



THE BEAUTIFUL BALKAN LANDSCAPE

CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

8 Days / 7 Nights

Croatia – is ideally situated at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Mediterranean. The Croatian coast line and the mainland area, islands and islets make Croatia an attractive country to visit. The country's natural treasures which include crystal-clear seas, remote islands, unspoiled fishing villages, beaches, vineyards, Roman ruins and medieval walled cities. An abundance of natural harbors lures yachters, and naturists have their own beaches. There's an island for every taste. Along the Adriatic coast you will find remains of palaces, temples and amphitheatres from the Roman Empire as well as Forts, fortified towns built during the Venetian Rule. Each of the Rulers had left its strong imprint on the architecture of the interior, particularly in the baroque cities that flourished in the 17th and the 18th centuries. Religion in the form of Roman Catholic Church has been essential to the Croatian identity since the 9th century. That's the reason we can find many churches and Cathedrals since the very early 9th century all over Croatia in different kind of architecture, monasteries and convents most of them preserved till actual time side by side to the Castles, the fortified walls towns, Museums and Galleries all over the country. Croatia is an ecologic country, preserving the Fauna and Flora, the important Natural Reserves and Natural Parks declared by UNESCO as World Heritage such as Plitvice Natural Park, one of the seven natural treasures of the country as well as towns and cities. The Croatian cuisine reflects he



cultures that have influenced the country over the course of its history. On the coast you will find Italian style cuisine and the Hungarian, Viennese and Turkish style cuisine in the interior. Each region has its own specialty.

Montenegro – Bursting at the seams with majestic mountains, breathtaking beaches and larger-than-life locals, minuscule Montenegro proves once and for all that good things do indeed come in small packages. Montenegro or Černa Gora by the locals means “Black Mountains”, is lying at the southern area of Europe with a coastal line at the Adriatic Sea. Montenegro is a famous destination for entertainment celebrities. This beautiful cultural part of Europe is filled with splendid, unique natural beauty, social beaches bordering the Adriatic Sea and many historic sites that show the interesting history of the region. A state with a long tradition, the meeting point of different cultural and religious influences on the border of Orthodox East and Catholic West, today’s Montenegro is a multi-confessional and multi-ethnic environment functioning in perfect harmony. The Tara Canyon is part of the river Tara, known as “Tear of Europe”, runs through the National Park Durmitor. The Boka Bay or Boka Kotorska, is an oasis of Mediterranean vegetation: agave, palm, mimosa, oleander, kiwi, pomegranate, medicinal herbs. When its peaks are covered with snow, the roses bloom in the foothills. The small towns, as treasuries of history, art and beauty, are strung like pearls on its coastline. Kotor is the old coastal and cultural center. For centuries, it has been a crossroads of commercial roads under the strong influence of Venice. It is protected by mountains with a strong defense structure built during the time of Byzantine Empire, treasures we will find in Budva, the fortified Roman City.

Bosnia & Herzegovina – The geographical breakdown is complex, natural landscape boundaries and transitions are often in contradiction to the political division of the country. The Federation is divided into ten Cantons, each has its own political institutions and parliaments. Bosnia and Herzegovina’s eventful history is dominated by the fact that the country has been at a meeting point of cultural influences and religious movements since time immemorial. Between East and West, from Roman Empire, Rome and Constantinople, the Hapsburgs, Ottomans and Russians, Belgrade and Zagreb, between Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim. The Border between the two Roman Empires was the Drina River, which forms the border today between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia. Each of the Rulers left its print type through Architecture, Gastronomy. Touring here we will see the Ottoman Heritage of Bosnia & Herzegovina that is more than evident today as well as the Hapsburgs, etc. There are numerous rivers, canyons, several glacial lakes, around 70 thermal springs, mixed forests. Large areas of the country are forested, but the forests are relatively unaffected by human interference and are rich in wildlife. The **Drina** is Bosnia & Herzegovina’s longest waterway and its most celebrated river. The novel „**The Bridge on the Drina**“ by a Nobel Prize winning author Ivo Andrić is set on the river’s banks at Višegrad, making this river literally Word famous. Kayaking and other water sports are increasingly popular on the Drina. Thanks to its high mountains Bosnia became very famous country for winter sports. Winter sports giants were discovered in Sarajevo during the 1984 Olympics. The Tara Canyon harbours, the Europe’s longest and deepest canyon, makes the rafting on the river Tara, along the Vrbas near Banja Luka very popular. The Una National Park is one of the most interesting and beautiful landscapes in Southeast Europe, ideal for hiking, biking, boating, rafting, fishing, siving and swimming. The cuisine of Bosnia & Herzegovina is rich and varied in a way that reflects the cultural and climatic diversity of the country.

