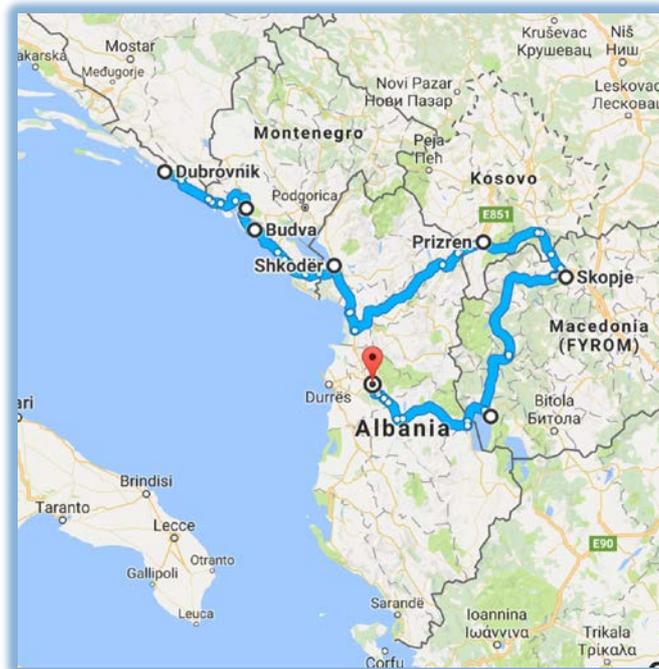


Doing Business in the Balkans (Dates TBD, 2019)¹

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An Educational and Cultural Journey through Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania



Course Highlights:

- Experience the Balkans as the locals do
- Take the class alongside with local students
- Learn from prominent business and government leaders
- Possibility to extend the trip to other European cities
- Accommodations in 3, 4 & 5 star hotels
- Professional English speaking guide
- Local Guides
- Modern A/C coach

Day 1 – Fly from Chattanooga or Atlanta to Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Days 2 - Dubrovnik (Croatia)



Meet at the Airport with the guide and transfer to the city of Dubrovnik, one of the main attraction and touristic resource of Croatia. **Dubrovnik** is rich in cultural and historical monuments and is included in UNESCO World Heritage List. The most recognizable feature, which defines the History of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic, is the intact city walls, which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in the Europe is the main attraction to the city's visitors. The city took the form that it has today after the earthquake of 1667 and managed to preserve its beautiful Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Damaged again in the 1990s by

armed conflict, it is now the focus of a major restoration program.

After the visit of Dubrovnik old town and attractions, check in hotel and overnight in Dubrovnik

Day 3 - Dubrovnik (Croatia) – Kotor (Montenegro) - Budva (Montenegro)



- After the breakfast, visit the University of Dubrovnik.
- Continue to the border with Montenegro, and lunch in Kotor
- Arrive in Budva and Hotel Check in
- Start the guided city tour including entrance to the **Castle**
- **Welcome Dinner**
- Overnight in Budva, Hotel Budva, 4*, centrally located_

<http://www.hotelbudva.me/>

Day 4 - Budva (Montenegro)



The Old town lies on a small peninsula and represents a treasure chest of culture heritage. The distant past reaches back to the V century B.C. Still, the greatest bloom Budva experienced in the medieval period during the period of life of Serbian emperor Dusan. After it passed under the Venetian Republic, in 1442 who left an important imprint on the architecture of the city. Budva suffered the brunt between the belligerent Venetians and ottomans, until the beginning of the XVIII century when it falls under the Austro–Hungarian reign that controlled the city until 1918 when it became part of the Yugoslav kingdom.

- Business Visit in the Morning
- Afternoon, **Cetinje** that was the medieval capital of the Montenegrin Kingdom.
- The tour includes also the visit of the **Palace of King Nikola**.
- Overnight in Budva

Day 5 - Budva – Shkodra (Albania) Valbona (Theth, Albania)



In the morning after the breakfast, we will leave Budva and Montenegro to reach the city of Shkodra in Albania. Upon arrival in Shkoder walking tour of the city – visit **Rozafa's Castle**, the city center with its monuments and the **Marubi Museum**. Shkoder: Set on the banks of a sparkling lake at the foot of the wild and rugged mountains of High Albania, Shkodra, was once the largest and most flourishing town in the country. Even today, it remains the cradle of northern Albanian culture.



In the afternoon, we drive towards Koman to take a **boat tour on Koman Lake**. Sail along the Koman Lake which is considered one of the most wonderful experiences anyone could have in Albania. Originated from the construction of three dams, Lake Koman passes along much of the beautiful Albanian Alps. Its sinuous and slim

riverbed through the mountains of the north makes this trip often described as one of the most beautiful in the world – evocative and relaxing.

