

Castles & Capitals: Serbia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria in two weeks

14 days | 4 countries | 16 cities

Departure months: May-Oct

Small groups
up to **15**
participants

touradar™
4.8 ★/5



From the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers in Belgrade to the spectacular views and bridges of Budapest, from the mighty castles and picturesque towns of Transylvania, the wide boulevards and stunning architecture of “The Little Paris,” as Bucharest is often called, to Bulgarian villages and medieval cities, this tour has it all. Travel in a small group to ensure a personalized experience, including hotel accommodation, an expert guide, transportation, and entrance fees.



○ Start of the tour ● End of the tour ● Overnight ● Optional activity ● Sightseeing

1. Welcome to Serbia

Arrive at Belgrade's "Nikola Tesla" Airport, where your guide will meet you in the arrivals hall. They will assist with currency exchange, provide essential city information, and help with check-in. You'll also be briefed on key sights and events. If you arrive earlier, you can book extra nights at the hotel. After checking in, take time to explore Belgrade independently or follow your guide's suggestions for dinner.

Overnight: Belgrade

Day 2. Belgrade City Tour

Start your day with breakfast before embarking on a comprehensive sightseeing tour of Belgrade. Visit Belgrade Fortress, perched above the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers, and see the Victor Monument and Chapel of Saint Petka. Then, explore New Belgrade's modern architecture, including the Genex Tower and Sava Center. Continue to Zemun, known for its charming Central European ambiance and fish restaurants by the river. Drive through Dedinje, Belgrade's upscale neighborhood, and visit the iconic Saint Sava Temple. You can explore at your own pace in the afternoon. Enjoy the Bohemian Quarter of Skadarlija in the evening, filled with traditional Serbian cuisine and lively nightlife (optional).

Overnight: Belgrade

Day 3. Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci & Budapest

After breakfast, head to Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city. On the way, stop at Sremski Karlovci, an important cultural hub from the 18th century. Explore its cobbled streets and visit the Old Patriarch's Court and the first Serbian High School. Then, enjoy a wine tasting at a local cellar. Continue to Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, an important historic site on the Danube River. Next, explore Novi Sad's Old Town, visiting landmarks such as the monument to Svetozar Miletic and the Novi Sad Cathedral. Next, we will proceed to Budapest. After roughly three hours of relaxed, high-way travel, we will arrive in the Hungarian capital. Check-in at the hotel and use your free afternoon to walk around on your own or to follow your guide's recommendation for dinner.

Overnight: Budapest

Day 4: Explore Budapest

After breakfast, embark on a comprehensive 3-hour city tour of Budapest, beginning with Gellert Hill for breathtaking panoramic views. Your guide will introduce you to the city's two halves: Buda, the historic seat of Hungarian Kings, and Pest, the modern, vibrant counterpart. Start your exploration in Buda, visiting the medieval castle district, Trinity Square, Fisherman's Bastion, and Matyas Church. Capture photos of the 13th-century Buda Castle before crossing the famous Chain Bridge into Pest, where you'll marvel at the stunning Hungarian Parliament Building. Walk along Vaci Street, a bustling shopping area, and step inside the grand St. Stephen's Basilica, where King Stephen's preserved right hand is kept. Continue down elegant Andrássy Avenue, home to the Hungarian State Opera House, and visit Heroes Square, a landmark celebrating Hungary's history.



Budapest

For lunch, enjoy a traditional Hungarian dish like gulyás stew, then use your free afternoon to soak in one of Budapest's famous thermal baths or explore more of this remarkable city. In the evening, you may opt for a Danube cruise, gliding under Budapest's illuminated bridges while sipping champagne and enjoying the melodies of Franz Liszt (not included).

Overnight: Budapest

Day 5: Goodbye Hungary, Hello Romania

After breakfast, depart for Romania, stopping first in Szeged, Hungary's third-largest city, for a one-hour guided tour of Széchenyi Square and other

key landmarks. After lunch, cross into Romania—now part of the Schengen Area (since January 2025)—and head to Timisoara, known as "The Little Vienna" for its Austro-Hungarian charm. Check into the hotel, then take a relaxed afternoon walk through the beautifully restored public squares, lined with charming cafés and stunning architecture. In the evening, try delicious Romanian cuisine at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Timisoara

Day 6. Timisoara - Corvin Castle - Sibiu

After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour of Timisoara's historical center, covering landmarks such as the Orthodox Cathedral, Victory Square, Liberty Square, Union Square, and the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral.

