



**KOMPAS**

your adriatic ambassador



# THE PEARLS OF THE BALKANS



**Slovenia • Croatia • Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Serbia • Macedonia • Montenegro • Albania**



# European Green Capital 2016

Ljubljana is asking you on a date. All it takes for you to fall in love with it is to have a **taste for enjoyment**. The city centre is completely closed to traffic, which makes it perfect for **wandering around, cycling**, and exploring the local flavours. So do come visit and enjoy time moving along at an **unusually relaxed pace**.



**Founder**  
City of  
Ljubljana



[www.visitljubljana.com](http://www.visitljubljana.com)



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## DEAR PARTNER,



I am very pleased to present to you with our brochure and to invite you to explore the "Pearls of the Balkans". We have focused on seven countries in the Balkans where KOMPAS is an internationally recognised expert, namely: Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania. The following pages will highlight the most important and the most interesting features of each of the countries, accompanied by inspirational maps and pictures.

KOMPAS was established in 1951 and is a global travel agency; it is experienced, reliable and creative, providing its partners and clients with services focused on excellence, guaranteed quality, flexibility and professionalism. We are one of the Europe's leaders in the organised travel market, both for the commercial sector and the general public. We can rely on the strength of our own INTERNATIONAL NETWORK in Germany, United Kingdom, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Holland, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, Scandinavia, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, but also in China, South Korea and the United States.

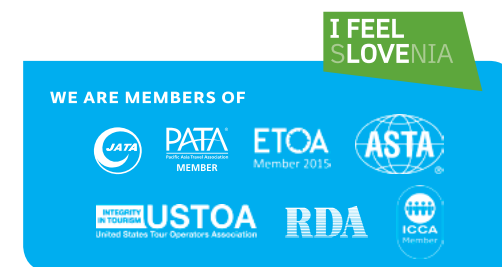
Finally, let me welcome you to the Balkans and to the world of KOMPAS. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information and we look forward to welcoming you to enjoy our Balkan character and our hospitality!

Best regards,

**M<sup>rs</sup> Tatjana Jurišević**

President of the Management Board & CEO Kompas d. d.

Whether your clients are looking to travel as couples, with the family or in a group or whether they want their holidays to be tailor-made, unplanned or organised, whether they are dreaming of peaceful holidays or exciting destinations with rich, cultural discoveries and new discoveries, there are so many reasons to work with quality professional partners who can ensure that the advice given is appropriate and accurate and meet the needs of all of your clients.



# SLOVENIA

A unique paradise for nature lovers

Slovenia is a real “Europe in miniature”, it is also called “Switzerland of the Balkans”, offering you a wide range of geographical diversity at a glance: high mountains overlooking beautiful lakes near the magnificent karst caves, the welcoming coastline beckons you before you immerse yourself in the lively urban centres, while in the East, a gentle landscape of plains, rivers, hills and vineyards unfolds.

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **GLAMOUROUS BLED,**  
WITH ITS LAKE AND ITS MAGICAL ISLAND, THE ONLY ONE IN THE COUNTRY
- **LJUBLJANA,**  
THE CHARMING CAPITAL, BUSTLING WITH LIFE
- **PIRAN,**  
THE PICTURESQUE JEWEL OF THE SLOVENIAN ADRIATIC COAST
- **POSTOJNA,**  
WITH ITS CASTLE AND ESPECIALLY ITS CAVE, THE MOST VISITED IN EUROPE
- **SOČA,**  
WITH ITS VALLEY AND CLEAR, EMERALD GREEN WATERS
- **PTUJ,**  
THE OLDEST SLOVENIAN CITY WITH A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE
- **LIPICA,**  
WITH ITS STUD FARM AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE WONDERFUL LIPIZZANER HORSES LOVED BY EMPERORS



# UNTOUCHED NATURE TO TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY



At the crossroads of the Alps, the Mediterranean and the Pannonian Plain, Slovenia offers a surprising number of natural attractions in a compact area. Discover the variety of Slovenian landscapes and experience this country of exceptional contrasts, including:

- *The Triglav National Park, with its remarkable landscape of snowy peaks and picturesque valleys full of wild flowers*
- *Crystal clear rivers with amazing narrow gorges and over 300 waterfalls and glacial lakes of remarkable purity*
- *The distinctive cabins of Velika Planina and Zajamniki still inhabited by shepherds in the spectacular setting of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps*
- *The mysterious underground world of Karst, with over 9,000 caves including the Škocjan caves classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, an incredible creation of nature in the beautiful underground canyon, the deepest in Europe*
- *Logarska Valley, a stunning glacial valley where people still live in harmony with nature*
- *The charming wine routes crisscrossing the hills of Gorica, Jeruzalem and Goriška Brda*
- *The preserved forests where it is still possible to observe the large European predators: brown bears, wolves and lynx*

At almost every step you are surrounded by lush habitat, which the nature-loving Slovenians still know how to protect. Slovenia offers an invigorating breath of fresh air with a wide variety of activities throughout the year: hiking, cycling, water sports (rafting, canyoning, kayaking, canoeing), adrenaline sports (zip line, climbing), winter sports (downhill skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing), horse riding, mountain biking, fly fishing, wildlife viewing, panoramic flights by plane or balloon, and many more.



More than half of Slovenia is covered with green forests. Only Finland and Sweden have larger woodland areas in Europe. At the heart of the ancient woodland of Kočevje and on the Snežnik plateau it is still possible to observe brown bears in their natural environment, but you must tread very carefully.

Andrew Adamson, the director of the Disney film "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian", filmed in Bovec, described this region using these words: "I was struck by the beauty of this place as a director and as a tourist. It is wonderful here, the Soča valley is perfect for shooting a fairy tale."



# COME AND SAVOUR THE SLOVENIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE!

Slovenia proudly preserves and maintains its rich cultural heritage. Its lively cities are home to many treasures of past eras, from prehistory to the XXI century, and offer exciting events, legends and fascinating places to visit. A third of Slovenian towns are classified as “protected monuments”.



