



# Eastern Europe



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## PLAN YOUR TRIP

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POČITELJ (P87), BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA



TIRASPOL (P273), MOLDOVA

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STARI GRAD, HVAR ISLAND  
(P134), CROATIA

## ON THE ROAD

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ČESKÝ KRUMLOV (P164),  
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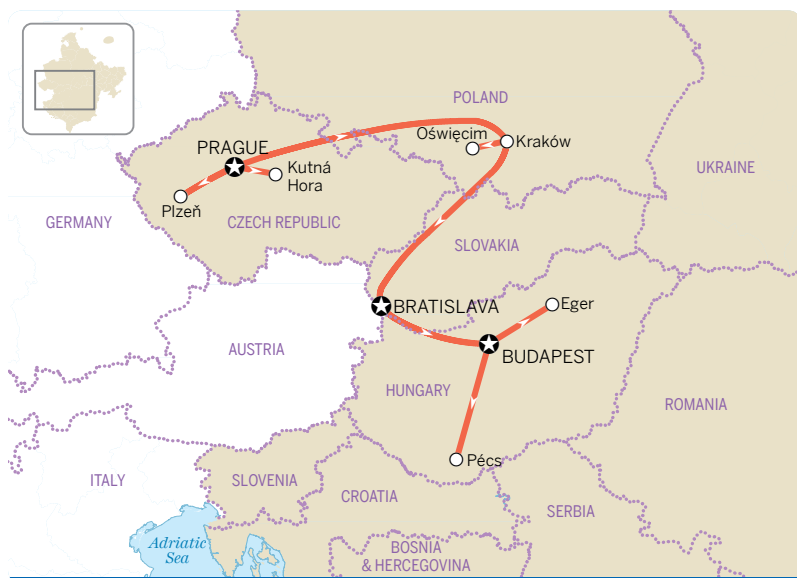
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# Itineraries



2  
WEEKS

## Essential Eastern Europe

Combine highlights of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary for an introduction to Eastern Europe's charms.

Start in **Prague**, spending two days absorbing the Old Town. Day-trip to **Kutná Hora**, to peep at its eerie ossuary and medieval silver history, and take a beer pilgrimage to **Plzeň**.

On day five head by train into Poland to reach **Kraków**, with its gob-smacking Main Square. Over three days, ramble Wawel Castle and off-beat Kazimierz, and take a trip to harrowing **Oświęcim** (Auschwitz).

On day eight head to Slovakia, passing through the High Tatras before reaching **Bratislava**, with its Danube views. Spend the evening in wine bars and beer halls; the next morning, take a half-day excursion to crumbling Devín Castle.

On day 10 take a boat down the Danube to **Budapest**. Spend a couple days simmering in outdoor baths, exploring coffee houses and ruin bars, and admiring the architecture. From here bolt to the baroque **Eger** and finish with a day trip to **Pécs**, full of relics from the Turkish occupation.



2  
WEEKS

## Eastern Europe 101

Looking to cram history, culture and nightlife into a zippy fortnight-long trip? This itinerary knits together highlights from five Eastern European countries.

Start off by flying to the Polish capital **Warsaw** for one night, seeing the beautifully restored Old Town and eating pierogi (dumplings) before taking the train south to **Kraków**. Staying for two nights gives you time to see the Old Town, Wawel Castle and Kazimierz, and do a day trip to **Oświęcim** (Auschwitz) before taking the overnight train to **Prague**. Spend another two days on intensive sightseeing – Prague Castle, Charles Bridge and the Old Town, and tasting Czech beer in a local pub.

At the end of day five, take another overnight train to **Budapest** for two nights in Hungary. Soak in the glorious Gellért Baths, take a cruise on the Danube, see the magnificent Parliament building and wander Castle Hill before yet another overnight train (at the end of day seven) to Romania's underrated capital, **Bucharest**. With a one-night stay you can cover the main sights, including the Palace of Parliament, wander the historic centre and pick up the city's energy in its bars and clubs.

On day nine, continue by bus or train to **Plovdiv** in Bulgaria, equally rich in Roman ruins, crkey Bulgarian Revival-era mansions, inventive galleries and bars. Stay two nights here, allowing time to amble through the Old Town, pose in the Roman Amphitheatre, and take a half-day trip to vertiginous Asen's Fortress. On day 11, take the train to **Sofia** for two nights exploring the glamour of the Bulgarian capital, in particular the golden-domed Aleksander Nevski Cathedral and the Ancient Serdica Complex.

On your last day, take a day trip from Sofia through the Rila Mountains to the country's spiritual nucleus. Thousand-year-old **Rila Monastery** is Bulgaria's holiest site, in a mountain setting as spine-tingling as its apocalyptic frescoes. From here, fly out of Sofia or continue to bigger regional air hubs, such as Athens or İstanbul, to get a flight home.





Top: Kotor's Old Town  
(p279), Montenegro  
Bottom: Cathedral  
of St Sophia in Veliky  
Novgorod, Russia



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# Behind the Scenes

## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book





### Neil Wilson

**Poland** Neil was born in Scotland and has lived there most of his life. Based in Perthshire, he has been a full-time writer since 1988, working on more than 80 guidebooks for various publishers, including the Lonely Planet guides to Scotland, England, Ireland and Prague. An outdoors enthusiast since childhood, Neil is an active hill-walker, mountain-biker, sailor, snowboarder, fly-fisher and rock-climber, and has climbed and tramped in four continents, including ascents

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### Anthony Ham

**Croatia, Slovenia** Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and the US.



### Jessica Lee

**Croatia, Slovenia** In 2011 Jessica swapped a career as an adventure-tour leader for travel writing and since then her travels for Lonely Planet have taken her across Africa, the Middle East and Asia. She has lived in the Middle East since 2007 and tweets @jessofarabia. Jess has contributed to Lonely Planet's Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Morocco, Marrakesh, Middle East, Europe, Africa, Cambodia, and Vietnam guidebooks and her travel writing has appeared in *Wanderlust* maga-

zine, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Independent*, BBC Travel and Lonelyplanet.com.



