

24 DAY CLASSIC TOURING RALLY

# SULTAN'S *Trail*



VIENNA – ISTANBUL – SALZBURG

SEPT 20TH TO OCT 14TH, 2024

- 17 COUNTRIES
- FABULOUS HOTELS
- SULLIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT TRADING ROUTE
- HISTORIC LOCATIONS
- SUPERB DRIVING
- UNIQUE EVENT





# SULTAN'S *Trail*



VIENNA – ISTANBUL – SALZBURG

**A journey like no other to the eastern edge of Europe. A historic trading route founded by Sulliman the Magnificent in 1592 and developed over the centuries to become one of the most important commercial roads connecting the old and the new worlds.**

In its heyday it was a hive of activity with merchants, opportunists, ne'er-do-wells and the like plying their goods such as spices, silk and jewels into prosperous Europe and returning with finest pottery, amber, furniture and other sought-after merchandise. It runs through extraordinary cities, idyllic nature and old villages with Ottoman, Habsburg, Byzantine, Roman and Communist heritage to enjoy.

From archaeological sites and old monasteries to brutalist architecture you can see the influence of a series of civilizations. You will be dazzled with this rich amalgam of cultures as different trade routes, wars and rulers have all left their traces.



# THE ROUTE

# SULTAN'S Trail




Day	DoW	Date	Journey	Overnight	Country
Day 1	Fri	Friday, September 20, 2024	Vienna/arrivals	vienna	Austria
Day 2	Sat	Saturday, September 21, 2024	Day off - Bratislava visit	vienna	Slovakia/Austria
Day 3	Sun	Sunday, September 22, 2024	Sopron, Eszterházy Palace, Győr and Tata	Budapest	Hungary
Day 4	Mon	Monday, September 23, 2024	Szeged	Timisoara	Romania
Day 5	Tue	Tuesday, September 24, 2024	Zrenjanin	Belgrade	Serbia
Day 6	Wed	Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Golubac castle, Danube gorge, Iron gates	Rtanj	Serbia
Day 7	Thu	Thursday, September 26, 2024	Nis, Jerma canyon	Sofia	Bulgaria
Day 8	Fri	Friday, September 27, 2024	Day off - Rila Monastery	Sofia	Bulgaria
Day 9	Sat	Saturday, September 28, 2024	Koprivshitsa, King Valley	Plovdiv	Bulgaria
Day 10	Sun	Sunday, September 29, 2024	Edirne	Istanbul	Turkey
Day 11	Mon	Monday, September 30, 2024	Day off - Topkapi, mosque, city tour	Istanbul	Turkey
Day 12	Tue	Tuesday, October 01, 2024	Day off - at leisure	Istanbul	Turkey
Day 13	Wed	Wednesday, October 02, 2024	Alexandroupoli, Philippi	Kavala	Greece
Day 14	Thu	Thursday, October 03, 2024	Pella	Ohrid	North Macedonia
Day 15	Fri	Friday, October 04, 2024	Kosovo, Sveti Stefan	Tivat	Albania/Montenegro
Day 16	Sat	Saturday, October 05, 2024	Day off - Kotor bay	Tivat	Montenegro
Day 17	Sun	Sunday, October 06, 2024	Herceg Novi	Dubrovnik	Croatia
Day 18	Mon	Monday, October 07, 2024	Mostar, Tito's Bunker	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Hertsgovena
Day 19	Tue	Tuesday, October 08, 2024	Tunnel of life, city tour	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Hertsgovena
Day 20	Wed	Wednesday, October 09, 2024	Trogir, Sibenik	Zadar	Croatia
Day 21	Thu	Thursday, October 10, 2024	Plitvica Lakes	Opatja	Croatia
Day 22	Fri	Friday, October 11, 2024	Lipica, Trieste, Soca river valley	Bled	Italy, Slovenia
Day 23	Sat	Saturday, October 12, 2024	Car train	Salzburg	Austria
Day 24	Sun	Sunday, October 13, 2024	Mozart	Salzburg	Austria
Day 25	Mon	Monday, October 14, 2024	Depart		





## ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Sept 20-22, 2024 - Vienna

Hotel: Le Meridian

We meet in Vienna, Austria's vibrant capital which offers a blend of imperial traditions, music, and endearing charm. A city that inspires with the old and the new alike, where you can always find a cosy corner in a coffee house or wine bar.

On a short walk along the Ringstrasse, you pass the Vienna State Opera, the Museum of Art History and its counterpart, the Museum of Natural History, the Parliament, the Burgtheater, and the City Hall.

