



- 1800 km, 5 countries, 9 days
- A minimal assistance motor rally - you create your own adventure!
- Vehicles: anything goes!
- Launch: Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina – 2 August 2019
- End: Thessaloniki, Greece - 10 August 2019
- Sign up deadline: 12 June 2019

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The Travel Scientists have carefully blended together unique travel scenarios with the challenge of a road rally, mixed in an array of adventure, wrapped it all in a journey into the unknown and then sprinkled it with some of the best parties you'll ever attend. During the Great Balkan Ride you'll cross mountains and rivers, visit ancient cities and hang out on some great beaches - all that in a wacky vehicle of your choice together with a bunch of lunatics just like yourself.

But we don't just give you a t-shirt and some stickers for your car before roughly pointing you in the direction of the finish line. Quite the opposite, we take rallying to a whole new level with:

- A route, carefully tested and developed by our experts, to make sure you get the maximum amount of adventure, sights and landscapes, off the beaten path travelling and cultural experiences.
- An extensive roadbook to guide your way.
- A community of like-minded nutters to share your adventure with. Even though we might not be mother-henning you all day, sure we and your fellow teams will be found at the designated base hotel in the evenings, sharing stories and a beer or two.
- Our experts with dozens of rallies under their belt will accompany you during the whole trip and are essentially the go-to person for any needs. Not exactly a guide, but a friendly face there to help out when needed. While we encourage you to figure out your own adventure, the trip manager is there in case you need a local helping hand.

### ***Where?***

This challenging journey will take you from the bright lights of Sarajevo on the banks of the Miljacka River, through the beauty of Bosnia, the magnificence of Montenegro and the astonishing landscapes of Albania. Experience the Balkans with fellow explorers of these lesser known quarters of the world and return home with great memories

### ***What?***

The Great Balkan Ride is a 'minimal assistance' event. This means rather than handing it all to you on a plate we provide the tools you'll need to find your own adventure, equipping you with a framework from which to hang your personal discovery of unfamiliar places without spoiling the thrill of achievements by mothering you every mile of the trip. Drive anything you like, from an old fire truck to a hearse, just be sure you can make it to the finish.

### ***Why?***

If you want to bring back the excitement of adventure and discovery to your life, but not without sharing your experiences with a community and having the security of an organizer team in your back, the Great Balkan Ride is just made for you!



## *Route*

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***Day 1, 2 August 2019. Sarajevo, Bosnia to Žabljak, Montenegro.***

We depart historic Sarajevo, and follow the Drina river in Bosnia, before crossing over the Tara river into Northern Montenegro, a land of canyons, winding roads, and stunning vistas.

***Day 2, 3 August 2019. Žabljak, Montenegro to Peja, Kosovo.*** We pass through more incredible scenery traversing Montenegro, before reach the hilly border with Kosovo, after which we quickly reach bustling Peja.

***Day 3, 4 August 2019, Peja, Kosovo to Shkodër, Albania.***

The border to Albania should be smooth, but expect many twists and turns on mountain roads before reaching Shkoder.

***Day 4, 5 August 2019, Shkodër, Albania to Thethi, Albania.***

An astonishing and challenging day's drive up into the mountains and down into Theth valley. If you take the (slightly) easier road, there's time for a quick hike before a homemade dinner.

***Day 5, 6 August 2019. Thethi, Albania to Durrës, Albania.***

We climb out of the valley and down to the coast, where sun, sea and sand await.

***Day 6, 7 August 2019. Durrës, Albania to Vlorë, Albania.***

From one beach to another, this is a relaxed day, with Unesco-heritage town Berat making a perfect stop for lunch.

***Day 7, 8 August 2019. Vlorë, Albania to Gjirokastër, Albania.***

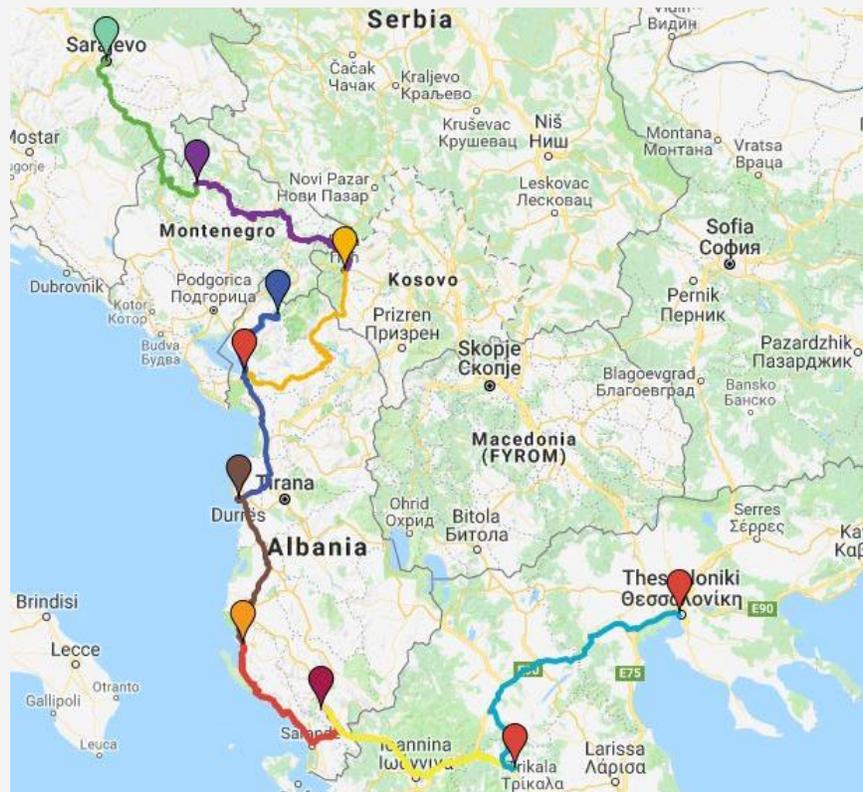
We drive down the coast of the Albanian riviera, over the Llogora pass, stopping for a dip at the Blue Eye spring before an evening in gorgeous Gjirokaster.

