

BALKAN ESSENTIALS 12 DAYS

11 NIGHTS | 12 DAYS

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Montenegro, Croatia

Day 1

Welcome to Belgrade

Belgrade

Day 2

Vibrant Capital of Serbia

Belgrade

Day 3

“Serbian Tuscany” Delights

Belgrade - Šumadija Region - Zlatibor Mountain

Day 4

Vivid Western Serbia

Zlatibor Mountain - Wooden-Town -
Šargan Eight - Višegrad - Sarajevo

Day 5

Balkan Soul Capital

Sarajevo

Day 6

The Beauty of Herzegovina

Sarajevo - Mostar - Blagaj - Trebinje

Day 7

The Mediterranean Essence

Trebinje - Perast - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Day 8

The Pearl of the Adriatic

Dubrovnik

Day 9

The Dalmatian Coast

Dubrovnik - Pelješac Peninsula - Split

Day 10

Hvar Island Adventure

Split - Hvar Island - Split

Day 11

The Devil’s Garden

Split - Plitvice Lakes NP - Zagreb

Day 12

Farewell, Zagreb

Zagreb



EXPERIENCE MORE

Some of our experiences
included in the tour:

Serbian Morning Routine

Day 2

Šargan Eight Railroad

Day 4

Pelješac Handcrafted Wines

Day 9



Balkan
&more

BALKAN ESSENTIALS 12 DAYS

11 NIGHTS | 12 DAYS | 4 COUNTRIES | 10 EXPERIENCE MORE

Explore the Balkans in 12 days with our Essentials tour! From vibrant Belgrade and Serbia's "Tuscany" to Bosnia's Andrićgrad and Sarajevo's rich flavours, this journey spans Montenegro's Bay of Kotor, Croatia's Dubrovnik, and the stunning Hvar Island. Discover history, culture, and breathtaking landscapes.



EXPERIENCE MORE

EXPERIENCE MORE is at the core of our travel philosophy, elevating each tour beyond the ordinary. These carefully curated moments enrich our itineraries, offering deeper insights and unique perspectives of every destination. From exclusive cultural encounters to hidden local gems, EXPERIENCE MORE ensures each journey is unforgettable and engaging.

FOR TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

For dates, prices and to choose your group size contact your Balkan&more Local Expert or visit the tour on our website by scanning the QR code.



PRE-STAY: The good thing about our tours is that they can be customized to suit your desires. If you need more time to settle in and adjust before the tour, we'll be glad to book additional overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO BELGRADE Belgrade

Upon arrival in Belgrade, Serbia's vibrant capital, your driver will welcome you and escort you to your hotel. Enjoy the sights of **New Belgrade**, featuring Socialist architecture and modern business centres, during the ride from Nikola Tesla Airport. After hotel *check-in*, use your free time to rest and prepare for the journey ahead.

In the evening, we recommend a leisurely stroll through one of Belgrade's oldest quarters to **Skadarlija**, the city's bohemian heart. This charming 19th century cobbled street is lined with "kafanas" where you can enjoy delicious local specialties and traditional music.

Overnight: Belgrade

DAY 2 | VIBRANT CAPITAL OF SERBIA Belgrade

On your first day in Serbia, you will embark on a walking and driving tour around Belgrade, starting at **Knez Mihailova Street**, the city's bustling pedestrian zone, filled with shops, cafes, and historic buildings.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Serbian Morning Routine: Your guide will take you to a hidden gem close to the main district, **the city's oldest tavern** intriguingly known as "?" (Question Mark), where you'll try Serbia's most cherished traditional drinks: **coffee and rakija**, but also learn about the UNESCO-protected art of making "šljivovica", Serbia's renowned plum brandy.

Having started the day like a true local, we will walk through **the historical Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park** and be amazed by the view of the mighty Sava and Danube rivers.

Crossing Branko's Bridge into New Belgrade, our panorama tour begins. You'll experience the bold **Brutalism architecture** and see the emerging **Belgrade Waterfront**, a symbol of the city's modern transformation. Continuing the journey, you'll gain **insight into Serbia's past**, from its 19th century struggle for independence

to its turbulent 1990s. We'll stop for a visit and devote time to the impressive **Temple of Saint Sava**, the symbol of the city and the fourth-largest Orthodox temple in the world, adorned with stunning mosaics.

Our tour concludes in **the lively heart of Serbia's bustling capital** - The Republic Square, having offered you an insight into both the city's and the country's diverse culture, heritage, and history.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Belgrade Sundown Cruise: Set sail on an enchanting evening river cruise through Belgrade, where the grand Sava and Danube Rivers unveil the city's splendour. Cruise past iconic landmarks, absorb the vibrant riverside ambience, and capture stunning views of Belgrade's **skyline, bridges, and historic landmarks**.

