



# Highlights of the Balkans with Bluffton University

13 days | Jun 04 2026—Jun 16 2026

See Dubrovnik's storied city walls overlooking the pristine blue waters of the Adriatic. Experience the rich history and vibrant culture of Sarajevo, a city that bridges East and West. Step back in time as you explore the impressive Diocletian's Palace complex in seaside Split. Wander past emerald scenery and tranquil waterscapes in the famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. And experience "Europe in miniature" in Ljubljana, the stunningly green (and endlessly cultural) capital of Slovenia.



## Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Dubrovnik
- Mostar's Old Bridge
- Gazi Husrev-Beg Mosque
- Diocletian's Palace
- Ivan Mestrovic Gallery
- Trogir
- Zadar
- Plitvice Lakes National Park
- Old Town Ljubljana

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/highlights-of-the-balkans-with-noah> | 1-800-438-7672

# Highlights of the Balkans with Bluffton University

13 days

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Dubrovnik today.

## Dubrovnik → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Dubrovnik

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Croatia! Gather with your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set on a peninsula on the Adriatic, Dubrovnik's massive walls have served as the city's calling card for centuries. Today, you'll take a guided tour.

- Stop at a viewpoint to soak in panoramic views of the Old Town, coast, and nearby Lokrum Island
- Pay a visit to the 13th-century Franciscan Monastery, which boasts the most extensive library in the region

Enjoy a free evening in Dubrovnik or add an excursion.

+ Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Dinner

## Sarajevo → 2 nights

### Day 4: Sarajevo via Mostar

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Sarajevo today. Stop en route for a guided tour of Mostar, a city in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Enter an old Ottoman mosque and traditional Ottoman house
- Walk over the striking Old Bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage site that joins the banks of the Neretva River

Continue across the border to the Bosnia and Herzegovina capital city of Sarajevo and enjoy a free evening.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Sarajevo

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover the rich history and vibrant culture of the old city on a guided tour that takes you through its most iconic landmarks.

- Explore Bascarsija, the bustling bazaar and heart of the old city, where you can immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere and traditional shops
- Visit the Gazi Husrev-Beg Mosque, an architectural masterpiece and one of the most important Islamic structures in the region
- Admire the grandeur of City Hall, a stunning example of Austro-Hungarian architecture.
- Walk across the historic Latin Bridge, famously known as the site of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which sparked World War I
- Discover Morica Han, a well-preserved Ottoman inn that offers a glimpse into the city's past
- See the Sebilj, a charming wooden fountain and one of the most recognizable symbols of the city

Enjoy free time for the rest of the day to discover the city at your own pace, or add an excursion.

*Please note: Visitors need to take off shoes, men should wear long pants and have covered shoulders, women should wear long pants or full-length skirts or dresses and long sleeves. Headscarves for women are encouraged but not required.*

+ Sarajevo War Tunnels & Trebevic Mountain

## Split Region → 2 nights

### Day 6: Transfer to the Split Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Return to Croatia today and travel to the beautiful Split region. After settling into your hotel and relaxing, re-join your group for tonight's include dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Split

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Enjoy a guided tour of Split, a coastal city with a local culture that seamlessly combines tradition and modernity.

- Enter Diocletian's Palace, an enormous third-century palace complex

- View the monuments to the city's varied cultural influences, including Gothic churches, Renaissance palaces, Venetian fortifications, and an Egyptian sphinx
- Examine sculptures, drawings, and paintings at the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery

## Plitvice → 2 nights

### Day 8: Plitvice via Trogir & Zadar

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to Plitvice today. Along the way, you'll stop in two Dalmatian Coast towns for guided tours.

- Set off with your Tour Director and explore Trogir, where you'll wander past Radovan's Portal and Trogir Cathedral
- Join a local guide in the seaside town of Zadar to view Roman ruins and the one-of-a-kind Sea Organ

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Plitvice Lakes National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Embark on a guided tour of Plitvice Lakes National Park, 16 levels of lakes nestled between Mount Mala Kapela and Mount Pljesevica.

- Admire the upper lakes, forests, caves, and waterfalls with a local guide
- Visit the lower lakes with your Tour Director leading the way

## Zagreb → 1 night

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Zagreb

*Included meals: breakfast*

Continue on to Zagreb, where a local guide will introduce you to the best of Croatia's capital city on a walking tour.

- Pass by the Mestrovic Pavilion, Zrinjevac Park, and the fortified Lotrscak Tower
- Visit the Croatian Museum of Naïve Art to admire the simplistic beauty of works by artists who have had no formal training

## Ljubljana → 2 nights

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**Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Ljubljana**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, and join a local expert for a guided tour.

- Stop in Prešeren Square to see the France Prešeren Monument
- Pass by the Triple Bridge, Town Hall, and Baroque Robba Fountain
- View Ljubljana Cathedral, the Dragon Bridge, and the famed open-air market

**Day 12: Free day in Ljubljana**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Ljubljana or add an excursion.

Tonight, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner with your group.

+ Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle

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**Flight Home****Day 13: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/highlights-of-the-balkans-with-noah> | 1-800-438-7672

## Day 3: Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Dinner

From \$99.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This excursion begins with a cruise along the shoreline of one of Europe's most romantic cities. Arriving on the beach, you'll dine at a local restaurant before setting out on a stroll through Dubrovnik's medieval streets. Please note: Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

## Day 5: Sarajevo War Tunnels & Trebevic Mountain

From \$48.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Embark on a journey through Sarajevo's poignant history and stunning landscapes with this engaging itinerary. Begin your exploration at the Sarajevo War Tunnels Museum, also known as the Tunnels of Salvation and Tunnels of Hope. These tunnels played a crucial role during the siege of Sarajevo in the Bosnian War, providing a lifeline for the city's residents. Next, take a scenic cable car ride up Trebevic Mountain. From the top, you'll be treated to breathtaking views overlooking the city, offering a unique perspective on Sarajevo's beauty. Conclude your adventure with a brief walk along the historic 1984 Olympic Bobsleigh and Luge track. This site, a remnant of the Winter Olympics, now serves as a fascinating piece of history amidst the natural surroundings. After a day filled with exploration and reflection, return to your hotel with a deeper understanding of Sarajevo's past and its enduring spirit.

## Day 12: Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle

From \$135.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (6.5 hours, departs in the morning)

Journey to two of Slovenia's most memorable sites. Your first stop is the legendary Postojna Caves, a 12.5-mile-long system of caverns. Later, you'll visit Predjama Castle, a Renaissance fort built into the mouth of a cave. A natural tunnel connects the castle to the top of the mountain; in the Middle Ages, this tunnel served as a secret supply line for the castle during times of siege. While you're here, you'll learn about the legend of Erazem Lueger, a robber baron who called this castle home.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.