**Ljubljana**

the ancient romantic capital of the Illyrian Provinces with the charm of baroque and art nouveau

**Maribor**

a festival city, famous for the oldest vine in the world

**Koper**

with its statue of Justina, the city's emblem and a symbol of the victory of Venice in the Battle of Lepanto

**Piran**

a Mediterranean city in the Venetian style, the birthplace of the great composer and violinist Giuseppe Tartini

**The monastery of Kostanjevica**

housing the tomb where the last members of the French royal family of the Bourbons are buried

**The mysterious church and the frescoes of Hrastovlje**

with its Danse Macabre

**Kostanjevica na Krki**

the Little Venice of Slovenia, housing a grand Cistercian abbey and one of the largest collections of sculptures in Southeast Europe

**Kobarid**

with its World War I museum tracing the history of the Soča Front

**The beekeeping museum**

located in a baroque castle of Old Town Radovljica, famous for its incredible ethnographic collection of hives, unique examples of Slovenian folk art

**The medieval castle Predjama**

suspended 123 metres above a karst chasm

**The wells of Antoine in Idrija**

the second largest mercury mine in the world, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

**THE COUNTRY OF GOOD TASTE**

According to an old Slovenian saying, love also passes through the stomach. This wise saying certainly contains a great deal of truth. It is not only about eating well and drinking well, but about discovering and enjoying the attitude and expertise of our hosts in the heart of this natural setting; experience the approach and creative spirit of our chefs who are ready to welcome you to the city and the countryside, but also in tourist farms in the high mountains. There is a particular focus on local and organic food production, giving the meals a fresh and unforgettable flavour, while contributing to the exceptional hospitality and generosity of Slovenians!



# CROATIA

Your Mediterranean dream

An untouched coastline of crystal clear water, over ten thousand islands and islets with countless beaches and hidden bays, among the most beautiful in Europe and the world, a rich cultural and historical UNESCO World Heritage Site, the breathtaking landscapes... Croatia is a paradise that will capture your heart!

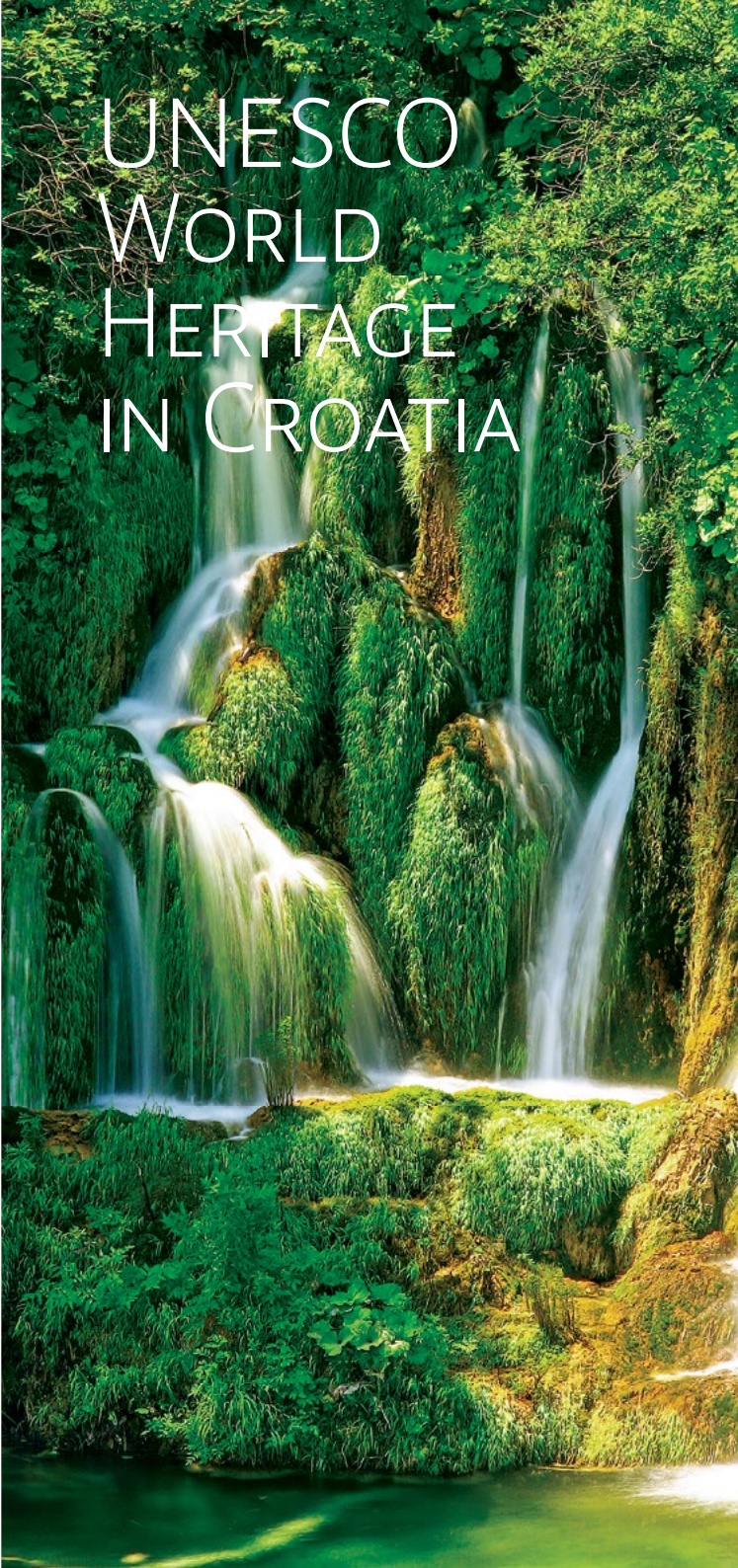
## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **DUBROVNIK,**  
THE UNDISPUTED "PEARL OF THE ADRIATIC"
- **CAVTAT,**  
THE "CROATIAN SAINT-TROPEZ"
- **THE VILLAGES OF ISTRIA**  
LIKE POSTCARDS
- **THE PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK,**  
A WONDER OF NATURE
- **THE CITY OF SPLIT,**  
A VERITABLE OPEN-AIR MUSEUM
- **THE ISLAND OF HVAR,**  
THE MOST SEDUCTIVE OF THE ADRIATIC ISLANDS
- **ZAGREB,**  
ITS CAPITAL CITY AT THE HEART OF EUROPE
- **PULA,**  
THE TRUE SUCCESSOR MUSEUM CITY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE





# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN CROATIA



Croatia benefits from a rich cultural heritage which is reflected in its many museums, palaces, art galleries, churches and sumptuous Mediterranean cities, where even a simple walk turns into a magical journey through history. This crescent-shaped country offers a multitude of extraordinary places, seven of these are UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- *The monumental Palace of Diocletian in Split, one of the largest Roman ruins in the world*
- *The Basilica of Euphrasius in Poreč, decorated with spectacular mosaics*
- *The Cathedral of Saint James in Sibenik, the architectural jewel of the Dalmatian coast*
- *Dubrovnik, the most beautiful Croatian city, a veritable open-air museum*
- *The Plitvice Lakes National Park, a natural paradise of unparalleled beauty*
- *The Stari Grad Plain on the island of Hvar, the best-preserved Ancient Greek landscape of the Mediterranean*
- *The historic town of Trogir, with the irresistible charm of its picturesque streets and beautiful stone facades*



Much of the American television series Game of Thrones was filmed in Croatia at Diocletian's Palace in Split, at the Rector's Palace and at Fort Lovrijenac in Dubrovnik, often called the "Gibraltar of Dubrovnik".



