

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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Conducted 18 Day Tour

BALKANS & TURKEY TOUR

for only **\$7,195** per person twin share

This is great value as the price covers all of the following:

- Economy Class airfares from Sydney into Zagreb, Croatia and out of Istanbul, Turkey with Qatar Airways. Flights from Melbourne & Brisbane may also be available. Please contact our office for details.
- 8 scenic days touring Croatia, Montenegro and Albania, visiting Zagreb, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor and Tirana.
- A one week tour of Turkey, visiting Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Ephesus and more.
- Very good accommodation, mainly 4 star with private facilities.
- Breakfast daily and many included dinners.
- Transport and transfers.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guides and drivers.
- Services of local tour guides and an Australian tour escort.



The single supplement is \$999, subject to availability.

*Tour departs Australia 15th March and
returns 1st April 2024*

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Balkans & Turkey Tour – March 2024

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

15.03.24 Australia – Doha

Depart Sydney at 10.00pm on flight QR 909, arriving in Doha at 4.50am the next morning (16.03.24).

Depart Melbourne at 10.10pm on flight QR 905, arriving in Doha at 4.35am the next morning (16.03.24).

Depart Brisbane at 10.10pm on flight QR 899, arriving in Doha at 5.45am the next morning (16.03.24).

16.03.24 Doha – Zagreb, Croatia

(D) Depart Doha at 8.30am on flight QR 217, arriving in Zagreb at 12.25pm.

Welcome to Zagreb! We are transferred to the hotel for a two night stay.

At 6pm we meet our tour director for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Astoria or similar

17.03.24 Zagreb

(B) Today we explore the historic city of Zagreb, one of the oldest in Europe. On our sightseeing tour we will see the important landmarks of the lower and medieval upper town, such as the Parliament, Stone Gate, the Archbishop's Palace and the majestic cathedral.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Astoria or similar

18.03.24 Zagreb - Zadar

(B/D) Our guided walking tour includes the main square and Nikola Basic's amazing sea organ and the Greeting to the Sun installations. Designed by architect Nikola Basic and opened in April 2005, the Sea organ captures the movement of the waves and transforms it into a musical sound. Next to it the Greeting to the Sun was built.

A 22-metre diameter circle with photovoltaic solar modules underneath. The solar-powered cells under the glass start generating electricity around dawn, which allows the disc to glow and light the shoreline. Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Falkensteiner Club Funimation Borik or similar

19.03.24 Zadar – Krka - Split

(B/L) This morning we take in the breathtaking views of the lake and waterfalls in Krka National Park. This natural wonder features awe-inspiring waterfalls and a huge range of natural flora and fauna. Take a look at the Jaruga, the second oldest hydroelectric power plant in the entire world, having opened only two days after the world's first Tesla hydroelectric power plant on Niagara Falls. Afterwards enjoy a light lunch with local specialities.

Accommodation: Hotel President Solin or similar

20.03.24 Split - Dubrovnik

(B) Follow our local guide for a walk through the labyrinth of medieval streets within the walls of Emperor Diocletian's Palace. The palace resembles a fortress with 220 buildings and more than 3,000 people living inside its walls. For good luck, don't forget to rub the toe of the giant sculpture of Grgur Ninski located in front of the Golden Gate.

Afterwards we travel to Dubrovnik and check into our hotel for a two night stay.
Accommodation: Hotel Lapad or similar

21.03.24 Dubrovnik

(B) Our walking tour with a local guide includes sights of the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries and the impressive ramparts, erected during the Crusades to protect the town against land attacks. Spend the rest of the day exploring the town at your own pace. Dubrovnik is a living museum. When you enter the city walls you could be entering a time zone from 50 – 500 years ago.
Accommodation: Hotel Lapad or similar

22.03.24 Dubrovnik – Kotor, Montenegro – Tirana, Albania

(B) On the way to Kotor we visit ‘Our lady of the Rocks’ Church perched on a tiny man-made island. The legend has it that on a summery evening in July 1452, two fishermen discovered an image of the Virgin Mary on the sea-cliff. They brought it home with them but the following morning it was gone and appeared back on the same sea-cliff. The same thing happened over and over so they understood this as a Virgin’s wish to stay there forever so they built a church. A small island was then made by people from Perast who were throwing rocks and stones around the cliff. Arrive in Kotor and enjoy a guided walking tour that includes all the famous sights of this little town.
The remainder of the day is at leisure.
Accommodation: Hilton Garden Inn Tirana or similar

23.03.24 Tirana

(B/D) Our guided walking tour of Tirana features a visit to the Bunk’Art and the main square. The architecture of this city has aspects of all periods of time. From the Ancient Roman Tirana mosaic to the clock tower (Kulla e Sahatit), a symbol of Ottoman architecture, Italian buildings and the style of construction during the dictatorship tell a vibrant story of this city. Tonight we enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.
Accommodation: Hilton Garden Inn Tirana or similar

24.03.24 Tirana – Istanbul, Turkey

(B/D) This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul, we are transferred to our hotel for a two night stay. This evening we meet our tour director and enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.
Accommodation: The Artisan Istanbul MGallery or similar

25.03.24 Istanbul

(B) Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Istanbul including the Topapki Palace, Hagia Sophia, the Roman Hippodrome and the Blue Mosque followed by a Turkish Delight tasting. Founded by the Greeks as Byzantium more than 2,500 years ago and finally called Istanbul after the Ottoman conquest in the 15th century, the city on the Bosphorus remains one of the most exciting places in the world. It’s strategic location as a gateway between Orient and Occident, the Islamic and the Christian, as well as the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, predestined it for a turbulent yet exciting history.
Accommodation: The Artisan Istanbul MGallery or similar

