

Best Hikes of Montenegro Expedition

Expedition description:

In a small Balkan country, named for its mysterious “Black Mountains” (Monte-negro), you will find a land of rugged beauty - towering peaks, deep canyons and primeval forests. This 9-day hiking expedition aims to showcase the best trails in the most stunning surroundings - including places where few have been before! Towering mountain ridges, picturesque river canyons, pristine glacial lakes and a chance to spot some rare and endangered wildlife. Our experienced team will take you on a real adventure! Includes Komovi Massif, Biogradska National Park, wild and beautiful Mokra and Visitor – the hidden jewel of Prokletije National Park.

Expedition details:

Group: 3-7 people

Departure dates: June 20-28, August 15-23

Fitness level required: Good



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Our team speaks English, French, German, Bahasa, Dutch and Montenegrin|Serbian|Bosnian|Croatian!

YOUR ECOTOURISM ADVENTURE IN MONTENEGRO

Full itinerary:

DAY 1 – BIOGRADSKA GORA

Arrival in Podgorica airport. Transfer to first accommodation. On the way we'll visit Morača monastery from 13th century and stop by to marvel the beauty of the lake in the heart of Biogradska Gora National Park.

Accommodation – Bjelasica area (halfboard + pocket lunches).



DAY 2 – BJELASICA GLACIAL LAKES – EASY HIKE

(Easy hike - mainly grassland, the very ascent with a bit of rocky terrain)



Something relaxing to start the expedition on the meadows of this lovely mountain. Tour of Bjelasica glacial lakes with conquering highest peak at 2139m of elevation. For those who don't mind a bit of colder water, bring on some swimming suits to refresh at one of the lakes. Duration is approximately 5-6 hours, with 560m of elevation difference, and couple of springs on the way.

Accommodation - Bjelasica area (halfboard + pocket lunches).

DAY 3 – PROKLETIJE, LAKE HRID - EASY HIKE

(Easy hike – ascent to the peak via the gorge)

This lake Hrid has become the symbol of Bogićevica, it is situated 18 km away from the town of Plav, at 1,970 m altitude, under rocks of Hridski krš (*optional ascent*) (krš in this sense means craggy, rugged) and Veliki Hrid (veliki means large). The lake is one of the biggest mountain lakes in Montenegro (so called mountain eyes) and for many people one of the most beautiful lakes in the country.

Starting from a mountain trail close to Plav, we have an easy hike through mountain terrain filled with green pastures, flocks of sheep and patches of old forest. We make our way slowly up to an ancient glacial lake - Hridsko Jezero which according to local belief has a healing effect to those who are brave enough to swim there (the water is icy cold). This lake is one of the biggest mountain lakes in Montenegro (so called mountain eyes) and for many people one of the most beautiful lakes

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in the country. Here we will set up camp and have pocket lunch while taking in the scenery of the surrounding peaks. Trail takes around 2 hours and is worth every second spent. Return transport to accommodation.

Many tales are connected to Hridsko lake, and according to one of them even the name of Prokletije (proklet, meaning accursed) originates from here.

Accommodation - Prokletije mountain hut (halfboard + pocket lunches).



DAY 4 – GREBAJE – MODERATE HIKE

(Moderate hike - passing through the beech forest not technically too demanding trail, with a bit of more intense descent from the third peak)

The trail starts near the Grebaje valley, through a beech wood forest to the plateau and remains of an old Katun. It is a glacial cirque and near the katun is a spring and good source of water. The trail has steep slopes on both sides and amazing views across the valley. After that we cross the pass with views across Albania. Return journey will be made along a layered rock with a carved "strip" from the Neolith Age of 6000 years B.C. There is a primitive drawing of a wolf attacking a child and other Palaeolithic items.

Prokletije National Park is home to some of the best hiking trails in the country, even if it doesn't belong to the highest peaks. The area we visit is very attractive and offers enjoyable mountain adventure in all year seasons, especially in springtime, when you can reach the alpine meadows and spent some time in enjoyment of many unforgettable views and abundant wildflowers. Transfer to next accommodation.

Accommodation - mountain huts Komovi area (halfboard + pocket lunches).