- Traditional Group Dinner
- Overnight in Valbona Traditional Albanian House

Day 6 - Valbona– Pristina – Skopje (Macedonia)



Pristina is the world's newest capital, a surprisingly cosmopolitan city with a youthful vibrancy amid landmarks recalling the rich ebb and flow of Balkan history. Pristina's compact city center congeals the architectural imprints of millennia of 'regime changes' into a bite-sized day's sightseeing. Explore the neo-brutalism of communist Yugoslavia's fascination with concrete monoliths and an altogether more elegantly graceful Ottoman legacy.

Upon arrival in Macedonia's capital, we start with the city tour. Visits will include also the fortress of Skopje. In addition to its strong historical associations, Skopje is a forward-looking city offering an abundance of both ancient and modern amenities and attractions. The Stone Bridge on the river Vardar connects the old Ottoman part of the city "Stara Charshija", and the Kale Fortress walls with the new part of the city. Of particular interest is the new "Macedonia Square" with its huge golden statue of Alexander the Great surrounded by all the historic personages, national heroes, and patriotic persons.

- Dinner and overnight in Skopje, Hotel Bushi, 5*, or similar

Day 7 - Skopje – Ohrid (Macedonia) -Tirana (Albania)

- After the breakfast: a University Visit and a Business Visit.



Then, continue toward Ohrid. Upon arrival in Ohrid start the city tour of the historical city center and their attractions. UNESCO site. The walking tour starts from the square of St.Clement. Then we head towards the old part of the town and we stop at the Lower Gate (one of the gates of medieval Ohrid) and the archaeological museum situated at Robevi house (1826). Just next door the museum in a 19th century house is a unique hand-made paper workshop, one of three of its kind in Europe. What follows is a tour of the **church of St Sophia**, which dates from the 11th century. The church is known as the cathedral of Ohrid Archbishopric a masterpiece of architecture and fresco paintings. Due to its great acoustics it is one of the stages of Ohrid Summer festival, the most famous festival of classical music and drama of the country. Then we go up to the Roman Theater, which dates back to the 2nd

century BC. The Upper Gate, the only preserved city gate of Ohrid is 50 meters away and many ancient stones used to build it are still visible.

- Continue and reach Albania's capital, Tirana.
- Panoramic tour of the city and check into the hotel.

Tirana became Albania's capital city in 1920 and has a population of 600,000. The city is host to many public institutions, public and private universities, and is the center of the political, economic and cultural life of the country.

Overnight Hotel Tirana International 4* or similar

Day 8 - Tirana

In the morning: University Visit and Business Visit.

In the afternoon: Walking tour of the city including a visit to the **National Historic Museum** with its façade decorated by a large mosaic called "Albania" and the **National Gallery of Arts**. In the main square of the city, Skanderbeg Square, and along the main "boulevard" named "The Martyrs of the Nations" are located most of the Museums buildings and monuments of Tirana - The National Historic Museum, the huge statue of Skanderbeg, the Et'hem beq mosque with its delicious decorations, the Palace of Culture, where the Theatre of Opera and Ballet and National Library are located, the government buildings that close the square from the south side. Instead along the main "boulevard" and not far from it can be seen: The Catholic church of St. Paul completed in 2001, The Orthodox Cathedral, The late medieval bridge of Tabakeve, the remains of the old fortress of Tirana, different houses in ottoman style. In the afternoon we will visit the anti-nuclear bunker built in 1978 by the former communist regime. A five-floor palace underground, with 106 rooms and an assembly hall, now turned into a historical and art center called "**BUNK'ART**".



In the afternoon, we drive to the historic town of Kruja. Upon arrival visit the **Castle**, old **Bazaar** and the **Ethnographic Museum**. Kruja is a strange town, all clustered around its bazaar. Some of the main points of interests include the restored Castle and Citadel that it is tied to the legend of the hero who fought against the Turks for about 25 years. The Skanderbeg Museum located inside the castle and erected in memory of the Albanian national hero. Skanderbeg was in fact from these parts and Kruja was a strategic point in the anti-Ottoman resistance. The Old Restored Bazaar has a truly oriental look, multi-colored and overflowing with goods of every description.



Day 9 - Tirana –Conclusions



- Morning: Final Touches on the Project and Prepare for Presentations
- 1:00 -3:00 pm: Student Presentations
- After 3:00: Free Afternoon
- 8:00 pm: Farewell Dinner

Day 10 - Tirana – Airport –Arrive in Atlanta or Chattanooga on May 15

Breakfast, drive to the airport and fly back home: **END OF TRIP**

Hotels:

- 1) Hotel Astorea 3* <http://hotel-astarea.mlini.hotels-hr.com/> or similar
- 2) Hotel Budva4* <http://www.hotelbudva.me/> or similar
- 3) Hotel Bushi Resort 5* <http://bushiresort.com/> or similar
- 4) Hotel Tirana International 4* <http://www.tiranainternational.com/portal/index.php/en/> or similar

¹ Trip dates are between Spring Semester and First Summer Session, so you may still take summer session classes