

## Balkan Round: Up to Olympus (M-ID: 2603)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2603-balkan-round-up-to-olympus>



**from €2,390.00**

Dates and duration (days)

06/16/2024 - 06/28/2024 13 days

**In fourteen days we cross eight countries on our way to Zeus' place of work - a cross-section of south-eastern European culture.**

Starting in Croatia, we travel through Serbia, Bosnia, and Bulgaria to Greece and back via northern Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia. On the way to Mount Olympus, we enjoy the winding roads through the Balkan mountains. In Bulgaria, we marvel at the imposing Rila Monastery before catching sight of Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. On our free day, we climb the seat of the gods or enjoy the beach and the sea. On the way back, Albania's many winding mountain roads offer breathtaking views. A city walk through the oriental Berat may not be missing of course. The beautiful landscape at Lake Ohrid in northern Macedonia captivates us all. Another highlight is the impressive Bay of Kotor in Montenegro. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, we visit the impressive city of Mostar with its world-famous bridge over the Neretva River before we reach our starting hotel again in Croatia.

### Program:

Day 1: Individual arrival to our meeting point hotel near Karlovac (Northern Croatia) by 6 pm with fully fuelled motorcycles. From 18:30 tour briefing and first dinner together.

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Day 2: We soon reach the border of Bosnia-Herzegovina via the first winding roads. The views of the Vrbas river valley are wonderful. At Bosanska Krupa, we enjoy our lunch directly at a nice river restaurant. In the afternoon main and side roads alternate. After passing through the beautiful hilly country, we reach Banja Luka and our beautiful hotel directly at the Vrbas in the late afternoon. If you like, you can make a detour to the beautiful old town with its castle.

Daily kilometers approx. 310

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Day 3: Today is all about gentle curve swinging. After taking the M4 at the beginning, we make our way eastwards on great side roads through the hilly country of Zvornik. The smallest side roads and countless curves make the heart beat faster. In Olovo we enjoy not only the view of the town and the canyon we came from but also our tasty lunch. Also in the afternoon, we enjoy the great curvy roads of Bosnia. After a beautiful canyon stretch along the Drina, we reach Visegrad. Here we take the opportunity for a photo stop at the world-famous bridge. The rest of the route to our destination is also spectacular. In the early evening, we reach our nice hotel in the Zlatibor mountains in Serbia. Daily kilometers approx. 380

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Day 4: Right after breakfast we head east with our bikes. the curve swing on the small side roads makes your heart beat faster. After our coffee break in Ivanica, we reach a winding road that brings us closer and closer to the Kopaonik Nature Park. After the lunch break, the highlight of today awaits us: the highest pass in Serbia. A great winding road leads us higher and higher. The scent of freshly cut wood beguiles our senses. Then we reach the tree line and have a fantastic view of the surroundings at the pass summit of 1800 meters. The ride down is also great. The afternoon is also full of the joys of curves until we reach our hotel in the center of Leskovac in the early evening.

Daily kilometers approx. 330

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Day 5: After only a few kilometers we leave the main road in Surdulica and look forward to a brilliant stretch on mostly very good asphalt. These combinations of curves make the heart beat faster. Soon we reach Vlasina lake. The further

stretch to the Bulgarian border is also great. After our lunch break in Kyustendil, we ride along the beautiful river Struma. The last kilometers are on the main road, but the landscape is still worth seeing. In the afternoon we reach our luxury hotel in Bansko. Those who wish can enjoy the indoor pool, outdoor pool, or sauna. Dinner in the neighboring restaurant is a treat for the palate. Daily kilometers approx. 270

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Day 6: Also on today's day we ride at first in a river valley to the south. At Gotse Delchev we enjoy a well-paved fantastic pass. Soon after we cross the border to Greece. Now we are in the Limnis Kerkinis Nature Park: a beautiful mountain world opens up before us. In the second third of the stage, we ride along the plains on skin roads and make rapid progress. Behind Veria, we ride again on charming winding roads through the low mountain range. Many pleasant to ride, winding side roads make the motorcyclist's heart beat faster. Now it is not far to our destination, the beautiful hotel in Litochoro. The location is impressive, not only do we have a view of the high mountains of Mount Olympus, but the sea is also not far away. Daily kilometers approx. 370

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Day 7: Today we allow ourselves a "rest day". If you like you can do a mountain hike up to Mount Olympus. For this, we take a nice mountain road up to 1100 meters. Now the great hike begins and after about 3 hours we reach a refuge at 2100 meters. Here we have lunch and enjoy the view of the three peaks of Mount Olympus. Then the descent begins. If you don't want to hike, you can make a detour to the sea and go swimming or take a ride in the surrounding area. In the evening we meet again for our delicious dinner.

