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# MONTENEGRO EXPERIENCE WITH DUBROVNIK, SPLIT AND MOSTAR

8 days / 7 nights

*Discovering Montenegro, Dubrovnik, Split and Mostar*

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy Budva, the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism
- Explore the national park of Lovcen
- Relax at Skadar Lake
- Discover the picturesque city of Kotor
- Feel the rhythm of the winding alleys of walled Old town of Croatian Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic
- Experience Split with its remarkable Diocletian palace and
- Visit Bosnian Mostar, a city victim of recent ethnical clash



# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## 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.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the last undiscovered regions of the southern area of the Alps, with vast tracks of wild and untouched nature attracting adventurers and nature lovers. According to an estimation of the World Tourism Organization, Bosnia and Herzegovina will have the third highest tourism growth rate in the world between 1995 and 2020.

Most notable among its charms is its lush, mountainous landscape, best seen from the vantage point of one of the national parks. The central Dinaric Alps are favoured by hikers & walkers, containing both Mediterranean & Alpine climates. White-water rafting with 3 rivers (including the deepest river canyon in Europe, Tara River) is something akin to a national pastime. Bosnia has also become an increasingly popular skiing and Ecotourism destination.

For some, the country remains synonymous with the Yugoslav wars that ravaged the Balkan region in the 1990s; it still bears the legacy of this, having a fractured infrastructure and a countryside that remains littered with mines in some regions. However, there are plenty of positives to take from Bosnia and Herzegovina's urban centres, especially the cosmopolitan capital of Sarajevo with its Turkish heritage and lively cafe scene. Lonely Planet, in ranking the best cities in the world, ranked Sarajevo ahead of Croatian Dubrovnik. Tourism there is chiefly focused on historical, religious, and cultural aspects. Elsewhere there are historic fortresses, splendid old mosques, monasteries and Catholic shrines to enjoy. But perhaps above all else, it is the reconstructed Ottoman bridge at Mostar that symbolizes both the past and a positive new beginning for the country.

## 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 1000 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.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

Arrival to Dubrovnik airport  
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to Budva (120km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Visit of Budva  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Budva

### **BUDVA – the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism**

Budva is Montenegro's main tourist centre. The secret of the city's popularity rests mainly on its beautiful, mostly sandy coastline, diverse nightlife and examples of Mediterranean architecture. In addition to the splendid beaches of the "Budva Riviera", the city also possesses a tiny, but beautiful, historic centre. Surrounded by a wall, the historic centre is located on a small peninsula which extends as a harbour-side promenade.



## DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Lovcen (45km) for a visit  
Continue to Cetinje (20km) for a visit and some free time for lunch  
Finish your daily trip in Podgorica (40km) with a sightseeing tour  
Return to Budva (60km)  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Budva

### **LOVCEN – Montenegrin symbol of pride**

Lovcen is a mountain and a national park in south-western Montenegro. It rises from the borders of the Adriatic Basin closing the long and twisting bays of Boka Kotorska and making the hinterland to the coastal town of Kotor. The mountain has two imposing peaks, slopes are rocky, with numerous fissures, pits and deep depressions giving its scenery a specific look. Standing on the border between two completely different natural wholes, the sea and the mainland, Lovcen is under the influence of both climates. The biggest and most important monument of Lovcen national park is Njegos's Mausoleum. The location for his burial place and the mausoleum at the summit of Jezerski vrh was chosen by Njegos himself (Serbian orthodox priest and poet) as his last wish.

### **CETINJE – secondary capital of Montenegro**

Cetinje is also a historical capital of Montenegro with the official residence of their President. The city nestles on a small karst plain surrounded by Limestone Mountains, including Mt. Lovcen, the Black Mountain from which Montenegro gets its name. Cetinje is a town of immense historical heritage, founded in the 15th century. It became the center of Montenegrin life and both a cradle of Montenegrin and Serbian Orthodox religious center.



### 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.



## DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Skadar lake (35km)  
Boat cruise from Virpazar  
Free for lunch  
Return to Budva  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Budva

### 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  
Drive to Kotor (25km) for a sightseeing and some free time for lunch  
Continue to Dubrovnik (85km) via Perast  
Check-in to a hotel  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### 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.

### PERAST – a sleepy baroque place close to Kotor

One of the principal attractions on the Bay of Kotor is the ancient village of Perast, rich in Venice-like architecture which includes sixteen Baroque palaces, seventeen Catholic churches, several important Orthodox structures and a series of nine defensive towers, all set in stone and seemingly untouched by the scourge of modern-day tourism.



## 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.

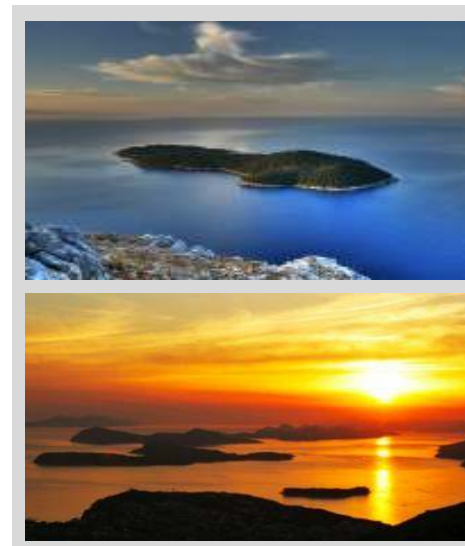


## DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel  
A sightseeing tour around Dubrovnik and free for lunch  
In the afternoon optional tour to Elaphiti islands or free at leisure  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### ELAPHITI ISLANDS – one of the high points of your visit to Dubrovnik

The Elaphiti Island is a small archipelago consisting of several islands stretching northwest of Dubrovnik. Blessed with lush woodland and white, rocky outcrops that enhance the deep blues and greens of the Adriatic, you will not want to leave! This is one of the most interesting, full-day trips that can be done whilst staying in or around Dubrovnik.



## DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Split (235km)  
A sightseeing tour around Split and free for lunch  
Return to Dubrovnik  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### SPLIT – the cultural and economic center of Dalmatia

Split is the largest and most important town in Dalmatia. The town was developed around the palace, which was erected in the 4th century by the Roman Emperor, Diocletian. You can also visit the ancient cellars, Cathedral, Temple of Jupiter and the Golden Gate.

The town of Split is situated in the central part of the eastern Adriatic coast and is bordered by the mouths of the small river Ćrnovnica in the Southeast, and the river Zrno in the North. Split offers you its many charms; the pines of the Marjan forest in the Western part of the peninsula, the murmur of the sea and the sound of the Dalmatian song in the stone streets of the city. Split has a very



favourable climate characterized by an extremely bright sky with about 2,700 sunny hours per year.

## DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel  
Drive to Bosnia and Herzegovina for a whole day tour (140km)  
A sightseeing tour around Mostar with a stop for lunch  
Return to Dubrovnik  
Free for dinner  
Overnight in Dubrovnik

### **MOSTAR – the city with the largest population of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Mostar is the biggest and the most important city in the Herzegovina region in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is situated on the Neretva River and is the fifth-largest city in the country. Mostar was named after "the bridge keepers" (natively: mostari) who guarded the Stari Most (Old Bridge) over the river. The bridge was ruined during the war and then rebuilt in 2004. Today it is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. Together with the Old town became a listed UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The Old Town with its towers, oriental shops, and restaurants, which are specialized in aromatic cooking, take you back for many centuries. Traces of 'old' times are imprinted in the market, the mosques, Herzegovina's museum and in the typical Turkish houses, a few of which have been kept in original style.

The city excels in the spheres of art, cuisine, music, theatre, museums, and literature. It is also widely celebrated in popular lore, featured frequently as the setting for books, movies, and television programs.

## DAY 8

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



# SERVICES

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## SERVICES INCLUDED:

### TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

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

3 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Budva, 4 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Dubrovnik

### GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour, local guides for visits in Podgorica, Kotor, Dubrovnik, Split and Mostar

### ENTRANCE FEES:

Lovcen mausoleum, cruise at Skadar lake and entrance fee to the national park, Kotor, Cathedral, Rector's palace and Franciscan Monastery in Dubrovnik, Diocletian cellars and palace in Split

### OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

## SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Meals unless where specified
- Porterage
- Tips

## OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Elaphiti sailing tour