Traveling through the countries of Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia you will enjoy beautiful landscape, adrenaline activities and good cuisine.



- **Dubrovnik - City Walls and guided walking tour**
- **Montenegro –**
- **Kotor Bay**
- **Njegoši**
- **Cetinje**
- **Budva – walking tour**
- **Mount Lovćen**
- **Cetinje – walking tour**
- **Morača Monastery**
- **Podgorica**
- **Skadarska lake**
- **Sveti Štefan**
- **Durmitor National Park**
- **Rafting on the Tara Canyon River**
- **Biograd Forest**
- **Kolašin**
- **Tracking on Durmitor National Park**
- **Žabljak**

- **Bosnia & Herzegovina -**
- **Sarajevo – walking tour**
- **Mostar**
- **Neum**
- **Croatia**
- **Dubrovnik**
- **Lopud, Lokrum**
- **Cavtat, Ethnographic Villages**



Tel-Aviv – Dubrovnik – City Walls – Lokrum Island

We shall meet at BGN Airport, flying over to Croatia. After landing at the International Airport we will drive to the Old City of Dubrovnik for a walking guided tour. We will hear the interesting and rich history of the City from the Ancient times till today. The fact that Old Dubrovnik has been preserved as a living and organic entity is largely thanks to the sturdiness of its city walls, a system of fortifications which is a direct expression of the city's history. Old Dubrovnik named the **Adriatic Pearl** was proclaimed World Heritage by UNESCO. We will start from Pile Gate, passing by a stone bridge over the moat and a wooden draw-bridge to the stairs leading to the main entrance to the **Old City**, landing on the **Stradun**, the Main street of the city, starting by Velika Onofrijeva Česma (the big fountain), to **Muzej Franjevačkog Samostana Mala braća** (the **Franciscan Monastery Museum**), the **Cloister**, the **Monastery apothecary's** founded on 1317, continue to the **Sponza Palace**, the **dogana**, the **City Bell-Tower**, the **Old Sephardic Synagogue** founded by the Spanish and the Portuguese emigrants since end 14th century, the **St.**





Blaise Church, the Palace of the Great, the **Arsenal**, the **Roland's Column**, the **Rector's Palace**, the **Cathedral**, the **Maritime Museum**. We continue to the **Ploče Gate** (the port gate), Dubrovnik's is one of the most important in the Country, here we can see Cruises Ship, Yachts and many fisher boats of all kinds. After a short break we will continue our walking tour climbing the city walls stopping from time to time watch on the panoramic landscape, our target is reaching the **Minčeta fortress**. After leisure time break we shall take one of the ships and ride over to **Lokrum Island**, one of the most popular islands here.

By the end of the excursion we will drive to our hotel at **Dubrovnik** for dinner and overnight.



Montenegro – Kotor Bay, Njegoši, Cetinje, Budva

Today we shall leave Dubrovnik and drive to the coastal south, to the Croatian-Montenegrin border. After crossing the border we will start our trip along the beautiful Riviera of Montenegro. We will see the perled small villages and towns, surrounded and naturally fortified by the mountains range. We will arrive to one of the impressive landscape in the Balkan, to the **Boka Kotorska** (Boka Bay), a Mediterrenian geological phenomenon, passing by Igalo, Herceg-Novi, towns that lies on the bay. At **Kamenari** we will cross the bay on the ferry. From here we will drive to Kotor. **Kotor** is an Old medieval town on the Adriatic coast, in a bay with its harbour. We will explore walking the Old town through winding streets and squares, passing by the different monuments, several Romanesque churches, Venetian buildings. In fact here we can learn a lot about the Montenegrin history. After a short break we will continue over to **Njeguši**, located on the slopes of **Mount Lovćen**. The village is well known as the birthplace of the Petrović dynasty as well as for its well preserved traditional fold architecture. We will stop into a traditional house to taste Njeguški sir (cheese) and Njeguški pršut (bacon) which are genuine contributions to the Montenegrin cuisine. From here we continue to **Cetinje**,





