

"A TASTE OF THE BALKANS"

Hosted by John Gora

September 28 – October 11, 2023

Ljubljana ■ Lake Bled ■ Zagreb ■ Plitvice Lakes ■ Trogir ■ Split
Dubrovnik ■ Kotor ■ Medugorje ■ Mostar ■ Sarajevo



SEP 28 THU DEPART USA / CANADA -OVERNIGHT TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT (NOT INCLUDED IN LAND TOUR)

SEP 29 FRI Ljubljana (Welcome Dinner)

Arrive Ljubljana and transfer to hotel. After checking in to our hotel join us for a walking tour of the Old Town and then in the evening join us for our Welcome Dinner.

Overnight at Grand Union Hotel Eurostars in Ljubljana, Miklošičeva cesta 1, tel: +386 1 308 12 70

SEP 30 SAT Ljubljana - Lake Bled – Ljubljana (Breakfast, Lunch)

Slovenia is known as "the green heart of Europe" so enjoy the gorgeous mountain scenery on our excursion to Lake Bled, a glacial lake set in the Julian Alps of Slovenia. Our sightseeing tour includes and Pletna boat ride and then a visit to the Castle. Lunch with Slovenian specialties and then return to Ljubljana. Evening free.

Overnight at Grand Union Hotel Eurostars in Ljubljana, Miklošičeva cesta 1, tel: +386 1 308 12 70

OCT 01 SUN Ljubljana – Zagreb (Breakfast, Lunch)

Sunday Mass for those wishing to attend after which we depart from Ljubljana to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. During our afternoon sightseeing of Zagreb's historic Upper Town you will see St. Mark's church, Parliament, the government palace, and many fine old buildings. Evening is free to explore further on your own.

Overnight at Hotel Esplanade in Zagreb, ul. Antuna Mihanovića 1, tel: +385 1 4566 666

OCT 02 MON Zagreb – Plitvice Lakes (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Today we will visit the most beautiful and oldest national park in Croatia. The Plitvice Lakes, under UNESCO protection, consist of 16 lakes connected by waterfalls. The park is located in the Lika mountain region and visited mostly on foot. The visit of the park grounds takes approx. 3 hours. After a light lunch we will visit the park so make sure you have your cameras ready as the waterfalls are breathtaking! Dinner and overnight at the hotel near Plitvice Lakes.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Degenija, Seliste Dreznicko 59, Rakovica, tel: +385 47 782 143

OCT 03 TUE Plitvice – Bibich Winery – Trogir - Split (Breakfast, Wine tasting, Dinner)

After breakfast we leave Plitvice and drive towards the coast. On our way we visit the Bibich Winery for a gourmet experience - dalmatian wine tasting accompanied by delicious Croatian style Tapas. By mid-afternoon we will arrive in Trogir, a UNESCO site, its rich culture was created under the influence of old Greeks, Romans, and Venetians. Trogir has a high concentration of palaces, churches, and towers, as well as a fortress on a small island. Join us for a brief walking tour of the historical old town and then we continue to Split.

Overnight at the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa in Split, Put Trstenika 19, tel: +385 21 303 030

OCT 04 WED Split (Breakfast)

Today is for exploring Split, starting with a walking tour. At the heart of the city is the palace which the Emperor Diocletian built for his golden years at the turn of the 4th century. It is still the hub of activity for the citizens of the city as well as tourists. After the tour, you are free to explore at your leisure or relax at the hotel.

Overnight at the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa in Split, Put Trstenika 19, tel: +385 21 303 030

- OCT 05 THU Split – Ston – Dubrovnik (Breakfast, Dinner)**
 Travelling south from Split the next stop on our journey is Ston. The town is famous for three things:
 1/ The stone walls of the city that are longer than those of more famous Dubrovnik. 2/ Saltworks that were established here in the 13th century which contributed to the wealth of the Republic of Dubrovnik.
 3/ Oyster beds producing what are often said to be the most delicious oysters in the world!
 After our visit in Ston we continue to Dubrovnik for dinner and overnight.
Overnight at the Dubrovnik President in Dubrovnik, ul. Iva Dulčića 142, tel: +385 52 465 000
- OCT 06 FRI Dubrovnik (Breakfast)**
 Morning walking tour of Dubrovnik. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.
 If you are up to the task, walk the walls of the city (\$). The walk will take about 1,5 hours but the view will be breathtaking. Rest of the day at your leisure.
Overnight at the Dubrovnik President in Dubrovnik, ul. Iva Dulčića 142, tel: +385 52 465 000
- OCT 07 SAT Dubrovnik – Kotor – Dubrovnik (Breakfast, Dinner)**
 Today we are off to Montenegro. Enjoy a boat ride on the beautiful Bay of Kotor, the longest and deepest fjord in Southern Europe, to Our Lady of the Rocks. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest building on the islet, Upon return to the coast, we will stop in Perast, an old charming coastal town. Visit city of Kotor before returning to Dubrovnik for dinner and overnight.
Overnight at the Dubrovnik President in Dubrovnik, ul. Iva Dulčića 142, tel: +385 52 465 000
- OCT 08 SUN Dubrovnik – Cilipi - Dubrovnik (Breakfast, Dinner)**
 Attend Sunday mass in Cilipi followed by a Croatian Folklore performance right after the mass.
 Return to our hotel to relax and enjoy your afternoon at your own pace.
Overnight at the Dubrovnik President in Dubrovnik, ul. Iva Dulčića 142, tel: +385 52 465 000
- OCT 09 MON Dubrovnik - Medugorje - Mostar (Breakfast, Dinner)**
 We leave Dubrovnik and travel into Bosnia Herzegovina to Medugorje, a place of Catholic pilgrimages since 1981, when the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to six local children. Since then, thousands of visitors have flocked to Apparition Hill to pay respects. We will have time to visit the church and to climb Apparition Hill for those who choose to do so, for those not able to do the climb you will have free time to explore this small town on your own. From Medugorje a short drives brings us to Mostar, most famous for the beautiful historic Ottoman-style bridge Stari Most (UNESCO). Rebuilding of the Old Bridge was completed in 2004, almost 11 years after its destruction. The formerly war-torn city is a lively and beautiful destination once again.
Overnight at Kriva Cuprija Hotel in Mostar, BA BA, Onešćukova 23, tel: +387 36 360-360
- OCT 10 TUE Mostar – Sarajevo (Breakfast, Farewell Dinner)**
 A short drive from Mostar will take us to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is an ethnically diverse city and is often referred to as the European Jerusalem because it is one of a few major European cities to have a mosque, Catholic church, Eastern Orthodox church, and synagogue within the same neighborhood. The history of the city is also rich and diverse, it is where the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1918 sparked WWI, the 1984 Winter Olympics were hosted here and just a few years later the city and its people suffered through the devastation of the Bosnian War and the breakup of Yugoslavia. We will see the most important landmarks this afternoon on our tour of this incredible and cosmopolitan city. Tonight we meet for dinner and a chance to reminisce with new friends about our latest adventure.
Overnight at the President Hotel in Sarajevo,
- OCT 11 WED Sarajevo - end of tour (Breakfast)**
 Breakfast and transfer to airport.

*** itinerary is subject to minor changes that may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances & restrictions ***

For more information or to reserve please contact:
 Wanda at ChopinTours 1-800-533-0369 email: wanda@chopintours.com
 or John Gora at 905-902-1345 email: john@johngora.com

TICO reg # 4343943

www.chopintours.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Taste of the Balkans with John Gora

- Land tour: USD\$ 3800 / CAD\$ 4499 CAD per person based on double occupancy
- Single room supplement add : USD\$ 1095 / CAD\$ 1290
- Land only tour starts in Ljubljana on September 29, 2023 and ends in Sarajevo October 11, 2023
- Air & Land package - please ask about airfares from your departure city.

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I will make my own flight arrangements, Land only cost in a dbl room: USD \$ 3800 / CAD\$ 4499 pp.

I wish to pay the supplement for single occupancy. + USD 1095 / CAD 1290

Please check flights for me departing from :

Special requests: dietary restrictions / allergies / mobility issues , etc., etc..

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Registration fee of \$ 500.00 per person - check enclosed, or I authorize you to charge my credit card:

VISA / MASTERCARD # EXP / CVV #

in the amount of \$

Signature : x

.....

Name as per passport :	Date of birth (day / month / year)	Citizenship	Passport # & expiry date:
1/.....
2/.....

Address:

.....

telephone Home # cell # e-mail:

.....

I have read, understood and accepted all the terms and conditions.

X
Name:

X
Name:

2023 TASTE OF THE BALKANS TOUR HOSTED BY JOHN GORA

Terms and Conditions

TRAVELLING IN THE TIME OF COVID19 HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN EFFECT. THE SITUATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AS ARE THE GUIDELINES AND LOCAL REGULATIONS. YOU WILL BE OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL BE IN FORCE DURING THE TOUR, IE. VACCINATION REQUIREMENT, MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, TESTING, ETC. WE WILL ASSIST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP YOU ADVISED OF REQUIREMENTS HOWEVER THE RESPONSIBILITY AND RISK IS SOLELY UPON THE TRAVELLER TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS ARE FULFILLED, CHOPIN EXPRESS TOURS/ POLIMEX TRAVEL INC, JOHN GORA, WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO COVID RESTRICTIONS TO ENTER THE EUROPEAN UNION BUT THE SITUATION COULD CHANGE SO PLEASE CHECK UP TO DATE COVID REQUIREMENTS AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:

Info for Slovenia: <https://www.slovenia.info/en/plan-your-trip/all-you-need-to-know-for-a-healthy-and-safe-vacation-in-slovenia>
<https://www.gov.si/en/topics/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

Info for Croatia: <https://croatia.hr/en-gb/coronavirus-2019-ncov-q-and-a>

Info for Bosnia& Herzegovina: <https://www.granpol.gov.ba/Content/Read/76?title=Stranci&lang=en>

Info for Montenegro: <https://www.gov.me/en/article/covid-19-measures-and-recommendations>

Info for Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

Info for United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVERAGE TO COVER ALL MEDICAL EMERGENCIES (INCLUDING COVID) WHILE TRAVELLING ABROAD, AS WELL AS TRIP CANCELLATION AND INTERRUPTION PROTECTION. IN ADDITION TO MEDICAL COSTS THE INSURANCE SHOULD ALSO COVER EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED DUE TO QUARANTINE SHOULD YOU PROVE POSITIVE AT ANY TIME DURING YOUR TRIP. (SEE TRAVEL INSURANCE PARAGRAPH BELOW AS WELL)

LAND TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Transportation within Europe by air-conditioned motorcoach
- English speaking tour escort assistance throughout
- English speaking local guides where required
- sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily at hotel, 3 lunches, & 8 dinners
- Hotels: All rooms with private bath or shower, based on two person sharing a twin-bedded room. A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement. Chopin Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category, when and if necessary.

Land tour starts in Ljubljana on September 29 at the hotel. If arrival / departure times do not coincide with rest of the group, transfers to / from airport may be arranged at additional cost.

NAMES: At time of registration please ensure that name is provided EXACTLY as it appears in passport as well as date of birth.

DEPOSIT: A non-refundable registration fee of \$500 per person is required with the registration form to confirm the reservation. This may be by Check, Visa or Mastercard. Please make checks payable to: Chopin Express Tours.

FINAL PAYMENT: Is due by June 29, 2023. If reservation is made less than 90 days prior to departure full payment will be due at time of booking. If we do not receive final payment, by this date, we reserve the right to cancel the reservation. Payment may be made by Check, VISA or Mastercard. Please make checks payable to: Chopin Express Tours.

