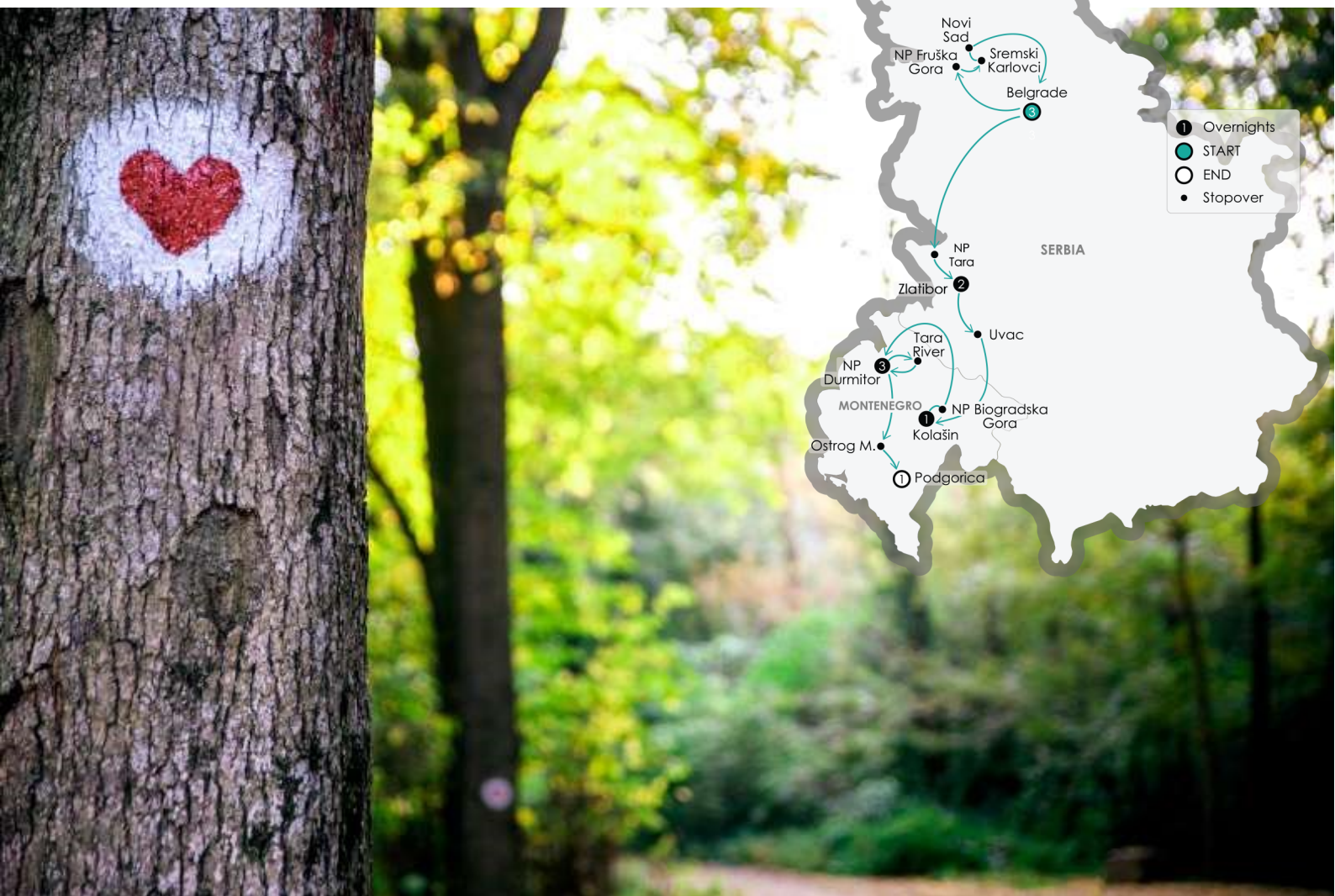


SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Hiking – Rafting – Food & Wine Experience

11 days Adventure



Season

March – November



Arrival

Belgrade



Accomm.

4*/5* hotels



Group Size

Small Group



Activity Level

Relaxed



Departure

Podgorica



Meals

13 Meals Included



1 UNESCO Site



Highlights

Experience the essence of the everyday gourmet life in Belgrade

Seize a moment and enjoy the picturesque meanders of the Uvac river (guarded by the Griffon Vulture)

Walk through the true oasis of nature in one of the oldest European rainforests at Biogradska Gora NP

Feel the power of nature on your rafting adventure on the Tara River



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

 18 km  4 h  65 m

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. The entire place is covered with the scent of rural Serbia, so you can almost see the villages, cattle and gardens where vegetables and fruits are grown. 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

 8,4 km  2:15 h  300 m  195 m

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

 11 km  3 h  145 m

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

 6,3 km  1:40 h  140 m  302 m

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 – Mileševa Monastery – Kolašin resort

 1,2 km  1 h  165 m

 10,5 km  3 h

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 Leddeni 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.

