

# POSTCARDS FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES TT•P7C

16 days from Ljubljana to Zagreb, Budapest, Cluj, Brasov, Bran and Peles Castle, Bucharest, Sofia, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Mostar and Dubrovnik



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Ljubljana:** Tromostovje “the triple bridge,” the local open air market, the City Hall, Robba’s Fountain, the Parliament and the famous “Dragon Bridge” – the symbol of Ljubljana.
- **Zagreb:** Impressive St. Mark’s church and Zagreb’s Upper town
- **Budapest:** The Parliament, Royal Palace, Castle Hill area, Fisherman’s Bastion, St. Matthias Church, and Hero’s Square
- **Brasov:** Black Church
- **Bran Castle:** the legendary castle of Count Dracula
- **Sinaia:** Peles Castle, former Romanian royal family summer residence
- **Bucharest:** The Romanian Open Air Village Museum, the Triumphal Arch, Roman Atheneum and Stavropoleos Church
- **Sofia:** St. George Church, St. Sophia Church, and the golden domed Alexander Nevski Cathedral
- **Belgrade:** features the most impressive reminders of the city’s glorious past, including the Kalemegdan Fortress, the Byzantine Cathedral and the Parliament
- **Sarajevo:** Bascarsija, picturesque oriental marketplace, Husref Bey Mosque, Oriental Svrsa’s House and War Museum Tunnel

- **Mostar:** The old Turkish Quarter and New - Old Bridge of Mostar, single-arch bridge built in 16th century, destroyed in Bosnian War in 1993 and again rebuilt in 2004.
- **Dubrovnik:** Walking within Old City Walls will open up the view to incredible sights of the town, with the Pile Gate, Onofrio’s Fountain, Franciscan Monastery, and Rector’s Palace

## HOTELS:

- **Ljubljana:** Lev, GH Union Executive, Ljubljana & Spa
- **Zagreb:** Sheraton, Westin
- **Budapest:** Mercure Corona, NH Budapest, Grand Hungaria
- **Cluj:** Agape
- **Brasov:** Aro Palace
- **Bucharest:** Golden Tulip, NH Bucharest, Crowne Plaza
- **Sofia:** Princess
- **Belgrade:** Best Western M
- **Sarajevo:** Radon Plaza, Holiday Inn
- **Dubrovnik:** Ariston, Dubrovnik President

## ITINERARY

### Day 01: Ljubljana

The Republic of Slovenia is at the very heart of Central Europe. This evening, meet your Tour Director for a welcome reception and dinner at hotel.

Meals: D

### Day 02: From Ljubljana to Zagreb

On the morning sightseeing tour of Slovenia’s capital, we enjoy the tour of the city that is filled with churches and fin-de-siecle palaces – reminders of the town’s baroque Austro-Hungarian days. Ljubljana’s castle and Roman ruins speak of even earlier rulers. The charming old town, nestled between the castle hill and the Ljubljanica River, is reached by the Tromostovje “the triple bridge.” Here we stroll across the triple bridge and through the local market, offering typical Slovenian foods and everyday products; see the City Hall, Robba’s Fountain and visit Ljubljana Castle. We also see the fa

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mous “Dragon Bridge” – the symbol of Ljubljana. Afternoon departure to Zagreb with short photo stops in Otočec, the picturesque island with the

## ITINERARY

castle in the middle of the Krka river. Check in your tour hotel in Zagreb and enjoy local food in one of the many local restaurants in Zagreb.

Meals: B, D

### Day 03: From Zagreb to Budapest

After leisurely breakfast in the late morning, we start our morning sightseeing tour of Zagreb on which we explore Gornji Grad (Upper Town), the well-preserved historical core of the city, see St. Mark's Church, the Parliament, the Government Palace and visit the Cathedral. At noon we depart Croatia and approach the border with Hungary and drive through a landscape dotted with storks' nests and old farmhouses. We skirt Lake Balaton, Hungary's largest and most popular holiday resort before arriving in the Danube Valley and the twin cities that straddle it, Buda and Pest. After checking into your hotel, enjoy typical Hungarian food with entertainment in one of the local colorful restaurants.

Meals: B, D

### Day 04: Budapest

Budapest is a graceful capital along the banks of the majestic Danube with soaring architecture, culinary delights, and a vibrant cultural scene. Comprehensive touring showcases the city's charms. Walk along the Fishermen's Bastion for stupendous views of the Parliament Building, and visit St. Stephen's Cathedral, the largest church in Budapest. Then see Heroes Square, the Danube Embankment and the impressive Chain Bridge. The afternoon is free to explore the surprising sights and unexpected delights of Budapest on your own. Be sure to join local residents for a cup of coffee, tea and pastries at the fashionable Café Gerbeaud, located on Vorosmarty Square for over 125 years.

