

SERBIA & BOSNIA

Hiking – Rafting – Food & Wine Experience

13 days Adventure



Season

March – November



Arrival

Belgrade



Accomm.

4*/5* hotels



Group Size

Small Group



Activity Level

Relaxed



Departure

Sarajevo



Meals

19 Meals Included



3 UNESCO Sites



Highlights

Authentic Serbian wine in Titanic? Find out how that happened!

Absorb the stunning panoramic view from Banjska Stena viewpoint in Tara National Park

Walk across the bridge over the Drina, described by Nobel Prize winning writer Ivo Andrić

Visit the dazzling oriental tekija on the shores of the emerald green river Buna



Introduction:

As much as you think that you already know all about it, Europe still has aces to get you! Serbia for sure is one of those, with its wondrous nature, cultural immersion, lavish and illustrious heritage, cordial and generous hospitality. A visit to the hearth of the Balkans shows why Serbia is seen as a "crossroad" of Southeast and Central Europe, and leaves long lasting emotional echo that will warmly call for you to return for more. Also, if you are curious and looking for a remarkable journey filled with true wilderness, lovely people and life-changing adventures, Montenegro is just the right place for you! Each step, flavour or experience will surely thrill you, help you recharge and make your trip unforgettable. This confirms the experience of rafting down the Tara River, the deepest canyon in Europe, that certainly will become a long-lasting memory.

If you are arriving in **Belgrade** a few days prior to the tour departure, you can book additional nights with us, at the same hotel.

Arrival transfer from the listed airport is included. Private transfers from non-listed airports **are available on request**.

Please check the options with your local expert.

Day 1 Arrive Belgrade

Belgrade, the Serbian capital, one of the oldest European cities, adventurous and proud as it is, will welcome you with an open heart and show you its incredible historical and cultural wealth, vibrant night life and flavorful cuisine. Built where the Danube and Sava Rivers meet, Belgrade is a city of so many layers, and each one you discover will tickle your brain and hug your heart. Our guide on transfer will introduce you to it and give you all the essential instructions for the first day. **Overnight: Belgrade**

Day 2 Taste & Bike Belgrade Experience Tour



You can never really get to know Serbian culture and soul until you live through its local routine. That's why combined Taste & Bike Belgrade Experience® tour starts off with a daily ritual - a morning coffee at the oldest but really trendy Belgrade quarter, Dorćol. A decent dose of caffeine will push you up further through the day. Your next stop is at an old family bakery, a holy place for Serbs, and with some fresh bread in the bag, you will explore one of the oldest green markets in Belgrade, Bajloni, covered with the scent of rural Serbia. The first, walking part of the tour will also take you to the traditional, old school (with machines, décor and ambiance untouched since the 80's) pastry shop too, where sweets will reveal the rich Balkan heritage to you: a Serbian foundation with Oriental and European touch.

After a tasty morning, it's time to burn some calories on a bike! Hop on your bikes by the Sava River and cycle towards New Belgrade and Zemun, different faces of Serbian capital. Crossing the River Sava over Branko's Bridge, you will reach New Belgrade. Feel its energy while you bike along the wide boulevards and blocks, between skyscrapers and company headquarters! The Palace of Serbia, on its wide, flat plateau, stands out between the building blocks as a great symbol of communist architecture. Pleasant ride is going to take you to the bohemian Zemun set on the bank of Danube with marvellous fish restaurants. From Millennial tower you will feel the echo of Central Europe and get why Zemun is the city in the city (Belgrade). Refreshing breeze, the view of the Great War Island and the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube are highlights of the ride along the quay on our way back. **Overnight: Belgrade.**





Day 3

Northern Serbia Highlights: NP Fruška Gora hiking – S. Karlovci with wine tasting – City of Novi Sad



Heading to the North, you will realize that Fruška Gora Mountain is the only thing that spoils the simple, colourful plain of Vojvodina region. There, you will visit Novo Hopovo monastery, one of the 17 religious gems of the Serbian Orthodox Church hidden in the mountain. Built in the 15th century, this stone and brick monastery was the most important enlightenment centre in Serbia once: famous cultural and philological figure Dositej Obradović lived and worked here.

