

SEVEN COUNTRIES. ONE JOURNEY.



The Crossroads of Europe

WITH COBBLESTONE FREEWAY

New & Improved – Crossroads of Europe Tour

Experience 7 amazing countries in one extraordinary vacation experience. Immerse yourself in a region rich in history and culture, where the landscapes you drive through are equally as breath-taking as the destinations we visit.

Each of these countries and destinations has its own flavour, energy and uniqueness – you will be amazed by the diversity in this undiscovered corner of Europe.

Join us to see stunning architecture, taste the wide variety of cuisines, marvel at the diverse geography, from vast golden fields, to tall mountains and jagged coastline. Soak up these vibrant living traditions and cultures!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Buda and Pest:** explore diverse and beautiful Budapest.
- **Danube Cruise:** see the city of Budapest lit up at night on a river cruise.
- **Fiery Dances:** see a folk performance in a Hungarian tavern, or csarda!
- **Diverse history:** discover the story of the city of Belgrade
- **East meets West:** unearth the mix of cultures in Sarajevo
- **Bosnian coffee:** learn how the Bosnian's drink their coffee in a masterclass
- **City of Bridges:** marvel at Mostar, and it's historic bridge, uniting a divided city
- **Unparalleled Beauty:** explore the Pearl of the Adriatic Sea – Dubrovnik.
- **Secluded Bay:** relax in Kotor Bay – a natural gem of Montenegro.
- **Roman classics:** travel back in time in historic Split.
- **Sound of the Ocean:** listen to the eerie sounds of the Zadar Sea Organ
- **Breathtaking Nature:** admire the beautiful Plitvice National Park.
- **Cosmopolitan Vibes:** see the modern side of Croatia in its capital – Zagreb!
- **Quaint charm:** soak up the beautiful city of Ljubljana, Europe's smallest capital
- **Apple Strudel:** take a master class in how to make a traditional Viennese apple strudel!
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** Attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway Travellers.



The Destination

Budapest

Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Budapest (-/-/D)

Welcome to Hungary! Upon arrival in Budapest, you'll be met at the airport by your Tour Leader and chauffeured to your hotel, located in the heart of the city center.

*Your **Tour Leader** will be with you throughout your entire trip – every step of the way. More than just a guide - they will be your personal travel host, along with your private driver and vehicle. Together, they'll make sure you get where you need to go, and be available to stop when you need along the way. Not to mention, they'll show you the best places to eat, and help you with all the small details, from using the bank machines to showing you where to find the best gifts at the market - and negotiating for the best price! They'll share the best of these countries, and if there are any problems, they will make sure everything gets worked out. You're in good hands!*

After check-in and some free time to freshen up, we will provide you with a **city orientation**, so you will know the closest exchange places, ATMs, and best souvenir and convenience stores.

Later on, we will enjoy a delicious **Welcome Dinner** in one of our favorite restaurants with traditional Hungarian food!

Day 2 | Budapest (B/-/D)

Discover the beauty of **Budapest** today. Budapest is a city that has something for everyone, from a rich history to stunning architecture, healing thermal waters to relax in, to a great foodie scene to discover. Today we'll show you both sides of the city – so you can contrast and compare!

Firstly - the Buda side: take a **panoramic tour** of the Buda Castle & Citadel Hill, which will provide stunning views over the city and Danube River. In the afternoon, stroll on the Pest Side, down Andrassy street, through Heroes square and the quaint Jewish quarter, and on up to St. Stephen's Church.

Take some free time to explore and enjoy the city, before we get back together in the evening for a **river cruise** down the Danube River, enjoying traditional Hungarian dishes and the beauty of the Parliament building lit up against the night sky.

Day 3 | Budapest (B/-/D)

Today, enjoy a free day in Budapest. *Take an **optional** day tour to Hungarian countryside Castle Godollo, and learn the secrets of the royal family. Watch a Hungarian horse show, featuring races and incredible skills. OR **optionally**, enjoy some of the famous city spas, shopping areas, museums or galleries.*

This evening – a special treat! For our final evening in Hungary You are invited to dinner in a Traditional **Hungarian Csarda**. Taste local food, and see some Traditional Hungarian **dancing** and singing in a **Folk Show** by local artists, to round off the day!

