



MEJDI TOURS

Exploring the Balkans

- Dates:** May 10-20, 2026
Albania Extension Tour: May 20 - 23, 2026 *
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation at premium hotels per itinerary
1 MEJDI-Trained Tour Leader throughout the tour
Local city and excursion expert guides
10 days of private transportation, including private arrival and departure airport transfers
Domestic flight (Belgrade-Sarajevo)
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
Water on the bus throughout the tour
A collaborative photo book will be created with the best photos of our adventures
A one-on-one photo review will be provided after the tour
Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support
- Not included:** International airfare
Travel insurance-highly recommended
Single Supplement - \$955
Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
Arrival/departure airport transfers outside of group transfer
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** \$6,690 USD per person
Extension Tour: (\$1,675 per person, +\$170 single supplement)

*Extension tour has a minimum of 4 travelers

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability



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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival - Belgrade, Serbia (1 Guide, Private Airport Transfers)

Arrive in **Belgrade** and transfer to your hotel.

6pm: Meet the group for a **welcome dinner** and **brief orientation** in the evening, joined by the photographer Marko Drobnjakovic.

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

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

9am: Meet at the lobby and leave to explore Belgrade, Serbia's capital at a historic crossroads of the Roman and Ottoman Empires, on a tour led by Marko Drobnjakovic.

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 curator (around 4pm)** for a discussion on the area's artistic culture.

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

Day 3: The Outskirts of Belgrade (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

9am: Meet your guide and travel outside Belgrade into the countryside of **Vojvodina**, Serbia's multicultural northern province, for a visit to the Slovak-Serbian town of **Kovačica**, renowned for its vibrant naïve art tradition—inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Explore the **Museum of Naïve** and **Marginal Art**, meeting artists who continue to depict village life in colorful, dream-like works. Later, create your very own naïve artwork in a **workshop led by local artists**. For lunch, enjoy a **home-cooked meal** at an artist's home.



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In the afternoon and back in the city, Learn about the centuries-old process of **rakija distillation**, taste local varieties, before heading back to the hotel for a free evening.

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

Day 4: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

Check out and meet at the lobby at 10:30am and leave in order to make it in time for 1:40p.m flight time (have grab a quick snack at the airport) Fly to **Sarajevo**, meet your guide to 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. **Later, go up to the yellow fortress for views of the cities at around sunset times.** In the evening, meet a **local photojournalist** over dinner.

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

Day 5: The Outskirts of Sarajevo (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

7am: Meet your guide and head to **Mijakovići**, recognized as one of The Most Beautiful Villages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for a village tour and view of the agriculture and animals grown there. Have an early **traditional lunch** in a **local household**, experiencing authentic rural hospitality.

Then, journey into the Bosnian countryside to explore **Bobovac**, the fortified medieval capital of the Bosnian Kingdom. A guided walk through the ruins reveals the remains of royal residences and churches where Bosnian kings were crowned and buried.

In the afternoon, visit the **Franciscan Monastery** at **Kraljeva Sutjeska**, founded in the 14th century, home to a remarkable library, historic manuscripts, and sacred art that have preserved Bosnia's religious and cultural identity through centuries.

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

Day 6: The City of Mostar (1 Guide, Private Transportation) Tour manager joins from this day onwards

9am: Depart Sarajevo, traveling south along a scenic route through Herzegovina's



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dramatic mountain terrain above the Neretva River. Stop in Konjic to view its elegant Ottoman-era stone bridges and enjoy a traditional Bosnian coffee.

Continue to the **Old City of Mostar**, with its cobblestone streets, Ottoman architecture, and artisan shops. Climb the **minaret** of a **historic mosque** for panoramic views of the **UNESCO World Heritage site Stari Most**, a 16th century bridge destroyed during the war and later rebuilt as a symbol of reconciliation.

In the evening, visit the stunning **Emporia winery (around 7pm)** on the **Herzegovina Wine Route** for dinner paired with regional wines, discovering Herzegovina's centuries-old viticulture and enjoying a relaxed meal amid the vineyards.

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

Day 7: Countryside from Mostar to Dubrovnik (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

9am: Meet at the lobby after check out and depart for the day. Before leaving Mostar, take an unusual visit to the **private archive of Ciril Ciro**, one of Bosnia & Herzegovina's photography pioneers, with his son, to learn about the evolution of photography in this area.

Depart Mostar and travel south through Herzegovina's dramatic **karst landscapes**. Stop at **Radimlja**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most significant necropolises of medieval tombstones (stećci) in the Balkans. The finely carved stones, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries, depict knights, crosses, and symbolic motifs that reflect medieval life and beliefs in the region.