It's time to leave Serbian magnificent landscapes behind and head towards Montenegro. There is one more stop before the boarder - one of the most significant testimonies of the glorious medieval Serbian country, This monastic complex from the early 13th century - the Mileševa monastery treasures the frescoes considered to be the supreme achievement of the entire European medieval art, the most realistic fresco of St Sava, the Serbian Saint and the founder of the Serbian church, as well as the fresco of the White Angel that was used as the symbol of Europe and world peace in the first satellite video message sent from Europeans to Americans. The tales and anecdotes about the nearby places will only spice up this visit. The ride to our next base, one of the most important mountain resorts in Montenegro, is ideal time to summarize all of the wonderful memories from Serbia. **Overnight: Kolašin.**

Day 7 NP Biogradska Gora hiking – Đurđevića Tara Bridge - NP Durmitor

 6,8 km  2:15 h  200 m

Hiking takes place at the National Park Biogradska Gora. Biogradsko Lake, in the very heart of the national park is surrounded by one of the oldest and most protected areas in the world: a rainforest with trees over 400 years old and tall over 40 metres, part of abundant flora with 2.000 species in total. An incredible variety of animals also call National Park Biogradska Gora a home: deers, fawns, leaps, wolves, wild boars, foxes, rabbits as well as over 200 distinct bird species, including the magnificent imperial eagle. Over 350 different insect species also inhabit this national park, adding colourfulness and life to an already beautiful setting.

This jaw-dropping stroll through a true wilderness will probably make you hungry so it's time to enjoy a picnic lunch with the most authentic traditional specialties from the North of Montenegro – great way to end the hike!

A ride to Žabljak, a famous village in the Durmitor Mountain, is all but not monotonous as it goes along vivid and colorful panoramic roads with a special point - a unique canyon view from Đurđevića Tara Bridge! All

about this bridge is going to leave you speechless: the height, the surroundings, the story about the people and the way it was made. **Overnight: Žabljak.**

OPTIONAL: ZIP line. The true adrenalin lovers won't be disappointed. Feel the thrill while flying over the deepest canyon in Europe, Tara River Canyon. Shoot over one-kilometer-long zip line at speed up to 100 km/h. Experience the adrenalin rush and try to enjoy the spectacular view of the lush greenery of the surrounding nature and crystal turquoise water.



Day 8

UNESCO's NP Durmitor: Durmitor's Wild beauty®



10 km



3:30 h



100 m

Welcome to the nature lovers' paradise! Located in the north-west of Montenegro, UNESCO's protected National Park Durmitor is adorned with 48 peaks, more than 2.000 meters high, 18 glacial lakes above on 1.400 meters altitude called "Mountain Eyes" and five spectacular canyons, best presented with the deepest canyon in Europe - the Tara River Canyon. Throughout the whole area of the National Park, the great height range and variety of habitats have enabled the flourishing flora and fauna, creating an extraordinary wealth of nature. The park is home to 1.325 species of flora, including one of the last virgin black pine forests in Europe. Some of the incredible animals that can be found on this mountain are the brown bear, wild cat and chamois. Whether you are exploring Durmitor through hiking or sightseeing from a vehicle, you will have the exceptional opportunity to discover authentic mountain villages whose inhabitants live similarly as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Away from the modern influences of today's world, you will be transported back in time to traditional houses, old customs, simple every day activities and healthy nutrition. This gourmet-hiking adventure is an ideal opportunity to chat with the locals (who mainly keep sheep), try the homemade, authentic food and to get to know the resilient mentality of people who have spent their entire life surviving in nature.

The journey is about to get very exciting! You will hike around the biggest and most beautiful lake on Durmitor, the Black Lake, surrounded by the magnificent scenery and its giant peak Meded ("Bear"), above the lake. The Black Lake is divided into two lakes named the Great and the Small Lake,

connected by a small strait of water which dries up in the summer. The lake is filled by numerous mountain streams, and it truly represents the "Wild beauty" of Montenegro at its best. For those who want more than this easy-level hike, we prepared more: Zminje Lake with captivating view over the surrounding cliffs and the dazzling Barno Lake resembling a pop-up postcard. **Overnight: Žabljak.**

Day 9

UNESCO's NP Durmitor: Leisure day or Optional experiences



3,5 km



3 h



125 m



80 km



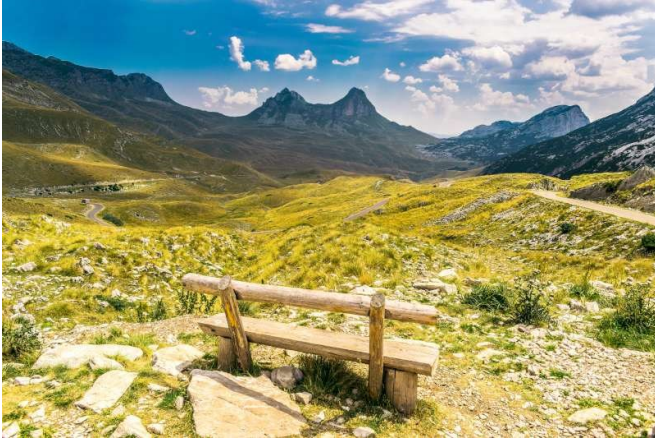
4 h

Leisure Day. Create your own plan for the day. Use the opportunity to gather some energy for the adventures to follow, or book one of the Optional experiences:

OPTIONAL 1: Nevidio Canyoning. The unique beauty of Durmitor National Park has been fascinating the worldwide travellers for years. Now, you have the chance to come and explore the last conquered canyon in Europe, with its waterfalls and a gallery of impressive sculptures carved out by the pure power of the Komarnica River. This fun and challenging canyon is a great fit for adventurous beginners, as you need no previous climbing experience to enjoy this 3km long canyoning tour. After spending a couple of hours exploring this beautiful gorge, you will see stunning sunlight marking the end of the tour, as you climb out of the canyon. You have started your day with a great adventure, and now you can enjoy a well-deserved meal to gain back the energy.



OPTIONAL 2: Durmitor Ring Photo Tour. This incredible adventurous ride will show you the mind-boggling landscapes of Durmitor Mountain. The 85 kilometres long circular ride over Tara and Piva River plateau, will take you throughout the diversity of this national park: astonishing sceneries of deep canyons, crystal clear mountain streams, high peaks, green pastures and virgin forests. Get to know the locals and the way they live in this quite rough surroundings. In the authentic ambience, taste the domestic products and take some to go, since they are not easy to be found elsewhere. See the old and current slopes of the ski resort, get on top of the hills of the canyons where the views will sweep you of the feet, go through the high mountain passages and try to absorb the peace of the unspoiled



nature as much as you can. This great journey is a unique opportunity to meet different parts of the mountain and it does not require any physical activity. True excitement for every adventurer is to savour the beauty of the national park, experience the life of the local people and, simply, enjoy the ride. **Overnight: Žabljak.**

Day 10

UNESCO'S Tara River Canyon with rafting - Ostrog Monastery



12 km



1:30 h

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 Canyon is 1.300 m deep, which makes it the greatest canyon in Europe and the second deepest in the world, right after Colorado River in USA. Since 1977, the canyon is under the protection of UNESCO, and it is 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 flourishing and vibrant nature. Extremely skilled and trained guides will be there for you as a part of your team, every step of the way for the 12 km ride that stretches from Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a contrast to this unbelievable adventure, the peaceful part of the day will take you to Ostrog Monastery, situated in a cliff face, 900 metres above the Zeta River valley. The entire ambience is breath



taking and filled with serenity. The Monastery is dedicated to Saint Vasilije of Ostrog, and is a worldwide known pilgrimage site for Orthodox Christians. The ride along the fertile valley of Zeta River will bring you to the Montenegrin capital Podgorica. **Overnight: Podgorica.**

Day 11

Departure day

Departure from Podgorica or any non-listed airport.

If you are departing from **Podgorica** 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, Tara river rafting
- **Entrance tickets:** Tara NP, Wooden Town, Stopića Cave, Sirogojno Old Village, Uvac Lake Natural Reserve, Biogradska Gora NP, Durmitor NP
- 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
- 1 BB in Kolašin in Hotel Dream House 4* or similar
- 3 BB on Žabljak (Durmitor NP) in Hotel Zlatni Bor 3* / Holiday Home Villas Calimero or similar
- 1 BB in Podgorica in Hotel Ramada by Windham 4* / Hotel New Star 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
- 1 BB in Kolašin in Hotel Bianca Resort & Spa 4* / Hotel Four Points by Sheraton 4* or similar
- 3 BB on Žabljak (Durmitor NP) in Ethno Village Zminica / Hotel Soa 4* or similar
- 1 BB in Podgorica in Hotel Hilton 5* / Hotel Cue (ex CentreVille) 4* superior or similar

Notices:

- Tips and portorage 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