# THE LAND OF A THOUSAND HEAVENLY ISLANDS AND MAGNIFICENT NATIONAL PARKS

Croatia is one of the best-preserved European countries in terms of the ecology. Here, the colours of the sunny Mediterranean blend harmoniously with the calm and fresh atmosphere of mountains and the sweetness of the wheat fields on the Pannonian plain. The country of true divine inspiration, whose beauty has been immortalised by the best writers in the world, offers landscapes that are unique in Europe and in a relatively small area contains a magnificent natural heritage.

With its eight national parks, four on the mainland (Risnjak, Paklenica, Plitvice Lakes and Northern Velebit) and four in the coastal region (Kornati, Mljet, Brijuni and waterfalls of Krka), Croatia is a wonderful example of unique natural beauty.

Croatia's main asset is its coastline, one of the most diverse in the world, with 1,244 islands, only 50 of which are currently inhabited! Attracting tourists from around the world, it will amaze you with its authentic beauty, warm turquoise sea, wild beaches which still have not yet been overrun by mass tourism and for the tranquillity that exists there, as well as its immense architectural, artistic and cultural heritage. Only a few years ago Croatia was an unknown and distant country, now it is a place you really must visit!





# EXPERIENCE CROATIA

If you think that there is nothing to do in Croatia, rest assured, you will not get bored. On the contrary, Croatia is so diverse that there is something to satisfy even the most demanding clients. It offers countless outdoor activities, allowing you to enjoy the magnificent countryside. The strings of islands along the jagged coastline provide a paradise for boating, swimming in the pure Adriatic Sea, kayaking and diving. And those who prefer to stay on land can relax by trekking in the beautiful parks of Risnjak and Paklenica, while climbing enthusiasts can enjoy the Paklenica National Park. You can also enjoy the pleasures of windsurfing in Brač, rafting on the Cetina, cycling or just lounging around in cafes and on terraces, quietly chatting and absorbing the delightful ambience. When you have had your fill of fresh air, you can try the delicious food and top quality ingredients: olive oil, truffles, seafood and smoked ham, not forgetting a glass of Prošek, a traditional sweet wine. In recent years, Croatia has not only been paradise for those who love the sun and the beautiful scenery, but also one of the fastest growing destinations in Europe, famous for its exceptional beach parties at Zrce, Brač and Hvar, or night clubs in Zagreb, Split and Porec. Croatia, a must-see country!



Have you heard of the actors Goran Visnjic (from the TV series ER), Denise Richards, John Malkovich, Rade Šerbedžija, Eric Bana, the inventor Nikola Tesla, the explorer Marco Polo, the tennis player Goran Ivanisevic or Picasso's famous muse Dora Maar? They are all Croatian or have Croatian roots.

Who does not know the Walt Disney masterpiece, 101 Dalmatians? Portrayed again and again in film, cartoons or by real characters, we immediately melt when we see those adorable spotted puppies called Dalmatians, which are indeed of Croatian origin!



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Crossroads between  
East and West

In Bosnia, time stops. Feel the quiet air of the country where people are sincere, the pace of life is slow and the little things are still valued.

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **THE HISTORIC TOWN OF MOSTAR,**  
NESTLED IN THE DEEP VALLEY OF THE NERETVA RIVER
- **THE MULTICULTURAL CAPITAL OF SARAJEVO**  
WITH ITS "TURKISH CITY" BAŠČARŠIJA
- **MEDJUGORJE,**  
ONE OF THE LARGEST CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE SITES IN THE WORLD
- **VISOKO'S PYRAMID,**  
THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD, BUILT 12,000 YEARS AGO
- **VIŠEGRAD**  
WITH THE GIGANTIC BRIDGE MEHMED PASHA SOKOLOVIĆ FROM THE  
XVICENTURY
- **THE BEAUTIFUL SUTJESKA NATIONAL PARK,**  
ONE OF THE LAST PRIMARY FORESTS IN EUROPE
- **THE TRADITION OF DRINKING BOSNIAN COFFEE**  
AT ANY TIME OF DAY AND ON ANY OCCASION





## EXPERIENCE THE DIVERSITY AND HARMONY OF CONTEMPORARY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very wide range of tours to take. The country has a wealth of stunning mountain scenery and offers direct access to wide outdoor spaces, a sense of adventure and a rich historical heritage. It forms a dual vantage point, marking the easternmost point of the West, and the westernmost point of the East. As such, it bears the imprint of two great empires, the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian, both of which have had inescapable influences on the culture, architecture and religion of this country at the crossroads.

Few places on earth feature an Orthodox church, a Catholic church, a mosque and a synagogue within a few minutes' walking distance of each other. This is the capital Sarajevo, the Jerusalem of Europe, where there is always something going on: choose from the many festivals (do not miss the famous Sarajevo Film Festival), or simply stroll along the alleys surrounding the Ottoman quarter of Baščaršija.

When staying in Bosnia, do not miss Jajce, the capital of Bosnia's medieval kings, an open-air museum town where the Republic of Yugoslavia was created; Mostar, the charming capital of Herzegovina, with the striking beauty of its pre-Ottoman and Ottoman ruins; and Medjugorje, the holy place where the Virgin Mary appears to believers and which has already been visited by more than five million people.



The Winter Olympics took place in Sarajevo in 1984 in Sarajevo!

The diversity is particularly clear in the religious sphere: the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is 40% Muslim, 31% Orthodox, 15% Roman Catholic and 14% other faiths.



