

BEAUTIFUL BALKANS ADVENTURE

15 days / 13 Riding Days



After another great year of touring around the Balkans, we again ride to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, which is undoubtedly another undiscovered southeast-European delicacy. Exciting routes will be taken to all the special areas these three countries have to offer. The route is all on good asphalt starting on wide gentle roads throughout Bosnia's inland and finishing with superb coastal riding up the azure Adriatic coast in Croatia.

Both Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina are surely two of the last undiscovered tourist destinations in Europe. Witnessing the transition and rediscovering a region of forgotten beauty, culture and history will reward and surprise even the most jaded traveller. Make sure you come for a visit before these natural beauties get overrun by tourists!

TOUR MAP



CULTURE

ROADS

LANDSCAPE



GENERAL OVERVIEW

DATES in 2012

May 10 - May 24

May 12 - May 26

August 24 - September 07

or any time May - Oct for Self guided tour

COUNTRIES

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro

TOUR STARTS / ENDS

Ljubljana

REST DAYS

3; Sarajevo, Dubrovnik, Hvar Island

ROUTE

Mileage: 2.500 km (1.600 miles)

Daily rides: 200 - 410 km (125 - 255 miles). The whole tour runs on asphalt.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sarajevo, Mostar, Adriatic coastal road, Hvar Island, 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Plitvice National Park, Durmitor National Park, Kotor, Dubrovnik, Split.

ACCOMMODATION

Very comfortable, middle class hotels, often the best in the area. 3 or 4 star.

DAY BY DAY

- Day1:** Arrival in Ljubljana
- Day2:** Ljubljana - Plitvice nat. park
- Day3:** Plitvice nat. park - Sarajevo
- Day4:** Rest day in Sarajevo
- Day5:** Sarajevo - Mostar
- Day6:** Mostar - Zabljak
- Day7:** Zabljak - Petrovac
- Day8:** Petrovac - Dubrovnik
- Day9:** Rest day in Dubrovnik
- Day10:** Dubrovnik - Hvar Island
- Day11:** Rest day on Hvar Island
- Day12:** Hvar Island - Pag Island
- Day13:** Pag Island - Rovinj
- Day14:** Rovinj - Ljubljana
- Day15:** Flight Home

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BEAUTIFUL BALKANS ADVENTURE DAY BY DAY

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Ljubljana

Dobrodošli!
Welcome to Slovenia!

Your tour guide will pick you up from the airport and bring you to your hotel in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. After we get you settled in the hotel and you become acquainted with your bike, just take it easy - rest in the hotel, see the town or take a short introductory ride with the guide to get accustomed to the bike (starts at 3 PM, takes about 2 hrs). In the evening we meet for a special welcome dinner and have an informal chat to discuss the format of the tour.

Day 2: Ljubljana - Plitvice nat. park

Today you will begin to experience riding Central Europe as it was meant to be. After a morning of scenic riding through the back roads of lush green farmland and forests of southeast Slovenia, we'll enter Croatia and cruise through the Dinaric plain, an unusual karst, or limestone, environment. In the late afternoon, we'll visit fantastic Plitvice National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its sixteen lakes interconnected by waterfalls created by depositions of travertine.

Day 3: Plitvice nat. park - Sarajevo

Today we cross into Bosnia and Herzegovina, beautiful country, sandwiched between northern and southern Croatia. This is the longest day of the tour but you will love every mile of it. The riding is excellent, because the roads are empty and sweep through low mountains and great stretches of open plains of Herzegovina, the southern part of the country. It's been 13 years since the aggression stopped and travelers have long ago returned to that scenic country, especially to gorgeous Sarajevo. For lunch and dinner you will taste burek and cevapcici, which are both excellent Bosnian specialties.

Day 4: Rest day in Sarajevo

Sarajevo, the most Oriental city in Europe, retains the essence of its rich history with its mosques, markets and picturesque old Turkish bazaar. Ringed by low mountains, spend a day on the roads around the city, enjoying the view of this exotic town, and exploring the sites of the 1984 Olympic Games. Or stroll to the Bascarsija bazaar in the center of the city, surrounded by small, unique shops and galleries. We can relax in a cafe and try Turkish coffee. The city's riverfront remains largely unchanged since that fateful day in 1914 when Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand lost his life here.

Day 5: Sarajevo - Mostar

From Sarajevo, we'll take another empty, beautiful touring route, to Mostar via Sutjeska National Park, which is home to the last primeval forest in Europe. Cruising along the Sutjeska River is an experience to remember. A medium-

sized city among the vineyards between Sarajevo and Croatia's Dubrovnik, Mostar was founded by the Turks in the 15th century at a strategic river crossing. There they built a stone bridge which is today one of the most famously photographed World Heritage-listed sites. That night, before dinner, stroll the Old Ottoman quarter, on either side of the bridge, and meet its artists and craftsmen.

Day 6: Mostar - Zabljak

Today our direction is again east as we ride towards Montenegro and Durmitor National Park. The road starts to climb into the low mountains, though we still pass through great open plains which afford far-reaching views into the valleys below. Set your own pace and visit Medjugorje, the second largest pilgrimage site in the world, then refresh in the waters of the massive Kravica waterfalls. Then continue to climb the narrow turns into the mountains. Durmitor is an area of massive peaks, canyons, rivers and glacial lakes, all crowned by rich evergreen forests. We'll ride over and past the exceptional Tara River Canyon. At 1.3 km deep, it is one of the biggest and most beautiful in the world.

Day 7: Zabljak - Petrovac

Heading south, we'll descend the mountains of Durmitor in great sweeping arcs until the coast comes into view. All your attention will be needed, as we follow the rugged coast of Montenegro, made memorable by the pristine views of nature: steep mountains above, and crystal-clear waters below. The view of the Adriatic Sea stretches far into the distance and is impossibly blue. In the afternoon, we find ourselves on the shores of the warm and pleasant coastal town of Petrovac. Petrovac has warm sandy beaches, lovely promenades and unique beachside restaurants. Here we'll spend the evening soaking up the Mediterranean atmosphere and eating seafood.

Day 8: Petrovac - Dubrovnik

After breakfast we'll follow Adriatic coast further west, visiting peninsula of Sveti Stefan on the way, which with its hotel used to attract a celebrity clientele. We'll ride on twisty mountain roads again and conquer Lovcen Mountain and Njegos mausoleum on top of it. In the afternoon we'll reach Dubrovnik, the city of world-famous cultural heritage and beauty. Dubrovnik is situated in Southern Dalmatia, the most beautiful part of the Adriatic coast. Rich vegetation, beautiful lakes, rare islands, white pebble beaches and the crystal clean sea, all make this region to an unforgettable experience for every visitor.

Day 9: Rest day in Dubrovnik

Take a walk on top of Dubrovnik's thick stone walls, watch the street action from a café on Placa, or stroll marble-paved squares and steep cobbled streets. Also very interesting is a full day boat trip to Mljet island, which of all Adriatic islands may be the most seductive. The highlight

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of the island is a lake with an islet on which there is a Benedictine monastery. If you feel like riding, Montenegro is within easy reach. So whether you stay around town for the whole day or you just have dinner in one of excellent restaurants, remember, you are in Dubrovnik!

Day 10: Dubrovnik - Hvar Island

In the morning we leave Dubrovnik and ride scenic coastal road up north-west. You can stop in Mali Ston, famous for its defensive wall, the longest fortification in Europe, and the best seafood in Croatia. Short ferry will get us to Hvar Island, where we'll ride the twistiest road of the whole trip. Called the "Croatian Medeira", Hvar receives a total of 2.724 hours of sunshine each year, more than anywhere else in the country. Yet the island is luxuriantly green, with brilliant patches of lavender, rosemary and heather.

Day 11: Rest day on Hvar Island

Today is all about relaxing. Explore numerous sandy beaches on the island and swim in the crystal clear sea, do some water sports or take a boat trip to spectacular Blue Grotto - underwater opening in a coastal cave that fills with unearthly blue light every noon. The experience is unforgettable. Also worth exploring is medieval Hvar town with its marble streets and beautifully ornamented buildings, mostly built under Venetian rule. Restaurants and taverns in the town of Hvar offer excellent fish specialties, with exquisite local wines.

Day 12: Hvar Island - Pag Island

After breakfast we go for a ferry ride. Passing scenic islands of Brac and Solta we'll get to Split, famous for its Diocletian's Palace. On the way further up north you can stop in historical towns of Trogir, Primosten or Sibenik. Finally we reach Pag Island. A barren, rocky island with no trees, little vegetation, no rivers or streams, Pag nonetheless has a stark, ethereal beauty enhanced by a

highly original culture. The sharp-flavoured cheese and intricate lace from Pag is renowned throughout Croatia.

Day 13: Pag Island - Rovinj

Our seaside roller coaster ride continues along a narrow strip of land bound by imposing mountains and rugged coastline. The scenery here is truly remarkable when you have the Adriatic Sea on one hand and the steep hillsides of the Velebit mountain range on the other. We'll make a stop in Opatija, a lush, green seaside resort town with a lovely promenade. Riding further up the coast, our final stop for the night is in Rovinj, a lovely fishing village webbed by steep, cobbled streets, its thirteen offshore islands of the Rovinj archipelago making for pleasant, varied views over dinner at a seaside restaurant.

Day 14: Rovinj - Ljubljana

In the morning, we'll head inland to ride the fertile rolling hills and plains of the Istria Peninsula. We stop in Motovun, a captivating Tuscan-like little town perched on a hill where for lunch you can try the local specialty - truffles. Then we enter Slovenia once again and spend the rest of the day riding day in the Karst region outside of Ljubljana. It's a fascinating area of disappearing lakes, underground caves, and wonderful wineries. The road winds through green farmland before we approach the city.

Day 15: Flight Home

In the morning you can stroll the old part of the city, including the colorful antique market. The quaint, narrow streets along the right bank of the Ljubljanica River, with its medieval bridges, are reminiscent of Prague - without the crowds.

Depending on the time of the flight back home, you may have time to climb up the staircase to 16th century fortification of Ljubljana Castle that dominates the town before heading out to the airport.

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2012 BEAUTIFUL BALKANS ADVENTURE MOTORCYCLE PRICES (per person in EUR)

MOTORCYCLE	Price for the RIDER Based on sharing a double / twin room.		
Yamaha XJ6 Diversion Suzuki V-Strom 650	3.400 €	Price for the PASSENGER	2.540 €
BMW F 650 GS	3.580 €		
BMW F 800 GS, F 800 ST	3.820 €		
BMW R 1200 GS BMW R 1200 R Yamaha FJR 1300	3.990 €	Single room supplement	500 €
BMW R 1200 RT Ducati Multistrada 1200	4.350 €		
Your Own Motorcycle	2.550 €		

Self-guided tour - app 20% discount applies for tour prices above, [contact us](#)

Group discounts available.

The 15 day Beautiful Balkans Adventure includes:

- Late model motorcycle with lockable hard luggage and tank bags plus a Third party liability insurance and Comprehensive vehicle insurance.
- Competent guide on a motorcycle.
- Support van for luggage and 1 or 2 passengers.
- 14 nights accommodation in quality 3*** or 4**** hotels, each room with private facilities.
- 14 complete buffet breakfasts in the hotel.
- 11 dinners, mostly in traditional local restaurants.
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure.
- Highlighted maps of the region
- Extensive tour booklet.

Not included in the tour price:

Air ticket, dinners on rest days, most lunches, drinks, gasoline, tolls, personal spending, tips.