

## 。 Kosovo～Albania～Macedonia～Serbia

### Day 1. Prishtina - Prizren



Begin with a walking tour of Prishtina, which will include visits to Prishtina's famous monuments and museums. After that we then visit the Gadima Cave. The cave has been discovered recently, in 1969 when one of the habitant families ran into the channel leading to the cave, while trying to build the

foundation for their new house. Five years after its discovery, it became open for visitors. Stalagmites, Stalactites and Aragonites are rare characteristics of the cave. Around 1500 m have been investigated so far, while 800 m of its space may be visited.

The inner temperature varies from 8 to 13 grades Celsius, depending on the season. The marble cave in Gadime is open for visitors every working day, from morning hours till late afternoon. There is much more going on in Prizren during the Summer than any other time of the year. The main square in town, a stone piazza known as Shadervan, is the gathering point on most evenings. The piazza is surrounded by cafes, bars, restaurants and ice cream parlors. During the day this is an excellent place to sit and have a coffee, or have lunch and watch the town go about its business. The fountain in the center of the piazza is safe to drink from and is a central gathering point during hot summer afternoons.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Prishtina local restaurant
- Dinner in Prizren local restaurant



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親切 丁寧 安心 便利、ツアーメイト専門旅行社だから出来る貴方だけのオンリーワンの旅

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## Day 2. Prizren – Kruja - Tirana



Once the medieval capital of Albania, and strength hold of the Albanian National Hero (Gjergj Kastrioti Scanderbeg), Kruja is famous not only for sightseeing but also for souvenir-hunting. The city is located at about 700 m of altitude and from the castle opens an amazing view over the Adriatic Sea evoking the times of the Albanian resistance throughout centuries. Kruja old bazaar is one street of quaint shops with windows full of antiques, silver filigree jeweler, folk costumes, woven rugs and traditional felt hats. After a break for an hour to enjoy a delicious Lamb lunch in one of the Traditional Restaurants located inside the castle, you can choose either to visit the National Museum of Gjergj Kastriot Scanderbeg (approximately 45 minutes), or the Ethnographic Museum (approximately 30 minutes) accompanied by your guide. From the castle you will have panoramic views of the Adriatic Sea from the west and dramatic views of Kruja Mountain from the east. A low level of fitness is required to walk through the steep streets of Kruja. Remember to wear comfortable walking shoes! You can choose to wait for your group in the bazaar if you do not wish to go to the castle.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Kruja local restaurant
- Dinner in Tirana local restaurant



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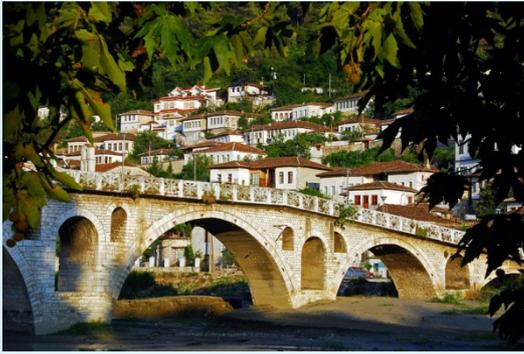
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### Day 3. Tirana – Berat(Unesco)



Berat is inscribed as rare example of an architectural character typical of the Ottoman period. Located in central Albania, Berat bears witness to the coexistence of various religious and cultural communities down the centuries. It features a castle, locally known as the Kala, most of which was built in the 13th century, although its origins date back to the 4th century BC. The

citadel area numbers many Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built under the Ottoman era which began in 1417. Berat bears witness to a town which was fortified but open, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban centre reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and the 19th centuries. This tradition has been adapted to suit the town's life styles, with tiered houses on the slopes, which are predominantly horizontal in layout, and make abundant use of the entering daylight.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Berat local restaurant
- Dinner in Berat local restaurant



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#### Day 4. Berat – Gjirokastra (Unesco)



