



ITINERARY

The following pages detail our day-to-day activities. In addition to this itinerary, you will receive a daily program that lists the planned activities for each day with specific timings.

Please remember that this is an expedition in the true sense of the word. You should expect that changes will occur along the way, timings will be adjusted and unexpected events will affect the program. Your expedition leader will conduct briefings to keep you apprised of any scheduling changes.



April 11

Athens, Greece

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Individual Arrivals in Athens, Greece

Upon arrival at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, please visit the *Legends and Empires* welcome desk. Please bring your passport with you. The check-in staff will collect your passport and return it to you the next morning at breakfast. You will also receive your name tag, security/ID badge and other important updates.

Welcome Desk Hours:

Saturday, April 11 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

After check-in, you may depart for the following pre-selected sightseeing options:

Acropolis Tour (Morning Option)

Tour the ancient citadel, located on a rocky outcrop in the center of the city. The Acropolis is one of the most iconic and well-preserved sites of the ancient world— most of the remaining buildings were erected during the 5th century B.C. Step inside the citadel, where you can tour famed ruins such as the Parthenon, the massive structure dedicated to the goddess Athena, and the Erechtheion, where six detailed maiden statues support the structure's roof. We'll finish our tour with a visit to the museum where statues and panels from original marble friezes have been recovered and put on display.

Morning at Leisure

After check-in, relax at hotel or explore on your own.

☐ Greek Gastronomy on Foot (Afternoon Option)

Enjoy a stroll around Athens to sample some of the city's best culinary traditions. The maze of streets in Athens reveals hidden gastronomic gems, from food stands and bustling produce markets to charming shops selling delectable pastries and traditional meats. A guide will take us to some local favorites for a bite of Athens' best fare, and we'll have time to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee before making our way back to our hotel.

☐ Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at the hotel and enjoy your afternoon at leisure or explore Athens on your own.

This evening, please gather at the hotel's Penthouse for cocktails, followed by our welcome dinner. This is your opportunity to meet the lecturers, staff and your fellow travelers. Your expedition leader will brief you on important details for tomorrow morning's departure.

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Grande Bretagne

Reminder

Please do not pack your passport or important documents in your checked luggage, but rather always put them in your hand-carry that you bring on board the jet.



ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL GRANDE BRETAGNE

This central Athens hotel sits within view of iconic landmarks, including the Lycabettus Hill and the Acropolis. The Hotel Grande Bretagne is elegantly decorated throughout with classical design elements and rich fabrics befitting of its 1874 founding. To keep you looking and feeling your best, this hotel has a fitness studio, a spa with a steam room and sauna, a hair salon and both indoor and outdoor pools. A range of dining options are available, and the hotel features the rich gastronomic history of Greece throughout.



April 12 & 13

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board our private jet for our flight to Turkmenistan.

Depart: Athens, Greece | 10:00 A.M.

Arrive: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan | 3:55 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 3H 55M

Meal Service: Lunch

Upon arrival, we clear immigration and customs, then transfer to our hotel for check-in. En route, we'll drive by Turkmenistan's Presidential Palace and Turkmenbashi Avenue to take in the glittering white-marble city. Make a brief stop at Independence Park, where fountains, pools and monuments dot the neatly landscaped park.

After arriving at our hotel, we'll have time to settle into our rooms before transferring to the Wedding Palace—a grand civil registry with an opulent façade. See the massive eight-pointed star that adorns the roof before stepping inside for dinner and entertainment in one of the Palace's restaurants.

As we return to our hotel this evening, we'll detour past some of the city's most important landmarks to see how the city is illuminated each night in vivid candy-colored lights.

OVERNIGHT: Oguzkent Hotel

MONDAY, APRIL 13

After breakfast, depart for the airport for our day stop in the Merv Oasis.

Depart: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan | 8:30 A.M.

Arrive: Merv, Turkmenistan | 9:25 A.M.

Elapsed Time: 55M

Upon arrival, we split into groups to view the remnants of Merv, an ancient city-state that once flourished along the Silk Road. In Merv, ruins span from the 6th century onward. Here, walk along early city walls which serve as evidence of a city that was once the largest in the world, and find mausoleums of great leaders still intact, including the massive domed Tomb of Ahmad Sanjar and the Yusuf Hamadani Mosque and Mausoleum.