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DAY 5 – UNFAIRLY FORGOTTEN VISITOR – MODERATE HIKE

(Moderate hike – grassland, forest)



Mountain close to Prokletije and yet unfairly forgotten and for us to be discovered on this day is definitely Visitor. Origin of the name dates back to pre-Slavic times and stands for steep. However the region is very rich with wild flowers, mushrooms and medicinal plants. On the quest to reach it's highest peak Bandera (2211m) we'll get to discover quiet Visitor lake with stories about fairies lurking around mysterious pine forest.

Transfer to next accommodation – Mokra mountain hut (halfboard + pocket lunches).

DAY 6 – MOKRA MOUNTAIN – MODERATE HIKE

(Moderate hike – grassland, forest)

After a big breakfast of local produce, we head to one of the most wild areas in Montenegro, Mokra mountain passing through some of the forgotten trails and in the circular tour of the area getting to find out more about rich botanic life of the area, but also with probable traces of animals on the way. Transfer to next accommodation.



Accommodation - mountain huts Komovi area (halfboard + pocket lunches).

DAY 7 – KOMOVI – DIFFICULT, SHORT HIKE

(Difficult, short hike - first part steep ascent, before the last ascent rocky terrain, with use of hands)



The route begins on the Stavnja plateau, below the rocky massif of Kom Vasojevicki. The path continues below the massif, crossing grassy and rocky areas. After approximately 2 hours of ascent, you will arrive on beautiful Vera Pass (2200 m) which opens the views to the border mountains of Albania. You continue to the summit and very soon you'll have privilege to enjoy the most impressive and amazing scenery of which you can witness in this region. Komovi is one of most impressive and most beautiful ranges of Montenegro and for sure also of whole Dinaric Alps.

Accommodation - mountain huts Komovi area (halfboard + pocket lunches).

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DAY 8 – KOMOVI – DIFFICULT, LONG HIKE

(Difficult, long hike – grassland, forest, on two sections slippery rocky terrain)

Route starts today again on Stavna plateau. After filling up your water bottle at the spring, you will take a path leads you below Vasojevicki Kom, going over the largest karst rockslide in the Balkans. We then pass ancient pines clinging to the rock before entering the stunning Medjukomlje Pass (2171 m). The hike continues in a very wild rocky area.



Option to climb the summit of Kucki Kom (2487 m) and enjoy in its many amazing summit panoramas: the last section to the summit is not for the light hearted, although the guide will secure a rope, it is narrow and drops away sharply on both sides. Unless you are a seasoned climber and have no problem with heights, I would not recommend attempting this section.

On return, we will descend to the alpine pasture, past the remains of old Katuns. Here we can replenish our water at the spring. From here we will follow an age-old stock route.

This trail is exceptional with alpine meadows, views across to the valley and magnificent forests of pine and beech. Wild strawberries grow in abundance along the trail. This area is true wilderness territory frequented by wolf, bears and other wild animals. The final, easy section of the trail goes through beech forest called Macak where you will find several water springs, and finally, after this whole day adventure, it will take you back to our accommodation. Here you can have a relaxing evening enjoying divine, traditional Montenegrin cuisine.



Accommodation - mountain huts Komovi area (halfboard + pocket lunches).

DAY 9 – DEPARTURE

Back to Podgorica airport.

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Price details:

Price: From 1119€ per person

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All transfers starting from Podgorica airport and back	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Supplement for pick-up from another airport/location
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Accommodations for all nights as specified in itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ International flights and airport taxes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All organic, home cooked meals and some snacks during the hikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Meals not mentioned in itinerary (lots of options available)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expedition leader for the whole duration of the expedition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Your own hiking equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Entrance fees in parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Drinks and personal expenses and tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Insurance for excursions, tourist tax and our on-site assistance 24/7	

Details and important notes:

- All accommodations are on the basis of shared rooms, simple single beds, not necessarily in the areas with phone or wi-fi signal (Mokra);
- Hiking tempo – adjusted to the slowest members of the group, with plenty of pauses and with accent to flora and fauna of the region;
 - Guide is English speaking;
- In case of the bad weather hike may be postponed or replaced with an alternative as suggested by the guide.

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