Following lunch, travel east to Corvin Castle (Hunyadi Castle), one of Transylvania's most spectacular Gothic castles, filled with medieval history and legends.



Timisoara

Arriving in Sibiu, a 12th-century city built by German settlers and often called "The City of Eyes" due to its unique roof architecture, check into your hotel. Take a guided tour through the Large Square, Small Square, Council Tower, Bridge of Lies, Stairs Passage, and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, inspired by Hagia Sophia. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Sibiu

Day 7. Sibiu - Sighisoara - Brasov

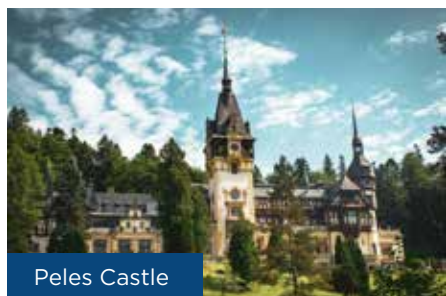
Today, continue exploring the Transylvanian Triangle with a visit to Sighisoara, a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site known for its colorful houses, medieval watchtowers, and as the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler (Dracula). Visit landmarks like the Clock Tower, Dominican Monastery, Tailors' Tower, and the Covered Stairway. Next, head to Brasov, one of the most picturesque towns on the journey. Walk along its medieval streets to discover the Black Church, Catherine's Gate,

Beth Israel Synagogue, and even the narrowest street in the world. Enjoy the evening in Brasov's charming atmosphere.

Overnight: Brasov

Day 8. Brasov – Bran Castle – Peles Castle – Bucharest

Today, immerse yourself in Transylvania's legendary castles. First, visit Bran Castle, famously linked to Dracula's legend, and explore its dramatic towers and narrow staircases.



Peles Castle

Next, visit the magnificent Peles Castle, a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece built as a royal summer residence. With over 160 rooms adorned with intricate wood carvings, stained glass, and sculptures, it is considered one of Europe's most beautiful castles. After this unforgettable experience, continue to Bucharest. Check into your hotel and enjoy a free evening.

Overnight: Bucharest

Day 9. Explore Bucharest

Nicknamed "Little Paris", Bucharest boasts grand tree-lined boulevards, Belle Époque architecture, and a vibrant atmosphere. Visit landmarks such as Piața Unirii, the massive Parliament Palace (second-largest building in the world), the Arch of Triumph, Romanian Athenaeum, Lipscani Street, and Revolution Square. Spend the afternoon exploring independently, or relax in one of Bucharest's many charming cafés and terraces before enjoying the city's lively nightlife.

Overnight: Bucharest

Day 10. Bucharest – Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo

After breakfast, cross into Bulgaria and visit the Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, a UNESCO-listed complex of 12th-century monastic chapels carved into the cliffs. Continue to Arbanasi, a scenic open-air museum with 80 preserved medieval houses. Finally,

arrive in Veliko Tarnovo, the medieval City of Tsars, where you'll explore the impressive Tsarevets Fortress, once home to Bulgarian royalty.

Overnight: Veliko Tarnovo

Day 11. Veliko Tarnovo – Etar Ethno Village – Kazanlak – Plovdiv

After breakfast, visit the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum Etar, showcasing traditional Bulgarian crafts and architecture. Next, visit Kazanlak in the Valley of Roses, renowned for rose oil production. Explore the Ethnographic Complex Damascena and the 4th-century BC Thracian Tomb (UNESCO site) before heading to Plovdiv, one of Europe's oldest cities, where Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman influences blend beautifully.

Overnight: Plovdiv

Day 12. Plovdiv – Koprivshtitsa – Sofia

Tour Plovdiv, visiting the Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis, Roman Stadium, and the Church of Saint Constantine and Helena. Wander through Kapana, an arts district filled with galleries and cafés. Stop in Koprivshtitsa, a 19th-century town with well-preserved Bulgarian Revival architecture, before continuing to Sofia.

