

THE JEWISH HERITAGE OF THE BALKANS
Croatia-Bosnia-Serbia
13-24 June 2018

In association with Jewish Heritage Tours

Day 1 Wed 13 June

We arrive at Montenegro's **Tivat** airport at 5.30 pm and drive to our hotel for a welcome dinner.



Day 2 Thur 14 June

A drive around Boka Kotorska Bay, passing the Herceg Novi spa resort and crossing into Croatia before arriving at **Dubrovnik**. There our walking tour includes Zudioska St, with its Jewish community centre and 15th century synagogue, the old city square, old harbour, Sponza and Rector's Palaces. Late afternoon we drive to **Neum** in Bosnia where we dine and spend the night.



Day 3 Fri 15 June

Our drive takes us along the river Neretva and through its breathtaking canyon. In **Mostar** we tour the city with its famed Turkish bridge and oriental market and hear about the small Jewish community. After lunch we continue to **Sarajevo**. We check in to our hotel and go to a Shabbat service, followed by a kiddush and dinner with members of Sarajevo Jewish community in the community centre.



Day 4 Saturday 16 June

Those who wish attend a Shabbat service. Then a half day tour of Sarajevo reveals its rich and turbulent Muslim Christian and Jewish history. We visit the Jewish Museum in the Old Synagogue and hear the story of the Sarajevo Haggadah; the Ashkenazi synagogue and the 17th century Jewish cemetery. If time permits after lunch we drive to the mountain resorts that hosted the Winter Olympic games in 1974. Dinner in a local national restaurant.



Day 5 Sunday 17 June

We drive through the picturesque landscape and villages of Eastern Bosnia to arrive at **Visegrad**, located on the river Drina, the town of the Nobel prize-winner Ivo Andric (author of Bridge on the Drina). We visit the city and take a boat ride on the Drina. After lunch we cross into Serbia and arrive in **Drvengrad** where we stay overnight.

Day 6 Monday 18 June

We take a narrow gauge railway to the **Mt Zlatibor** summer resort and Sirogojno Ethno village and the Stepica Cave. We continue our drive to Belgrade via the beautiful Ovcar Kablar Gorge and arrive at our hotel in the evening. Dinner is in a national restaurant.



Day 7 Tues 19 June We drive through the **Djerdap National Park**, stopping to look at the 14th century Golubac Fortress, to the Captain Misha ethno-village where we stop for lunch. Our drive continues through the fascinating scenery of the **Iron Gates** to Tekija where we take a boat trip on the Danube. We drive on to our hotel in **Kladovo**.

Day 8 Wed 20 June We visit the remains of the famous Trajan's Bridge, the Archeological Museum and the monument to Jewish refugees on the escape route to Palestine in 1939. We drive to Lepenski Vir, a 7,000 year old archaeological site on the bank of the Danube and lunch at Silver Lake. We arrive in **Belgrade** in the evening.

Day 9 Thur 21 June



We take a city tour of Belgrade and explore its rich Sephardic and Ashkenazi presence. The visit includes the Jewish Historical Museum and Community Centre; Dorchol, the former Jewish quarter and the Holocaust memorial by the Danube.

We visit Sukkat Shalom, the only active synagogue in Serbia, the Sephardi and Ashkenazi cemetery, Kalemegdan Park, Belgrade fortress; the elegant Republic Square, National Theatre and National Museum. We stroll along Knez Mihajlova Street, the main shopping centre. By bus we visit Old Belgrade Terazije Square, Parliament, old and new royal palaces and the former concentration camp Topovske Šupe. Then we cross the new Ada Bridge into New Belgrade, a booming city where Communist style buildings are interspersed with glass and steel ultramodern constructions.

In the evening we dine in the bohemian Skadarlija with typical national food and music and go on to the first night of the Ethno-Fusion Fest in the Synagogue courtyard.

Day 10 Fri 22 June

We visit the Staro Sajmiste Holocaust memorial on the site of the former Juden Lager Semlin concentration camp and learn the tragic history of Serbian Jews.



We visit Zemun's Jewish quarter – Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai Street, the former Ashkenazi Synagogue and cemetery where we see the graves of Theodor Hertzl's grandparents. Then we drive to **Novi Sad** on the way stopping at the baroque town of Sremski Karlovci, seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church under the Habsburg Monarchy, and visiting a local vinyard for wine and honey tasting. We enjoy the view of Novi Sad from Petrovaradin, a fortress constructed during Austro-Hungarian empire, and then tour Novi Sad, visiting the Holocaust memorial, the Synagogue and the baroque city centre. After lunch we return to Belgrade for a Shabbat service with the Belgrade Jewish community.

Day 11 Sat 23 June

Those who wish attend a Shabbat service. We visit the House of Flowers, the resting place of Marshal Tito and Museum of Yugoslav History, and the Karadjordjevic Royal family compound in the smart area of Belgrade. Then we drive to nearby Mt Avala with its Monument to an Unknown Hero and TV tower. Afternoon is free and after dinner we return to the EthnoFest.



Day 11 Sun 24 June

The tour ends. Transfers to the airport.

For costs, flight details and booking form, go to www.jewishrenaissance.org.uk/tours after 15 September.