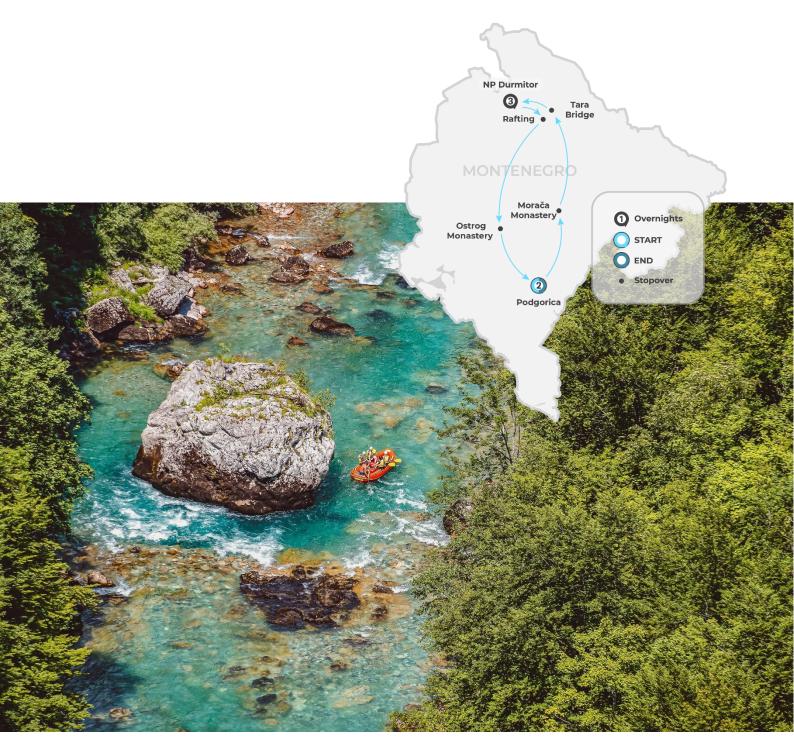
# The Heartland of Montenegro

# Podgorica – Ostrog – Durmitor – Tara Rafting

# 5 nights / 6 days tour





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

# Day 1 Arriving to Montenegro

Upon arrival at the airport of your choice, an enjoyable ride with staggering viewpoints waits for you. Accompanied by your guide, you will get the first glimpse at this Mediterranean country during a scenic ride to your hotel. The intervening landscapes of old times' architecture and contemporary lifestyle will introduce you to the diversity of this small, yet imposing country. *Overnight: Podgorica.* 



#### Day 2

#### Morača Monastery – NP Biogradska Gora hiking – Đurđevića Tara Bridge – NP Durmitor

Breakfast. This day requires full attention from the very beginning. It will take you through the grandiose canyon of Morača River - the second largest one in Montenegro, with steep slopes and the depth of 1.000 meters in some areas. Amazing mountains, crystal clear green river, and "the porch of nature" above the road will certainly make you silent while trying to absorb as much of this stunning nature creation. As this is not enough, in the heart of the canyon there is the medieval Morača Monastery, dating all the way back to the 13th century. Listening to the great stories about its history, admiring the architectural style and decoration will be the perfect way to spend a break before the active part of the day.

Our nexts stop, 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 meters, 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 bears, 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 stroll through a true wilderness will probably make you hungry just in time to enjoy a picnic lunch with the most authentic traditional specialties from the North of Montenegro. A ride to Žabljak, a famous town 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.* 



## Day 3 UNESCO's NP Durmitor: Durmitor's Wild beauty®

After breakfast we will be ready to meet this magical mountain. 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 at 1.400 meters altitude called "Mountain Eyes" and five spectacular canyons, best presented with the deepest canyon in Europe - the Tara River Canyon.





Keeping in mind the wondrous beauty of Montenegrin mountainside, it comes to no surprise that the country itself was named after them – Montenegro, or as the locals call it – Crna Gora, which means "Black Mountain".

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 to 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 everyday activities and healthy nutrition.

This gourmet-hiking adventure is an ideal opportunity to chat with the locals, mainly shepherds and herdsmen, try the homemade, authentic food and to get to know the resilient mentality of people who have spent their entire life surviving, but also indulging in nature.



But the attractions of Durmitor do not stop there – this monumental wonder has a several more aces up its sleeve. You will walk around the biggest and most beautiful lake on Durmitor, the Black Lake, surrounded by the magnificent scenery and its giant peak Međed ("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 with numerous mountain streams, and it truly represents the "Wild beauty" of Montenegro at its best. *Overnight: Žabljak.* 

#### Day 4 UNESCO's NP Durmitor: Leisure day or Optional experiences

Breakfast. Leisure Day. Create your own plan for the day. Use the opportunity to gather some energy for the adventure 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 starting point for those adventure enthusiasts who are not yet sure which first step to take on their adrenalinepumping journey, 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 kilometeres 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 these quite rough surroundings. In the authentic ambiance, 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 off your 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. Overnight: Žabljak.



#### Day 5

### UNESCO'S Tara River Canyon with rafting -Ostrog Monastery - Podgorica

Breakfast. 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 the Colorado River in USA. Since 1977, the canyon is under the protection of UNESCO, and it is in the category of 25 of 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 on a cliff face, 900 meters above the Zeta River valley. The entire ambiance is breathtaking 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 6

#### **Departure day**

Breakfast and hotel check-out. 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. Wishing for MORE TIME ON THE COAST OF MONTENEGRO? If you would like to spend a few more days in Budva, the Capital of Montenegrin tourism, or in the charming Boka Bay, you can book additional nights with us, for a surcharge of  $\leq$ 50 reg.s /  $\leq$ 80 high.s (Standard package) or  $\leq$ 70 reg.s/ $\leq$ 115 high.s (Superior package). Prices are per person, per night, in a double room.



## General inclusions // Valid both for Standard and Superior Package:

- ✤ Airport arrival transfer
- ✤ All sightseeing tours and transfers that are included in the itinerary
- Entrance tickets to the NP Durmitor & Black Lake, NP Biogradska Gora
- Traditional food tasting in Durmitor NP
- Tickets for Tara River rafting
- ✤ Lunch after Tara rafting
- ✤ 1 bottle of water (0.5l) daily for each passenger
- ✤ Professional tour guidance throughout the tour
- ✤ VAT, accommodation taxes and city taxes
- Tour logistics and organisation by a licensed incoming agency

#### Standard package // Accommodation:

- ◆ 2 BB in Podgorica in Hotel Ramada 4\* / Hotel Aurel 4\* / Hotel New Star 4\* or similar
- ◆ 3 BB in Durmitor in Hotel Polar Star 3\* / Hotel Zlatni bor 3\* or similar

#### Superior package // Accommodation:

- ◆ 2 BB in Podgorica in Hotel Hilton 5\* / Hotel Ziya 5\* / Hotel Cue 4\* or similar
- ✤ 3 BB in Durmitor in Hotel Soa 4\* / North Story Luxury Chalet 4\* or similar

#### Notices:

- Tips and porterage 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
- 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 are issued by Boccato DMC d.o.o.

