THE BALKANS
CROSSROADS OF CULTURES
June 13 to 27, 2016

a program of the stanford alumni association
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. Now, just two decades later, the Balkan region is a top travel destination thanks to a dazzling coastline, a benign climate and the 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!

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

Highlights

**R I D E** the cable car from Tirana up to Dajti Mountain and enjoy lunch along with panoramic views of the surrounding national park.

**A T T E N D** a performance by the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra in a medieval tower that’s stood watch over the walled coastal city for centuries.

**M A R V E L** at Mostar’s perfectly proportioned Stari Most, or Old Bridge, lovingly restored after its destruction in the 1993 Croat-Bosniak War.
NORMAN NAIMARK, ’66, MA ’68, PHD ’72, former director of Stanford’s Bing Overseas Studies and current director of Stanford’s Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies, has been studying the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, as well as the history of communism and radicalism, for 40 years. One of his books, Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth-Century Europe, addresses the issues that faced Yugoslavia during the wars of the 1990s. He is widely recognized by students and colleagues for his warmth, wit and dedication to the Stanford community. A veteran faculty leader who has led more than 20 past Travel/Study programs, he and his wife, history professor Katherine Jollick, have traveled extensively and lived in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Balkans during their careers.

—Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor of Eastern European History, Stanford University
—Senior fellow, Hoover Institution and Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Affairs
—Fisher Family Director of the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies

Faculty Leader

"I never expected to be so enthralled by the lectures. Norman was not only a great speaker and teacher but he was also readily available for questions."

KATHERINE DEWILDE, MBA ’75, DALMATIAN COAST COLLEGE, 2009
MONDAY & TUESDAY
JUNE 13 & 14
U.S. / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
Depart the U.S. on international flights to Dubrovnik. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel near the Old Town. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at a local restaurant. HILTON IMPERIAL DUBROVNIK (6/14: D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15
DUBROVNIK
This morning visit the rebuilt 15th-century clock tower and the beautifully restored Franciscan monastery and church. After lunch, take a leisurely walk on the wide city walls that have protected Dubrovnik since the 13th century and afford unparalleled views of the Adriatic Sea. Then, take a backstage tour of the concert hall at Fortress Revelin, a medieval tower that is part of the city fortifications and where the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra performs. Enjoy a classical music concert before returning to our hotel. HILTON IMPERIAL DUBROVNIK (B,L)