### Kevin Raub

**Serbia** Atlanta native Kevin Raub started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing and has written more than 70 Lonely Planet guides, focused mainly on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, USA, India, the Caribbean and Portugal. Raub also contributes to a variety of travel magazines in both the US and UK. Along the way, the self-confessed hophead is in constant search of wildly

high IBUs in local beers. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram (@RaubOnTheRoad).



### **Peter Dragicevich**

**Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro** After a successful career in niche newspaper and magazine publishing, both in his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter finally gave in to Kiwi wanderlust, giving up staff jobs to chase his diverse roots around much of Europe. Over the last decade he's written literally dozens of guidebooks for Lonely Planet on an oddly disparate collection of countries, all of which he's come to love. He once again calls Auckland, New Zealand,

his home – although his current nomadic existence means he's often elsewhere.



### **Steve Fallon**

**Hungary** A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Steve graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in modern languages. After working for several years for an American daily newspaper and earning a master's degree in journalism, his fascination with the 'new' Asia led him to Hong Kong, where he lived for over a dozen years, working for a variety of media companies and running his own travel bookshop. Steve lived in Budapest for three years before moving

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After several merry years as a staff writer and editor – a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between San Francisco, the UK and any Baltic bolthole with good wi-fi. Anita specialises in Eastern and Central Europe, Southeast Asia, France and off-beat travel. Read her stuff on [www.anitaalska.com](http://www.anitaalska.com).



### **Vesna Maric**

**North Macedonia** Vesna has been a Lonely Planet author for nearly two decades, covering places as far and wide as Bolivia, Algeria, Sicily, Cyprus, Barcelona, London and Croatia, among others. Her latest work has been updating Florida, Greece and North Macedonia.



### **MaSovaida Morgan**

**Estonia, Latvia** MaSovaida is a travel writer and multimedia storyteller whose wanderlust has taken her to more than 40 countries and all seven continents. Previously, she was Lonely Planet's Destination Editor for South America and Antarctica for four years and worked as an editor for newspapers and NGOs in the Middle East and United Kingdom. Follow her on Instagram @MaSovaida.



### **Leonid Ragozin**

**Russia, Ukraine** Leonid Ragozin studied beach dynamics at Moscow State University, but for want of decent beaches in Russia, he switched to journalism and spent 12 years voyaging through different parts of the BBC, with a break for a four-year stint as a foreign correspondent for *Newsweek Russia*. Leonid is currently a freelance journalist focusing largely on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (both his Lonely Planet destinations), which prompted him to leave

Moscow and find a new home in Riga.



### **Brana Vladislavljevic**

**Serbia** Brana grew up in the former Yugoslavia and studied foreign languages and literature in Belgrade. She joined Lonely Planet's Melbourne office in 2004 and has lost count of the phrasebook and guidebook titles she edited over the years.

From 2014 to 2019, she was based in the London office as the Destination Editor for Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Brana looked after destinations stretching from the Russian Far East to the Greek islands but has a soft spot for her native

Western Balkans region.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Mark Baker

**Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia** Mark is a freelance travel writer with a penchant for offbeat stories and forgotten places. He's originally from the United States, but now makes his home in the Czech capital, Prague. He writes mainly on Eastern and Central Europe for Lonely Planet as well as other leading travel publishers, but finds real satisfaction in digging up stories in places that are too remote or quirky for the guides. Prior to becoming an author, he

worked as a journalist for *The Economist*, *Bloomberg News* and *Radio Free Europe*, among other organisations. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter (@markbakerprague), and read his blog: [www.markbakerprague.com](http://www.markbakerprague.com). Mark also contributed to the Plan and Survival Guide chapters.



### Greg Bloom

**Belarus, Moldova** Greg is a freelance writer, editor, tour guide and travel planner based out of Manila and Anilao, Philippines. Greg began his writing career in the late '90s in Ukraine, working as a journalist and later editor-in-chief of the *Kyiv Post*, an English-language weekly. As a freelance travel writer, he has contributed to some 40 Lonely Planet titles, mostly in Eastern Europe and Asia. In addition to writing, he organises customised adventure tours in north Palawan and north Luzon (Philippines). Greg's travel articles have been published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *South China Morning Post*, *BBC.com* and the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, among many other publications. Accounts of his Lonely Planet trips over the years are at [www.mytripjournal.com/bloomblogs](http://www.mytripjournal.com/bloomblogs).



### Stuart Butler

**Albania, Kosovo** Stuart has been writing for Lonely Planet for a decade and during this time he's come eye to eye with gorillas in the Congolese jungles, met a man with horns on his head who could lie in fire, huffed and puffed over snow bound Himalayan mountain passes, interviewed a king who could turn into a tree, and had his fortune told by a parrot. Oh, and he's met more than his fair share of self-proclaimed gods. When not on the road for Lonely Planet he lives

on the beautiful beaches of Southwest France with his wife and two young children. He also works as a photographer and was a finalist in both the 2015 and 2016 Travel Photographer of the Year Awards. In 2015 he walked for six weeks with a Maasai friend across part of Kenya's Maasai lands in order to gather material for a book he is writing (see [www.walkingwiththemaasai.com](http://www.walkingwiththemaasai.com)). His website is [www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com](http://www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com).

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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