This afternoon we'll gather at a local restaurant before returning to the airport for our return flight to Ashgabat.

Depart: Merv, Turkmenistan | 4:00 P.M.

Arrive: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan | 5:00 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H

Upon arrival in Ashgabat, return to our hotel and enjoy dinner at your choice of hotel restaurant or choose room service.

OVERNIGHT: Oguzkent Hotel



ACCOMMODATION

OGUZKENT HOTEL

The Oguzkent Hotel sits in Ashgabat's urban center, close to parks and offers views of some of the city's cultural landmarks. This property features a full-service spa, an indoor pool, sauna, steam room and a fitness center. On-site dining includes Central Asian, European and Moroccan cuisine. Guest rooms feature large windows, letting in ample light and providing stunning views.



April 14 & 15

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then check out before departing for the following morning sightseeing options.

☐ National Museum & Turkmenbashi Mosque

Visit Turkmenbashi Ruhy Mosque, the largest mosque in Central Asia. The immense white-marble mosque was built to honor the former leader of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, and can accommodate more than 10,000 worshippers. One of the highlights is the expansive handmade Turkmen carpet that covers the floor of the prayer hall. Pay a visit to the nearby Turkmenbashi mausoleum, the final resting place of Niyazov, before transferring to Ashgabat's National Museum. Home to the country's preeminent collection of archaeological and cultural artifacts, this museum spans the length and breadth of the country's history.

☐ Nissa Fortress & Carpet Museum

Transfer to the ruins of Nissa, where you can explore remnants of the Parthian Empire which controlled much of this region from around the 3rd century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D. The excavated Parthian Fortress of Nissa reveals both traditional elements of Central Asia and Roman

Hellenistic influences in the richly decorated architecture, alluding to its status as a crossroads for culture and commerce. Afterward, transfer to the Carpet Museum to explore Turkmenistan's rich history of weaving. Here, learn about the history and techniques that have been passed down through the centuries.

☐ Morning at Leisure

Have breakfast at your leisure and enjoy the amenities of the hotel.

All guests will transfer to a local restaurant for lunch before continuing to the airport for our flight to Uzbekistan.

Depart: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan | 2:10 P.M.

Arrive: Samarkand, Uzbekistan | 3:30 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 20M

Arriving in Uzbekistan, we will clear immigration and customs then transfer to our hotel for check-in. This evening, gather for dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Dilimah Premium Luxury

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

After breakfast visit the Shakhi-Zinda, a necropolis of turquoise-tiled mausoleums and Mosques, with sparkling blue colors and finely detailed tiling. The Shakhi-Zinda was built, starting in the 7th century with the introduction of Islam, and was refined during the 14th-century reign of King Tamerlane. Walk through the narrow medieval streets, where 11 Mausoleums house the remains of Uzbekistan's ancient nobility.

Stop at a local restaurant for lunch before we depart on our afternoon sightseeing.

We will split into small groups to tour the impressive Bibi Khanum mosque. Restored after its initial collapse, the original structure was erected using thousands of precious stones captured during the great King Tamerlane's conquest of India. We also have time to stroll through a local market to sample local specialties.

You may also visit the village of Koni-Ghil, where locals rediscover arts lost to modern manufacturing. Here they make paper by hand using mulberry trees, rosewater and henna, bringing back an ancient craft once revered by dignitaries and artisans from the ancient Silk Road. Watch as locals demonstrate their craft.

If you wish, rather than visiting Koni-Ghil, you may explore a local silk carpet weaving workshop to witness artisans at work, with time to shop for beautifully made traditional carpets.

This evening, transfer to one of Samarkand's restaurants for a traditional Uzbek dinner with local entertainment.

As we make our way back to our hotel this evening, we will make a stop at Registan Square to see the historic architecture illuminated at night.

