Bulgaria & Romania Discovery

17 days from $5,592 total price from Boston, New York
($4,995 air & land inclusive plus $597 airline taxes and fees)

Two fascinating Balkan countries, one uncommon, and exceptional, small group journey. We discover Bulgaria, with its mix of East and West, rugged mountains and Black Sea coast, and treasured UNESCO sites. Then on to historic Romania, home of medieval walled towns, crenellated castles, and fabled Transylvania.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Sofia, Bulgaria

Day 2: Arrive Sofia We arrive in Bulgaria’s capital and largest city today and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 3: Sofia We meet our fellow travelers and tour director at this morning’s briefing about the journey ahead. Then we set out on a tour of this historic city, beginning with visits to the huge neo-Byzantine Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the medieval Bulgarian Orthodox Boyana Church, a UNESCO site. Over lunch at a local restaurant, a historian will discuss the impact of Thracian-Roman culture on the region. We return to our hotel late afternoon; tonight, we enjoy a welcome dinner.

Day 4: Sofia/Rila Today’s excursion features the Rila Monastery, founded in the 10th century and rebuilt in the mid-19th century after a fire. A symbol of Slavic cultural identity, the monastery is now a UNESCO site. We return to Sofia late this afternoon. Tonight’s dinner at a local restaurant features traditional folkloric music and dancing.

Day 5: Sofia/Plovdiv En route today to Plovdiv, we stop along the way for a cooking class and lunch of Bulgarian specialties, including the local pastry-like bread banitsa. Then we continue on to Plovdiv, Bulgaria’s cultural capital in the historical region of Thrace. Late afternoon, we reach our hotel and dine together tonight.

Day 6: Plovdiv We set out this morning on a walking tour of Plovdiv’s charming old town, with its cobbled streets and beautifully restored houses. Set on three of the city’s seven hills, the old town features remnants of its Roman past, including the well-preserved theater (ca. 1st century CE), which can hold as many as 7,000 spectators and is still in use today. Following our tour and lunch in old town, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration and dinner on our own.

Day 7: Plovdiv/Nessebar/Varna (Black Sea) Today we travel to the Black Sea resort of Varna, stopping en route in Nessebar, “Pearl of the Black Sea” whose ancient city is a UNESCO site. While the site retains traces of its occupation by a variety of civilizations over the millennia, most of the ruins that we explore today date from the Hellenistic period. After time for lunch on our own here, we continue on to Varna and our hotel. We dine together tonight.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Sofia sightseeing • Rila Monastery UNESCO site • Bulgarian folkloric performance • Cooking class of Bulgarian specialties • Plovdiv’s charming old town • Black Sea resort of Varna • Bulgarian UNESCO sites of Nessebar, Madara Rock Horseman, and Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo • Bucharest tour, including Palace of Parliament • Visits to Bucharest’s Coral Temple and Great Synagogue • Walled town of Sighisoara • Private organ concert • Medieval Brasov • Transylvania villages and fortified churches UNESCO site • Legendary Bran Castle • Peles Castle • Snagov Monastery

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating

1  Depart U.S. for Sofia

2-4 Sofia Grand Hotel Sofia Sup. First Class

5-6 Plovdiv Grand Hotel Plovdiv Sup. First Class

7-8 Varna Grafit Gallery Design Hotel Deluxe

9-11 Bucharest Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest Sup. First Class

12-13 Sighisoara Sighisoara Hotel First Class

14-15 Brasov Aro Palace Sup. First Class

16 Bucharest Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest Hotel Sup. First Class

17 Depart Bucharest for U.S.

B – Breakfast; L – Lunch; D – Dinner
Day 8: Varna At the same time modern and historic, Varna offers visitors a laid-back respite, as we see on this morning’s tour. Highlights include the Roman baths and a visit to the Archaeological Museum, with more than 100,000 artifacts from Northern Bulgaria’s multi-cultural past. Then the remainder of day is at leisure in this seaside resort, perhaps to stroll the landscaped grounds of the waterfront Sea Garden; visit Varna Cathedral, modeled after grand Peterhof palace in St. Petersburg; or simply to relax on the beach. B,D

Day 9: Varna/Bucharest, Romania Along the way to Romania today, we visit two Bulgarian UNESCO sites: the late 7th-century rock relief carving of a horseman on the Madara Plateau; and the Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo (ca. 12th century), with their brightly-colored frescoes dating to the 14th century. We continue on to Bucharest, arriving late afternoon and dining together tonight. B,L,D

Day 10: Bucharest We see the highlights of the Romanian capital on our city tour that features a visit to the Soviet-era 1,100-room Palace of Parliament, after the Pentagon the world’s second largest government building. We also tour the National Village Museum, with Romanian monuments, buildings, and artifacts dating from the 17th to early 20th centuries. Dinner tonight is on our own in this lively city. B,L

