



# MEJDI TOURS

## Exploring the Balkans: Land of Blood & Honey

(Scheduled Departure)

### Dates & Pricing:

September 9 - 19, 2026 (\$5,285 per person, + \$1,390 single room supplement)  
Albania Extension Tour: September 19 - 22, 2026 (\$1,475 per person, +\$170 single sup.)

June 9 - 19, 2027 (\$5,550 per person, + \$1,390 single room supplement)  
Albania Extension Tour: June 19 - 22, 2026 (\$1,550 per person, +\$185 single sup.)

September 8 - 18, 2027 (\$5,550 per person, + \$1,390 single room supplement)  
Albania Extension Tour: September 18 - 21, 2026 (\$1,550 per person, +\$185 single sup.)

*\*Extension tour has a minimum of 4 travelers*

**Included:**

- 10 nights' accommodation at premium hotels per itinerary
- 1 MEJDI-Trained guide for 8 days
- 2 MEJDI-Trained guides for 2 days
- 7 days of private bus transportation
- Domestic flight (Belgrade-Sarajevo)
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
- Water on the bus throughout the tour
- Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support

**Not included:**

- International airfare
- Travel insurance-highly recommended
- Single Supplement
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Arrival/departure airport transfers
- Gratuities
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section



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## **Overview:**

Journey across the Balkans, uncovering the layered history, cultural diversity, and present realities of four nations: Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro. Blending MEJDI's signature "Dual Narrative" approach with immersive, community-based travel, this itinerary brings together voices from across historical, ethnic, religious and generational divides. Walk the cobble streets of Sarajevo and Dubrovnik, learn to cook with a Herzegovinian chef in Mostar, float across Montenegro's Bay of Kotor, and hear live folk music on the Adriatic coast. Meet artists and activists, artisans, faith leaders, and survivors of conflict, all inviting travelers to engage deeply with the region's past while celebrating its resilience.

## **Highlights:**

- Explore Sarajevo with two guides offering diverse perspectives on the city's complex past and multiethnic present.
- Hear firsthand accounts of those displaced during the Yugoslav Wars
- Engage in a conversation about Sephardic Jewish heritage in Bosnia
- Discover the role of spirituality and mysticism in Bosnian society through conversation with a local Sufi
- Sample Bosnia's diverse culinary heritage on a tour led by local foodies
- Learn about the disastrous violence of 1995 through personal testimony
- Gather a Croat perspective on conflict and reconciliation in Mostar
- Explore the power of visual storytelling and conflict photography at War Photo LTD
- Connect with local silversmiths and mosaic artists working to preserve Montenegro's traditional crafts
- Experience a lively, local dinner with traditional Balkan music



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## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival - Belgrade, Serbia (1 Guide, No Bus)

Arrive in Belgrade and transfer to your hotel. Meet the group for a welcome dinner and brief orientation in the evening.

*Hotel: Mama Shelter hotel, Belgrade, Serbia (dinner included)*

### Day 2: Belgrade Old Town (1 Guide, No Transportation - Walking Tour)

Explore Belgrade, Serbia's capital at a historic crossroads of the Roman and Ottoman Empires. Walk through the Stari Grad (Old Town) and along Knez Mihailova Street, then continue to Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park for views over the Danube and Sava Rivers. Visit landmarks including the Despot's Gate, Sahat Tower, and the Victor Monument. After lunch in a traditional kafana, stroll through the bohemian quarter of Skadarlija to meet a local painter or curator for discussion on the area's artistic culture. Later, **discuss how Belgrade's past conflicts continue to shape its political and socio-economic reality with a local journalist.**

*Hotel: Mama Shelter hotel, Belgrade, Serbia (breakfast included)*

### Day 3: The History of Yugoslavia (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

Begin the day in Zemun, a well-preserved village once part of the Habsburg Monarchy, now a Belgrade neighborhood known for its small-town charm. Visit a local WWII memorial to learn about the war's impact in this part of Europe. At the Museum of Yugoslavia, explore exhibits tracing the evolution from the Kingdom to the socialist state and consider the legacy of Josip Broz Tito. See remnants from the NATO bombing and hear multiple perspectives on key moments in the Yugoslav Wars. Conclude the day in **conversation with a refugee of conflict**, reflecting on stories of resilience.