More dynamic part of the tour is about to follow. The two-and-a-half-hour-hike with couple awesome viewpoints gives full impression about idyllic Fruška Gora. We move on to Sremski Karlovci which with the Patriarchy Palace, St. Nicholas church and the first Serbian modern gymnasium established in 1791 is justifying informal title - museum town. One of the best sides of Karlovci is probably the wine production, so here's the great occasion to visit a traditional winery and try a local sort of wine!

Vivid facades with a specific type of windows (kibic-fenster), one cannonball in a wall as a remainder, street musicians, and charming passages are a sign that you are in Novi Sad and its picturesque downtown. This 2022 European capital of culture, a city with true multicultural ambience, offers a long list of important sights worthy of attention that will make you fall in love with it. **Overnight: Belgrade.**



Day 4

Vivid Western Serbia: Drina River – NP Tara Mountain hiking – Wooden Town – Zlatibor Mountain



The following three days are saved for an exciting and unforgettable adventure in Western Serbia, the most vivid region in the country. You will spend this amazing time surrounded by stunning nature, delicious cuisine and friendly, hospitable people. The route leads along the gorgeous Drina River and an isolated and unique house made of logs on a river stone, House on the Drina. Don't miss your chance to take some lovely photos of this widely famous attraction.

After a ride through attractive landscapes with mind-blowing views, some walking will do you good. A hike to the astonishing viewpoint Banjska Stena at the Tara National Park rewards you with an exceptional panorama from the mighty cliffs over emerald Drina River, wide Perućac Lake and Eastern Bosnia. Short break for lunch will refresh you enough just before a visit to the enchanting ethno-village Drvengrad (Wooden Town), built by famous director Emir Kusturica. All the objects at this movielike setting are made of natural materials, mostly wood, hence the name. With head and soul full of impressions, you'll finish the day on Zlatibor Mountain, the royal health resort in Serbia, officially established at the end of 19th century. **Overnight: Zlatibor Mountain.**



Day 5

Zlatibor Rhapsody®: Tornik Hill with cable car and hiking - Sirogojno Old Village - Stopića Cave



After rich mountain breakfast, you are ready for Zlatibor Rhapsody®! Go aboard the Zlatibor Gold Gondola Lift which brings you a great opportunity to enjoy the majestic view from the Zlatibor's highest peak - Tornik. Experience the stunning scenery of the lush Zlatibor meadows and the tranquillity of the Ribničko Lake. Don't forget to bring your camera and make some fantastic photos! Astonishing landscapes of Western Serbia will be a perfect backdrop for your hike down the Tornik Hill, giving you a chance to truly get the beauty of Zlatibor – wavy hills with colourful flowers and

herds of sheep slowly grazing over the pastures.

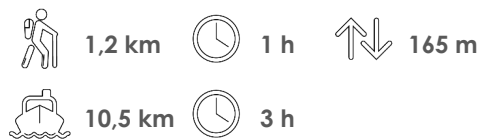
Not trying mouth-watering local delicacies would be called a sin. That is why we'll take you to a family restaurant where each piece of furniture is a part of a six-generation heritage and where it will be hard to choose between the best trout, homemade pastries and pies, and selection of dairy or meat products.

