

A Balkan Adventure

In 2013 I spent five months exploring the Balkan mountains from Trieste to Istanbul. This part of Europe has always fascinated me. I visited Yugoslavia briefly in the 1970s, since when they've abandoned communism, suffered brutal conflicts, and taken small steps towards coming together with the rest of Europe.



In Bosnia and Kosovo I found people still traumatised, but many were working hard to create a peaceful future. For instance, in the ominously named 'Accursed Mountains' Albania has joined Kosovo and Montenegro in an inspirational new project called the Balkans Peace Park. I spent three weeks in this fabulous range, walking freely back and forth between the three countries amongst people who were working together to overcome the horrors of the past.



Continuing south and east through the mountains, I met people in the remotest villages of Macedonia and Bulgaria. The route then took me to the River Evros, where Greece meets Turkey and migrants attempt to dodge European Union border guards. As summer turned to autumn I reached Istanbul – capital of two empires each lasting 1,000 years – and finally the Bosphorus, where Europe gives way to Asia.



As always I took lots of photographs, and I've put the best of them into a new presentation.

The slide/sound show **A Balkan**

Adventure generally lasts an hour, but I can easily adjust this to your needs. I provide all equipment, including a choice of big screens.

"John was absolutely outstanding. You could see the professionalism shine through as he was doing his lecture."

Alnwick and District Camera Club, 2013

My fee for this talk is £420 plus travelling expenses. If you'd like to make a booking please get in touch.

Contact details are:

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You can read more about this and other talks and books at www.pilk.net.