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Ibis Styles' or similar | Budapest

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/2997/index.en.shtml>

3 Nights



The Destination

Belgrade

Day 4 | Novi Sad - Belgrade (B/-/D)

Today we will leave Hungary and head to our next country on our Crossroads journey – **Serbia!** On our way to the capital, **Belgrade**, we'll stop in Novi Sad - the cultural centre of northern Serbia. It's the capital of the Vojvodina province, an autonomous region within Serbia with 26 ethnic groups and six official languages!

Enjoy a **tour** around the town centre, which is lined with beautiful 200 year old houses, outdoor cafes and shops. Enjoy an incredible view of the Danube and Panonian Plain.

Upon arriving into **Belgrade**, we'll check in and have some time to rest before heading out for a Serbian **Welcome dinner!**

Day 5 | Belgrade (B/L/-)

Today we'll take a **City Tour** of Belgrade to get to know more of this city's fascinating history.

Belgrade is a beautiful city with a rich legacy – one of the oldest cities in Europe, it has been a melting pot for many cultures over the centuries, but also the site of many conflicts and tragedies. Today it has rebuilt itself as a modern hub, with a lively nightlife, and a rich history it is learning to be proud of. A mix of old and new, you can find everything from ancient churches to hip underground bars; eat traditional cepavi kebabs, or eat at contemporary restaurants in the lively centre.

Walk the city streets, and listen to interesting stories that have shaped this city. We'll explore the city centre, visit the **Belgrade Fortress**, as well as the largest green area in Belgrade, Kalemegdan Park.

Free time to explore the city after. In the evening, take the *option* to experience the city's unique nightlife – at one of its floating river clubs, called Splav, spread along the banks of the Danube and Sava Rivers!

Day 6 | Sarajevo (B/-/D)

Today we'll leave Serbia and head to our next destination – **Sarajevo**, capital of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

En route into the city, we'll stop to visit the **Tunnel of Hope**. This Tunnel was a lifeline during the siege of Sarajevo in the midst of the Bosnian War in the 1990s. This gave civilians access to humanitarian aid in a time when the city was all but cut off by Serbian forces.

We'll continue on and check-in, with sometime to rest. In the evening, we'll welcome you with a **traditional Bosnian dinner!**

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Tulip Inn' or similar | Belgrade

<https://tulip-inn-putnik-belgrade.goldentulip.com/en-us>

2 Nights



The Destination

Day 7 | Sarajevo (B/-/D)

This city is the definition of “East meets West”. The melding of European and Eastern influences had created a diverse city, where, walking down a single street, you can feel like one minute you are in a Turkish Bazaar, and the next, in the picturesque streets of Paris! For over four hundred years, mosques, synagogues, Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches have been built and have stood side by side

We'll explore Sarajevo today on a **city tour**, and discover the unusual layout and, and how religions cohabited in one city. See the very spot where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, triggering the First World War.

After, take some **free time** to explore this stunning city. Shop in the colourful bazaar, try Bosnian coffee, and Bosnian delight. We recommend a stop for lunch at a traditional restaurant at Old Bazaar” – called Bascarsija.

We'll get back together for a Bosnian Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 8 | Mostar (B/L/-)

Today we'll leave Sarajevo and head to **Mostar**. This majestic city of bridges and arches will make you feel as though you've stepped back into another century. See the incredible bridge that linked the two sides of the city, often divided by religion. Experience a traditional **Bosnian coffee tasting** at the famous Alma Café, and learn about the coffee culture of Bosnia as you sip coffee and taste Bosnian Delight.

After, enjoy some **free time** for shopping and exploring – climb the minaret of the Koskin Mehmet Pasha's Mosque for a great view of the bridge!

In the evening, we'll have dinner followed by a **Bosnian folklore experience!** Overnight in Mostar.

Day 9 | Dubrovnik (B/L/-)

Today, we'll set off for our next country – Croatia! This morning we'll drive to **Dubrovnik** – known as the pearl of the Adriatic Sea, its beautiful Old Town never fails to take your breath away. This picturesque, white-stone city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a **tour** of the wonderful and historic Dubrovnik, and discover its many stories. We'll visit iconic places such as the stunning Franciscan monastery and Onofrio's fountains; marvel at the Orlando Column and the St. Blaise Church. You may recognise some spots on our tour from Game of Thrones, or Star Wars, as many famous scenes were filmed here!