IN THE EVENT YOU ARE FORCED TO CANCEL YOUR TRIP THE FOLLOWING CANCELLATION PENALTIES WILL APPLY:

Cancellation up to June 29, 2023 (91 days prior) : \$ 500 non-refundable* (per person)

Cancellation within 90 days of departure NO REFUND

All cancellations must be received in writing (or by email). The above conditions apply to all cancellations/absences regardless of cause. We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation & interruption insurance to cover the cost of your investment. It is the traveler's responsibility to purchase travel insurance. Please consult the insurance company you normally deal with or call us for recommendations.

CANCELLATION BY TOUR OPERATOR: The tour operator reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. In the event of such a cancellations, you will be offered a different tour on the same day, the same tour at a later date, or a full refund of all monies paid.

BAGGAGE: Due to limited space in the coach, you may travel with one average-size suitcase per person & 1 carry on. All baggage is carried at owner's risk. Every care will be taken to protect your luggage but the tour operator can accept no responsibility for loss or damage to baggage or belongings. Small items must be entirely in the care of the owner.

SIGHTSEEING: Complete sightseeing program as shown in each itinerary including ground transportation by motor-coach or other local conveyance, the services of an English-speaking guide and entrance fees to places visited as per itinerary.

TOUR ESCORTS: English-speaking escort will be provided throughout tour.

TIPS AND TAXES: Service charges and taxes imposed by government authorities are included. Standard tips to local guides are included. Tips for any additional services are not included.

NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR: Excess baggage charges, insurance of any kind, wine, liquors, mineral water, coffee or tea, food or beverages not on the regular menus of the included meals. Items of personal nature such as: laundry, telephone calls, tips.

VISAS AND PASSPORTS: All passengers traveling on this tour are required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond travel date. At this time, U.S. passport holders do not require a Visa to enter Czech Republic or Poland. For other nationalities please check requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly suggest the purchase of Emergency Out of Country Hospital / Medical coverage, Covid 19 Insurance and Assistance Plan, Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance, as well as Flight Accident and Baggage Insurance. Please check with your Insurance provider for full details and costs of coverage. Canadian residents can check with Chopin Tours for insurance plans. If you are a CAA member you can check if they have any special offer or you may also wish to check with your Bank/Credit Card, as some cardholder agreements may provide some travel insurance coverage. For our guests from USA you must purchase insurance from an agent in the US, ex. Travelguard www.travelguard.com or speak to an agent at 1-800-826-5248 (USA) or Allianz Global Assistance <https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/> or call 1-866-884-3556. If you are a AAA member you can check if they have any special offer or you may also wish to check with your Bank/Credit Card, as some cardholder agreements may provide some travel insurance coverage.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Chopin Tours / John Gora reserve all rights to publish in printed media and web photographs and video taken during the tour. Participants in the tour agree to grant permission to use photographs in which they may appear.

RESPONSIBILITY: CHOPIN EXPRESS TOURS, their affiliates or subsidiaries (hereinafter called the Company), act only as agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, or owners, operators, or contractors providing accommodations, transportations, meals, tours or other services, and all coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets issued by the Company are issued subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which the foregoing or any other services whatsoever are provided by such hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroad, operators or contractors. By the acceptance of such coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets, the tour member agrees to the foregoing, and also agree that the Company shall not be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to person, property or otherwise in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours or other services referred to herein, or resulting from the neglect or default of any person, firm, corporation or other entity engaged to supply the same. The tour operator reserves the right to withdraw a tour, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of a tour at any time, or to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant; or if such changes result from circumstances beyond the control of the tour operator; or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers. They can accept no responsibility for the losses or additional expenses due to the delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses must be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time specified. Such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passengers. In all cases a full refund shall not exceed the amount paid by the passenger.

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