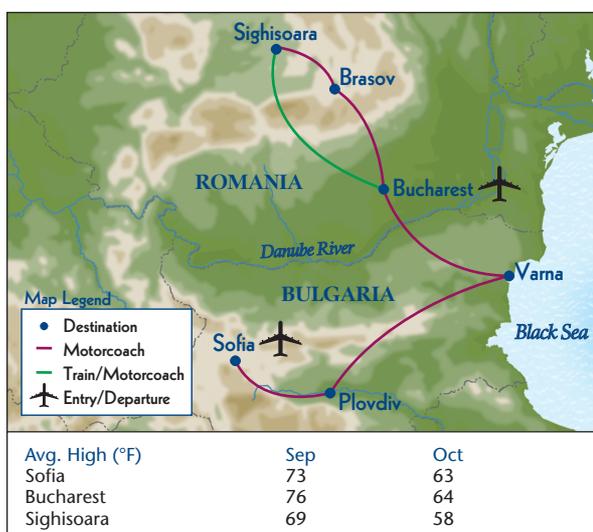


Bulgaria & Romania Discovery

17 days for \$5,392 total price from Washington, DC

(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$597 airline taxes and fees)

Two fascinating Balkan countries, one uncommon, and exceptional, small group journey. We discover Bulgaria, with its mix of East and West, rugged mountains and Black Sea coast, and treasured UNESCO sites. Then on to historic Romania, home of medieval walled towns, crenellated castles, and fabled Transylvania.



On Day 15, we tour 14th-century Bran Castle, believed to be the inspiration for the home of Bram Stoker's Count Dracula.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Sofia sightseeing • Rila Monastery UNESCO site • Bulgarian folkloric performance • Cooking class of Bulgarian specialties • Plovdiv's charming old town • Black Sea resort of Varna • Bulgarian UNESCO sites of Nessebar, Madara Rock Horseman, and Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo • Bucharest tour, including Palace of Parliament • Visits to Bucharest's Coral Temple and Great Synagogue • Walled town of Sighisoara • Private organ concert • Medieval Brasov • Transylvania villages and fortified churches UNESCO site • Legendary Bran Castle • Peles Castle • Snagov Monastery

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Sofia		
2-4	Sofia	Grand Hotel Sofia	Sup. First Class
5-6	Plovdiv	Grand Hotel Plovdiv	Sup. First Class
7-8	Varna	Graffiti Gallery Design Hotel	Deluxe
9-11	Bucharest	Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest Hotel	Sup. First Class
12-13	Sighisoara	Sighisoara Hotel	First Class
14-15	Brasov	Aro Palace	Sup. First Class
16	Bucharest	Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest Hotel	Sup. First Class
17	Depart Bucharest for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Sofia, Bulgaria

Day 2: Arrive Sofia We arrive in Bulgaria's capital and largest city today and transfer to our hotel. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 3: Sofia We meet our fellow travelers and Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director at this morning's briefing about the journey ahead. Then we set out on a tour of this historic city, beginning with visits to the huge neo-Byzantine Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the medieval Bulgarian Orthodox Boyana Church, a UNESCO site. Over lunch at a local restaurant, a historian will discuss the impact of Thracian-Roman culture on the region. We return to our hotel late afternoon; tonight, we enjoy a welcome dinner. *B,L,D*

Day 4: Sofia/Rila Today's excursion features the Rila Monastery, founded in the 10th century and rebuilt in the mid-19th century after a fire. A symbol of Slavic cultural identity, the monastery is now a UNESCO site. We return to Sofia late this afternoon. Tonight's dinner at a local restaurant features traditional folkloric music and dancing. *B,L,D*

Day 5: Sofia/Plovdiv En route today to Plovdiv, we stop along the way for a cooking class and lunch of Bulgarian specialties, including the local pastry-like bread *banitsa*. Then we continue on to Plovdiv, Bulgaria's cultural capital in the historical region of Thrace. Late afternoon, we reach our hotel and dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Plovdiv We set out this morning on a walking tour of Plovdiv's charming old town, with its cobbled streets and beautifully restored houses. Set on three of the city's seven hills, the old town features remnants of its Roman past, including the well-preserved theater (ca. 1st century CE), which can hold as many as 7,000 spectators and is still in use today. Following our tour and lunch in old town, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration and dinner on our own. *B,L*

Day 7: Plovdiv/Nessebar/Varna (Black Sea) Today we travel to the Black Sea resort of Varna, stopping en route in Nessebar, "Pearl of the Black Sea" whose ancient city is a UNESCO site. While the site retains traces of its occupation by a variety of civilizations over the millennia, most of the ruins that we explore today date from the Hellenistic period. After time for lunch on our own here, we continue on to Varna and our hotel. We dine together tonight. *B,D*

