

BEST OF BALKANS 10 Days 2 Countries 5 Cities

EXPLORE CROATIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA DURING THIS IN-DEPTH JOURNEY.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Zagreb (2 Nights)

Tap your inner socialite and join the locals in indulging in the coffee culture and vibrant energy of Zagreb. Kickstart your adventure through the Balkans on the romantic promenades of Strösmatre or people-watch with a crisp pivo brew in hand. Over the next day you'll uncover the city's unique appeal, but first meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for an included dinner this evening and a glimpse into what lies ahead.

- ★ Hotel - Panorama
- ★ Included Meals – Dinner

Day 2 Zagreb Sightseeing and Free Time

Rub shoulders with the stylish Zagrebians when you join your Local Specialist on a sightseeing tour of this medieval European city. View the Upper and Lower town, St. Mark's Church, Cathedral on Kaptol, the Croatian National Theatre and Dolac Market, the 'stomach' of Zagreb. You'll have the rest of the day to explore the city your way, perhaps choosing to soak up the local špica coffee culture around the bustling Ban Jelačić Square. Consider joining a Local Specialist for an optional visit to Kumrovec, the birthplace of the late president of Yugoslavia, Marshall Tito. Then enjoy a meal of delicious regional specialities against the backdrop of the beautiful Croatian countryside.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 3 Zagreb – Sarajevo Sightseeing (1 Night)

Small villages and lush green forests line your route south into Bosnia-Herzegovina. Arrive later today in its capital Sarajevo, whose rich religious and multi-cultural heritage has earned it the nickname, the Jerusalem of Europe. Centuries of religious history are reflected in its beautiful synagogues, mosques, and Orthodox and Catholic churches as you'll discover when you join a Local Specialist for a guided walking tour. Visit the Old Town and see the largest mosque in the Balkans. The Eternal Flame and the Sarajevo Roses that are dotted across the city stand as a stark reminder of the turmoil Sarajevo endured decades ago. Warm Bosnian hospitality is on the menu tonight if you choose one of our two Optional Experiences. Join a local family in their home for tasty traditional cuisine or enjoy a lively encounter in a favourite local restaurant with dinner and entertainment.



- ★ Hotel - Ibis Styles
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 4 Sarajevo – Mostar (1 Night)

Head to Mostar, joining a Local Specialist for an exploration of a historic multicultural city that is restoring itself with enviable verve after the Bosnian War. Part of its resurrection can be seen in the traditional reconstruction of its medieval 'Stari Most' Ottoman-style bridge. You'll delve into a tragic time not long ago when Catholic Croats, Muslim Bosniaks and Orthodox Serbs fought for supremacy amidst the colourful cobbled streets overlooking the Neretva River. There's time to explore the city on your own or perhaps join a Local Specialist for a visit to Blagaj, famous for its natural spring and one of the most mystical cultural and historical villages in the country.

- ★ Hotel - City Hotel
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Mostar – Dubrovnik Sightseeing and Free Time (2 Nights)

See 'paradise on earth' if George Bernard Shaw is to be believed when you visit Dubrovnik. This famous playwright was a big fan of this medieval fortified city on Croatia's Dalmatian coast and you'll discover why as you join a Local Specialist for a sightseeing walking tour of the main sights. Admire the Rector's Palace, Onofrio's Fountain and the city walls which were never breached by the invading Turks. Stroll through elegant courtyards and along its limestone streets, admiring the remnants of Dubrovnik's Golden Age. Tonight, there's no better way to enjoy this shimmering coastline than embarking on an optional sunset dinner cruise to a secluded bay - the illuminated city of Dubrovnik provides the perfect end to the evening.

