



Balkans Best of the Via Dinarica Hiking

A Four-Country Journey in the Dinaric Alps

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivaled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has led hikers on Europe's most spectacular and enchanting hiking routes since 1970, scouting the best routes and ideally located stays for an authentic and enriching experience.

REASON 2

Following the southern "white" and "green" routes of the Via Dinarica this trip takes you up the best breathtaking peaks, through the most idyllic national parks and villages, and into the enchanting culture of four distinct countries.

REASON 3

Our local expert guides will take you on an immersive journey through a less-traveled region and ensure that you come away with an understanding of both the people and the place.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Full days of hiking with multiple summits, village stays and historic city immersion, and one day of river rafting.



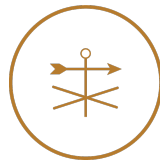
LODGING

A mix of modern mountain resorts, old historic city hotels, family-run guesthouses, and cozy B&Bs.



CLIMATE

Heading North to South across 4 countries brings a variety of climates. Weather can change quickly from hot and dry to cool, wet, and even stormy.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

A New Experience: Remember that you are traveling through the Balkans and through some still developing areas. Some of the comforts you are accustomed to may not be available, and time flows at a different pace. Patience and respect are the crucial ingredients for a successful trip and an enriching experience.



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A Four-Country Journey in the Dinaric Alps

Journey deep into the Balkans, tracing the wild spine of the Dinaric Alps from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Olympic slopes to Albania's dramatic Accursed Mountains on the Via Dinarica—a 1,200-mile network of trails through the Balkans. Scale rugged peaks and high passes for rewarding 360-degree views of craggy crests and glacial valleys. Raft the turquoise Tara River through a sheer gorge. Spend time in small, very traditional Lukomir and Theth villages. Visit Sarajevo's sobering Tunnel of Salvation and see a remnant of the Berlin Wall. Explore exquisite UNESCO-listed historic monuments in Mostar and Kosovo.

13 Days

Start: Sarajevo, Bosnia

End: Tirana, Albania

Departing: June, July, August

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Rustic Lodging

Group Size: 5-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



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This is an excellent way for people who are interested in the Balkans to experience firsthand the mountains, the culture, the people, the languages and the food of this very unique area of our planet. If you have a flexible spirit and are in great condition and love new experiences this is the trip for you!

- Julie B.

Check [mtsobek.com](https://www.mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrive In Sarajevo & See the Sights

Arrive in Sarajevo, the cultural heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the afternoon, after settling into your hotel, set out on a walking tour of Stari Grad (Old Town) for a glimpse into the city's turbulent past that spanned empires—from the Ottoman Turks to the Austro-Hungarians. More recently, the city was host to the 1984 Winter Olympics and then made the news in the 1990s during the siege by Serb forces. Tour the ancient Ottoman quarter called Bascarsija, with its stone-flagged alleys and red-roofed houses sitting amongst minarets, as well as major historical and cultural sites.

MEALS: Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 30-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2 hours/1.5 miles walking tour

DAY 02

Ride a Cable Car to Olympic History on Trebevic

From the bustle of the city center, ride up the Trebevic mountainside into the Dinaric Alps for cable-car views over the city, entire valley, and surrounding mountains. Hike to the concrete remains of the 1984 Olympic bobsled run, now an atmospheric canvas for local graffiti artists. Climb through pine and spruce forest to a mountain hut named for Olympic skier Jure Franko and a panorama of Sarajevo and the Dinaric Alps. Return to the valley for a sobering look at the Sarajevo Tunnel, a lifeline to the blockaded city during the Bosnian War siege. Return to the city and an afternoon exploring more of its Old Town.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer, 10-minute cable car ride

ACTIVITY: 1-hour private van transfer, 10-minute cable car ride

DAY 03

Hike to Lukomir Village on the Via Dinarica

Travel to Bjelasnica, a strategic mountain that saw extensive combat during the Bosnian War and later Olympic downhill, alpine, and slalom competitions. From the village of Umoljani, nestled into the grassy hills, ascend to the summer shepherd settlement of Gradina and continue uphill to Obalj peak (6,220') on the Via Dinarica. From the summit, take in gorgeous views of Rakitnica Canyon and Lukomir, Bosnia's highest village (at 4,820'). Descending to Lukomir, enjoy a lunch homemade by a local family, explore its ancient medieval tombstones and traditional way of life. Loop back to Umoljani on a different route and transfer to Igman Mountain for the evening.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/10.5 miles hiking with 2,720' elevation gain and loss

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Explore the Wild Visocica Massif

