



Bosnia Hiking Tour & Jewel of Herzegovina with Green Visions

An Exploration of National Park Sutjeska & Herzegovina – from Highest Bosnian Peaks to
Ancient Bridges!

Highlights

- Hike in the great limestone Dinaric Alps – undiscovered by tourists
- Stunning glacier lakes of Sutjeska National Parks, known as “mountain eyes”
- Enjoy breathtaking views from highest peak in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mostar Old town & Bridge, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Overview

It's rare to find a region that offers such diverse beauty and harmony and yet is so rarely traveled as the Dinaric Alps, a range of stunning limestone peaks harboring lush valleys, primeval forests, clear rivers, and pristine lakes. We will hike following rugged trails through pristine conifer forests, visiting emerald-green lakes, and touring Sutjeska National Park. There, you'll make a demanding but rewarding climb up 2,386 meter high Maglic, Bosnia's highest peak. Along the way, you'll have the chance to see World War II battle sites, including Mt. Ozren, where Yugoslavia's revolutionary Secretary-General Josip Broz Tito was wounded during a Nazi offensive.

We'll also experience all the cultural complexity of this land, where Muslim, Eastern Orthodox, and Roman Catholic communities coexist. Visit natural wonders like the shimmering river Neretva and man-made masterpieces like the Mostar UNESCO Heritage Bridge.

Day 1 Sutjeska National Park & Donje Bare lake, ascent to Ugljesin peak (1,858m)

We depart Sarajevo for Sutjeska National Park. After arriving in the park and check in at our hotel at Tjentiste we set off to the tranquil lake of Donje Bare where we walk through beech forest and open mountainous terrain to the summit of Ugljesin Peak (1,858m), for one of the best panoramic views of the Zelengora peaks and the rock face wall of Volujak. We continue the stunning circuit back to Gornje Bare lake via the Tovamica ridge (1.5 hours) with Bosnia's highest peaks a constant companion on the horizon. We'll return via Gornje Bare to the hut to complete this fantastic five-hour circular hike and transfer back to the hotel in Tjentište, where we will have our very well deserved dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Mladost, Tjentiste, Sutjeska National Park (**Meals:** lunch)

Day 2 Ascent of Maglic Mountain (2,386m), Highest peak in Bosnia and Herzegovina

We transfer to Lokva Dernečiste (approx. 1 ½ hours) and head for Bosnia's highest peak, Maglic Mountain (2,386m), through forest and open mountainous terrain. The ascent itself will take approximately 4 hours over fairly well maintained mountain trails with steep cliffs and is by far the most demanding part of today's trek. Please note it is not recommended for anyone suffering from vertigo. Each step takes us further above the surrounding peaks until we reach the summit.

Here we have lunch and enjoy wonderful views over Montenegro and of our next stop, the emerald green waters of Trnovacko Lake. After descending to the lake in the afternoon we head for Prijedor where we meet our transfer to the hotel in Tjentiste. Approx 9 hours walking.

Accommodation: Hotel Mladost, Tjentiste, Sutjeska National Park (**Meals:** breakfast, lunch)

Day 3 Mostar City Tour, the Jewel of Herzegovina

Morning transfer (approx. 2.5 hour) to Mostar for a city tour and a half a day visit to this beautiful Herzegovinian city. Mostar was founded in the 15th Century and will stun you with its beauty. The architecture is a precious combination of Turkish ingenuity plus Herzegovinian and Dalmatian workmanship. We will spend the morning and afternoon exploring Mostar. Undoubtedly, you will have heard much about this city, which was split during the conflict in the early 1990s. You will still see the scars of war, but these days Mostar is once again a warm and bustling place with a fascinating history. In the afternoon hours we will be transferred back to Sarajevo.



Sites to see include: 1. Ancient oriental old town, 2. Remnants of the Old Bridge, 1566, 3. Koski Mehmed Paša Mosque, 1618-1619, 4. Kriva Čuprija (Oblique Bridge), 1558, 5. Kujundžiluk Street - old coppersmiths street, 6. Karadžobegova Mosque, 1577, 7. Bišćevića House (Traditional Turkish house with courtyard).
(Meals: breakfast)

Departures & Prices

Departures

Per request in 2013

Prices

415 EUR (2-3 guests)

280 EUR (4-8 guests)

30EUR single supplement

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Single Supplement - If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee of 30EUR.