26.03.24 Istanbul – Gallipoli – Troy area

(B/D) In Istanbul we visit the Grand Bazaar before continuing to Gallipoli to visit the WWI battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Anzac Cemetery and the Lone Pine Memorial

before crossing the Dardanelles by ferry.
Accommodation: Kolin Hotel, Canakkale or similar

27.03.24 Troy area – Pergamum - Kusadasi

(B/D) This morning we enjoy a guided visit of Troy. Afterwards we continue to Pergamum and visit the Asklepion, a shrine to the Greek God of Medicine. Nestled between hills, the Asklepion retains a sense of serenity and history. The sick approached the temple via the Sacred Way, a path that started their journey to health determined according to what dreams the patient experienced. All of this was done in the belief that healing was a sacred art and that people's souls needed to be mended as well as their bodies.
Accommodation: Charisma de Luxe Hotel or similar

28.03.24 Kusadasi – Ephesus - Pamukkale

(B/D) Today we visit Ephesus and have a walking tour through the ancient ruins and the archaeological museum. Ephesus was one of the most famous cities of the ancient Mediterranean. It was the second biggest city of the Roman Empire and today it is one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the eastern Mediterranean.
Accommodation: Colossae Hotel Thermal or similar

29.03.24 Pamukkale – Hierapolis - Bursa

(B) In the shadow of Mount Olympus we find Hierapolis and visit the thermal resort founded by a Pergamene king in 190 BCE. We continue onto Bursa and visit the Great Mosque, the covered bazaar and the silk market followed by a Kestane Sekeri tasting, which is a candied chestnut. The long winding bazaar in Bursa is a bustling marketplace that is centuries old.
Accommodation: Movenpick Bursa Hotel or similar

30.03.24 Bursa – Iznik - Istanbul

(B/D) Today we travel to Iznik, with its rare ancient history and uniqueness. It is also the birthplace of the world famous Iznik tiles, a treasured artform dating back to the Ottoman Empire. Guided visits include St. Sophia's Church and the Archaeological Museum. Tonight enjoy an included farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Istanbul.
Accommodation: Movenpick Hotel Istanbul Bosphorus or similar

31.03.24 Istanbul – Doha - Australia

(B) After a leisurely breakfast, we check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our flights home.
Depart Istanbul at 1.45pm on flight QR 240, arriving in Doha at 5.55pm.
Melbourne passengers depart Doha at 7.40pm on flight QR 904, arriving in Melbourne at 5.10pm the next day (01.04.24).
Sydney passengers depart Doha at 8.00pm on flight QR 908, arriving in Sydney at 6.10pm the next day (01.04.24).
Brisbane passengers depart Doha at 8.25pm on flight QR 898, arriving in Brisbane at 5.30pm the next day (01.04.24)

01.04.24 Arrive Australia late afternoon/early evening.

Note: The primary ground operator for this tour is Globus.



Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

For your enjoyment of the tour and the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

1	2	3	4	5
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Tour Difficulty Level 3

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, walking distances of up to and sometimes over 500 metres at a time, over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as some early departures.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Balkans & Turkey Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is strictly not refundable or not-transferrable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 12 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable. Airfares for this tour depart from Sydney. Higher deposits will apply from a different port.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline. Any refund for a cancelled booking will not be paid until the airline(s) provide the refund to Macleay Valley Travel.

Limitation of Liability concerning Covid-19 - It is possible that there may be outbreak(s) of Covid-19 during this tour. Whilst we take necessary safety precautions, Macleay Valley Travel cannot be held responsible for any quarantines or other associated costs brought about by quarantines, border closures and/or travel delays. You are aware that Covid-19 is a highly contagious and potentially dangerous disease that may result in significant personal illness and even death. You acknowledge that you are voluntarily participating in the tour with knowledge of the inherent risks of Covid-19, and you agree to assume all risks.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance that includes medical coverage for Covid-19 is required. Please contact your preferred travel insurance provider. The responsibility to obtain adequate travel insurance rests with the passenger. Proof of your travel insurance is required to be presented to us on or before the final payment date of the tour.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. An Evisa is required for Turkey and must be obtained prior to travel at www.evisa.gov.tr Current cost is \$60 USD per person, subject to change. From early 2024. Australian citizens travelling to the EU will require an ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) for stays of up to 90 days. This is otherwise known as a European visa waiver. The expected cost for this is 7 Euros per person. No other visas are required if travelling on an Australian passport.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. Also travel insurance and departure taxes. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1.2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for payments made using American Express.

Breakaway - Deviations from the set itinerary are usually not permitted. Please contact Macleay Valley Travel at the time of booking if you are interested in extending your trip.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. It is strongly recommended that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, but this is not mandatory. Passengers must comply with any specific Covid-19 requirements that may be imposed by airlines and/or authorities of the destinations visited.

Ground Operator - Our primary ground operator for this tour is Globus. Later in 2023, our ground operator will email or otherwise contact each passenger and provide a copy of their own terms and conditions and their health & safety waiver. It is mandatory that these terms be accepted within five days of receiving said email.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate.

Disclosure of fees or commissions received from third parties - Macleay Valley Travel Pty Ltd may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third parties under this contract.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or de facto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, pandemics, endemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Needs - Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Any existing medical conditions? Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details and severity: _____
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No
If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____