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Motorcycle Enduro off Road Tour Balkan Express

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Duration	Difficulty	Support vehicle
8 días	Easy-Normal	Ja
Language	**Guide**	
en	Ja	

A land of legends – the Balkans is nothing short of epic. With a history spanning tornadoes of time, whispers of dervish dancers in the hills, and fables of gods, wars and giants – this is truly a place where the ancient east crashes into the modern west. Here you will find Byzantine kingdoms crumbling into the Adriatic Sea, golden minarets and wooden crosses sitting side by side, and UNESCO wonders peeking out from under the shadow of former communist towers.

Visit up and coming Albania with its rare Alpine communities, virginal coastline and a captivating capital rising like a bright phoenix from the ashes of Hoxha’s regime. Uncover the riches of Macedonia with its chanting call to prayer, marble statues, and dream like lakes disappearing in the mist. Pass through Kosovo where a new dawn rises from behind great mountains and former war-torn towns piece themselves back together. Finally, dive into Montenegro where seaside scenery abounds beneath the weight of Mediterranean blooms.







1 - Tirana - Tirana -

Kaleidoscope colors welcome you to trendy Tirana, the bright and buzzing capital. As soon as you touch down it’s a swift drive from the tarmac to your city center hotel. The rumors of mountains and wild plateaus are already visible but today it’s time to explore Europe’s up and coming contender.

Tirana has been battered and bruised by communism, collapsed pyramid schemes and civil unrest. But when the spring of the 21st century came around she bloomed beautifully. Edi Ramer, the prime minister of Albania wasn’t a man to be boxed in by politics. The former art professor enticed the country to take up paintbrushes instead of arms. Wandering the easy breezy streets of Tirana, you will see the drab communist buildings have shaken off their winter coats and are painted in vibrant hues.

Delve down into the underground nuclear shelter of Bunk Art where the Orwellian horrors of Hoxha’s regime have been collected and displayed in a maze-like museum. Proof that Albanians have shaken off the terror of their past to perfect the art of living beautifully can be found in the palpable energy radiating from the achingly cool district of Blloku. The former neighborhood of the ‘party’ elite has thrown open its doors and is now lined with a sultry café culture, late night drinks, and pavement terraces punctuated with well-dressed guests.



2 - Tirana - Përmet - 250 km

Excitement mounts this morning as soon as you kick your foot down and take to the wild open roads, so few have had the pleasure to explore. Leaving the city behind, the Albanian countryside cracks open like a pearl – offering swaying grasslands, curious locals, and remote villages along the way. Rumbling towards the shores of Ohrid, take the scenic route that passes through the majesty of the Prespa Lakes - set against a backdrop of mirrored mountains. High in the hills, and torn between Macedonia, Greece and Albania; these cool calm waters flood with over two hundred species of water birds who come for their summer fling. Stop for a moment to watch the red beaked pelicans, swooping black ravens, and leggy herons fish for their breakfast. As Prespa sits at an altitude of 855m, her glacial waters seep through underground channels and streams, on a journey to fill Lake Ohrid.

Soar onwards and enter the Galicica National Park. Straddling Macedonia and Albania, the limestone walls rear up around you, deep valleys fall into the abyss and the lakes shrink to puddles as you climb to a dizzying 2000 meters. Purr down the mountain, where the wind turns warm as you head for the gentle shores of Lake Ohrid. Ohrid is a tight packed vision of old cobbled streets, sweet restaurants, and sacred churches. Ringed by mountains you can sit peacefully on the beach, visit the nearby Bay of Bones Museum with its collection of lakebed treasures, and dine on famous speckled trout for supper.

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4 - Ohrid - Prizren - 300 km

After breakfast on the lake continue your tour along the banks. Pass by the Monastery of St Naum sitting serenely on a rocky bluff. Follow the curve of the Black Drin as it leads you deeper into Macedonia. Stop for lunch in Skopje, Macedonia's mad capital where gleaming marble architecture sits alongside ancient neighborhoods that date all the way back to 1392. Skopje truly is a tale of two cities – cleaved in half by the river, one side of the city sees splendid fountains, lavish spas, jazz bars, and statues of Alexander the Great. The same Alexander, whom Greece and Macedonia are in a tug of war over – both claiming the fallen king as their own.

Over in the old town and its all tight knit labyrinth paths echoing with the melodic call to prayer, studded with gold souks, and brimming with old men sipping sweet dark coffee in cafes that spill out onto the streets. There is a tongue in cheek wonder about Skopje, even after a somber history laced with tales of the Ottomans and Byzantines – the city itself is oddly adorned in neoclassical style. The mayor is known for declaring the city – Europe's capital of Kitsch, and there is bizarre bohemian air that wafts through the art galleries, museums and festival like eateries. Back on the road and Kosovo welcomes you. Hailed as Europe's newest country, Kosovo has been independent for only a few short years and the mind still reels with images of rubble strewn streets and bloody conflict. But for Kosovo's second coming, she holds her head high. Rugged scenery takes your breath away and school yards resound with the laugher of village children. Finish the day at Prizren; a lively town brimming with youth and vitality.



5 - Prizren - Kolasin - 320 km

Wake early to pad through the tiny packed center of Prizren where mosques and churches sit beneath the looming castle walls. Prizren has embraced life in the 21st century, but its complex and divisive past sees only a handful of Serbs left in the city that was once layered with nationalities. Be sure to see the UNESCO splendor of the Our Lady of Ljevis. The 14th century Serbian church is awash in frescoes, badly damaged by the war but a fascinating example of the onion like layers of Kosovo's history.

