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MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA EXPLORER

9 days / 8 nights

Discovering nicest areas of Montenegro and Serbia with touch of Dubrovnik

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the winding alleys of walled Old town of Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Visit Zlatibor with its golden pine trees
- Discover the National park of Durmitor – Unesco world heritage site
- Conclude your tour in Belgrade, the beating heart of Serbia



GENERAL INFORMATION

CROATIA

Travelling through Croatia, Dalmatia or Dubrovnik Region offers immense and rich experiences to every visitor. From the coastal to the continental parts, Croatia's rich cultural heritage, combined with its magnificent natural beauties, make it the perfect place to spend your vacation at. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, a charming medieval city of exceptional beauty known for its spirit and architecture, with a population of approximately 1 million. The uniqueness of Croatia lies in its diversity. Situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, Croatia provides visitors with the opportunity to ski in the winter and swim during the summer months, all within driving distance. With its 1,185 islands, islets and reefs, it is the most diverse coast on the Mediterranean. There are seven national parks in Croatia, three being in the mountainous regions (Risnjak, Paklenica and Plitvicka Jezera), and four in the coastal regions (Kornati, Brijuni, Krka and Mljet).

To mention a few, Croatia is home to the Old City of Dubrovnik, Diocletian's Palace in Split, Euphrasies Basilica in Porec, and many others. Croatia boasts the largest number of developed settlements in southeast Europe, in addition, many of which date back to Roman and medieval times. Rarely can you find so many examples of cultural and historical significance from different periods in such a small region.

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro is the smallest of ex - Yugoslav republics. It offers wide range of investment possibilities and great geographic diversities which make this country worth visiting and exploring.

293 km of coast with its beautiful beaches and amazing beauty of its unique bay are a total opposite to the lakes, canyons, rivers and high mountains of Inner Montenegro.

It is unique in many ways. It is extremely wild and beautiful. It has it all, small medieval cities on the coast, wild mountains, the biggest lake on the Balkan, the longest and the deepest canyon in Europe, Mediterranean climate and most beautiful fjord in Mediterranean. It has wide range of hotels on the coast and in land and venues that can host up to 1,000 participants.

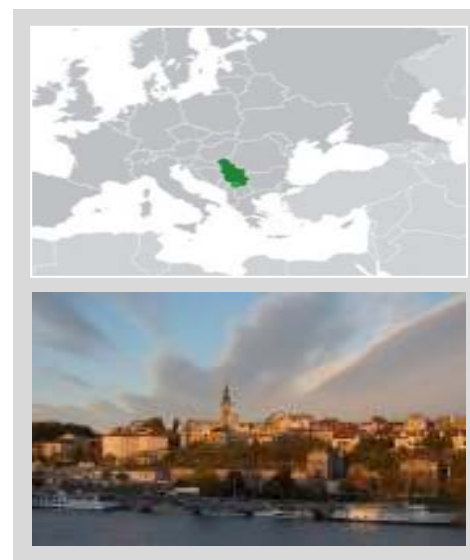
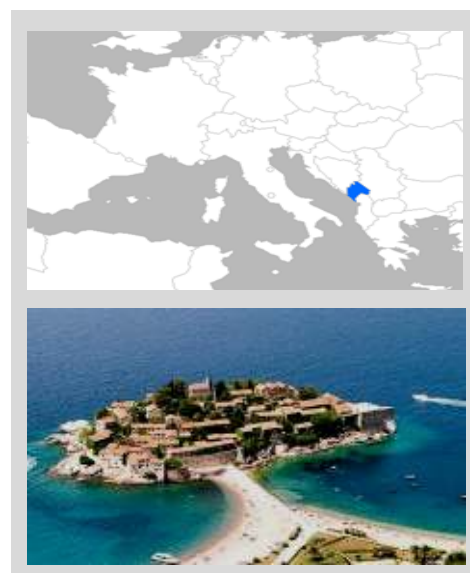
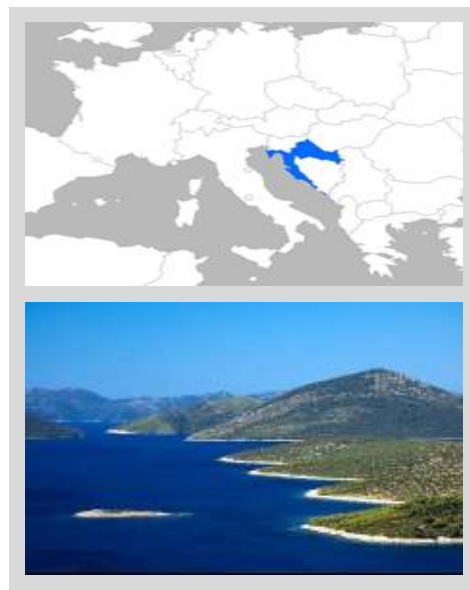
Different cultures have left their traces here. Today in Montenegro one can feel the influence of Venetian, Roman, Byzantine, French and Turkish culture. Moreover, all of that could be experienced in a relatively small distance.