Right in the heart of the city, the Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral casts its shadows through narrow cobblestone streets. The palaces and parks of the Habsburg era, Schönbrunn Palace, Gloriette and, Belvedere Palace with the world's largest collection of Gustav Klimt paintings and the Hofburgpalace, give the city an imperial air, enriched by beautiful buildings from the Art Nouveau period.

Tired of parks and palaces? Why not admire the riding skills of the highest order at the renowned Spanish Riding School in Vienna. And, a visit to Vienna would be incomplete without a concert, opera or musical performance

Sept 21, 2024 - Day trip to Bratislava

With the River Danube flowing through both, it is possible to travel between Vienna and Bratislava by boat in just a few hours. We have enough time to take in most notable sights from the 18th century pedestrian only old town and to learn about life under the communist regime before 1989.

Hlavnénám, the Main Square, is considered the centre of Bratislava's old town with it's main attraction the Old Town Hall which is home to the Museum of City History and its gruesome yet intriguing collection of torture devices dating from the 16th-18th centuries.

Within a five minute walk of the square lies the mottled green-capped tower of St. Michael with its ancient gate, the only one remaining of the four original gates that allowed entry to the former medieval city.

Bratislava Castle which is now a museum stands on an isolated rocky hill of the Little Carpathians where former kings could keep an eye on the comings and goings on the Danube. It has taken on many incarnations in its long history, including home to the crown jewels of Hungary.



# SULTAN'S Trail

VIENNA – ISTANBUL – SALZBURG

## Sept 22, 2024 - Drive to Budapest Hotel: Kempinski

Day one on the road includes a visit to Esterházy Palace, located in Eisenstadt. A grand royal baroque residence that dates back to the 14th century. While many of the palace's 256 rooms are occupied by the provincial government, visitors can look round 25 rooms to gain an insight into its history and the lives of its former inhabitants.

On your way you will be able to stop at magical Sopron, the baroque town of Győr, have a stroll in the charming lake-side town of Tata and soak up their unique atmosphere.

### Budapest

Hungary's capital is bisected by the River Danube. Its 19th century Chain Bridge connects the hilly Buda district with the flat Pest. A funicular runs up Castle Hill to Buda's Old Town, where Budapest's History Museum traces city life from Roman times onward. Trinity Square is home to the 13th century Matthias Church and the turrets of the Fishermen's Bastion, which offer sweeping views of the city.

### Aperitif at Fisherman's Bastion

We will take a funicular up to Castle Hill and walk to the Fisherman's Bastion to enjoy the amazing views. We'll arrive around sunset time to make the moment even more special.

## Sept 23, 2024 - Drive to Timisoara Hotel: Atlas Hotel Timisoara

Today we cross the border to Romania to visit charming Timisoara, often referred to as "Little Vienna," and indeed, Austrian influences are evident in the architecture, food and culture. This is a city for walking, divided into squares that showcase many stunning architectural gems.

The origins of Timisoara come from the Middle Ages and it has always played an important role due to its strategic location at the crossroads of trading routes. Over the centuries it has been ruled by the Hungarians, Ottomans and Habsburgs who transformed the town into an important industrial hub. It was the second place in the world (after New York) to have electric street lamps and second in Europe with horse-drawn trams.

## Sept 24, 2024 - Belgrade Hotel: Moskva Hotel

We cross the border again to Serbia and visit the outspoken, adventurous, proud and audacious city of Belgrade ('White City'). It is by no means a 'pretty' capital, but its gritty exuberance makes it one of Europe's most happening places. While it hurtles towards a brighter future, its chaotic past unfolds before your eyes: socialist





blocks are squeezed between art nouveau masterpieces, and remnants of the Habsburg legacy contrast with Ottoman relics and socialist modernist monoliths. This is where the Sava and Danube Rivers meet so was a vital link in the Sultan's Trail.

We stay in the historical Moskva Hotel, a landmark of Belgrade and one of its most important architectural gems. Inaugurated by King Petar I in 1908, it has always been a meeting place of eccentric artists, poets and proud intellectuals. The Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić even had his own table in Café Moskva. It has hosted some famous names; Albert Einstein, Ana Pavlova, Leonid Brezhnev, Indira Gandhi, Maksim Gorky to name a few.

We have selected Salon 1905 for a truly one-of-a-kind fine dining experience – an exclusive five-course set menu designed to showcase the very best fresh local produce and culinary expertise. The Salon is a masterpiece of mixed Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture, with a spectacular interior wrapped in glistening brass, marble and gold.



