



From  
**\$18,803** NZD

Single Room

\$20,543 NZD

Twin Room

\$18,803 NZD

Prices valid until  
30th December 2024

27 days

Duration

Albania, Croatia

Destination

Level 2 - Moderate

Activity

# European Cities Small Group History and Cultural Winter Tour

Dec 22 2024 to Jan 17 2025

## European Winter Tour: Visit Southern European Cities

This extraordinary European Cities small group winter tour takes senior couples or solo travellers through



- [Italy](#)
- [Croatia](#)
- [Albania](#)
- [Macedonia](#)
- and [Greece](#)

We experience Christmas in [Rome](#), New Year's Eve in [Venice](#), and visit the famous archaeological sites of Greece.

## Itinerary of this European Winter Tour

The tour starts in [Rome](#) where we spend 6 days. Together we'll visit the Vatican (Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica), the [Piazza Navona Christmas Market](#), Galleria Borghese and Capitoline Museums as well as enjoying guided tours of the city led by a local guide. We'll have a traditional Christmas Eve dinner together and attend the Christmas mass at St. Peter's Square the next day. You'll also have plenty of time to explore Rome at your own pace. Then we'll board a train to [Florence](#), where we visit the Accademia Gallery and the Bargello museum and you'll also have a day at leisure. Our next stop is [Venice](#) where we celebrate New Year's Eve by watching the famous fireworks. Then we spend the next 6 days in [Croatia](#), staying in Opatija, Zadar and Dubrovnik while exploring Roman ruins, the Plitvice National Park and many more. Our next stop is [Albania](#) where we take a tour of Tirana before travelling to Ohrid in Macedonia. The final leg of our trip is in [Greece](#), where we spend time in Veroia, Kalambaka and Delphi before the tour concludes in [Athens](#).

## Highlights of this Small Group tour

Highlights of the tour include taking in the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks and celebrations in Venice, and witnessing the Pope's Christmas Day address at the Vatican. Later, we take the chance to explore Istria, the largest peninsula in the Adriatic, as well as travelling to famous destinations in Greece Delphi, Marathon, and The Acropolis. At the end of the tour, we also explore Tirana, Albania's magnificent

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<https://www.odysseytraveller.com>





capital, another highlight of this once-in-a-lifetime tour. Throughout the tour we're joined by local guides to enrich the experience with local knowledge.

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour from Odyssey Traveller Australia, [please call](#) or [send an email](#). Alternatively, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

## Highlights

1. See the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks and celebrations in Venice
2. See the pope's Christmas Day address in Rome
3. A full day touring Istria, the largest peninsula in the Adriatic
4. Experience Delphi, Marathon, and The Acropolis
5. Explore Albania's capital, the magnificent Tirana

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Rome

#### Overview:

We arrive in Rome and meet at the hotel. You have the day at leisure, until our evening walk to the local restaurant, where we'll enjoy a welcome dinner.

(D)

#### Accommodation:

Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar



## Day 2

**Locations:** Rome

### Overview:

After being issued with a 7 day transport pass, we will be joined by a local guide. In the morning, we head to Vatican City tour the Vatican and Sistine Chapel, and visit St Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon, we take a tour of Rome that includes entrance to the beautiful Basilica of San Clemente, built in the eleventh century.

### Accommodation:

Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar

## Day 3

**Locations:** Rome

### Overview:

Today, you have a day at leisure to explore the historic sites of Rome on your own, and make use of the transport pass. In the evening, we walk to a local restaurant where we'll enjoy a Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner.

(D)

### Accommodation:

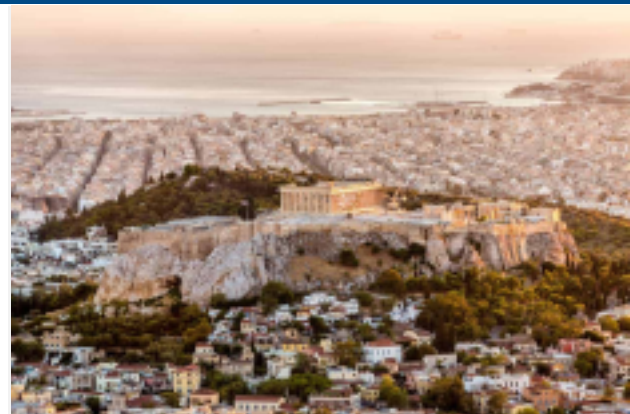
Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar

## Day 4

**Locations:** Rome

### Overview:

It is Christmas Day, so after breakfast in the hotel we will walk to St Peter's Square where we will attend the Pope's midday address. After the address, we will visit the Piazza Navona Christmas Market. In the



evening, we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Rome

**Overview:**

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a full day tour of Rome. In the morning, we visit the Galleria Borghese, which houses many extraordinary Italian artefacts and paintings. Then, we visit the magnificent Capitoline Museums. After this, we stop the view the famous Colosseum from outside. You have the remainder of the day at leisure.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Rome

**Overview:**

In the morning, we transfer to Tivoli by coach, and are joined by a guide. While there, we tour of Hadrian's Villa, a spectacular world heritage site which includes a complex of classical buildings, constructed by Emperor Hadrian in the 2nd century.

**Accommodation:**

Trianon Borgo Pio apartments or similar



## Day 7

**Locations:** Florence

### Overview:

In the morning, we transfer to coach to the station where we board a train to Florence. Arriving in Florence, we walk to our hotel (Includes portorage of one bag per person from station to hotel). Then, in the afternoon, we take a walking tour of Florence. We will visit the Accademia Gallery, which includes some extraordinary Michelangelo sculptures, and the Bargello museum. The Palazzo del Bargello is Florence's oldest public building, a former barracks and prison that now displays a number of masterpieces, and works by Michelangelo and Bernini.

In the evening, we walk to a restaurant near our hotel.

(D)

### Accommodation:

Hotel Londra or similar

## Day 8

**Locations:** Florence

### Overview:

After breakfast, you have a day at leisure to explore Florence as you wish.

(B)

## Day 9

**Locations:** Venice

### Overview:

After breakfast, we walk to the station where we board a train to Venice. (Porterage of one bag per person from hotel to station).

Arriving at Venice in the early afternoon, we take a private boat transfer to the hotel. Then, we take a half day tour of the city, which includes entrance to the Ca' d'Oro or Palazzo Santa Sofia, a palace on the



Grand Canal.

In the evening, we walk to a restaurant near our hotel, where we enjoy dinner.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Ca de Conti hotel or similar

**Day 10**

**Locations:** Venice

**Overview:**

It's New Years Eve! After breakfast in the hotel, you have a day at leisure to enjoy exploring Venice. You may also want to get some rest, as we'll be walking from the hotel to view the spectacular midnight fireworks.

(B)

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Opatija

**Overview:**

Today, we travel to Croatia. After breakfast, we check out of the hotel late morning. We take a private boat transfer to Tronchetto, then head to Palmanova (a star fort town of the late renaissance), where we take a short walking tour. We then travel to Trieste, a city and seaport, where we take a short walking tour. We travel from Trieste across the border to Optaija. We enjoy dinner in the hotel, before spending our first night in Croatia.

**Accommodation:**

Grand Hotel Adriatic or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** Opatija

**Overview:**

Today, we have a full day in Istria, the largest peninsula in the Adriatic. We are joined by a local guide and travel to Hrastovlje, where we visit the Church of the Holy Trinity, which contains a lovely late medieval fresco. Then, we head to Porec where we enter the Byzantine-style Euphrasian Basilica and the Bishop's Palace, originally built in the 6th century. We travel on to Rovinj, where we stop to view the beautiful coastal town, before going on to Pula, where we take a tour that includes the Roman Ampitheatre. We return to Opatija to spend the night.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Grand Hotel Adriatic or similar

## Day 13

**Locations:** Zadar

**Overview:**

After breakfast we travel to Plitvice, a national park full of natural wonders, where we take a tour of the park waterfalls. We then travel to Zadar where we view the extraordinary Sea Organ – which uses pipe organs to create music from the waves – and the Sun Salutation – which converts solar energy into illumination.

We have dinner at the hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Kolvare



## Day 14

**Locations:** Dubrovnik

### Overview:

After breakfast, we travel to Sibenik by coach, where we view the impressive Cathedral of St James. We then travel on to the beautiful waterfront city of Split, where we take a tour of the city and enter Diocletian's Palace, built by Rome at the turn of the 4th century. The coach then takes us to Dubrovnik. We walk from our hotel to a local restaurant, where we enjoy dinner.

