

Legends of the Wolf, Montenegro

Itinerary

Day 1:

Depending upon the time of your arrival, you may have time to explore the city of Podgorica. The highlights of this small city can easily be seen in just a few hours on foot.

Later in the afternoon, meet up with the rest of the group for the transfer to the small Mountain Riders' ranch, where the horses are based between tours. After settling into your room at the guest house, meet for a ride briefing, get to know the horses, and organize equipment. In the evening, your hosts will prepare a barbeque or traditional Montenegrin stew.

Dinner and overnight at Mountain Riders guesthouse.

Day 2:

After breakfast, transfer to the start of the ride at Vucje Tourist Complex in the northern mountains over Niksic.

On arrival, saddle the horses and ride out into the wide open high plateau, where grassy paths criss-cross the pastures which are bordered by the majestic Lukovo Mountains. Trek up and over the Durkovo Brdo mountain range and experience Montenegrin farming culture that has remained unchanged for centuries in this isolated valley. Climb back up through the forest to the plains known as Konjsko ('of the horse') and have lunch in a picturesque meadow by the ruins of an old stone dwelling.



This afternoon's ride brings a mix of terrain including; gentle rolling hills, forest paths that wind their way between mountains, and grassy paths on gently rolling hills.

Riding for around four to five hours. Overnight at the Vucje Tourist Complex.

Day 3:

After a steep descent into the valley, you pass through forests and emerge in Gornja Bijela. Here you settle for a picnic lunch near to the Crnjak waterfall.



After lunch, you continue riding along the valley floor through traditional small settlements. You may be required to walk horse down steep descents towards Vojnik, which is a small complex that has been built in traditional Montenegrin style. This "Ethno Village" is comprised of stone and wood bungalows and a main restaurant serving dairy-based specialties of the region such as skorup, cicvaru, and kačamak with slow-roasted vegetables as well as fresh trout from the small local fishery.

Ride for around six hours, covering a distance of about 30-35 km. Overnight at Etno Village Vojnik.

Day 4:

Begin today's journey by fording the Bijela River and climbing up the side of the valley along quiet country roads, skirting the side of the mountain. This unique area of high meadows is bordered by three rivers, each flowing 500 m below. The elevated location provides views over the neighbouring mountain ranges of Durmitor, Sinjavina and Drobnjaci. Settle down for a well-earned picnic lunch overlooking the Bijela valley and the Krnovo mountain range.



After lunch, as the day winds down, descend towards the region of Malinsko and the village of Strug. The residents here are very proud and make their living in a traditional, northern Montenegrin way by tending to their cattle and sheep, curing meat and making cheese.

Your day ends by transferring to where you will spend the night and enjoying another traditional Montenegrin dinner.

Overnight in either Poscenje or Bijela. If you stay in Poscenje, it is possible to stop at a small market to get snacks and necessities en route.

Ride for around five hours, covering a distance of about 30 km.

Day 5:

After breakfast, transfer back up into the high pastures of the Kravica. You help tack up the horses and then continue your journey, riding through the lush meadows with some steep climbs. You will likely spot the enormous mountain dogs snoozing in the shade as they watch over their master's sheep.



You will have a picnic lunch overlooking the peaks of the Sinjajevina Mountains before entering the Javorje region. This is an area largely unexplored and unpublished on tourist maps, with numerous mountain ridges, river valleys and steep vertical slopes. You are surrounded by mountains called the

Lola, Kapa Moracka and Djava Lukavice. It can be cold here and patches of snow can linger until July. Finish today's ride on paths that criss-cross the largely uninhabited Krnovo region until venturing back to the dark forests, reaching the Vucje Tourist Complex once again to have dinner and overnight.

Ride for around five to six hours, covering a distance of about 38 km.

Day 6:

After a hearty breakfast, saddle the horses, and say farewell to your hosts. Ride your way across the rolling high plains towards the imposing Mount Babji Zub ('Grandmother's teeth' 2,277 m), where you and the horses enjoy a picnic lunch.

This afternoon, you make the ascent to Kapitanovo Jezero ("Captain's Lake"). This is a glacial lake tucked into the mountains above Lukovica. The horses graze whilst you relax and watch the daily routine of the shepherds who make this place their summer home.



After your rest, descend from the high lake where you reach Mala Lukovica, a katun (summer shepherd hut) nestled between two mountain ranges. Take a walk on foot along rock paths to the 'hidden' village of your hosts' ancestors. For centuries, Montenegrins had to hide from endless waves of invading soldiers in the rocky hills where they built stone refuges for themselves and their animals to shelter in.

Tonight you will stay in a round, wooden house called 'Moi-San', which means 'My Dream'. The house has five twin rooms and one double bedroom, each with an en-suite bathroom. Your host will prepare a traditional northern Montenegrin dinner for you this evening. He loves to spend his evenings sharing stories of local legends with his guests that he has spent years collecting from neighbouring settlements.



Ride for around four to six hours, covering a distance of about 30 km.

Day 7:

After breakfast, descend from Mala Lukovica through a protected valley and into a region of seemingly endless rolling grassy hills. Throughout the day, pass small katuns (summer shepherd huts), where farmers carry on the traditions of their ancestors.



A relaxing lunch awaits you at a local farm in a small area of the katun of Lučica. All of the ingredients have been grown and raised on this very farm.

A few steady canters and a descent through a dark forest leads you to your final destination of Vucje. Say farewell to the horses and maybe give them some well-deserved treats such as carrots and apples.



Transfer back to the Mountain Riders ranch near Podgorica. En-route, you may also have time to visit the Ostrog monastery.



This is arguably the most culturally important religious site in this area and the monastery is dedicated to Saint Basil, whose body is enshrined in one of the two cave chapels which are built into the side of a cliff face. It is recommended that you wear trousers and cover your shoulders as a sign of respect whilst visiting the monastery.

Overnight at the Mountain Riders guesthouse.

Ride for around four to five hours, covering a distance of about 25 km.

Day 8:

You will be taken to the Aria hotel near the Podgorica airport where you can relax around the pool and outdoor bar/restaurant until your flight.

If you have a late departure flight time you can choose an optional excursion (at own expense) to the lakeside village of Virpazar in Lake Skadar National Park. There are a variety of lake-based activities such as a boat ride or kayaking prior to their flight. This needs to be requested in advance.

If you are departing from Tivat or Dubrovnik, then your transfer arrangements will be confirmed locally.

Guests with later departures can choose an optional excursion (at own expense) to the lakeside village of Virpazar in Lake Skadar National Park. There are a variety of lake-based activities such as a boat ride or kayaking prior to their flight. Please contact us for further information.

Accommodation

You stay in a range of different accommodations including bed and breakfasts, bungalows, guest houses and small, round wooden houses.



Bathroom facilities are available, but they may be shared between more than one room.



A single supplement is payable to guarantee a single room (single rooms are subject to availability and very limited depending upon group size). They are also not likely to be available every night of the trail.

