Explore the Rural Beauty of the Western Balkans With Us!
This brochure was prepared by The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG) with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The authors views expressed in this brochure do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
Welcome to a paradise known for extraordinary natural treasures and tremendous history! Join us on a journey exploring the Western Balkans, with a focus on eco and rural values of local communities and spiced up with some adrenaline giving nature adventures and delicious food! Pick one or more of our 8 carefully curated tours and immerse yourself in exploring crystal clear lakes and rivers, mountaintop villages, hiking breath-taking areas, ski-shoeing and much more!

Explore-Balkans brought stakeholders together to develop joint products/tours that combine unique ecotourism, rural tourism, and adventure tourism with gastronomic experiences.

Explore-Balkans is a product of the project “Support to the Inbound Tourism Development in the Western Balkans Cross-Border Rural Areas”, implemented by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG) and co-financed by the USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project and SWG.

Let’s start exploring together!

Our Goal –
To show the real beauty of the Western Balkans to the world.

Our Mission –
To increase the interest in the Western Balkans travels.

Our Vision –
To contribute to the sustainable tourism development in the Western Balkans through a rural and eco approach.

www.explore-balkans.com
Hiking Beyond Borders

**Description**
Explore the Trail ‘Peaks of The Balkans’ with the Zbulo team, passing through Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro, and back to Albania! Be prepared for long, continuous trekking days and expect to be rewarded with first-class panoramas of a remarkably diverse landscape, warm Balkan hospitality and the inspiring and modest lifestyle of the locals! Make your way through mountains and valleys, from guesthouses to shepherd huts; from a glass of local rakia to a home-cooked meal and meet the rural beauty of the Western Balkans!

**Best for who?**
- Active Travellers
- Nature Lovers
- Active Families with Children and Teenagers

**Best for what?**
- Trekking
- Exploring New Destinations and Cultures
- Time in Nature
- Breath-taking Views
- Rural Experience

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Crossing the borders between Albania, Kosovo* and Montenegro on foot
- Hiking through five amazing national parks on this genuine trekking journey
- Experiencing a melting pot of cultures
- Ascending the panoramic peaks of Mt. Trekufiri, Hajla, Taljanka and Arapi
- Meeting a colorful selection of warm hosts and local accommodations
- Enjoying the rural lifestyle of the Western Balkans

**About the Tour**
+355 69 2121 612
contact@zbulo.org
www.zbulo.org

ECO • RURAL • ADVENTURE
Albania ➔ Kosovo* ➔ Montenegro ➔

**Budget**
Affordable to Moderate

**Level of difficulty**
Medium – It is recommended to have basic experience in hiking and trekking.
Active Holidays

Description
Come on an adventure, packed with culture, nature and gastronomy and some of the highlights of Montenegro and Serbia! Easy hiking is combined with discoveries in the national parks, virgin forests, stunning lakes and their ecosystems. This tour is suitable for families with teenagers, children, or friend groups. During hiking or other activities included in each day, the tour takes you to katuns, old villages, small family-owned wineries, markets, ethno restaurants, so you will be able to taste and smell the original Balkan cuisine which is a representation of the many historical influences that have occurred over the centuries.

Best for who?
- Active Families with Children and Teenagers
- Group of Friends
- Nature Lovers

Best for what?
- Hiking
- Exploring Culture and Gastronomy
- Time in Nature

HIGHLIGHTS
- Exploring nature at an easy pace
- Visiting National parks
- Exploring lakes and rivers on kayaks and boats
- Helping reforestation
- Enjoying the rural lifestyle of the Western Balkans

Budget
Affordable to Moderate

Level of difficulty
Easy to medium, basic hiking experience recommended
Sandzak Shenanigans

Description
This tour is designed for adrenaline seekers who enjoy exploring hidden and unusual places. The tour off the beaten path of Serbia and Montenegro is filled with amazing stops. The guests will have an opportunity to stay in rural areas of the Western Balkans, enjoy organic food, and jump on adventures like rafting, kayaking, hiking, cave exploring and horseback riding. The easy pace of this tour is perfectly created to fit travelers of all ages, allowing them to enjoy gorges and caves in Northeast Montenegro, explore protected water reserves of West Serbia on kayaks, and discover cultural monuments of this region on daily hiking trips.

Best for who?
• Groups of Friends
• Retired Travelers

Best for what?
• Tasting Local Food
• Easy Hiking
• Learning About Cultures and Rural Lifestyle

HIGHLIGHTS
• White-water rafting on rivers Lim and Tara
• Hiking through Uvac Special Nature Reserve, Durmitor National Park and Tara River Basin (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve)
• Exploring underground life through caving
• Sightseeing of Monastery Saint Nikola (1707) and Sopotnica Waterfalls
• Local organic food
• Enjoying the local lifestyle

About the Tour
+382 50 432 374
rams@t-com.me
www.ramstravel.co.me

Budget
Affordable
Level of difficulty
Easy, basic hiking experience recommended
Outdoor Kosovo is an adventure travels operation, offering its services to local and international visitors who want to explore nature and culture on their holidays. Our certified guides and instructors will help you make the most out of your holiday. This tour is best for the winter season in the Western Balkans and for active travelers who like skiing and ski-shoeing. The possibility of visiting 3 countries on only 1 tour adds value to this amazing trip that takes you to the very high peaks of Balkans for an incredible snow adventure!
Kayak Regatta on Drina and Sava

Description
Explore the river Drina from its origin to the confluence in Sava River. Sailing along these rural areas lets you discover and enjoy the natural beauty, cultural and historical heritage, getting to know the people and their customs – ethnology, ethnography and gastronomy. The tour includes a route from Šćepan Polje to Belgrade in the length of 524 km. While paddling, we pass through the landscapes of narrow valleys along the Drina River, the third deepest canyon in the world, with wavy hills and mountains in the hinterland and closer to the flat land. This program is best performed from April to October.