As the full stomach not allows any intensive activity, in the second part of the tour, more leisurely sights await. The Stopića Cave, river-type cave through which the Trnava stream flows, is known by its big tubs and is one of the most beautiful caves of Serbia. After a short drive, you will arrive to Sirogojno Old Village, mostly famous for its open-air museum and prominent Sirogojno sweaters made of raw wool. You will see the ethnological exposition of the distinctive outdoor complex and learn about the history of the architecture, housing and the everyday family and cultural life, as well as the economic and social relations among people in the mountainous area of the region. **Overnight: Zlatibor Mountain.**



Day 6

Uvac Lake meandering and hiking – Višegrad stop – Sarajevo



This day is dedicated to mind-boggling views and epic photos which for sure will become lifelong memories. It is dedicated to the Uvac Special Natural Reserve, a stunning example of Mother Nature being the ultimate, ingenious creator. Here, you will discover many masterpieces of nature, but the most attractive ones are the unreal meanders of the Uvac River. During the boat ride along it, you can understand how this miraculous canyon was patiently carved for a long time and how the curves in some places turn at an angle of 270 degrees. Climb up to the Ledeni viewpoint (Viewpoint Icy) which brings you a chance to feel the full power of this river-maze. Another great gift of nature here is the Griffon Vulture. It is a special kind of scavengers and a very rare species of birds whose biggest population in Europe is right here. The wing span of this spectacular bird is about three meters, so you can get a visual image of the grandiosity of this bird. After the unforgettable boat ride, you are ready

for a picnic lunch, authentic for this region, with unavoidable cheese, kajmak, prosciutto, buckwheat etc.

After being immersed in the dazzling scenery and dynamic morning, it is time to discover one of the most precious gems of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Head West, towards the town of Višegrad – a small town with an immense importance throughout the centuries. It is known as a birth place of the Nobel prized writer, Ivo Andrić, who described it in one of his greatest novels. The UNESCO's Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge, on the Drina River, is the symbol of this town. Višegrad used to be the border between Eastern and Western Roman Empire, and today, it is an inevitable destination on the route throughout the Balkans. Its Andrić Town, designed and supported by the world famous director, Emir Kusturica, is a unique homage to one of the most significant writers of the region and the most important historical events of the town. **Overnight: Sarajevo.**

Day 7

Sarajevo Food Experience Walking tour® - Springs of Bosnia River & Tunnel of Hope



Dive into Sarajevo Food Experience Walking tour® that will please both your mind and stomach. With a concept of combining history and cuisine, the past will look more alive and the gastronomy will get a deeper meaning! Storytelling starts with eclectic Vijećnica (City Hall), originally dated from the end of the 19th century and reopened in 2014, and anecdotes about "Inat-house" (spite house) or Šeher-Čehaja Bridge. The very heart of the downtown, Baščaršija with authentic souqs and crafts shops from the Ottoman era, and the fascinating Gazi Husrev-bey mosque follows. Once distinctly multicultural Sarajevo today can be seen in traces: examples are the Museum of the Jews, the Orthodox Church from the 16th century and Catholic cathedral of Sacred heart. Tour starts on a river and ends above it, on the most known bridge – Latin bridge, where the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand was shot, consequently causing the First World War.

Among the highlights, quite number of places, significant for locals, and different food shops will bring you a chance to feel a true pulse of the city. The best examples are small, family-run gastro points with expertise in a unique traditional specialty. You will have a chance to taste: authentic meat pie known as 'burek', the most famous Bosnian delicacy 'ćevapi' in



homemade bread and the most gorgeous looking and tasting sweet called 'tufahija'. You will also enjoy "domestic coffee" and a slightly forgotten refreshing drink called 'boza'. To this already colorful painting of Sarajevo, final touch is a visit to the Bezistan, a lively bazaar (a market from the 16th century) with a great variety of fragrances, colours, fabrics...

The tour continues to the Sarajevo Airport zone where the "Tunnel of Hope" is located – it is a war tunnel built during the siege of Sarajevo in 1993. Just like the old, medieval tunnels, its main purpose also was to connect the city under siege with the free territory, but eventually, it became the symbol of hope. For the end of the day, take a final spin to Sarajevo's green oasis, The Springs of Bosnia River. This remarkable area around the spring of the river, to which this country owes a part of its name, is turned into a beautiful park. Several small islands and verdant plains with small waterfalls are connected with old-time wooden bridges. If you feel like getting the full experience of this little paradise, get on a horse carriage ride through the beautiful oak valley.