(B,D)

### Accommodation:

Antica Ragusa hotel or similar

## Day 15

**Locations:** Dubrovnik

### Overview:

After breakfast, we take a half-day tour of Dubrovnik; we enter the Franciscan monastery, the first part of which was constructed in the 13th century. We also visit the War Photo Museum.

The afternoon is at leisure; then we take a Cable car to Mount Srd, from where you can look over the city.

(B)

### Accommodation:

Antica Ragusa hotel or similar

## Day 16

**Locations:** Dubrovnik

**Overview:**

After breakfast in the hotel, you have the day free to explore Dubrovnik at your leisure.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Antica Ragusa hotel or similar

## Day 17

**Locations:** Tirana

**Overview:**

Today, we travel to Albania. After breakfast we head from Dubrovnik to Kotor, which includes a ferry trip from Kamenari to Lepetane. We take a walking tour of Kotor, before travelling on to Shkoder where we visit the fortress Rozafa, a magnificent, ancient castle. We travel on to Tirana, where we have dinner near our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Grand Hotel Tirana or similar

## Day 18

**Locations:** Ohrid

**Overview:**

After breakfast in the hotel, we take a tour of Tirana, Albania's capital. We visit Et'hem Bey Mosque, built in the 18th century, and Sali Shijaku House, sometimes claimed to be the oldest house in the Balkans. We then travel from Tirana to Ohrid, in Macedonia, where we enjoy dinner

at a restaurant near the hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Apartment Joven or similar

**Day 19**

**Locations:** Ohrid

**Overview:**

After breakfast, you have today at leisure to explore Ohrid on your own.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Apartment Joven or similar

**Day 20**

**Locations:** Ohrid

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we enjoy a half day guided tour of Ohrid. This includes a visit to the Robev Family House National Museum, which houses local artefacts, and the striking Sveta Sophia Church. We then travel to Boletin where we visit the magnificent St John Bigorski Monastery. We return to Ohrid where we spend the night.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment Joven or similar

**Day 21**

**Locations:** Veroia

**Overview:**

Today, after breakfast, we leave Ohrid, first travelling to Resen where we visit the Saraj, a gorgeous neoclassical estate, containing a gallery and library. We travel on to Bitola where we visit the local museum (once an army barracks), and enter the Heraclea archaeological site and

museum. The coach then takes us to Veroia, in Greece, where we have dinner in the hotel.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Makedonia or similar

**Day 22**

**Locations:** Veroia

**Overview:**

Today, after breakfast in the hotel, we take a coach to Naousa, in Greece, where we visit the site of Aristotle's school. We then travel to Lefkadia where we enter the Macedonian Tomb of the Palmettes. The coach then takes us to Pella where we visit the Pella museum and the local archaeological site. From Pella, we head to Vergina, and visit the Royal Tombs. We end the day in Veroia.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Makedonia or similar

**Day 23**

**Locations:** Kalambaka

**Overview:**

We begin the day, after breakfast, travelling to Kalambaka by coach. A local guide will meet us for tours of the Great Meteoran monastery and the Varlaam Monastery. We have dinner at the hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Kosta Famissi or similar



## Day 24

**Locations:** Delphi

### Overview:

Today, after breakfast, we are taken by coach to the famous thermopylae, where we view the memorial to Agamemnon and the Spartans. We then travel to Delphi, where a local guide takes us on a tour of the archaeological site and museum. We have dinner at the hotel.

(B,D)

### Accommodation:

Hotel Iniohos or similar

## Day 25

**Locations:** Athens

### Overview:

From Delphi, we travel to Marathon, where we stop to view the marble memorial. From Marathon we travel to Athens, where we visit the Dromeas runner statue. We spend the night in Athens.

(B)

### Accommodation:

Ava apartments or similar

## Day 26

**Locations:** Athens

### Overview:

Today we enjoy a guide joins us for a full day tour of Athens. We visit the Acropolis and museum, see the Theatre of Disonyesus, and take a walking tour of Plaka. In the evening, a transfer is organised to take us from our hotel, to a restaurant in Plaka, where we will enjoy a farewell

dinner, and then back to our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Ava apartments or similar

**Day 27**

**Locations:** Athens

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we say our farewells, and the tour draws to a close.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 26 nights of hotel accommodation.
- 21 breakfasts, and 13 dinners.
- Transport in comfortable and modern coaches.
- All excursions, entrance fees, and local guides.
- Service charges and gratuities.
- Services of a tour leader for the duration of tour.

**What's not included in our Tour**

- International airfares and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

**Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.