

## Kosovo's Natural Beauty and Cultural Heritage

(4 nights – 5 days)



**Starting date / time / location:** 13 May 2016/ Ohrid, 8:30am from Inex Gorica Hotel

**Ending date / time / location:** 17 May 2016/ according to your flight schedule / Pristina Airport

**Trip Difficulty:** 1 2 3 4 5 (Moderate)

**Proposed tour leader:** Arsim Rexhepi. **Guide:** Edis Krusha, Agon Loci or Marigona Gashi

**Contact name, phone & email:** Arsim Rexhepi, +38649712511, [contact@kosovo-holidays.com](mailto:contact@kosovo-holidays.com)

### Day 1 - 13 May 2016 : Ohrid – Prizren (~ 4.5 hours driving time) L, D

At 8:30am from Inex Gorica Hotel in Ohrid, we transfer to Prizren, Kosovo, our home for the next two nights. Upon arrival, we enjoy an afternoon walking tour of the city, considered the cultural capital of Kosovo, visiting a few of its main monuments, such as the Orthodox Church of “Our Lady of Ljevis,” on the list of UNESCO protected Medieval Monuments of Kosovo since 2006. Other sites worth visiting are: The Mosque of Sinan Pasha built in 1615 and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Prizren's main Catholic church since 1870. Overnight at Theranda Hotel in Prizren.

**Lunch:** Restaurant Orchide, Ferizaj, Kosovo

**Dinner:** Restaurant Besimi & Beska, Prizren

**Difficulty :** **Easy**



### Day 2 - 14 May 2016 : Prizren – Sharri Mountains – Prizren (1.5 Hours driving time) B, L, D

The Sharr Mountains extend from Kosovo to northwest Macedonia and into northeastern Albania. One of the highest peaks, Rudoka e Madhe (2658m/8,720'), is located on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia and is surrounded by several peaks with almost the same altitude. Our hike begins at Prevalla, a small ski center at an altitude of 1,540m/5,052'. Here, three different climates can be experienced in the same day and it is often snow covered from November to May. Our adventure hiking route leads us to the source of Lumbardhi river which flows through mountain valleys to Prizren, then into Albania before reaching the Adriatic Sea. This area is dotted with twenty-five lakes at an altitude of 1,900m/6,234' and nearly 2000 plant species, of which 30-40 are endangered. After hiking, we drive through canyons, around hills, on top of mountains, and through forests in a day full

of changing landscapes and colors. We return to Prizren to experience a filigree workshop. Filigree is a delicate kind of jewelry hand metalwork. It is usually made of gold and silver with tiny beads, twisted threads or both in combination, soldered together or onto the surface of an object of the same metal, arranged in artistic motifs. This art form was likely introduced with the Ottoman conquest but has been perfected by Prizren jewelry crafters ever since. We end the day with visits to the Fortress of Prizren, the Church of the Holy Saviour, and the Church of St. George. Overnight at Theranda Hotel in Prizren.

**Lunch:** Gornosello-Prevala, traditional food, prepared and served by the residents of the area.

**Dinner:** Restaurant Ambient

**Difficulty:** Moderate



**Day 3 - 15 May 2016 : Prizren – Mirusha waterfalls – Istog - Rugova Gorge (2.5 Hours driving time) B,L,D**

Our easy hike takes us to Mirusha waterfalls, a cascading chain of waterfalls found along the Mirusha River on the south of the Gremnik Mountain at an altitude of 572 meters. The Mirusha River carved a 10 km long canyon, creating 13 river lakes with 12 waterfalls between them. This area is often referred to as the “Plitvice” of Kosovo after the famous National Park in Croatia. After hiking, we proceed to the lake of Istog another of Kosovo’s attractions linked to a river. We will enter a unique restaurant complex situated at the entrance of a picturesque gorge carved by the crystal clear springs on the Istog River. It is the perfect place to sample the delicious fresh trout from the pure water ponds. After lunch, we continue on to the Rugova valley and the village of Bogë for the night at Magra Austria hotel.