In your free time we highly recommend you not to miss Sarajevo brewery museum where along the great beer you can enjoy number of urban legends from its over 150-year long history. **Overnight: Sarajevo.**



Day 8

Lukomir Village: Hike the highest and most isolated village in Bosnia

 15,1 km  5:30 h  790 m

The picturesque ride through Bjelašnica Olympic Mountain will take you to Umoljani village known by the UNESCO World Heritage site - Dolovo Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards. Umoljani village is right where our hiking adventure begins, with a goal to reach Lukomir village, the highest and most isolated village in Bosnia and Herzegovina, located at 1.500 meters of altitude. On your way to Lukomir you will reach Gradina, a small settlement primarily used by the locals as a base (camp) for summer pastures. As hike continues upwards, spectacular panoramic view of Studeni potok (Cold Stream) and its valley spreads around. At the end of the three-hour-hike the reward is expecting you: conquering the peak Obalj (1.896 metres high). Once at the top, you will experience an extraordinary view of the peaks of the mountains Bjelašnica, Treskavica and Visočica, as well as the Rakitnica River Canyon and many faraway villages.

After a short refreshment, your hike continues down to Lukomir, an exceptional village with a 600-year-long tradition, an unforgettable and one of a kind experience. Don't miss the great opportunity to learn about their own tradition, cooking methods, and clothing that have remained intact in this village from the medieval ages. A true treat will be meeting the locals and learning first-hand about the difficulty, but also simplicity of life in the mountains. Savour a traditionally prepared lunch and coffee (included), and take some fantastic photos of the medieval stone-made mountain houses.

After the lunch break, you will hike back through one of the least discovered canyons in Europe, the canyon of the Rakitnica River. As you hike through the canyon, 800 metres deep and, in some places, only 1 metre wide, you will be amazed by the rare sight of virgin nature in its full glory. The hiking route leads all the way to the starting point so the circle for this day is closed. With body and mind full of impressions, take a seat and relax on your way back to Sarajevo. **Overnight: Sarajevo.**

Day 9

NP Sutjeska with Perućica Rainforest & Trnovačko Lake

 12,5 km  5 h  1276 m

One more day of flourishing gem of nature of Bosnia is ahead of you. National Park Sutjeska, located about 100 km away from Sarajevo, represents one of the oldest parks in Bosnia with an area of 175 km² comprised of magnificent, untouched and pristine wild nature. After a short walk, enter the park and rainforest



Perućica, one of the two last standing rainforests in Europe, dating 11.000 years back. Fun fact: some parts of the forest are completely unattainable by foot, while some trees are 300 years old, with a height of over 50 metres. A true laboratory of nature! Your next point to rest and relax is a photo-stop at the viewpoint Dragoš Sedlo (1.242 metres high), where magnificent view reveals in front of you - the waterfall Skakavac (grasshopper) whose water glides with full force through the steep 80-metre-high rocks. Ascend to the plateau Prijedor and discover some magical panoramic views of this park and nearby mountains: Maglić, Zelengora and Volujak. The peak Maglić (2.386 metres) is dominating among them as the highest peak in Bosnia & Herzegovina, situated right on the border with Montenegro.

From Prijedor, hike continues until you reach the last jewel of today's trip - Trnovačko Lake, meaning that trail crosses the Montenegrin border. The lake is located at a height of 1.517 metres and it's well known for its exceptional pure and clear water. What makes it so special and lovely is its unique shape of a heart! Trnovačko Lake is one of the seven glacial lakes that adorn Zelengora – one of the most beautiful mountains of the Dinaric Alps system. Due to their round shape, great depths and mesmerizing beauty, they are also known as 'mountain eyes'.

The adventure becomes complete only during well-deserved rest in the heart of the National Park and a picnic-lunch with homemade specialties, typical for this region.

