



*Life on BiH/MNE Border
- Ancient Traces of Ageless Heritage and Tradition*



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IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - MONTENEGRO



Project is implemented by
Cultural Center Trebinje



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Tourist itinerary

A message in the Bottle-Water Tour via Bridges of History



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Montenegro

is a country located on the Balkan Peninsula on the Adriatic Sea. It borders Bosnia and Herzegovina to the north. Montenegro shares its continental borders with Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia as well, and to the south it shares the Adriatic Sea with Italy.

The official language of the country is Montenegrin and the currency is Euro. In coastal Montenegro the climate is Mediterranean, in the Skadar Lake area it is sub-Mediterranean, while in its central parts it varies from mild continental to highland climate. The mean summer temperature in the coastal area, the sub-Mediterranean region of Skadar Lake and the valley of the River Zeta is 26°C, while in the lower inland areas it ranges between 18 and 20°C, and between 10 and 14°C in highland Montenegro. The mean winter temperature is the highest in the coastal area 8°C, while in the sub-Mediterranean regions it is between 4 and 5°C. Thanks to slow penetration of global brands, Montenegrin cuisine has preserved its almost traditional form, with the culinary influences of neighbouring countries dominated by traditional dairy and meat dishes.

The offered itineraries are active from May 1st to September 31st with maximum three-day duration of each. The accommodation is organized in hotels and apartments A and B category, while the restaurants offer different cuisines from fusion food to the traditional dishes of the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

is a country located in the west of the Balkan Peninsula, bordered by Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The official languages of the country are Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian. The currency is Bosnia and Herzegovina convertible mark (sign: KM, code: BAM). The climate of Bosnia and Herzegovina varies from the moderate continental in the northern part of the Pannonian Plain along the Sava River and in lowland, to the Alpine climate in the mountainous areas, and the Mediterranean climate in the coastal area and the region of lowland Herzegovina in the south and south-east of the country. The mean temperature ranges between -1 and -2°C in January and between 18 and 20°C in July in the northern regions, between -4 and -7°C in January and between 9 and 14°C in July in the areas above 500 m, whereas on the Adriatic coast and in lowland Herzegovina, it ranges between 3 and 9°C in January and 22 and 25°C in July. The extreme temperatures of -41,8°C (low) and 42,2°C (high) have also been recorded. The national cuisine is based on the Middle Eastern cuisine in the central regions and the Mediterranean cuisine in the south.



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Starting point Plužine (Montenegro)

Day 1

Arrival in Plužine until 10 o'clock, check in at the hotel/motel/BB, a bus tour to the Šćepan Field 25 km away, 18 km long rafting tour on the Tara River through the Nature Park "Piva". Lunch break in a rafting camp during the rafting tour. Return to Plužine and free time. Dinner at 8 p.m. Dinner menu is based on taste preferences (fish or meat or traditional dishes or fusion food).

The Piva and Tara rivers along with their confluence near the Šćepan Field where the River Drina is formed, are special tourist attractions. Flowing along the tectonic structure of karst, the rivers have formed beautiful canyons in the intact nature, while the confluence area near the Šćepan Field is abundant in numerous rafting camps with traditional cuisine.

The whole area is ideal for hiking and cycling.



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Day 2

Traditional breakfast (cream cheese, honey, beignets, etc.), check out of the hotel/motel/BB until 9 a.m. and departure for Nikšić. Arrival in Nikšić at around 10.30 a.m. A visit to the Tsar's and Vuk's bridges and the Moštanica Bridge. The Zeta River tour in traditional boats. Lunch at around 2 p.m. Lunch menu is based on taste preferences (fish or meat or traditional dishes or fusion food). Departure for Trebinje via Bileća at 3 p.m, a three-hour trip. An optional afternoon's fishing on Bileća Lake from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Arrival in Trebinje which is 31 km away from Bileća at 8 p.m. Check in at the hotel/motel/BB, dinner, free time.

Rudolf Mosinger, the well known photographer from Croatia who came in spring 1910 at the invitation of King Nikola, had a task to tour Montenegro and present it through photos in the album "Pictures from Montenegro". Among 32 photos of the castle and Nikšić city's panoramic view, he also included the Tsar's Bridge.

