



# Greece, the Balkans & Croatia

14 days | 17 days with Korcula Island & Dubrovnik extension

Full of rich history, fascinating culture, and stunning landscapes, the Balkan Peninsula is a region waiting to be explored—and that's just what you'll do on this small group Adventure Tour. From the Greek capital and picturesque shores of Lake Ohrid to the timeless traditions of Albania and Croatia's epic coastal beauty, you'll discover the diversity of these Adriatic nations and what makes each unique.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 3 farm-to-table lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 food tastings
- 2 liquor tasting
- 1 wine tasting
- 16 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Athens market tour
- Delphi Archaeological Site
- Meteora monasteries
- Lake Ohrid
- Organic apiary visit
- Monastery of Saint Naum
- Albanian wine tasting
- Lake Skadar
- Bay of Kotor
- Konavle valley agriturismo
- Dubrovnik

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some steep hills.

## Group size

12-22

# Greece, the Balkans & Croatia

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

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## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Athens

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

A local guide introduces you to the ancient highlights and traditional flavors of this bustling capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Set off on a guided walking tour of the Plaka District and the markets in the Monastiraki neighborhood.
- Stop to sample a variety of cheeses and loukoumades, a type of sweet fried dough.
- See the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion on a walking tour of the Acropolis.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Greek Cooking Class & Dinner

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## Delphi Region → 1 night

### Day 4: Transfer to Delphi & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to the mountainous Delphi region for a guided tour of the legendary home of the mystical oracle. You'll visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the gods once communicated with mortals.

Spend a free evening in Delphi or add an excursion.

+ Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

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## Meteora Region → 1 night

### Day 5: Transfer to the Meteora Region & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to the remote village of Kalambaka at the foot of the Pindus Mountains. Then, take a guided walking tour of the Meteora monasteries.

- Enter two monasteries such as Russanu, St. Stephen's Monastery, or Varlaam.
- Hike up to the monasteries to admire views from 1,000-foot-high pinnacle rocks.

This afternoon, meet with local nuns for a chat about the traditions and faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church. You'll learn more about this branch of Christianity, their lives, and the work they take part in at the monasteries.

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## Lake Ohrid → 2 nights

### Day 6: Lake Ohrid via Dihovo

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, liquor tasting, tasting*

Pass through the scenic vistas of northern Greece and cross the border into North Macedonia as you make your way to the village of Dihovo.

- Enjoy an included farm-to-table lunch of local specialties paired with local wine and brandy.
- Tour the on-site organic apiary to learn about beekeeping and sample organic honey and honeycomb.

Later, continue on to North Macedonia's UNESCO-recognized Lake Ohrid.

*Please note: The apiary visit may be replaced with a similar culinary farm experience.*

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Ohrid, Bay of Bones Museum & Saint Naum Monastery

*Included meals: breakfast*

Take in all that the charming lakeside city of Ohrid has to offer on a guided tour.

- Enter Samuel's Fortress and walk along its historic 4th-century walls.
- See the Ancient Theatre of Ohrid, built in the Hellenistic style.
- Walk up to the cliff-top Church of Saint John at Kaneo for panoramic views of the lake and surrounding mountains.
- Pass by the Church of Saint Sophia and enter the National Workshop for a paper-making demonstration.
- Board a boat and enjoy a scenic cruise on Lake Ohrid.

Then, spend the afternoon exploring the Bay of Bones Museum and the medieval Monastery of Saint Naum.

- Step inside the Bay of Bones Museum, a prehistoric settlement located on Lake Ohrid.
  - Sit down for an expert-led talk on local conservation efforts to protect the biodiversity of Lake Ohrid, Europe's oldest lake.
  - See the resident peacocks that roam the grounds at the Monastery of Saint Naum.
  - Enter the monastery to view its intricate frescoes.
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## Tirana → 2 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Tirana & winery tour

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting*

Cross the border into Albania as you make your way to Tirana, stopping along the way to tour an Albanian winery.