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
KOTOR, MONTENEGRO / BUDVA / CETINJE
Head south along the coast to Kotor, situated at the farthest end of Kotor Bay, guarded by bastions and fortress walls dating from Illyrian and Roman times. After a tour and lunch, continue to Budva, an early Roman city that was part of the city-state of Venice during the 15th century. Today it is Montenegro’s most popular beach resort. This afternoon, visit the Cetinje Monastery, founded in the 15th century, and the royal residence, Biljarda, built in the style of a medieval castle. Return to Budva and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. AVALA HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
SHKODER, ALBANIA / KRUJA / TIRANA
Today cross the border into Albania and stop in the town of Shkoder for a tour that includes its patriotic statues, clock tower, several large mosques and the Rozafa Castle. En route to Tirana, stop in Kruja to visit the restored castle and citadel, the Skanderbeg Museum and a traditional bazaar. This evening arrive in Tirana and check in to our hotel. ROGNER EUROPAHOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
TIRANA / DURRRES
Tour Tirana, Albania’s capital located 12-1/2 miles from the Adriatic Sea on the Ishm River. Visit Skanderbeg Square, the National History Museum and Et’hem Bey Mosque, then ride a cable car up Dajti Mountain for views of the surrounding national park. This afternoon visit Durres, founded in 600 B.C.E. by the Illyrians and conquered by the Romans in the 2nd century B.C.E. Visit the Archaeological Museum, Roman amphitheater and baths before returning to Tirana. ROGNER EUROPAHOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
OHRID, MACEDONIA
Today cross over into Macedonia and drive to the town of Ohrid where we enjoy lunch at a lakeside restaurant. This afternoon, take a walking tour of the town, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the oldest human settlements in Europe (it was first mentioned in 363 B.C.E. under the ancient name of Lychnidos). Visit the Pantelejmon Monastery, amphitheater, fortress and Monastery of St. Naum founded in 900. HOTEL MILLENIUM PALACE (B,L,D)
MONDAY, JUNE 20
SKOPJE
Along the way to Skopje, stop at the hillside monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski (St. John the Baptist). Spend the afternoon on a walking tour of Skopje, where Mother Theresa was born and that has been ruled at various times by the ancient Romans, Byzantines and Ottoman Turks. Visit the Memorial House of Mother Theresa, where she was baptized; the 15th-century Old Stone Bridge connecting the old Turkish quarter and the newer parts of the city; the 6th-century Kale Fortress; and St. Spas Church. This evening, attend a traditional Balkan music-and-dance performance. HOTEL STONE BRIDGE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 21
PRISTINA, KOSOVO / SKOPJE, MACEDONIA
Enjoy a day trip to Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, the Balkan territory that declared independence from Serbia in 2008. Visit the 15th-century Imperial Mosque and nearby public bath, the 14th-century UNESCO-listed Church of the Holy Virgin on the grounds of the Gračanica Monastery and Bill Clinton Boulevard, named after the president in commemoration of his help in influencing NATO to send air strikes against the Serbian army. Return to Skopje this evening. HOTEL STONE BRIDGE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22
BELGRADE, SERBIA
Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Belgrade. Upon arrival, settle in to our hotel located in the heart of Old Belgrade. HOTEL MOSKVA (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
BELGRADE
Explore historic Belgrade, originally a Roman border outpost in the 1st century B.C.E. Visit the monumental Basilica St. Sava, one of the largest churches in the world, the mausoleum of Josip Broz Tito known as the House of Flowers, Kalemegdan Fortress with its Despot Gate, the Roman Well and 18th-century Turkish baths, and the Skadarlija District (or bohemian quarter). HOTEL MOSKVA (B,L)

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Spend most of the day on a scenic drive through the Dinaric Alps to Sarajevo. HOTEL EUROPE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
SARAJEVO
Explore Baščaršija, Sarajevo’s old Turkish quarter, including the 15th-century Emperor’s Mosque and the 16th-century Gazi Husrev-bey Mosque. Also visit the 18th-century Svrzina Kuca Oriental House, Princip Bridge, Sarajevo Museum and Tunnel Museum. HOTEL EUROPE (B,L)

SUNDAY, JUNE 26
MOSTAR / DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
Named after its Old Bridge (Stari Most), Mostar was shelled repeatedly and all but destroyed in the 1990s during the hostilities. Its Old Town and bridge were rebuilt by UNESCO and donor nations in an effort to heal the deep ethnic divide that characterized its destruction. After a tour of now-rebuilt Mostar, stop for lunch, then continue on to Dubrovnik. Toast the end of our adventure at a festive farewell reception and dinner this evening. HILTON IMPERIAL DUBROVNIK (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 27
DUBROVNIK / U.S.
Transfer to the airport for international flights back to the U.S. (B)
Trip Information

DATES
June 13 to 27, 2016 (15 days)

SIZE
36 participants (single accommodations limited—please call for availability)

COST*
$10,495 per person, double occupancy
$11,995 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

INCLUDED
13 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 9 dinners
Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
All tours as described in the itinerary
Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
Flight from Skopje to Belgrade on June 22
Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book 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 Lufthansa between San Francisco and Dubrovnik, Croatia, is approximately $1,500 as of June 2015 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 to be a moderately active program. Most touring is done on foot and by motorcoach, including five days of three to five hours of driving, plus one eight-hour drive. Excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets that may be uneven or cobblestoned. In some instances, museums, archaeological sites or castles require climbing several flights of stairs and standing in one place 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Stairs may not have handrails; 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 your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/balkans2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. 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 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.

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. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14 to 21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and trip companions 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 June 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“What I really enjoy about Stanford trips are the travelers—everyone is intellectually curious.”

MEGAN PILLSBURY, CUBA FAMILY ADVENTURE, 2013