Situated in southern Albania, Gjirokastra perches on the steep side of the Drino valley overlooking an historic landscape framed by snow-capped mountains. This 'city of a thousand steps' comprises hundreds of Ottoman-style tower houses with distinctive stone roofs, wooden balconies

and whitewashed stone walls. Dominated by the sheer flanks of its vast castle, Gjirokastra is a magical city with a tumultuous past. From feudal stronghold to Ottoman jewel to Italian colony, the city has known many rulers and has inspired poets, authors and artists. Known by many as the *City of Stone*, Gjirokastra is a developing centre for cultural heritage tourism. A walk around the network of cobbled streets that climb steeply out of the bazaar will transport you back in time. A visit to the vast 13th-century castle brings the adventurous tales of medieval rulers and communist atrocities alive

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Gjirokastra local restaurant
- Dinner in Gjirokastra local restaurant



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### Day 5. Gjirokaster – Apollonia - Fier



The site of Apollonia lay on the territory of the Taulanti a cluster of Illyrian tribes that remained closely involved with the settlement for centuries and lived alongside the Greek colonists. The city was said to have originally been named *Gylakeia* after its founder, Gylax, but the name was later changed to honor the god Apollo. It is mentioned by Strabo in his *Geographica* as "an exceedingly well-governed city". Aristotle considered Apollonia an important example of an oligarchic system, as the descendants of the Greek colonists controlled the city and prevailed over a large serf population of mostly Illyrian origin. The city grew rich on the slave trade and local agriculture, as well as its large harbor, said to have been able to hold a hundred ships at a time. The city also benefited from the local supply of asphalt which was a valuable commodity in ancient times, for example for caulking ships. The remains of a late sixth-century temple, located just outside the city, were reported in 2006; it is only the fifth known stone temple found in present-day Albania.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Gjirokastra local restaurant
- Dinner Fier



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## Day 6. Fier – Ohrid



The old part of the town known in ancient times as Lychnidos, the City of Lights. Slavs gave the name of Arida in the 10thC, and it became a major center of culture and art for this area. It is the cradle of Slavic written language and literature, from where the alphabet called Cyrillic was created by the two brothers Cyril and Methody.

Ohrid is also known as the “City of 365 churches “ and we visit, not all, but the most important ones. Visiting Tsar Samuil fortress from the 10thC, St. Kliment from the 13thC, St. Sophia from the 11th C, and St. Panteleimon from the 9thC., we culminate the tour of Ohrid with a walk through the local bazaar. Afternoon is free to enjoy Ohrid at our own leisure.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Ohrid local restaurant
- Dinner in Ohrid



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## Day 7. Ohrid – Skopje



The Treska River begins its journey at the hydroelectric dam at the base of Lake Matka and continues for approximately 85 kilometers until it joins the Vardar River. Lake Matka is situated on the northern side of Skopje in the SARAJ municipality. There is the church of St Andrej (Andrew) right on the shores of

the lake. Build by Andrew brother of King Marko (Krale Marko of Prilep) and his father Vukashin in the early XIV AD. Also there are the churches of Sv Nikola & Sv Bogorodica, Sv Spas, Sv Nedela and numbers of dilapidated churches high in the mountains surrounding the lake.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Skopje local restaurant
- Dinner in Skopje



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### Day 8. Skopje - Belgrade



Our journey of the bewildering Balkans start at the heart city of Serbia, Belgrade. We find a beautiful romantic and medieval city competing amongst the most charming cities in Eastern Europe as we are warmly received and transferred to our hotel. The capital city of Serbia since 1403, our Belgrade tour starts with the Republic Square,

where we see the architectural wonders in monuments such as the National Theatre, National Museum, Serbian Academy of Science & Arts in the famous Knez Mihajlova Street. At the old town we see 19thC quarters, the 'Question mark sign' Inn, Princess Ljubica's Residence (now housing a permanent exhibition of original furniture), the Patriarchy and the Orthodox Cathedral. No visit to Belgrade is complete without the fortress area which includes well-preserved artillery structures dating from the 18thC, acropolis with original ramparts, gateways, towers, some Turkish monuments and some older, ancient Roman.

- Site seeing FD
- Lunch in Skopje local restaurant
- Dinner in Skopje

### Day 8. Belgrade – Airport

Free time for leisure and shopping activities and transfer to the Nicolla Tesla International Airport.



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