Day 8: Varna At the same time modern and historic, Varna offers visitors a laid-back respite, as we see on this morning's tour. Highlights include the Roman baths and a visit to the Archaeological Museum, with more than 100,000 artifacts from Northern Bulgaria's multi-cultural past. Then the remainder of day is at leisure in this seaside resort, perhaps to stroll the landscaped grounds of the waterfront Sea Garden; visit Varna Cathedral, modeled after grand Peterhof palace in St. Petersburg; or simply to relax on the beach. *B,D*

Day 9: Varna/Bucharest, Romania Along the way to Romania today, we visit two Bulgarian UNESCO sites: the late 7th-century rock relief carving of a horseman on the Madara Plateau; and the Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo (ca. 12th century), with their brightly-colored frescoes dating to the 14th century. We continue on to Bucharest, arriving late afternoon and dining together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Bucharest We see the highlights of the Romanian capital on our city tour that features a visit to the Soviet era 1,100-room Palace of Parliament, after the Pentagon the world's second largest government building. We also tour the National Village Museum, with Romanian monuments, buildings, and artifacts dating from the 17th to early 20th centuries. Dinner tonight is on our own in this lively city. *B,L*

Day 11: Bucharest Today we encounter two vibrant vestiges of Bucharest's once-thriving Jewish community:



Frescoes at Rila Monastery

the Coral Temple, a copy of Vienna's Great Synagogue; and Bucharest's Great (or Polish) Synagogue, built in 1847 and now the city's oldest remaining temple after most were destroyed during the Communist era. Following an afternoon free for independent exploration, tonight we enjoy dinner and a wine tasting at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 12: Bucharest/Sighisoara This morning we journey by train to Brasov, where we board a coach for the medieval walled town of Sighisoara in Romania's forested – and storied – Transylvania region. Upon arrival we take a walking tour of the Historic Centre, the best preserved in eastern Europe and a UNESCO site. Then we check in at our hotel and dine together tonight. *B,D*

Day 13: Sighisoara/Malancrav In nearby Biertan today, we visit the elaborate fortified church (ca. 15th century) then continue on to the early 14th-century



NEW DAY –
NEW DESTINY.”

– BULGARIAN PROVERB

storybook village of Malancrav, where we enjoy a traditional lunch cooked over an open fire. Back in Sighisoara, we have free time to enjoy this lovely town as we wish before tonight's private organ concert. Dinner is on our own. *B,L*

Day 14: Sighisoara/Brasov We depart this morning for the stunning medieval town of Brasov, ringed by mountain peaks and dense forests. Our city tour here includes the First Romanian School, a museum housing rare books and Romania's first printing press; and the famed Black Church, southeastern Europe's largest Gothic church. We check in at our hotel mid-afternoon and dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 15: Brasov Legend comes to life today as we visit towered and turreted Bran Castle, built in the 14th century atop a 200-foot high rock and once believed to be the lair of Bram Stoker's fictional Count Dracula. We tour the castle, now a museum, then continue on to the fortified church of Prejmer. Along with the church and village we saw on Day 13, Prejmer is part of UNESCO's Transylvania historic site. After returning to Brasov late this afternoon, we're free for dinner on our own. *B,L*

Day 16: Brasov/Sinaia/Snagov/Bucharest Returning to Bucharest today, we stop in the mountain resort of Sinaia, "Pearl of the Carpathians," where we visit exquisite Peles Castle, former summer home of Romanian royalty. Then we head to Snagov Monastery, perched on a tiny island on a lake near Bucharest and, legend has it, burial site of infamous Vlad the Impaler, said to be the inspiration for fictional Count Dracula. We continue on to Bucharest, where tonight we toast our Balkans adventure at a farewell dinner. *B,L,D*

Day 17: Depart for U.S. We transfer to the Bucharest airport for our return flights to the U.S. *B*



Sighisoara's medieval Old Town and clock tower

Tour Departs: September 28, 2023

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Boston, New York	\$5,192
Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,392
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa	\$5,492
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,592
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$597, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add \$995. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All 2023 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,795 per person; Premium Economy: \$1,595 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 15 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 35 meals: 15 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Important Information About Your Tour

General Terms and Conditions

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2023, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities

Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on "On Your Own" optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price

Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages,

laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10–\$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person confirms your reservation and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

For all tours (except as noted)

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	Full refund
94-65 days:	25% of tour price
64-45 days:	50% of tour price
44-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

For Ancient Greece, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos, Patagonian Frontiers

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	Full refund
94-65 days:	50% of tour price
64-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes

made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.**

Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our international travel partners: **your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender.** In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 3, 2023, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a

reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Health and Medical Issues

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Air Transportation

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent

flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Responsibility

The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.



RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

Tour Name _____
Departure Date _____
Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category _____ (for Patagonian Frontiers only)