



The Grand Balkan Triangle

Beauties of western Serbia, eastern Herzegovina
and northern Montenegro

**Belgrade – Ovčar-Kablar Gorge – Tara National Park – Tara River –
Durmitor National Park – Uvac Nature Reserve – Oplenac – Belgrade**





General information



Type of adventure:
multi-active

Departure: during the season

Group: 16 people max.

Duration: 10 days

Travel mode: van/minibus

Technical requirements:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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You've been working hard. The daily routine is starting to feel a little too familiar. You're dreaming of a well-earned break — but not just any break. You want something different. Something real. You want to feel alive, inspired, and reconnected — with nature, with people, with yourself.

We invite you on a journey where no two days are the same. A journey that takes you across wild rivers, through ancient forests, over breathtaking mountain passes, and into the heart of local traditions. Every sunrise brings a new landscape, every evening a new story.

Welcome to the Balkans — a land where cultures meet, history whispers from medieval stones, and nature remains bold and untamed.

The Balkan Peninsula, often simply called the Balkans, is a geographical and cultural mosaic in Southeast Europe. It's named after the Balkan Mountains, which stretch from eastern Serbia to the Black Sea in Bulgaria. But the region is much more than just mountains — it's home to pristine lakes, deep canyons, dramatic coastlines, and vibrant towns rich in heritage and hospitality.

If you're looking for an experience that awakens your senses and stays with you long after you return home — this is the journey for you.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: INTO THE HEART OF SERBIA

Belgrade – Ovčar-Kablar Gorge – Potpeć Cave – Tara National Park

Driving distance: 270 km

Departure from **Belgrade** in the early morning hours from a previously arranged meeting point. We drive through the scenic region of Šumadija to the impressive **Ovčar-Kablar Gorge**, also known as the Serbian Mount Athos. We'll take a break at one of the most beautiful restaurants on the West Morava River, for some rest and refreshments. Afterwards, we continue to **Potpeć Cave**, which boasts the largest cave entrance in the Balkans. Following a guided tour of the cave, we continue our journey to **Tara National Park**. Check-in at our accommodation, dinner, and overnight stay.

DAY 2: WILD BEAUTY OF TARA

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

Driving distance: 60 km; Walking distance: 4 km

After breakfast, we drive through some of the most beautiful areas of **Tara National Park**, making occasional photo stops. The viewpoints in Tara offer the best opportunities to experience the beauty of this protected area.

We'll visit the **Banjska Stena viewpoint**, known for its breathtaking view of the Drina River Canyon, Perućac Lake, and Republika Srpska. Next, we explore **Godina (Year) River** – shortest river in the world, only 365 meters long from its spring to its mouth, and then visit the **Crveni Potok Nature Reserve**, a unique peat bog habitat of spruce forest. Lunch break at a traditional restaurant near Zaovine Lake.

Return to the accommodation, followed by dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 3: THROUGH TIME AND BORDERS

Tara National Park (Šargan Eight ride) – Višegrad (Republic of Srpska) – Bastasi (camp on the Drina River)

Driving distance: 170 km

Breakfast. We continue our journey to Mokra Gora for a ride on the **Šargan Eight**—an old narrow-gauge railway shaped like the number eight. This charming train ride passes through dramatic scenery, gaining over 300 meters in altitude via tunnels, bridges, and viaducts. We continue to Republika Srpska, with our first stop in **Višegrad**. We'll take a guided walk across the famous **Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge**, and visit **Andrićgrad**—a stone town inspired by the works of Nobel Prize-winning writer Ivo Andrić. After a lunch break, we continue our journey to Foča and the nearby camp Bastasi. Upon arrival, we settle into our accommodation. Over dinner, we'll go through the rafting plan and basic safety instructions for the next day. Overnight stay.