SERBIA

A great variety of beautiful scenery and cultural and historical monuments, curative spas, hunting grounds and fishing areas give the basis for Serbia's tourism. Serbia has connected West with East for centuries – a land in which civilizations, cultures, faiths, climates and landscapes meet and mingle.

It is located in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula, in south-eastern Europe. The northern portion belongs to central Europe, but in terms of geography and climate it is also partly a Mediterranean country. Serbia is landlocked but as a Danube country (its longest river) it is connected to distant seas and oceans. Serbia is a crossroad of Europe and a geopolitically important territory. The international roads and railway lines, which run through the country's river valleys, form the shortest link between Western Europe and the Middle East.

The cultural and historical heritage of Serbia begins with prehistoric archaeological sites and its legacy from classical antiquity. Perhaps its greatest riches, though, are in the many mediaeval Serbian churches and monasteries, some of which are included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Dubrovnik airport
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to a hotel
Check-in
A sightseeing tour around Dubrovnik
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Dubrovnik

DUBROVNIK – the pearl of the Adriatic

The city of Dubrovnik is situated in the very South of the Republic of Croatia. The particularity and uniqueness of Dubrovnik is in its permanent live connection to its rich past and its cultural heritage, while it keeps vibrantly in pace with contemporary life, echoing its spiritual identity and its presence in the European cultural environment. Dubrovnik, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is rich in cultural and historical monuments.

The most recognizable feature which defines the History of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic are its intact city walls which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in the Europe is the main attraction for the city's visitors. This is a tour which will show you the finest sites of the Old Walled City and will reveal why Dubrovnik is often referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". We will lead you through the streets of the Old Town introducing you to the history and culture of this magnificent city. Other splendid buildings such as Onofrio's Fountain, St. Blaise's Church, Sponza Palace will be viewed along the way. You will be able to visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's oldest pharmacy, the Cathedral with its famous Treasury and the Rector's Palace which once used to be the seat of the government in the Dubrovnik Republic.



DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive towards Peljesac peninsula (70km) for a wine tasting
On the way stop at Trsteno arboretum and Ston
Lunch at a local restaurant
Return to Dubrovnik
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Dubrovnik

ARBORETUM TRSTENO – a botanical splendour

The village of Trsteno is a modest little settlement with a fine church and two huge 500 year old Asiatic plane trees. The arboretum includes the original 15th century garden laid out in renaissance style, with a geometric pattern of paths, a chapel, the fountain and aqueduct. There is also a newer garden (early 20th century) featuring formal and modern sections with features typical of the southern Adriatic, plus a historic olive grove and natural woodland.



STON – the second largest defence walls in the world

In an area known for its rugged natural beauty, few man-made sights are more magnificent than the grizzled fourteenth-century walls of Ston which with the backdrop of the mountainous countryside look scarily like the Great Wall of China. The walls date back to 1334, when the Republic of Dubrovnik gained Ston and the neighbouring Peljesac peninsula, and immediately set about securing it against potential Venetian or Ottoman attack. The area was well worth the investment: the salt pans of Ston went on to become a key source of Dubrovnik's revenue, and helped to keep the republic's fleet on the seas.

Spanning the isthmus that connects the Peljesac peninsula to the mainland, and consisting of 40 towers and 5 fortresses, the walls comprise one of the longest stretches of surviving fortifications in the whole of Europe.