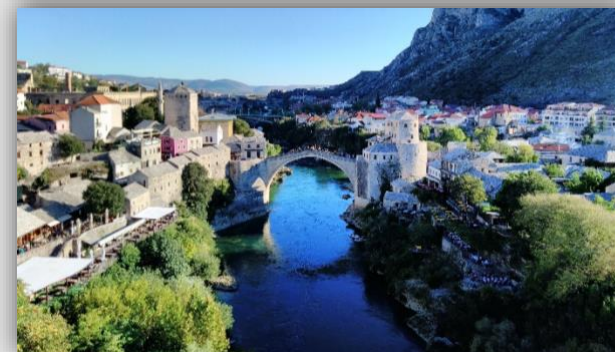
Evening at your leisure.

Sarajevo – Mostar - Dubrovnik

HOTELS:

Hotel 'ETN' or similar | Sarajevo
<http://www.etnhotel.biz/>
2 nights

'Hotel City' or similar | Mostar
<https://www.city-hotel.ba/>
1 night



The Destination

Day 10 | Dubrovnik (B/-/D)

After breakfast depart to the new harbor of Dubrovnik to get on the boat and spend the day exploring the **Elaphiti Islands**. An archipelago of 9 small islands, of which we will visit 3, the only ones that are inhabited! With three stops and lunch onboard the boat, you will have plenty of time to enjoy the sea, sun and the beach or a walk.

In the evening we'll get together for a **folklore dinner** in the Dubrovnik countryside, where you will experience some real delicacies of the region and the true Croatian hospitality.

Day 11 | Dubrovnik (B/-/D)

Free day in Dubrovnik.

Dinner included in the evening.

Day 12 | Montenegro (B/L/-)

Take a day trip to **Montenegro**. We'll visit the beautiful cities of Kotor and Budva. **Kotor** is a World Heritage-listed city, set on a secluded bay amongst tall cliff - "Monte-Negro" literally means "Black Mountain". Wander its crooked alleyways, climb the hills to the ruined castle, and see the stunning panoramic views over the city and out across the Adriatic Sea. Enjoy Budva's charming Old Town and its sweeping beaches.

In the evening we'll transfer you back to Dubrovnik.

Day 13 | Split (B/L/-)

In the morning, check out and set off for our next destination - **Split**. This vibrant town is known as the soul of **Dalmatia**. We'll visit its most iconic sights on a walking tour –marvel at the roman structures, still standing, and centuries old! Explore the historic Diocletian's Palace with its cellars (featured in the two last seasons of the Game of Thrones), the Peristyle square, with its own intact Egyptian sphinx. Split is a town filled with history, and stunning historic buildings – after the waking tour, take some free time to relax in one of the Dalmatian taverns in the city center. Overnight in Trogir.

Day 14 | Trogir (B/-/D)

Get to know the often overlooked coastal town of **Trogir**. Its amazing Romanesque and Renaissance architecture will blow you away!

Afterwards, we'll visit the nearby village of **Klis**, home to an ancient fortress - a medieval stronghold, featured in 'Game of Thrones' as the ancient city of Mereen! Watch the sunset over the bay from the hilltop fortress, while enjoying an open air picnic. Return to Trogir in the evening.

Montenegro - Split

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Komodor' or similar | Dubrovnik
<http://komodor.dubrovnik.hotels-hr.com/en/>
4 nights

Hotel 'Trogir Palace' or similar | Split
<https://hotel-palace.net/>
3 nights



The Destination

Zadar - Plitvice

Day 15 | Hvar (B/-/D)

After breakfast at the hotel we will transfer to the quayside, as we will be taking a daytrip to the island of **Hvar**. Visiting Croatia and not seeing the islands is like visiting Rome and not seeing Pope. Today we will explore one of 1244 islands that Croatia has, and for many it is the most beautiful one – Hvar. The island of Hvar is famous for its rich history and legacy but primarily for its stunning scenery. Hvar town is the jewel of the island, featuring stately Venetian architecture along a welcoming harbour. We will have lunch, and a wine tasting, as this island boasts some of the best Croatian wines!

After, we'll return to Split and enjoy a typical Traditional dinner in a **Konoba**.

“**Konoba**” means a restaurant in the coastal area of Croatia - with a traditional interior and local delicacies. Drink the local wine while listening to the sounds of local music.