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Day 8: We say goodbye to the gods of Olympus and head west a little earlier. The first pass in the Olympus Mountains is enough to make your heart beat faster. Mostly on side roads and small streets, we continue through the northern Greek mountains. In Grevena, we have our lunch break. Now we ride along the river Sarantapotos. Again and again, we enjoy the magnificent views of the valley and the mountains. In Kalpaki we turn right and a little later we reach the border to Albania. Soon after we leave the well-built main road and enjoy again the curvy roads that lead us first up, then down, and finally to Saranda. A little later we reach our beautiful hotel situated directly at the Adriatic Sea. Whoever wants to can now go swimming in the pool or the sea. Daily kilometers approx. 370

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Day 9: After breakfast, we cycle along a magnificent stretch of more than 50 kilometers directly by the sea. The views of the high mountains are magnificent. In Vlora, we reach the main road and now enjoy the good asphalt road. Again and again, we are surprised by the extreme contrasts in Albania: Sometimes we get to see horse-drawn carriages, then again noble SUVs, which rush past the slow companions. At noon we reach the beautiful oriental town of Berat. Here we have a coffee break and admire the old town. Afterward, we continue on nice little roads until behind Elbasan, where we move into our hotel in the beautiful valley of the Shkumbin River. Here you can also jump into the swimming pool or enjoy cool drinks in the shady garden of the restaurant. Daily kilometers approx. 310

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Day 10: In the beginning, we ride north along the river valley until we reach the impressive Ohrid Lake. The 290-meter-

deep lake is blessed with a deep blue color. Behind Pogradec, we cross the border to Macedonia to visit the monastery Naum, which is worth seeing. Here we also have a coffee break. On the shores of Lake Ohrid, we stop at a nice restaurant to eat the local Koran fish. After crossing the border into Albania again, we continue briskly to our exceptional hotel in Shkoder. Our dinner today is a special treat. Daily kilometers approx. 320

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Day 11: Today we continue our journey westwards. Right at the beginning, we reach the border of Montenegro. On side roads, we ride along the gigantic Skadar Lake. At a lake restaurant, we enjoy our lunch. In the following, we are excited about another nature highlight: the lagoons of Skadarsko Lake. On winding side roads we enjoy the views of the deep blue of the lake and the intense green of the dense reeds on the shore. A little later we are overwhelmed again: At our feet, we catch sight of the gigantic fjord of Kotor. Countless hairpin bends bring us down to our beautiful hotel situated directly at the bay. If you like, you can take the opportunity to visit the beautiful old town of Kotor. In the evening we enjoy our delicious dinner with a view of the gigantic bay. Daily kilometers approx. 200

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Day 12: After breakfast, we soon start our way up again along an old serpentine road. Again and again, we enjoy the views of the fjord of Kotor. After enjoying the scenic road north, we reach the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina. The landscape remains magnificent. After Stolac we continue quickly to Pocitelli in the Neretva valley. In oriental ambiance, we can enjoy the delicacies at lunch. Only 30 km further we reach Mostar. Our hotel is located directly in the old town. In the late afternoon, a local guide leads us through the world-famous old town including the newly built bridge. Our dinner on the terrace is a special treat today. Daily kilometers approx. 210

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Day 13: No sooner have we left Mostar than we find ourselves on small winding mountain roads. Impressive is the Blidinje lake, which we reach soon. Also, the further routes are great to ride. After our lunch, we continue our way over a scenic plateau. In Livno we enjoy our delicious lunch. After that, for once, we have no curves - but the scenery remains magnificent. Afterward, we reach the Una and enjoy chilled drinks in a nice café. In the late afternoon, we reach our nice hotel in Bihac directly at the Una. Daily kilometers approx. 350

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Day 14: The last stage of our Southeast European journey is again very scenic. In the beginning, we take the main road to the border crossing to Croatia. After our coffee break, we reach the Plitvice Lakes and make a short photo stop. At the waterfalls of Slunj, we have our coffee break. In the late afternoon, we reach our starting hotel again. In the evening we have a nice farewell dinner and are still dazed by the many impressions of this great journey. Daily kilometers approx. 280

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Day 15: After breakfast, we start our journey home.

