

## Project: helloSerb & Balkan&more

Serbian Youth 18-30

Destinations: Serbia - Montenegro - Republic of Srpska

Duration: 14N/15D

Date: Jun-Sep, 2026.



## Welcome Home to the Heart of the Balkans

This journey is more than a tour, it is a homecoming with energy. As your hosts in Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Montenegro, we invite you to experience Serbian heritage the way it is lived today: proud of its roots, open to the world, and full of life. Designed especially for young adults, this program connects history, tradition, and spirituality with modern urban rhythm, adventure, and legendary nightlife. From monasteries and mountains to river rapids, clubs, beaches, and Adriatic sunsets – this is Serbia and the Balkans, experienced with heart, intensity, and style.

### What makes this journey unique?

- **Serbian identity, lived and felt** - Discover the story of the Serbian people across borders: faith, resilience, creativity, and humor. From royal dynasties and medieval monasteries to modern cities and shared traditions, this is a journey into who we are – past and present.
- **Heritage with a youthful pulse** - Explore historic towns, fortresses, and cultural landmarks by day, then see how these same places transform at night – alive with music, energy, and social life.
- **World-famous nightlife** - Experience Belgrade, consistently ranked among the world's top nightlife destinations, known for its river clubs, underground scene, and unmatched energy that goes until sunrise. In Budva, enjoy the Adriatic party capital – beach clubs, open-air venues, and summer nights that never seem to end.
- **Food, rakija & Serbian social culture** - Taste Serbia through family bakeries, markets, kafanas, wine cellars, and rakija tastings, where food and drinks are never just about eating, but about gathering, storytelling, and connection.
- **Adventure & adrenaline** - Jeep safaris, river rafting, speedboat rides, mountain landscapes, cable cars, and scenic railways bring excitement and freedom, balancing cultural depth with action and fun.
- **Tradition you can join** - Learn kolo dances, take part in artisan workshops, meet locals, and experience customs that are not staged, but passed down through generations.
- **Cities, coast & contrasts** - From Belgrade's raw urban energy to Trebinje's Mediterranean calm, Kotor's medieval charm, and Budva's beach lifestyle, this journey moves between cultures, climates, and moods – all connected by Serbian heritage.
- **Community, friendships & memories** - Designed for young people to connect, share experiences, and build friendships, with enough free time, nightlife, and group moments to create stories that last long after the journey ends.

## Day 1: Welcome to Belgrade

*Belgrade*

Upon arrival in **Belgrade**, the capital of Serbia and a city where East meets West, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in. Meet your tour manager and representatives of the **HelloSerb & Balkan&more** team for a warm welcome and introductory meeting, offering insight into the journey ahead and Serbia's rich heritage. In the evening, enjoy a relaxed gathering at a local pub, an essential part of Belgrade's social culture, before settling in for your first night in this historic city at the heart of the Serbian spirit.

**Overnight:** Belgrade

## Day 2: Taste Belgrade Tour & Welcome Dinner

*Belgrade*

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Taste Belgrade:** After breakfast, embark on the Taste Belgrade Tour, starting with a visit to the historic Kalemegdan Fortress and a walk through Dorćol, Belgrade's oldest quarter. Experience local morning rituals with traditional coffee, visit a family bakery, and stroll through the vibrant Bajloni Market. The tour continues with a rakija tasting of famous **Ježdić Rakija**, followed by a visit to the magnificent St. Sava Temple. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

The **welcome dinner** will be hosted depending on the size of the group. For groups of **up to 20 passengers**, the dinner will be held in **Senjak**, providing an intimate and relaxed atmosphere ideal for smaller gatherings. For groups of **more than 20 passengers**, the dinner will take place in a **non-touristy, authentic kafana**, where you will enjoy traditional Serbian specialties along with storytelling, creating a lively and immersive experience for the entire group.

**Overnight:** Belgrade

## Day 3: Treasures of Vojvodina

*Belgrade - Fruška Gora NP - Sremski Karlovci - Novi Sad - Belgrade*

Today, you will explore the most interesting sights of **Vojvodina**, the culturally rich province of northern Serbia, long known as a crossroads of peoples, traditions, and Serbian spiritual life. You will travel toward **Fruška Gora National Park**, often called the "**Serbian Holy Land**", home to 17 functioning Serbian Orthodox monasteries that for centuries preserved Serbian faith, literacy, and identity during challenging historical periods. Your visit includes the beautifully preserved **Krušedol Monastery**, one of the most important spiritual and historical centers for the Serbian people.