Overnight: Belgrade

DAY 3 | "SERBIAN TUSCANY" DELIGHTS Belgrade - Šumadija Region - Zlatibor Mountain

Morning *check-out* from Belgrade marks the beginning of your journey southwards, towards the heart of Serbia. You'll explore **Oplenac**, a place where royals are laid to rest and history comes to life.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Šumadija Royal Wine: Delve into a royal wine journey through the enchanting Šumadija region, often called **the "Serbian Tuscany"**. At one of Serbia's leading century-old wineries, where natural beauty meets urban elegance, you will taste **three sorts of wine** crafted using traditional recipes and learn about **the Royal Karadorđević dynasty**, who led Serbia through pivotal moments in its history.

After this exquisite wine experience, continue to **Zlatibor Mountain**, home to Serbia's first royal resort. *Check-in* to your mountain hotel and enjoy a leisurely walk through the picturesque town centre, followed by a delightful dinner of traditional Serbian cuisine typical to the region.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Zlatibor Gourmet Session: Explore **the essence of Serbian cuisine** at one of Zlatibor Mountain's finest **traditional kafanas**. Indulge in rich ajvar, creamy kajmak, artisan-cured meats, and hearty traditional pies or proja. Join us for this unforgettable dining experience and try **the rich, irresistible flavours** of Serbian cuisine against the stunning backdrop of Zlatibor's natural beauty.

Overnight: Zlatibor Mountain

DAY 4 | VIVID WESTERN SERBIA Zlatibor Mountain - Wooden-Town - Šargan Eight - Višegrad - Sarajevo

After *check-out*, continue to the ethno village **Drvengrad** (Wooden-Town), built by renowned film director Emir Kusturica. This village features natural wood constructions, the Mečavnik Hotel, galleries, shops, a cinema, and a church, hosting the **Küstendorf Film and Music Festival** since 2008.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Šargan Eight Railroad: You will truly experience the charm of the mountains while riding the authentic, **retro "Nostalgia" train** along the narrow gauge heritage railway, **Šargan Eight**. This railway, named for its figure-eight shape, takes you from the base of Šargan Mountain and transports you back in time as you enjoy stunning scenery, numerous tunnels, and viaduct.

The tour concludes in **Višegrad**, with a visit to **Andrićgrad**, or Stone-Town, built by Kusturica on the emerald Drina River, featuring cultural facilities and the UNESCO-protected bridge. After lunch, continue to **Sarajevo**, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for hotel *check-in*.

Overnight: Sarajevo

DAY 5 | BALKAN SOUL CAPITAL Sarajevo

Our Sarajevo exploration starts at **Vječna Vatra** (Eternal Flame), from where we will delve deeper in the cultural and historical treasures and engage **all your senses** - sight, sound, and taste - offering an extraordinary experience that truly captures the essence of Sarajevo.

EXPERIENCE MORE / A Taste of History: Start your Sarajevo tour with none other than a taste of the city's culinary crown jewel - **the famous burek**. Enjoy this savoury pastry at a local bakery before we continue through the vibrant Ferhadija pedestrian zone and discover how Sarajevo's **diverse Orthodox, Catholic, and Islamic cultures influence** its rich traditions and heritage. Our journey continues to **Baščaršija**, the heart of Sarajevo's old town, where you'll find some of **the best ćevapi** around, a minced meat dish which the entire Balkan swears by. In the city centre area, make sure to experience **the local tradition**

of coffee, a key part of Sarajevo's daily life. We'll also visit iconic sites like the **Vjećnica (City Hall)**, wrapping **the entire tale** of this soulful city. End this unforgettable experience with a taste of heavenly **baklava** and savour the true essence of Sarajevo's history and cuisine.

In the afternoon, take the opportunity to **explore Sarajevo at your own pace**, revisit your favourite sights or unwind in one of the city's cosy cafes.

Overnight: Sarajevo

DAY 6 | THE BEAUTY OF HERZEGOVINA Sarajevo - Mostar - Blagaj - Trebinje

Today, bid farewell to Sarajevo after *check-out* and embark on a journey to one of the Balkan Peninsula's most stunning cities, **Mostar**. Begin with a walking tour visiting the iconic **Old Bridge**, a UNESCO landmark, Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Crooked Bridge, and the old tanner's quarter, Tabhana.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Mostar Copper Artistry: Step into a workshop in Mostar's Old Town to explore **the ancient art of copper modelling**. Guided by a master artisan, create stunning **jewellery pieces** or intricate reliefs, delving into Bosnia's rich coppersmithing tradition passed down through generations.