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| Countries                         | Albania                                      |
|                                   | Bosnia and Herzegovina                       |
|                                   | Bulgaria                                     |
|                                   | Greece                                       |
|                                   | Croatia                                      |
|                                   | Montenegro                                   |
|                                   | North Macedonia                              |
|                                   | Serbia                                       |
| Category                          | Motorcycle Tour                              |
| Terrain                           | Onroad                                       |
| Vehicle                           | your own motorcycle                          |
| Tourguide / Coach                 | yes (guided)                                 |
| Accommodation                     | Hotel / B&B or similar                       |
| Flight to / from                  | no, not incl.                                |
| Ferry                             | no, not incl.                                |
| Support vehicle (luggage/service) | no   |
| Customer payment protection       | yes  |
| * PRICING                         | Minimal without optional extras, see pricing |

## Pricing

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|--|-----------|
| per rider in shared twin/double room   | €2,390.00 |
| per pillion passenger in shared twin/double room (pillion passengers cannot book without an accompanying rider)                            | €1,890.00 |
| per person single room (surcharge - only available with an additional selection of the basic price "per rider in shared twin/double room") | €440.00   |

## Included

- 14 nights in a double room
- half board
- Entrance fees
- all tolls
- German speaking tour guide, please inquire for English speaking tour guide

## Not included

Everything that is not listed under services

Motorcycle

Gasoline

Lunch

Beverages

Travel cancellation and return transport insurance

## More details

**Directions:** The start and finish hotel is located near Karlovac in northern Croatia. From Berlin to the meeting point hotel it is about 1.100 km, from Munich about 600 km, from Cologne about 1.100 km, and from Vienna about 400 km. If you arrive by car and trailer, you can park them safely in the courtyard of our meeting point hotel.

**Route:** 3,750 km total distance, daily stages between 220 and 380 km.

**Motorcycles:** This trip is suitable for all motorcycles. However, it is most comfortable to ride adventure bikes or tourers with plenty of ground clearance and sufficient suspension travel. All the other motorcycles get through - but it is not always associated with fun. The motorcycles should be technically perfect. Please consider that with arrival and return journey up to 7.000 km are to be ridden. Accordingly, the tires should be new or as good as new.

**Riding skills:** This tour is not suitable for inexperienced riders. The stages are often very long and exhausting due to the road conditions. A good physical condition and a lot of riding experience are a prerequisite, and safe control of the bike in hairpin bends and on low-quality asphalt is a prerequisite.

**Luggage:** Pack only the bare essentials. Pay attention to low weight and small volume. The bike is put under a lot of stress on this journey, and the less weight the rider has to balance, the more stable and safe he or she will be on pothole tracks. We recommend a luggage roll or sturdily attached rear bags and a sturdily attached tank bag. Please use sturdy lashing straps in sufficient quantity for fastening.

**Road conditions/traffic:** Mostly asphalt, sometimes rough, sometimes fine, unfortunately often bad. The condition ranges from extremely broken roads, which are full of deep potholes, to brand new and perfectly paved roads. Construction activity has been very brisk in recent years - so it is possible that one or the other broken road has already been newly asphalted. In total, you have to reckon with about 15 -20 km of gravel road. The same road traffic regulations apply in all countries ridden over as in Germany, including right-hand traffic. You have to keep an eye out for stray dogs, goats, sheep, donkeys, and cattle - or very slow-moving horse-drawn carts.

**Daily routine:** Normally a day of travel begins at 8 o'clock with breakfast. At 9 o'clock everybody should be on the bike. Lunch and breaks are taken regularly. Usually, we reach the hotel by 18 o'clock at the latest. If there are exceptions, there is certainly a good reason for them.