The journey continues to **Sremski Karlovci**, a true gem of Serbian culture and spirituality. Often described as a “museum town,” it charms visitors with its elegant Baroque center, the **Patriarchal Court**, the **Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas**, and the **first Serbian secondary school (gymnasium)**, a cornerstone in the development of Serbian education.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Wines of Fruška Gora:** Step into the enchanting world of the **Fruška Gora wine region**, renowned for its centuries-old winemaking heritage. At one of its local wineries, you’ll **enjoy a delightful array of wines** that perfectly showcase the region’s diversity and craftsmanship. Don’t miss trying locally produced **Bermet**, an internationally acclaimed Serbian wine that famously graced the tables of the iconic *Titanic* as a cherished delicacy.

Your next stop will be **Novi Sad**, the vibrant capital of Vojvodina and 2021 European Capital of Culture. This **multicultural gem** is renowned for hosting **EXIT**, Southeast Europe’s largest music festival. Explore the impressive **Petrovaradin Fortress**, often called “Danube’s Gibraltar”, where you can enjoy stunning views of the Danube River and the cityscape, perfect for capturing unforgettable moments.

After a short drive, you will return to Belgrade and enjoy the rest of your evening.

**Overnight: Belgrade**

#### **Day 4: Golubac Fortress & Iron Gate Danube Gorge**

*Belgrade - Golubac Fortress - Danube River Cruise - Kapetan Mišin Breg - Belgrade*

The **Danube**, often called the “old giant” or “the biggest among rivers,” is the cradle of countless civilizations and cultures. Today, it remains a key artery connecting the eastern and western parts of Europe. As Europe’s **second-longest river**, the Danube stretches over 2,860 km, with **588 km flowing through Serbia**, offering some of its most fascinating landscapes and historical treasures.

Soon, we will arrive at **Golubac Fortress**, one of Serbia’s best-preserved medieval fortresses. For centuries, it controlled the entrance to the **Đerdap Gorge**, a spectacular natural formation where the river has carved Europe’s greatest river gorge, stretching **98 km** through rugged landscapes.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Danube River Cruise:** After visiting magnificent Golubac, we will embark on a scenic Danube River cruise through the Iron Gate Gorge, passing the **Decebalus Rock Sculpture**, Mraconia Monastery, and the ancient Roman **Tabula Traiana plaque**.

A reward for your patience will be the Eco-ethno household “Kapetan Mišin breg”, where you can enjoy enchanting views over the Đerdap gorge. The complex, named after a very respected captain, offers you an open-air gallery called “Man, wood, water”, a collection of wooden and stone sculptures. Return to Belgrade in the evening for an overnight.

**Overnight: Belgrade**

### **Day 5: Serbian Royalty, Wine, and Monastery**

*Belgrade - Oplenac Royal Complex - Wine Tasting Šumadija Region - Maglič Fortress - Studenica Monastery*

After breakfast and check-out, depart from Belgrade and travel south into the heart of central Serbia. You'll visit **Oplenac**, the burial site of the **Karađorđević royal family**, and explore the **royal mausoleum**, renowned for its intricate mosaics depicting key events in Serbian history. Along the way, you'll also explore the nearby **royal vineyards** and surrounding grounds, which reflect the historical connection between the royal family and the region.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Šumadija Royal Wines:** *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. Step into the prestigious wine cellar and witness firsthand the meticulous craftsmanship that defines each bottle, gaining a profound appreciation for Serbia's renowned wine-making heritage.*

As soon as we finish with the wine tasting, you'll head to **Maglič Fortress**, a 13th-century stronghold perched above the **Ibar River**, overlooking the **Lilac Valley**, known for its picturesque landscapes and historical significance. Along the way, you'll **cross the Ibar River on a traditional wooden-style ferry**, adding a unique and authentic touch to the journey.

Afterward, you'll continue to **Studenica Monastery**, one of Serbia's most significant and well-preserved medieval monasteries, founded in the 12th century. Spend the night in the **traditional konak**, fully immersing yourself in **monastic life** and the serene, spiritual atmosphere that surrounds this **UNESCO World Heritage site**, experiencing a unique connection to Serbia's religious and cultural heritage.