Enjoy free time by **the Neretva River** for lunch with a breathtaking view of the bridge.

Continue to **Blagaj**, a 15th century town near the spring of the emerald green river Buna, and visit the monastery nestled beneath towering cliffs. Then, explore **Trebinje**, known for its picturesque **Arslanagića Bridge** and a leisurely walk through the old town's narrow streets. Conclude your day at **"Poet's Square"**, where century-old 16 plane trees symbolize the town's charm, before *check-in* to your hotel.

Overnight: Trebinje

DAY 7 | THE MEDITERRANEAN ESSENCE Trebinje - Perast - Kotor - Dubrovnik

After *check-out*, explore Trebinje's **local market** before continuing towards Montenegro.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Trebinje Market Delights: Savour the fresh delights of Trebinje's **vibrant local market**, a rare gem where **traditional tastes and methods** still thrive. Amidst the friendly chatter of vendors and the inviting aromas of fresh produce, indulge in creamy,



fresh cheese, flavourful dried meats, and sun-ripened fruits, all grown by **small local producers** using time-honoured techniques.

Wave farewell to Herzegovina as you journey towards **Montenegro's Boka Bay**, renowned for its picturesque landscapes and historical significance. Your first stop is the town of **Perast**, a charming baroque-style settlement nestled in the heart of Boka Bay.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Our Lady of the Rocks: From Perast, you have the opportunity to discover **a quiet wonder** of the Boka Bay, the picturesque island of **Our Lady of the Rocks**, a manmade island is home to a church with valuable paintings by local artists, silver votive tablets, and a famous sacred tapestry.

Arrive in **Kotor** for a guided tour of this **UNESCO site**, including ancient churches and the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon.

The final destination of the day is **Dubrovnik**, one of the most significant monuments in the world and one of Europe's best preserved walled cities, known since the 7th century. Hotel *check-in*.

Overnight: Dubrovnik

DAY 8 | THE PEARL OF THE ADRIATIC Dubrovnik

Discover the true essence of Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic", as you explore its iconic landmarks, from the bustling **Stradun** to the historic Placa Square and beyond. Immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of this city, where the breathtaking settings of "**Game of Thrones**" come to life. Uncover the fascinating tales of the **Republic of Ragusa** and experience firsthand why Dubrovnik stands as one of the world's most captivating destinations.

Our mission is to showcase **Dubrovnik from every angle**, allowing you to fully embrace its unique charm. After the city tour, we recommend making the most of your **free time** by having lunch atop the city walls, taking a **cable car to Srđ Hill** for breathtaking views, walking **the 2 km City Walls** for a stunning perspective from above. In the evening, set sail on a **sunset cruise on the Karaka**, a replica of a traditional 16th century wooden galleon, and admire the breathtaking views of the old town and the centuries-old impregnable walls of Dubrovnik from the sea.

Overnight: Dubrovnik

DAY 9 | THE DALMATIAN COAST

Dubrovnik - Pelješac Peninsula - Split
After *check-out*, drive along the scenic **Dalmatian coast**, enjoying views of Croatian islands and charming villages. Stop briefly in the **City of Ston** on the Pelješac Peninsula to taste its famous oysters and photograph the Ston Walls.

EXPERIENCE MORE / Pelješac Handcrafted Wines: **Pelješac Peninsula** is known for its breathtaking vineyards and celebrated wines. Experience the essence of Dalmatian wine-making as a **local winery** invites you to try the robust **Plavac Mali**, the region's signature red wine, made from vines hand-tended as they grow in rocky terrain.

The day concludes in **Split**, the largest city in Dalmatia. Enter through **the Golden Gate** and wander through narrow cobblestone streets, where bustling markets, charming cafés, and hidden courtyards reveal the rich history and timeless grandeur of **the Diocletian's Palace**. Visit **the former Temple of Jupiter**, followed by the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, the oldest Catholic cathedral still in its original structure. Stroll along the lively **Riva promenade**, soaking up the Mediterranean sun and vibrant atmosphere. End the day with a hotel *check-in*.

Overnight: Split

DAY 10 | HVAR ISLAND ADVENTURE Split - Hvar Island - Split

To start your day, drive to the ferry port and board a **high-speed catamaran** bound for Hvar, Croatia's renowned island gem.