### Sept 25, 2024 - Rtanj, Serbia

**Hotel: Spa Hotel Ramonda**

Our first stop today on the road to Rtanj is Golubac Fortress, a defensive complex which changed hands many times down the centuries. It is the perfect fairy-tale castle, wonderfully set off by its location in the rugged landscape at the head of the Đerdap Gorge.

Taking the scenic route beside the Danube we arrive at the widest part of the river - the famous Iron Gates. Few locations can match the natural splendour of the Iron Gates gorge, where Central Europe's grandest waterway enters its lower course, meandering below steep cliffs, its waters finding their way through narrow passages between the Carpathians and the Balkan Mountains. Shared in this section by Romania and Serbia, the Iron Gates of the Danube is a protected area on both sides of the river. At the Iron Gates, Romania's Porțile de Fier natural park to the north meets up with the Đerdap national park along the Serbian southern bank. Rtanj is named after the pyramid shaped Rtanj mountain in the Carpathians. Shaped like an enormous pyramid standing 1,500 metres high its formation has baffled everyone so it has lent itself to conspiracy theories down the centuries.

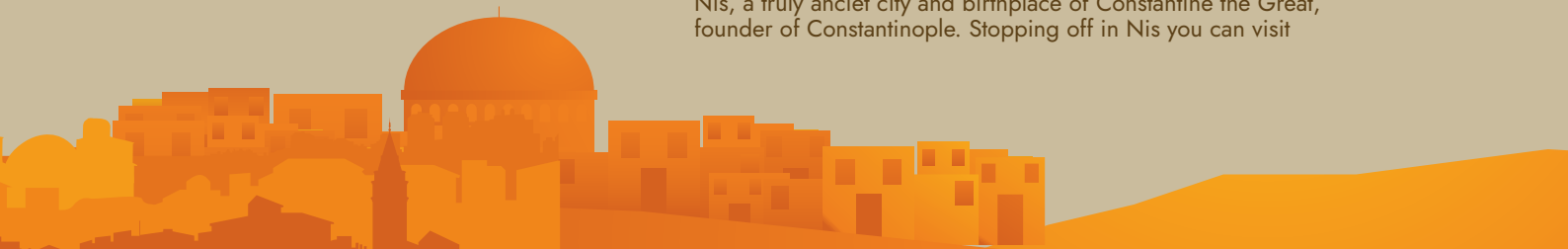
The prevailing theory is that it is hollow in the middle, which is obviously where aliens and the Illuminati have their get-togethers. The fact that Rtanj contains numerous springs, pits, and caves adds to the mystery.



### Sept 26, 2024 - Sofia, Bulgaria

**Hotel: Grand Hotel Sofia**

Leaving the conspiracies behind, the following day we drive via Nis, a truly ancient city and birthplace of Constantine the Great, founder of Constantinople. Stopping off in Nis you can visit



museums and sites of great historical importance. We suggest the Mediana archaeological site (remains of a luxurious Roman settlement) or the Nišfortress (best preserved Ottoman fort in this part of the Balkans) or “Čelekula” (“The Skull tower”), a unique structure built by the order of the Ottoman Hursid pasha using the skulls of Serbian soldiers killed in the Battle of Čegarduring - the First Serbian uprising.

We continue to the Bulgarian border by driving via Jerma River Canyon, a Serbian balcony road. The Jerma River flows in one of the most beautiful canyons in Serbia making for a stunning drive. Sofia is no grand metropolis but is one of Europe’s oldest cities, with a history stretching over seven millennia. Today it is a modern, youthful city, with a scattering of onion-domed churches, Ottoman mosques and stubborn Red Army monuments that lend an eclectic, exotic feel. Excavation work carried out during construction of the metro unveiled a treasure trove of Roman ruins from nearly 2000 years ago, when the city was called ‘Serdica’.

A rest day gives you a chance to visit Roman ruins, mineral springs, and Viennese-style architecture. It is also home to many of Bulgaria’s finest museum and galleries.

### Sept 28, 2024 - Plovdiv, Bulgaria Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton

Today we drive the scenic road 606 via Koprivshitsa. Nestled at the base of Stara Planina (literally ‘Old Mountain’), this National Revival period town is a tranquil escape, filled with colourful, old houses and cobblestoned streets. There’s plenty to do with 350 ‘Heritage Sites’ dotted around. You might not be able to visit them all, but given that the city is an architectural reserve.

