
GEEO ITINERARY

C-GEO Southern Balkans

Day 1: Tirana Arrive in Tirana at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. The tour starts in Tirana, and the nearest airport is **Tirana International Airport (TIA)**.

This trip does not include any time in Tirana, so if possible, we recommend arriving a day early so you can see the main sites. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jet lag, and serve as a buffer should you encounter any travel delays. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Tirana before the trip and even a week-long tour of Albania if you wish.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Joining Instructions

When you arrive at the airport, you can either take a taxi or an airport shuttle, which is located outside of the arrivals terminal and goes to Skanderbeg Square, which is the central square of Tirana.

Another option is booking a transfer through [HolidayTaxis](#).

Day 2: Tirana/Ohrid Cross the border into North Macedonia and travel to Ohrid, ("Jerusalem of the Balkans") with its 365 churches. Eat lunch at a bazaar, then enjoy a boat cruise. Later, enjoy free time.

Cross the border into North Macedonia and travel to the beautiful city of Ohrid, referred to as the "Jerusalem of the Balkans" due to its 365 churches with one for each day of the year.

Take some free time to find lunch, and then we'll climb aboard for a short boat cruise (30 minutes) of Lake Ohrid, the deepest and oldest lake in Europe, boasting an imposing medieval fortress and mountainous backdrop. This pristine lake straddles the border between North Macedonia and Eastern Albania, and acts as home to more than 200 different species.

The rest of the day is free to continue exploring or to relax.

NOTE: Border crossings in the Balkans are typically pretty easy but there can be some delays. Ensure you have any necessary visas to speed up the process.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Ohrid Morning orientation walk of old Ohrid. Enjoy a cooking class for

lunch. Visit Roman amphitheater followed by a free afternoon/evening with optional dinner.

Set off with your Tour Leader this morning on an walking exploration of Ohrid. Discover the old town with it's iconic landmarks and historic architecture then wander through the local bazaar.

Later, meet with a local chef to learn all about the regional culinary delicacies of the area and how to prepare them, while enjoying small plates of delicious food as a light lunch.

Later, visit the well-preserved, 2nd-century BC Hellenistic-era amphitheatre. It was built for plays, music, and poetry, but it was later repurposed by Romans for gladiatorial battles. Today, it is a key cultural venue hosting performances for the annual Ohrid Summer Festival, including music, ballet, and theatre.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to continue exploring or to relax at the hotel before an optional dinner out in the evening. While getting to know Ohrid, keep an eye out for the 900-year-old tree located near Old Town – a true Ohrid landmark.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Ohrid/Skopje Travel towards Skopje with a stop in Bitola and wine tasting along the way. Explore Skopje's architecture and Castle of Kale on a walking tour. Free time afterward.

We leave Ohrid this morning and depart for Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. We will stop in Bitola for a pleasant walk along the pedestrian street called Shirok Sokak. Known as the fashion street, locals tend to dress up to enjoy a walk and a coffee while enjoying beautiful views of the city.

We will the continue driving to our next stop. The historically rich Stobi region is located close to the archaeological site, ancient Paenian. It was captured into the Kingdom of Macedon where it became the capital and remains a significant historic site. Archaeologists found early evidence of wine making in the form of in home grape presses, showcasing the lengthy past of this delicious art. Learn the intricacies of wine making on a tour of the winery before sampling some wine and enjoying a light lunch.

We will then complete our drive to Skopje and head out for an orientation walk, passing Byzantine era buildings, Turkish baths, caravanserais and hamams, all reminders of the intricate Ottoman history. Witness the quirky electric street art and multiple imposing statutes dotted around the city. View the birthplace of Mother Theresa and stop in the hidden lower level of the iconic Gradski Trgovski Centar to see Skopje's largest collection of street art.

The rest of the day is free to continue exploring or to relax.

Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 5: Skopje/Prizren Enjoy a free morning before crossing the border into Kosovo. Have an orientation walk in Prizen followed by a free afternoon. Evening group walk to the town fortress for sunset views.

Enjoy a relaxed morning before driving across the border into Kosovo and to the city of Prizren. Set off with your tour leader on an orientation walk through town along the Bistrica river, crossing the iconic old stone bridge and onto the cobble-stoned Shadervan square.

The rest of the afternoon is free before re-grouping in the evening for a walk up to the town fortress for beautiful sunset views of the town, river and valley. Dating back to 1100 BC, the Prizren Fortress was

built by the Byzantines and expanded by Serbian kings throughout the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries before Ottoman rulers took over until their expulsion in 1912.

Approximate travel time: 1-1.5 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Prizren Free day in Prinzen. Explore they city, taste wine, shop for textiles, hike along, or go out for hike.

Enjoy a free day in Prinzen to explore the city, take a wine tasting excursion or to relax. Perhaps join your tour leader for a morning visit to the filigree shops to browse the textiles and shops, or head out on a leisurely hike along the Bistrica River to see the local shepherds.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Prizren/Pristina Morning in Prizren, then travel to Pristina (Kosovo's capital) for a guided walk. Enjoy a free afternoon followed by an optional group dinner.

Enjoy a relaxed morning in Prizren before journeying onward to Pristina, the bustling commerce hub and capital of Kosovo.

Get to know Pristina on a walking tour through the highlights. Witness the 1389 battle of Kosovo memorial, the UNESCO World Heritage listed Gracanica Monastery, followed by the Newborn monument and the brass statue of Bill Clinton, commemorating his role in ending the war for independence.

The rest of the day is free for individual exploration or to relax at a cafe. Head out in the evening for an optional final dinner out with the group.

Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Pristina Depart Pristina at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart at any time. The tour ends in Pristina, and the nearest airport is **Pristina International Airport (PRN)**.

If you wish to extend your stay in Pristina, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. Participants will receive a program voucher before departure that includes the confirmed start and end hotels.

Day 1 Tirana (Jul 8): Hotel Idea Signature Tirana

Day 2 Ohrid (Jul 9): Hotel Pela Ohrid

Day 3 Ohrid (Jul 10): Hotel Pela Ohrid

Day 4 Skopje (Jul 11): Hotel Riverside Skopje

Day 5 Prizren (Jul 12): Hotel Prior Prizren

Day 6 Prizren (Jul 13): Hotel Prior Prizren

Day 7 Pristina (Jul 14): Hotel Prima Pristina

****Itinerary Disclaimer:*** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*