

Hidden Bosnia

Bosnia and Herzegovina Where East Meets West

Visit the Bosnian Pyramids

Be among the first to visit the site of the newly-discovered **Bosnian Pyramids**. This seven-day trip also includes a visit to the colourful mosque and mediaeval fortress of Travnik, and to **Sarajevo** - the crossroads of ancient civilizations and the centre of old Ottoman life.

Enjoy a traditional home made meal in **Lukomir**, Bosnia's highest inhabited village, go **Rafting** through the stunning **Neretva canyon**, visit **Mostar** - the oriental gem of Herzegovina - **Blagaj** and the **Dervish Monastery** with its beautiful samples of **Ottoman** stone masonry. Finally, enjoy a swim in the **Adriatic**

This holiday is organised by an experienced local travel agent. Prices do not include flights but pick-ups are organised from Croatia airport (Split), which has cheap flights available.

Itinerary Guide:

- Day 1: Arrival in Split, and transfer to Travnik.
- Day 2: The Bosnian Pyramids
- Day 3: Sarajevo Discovery Tour
- Day 4: Visit Lukomir Village
- Day 5: Neretva Rafting and Mostar
- Day 6: Mostar and Blagaj
- Day 7: Transfer to and departure from Split

Price: Price:

Prices start at 470 EUR per person, for groups of six people.

470EUR (6-8 persons), 545EUR (4-5 persons), and 760EUR (2-3 persons). All prices are per person and without flights

Day 1

Arrival

Transfer from Split (Sarajevo) airport to Travnik. Our guide will pick you up from the airport and take you on the first leg of your amazing Bosnian adventure. After a 2.5 hour drive we arrive in Travnik, an old Ottoman trading post in central Bosnia, which has a rich history and boasts some of the most beautiful Turkish-style buildings, including many mosques, in the country. Travnik is also the birthplace of Ivo Andric, the Yugoslav Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature. After a short walk to Ivo Andric's birthplace, the old city fort and the old oriental part of Travnik, we end the day with a traditional dinner on the Blue River opposite the hotel.



Day 2

The Bosnian Pyramids

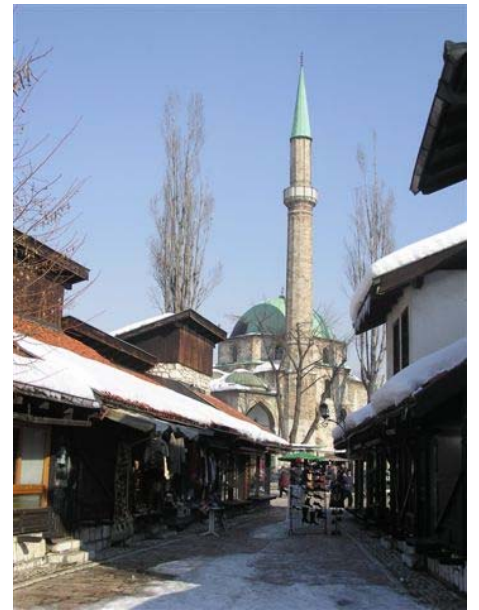
With the new discovery of the Valley of the Bosnian Pyramids, this is certain to bring this sleepy town into the limelight, and perhaps return some of its lost glory. There are fascinating cultural monuments to discover and the ingenuity of the craftsman to admire in the tiny shops in the old town or in the surrounding villages. Visoko is a place to go with a purpose - we will show you the old trade of leather sandal making and the infamous wooden filter pipes (cibuk) that this town is so well known for. We will walk up Visocica hill and imagine the ancient civilizations that have settled there, and perhaps even built the only known pyramids in all of geographical

Europe. Believer or skeptic, it is still an amazing experience to visit the site of a medieval fortress built on top of a pyramid.

Day 3

Sarajevo discovery tour

Your trip starts in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one of the most oriental and culturally-diverse cities in Europe. Sarajevo spent over 300 years under Turkish governorship until the Austro-Hungarians arrived in the late nineteenth century. Fifty years later, the empire collapsed when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated here, hastening the outbreak of the First World War.



The late twentieth century saw Sarajevo host the Winter Olympics in 1984, and the long siege of the city during the recent conflict. You can experience a two-hour walking tour of the major historical, cultural and war sites in the city and piece together its complex and fascinating history.