- Visit Uka, an organic winery dedicated to maintaining the production of rare Albanian grapes.
- Sit down for a lunch featuring locally produced, organic ingredients.

Then, continue on to Tirana.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Tirana

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the Albanian capital today on a guided tour.

- Enter Bunk'Art 1, a museum dedicated to the history of Albanian communism built in the nuclear bunker of former dictator Enver Hoxha.
- Tour the museum with a guide to learn about the daily lives of Albanians during the communist period.
- See Skanderbeg Square, an eponymous tribute to the Albanian national hero, and the Pyramid of Tirana.
- Stroll past the 18th-century Et'hem Bey Mosque.
- Walk to the New Bazaar neighborhood to learn about Tirana's rebirth post-communism and enjoy free time in the area.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Tirana or add an excursion.

## Budva → 2 nights

### Day 10: Budva via Shkodra & Lake Skadar

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Continue on to Budva, making stops along the way.

- Stop in Shkodra, a small city situated at the foot of the Albanian Alps, to step inside the hilltop Rozafa Castle.
- Travel through the Lake Skadar region of Montenegro to the town of Virpazar, where you'll embark on a scenic boat ride.
- Continue along the Montenegro coast to Budva, paying a visit to the charming peninsula village of Sveti Stefan en route.

Sit down for an included dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cetinje, Njegusi & Kotor

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Join a local guide on a walking tour of Cetinje, Montenegro's historic capital.

- Enter King Nikola's Palace, the residence of Montenegro's first and only king.
- View the historic foreign embassies and Alaska Church, which was built in 1450.
- See the fence made from captured enemy rifle barrels that wraps around the church.

Continue to the village of Njusi, located on the slopes of Mount Lovcen, and enter a traditional Montenegrin smoke house to sample aged-prosciutto, cheese, and other specialties.

Enjoy stunning views of the Bay of Kotor as you drive down the winding Serpentine Road. Then, explore the scenic town of Kotor on a walking tour.

- Pass through the UNESCO-recognized medieval old town to view the ancient city walls and Cathedral of Saint Tryphon.
  - See the old clock tower and Orthodox Church.
  - Opt to hike up the section of Kotor's UNESCO-listed fortified walls located on the mountain of St. John to enjoy stunning views of the Bay of Kotor.
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## Dubrovnik → 2 nights

### Day 12: Dubrovnik via Perast & Konavle Valley

*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting, lunch*

Travel along the Bay of Kotor to the Venetian town of Perast. Here, you'll embark on a boat trip out to the man-made islets of Saint George and Our Lady of the Rocks.

Then, leave Montenegro behind as you make your way to Croatia's Dalmatian coast.

- Visit an agriturismo in Croatia's Konavle valley and tour the farm's vegetable garden.
- Learn about the over 500 years of family farming traditions in the valley.
- Enjoy a tasting of traditional liquor and sit down for a lunch featuring products grown on the farm.

Then, continue on to Dubrovnik.

*Please note: Travelers should be prepared to show their passports at the border crossing between Montenegro and Croatia.*

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

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

- Stroll through the UNESCO-protected old town.
- Pay a visit to the 13th-century Franciscan monastery, which boasts the most extensive library in the region.

Spend a free afternoon in Dubrovnik or add an excursion.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

+ Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Lunch

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to continue exploring Croatia.

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## + Korcula Island & Dubrovnik extension

The Croatian Coast is all about hidden gems. We're talking charming Old Town's, seaside vineyards, and some of the world's prettiest beaches. Extend your adventure on the Balkan Peninsula to see beauties like this on Korcula Island. (As a bonus, stop in Ston for even more adventure.)

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## Korcula Island → 2 nights

### Day 14: Ferry to Korcula, sightseeing tour & wine tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner*

Head to the Peljesac peninsula and board a ferry in the town of Orebic. You'll travel to Korcula, a stunning island on Croatia's Dalmatian coastline. This afternoon, enjoy free time for lunch before setting off on a guided tour of Korcula's Old Town.