*Hotel: Mama Shelter hotel, Belgrade, Serbia (breakfast and lunch included)*



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## **Day 4: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 Guides, Private Transportation)**

Fly to Sarajevo in the morning, where **two guides - one Serbian, one Bosnian - present a dual narrative tour highlighting the complex history of the region.** Visit key landmarks including the War Tunnel Museum, where a preserved section of this underground recalls Sarajevo's survival during the 1425-day siege. Take a food tour with Balkantina for lunch, sampling dishes like ćevapi, somun bread, and tufahija, while exploring how history, empire, and migration have shaped Sarajevo's culinary identity. Walk through the Baščaršija and Austro-Hungarian quarters, where diverse religious landmarks stand side by side, offering insight into the city's layered past and pursuit of coexistence.

*Hotel: Colors Inn Sarajevo, Bosnia (breakfast and lunch included)*

## **Day 5: Communities & Symbols (1 Guide, No Transportation - Walking Tour)**

Visit Sarajevo's ancient Jewish Cemetery, a site reflecting both the city's multicultural heritage and conditions on the front lines during the 1990s siege. **Hear from a member of the Jewish community about Sephardic heritage in Sarajevo and meet a peacebuilder who survived the Serbian-Bosnian war.** After lunch, ride the gondola to Mount Trebević for sweeping views, and walk along the abandoned Olympic bobsled track, a powerful symbol of the city's past. In the evening, join a local Sufi practitioner for an intimate conversation on mysticism, spirituality, and the continuing presence of Sufism in Bosnia's religious and cultural life.

*Hotel: Colors Inn Sarajevo, Bosnia (breakfast included)*

## **Day 6: Remembrance and Memorial (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

Head to the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, home to the country's most extensive collection of ancient and natural history, for a curated tour of artifacts such as Greek pottery, Roman mosaics, and the **renowned Sarajevo Haggadah, a 14th-century illuminated Sephardic manuscript.** See an exhibit on the Srebrenica massacre then engage in a discussion with an expert from the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial. The afternoon and evening offer time for further exploration of Sarajevo at leisure.

*Hotel: Colors Inn Sarajevo, Bosnia (breakfast included)*



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## **Day 7: The City of Mostar (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

Depart Sarajevo, traveling south along a scenic route through Herzegovina's dramatic mountain terrain above the Neretva River. Stop in Konjic to view its elegant Ottoman-era stone bridge and descend to Tito's atomic bunker (*optional*), a Cold War-era underground complex. Continue to the Old City of Mostar, with its cobblestone streets, Ottoman architecture, and artisan shops. Climb the minaret of an historic mosque for panoramic views of the Stari Most, a bridge destroyed during the war and later rebuilt as a symbol of reconciliation. In the evening, **meet with a member of the local Croat community to hear reflections on identity, division, and the ongoing challenges of coexistence in post-war Bosnia.**

*Hotel: Pasha hotel, Mostar, Bosnia (breakfast and lunch included)*

## **Day 8: Walls of Dubrovnik (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

Transfer to Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its walled Old City along the Mediterranean, which bears the marks of its medieval legacy, the 1990s siege, and remarkable post-war restorations. Take a guided walking tour exploring Dubrovnik's architectural treasures and scenic coastline, as well as its pop culture fame as a filming location for *Game of Thrones*. After lunch, head to the gallery of War Photo LTD, where a **renowned international photojournalist shares his experience documenting conflict in the Balkans** and beyond.

