

SULTANS TRAIL

a long hiking distance
part of the road from Niš to Sofia



**Belgrade – Niš – Bojanine vode – Bela Palanka – Pirot –
Dimitrovgrad – Dragoman – Slivnitsa –
Bankya – Sofia**





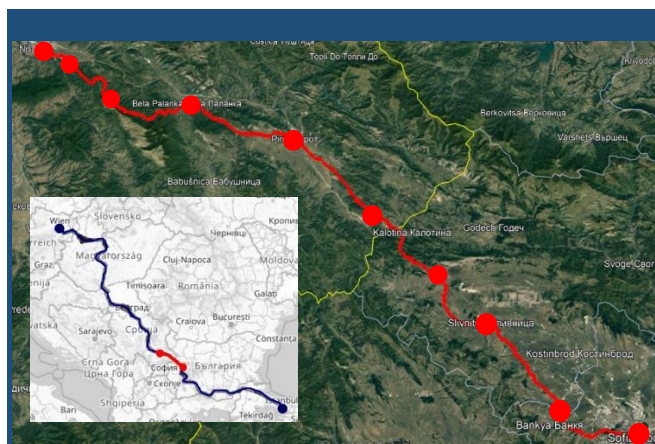
SULTANS TRAIL

Sultans Trail is named after sultan Süleyman Kanuni, also called Suleiman the Magnificent, ruler of the Ottoman Empire, who led Ottoman armies to conquer Belgrade and most of Hungary, then marched on Vienna, where his invasion was checked at the Siege of Vienna. He started out from Istanbul on 10 May 1529 and arrived at the gates of Vienna after 141 days on 23 September 1529. It was to be the Ottoman Empire's most ambitious expedition to the west, but the Austrian garrison inflicted upon Suleiman his first defeat. A second attempt by the sultan to conquer Vienna failed in 1532. In 1566, at the age of 60, the sultan led his army towards Vienna for the last time but he died close to Szigetvár in Hungary, before reaching his goal. The Sultanstrail roughly follows the route of sultan Suleiman on his way to Vienna.

In contrast to its past the Sultans Trail nowadays forms a path of peace, a meeting place for people of all faiths and cultures. The trail starts at St. Stephen's Cathedral in the centre of Vienna; the bells of this church were ever casted of the metal of captured Ottoman cannons. The trail ends at the tomb of Sultan Süleiman in Istanbul.

The Sultans Trail is developed by volunteers from the Netherlands-based NGO *Sultans Trail – A European Cultural Route*.

General information



Departure: After forming a group

Group: 16 people max.

Duration: 12 days

Travel mode: hiking

Technical requirements: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

ITINERARY

DAY I: TRANSFER FROM BELGRADE TO NIŠ

Driving distance: 250 km on highway

Arrival at Belgrade airport at 05:00 p.m. and transfer to City of Niš. Accommodation in 3-star hotel. Meeting the local guide. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY II: CITY TOUR OF NIŠ

Driving distance: 15 km | Walking distance: 5 km

Breakfast. Start of the walking tour at Niš Fortress, symbol of the city, accompanied by a local guide. Visit to *King Milan's square and Obrenoviceva street (pedestrian zone), all the way to the Tinkers alley, an old and unique small part of former „Turkish street” from XVII and XVIII century. Also, to be seen: the main building of the University of Niš, City hall, the monument of the Liberators of Niš, the old centre of the town with buildings built in XVIII and XIX century, the square of Stevan Sremac – famous Serbian writer, the monument dedicated to Stevan Sremac, legendary hunter Kalča, and his loyal dog Čapa.* Lunch break in one of the restaurants in Tinkers alley. The sightseeing continues with a visit to the former *German Concentration camp (Red Cross), Bubanj Memorial park, The Skull tower and Čegar hill.* Dinner in traditional village Malča. Back to Niš. Accommodation. Overnight stay.

DAY III: HIKING TOUR FROM NIŠ TO BOJANINE VODE

Hiking distance: 26 km | Elevation: 560m

We start hiling on the Sultantrail after breakfast. All the way from Niš to Bojanine vode we will use asphalt road. Hiking tour follows the main Boulevard (Zoran Djindjić) which leads us to Niška Banja Spa. Lunch break in one of the restaurants in Niška Banja. After lunch, we will continue walking to Bojanine Vode through the astounding villages of the Suva planina mountain. Accommodation in the Ski house. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY IV: HIKING FROM BOJANINE VODE TO BELA PALANKA

Hiking distance: 25 km | Elevation: 255m

Breakfast. Hiking from Bojanine vode via Preslap to Bela Palanka. We are all the way on the mountain road (no asphalt). Passing through the foothill of Suva Planina Mountain, through beautiful Kosmovac valley, from where we are getting out to one of the most beautiful viewpoints on this rout – the mountain pass Preslap. Lunch package. Then, through the forest we will be going down to Bela Palanka. Overnight stay in Bela Palanka at our friend's private house. Dinner. Overnight stay.

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DAY V: HIKING FROM BELA PALANKA TO PIROT

Hiking distance: 29 km | Elevation: 27m

After breakfast, hiking from Bela Palanka via Belava down to Piro. We are on one of two old roads. Lunch package. Arrival in Piro. Accommodation in hotel Alma. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY VI: HIKING FROM PIROT TO DIMITROVGRAD

Hiking distance: 27 km | Elevation: 178 m

Breakfast. Walking from Piro through Poljska Ržana, Trnjane, Mali Jovanovac, Činiglavac, Milojkovac and Paskašija to Dimitrovgrad. Lunch package. Arrival in Dimitrovgrad. Accommodation in private villas and dinner in local restaurant. Overnight stay.

