






Best of the Balkans & Greek Islands

Tour Overview

 Start Point Athens	 End Point Athens	 Meals 21 Breakfasts 2 Lunches 8 Dinners	 Transport Air- conditioned coach	 Tour Type Fully- guided tour
--	--	--	--	--

Itinerary

Day 1: Start of tour in Athens

 Dinner  Dorian Inn

Start at the hotel in Athens today and meet up with your tour leader and group. Then, Greece's capital city awaits on an orientation tour. Craving Greek cuisine? Join the optional Athens Food Tour! Then, embark on the optional guided tour of the Acropolis site. This excursion must be pre-booked. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Included:

- ABX - Enjoy a welcome dinner in Athens
- ABX - Explore Athens, Greece's ancient capital city

Optionals:

- Athens Food Tour
- Acropolis Guided Tour

Day 2: Athens - Delphi - Meteora - Kalabaka

 Breakfast  Hotel Antoniadis

Today, stop in Delphi. In ancient times, Delphi was considered the "omphalos" (navel) of Earth. Admire some top sights, including the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians, and the Delphi Archaeological Museum. This afternoon, arrive in Meteora - a spellbinding series of rock formations home to Eastern Orthodox monasteries. Tonight, opt for a Greek evening in a picturesque setting.

Included:

- ABX - Explore the ancient ruins of Delphi
- ABX - Marvel at the monasteries of Meteora

Optionals:

- Greek Evening in the Meteora Foothills

Day 3: Kalabaka - Ohrid

 Breakfast, Dinner  Hotel Belvedere

Travel to the hidden gem of Ohrid in North Macedonia. This UNESCO-listed city located on the shores of Lake Ohrid is one of Europe's longest-standing human settlements. Tour the Old Town and marvel at top attractions, including the Church of St. John at Kaneo, overlooking Lake Ohrid from atop a cliff. End the day with a group dinner.

Included:

- ABX - Embark on a guided tour of Ohrid

Day 4: Ohrid - Tirana - Shkodër

 Breakfast, Lunch  Hotel Rozafa

Leave North Macedonia behind in exchange for Albania. Arriving in the capital city, Tirana, sit down for a local lunch and embark on a walking tour. Marvel at the impressive Ottoman, Italian and Communist architecture. Explore Tirana more during free time before travelling to Shkodër, a historic, riverside city, where the group will spend the night.

Included:

ABX - Discover Tirana on a walking tour

ABX - Spend an evening in Shkodër

Day 5: Shkodër - Budva - Kotor - Dubrovnik

 Breakfast  Hotel Ivka, Dubrovnik

Say goodbye to Albania and journey through Montenegro. Arrive in the scenic coastal town of Budva, famous for its well-preserved medieval walled city, and explore at leisure. Then, enjoy a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Kotor. Next, continue to Croatia and marvel at Dubrovnik's entrance gate to the Old Town. Tonight is yours to explore.

Included:

ABX - Explore Budva and Kotor in Montenegro

Day 6: Dubrovnik: Free Day

 Breakfast  Hotel Ivka, Dubrovnik

Start another exciting day with a locally-guided walking tour of Dubrovnik's Old Town, complete with the City Walls and Franciscan Monastery. Next, depart on a walking tour from the spectacular Amerling Fountain. The rest of the day is free. Join the Blue Cave Boat Tour to explore the azure waters of some of Dubrovnik's famous and hidden caves!

Included:

ABX - Experience a guided walking tour of Dubrovnik

Optionals:

Blue Cave Boat Tour

Day 7: Dubrovnik - Mostar - Sarajevo

 Breakfast, Dinner  Ibis Styles Sarajevo

Cross the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country rich with history and culture and filled with charming towns and picturesque landscapes! Visit Mostar and admire the city's most iconic sight, the Stari Most bridge. Later, travel to Sarajevo, the country's fascinating capital. Head out on a locally-guided tour before enjoying a group dinner this evening.

Included:

ABX - Visit Mostar

ABX - Take a walking tour of Sarajevo

Day 8: Sarajevo - Split - Plitvice Lakes

 Breakfast, Dinner  Plitvice Lakes Ethno Garden

Head back to Croatia this morning. After arriving in the seaside city of Split, head out on an orientation tour of the scenic Old Town. Behold the Baroque architecture of Fruit Square, discover the age-old Diocletian's Palace and traverse the lively Split Riva waterfront. This evening's accommodation lies within the Plitvice Lakes region. Dinner is served at the hotel tonight.

Included:

ABX - Explore Split, an idyllic coastal city

Day 9: Plitvice Lakes - Ljubljana

 Breakfast  B&B Hotel Ljubljana Park

Start today's adventure by visiting the Plitvice Lakes National Park, one of Europe's most beautiful natural sights. Marvel at cascading waterfalls and spellbinding surroundings. Up next is the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana. Embark on a locally-guided walking tour and embrace the city's fairytale feeling. For a night of Slovenian wine and cuisine, join the Taste of Ljubljana optional excursion.

Included:

ABX - Explore Plitvice Lakes National Park

ABX - Discover the magic of Ljubljana with a local guide

Optionals:

Taste of Ljubljana

Day 10: **Ljubljana - Maribor - Lake Balaton - Budapest**

 Breakfast, Dinner  ibis Styles Budapest Center

Cross the border into Hungary, stopping in Maribor, Slovenia's second-largest city, for an orientation tour. Next, enter Hungary and visit Lake Balaton - one of Europe's most breathtaking freshwater lakes. This afternoon, journey to Budapest, Hungary's breathtaking capital. Enjoy a driving tour of the city with a local guide. Celebrate the first night in Budapest with a group dinner tonight.