**Accommodation:** In clean hotels and guesthouses typical of the country. Each room has its own bathroom and WC. According to the Southeast European category, these are 3-star houses, although they do not always meet Western European standards. Often the rooms are simpler than one would expect from the outside. Not every bathroom has a shower cubicle or shower curtain. However, each accommodation is characterized either by its unique location, history, cuisine, or atmosphere.

**Rations:** For breakfast we usually serve the usual continental breakfast, occasionally varying with specialties such as olives and sheep's cheese, filter coffee, Turkish coffee, or tea. This trip is also a culinary foray into the cuisine of southeast Europe. In each country, we will have the opportunity to taste the local specialties. The soups and stews are very rich and highly recommended during our lunch breaks. In the evening a multi-course menu is usually served. In addition to water and the usual soft drinks, there are various kinds of tasty beer from the country's own breweries to drink. Various red and white wines round off an enjoyable dinner.

**Additional costs:** The petrol is a little bit cheaper in all visited countries than in Germany. Altogether, one has to calculate with 200,- to 300,- Euro fuel costs on the tour (with 4 liters or 6 liters consumption per 100 km). In Croatia and Greece, you can easily pay with a credit card or Maestro card at petrol stations. In all other countries, this is not always possible, and if it is, then only with the PIN of the card. The drinks in restaurants and cafés are relatively cheap: ½ l beer about 1 to 2 euros, a bottle of red wine about 10 to 15 euros (except for Croatia and Greece). Depending on the drinking pleasure one has to calculate approximately 220,- Euro for the tour. In addition, there are about 10 Euro per day for lunch (so a total of about 360,- Euro for drinks and lunch). As it is completely unusual in restaurants and cafés to pay individually, it is advisable to set up a joint cash register for lunch and drinks, which your tour guide can manage for the group if you wish. So you actually have nothing to do with money anymore and can concentrate on the journey and the various impressions.

**Climate:** Because we are on the way across Europe and have to cope with big differences in altitude, the climate is also very different. In general, we can expect temperatures around 20 to 25 degrees. In case of rain and on the pass heights it can get 5 degrees cold. In contrast, the thermometer on the coasts and lowlands can sometimes scratch the 35-degree mark.

**Documents:** An identity card valid for at least 6 months is sufficient for entry. A visa for German citizens is not necessary. If the vehicle is not registered to you, please carry a power of attorney, preferably in English, with you. A national driving license is sufficient. Please also remember the Green Insurance Card, which must be valid for all countries you travel to. On the motorways in Austria, Slovenia, and Croatia, motorcycles are also subject to tolls, but not in all other countries.

**Electricity:** The voltage is 220 volts.

**Equipment/protective clothing:** The most suitable clothing is waterproof textile clothing or enduro clothing (and rain trousers and jacket if necessary) and a helmet with a visor (because of the possible rain). As there are large differences in temperature between the lowlands and the mountains, the onion principle with many thin layers, which can be put on or taken off as required, is most suitable. Waterproof motorcycle gloves and boots should be a matter of course. Please do not forget your bathing suit. Also useful would be: a multitool or pocket knife, earplugs, sunglasses that fit under the helmet, and a water bottle. On such tours, drinking rucksacks in the style of a camelback have proven to be particularly useful. Please also think about medication for the most common travel diseases. Diarrhea and cold remedies as well as vitamins can be very helpful on the way.

**Money requirements and means of payment:** For drinks and lunch it is best to take 100,- Euro in cash with you, the remaining 260,- Euro then converted into the Bosnian and Albanian national currency can be withdrawn from the ATM. National currencies for petrol can be exchanged at ATMs or exchange offices. You should also have some money for possible tips, souvenirs, and gifts. Please remember that at petrol stations in Albania, Bulgaria, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia you cannot pay everywhere with a credit card or Maestro card, and if you do, then mostly with a PIN. So have your PIN ready in advance. With cash in foreign currency, you are always on the safe side!

**Minimum number of participants:** 5 riders. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour up to 28 days before the tour starts.

**Accident insurance:** So that you can now perfect your riding skills with even better cover and do your laps with lots of riding fun, we recommend that you take out daily accident insurance.

**Travel cancellation insurance:** We strongly recommend that you take out travel cancellation insurance, which covers your cancellation costs according to the terms and conditions of the event, if you do not take up the booked trip for health reasons (illness of the booker, a fellow traveler or a family member or life partner) and therefore have to cancel.