



Balkans

Includes ➔

CROATIA	614
BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA.....	630
MONTENEGRO.....	638
ALBANIA	647
MACEDONIA.....	654
SERBIA	662
BULGARIA.....	670

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ To Je To (p663)
- ➔ Kaj Pero (p656)
- ➔ Manastirska Magernitsa (p671)
- ➔ Villa Spiza (p622)
- ➔ Stariya Chinar (p682)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Goli + Bosi (p622)
- ➔ Green Studio Hostel (p663)
- ➔ Old Town Hostel (p642)
- ➔ Trip N Hostel (p649)
- ➔ Hotel-Mehana Gurko (p680)

Why Go?

The Balkans are fascinating and fast-changing slices of Europe, where the influence of the Ottoman Empire is never far away and the ancient and modern often coexist. Fabulous Croatia, famed for its islands and dramatic coastline, as well as the walled city of Dubrovnik, is the most visited of the pack. But don't discount exciting Serbia with its fortress cities and famous music festival, Muslim-influenced Bosnia's dramatic countryside and two gorgeous Old Towns, the magnificent scenery of Macedonia and Montenegro, or the sublime beaches of Albania. Travel here is a little rough around the edges compared with destinations further north and west, but few people visit the Balkans without leaving in awe, with their preconceptions smashed.

Fast Facts

Capitals Zagreb (Croatia), Sofia (Bulgaria), Sarajevo (Bosnia & Hercegovina), Belgrade (Serbia), Podgorica (Montenegro), Skopje (Macedonia), Pristina (Kosovo), Tirana (Albania)

Currencies Euro € (Montenegro, Kosovo), Kuna KN (Croatia), Lev lv (Bulgaria), Convertible Mark KM (Bosnia & Hercegovina), Dinar DIN (Serbia), Denar MKD (Macedonia), lekë (Albania)

Languages Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Serbian

Visas Not needed for EU, US, Canadian, Australian or New Zealand citizens

Time zones Central European Time; GMT/UTC plus one hour



WORTH A TRIP: HVAR ISLAND

Admire the Venetian architecture and vibrant nightlife of Hvar Town. (p623)

WORTH A TRIP: MOSTAR

Take a day trip to Hercegovina's most charming town. (p634)

Balkans Highlights

- 1 Zagreb** Croatia's capital beckons, with superb museums and sophisticated cafe culture. (p614)
- 2 Split** Dalmatia's great Adriatic port boasts the

- fabulous Diocletian's Palace and a stunning setting. (p619)
- 3 Dubrovnik** See the unforgettable city walls and marble streets in Croatia's most famous city. (p625)

- 4 Kotor** Montenegro's most beautiful town sits at the end of an enormous bay, with impressive scenery. (p640)
- 5 Albanian Riviera** Fabulous scenery and long stretches