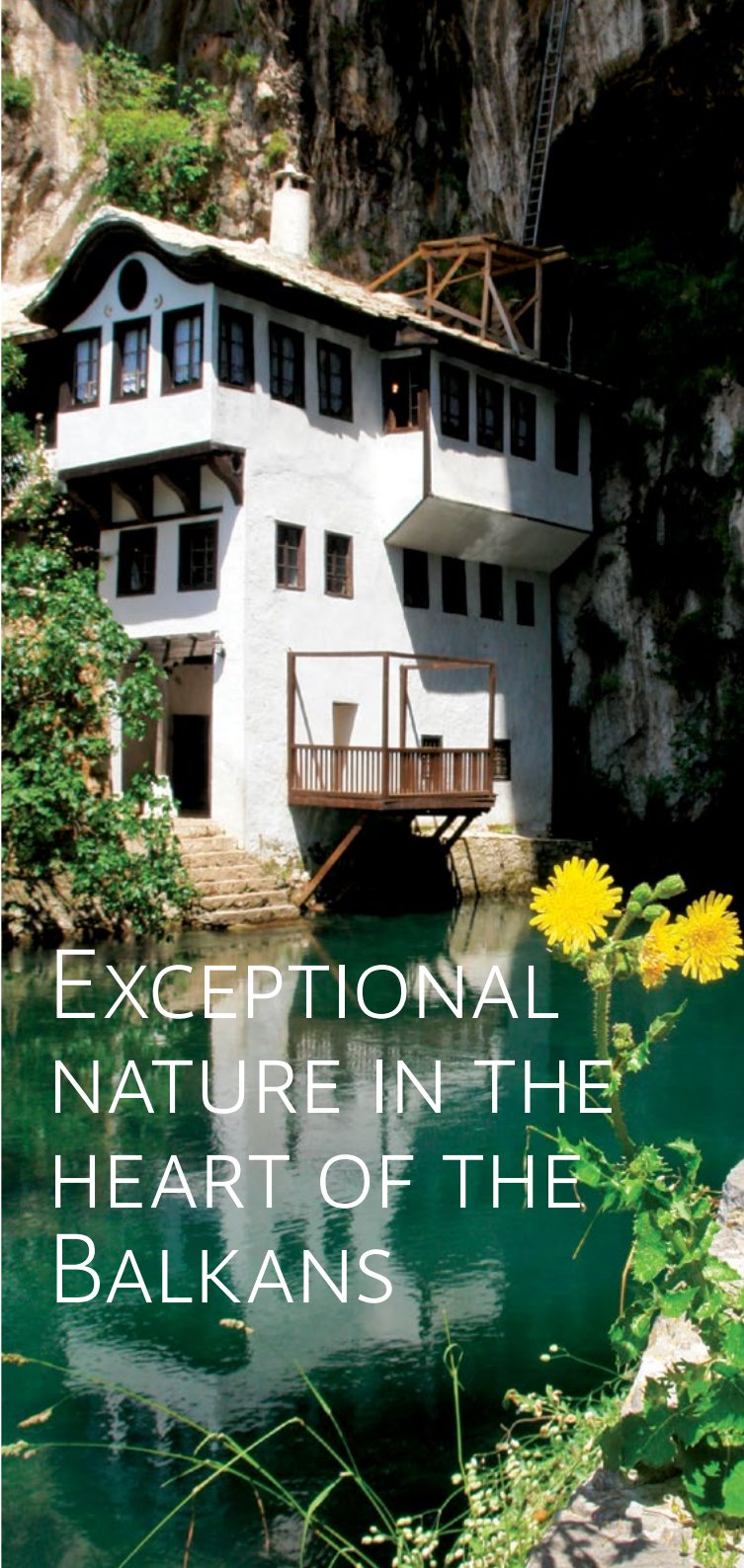
# VALLEY OF THE PYRAMIDS WITH MAGNIFICENT BRIDGES

Bosnia's Valley of Pyramids is one of the largest complexes of pyramid structures in the world, which attracts tens of thousands of tourists every year. According to many experts, these gigantic pyramids, which are hidden inside the hills of Visoko, would be higher and even older than the pyramids of Egypt!

Among the biggest attractions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, you can also see some remarkable bridges, both in terms of their dimensions and their architectural and historical interest. Unmissable sights:

- *The Old Bridge in Mostar, or Stari most, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been a symbol of peace between Croats and Muslims living on the banks of the Neretva River since its reconstruction in 2004*
- *The bridge in Višegrad, with its elegant proportions and monumental nobility reflecting the grandeur of Ottoman architecture*
- *The "stone bridge" in Konjic ("Kameni Most"), declared a national monument in 2003*





# EXCEPTIONAL NATURE IN THE HEART OF THE BALKANS



The charm of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not only come from its cultural contrasts and the heritage of its buildings, it also comes from the beautiful nature of wild beauty that offers a variety of activities throughout the year, including rafting and canoeing over the beautiful, emerald green rapids and skiing on the slopes of the 1984 Olympic Games in Jahorina and Bjelašnica.

This country, which is often depicted using the image of a heart placed between the mouths of two lions, has one of the two largest ancient woodlands in Europe, unmatched biodiversity, imposing mountains to climb, deep gorges to cross and wild rivers with water so pure that you can drink it right out of the palms of your hands. The most beautiful natural attractions include:

- *The waterfalls of Kravica, one of the largest and most impressive waterfalls in Herzegovina*
- *The Lake Jablaničko region which witnessed the famous battle of Neretva in World War II*
- *The Sutjeska National Park including Perucica, one of the last ancient woodlands in Europe*



The name "Bosnia" is derived from 'Bosana', the old Indo-European word meaning water! Many lakes, breath-taking waterfalls and abundant rivers make up for Bosnia's mere twenty kilometres of beach.



# SERBIA

The tourist destination with  
the wind in its sails

Discover the generosity and warmth of character of a somewhat nostalgic country whose inhabitants are said to be the most hospitable in the world with a unique sense of humour. You will be greeted with a warm and simple smile in Serbia, as if you were one of their own.

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **BELGRADE,**  
"THE BARCELONA OF THE EAST" THE CAPITAL THAT NEVER SLEEPS
- **NOVI SAD**  
WITH ITS FAMOUS PETROVARADIN FORTRESS, "THE GIBRALTAR OF THE DANUBE"
- **MANY MEDIEVAL ORTHODOX MONASTERIES,**  
INCLUDING STUDENICA A UNESCO SITE
- **THE DJERDAP NATIONAL PARK,**  
WITH ITS GRAND PROCESSION THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS
- **ZLATIBOR,**  
THE PICTURESQUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT WITH ITS NOSTALGIC RAILWAY
- **THE ETHNO-VILLAGE OF SIROGOJNO**  
SHOWING TRADITIONAL RURAL LIFE
- **THE FAMOUS GUČA FESTIVAL,**  
A PARADISE FOR LOVERS OF TRUMPETS AND FANFARES
- **DRVENGRAD,**  
THE VILLAGE BUILT BY EMIR KUSTURICA TO FILM LIFE IS A MIRACLE
- **THE ROYAL MAUSOLEUM OPLENAC,**  
THE NECROPOLIS OF THE KARADJORDJEVIC DYNASTY







## WHY SERBIA?

Serbia offers amazing tourist and cultural attractions throughout the year. A destination of a thousand treasures, Serbia is proud of its fortresses, monasteries, historical monuments, archaeological sites, parks, mountains, river cruises, wine routes as well as its food, festivals, parties and much more!