What's Included

- expert leadership, fully-equipped and experienced English speaking Tour Leader/Guide
- accommodations as noted in itinerary
- meals as noted in the itinerary
- sightseeing as noted in the itinerary
- wine tasting in Mostar
- ground transportation
- additional guides where necessary
- entrance fees and permits, unless noted separately in costs

What's Not

Meals not noted on itinerary; international insurance; optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; souvenirs and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).



General Information

Accommodation

Hotel Mladost, Tjentiste, Sutjeska National Park. Although parts of the hotel have been recently renovated, it is still relatively simple accommodation. However the spectacular location certainly helps make up for this. Rooms are provided on a twin share basis, with all rooms being en suite.

Transport

All in country transport is included during your trip. We travel by new passenger vehicle space for up to 3 passengers and their luggage (or new mini van with space for up to 8 passengers, depending on a size of the group). The main roads are in principle good, but in places very windy. It is on the various mountain roads that you will at times experience a bumpy and slow ride.

Meals

Meals stated in Trip description are included during your trip. Drinks are not included. Whenever we are in the mountains we provide you with a locally prepared homemade meal or picnic lunch, depending on destination we visit. Vegetarian and special diets can be catered for, but options are limited throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina – please inform the office of any specific requirements upon booking.

Group, Staff and Support

Our team of local English speaking guides are experienced mountaineers and group leaders with first hand knowledge of the land, the people and their traditions. Green Visions, has its own in-house training program in partnership with the mountain rescue services to ensure your safety. We are also actively involved in the re-establishment of a high quality mountain guide training program for the country. One English speaking Trip Leader/Guide will accompany you throughout the trip. Green Visions will also engage other local guides to enhance your experience of the region.

Essential Equipment and Clothing

In addition to your “normal” summer walking clothes, you will need the following: Rucksack of about 20-30 liters; 1 liters of water carrying capacity; warm fleece, hat, sunblock and camera.

Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Vaccinations and Health

There are no compulsory vaccinations required, however we recommend that your hepatitis A, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations are up to date. Please consult your doctor or vaccination center for up to date information.

Weather

Bosnia & Herzegovina, enjoys a similar climate to most of central Europe – hot summers, cool springs and autumns and cold winters with considerable snowfall. During your visit in period between May and September you can encounter both cold and warm temperatures (~15–30°C), however these temperatures will be a little cooler in the mountains. Visiting mountain areas is always unpredictable.

Currency Information

The national currency of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Bosnian Convertible Mark (BAM), with an exchange rate of 1.95 to the EUR and 1.52 to the US\$. ATM availability/Credit Card Acceptance/Travellers cheques



ATM machines can be found in Sarajevo and Mostar, but not in the smaller places we visit. Similarly, major credit cards are widely accepted in these cities. You will find it useful to bring some Euros cash to change where ATM's are not available.

Mine Awareness

As most of us know (and if you don't you should) Bosnia is host to many land mines. They have polluted the countryside and cities all along former lines of confrontation. YES, they are a concern and NO, we take no risks. Green Visions has extensive knowledge of mined areas and continues to liaise with the Mine Action Center (MAC), local military officials, local communities in areas of question, and mountaineering associations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Everyone of Green Visions' trails have been trekked and checked by our guides. Gray areas with inaccurate info are automatically ruled out. One of our co founders is a geographer and urban planner for Bosnia and Herzegovina and has extensive knowledge of mined areas and former lines of confrontation -literally down to the meter. Fortunately for all of us, many gorgeous mountains are safe to visit. Our staff is well-rehearsed in mine awareness but this skill will not be necessary on any of our trips.

Responsible Tourism Policy

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment. Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of Green Visions as a company. Green Visions trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sound.

Tipping (leader and local staff)

Our staff are paid well and fairly for their work with Green Visions. Tipping is at your discretion but many clients wish to tip their leaders and driver at the end of the trip, we suggest between €20-25 for the guide and €7-10 for the driver (if there is any). Most groups prefer to present the money to the leader at the end of the week with two separate envelopes (one for the leader and one for the driver). This is completely at your own discretion and to be used as a guideline only.

Important Note - Please Read

Occasionally, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons – climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best alternative arrangements possible that maintains the integrity of the original itinerary.

The information in this program is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip.

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Oh, the places you'll go!