**Overnight: Studenica Monastery**

### **Day 6: Valley of Kings to Western Serbia**

*Studenica Monastery - Zlakusa Arts Crafts - Sirogojno Village - Zlatibor*

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Zlakusa Pottery Workshop:** *After breakfast, we will visit **Zlakusa's Terzića Avlja ethno village**, a center renowned for preserving traditional Serbian craftsmanship. Participate in a **hands-on pottery workshop**, guided by skilled local artisans who will teach you time-honored techniques passed down through generations.*

Afterward, you'll visit the **picturesque village of Sirogojno**, renowned for its authentic 19th-century wooden architecture and the **Ethno Village Museum**, where traditional rural homes,

workshops, and exhibits showcase daily life in historic Serbian villages. You'll explore the village at leisure, observing the craftsmanship, period furnishings, and cultural artifacts that vividly bring the region's heritage to life.

Following this, you'll take a short drive to the famous **Zlatibor Mountain**, historically known as the site of Serbia's first royal mountain resort. In the evening, you'll enjoy a **traditional Serbian dinner**, featuring regional specialties and flavors, providing an authentic taste of Zlatibor's culinary heritage.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Zlatibor Gourmet Session:** Discover *the essence of Serbian cuisine* at one of Zlatibor Mountain's finest **traditional kafanas**. Start with rich ajvar and creamy kajmak, paired with artisan-cured meats. Enjoy hearty traditional pies or proja, the beloved Serbian cornbread. For the main course, indulge in succulent veal or freshly caught fish, expertly prepared to bring out the best local flavours.

**Overnight:** Zlatibor Mountain

## Day 7: Zlatibor Highlights

*Zlatibor - Mileševa Monastery - Uvac Meandering Jeep Tour - Folklore Experience*

After breakfast, you'll depart in the morning and drive through the **scenic Serbian countryside** toward **Mileševa Monastery**, one of the country's most significant medieval monasteries, founded in the 13th century. You'll explore the complex and admire its exceptional frescoes, most notably the **White Angel**, celebrated as a masterpiece of European medieval art and a symbol of Serbian cultural and spiritual heritage.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Uvac Jeep Tour:** Continue the day with a scenic **jeep tour through the Uvac River**, one of Serbia's most spectacular natural wonders. The river is famous for its **sinuous meanders**, carved over millennia into dramatic limestone cliffs and surrounded by dense forests, creating a landscape of extraordinary beauty and serenity. Keep your eyes on the skies, as this area is a protected habitat for the **rare and majestic white-headed eagle**, soaring gracefully above the cliffs—a true highlight for nature lovers and photographers. Pause for a **picnic lunch** along the riverbank, surrounded by the peaceful sounds of nature.

In the afternoon, we will go back to the Zlatibor.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Traditional dance Kolo:** In the evening, enjoy an **exclusive private Serbian folklore performance**, with lively traditional music, energetic dances, and colorful costumes. Guests are encouraged to participate, learning dance steps or joining the circle dances, making the experience interactive and memorable.

**Overnight:** Zlatibor Mountain

**Day 8: Through the Heart of the Balkans: Zlatibor, Višegrad & Drina River Camp Experience**

*Zlatibor - Šargan 8 railroad - Wooden-town - Višegrad - Rafting Camp on the Drina*

After check-out, the tour will continue to the **ethno village Drvengrad (Wooden-Town)**, built by the renowned film director **Emir Kusturica**. Since 2008, Drvengrad has hosted the annual **Küstendorf Film and Music Festival**, attracting artists and celebrities from around the world, including **Johnny Depp, Monica Bellucci, and Jim Jarmusch**, while also showcasing the region's cultural and artistic traditions in a unique, immersive setting.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Šargan Eight Railroad:** You will truly experience the charm of the mountains and reflect on their beauty 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 viaducts.

This day concludes in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, within the **Republic of Srpska**, with a short drive to **Višegrad**, where **Emir Kusturica** brought his vision to life in **Andrićgrad (Stone-Town)**. You'll explore this cultural centre, featuring numerous buildings and facilities on the banks of the emerald **Drina River**, just steps from the famous **UNESCO-protected bridge** that inspired Ivo Andrić's Nobel Prize-winning novel, *The Bridge on the Drina*.

After visiting Andrićgrad, continue to the **Drina Rafting Camp** for a relaxing evening by the river. You'll enjoy dinner amidst the tranquil sounds of flowing water and the surrounding natural beauty.

