






EASTERN EUROPE AND BALKANS TOUR 2016

(see Sheet 2 for route maps)

Day#	Day	Date	Destination	Distance kms	Cumulative kms	Notes	Country
1	Wed	17-Aug-16	Arrive Ljubljana			Fly into Ljubljana. Time to settle in and recover from the flight. Maybe venture out for a local dinner.	Home Slovenia
2	Thu	18-Aug-16	Ljubljana			A day's sightseeing in Ljubljana. Touch base with Matej and finalise arrangements. Probably meet the bikes.	Slovenia
3	Fri	19-Aug-16	Ljubljana - Graz	200	200	We head early into the Slovenian Alps before crossing into the mountainous part of eastern Austria; and then tour through an area famous for its vineyards and castles	Slovenia Austria
4	Sat	20-Aug-16	Graz - Salzburg	240	440	Today we're in the Hohe Tauern (high passes), which includes some of the highest mountains in the Alps and definitely the highest mountains in Austria.	Austria
5	Sun	21-Aug-16	Salzburg - Cesky Krumlov	220	660	More mountain riding before we cross into the Czech Republic to Cesky Krumlov, a World Heritage Site, where the majority of buildings are designated cultural monuments	Austria Czech Republic
6	Mon	22-Aug-16	Cesky Krumlov - Prague	175	835	We now ride through Central Bohemia, a land of numerous castles and old towns, to the Czech capital of Prague.	Czech Republic
7	Tue	23-Aug-16	Prague		835		
8	Wed	24-Aug-16	Prague - Olomouc	260	1095	Today we ride through famed Bohemia through quaint towns of gabled, half-timbered houses. We stay in Olomouc, one of Czech's most beautiful cities.	Czech Republic Poland
9	Thu	25-Aug-16	Olomouc - Krakow	255	1350	Krakow, with its excellent Old Town of medieval era streets and architecture, was once the royal capital of Poland.	
10	Fri	26-Aug-16	Krakow		1350		Poland
11	Sat	27-Aug-16	Krakow (day tour to Auschwitz)		1350		
12	Sun	28-Aug-16	Krakow - Vysoke Tatry	145	1495	To the High Tatras mountains of Slovakia. Gerlachovsky Stit, at 2654m, is the highest snow-capped mountain in the Tatras.	Poland Slovakia
13	Mon	29-Aug-16	Vysoke Tatry - Budapest	270	1765	From the High Tatras into the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. We then ride through the many unique towns and villages before crossing into Hungary.	Slovakia Hungary

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14	Tue	30-Aug-16	Budapest		1765		Hungary
15	Wed	31-Aug-16	Budapest - Turda	455	2220	From Budapest we cross into Romania and mysterious Transylvania. Our aim today is to get close to Sibiu but positioned to do the Transalpina on the way to Sibiu the next day. That means a fair bit of highway riding in the morning. We'll stay at a B&B out of town.	Hungary Romania
16	Thu	01-Sep-16	Turda - Sibiu	400	2620	We start the day by heading south to Sibiu and continue along the Transalpina, one of Romania's highest roads (Urdele Pass 2145m) - also called the King's Road because it was built by King Carol II. We finish in Sibiu.	Romania
17	Fri	02-Sep-16	Sibiu (includes day's ride to Medias and Sighisoara)	190	2810		
18	Sat	03-Sep-16	Sibiu - Brasov	290	3100	We have two days of Draculaesque Transylvania. Today we ride the famous Transfagarasan Highway; and visit Bran Castle - part of the Dracula myth.	
19	Sun	04-Sep-16	Brasov - Bucharest	170	3270	From Brasov, fringed by peaks of the Southern Carpathians, we head to Bucharest via Peles Castle, considered one of the most stunning in Europe.	
20	Mon	05-Sep-16	Bucharest		3270		
21	Tue	06-Sep-16	Bucharest - Veliko Tarnovo	185	3455	We ride through flat Wallachia, the southern-most region in Romania. Leaving Romania behind we'll ferry across the great Danube and enter Bulgaria.	Romania Bulgaria
22	Wed	07-Sep-16	Veliko Tarnovo - Plovdiv	210	3665	We experience the dramatic and majestic vistas of Shipka Pass. We'll stop in Koprivshtitsa, a unique museum village, before reaching the vibrant town of Plovdiv.	Bulgaria
23	Thu	08-Sep-16	Plovdiv - Sofia	145	3810	The short ride to Sofia will provide time to spend in Plovdiv to see its remarkable Roman and Ottoman relics and its quaint Old Town.	
24	Fri	09-Sep-16	Sofia		3810		
25	Sat	10-Sep-16	Sofia - Demir Kapija	322	4132	Today we head into Macedonia's wine growing region. The vineyards with their surrounding sights make for interesting and varied riding.	Bulgaria Macedonia