### Do you want to party?

- In August, do not miss the most famous brass and gypsy music festival in the village of Guča, where the dancing will whisk you away with its infectious rhythm. Miles Davis, one of its many visitors, was enthralled: "I did not know you could play the trumpet like that!"
- Eat and drink in good company, accompanied by folk music on one of the many floating restaurants of the rivers Sava and Danube!
- One of the unmissable events is also the famous EXIT festival, held every July in Novi Sad. It has the flattering title of "Best Major European Festival"!

### Do you prefer the city life?

"The gateway of the Balkans", Belgrade is a festive city with an eclectic culture. From its imposing fortress in the Kalemegdan Park there is a magnificent view of the where the Sava and Danube rivers meet. In the evening, do not miss dinner in the Skadarlija quarter, the "Montmartre of Belgrade". When you add the sunset it becomes one of the most wonderful places in the world.

### Do you love nature?

If you want to go horse-riding through the wide, picturesque plains of Vojvodina, or conquer the highest mountains of Kopaonik; if you want to go cycling in the green mountains of Šumadija, or take it to the next level by mountain biking along the trails of Tara and rafting on the river Ibar; if you want to explore the depths of the caves of Zlatar or even go deer hunting or fishing - then Serbia is the place for you!



Belgrade is "New York on a budget". Momo Kapor, writer

"...People who can sit at a table for hours just chatting, singing songs and still have a lot to say. My stay in Belgrade has healed my soul..." Erskine Caldwell, writer



# AN EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Even though Serbia has witnessed wars, devastation, fires and migration for centuries, a rich cultural and historical legacy has continued to exist. In addition to its natural beauty, the diversity and richness of the historical monuments are an integral part of its tourist attractions.

Many archaeological sites such as Lepenski Vir, Starcevo and Vinca show evidence of prehistoric life on this soil, while various important remains of Roman roads and towns recall the presence of the Roman Empire for six centuries (the UNESCO site Gamzigrad, Sirmium and Mediana).

One of the largest collections of preserved monuments in Serbia are its Orthodox monasteries, certainly the most beautiful in the Balkans. Built between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries, their architectural features, frescoes, icons and sculptural decorations embody the soul of the country and are unique treasures of the cultural and historical heritage of Serbia. Listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Old Ras complex with the Sopoćani monastery, the Studenica monastery, the Decani monastery with the Patriarchate of Peć, Gračanica Monastery and the Church of Bogorodica Ljeviška in Prizren - the last three are commonly known as the "Medieval Monuments in Kosovo" because they are on Kosovo territory, for some the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, for others the Republic of Kosovo. It may be possible to spend the night in some of the magnificent monasteries of Serbia, a privileged way to discover some of their secrets!

Do not forget the other monasteries (Žiča, Ravanica, Manasija and Gradac) and churches that are worth a visit (such as the Cathedral of Saint Sava in Belgrade) and the remarkable Royal Mausoleum Oplenac, where the twenty-two members of the royal family Karadjordjevic are buried.





## VILLAGES AND OPEN-AIR MUSEUMS OF SERBIA

Serbian villages are real ecological oases, unpolluted by modern civilization, with a mild climate, clean air and natural foods. The main ingredients for the traditionally prepared dishes, always the healthier option, come from the hosts' gardens, and the passing tourists who quickly become friends can see for themselves that the vegetables and animals are produced organically.

In particular, the perfumes, sounds and flavours make the countryside more precious, more beautiful and more enjoyable than the city. From Vojvodina in the North, passing through Serbia in the West, the centre, in the East and the South, there may be many differences that appear in the details, but all across Serbia, the rhythm of life in the countryside reflects the rhythm of nature: the seasons, the transition from the working day to night of rest, the natural order of things and people.



The Empress Maria Theresa was an admirer of the traditional wines of the Serbian region of Karlovac. The "Karlovac Bernet" was even available on the wine list of the Titanic!

"Drvengrad" (Kustendorf), the traditional town in the district of Zlatibor, as can be seen in the film Life is a Miracle, was built by the director Emir Kusturica for the purposes of his film!



# MONTENEGRO

A country of astonishing diversity

Sea salt, the smell of mountain chalets, the eternal snows, mimosa, stone steps in old towns, oleanders, the smell of homemade bread... Montenegro is unforgettable, individual, exceptional.

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **THE MEDIEVAL CITY OF KOTOR,**  
CLASSIFIED AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
- **THE BAY OF KOTOR,**  
A WONDER OF NATURE
- **SVETI STEFAN,**  
ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS PLACES IN THE ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN
- **THE EXTRAORDINARY OSTROG MONASTERY,**  
THE ORTHODOX SOUL OF MONTENEGRO
- **SKADAR LAKE NATIONAL PARK**  
THE LARGEST LAKE IN THE BALKANS
- **THE NATURAL PARK OF DURMITOR**  
WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT CANYON TARA AND EIGHTEEN GLACIAL LAKES
- **THE ROMANTIC OLD TOWN OF BUDVA**  
WITH ITS ENTIRELY MEDITERRANEAN "JOIE DE VIVRE"
- **THE SPECTACULAR KOTOR ROUTE**  
TO LOVČEN PROVIDING BREATH-TAKING VIEWS





# THE BEAUTIFUL COAST OF MONTENEGRO

Montenegro is a destination that is soaring, with plenty of assets! Stretching over 295 km of coastline including 72 km of beaches, it is home to some remarkably well-preserved medieval towns along Montenegro's Adriatic coast, which is considered one of the great "discoveries" of tourism in recent years. The unmissable towns include:

- *The islet of Sveti Stefan, built in the fifteenth century as a fishing village, has become a hotel town and the most luxurious tourist location and most photographed place in Montenegro*
- *Budva, the "party capital" of Montenegro, seen as the "Monte Carlo" of the Adriatic. At night, Budva is full of activities: it is a perfect place to sip cocktails, listen to live music or dance the night away*
- *The ancient town of Stari Bar, full of architectural wonders from the Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman eras, offers a magical walk with stunning panoramic views of the Adriatic and the surrounding mountains*

- *The old walled city of Kotor and the romantic village of Perast, nestled in the spectacular bay of Kotor, move even the most demanding visitors*



Brad Pitt played his first film role on the coast of Montenegro. It was the *Dark side of the Sun*, filmed in 1987 and directed by the Montenegrin, Božidar Nikolić. Mila Jovicic, the famous actress, has Montenegrin roots from her father who came from the country.

The oldest tree in Europe is said to be located beside the road from Bar to Ulcinj. It is an olive tree that is more than 2,000 years old! It is protected by the State and remains a great tourist attraction. At one time, the Italians offered millions of Italian lire to remove it, roots and all, and replant it in Rome, but the offer was not successful.

Though small, the country is inhabited by "giants". Montenegrins are among the tallest people in the world!



# THE SPECTACULAR NATURE OF MONTENEGRO

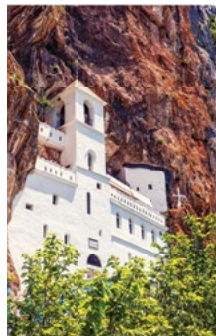
Montenegro, one of the smallest countries of the Balkans, will nevertheless surprise visitors with its wide range of landscapes and breathtaking natural settings. Deep canyons, lakes and narrow passes, national parks, mountains with dizzying summits that look down directly into the Adriatic Sea and form a jagged coastline... everything is spectacular. The fact that there are twice as many visitors in a year than the number of inhabitants of this country, who are said to be born either as shepherds or philosophers, proves that Montenegro is an excellent destination that should not be missed!





### Nature lovers should certainly not miss:

- The city of Kotor and the hill up to bastion of Saint John, where you can admire the Bay of Kotor, the masterpiece of nature, the only fiord in this part of the world and the largest natural sight in Montenegro. The landscape is truly spectacular
- Lake Skadar, the largest lake in the Balkans, home to 270 bird species, including some of the last pelicans in Europe
- Durmitor Nature Park, with its eighteen glacial lakes, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The canyon of Tara, with the impressive size of its gorges, ideal for rafting enthusiasts
- Mount Lovćen, a sacred site for the Montenegrins, offering a view of Lake Skadar, the Bay of Kotor, the massif of Durmitor and the turquoise waters of the coast. At the top is the Mausoleum of Njegoš, a national hero. You have to climb 461 steps to reach it



The canyon of Tara, with its enormous 1,300 metres, is the second largest canyon in the world after Colorado!

One of the features of Lake Skadar is its "cryptodepression", this means that the level of the lake is 6m below the level of the Adriatic Sea.

Montenegro is number one in the world in terms of the area classified as National Parks: they represent 6% of the territory of the country.



# MACEDONIA

The infant of Balkan tourism

In Macedonia, you will find all the ingredients for a perfect holiday: beautiful nature, ancient and modern architecture, ecotourism, adventure tourism, religious tourism, and much more.

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **THE CHARMING TOWN OF OHRID**  
WITH ITS LAKE, ONE OF THE OLDEST AND CLEAREST IN THE WORLD
- **THE BEAUTIFUL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN AT KANEO,**  
THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED MONUMENT IN MACEDONIA
- **SAINT NAUM,**  
THE MOST VISITED MONASTERY OF MACEDONIA WITH ITS EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL SETTING
- **THE REMARKABLE MOSQUE IN TETOVO,**  
WHOSE OUTER WALLS ARE ADORNED WITH PAINTED WOOD PANELS
- **THE GALIČICA NATIONAL PARK,**  
OVERLOOKING SPLENDID VIEWS OF THE LAKES OHRID AND PRESPA
- **THE CITY OF BITOLA,**  
WRAPPED IN OTTOMAN MYSTICISM, WITH ITS ANCIENT CITY OF HERACLEA LYNCESTIS
- **SKOPJE,**  
ITS UNUSUAL CAPITAL WHERE MUSLIMS TUNES CONTRAST WITH PSEUDO-ANCIENT SELF-INDULGENT BUILDINGS







## IN MACEDONIA, NATURE IS KING

Marvel at the great diversity of fauna and flora that Macedonia has to offer. Many rivers, valleys, waterfalls, lakes and national parks await those who love hiking and luxuriant nature. Here are some favourites:

- *The Galičica National Park, with its amazing view of the lakes Ohrid and Prespa*
- *Lake Ohrid with its astonishingly clear waters and stunning beaches for swimming*
- *The mountain landscape of Mavrovo Park, ideal for hiking in summer and skiing in winter*
- *Matka Canyon, with its mystical nature that will fill you with invigorating energy*
- *Lake Doiran, containing one of the most diverse fish populations in Europe*



Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes in the world (also known as the fossil lake) and among the deepest (its maximum depth is 288 metres!).

“Nema problem”, a very common expression among the Macedonians meaning “No problem”, shows the tendency to want to settle everything peacefully and to look on the bright side of life.





# BUILDINGS RELIGIOUS AND PICTURESQUE

You can visit several of the most beautiful religious monuments in the world in Macedonia. You will never forget the beauty, peace and serenity of the sacred architecture and the experience of a night spent in one of the Macedonian monasteries. The most beautiful sites include:

- The monastery of Saint John Bigorski, famous for its carved wooden iconostasis
- The church of Saint John of Kaneo, beautifully situated on a cliff above Lake Ohrid
- The beautiful monastery of Saint Naum in the surreal environment of Lake Ohrid
- The monastery of Saint Joachim Osogovski, an aesthetic complex in the middle of a verdant forest
- The Kalista monastery on the shore of Lake Ohrid, in a serene rocky environment
- Saint Sophia Cathedral Ohrid with its famous frescoes from the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries
- The painted mosque in Tetovo that looks like giant, coloured playing cards



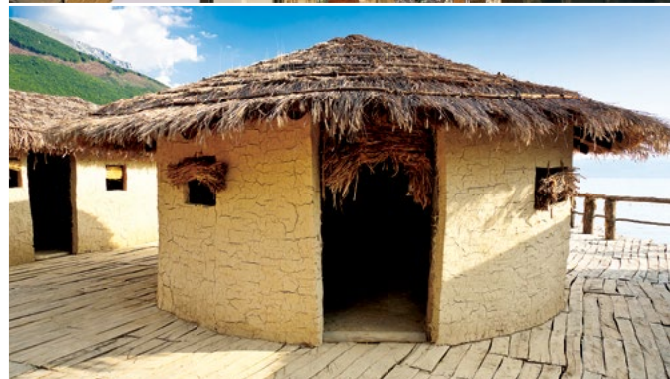


## The Macedonian cities and their rich cultural and archaeological heritage

- The town of Ohrid, nicknamed "The Balkan Jerusalem" with its 365 churches, will charm you with its narrow cobbled streets, numerous lively outdoor cafes and its lake, so magnificent that people have nicknamed Ohrid "the Kingdom of light and water"
- Skopje, the surprising capital, dominated by the fortress "Kala". Marvel at the monumental stone bridge in the Ottoman style and shop in the biggest market of the Balkans: "Starata Skopska Tcharchia"
- Struga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the city of poets

## Other locations and unusual events of Macedonia

- The museum on the water in the Bay of Bones is a village which has been rebuilt on the water and harbours discoveries from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. You can go diving there, above the remains of the lake city dating from 2000 BC, a unique experience!
- The Stone City "Kuklica" with its very strange natural rock formations
- Heraclea, Roman excavations in Bitola, with dazzling mosaics, an ancient theatre and Roman baths
- The village of Galicnik, where every July you can attend a traditional wedding which lasts three days and attracts thousands of spectators



During the project "Skopje 2014" there were works and gigantic and impressive buildings built that shine in all their bright colours. This architectural and cultural project is widely controversial, with opinions divided on whether it is kitsch or urban elegance. Check it out for yourself!

The ethnic diversity of Macedonia was the inspiration for the famous "macédoine" salad, a salad of mixed, diced fruit or vegetables, popular in France, Italy, Spain and Latin America.



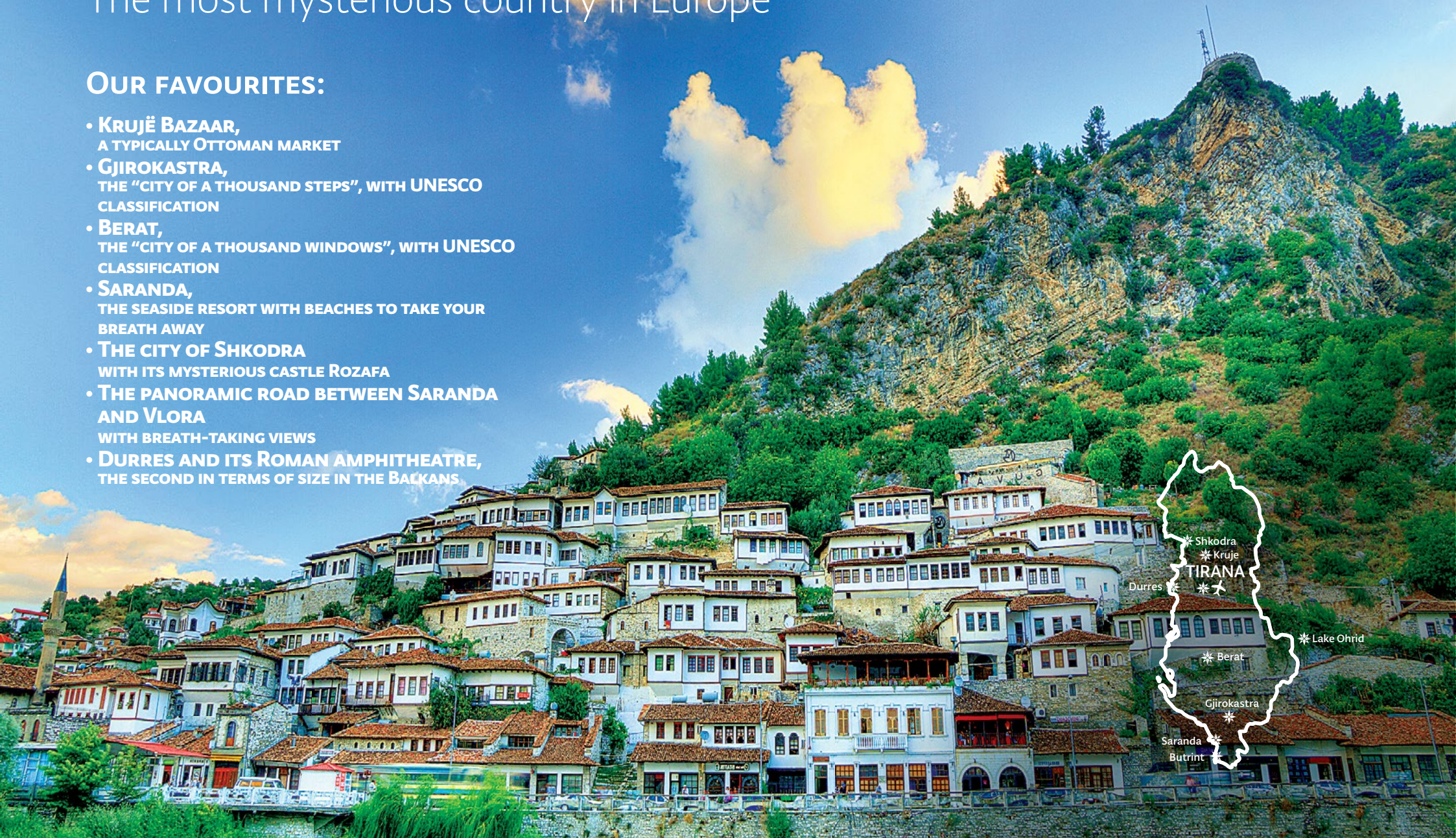
# ALBANIA

The most mysterious country in Europe

## OUR FAVOURITES:

- **KRUJË BAZAAR,**  
A TYPICALLY OTTOMAN MARKET
- **GJIROKASTRA,**  
THE "CITY OF A THOUSAND STEPS", WITH UNESCO CLASSIFICATION
- **BERAT,**  
THE "CITY OF A THOUSAND WINDOWS", WITH UNESCO CLASSIFICATION
- **SARANDA,**  
THE SEASIDE RESORT WITH BEACHES TO TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY
- **THE CITY OF SHKODRA**  
WITH ITS MYSTERIOUS CASTLE ROZAFI
- **THE PANORAMIC ROAD BETWEEN SARANDA AND VLORA**  
WITH BREATH-TAKING VIEWS
- **DURRES AND ITS ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE,**  
THE SECOND IN TERMS OF SIZE IN THE BALKANS

Albania is an unspoilt gem, still spared from the invasion of tourism, and it will not leave you unmoved. Hurry to discover it before the masses rush in!





# THE MYSTICAL ALBANIA, A TOURIST DESTINATION TO BE DISCOVERED

Albania invites you to discover its beautiful unspoilt nature and the authenticity of its cities and landscapes, still wrapped in a distant mysticism. There are no restrictions to your visit, because the mild and comfortable climate in Albania makes it an enjoyable tourist destination for 12 months of the year.

## Recommended activities in Albania:

- Excite your taste buds with the Albanian cuisine, which cleverly mixes the flavours of Italy, Greece and the Ottoman Empire
- Discover its natural and cultural wealth and meet its hospitable and friendly people
- Learn their typical folk dances over the course of a colourful folk evening
- Go rafting, paragliding, river fishing, hiking, bike riding and much more

“Virgin California!” announced the Bavarian Prime Minister, Franz Josef Strauss, in 1984, one of the few Western politicians who had the opportunity to visit the country while it was completely isolated under the dictatorship of Enver Hoxha.

