



BALKANS WITH FR. THOMAS GALLAWAY AND POPADIJA JEANETTE DRAGELEVICH. SEPTEMBER 15-27, 2025

Day 1. Monday, September 15, 2025

WELCOME TO BELGRADE

Arrival in **Belgrade (Nikola Tesla Airport [BEG])**, Serbia. Transfer to the. Welcome dinner. Overnight.

Day 2. Tuesday, September 16, 2025

TOUR OF BELGRADE

Belgrade is the capital and largest city of Serbia whose history dates back to the 4th century BC. Located at the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube, it was fought over in 115 wars and it has been destroyed and rebuilt more than 44 times during its history. Meet this city rich with culture, wildly varying architecture, and an easy-going Mediterranean pace. We will visit **Saint Sava**



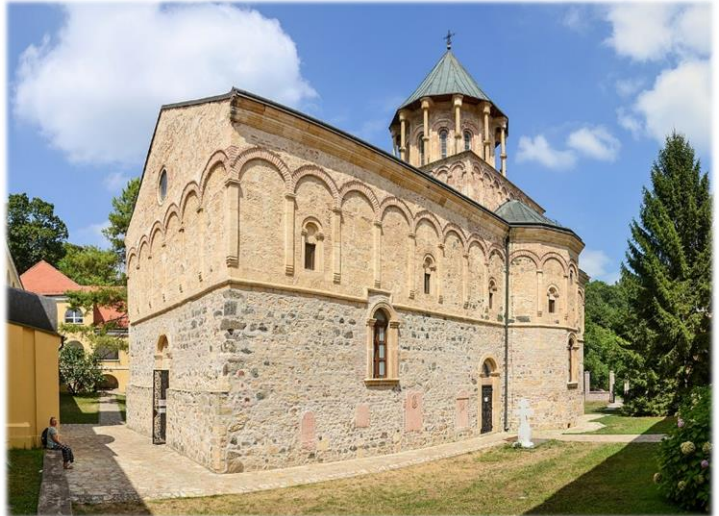


Church, the biggest Orthodox Church within the monumental Balkans, that will leave you speechless. Here you will learn more about the first Serbian Archbishop, his influence, and why he became the most important saint in the Serbian Orthodox Church. Next stop - the **National Museum** with some 5000 sq meters of exhibition space spanning three floors. Visit the **Belgrade fortress** (aka **Kalemegdan**) founded in the 3rd century; entering from Knez Mihailova and passing through Kalemegdan Park, we'll first reach the Upper Town whose attractions include the Military Museum, Clock Tower, Roman Well, and Victor Monument. In the Lower Town, which slopes down towards

the river, look out for the **Ružica church** (one of the most beautiful Belgrade churches), **Saint Petka Chapel** (with its sacred spring) and **Nebojša Tower**. Overnight in **Belgrade**.

Day 3. Wednesday, September 17, 2025 BELGRADE — FRUŠKA GORA — NOVI SAD — SREMSKI KARLOVCI — BELGRADE

This day is reserved for exploring the northern part of Serbia – **Vojvodina**. In the morning, we will travel to **Fruška Gora**, the oldest national park in Serbia and the home of 16 Orthodox monasteries. Our first stop is the **Novo Hopovo monastery**, established during the 16th century as one of the most important spiritual and educational seats of the Serbian Church (Saint Theodor Tiron). Drive to **Novi Sad**, the 2nd largest city in Serbia. From the imposing fortress to the churches representing numerous denominations, to the old town's pedestrian zone, Novi Sad has much to boast about! Next, we'll explore **Sremski Karlovci**, a charming town where it feels as though time had stopped in the 18th century. We'll admire the baroque iconostasis in the **Saint Nicholas Cathedral** and taste some local honey and wine in the **Bee-craft Honey Museum, Živanovic**. Overnight in **Belgrade**.