Best for who?
- Nature Lovers
- Group of Friends
- Families
- Teams

Best for what?
- Exploring on Water
- Kayaking in Canyons
- Environment Protection

HIGHLIGHTS
- Kayaking in the 3rd deepest canyon in the world
- Discovering the Western Balkans culture and heritage
- Crossing borders by paddling
- Exploring rivers Drina and Sava on kayaks
- Sightseeing of Visegrad, Mehmed Pasa Sokolovic Bridge (UNESCO protected site), the underground town of Karadjordjevic Dynasty, Zvornik and Sabac Fortresses, and Sremska Mitrovica - the birth place of Roman emperors
- Spa resorts Banja Koviljaca and Vilina Vlas

Budget
Affordable to Moderate

Level of difficulty
Medium, basic experience in kayaking recommended
Traditional Spirits of the Western Balkans

Description
This adventure tour of the Western Balkans offers a diversified itinerary through North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Albania. The itinerary will provide the most unique, outdoor experiences that this region offers. You will experience a centuries old lifestyle, local organic foods, crystal clear lakes; soft adventures activities and peace, while accommodated in the rural areas, learning about diverse ethnic folklore through interaction with locals. Activities vary from hikes in different national parks, cooking lessons on regional trademark dishes, learning about local crafts, getting around the hives and beekeeping as well as pulling the nets with proper fishermen. By avoiding the crowds, you will discover the real Balkans and have an unforgettable holiday for lifelong memories!

HIGHLIGHTS
- Tasting local food and learning about the local lifestyle of Western Balkans communities
- Exploring UNESCO heritage and national parks
- Sightseeing of beautiful places and monuments
- Fly Fishing along the tear of Europe – Tara river
- Boat rides and bird watching on Skadar Lake
- Exploring the Ohrid region

Best for who?
• Retired Travellers
• Group of Friends
• Families

Best for what?
• Rural Experience
• Food Tasting
• Hiking

About the Tour
+389 70 836 074
experiencebalkanmk@gmail.com
www.experiencebalkan.mk

Budget
Affordable
Level of difficulty
Easy to medium, activities filled program, active vacation

www.explore-balkans.com

ECO • RURAL • ADVENTURE
North Macedonia  Kosovo*  Montenegro  Albania

www.explore-balkans.com
A Memorable Richness in a Bite and a Sip

Description

Experience the Western Balkans’ richness; its beautiful unspoiled nature and tradition accompanied by famous hospitality. Our travel program presents traditional and unique products, services and places; and offers integrated tourism products that include cultural heritage, natural values, recreational infrastructure and agricultural products, characteristic of this area.

On this tour, guests will enjoy mountains, rivers, lakes, taste authentic dishes and drinks, visit rural households, archaeological sites, cultural and historical facilities, hiking, boat riding, fishing, horseback riding.

Best for who?
• Gourmets
• Families
• Mature Travelers
• Wine Lovers

Best for what?
• Gastronomy Experience
• Rural Lifestyle
• Local Food

HIGHLIGHTS

• The pristine environment (nature, air and the food)
• The great gastronomy experiences, food preparation in Zlakusa pottery dishes (UNESCO old crafts)
• Learning about tradition and community lifestyle
• Sightseeing of stunning landscapes and cultural heritage
• Outdoor activities
• Sustainable travels including green and organic stops in harmony with nature

Budget
Affordable

Level of difficulty
Easy, gastronomy lovers recommended
Balkan Canyon Lakes Kayak Tour

Description
Balkan Canyon Lakes Kayaking is an adventure tour that leads participants to the magnificent canyons of Uvac, Lim and Drina River in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. By kayaking travelers can experience recreational water activities in the special nature reserves of Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, meet local people and taste local food products, and indulge in glorious outdoor and cultural attractions.

Best for who?
- Active Travelers
- Nature Lovers
- Group of Friends
- Families

Best for what?
- Water Holidays
- Kayaking
- Exploring Nature
- Active Holiday

HIGHLIGHTS
- More than 130 km of kayaking
- Breathtaking viewpoints in Uvac Special Nature Reserve and Tara National Park
- Sightseeing of Wooden city (Mokra Gora); Shargan Eight, narrow-gauge heritage railway and Open-air Museum Old Village Sirogojno
- Griffon Vultures watching in Uvac Special Nature Reserve
- Observing the wild goats on the rocks of Perucac Lake

Budget
Moderate

Level of difficulty
Medium, basic experience in kayaking recommended
Explore-Balkans is a product of the project “Support to the Inbound Tourism Development in the Western Balkans Cross-Border Rural Areas”, implemented by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG) and co-financed by the USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project and SWG. The authors views expressed in this brochure do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.
Explore the Rural Beauty of the Western Balkans With Us!