Hvar, a charming island-city with **Venetian architecture**, is known for its traffic-free cobbled streets lined with restaurants and bars. On your walking tour, explore the harbour, Renaissance Cathedral, Benedictine Convent, Franciscan Monastery, and Church of Our Lady of Mercy.

We've set aside plenty of free time for you to fully enjoy all that the island has to offer. Based on your interests, we recommend you to: Enjoy a delightful Mediterranean lunch at a local restaurant, relax on the sun-kissed beaches, embark on a boat excursion to discover the enchanting **Pakleni Islands**, or explore the picturesque trails to Milna Bay for a memorable adventure.

In the late afternoon, return to **Split**, with departure timing subject to seasonal variations.

Overnight: Split

DAY 11 | THE DEVIL'S GARDEN

Split - Plitvice Lakes NP - Zagreb

Today, we bid farewell to the stunning Dalmatian coast, and after *check-out* we head inland. Pass through charming villages, admire rolling hills, as you wave goodbye to the sparkling Adriatic Sea, before entering the mountainous landscape surrounding our next stop.

Start exploring **Plitvice Lakes National Park**, a beautiful park that contains **16 interconnected cascading lakes**. On old maps, it was called "Devil's Garden" and it is the first site in the Balkans to get **UNESCO World Heritage status**.

The final stop of the day is the Croatian capital, **Zagreb**. After *checking into* your hotel, enjoy some free time to explore the city and savour a delightful dinner on your own.

Overnight: Zagreb

DAY 12 | FAREWELL, ZAGREB

Zagreb

After hotel *check-out*, it is time to conclude your Balkan tour with a Zagreb sightseeing tour, during which you will explore the city's main attractions. Visit **Kaptol**, the medieval part of Zagreb, and the Franciscan monastery with its 13th century Church of Saint Francis. Walk around **Dolac**, Zagreb's best-known farmers' market, and admire the baroque architecture of the 18th century Church of Saint Mary. The tour will conclude in the heart of Zagreb, at **Ban Josip Jelačić's monument**, placed in the square named after him.

As most of our clients decide to **extend their trip** within their own organisation, **transfer to the airport** at the end of the tour is not included in the overall price. Any guests who would like Balkan&more to organise a departure transfer on their behalf are welcome to contact us. End of services.

POST-STAY: If you feel like you are not ready to end this trip and would like to spend more time on your vacation, let us know and we will book some more overnights for you. You are welcome to contact us for more details!

GENERAL INCLUSIONS

Valid both for Standard and Superior package

Transportation:

- Airport arrival transfer
- Transportation as per the itinerary with modern, comfortable vehicles tailored to your group size

Entrances & tickets:

Temple of Saint Sava, Oplenac Royal Complex, Wooden-Town, Blagaj Tekke, Kotor Old Town, Catamaran Split - Hvar - Split, NP Plitvice Lakes

Experiences:

Coffee & rakija in a Belgrade tavern (*Serbian Morning Routine*); Sava and Danube Rivers Cruise (*Belgrade Sundown Cruise*); Wine tasting in a local winery in Central Serbia (*Šumadija Royal Wines*); Dinner in a traditional Western Serbian restaurant (*Zlatibor Gourmet Session*); Train ride tickets on a heritage railway (*Šargan Eight Railroad*); Traditional Bosnian street food tasting (*A Taste of History*); Copper modelling workshop (*Mostar Copper Artistry*); Visit to the local market in Herzegovina (*Trebinje Market Delights*); Boat ride to the island and entry ticket to the church (*Our Lady of the Rocks*); Wine tasting in a local winery in Dalmatia (*Pelješac Handcrafted Wines*)

Meals:

- 11 x breakfast
- Additional meals included in our experiences

Additional:

- Professional English-speaking tour guidance throughout the tour
- VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organization with dedicated service and care
- 1 bottle of water (0.5l) daily for each passenger

