

Balkan Trilogy Founder's Trip Belgrade, Sarajevo, Mostar & Dubrovnik





ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

DAY 1	MAY 9	Arrival into Belgrade
DAY 2	MAY 10	Belgrade
DAY 3	MAY 11	Belgrade - Kovacica - Belgrade
DAY 4	MAY 12	Belgrade to Sarajevo
DAY 5	MAY 13	Sarajevo
DAY 6	MAY 14	Sarajevo
DAY 7	MAY 15	Sarajevo - Mostar - Dubrovnik
DAY 8	MAY 16	Dubrovnik
DAY 9	MAY 17	Dubrovnik
DAY 10	MAY 18	Departure from Dubrovnik

Why Exeter International?

Our experience

At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting custom-designed journeys since 1993. We are a team of specialists committed to providing the best travel experiences in our destinations. Each of our experts has either traveled extensively on reconnaissance trips, or has lived in their area of expertise, giving us unparalleled first-hand knowledge. Because we focus on specific parts of the globe, we return to the same destinations many times, honing our experience over the years.

Knowledgeable up-to-the-minute local information

We are best placed to give you advice about traveling to Europe and beyond; from logistics and new protocols in museums, hotels and restaurants in each country. We are here to expertly guide you through the new normal in travel.

Original custom programs, meticulously planned

Our experts speak your language both literally and culturally. Our advice and recommendations are impartial, honest, and always have the individual in mind. We save valuable time in pre-trip research and focus on developing experiences that enrich and enhance your experience. Once on your journey you will have complete peace of mind with our local 24-hour contact person who is on hand to coordinate any changes in your program or help you in the case of any emergency.

Hand-selected guides

We know that guides are one of the most important components of any travel experience. That is why we only use local experts who have a history of working with our guests and whom we know personally. We are extremely particular in selecting our guides and are confident that they will be one of the most memorable aspects of any of our trips.

Day 1 - Friday, May 9



Arrival into Belgrade

Individual arrivals into Belgrade. Your private driver will greet you outside of customs for your private transfer to the St.Regis 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.

Private Boat Tour on the Sava & Danube Rivers

We will meet in the lobby at 5:30PM and will enjoy a boat tour along the Sava and Danube rivers before dinner at one of Belgrade's best restaurants in the charming district of Zemun.

EXETER SERVICES: Airport Transfers; Private Boat Tour; Dinner

HOTEL: St.Regis

Day 2 - Saturday, May 10



Belgrade

Curator Led Tour of the National Museum

Today we will have a curator-led tour at 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.

Lunch will be in Kalemegdan Park, close to the Belgrade Fortress.

After the lunch, we will visit the fortress and enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town.

EXETER SERVICES:

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

HOTEL:

St.Regis

Day 3 - Sunday, May 11



Belgrade - Kovacica - Belgrade

This morning, we will have a curator-led tour of 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 centuries.

After a casual lunch in a charming local restaurant, we will drive to Kovacica, 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 whom 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.

Later, we will visit 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.

EXETER SERVICES: Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours); Lunch

HOTEL: St.Regis

Day 4 - Monday, May 12



Belgrade to Sarajevo

This morning, we will check out of our hotel and depart for Sarajevo. Before departure, we will have a Private tour of 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.

We will then transfer to the airport for our short flight to Sarajevo, where we will transfer to the Swissotel Sarajevo which offers panoramic views of the city. The cost of the flight is included in the program.

Tonight, we will enjoy a traditional Bosnian dinner to officially welcome us to the city!

EXETER SERVICES: Guide in Belgrade; Airport Transfers; Dinner

HOTEL: Swissotel Sarajevo

Day 5 - Tuesday, May 13



Sarajevo

This morning, we will meet our guide to start our exploration of the city. The compact Old Town makes for easy and enjoyable exploration on foot, and the Ferhadija pedestrian street is lined with architectural monuments, cafes, and shops. We will 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.

Later, we will also 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.

Next to the Coppersmith Street, you can see the Marketplace Mosque. Erected in the 16th century, it is still a functioning temple, and calls to prayer can still be heard several times a day.

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

EXETER SERVICES: Guide (8 Hours); Vehicle & Driver (4 Hours)

HOTEL: Swissotel Sarajevo

Day 6 - Wednesday, May 14



Sarajevo

Private Pre-Opening tour of the War Childhood Museum

This morning, we will have a special pre-opening visit to 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 who 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.

