

Travel with The Met

August 30–September 10, 2017

Undiscovered Balkans: From Sofia to Sarajevo
With Deniz Beyazit



THE
MET

Undiscovered Balkans: From Sofia to Sarajevo

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

I am delighted to invite you on a fascinating trip to five Balkan countries, to discover Roman ruins, Orthodox monasteries, Austro-Hungarian palaces, and the splendors of the Ottoman past, that are translated through impressive mosques, bridges, palaces, and timeless Turkish bazaars. My lectures on the region's art and architecture will be complemented by talks from experts that will unravel the intertwined, often turbulent histories of these former Yugoslavian countries of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In Sofia, explore the Roman ruins of Serdica, which Constantine the Great called "my Rome." Walk the cobblestone streets of the Old Town in picturesque Ohrid, Macedonia, set above a mountain-encircled cerulean lake. Spend a relaxing day on a yacht discovering medieval villages and an enchanting church atop an islet in the Bay of Kotor.

From Bosnia and Herzegovina's iconic Stari Most Bridge, rebuilt stone by stone, to Krujë Castle, which successfully defended the Albanians against numerous Ottoman attacks, the Balkans beguile with tales of fortitude and valor spanning the millennia.

I hope you will join me to explore this culturally rich region, with its inspiring frescoes, exemplary icons, and many UNESCO World Heritage Sites. A three-day postlude in Dubrovnik will further reveal the charms of this much-undiscovered region.

Sincerely,
Deniz Beyazit
Assistant Curator of Islamic Art



Traveling with you

Deniz Beyazit

Deniz Beyazit is Assistant Curator in the Department of Islamic Art at The Met and specializes in Medieval Islamic and Ottoman art and architecture. A graduate of the Sorbonne, she has worked as a researcher at the Khalili Research Center in Oxford and the French Institute for Anatolian Studies in Istanbul. She has taught Islamic art and architecture at the University of Zurich, and lectured and published on various aspects of Islamic art. At The Met, Deniz was involved in the renovation of the Department of Islamic Art's galleries and curated the inaugural exhibition, *The Making of a Collection: Islamic Art at The Met*. Most recently, she was one of the curators of *Court and Cosmos: The Great Age of the Seljuqs* (2016).

Trip Highlights

- Visit fascinating Sarajevo, known as "the Jerusalem of the Balkans"
- See the iconic bridge at Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, rebuilt after its destruction in the 1990s
- Explore the beautiful Bay of Kotor aboard a privately chartered yacht
- Witness the pre-Christian *Nestinarstvo* ritual, in which dancers perform barefoot on smoldering embers
- Wander the Roman ruins of Serdica in modern-day Sofia
- Admire the sublimely located monastery in the Bosnian-Herzegovian village of Blagaj
- Discover Macedonia's Boyana Church and Rila Monastery, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites



Rila Monastery, Macedonia, photo by Steve Lamb



Photos clockwise from top right: Mosque of Et'hem Bey, Tirana, Albania, photo by Dennis Jarvis; frescoes in Boyana Church, Sofia, Bulgaria, photo by mbell1975; regional map; Rozafa Fortress, Shkodra, Albania, photo by Michael Kragh; Bridle Ornament with Carnivores. 4th century B.C. Scythian or Thracian period. Gold. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene V. Thaw, 2002 [2002.201.196]; Stari Most Bridge, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, photo by Jiaoshi. Front cover: *The Mail in Bulgaria*, bakery card from the Stamps and Mail Carriers of All Nations series (D73), issued by the Rochester Baking Company, early 20th century. Commercial color lithograph. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Jefferson R. Burdick Collection, Gift of Jefferson R. Burdick [Burdick 307, D73.11]. Back cover: Perast, photo by Polybozologist (top); Berat Castle, photo by Victoria C. Barrett (bottom).

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Kotor Bay, Montenegro, photo by Federica Gentile

U.S. Departure

Wednesday, August 30

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Sofia, Bulgaria.

Sofia, Bulgaria

Thursday, August 31

Transfer to the stylish Grand Hotel Sofia, in the heart of the city. Gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel's restaurant, headed by an accomplished international chef. D

Sofia / Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Friday, September 1

On a walking tour of Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, see an ancient amphitheater, visit the Ethnographic Museum, and admire the elaborately decorated interior of St. Constantine and Helena Church. Return to Sofia to explore the city on foot. Highlights include the 4th-century St. George Church and the recently excavated ruins of Serdica, the Roman city that stood here nearly 2,000 years ago. A visit to the National Museum of History will reveal Thracian treasures, Roman mosaics, and icons. Dinner in the foothills of the Vitosha Mountains will be accompanied by an astonishing performance of *Nestinarstvo*, an ancient ritual with pagan roots in which dancers perform barefoot atop smoldering embers. B, L, D

