

MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR
TOUR OPERATORS

Ottoman Heritage Route in 9 days: Balkan programme for travel agencies and tour operators



The Ottoman Heritage Route is a 9-day programme through Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and North Macedonia, following the mosques, bridges, bazaars and dervish houses of the Ottoman Balkans from Sarajevo to Skopje. It is operated by travellige, a Sarajevo-based, trade-only DMC, for travel agencies and tour operators.

Duration

9 days

Route

Sarajevo → Skopje

Best months

April to June, September
to October

Group size

From 2 travellers by
private car to 45 by coach

At a glance

Duration

9 days, 8 nights

Overnights

Sarajevo 2, Mostar 2, Sarajevo 1, Novi Pazar 1, Prizren
1, Skopje 1

Border crossings

Three: BA-RS, RS-XK, XK-MK

Best months

April to June, September to October

Countries

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, North
Macedonia

Arrival / departure

Sarajevo (SJJ) / Skopje (SKP)

Longest drive

Sarajevo to Novi Pazar, about 6 hours with stops

Why this programme sells

For more than four centuries the Ottoman Empire shaped the towns of the central Balkans. This route connects its finest surviving examples: Baščaršija and the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque in Sarajevo, the vizier town of Travnik, Stari Most in Mostar, the tekke of Blagaj, the fortified village of Počitelj, the Sandžak town of Novi Pazar, the stone bridge and mosques of Prizren and the Old Bazaar of Skopje.

It is built for Turkish operators selling Ottoman heritage, for Muslim travellers from the Gulf and South-East Asia, and for European and American culture and study groups. Halal dining is easy along the whole route, and every day includes at least one major mosque, bridge or bazaar.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Sarajevo

Meet and greet at Sarajevo International Airport and transfer to the hotel (20 to 30 minutes). Evening walk to Baščaršija and dinner.

→ Sarajevo

DAY 2

Ottoman Sarajevo

Full-day guided tour: the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque and its madrasa and clock tower, Baščaršija and its crafts lanes, Morića Han caravanserai, the Emperor's Mosque, and the Latin Bridge. Afternoon at the Tunnel of Hope or the Vrelo Bosne park. Bosnian coffee in Baščaršija.

→ Sarajevo

DAY 3

Sarajevo to Mostar

Drive along the Neretva valley via Konjic and Jablanica (about 2.5 hours of driving in total). Afternoon guided tour of Mostar: Stari Most, built in 1566 and rebuilt in 2004, the Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque, the Karađoz-bey Mosque and the Bišćević house, a traditional Ottoman residence.

→ Mostar

DAY 4

Blagaj and Počitelj

Morning at the dervish tekke at the spring of the Buna in Blagaj (20 minutes). Continue to Počitelj (about 30 minutes) to explore the Hajji Alija Mosque, the clock tower and the fortress above the Neretva. Afternoon free in Mostar, or the Kravice waterfalls in season.

→ Mostar

DAY 5

Mostar to Travnik and Sarajevo

Drive via Jablanica, Prozor and Bugojno to Travnik (about 2.5 to 3 hours), seat of the Ottoman viziers of Bosnia for more than a century: the Painted Mosque, the vizier tombs, the fortress and the springs of Plava Voda. Return to Sarajevo (about 1.5 hours).

→ Sarajevo

DAY 6

Sarajevo to Novi Pazar

Early departure south-east via Višegrad into Serbia, then through Priboj, Prijepolje and Sjenica to Novi Pazar, the main town of the Sandžak (about 6 hours including stops and the border). Evening walk past the Altun-alem Mosque and the old Ottoman centre.

→ Novi Pazar

DAY 7**Novi Pazar to Prizren**

Optional early visit to the UNESCO-listed Sopoćani monastery near Novi Pazar, part of the Stari Ras listing. Drive into Kosovo, usually via the Jarinje crossing, then via Mitrovica and Pristina to Prizren (about 3.5 to 4 hours). Short stop in Pristina for the Sultan Mehmet Fatih Mosque and the old bazaar if time allows. Evening in Prizren: the Sinan Pasha Mosque, the Ottoman stone bridge and the old town.

→ Prizren

DAY 8**Prizren to Skopje**

Morning walk up to the Prizren fortress and visit to the Gazi Mehmed Pasha hammam. Drive to North Macedonia via the Hani i Elezit and Blace border (about 2 to 2.5 hours). Afternoon tour of Skopje's Old Bazaar, one of the largest in the Balkans: the Stone Bridge, the Mustafa Pasha Mosque, the Daut Pasha hammam and the Kapan and Suli caravanserais. Farewell dinner in the bazaar.

→ Skopje

DAY 9**Departure**

Transfer to Skopje International Airport (about 25 minutes).

Included in the ground package

- Accommodation in the hotel category agreed in the quote, in twin or double rooms, with breakfast
- All transport shown in the itinerary by air-conditioned coach, midibus or minibus sized to the group, with a professional driver
- Arrival and departure transfers on the programme dates
- Licensed local guides for the city tours named in the itinerary, in English, German, Turkish, Arabic or Italian
- Entrance fees to the sites marked as visited (not those marked optional)
- Parking, road tolls and the driver's accommodation and meals
- Local tourist (city) taxes on accommodation, itemised in the quote
- One operations contact reachable around the clock while the group is on the ground
- A tour manager from Sarajevo to Skopje, plus local guides in Sarajevo, Mostar, Prizren and Skopje
- Entrance fees to the Bišćević house, Blagaj tekke and the Tunnel of Hope
- Kosovo vehicle border insurance where required for the coach
- Halal menus throughout, confirmed in advance with each restaurant

Not included

- International and domestic flights, unless quoted separately
- Visa fees and any visa support beyond the invitation letters we can issue for confirmed bookings
- Travel and cancellation insurance
- Meals and drinks not listed as included
- Optional excursions and activities
- Tips for guides and drivers
- Personal expenses, portorage at hotels unless requested, and anything not listed under included
- Sopoćani monastery and Kravice waterfalls (optional)

Hotel categories

- Standard: 4-star city hotels in Sarajevo, Mostar and Skopje; the best available 3-star or 4-star hotels in Novi Pazar and Prizren
- Superior: upper 4-star and 5-star hotels in Sarajevo and Skopje, and boutique hotels in the old towns of Mostar and Prizren
- Boutique options in restored Ottoman houses in Sarajevo and Mostar for small groups
- Hotel capacity in Novi Pazar and Prizren is smaller; for groups over 35 we may split between two hotels

Group size and guiding

The route works for private couples with a driver-guide and for coach groups up to 45. For groups of 10 to 20 we recommend a midibus, which is easier in the narrow old towns of Počitelj, Prizren and Mostar.

A tour manager in English, German, Turkish, Arabic or Italian travels with the group. Turkish-speaking guiding is widely available on this route, as Turkish is understood in parts of the Sandžak, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

Net rates for registered travel agencies and tour operators on request.

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<https://travellige.com/en/programmes/multi-country/ottoman-heritage-route-9-days/>