Continue into the fertile **valley of Popovo Polje**, known for its vineyards, orchards, and traditional preserves. Visit a local **food producer** to taste regional specialties such as **honey, figs, or cheeses**, and learn about techniques passed down through generations. Continue to **Vjetrenica Cave**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and visit a nearby 16th century **Orthodox Christian monastery**.

In the evening, take a tour of **Trebinje**, check in and have a break, before heading out to the picturesque town nestled by the **Trebišnjica River** and framed by vineyards. Stroll through its Ottoman-era old town and shaded plane-tree square.

Hotel: SP Integra hotel, Trebinje, Bosnia (breakfast and lunch included)



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

8am: Meet at the lobby after check out, and begin the day crossing the border into Croatia and arriving in **Dubrovnik**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its **walled Old City** along the Mediterranean, which bears the marks of its glorious medieval and Baroque legacy. 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, visit the **Rector's Palace**, once the seat of the Republic of Ragusa, and explore its chambers that showcase the city's political and artistic history. Continue to the **Franciscan Monastery**, home to one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe, before enjoying some free time to wander the narrow streets, browse artisan shops, or walk the famous city walls at your own pace.

This afternoon head to the gallery of **War Photo LTD (around 4pm)**, where a renowned international **photojournalist** shares his experience documenting conflict in the Balkans and beyond before taking a cable car to enjoy a spectacular view and sunset.

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

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

8am: Meet the group at the lobby, after check out, and 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 where Venetian palaces, stone alleyways, and centuries-old churches reveal the city's layered past.

In the afternoon, **board a boat across the bay (around 6pm)** to the **island church of Our Lady of the Rocks**, whose richly decorated interior reflects centuries of seafaring devotion. Continue by boat to the famous **Blue Cave**, where sunlight illuminates the waters in dazzling shades of turquoise. Later, return to Kotor in the early evening with time to relax before dinner.

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



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Day 10: Lovćen National Park and Farewells (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

Early in the morning, take the scenic drive from Kotor to **Lovćen National Park**, winding up a dramatic mountain road, offering spectacular views over the Bay of Kotor at every turn.

Midway, you will reach **Njeguši village**, famous for its centuries-old tradition of producing **prosciutto and cheese**, cured naturally in mountain air. A short stop here provides a taste of authentic Montenegrin life before continuing higher into Lovćen National Park. If time allows: Witness the **Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović-Njegoš**. Set atop Mount Lovćen, this impressive monument to Montenegro's beloved poet and ruler offers panoramic views stretching across the mountains to the Adriatic Sea.

Return to Kotor in the late afternoon, concluding the Yugoslavia part of the tour 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)

8am: After breakfast, meet with your guide and drive to **Shkodra, Albania**, (4 hours) for an in-depth exploration tour starting with a short lunch by the peaceful **Shiroka lake**. Later, take a visit to the **Marubi National Museum of Photography**.

Later, take a **city tour** of Shkodra to feel the city's vibe and characters, stopping by the **Catholic cathedral**, the **main Mosque** and Pedonalja - a lively pedestrian boulevard, where traditional and modern Albania blend seamlessly. Check in to your hotel and have a break.



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Before sunset, walk up to the **prehistoric Rozafa Castle**, one of the oldest castles in the country built by the Illyrian civilization in the 4th century B. C, before heading back to your hotel for a free evening.

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

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

8am: Meet at the lobby after check out, and leave to visit an **organic farm** and learn about their food making production and traditions.

Later, 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.

Awaiting confirmation: Visit a local family, preferably at their home, and take photos of that family wearing local clothing.

Drive to **Tirana** and check in to your hotel. Later, take a city tour through **Skanderbej Square**, the **Ethem Bey Mosque**, the **National Bank**, **Skanderbeg’s Monument**, and the **Castle of Tirana**. Visit the **Bunk Art 2 downtown**, one of Tirana's most intriguing museums unraveling the history of the Albanian communist army.

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

Day 3: Berat (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

11am: Meet at the lobby and leave to **Berat**. On the way to Berat, stop to visit a small traditional village and a special local farm dedicated to donkey milk production, for the a rare opportunity to explore an authentic working farm where donkeys are raised and cared for using traditional methods.

for 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**. Sunset golden hour (At Berrat) and then dinner at Berrat before heading back to Tirana.

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

Day 4. Departure



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

(Breakfast included)