- ★ Hotel - Adria
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 6 Dubrovnik – Free Day or Optional Experience to Montenegro

Straight out of a storybook, Dubrovnik's enchanting stone façades reveal a rich trading history from the 7th century. You'll have a full free day to explore the city on your own today. But if you're feeling adventurous, you may wish to switch the 'Pearl of the Adriatic' for the Mediterranean mountain nation of Montenegro, joining an Optional Experience instead. A Local Specialist will take you on a panoramic boat trip across the Bay of Kotor to the UNESCO-listed fortified town of the same name, tucked deep within enchanting fjord-like surrounds. Fortified walls encircle the city - a rambling labyrinth of steep cobbled lanes reaching high up into the hills, medieval churches and Venetian palaces wait to be discovered. Return to Dubrovnik later for dinner at your hotel.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Dubrovnik – Split (2 Nights)

Sit back, relax and watch the stunning Adriatic coastline go by as you pass old fishing villages and modern resorts bound for Split, whose modern façades reveal glimpses of an ancient Roman past. A Local Specialist takes you behind the city walls to this harbour town's heart, the 4th-century Roman Emperor Diocletian Palace followed by a leisurely walking tour through the historic Old Town. See how Gothic, Roman and Renaissance structures merge seamlessly across the cityscape, Admire Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle and the 7th-century Cathedral of Saint Domnius as you explore its maze of narrow alleys. You'll have an evening to discover the Dalmatian capital on your terms or join an Optional Experience in a traditional stone basement konoba for a Dalmatian dinner and live music.



- ★ Hotel - Mondo
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 8 Split Free Day

Today is yours to delve into the history of a city that was built for the retirement of a Roman Emperor. Much of Diocletian's home town survives as you'll come to discover as you get lost in the narrow lanes of its Old Town. You could choose to spend your free day joining an Optional Experience to one of the glittering Dalmatian islands. Perhaps indulge in some of the local vintages which have justifiably earned the islands their reputation as a celebrated wine centre for centuries.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

Day 9 Split – Plitvice – Zagreb (1 Night)

Leaving the salty sea air behind, you'll embark on a scenic drive north to the UNESCO-listed National Park of Plitvice. Prepare for an encounter with a whimsical landscape, one filled with waterfalls set against colourful shades of green, grey and blue. As you explore your magical surrounds of cascading lakes and waterfalls, a Local Specialist reveals the Legend of the Black Queen who is credited with creating the kaleidoscopic lakes to stave off a drought. After a day connecting with nature, you'll return to Zagreb where tonight a farewell dinner in your hotel closes the curtain on an exhilarating encounter with the Balkans.

- ★ Hotel - Panorama
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 Depart Zagreb

You've explored medieval monuments, witnessed the revival of war-torn cities and relaxed on the sun-kissed shores of the Adriatic. The allure of the Balkans will linger long after you've said goodbye to new friends. Prepare for your return trip and take a transfer to Zagreb Airport. Conditions apply.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast



ABOUT THIS TRIP

What's included

- **9 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **13 MEALS** 9 Breakfasts, 4 Three-course dinners
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** All Transport shown

Sightseeing highlights

- **DUBROVNIK** Sightseeing tour with Local Specialist includes a visit of the Old City. See the Rector's Palace, Onofrio's Fountain and the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries
- **PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK** See the waterfalls and lakes of this UNESCO World Heritage Site with your Local Specialist
- **SPLIT** See the Diocletian's Palace with your Local Specialist
- **MOSTAR** See the historic bridge and visit the Bazaar with a Local Specialist
- **SARAJEVO** Sightseeing with a Local Specialist includes the Old Town
- **ZAGREB** Sightseeing tour with your Local Specialist includes views of the Cathedral, St Mark's Church, and the Opera House

On every trip

Unique or exclusive to Costsaver, here's a sample of what's included in your trip.

- ✓ Audio Headsets Provided throughout your holiday to enhance your included sightseeing experiences
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted
- ✓ City orientation tours
- ✓ All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling fees and local taxes
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach
- ✓ Variety of Optional Experiences
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and professional Driver
- ✓ Airport transfers are provided on the first and last travel day. Conditions apply

