



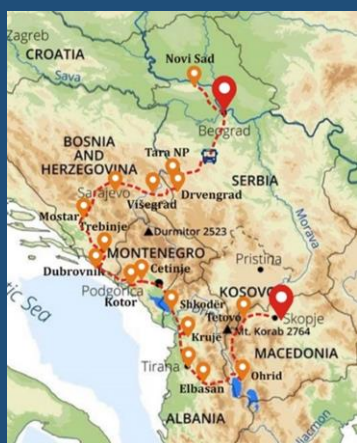
The Grand Balkan Journey

**Serbia – Bosnia & Herzegovina – Croatia – Montenegro –
Albania – North Macedonia**





General information



Type of adventure:
culture & heritage

Departure: during the season

Group: 18 people max.

Duration: 13 days

Travel mode: van/minibus

Technical requirements:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The Grand Balkan Journey

Join us on a journey through the Balkans across six countries – Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and North Macedonia.

This tour is carefully designed to take you through the most beautiful cities, historic centers, and cultural landmarks that have shaped this fascinating part of Europe. Along the way, our guides will share stories you won't find in guidebooks, while encounters with local hosts and traditions will bring you closer to the true spirit of the Balkans.

Expect a harmonious blend of Balkan cuisine, Mediterranean charm, and rich historical and cultural diversity that makes this region so unique.

This tour is not just a journey – this is the Balkans you will remember for a lifetime.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: BELGRADE – HISTORY, RIVERS & BOHEMIAN SPIRIT

Belgrade sightseeing tour

Transfer: 50 km

Arrival at Nikola Tesla Airport and a warm welcome. During the transfer to the hotel, enjoy a short panoramic tour of the city and your first impressions of Belgrade. Check-in and a short rest. Later, we set off on a walking tour of the city center, visiting **Kalemegdan Fortress, Republic Square, the National Assembly, the Temple of Saint Sava, and Princess Ljubica's Residence**, with a lunch break at a local restaurant. In the evening, we head to **Skadarlija**, Belgrade's bohemian quarter, where guests enjoy a traditional dinner accompanied by live music. Overnight in Belgrade.

DAY 2: WINE, MONASTERIES & THE DANUBE'S GENTLE RHYTHM

Belgrade – Sremski Karlovci – Novi Sad – Fruška Gora – Belgrade

Transfer: 80 km

A full-day excursion from Belgrade through the Vojvodina region. Our first stop is **Sremski Karlovci**, a town that preserved Serbian culture and tradition during the 18th and 19th centuries. Here, we visit local wineries and enjoy a wine tasting. We continue to **Novi Sad**, situated on the banks of the Danube, dominated by the impressive **Petrovaradin Fortress**, the second largest fortress in Europe. After a short panoramic city tour, lunch is organized at a local restaurant. On the return to Belgrade, we stop at **Fruška Gora National Park** to visit the **16th-century Krušedol Monastery**, learning about the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the region. Return to Belgrade in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: INTO THE WILD HEART OF SERBIA: MOUNTAINS, RAILS & WOODEN DREAMS

Belgrade – Tara National Park – Šargan Eight Railway – Drvengrad

Transfer: 250 km

After breakfast, we depart Belgrade and head toward western Serbia. Today we explore some of the region's most beautiful sites: the famous **House on the Drina River**, the landscapes of **Tara National Park**, and **Mokra Gora**. A scenic drive through Tara reveals breathtaking mountain peaks, forests, and canyons, with short stops at particularly impressive viewpoints. In Mokra Gora, we visit the **Šargan Eight**, a unique narrow-gauge heritage railway famous for its bridges, tunnels, and sharp curves. Lunch is planned in a traditional local tavern before the train ride. Later, we explore **Drvengrad (Mečavnik)**, the ethno-village created by film director Emir Kusturica, with free time for walking and photography. Overnight in Drvengrad.





DAY 4: BRIDGES OF TIME: FROM ANDRIĆ'S PAGES TO SARAJEVO'S SOUL

Mokra Gora – Višegrad – Sarajevo

Transfer: 140 km

After breakfast, we continue toward **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Our first stop is **Višegrad**, known for its iconic **16th-century bridge over the Drina River**, which inspired Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić to write *The Bridge on the Drina*. We visit the historic bridge and enjoy views of the surrounding landscape. Lunch features local specialties, including traditional **ćevapi**, served in the unique atmosphere of **Andrićgrad**, a stone town located near the bridge. After Višegrad, we continue to **Sarajevo**, enjoying panoramic views along the way. Arrival, hotel check-in, dinner, and overnight.