DAY 4: THE TARA RIVER EXPERIENCE

Camp – River downhill ride (rafting)

Jeep ride: 18 km; Rafting: 18 km

After a traditional breakfast, the camp staff will help us prepare for the **rafting adventure**. Participants will be divided into groups of 8 and transported by van to the starting point at Brštanovica, in Montenegro—14 km upstream from the

confluence of the Piva and Tara rivers. The rafting trip lasts around 4 hours, with numerous stops along the most scenic parts of the lower Tara River. With the guidance of professional skippers, we'll navigate rapids and enjoy the natural beauty of the canyon. Upon return to the camp in off-road vehicles, lunch will be served around 4 p.m. Free time follows, and in the evening, we gather for a farewell dinner with a bonfire, homemade rakia, and mulled wine—a night to remember. Overnight stay.



DAY 5: ACROSS THE PEAKS OF MONTENEGRO

Bastasi – Durmitor National Park – Žabljak

Driving distance: 80 km; Walking distance: 5 km

Breakfast. We embark on one of the most scenic panoramic routes in Montenegro (Crkvičko Polje – Trsa – Sedlo – Žabljak), passing through **Durmitor National Park** with several stops for rest and photography. Our final stop is Žabljak, the highest-altitude town in the Balkans. After checking into a cozy bed & breakfast, we enjoy lunch, followed by a relaxed two-hour walk around the beautiful **Black Lake** (*Crno Jezero*). Dinner and overnight stay.



DAY 6: HIKING IN THE HEART OF DURMITOR

Durmitor National Park (Jablan Lake)

Walking distance: 16 km

We start the day with breakfast, then set out on a hike to **Jablan Lake**, one of the most picturesque trails in the Durmitor area. We take breaks along the way for lunch and coffee in nature. Upon return to Žabljak in the afternoon, we take a short tour of the town. Dinner. Overnight stay.



DAY 7: BACK TO SERBIA

Žabljak – Zlatar Mountain (Serbia) – Uvac Nature Reserve

Driving distance: 130 km; Walking distance: 2 km

After breakfast, we cross back into Serbia and head toward the **Uvac Nature Reserve**, nestled on the slopes of **Zlatar Mountain**. Our accommodation is in a charming lake house inside the reserve. After lunch, we take a relaxing walk to explore the surroundings. Dinner and overnight stay.



DAY 8: SEARCHING FOR THE GRIFFON CULTURE

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

Walking distance: 4 km

Breakfast. We leave our accommodation and head toward the emerald waters of the Uvac River, where a scenic **boat cruise** awaits. As we glide between the towering limestone cliffs, we'll keep our eyes on the sky in search of one of the reserve's most majestic residents — the griffon vulture. With wingspans over 2.5 meters, these incredible birds soar effortlessly above the meanders, symbols of wilderness and freedom. The cruise brings us to the famous Molitva Viewpoint, where a short uphill walk rewards us with an unforgettable view of the meandering curves of the Uvac River — a natural masterpiece that has become one of the most iconic landscapes in the Balkans. From there, we continue by boat to a hidden treasure: the **Ice Cave** (Ledena Pećina), part of the vast **Ušac Cave System**. Accessible only by water, the cave captivates with its glistening formations, underground chambers, and the raw beauty carved over millennia. After this immersive nature experience, we return to our accommodation. The afternoon is free for relaxation, personal exploration, or simply enjoying the serenity of the surroundings. Dinner and overnight stay.



DAY 9: BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT

Uvac Nature Reserve – Novi Pazar (Đurđevi stupovi, Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul) – Vrnjačka Banja

Driving distance: 210 km

After breakfast, we leave the nature reserve behind and travel toward Novi Pazar, a city that bridges cultures, epochs, and religions. Our first stop is the 12th-century **Đurđevi Stupovi** Monastery, perched on a hill above the city — a powerful symbol of medieval Serbian statehood and spirituality. We continue with a visit to the **Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**, the oldest preserved church in Serbia and once the seat of the Eparchy of Raška and Prizren. These sacred sites tell stories of resilience, faith, and the layered history of the region. After our cultural immersion, we take a break in the lively center of Novi Pazar for lunch and a taste of strong local coffee, perhaps followed by traditional sweets. In the afternoon, we continue our journey to **Vrnjačka Banja**, Serbia's most famous spa town. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel, take a leisurely walk through the town's promenades if time allows, and enjoy dinner. Overnight stay.