Sites to see:

1. The Old Town - Sarajevo's medieval beginnings
2. Old Town Hall (National Library) - 1896
3. Jajce Castle (Eugene of

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Savoy Castle)

4. Alifakovac Cemetery - 1550
5. Kazandziluk Street - old coppersmiths at work
6. Bascarsija (Old Town's Main Square)
7. Orthodox Church - 1539
8. Synagogue - 1581
9. Roman Catholic Cathedral - 1889
10. Svrzo House (Turkish Style house of well-known Muslim family)
11. The story of Gazi Husref Bey - the founding of a city
12. Latin Bridge - place of King Ferdinand's assassination - June 28, 1914

After our city tour we set off in vehicles to see Sarajevo from above as well as pay a visit to the famous Sarajevo War Tunnel. The tunnel provided the citizens of Sarajevo with a lifeline during Sarajevo's 1,400 days of isolation and was the only "reliable" road for goods and electricity into Sarajevo.



Day 4

Lukomir:

Lukomir (60 min south-east of Sarajevo) is Bosnia's highest village at 1,469 meters, with its ancient 'stecci' (medieval tombstones). Here, villagers stick to the 'old way' of doing things. Traditional dress, the occasional turban and fez are still worn and go hand in hand with the more contemporary bliss of everyday life - electricity and running water. On the edge of the village you will be treated with a rare view of Rakitnica.

You have arrived at the end of the world. Here you will have a peek into the lifestyles traditions of the Bjelasnica highlanders that have survived since ancient times. We will first visit the local villagers before heading off into the canyon to see a waterfall and the amazing Rakitnica Canyon. Lunch will be served on the high ridge over an 800 meter drop into the canyon, with stunning views of the mountains. This place and its people will leave a lasting impression on you.



Day 5: Mostar

Today we drive to Mostar via Konjic and Jablanica. We stop in Konjic for an unforgettable rafting adventure on the Neretva. The Neretva river is the emerald of Herzegovina, flowing over 100 kilometres from its source into the Adriatic sea. In the upper canyon, where our partners operate, is some of the most exciting rafting in Europe. Expect Deep canyon walls, endemic flora and fauna, and a wild & pristine ambiance that only the

Neretva can provide. Our well-equipped team are ready to guide first timers or old pros on a wonderful white water adventure. This trip can be managed by all levels of experience. The water is calm during this time of the year, and the trip provides ample opportunity to enjoy the canyon and its unique flora and fauna.

After our rafting adventure we set off for Mostar where we'll spend the evening exploring Mostar, the former oriental trading centre of Herzegovina, situated on the Neretva River. Undoubtedly, you will have heard much about this city, which was split during the conflict in the early 1990s. You'll still see the scars of war, but these days Mostar is once again a warm and bustling place with a fascinating history and wonderful architecture.

Sites to see:

1. Ancient oriental old town - Mostar (16th century)
2. Old Bridge - 1566
3. Koski Mehmed Pasa Mosque - 1618-1619
4. Kriva Cuprija (Oblique Bridge) - 1558
5. Kujundziluk Street - old coppersmiths street
6. Karadzobegova Mosque - 1577
7. Cardak (Watch tower)
8. Biscavica House (Traditional Turkish house with court yard)
9. Medrese (Muslim religious secondary school)

We overnight in a small hotel near the old bridge in Mostar.

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Day 6: Blagaj and the Dervish monastery

After breakfast we set off for the nearby village of Blagaj. Blagaj's highlights are the Buna Spring and the adjacent Ottoman house/monastery. The spring is amazing. It flows out of a 200m cliff wall and single-handedly creates the Buna River. Unsurprisingly, the Ottoman sultan was impressed, and ordered a Tekija to be built right next to it. This 16th century house/monastery was built for the Dervish cults and is still one of the most mystical places in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Blagaj's old town is also worth exploring. This lazy Herzegovinan town moves at a slow pace and many



of its old structures are reminiscent of Ottoman days. A newly-built heritage trail around the town is a rather pleasant 30-45 minute walk, starting at the Tekija Dervish House and visiting the Velagic house built in 17th century - a beautiful example of Ottoman stone masonry. In the vicinity are also old flour mills that the strong Buna powered. After lunch we drive back to Mostar for some

well-deserved free time.

Day 7: Heading home from Split, Croatia

Our last day takes us back to Croatia along the old coast road, where we'll stop for a swim before we take you to Split airport for your flight back home.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects. At the time of writing visas are not required by American or EU passport holders. Other nationalities should check with the relevant embassies.