DAY 5: WHERE EAST MEETS WEST: STORIES WRITTEN IN STONE

Sarajevo sightseeing tour

A full day in Sarajevo with a local guide. We explore the city's most important landmarks, including **Baščaršija**, the historic old bazaar, **Sebilj Fountain**, **Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque**, the **Latin Bridge**, and other key cultural and historical sites. Lunch is organized at a local restaurant offering authentic Sarajevo cuisine. The afternoon is free for individual exploration of Baščaršija's streets, artisan workshops, cafés, or optional mini-tours. Dinner and overnight in Sarajevo.



DAY 6: STONE ARCHES & EMERALD WATERS OF HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo – Mostar – Buna Spring – Trebinje

Transfer: 205 km

Departing Sarajevo, we travel south through increasingly dramatic landscapes. Upon arrival in **Mostar**, we explore its historic center and the iconic **Old Bridge (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**, a symbol of cultural connection. We then continue to the **Buna River Spring**, one of the most beautiful natural springs in the region, known for its crystal-clear water and serene surroundings – a perfect place for photos and relaxation. Our journey continues to **Trebinje**, passing through diverse landscapes of mountains and valleys. After arrival, hotel check-in, free time for a stroll through the old town, dinner, and overnight.



DAY 7: FROM MEDIEVAL WALLS TO ADRIATIC BAYS

Trebinje – Dubrovnik – Kotor

Transfer: 125 km

After breakfast, we cross into **Croatia** and arrive in **Dubrovnik**, the “Pearl of the Adriatic” and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a walk along **Stradun**, the main street of the Old Town, and explore its charming historic alleys. We continue toward **Montenegro**, driving through the spectacular **Bay of Kotor**, with a lunch stop along the way at a local restaurant. Upon arrival in **Kotor**, another UNESCO-listed town, we explore the old city with its narrow streets, squares, and imposing fortifications. Dinner and overnight in Kotor.



DAY 8: ABOVE THE CLOUDS: MONTENEGRO'S ROYAL LEGACY

Kotor – Lovćen – Cetinje – Kotor

Drive: 60 km

After breakfast, we head toward **Cetinje**, the old royal capital of Montenegro. We visit the **Njegoš Mausoleum**, an architectural masterpiece offering breathtaking panoramic views. Lunch and a short walk through Cetinje follow, before returning to Kotor in the afternoon. Free time until dinner. Overnight in Kotor.

DAY 9: FORTRESSES, LEGENDS & NEW HORIZONS

Kotor – Shkodër – Krujë - Tirana

Transfer: 210 km

Departing Kotor, we drive along the Adriatic coast, stopping for photos of stunning landscapes. After crossing into **Albania**, we arrive in **Shkodër**, where we enjoy lunch and a short exploration of the historic center. We continue to **Krujë**, a symbol of Albanian resistance and history, visiting its fortress and traditional bazaar. Arrival in **Tirana** in the evening. Hotel check-in and free time.

DAY 10: TOWARD THE PEARL OF THE BALKANS

Tirana – Elbasan – Ohrid

Transfer: 130 km

After breakfast, enjoy a short walk through Tirana's city center. We then travel to **Elbasan**, stopping briefly for sightseeing and photos. In the evening, we cross into **North Macedonia** and arrive in **Ohrid**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most beautiful destinations in the Balkans. Dinner and overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 11: SACRED SPRINGS & TIMELESS WATERS

Ohrid – Saint Naum – Ohrid

Transfer: 55 km

After breakfast, we head to **Saint Naum Monastery**, one of the most spiritual and scenic places in the Balkans. We stop at the **Bay of Bones** viewpoint for photos before arriving at the **springs of the Black Drim River**, where we enjoy a boat ride through pristine nature. Lunch is organized during the excursion. Return to Ohrid by boat, enjoying panoramic views of Lake Ohrid. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 12: COLORS, CANYONS & CAPITAL STORIES

Ohrid – Tetovo – Skopje

Transfer: 175 km

Morning free time in Ohrid before departing for **Tetovo**, where we visit the famous **Painted Mosque**. We then continue to **Matka Canyon**, enjoying a boat ride through dramatic canyon scenery, followed by lunch in a traditional setting. Arrival in **Skopje** and an evening walking tour including **Stone Bridge**, **Old Bazaar**, **Mustafa Pasha Mosque**, and other highlights. Dinner and overnight in Skopje.

DAY 13: FAREWELL TO THE BALKANS!

Skopje – Skopje International Airport

After breakfast, free time for a final walk or souvenir shopping, depending on flight schedules. Transfer to Skopje International Airport. End of program.



TRIP COST:

3300 € | Early booking: 2900 € (in RSD equivalent).

Early bookings valid up to 45 days before departure.