Did you know that in 2011, Lonely Planet ranked Albania as the number one destination not to miss?

Albania is marked by bunkers: during the communist period, over 700,000 bunkers were built across the country, one for every four people. Some of them are even decorated and colourful.

Be careful! Albanians nod their heads up and down to say “no” and shake them from side to side to say “yes”!



# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN ALBANIA

- The historic centres of Berat and Gjirokastra, magical cities with a turbulent past and rare examples of a typical Ottoman architectural style
- The museum city of Butrint, inhabited since prehistoric times. Enjoy the remains that tell Illyrian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Venetian tales!

## Sites not to be missed

- The bay of Porto Palermo with its castle, located on a small peninsula and surrounded by sky-blue coloured sea. In the past, it was a submarine base: you can still see the barracks and an underground bunker of one kilometre in length
- The city of Shkodra with its mysterious castle, Rozafa. According to legend, it was built by three brothers. During the night the wall collapsed and a wise old man told the brothers that he had to sacrifice someone if they wanted the walls to remain stable. The wife of the younger brother was immediately walled-up alive. She did not protest, and only begged that her breasts, eyes, hands and legs remain free so she could take care of her baby. The legend says that her milk still flows from the castle walls
- The Krujë Bazaar with its oriental and colourful atmosphere, full of all kinds of goods for sale. It is a piece of Istanbul close to the Adriatic Sea
- The second largest Roman amphitheatre in the Balkans in the port city of Durrës. Built in the second century, the theatre has the capacity to accommodate up to 20,000 spectators, which is about one sixth of the population of Durrës today
- Tirana, the capital of Albania, is said to make an impact on everyone. From the Historical Museum of Skanderbeg to theatres via its castles and mosques, the city of a thousand faces always has something to amaze the casual visitor

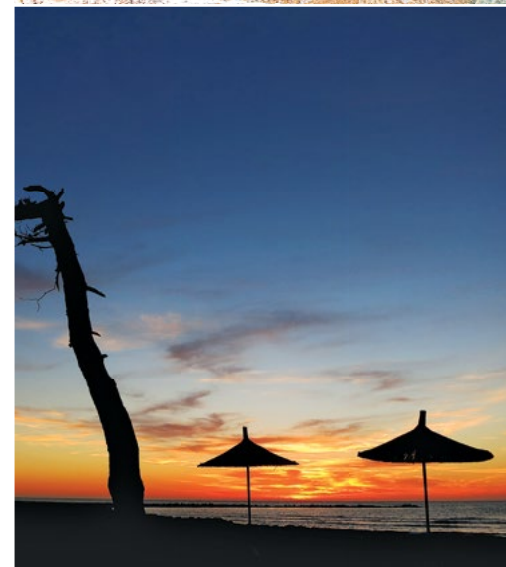




## THE DREAMY BEACHES OF THE ALBANIAN RIVIERA

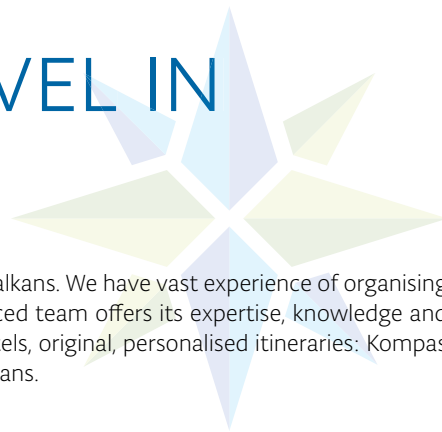
The Albanian coastline is bordered by the most beautiful and wildest sandy beaches of the Adriatic Sea (300 km) and Ionian Sea (150 km).

- *Our favourite: Saranda, a seaside resort that has existed since antiquity, situated opposite the Greek island of Corfu. It is a pleasant city, decorated with palm trees and eucalyptus with numerous cafes and many beautiful sandy beaches along the sunny coast*





# MICE - BUSINESS TRAVEL IN THE BALKANS



The Kompas agency organises trips, meetings, conferences and original events in the Balkans. We have vast experience of organising customised travel, including carefully planned and high quality services. Our experienced team offers its expertise, knowledge and experience to organise trips especially designed for you! Exceptional places, luxury hotels, original, personalised itineraries: Kompas reinvents each destination for you and gives a new dimension to your plans in the Balkans.







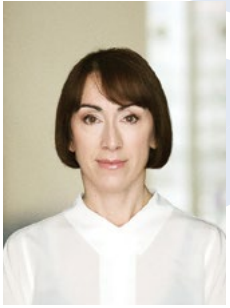
## OUR VALUES

- over 60 years of experience to create the best memories
- reliability, efficiency, quality, excellence, flexibility
- professional approach and abilities
- expertise on the entire Balkan region

## OUR MISSION

- carefully prepared classic routes and unusual activities
- full service from beginning to end and 24/7 assistance
- individual itineraries designed to meet your needs perfectly
- days you will remember, memories you will cherish!





Mateja Sušnik  
Director

*Our mission?  
Our objectives?  
To be even  
better, for you*

## TEAM KOMPAS

Our main objective is to strengthen our position among the leading travel and tourism agencies in the region and in Europe.

In order to achieve these objectives, we are constantly investing in our staff and our partners, and we are always looking for new opportunities to expand our sales network.



OUR MISSION? OUR OBJECTIVES?  
TO BE EVEN BETTER, FOR YOU.

# PARK POSTOJNSKA GROTTE JAMA CAVE HÖHLE

WORLD  
FAMOUS  
ATTRACTION

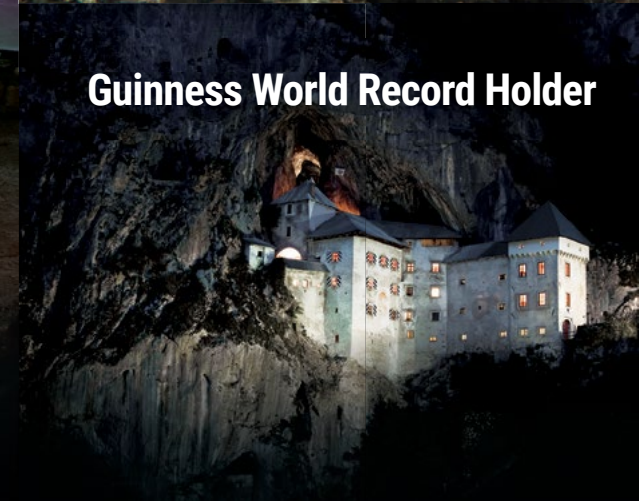
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I FEEL  
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