we pre-arrange is requested in a private and smoke free area, however we cannot guarantee a completely smoke free environment throughout this tour.

In Belgrade, the Square 9 hotel allows smoking in their restaurant at lunch and dinner. Rooms are non-smoking, as is breakfast.



In Sarajevo, the Swissotel is a completely smoke-free hotel.

All restaurants that we will be using in Belgrade and Sarajevo allow smoking in part of their spaces, however, the areas we will be using will be non-smoking.

Smoking is not allowed inside in Croatia but is allowed in restaurants and bars outside.

## CURRENCY

Please note that Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia have three separate currencies and do not accept US dollars and Euros. The majority of places do accept cards; however, we would strongly advise that you do take out some local currency in each destination for small transactions, such as coffees, gratui in restaurants (all Guide gratuities are included in your trip cost) and individual ad hoc purchases. There are ATMs widely available in each location.

The currencies are:

Serbia: Dinar

Bosnia - Herzegovina: KM (convertible Mark)

Croatia: Kuna

## Booking Conditions

### PAYMENTS

Exeter International must receive a deposit of 25% of the total program cost before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. **No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received.** Availability and pricing are subject to change until this deposit is received. **All deposits are nonrefundable.**

### CANCELLATION

Written cancellations received fewer than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost:

- 59–14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost

### REFUNDS

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

### INSURANCE

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

### PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in U.S. Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2019. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs, and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. **Exeter International does not breakdown costs involved in any Small Group or Individual Travel Program.**

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change, if necessary, until paid in full.*

**Exeter International**

[www.exeterinternational.com](http://www.exeterinternational.com)

111 South Dakota Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33606  
Phone: 813 251 5355 | 800 633 1008 | Fax: 813 251 6685