

13d10n Discover The Balkan Peninsula: Bulgaria, Northern Greece, Albania, Macedonia

(ESOF5/W)

SOFIA / RILA / PHILIPPI / KAVALA / THESSALONIKI / PELLA / VERGINA / ZAGORIA / SARANDA / GJIROKASTRA / BERAT / TIRANA / OHRID / SKOPJE



29 PLANNED MEALS
10 BREAKFASTS
10 LUNCHESS
09 DINNERS



- START/END
- NIGHT STAY
- BY FLIGHT
- BY COACH



Rila Monastery

DAY 1 SINGAPORE ✈️ SOFIA (BULGARIA)

Welcome to a unique experience!

- Assemble at Changi Airport for our flight to **Sofia**, the capital of Bulgaria.

DAY 2 SOFIA

- Transfer to the city where we begin our city tour with a local guide.
- **Sofia city tour:** Stroll through Sofia's elegant center to see landmarks such as Alexander Nevski Cathedral the Parliament and the former Royal Palace, Rotunda St George and the President Palace. Visit the medieval Boyana Church where

a total of 89 scenes with 240 human images are depicted and represents the most complete medieval art in the Balkans.

Lunch / Dinner

DAY 3 SOFIA 🚗 RILA 🚗 BANSKO

- Head south to the magnificent Rila Monastery, a landmark of Bulgaria and an UNESCO Heritage Site.
- The Rila Monastery located 1147m above sea level is most impressive due to its size, natural surroundings, architecture and wall paintings.
- Drive to the western part of Rhodope Mountain to visit the picturesque villages Lehten and Kovachevitsa.

Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



Zagorochoria



Berat

DAY 4 BANSKO 🚗 PHILIPPI (GREECE) 🚗 KAVALA 🚗 THESSALONIKI

- Depart for the **Philippi** founded by Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Admire monuments from the Hellenistic, Roman and early Christian periods.
- Next, visit the old city of Kavala. See the home of Muhammad Ali Pasha, the founder of modern Egypt.
- Continue to **Thessaloniki**, a port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 5 THESSALONIKI: PELLA

- Set out on a magical journey through time to Pella, the glorious kingdom of ancient Macedonia and the birthplace of Alexander the Great.
- **Pella guided tour:** Visit the monumental palatial complex and the ancient world's largest agora. The main avenue of the agora was actually connected to the port. Be impressed by outstanding mosaic floors that used to decorate the city's grand mansions at the New Archaeological Museum of Pella.
- Return to Thessaloniki after lunch.
- **Thessaloniki walking tour:** Discover some of the city's Byzantine Christian churches and the Roman marketplace which has hosted traders for thousands of years. See the Arch of Galerius, the old Byzantine walls, the Rotunda and the White Tower.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch

DAY 6 THESSALONIKI 🚗 VERGINA 🚗 ZAGORIA

- Drive to **Vergina** to see magnificent Macedonian tombs with glorious frescoes and other treasures displayed at the site museum.
- Continue to the picturesque village of Metsovo to taste some wine at a cellar.
- After lunch, travel to Zagorochoria, a beautiful mountainous region in Epirus which contains a complex of forty-six villages nestled in the heart of nature.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 7 ZAGORIA 🚗 SARANDA (ALBANIA)

- Explore tiny Zagori Villages with their stone houses, cobbled alleys and slate roofs. The isolated location aids to preserve old traditions, stunning frescos and intricate altar screens over the centuries of occupation.
- Visit the Vikos Gorge with a length of 20km and walls that range from 450 to 1600m deep, carved over millions of years by the Voidomatis River
- End the day in **Saranda**, a resort on the Albanian Riviera.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 8 SARANDA 🚗 GJIROKASTRA 🚗 FIER

- Journey over scenic peaks to the town of **Gjirokastra**, a well-preserved Ottoman mountain stronghold set dramatically against limestone summits.
- **Gjirokastra guided tour:** Visit the striking medieval fortress with a strategic vantage point overlooking the valley. This sprawling fortification offers fantastic views over the city and countryside. Walk amongst a charming maze of white-washed, slate-roofed buildings in the old town.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 9 FIER 🚗 BERAT 🚗 TIRANA

- Drive to **Berat**, the town of a thousand windows', due to its numerous Ottoman houses. The lower city by the river was once the exclusive area of Muslim inhabitants while the Christians held the citadel.
- Make our way to **Tirana**, the capital and the most populous city of Albania. Enjoy an orientation tour on arrival.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 10 TIRANA 🚗 OHRID

- Cross the border into North Macedonia and the city of **Ohrid**.
- Take a short trek through the woods for a panoramic view of the Church of St Jovan at Kaneo standing on a cliff rising up from Lake Ohrid.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 11 OHRID 🚗 SKOPJE

- Leave for **Skopje**, the capital of Macedonia known for its abundance of ancient and modern landmarks.
- **Skopje city tour:** Visit the Kale Fortress situated on the city's highest point. Walk down narrow streets into the old town with the spirit of an old ottoman city complete with a typical bazaar and lots of small shops, restaurants and mosques. Cross the Stone Bridge which connects the old and new town. Admire the statue of Alexander the Great before visit the birth house of Mother Theresa.

🕒 Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 12 SKOPJE ✈️ SINGAPORE

- Enjoy some free time to explore.
- Bid farewell to The Balkan Peninsula as we transfer to the airport for our flight back to Singapore.

🕒 Breakfast

DAY 13 ARRIVE SINGAPORE

We hope that you have had an enjoyable vacation with Dynasty Travel and look forward to bring you to your next holiday destination.

Note: The sequence of the itinerary is subject to change without prior notice. During major conferences, fairs & festivals, accommodation may be located outside the city or in an alternate city without prior notice. Please refer to the main Europe brochure for booking terms & conditions.



Lake Ohrid



Skopje