one of the two Montenegrin Capitals. Cetinje is the seat of the Montenegrin Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Montenegro, National library, States archives and from 2017 became also the seat of Ministry Foreign Affairs. We will sight seeing tour through the Russian Embassy, the French Embassy, and will visit the **Vlaška crkva** (church), the **Vladin Dom** which is the biggest monument in Montenegro, we will pass by the **Nikola Palace** - Dvor Kralja Nikole (today the National Museum), stopping to visit the **Etnografski muzej** (Ethnographic Museum). From here we continue to **Budva**, the ancient Roman city on the Riviera. Budva is the Metropolis of Montenegrin tourism thanks to its great beaches and hotels, its natural beauty, its bay island And its rich historic monuments. **Budva Old Town** lies on a small peninsula and represents a treasure chest of culture heritage. We will cross its narrow streets and squares, its famous buildings, the Sv. Trojica, the Sv. Ivan Bogorodica and the Sv. Sava Churches. After free leisure time we will drive to hotel.

End of excursion, drive to hotel for dinner and overnight at Budva.



Budva – Morača Monastery – Podgorica – Skadarska lake – Sveti Štefan - Budva

Today will be a nice day for nature, lakes and monasteries. We will start with one of the gems on our route today, visiting one of the important monasteries in Montenegro, the **Morača monastery** named also “The Holy Monastir”, famous with its huge stonewalls, the largest medieval Orthodox monument in Montenegro, built in 1252. Four Monks still lives here. They grow their own vegetable and honey. Very peaceful place. We will continue along the Morača river, beautiful landscape and will reach the second Capital City of Montenegro, **Podgorica**. Podgorica, the Old Titograd City is settled on





the confluence of two rivers, the Morača and the Zeta. On arrival we will make sight seeing tour along the Cetinjski Put, the long street, the Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog, to the main square Trg Republika, from here we will walk to the colorful Slobode street, the Karadjordjeva Street, the Turkish houses, the St. George Church and the Sahat Kula Clock Tower. We continue to the National Park **Škadarska Jezero**. Skadar Lake is the biggest lake in the Balkans. Thanks to its geographic position and sub Mediterranean climate, it is one of the most important habitats of swamp birds in Europe, after the river Danube delta. There are around 280 bird species on the lake, including the rare curly Pelican, which became the trademark of Skadar Lake. Throughout the history this region was a confluence of different civilizations, each of them left a strong impact on its rich cultural and historical heritage. On the islands in the Skadar Lake, among birds and water-lilies we will notice monasteries, as the Starčevo, from the 15th century settled by the humble ascetic, old man Makarije, after whom the island was named Starčeva Gorica. On the shores of the lake there are two small towns, with very specific architecture, **Virpazar** and **Rijeka Crnojevića**. We will enjoy the traditional cuisine in one of the famous restaurants. From here we will continue our way and stop in front of **Sveti Štefan** peninsula for a picture. The resort, known by its commercial name as **Aman Sveti Štefan**, includes part of the mainland, the Villa Miločer which is part of the rich resort attracts, a lot of famous actors, poets, writers to take a break for some days in this part of Montenegro. At the end of the excursion we will return to our hotel in Budva.

End of day, drive for dinner and overnight to hotel at Budva



Durmitor National Park – Rafting on the Tara Canyon River – Biograd Forest - Kolašin

After breakfast we shall leave **Budva** and consecrate the day exploring the mountainous Montenegro “The Switzerland of the Balkan”, the beautiful National Parks. We will drive through the medieval village **Rijeka Crnojevića** which was the Petrović Royal preferred residence. We will see the Rijeka Crnojevića bridge also known as **Danilo's Bridge** which spans the Crnojević River and is one of the most important historical monuments and tourists attractions in the region of Cetinje. We will arrive to the region of **Durmitor** which the most important part of the Dinaric Ranges Mountains is characterized by high peaks, forests, deep gorges. Regarding the etymology of the word **Durmitor** there are several opinions. For some Latin word Dormire, which means to sleep, is the real source of this word, while for some others that is Celtic drumitor, which means running water from the mountain.

Tara Canyon is the largest in Europe. For centuries this strong mountain beauty had carved the limestone it runs through and shaped numerous narrow parts, gigantic obstacles and chasms. This is how a 93 kilometers long canyon was born. It is the second deepest canyon in the world right after the Colorado River canyon. The deepest part of the canyon is 1,300 meters deep. Its banks are steep, covered with forest arising from the coldness and depth of the canyon. There are 17 Glaciers Lakes in the Park as the highest top in Montenegro. On 1977 the Park and Canyon of Tara was proclaimed World Ecological Reserve by UNESCO. We will make rafting, visit the **Ledina Pećina Cave** (depends of the weather). From here we will continue to the National Park Biogradska Gora proclaimed as Natural Reserve as one of the biggest forests in Europe. In the Park there are more than 2000 species of flora, very special fauna, many species of birds and butterflies. At the end of the day we will reach the picturesque village of **Kolašin**.

End of excursion, drive to hotel for dinner overnight at **Kolašin** village.





Tracking on Durmitor National Park – Žabljak - Sarajevo

After breakfast we will leave Kolašin for an Adrenaline day, walking through the **Durmitor** National Reserve, tracking on Jeeps, enjoying the green and blue landscape, we shall pass through picturesque villages, stop at the **Đurđevica Tara Bridge** built on 1937 and one of the most visited bridges in Montenegro. Hundreds of buses with thousands of tourists come every year to visit the marvelous combination of nature and architecture. We will stop for a break at one of the restaurants nearby the bridge. The 172 meters above the Tara River, the bridge has always inspired many artists. From here we will drive over the ski town **Žabljak** which is in the center of the reserve of the Durmitor National Park. Žabljak has been a historical point of interest since the arrival of the first tribes that had made Žabljak as their Center. In 1878 the territory of Durmitor became a part of Montenegro becoming a part of the administratively admitted state. Several churches and monasteries played a very significant culturally and historical role in this area and together with Žabljak they were raised in honor of great victories against the invaders, especially over the Turkish army. The Turkish have set on fire the Monasteries, but the citizens of this area saved and renewed most of them. We will hear the legend concerning this important place. From here we will continue to the third country in our schedule trip, we will cross the border over to **Bosnia and Hercegovina**, stopping in one of the beautiful old towns on our way to the Capital, **Sarajevo**.

End of the day, arrival to hotel in Sarajevo for dinner and overnight.





Sarajevo big tour –

Today we are waking up in **Sarajevo**, the most Oriental Capital City of Europe. Sarajevo is the Capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is both literally and figuratively the country's heart. The city on the Miljacka reflects so much of what makes this country unique: the coexistence of three monotheistic religions: Muslims, Christians Orthodox and Catholic, Jewish and other religions, holding different cultures in a confined space. The interplay of influences of East and West on architecture, lifestyles and cuisine. The Center has its museums commemorating local history, including Sarajevo 1878-1918, which covers the 1914 assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and event that sparked WW I. Landmarks of the **Old Quarter, Baščaršija**, include the Ottoman Era, **Gazi Husrev-Beg Mosque**. Visitors are "invading" the city around the year for business, work and leisure. Most of the visitors are overnighting in Sarajevo, a very important impact on the income. Our walking tour includes visit in one of the Mosques, visit the **Great Synagogue** which houses the **Jewish Museum**. Sarajevo's Jewish community used to be the richest in Southeastern Europe. We will continue to the **Old City**, through the Ottoman's quarters **Baščaršija** from the middle of the 16th century, the paved alley **Sarači**, the **Sahat Kula** (Clock Tower), **Kolobara Han**, **Sebilj Fountain**, **Kazandžiluk**, **Bravadžiluk**, the **Old Serbian Orthodox Church**, the longest pedestrian street **Ferhadija**. We will hear different languages while visiting in the city, we will see the Tram, the ultimate transport that appeared first in Sarajevo among the ex-Yugoslavs countries since the 19th century. We will see lot of Wellness Spa based on Roman Thermal spa, the **City Hall** which is the most imposing building of Hapsburg Era with a western style façade and roof. The Pseudo-