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Dilimah Premium Luxury



ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL DILIMAH PREMIUM LUXURY

Located in the heart of this historic city, The Hotel Dilimah Premium Luxury offers modern comforts and attentive service. Amenities include a fitness center and spa, indoor and outdoor pools, a massage room and a sauna. On-site dining features Mediterranean cuisine served in the hotel's interior terrace. Guest rooms are decorated in rich neutrals, with elegant European and Islamic-inspired design elements.



April 16 & 17

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

After breakfast, we will check out before traveling to the Gur-Emir, the Persian-style mausoleum of Tamerlane, the 14th century King. Tamerlane was a brutal conqueror, and ancestor to the great Mughal kings of India. His tomb's ornate rosette-pattern mosaics, deep *muqarnas* ceilings, and royal blue and turquoise tiles exemplify the Persian-style architecture that inspired other masterpieces of history, including the Taj Mahal.

Make a stop at the Afrosiab museum, which sits on the site of a once ancient and flourishing city that was ultimately destroyed by Mongols in the 13th century. Continue on to the Ulugh Beg Observatory. Here, famed Islamic astronomers mapped the skies in the 15th-century.

This afternoon, we'll stop at a local restaurant for lunch, then transfer to the airport for our flight to Kyrgyzstan.

Depart: Samarkand, Uzbekistan | 2:40 P.M.

Arrive: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan | 4:45 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 5M

Meal Service: Lunch

We clear immigration and customs and transfer to our hotel for check-in.

This evening, after time to settle into your room, gather for dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Hyatt Regency Bishkek

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

After breakfast, we travel down a section of the ancient Silk Road into a remote part of the Chuy Valley. Here, find the ancient city of Balasagun, founded by Turkic nomads in the 9th-century. The large Burana Tower, a central fortress, and balbals—the mysterious stone faces poking out of the earth—are all that remains of the ancient city. We split into small groups to walk among the ancient ruins and explore petroglyphs created by ancient nomadic peoples.

Later, we'll enjoy a demonstration on the long-held tradition of eagle hunting, which traces its origins back hundreds of years. Learn how majestic golden eagles are trained and used in this historic practice.

This afternoon, we return to Bishkek and stop at a local restaurant for lunch. Afterward, visit Ala Too Square, Bishkek's city center, where the statues and imposing soviet-era government buildings reveal Kyrgyzstan's storied 20th century, from Soviet rule and independence through the more recent Tulip Revolution. We will also walk through the nearby Oak Park to glance at the Russian Drama Theatre, and countless sculptures and monuments. We make a stop at the nearby Opera and Ballet theaters which are a testament to Kyrgyzstan's thriving artistic heritage.

We return to our hotel this evening. Later, we'll transfer to a nearby cultural center to enjoy a cocktail reception and dinner, with a demonstration on traditional yurt construction.

OVERNIGHT: Hyatt Regency Bishkek



ACCOMMODATION

HYATT REGENCY BISHKEK

The Hyatt Regency Bishkek is Bishkek's most luxurious hotel. The property is located in the center of this capital city, and overlooks nearby mountains. Both elegant and relaxed dining are available on site, and menus range from barbecue to Mediterranean cuisine. There is an on-site health and fitness center, which includes a pool and a spa. Light-filled guest rooms feature simple, modern decor and spacious sitting and work areas. Room amenities include an in-room safe, internet access and hair dryers. Views are of the State Opera and Alatau Mountains.



April 18, 19 & 20

Zighy Bay, Oman

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Rise early this morning and transfer to the airport for our flights to Oman.

Please note that due to current geo-political events and evolving variable restrictions on air space in the Mid-East region, our flight schedule has been recently revised resulting in up to a 10-hour flight time. TCS World Travel is reviewing options to avoid the long flight to provide you the best possible experience. We will continue to monitor the situation and let you know of any itinerary changes or improvements on the flight routing.

Depart: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan | 8:00 A.M.

Arrive: Trabzon, Turkey | 9:20 A.M.

Elapsed Time: 4H 20M

Meal Service: Breakfast

Depart: Trabzon, Turkey | 10:20 A.M.

