

A Balkan Odyssey

A scenic trip through Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Aruna Gracias Rathod

BELGRADE, SERBIA

The best way to start your trip to the Balkan countries is to fly into Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Belgrade is well-connected from Istanbul or Frankfurt/Munich. From the airport, you can take a taxi to Belgrade, the capital.

Serbia has a very rich history. Moving around in Belgrade is easier by taxi, especially for an outsider as the bus network maybe a little complicated to figure out. The city doesn't have a metro so be ready for a bit of a traffic jam sometimes. You can cover most of the spots in the city centre

EAT:
Traditional
Serbian Cevapcici –
sausages served in a flat
bread served with onion,
cabbage, sour cream,
mustard and chilli
sauce.



in a few hours.

The Republic Square, The National Theatre, the National Museum, and the Knez Mihailova - Pedestrian street, all the way to the Fortress.

Its famous Kalemegdan fortress was built and extended by a succession of different civilisations over the centuries. The hill on which the fortress stands boasts the most iconic view of the city. The magnificent Temple of St Sava leaves you feeling amazed. It is one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world. According to legend, this church was

built on the exact spot where the relics of the saint were burnt by the Turk Sinan Pasha. For a local feel, walk down Skadartija Street. The bohemian side of Belgrade. This 400-m long cobbled stone street full of antique shops, souvenir shops, and art galleries which bestow a very artistic vibe to the place.

You can visit Saint Mark's Church, a beautiful Orthodox church, and the Ruins of the Radio Television of Serbia HQ from the 1999 NATO bombing which are right next to each other. Walk further along Kralja Milana towards the centre and check out the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade City Assembly, and of course the famous Moskva Hotel. You can get a modern feel at the Belgrade Waterfront, where new constructions facing the river make for a swanky neighbourhood.

SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA

In Skopje, most of the attractions are in the city centre. You know you are in the city centre when you spot the monumental column of Alexander the Great.

From here all attractions are within easy walking distance. The Macedonia Square, Macedonia Gate, Memorial House of Mother

Teresa, Stone Bridge, the Old Bazaar, Mustafa Pasha's Mosque, then head to the Museum of Macedonian struggle, Archaeological Museum and lastly up to Kale Fortress (Skopje Fortress).

Leave aside half a day for a visit to the Millennium Cross (a 66 meters high steel cross at the mountain top). It can be accessed by a cable car ride or if you are a fitness enthusiast, you can hike up.

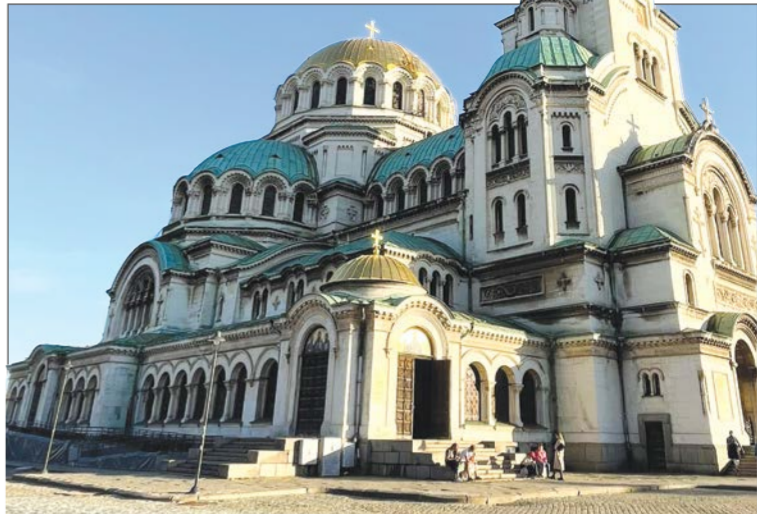
TIRANA - ALBANIA

You can visit the Skanderbeg Square named after the national hero, which has a large bronze statue of Skanderbeg on horseback in the middle of the square. The Et'hem Bey Mosque, one of the nation's most treasured buildings that dates back to the late eighteenth century, sits in the southeast corner of the square. The entry is free, but donations are welcome. The National Historic Museum is unmistakable, adorned with a huge socialist mural of victorious partisans. This is the largest in Albania and has objects and stories from pre-historic times up until the period of communism, with photos, videos and stories from one of the longest-lasting and most repressive regime in Europe. Durrës is an awesome day trip from Tirana. Besides the beautiful coast, it also has an ancient amphitheatre used to sit 15-20 thousand people.