Day 16 | Zadar (B/L/-)

This morning we'll check out and hit the road. Our first stop is “**Etnoland Dalmati**”. Etnoland Dalmati is a unique combination of culture, tradition and history. It offers a rare opportunity for people to discover old crafts and traditional customs, making it a cultural monument of sorts dedicated to the heritage of the Dalmatian hinterland. Take a tour of the village, and get to know how the Dalmatian people used to live, their culture, traditions and values. Enjoy a delicious lunch of local specialties, such as veal, cooked under an iron bell!

After lunch, we'll continue towards **Zadar** - an ancient city which dates back to the Roman Empire. See the Roman and early medieval remains of city fortifications. Head to the sea side to see the incredible Zadar “**Sea Organ**”. An incredible collaboration of mankind and the elements, this 230-foot concrete structure harnesses the energy of the winds and waters of the Adriatic Sea to create random but soothing and harmonized notes.

Enjoy some free time before leaving Dalmatia and the coast to travel inland. Dinner and overnight in the Plitvice Lakes area.

Day 17 | Plitvice (B/L/-)

Check out in the morning, as today we're heading to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. On our way we'll visit the **Plitvice National Park**. This collection of lakes and pools, provide some of the most spectacular natural scenery in Croatia. We'll walk around the upper and lower lakes, exploring small bays under the pine trees, and feel at one with nature. Have a light lunch in the park before continuing the trip.

Upon arrival to Zagreb, check in at the hotel. Evening at your leisure.

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Gacka' or similar | Plitvice

<https://bit.ly/2zJHrMl>

1 night



The Destination

Day 18 | Zagreb (B/-/D)

Welcome to **Zagreb** - the largest city and capital of Croatia. Explore the historic old-town with its medieval feel. Visit the open-air markets to stock up souvenirs and taste some of the wonderful cuisine that Croatia has to offer! After – enjoy an afternoon at your leisure in this wonderful city. Explore the many cafes, museums and galleries Zagreb has to offer. We'll get back together for dinner in one of our favourite restaurants.

Day 19 | Zagreb (B/L/-)

Enjoy a free morning to explore Zagreb. Wander its terrace lined boulevards and the open air Dolac market.

After free time for lunch, we'll take a trip out to the countryside near Zagreb, to visit the Trakošćan Castle in the **Zagorje** area. This romantic castle which dates back to the 13th century, and has a wide variety of exhibitions and displays, with beautiful views over the Croatian countryside.

After, we'll have dinner and a folklore experience, to show you true Slavic hospitality! Return to Zagreb in the evening.

Day 20 | Ljubljana - Vienna (B/L/-)

Today we'll travel to the greenest country of Europe - enchanting Slovenia. We will explore the Capital City of **Ljubljana** on a city tour. We'll explore the quaint streets, cross the famous Triple Bridge, and walk the leafy banks of the emerald-green Ljubljanica River.

We'll continue on to our final destination - **Vienna**. We'll embark on a panoramic tour of the city, including a drive through the most famous street in Vienna: The Ringstrasse.

After your history lesson, you will be indulged in an Apple Strudel making masterclass, and of course - tasting session! Watch a professional pastry chef hand-bake an original Viennese apple strudel. You will not only learn how to make this divine Viennese dessert, but you will also be given the original Viennese Apple Strudel recipe to try out for yourselves at home. Free afternoon: Optional visit to the Vienna Zoo - the oldest in the world – or the Klimt Atelier villa, where Gustav Klimt spent last years of his life. Free evening to soak up some Viennese culture - go to see an optional Lipizzaner Show or a Classical Music Concert. Farewell dinner and overnight in hotel in Vienna.

Day 21 TOUR END DATE | Vienna (B/-/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes! There's also a variety of optional activities to choose from in Vienna! Check the detailed itinerary for details.

Zagreb – Ljubljana - Vienna

HOTELS:

Hotel 'Garden' or similar | Zagreb

<https://garden.zagrebhotels24.com/en/>

3 nights

Hotel 'Kagran' or similar | Vienna

<https://www.hoteldonaustadtkagran.at/en/>

1 nights



Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 20 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt

NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room



On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



CROSSROADS OF EUROPE TOUR 21 Days / 20 Nights

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