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BALKAN ODYSSEY 11-DAY TOUR AND CRUISE



Sunday, September 26 to Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Your adventure begins with a one-night stay in Bucharest followed by a two-night stay in Transylvania known for its numerous castles and painted monasteries. From here you enjoy a Danube cruise from Oltenia, Romania to Osijek, Croatia on an all-suite ship with Avalon. One of the journey highlights will be the Romanian capital's WWI Arc de Triomphe and the Royal Palace Square as well as the opportunity to spend some free time browsing the lovely shops and cafes of Victory Boulevard. Additional highlights include the opportunity to see the incredible ancient architecture in Veliko Târnovo and Arbanassi, and sail to Vidin, Bulgaria, to marvel at the remarkable rock formations of the Balkan Mountains in Belogradchik. Cruise through the Iron Gates Gorge, explore the amazing archaeological site of Lepenski Vir, and visit the fascinating Fortress of Golubač. Sail to Belgrade, Serbia, where the Danube and Sava Rivers meet, and discover ancient architecture in Novi Sad. Sail into beautiful Croatia, where a 1,000-year-old winemaking tradition lives on in Ilok. Disembark in Osijek and spend the night in the Croatian capital of Zagreb—dating back to the Roman Empire. This Danube River cruise through the Balkans reveals the beauty of its people and culture across a land of beauty and inspiration. Following the cruise there is a one-night stay in Zagreb

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Sunday, September 26: BUCHAREST

Arrival on your own in Bucharest, known as “The Paris of the East”. Transfer to the hotel (included). Orientation tour this afternoon as we taste our way through Bucharest’s most charming and unusual ‘mahallas,’ or neighborhoods, on a small-group food tour. Together we will venture beyond crowded squares and Communist architecture to discover the Romanian capital’s quieter, Belle Époque quarters, where Old World elegance meets bohemian flair. Along the way, we pop into lively markets, specialty shops, and cafes to sample the best of artisan Romanian cuisine like goats-milk cheese, cured meat, homemade bread, craft beer, and Wallachian doughnuts. Balance of the day is yours to relax and enjoy Bucharest

Day 2 – Monday, September 27: BUCHAREST–SINAIA–BRASOV

Drive into the Carpathians to Sinaia to visit Peles Castle, a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance architecture, considered by many one of the most stunning castles in Europe. Continue to Brasov. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 28: BRASOV

Breakfast followed by a guided Sightseeing Tour of Brasov, known for its medieval Saxon walls and bastions, the towering Gothic-style Black Church and lively cafes. Piața Sfatului (Council Square) in the cobbled old town is surrounded by colorful baroque buildings and is home to the Casa Sfatului, a former town hall turned local history museum. In the evening enjoy a tour of Bran Castle of Dracula lore followed by dinner.

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 29: BUCHAREST/OLTENITA

Breakfast at the hotel before travelling back to the Romanian capital for a Beautiful Boulevards and Bold History tour which begins with its tree-lined boulevards and Arc de Triomphe—honoring WWI Romanian soldiers. See the Royal Palace Square—the scene of the city’s 1989 riots to overthrow the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Following the tour we transfer to Oltenita to board our Avalon River cruise. Time to settle in and familiarize yourself with the ship before a welcome drink followed by dinner.

Day 5 – Thursday, September 30: NIKOPOL. VELIKO TÂRNOVO & ARBANASSI EXCURSION

Cliff Houses and Revival Architecture. Join a full-day Guided Tour to the former Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo—with its ancient stone houses clinging to the cliffs above the Yantra River. This afternoon discover one of the oldest towns in Bulgaria (circa 4300 BC), as well as more Bulgarian Revival architecture in the 15th-century town of Arbanassi.

Day 6 – Friday, October 1: VIDIN, BULGARIA

Rocks, Ruins and Beauty in Bulgaria is what awaits us on our guided Sightseeing in Vidin, and Belogradchik. Marvel at the remarkable rock formations on the western slopes of the Balkan Mountains, sculpted by 200 million years of natural elements. This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board with a Bulgarian folklore show.