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SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

In Sarajevo, the town centre located in the Baščaršija district has a unique atmosphere. Start at the Pigeon square, stop in one of the many quaint coffee shops and watch the world go by. There will be tourists walking at an easy pace but not unpleasant. All the streets are charming, with plenty of things to shop for. The pedestrian streets are filled with small shops, restaurants, and



SOFIA, BULGARIA

A seven hour bus ride or short flight can take you to Sofia, Bulgaria located at the crossroad between Europe and Asia. You can start with the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral – Largest orthodox temple in Balkans. This memorial was built in remembrance of all those who have died in the battle of freedom. It is the largest church on the Balkans and a covenant to iconographic and architectural mastery.

Just across the street is the Saint Sofia Church – Oldest church in Bulgaria, dating to 4th century. Also an underground museum with was the site of a Roman theatre from the second century. In the vicinity, don't miss the church of St Nicholas, the Russian Orthodox Church.

In the heart of the city, visit Ivan Vaznov National Theatre – Oldest theatre

in the country, the Banyashi Mosque – One of the oldest mosques in Europe, built in 1576 – a remnant of the Ottoman empire, built on the site of ancient baths.

For quick access to certain spots, use the Serdika Metro Station – named after ancient Roman city of Serdica. The station also houses Roman ruins discovered during Metro work. A short walk away is the Central Market Hall, now a modern supermarket with local goods, jewellery, clothing and accessories. In the evening take a walk on the Vitosha Boulevard, which is mostly a pedestrian area is the best way to absorb the vibe of the city. It is a famous street for shopping, dining, souvenir shops.

A visit to the Boyana Church is a must if you can spend half a day. Boyana Church is a listed heritage site with 12th century frescoes and paintings.

cafés. The main attractions are all within walking distance of each other.

One of Sarajevo's most famous landmarks is the Sebilj Fountain, built in 1752. According to local legend, anyone who drinks from this iconic wooden fountain will one day return to Sarajevo. The Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque, the city's most important mosque

was built in 1531. Its towering 45-meter minaret is impressive. A short walk away is the Latin Bridge. On this fateful corner in 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, sparking the First World War. Right there, you'll find the Sarajevo Museum 1878-1918, which focuses on the Austro-Hungarian period and the infamous assassination.

Our Lady of Springs - the hallmark of Anjediva remembered



The Feast of Our Lady of Springs was celebrated at Solar da Santana da Silva de Almeida João by Adv Dr Lida João and Dr Zoya João commemorating Candlemas day with the faithful from different villages of Goa. Devotees from the villages of Canacona,

Velim, Assolna, Vanxim, Veroda, Margao, Utlorda, Navelim, paid obeisance to Nossa Senhora das Brotas, which devotion originated in 1502 at Anjediva. Grimaldo Carvalho and his wife Mancy Pereira were also present. Grimaldo

had written about Anjediva church on O Heraldo in 1998 accentuating the devotion of 'Zorinchi Saibin'. This year's uniqueness was that the prayer service as well as the devotional songs was in Latin, reminiscing the Latin tradition which was prevailing in yesteryears in Goa.

India's Ace Jazz saxophonist, Braz Gonsalves, turned 91



A musical legend and son of Goan soil, Braz Gonsalves recently turned 91 and brought in his birthday surrounded by close family and friends. Braz gave up a professional career as a jazz exponent and dedicated himself to the Church and gospel singing groups.

The jazz great now lives in Porvorim. with his wife, jazz vocalist, Yvonne, who is the daughter of Chic Chocolate.

A few days prior to his birthday, he performed a jazz concert 'Braz and friends' accompanied by his wife Yvonne on vocals and musicians, Sulaiman Jamal, Mark Fernandes,

Jeshrun D'Cruz, John Pinto and Dominic Pereira, at Take 5 Bar and Restaurant, Candolim.

Viraj Suvarna, the owner of Take 5 Bar and Restaurant, Candolim



has known Beaz Gonsalves and the family for many years and was glad to organise the concert. "It was just an impromptu thing. Dominic who plays the keyboard got everybody together and it was fun. All Braz's friends showed up and it was really amazing. He played all the numbers, some great tunes," says Viraj.

Sharon Gonsalves, Braz's daughter was excited to celebrate his birthday and had the family come over for a small celebration. "It was just my mother, my husband Darryl and his family, my mother's sister, Kiitu and her husband. We had our friends Shaistah Thapar and Dr Bossuet Afonso and Nalini Elvino de Souza," said Sharon. Nalini is also working on documentary on Braz Gonsalves and his music.

Healing and Deliverance through Holy Eucharist

Healing and Deliverance Service through Holy Eucharist led by Fr Anthony Lopez and team is being held every first Friday of the month at Margao.

The service begins with Rosary, Mass, Praise and Worship, Word of God and Eucharistic Adoration.

