THE BALKANS
CROSSROADS OF CULTURES
May 29 to June 11, 2013
The Balkan Peninsula has historically been the scene of wars, invasions, and religious and ethnic conflicts. Throughout the 1990s Yugoslavia experienced violent conflict among its six regions; these regions broke apart and became independent nations stretching along the eastern shores of the Adriatic. Just one decade later the Balkan region is a top travel destination, with a pleasant climate, a dazzling coastline, and remains of ancient cities founded by the Greeks, Romans, Ottoman Turks and the powerful Venetian Empire. Our journey through the Balkan Peninsula gives us an in-depth look at this fascinating area’s complex history and diverse cultures, as well as its recent economic successes. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**MARVEL** at Mostar’s perfectly proportioned Stari Most, or Old Bridge, lovingly restored after its destruction in the recent Croat-Bosniak War.

**STROLL** along the top of the medieval wall that surrounds Dubrovnik and enjoy stunning views of the deep blue Adriatic Sea.

**WANDER** through Skadarlija, Belgrade’s swinging Bohemian Quarter, a busy area of trendy shops, restaurants and cafés.

COVER: DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

KOTOR, MONTENEGRO
**Itinerary**

**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MAY 29 & 30**

**DEPART U.S. / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Dubrovnik. Upon arrival on Thursday, transfer to our hotel, located just outside the walls of the Old Town. This evening, gather for a welcome reception and dinner in a local restaurant.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**

**TIRANA / KRUIJË**
In the morning, explore Krujë’s ancient castle and citadel, which loom above the town. Here, in the 15th century, the charismatic leader Skanderbeg and his band of warriors defeated Sultan Marad’s huge Ottoman army. After lunch, return to Tirana, since 1920 the capital of tiny, isolated Albania. Visit the 6th-century Petrela Castle, now a restaurant, whose turret rises from sheer rock. Take a cable car to the top of 5,292-foot-high Dajti Mountain for stunning views of Tirana and a nearby wooded park. Dinner is on our own this evening. **SHERATON (B,L)**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4**

**SKOPJE, MACEDONIA**
Depart Albania for Macedonia. Stop in Ohrid, a delightful lakeside town and one of the oldest settlements in Europe. Explore the ancient Sveti Pantelejmon Monastery, as well as a Roman amphitheater and a fortress. Continue to Heraclea, founded by Philip II of Macedon in the 4th century B.C.E. Admire several Roman remains, as well as a Byzantine basilica with mosaics. This evening arrive in Skopje, Macedonia’s capital and largest city. **HOLIDAY INN (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

**DUBROVNIK / KOTOR, MONTENEGRO / PODGORICA**
Depart Dubrovnik this morning and head south along the Adriatic coast to the lovely town of Kotor, Montenegro, which was an important commercial harbor in the Middle Ages. The city’s picturesque and lively Stari Grad, or Old Town, is guarded by massive walls and watchtowers. Continue to the popular beach resort of Budva for lunch on our own. Also visit Cetinje, set amid high mountains, with its royal residence, Biljarda. In the late afternoon arrive in Podgorica and check in to our hotel. **CITY HOTEL (B,D)**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2**

**PODGORICA / TIRANA, ALBANIA**
Devastated twice, during World War II bombing raids and more recently by the dissolution of Yugoslavia, bustling Podgorica is now Montenegro’s capital and largest city. Visit its Natural History Museum and National Theater, as well as the modern Millennium Bridge. After an independent lunch, continue to Tirana, Albania, where we arrive in the late afternoon at our hotel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **SHERATON (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**

**DUBROVNIK**
Spend today exploring the “Pearl of the Adriatic.” Begin with a tour of the medieval Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site situated on a walled peninsula jutting into the sea. Dubrovnik’s massive walls have protected the city from attack by sea since the 6th century. After being severely shelled by Serbian forces in 1991, the city has been fully and beautifully restored. Take a walk atop the high walls for sublime views of the town’s colorful tiled roofs. Dinner and the evening are on our own. **GRAND VILLA ARGENTINA (B,L)**

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**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

**SKOPJE**
Located on the Vardar River, Skopje has been inhabited since the Neolithic era and was controlled at various times by Romans, Byzantines,
Bulgarians and Ottoman Turks. Several strong earthquakes have destroyed most of the remnants of former civilizations, though some historic structures may still be seen. Visit the 15th-century Stone Bridge over the river that links the Old Bazaar and the new town. Explore Kale Fortress, once the home of the Ottoman rulers. Enjoy lunch and free time in Skopje. Dinner is on our own this evening.