Meals: B

### Day 05, From Budapest to Cluj

Leave Budapest after breakfast and travel through fertile Hungarian steppes via Szolnok and observe the changing of the plain into the rolling Romanian foothills. Cross the border into Romania in order to reach the historical capital of Transylvania – "area beyond the forest" – Cluj.

Meals: B, D

### Day 06: From Cluj via Sighisoara to Brasov

After brief morning sightseeing tour of Cluj, proceed to Sighisoara, designated UNESCO World Heritage Site for its 850 year old testimony to the history and culture of the Transylvanian Saxon. The city is also known as the birthplace of Vlad III. Tepes. The character of Count Dracula was created by Bram Stoker on basis of his life story and legend. In the afternoon, proceed to Brasov for festive dinner with entertainment.

Meals: B, D

### Day 07: From Brasov via Bran and Sinaia to Bucharest

Sightseeing tour of Brasov features the Town Hall and the Black Church and then, after a short drive we reach the legendary castle of Count Dracula, Bran. After visiting Bran Castle we proceed to Sinaia, one of the most beautiful mountain resorts of Romania and it Peles Castle built by Carol I of Romania as his summer residence. Late afternoon arrival to Bucharest.

Meals: B, D

### Day 08: Bucharest

On a tour of the city we see the Palace of Parliament (the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon), the Metropolitan Church, Romanian Athenaeum and Arch of Triumph. We visit Harastrau Park and enjoy a guided stroll through the open-air Folk Village Museum. The rest of the afternoon is free.

Meals: B

### Day 09: From Bucharest to Sofia

Motoring South, we cross the Danube river which is the natural border between Romania and Bulgaria to proceed to Sofia.

Meals: B, D

### Day 10: Sofia

Sightseeing of Sofia highlights the 3rd century St. George Church, St. Sophia Church, and the golden domed Alexander Nevski Cathedral. The rest of the day is free at your leisure.

Meals: B

### Day 11: From Sofia to Belgrade

Depart from Sofia and cross Bulgarian – Serbian border. Proceed to Belgrade. En route stop in Niš for a short visit. This evening, dinner is scheduled in one of the local restaurants in the bohemian part of Belgrade, Skadarlija.

Meals: B, D

### Day 12: Belgrade

Morning sightseeing of Belgrade includes Byzantine Cathedral, visit to Kalemegdan Fortress, which houses Military Museum and Museum of Princess Ljubica. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Meals: B

### Day 13: From Belgrade to Sarajevo

After breakfast we depart Belgrade and drive into the wildly beautiful mountain country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Afternoon arrival to the capital Sarajevo. Graced with spired minarets, it is a city of contrasts, a harmonious blend of East and West.

Meals: B, D

### Day 14: From Sarajevo to Mostar and Dubrovnik

The day starts with walking sightseeing of this half-oriental city including visit to old oriental quarter Bascarsija with its Mosques and small workshops. Later on proceed to panoramic visit

of the rest of the city and at the end visit to the War Museum Tunnel, through which Sarajevo had the only connection with the world during its siege in the Bosnian War. After saying goodbye to Sarajevo we depart South towards the Adriatic sea. En route stop in Mostar to visit the famous newly rebuilt Old Bridge of Mostar. Drive along valley of the blue-green Neretva River to the Adriatic coast and later on along a spectacular coast to world's well known resort of Dubrovnik.

Meals: B

### Day 15: Dubrovnik

Morning sightseeing tour will focus on the beautifully preserved medieval town with its imposing city walls. Among the highlights are the Rector's Palace, Franciscan Monastery, which houses one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe. The afternoon is free at your leisure to explore the narrow cobbled streets of this old city on your own. In the evening join your fellow passengers and Tour Director for a farewell dinner in one of the local restaurants in the Old city of Dubrovnik.

Meals: B, D

### Day 16: Dubrovnik

Your program with us finishes after breakfast in Dubrovnik and transfer to Dubrovnik Airport.

Meals B

## INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First class hotels, rooms with private facilities
- Service charges and taxes
- Welcome drink upon arrival with your Tour Director
- Breakfast daily, 5 hotel dinners (dinner in local restaurant in Zagreb and farewell dinner in local restaurant in the Old city of Dubrovnik)
- 3 dinners with entertainment in Budapest, Brasov and Belgrade
- Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Professional Tour Director throughout
- Qualified local city guides
- Luggage handling in hotels