With its pointed limestone and dolomite peaks and narrow valleys, bordered by rivers on all sides, the Visocica Massif invites exploration. Wind through Bjelasnica backroads, crossing the Rakitnica River towards the trailhead at Tusila village (3,937'). Hike up through open meadows and thick beech forest punctuated with rocky outcrops to the ridge, where the trail opens to a magnificent natural amphitheater. Push to the summit of Vito (6,430') and enjoy a lunch paired with panoramic views of Rakitnica Canyon and the neighboring peaks of Bjelasnica and Treskavica. Then, follow a narrow ridge to Drstva peak (5,932') for more mountain majesty and descend to meet the vehicle and transfer to Mostar. Enjoy dinner in the Old Town this evening.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 5-6 hours/7 miles hiking with 2,950' elevation gain and loss

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Discover Historic Mostar & Herzegovina Wines

Start the day with an exploration of UNESCO-listed Mostar and its famed bridge spanning the emerald Neretva River, Stari Most. Stroll cobbled lanes lined with slate-roofed Turkish houses in this enchanting city steeped in Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian history. In Blagaj, find the unusual source of the Buna River, a powerful spring rising from a karst cave at the bottom of a dramatic 650-foot cliff, and the remarkable 16th century Sufi monastery at the spring's edge. Finish the day at a Herzegovina winery, savoring a winemaking tradition that dates to the Roman era as you sip reds and whites from this fertile yet undiscovered region.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 45-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours/1.5 miles walking tour

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Travel to Sutjeska National Park & Summit Kuk

Head for the nation's oldest national park and one of the highlights of the Via Dinarica, Sutjeska, and hike from the Papain Do hut through wide-angle landscapes to a picturesque glacial lake called Jagodino, then continue over open stark mountain terrain to the summit of Kuk (5,960'), right on the border with Montenegro. The peak affords panoramic views of Zelengora and the imposing rock wall of Volujak. Descend amid the slopes of Volujak and Lebrsnik, rejoining the trail. Stop for a picnic lunch before continuing to your hotel inside the park. Before dinner, take a quick stroll to see the angular WWII Partisan Memorial.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 4-hour private van transfer



Trek to the Top of Maglic in the Dinaric Alps

Beginning at remote Lokva Derneceste, hike through old growth forests and open, mountainous terrain. Ascend above the tree line, where the landscape becomes rugged and cables secure part of the climb. Sweeping vistas encourage you to Maglic's summit (7,828')—the highest and mightiest peak in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 360-degree panorama of the Dinaric Alps plummeting into glacial valleys is breathtaking. Descend a steep gravelly trail with more stunning scenery to the shores of emerald-green Trnovacko Lake (4,921'). A few more miles below a ring of rocky peaks and you reach Prijedor, and the end of today's adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 9 hours/9 miles hiking with 4,250' elevation gain and 4,210' elevation loss



Raft the Tara River & Drive to Montenegro

Rest your legs but get some thrills on today's rafting adventure through the deepest river canyon in Europe. After leaving the hotel, sit back and enjoy the beautiful views along the Drina River, reaching the place where the Piva and Tara Canyons join. There, put in for a rafting journey on the Tara, its translucent turquoise waters flowing along the base of an awe-inspiring 3,000-foot canyon with spellbinding wilderness all around. After enjoying an early dinner along the river, cross over the border into Montenegro and the town of Zabljak on the edge of spectacular Durmitor National Park.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 3-4 hours/10 miles rafting (Class II-III)



Climb Bobotov Kuk in Durmitor National Park

Bobotov Kuk (8,277') is the crown jewel of UNESCO-listed Durmitor National Park and today you'll climb to the top! Starting relatively high at 6,230 feet, hike up the grassy slope of Surutka toward Zupci, a magnificent series of serrated peaks with 14 sharp, rocky "teeth." After circling the otherworldly massif, arrive at Zeleni Vir, a glacial lake and begin a steep, rocky ascent toward Bobotov Kuk, the views expanding with every step until the summit, where vistas stretch all the way to the Adriatic on a clear day. Enjoy lunch here, and then descend via a grassy basin, Mlijecni Do, to take a short ride back to Zabljak for a well-deserved rest.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/7.5 miles hiking with 2,130' elevation gain and 3,035' elevation loss



Journey to Storybook Theth Village in Albania

Get your last glimpses of Montenegro on the drive to the border, then cross into Albania's dreamy Theth Valley and the Alps of Albania National Park. One of the most isolated villages in the country, Theth is nestled into the southernmost region of the Dinaric Alps, the Albanian Alps. Explore this idyllic village where age-old traditions have prevailed over the centuries, following the Kanun (clan code). Visit its 1892 Roman Catholic church, watermill, and lock-in tower—used during blood feuds—then have dinner and overnight at a family-run guest house.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 5-hour private van transfer (with breaks/border crossing)

ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours/1.5 miles hiking



Hike from Theth to Valbona in the Accursed Mountains

Today load the luggage into the vehicles and hike from Theth to Valbona along an old mule trail that is the only direct connection between the two valleys. This scenic but challenging route begins in the Valley of Theth (2,644') then climbs steeply upward through beech woods and grassy meadows towards Valbona Pass (5,890'). At the top, enjoy a picnic lunch and sensational views across the Alps of Albania National Park, including the Theth and Valbona Valleys and the "Accursed Mountains," better known as the Albanian Alps. Today's alternative is a full-day transfer that includes a ferry boat ride over the blue waters of Komani Lake, followed by a short walk around Valbona.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: Hikers: 30-minute private van transfer Non-hikers: 5.5-hour van transfer and 2.5-hour ferry