Arrive: Ras Al-Khaimah, U.A.E. | 4:00 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 4H 40M

Meal Service: Lunch

Upon arrival, we proceed through U.A.E. immigration and customs and transfer, approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes, crossing into Oman's Musandam Peninsula to Zighy Bay. We arrive at our resort, check in and gather for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Six Senses Zighy Bay

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Following breakfast, we depart for our pre-selected sightseeing options. For guests choosing half-day options, after embarking on morning activities, we return to the hotel for lunch, then depart again for our afternoon options.

Dubai Custom Sightseeing (Full-Day Option)

Transfer approximately two hours each way to Dubai where a private car will be available to take you to your destination of choice. Choose to visit the grand Burj Khalifa for a panoramic view over the city. Visit the world-famous Jumeirah district, the man-made palm islands or venture to one of the traditional souks to stroll through colorful stalls and restaurants.

Fishing (Morning Option)

Rise early to embark on a fishing trip with expert fishermen. Set out into the open sea to learn the traditional hand-line techniques that locals use to catch some of the fish that swim in the waters of Zighy Bay. The fishing experts will guide you through their fishing methods and assist, should you manage to pull in one of the bay's massive snapper species. Please note, this option is weather dependent.

Sunrise Yoga (Morning Option)

Rise early for an invigorating yoga class at our resort. An experienced instructor will guide you through poses designed to improve your strength and flexibility.

Snorkeling (Morning Option)

Board a traditional wooden dhow and set sail on a snorkeling excursion. After a brief voyage past the rocky desert cliffs, drop anchor near an offshore coral reef. Don your snorkeling gear for a guided swim and snorkel along the reef, catching a glimpse of the vibrant tropical fish. Please note that this option is weather dependent.

Paragliding (Morning Option)

Enjoy an exhilarating ride over Zighy Bay on a paragliding adventure. You and a pilot will catch the wind in your parachute by leaping off Zighy Mountain, reaching a height of 960 feet above the ground. Gently sail downward enjoying the stunning views over the bay before making a soft landing on the sandy beach. Flights last approximately 10-15 minutes depending on wind conditions.

Spa (Morning Option)

Choose to unwind at the Six Senses Spa with a luxurious hour-long signature massage or indulge in a hydrating facial.

Arabic Cooking Class (Morning Option)

Immerse yourself in the heady scents and flavors of Arabic cuisine during this hands-on culinary experience with a local chef. Learn about traditional spices and prepare several local delicacies before sampling the fruits of your labor over lunch.

Morning at Leisure

Enjoy a leisurely morning at the resort. Relax on the beach or take part in activities on your own.

Spa (Afternoon Option)

Choose to unwind at the Six Senses Spa with a luxurious hour-long signature massage or indulge in a hydrating facial.

Sunset Sabatyn (Afternoon Option)

From our resort in Zighy Bay, drive via 4x4 vehicles along a scenic, winding road to the Sabatyn Plateau where we find an ancient mountain village. Here, spot petroglyphs, stone towers and houses that were once inhabited on the terraced hillsides. We savor canapés as the sun sets over the distant mountains before returning to our resort. Please note that this option is not recommended for guests with back issues or who are prone to motion sickness.

Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at the resort and enjoy a leisurely afternoon. Relax on the beach or take part in activities on your own.

This evening, you may enjoy dinner at your leisure at any of the hotel's restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: Six Senses Zighy Bay

MONDAY, APRIL 20

This morning, you may once again have breakfast before departing for your pre-selected options. Guests choosing half-day options will return to the hotel mid-day for lunch.

Dubai Custom Sightseeing (Full-Day Option)

Transfer approximately two hours each way to Dubai where a private car will be available to take you to your destination of choice. Choose to visit the grand Burj Khalifa for a panoramic view over the city. Visit the world-famous Jumeirah district, the man-made palm islands or venture to one of the traditional souks to stroll through colorful stalls and restaurants.

Fishing (Morning Option)

Rise early to embark on a fishing trip with expert fishermen. Set out into the open sea to learn the traditional hand-line techniques that locals use to catch some of the fish that swim in the waters of Zighy Bay. The fishing experts will guide you through their fishing methods and assist, should you manage to pull in one of the bay's massive snapper species. Please note, this option is weather dependent.

