

A Taste of Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo with Croatia Cruise



TRAVEL WITH ME EXCLUSIVE JOURNEY

Join Annette on this Exclusive Travel with Me Journey and travel through Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro and experience this incredible part of the world before everyone catches on, and the crowds descend.

**Price from \$9612 pp Twin Share/Lower Deck
and from \$13350 Solo/ Lower Deck**

**22 Days/21 Nights
3 August to 24 August 2024**

Inclusions

- Exclusive Travel with Me Journey fully escorted ex Perth
- 14 Nights Hotel Skopje to Dubrovnik
- 7 night Croatia Coastal Cruise
- Meals/Touring & Experiences as per itinerary
- Deposit of \$1600 required in 7 days
- 2nd Deposit of \$2000 due 20 Feb 24
- Finals due 30 April 2024

Price and Itinerary are subject to change at any time



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ITINERARY

Day 1: 3 Aug - Transfer from airport to hotel

Upon arrival, meeting with the local guide and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Skopje.

Next Door Park (D)

Day 2: 4 Aug- Skopje City Tour

In a morning, a light walking tour in the city center with visit to the Old part of the city. We will start with Skopje bazaar with its unique Ottoman monuments and unique architecture. Several inns and Turkish baths (Hammams), together with the biggest mosque in Skopje from 15th century will be combined with visit to St Spas (the Holly Salvation) church, with its magnificent wood carved iconostasis from 19th century.

Light lunch at typical local restaurant in the old bazaar.

Afternoon visit to Skopje fortress and the new part of the town, with the main square with its statues and monuments, the Memorial house of Mother Teresa (born in Skopje in 1910) Back to the hotel. Dinner at local family winery Kartal near Skopje with wine tasting.

Next Door Park (B/L/D)

Day 3: 5 Aug - Nature around Skopje

Afternoon visit to Matka lake and gorge, in the vicinity of Skopje. Light walking to Matka lake and boat tour to the entrance of cave Vrelo, the deepest underwater cave in Europe. Light lunch at Monastery cave in Matka.

Afternoon visit to rural area near Skopje and traditional Macedonian village. You will be invited for welcome coffee at home made sweets at local family house. The hosts will serve home made vegetable pie, local produced cheese and vegetables.

Next Door Park (B/L/D)

Day 4: 6 Aug - Day tour to Kosovo

Full day to so called "The youngest European country". Visit to the Serbian orthodox monastery Grachanica – UNESCO site. Visit to Pristina, the Kosovo capital. Walking tour in the city center. Light lunch at local restaurant Beska in Prizren

Afternoon drive to visit Prizren, a picturesque town with long history. Free time in the Prizren old bazaar and later on drive back to Skopje. Dinner at a local restaurant in Skopje.

Next Door Park (B/L/D)

Day 5: 7 Aug - Wine and Culture of Macedonia

Leaving Skopje and drive towards the central part of Macedonia and the famous Tikvesh wine region. On the way visit to Stobi archeological site from 1st century AD, the biggest Roman site in Macedonia. Stop at the local town of Kavadarci considered as center of the wine region. Free time in the city centre

Afternoon drive towards Demir Kapija (Iron gate) small town with the biggest wine production and wineries.

Popova Kula Hotel & Winery (B/D)

Day 6: 8 Aug - South Part of Macedonia

Morning drive towards Prilep with stop at coffee break in the city center. Later on transfer with minibuses to the unique monastery Treskavec, located high above the city, on the top of the local rocky mountains. Light lunch at local restaurant in Prilep

Afternoon drive towards the highest town in Macedonia – Krusevo. Visit to the Makedonium memorial

Hotel Montana-Kursevo (B/L/D)



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ITINERARY

Day 7: 9 Aug - Tour to Bitola from Krusevo

Drive and visit to Bitola, the second biggest town in Macedonia. Visit to Heraclea Lynkestis ancient site established by father of Alexander the Great, Philip II. Later on city tour by walking and visit to the old part with the bazaar, main square, Yeni mosque and the Clock tower. Free time in Bitola city center.

Late 3 course lunch at the local winery Ciflik www.ciflikwinery.com accompanied with locally produced wine (1 glass of white and 1 glass of red wine + mineral water 0.5l per person included)

Hotel Montana-Kursevo (B/L)

Day 8: 10 Aug - Land of Lakes

Drive towards the second biggest natural lake in Macedonia – Prespa lake. Visit to the unique Folklore museum at village Podmochani, the richest private collection of folk costumes and items in Macedonia. Lunch will be at local restaurant Stara cesma at village of Ljubojno – traditional meals. Afternoon drive across Galichica NP located between the two lakes, with panoramic views of both Prespa and Ohrid lake. Arrival in Ohrid and accommodation at the hotel Dinner at local restaurant Overnight in Ohrid.

City Palace Hotel (B/L/D)

Day 9 - 11 Aug - Ohrid and Ohrid Lake - UNESCO Sites

Full day tour in Ohrid visiting the most famous Ohrid sites. Walking tour starts in a morning with visit to the Holy area of Plaoshnik, St Sofia Cathedral church and the unique church of St John Kaneo. 1 hour catamaran tour “Ohrid by the lake side” with unlimited wine and cheese tasting. Afternoon at leisure in Ohrid

City Palace Hotel (B/D)

Day 10: 12 Aug - Drive around Ohrid Lake to Tirana

Morning drive along the lake to St Naum monastery. Visit to the monastery established in 9th century. 30 min boat tour with row boats in the national park above the spring of Black Drim river. Border crossing to Albania and drive on the Albanian side of the lake towards Tirana. Free time for lunch is possible in St Naum or in the city of Pogradec, Albania.

Hotel Opera (B/D)

Day 11: 13 Aug - Tirana - Durres - Kruje

Full day tour to Durres – the biggest Albanian port and coastal city, famous as the point where historical Roman route Via Ignatia was beginning its route on the Balkans. Later on visit to Kruje and the museum dedicated to the Albanian hero Skender bay. Free time in Kruje. Afternoon drive back to Tirana. Evening at leisure in Tirana

Hotel Opera (B/D)

Day 12: 14 Aug - Tour to Berat

Full day tour to Berat, another UNESCO site of Albania. Visit to Berat castle and the famous Onufri museum. Lunch at local winery Cobo with wine tasting.

Hotel Opera (B/L)



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ITINERARY

Day 13: 15 Aug - Tirana - Shkodra - Podgorica

Drive towards north part of Albania with stop at city of Shkoder. Border crossing to Montenegro and arrival at Podgorica. Walking in the city center. Free time for lunch at Shkodra.

Hotel Podgorica (B/D)

Day 14: 16 Aug - Podgorica - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Drive to Cetinje and city tour by walking with local guide in Cetinje – the former Royal capital of Montenegro, with visit to local museums. Drive from Cetinje towards Montenegro coastline, with panoramic views. Arrival in Boka Kotorska bay (UNESCO site) and visit to Kotor Old town.

Late local authentic Lunch at restaurant Konak near Cetinje

Drive along the bay towards Croatian border. Upon arrival in Dubrovnik, drop of at the hotel. End of the tour.

Hotel Lero (B/L)

Day 15: 17Aug - Dubrovnik

Transfer from Hotel to the MS Antaris, your home for the next 8 days.

MS Antaris (D)

Day 16: 18Aug - Dubrovnik to Slano

Start the day with a guided walking tour of Dubrovnik's Old Town. You'll be introduced to a beautifully preserved medieval city protected by 13th century fortifications and filled with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Once back on the ship you'll continue on to Slano, a delightful picturesque town north of Dubrovnik. Lunch will be served on board and there'll be a chance for a swim on the way too. Upon arrival in Slano take a short boat ride to Ston, an area known for its long tradition of oyster farming. You'll even get a chance to visit an oyster farm and sample the oysters and mussels, perfectly paired with some local wine. Return to Slano where the rest of the day is at your leisure.

MS Antaris (B/L)

Day 17: 19 Aug - Slano to Mjlet

Early in the morning cruise to the island of Mjlet, famous for its stunning National Park and densely forested landscape. After lunch on board and a swim stop, head for the town of Pomena where a visit to Mjlet National Park is planned. Discover the park's two turquoise lakes, Veliko Jezero and Malo Jezero, meaning Great Lake and Little Lake. Board a small boat and visit the islet of St. Mary to see the Benedictine Monastery built during the 12th century. This evening enjoy a Captain's dinner aboard the ship. Swim Stop. A short swim stop in the stunning Adriatic for all guests before lunch

MS Antaris (B/L/D)

Day 18: 20 Aug - Mjlet to Korcula

Journey on to Korcula, the rumoured birthplace of the renowned merchant explorer Marco Polo. Enjoy a swimming break en route in one of the many secluded bays and coves in the Adriatic. Lunch will be served on board. In the afternoon, arrive in Korcula Town for a walking tour that will take you through the narrow, cobblestone streets. Learn all about the interesting stories and legends of this town including tales on the life of Marco Polo.

MS Antaris (B/L)



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ITINERARY

Day 19: 21 Aug - Korcula

This morning, head to enigmatic and unspoilt island of Vis. For many years Vis was used as a strategic military base and until 1989, it had been closed off to the general public. As a result the island has retained a remarkable untouched charm. Upon arrival, spend an afternoon at leisure to experience the island's natural beauty first hand. May we suggest a visit the Archaeological Museum located in a former fortress built by the Austrians in the 19th century, or perhaps a leisurely stroll along the seaside promenade where most of the bars and restaurants are located. Your cruise manager will always be able to provide great tips and recommendations for dinner or points of interest.

MS Antaris (B/L)

Day 20: 22 Aug - Vis - Bisevo - Hvar

Your first stop today will be the spectacular Blue Cave on the island of Bisevo. The cave's natural underwater entrance creates a magical deep blue light that engulfs the interior. After this extraordinary experience, continue on towards the town of Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, one of the longest and sunniest of Croatia's islands. Along the way enjoy a refreshing swim stop at the Paklinski islands. On arrival in Stari Grad you will have some free time to explore the town at your own pace or perhaps takes a short drive to Hvar Town which your cruise manager can help you organise (at own expense). Later in the afternoon, embark on a trip to the agricultural masterpiece of Stari Grad Plain which has remained virtually intact since it was created by ancient Greek colonist in the 4th century BC. At this UNESCO protected site you will have an opportunity to witness a beautiful sunset, delight on the local delicacies and feast on a traditional 'Peka' dinner at the Hora estate -all this whilst being surrounded by lush olive groves and fields of lavender.

MS Antaris (B/L/D)

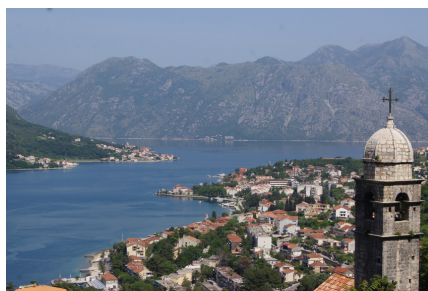
Day 21: 23 Aug - Hvar - Split

Depart Stari Grad in the morning and cruise north towards the mainland. Enjoy a swim stop at one of the beautiful coves and bays that dot the coast of Brac island before having lunch on board. Then, continue to the ancient city of Split for a guided walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Old Town. Get acquainted with the incredible Diocletian's Palace and learn about the rich heritage of the area. As the economic and cultural capital of the Dalmatian coast, Split offers plenty to see and do for all travellers alike. Why not climb the Bell Tower of St Domnius cathedral breathtaking views of the city, or take a walk along the Riva Promenade and peruse the many shops, bars and restaurants? The afternoon will be at your leisure to discover this lively city.

MS Antaris (B/L)

Day 22: 24 Aug - Split

Your cruise concludes after breakfast and with a departure transfer for your onward journey.



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