ACTIVITY: 7 hours/6 miles hiking with 3,750' elevation gain and 2,400' elevation loss



Take a Day Trip to Kosovo & Explore Tirana

Cross into Kosovo to visit Decani Monastery, a 14th century Serbian Orthodox building with over 1,000 beautifully preserved Byzantine frescoes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch in the historic Prizren neighborhood, where the architecture reflects early Roman and Ottoman influence. Returning to Albania, head to the capital, Tirana, for an afternoon immersed in fascinating history. From the the Ottoman-era Et'hem Bey Mosque to the 21st century Resurrection of Christ Orthodox Cathedral, you'll see an Enver Hoxha-era bunker and section of the infamous Berlin Wall and learn how this city has transformed over the ages, from Ottoman origins to an isolated communist capital to a dynamic, modern European city.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 6-hour private van transfer (with stops)

ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours/2 miles city walking tour



Depart from Tirana

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flights home or to your next destination, the natural splendor, cultural traditions, and phenomenal history of these nations reverberating in your head and heart.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 50-minute private van transfer



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Hotel Europe

Nestled in the heart of Sarajevo's Bascarsija, Hotel Europe was built in 1892 during the Austro-Hungarian period and has survived wars and restorations over the centuries, its original facade, marble floors and crystal chandeliers reflecting its deep history. Rooms are contemporary and spacious with all the modern amenities. Have a cake and coffee in the original Viennese Cafe or unwind at the spa, complete with swimming pool, Turkish bath, and solarium.

Hotel Monti

Situated on the slopes of majestic Mt. Igman in the Dinaric Alps, Monti Hotel is an ideal base for mountain adventure. Relax and recharge in the spa's indoor swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, salt room, and treat yourself to a treatment designed to restore balance to the body. Spacious climate-controlled rooms invite, with valley and mountain views. There are multiple dining options including a champagne bar and an open-air cafe surrounded by striking scenery.

Hotel Emporia

A stylish boutique hotel amid the vineyards outside of historic Mostar, Hotel Emporia's 12 airy guest rooms echo the earth tones of the surrounding estate, each with vineyard views. Below the hotel is an award-winning Herzegovina winery. Above ground you find a farm-to-table restaurant, featuring Mediterranean flavors, and an infinity pool overlooking the vines. With easy access to the city, nestled in wine country, this is a relaxed base for Mostar explorations.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Villas Tjentiste

Set in spectacular Sutjeska National Park, Villas Tjentiste has an ideal location with trails nearby. Simple rooms with private bathrooms and leaf-green accents provide a comfortable stay after active days on the trail. Step outside to fresh mountain air on the sunny terrace and a small refreshing swimming pool. Fuel up in the evening with hearty local fare, including traditional pod pekom dishes cooked "under the dome," in a relaxed atmosphere.

Hotel Zabljak

Alpine tradition meets modern design in the asymmetrical chalet-style Hotel Zabljak, which is conveniently located in the town center, yet close to Durmitor National Park and nearby hiking trails. Paneled in pine, spacious rooms have comfy beds and ensuite bathrooms. The onsite restaurant serves regional fare made with the freshest ingredients from its own organic farm. The small spa offers a welcome soak, massage, or steam after a day on the trail.

Niko Harusha

In the traditional village of Theth, at the foot of the Accursed Mountains, Niko Harusha is a welcoming, family-run guest house built in contemporary alpine style with stone walls and gabled roofs. Stylish pine-paneled rooms have crisp white linens, ensuite bathrooms, and garden views. Enjoy your breakfast looking out at the impressive mountains through floor-to-ceiling windows and home-cooked dinners with fresh ingredients, often sourced from the family's own garden.

Villa Dini

The wood and brick facade of this peak-roofed lodging is graced with wide balconies and commands spectacular mountain views. Simple, clean rooms with comfy beds have warm wood accents and ensuite bathrooms. A helpful staff ensure your stay is enjoyable and the authentic Albanian meals get excellent reviews. The property is located amidst green meadows full of wildflowers in spring and summer.

Hotel Oxford

Hotel Oxford is just steps from Skanderbeg Square and Tirana's historic center. Each air-conditioned room is different—a balcony, a chandelier—all have high ceilings, views of the old city, comfy beds, and thoughtful amenities. Enjoy breakfast at the top floor restaurant with a great view over Tirana. Its central, walkable location and friendly staff make it an excellent base for discovering the city and a comfortable retreat after.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: June, July, August

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

June 21-July 3, 2027

July 26-August 7, 2027

August 30-September 11, 2027

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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