***Day 8, 9 August 2019. Gjirokastër, Albania to Meteora, Greece.***

Cruise your way through the mountains of Tajikistan, challenge your vehicle threading a path northeast to Tavildara, where rivers meet and the peaks dominate the spectacular vistas.

***Day 9, 10 August 2019. Meteora, Greece to Thessaloniki, Greece.***

After crossing the border to the autonomous region of Badakhshan and driving through amazing valleys right next to the border with Afghanistan we are reaching Khorog, the capital of Badakhshan



## *Fees & Dates*

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**Dates: 2-10 August 2019**

Included	Basic Package €490 (per person)	Standard Package €880 (per person)
Rally Gear	✓	✓
Event shirt and cap	✓	✓
Essential and hard to find maps	✓	✓
Kick-off and finish parties	✓	✓
Basic visa Assistance	✓	✓
Road maps (hard copies)	✗	✓
Hotel package	✗	✓



## *Vehicles*

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### ***What are the vehicle rules?***

Good news first: there are none!

Eccentric vehicle choices are positively encouraged and indeed the Great Balkan Ride is not about choosing the easy option. So whether it's a truck or a taxi, a Lada or Land Rover, a bus or a fire truck, if you bring it along we'll be only too happy to see it participate in the event.

After all, choosing a 20 year old rust bucket might be the safer choice, because the probability of finding a mechanic on the open road somewhere deep in the mountains of Albania, who can fix any of those modern electronic fancies is close to zero.

### ***Vehicle Purchasing***

Purchasing a vehicle especially for the rally and selling it afterwards is a good option for everybody who wants to leave their luxury limousines in their save garage. It can require substantial time and effort though, both prior to and after the event. The Travel Scientists can help facilitate your purchase of the desired vehicle. We can recommend models, equipment, dealers, and provide any additional advice you might need before purchasing your vehicle.

# Travel Scientists

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The [Travel Scientists](#) are the world's most gonzo adventure travel operator, whose mission is to create amazing thrills, unique experiences and a little drunken fun on the side. Not your usual travel operator, the maniacal travel research specialists have conjured up the most daring, inspiring and most memorable excursions still around in the modern world.

## **Why travel with us?**

We might ham up the craziness, but we've been in the business for 12 years and we've certainly got plenty of road trips under our belt and over a 1000 happy travelers who have shared adventures with us, most of them multiple times. We've been around since 2006 when we launched the first Rickshaw Challenge, which has earned a place in the Lonely Planet's 'World's Top 10 Greatest Adventures' in 2012.

One reason for our success is that we like to operate in manageable groups rather than get lost in hordes of participants. For us, travel is about community, so we want to foster that on our trips, where everyone knows each other's name and even after doing their own thing on the road we can all sit down and share adventures together over a beer.

We carefully scout out the routes so we can still find places where adventure still exists, bringing leisure and the freedom of independent traveling together, as well as a healthy dash of partying into the mix.

## **Our Rallies**

- [The Rickshaw Challenge](#) – *The race for the clinically insane, explore Southern India entirely from a rickshaw.*
- [The India's Cup](#) - *The great Indian run*
- [The Caucasian Challenge](#) – *Discover the Caucasus Mountains and their surroundings on our ever-popular rally.*
- [The Central Asia Rally](#) – *A thrilling road trip across the steppes of Central Asia, tracing the old Silk Road from Samarkand to the Pamir Mountains.*
- [The Baltic Run](#) – *An icy adventure into the Baltic States.*
- [The Moroccan Escapade](#) - *A desert adventure exploring the gateway to Africa.*
- [The Wild West Challenge](#) – *Giddy up and get your cowboy boots on for this race into the deserts of the US.*



## *Custom Adventures*

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Do you want to join in with the fun of the Great Balkan Ride, but can't make the dates or you fancy tailoring the route or want to take in the sites at your own pace? No worries, the Travel Scientists can conjure up something from the depth of our labs just for you.

We can also set up a personalized rally for your company, which make excellent team building activities. You tell us where you want to go and what you want to do, and we can organize the rest for you.

Let us know the what, when, why, how, how much, we can take care of the rest. We're super flexible, so all you need to do is share your ideas and expectations and leave it up to us.

## *Contact Us*

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Interested in chatting more or have a query? Then drop us a line! We love to hear from people. If you have any questions, comments or proposals then let us know!

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