Take Route 606 for 55 miles and you’ll find yourself in Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria, considered by many to be the most beautiful!

Like Rome, Plovdiv straddles seven hills; but as Europe’s oldest continuously inhabited city, it’s far more ancient. It is best loved for its romantic old town, packed with colourful, creaky 19th-century mansions that are now house-museums, galleries and guest houses.

### Sept 29, 2024 - Route to Istanbul Hotel: The Bosphorus

We break up the journey from Plovdiv to Istanbul by visiting Edirne, famous for it’s Selimiye Mosque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built between 1568 – 1575. It is a colossal mosque with an expansive interior, with the second highest minaret in the world. The Blue Mosque in Istanbul is actually modelled on Selimiye, which is considered the zenith of Ottoman architecture.

Edirne has been through many incarnations but the founding of the city as we know it dates back to the Romans when it was named Hadrianopolis. The vagaries of the border region between Asia and Europe gave rise to Edirne’s claim to be the most frequently contested spot on earth. In the 14th century it was captured by the Ottomans and became their capital.

Between 1700 and 1750, Edirne was one of the largest cities in Europe with a population of about 350,000 people. Several wars with Russia, the Balkans wars in the 1800’s, then WWII resulted in massive depopulation. Today’s population is around 140,000.





## Istanbul

After a great day's drive we finally reach Istanbul, the median point in our Trail. Few cities on the planet come close to Istanbul. The Turkish capital is one of the world's great cities, hugely influential in world history. It also happens to be a massive and chaotic metropolis that isn't going to slow down for anyone.

The best things to do in Istanbul are every bit as varied and exciting as the city itself, covering everything from world-changing attractions to the best antique shops and fabulous food, fascination and fun merge perfectly here.

We will spend three nights in the five-star luxury Swissotel The Bosphorus, right in the centre of Istanbul on the European banks of the Bosphorus. The hotel is located in the city centre in 65 acres of lush gardens and adjacent to the Dolmabahçe Palace, just 10 minutes walk to the shopping district Nişantaşı, and only 15 minutes by taxi to the old city.



### Sept 30, 2024 - The Old City

Today we explore the Old City, known as the heart of Istanbul, the Sultanahmet area. We will wander inside the Topkapi Palace, the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for more than four centuries.

Visit the Blue Mosque and marvel at the lofty dome of the Hagia Sophia, completed in the 6th century as the world's largest cathedral, it was converted into a mosque in the 15th century and later in 1935 became a museum. Hagia Sophia served as the centre of the Eastern Orthodox Church until being turned back into a mosque in 2020. Many argue that the monument belongs to humanity - not to Turkey - and should have remained unchanged. They say it was a bridge between two faiths, and a great symbol of co-existence...



Shop for spices and souvenirs at the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets.

### Oct 01, 2024 - Day off in Istanbul

Today is at leisure in this fascinating city:

Get an authentic full body scrub and soak at Çatma Mescit Hammam, the oldest Hammam built in the 16th century, climb the Galata Tower, enjoy Turkish coffee and delights, or snack on a Balık ekmek (Istanbul fish sandwich) with tea by the Bosphorus.

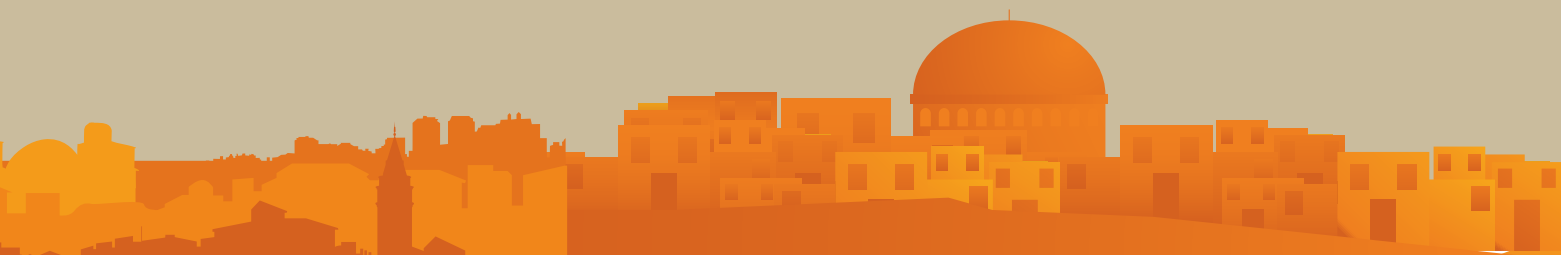
Wonder at the engineering of the 6th century Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarnıcı), treat yourself to genuine Turkish Delight in Altan Şekerleme, one of the oldest family owned shops in the city (since 1865). Stroll through Çiçek Pasajı (Flower Passage) stopping here for a beer... You won't be lost for choice!