Leisurely hike back for 1.5 hours, and move on with your trip to the rafting camp situated on the river Drina. At the end of this very dynamic day, you'll have plenty of time over dinner to reflect on your day and relive all the gorgeous impressions and memories from the great hike. Use this time to unwind and prepare for the next day rafting adventure. **Overnight: Rafting camp.**



Day 10

UNESCO'S Tara River Canyon with rafting

 22 km  3:30 h

After You have certainly heard that Tara River goes by the name "Tear of Europe" due to its purity. You can drink water from its stream anywhere you catch it, in every part of its flow. Tara River's canyon is 1.300 metres deep, which makes it the greatest canyon in Europe and the second deepest in the world, right after Colorado River in USA. Since 1977, Tara canyon is under

the protection of UNESCO, and it's in the category of 25 the most important world natural heritages. Experience a rafting adventure full of joy, excitement and exhilaration on a river in emerald green and turquoise colour variations, surrounded by lush and vibrant nature. As a part of your team, extremely skilled and trained guides will be there for you, every step of the way for the 22 km ride that stretches from Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina. If the weather allows, you will spend some great time by the fire, hanging around with the open-hearted locals.

Overnight: Rafting camp.



Day 11

The Essence of Herzegovina: Sutjeska Memorial Park – UNESCO's Blagaj – City of Mostar

 6 h 

After exploring Bosnia, it is time to get to know Herzegovina! The first stop is near Tjentište, also known as the Valley of Heroes, where you will visit Sutjeska Memorial Park. Sutjeska is very well known as the location where one of the most prominent battles in history took place during World War Two, on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The battle is known as the Battle on Sutjeska or Operation Schwarz. It represented one of the central points of the partisan resistance to the occupier during World War II, and the unique monument, as a symbol of the Brutalist architecture of former Yugoslavia, is there to keep this story alive for many generations to come.

The day continues to Blagaj (a site on the UNESCO Tentative List), an old town from the 15th century where the Kosač noble family ruled. The dervish's house in Blagaj is considered to be the crib of Islam of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, settled in a fairy-tale scenery, beneath the cliffs, on the shores of the emerald green river Buna.

Later on, head to one of the most beautiful cities of the Balkan Peninsula, Mostar. The central point of the walking tour is the symbol of the city, Balkan TOP 10 and the most photographed sight in the country – the Old Bridge (a UNESCO protected landmark). Use your free time to blend in with the locals on the busy cobbled streets of old town, climb to the top of Koški Mehmed Pasha Mosque tower or simply enjoy a homemade coffee at its courtyard, check out the

Crooked Bridge and the old tanner's quarter Tabhana. An absolute must is to taste traditional meals on the banks of the crystal clear Neretva River, with an amazing view of the bridge rising above. **Overnight: Mostar.**

Day 12

The Essence of Herzegovina: Medieval Počitelj village – Tvrdoš Monastery – Trebinje town



Getting the full picture of Herzegovina heritage requires moving forward in the direction of Trebinje. On the route is the medieval village Počitelj, protected by UNESCO thanks to its authentic oriental architecture. Fortified town of Počitelj was built by Bosnian king Stefan Tvrtko I in 1383, but it was never really confirmed.

The town's significance has varied throughout history and two most important periods were during the 8 years of the rule of Hungarians and 2 centuries of Ottomans' rule. If you are lucky enough, you will have a chance to meet some of the locals, chat with them and be treated with some of homemade delicacies.



Carry on with the adventure driving towards the south of Herzegovina to the medieval Serbian Orthodox Monastery Tvrdoš, dedicated to the Rising of the Holy Mother of God. Built at the beginning of the 16th century today it still represents the center of Orthodox Christianity of the region. Thanks to the high-quality soil and flat terrain large vineyards have been grown ever since which is why the monastery it is also known for its wine, carefully preserved in the old stone basement dating back to the 15th century. Here, you will have the exceptional opportunity to enjoy the authentic wine varieties (native to this region) of Vranac and Žilavka, as well as hear the incredible stories of the monks who take care of the winemaking process.