HOTELS / STANDARD package

2 BB in Belgrade in Royal Inn 4* / Mercure Excelsior 4* / Central Point 4* or similar

1 BB in Zlatibor in Palisad standard 4* / Mona 4* / Buket 4* or similar

2 BB in Sarajevo in Old Town 4* / Colors Inn 4* / Movenpick 4* (Novotel) or similar

1 BB in Trebinje in Central Park 4* / Sesto Senso 4* / Platani 4* or similar

2 BB in Dubrovnik in Lapad 4* / Lero 4* / Valamar Tirena 4* or similar

2 BB in Split in Art 4* / Globo 4* / Marul 4* or similar

1 BB in Zagreb in DoubleTree by Hilton 4* / Dubrovnik 4* / International by Maistra City Vibes 4* or similar

HOTELS / SUPERIOR package

2 BB in Belgrade in Envoy 4* / Museum 4* / Moskva 4* or similar

1 BB in Zlatibor in Palisad superior 4* / Bor by Karisma 5* / Zlatibor Residence 4* or similar

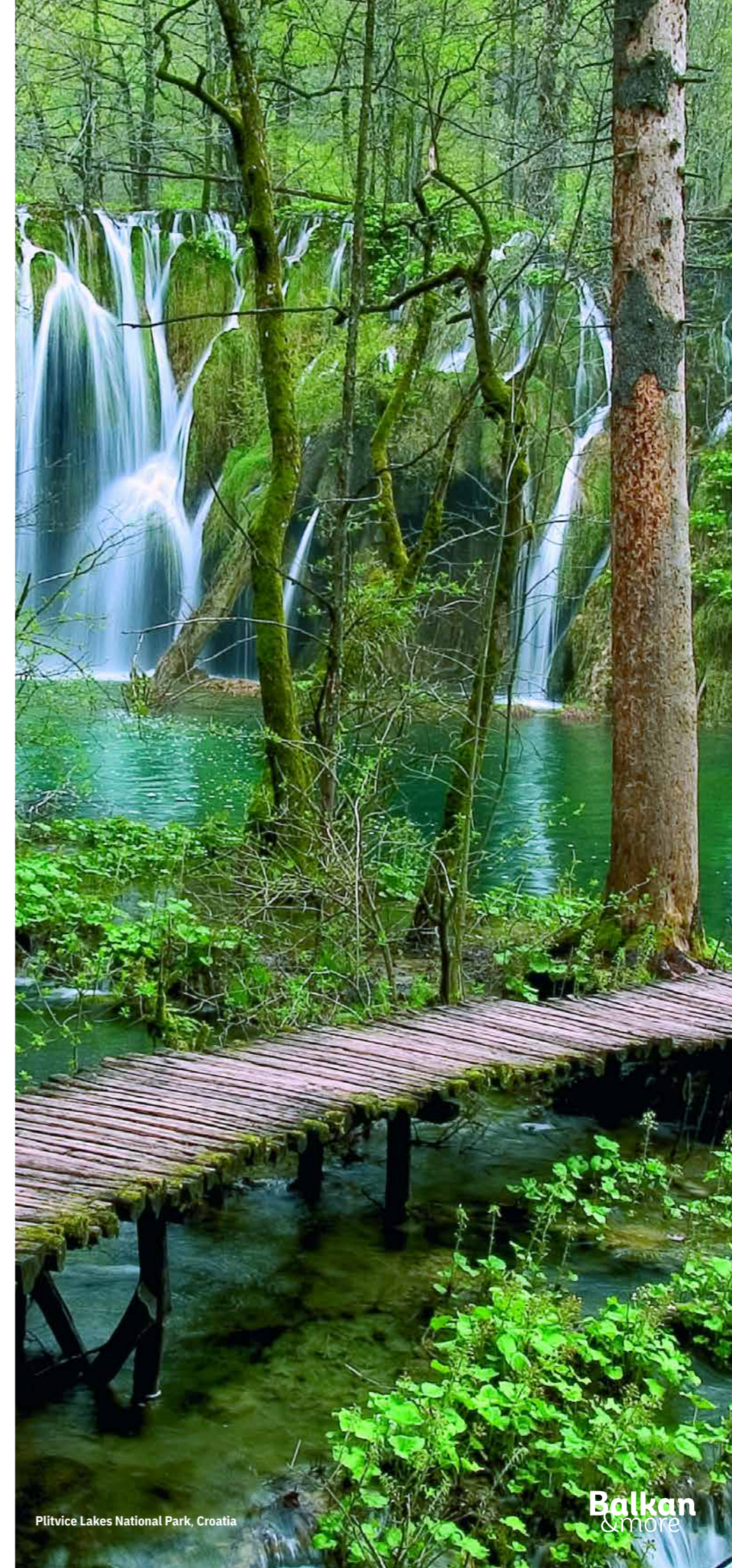
2 BB in Sarajevo in Courtyard by Marriott 4* / Europe 5* / Baškuća 4* or similar

1 BB in Trebinje in Central Park 4* / Nar 4* / Integra 4* or similar

2 BB in Dubrovnik in Royal Neptun 4* / Kompas 4* / More 5* or similar

2 BB in Split in Luxe 4* / Marmont Heritage 4* / AC Marriott 4* or similar

1 BB in Zagreb in Amadria Park Capital 4* / Sheraton 5* / Le Premier 5* or similar



Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia