

Hidden Gems of Western Serbia

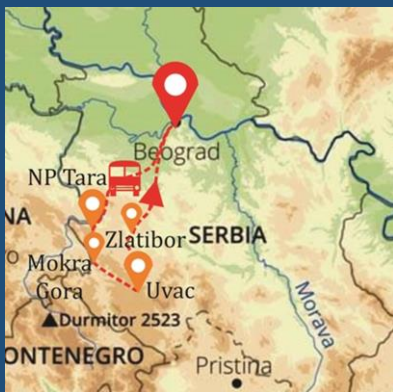
A Four-Day Adventure through Tara, Zlatibor, Zlatar and the Uvac Canyon

Belgrade – Tara National Park – Banjska Stena viewpoint – Crveni Potok Nature Reserve – Mokra Gora – Šargan Eight – Drvengrad – Zlatar Mountain – Uvac Nature Reserve – Zlatibor Mountain – Gostilje Waterfall – Stopića Cave – Sirogojno – Zlatibor – Belgrade





General information



Type of adventure:
multi-active

Departure: during the season

Group: 20 people max.

Duration: 4 days

Travel mode: van/minibus

Technical requirements:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Hidden Gems of Western Serbia

Discover the soul of southwestern Serbia on this four-day journey through the Starovlaška–Raška region – a land where ancient traditions meet untouched nature, and every corner holds a story.

If you're drawn to the raw beauty of the Balkans and long to discover Serbia's most breathtaking wonders – from the pristine forests of *Tara National Park*, the dramatic meanders of the *Uvac River*, and the magical depths of the *Ice Cave*, to the majestic flight of the *griffon vulture* in its natural habitat – this adventure is made for you.

Along the way, you'll be enchanted by the golden hills of *Zlatibor* and *Zlatar*, nourished by rich traditional flavors, and embraced by the legendary warmth of the local people.

Let the hidden gems of Western Serbia reveal themselves to you – slowly, quietly, and with lasting meaning.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: TARA NATIONAL PARK – EMERALD HEART OF THE DRINA REGION

Belgrade – Tara National Park (Banjska Stena Viewpoint, Crveni Potok Nature Reserve)

Departure from Belgrade at 8:00 a.m. in front of the hotel. On our way to Tara National Park, we'll make a stop at the **Gate of Podrinje** – a panoramic viewpoint overlooking the hills and valleys of western Serbia. Our journey continues to the iconic **Drina River House**, a tiny wooden cabin on a rock in the river – once featured on the cover of *National Geographic*. Upon entering **Tara National Park**, we begin exploring its natural treasures. We visit the **Vrelo Waterfall** and take a short walk to the **source of the Vrelo River**, known as the shortest river in Europe. Here, we'll take a break for a traditional lunch, surrounded by the serenity of nature. In the afternoon, we drive through the lush landscapes of Tara, following the turquoise **Perućac Lake**. We then visit the famous **Banjska Stena viewpoint**, which offers breathtaking views of the **Drina Canyon** and **Republika Srpska**. Later, we explore the **Crveni Potok Nature Reserve** – a rare spruce bog – on an easy, scenic hike. In the evening, we arrive at our accommodation on Tara, enjoy dinner, and relax in the peace and fresh mountain air.

DAY 2: MOKRA GORA & UVAC LAKE – A JOURNEY THROUGH TIMELESS LANDSCAPES

Tara National Park – Mokra Gora (Šargan Eight, Drvengrad) – Uvac Nature Reserve

After breakfast, our journey continues to the enchanting **Mokra Gora**. There, we board the legendary **Šargan Eight** – a narrow-gauge railway that loops in the shape of the number 8 through breathtaking mountain scenery. This engineering marvel climbs over 300 meters in altitude, weaving through tunnels, across bridges and viaducts, and over dramatic ravines, offering spectacular views at every turn. Next, we visit the iconic **Drvengrad (Wooden Town)** – a dreamlike ethno-village created by acclaimed film director Emir Kusturica. Entirely built from wood, the village blends rustic charm with rich cultural spirit. It features the Mećavnik Hotel, artisan workshops, art galleries, a small cinema, and even a wooden church. Since 2008, it has hosted the renowned **Küstendorf Film and Music Festival**, welcoming global icons like Johnny Depp, Monica Bellucci, and Jim Jarmusch. After a lunch break, we continue our journey toward the pristine landscapes of **Zlatar** and **Zlatibor mountains**, enjoying short scenic stops and coffee breaks along the way. By late afternoon, we arrive at the magical **Uvac Lake**, where silence and stunning nature await. After check-in at our accommodation, we'll gather for a relaxing evening and a delicious dinner. Overnight stay surrounded by the serenity of this hidden gem of western Serbia.





DAY 3: UVAC CANYON – IN SEARCH OF THE GRIFFON VULTURE

Uvac Nature Reserve (Molitva Viewpoint, Ice Cave, Griffon Vulture)

After breakfast, we head to the shores of Uvac Lake, where we board a boat for an unforgettable cruise through the heart of the **Uvac Special Nature Reserve** – one of Serbia's most stunning natural treasures and home to the majestic **griffon vulture**. As we glide past the dramatic meanders of the river, we'll take a short hike to the **Molitva III viewpoint**, which offers a breathtaking panorama over the winding canyon – a perfect spot to witness the flight of the vultures in their natural habitat.

The adventure continues with a visit to the **Ice Cave**, part of the unique Ušačka Cave System. Hidden deep within reserve and accessible only by boat, this speleological gem reveals a fascinating underground world of glittering formations and geological wonders.

After the cruise and sightseeing, we pause for a lunch, then return to our accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is free for rest and relaxation. Dinner and overnight stay amidst the calm of Uvac.



DAY 4: ZLATIBOR JOURNEY – ECHOES OF TRADITION AND NATURE

Zlatar Mountain – Zlatibor Mountain (Gostilje Waterfall, Stopića Cave – Sirogojno) – Belgrade

After breakfast, we begin the day exploring the eastern slopes of **Zlatibor Mountain**, starting with a visit to the **Gostilje Waterfall** – one of the most captivating natural sights in the region.

We then head to the village of Rožanstvo to explore **Stopića Cave**, known for its impressive limestone formations and unique tufa tubs carved by water over centuries. Our journey continues to the open-air museum in the village of **Sirogojno**, where we step back in time and experience rural life as it once was. The 19th-century wooden houses, preserved and presented through an ethnological exhibition, offer a fascinating glimpse into Serbia's cultural heritage. A lunch break is organized in a local restaurant here.

Before heading back, we make a short stop for coffee in **Zlatibor**. Return to **Belgrade** in the evening. End of the program.



TRIP COST

Price of the arrangement: 649 € per person (in RSD equivalent)

Early booking promo price (45+ days before departure): 599 € (in RSD equivalent)

Private tour price: from 790 to 820 EUR per person

(depending on the number of participants)

Price includes:

- Transportation by high-class tourist minibus or van according to the program,
- One night accommodation in a guesthouse on Tara Mountain,
- Two nights accommodation in a guesthouse on Zlatar Mountain,
- One half-board service (dinner and breakfast) on Tara,
- Two half-board services on Zlatar,
- One traditional lunch during the tour,
- One lunch package during the tour,
- One drink included with each meal,
- All entrance fees mentioned in the program (National Park Tara, Šargan train ride, Drvengrad, Uvac Special Nature reserve, Stopića Cave, Sirogojno museum),
- Full-day boat cruise on Uvac Lake,
- 24-hour on-site support and assistance,
- Licensed guiding service throughout the program,
- English speaking guides,
- Costs related to the organization of travel and activities.



Price does not include:

- Airfare tickets,
- Other meals and drinks,
- International travel insurance (mandatory),
- Optional transfer, activities and excursions not listed in the itinerary,
- Tips for the guide and driver,
- Personal expenses.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 45 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

ACCOMMODATION: *Apartments Zarić on Sokolina* are located in a serene setting surrounded by open meadows and forests of fir, spruce, and beech, Apartments Zarić offer the perfect escape into nature. This area of Tara Mountain is known as a natural air spa, thanks to its favorable climate, clean air, optimal altitude, and beneficial atmospheric conditions — all of which contribute to overall wellbeing. The accommodation consists of five newly built, comfortable apartments designed in traditional mountain style. On-site, guests can also enjoy a restaurant offering delicious homemade meals, part of the warm and welcoming Sokolina household.

Mountain Lodge Šaponjić, built in the authentic Zlatar style, is set in a prime location just a few kilometers from the center of Zlatar. Designed for true lovers of nature, it offers everything needed for an active holiday — from hiking and cycling to skiing, depending on the season. The lodge has a capacity of 30 beds, spread across double, triple, and quadruple rooms. Each room includes a washbasin, while shared toilets and showers are located on each floor. A spacious common room with a kitchen and a covered terrace is available on the ground floor, perfect for gatherings and relaxing after a day of adventure.

PAYMENT TERMS: A 50% advance payment of the total arrangement price is required at the time of booking. The remaining amount must be paid no later than 20 days before the start of the trip (with the option of installment payments). This program is based on a minimum of 8 registered participants. In case of changes in the monetary market (or the market of goods and services) or an insufficient number of registered participants, the tour organizer reserves the right to adjust prices, modify the program, or cancel the trip no later than 5 days before the scheduled departure.

The trip organizer is Nature Travel Office tourist agency, license OTP 19/2023, issued by the Business Registers Agency, 10.03.2023. Nature Travel Office is insured by the insurance policy from tourist agency responsibility for any case of insolvency and responsibility in case of damage suffered by a passenger, no. 30000049351, by the insurance company "MILENIJUM OSIGURANJE" A.D.O Beograd. The insurance policy is valid from 01.04.2025. to 01.04.2026. With this programme Nature Travel Office's General Terms and Conditions are effective, and they are an integral part of this trip application.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

How do I get to the starting point?

The tour begins and ends in Belgrade, Serbia. If you're arriving by plane, we offer organized pickup from Nikola Tesla Airport. For those already in the region, we'll provide clear instructions for arrival by car, bus, or train. All local transfers during the program are included, so once you're with us, you can relax and enjoy the ride.

While the standard tour begins and ends in Belgrade, it is possible to organize the trip from any other city in the region upon request. Let us know your preferences, and we'll adjust the logistics accordingly to make your experience seamless and tailored to your needs.

What is the physical fitness level required for this tour?

This tour is ideal for nature lovers, active travelers, and those interested in exploring the cultural and natural diversity of western Serbia. The tour includes light to moderate physical activities: short walks, viewpoint climbs, and a cave visit with stairs. It is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

What is the age limit for participants?

Participants must be at least 12 years old. Children aged 12 and older are considered adults for this tour. Families with younger children can request a custom private tour adapted to their needs.

Do you have solo travellers on your tours?

Solo travellers are very welcome on our tours and often join to meet and explore with like-minded adventurers—many of whom go on to form lasting friendships. We aim to create a relaxed and sociable atmosphere that helps the group connect throughout the journey.

Solo travellers will be paired with another solo traveller of the same gender, or may opt for a private room by paying a single supplement. If you would prefer a room for yourself, please let us know in advance and we'll do our best to accommodate your request. Please note that an additional fee may apply for single occupancy.

Are meals included in the price?

Yes, the tour includes breakfasts and dinners (half-board for all three nights, as well as one traditional lunch in nature and one lunch package during a trip. One drink is included with each meal. Other meals and additional drinks are at your own expense, though we often stop at local spots where affordable meals are available. If you have dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, allergies), just let us know in advance — we'll make sure you're taken care of.

What kind of accommodation is included?

You'll stay in cozy, authentic homes on Tara and Zlatar mountains. Accommodation is comfortable, clean, and surrounded by nature. Rooms are usually double or triple occupancy, with private bathrooms.

Are entrance fees included?

Yes, all entrance fees to the visited locations and activities (cave, boat cruise, museums) are included.

What kind of transportation is used?

Transportation is organized based on the number of participants: for smaller groups, a comfortable tourist van is used; for medium-sized groups, a minibus; and for larger groups, a full-size tourist coach. All vehicles are air-conditioned, modern, and designed for a comfortable journey.

What should I pack for this trip?

We recommend comfortable and layered outdoor clothing, comfortable shoes for walking, light jacket (mountain evenings can be cool), sunscreen and hat (summer months), reusable water bottle, basic personal medicine (if needed), ID or passport.

Is travel insurance required?

Yes. All participants are required to have international health insurance.

How many people will be in the group?

This is a small group tour, usually up to 20 participants, which ensures personal experience and flexibility.

Will I have access to phone signal or internet during the tour?

Most areas we visit have mobile signal, but there may be occasional short-term outages in remote mountainous areas.

Is the tour guaranteed to depart?

Yes, the tour is guaranteed to depart even with only two registered participants.

Is the itinerary flexible?

While we aim to follow the planned program, the itinerary may be adjusted due to weather conditions or the group's overall condition. Any changes will be communicated in advance and made with safety in mind.

What happens in case of bad weather?

The program runs in all weather conditions. Minor changes to the itinerary may occur in case of extreme conditions, but alternative activities will be provided if necessary.

How much cash should I bring?

While most places accept cards, it's good to have some cash (EUR) for snacks, souvenirs, or tips. Optional activities and personal expenses are not included in the tour price.

Do I need to tip?

Tips are a common reward for service staff in the Balkan countries. For a restaurant meal, you can tip around 10-15% if tip is not included in the bill.

Your tour guide and driver will be especially appreciative and honored with this kind of traditional gratitude at the end of your tour.

Do I need a visa for Serbia?

Most travelers from Europe, the US, and many other countries do not need a visa for stay under 90 days. Please check with your nearest embassy or consulate for up-to-date advice.



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