**Lunch:** Restaurant Trofta, Istog

**Dinner:** Magra Austria

**Difficulty:** Easy



**Day 4 - 16 May 2016 : Rugova Valley - Via Ferrata climbing – Patriarcate of Peja (UNESCO) – Decan Monastery (UNESCO) - Rahovec “Podrumi Vjeter” Winery and Pristina (3 Hours driving time) B,L,D**

Today we experience Kosovo’s “Via Ferrata,” the first of its kind in the Balkans. A vertical rock face of 100 meters is perfect for experiencing the thrill of rock climbing in a controlled environment. The hiking and climbing along the cables and wires offers a spectacular view over the city of Peja

and the Rugova Gorge. The trail travels through ancient caves which now serves as a shelter for wildlife. We finish the hike in one of the villages of the Rugova Gorge and enjoy a traditional lunch. Next we explore the Patriarcate of Peja, the spiritual seat and mausoleum of Serbian archbishops and patriarchs. Constructed in the XIII century, it is a complex of small churches adorned with frescoes and one of the "Medieval Monuments in Kosovo," a UNSECO World Heritage Site. Next, we visit the Monastery complex of Decani, the largest medieval church in the Balkans containing the most extensive and beautifully preserved frescos, deservingly becoming part of UNESCO. The monastery was constructed by the Serbian King, Stefan Urosh, who is buried in the chapel and completed by his son Stefan Dushan in 1335. Continuing on we travel through Kosovo's wine growing region, Rahovec, before stopping in Pristina for the night at Begolli Hotel.

*Note: The Via Ferrata is done with professional equipment provided, trained guides, and advanced construction supported by Italian professionals with extensive experience in the Italian Dolomites. No rock climbing experience is required. There are metal steps installed in the rock face making it a doable climb for just about anyone.*

**Lunch:** Drelaj village in Rugova, Traditional food prepared by residents of the village+Flia

**Dinner:** Liburnia traditional Restaurant, in Pristina

**Difficulty:** **Moderate**



#### **Day 5 - 17 May 2016 : Pristina - Pristina Airport - (30 minutes driving time) B,L**

After breakfast, we take a walking tour of the city's main sites, including the Ottoman period mosques of Pristina such as the Sultan Mehmet Fatih Mosque dating back to 1461 during the golden rule of Sultan Mehmet II. Nearby is Pristina's oldest building, the Çarshia Mosque completed in 1389, the Clock Tower, and the Skanderbeg statue (Albanian National Hero). Kosovo's newest monument is the striking nine brightly painted steel letters spelling out the word 'N.E.W.B.O.R.N,' commemorating February 2008's declaration of independence from Serbia.

Transfer to Pristina Airport included.



**Lunch:** Included if flight time allows.

Our program ends at Pristina Airport according to your flight schedule.

### Price

**515 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 12 participants**

**550 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 10 participants**

**595 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 8 participants**

**656 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 6 participants**

**680 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 4 participants**

**945 Euro p/person double room for single use for minimum 2 participants**

**When using double/twin room 70 Euro p/person less**

### Included:

- Transfers from airport with A/C vehicle
- All transportation according to the program
- Guide /driver for all tour (only for min 6 pax drive and guide are separate people, for more than 8 persons also will be a team leader)
- Accommodation in 3/4\*superior hotels
- All meals (as per program / 3 course meals - selection of traditional dishes, locally sourced, - breakfast at the hotels
- Ingredients / 1 non-alcoholic beverages incl. per meal) at local restaurants/family homes
- Water/snacks during the trip
- Activities, equipment and local activity guides as per program (hiking, caving, rockClimbing)
- Entrance fees at main cultural sites in Prizren&Pristina / national parks etc.
- 24/7 assistance from Kosovo Holidays DMC
- Sandwich+water during the walk at the Sharr Mountains
- Taxes

**Notes:-** No need to carry special equipment for rock climbing/hiking, guests will be provided on the spot

### Not Included:

- Flight tickets
- Gratuities to guide
- Everything not mentioned in the “Includes” section

**Terms of payments and cancellations:** An initial deposit of 20% of the trip cost should be payed upon reservation confirmation. FINAL PAYMENT: The balance of the trip cost is due 45 days before the trip start. In case your booking is made less than 45 days before trip start, it will be considered as last minute booking and full trip costs (100%) must be paid at the time of reservation confirmation, also bank transfer fees to be paid by sender.