DAY VII: HIKING FROM DIMITROVGRAD TO DRAGOMAN

Hiking distance: 25 km | Elevation: 158m

After breakfast, walking 8 km to the border between Republic of Serbia and Republic of Bulgaria. Border formalities. Lunch package. Walking through Kalotina, Novo Bardo and Dragoil to Dragoman. Accommodation in hotel Dragoman. Spa and wellness. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY VIII: HIKING FROM DRAGOMAN TO SLIVNITSA

Hiking distance: 16 km | Elevation: 152 m

Breakfast. Hiking tour from Dragoman through Izvor to Aldomirovti. Lunch break at our friend's accommodation "Guest houses Daya and Dan". Hiking to Slivnitsa. Time for rest. Dinner. Accommodation in hotel Mehana Gergana. Overnight stay.

DAY IX: HIKING FROM SLIVNITSA TO BANKYA

Hiking distance: 25 km | Elevation: 144m

After breakfast, hiking from Slivnitsa to Bankya. Lunch break. Accommodation in Darling Bankia hotel. Free time. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY X: HIKING FROM BANKYA TO SOFIA

Hiking distance: 14 km | Elevation: 195m

Breakfast. Hiking from Bankya through Ivanyane and Suhodol to Sofia. Break for lunch. Accommodation in 3-star hotel. Free time. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY XI: SOFIA FREE CITY TOUR

Walking distance: around 6 km

Breakfast. Start of the walking tour at St. Nedelya square, accompanied by a local guide. We will see all important Sofia monuments with break for traditional lunch: *Nedelya church, St. Sofia Monument, St. Petka Church, The old Serdika Ruins, The mineral springs, The council of ministers, The Rotunda "Saint George", The Presidency, The mosque "Banya Bashi", The building of the National archaeology museum, The National Bank of Bulgaria, Knyaz Alexander Battenberg Square, The King's palace, The Russian church "St. Nikolas", St. Sofia Church, The Roman Necropolis, The National Theater, The Monument of the "unknown soldier", The Alexander Nevski Memorial Church.* Back to the hotel. Dinner. Overnight stay.

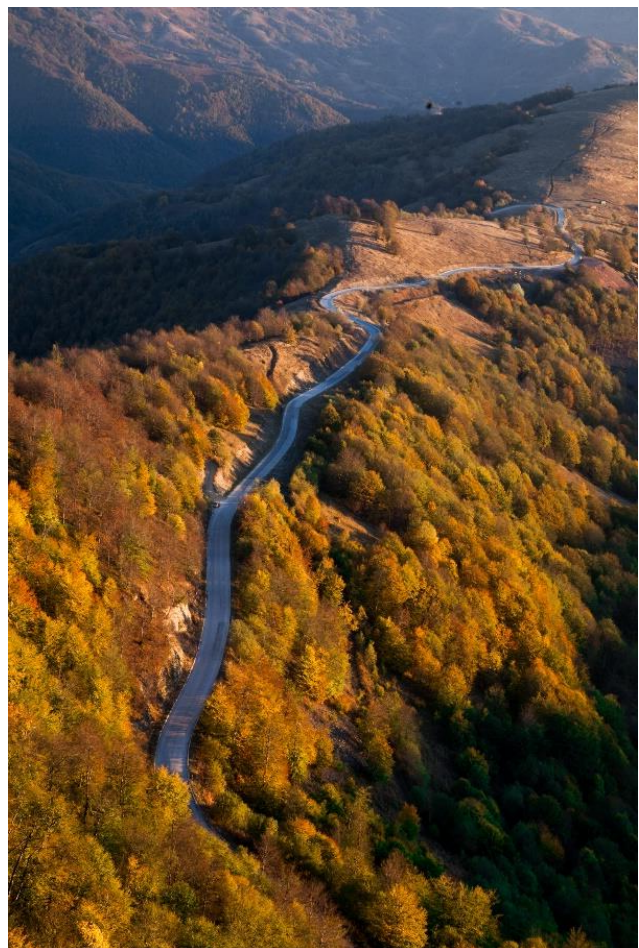
DAY XII: DEPARTURE FROM SOFIA

Driving distance: 15 km

Breakfast. Transport to Sofia airport. Departure. End of program.

TRIP COST

THE PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON: On request



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Transportation by minibus, van or car from Nikola Tesla Airport to Niš as planned in the program,
- Luggage Transportation on the trail, between accommodations,
- Accommodation for eight nights at the 3-star hotels, two nights at the private guest house, and one night at the ski lodge,
- 11 half board services in 1/2, 1/3 and 1/4 rooms (breakfast and dinner include one drink with a meal per person),
- 5 traditional lunches on the hiking tour (lunch includes one drink with a meal per person),
- 5 lunch packages on the hiking tour. Every passenger gets a lunch package before departure on the planed days,
- One traditional dinner in restaurant in Malča village,
- All entrance tickets are provided in the program,
- City of Niš and Sofia sightseeing with licensed tourist guide,
- One certified mountain leader for tours planned program,
- One certified tour escort for tours planned program,
- Organization costs and 24-hour support of NTO team.

PACKAGE EXCLUDES:

- Airfare tickets,
- Travel medical insurance,
- Individual costs and expenses,
- Optional transfers,
- Optional activities and excursions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

DON'T FORGET TO BRING: Sneakers or climbing shoes, a few pairs of socks, T-shirts, a hooded waterproof parka, sweatshirt, spare pants, sun glasses, a cap, suntan cream. It's also recommended to take candy bars, nibbles, refreshing beverages and water. Put everything into a small backpack.

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 6 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 3 days before the scheduled 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.



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