Vaccinations and Health

There are no compulsory vaccinations required, however we recommend that hepatitis A, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations are up to date. Please consult your doctor or vaccination centre for up to date information.



Accommodation

In Travnik we will stay in Motel Aba, just opposite of the famous Plava Voda restaurant. It is a small pension with nice rooms and apartments with modern furniture, ensuite bathroom and some even with a jacuzzi.

In Sarajevo we will use hotel Hecco, a small 3 star hotel, or stay in a small private apartment in the old oriental part of the town. Hecco is a great place with all the the comforts you find in other upmarket hotels: rooms with phone, AC and satellite TV, and en suite bathrooms.

In Mostar we use Pension Kriva Cuprija (three stars). Pension Kriva Cuprija, a new pension just a stone's throw away from the old bridge, is a favorite place among all visitors. It offers clean rooms with mini bar, a/c and en suite bathrooms.



Food Included

Breakfast is provided on all days.

Lunch is provided on all days, except on day 7.

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Typical Meals

Breakfasts in Travnik, Sarajevo and Mostar will be a choice between hot and cold buffet. Vegetarian and special diets can be catered for, but options are limited throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina – please inform the office of any specific requirements upon booking.

The specialty food you will enjoy can only be found here. We'll treat your soul to the great taste of traditional Bosnian meals such as:

1. Sheep grilled over an open fire. These free-range "janjetina" are a famous Balkan delight.
2. Oriental style desserts found in the old towns like baked apple stuffed with walnuts and layered with a sweet sauce.
3. Bosnian veal is famous for its organic, free-range nature. Straight off the mountainside to your dinner plate.
4. Cevapi is the famous Bosnian sausage with a magical blend of spices that will keep you coming back for more.
5. Pita is the traditional highland meal made from thin dough and stuffed with potato, beef, spinach or cheese – it's simple and simply delicious!
6. If you are a coffee lover Bosnia is the place to be...Bosnian coffee is a national pastime and every street corner will serve this specialty in a Turkish style "dzezva" and 'fildzan'.
7. The fruits and veggies here are mostly organic, grown in the rich countryside with no chemicals or preservatives. Just one taste and you'll know the difference.
8. BiH is home to hundreds of herbs that have great medicinal power...mountain teas give you the great taste of nature in one little cup.

9. Organic honey has been a tradition here for centuries. Herzegovina's sunny climate is ideal for producing Europe's finest organic honey.
10. The fresh cheeses are unmatched...be sure to ask for 'Travnicki Sir' if you like light, salty cheeses. Mladi Sir is a young cheese with a less salty taste and served with freshly made doughnut-like rolls.
11. Herzegovina wines are relatively unknown, YET! The white and red wines are organically grown and old methods are used to guarantee the quality you will find in every glass.
12. If you like a strong drink then be sure to indulge in a rakija – this traditional spirit will warm you in no time, and again, organically produced.
13. BiH is famous for its crystal clear waters. These waters are home to fresh trout and eel that will make your mouth water. The fresh seafood cooked Dalmatian style will also delight your taste buds with scampi, grouper, red snapper, squid and octopus just to name a few.
14. Many of the traditional meals are prepared under the 'sac'. This highland tradition has come to the cities as well...food is prepared under red-hot wooden coals with a metal top. The top is then covered with hot ash as the food is deep-earth cooked. It's a method unique to this area and makes the food extra tasty.

Extra Expenses and Spending Money

We recommend that you allow up to 7.5 EUR for lunch and 10 EUR for dinner in Bosnia and Herzegovina, however this amount will vary according to where and what you choose to eat. Although not

customary in Bosnia you can leave a 10% tip as a sign of your appreciation.

Staff and Support

You will be accompanied by one of our English-speaking, knowledgeable driver/guides throughout the trip. An additional local guide will join you in Visoko and provide you with a unique insight into the recent developments regarding the pyramids, local and regional historical and cultural heritage. In addition our partners staff are available, should require additional support or services.

info@hiddenbosnia.com

Transport

We will travel by Renault, Volkswagen or Mercedes minivan. The main roads are in principle good, but in places very windy. It is on the various mountain roads that you will at times experience a bumpy and slow ride.

Essential Equipment and Clothing

In addition to your "normal" summer clothes, we suggest you bring along the following: waterproof jacket, fleece/jumper, good walking shoes, shorts, swimming costume, hat, sunblock, and camera.

Responsible Tourism Policy

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment. Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of our partners. Trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are

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