Sunrise Yoga (Morning Option)

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Snorkeling (Morning Option)

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Spa (Morning Option)

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Arabic Cooking Class (Morning Option)

Immerse yourself in the heady scents and flavors of Arabic cuisine during this hands-on culinary experience with a local chef. Learn about traditional spices and prepare several local delicacies before sampling the fruits of your labor over lunch.

Morning at Leisure

Enjoy a leisurely morning at the resort. Relax on the beach or take part in activities on your own.

Spa (Afternoon Option)

Choose to unwind at the Six Senses Spa with a luxurious hour-long signature massage or indulge in a hydrating facial.

Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at the resort and enjoy a leisurely afternoon. Relax on the beach or take part in activities on your own.

This evening, we will gather for dinner near the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Six Senses Zighy Bay



ACCOMMODATION

SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY

Set between majestic mountains and the pristine sandy beaches of Zighy Bay, the Six Senses Zighy Bay Resort is a serene retreat in the style of an indigenous Omani village. Several dining options include Arabic regional cuisine and European favorites. A spa offers a place for fitness, health and relaxation while at the resort, including daily yoga and spiritual wellness sessions. Guest villas are locally inspired and use stone and rich wood elements. All guest villas and suites at this property include private plunge pools and outdoor seating, with high cobblestone walls for privacy.



April 21 & 22

Tirana, Albania

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

After breakfast, we'll make the return journey to the airport in Ras al Khaimah for our flight to Albania.

All Guests

Depart: Ras al Khaimah. U.A.E. | 11:00 A.M.

Arrive: Tirana, Albania | 2:40 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 5H 40M

Meal Service: Lunch

Upon arrival, we clear immigration and customs then transfer to our hotel for check-in. This evening, we will gather for dinner with local entertainment.

OVERNIGHT: The Plaza Tirana

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

After breakfast, we depart for our pre-selected sightseeing options.

Berat (Full-Day Option)

Visit one of the world's oldest cities, Berat. This ancient city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005. Drive two hours, 30 minutes to Berat for a guided walking tour where we discover some of its many wonders, including the 13th-century castle (known as the Kala), which was built upon ruins from the fourth century B.C. Stroll by the Byzantine churches constructed in the 1400s alongside Ottoman-era mosques and Sufi shrines. Afterward, we will delve into the world of one of Albania's most famous artists at the Onufri National Museum and its rich collection of religious icons.

❑ Royalty and Communist Rule (Morning Option)

Walk through the relics from the rise and fall of Albanian communism. We are guided through the old communist block with a former political prisoner who retells the story of a turbulent 20th century. In this old ruling block, a restored nuclear bunker and KGB listening building are haunting reminders of the cold war. We then pay a visit to the Presidential Palace, a pre-war modernist-style mansion, originally commissioned as a royal residence by Albania's only ruling monarch, King Zog I. This afternoon, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel. You may opt to spend the rest of your day further exploring the city on your own, or remain at the hotel and enjoy the on-site amenities.

❑ Morning at Leisure

Remain at your resort and enjoy a relaxing morning.

❑ Bektashi World Center (Afternoon Option)

Established in Albania in 1929 with the backing of the king, the Bektashi World Order claims roots as far back as the 14th century. Despite their principles of peace and tolerance, the order was driven from neighboring countries and persecuted under Albania's communist state. Tour the Bektashi World Center, resurrected in a modern Islamic style after the fall of Communism. Here, discover the history of the order in Albania, chat about the tenants of the faith with a local leader and explore the building's elegant architecture.

❑ Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at your resort and enjoy a leisurely afternoon.

After returning to the hotel this afternoon, all guests may gather for evening cocktails. Dinner will be at your choice of local restaurant or at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: The Plaza Tirana



ACCOMMODATION

THE PLAZA TIRANA

Located in Tirana's downtown core, The Plaza Tirana is just a stroll away from some of the city's main sights, including the National Art Gallery. The hotel offers a luxurious spa, complete with a Turkish bath, Finnish sauna, a Jacuzzi and a range of relaxing face and body treatments. The hotel also has a well-outfitted 24-hour fitness center which includes state-of-the-art cardio equipment. Three on-site restaurants boast a range of Albanian, Italian and international cuisine. Spacious guest rooms have a large living area with modern decor.



April 23, 24 & 25

Bucharest, Romania

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel before transferring to a nearby farm for a tour. Learn about rural lifestyles as well as cutting-edge, bio-dynamic production techniques before dining on locally produced food for lunch. Afterward, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Romania.

Depart: Tirana, Albania | 2:00 P.M.

Arrive: Bucharest, Romania | 4:25 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 25M

Upon arrival, we go through immigration and customs and transfer to our hotel for check-in. After time to settle in, you may dine at your choice of local or hotel restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: Athenee Palace Hilton

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

After breakfast, you may depart for your pre-selected sightseeing options.

Peles Castle (Full-Day Option)

Embark on a two-and-a-half-hour drive through the Romanian countryside to the city of Sinaia and the magnificent Peles Castle. This elegant 19th-century citadel, located in the midst of the Carpathian Mountains, served as the summer home of the royal family until 1947 and was the first European castle with electricity, produced in the castle's own plant. Explore the verdant gardens, ornate reception rooms and living quarters on a guided tour before enjoying a delicious local lunch with beautiful views of the mountains.

Bucharest City Tour (Morning Option)

Venture to Bucharest's old town, which was once the home of thriving merchants and artists in the 16th century. Find charming Parisian-inspired architecture and wide, cobbled boulevards. We stop nearby for a tour of the palatial home of Romania's former communist leader, Nicolae Ceausescu. Recently opened to the public, this mansion reveals the opulent lifestyle of Romania's late dictator and his wife.

Morning at Leisure

Remain at the hotel and enjoy spending time at leisure.

❑ Art & Culture (Afternoon Option)

Immerse yourself in the arts this afternoon as you discover some of Bucharest's most inspiring spots. Begin by touring some of the highlights of the massive collection at the National Museum of Art. Then explore the grand private residence and workshop of famed 19th-century Romanian painter Theodor Aman. End your artistic journey at Artmark, a local auction house and boutique museum.

❑ Communism & Socialism (Afternoon Option)

Explore the legacy of Communist rule in Romania on this walking tour, which begins in front of the Parliament building. Stroll along Unirii (Socialist) Boulevard and Constitution Street as you learn about the country's 20th-century history. See some of the monasteries, which were largely left untouched during the revolution. Visit the headquarters of the Romanian Intelligence Service before returning to your hotel.

❑ Village Museum (Afternoon Option)

Head to Herastrau Park—one of the city's finest open spaces with a large lake, strolling paths, and pleasant cafés—to visit the National Village Museum. This open-air ethnographic museum details the architectural characteristics of rural life in Romania and features nearly 300 buildings from various regions of the country.

❑ Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at our hotel for a leisurely afternoon.

We return to the hotel this evening, before walking to the National Art Museum for cocktails and dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Athenee Palace Hilton

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Following breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the airport and take a one-hour flight on our private jet to Suceava where we will spend the day.

Depart: Bucharest, Romania | 9:00 A.M.

Arrive: Suceava, Romania | 10:00 A.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H

Upon arrival, we'll begin exploring this northern Romanian city, which has long been the southern gateway to the Bucovina region of central Europe. Here, intricate painted monasteries are spread throughout.

These monasteries, which date back to the 15th and 16th centuries, are covered in intricate frescoes, depicting the gospels, saints and heaven. Vibrant blues and reds have endured the ages making these brilliantly painted monasteries some of the world's finest examples of Byzantine art.

After time to view three of Suceava's best preserved monasteries, we stop for lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the airport for our return flight to Bucharest.

Depart: Suceava, Romania | 5:40 P.M.

