

The Balkan Lynx Expedition

Expedition description:

The expedition is organized by Montenegro Eco Adventures in partnership with OSI, an NGO offering high quality scientific holidays since 1992. These 10 days will be an opportunity to survey the Montenegrin mountains in search of clues about wildlife, learn to implement proper scientific monitoring and live as close as possible to the natural environment. It is also an opportunity to do lots of hiking in breath-taking mountains, discover the Montenegrin culture, the fabulous hospitality of its population and its gastronomy.

Wild animals in Montenegro are not used to humans and will try to avoid us. Our chances to spot them depends on going to the right spots (that our experts will help us identify), our ability to be discreet and patient, and some luck. The Balkan lynx will be the toughest one to find, but that is what makes this expedition exciting.

The research:

The Balkans Lynx is a sub-species of the European Lynx, considered critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. Balkan lynx went missing in the 1990s, then some researches traced him again in the early 2000. Today about fifty individuals are inhabiting the territory of the Dinaric Alps. The Prokletije National Park created in 2009 aims primarily to its ecosystem protection, but today it has little technical and human means to carry out inventories of flora and fauna, and this is the reason why Montenegro Eco Adventures and Objectif International Science decided to unite their knowledge and competencies to develop this scientific research.

The team will have the task of installing photo traps to the best locations (without interfering with animals' habits or environment), to seek maximum animal presences indices (droppings, hairs, footprints) to achieve the most prolific database as possible. Along with the equipment used during the expedition (camera traps, GPS, samples, print strips, computer, binoculars, radio (walkie-talkie), hiking maps) the participants will learn concepts like scientific animal tracking protocol, transect, orientation, map reading, route, geography, geology, history. All the data that will be collected during the expedition will be thoroughly documented in a database that is shared with the National Parks of Prokletije, Ministry of Sustainable Development and several animal protection NGOs. It is our objective to contribute to more wildlife monitoring in Montenegro in order to protect it.

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Selection process:

There are only 7 places available for participants for this participatory scientific expedition. To be selected, you must have an interest to protect the nature, have a very good physical condition (4 to 6 hours hiking per day – 600+ elevation difference), feel comfortable in a wild environment and simple mountain accommodations.

Expedition details:

Group: 3-7 people

Departure dates: May 21-30, August 15-24

Fitness level required: Very good



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Adress: Moskovska 72 - 81000 Podgorica - Montenegro

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

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Full itinerary:

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN PODGORICA

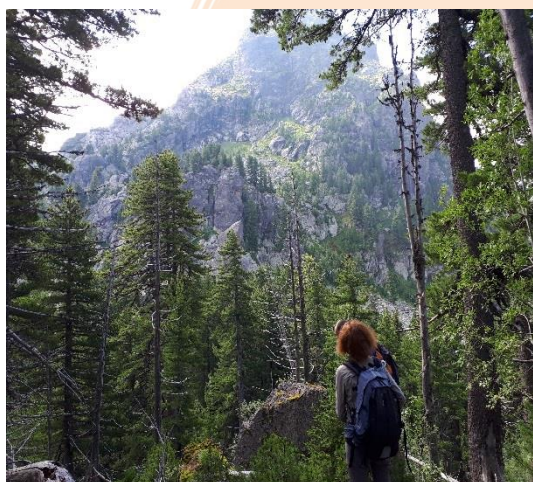
Arrival in Podgorica.

Dinner in town with the expedition team.

Accommodation in a mid-range hotel.



DAY 2 – PROKLETIJE



Visit of the market in Podgorica, purchase of dried fruits and nuts for the expedition.

Departure to the National Park of Prokletije.

Small discovery walk of the surroundings.

Dinner and night in a lovely katun with a breath-taking view.

Summer cottage in the mountains used by shepherds in the Balkans.

DAY 3 AND 4 - HIKING AND SEARCHING FOR WILDLIFE CLUES

After breakfast, 4 to 6 hours of hiking and identifying areas where wildlife can be found or potentially spotted, placing and retrieving photos from camera traps and searching for wildlife clues.

Free time at the end of the afternoon.

Dinner and night in the katun.

Evenings will be used for scientific discussions, astronomy (in function of the weather), or leisure time (music, board games, etc).



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DAY 5 – ROŽAJE AND HAJLA

Early start, direction Rožaje in Hajla mountains (1h30 by road).

Brief visit of Rožaje.

Drive to mountain katun (1h30 of mountain road).

Small hike in the afternoon. Dinner in a cosy katun with fireplace.