Sofia / Skopje, Macedonia

Saturday, September 2

Drive to Macedonia to visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the medieval Boyana Church, known for its many remarkable frescoes; and Rila Monastery, whose unique history spans ten centuries. Arrive in Skopje in time for an outstanding Ottoman-inspired dinner. B, L, D

Skopje / Tetovo / Ohrid, Macedonia / Tirana, Albania

Sunday, September 3

In Tetovo, marvel at the intricate decorations and colorful palette of the Painted Aladza Mosque. The pleasures of Ohrid are many, from its picturesque red-roofed homes on

a glorious lake to its Old Town, paved in cobblestones. View archaeological treasures at the Robevci Museum and some of the world's finest icons at the Icon Gallery. See significant Orthodox churches, a Hellenistic amphitheater dating from 200 B.C., and the medieval fortress of Tsar Samoil. B, L, D

Tirana / Berat

Monday, September 4

On Skanderbeg Square in lively Tirana, visit the National History Museum, whose eclectic holdings include the sword of Albania's larger-than-life national hero, Skanderbeg, and impressive 16th-century icons. See the painted dome of the Mosque of Et'Hem Bey and the tall Clock Tower, before departing for a relaxing wine tasting and lunch at Cobo Winery. In Berat, admire the white Ottoman houses and the castle, with its unique neighborhood. Visit the Onufri National Museum, to see its justly famous 6th-century icons. B, L

Tirana / Krujë / Shkodra / Tivat, Montenegro

Tuesday, September 5

Today begins at Krujë Castle, an inspiration to Albanians for having resisted three sieges by Ottoman forces in the 15th century. After a walk through the adjacent Old Bazaar, view objects on display at the Ethnographic Museum that reveal Albanians' unique way of life. Continue to ancient Shkodra, home to the Rozafa Fortress, with its spectacular views of Shkodra Lake; a castle with intriguing lore; and a museum. Travel to Montenegro and check in at the hotel in Tivat in time for dinner. B, L, D

More Travels with The Met

Sailing the Panama Canal: Colón to Puntarenas Aboard *Sea Cloud II* February 20–March 3, 2017

Morocco: The Land of Mists & Mysteries March 24–April 5, 2017

Dutch & Flemish Landscapes Aboard *AmaPrima* April 19–27, 2017

Waterways of the Tsars: Moscow to St. Petersburg Aboard *Volga Dream* June 8–17, 2017

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Tivat / Kotor, Montenegro

Wednesday, September 6

Spend a glorious day aboard a yacht in stunning Kotor Bay. Visit the Baroque village of Perast and its Maritime Museum, then continue to the extraordinary islet of Skrpjela, whose Our Lady of the Rocks church displays paintings and icons as well as a tapestry that took over 25 years to complete. Cruise to the medieval town of Kotor where the 12th-century Cathedral of St. Triphon is a highlight. Enjoy time at leisure before driving to the Luštica Peninsula to sample its exceptional olive oils and dine in a delightful local restaurant. B, L, D

Tivat / Mostar / Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thursday, September 7

In the village of Blagaj, visit the 16th-century Sufi Monastery, situated on the banks where the Buna River meets a bubbling spring. See Mostar's Stari Most Bridge, the most recognizable of this ancient city's attractions. An impressive example of Ottoman engineering, this formidable bridge was rebuilt after being destroyed during the Yugoslav Wars. Also visit the 16th-century Karadozbeğova Mosque and two Ottoman-era homes. Drive to Sarajevo for dinner at an excellent local restaurant. B, L, D

Sarajevo

Friday, September 8

On a walking tour of this capital city, follow Bascarsija Street to the multi-domed Gazi

Husrev-Bey Mosque and other highlights of Ottoman/Austro-Hungarian architecture, including the Moorish-style Vijecnica (City Hall) and the Jewish Museum, housed in the country's oldest synagogue. You may wish to continue to the Bascarsija (Bazaar), or return to the hotel to relax before dinner at leisure. B, L

Sarajevo

Saturday, September 9

Following a morning tour that includes Careva Džamija (the Emperor's Mosque) and the 18th-century Svrzo's House Museum, enjoy free time for lunch and further exploring in this intriguing city. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner in the Old Town. B, D

Sarajevo / U.S. Return

Sunday, September 10

Transfer to the airport for flights home. B

Optional postlude in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from September 10-13, 2017

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Berat Castle, photo by Retlaw Snellac



Sufi Monastery, Blagaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina, © P&D J

Program Rate

\$8,995 per person double occupancy
\$900 single supplement

Rate Includes

- Ten nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); local wine, bottled water, soda, and coffee/tea with all meals
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service charges and portage

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$900)

I wish to share a room with _____

Optional Postlude

I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4- digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

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**The Metropolitan
Museum of Art**

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New York, NY 10028

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