Single Room Supplement: 780 €

Package includes:

- Transportation by high-class tourist minibus, van, or car, according to the itinerary,
- 12 nights accommodation in 4 stars hotels, double/twin rooms, half-board basis
- Other meals as specified in the program
- Entrance fees and visits to attractions mentioned in the itinerary, including: Temple of Saint Sava, Tara National Park, Šargan Eight Railway, Drvengrad, Njegoš Mausoleum, Saint Naum, Black Drim River springs, boat ride on Lake Ohrid, Matka Canyon, fortresses and museums as per program,
- Wine tasting in Sremski Karlovci,
- All planned activities and walking tours (Bašçaršija, Old Bridge in Mostar, Stradun in Dubrovnik, Old Bazaar in Skopje, etc.),
- Services of a licensed tour leader throughout the entire journey,
- Services of local licensed guides at destinations and cities listed in the program,
- One bottle of water (0.5 l) per person per day,
- Complete organization and coordination of the tour during all 13 days,
- All tour operation and logistics costs.



Price does not include:

- Airfare,
- Travel medical insurance,
- Personal expenses,
- Optional transfers,
- Optional activities and excursions.
- Airfare,
- Personal expenses, drinks, and meals not specified in the itinerary,
- International travel insurance,
- Visa fees (if applicable for non-EU citizens),
- Additional transfers, activities, and excursions not mentioned in the program,
- Tips for guides and drivers,
- Individual expenses.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: At least **45 days** prior to the tour departure date.

PAYMENT TERMS: Payment is made by bank transfer to the agency's foreign currency account no later than 45 days before the tour departure, covering the full tour price. An advance payment (deposit) is also possible if the tour is booked earlier. For travelers from Serbia, payment must also be completed no later than 45 days prior to departure, or in installments, subject to agreement with the agency. This program is based on a minimum of 8 participants. In case of changes in monetary or goods and services markets, or in the event of an insufficient number of participants, the tour operator reserves the right to adjust the price, modify the itinerary, or cancel the tour, no later than 5 days before departure.

The trip organizer is Nature Travel Office tourist agency, license OTP 38/2025, issued by the Business Registers Agency, 06.05.2025. 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)

When can I take this tour?

The tour operates from mid-April to the end of October. It is not recommended during winter months due to weather conditions and the nature of activities.

What is the recommended arrival time?

To fully enjoy the Day 1 program, we recommend arriving in the morning at Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade. If this is not possible, consider arriving one day earlier. Any overnight stay before the official tour start is not included in the price.

Can this tour be arranged privately?

Yes! You can book the tour exclusively for yourself, your family, or friends. Please notify us in advance if you wish to arrange a private tour.

Is the tour suitable for all travelers?

Yes. The tour is easy-paced and designed to be enjoyable for all participants.

Can the tour be customized to my needs?

Yes. Special requests or customized itineraries can be arranged in advance, in agreement with the agency.

What is the hotel standard on this tour?

All accommodations are in 4 stars hotels. If you prefer a different category, either more luxurious or budget-friendly, please inform us — we can provide the best solution.

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 a single room supplement is 780 EUR.

What language is the tour conducted in?

The tour is conducted in English. Other languages can be arranged upon request.

Who accompanies us during the tour?

A licensed tour leader from Nature Travel Office accompanies the group throughout the journey. For groups of up to 8 people, the guide also acts as the driver. For larger groups, a separate driver is

provided. Local guides are provided at specific locations as indicated in the itinerary.

How do I book the tour?

Booking is simple:

1. Send an inquiry with travel dates, number of participants, and any special requests.
2. Once availability is confirmed, pay a deposit (online by credit card or bank transfer).
3. Receive your official booking confirmation.
4. Pay the remaining balance no later than 15 days before departure.

If you require a different booking or payment method, feel free to contact us — we will be happy to find the best solution for you.

Can I pay in installments?

Yes. For travelers from Serbia, payment can be made in installments, subject to prior agreement with the agency.

What happens if there are changes in the market or insufficient participants?

The agency reserves the right to adjust the price, modify the itinerary, or cancel the tour, no later than 5 days before departure, due to: changes in monetary or goods/services markets or insufficient number of participants.

Is travel insurance required?

Yes. All participants are required to have international health insurance with additional coverage for extreme sports (mountaineering, rafting). This is important for your own safety and peace of mind.

How much cash should I bring?

While most places accept cards, it's good to have some cash (RSD) 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.

What if I don't know anyone else on the tour?

No problem at all — that's part of the magic. We create a friendly, relaxed group atmosphere where everyone feels included, whether you come with a friend or on your own. Shared challenges and beautiful landscapes make bonding easy.

We are committed to making your experience unforgettable, safe, and full of adventure. Our goal is to give you the opportunity to explore some of the most beautiful areas of the Balkans, while also discovering its diverse nature and rich culture.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us – we are here to help!



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