Lunch today will be at a wonderful local restaurant.

Private Sevdalinka Performance

As a finale, we will visit the Bosniak Institute. Founded by a wealthy Bosnian intellectual who lived in exile for many years, the institute is partly located in a renovated hammam and serves as a fascinating museum of Bosniak culture and art. We will enjoy a private tour of the institute and have a performance of traditional Bosnian Sevdalinka music.

This evening will be at leisure.

EXETER SERVICES: Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours); Lunch

HOTEL: Swissotel Sarajevo

Day 7 - Thursday, May 15



Sarajevo - Mostar - Dubrovnik

This morning, we will check out and drive to Dubrovnik via Mostar, the unofficial capital of Herzegovina, which is situated on the Neretva River. 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).

On arrival, our guide will meet us, and we will enjoy 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.

A late lunch will be arranged before we continue our journey to Dubrovnik, where we will check into the Villa Dubrovnik for an evening at leisure.

EXETER SERVICES: Vehicle & Driver (8 Hours); Guide in Mostar (4 Hours); Lunch

HOTEL: Villa Dubrovnik

Day 8 - Friday, May 16



Dubrovnik

This morning, our guide will meet us for an overview walking tour of the historic center of Dubrovnik, which is a UNESCO Heritage site.

After our tour, you will have some free time to explore on your own.

This evening at 6 PM, we will depart the hotel for a one-hour private boat tour on the bay of Dubrovnik to view the town from another perspective.

EXETER SERVICES: Guide (4 Hours); Private Boat Tour; Port Transfers

HOTEL: Villa Dubrovnik

Day 9 - Saturday, May 17



Dubrovnik

Private Oyster Tasting

This morning, we will depart Dubrovnik at around 11 AM for the Peljesac peninsula, which, 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. We will join the oyster farmer on his private island for a picnic lunch hosted by his family. We'll have an oyster tasting and a light lunch of local specialties, along with local wine.

Private Wine Tasting

Our next stop will be at the Vukas vineyard. Vukas' forefathers started growing the wine Plavac Mali on the inaccessible grounds of the Crnjova hill steep slopes.

We will return to Dubrovnik and enjoy our evening at leisure.

EXETER SERVICES: Vehicle, Driver & Guide (6 -7 Hours); Lunch

HOTEL: Villa Dubrovnik

Day 10 - Sunday, May 18



Departure from Dubrovnik Individual departure transfers for your onward flights.

EXETER SERVICES: Airport Transfer

HOTEL: Not included

WHAT'S INCLUDED



Pricing

\$11,500 per person, based on double occupancy.
\$14,900 per person, based on single occupancy.

Included In your Journey

LODGING

- May 9 - May 12 (3N) at St.Regis in Superior Room
- May 12 - May 15 (3N) at Swissotel Sarajevo in Swiss Premier Room
- May 15 - May 18 (3N) at Villa Dubrovnik in Deluxe Room

ACCOMMODATIONS

ST.REGIS

BELGRADE, SERBIA

May 9 - May 12

Tax and breakfast included.

The St. Regis Belgrade is a central part of the exclusive Belgrade Waterfront area. The hotel's design, made mostly of glass, reflects the nearby Rivers Sava and Danube. It sits high above the city and offers guests a full view from its 360-degree observation deck, giving them a glimpse into the city's history and modern life.

With 119 rooms and suites, blending modern and traditional styles, the hotel provides a spacious and comfortable stay.

Superior Room (430 sqft) features king-size bed, a living/sitting area, mini fridge, complimentary Wi-Fi, a handy smartphone, and a coffee/tea maker.

SWISSOTEL SARAJEVO

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

May 12 - May 15

Tax and breakfast included.

Located right in the heart of Sarajevo, the Swissotel is within walking distance from the Old Town and many of the important sites of the city, such as Bascarsija Street and the Latin Bridge. With a very modern and contemporary feel, this hotel offers 218 comfortable rooms and suites. All of the rooms feature a combination of Swiss contemporary design and traditional Bosnian architecture and provide stunning panoramic views of the city.

