

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Bulgaria, Serbia & Romania

**12 DAYS: Wednesday, August 19-Sunday, August 30, 2020**

**Per person double occupancy \$3,899 Single reservations \$4,229**

**Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.**

Uncover three culturally rich countries in the heart of Eastern Europe. Eclectic architecture, fascinating history, breathtaking landscapes—Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania have it all. Set off on an immersive journey to discover these unique destinations, where Old World appeal meshes with the excitement of present-day. Admire Ottoman mosques in Sofia before soaking in Belgrade's storied past. Continue on to the wine region of Novi Sad, the museums of Sibiu, and "Dracula's Castle" in Transylvania. Round out your journey in Bucharest, a dynamic capital that still sings an ode to past empires.

### Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels, 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners with beer or wine, 8 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

### Included highlights

- St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Niš Skull Tower, Belgrade Fortress, Fruška Gora National Park
- Živanović Wine Cellar, Transylvania, Bran Castle, the People's Palace



### Overnight Flight 1 night

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Sofia today.

## **Sofia 2 nights**

### **Day 2: Arrival in Sofia**

**Included meal: Welcome dinner**

Welcome to Bulgaria! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### **Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Sofia**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Discover Sofia, one of the European Union's newest and most walkable capitals.

- Pass the parliament building, Viennese-style royal palace, and national theater
- Admire the golden Ottoman domes that distinguish Sofia's skyline
- Step into the city's oldest structure, the St. George Rotunda
- See religious icons at the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, a massive Eastern Orthodox cathedral
- Continue to the Hagia Sophia, a Byzantine cathedral

Enjoy a free afternoon in Sofia or add an excursion.



### **Rila Monastery**

### **Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Travel through the Rila Mountains' dense pines as you make your way to the Rila Monastery. Founded in the 10th century in honor of Bulgaria's revered hermit, Saint Ivan of Rila, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the country's largest Eastern Orthodox monastery and still houses monks today. After taking in the beautiful grounds, distinctive frescos, and impressive architecture, travel back to Sofia. En route, stop at a local mountain restaurant to experience the sites (and tastes) of country life in Bulgaria.

## **Belgrade 2 nights**

### **Day 4: Belgrade via Niš**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Make your way to Belgrade, Serbia, stopping in the historic city of Niš for a tour along the way.

- Visit the chilling Skull Tower, which was built in 1809 from the skulls of defeated Serbian rebels
- View the culturally significant Niš Fortress, which stands remarkably well-preserved, then enjoy free time for lunch in the city center

### **Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Belgrade**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Experience the sights of Belgrade, from the panorama of Republic Square to the shops of Knez Mihailova Street, on a guided tour.

- Enter the Belgrade Fortress, which has protected the capital for centuries
- Admire the Cathedral of Saint Sava, the largest Orthodox church in the city
- View Tito's Memorial, the final resting place of iconic Yugoslavian liberator Josip Broz Tito

Enjoy a free evening in Belgrade or add an excursion.



### **Traditional Serbian Dinner**      **Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Experience a traditional Serbian dinner in the heart of Belgrade. Sample Serbia's signature dishes, such as grilled meats, a cheese plate and bread-and-cheese pie while being serenaded by guitar players performing the local Tamburasi-style folk music.

### **Timișoara 1 night**

#### **Day 6: Timișoara via Novi Sad**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Continue on to Timișoara, Romania, stopping en route for a guided tour of Novi Sad, the second-largest city in Serbia.

- Stop in Fruška Gora National Park to visit one of the many ancient monasteries
- Visit the Živanović Wine Cellar in the wine region of Sremski Karlovci, where you'll learn about the wine and honey production of the Živanović family
- Take free time for lunch in Novi Sad before stepping inside Petrovaradin Fortress

### **Sibiu 2 nights**

#### **Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Sibiu**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel into the heart of Romania's Transylvania region to Sibiu, where an impressive art scene thrives.

- Tour the Old Town, taking in the gates and walls that partially enclose the city
- Cross the cast-iron Liar's Bridge and see Piata Huet
- Admire the Lutheran Cathedral, a soaring Gothic church
- Gaze at European art from the 15th through 18th centuries at the Brukenthal National Museum

#### **Day 8: Free day in Sibiu**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Enjoy a full free day in Sibiu or add an excursion.



### **Medieval Transylvania**      **Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Want to see where Dracula was born? Travel deep inside the heart of Transylvania and discover the medieval town made famous by Vlad Tepes. First, you'll stop in the village of Axente Sever to see the 14th century fortified church built by the Saxons. Then, in the citadel town of Sighisoara, explore the old city, which has remained largely unchanged since the 17th century. Continue your explorations through the village streets, stopping at the City Council Square, the City Museum, and Clock Tower before heading back to Sibiu.

### **Brașov 1 night**

#### **Day 9: Brașov via Bran Castle**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Take in the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains as you make your way to Brașov. Stop en route to explore Bran Castle, also known as "Dracula's Castle," before continuing on for a guided tour of Brașov.

- Stroll through Brașov's historic center

- Enter the Gothic St. Nicholas Church and First Romanian School museum

## **Bucharest 2 nights**

### **Day 10: Bucharest via Sinaia**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Pay a visit to the Black Church, one of Romania's most imposing Gothic churches. Then, depart from Braşov and make your way to Bucharest. En route, stop in the town of Sinaia to explore the well-preserved Peles Castle.

### **Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Bucharest**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Farewell dinner**

Explore Romania's eclectic capital, discovering a range of architecture from the Art Deco to Bauhaus to neoclassical eras.

- See classical buildings on Victory Avenue, the city's oldest boulevard
- Admire the ornate Triumphal Arch and Savings Bank
- Step inside The People's Palace, built under the communist regime of Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu
- Wander through historic and distinctive squares

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

## **Flight Home**

### **Day 12: Departure**

**Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.