**Overnight:** Drina Rafting Camp

**Day 9: River Thrills to Balkan Hills: Drina Rafting Camp to Historic Trebinje**

*Rafting Camp on the Drina - Trebinje*

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Tara River Rafting:** After breakfast, embark on an unforgettable **rafting adventure on the Tara River**, winding through one of Europe's most spectacular natural landscapes. Known as the "**Tear of Europe**," the Tara River cuts through the **Tara Canyon**, the second deepest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon, offering dramatic cliffs, lush forests, and crystal-clear waters. Feel the thrill of navigating gentle rapids while taking in breathtaking views of the canyon walls rising hundreds of meters above you, and breathe in the fresh, invigorating mountain air.

After a delicious lunch at the rafting camp, continue your journey to **Trebinje**, the largest town in Republic of Srpska, in **Herzegovina region**. The region is also famous for its exceptionally tall

people, a trait celebrated in local folklore and often attributed to the area's healthy lifestyle and Mediterranean climate.

You'll have free time to explore the town's **historic streets**, charming squares, and bustling **local markets**, where centuries-old traditions blend with modern life. Discover stories of Trebinje's rich past, from its role in the **Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian periods** to its significance within Serbian heritage.

**Overnight: Trebinje**

**Day 10: Montenegrin Coast**

*Trebinje - Herceg Novi - Kotor - Budva*

After hotel *check-out*, you will head towards the epicentre of the local lifestyle - Trebinje local market.

**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, you'll experience the true essence of local life. 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 continue towards Montenegro, a small country renowned for its rich heritage and stunning natural beauty.

Your first stop is **Herceg Novi**, a picturesque coastal town at the entrance of the **Bay of Kotor**. Explore the town's historic fortresses, including **Forte Mare** and **Kanli Kula**, which offer panoramic views of the Adriatic Sea and the surrounding bay. Enjoy free time to sample local seafood specialties or simply soak in the Mediterranean atmosphere.

Next, you'll arrive in **Kotor**, one of the most remarkable medieval towns on the Adriatic coast and a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. You'll have a chance to visit the **Cathedral of Saint Tryphon**, a symbol of Kotor's rich religious and cultural history, as well as the churches of **Saint Nicholas** and **Saint Luke**. You'll also have time to explore the old town at leisure, shop for local crafts, or enjoy lunch at one of the charming squares, soaking in the vibrant atmosphere of this historic coastal gem.

In the late afternoon, continue to your hotel in **Budva**, where you can relax and enjoy the evening along the Adriatic coast.

**Overnight: Budva**

## Day 11: From Riviera Vibes to Bay Views

Budva - Tivat (Porto Montenegro) - Boka Bay Speed Boat - Kotor Cable Car - Budva

After breakfast, you'll begin the day with a guided tour of **Budva's historic center**, wandering through its charming cobblestone streets, medieval walls, and lively squares. Today, Budva is considered the **touristic capital of Montenegro**, known for its vibrant cultural life, bustling beaches, and lively nightlife, making it a unique blend of historical charm and modern Mediterranean appeal.

**EXPERIENCE MORE / Boka Bay speedboat adventure:** We will cruise through one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Your first stop is the historic town of **Perast**, where elegant baroque architecture and centuries-old palaces line the waterfront. Across the Perast, you will find **Our Lady of the Rocks**, a small artificial island with a historic church, and hear its fascinating legend as you explore the site. Pass by the **old ex-Yugoslav army tunnels**, and enjoy a panoramic view of **Mamula Island**, known for its historic fortifications and scenic surroundings. Along the way, take time for **swimming in the clear Adriatic waters**.

After returning to the mainland, you'll enjoy some free time in **Tivat**, a lively coastal town that has transformed into one of Montenegro's most exclusive destinations. The town is home to the luxurious **Porto Montenegro marina**, a modern yacht harbor built on the site of a former naval shipyard. The marina has become a hub for the world's elite, featuring luxury boutiques, fine dining restaurants, and state-of-the-art facilities.

In the late afternoon, you'll transfer to the **Kotor Cable Car** and ascend to the summit for sweeping views of the **Bay of Kotor**, its winding coastline, and surrounding mountains. If timing and weather allow, there may be a **sunset cocktail opportunity** to toast the breathtaking scenery.