Day 7 – Saturday October 2: IRON GATES GORGE–DONJI MILANOVAC. EXCURSION TO LEPENSKI VIR –GOLUBAČ

Today’s experience includes ancient artifacts and the Iron Gates. Join your Adventure Host for today’s special activities as we sail through the spectacular and narrow Iron Gates Gorge—a natural border between Serbia and Romania. Later enjoy a tour to Lepenski Vir—an important Mesolithic archaeological site chronicling prehistoric cultures, settlements, and art. Marvel at the ancient discoveries and artifacts, as well as the unique views the site affords of the Danube Gorge. Enjoy a brief sailing to Golubač where we will visit the Fortress of Golubač, one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe. You’ll hear about its tumultuous history as a border control defense in the Middle Ages, and a source of conflict between Serbia, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire.

Day 8; Sunday, October 3: BELGRADE, SERBIA

We begin the day with a guided tour of Belgrade—where the Danube and Sava Rivers converge—and see the city’s many fascinating sights, including Saint Sava, one of the world’s largest Orthodox churches. Spend free

time in Belgrade exploring Knez Mihailova Street—Belgrade’s central pedestrian thoroughfare with many lively cafés, shops, and cultural spots. Before dinner, attend an onboard Lecture to learn about the Danube Delta. This evening, you might like to join an Optional Excursion for an authentic Bohemian Dinner in the Quarter of Skadarlija.

Day 9; Monday, October 4: NOVI SAD/ILOK

A capital of culture. Morning tour of Novi Sad, the second largest town in Serbia. Admire its Austro-Hungarian old town, with its baroque buildings, and ancient fortifications. Enjoy a brief cruise to Ilok, Croatia while having lunch onboard. This afternoon will focus on Croatian heritage and hilltop vintages during a tour of Ilok, with its 1,000-year-old winemaking tradition still thriving and its medieval fortress protected for its Croatian cultural heritage.

Day 10; Tuesday, October 5: OSIJEK/ZAGREB

Disembark your ship this morning and travel to Zagreb for a guided tour of the Croatian capital and discover its rich history dating from the Roman times to the present day. Farewell dinner tonight.

Day 11; Wednesday, October 6: ZAGREB

Breakfast before transferring to the airport for your flight back to Toronto OR continue on your adventure with a transfer to the Dalmatian Coast for our 9 nights In Depth program.

Tour cost per person in Canadian dollars:

Land Only, sharing double accommodation

- Introductory Category D cabin:\$5,978.00
- Upgrade to Category B cabin: \$1,200.00
- Upgrade to Category A cabin: \$1,242.00
- Upgrade to Category P cabin : \$1,371.00

Avalon is currently running a promotion offering a discount of \$950 on the Category D or free upgrades for Categories B, A and P. free upgrades. While the promo is on you can book a category B, A or P and Avalon will waive the supplements. Participants booking a Category D cabin will receive a discount of \$950.00 per person. Book before December 31st and receive an additional \$100.00 per cabin discount. Please note: no cabins are being held. Space is subject to availability. The promotion is time sensitive and can be removed at any time so we suggest you book as early as possible. All it takes is a \$250.00 non-refundable deposit per person. If you change your mind or cannot travel and advise us before March 30, your deposit can be moved to any other sailing in 2021, 2022 or 2023. Avalon [terms and conditions](#) apply after March 30, 2021. Pauwels Travel Bureau recommends getting travel insurance to be properly protected for your trip.

Prices for other categories and single supplements available on request.

Tour/cruise includes:

- Transfers from airport
- One-night pre-cruise tour of Bucharest, including exclusive food tour
- Two-nights pre-cruise tour to Transylvania
- Daily breakfast during the land tour
- 7 nights river cruise in category selected and all meals and snacks during the cruise including wine or beer with lunch and dinner.
- 1 night’s accommodation in Zagreb
- Transportation throughout the tour
- All sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Pre-paid gratuities

- Services of a Pauwels Travel escort

Not Included:

- Items of a personal nature
- Meals not indicated
- Optional travel insurance: call the office for rates.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the Balkan Odyssey tour/cruise of September 26 to October 6, 2021.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$250 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Cabin category choice: _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for your balance payment 180 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)**

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth")

Address _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM/CABIN REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____ .

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____ ?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ **Signature(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:
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