



# Emerging Europe: The Balkans Unveiled

with Admiral Gary Roughead

*An in-depth look at this richly complex region  
presented by two leading foreign affairs  
educational organizations*

October 8-21, 2014



## Study Leader: Admiral Gary Roughead

Admiral Gary Roughead, USN, served as the 29th chief of naval operations (2007-2011) after holding six operational commands, and is one of only two officers in the navy's history to have commanded both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. Admiral Roughead is an Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution (2011-13). He has served as the commandant at the U.S. Naval Academy, and was also the navy's chief of legislative affairs, responsible for the Department of the Navy's interaction with Congress. In addition to extensive experience in the Pacific, he spent significant time operating in the Mediterranean, Adriatic Sea and the Middle East.



## Program Highlights & Special Meetings

- Attend discussions with Study Leader Admiral Roughead about the conditions that led to the Balkan conflict, including religious, political and economic factors, and progress made since that time. Hear about regional and global security trends, the implications of those trends and U.S. roles and responsibilities in a changing world.
- Enjoy meetings with embassies and specially invited distinguished local guests throughout the trip.
- Visit the Sarajevo Tunnel Museum with a survivor who used the tunnel to get in and out of Sarajevo during the siege.
- Explore Tirana, capital of Albania, the country listed as #1 in Lonely Planet's book, *Best in Travel 2011*.
- Visit UNESCO-listed Ohrid, Macedonia one of the oldest human settlements in the world and take a private walking tour of Pristina, the capital of one of the youngest countries in the world, Kosovo.
- Stroll through Skadarlija, the bohemian quarter of Belgrade, sometimes compared with Paris' Montmartre district.
- Visit Mostar, engulfed in war after Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence in 1992, and beautifully reconstructed.
- Walk the medieval walls of UNESCO-listed Dubrovnik.

**Land Program Rate: \$7,995**  
**(per person land tour based**  
**on double occupancy)**

**Single Supplement: \$1,295**



**Included:** • All accommodation, hotel taxes  
• Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) • Group arrival/departure transfers for passengers arriving/departing on scheduled start/end days • All land transportation per itinerary including private motor coach throughout the itinerary • Internal airfare within the Balkans • Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees • Welcome and farewell dinners • Services of a tour manager throughout the land program • Gratuities to tour manager, guides and drivers • Comprehensive pre-departure packet

**Not Included:** Travel insurance • Round trip airfare from/to your home city. Our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations. • Passport and visa fees • Meals not specified as included in the itinerary • Personal items such as telephone calls, alcohol, laundry, excess baggage fees

**Air Arrangements:** Program rates do not include international airfare. Because there are a number of flight options available, there is no group flight for this program. Information on a recommended flight itinerary will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.

**What to Expect:** This trip is moderately active due to the substantial distances covered and the extensive walking and stair climbing required; parts of the tour will not always be wheelchair accessible. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day (with or without the assistance of a cane) and stand for an extended period of time during walking tours and museum visits. Flexibility and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are highly recommended as delays or changes in the itinerary are likely.

**Reservations and Payments:** Please mail the completed registration form with check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to your sponsoring organization to the address on the reservation form and mail panel. Balance of payment for all land and air costs is due by July 8, 2014, 90 days prior to departure. Payment of balance due by check only.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** All cancellations must be made in writing to MIR Corporation and the following cancellation charges will apply: Cancellations received 91 or more days before departure, deposits paid or due in full of \$500 per person; those received 61 days to 90 days before departure, 50% of land tour cost per person; those received 60 days or less before departure, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the full tour for any reason at all. The Commonwealth Club and our tour operator MIR Corporation reserve the right, without penalty, to withdraw the tour announced (i.e., cancel a tour). Our tour operator MIR Corporation reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of the health, safety, or general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable cost of unused services and accommodations be refunded, if any.

**Note:** Neither The Commonwealth Club nor our tour operator MIR Corporation accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in connection with this tour. It is recommended that you not purchase international flights until instructed by the tour operator.

**Single Travelers:** We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate. However, shared accommodations cannot be guaranteed and a single supplement rate will apply.

**Insurance:** Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available. Insurance information will be sent to you by The Commonwealth Club on receipt of your registration.

**Responsibility:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of The Commonwealth Club and the Tour Operator for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. A signed release of liability/assumption of risk agreement is required for trip participation.





## Day by Day

### Days 1-5

#### Depart USA • Tirana, Albania

In Albania's capital, Tirana, get a feel for the country's long, often-troubled history at the National History Museum and visit the U.S. Embassy for a briefing on contemporary issues. Take the 2.6-mile cable car up to Dajti Mountain for fabulous views of the city. Visit with rural schoolchildren outside of town. Enjoy forays to Durres, the starting point of one of the most important Roman roads, the Via Egnatia; Shkodra, once known as a center of Islamic scholarship; Berat, located on one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites in Albania; and the ruins of the ancient town of Apollonia, built as far back as 558 BC. *Sheraton Hotel Tirana* (2 inflight, 3B, 3L, 2D)

