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1-2-3-4 Via Balkanica Cycling: GO!

1 bike

2 legs

3 days

4 countries

Guided bike tour through 4 countries: Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and Macedonia.

<u>Prequalification required:</u> high level of difficulty with back to back days of significant climbing; contact <u>Tomi</u> or <u>Thierry</u> for more information.

We start with biking from Dubrovnik and during 3 days we cycle around 500 km, estimated group is up to 12 people, tour is for the demanded, experienced cyclist, those travelers who can cycle 500km in 3 days, the gain ascent between 1500 and 3000 m per day, travelers who do not mind for the early start (as that is the way to pass daily distances on time) and fancy hotels.

The group will have car support and support of the local cycling clubs (in each county) or cycling caravan will be accompanied by a groups of the local cyclist, they will follow us some section of the bike rides. We cycle maximum of the time and we expect that all the riders can cycle daily distances from the itinerary, support vehicle is really just for the support and cases of the emergency.

Introduction to the bike ride: during your first day in Dubrovnik

Tour itinerary or bike tour map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zojd9QIIptrY.kqJybXh9N7eg

May 6th arrival to Dubrovnik

Meet at Dubrovnik airport and shuttle to Dubrovnik hotel. This afternoon our group will meet each other, fit the bikes, meet the guides and learn about the trip, during evening hours we will go to the historical center for a casual sightseeing. After that group will be taken to a special place for the dinner.

May 7th: **Dubrovnik** – **Ulcinj (Montenegro**) 130 km, total ascent of the ride 2.162,00 m

The first day we start early (as every other day) just after the breakfast. We cycle from Dubrovnik along Croatian coast of Montenegro. After only 60 km in Croatia we enter to Montenegro, follow the coastline on Montenegro Riviera we pass towns Herceg Novi, Bay of Boka, Budva, Bar, to our destination Ulcinj.

May 8^{th:} Ulcinj – Tirana (capital of Albania) 175 km, total ascent of the ride 1.600,00 m

Second day cycling becomes more challenging and exciting, we ride from the Montenegro coastline up to the Skadarsko lake, town Skodra and Albanian border. Today we cycle in direction to capital of Albania, Tirana. Night and dinner in Tirana.

May 9th: Tirana – Ohrid (Macedonia) 180 km, total ascend of the ride 3.000,00 m

Last day is the we cycle from Tirana up to the hilly part of Albania, with beautiful but also demanded landscapes, we pass a town Elbasan and border with Macedonia where we continue along the Ohridsko lake to town Ohrid, where is our final destination.

Information about the tour:

We try to keep tour concept simple, interesting and challenging for all the riders. Our focus is on the free bike ride, spreading around the idea of cycling and discovering Balkan region on two wheels. As our main focus is biking and that was the idea from the early start in Chile, everything else is subordinated to that.

Accommodation during a tour is provided in small B&Bs and hotels for 3 nights, type of the service HB (breakfast and dinner), for the lunch: there will be something in the van; snacks, fruits and light meals.

Difficulty: 5 out of 5

Price for non-hosted delegates EUR 250,00

What is included?

- Bikes (road and trekking) different sizes are available on request, water bottle holder, patch kit, pump, lock and (eventually helmet, if you do not bring yours).
- Luggage transfer and vehicle support during a tour

- 3 nights in simple hotels (one night in Dubrovnik, one night in Ulcinj, Montenegro, one night in Tirana, Albania) dinners and breakfasts in hotels, light lunch (snacks, fruits, crackers) from the support vehicle during biking.
- 3 x breakfast, 3 x dinner, 3 days with snacks (light lunch)
- Two guides
- And great time