Venue: Our Lady of Grace Church, Margao

Date: February 7

Time: 5 pm to 8 pm

Classical Music Concert by Trio de Assunção

Clube Harmonia de Margao, will be presenting a western classical music recital by Trio de Assunção. The members of the Trio are Maria Gisela de A Pereira, Maria Sancha E de A Pereira and Alvaro de A Pereira. The main feature of the programme will be Franz Schubert's Piano Trio in E-flat Major, D. 929, followed by shorter works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Johann Strauss II and Carlos Gardel. The programme is open to all music lovers.

Maria Gisela is a LTCL (pianoforte), she is also a Mezzo soprano and has a number of vocal performances to her credit. Maria Sancha is a LTCL (violin) and a part of an international youth orchestra that has performed in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Alvaro (violoncello) holds a Higher Local diploma from Trinity College in violin and cello. He was a music teacher at Music Circle, Margao and an external examiner for cello at Kala Academy.

He was also a guest member of the Bombay Chamber Orchestra and a recipient of the State Award for western music from the Government of Goa for 2016-17.

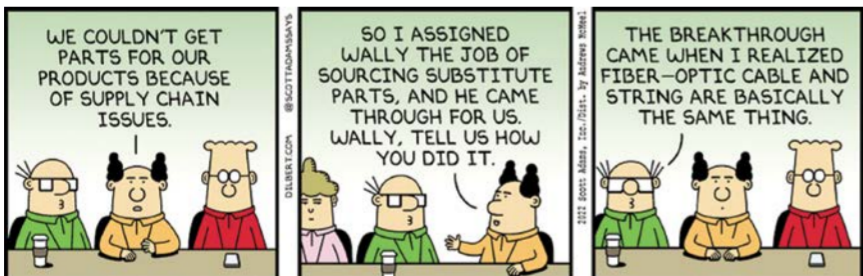
Venue: Clube Harmonia, Margao

Date: February 7

Time: 7 pm

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert



Garfield



Wizard of id



crossword 4761

ACROSS

1- Sun-dried brick; 6- His, to Henri; 9- Stun gun; 14- Like some bears and icecaps; 15- Notable period; 16- A Bell for ____; 17- Concerning; 19- Rudner and Moreno; 20- Mexican Mrs.; 21- Draft classification; 22- Molars, e.g.; 23- Skin disorder; 25- Evade; 26- Beard type; 29- Facilitate; 31- Doctrine maker; 32- Triumph; 36- ...baked in ____; 37- Suffix with cloth; 38- Attendee; 40- Consider overnight; 43- Door; 45- Lacking slack; 46- Scoffs; 47- Late bloomer; 50- Scottish refusals; 51- Belle or Bart; 52- Billy ____ had a hit song with 'White Wedding'; 54- ____ the season...; 57- Family car; 58- Under-water vessel; 61- You ____ mouthful; 62- Fruit drink; 63- Spiritual sustenance; 64- Alloy of iron and carbon; 65- Aviv preceider; 66- Collect;

DOWN

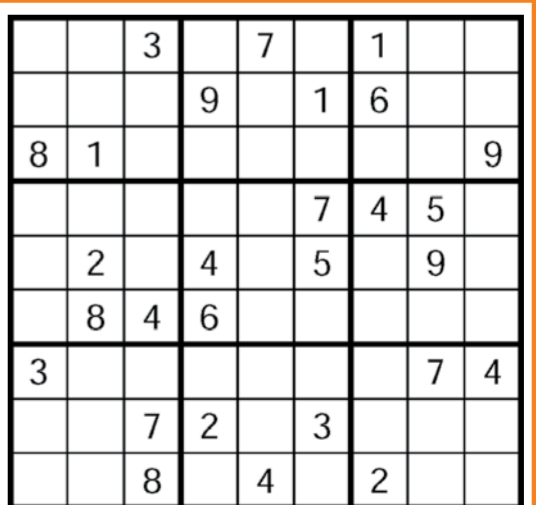
1-Auto loan figs.; 2- Person of action; 3- Gymnast Korbut; 39- 'Treasure Island' monogram; 41- Endless; 42- Acceptable score for a professional golfer; 43- Sacred song; 44- Inseparable; 47- Bothered; 48- Hawkins of Dogpatch; 49- Swap; 50- Prestigious prize; 51- Flat sound; 52- The wolf ____ the door; 53- Type of ranch; 54- She played Ginger on 'Gilligan's Island'; 55- Taverns; 56- Oceans; 59- Doc's bloc; 60- Male sheep who may play football for Los Angeles!



solution 4760



sudoku 4761



Instructions for Sudoku

9 x 9 letter: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes

solution 4760