DAY 6, 7 AND 8 – HIKING AND SPOTTING WILD ANIMALS



After breakfast, 4 to 6 hours of hiking and identifying areas where wildlife can be found or potentially spotted, placing and retrieving photos from camera traps and searching for wildlife clues.

Dinners and nights in the katun.

Evenings will be used for scientific discussions, astronomy (in function of the weather), or leisure time (music, board games, etc).

DAY 9 – PODGORICA

After an early breakfast, 4 hours of hiking.

Driving back to Rožaje in the afternoon and then to Podgorica.

Dinner and night in Podgorica in a mid-range hotel.



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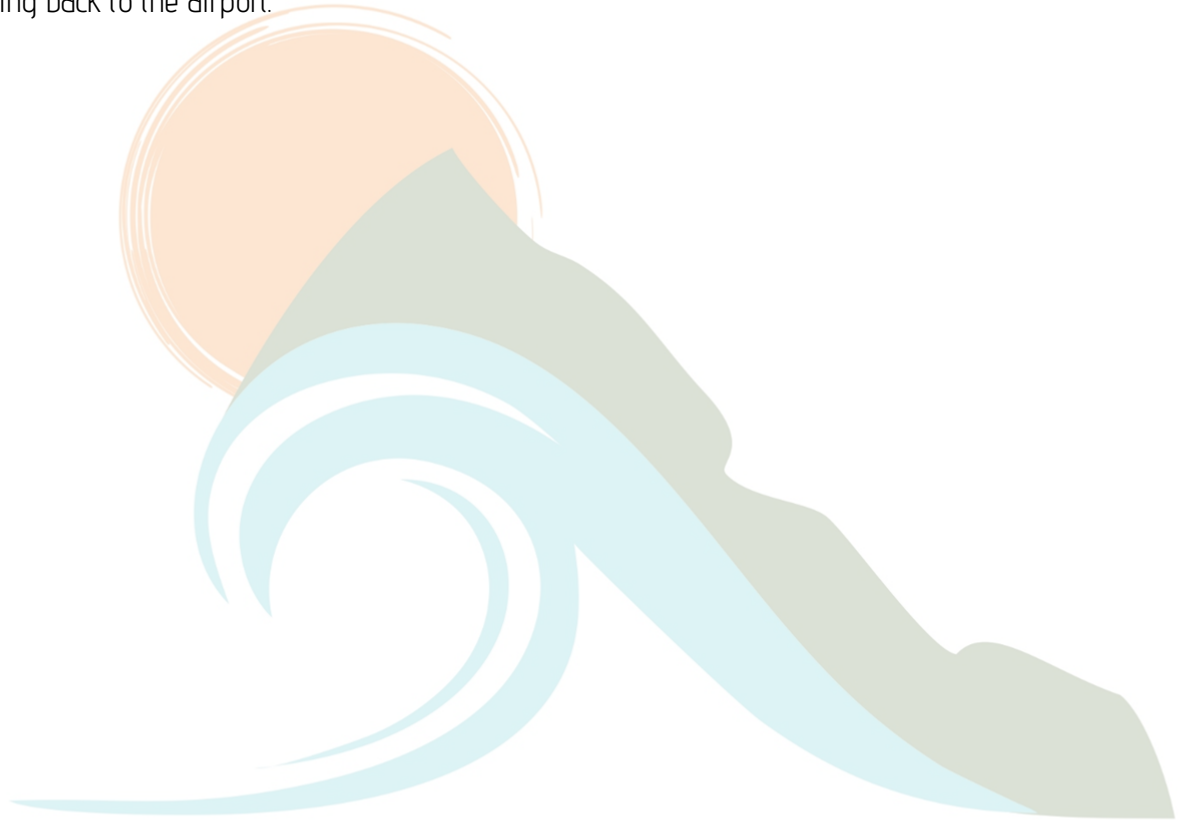
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DAY 10 – DEPARTURE

Breakfast.

Last couple of hours in the capital city.

Going back to the airport.



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Price details:

Price: From 1409€ per person

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All transfers during the expedition (including transfers from and to Podgorica airport)	<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">○ Certified mountain guide and certified mountain and fauna specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Your own hiking equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All scientific material required for the study (camera traps, GPS devices, sampling etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Drinks and personal expenses and tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Entrance fees in parks	
<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
 - Guides are speaking Montenegrin, English & French;
- In case of the bad weather hike may be postponed or replaced with an alternative as suggested by the guide.

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