Moorish elements of the design we can see also in building of this period, passing through the **National Theatre**, the **Post Office** building and the **Museum of Art**, the **Latin bridge**. The **big Rail Station** that relay Sarajevo with the European parts, the **Avaz Tower** which is the highest in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

End of excursion, we will drive to our hotel for dinner and overnight in **Sarajevo**.



Sarajevo – Mostar - Dubrovnik

After breakfast we will leave **Sarajevo** and drive over to **Mostar**. On our way we shall cross the city passing by the new Sarajevo, driving through the **Sarajevo Olympic Centre** including the Stadium Asim Ferhatović-Hare named after a Sarajevo player with a capacity of 40,000 spectators built on 1984. The Stadium is used also for concerts. Next to the stadium we will see the **Zetra Olympic Arena** for ice hockey games and other sports games, it was built on 1984 as well. From here we continue to drive to Mostar, on the way we shall stop in one of the most antique cities, Konjic, surrounded by deep forest and lies on both sides of the Neretva River. The **Neretva** is the largest karst river in the **Dinaric Alps** with total length of 230 km of which 208km are in Bosnia & Herzegovina, terminating in Dubrovnik Neretva County of Croatia.

Mostar is the Capital of Herzegovina. The City lies 60 meters above the banks of the **Neretva River**. Thanks to its position near the Adriatic Sea has a Mediterranean climate. Mostar is part of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a population composed of Bosnian Muslims and Christians Croats. Mostar grew to become the largest and most important city in Herzegovina. The history of Mostar is well connected with the history of its bridges. **Mostar** name is derived from the Slavic term for bridge (most) or bridge guardians (mostari). Bridges have been built since Roman times and each of them has a special legend or story. The **Old Bridge**, on Behalf of and in honor of Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I, architect





Sinan designed the single arch bridge spanning the Neretva, built in 1556. The bridge almost immediately became a symbol of Mostar and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the Bosnian Civil War, the Bridge was destroyed and rebuilt using the Ottoman Era plans was held in 2004 and became the city Landmark. We will walk through the Old City, through the bridges and will see the **Crooked Bridge** (Kriva Ćuprija) which was a model for the Old Bridge. We will continue to the **Koski Mehmed-Paša Mosque**, the most famous in Mostar, the **Tepa Market** (pijaca), the **Bišćević House** of the three traditional Ottoman Houses opened to visitors, continue over the **National Theatre**, the **Sahat Kula** (clock tower), the **White Cross**, the **Franciscan Monastery** and **St. Paul Church**, the **Španski Trg** (Spanish Square) inaugurated by His Royal Majesty Juan Carlos in 2012. From here we continue over **Neum**, the town on the Croatian border built in the socialist era. After a short break for coffee we shall continue to **Dubrovnik, Croatia**.

By the evening we will arrive to our hotel in Dubrovnik for dinner and overnight.



Dubrovnik – Cavtat - Tel Aviv

Today we are leaving Dubrovnik, traveling to **Cavtat**, one of the most beautiful small towns on the Eastern Adriatic Coast. It lies on the Rat peninsula, in between two bays, two natural harbors southeast of Dubrovnik. Its present name derives from the Latin word Civitas, the ancient name was Epidaurus since 47BC. The inhabitants of Cavtat were those who founded Dubrovnik in the 7th century. We will make a walking guided tour over the small and important town, passing by the **Rector's Palace**, **St. Nicholas' Church** rebuilt in Baroque style, the **Western harbor**, the **Franciscan Monastery** with the **Church of Our Lady of Cavtat**, the nice **Promenade** hosting cafés and restaurants. We will have great time here. All depends of the flight schedule, it will be decided on spot, but if possible, we shall continue another nice





village around to watch a folklore performance and try the local cuisine.

It's been nice to have you here for a great tour, thanks for visiting Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Have a safe flight home.