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26	Sun	11-Sep-16	Demir Kapija - Ohrid	225	4357	We pass through Pelister National Park, skirt Prespa Lake then drop into the Ohrid Lake basin. We spend the night in Ohrid, a quaint tourist town on the shores of the lake.	Macedonia
27	Mon	12-Sep-16	Ohrid (option to ride along lake shore to Sveti Naum)	60	4417		
28	Tue	13-Sep-16	Ohrid - Gjirokaster	290	4707	We cross into Albania and ride the serious mountains of the Gramoz Range and Barmashi Pass. We pull into the austere and beautiful town of Gjirokaster, an acclaimed example of Ottoman architecture.	Macedonia Albania
29	Wed	14-Sep-16	Gjirokaster - Sarande	117	4824	Today we ride to Butrint, an ancient Greek and Roman city and archeological site. We head north along the Albanian Riviera; and stay at a seaside hotel on the Bay of Sarande.	Albania
30	Thu	15-Sep-16	Sarande - Berat	200	5024	We head into the hills north to Berat, which like Gjirokaster has rare examples of an architectural character typical of the Ottoman period. The citadel area numbers many Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built under the Ottoman era which began in 1417	
31	Fri	16-Sep-16	Berat - Tirana	103	5127	We continue into the heartland of Albania where we experience more of the emerging Albania as we head for Tirana.	
32	Sat	17-Sep-16	Tirana- Prizren	276	5403	Another day of huge mountain passes. We cross into Kosovo, Europe's newest country, and spend the night in Prizren, with its mix of mosques and Orthodox churches.	Albania Kosovo
33	Sun	18-Sep-16	Prizen - Mokra Gora	358	5761	After passing Pec, we ride over Kulina, the highest pass in the Balkans. The road is amazingly scenic through the many gorges and high mountains of eastern Montenegro. Finally we end up just over the western border of Serbia.	Kosovo/Montenegro/Serbia
34	Mon	19-Sep-16	Mokra Gora		5761		Serbia
35	Tue	20-Sep-16	Mokra Gora - Belgrade	240	6001	We skirt the deep ravine of the Drina River, then continue on a nice twisty road over the Crna Gora plateau to a faster road to Topola for a visit before proceeding to Belgrade.	
36	Wed	21-Sep-16	Belgrade		6001		

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37	Thu	22-Sep-16	Belgrade - Sarajevo	282	6283	Not sure what might be in store. It'll be a long ride right across Serbia and into Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Serbia Bosnia and Herzegovina
38	Fri	23-Sep-16	Sarajevo		6283		Bosnia and Herzegovina
39	Sat	24-Sep-16	Sarajevo - Mostar	220	6503	We take a beautiful touring route to Mostar, founded by the Turks in the 15thC at a strategic river crossing. The stone bridge is a most photographed World Heritage site.	
40	Sun	25-Sep-16	Mostar - Zabljak	260	6763	We head into Montenegro and the narrow winding roads of Durmitor NP - an area of massive peaks, canyons, rivers and glacial lakes, all crowned by rich evergreen forests.	Bosnia and Herzegovina Montenegro
41	Mon	26-Sep-16	Zabljak - Petrovac	172	6935	We descend the mountains until the blue Adriatic Sea stretches into the distance. We'll find ourselves on the shores of the pleasant coastal town of Petrovac.	Montenegro
42	Tue	27-Sep-16	Petrovac - Dubrovnik	143	7078	We follow the Adriatic coast visiting the peninsula of Sveti Stefan. We have more spectacular coastal riding until we reach the World Heritage city of Dubrovnik.	Montenegro Croatia
43	Wed	28-Sep-16	Dubrovnik		7078		
44	Thu	29-Sep-16	Dubrovnik - Hvar	211	7289	It's a scenic ride along the coast past Mali Ston, famous for its longest fortification in Europe. On Hvar Island we'll ride the twistiest road called the "Croatian Medeira".	Croatia
45	Fri	30-Sep-16	Hvar - Pag	250	7539	Passing the islands of Brac and Solta we get to Split. On the way further up north we can stop in historical towns of Trogir, Primosten or Sibenik. Finally we reach Pag Island.	
46	Sat	01-Oct-16	Pag - Rovinj	240	7779	Our roller coaster ride continues along a strip bound by imposing mountains and rugged coastline. Our final stop is Rovinj, a coastal village of steep, cobbled streets.	
47	Sun	02-Oct-16	Rovinj - Ljubljana	182	7961	We head to the fertile rolling countryside of the Istria Peninsula. We stop in the Tuscan-like town of Motovun. We enter the Karst region of Slovenia to Ljubljana. A well-earned celebratory dinner!	Croatia Slovenia
48	Mon	03-Oct-16	Depart Ljubljana		7961	Time to leave.	Slovenia and Beyond