Arrive: Bucharest, Romania | 6:45 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 5M

After arriving in Bucharest, we'll return to our hotel. This evening's dinner is at your choice of local or hotel restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: Athenee Palace Hilton



ACCOMMODATION

ATHENEE PALACE HILTON

This historic property in the heart of Bucharest was first opened in 1914. Renovated over the years to maintain modern comforts, the hotel features historic flair mixed with contemporary style. The hotel features casual and elegant dining with a range of Italian and international cuisine. On-site amenities include a fitness center, pool and sauna. Rooms feature sweeping city views and a spacious living and work area. Guest rooms also include a marble bathroom with premium amenities.



April 26 & 27

Vilnius, Lithuania

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Lithuania.

Depart: Bucharest, Romania | 11:00 A.M.

Arrive: Vilnius, Lithuania | 12:40 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 40M

Arriving in Lithuania, we'll stop for lunch at one of Vilnius' restaurants. Later, we'll transfer to our hotel for check-in.

After time to relax and settle-in, you may depart for dinner at your choice of restaurant, either around town or at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Grand Hotel Kempinski Vilnius

MONDAY, APRIL 27

After breakfast, you may embark on a walking tour of Vilnius' Old Town, starting with the Neoclassical Vilnius Cathedral, located just across the square from our hotel. Inside, explore some of the 11 chapels, each ornately decorated in unique art and ornamentation, reflecting the various times they were built. We walk by St. Anne's cathedral to view the façade, which includes towering Gothic spires, and continue on to Vilnius' only remaining medieval city wall, known as the Gates of Dawn.

We continue on our tour, driving to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul to look at the resplendent white-stucco interior, followed by the Amber Museum where we can view artisans at work. Continue past the Jewish Quarter and the Užupis arts district before stopping for a private tour of the historic University Library which dates back to the 16th century.

Return to the hotel for lunch or choose to dine at a nearby restaurant before departing for your pre-selected afternoon sightseeing options.

❑ KGB Museum (Afternoon Option)

Delve into the sobering history of the 50-year occupation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union. Visit former headquarters of the KGB in Vilnius, officially named the Museum of Occupation and Freedom Fight. You will be guided through this moving tribute to the men and women who resisted Soviet rule. From here, visit the Lithuanian parliament where independence was first declared, eventually leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union. See where barricades were built as a defense from Soviet Tanks as a guide details the events that took place after the January 1991 Act of Reestablishment of the State of Lithuania.

❑ Užupis District (Afternoon Option)

Discover the charm and verve of Vilnius' bohemian core, the self-proclaimed Republic of Užupis. Embark on a walking tour of this quirky neighborhood, known for fostering young artists. Sites like the Artist Incubator showcase emerging talent in ceramics, textiles, painting and sculpture. In this vibrant district, you may peruse the local treasures and shop for creative mementos.

❑ Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (Afternoon Option)

Tour the exquisitely reconstructed Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. This palace has had many iterations over the centuries but has long served as Lithuania's political and cultural center. See the ruins of the original 15th-century palace and explore the rebuilt ceremonial halls depicting the architectural and design styles from throughout the Palace's history.

❑ Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at the hotel and enjoy spending time at leisure.

This evening, all guests will drive approximately 45 minutes to Lake Galvé where the Trakai Castle covers an entire island in the lake's center. This red-brick castle, where Lithuania's Grand Dukes once lived, reflects perfectly in the calm evening water. Here, we will explore the grounds and meet in one of the castle's halls for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Grand Hotel Kempinski Vilnius



ACCOMMODATION

GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI VILNIUS

The Grand Hotel Kempinski Vilnius sits in the heart of Vilnius' Old Town, within walking distance to many of the city's highlights. The property's on-site restaurants and lounges include diverse local flavors and international cuisine. A spa and wellness center, which includes an indoor pool and sauna, are available to help you relax and rejuvenate after days of sightseeing. Guest rooms feature high ceilings and spacious seating areas.



April 28 & 29

San Sebastian, Spain

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

After breakfast at our hotel, we return to the airport for our flight to Spain.

Depart: Vilnius, Lithuania | 11:00 A.M.

Arrive: Bilbao, Spain | 1:40 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 3H 40M

Meal Service: Lunch

Upon arrival, proceed through immigration and customs, before transferring approximately one hour to our hotel in San Sebastian for check-in.