**HOLIDAY INN (B,L)**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**

**SKOPJE / PRISTINA, KOSOVO**

Late this morning arrive in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, a relatively new country, having declared its independence from Serbia in 2008. The city dates from Roman times and became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 14th century. Visit the 19th-century clock tower near the bazaar and the 15th-century Imperial Mosque and hammam, or Turkish bath.

**SWISS DIAMOND HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7**

**BELGRADE**

One of Belgrade's highlights is the Kalemegdan Fortress, kalemeđdan being a Turkish word for “fortress between battlefields.” This morning tour the ancient citadel, including what remains of the 3rd-century-B.C.E. Celtic settlement of Singidunum and the later Roman and Byzantine fortifications, the Despot Gate and the Turkish Baths. After lunch visit Skadarlija, Belgrade’s colorful Bohemian Quarter, where gypsies once pitched their tents near the city’s ramparts. Dinner is on our own this evening.

**HYATT REGENCY BELGRADE (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**

**BELGRADE / SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Set out this morning for a half-day drive to Sarajevo, surrounded by the Dinaric Alps in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Settled since prehistoric times, Sarajevo was once a part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire and later, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The city’s more recent history includes hosting the 1984 Winter Olympics and being the site of the longest siege in modern history, from 1992 to 1996. Upon arrival this afternoon, visit the old Ottoman market area, the Svrzina Kuca Oriental House, and the infamous Princip Bridge where, in 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, triggering World War I.

**HYATT REGENCY BELGRADE (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, JUNE 10**

**SARAJEVO / MOSTAR / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**

Drive to the recently wartorn, but now charming town of Mostar, for lunch and a city tour. The town’s most famous monument, the beautifully proportioned Stari Most, or Old Bridge, was virtually destroyed, along with much of the Old Town, during the tragic wars of 1992 and 1993. The bridge and town have since been completely reconstructed. After lunch, return to Dubrovnik. Check in to our hotel and convene for a festive farewell cocktail reception and dinner at a local restaurant.

**GRAND VILLA ARGENTINA (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11**

**DUBROVNIK / U.S.**

After breakfast, transfer to the Dubrovnik airport for flights to the U.S. (B)
Trip Information

DATES
May 29 to June 11, 2013 (14 days)

SIZE
Limited to 35 participants

COST*
$8,995 per person, double occupancy
$10,995 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

INCLUDED
12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 8 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Dubrovnik, Croatia, and return is approximately $1,700 as of September 2012, and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately active. Most of our touring is done by motorcoach and on foot. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestoned. In some instances, such as museums, archaeological sites or castles, guided tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs and standing in one place for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are limited. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or place your deposit online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2012 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Terms & Conditions
Scott Pearson has studied economic change in developing countries for four decades. From 1986 to 2002, Professor Pearson taught economic development and international trade at the Food Research Institute at Stanford. He has co-authored a dozen books, won several awards for his research and teaching, and advised governments on food and agricultural policy. He has also traveled and worked abroad in Africa, Asia and Europe. Reflecting on the Balkans, he says, “They are fascinating crossroads of ancient and modern civilizations, three important religions, and much cultural conflict and political resolution.” His lectures during this program will deal with the breakup of Yugoslavia, recent Balkan wars and the area’s economic progress. Our most versatile faculty leader, Professor Pearson has accompanied 33 Travel/Study trips throughout the world.

At Stanford: Professor, agricultural economics, Food Research Institute, 1968–2002; served five years as director; Dean’s Award for Teaching in the School of Humanities and Sciences, 1978
– BA, American studies, University of Wisconsin
– MA, international relations, Johns Hopkins University
– PhD, economics, Harvard University

Scott is one of the very best lecturers I’ve ever encountered. He is very generous with his time and lots of fun as a travel companion.”

Anne O'Neill Dauer, '60, Northern India Suitcase Seminar, 2010

Faculty Leader

Reservation Form
The Balkans

MR. / MRS. / MS.
NAME
MISS / DR. / PROF.
NAME
MR. / MRS. / MS.
MISS / DR. / PROF.
NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE CELL / WORK / HOME

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

BED PREFERENCE:
☐ Twins ☐ Double

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?balkans2013. Submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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“What I really enjoy about Stanford trips is the travelers—everyone is intellectually curious.”

STEPHEN SPITZ, '79, STANFORD TRAVELER, 2012