Overnight: Sofia

Day 13. Sofia City Tour & Optional Trip to Rila Monastery

Discover Sofia's landmarks, including the Roman Serdica fortress, St. George Rotunda, St. Sofia Basilica, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, and National Theatre. Enjoy free time or take an optional trip to Rila Monastery (40 EUR per person), Bulgaria's most significant spiritual center and a UNESCO site.

Overnight: Sofia

Day 14. Depart Sofia

After breakfast, transfer to the airport. End of services.

Prices per person:

	in double/ twin room	in single room	in triple room
Classic package	2,675 €	3,425 €	2,375 €
Upgraded package	2,835 €	3,439 €	2,549 €

Available dates: 11-24.05; 08-21.06; 13-26.07; 10-23.08; 14-27.09; 12-25.10

Included highlights and must-sees:



Explore with Local Specialists:

Belgrade, Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci, Budapest, Szeged, Timisoara, Sibiu, Sighisoara, Brasov, Bucharest, Veliko Tarnovo, Arbanasi, Kazanlak, Plovdiv, Koprivshtitsa, Sofia



Visit Must-see Landmarks:

Belgrade Fortress, Victor Belgrade Fortress, Saint Sava Temple, Petrovaradin Fortress, Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, Hungarian Parliament Building, St. Stephen's Basilica, Heroes Square, Corvin Castle, Sighisoara Clock Tower, Black Church, Bran Castle, Peles Castle, Parliament Palace in Bucharest, Tsarevets Fortress, Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Thracian Tomb, Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.



Overnights:

2 nights in Belgrade; 2 nights in Budapest; 1 night in Timisoara; 1 night in Sibiu; 1 night in Brasov; 2 nights in Bucharest; 1 night in Veliko Tarnovo; 1 night in Plovdiv; 2 nights in Sofia



Meals:

13 x breakfast in a hotel



Tickets & Entrance fees:

Saint Sava Temple in Belgrade, Wine tasting during the Novi Sad trip, Corvin Castle, Bran Castle, Peles Castle, Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Etar Open Air Museum, Arbanasi Historical Village, Thracian tomb of Kazanlak, Rose Museum Kazanlak

Visit www.victortours.com for your full itinerary, sightseeing highlights, dates, and prices.

Alternatively, contact your preferred Travel Advisor.





James and Laura Mitchell, USA

"This tour was an absolute dream! From the majestic castles of Transylvania to the stunning beauty of Budapest and the historical richness of Belgrade, every day brought something new and exciting. Our guide Urosh was incredibly knowledgeable, and the organization was flawless. The balance between sightseeing and free time was perfect, allowing us to explore at our own pace. Bran Castle and Peles Castle were definitely the highlights for us. Highly recommend this tour to anyone wanting to experience the best of Eastern Europe!"

Sophie Dubois, France

"I was a bit hesitant about joining a group tour as a solo traveler, but this experience exceeded all my expectations. The itinerary was well thought out, covering everything from medieval fortresses to vibrant city life. I particularly loved Sighisoara - walking through its colorful streets felt like stepping back in time. The guide made history come alive with fascinating stories and local insights. The group was diverse and friendly, making it an enjoyable experience. If you love history, culture, and a bit of adventure, this is the perfect tour!"

Jürgen and Annika Schmidt, Germany

"We took this tour as a family with our two teenage kids, and it was a fantastic way to experience Eastern Europe together. The mix of historical sites, cultural experiences, and natural beauty kept all of us engaged. The kids especially enjoyed the boat ride in Budapest and exploring the ancient fortresses. The hotels were comfortable, the transport was smooth, and we always had enough time to explore on our own. Special thanks to our guide Marko, who made everything so much fun! Would definitely do it again."

Giovanni Rossi, Italy

"Traveling in a group of six can be challenging, but this tour made it effortless. Everything was well-organized, from airport transfers to hotel check-ins. We loved how each city had its own charm—Belgrade's nightlife, Budapest's architecture, Romania's castles... We also enjoyed the delicious food along the way, from Hungarian goulash to traditional Bulgarian dishes. This tour is perfect for those who want a hassle-free, immersive experience across multiple countries. Highly recommend!"

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."

- Saint Augustine