After check-in, you may opt to enjoy a relaxing evening at the hotel or choose to get to know the town with a short walking tour. Later this evening, gather on the hotel's terrace for cocktails followed by dinner with local entertainment.

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Maria Cristina

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for your pre-selected sightseeing options.

Biarritz & St. Jean De Luz (Full-day Option)

Further explore Basque country with a visit to some local villages. We'll make a brief stop at the nearby lighthouse before continuing to the French Basque town of Biarritz where we visit the Rock of the Virgin and the charming Fishermen Port. We have time to peruse a local market then continue on, ending at the vibrant village of St. Jean de Luz where you have time to stroll along the enchanting harbor, stopping for lunch and visiting sites like the towering 17th-century mansion that served as the Basque residence of King Louis XIV of France.

❑ Coastal Hike from San Sebastian (Morning Option)

From our base in San Sebastian, we stroll through a coastal section of the Camino De Santiago pilgrimage route to the small fishing village of Pasajes De San Juan. From here, a well-marked trail guides us to the top of Mt. Ulia at 800 feet above sea level. Savor the seaside views from the mountain ridge before making the descent. The return route takes us past medieval ruins and the La Plata Lighthouse en route to Pasajes De San Pedro. Our afternoon ends with lunch at a seaside restaurant before returning to San Sebastian. This hike is approximately 5 miles round trip.

❑ Culinary Tour (Morning Option)

Savor traditional Basque flavors with a showcase and tasting of Northern Spain's unique cuisine. The mild climate, mixed terrain and coastal beauty add variety and flair to Basque dishes. Here, one of San Sebastian's best chefs from a local gastronomic society will introduce you to the techniques and trends of local cooking. We visit a local market to peruse fresh ingredients, then enjoy a demonstration, hands-on lesson and tasting. This tour will introduce you to dishes unique to Spanish Basque country, including local tapas and *pintxos* (meats and cheeses skewered on sliced bread). After our lesson using fresh local ingredients, we enjoy our creations for lunch.

❑ Morning at Leisure

Remain at the hotel and enjoy spending time at leisure. Explore on your own and dine at the hotel for lunch.

❑ Walking Tour of San Sebastián (Afternoon Option)

Enjoy a stroll through San Sebastián, taking in the flavor of this seaside city on the Bay of Biscay, including the pristine beach, the winding shop-lined streets of the old quarter and the many cafés in the modern districts.

❑ Afternoon at Leisure

Remain at the hotel and enjoy spending time at leisure.

This evening, all guests will return to the hotel before dinner. Tonight, dine at your choice of local or hotel restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Maria Cristina



ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL MARIA CRISTINA

This historic riverside property sits close to San Sebastian's famed beaches. This property was first opened in 1912 and features stylish modern design that blends seamlessly with the historic architecture. The Hotel Maria Cristina offers dining options that upholds San Sebastian's status as a haute cuisine destination. Several restaurants and an on-site cooking school offer many opportunities to sample the local eats.



April 30 & May 1

London, England

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

After breakfast, you may check out and transfer directly to the airport or depart early to visit the Guggenheim Bilbao. Here, you may peruse the stunning collection of modern art, then continue on to the airport for our flight to London.

Depart: Bilbao, Spain | 12:30 P.M.
Arrive: London, England | 1:20 P.M.
Elapsed Time: 1H 50M
Meal Service: Lunch

Upon arrival, we'll complete arrival procedures, then transfer to our hotel for check-in and time to relax.

This evening, gather for cocktails followed by a farewell dinner at our hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Breakfast is available at the hotel this morning. Afterward, you may transfer to the airport for your independent commercial flight homeward.

Welcome Home!



ACCOMMODATION

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LONDON AT TEN TRINITY SQUARE

Set in the heart of historic London, overlooking the Tower of London and the Tower Bridge, the Four Season's Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square lives up to its historic grandeur while adding modern comforts. Set in the former Beaux Arts Building, the hotel has been carefully restored to preserve the original neoclassical design elements. Hotel dining features Michelin-starred chef Anne-Sophie Pic, modern Asian fusion cuisine and creative mixology at the on-site bars.