### Oct 02, 2024 - Kavala, Greece

Hotel: Imaret

Set in Greece's beautiful Macedonia, the port town of Kavala serves as an excellent base for visiting the ancient city of Philippi and for breaking up the journey between Istanbul and North Macedonia. Kavala is built on the slopes of Mount Symvolu, forming one of the most picturesque cities in Greece. Built on the ancient city of Neopolis, it's famous for the Kamares Aqueduct - a well-preserved post Roman aqueduct dating back to the 16th century. The Old Town of Kavala is home to many historic buildings and narrow, picturesque streets.



Walk up to the Castle of Kavala: The castle offers fantastic views of the city and the surrounding sea and is an excellent spot for taking photos.

Visit Philippi, the ancient city located just a short drive from Kavala which is home to some impressive ruins, including a Roman amphitheatre and a basilica.

#### Kavala

In Kavala, we stay in the Imaret – a historic building which has been converted into a luxurious hotel, but it's also open to visitors who want to explore the stunning architecture.

Imaret is an intimate and luxurious property within the historical monument. Built in 1817 in the middle of the historical district of Kavala, Northern Greece, Imaret is an unexpected oasis of tranquillity. Until 1902 it functioned as an Islamic seminary.

The variety of decoration, the quality of the delicate structures, the interaction between indoor and open spaces and the adaptability of the functional structures, create an original complex of high aesthetic and cultural value.

### Oct 03, 2024 - Route to North Macedonia

Hotel: Marriott, Skopje

Most of Greece's wine production is located in the heartland of the Macedonian empire. This has been a wine producing region since antiquity. Archaeological finds have depicted Dionysus the Greek god of wine. Our route takes in spectacular alpine roads, ancient monuments, top restaurants and unique wineries.

We stop for lunch in Pella. Ancient Pella was the capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon, the birthplace of Alexander the Great and his father, Philip II. At that time Pella was a strategic port, connected to the gulf by a narrow inlet; today it is entirely landlocked. An influential city of international importance, Cicero and Euripides stayed here. In the 3rd, 4th and 5th centuries BCE

We arrive in Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia, a city which aspires to imitate Rome with its sculptures and structures resembling an open-air museum. They don't have the antiquity but nevertheless gives the feel of an ancient and vibrant city.

Take a walk to admire the statues and gigantic structures in the city square, around the Stone Bridge and on many different locations in the city.

Skopje took the title of Capital of the Republic of Macedonia, which declared its independence in 1991 after spending centuries under the rule of the Roman, Byzantine, Serbian, Ottoman Empires and Yugoslavia.

While following the traces of the Ottomans on one bank of the Vardar River, when you cross the Stone Bridge to the opposite side of the water, a bright modern city welcomes you.

### Oct 04, 2024 - Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro

Hotel: Regent Porto Montenegro

From Macedonia we cross the border into Kosovo to see Prizren before crossing to Albania.

Prizren is the jewel in the crown of Kosovo and a 'must-see' for any visitor. Prizren has the highest number of preserved Ottoman



buildings and has not only retained the architecture from the Ottoman era, but also many other flavours of Turkey, with the language being widely used and delicious Turkish food on the menu. Many schools in Prizren still teach in Turkish and it is the only municipality where Turkish is an official language alongside Albanian and Serbian.

Lake Komani in the north of Albania is home to one of the most beautiful ferry rides in the world - this 2.5 hour crossing through the Albanian fjords is completely captivating. While this ferry route between Koman and Fierze was not originally created for tourists, it has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Albania. After our ferry ride across Komani Lake, we are in the second stage of our beautiful road trip through the Albanian mountains. The approach road from Koman to Shkoder via the mountain road SH 25 is a highlight and offers again and again beautiful views of the Drin, but it's not in great condition, so you'd better plan a little more time for the 30 km journey to the village of Vau-Deja from Koman.

After a great drive in the mountains, it's time for our drive by the sea. After passing Shkoder lake, we cross the border to drive along the Montenegrin Riviera. Here you'll find Montenegro's prettiest coves, iconic architecture and dreamy islands. And the cherry on top is the spectacular view of the fortified island Sveti Stefan. In the evening we arrive to Kotor Bay undeniably beautiful. You'll be enchanted from the very moment you arrive. Here we stay for 2 nights.

### Oct 05, 2024 - Kotor Bay

Hidden at the end of Europe's southern-most fjord of the Adriatic Sea, lies the idyllic city of Kotor, Montenegro's most famous travel destination.

After breakfast we suggest taking a boat trip, departing from the hotel with stops at Our Lady of the Rocks, and the old town area. We will cruise past the town of Perast before stopping on the artificial island, Our Lady of the Rocks. Here, visit the Catholic Church with the miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary from the 15th century, the most venerated patron saint of local sailors.

Then we head to the Kotor, town of merchants and sailors which has much to see. The old town, surrounded by impressive city walls, is very well preserved and included in the UNESCO list of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Kotor also has a great number of attractive restaurants and shops, worth spending an afternoon here!

### Oct 06, 2024 - Dubrovnik

**Hotel: Rixos Premium**

In the morning we catch a ferry across the narrowest part of the Bay of Kotor, drive pass Herceg Novi and cross to Croatia to allow most of the day to explore "the pearl of Adriatic" medieval city of Dubrovnik!

Once a city-state that rivalled Venice in wealth and power, Dubrovnik reached its apogee during the 15th century and attracted the finest sculptors and architects to adorn the city centre in a Renaissance style. Alas, the golden age ended with the earthquake of 1667 but the resilient city rebuilt, this time in a baroque style. Dubrovnik gradually declined as a naval power but in the 20th century reinvented itself as a tourist destination.

With massive walls punctuated with turrets, towers and gates enclosing streets, churches and palaces packed with art treasures, you'll never run out of things to see and do in Dubrovnik.



## Oct 07, 2024 - Bosnia & Herzegovina

We set off in the morning for a short drive to Ston, well-known for oysters and fortresses. As one of the oldest oyster-farming regions in the world, Ston farms produce the finest oysters in Croatia. Time to have some fresh oysters and later climb the Great Wall of Ston, which extends over 5 kilometres and is the largest fortified structure in Europe. Then we cross the border to Bosnia & Herzegovina to visit Blagaj and Mostar.

Blagaj Tekija is a Dervish monastery outside Mostar, Bosnia, which is nearly 600 years old. Situated at the base of a cliff, next to the source of the river Buna, it's a unique and picturesque series of buildings which are even more spectacular in real life than in pictures.

The historic town of Mostar, spanning the deep valley of the Neretva River, developed in the 15th and 16th centuries as an Ottoman frontier town. Mostar has long been known for its old Turkish houses and Old Bridge, Stari Most, after which it is named.



## Oct 07, 2024 - Split, Croatia

Hotel: Radisson

In the afternoon we return to the Croatian coast and stay overnight in Split, the second largest city in Croatia. With ruins dating back to the Roman Empire, a bustling waterfront, and fresh seafood, Split is well worth a stopover.

Over the centuries, the city of Split has grown up in and around Diocletian's Palace, and during this time, many of the Palace's buildings have remained intact. Diocletian's Palace is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For the best view over the city you may want to climb the Bell Tower of St. Domnius Cathedral located within Diocletian's Palace. This is the oldest Catholic cathedral in the world, completed in the 7th century.

Walk around the Old Town maze of streets and feel the Venetian influence. People's Square in the heart of the Old Town would be the best spot for a great dining experience.



## Oct 08, 2024 - Adriatic highway to Zadar

Zadar: Miramare

Escaping from the urban sprawl of Split, today we drive the "Adriatic Highway", which offers one of Europe's most memorable journeys, endless twists and turns and unforgettable views.

Trogir is only 17 miles (27km) from Split and is home to a number of fascinating historic sights and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

Our second stop is Sibenik, the oldest Croatian town on the Adriatic with a very rich historical and cultural heritage, plus four fortresses and a lot of stairs (2,851 in total!).

In the afternoon we arrive to Zadar, known for its Roman ruins, art installations, unique sea organ, and rich history, which includes being ruled by the Romans, Venetians, Austrians, and even the French during Napoleon's time. Sunset in Zadar is said to be the most beautiful in the world.



Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that route and hotels may vary.



**Oct 09, 2024 - Plitvice lakes, Opatja**  
**Hotel: Amadrio Park Hotel for two nights**

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Today we detour from the coast to experience the grandiose scenery of the Plitvice National Park, whose celebrated lakes, waterfalls and board walk trails fully justify a stopover for a couple of hours. The Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's most popular tourist attraction, was granted UNESCO World Heritage status.