Included:

ABX - Stop in Maribor

ABX - Visit Lake Balaton

ABX - Embark on a driving tour of Budapest

Day 11: **Budapest: Free Day**

 Breakfast  ibis Styles Budapest Center

Enjoy a free day to explore Budapest's history and unusual details. Opt for today's Buda vs Pest optional excursion to tick landmarks such as St. Stephen's Basilica and Fisherman's Bastion off your bucket list! Or, spend the day relaxing in the Budapest Baths. This evening, choose to take in views of Budapest by night on the Danube dinner cruise.


Optionals:

Buda vs Pest

Budapest Baths

Danube Dinner Cruise

Day 12: **Budapest - Novi Sad - Belgrade**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Belgrade City Hotel

Bid beautiful Budapest goodbye as the journey continues to Serbia. Stop in the charming city of Novi Sad before entering the Serbian capital and embarking on a locally guided walk. See the city's top sights, including Republic Square, the Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan Park and Belgrade Fortress. This evening, enjoy an included group dinner.

Included:

ABX - Visit Novi Sad

ABX - Embark on a guided walking tour of Belgrade

Day 13: **Belgrade - Niš - Sofia**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Ramada by Wyndham Sofia City Center

This morning, visit Niš, a historic city in south-eastern Serbia once under Turkish reign. Enjoy a lunch stop and visit Tinkers Alley (Kazandžijsko Sokače). Next up, Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Embark on a walking tour of this lively city. Marvel at the stunning Sofia Cathedral, one of the city's most striking symbols. This evening, a group dinner is included.

Included:

ABX - Visit Tinkers Alley and enjoy a lunch stop in Niš

ABX - Enjoy a guided tour of Sofia

Day 14: **Sofia - Rila Monastery - Thessaloniki**

 Breakfast  El Greco Hotel Thessaloniki

Today, the tour's Greek leg kicks off. En route, visit Rila Monastery. This 10th-century Eastern Orthodox monastery astounds with ancient relics, fabulous frescoes and surrounding mountainous scenery. Later, journey to Thessaloniki, a bustling port city. Upon arrival, set out on an orientation tour of its historic sights and waterfront. Enjoy a free evening to spend as you wish!

Included:

ABX - Explore Rila Monastery

ABX - Discover Thessaloniki

Day 15: **Thessaloniki - Kamena Vourla - Athens**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Dorian Inn

Start the journey south, admiring the gorgeous Greek countryside along the way. En route to Athens, stop in Kamena Vourla. This is the perfect spot to have lunch and enjoy the serene scenery. Sit down for a group dinner after hotel check-in in Athens. Spend an evening relaxing or catching up with your new travel family.

Included:

ABX - Visit Kamena Vourla

Day 16: **Athens**

 Breakfast, Lunch  Dorian Inn

Athens awaits with a variety of attractions today! Choose to join a new group of travellers on a more in-depth city tour and behold the city's top sights such as the Academy, National Library, Greek parliament, Panathinaikos, Hadrian's Arch, and the temple of Olympian Zeus. Enjoy an included Greek lunch before spending the rest of the day however you like.

Included:

ABX - Embark on an Athens city tour

Day 17: **Athens - Mykonos**

 Breakfast  Giannoulaki Hotel

Can you hear Mykonos calling? After catching the ferry, arrive in magical Mykonos and settle into your accommodation. Next, embark on a tour of Mykonos Chora, learning interesting facts and spotting the top sights! Enjoy the night as you wish, exploring some of the fun local bars, sipping sundowners, or simply relaxing for the night.

Included:

ABX - Enjoy two nights on the famous Mykonos Island

Day 18: **Mykonos: Free Day**

 Breakfast  Giannoulaki Hotel


Today is yours to make memories in Mykonos as you wish. Sunbathe on local beaches, explore the lively town or enjoy some downtime. Alternatively, join today's optional Rhenia & Delos Cruise around the scenic Cycladic islands! Or, opt for the Mykonos Cooking Class to craft authentic Greek dishes with a local hostess in a traditional island home.

Optionals:

Rhenia & Delos Cruise

Mykonos Cooking Class

Day 19: **Mykonos - Santorini**

 Breakfast  Nikos Hotel

After breakfast, catch the ferry heading to Santorini. As you cruise, soak up the spectacular island vistas and picture-perfect ports as well as Santorini's towering cliffs, breathtaking beaches, and blue-and-white buildings the ferry makes its approach. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel before heading to Fira Town for an orientation tour. Spend the evening in Santorini as you wish!

Included:

ABX - Spend three nights on Santorini island

Day 20: **Santorini: Free Day**

 Breakfast  Nikos Hotel

Savour this free day in Santorini and explore your way. Our Santorini Highlights optional excursion comes highly recommended as the ultimate way to explore the island! With a guide, lunch, and wine tasting included, visit a black sand beach, explore charming Megalochori village, relax at a winery, and watch Oia's iconic sunset!

Optionals:

Santorini Highlights

Day 21: **Santorini: Free Day**

 Breakfast  Nikos Hotel

Take full advantage of the last full day in Santorini. Join the Caldera Islands optional excursion for an unforgettable sailing adventure! Explore the famous volcano and discover its captivating history. Plunge into rejuvenating hot springs and savour a traditional Greek lunch on picturesque Thirassia Island. The tour comes to an end tomorrow, so make the most of your last night!

Optionals:

Caldera Islands

Day 22: **Santorini - End of tour in Athens**

Breakfast

This morning, take an early transfer to Santorini airport for a local flight back to Athens. The tour concludes upon arrival in Athens. Don't forget to swap contact details with your new global travel family before heading your separate ways. Expat Explore wishes you a safe journey ahead and hopes to see you on tour again soon!



info@expatexplore.com



+44 808 168 6799



10 Merryweather Place, London, SE10
8BN



www.expatexplore.com