King Nikola ordered to build Vuk's Bridge in 1888, a graceful five-arched bridge made of hewn stone. The bridge was named after Vuk Mićunović, a famous Montenegrin hero.

The Moštanica bridge is located on the Roman road, which led to Skadar via Epidaurus through Risan, Grahovo, Riječani and Nikšić. Over time, the bridge was repeatedly demolished and repaired several times. The bridge features typical Roman architecture. It was built of regularly hewn limestone blocks which were connected with a rather thick layer of mortar that consisted traces of crumbled bricks and goat's hair.





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Day 3

Breakfast and check out of the hotel/motel/BB until 9.30 a.m, a walk along the River Trebišnjica from the Arslanagić (Perović) Bridge to the Old Town. A tour through the Old Town, a visit to Banj Vir, the old docks, a boat tour in traditional barges. A tour to the remaining irrigation systems dating from the Austro-Hungarian period. Lunch in a vineyard nearby the river at 3 p.m. Departure.

Even today, people from Trebinje have special relation with the River Trebišnjica. While the elderly population evoke memories of the beach Banje and barges, and the younger ones go fishing for trout "merdžanka" so that they can later brag on their facebook page, those who till the extraordinary Herzegovinian soil still use the ancient irrigation wheels brought from the Nile to water their vineyards.

Previously, there were many places on the river banks where one could occasionally see the rafts called "catara". Bigger barges were used for transportation of mud and sand (they had flat bottoms coated with tar). A type of barge with two paddles, used for recreation, was constructed at the beginning of the XX century. Due to numerous master carpenters working at that time in Trebinje, those barges had a unique style and shape. Thus, the production of barges was carried out by the most skilful and imaginative carpenters, as well as entire families of carpenters.

The architects appropriately describe the Old Bridge in Mostar as the most daring and the bridge in Višegrad as the most robust, so could this bridge, as the most elegant, have also been put under the protection of UNESCO long ago, if only it had not been removed from its original location to continue connecting the banks of the River Trebišnjica.

According to an oral tradition, during the pilgrimage to Mecca in the middle of the XVIII century, Mustafa Mujaga Hadžihasanović noticed a device that drew water from the River Nile. At first, he made a wooden model, but as soon as he returned to Trebinje, the famous Hadžihasanović irrigation wheel started spinning.

Tourist agencies reserve the right to alter their itineraries for duration or selection of destinations. The client will be informed about any changes that might occur



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Life on BiH/MNE Border - Ancient Traces of ageless Heritage and Tradition

This tourist itinerary was created through activities of the project "Life on BiH/MNE Border - Ancient Traces of ageless Heritage and Tradition" which is implemented in the area of city of Trebinje and municipality of Bileća in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as municipalities of Nikšić and Plužine in Montenegro.

Overall objective of the project is to develop functional inter-sector cooperation and linkage of cultural/historical/natural heritage and tourism in Cross-border area.

Specific objective is to create and promote joint cross border touristic products through encouraging partnerships in culture and tourism and rehabilitating neglected cultural and historical heritage in project area.

Main project activities are as follows:

- Mapping of insufficiently valorised cultural/historical heritage objects and locations to be included in joint touristic cross-border products of Trebinje and Bileća, Nikšić and Plužine;
- Developing digital and printed presentations of new tourist offer in cross-border area based on its traditional links and customs;
- Developing joint plan for standardised and sustainable management of cultural/historical monuments/locations/objects identified in project area;
- Revitalisation of cultural/historical heritage through "pilot interventions" in both countries;
- Communication and promotion activities including printed, digital and video tools and approaches.

Lead applicant and coordinator of the project is Public Institution "Cultural Center" Trebinje, and partners from BiH are City of Trebinje and Associations "Center for Development of Herzegovina" and "Home". Project partners in Montenegro are PI "Center for Culture" Plužine, NGO "Women Action" and "Association of Book Publishers and Booksellers in Montenegro".

Realization of the project started in January 2018 and project duration is 16 months. Total financial value of the project is 331.712,56 EUR amongst which 85% is funded by European Union and the remaining amount is cofinanced by City of Trebinje, PI "Cultural Center" Trebinje and PI "Center for Culture" Plužine.