Day 11: Bucharest Today we encounter two vibrant vestiges of Bucharest’s once-thriving Jewish community: the Coral Synagogue; a copy of Vienna’s Great Synagogue; and Bucharest’s Great (or Polish) Synagogue, built in 1847 and now the city’s oldest remaining temple after most were destroyed during the Communist era. Following an afternoon free for independent exploration, tonight we enjoy dinner and a wine tasting at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 12: Bucharest/Sighisoara This morning we journey by train to Brasov, where we board a coach for the medieval walled town of Sighisoara in Romania’s forested – and storied – Transylvania region. Upon arrival we take a walking tour of the Historic Centre, the best preserved in eastern Europe and a UNESCO site. Then we check in at our hotel and dine together tonight. B,D

Day 13: Sighisoara/Malancrav In nearby Biertan today, we visit the elaborate fortified church (ca. 15th century) then continue on to the early 14th-century storybook village of Malancrav, where we enjoy a traditional lunch cooked over an open fire. Back in Sighisoara, we have free time to enjoy this lovely town as we wish before tonight’s private organ concert. Dinner is on our own. B,L

Day 14: Sighisoara/Brasov We depart this morning for the stunning medieval town of Brasov, ringed by mountain peaks and dense forests. Our city tour here includes the First Romanian School, a museum housing rare books and Romania’s first printing press; and the famed Black Church, southeastern Europe’s largest Gothic church. We check in at our hotel mid-afternoon and dine together tonight. B,L,D

Day 15: Brasov Legend comes to life today as we visit towered and turreted Bran Castle, built in the 14th century atop a 200-foot high rock and once believed to be the lair of Bram Stoker’s fictional Count Dracula. We tour the castle, now a museum, then continue on to the fortified church of Prejmer. Along with the church and village we saw on Day 13, Prejmer is part of UNESCO’s Transylvania historic site. After returning to Brasov late this afternoon, we’re free for dinner on our own. B,L

Day 16: Brasov/Sinaia/Snagov/Bucharest Returning to Bucharest today, we stop in the mountain resort of Sinaia, “Pearl of the Carpathians,” where we visit exquisite Peles Castle, former summer home of Romanian royalty. Then we head to Snagov Monastery, perched on a tiny island on a lake near Bucharest and, legend has it, burial site of infamous Vlad the Impaler, said to be the inspiration for fictional Count Dracula. We continue on to Bucharest, where tonight we toast our Balkans adventure at a farewell dinner. B,L,D

Day 17: Depart for U.S. We transfer to the Bucharest airport for our return flights to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
• 15 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 35 meals: 15 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
• $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Duke/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)

“GO SAFELY, AND LEAVE SOMETHING OF THE HAPPINESS YOU BRING.”
– BRAM STOKER

Tour Departures June 1, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston, New York</td>
<td>$5,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, Washington, DC</td>
<td>$5,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Raleigh-Durham, San Francisco, Seattle</td>
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Tour membership limited to 24 Duke alumni, family, and friends

For reservations, call Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $597, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add $995. Your $500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All 2023 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $3,795 per person; Premium Economy: $1,595 per person in addition to the above costs. Upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change.
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2023, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included unless otherwise specified. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) unless otherwise specified, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

A minimum number of participants is required to secure the services of a Duke Travels representative (faculty or host). Every attempt will be made to find a Duke host who will join the program to add a uniquely Duke perspective to the experience. If this is important to you in making your decision to travel with this program, please call 1-919-684-3046 before making your final payment.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for...
cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

**For all tours (except as noted)**

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<tr>
<th>Prior to departure</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<tr>
<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>Full refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-45 days:</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44-30 days:</td>
<td>75% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-0 days:</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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**For Africa’s Wildlife, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Southeast Asia Odyssey**

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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package, should you or your travel companion cancel your participation during the tour. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

**Pre-Departure**

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

**Single Travelers**

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

**Changes to Your Reservation**

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

**Required Information**

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you passport information including the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program, as well as by our international travel partners: your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender (for further information, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure.

**Travel Documents**

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 3, 2023, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we
recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

**Smoking**
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

**Health and Medical Issues**
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Please call or email us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Duke University (DUKE) and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

**Air Transportation**
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

**Responsibility**
The liability of Duke University (DUKE), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. (OU), as tour operator, is strictly limited. As operator, OU purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under their control. OU serves only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. DUKE and OU are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

OU will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require OU to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.
DUKE TRAVELS RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, please call Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988 (preferred registration method) or email duketravels@duke.edu. Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Duke Travels representative. If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Duke Travels’ office. Please alert Duke Travels to your pending reservations request.

Once this request is received by Duke Travels (either by phone, email, or mail), a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure.

For trip information only, please contact Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. at (888) 370-6765.

Send to: Duke Travels
Box 90572
Durham, NC 27708

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Departure Date</td>
<td>__________________________________________________________</td>
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Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up.

I/We would like to request ________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name ______________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _____
Full Passport Name ______________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _____
Address ___________________ ________________________________________
City ___________________ State __________ ZIP ______________
Home Phone (_____).__________________________ Cell Phone (_____).__________________________
E-mail(s) ___________________________________________ Badge Name(s) ______________
Please book my/our air from ______________________ I/We request an air upgrade to ____________________
I will share a room with ______________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability)