

# EXPLORE!

## Tour Notes



### Journey Through the Balkans (YD 2014)



TOUR  
DURATION  
**12**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Tour Comfort:** Standard

**Tour Code:** YD

#### Tour Highlights - Journey Through the Balkans

- ✓ Dubrovnik - Explore one of the finest medieval cities in the world
- ✓ Cultural gems - Discover the glittering cultural heritage of Kotor, Mostar and Trebinj
- ✓ Mount Zlatibor - Visit the stunning open air museum at Sirogojno and enjoy the opportunity to ride on the unique and historic Šargan Eight narrow gauge railway
- ✓ Bridge Over the Drina - UNESCO World Heritage Site and the subject of Ivo Andric's famous novel
- ✓ Sarajevo - Explore the cultural highlights of the city known as the 'Jerusalem of Europe'

#### Tour Essentials

**Accommodation:** 9 nights Standard Hotel  
2 nights Simple Guesthouse

**Included Meals:** 9 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

**Start Point:** Join tour: Dubrovnik  
**End Point:** Tour ends: Cavtat  
**Transport:** Bus, Boat  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia

**Countries:**

## Journey Through The Balkans

Travelling through the heart of former Yugoslavia, we discover four countries that have been shaped by a rich but turbulent history. Against a backdrop of jagged mountain peaks and dramatic coastlines we explore several UNESCO World Heritage cities, fascinating old towns and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Durmitor National Park.

### Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

### Tour Comfort: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

### Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

### Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

## Your tour itinerary

### Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

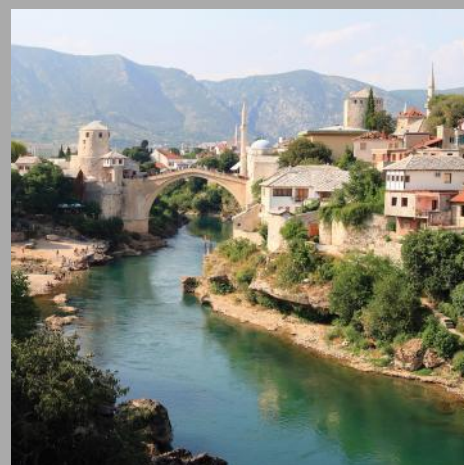
### Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

### DAY 1 Join tour Dubrovnik Airport

Join tour Dubrovnik Airport. Transfer to Djenovici or Herceg Novi in Montenegro where we will spend the next two nights.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Rooms Available**



 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Walking tour of medieval Kotor, boat trip in Kotor Bay

This morning we visit the old medieval city of Kotor, lying beneath the slopes of Mount Lovcen. An engaging mix of European and Byzantine influences, Kotor was once an independent city republic, until the threat of Ottoman attacks saw it throw its lot in with the Venetians. We'll take a wander through the old city, walking its city walls to enjoy the views across the medieval rooftops and out across the fjord from the Ivan Tower. Under the Venetians, Kotor became one of the best fortified cities in the region, boasting walls twice the length of Dubrovnik; walls which today provide us with a fascinating glimpse into its turbulent past. After lunch we then take to the waters of Kotor Bay, to take in some of the small islands that occupy the turquoise waters of what is essentially the southernmost fjord in Europe. An inspiration for artists and poets, the bay is considered one of the most beautiful in the world, its breathtaking mix of rugged mountains and azure waters blessed with a rich scattering of charming coastal towns that attest to its former domination by the Venetians and the Ottoman Turks.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Rooms Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 Swimming at Sveti Stefan, optional boat trip on Skadar Lake

A short journey to the resort of Sveti Stefan this morning offers a chance to enjoy a swim on the beautiful Budva Riviera, a 35 km long strip of the Adriatic that boasts some of the best beaches along the coast. After our swim we will then continue to the lovely town of Virpazar on the shores of Skadar Lake. The largest lake on the Balkan Peninsula, Skadar Lake stretches for some 44 km, encroaching into neighbouring Albania and representing the largest national park in Montenegro. There is an option to take a boat trip out onto the lake today, to enjoy its landscapes and learn a little of its rich diversity of flora and fauna. The lake is home to some 270 species of birds including egrets, spoonbills and one of the largest cormorant colonies on the planet. The park is also a haven for rare plants and a collection of monasteries, villages and sacred monuments that span over 9 centuries of Montenegrin history.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Rooms Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 4 Drive to Zabljak; walk in Durmitor National Park

Today we drive to Zabljak, on the edge of the Durmitor National Park. We'll travel via the monumental 13th century Orthodox monastery at Moraca and the impressive Djurdjevica Tara Bridge that spans the gorge over the Tara River and towers some 135 m above the river valley below. Our final destination today lies amongst the towering peaks, alpine lakes and high pastureland that lie sandwiched between the Tara and Piva canyons. Durmitor National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that presents us with a magnificent setting for an afternoon walk, and on arrival we will hike up through the thick pine forests towards the waters of Crno Jezero (Black Lake). Of the 18 glacial lakes that pepper this spectacular karst landscape, Crno Jezero is probably the most famous and is certainly the largest, feeding the river basins of both the Tara and the Komarnica Rivers. Besides its glacial lakes, the park also features 27 peaks that exceed over 2200 m, along with five canyons, lush expanses of ancient forest and a labyrinthine system of caves and sinkholes that number in the hundreds. We'll take a walk around the Black Lake, named after the dark pine landscapes that surround it, before returning to Zabljak for the evening.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Rooms Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 5 Drive to Sirogojno (Serbia), visit the open air museum and Mileseva Monastery

Today we cross into western Serbia and head for the peaks of the Zlatibor massif. Covering some 300 square kilometres, Mount Zlatibor encompasses a range of mountains that stretch for some 27 miles and make up part of the Dinaric Alps. We head for the village of Sirogojno, located on the mountain itself, and home to a remarkable open air museum that was declared a national monument back in 1983. Covering nearly 15 hectares, the museum contains a collection of traditional 19th century wooden buildings that have been assembled here from across the region, including a bakery, an inn and a dairy. All are authentic and provide a fascinating glimpse into Serbia's rural past. We'll take a guided tour of the site, before going on to visit the 13th century Mileseva Monastery near Prijepolje. Founded by King Vladislav between 1234 and 1236, the monastery is one of the country's most important spiritual centres and contains some superb examples of 13th century fresco painting, including the famous 'White Angel', which depicts an angel visiting the grave of Christ. After our visit we will return to Sirogojno for the evening.

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast



## DAY 6 Drive to Mokra Gora, optional ride on the Sargan Eight Railway

Heading for Zlatibor's northern slopes, this morning we drive to the village of Mokra Gora, where there is the option to ride the historic narrow gauge railway, Sargan Eight. Running from Mokra Gora to Sargan Vitasi, the line is part of the former track that once ran between Sarajevo and Belgrade, until it was closed in 1974. The section over the Sargan Pass has been renovated by the Serbian government to recapture something of its 1920s heyday and today represents the longest and one of the most beautiful sections of the old narrow gauge tracks that once crossed Europe. The name comes from the unusual figure of eight loop by which the train completes the 300 metre incline between the Mokra Gora Valley and the Sargan, a distance of some 3.5 km. We'll also visit the beautiful mountain setting of Kustendorff, a traditional village that was built by the international director Emir Kusturica for his film 'Life is a Miracle' and which today is home to an international film and music festival. Later we return to Mokra Gora for the evening.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Drive to Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina) via The Bridge Over the Drina

Crossing over into Bosnia Herzegovina this morning we drive to Visegrad on the Drina River, site of the famous 'Bridge over the Drina' from the novel by Nobel prize winning author Ivo Andric. The bridge itself dates back to the time of the Ottoman Turks and has spanned the Drina since the latter years of the 16th century. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, that was the scene of some of the worst atrocities of the Bosnian War, the bridge has long been an iconic symbol of the region. Indeed, in Andric's book, the bridge itself is the novel's main protagonist and carries the hope for change for all who encounter it. The book spans some four centuries of Bosnian history, from 1516 until the beginning of the World War I - from the bridge's construction, until its partial destruction by the Austrians in 1914. From here we continue to Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina's vibrant capital, a city famed for centuries of religious diversity and often called the 'Jerusalem of Europe'.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8 In Sarajevo; city tour

Located on the Sarajevo plain and surrounded by mountains, the city is the cultural and administrative heart of the country and this morning we will take a tour of some of its glittering highlights. Although the city was a major settlement during the Middle Ages, it was the Ottoman Empire that founded much of the Sarajevo we know today, transforming a collection of villages into the largest city in the region. Annexed by the Habsburgs, Sarajevo became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1908, going on to become the catalyst for the start of World War I, when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated here on June 28th 1914. During the time of the Ottoman occupation the city was home to Muslims, Catholics, Jews and Eastern Orthodox and many of its religious monuments have survived the city's turbulent past. Our tour today will take in the beautiful old Serbian Orthodox Church of St Michael and Gabriel and the stunning 16th century Gazi Husev Bey Mosque, considered the most important Islamic building in the country and one of the finest examples of Ottoman architecture anywhere in the world. We'll also see the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral and its pseudo-Moorish styled Town Hall, a particularly grandiose building that dates back to the Austro-Hungarian period. A stroll through the centre of Basearsija, in the heart of old Sarajevo, then offers a chance to explore something of the city's markets. The alleys that radiate out from the market square reflect the Ottoman tradition of naming streets after the traders who practised there and amongst these winding alleys and covered markets you can find bargains galore.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9 Drive to Mostar; city tour and free time

Set on the banks of the Neretva River, historic Mostar is the largest and most important city in the Herzegovina region. One of the most beautiful towns in the entire country, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is divided by the Neretva, with Croats on one side and Muslims on the other, reflecting its rich cultural heritage. Founded by the Turks during the 15th century and expanded by the Habsburgs 300 years later, the town and its historic old bridge (the Stari Most) were badly damaged during the Balkan conflict of the early 1990s. The old Ottoman bridge was rebuilt after the war, as was much of the old city and today it has been restored to its former glory. The five year long programme of reconstruction went a long way to restoring peace to this shattered region, with international and ethnic co-operation helping to rebuild cultural as well as historic bridges. Today the city is host to a number of international festivals, with music, traditional dance and the annual bridge jumping festival being just some of the festivities on offer. After a tour of the city the rest of the day is free to explore this lovely old town at your leisure.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

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## DAY 10 Drive to Trebinje for a city tour

Heading back towards the Adriatic, our final stop on this fascinating journey is the town of Trebinje, in the south-eastern corner of Herzegovina. Lying along the banks of the Trebisnjica River, just across the border from Dubrovnik, the town once commanded the road between Ragusa and Constantinople and its environs are scattered with old mills and bridges, including the attractive Ottoman Arsalangic Bridge that was built in the 16th century and is considered by many to be one of the finest of its kind in the country. On arrival we will take a tour of the old city and pay a visit to the charming 15th century Tvrđos Monastery, located on the cliffs above Tvrđos. Belonging to the Serbian Orthodox Church, the monastery has endured a somewhat violent past, having been destroyed by Turks, Venetians and God over the centuries (the latter the result of a massive earthquake in the 17th century). The building we see today was reconstructed during the 1920s and is headquarters of the bishop of Herzegovina, as well as being home to a number of monks who still live behind its monastic walls. We will then continue across the border into Croatia to Cavtat for our final night stop on the tour.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 11 Discover Dubrovnik on foot

Driving to the beautiful city of Dubrovnik this morning we have a chance to explore one of the finest examples of a fortified medieval town anywhere in the world. Granted World Heritage status in 1979, the old city is a wonderful mix of monasteries, museums and red-tiled buildings that hark back to the glory days, when it was one of Europe's greatest maritime cities. This morning we will take a guided walking tour of this wonderful city, the best way to get a feel of the layout of the town and its wealth of architectural masterpieces. Fully restored to its former grandeur following the Siege of Dubrovnik (1991-92), the old medieval town still exudes a unique atmosphere and charm. George Bernard Shaw once wrote, 'Those who seek paradise on earth should come to Dubrovnik'. So, in the company of a local guide, we will discover the majesty of its Pile Gate, the city's Dominican church and the great Franciscan monastery, as well as the old port and the Rector's Palace. The afternoon is then free to continue exploring at your own leisure, perhaps taking a tour around the city walls, to take in the views out across the twisting alleyways and the glittering waters of the Adriatic. Later we will transfer to the beautiful coastal town of Cavtat, a picturesque fishing village that once found favour amongst the wealthy families of Europe and whose old town still retains a little of the charm that so endeared it to the elite of a bygone age.

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**

**Single Rooms Available**



**Included Meals:** None

## DAY 12 Tour ends Cavtat

The tour ends this morning in Cavtat.



**Included Meals:** None

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 9 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

### Optional Excursions

Skadar Lake - 4 hour boat trip on the lake - 15 Euros.

Šargan Eight railway - 5 Euros.

Tvrđos monastery and wine tasting - 5 Euros.

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## Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

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## Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow approximately 25 Pounds for gratuities for local staff.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

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## Foreign Exchange

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

**ATM Availability:** Generally widespread but limited in more rural areas.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Accepted in major restaurants and hotels.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques can be exchanged for the local currency but only in banks

**Local Currency:** Bosnian Mark.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Euros, US Dollars and Sterling can all be exchanged for local currency. However, Euro is the best currency for exchange and can be done so at most of the places. Please consult your tour leader for more information on currency exchange.

**Where to Exchange:** Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

### Croatia

**ATM Availability:** Most towns have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are also generally accepted

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques can only be exchanged in banks.

**Local Currency:** Croatian Kuna.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Sterling pounds, US Dollars and Euro cash can all be exchanged for the local currency.

**Where to Exchange:** Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

### Montenegro

**ATM Availability:** Most towns have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are also generally accepted.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques can be exchanged for the local currency.

**Local Currency:** Euro.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Sterling and US dollars.

**Where to Exchange:** Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

### Serbia

**ATM Availability:** Generally widespread but limited in more rural areas.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Accepted in major restaurants and hotels.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques can be exchanged for the local currency but only in banks (Croatia and Bosnia) and in banks, hotels and travel agencies in Serbia and Montenegro.

**Local Currency:** Dinar.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Euros, US Dollars and Sterling can all be exchanged for local currency. However, Euro is the best currency for exchange and can be done so at most of the places. Only Bank of England issued bank notes are recognised or exchanged in Montenegro. Scottish and Northern Irish pounds sterling bank notes are not accepted. Please consult your tour leader for more information on currency exchange.

**Where to Exchange:** Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

## Joining your Tour

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

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### Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or

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through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

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## Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

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## Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour. Your insurer may charge an additional premium for certain activities.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

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### Visa Information

Croatia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

Bosnia Herzegovina: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

Serbia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

Montenegro: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

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## Vaccinations & Protection

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Hepatitis A, Polio, Tetanus, and Typhoid. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Eastern Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

### Croatia

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against hepatitis A, polio, tetanus, and typhoid. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Eastern Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

### Montenegro

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Hepatitis A, Polio, Tetanus, and Typhoid. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

### Serbia

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Hepatitis A, Polio, Tetanus, and Typhoid. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Eastern Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest

requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

## Preparing for your Tour

### Climate

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia, with only 20km of coastline on the Adriatic Sea, has weather more typical of inland eastern Europe, with cold winters and warm summers. Summer is the wettest season. Much of the country is mountainous or hilly, rising to a height of 2,386 m and winter snow lies for long periods in the higher regions.

#### Croatia

The Croatian Adriatic has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm, sunny summers. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally it is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms occur in summer, generally helping to cool the air. Occasional high winds may make the more open waters too choppy for comfortable passage and the itinerary will need to be adapted accordingly. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

#### Montenegro

Montenegro has a mediterranean climate, hot dry summers and autumns and relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall inland There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally this is in the form of short showers. The best times to visit Montenegro is spring and autumn. As we are in the mountains for this trip the temperature will be a few degrees cooler then the low lying areas. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

#### Serbia

Serbia has a continental climate with cold winters and hot summers. Spring and autumn offer the best chance of moderate temperatures. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn, though generally this is in the form of short showers. Thunderstorms occur in summer generally helping to cool the air.

### Clothing

July and August are the hottest months, but early and late in the season go prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature and the odd shower. Please note air conditioning is not normally available.

### Equipment

A torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection. Also bring a swimsuit for swimming opportunities on the trip.

### Footwear

Comfortable shoes/trainers plus sandals for relaxing.

### Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

## General Information

### Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Lunch £:** 5.0

**Dinner £:** 8

#### Croatia

**Lunch £:** 15.00



**Dinner £:** 18.00

**Montenegro**

**Lunch £:** 9.00

**Dinner £:** 11.00

**Serbia**

**Lunch £:** 8.00

**Dinner £:** 12.00

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**Drink**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.50

**Water £:** 1.20

**Croatia**

**Bottle of Beer £:** 2.00

**Water £:** 1.50

**Montenegro**

**Bottle of Beer £:** 2.00

**Water £:** 1.10

**Serbia**

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.50

**Water £:** 1.00

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**Country details**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Population:** 3,843,126

**Size of Country:** 51,197 sq km

**Major Language:** Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian

**Religion:** Christian

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

**Croatia**

**Population:** 4,290,612

**Size of Country:** 56,594 sq km

**Major Language:** Croatian

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

**Montenegro**

**Population:** 684,736.

**Size of Country:** 14,026 sq km

**Major Language:** Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian, Croatian

**Religion:** Orthodox, Muslim, Roman Catholic.

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

**Serbia**

**Population:** 7,120,666

**Size of Country:** 88 361 sq km

**Major Language:** Serbian

**Religion:** Orthodox, Catholic, Islam

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

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## Electric Supply & Plugs

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

2 Pin Round

### Croatia

2 Pin Round

### Montenegro

2 Pin Round

### Serbia

2 Pin Round

## Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family-run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

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## Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which supports AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

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## Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers' flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. [www.coolearth.org](http://www.coolearth.org)

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## Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website [www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk)

- [Tourism Concern](#)

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group [www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

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## Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

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### Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

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### 100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

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### Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

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