PELJESAC – Croatian peninsula with the best wine

Peljesac peninsula is the second largest peninsula in Croatia. Natural beauty on Peljesac still stands against commercial and urban values. It truly has an exceptional biodiversity. That's why Peljesac is known as the place where the nature is still the nature. It is also a region well known for its quality wines and winemaking tradition dating back to ancient Greek and Roman times, and for its seashells - oysters, mussels and others.



DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kotor (92km) for a visit
Continue towards Podgorica (95km)
Boat ride with lunch at Skadar Lake
Check-in to a hotel in Podgorica
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Podgorica

KOTOR – rich medieval monument

Surrounded by mountains ranging from 1000m to 1700m high, situated at the eastern tip of Kotor Bay, lies the picturesque city of Kotor. Its city-core is the best preserved of the cities along the Montenegrin coast and it is rich in medieval monuments. The walled medieval city centre with its winding, narrow little streets, squares and small churches, appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Of its religious monuments, the most notable is the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon, dating from the 12th century.

LAKE SKADAR – the largest lake in the Balkan peninsula

Lake Skadar lies on the border of Montenegro with Albania. It is named after the city of Shkodra in northern Albania. Some small islands like Beska, with two churches on it and Grmozur, a former fortress and prison can be found on the southwest side of the lake. The Montenegrin part of the lake and its surrounding area were declared a national park in 1983. The Albanian part has been designated as a Managed Nature Reserve. It is one of the largest bird reserves in Europe.



DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Sightseeing of Podgorica
Lunch at a local restaurant
Drive to Kolasin (70km)
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Kolasin

PODGORICA - a party city

Podgorica is located in the central Montenegro and it is its capital and largest city. Podgorica's favourable position at the confluence of two rivers (Ribnica and Moraca) and the meeting point of the fertile Zeta Plain and Bjelopavlici Valley has encouraged settlement. The city is close to winter ski centres in the north and seaside resorts on the Adriatic Sea. Podgorica is the administrative centre of Montenegro and its economic, cultural and educational focus and has many examples of Turkish architecture. It is home to three main religious groups: Orthodox Christians, Sunnite Muslims and Catholic Christians.

KOLASIN – wild beauty of Montenegro

Kolasin is a small paradise, pure nature. There are unlimited mountaineering and canyon adventures; you will find nature and adventure, rest and pleasure, with many options for leisure in both winter and summer time. Due to its altitude and favorable climate, Kolasin has also health spa qualities. The area covers the upper courses of the rivers Tara and Moraca, while peaceful mountain lakes lead Bjelasica and riveting canyons.



DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Visit of the mighty Tara canyon (68km)
Option for rafting
Lunch at a the local restaurant
Drive to Zlatibor (135km)
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner in the hotel
Overnight in Zlatibor

THE TARA RIVER CANYON – wild and untamed beauty

The Tara River Canyon, also known as the Tara River Gorge is the longest canyon in Montenegro. Its 82 kilometres and 1,300 meters of its deepness make it the deepest river canyon in Europe. The canyon is protected as a part of Tara national park and it is a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Tara River cuts through the canyon and makes it unique by creating significant depths averaging around one thousand meters, and in some places up to one thousand-three hundred meters. It is ranked right behind the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. The Tara River, at its end makes confluence with Piva, becomes the Drina, and is some hundred and fifty kilometres long.

ZLATIBOR – the most beautiful mountain in Serbia

Zlatibor, one of the most visited mountains in Serbia, is Serbian top tourist destination after Belgrade. Zlatibor meaning "golden pine" is a mountain of outstanding beauty with a mild climate, woodland glades, and rich grasslands with mountain brook and pines. This location has been known as a climatic spa due to its favourable environmental conditions numerous sunny days. There is



also a large scale of opportunities for active holiday pursuits like walking, bike riding, horseback riding, etc.

DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel
Full day trip by Sargan eight train with lunch
Return to Zlatibor
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Zlatibor

SARGAN EIGHT STEAM TRAIN

The romantic sound of a steam-powered train going through a beautiful countryside is not the Orient Express Story but our reality. Not far away from the Zlatibor and Tara Mountain there is the Sarganska Osmica, in English called The Figure of Eight of Sargan, which is the narrow railroad shaped as a number eight (osmica). Sargan eight is known as one of the most attractive tourist railways in Europe. It was built in 1925 to connect Belgrade with Sarajevo and Dubrovnik and is today still considered as a technical wonder.