Day 4. Thursday, September 18, 2025 TOUR OF BELGRADE

Next we'll visit the **Ethnographic Museum**, a place that provides insight into Balkan culture from the 19th century. After lunch, onwards to the neoclassical **Cathedral Church of St. Michael The Archangel**, following a **boat ride** on the Sava and Danube Rivers. Explore the sights of Belgrade from the water on a 1.5-hour cruise where you will get stellar

views of the **Belgrade Fortress** at the rivers confluence, pass under bridges, see the lush **Ada Ciganlija island** and the protected wetlands of the **Great War Island**, known for their rich birdlife. Dinner in the Bohemian quarter **Skadarlija** with a folklore show. Overnight in **Belgrade**.

Day 5. Friday, September 19, 2025 BELGRADE – OPLENAC – ŽIČA MONASTERY – STUDENICA MONASTERY – NOVI PAZAR

Right after breakfast, we are heading to Central Serbia. Our first stop is **Žiča Monastery**. Declared a Cultural monument of exceptional importance, Žiča celebrated 800 years of existence a few years ago. The seven rulers of the Serbian Nemanjić lineage were crowned under the seal of Žiča. The remarkable red color of the exterior walls is a symbol of the blood of the martyrs of the early Christian church. Certainly, we won't skip the **Studenica Monastery**



either. This UNESCO list site, a real architectural masterpiece from the late 12th century, built “to connect Heaven and Earth”, is a memorial and sepulchral church to the first Serbian ruler of the Nemanjić Dynasty. As the cradle of literature, spirituality, and arts, Studenica is an institution for all time embedded into the very foundations of Serbian statehood, as well as the cultural history of Europe. Next, we'll visit the **Oplenac Royal Complex**. Everything here is impressive, but the most breathtaking is the white marble

Church of St. George, adorned with magnificent mosaics made from 40 million pieces of colored glass and whose crypt is a mausoleum for the Karađorđević royal family. Overnight in **Novi Pazar**.

Day 6. Saturday, September 20, 2025 NOVI PAZAR – CRNA REKA MONASTERY – SOPOĆANI MONASTERY – MONASTERY – SAINT PETER'S CHURCH – NOVI PAZAR

In the morning, a minibus will take us to the **Crna Reka** (Black River) **Monastery**, tucked away in the mountains. The monastery is built into a steep stone cliff and located inside a cave. Its greatest treasure is the holy and incorruptible **relics of St. Peter of Korisha**. Afterwards we will proceed to the **Sopoćani Monastery**, a world-class beauty. Built at the very source of the Serbian state in the 13th century, this monastery is a treasury of unique **frescoes** and a **mausoleum** of the royal family. Sopoćani's frescoes, painted in the classic antique style by the most famous artists of Constantinople, are considered to be the



greatest painting achievements of that time. We'll visit the archeological site Pazarište. Drive the **Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**, also known as Peter's Church. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is among the oldest medieval religious properties in Serbia, dating back to the 4th century. Surrounded by an old cemetery in a tranquil setting, it provides an unforgettable experience. Later in the afternoon we will transfer to our hotel in Kosovo.



Day 7. Sunday, September 21, 2025 VISOKI DEČANI – PEĆ PATRIARCHATE – GRAČANICA

After Divine Liturgy we will visit the **Visoki Decani Monastery**, the undisputed highlight and a real must for any visitor to the area. Dečani possesses a unique church - a mixture of Romanesque, Gothic and Byzantine



styles, with more than 1000 original **frescoes** preserved. The monastery is currently under guard from KFOR. After a short drive, we will admire the **Patriarchate of Pec**. You'll get a walk through time in this medieval monastery complex consisting of several small churches, located at the outskirts of the town of Pec, along the Bistrica river. The Pec Patriarchate is the seat of Serbian Archbishops and Patriarchs. In 2006 it was granted a protected status as part of UNESCO cultural heritage of exceptional importance in danger. Overnight near **Gračanica Monastery**.