The beauty of the National Park lies in its sixteen lakes, interconnected by a series of waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars and rare bird species. The National Park covers a total area of 300 square kilometres, whilst the lakes join together over a distance of eight kilometres.

From here it's only a short drive to Slunj with its cascading cataracts, watermills and restaurants selling fresh trout, it would be a real shame to miss it!



**Oct 10, 2024 - Truffles and Wine**

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Today you can rest in elegant Opatija or head inland from the Adriatic, to the unspoilt countryside of medieval hilltop towns, pine forests, fertile valleys and vineyard-dotted hills. The pace here slows down considerably, defined more by the demands of harvesting grapes and hunting for truffles.

Farmhouses open their doors to visitors looking for authentic experiences, rustic taverns serve up slow-food delights and Croatia's top winemakers provide tastings in their cellars.

The famous Motovun forest, located in the centre of the Istrian peninsula, is considered to be the centre of truffle hunting. This part of Istria has an old tradition of truffle hunting, and became a true gourmet's paradise waiting to be discovered by food lovers from all around the world.

We suggest you enjoy a demonstration of Truffle hunting in the magical Motovun forest, guided by an experienced local truffle hunter, with the help of experienced truffle dogs.



**Oct 11, 2024 - Lipica and Trieste, Bled**  
**Hotel: Bled Rose Hotel**

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We visit the world famous Lipizzan horses at the Lipica Stud Farm in Slovenia, before crossing into the north eastern Italian Trieste area. The Lipica Stud Farm is one of the oldest stud farms in the world, and it represents the origin of the Lipizzan horse. In a unique natural environment, in the middle of dreamy meadows and in the shade of oak and chestnut trees, you will find beautiful white horses which will certainly enchant you, experience the world of the Lipizzan horse, walk through the stables, and visit the Lipikum Museum dedicated to various aspects of the stud and the Lipizzan breed.

While in Italy, drive past the majestic white Miramare castle, the beloved home of Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian which overlooks the sea and is surrounded by a huge park full of rare and exotic tree species, all collected by the Archduke himself on his scientific expeditions around the world aboard the frigate Novara.

**Oct 11, 2024 - Soca Valley and Bled**

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We cross back into Slovenia and drive up the Soča River Valley along the Julian Alps to the Vršič Pass, which is considered the best road trip in Slovenia.

The best highlight here is of course the Soča River itself. As you drive on Route 206, you are always on the water's edge and



therefore almost always have a view of the wild and often raging river.

Tonight we stop for an overnight stay near magical lake Bled, a glacier-formed, crystal blue lake, known for its castle and panoramic views. The tiny church on Bled Island, the Church of the Assumption, was built in 1465, with 99 steps leading to its entrance. Situated atop a striking cliff, Bled Castle is another one of Lake Bled's most stunning attractions.

## Oct 12, 2024 - Motorail & the Eagle's Nest to Salzburg Hotel: Sacher

On our last driving day on this rally we take the motorail through the Tauern tunnel connecting the Möll Valley in Carinthia with the Gastein Valley in Salzburg. Trains run every hour, the passage takes only 11 minutes.

Then we drive through the beautiful Gastein valley to the Kehlsteinhaus (Eagle's Nest), a former symbol of power of the Nazi regime. It stands for the insanity of the regime on the Obersalzberg, where plans for war and mass murder were formed. In defiance, the building stands perched over a sheer rock wall. A road was cut into the mountain through previously impassable terrain. To reach it, there is a golden brass elevator buried in the heart of the mountain, through which one can reach 'the summit of power' – all this was created with the sole purpose to impress and dazzle. This building is one of the few undamaged monuments remaining of the Hitler era, which has resulted in giving it a thought-provoking prominence that it may not perhaps deserve.

Finally we arrive to Salzburg, the City of Mozart, home of the Salzburg Festival and UNESCO World Heritage-listed city, exquisitely beautiful and musically gifted.

Salzburg owes its fame throughout the world to the incomparable charm of its urban appearance, the scenic beauty of its surroundings and the coincidence that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born here in 1756. The wealth and prosperity of Salzburg can be traced back to the centuries-long international trade in salt, or 'white gold'. The income from the salt trade enabled the prince-archbishops to build a city that was also called 'Rome of the North' because of its Italian character, its numerous sacred buildings and its special atmosphere. We stay in the superb Sacher Hotel Salzburg, the Amadeus of luxury hotels, where history and luxury are two sides of one imperial coin. Experience excellence, comfort, hospitality, and culture in the heart of Salzburg.

## Oct 13, 2024 - Salzburg

Today is a rest day to discover Salzburg at your own pace. Salzburg is a great place to wander and absorb the history that marks it out from other Austrian cities, there are things you can do only here:

- Go on a Sound Of Music Tour and discover the Mirabell Palace and Gardens
- Sample the Original Salzburger Mozart Balls (Mozartkugel)
- Hear the harmonies of the Salzburger Glockenspiel
- Dine in Central Europe's oldest restaurant St. Peter Stiftskulinarium, which has been welcoming guests for over 1200 years
- Or in the amazing Ikarus restaurant of the Red Bull's Hangar-7, a home for the historic fleet of the Flying Bulls. It has a unique guest-chef concept, which brings a different top international chef to Salzburg each month and has been awarded 2 Michelin stars and 5 toques in Gault & Millau.





## INCLUSIONS, FEES & HOW TO ENTER

### INCLUDED IN THE RALLY

24 Nights accommodation in best hotels for the rally  
Twin or double room included  
Single supplement available  
Breakfast included  
Dinners on all rally days  
Welcome Dinner  
Farewell Gala Dinner  
GPS Navigator with Full Route Planning  
Bespoke Rallies Travel Pack  
Occasional lunches  
Rally plates, decals, road book  
Garmin purple line plus Virtual Marshal tracking system  
Mechanical backup  
Bespoke Rallies experienced organising team  
Luggage van  
We can arrange transport to and from the event (call for costs)  
Finishers' medals

### VEHICLE CLASSES

Vintage, Classic and Modern Classics (up to 1990)

### ACCOMMODATION

We aim to provide the best and most suitable accommodation throughout the rally, taking into account the need for parking and ease of access. Breakfast is included for each night and evening meals are provided on travelling days.

### BACK UP

As usual mechanical back up will be masterminded by Toby and Finella

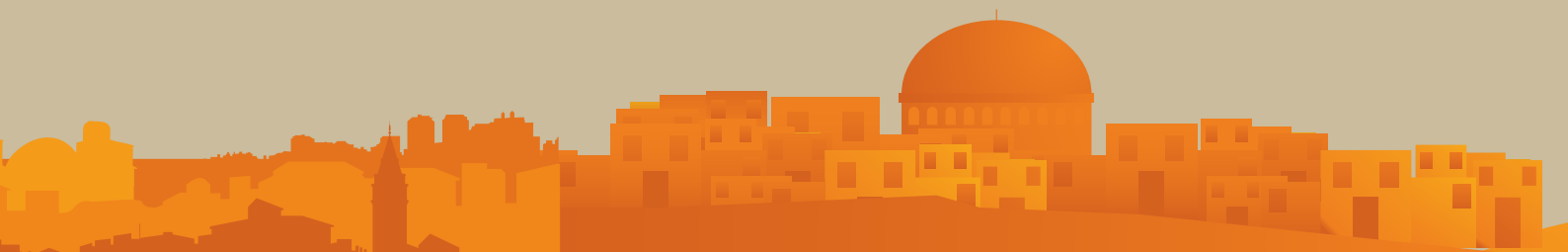
### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Any flights
- Shipping to or from the event
- Personal insurance, visas
- Personal drinks/meals/fuel/vehicle repairs/tolls, any other costs

### FEES & HOW TO ENTER

Event Fees (2 people plus per car for all nights of the rally) £28,750  
Extras: Single supplement £7,580

Interested? Call us now to reserve your place.  
Phone: + 44 (0)1483 271 699  
or download an entry form  
by scanning the opposite qr code.





# THE GRAND PRIX OF SOUTH AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES TO CARTAGENA

2024



*CELEBRATING THE GREATEST  
ROAD RACE IN HISTORY*

30 DAY CLASSIC CAR  
COMPETITION/ENDURO RALLY

NOVEMBER 1ST TO 30TH, 2024

Run initially in 1948 it was hailed as the greatest road race ever and attracted such stars as Fangio and the Galvez brothers. We are celebrating the 76th anniversary of this great event in 2024, following the original route where possible. Starting at midnight (as the original race) our 30 day rally will go from Buenos Aires to Cartagena covering roughly the same distance as the original on tough and exciting roads.

To find out more or book visit:

[BESPOKERALLIES.COM](http://BESPOKERALLIES.COM)

Or get in touch with us at Rally HQ

+ 44 (0)1483 271 699 [rally@bespokerallies.com](mailto:rally@bespokerallies.com)