The large elevation change in so short a distance will leave you breathless. Not far away from here is the village of the most famous Serbian film producer Emir Kusturica. The popular film *The Time of Miracles* was shot here.



DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Belgrade (192km)
Lunch followed by sightseeing of the city
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Belgrade

BELGRADE – a 7,000 years old town

Belgrade is the capital and the "soul" of modern Serbia. Because of its strategic position by the confluence of the Sava and the Danube rivers, where the Panonian Plain meets the Balkans, the city has battled over in 115 wars and was all together destroyed 44 times. Consequently, during its lively history it was inhabited by Celts, Romans, Slavs and then has been a possession of Byzantine, Frankish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ottoman and Serbian rulers. It was a principal city of Ottoman Europe, the capital of Yugoslavia and then a metropolitan capital of Serbian Republic. Today, it is a modern city of about 2 million inhabitants. In Belgrade a visitor can find not only important museums, cultural and historic monuments, but also a rich program of cultural, artistic and sports events.



DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Novi Sad (95km)
Sightseeing of the city
Lunch in one of the local farms
Return to Belgrade
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Belgrade

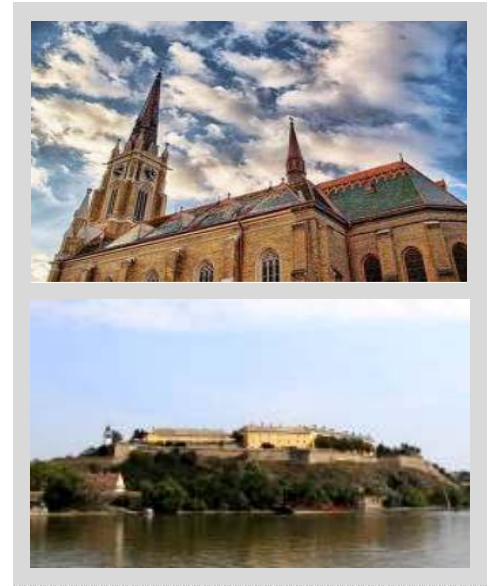


NOVI SAD – Serbian Athens

Novi Sad is the capital of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, its economic, cultural, scientific, educational, health and administrative centre with nearly 200.000 inhabitants. The city is situated on the left bank of the Danube River in South Backa, in northern part of Serbia. Thanks to its exceptional geographic and transportation position, it is a significant intersection of land and water traffic. It is located on transcontinental Euro-Asian transversal starting from Western Europe, and leading across central Europe, to the Balkan Peninsula and Bosphorus straits and all the way to Near East. Novi Sad is positioned in the length of 50 km on the Danube River, which is actually essential in Trans-European mega hydro system of rivers and canals (the Rhine-Main-Danube Rivers) for transportation, commerce, energy, and tourism.

PETROVARADIN FORTRESS – the Gibraltar of the Danube

On a rocky cliff at the base of Fruska Gora, today sits a grand fortress, which has been the site of many military forts throughout the ages. The latest archaeological studies indicate that this site has a history spanning more than 2,000 years. A sample of the many cultures and societies that have used this site include the Celts, the Romans, the Byzantines, Hungarians, Turks, and Austrians.



DAY9

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

SERVICES

SERVICES INCLUDED:

TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Dubrovnik, 1 night in 4* hotel in Podgorica 1 night in 4* hotel in Kolasin, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Zlatibor, 2 night in 4*/5* hotel in Belgrade

GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour including meals and accommodation, local guides for visits in Belgrade

ENTRANCE FEES:

City walls, Cathedral, Rectors palace and Franciscan Monastery in Dubrovnik, Arboretum in Trsteno, City walls in Ston, wine tasting in Peljesac, boat ride at Skadar lake, Sargan eight train tour, Museum of 25th May in Belgrade, Petrovaradin fortress in Novi Sad

MEALS:

As per program

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Porterage
- Drinks during the meals
- Tips

OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Rafting on Tara river