The next destination of the day is Trebinje, a picturesque town with a wonderful blend of different cultures. Take a stroll through the narrow streets of the old town, and see the most important sights of charming Trebinje. The Arslanagića Bridge, a dream for artists and photographers alike, takes visitors 400 years back in time. Make your way to the so called 'Poet's Square' and take a seat under the 115-year-old trees,



the symbol of the town. Feel the unique energy of this beautiful townplace, where Emir Kusturica, the world-famous movie director, made one of his last movies, with Monica Belluci in the leading role. The highlight of

Trebinje sightseeing must be a visit to the Hercegovska Gračanica church, set on top of the hill above the town. The beautiful view of the sunset over Herzegovina is a perfect way to end the day.

Overnight: Trebinje.

Day 13 Departure day

Departure from Sarajevo or any non-listed airport.

If you are departing from **Sarajevo** a few days after the tour end, you can book additional nights with us.

Departure transfer to the listed airport is included. Private transfers to non-listed airports **are available on request.**

Please check the options with your local expert.

General inclusions // Valid both for Standard and Premium Package:

- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary, except those marked as „optional tours“
- **Experiences:** Taste & Bike Belgrade Experience tour®, Wine tasting in Sremski Karlovci, Zlatibor Gold Gondola ride, Uvac Lake meandering and picnic lunch, Sarajevo Food Experience Walking Tour®, Lukomir Village lunch, Tara River rafting, Wine tasting in Tvrdoš Monastery
- **Entrance tickets:** Tara NP, Wooden Town, Stopića Cave, Sirogojno Old Village, Uvac Lake Natural Reserve, Springs of Bosnia River, Tunnel of Hope, Sutjeska NP with picnic lunch, Blagaj
- Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organization by a licensed local agency

Standard package // Accommodation:

- 3 BB in Belgrade in Hotel Royal Inn 4* / Hotel Mark 4* / Hotel Amsterdam 4* or similar
- 2 HB (half board) on Zlatibor Mountain in Hotel Palisad 4* standard / Hotel Mir 4* or similar
- 3 BB in Sarajevo in Hotel Old Town 4* / Hotel Holiday 4* / Hotel Colors Inn 4* or similar
- 1 FB (full board) and 1 HB (half board) in Rafting Camp near Tara river in authentic log cabins
- 1 BB in Mostar in Eden Hotel & Spa 4* / Hotel Kriva Čuprija 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje in Hotel Central Park 4* / Hotel SL Industry 4* or similar

Premium package // Accommodation:

- 3 BB in Belgrade in Hotel Saint Ten 5* / Hotel Hyatt Regency 5* / Hotel Hilton 4* superior or similar
- 2 HB (half board) on Zlatibor Mountain in Hotel Palisad 4* superior / Hotel Buket 4* superior or similar
- 3 BB in Sarajevo in Hotel Courtyard by Marriot 4* superior / Hotel President 4* superior / Swissotel 5* or similar
- 1 FB (full board) and 1 HB (half board) in Rafting Camp near Tara river in authentic log cabins
- 1 BB in Mostar in Hotel Mepas 5* / Hotel Mostar 4* superior or similar
- 1 BB in Trebinje in Hotel Central Park 4* / Hotel SL Industry 4* or similar

Notices:

- Tips and portage services are not included in price
- Final choice of the hotels depends on current availability. The tour organiser reserves the right to change the hotel due to availability reasons but guarantees the same category, service quality and similar location of the accommodation unit
- Minimum number of passengers needed for guaranteed tour departure: 2
- The tour organiser reserves the right to change the itinerary of the tour due to unexpected slow-moving traffic at international borders. These changes will not affect the basic itinerary
- It is the responsibility of the passengers to get acquainted with visa requirements of all the countries they are travelling to or will be in transit
- General Travel Conditions issued by Tour Operator d.o.o. and reconciled with YUTA standards are valid for this programme