- Stroll through the walled area, known as little Dubrovnik.
- Visit the city's 15th-century, Venetian-style cathedral.
- Walk along the town's fortifications as you learn how the city's government became the first in the world to ban slavery.

Visit a family-run vineyard and learn about the island's longstanding winemaking history this evening.

- Try indigenous wines like Grk, a rare grape planted only on Korcula island.
- Sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 15: Free day on Korcula Island

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day on Korcula island or add an excursion.

+ Korcula Archipelago Kayaking

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## Dubrovnik → 1 night

### Day 16: Dubrovnik via Ston

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Board a ferry in Korcula and travel back to the town of Orebic. Then, continue on to the eastern end of the Peljesac peninsula to visit the city of Ston.

- View the city walls, which stretch for almost five miles and are some of the longest in Europe.
- Visit a traditional oyster farm to learn how locals have sustainably harvested oysters and mussels in Ston for centuries.
- Enjoy an oyster tasting.

Travel to Dubrovnik and raise a glass as you toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

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## Flight Home

### Day 17: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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# 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: [goaheadtours.com/BSC](http://goaheadtours.com/BSC) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Greek Cooking Class & Dinner

\$135/\$145\* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Learn the ins and outs of the Greek culinary tradition during tonight's cooking class. Join local chefs in the kitchen to prep three dishes. Then, head upstairs to the dining area where you'll sit down to enjoy the meal you've made along with beer or wine.

## Day 4: Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

\$79/\$89\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This evening, visit Arachova, a picturesque town at the foot of Mount Parnassus. Begin with a visit to the Convent of the Prophet Elias, an abbey that dates back to the 11th century. Examine its ornate Greek ecclesiastical wood carvings, then head back into town. The evening is yours to explore Arachova, stroll its cobblestone streets, and admire its Byzantine churches before capping the day with a traditional Greek dinner at a village restaurant.

## Day 9: Historic Albania: Krujë

\$99/\$109\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Take a guided tour of the Albanian town of Krujë, located between the Ishëm River and Mount Krujë. You'll visit a small bazaar full of local handicrafts before entering Krujë Castle to visit the Skanderbeg Museum. Inside, you'll learn about national hero George Castriot Skanderbeg and his involvement in the Albanian-Ottoman wars. Then, enter the National Ethnographic Museum, a restored Ottoman home that offers a glimpse at traditional life in Albania. Enjoy some free time in the town to eat lunch, shop and explore on your own before traveling back to Tirana.

## Day 13: Scenic Dubrovnik Coast Cruise & Lunch

\$89/\$99\* (4 hours, departs in afternoon, lunch included)

This afternoon begins with a cruise along the shoreline of one of Europe's most romantic cities. You'll enjoy views of the iconic city walls and Lokrum island as you sail toward St. Jacob's beach. Arriving on the beach, you'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Then, travel back to the Old Town by boat and set out on a stroll through Dubrovnik's medieval streets. You'll walk along the Stradun, or main street, to Pile Gate before heading back to your hotel. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 15: Korcula Archipelago Kayaking

\$109/\$119\* (4.5 hours, departs in the morning)

The beauty of the Croatian Coast is best enjoyed from the water of the glittering Adriatic Sea. Today, you'll do just that. Make your way to Korcula harbor and learn the basics of kayaking. Then, set off on a leisurely kayaking tour led by a local guide. You'll paddle around the islets of Korcula's interior bay and admire the Korcula archipelago from a new perspective. Many of the small islets to the southeast of Korcula are part of a nature preserve. That means you'll want to keep your eyes peeled for wildlife and views of the lush landscapes. You'll also be able to enjoy free time for swimming at one of the islets. After your tour, head back to your hotel. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Lifejackets and a short safety presentation are provided on-site.

\*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. GAT 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 [goaheadtours.com/terms](http://goaheadtours.com/terms)