*Hotel: Lero hotel, Dubrovnik, Croatia (breakfast and lunch included)*

## **Day 9: Welcome to Montenegro (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

Cross into Montenegro, journeying along the scenic Adriatic coastline to the breathtaking Bay of Kotor. Explore the fortified medieval Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its Venetian architecture and narrow stone alleyways. **Meet local artisans who preserve traditional crafts such as silversmithing and mosaic art** and take a boat tour to the island church of Our Lady of the Rocks. Continue to the Blue Cave, where sunlight transforms the water into brilliant shades of turquoise.

*Hotel: Monte Cristo hotel, Kotor, Montenegro (breakfast included)*



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## **Day 10: Adriatic Coast & Riviera (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

Spend a relaxed day along Montenegro's Adriatic coast with a visit to the lively town of Budva, known for its Venetian-walled Old Town, charming churches, and sandy beaches. Explore the historic center or unwind by the sea, then continue to Fort Mogren, a lesser-known hilltop fortification offering views of the Budva Riviera and insight into the area's Venetian-era defenses. Return to Kotor in the late afternoon, concluding the trip with a festive farewell dinner accompanied by live folk music.

*Hotel: Monte Cristo hotel, Kotor, Montenegro (breakfast and dinner included)*

## **Day 11: Departure (No Guide, No Transportation)**

Check out and transfer to the airport for departing flights.

*(breakfast included)*



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## Optional Extension

Albania

**Included:** 3 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar:

- Golden Palace, Shkodra
- Elisa by Melia, Tirana

1 English Speaking guide for 4 days

Meals listed in the itinerary: 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner

Private transportation throughout the trip, including one group

Private departure airport transfer

Entrance fees and site visits

Water on bus throughout tour

Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support

### Not

**included:** International airfare

Travel insurance - highly recommended

Single occupancy supplement

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Customary tips for drivers and guides

Porterage fees and gratuities at hotels

Individual airport transfers outside of the group transfer

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Kotor -Transfer to Shkodra, Albania (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

After breakfast, meet with your guide and drive to **Shkodra, Albania**, for an in-depth exploration tour starting with its **prehistoric Rozafa Castle**, one of the oldest castles in the country built by the Illyrian civilization in the 4th century B. C.

Enjoy the **panoramic Shiroka lake tour** before heading to a **Shkodra city tour** including: The **Catholic cathedral**, the **main Mosque** and Pedonalja - a lively pedestrian boulevard, where traditional and modern Albania blend seamlessly.



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Visit **Marubi National Museum of Photography** and end the day with a free evening.

*Hotel: Golden Palace, Shkodra, Albania (no meals included)*

## **Day 2: Kruja -Tirana (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

After breakfast, head to **Kruja**, hometown of **National Hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg**, the Symbol of Ottoman Resistance or the “Protector of Civilization”.

Visit the **National Hero Skanderbeg Museum** located inside the walls of the **Fortress**. Stroll down the Unique Old **Medieval Bazaar**, offering a vibrant atmosphere with traditional Albanian crafts, souvenirs, and local cuisine.

Drive to **Tirana**, stopping at the **Bunk Art 2 downtown**, one of Tirana's most intriguing museums unraveling the history of the Albanian communist army.

Take a city tour through **Skenderbej Square**, the **Ethem Bey Mosque**, the **National Bank**, **Skanderbeg's Monument**, and the **Castle of Tirana**.

*Hotel: Elisa by Melia, Tirana, Albania (Breakfast included)*

## **Day 3: Durres - Berat (1 Guide, Private Transportation)**

After breakfast, drive to the **ancient amphitheater** in **Durres**, one of the largest Roman constructions in the region and one of the most famous architectural wonders of Emperor Trajan's time.

Continue to **Berat UNESCO heritage site** known as the city of “One above the other Windows”. Tour the Castle, the traditional houses within the ancient walls and visit the **Onufri museum**.

Then, drive back to Tirana for your **farewell dinner, folk show** and final night on tour.

*Hotel: Elisa by Melia, Tirana, Albania (Breakfast and Dinner included)*

## **Day 4. Departure**

This morning, check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*(Breakfast included)*