DAY 10: ROYAL TRACES AND FAREWELL

Vrnjačka Banja – Topola (Karađorđe's Church) – Oplenac (St. George Church) - Belgrade

Driving distance: 205 km

Breakfast. We travel to Topola to visit the **Church of Karađorđe** and his residence. We then take a 30-minute walk up to **St. George's Church** on Oplenac hill, a mausoleum and memorial complex of the Karađorđević royal family. Adorned with intricate mosaics made of over 40 million glass tiles, it's a breathtaking place of memory, power, and national pride. After lunch in Topola, we continue our journey back to **Belgrade**, with short stops for rest and refreshments along the way. Arrival is planned for the late evening. End of program.



TRIP COST

Travel arrangement price: _____ € per person

Price includes:

- Transportation by high-class tourist minibus or van according to the program,
- 7 nights at traditional Balkans house accommodation or private accommodation,
- 2 nights, on the basis of one full board and one half board at the camp at Tara or Drina river, in wooden bungalows for two, three and four people,
- All other meals according to plan and program,
- Two lunch packages on the tour,
- River rafting - boat downhill race, equipment, boat, skipper,
- Transfer to the starting point of the rafting,
- All entrance fees mentioned in the program (Potpeć Cave, National Park Tara, Šargan train ride, Piva Nature Park, National Park Durmitor, Uvac Special Nature reserve, entire day lake cruising, Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, entrance fee for the memorial complex of the royal family Karadjordjević),
- 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,
- International travel insurance (mandatory),
- Optional transfer, activities and excursions,
- Personal expenses.

VISA: Visa requirements often change, and you are responsible for obtaining any required visas for this trip. Please check with your nearest embassy or consulate for up-to-date advice.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 45 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

ACCOMMODATION: Accommodation is provided for nine nights in comfortable private apartments. Each apartment is carefully selected to ensure a balance of functionality, cleanliness, and coziness. Located in scenic and convenient areas along the route, the apartments are fully equipped to meet the needs of active travelers – offering a warm shower, a good night's sleep, and space to relax after a day of adventure. Whether in the mountains or by the coast, you'll enjoy a pleasant and authentic stay throughout the journey.

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 7 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 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)

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 designed for active individuals who enjoy being in nature and are comfortable with moderate to higher levels of physical activity. You don't need to be a professional athlete, but you should feel confident spending several hours outdoors — hiking, rafting, and exploring mountainous terrain. Prior experience in these activities is not required, but good general fitness, a sense of adventure, and a bit of courage definitely help.

Do I need prior experience in rafting or hiking?

No, you don't. Our certified guides will be with you every step of the way to provide safety instructions, encouragement, and support. While it's a plus if you've done similar things before, we've designed this tour so that newcomers can enjoy it just as much as experienced outdoor enthusiasts.

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), as well as two packed lunches. Other meals 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 — we'll make sure you're taken care of.

We are committed to ensuring that your experience is unforgettable, safe, and filled with adventure. Our goal is to provide you with the opportunity to explore some of the most beautiful and remote areas of the Balkans while embracing its diverse landscapes and rich culture.
Should you have any further questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us – we're here to help!

What should I pack for this trip?

We recommend comfortable and layered outdoor clothing, hiking shoes, swimwear, sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen), a reusable water bottle, a small backpack for daily activities, and personal hygiene items. All technical equipment (helmets, life jackets, wetsuits, etc.) for the rafting tour will be provided by us. All participants will receive a detailed packing list before the trip.

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 many people will be in the group?

Group sizes typically range from 6 to 12 participants. We keep our groups small to ensure a personal experience, better safety, and more direct interaction with guides and nature.

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 or canyon areas. Wi-Fi is available at most accommodations.

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.

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 (like the zip line) 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.



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