There are two restaurants on property. Café Swiss, which provides all day dining where guests may enjoy their breakfast, as well as light lunches and snacks throughout the day. The Fusion is their A la carte restaurant that offers a blend of Middle Eastern and traditional cuisine in an open kitchen layout with live cooking performances and interactions with the chef.

The Swissotel also offers guest access to their Wellness and Spa facilities. Here they may relax in the indoor pool, jacuzzi, and whirlpool, and indulge in the many massage and body treatments at the Golden Rain Spa

Swiss Premier Rooms: These spacious rooms combine refined Swiss architecture with traditional furnishings and Bosnian flair. Enjoy spacious rooms up to 425 square feet in size and stunning panorama views of the city. Large window seats allow you to relax and take in one of the best views of Sarajevo. Bathrooms feature a walk-in shower and rooms have coffee and tea-making facilities. Bedding is one king or two twins.

VILLA DUBROVNIK

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

May 15 - May 18

Tax and breakfast included.

Nestled among pine, orange and lemon trees and surrounded by gardens of bougainvillea and oleander blissful tranquility, the Villa Dubrovnik overlooks the crystal blue-turquoise waters of the Adriatic and the Old City. Located on a cliff overlooking the Islands of Lokrum and Dubrovnik's Old Town, Villa Dubrovnik's beautiful compound captures the essence of the sparkling Adriatic.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Villa Dubrovnik is Croatia's most awarded boutique hotel, blending a mix of modern architecture and interior design with the airy and relaxed atmosphere of an island hotel. The Dubrovnik coastline provides a dramatic backdrop for your stay at the Villa, which maximizes the area's natural beauty and invites in the Adriatic's fresh air wherever possible. Guests can enjoy fine dining and al fresco meals at the Villa's on site restaurants, or refreshments and breathtaking views of the Old City from the rooftop SkyBar.

Guest amenities at the Villa Dubrovnik help travelers explore the outer areas of Dubrovnik and relax after a long day of sightseeing. Guests can walk to the outer gates of the Old City in just about 10 minutes from the Villa. A complementary Vaporetto water taxi also transfers guests directly to the Old City, and provides a pleasant ride through the beautiful sea surrounding Dubrovnik. Guests looking to unwind back at the Villa can visit their spa and wellness center. The hotel features indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a swimming platform for dips in the Adriatic.

All of Villa Dubrovnik's rooms and suites have stunning views of the surrounding sea and a healthy amount of natural light, with floor-to-ceiling glass doors to private balconies or terraces. Each room has a private teak balcony with sea views. All rooms offer the choice of one king or two twin beds except the Garden Suites (king bed).

Deluxe Room: These upgraded rooms feature approximately 375 square feet of space. Rooms are located on the sides of the hotel and balconies are larger than the Superior Rooms.

Meals

Breakfast is included daily in your hotel's restaurant. All other meals are included as noted in the itinerary. Included lunches are generally two courses with coffee, tea and mineral water. Included dinners are three courses with coffee, tea, mineral water and house beer or up to two glasses of wine.

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 emergency 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 & architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

Tickets

All entrance tickets as described in the program.

Gratuities

Our guides and drivers are our finest resources. They cannot wait to show you the cities they love and will truly enrich your travel experience. We have included our minimum suggested gratuity in the program costs. Any additional gratuities are at your discretion.

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.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OF TOUR

Please note that this trip is more physically demanding than most tours. There is a considerable amount of walking and standing involved throughout the program. You must be able to climb and descend stairs easily without assistance and walk over uneven and cobblestoned areas. Often, we will visit multiple museums a day, with one to two hours or more in each museum where we will be standing and walking through the collections. Unfortunately, if you use a wheelchair, we will not be able to accommodate you on this tour due to the limited access of ramps and elevators in museums, hotels and other sights. If you use a cane or other assistance for walking or are not able to walk long distances, our Founder's tours may not be the best fit for you. We kindly ask that you consider your physical abilities with regards to the itinerary for this program, as the itinerary cannot be amended to accommodate any physical limitations.

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 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. 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, gratuities in restaurants and individual ad hoc purchases. There are ATMs widely available in each location.

The currencies are:

Serbia: Dinar

Bosnia and Herzegovina: KM (Convertible Mark)

Croatia: Euro

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 is 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

- 59-15 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 US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2024. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs, and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. The devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International does not break down 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

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