Pass over the old stone bridge as you leave Prizren and hurtle through the agriculturally rich lands en route to Pristina. Kosovo's capital isn't the prettiest painting on the wall but its reborn again energy is almost infectious. Burn through one of Kosovo's most authentic cities – Gjakova – with its sultry summertime feel and the oldest bazar in the whole of the country. Pec also awaits, with its ancient monastery marking the entrance to the Rugova Canyon.

The closer you get to the unrefined Rugova Canyon, the more Kosovo cuts deep to the heart of beauty. Rare roads deliver you straight to snowy peaks on paths punctuated with lonesome shepherds, feral wildflowers, and murmuring spring waters. The road is not for the faint hearted; hairpin turns,

hand-pulled tunnels, and plunges that creep up out of nowhere keep the pulse of adventure beating fast. Finally, Kosovo delivers you gently to the borderlands of Montenegro and the spellbinding ski resort of Kolasin. The small ski resort is dwarfed by the might of the mountains and the air is as clean and fresh as a tall glass of water – perfect for a peaceful sleep.



6 - Kolasin - Kotor - 300 km

Enter one of the deepest canyons in the world as your motorbike soars into the shadowlands of the Tara Canyon in the Durmitor National Park. America's Grand Canyon only cuts 200m deeper than Tara – also known as the Tear of Europe. You can be sure fewer travelers will have witnessed the drama of this off the beaten track site. Here, the whitewater rafting is wild, and the old watermills, churches, and bridges are slowly being swallowed up by nature.

As you weave down the sparkling tarmac roads of the mountain, the land suddenly cracks open to reveal the wild sapphire waters of the Adriatic Sea. Kotor welcomes you with its winding streets of ancient history, its bleached stone buildings gleaming in the sun, and its soft terracotta rooftops. Flanked by moody mountains and old world Turkish and Greek settlements, Kotor hits you with cupid's bow making her an easy charm to fall for.

Indeed, the Illyrians, Venetians, Austrians and French all fell for her. But it's the Venetians who truly left their mark – sculpting Kotor's style and carving out the St Johns Fortress that snakes like the Great Wall of China up the emerald cliff. 17th century palaces, museums, and ancient churches are all there for the taking as you spend the evening soaking up the joys of Kotor. Feast on fresh fish beside the water's edge, watching sunset boat rides glide across the blue. Those who are feeling shaken by the way the moonlight bounces off the inky fjord waters can soak up the best bars and castle top clubs in town.



7 - Kotor - Tirana - 240 km

After a leisurely breakfast, its time to test your prowess on the cobbled streets and coastal roads that curve around the mesmerizing Montenegrin coastline. One of Europe's most underrated coastlines, Montenegro catches you completely off guard - a place where you never lose sight of those verdant mountains trimming the waters of lapis lazuli. Let your jaw drop as you pull over to look out onto the polka dot sized island of Sveti Stefan – one of the most photographed fairytale spots in the whole of Montenegro.

Swing by buzzing Budva where the nouveau riche flock to spend their summers strutting along the riviera. Before you know it, you have burst into the Skader Lake National Park - a place rumored to have been created by the tears of a pixie. Water lilies litter the surface of impossibly clear waters, rare birds swoop and dive, and steep green cloaked mountains ripple along the way – marking the path that will lead you back to Albania and to the northern stronghold of Shkoder.

Shkoder is one of Europe's oldest cities, found in the 4th century BC it still carries an ancient trade route air about it. Conquered by the Romans, taken by the Serbs, and grabbed by the Turks – Shkoder has been through tatter and tears before becoming part of Albania in 1912. There's a hint of old world glamor echoing from the old converted mansions, the warble of the call to prayer from the grand mosques, and the buzzing memory of old trade ships passing along the banks of the Drin and Bruna en-route to nearby Montenegro. Leave the shadow of Shkoder behind as you take the final flatland leg down to Tirana, arriving just in time for evening drinks.

8 - Tirana - Tirana - 0 km



Those who have a little extra time before their flight can soak up more of Tirana’s charm –delve further into the drama of the past with a visit to the enigmatic House of Leaves to witness the tactics of Hoxha’s secret police. Otherwise keep things easy and breezy by sitting out in one of the al-fresco restaurants breaking into your final byrek and sipping fiery raki before your flight.

The end of the road is finally here. These ancient places have always been highly coveted by the powers that be. Everyone wanting to conquer and pocket the beauty and rarity of these impossibly naturally rich lands. Days of blurred borders, epic encounters, and countries that reach a cultural crescendo – no doubt the Balkans will have driven a wonderful wedge in your mind.

Motorcycle



F 700 GS
+ $0.00



R 1200 GS Adv
+ $276.54



F 800 GS
+ $0.00



R 1200 GS
+ $276.54

Dates & prices

Options

Top case
$5.76

Side case
$9.22

Included

- Guide
- Support vehicle
- GPS
- Breakfast
- Dinner
- Hotel
- Local taxes
- Lunch
- Maps & Roadbook
- Mechanic

- Motorcycle rental
- National parks tickets
- Non-Alcoholic beverages water-coffee
- On route snacks
- Parking
- Petrol & oil
- Transfers

Not included

- Alcoholic beverages
- Basic insurance
- Damage deposit
- Enduro body protection kit
- Extreme cold protection kit
- Ferrys
- Flights
- Motorcycle return to origin
- Photo-video souvenir
- Spare motorcycle
- Tips
- Visas

Other information

Omkostninger for aflysning før tid

Important notice, in case of cancellation:
The flight tickets, supplements and optional services subscribed in this tour regardless of the basic program, are subject to 100% of early cancellation costs.