### Days 6-8

#### Ohrid, Macedonia • Skopje • Pristina, Kosovo

Take a walking tour of UNESCO-listed Ohrid, one of oldest human settlements in Europe, whose antiquities, red-roofed old houses, beautiful setting and fabulous collection of medieval icons combine to make it a fascinating town. In Skopje, tour the Old Town, beginning at the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, and visit the Old Stone Bridge over the Vardar River, built by Mehmet the Conqueror in the mid-15th century. Set out on a day trip to Pristina, capital of Kosovo, the Balkans territory that declared independence from Serbia in February of 2008. Nearby, visit one of the UNESCO-listed "Medieval Monuments of Kosovo," the 14th century Church of the Holy Virgin, decorated with exceptional frescoes. *Ohrid: Millenium Palace Hotel*; *Skopje: Stone Bridge Hotel* (3B, 3L, 2D)

### Days 9-10

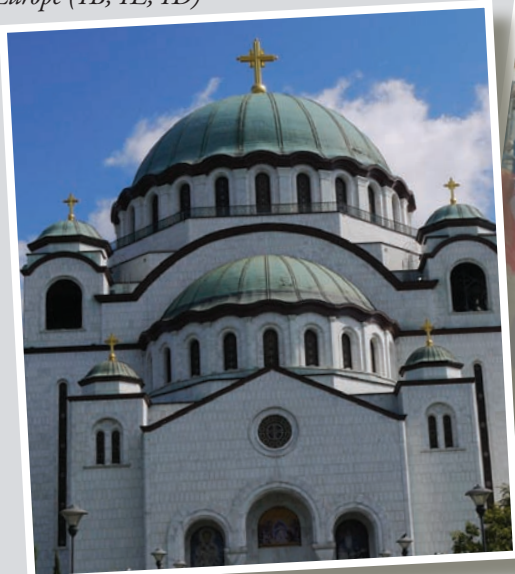
#### Belgrade, Serbia

Belgrade is the capital of Serbia, as it was the capital of a united Yugoslavia. One of the highlights of Belgrade is Kalemegdan Fortress, named by the Turks and meaning "fortress amid battlefields." Wander through Skadarlija, the bohemian quarter, a vibrant and busy area that is sometimes compared with Paris' Montmartre district, filled with shops, coffee houses and restaurants. Attend an informative briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, where, in 2008, Serbs protesting Kosovo's declaration of independence climbed the balcony and set several fires. *Hotel Moskva* (2B, 2L, 1D)

### Day 11

#### Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Sarajevo, visit the Baščaršija, the old Ottoman market area where you can find handmade items and savory street food; the extravagantly decorated Svrzina Kuca Oriental house; and the Princip Bridge, where Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated. Visit the Sarajevo Tunnel Museum: During the Bosnian War, Serbian and Yugoslav forces besieged and shelled the city of Sarajevo for over 1,000 days, the longest siege in the history of modern warfare. Between March and July of 1993, soldiers and citizens dug a 2,600-foot tunnel that linked the besieged city to the NATO-controlled airport. Meet with a war survivor who will relate personal experiences from the war. *Hotel Europe* (1B, 1L, 1D)



# Itinerary

## Days 12-14

### Mostar • Dubrovnik, Croatia

Depart Sarajevo towards Dubrovnik, stopping in the city of Mostar on the way. Named after its Old Bridge, Stari Most, the town was founded in the 15th century and was an important Ottoman regional center until the late 19th century. Engulfed in war after Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence in 1992, the town was shelled repeatedly. Its Old Town, including its namesake bridge, was all but destroyed. After the war ended, UNESCO and donor nations launched a five-year project to rebuild the historic Old Town and the bridge of Mostar, and the resulting reconstruction was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005.

Dubrovnik has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, its simple limestone buildings with their warm yellow and red roof tiles unified by a medieval building code. Among the sights today are the rebuilt 15th century clock tower, with its two “green men” who tell the time. Take a leisurely walk on the wide city walls that have protected Dubrovnik since the 13th century. Punctuated by sturdy square fortresses and round towers, the walls encircle the Old Town and afford wonderful views of land and sea. Toast the journey through the Balkans with a festive farewell dinner. *Hotel Hilton Imperial* (3B, 2L, 2D)



Please mail the completed registration form with check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to The Commonwealth Club of California, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. Balance of payment for all land and air costs is due by July 8, 2014, 90 days prior to departure. Payment of balance due by check only. Space is limited. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt, subject to availability.

The enclosed non-refundable deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

☐ Enclosed check, payable to MIR Corporation-Trust    ☐ Visa    ☐ Mastercard    ☐ American Express    ☐ Discover

Credit card number	Exp date	CCV
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Signature of cardholder		
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Full name #1 (as listed in passport)	Date of birth
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Full name #2 (as listed in passport)	Date of birth
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Mailing address (no PO boxes please)		
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City	State	Zip
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Phone (Home)	(Work)	Email
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Please note preferences:

☐ I am traveling alone and prefer a single room wherever available at the single supplement rate (\$1,295).

☐ I will share accommodations with \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to share with a    ☐ Non-smoker    ☐ Smoker (shares are not guaranteed)

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the tour price. Roundtrip economy class airfare including taxes from San Francisco, CA is approximately \$1,600 as of November 2013. Prices are- subject to change without notice.

Please send me a recommended air itinerary and fare estimate between \_\_\_\_\_ and Tirana, Albania/Dubrovnik, Croatia in:

☐ Business class    ☐ Economy class

**For more information, contact The Commonwealth Club by phone at (415) 597-6720 or by email at [travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org)**



The Commonwealth Club of California  
595 Market St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105