Day 8. Monday, September 22, 2025

GRAČANICA – PRIZREN – SKADAR

We will start the day by visiting the **Gračanica Monastery**, one of the pearls of medieval Serbian culture and one of the most significant places in Serbian history and spirituality, built in the second decade of the 14th century as an endowment from the Serbian King Milutin. Gračanica's outstanding architectural exterior with patterned brickwork is matched by its equally valuable **frescoes**. Inside it is a treasure house of Serbian medieval art, with exquisite wall murals covering the narthex, nave, and domes. Next, we'll visit beautiful **Prizren**. This unique historic town lies on the slopes of Mt. Šara where series of bridges span the cold waters of the Bistrica River. Its **Bogorodica Ljeviška church** was included on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. Continue to Skadar. Cross the border to **Albania**. Dinner and overnight.





Day 9. Tuesday, September 23, 2025 SKADAR – PODGORICA – CETINJE – BUDVA

Drive and cross the border to **Montenegro**. Next, we will drive to **Podgorica**, the capital of Montenegro and considered one of Europe's greenest cities, located at the confluence of two major rivers. We will visit the **Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ** where we will see magnificent interior murals on the walls and roof. Lunch. Drive to **Cetinje**, the old Royal Capital. Today, the main attraction in Cetinje, is the **Cetinje Monastery**. A center of historical and cultural importance, it was founded around 1484 by Prince Ivan Crnojević of Zeta and designated as the cathedral monastery of the Eparchy. It was devastated in 1692, but was rebuilt between 1701 and 1704 by Metropolitan Danilo on the site of the former court of Ivan Crnojević. After the visit to the monastery, drive to **Budva**. Dinner and overnight.



Day 10. Wednesday, September 24, 2025



BUDVA – KOTOR – PERAST – CAVTAT

There is one word to describe the **Boka Kotorska** (the Bay of Kotor) – unmissable! Discover the Old Town of **Kotor**, a perfect destination for history lovers, with stunning medieval architecture and an unmatched atmospheric charm. The first records from this town date to the 1st century AD. Enjoy its asymmetrical squares, dozens of historic churches and the ramparts that were one of the reasons for the inclusion of Kotor on the World's Heritage List. Visit the **church of Saint Nicholas**, recognizable by its two towers. Continue the drive to picturesque **Perast**. No tour of the Boka Kotorska

would be complete without a scenic **boat ride** to visit the church of **Our Lady of the Rocks** located on a man-made island where, according to the local legend, in the 15th century, two sailors found the icon of Madonna and Child which kept miraculously returning to the rock. Crossing the border to **Croatia**. Arrival in **Cavtat**. Dinner and overnight.



Day 11. Thursday, September 25, 2025 CAVTAT – DUBROVNIK – NEUM

Dubrovnik makes a part of any itinerary of every first-time visitor to Croatia for a reason. It's the chance to discover the culture of this ancient republic whose history goes back to the 7th century. Encircled by 2.000 m long town walls, old town Dubrovnik abounds in lovely Renaissance, Gothic and Baroque palaces, churches and monasteries, narrow cobbled streets, passages and alleys and endless sea views. **Stradun**, the main square, a Baroque **Church of Saint Blaise**, the **Clock Tower** dating from the 15th century, the Pile gate with its beautiful stone bridge, the 137 steps of Jesuit stairs are just a few of the attractions we'll admire during our walking tour. Drive to **Neum**. Dinner and overnight.



Day 12. Friday, September 26, 2025 NEUM – SPLIT – TROGIR – KAŠTELA

Split is one of the Mediterranean's most compelling cities, with its unique historical heritage, having grown out of the labyrinthine palace built here by the Roman Emperor Diocletian in 295AD. We'll marvel at **Saint Domnius Cathedral**, regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral in the world that remains in use in its original structure. We'll see

the famous 24-hour "sun" clock at the City Square and walk down the famous **Riva promenade**, the busiest street in Split. While visiting the famous **Pjaca square** we'll learn about the importance it once had. Next, **Trogir**, a little gem of a town, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site packed to the brim with charm and character. Trogir's historic center is located on a small island which is connected by bridges to mainland Croatia. As soon as you see those little bridges that welcome you to the Old Town you'll understand why it is often cited as "**Little Venice**". We'll visit the 14th century **Town Hall**, admire the 13th century **Cathedral of St. Lawrence** and its magnificent bell tower and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the **Trogir Square**. Dinner and overnight in **Kaštela**.