**Overnight:** Budva

## Day 12: Over the Mountain Slopes

Budva - Ostrog Monastery - Lipa Cave - Sveti Stefan Photo Stop - Budva

After breakfast, start your morning with a scenic drive through the **Montenegrin countryside** toward **Ostrog Monastery**, one of the most important Serbian Orthodox spiritual sites in the Balkans. Dramatically carved into a sheer vertical cliff high above the **Zeta Valley**, the monastery was founded in the 17th century by **Saint Basil of Ostrog**. Explore the small cave churches adorned with centuries-old **frescoes reflecting Serbian Orthodox traditions**.

Next, continue to **Lipa Cave**, one of Montenegro's largest karst formations. Enjoy a guided tour through its illuminated chambers filled with **stalactites, stalagmites, and natural sculptures**, shaped over thousands of years.

After resurfacing, make your way toward the coast for a **scenic viewpoint of Sveti Stefan islet**, a former fortified village now transformed into a luxury retreat. This iconic location is not only admired for its beauty but is also a favorite summer destination for **Novak Đoković**, adding a modern Serbian connection to its rich Adriatic heritage.

**Overnight: Budva**

### **Day 13: Budva Free Day**

*Budva*

After breakfast, enjoy a full day at leisure to make the most of **Budva** at your own pace. Explore one of the famous beaches in Budva or even take a short boat ride to Saint Nicholas island.

**Overnight: Budva**

### **Day 14: Budva Departure, Welcome back to Belgrade**

*Budva - Belgrade*

After breakfast and check-out, depart Budva and transfer to either **Tivat or Podgorica Airport** for your short flight back to Belgrade. Upon arrival in the Serbian capital, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel to settle in and refresh. In the evening, gather for a **farewell dinner in Belgrade**, a final opportunity to share memories, reflect on the journey, and enjoy one last taste of Serbian hospitality before the tour concludes.

**Overnight: Belgrade**

### **Day 15: Belgrade Departure**

*Belgrade*

After breakfast, take some time to gather your belongings and check out of the hotel. With this, your journey comes to an end. As you conclude the tour, reflect on the experiences, landscapes, and moments shared along the way before beginning your onward travels.

**GENERAL INCLUSIONS:****Transportation:**

- Private airport arrival and departure transfers
- Private transportation as per the itinerary with a modern, comfortable tourist coach

**Entrances & Tickets:**

Saint Sava Temple, Golubac Fortress (Level 1), Oplenac Royal Complex, Maglič Fortress, Ethno Village Sirogojno, Wooden-Town (Drvengrad), Kotor Old Town, Our Lady of the Rocks Church, Kotor Cable Car, Lipa Cave

**Experience more moments:**

Taste Belgrade with Jezdić Rakija tasting, Wines of Fruška Gora, Danube River Cruise, Šumadija Royal Wines, Zlakusa Pottery Workshop, Zlatibor Gourmet Session, Uvac Jeep Tour, Traditional dance Kolo, Šargan Eight Railroad, Tara River Rafting, Trebinje Market Delights, Boka Bay speedboat adventure

**Meals:**

- 14 x Breakfast
- Welcome Dinner (Day 2)
- Local lunch at Kapetan Mišin Breg (Day 4)
- Dinner during the Zlatibor Gourmet Session (Day 6)
- Dinner and Lunch at the Rafting Camp (Days 8 and 9)
- Farewell Dinner (Day 14)
- Additional meals and food tastings are included in our experiences:
  - Day 2 (Taste Belgrade Tour)
  - Day 5 (Finger food at Šumadija Wine Tasting)
  - Day 7 (Picnic lunch during the Jeep Safari Tour)
  - Day 10 (Trebinje Market Delights)

**Additional:**

- Professional Serbian/English speaking private 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

**Accommodation:**

- 5 BB in Belgrade in a Standard 4\* Hotel
- 1 BB in Studenica in Monastery residence
- 2 BB in Zlatibor in a Standard 4\* Hotel
- 1 FB in Drina Rafting Camp
- 1 BB in Trebinje in Standard 4\* Hotel
- 4 BB in Budva in a 3\* or 4\* Hotel

## Why book with us?

### Office on Hand 24/7

All travelers receive full support prior, during and after the trip.

### Small Groups

Unique small group travel experiences.

### Experience and Expertise

Elevating traveling experience to the highest level possible.

### Authentic Experiences

Tailor made itineraries that showcase Balkan's incredible diversity.

### Reliable suppliers

Cherry picked partners that proven provide the best service there is.

### No Hidden Information

No small print when booking with us.



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