Day 13. Saturday, September 27, 2025

KAŠTELA — SPLIT

Breakfast at the hotel and departure from **Saint Jerome Airport** [SPU] in Split.

Among them UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

The Bay of Kotor

Sopocani

Studenica, Djurdjevi Stupovi

Decani, Gracanica, Lady of Levis (Bogorodica Ljeviška, Prizren), The Patriarchate of Peja (Peć)



TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Price include:

- Transportation (private tourist bus) throughout the program
- Accommodation as follows (4 overnights in 4* in Belgrade on 1HB + 3BB base; 2 overnights in 3* "Hotel Emrović Raj" in Novi Pazar on 2HB base; 1 overnight in 3* "Hotel Ulpiana" in Gračanica on 1HB base; 1 overnight in 4* "Hotel Nord" in Skadar on 1HB base; 1 overnight in 4* "Hotel Avala" in Budva on 1HB base; 1 overnight in Cavtat on 1HB base; 1 overnight in 4* "Hotel Jadran" in Neum on 1HB base; 1 overnight in Split or Kaštela on 1HB base)
- Wine and honey tasting in Sremski Karlovci on 17. September 2025.
- Dinner in Sremski Karlovci on 17. September 2025.
- Boat ride in Belgrade on 18. September 2025.
- Dinner in Zemun with folklore show on 17. September 2025.
- Lunch in Gornji Milanovac on 19. September 2025.
- Minibus transfer to the monastery Crna Reka
- Lunch in Cetinje on 23. September 2025.
- Speed boat ride Kotor & Boka Bay on 24. September 2025.
- Tickets throughout the program
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- English speaking escort during the entire tour

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance
- Air tickets (international or domestic, except a ticket from Izmir to Istanbul)
- Transportation to and from the airport in Belgrade and Split if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.
- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Drinks with meals
- Tips: Minimal suggested amount per person is \$10 per traveler per day
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$3250 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 26 participants; Single supplement: \$850 extra and subject to availability. Please consider that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to nearly unprecedented spikes in fuel prices that negatively impacted the economies of the most countries in the region. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed

right away. We do apologize for any inconvenience in that regard and appreciate your understanding of the difficult circumstances of the current challenging environment.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC", and mailed to: 668 Pittsburg Road, Butler, PA 16002. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. If you'd like to register and to pay via the credit card, you can do so via this link:

<https://tri.ps/dHHSJ> . Please beware of the extra credit card fees that are charged by the banking institutions. If you'd like to pay by Zelle, please use ortours@gmail.com e-mail address. If you'd like to make a bank deposit or need info for a banking wire, please contact us directly.

A deposit of \$850 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is June 15, 2025. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, June 15, 2025. Failure to pay in full by June 15, 2025 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 61 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant

has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay
Starting in 2024, U.S. passport holders traveling to Europe will need to apply for authorization through the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) before their visit. For details and authorization, please visit: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property. One of the major travel insurance aggregators is: www.insuremytrip.com
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited. The financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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**REGISTRATION FORM:
BALKANS WITH FR. THOMAS GALLAWAY AND
POPADIJA JEANETTER DRAGELEVICH
SEPTEMBER 15 – 27, 2025**

*To register: please complete this registration form and return it along with
your deposit check (\$850.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC to the following address:
Palomnik, LLC, P.O.Box 1618, Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Please write "Balkans 2025" on the memo line.*

Full Name (exactly as in your passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Nationality:

Passport #:

Issue and expirations date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

*Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and
Conditions that accompany the itinerary.*

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: