The Best Kept Secret...
Western Serbia

Tourist Organisation of
Western Serbia

Supported by the Government of Switzerland via the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC
Tara Mountain is one of the most beautiful mountains in Serbia whose major part that covers the surface of about 22000 hectares and Tara and Zviježda Mountain ranges was proclaimed a national park in 1981. Tara Mountain features preserved never ending pine woods and fascinating vast grass areas and springs and gorges at the altitude between 1000 - 1200 meters above sea level with over 1000 species of medicinal herbs and forest fruits. Tara Mountain is covered with dense woods with clearings and meadows, rocky cliffs, gorges and caves. Tara Mountain is the home for over 153 bird species and diverse flora. Pancević’s Spruce is the unique specie found only on Tara Mountain. Varied landscape and preserved vegetation have enabled survival to many animal species such as brown bear, chamois, grouse, golden eagle etc. The summer period is abundant in sunny days, while the winter has a lot of snowy days what makes Tara premium destination for an active holiday. In winter guests can ski on its tracks at 1000 m above sea level. There are two ski lifts, one for children and beginners /150 m long/ and the other for recreation skiers /450 m long/. During summer lifts, one for children and beginners /150 m long/ and the other for recreation skiers /450 m long/ are walking through the forest along 10 km long walk-tracks at 1000 m above sea level. There are two ski lifts, one for children and beginners /150 m long/ and the other for recreation skiers /450 m long/.

Drina River
In West Serbia, making natural border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina/only 210km away from Belgrade/ there is the paradise on unspoiled nature, stunning mountain peaks and lush forests of the middle flow of Drina River - one of most beautiful rivers in Europe. Drina River is mountainous, abundant, green, rapid, wavy river rolling and roaring through the wonderful mountainous landscape, gorges, canyons, forests, and dizzying clean air. Wild eagles, pigeons, deer, rabbits, wolves, bears - they all go to drink from the Drina River. Flowing through breathtaking canyons of the Gornji Tresnjica, the Drina is ranked with and rugged mountain peaks standing over 1000m high! This river attracts adventure lovers with its extreme sports facilities (“adrenaline festivals”) thanks to the vertical cliffs of Canyon of the Drina River and its tributaries that are particularly interesting for the mountain climbers...

Kremna picturesque village
“as conducted by Nature”, located in Zlatibor district, between Zlatibor, Tara and Sargan Mountains at the altitudes between 750 and 850 meters, known as the magical place full of mystical features /most of them due to the famous Tarabic prophesies dating back for centuries/. Premium location of Kremna and surrounds/ offer brilliant fly-fishing destinations.

Raca Monastery
was built in the 13th century as the endowment of the Serbian King Dragutin Nemanjić, who later became a monk named Teoktist. It was destroyed by Turks in the late 17th century. The present day church dedicated to the Ascension of Jesus Christ was reconstructed in 1795 having St. Achilles’ church in Arilje as a model. The church of Raca Monastery built of limestone provides an impression of an accurate craft work as it is example of the old Serbian Raška school of architecture. The basis of the Church is the free cross shape with a 22m long spacious semi-circular apse, while the transverses comprising choirs are 13,7m wide. Including its dome, the church is about 20 meters high. The iconostasis and fresco paintings that have got all features of church paintings which had their roots in the post Byzantine tradition, but also by western art school, obtain a whole impression of harmony. The quite large and impressive iconostases was painted in 1840 and contains 38 oil icons and the frames carved in linden wood. Next to the emperor’s gate, there is a part of the Holy relics of monk Teoktist /actually the right upper arm of the King Dragutin Nemanjić/. In a new guest-house, there is Treasury where visitors can admire the manuscripts and copies dating from the 17th and the 18th centuries. However, the most important exhibit is a model of the Gospel Book of Prince Miroslav’s /a manuscript of priceless value and the most significant monument of the Serbian literature from the 12th century/ whose original was saved from destruction in the World War II by the prior Platon Milojević, who dug it under the stone plates in the Church altar.
Zlatibor Mountain

Zlatibor is the name given to a mountain range and a region rather than a particular place, although the tourist center of Kraljevo Vode (previously Partizanske vode) at the heart of the region is often referred to simply as Zlatibor. Zlatibor is mountain of golden pines, with the highest peak of Tornik (1496 m.) situated in north-western part of Serbia, 200 km away from Belgrade. Zlatibor corresponds to the area west of Usice and extends as far as the Bosnia and Herzegovina border and to the south almost to Nova Varos, covering the territory between rivers of Susica and Uvac. The average altitude of the Zlatibor region is around 1000 meters above sea level. Zlatibor enjoys a sunny, sub-alpine climate with about 100 snowy days a year, which enable skiing between November and March. The region is equally popular for summer vacations, especially during July and August when numerous tourists come here to walk, relax and breathe the cool mountain air. Zlatibor is vast rolling plateau and reservoir ofSusica and Uvac. The average altitude of the Zlatibor region is around 1000 meters above sea level. Zlatibor enjoys a sunny, sub-alpine climate bit with about 100 snowy days a year, which enable skiing between November and March. The region is equally popular for summer vacations, especially during July and August when numerous tourists come here to walk, relax and breathe the cool mountain air. Zlatibor is vast rolling plateau and reservoir of

pecina Cave and Potpec pecina Cave are the largest and best known, while Gostilje Waterfall ranks amongst the most beautiful and the highest waterfalls in Serbia. Surrounding villages are ideal for vacations and attendance to some of numerous local manifestations and colorful festivities. Best tourist sites are included in full-day and half-day excursions from Zlatibor and multi-day tour packages: Stopica pecina Cave, Potpec pecina Cave, Waterfall in Gostilje village, Open Air “Old Village” Museum in Sirogojno, Uvac and Dubrava Monasteries, log churches in the villages of Jablancica and Dobroselica, art galleries in Borova Gora, Trnava and Sirogojno villages, birth houses of Dimitrije Tucovic and Sava Jovanovic Sirogojno, observation points of Tornik and Cigota mountain peaks and multi-days intense walking tour packages through West Serbia.

“Šargan Eight” train famous Film Director Emir Kusturica founded a unique “Wooden Town”, all of the coniferous wood from Tara, Zlatibor and Saraj Mountains, on top of the Mecavnik Hill, where his film “Life is miracle” was directed. Our best-known Director declares this “power spot” that is the uniquely imaginative “Wooden Town” his “Life project”. The entire tourist complex is magically designed with plenty of authenticity to testify on the rich culture of Western Serbia and consists of numerous traditional and fabulous touristic structures of different aims and exciting contents: traditional mountain cottages that provide luxurious accommodation surrounded with the tranquil Church and the belfry, Cinema, Restaurants, Pastry-shop, Tea-shop, Library, Gallery, Ethno shop, Congress Center, Swimming pool, Sport-hall, Sport grounds, Sauna and Ski-tracks. In the heart of gorgeous intact nature Together with the nearby “Šargan Eight” narrow-gauge railroad they form one of the most popular and the best known tourist spots in Serbia, if not the best.

“Širogojno” Old village- traditional settlement

The “Old Village” Open-air Museum was set up on the surface of 15 ha by the Yugoslav Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments with the idea of recreating a typical 19th century Zlatibor homestead. There are components and artifacts displaying the authentic architecture and family lifestyle in the mountainous region of the Southwest Serbia and the vast woodland of the Dinara area in the second half of the 19th century: a house, a cottage specially built for married members of the family that was just used for sleeping, a guesthouse, dairy, granary, bakery, forge, animal compound, copper’s workshop, blacksmith’s workshop, pottery workshop.
beehives shelves, shed for drying plums, tavern... Various interesting cultural events are held here traditionally, like exhibitions of handmade knitted materials from Zlatibor region, workshops of traditional crafts /pottery, weaving, mosaic making or painting/. The monumental complex of the open-air museum and St. Apostles Peter and Paul's church from the 18th century were declared as cultural monuments of exceptional importance. Here you should taste delicious Zlatibor staples /kaymak, cheese, smoked ham, bye bread, buckwheat pie, tomato baked in ceramic pot.../ and buy world famous high-quality souvenirs /hand-knitted woolen and wooden items of Zlatibor, dried fruits – raspberries, cherries, blackberries.../. Only 24 km away from Zlatibor, “Staro selo Sirogojno” Open Air Museum is the only one of that kind in Serbia and certainly worth visiting.

Stopića Pećina Cave lies along the northern side of Zlatibor Mountain in the picturesque village of Rožanstvo, known by excellent rural households that provide tourist services run by famous hosts. Stopića Pećina Cave is only 19 km away from the popular Zlatibor tourist resort and is usually visited by guests spending their vacations there. Stopića Pećina Cave ranks among the most beautiful caves in Serbia featuring the deepest limestone pool in Serbia. The Užice-Sirogojno road passes beside the Stopića Pećina Cave and you get there taking one and half kilometer long descending path through the forest. The Stopića Pećina Cave has an impressive entrance opened on the right side of the Pristavica River. Total length of Stopića Pećina Cave is 1663 meters while guided tours passes 1615 meters. The Stopića Pećina Cave consists of two caverns – an underground river course channel, and a spring cave, connected by the underground course of the Prištevica Stream. Beautiful entrance to Stopića Pećina Cave lies on the limestone cliff at the height of 711 meters. The Stopića Pećina Cave consists of five chambers with the stone cascades and waterfalls. During high waters the entire bottom of the Main Passage of Stopića Pećina Cave is flooded. The Stopića Pećina Cave is lacking in speleothems as it is still an active river cavern.

Excursions from Bajina Basta, Kremsna and Tara Mt.
• Zlakusa village – Ovcar-Kablar Gorge – lunch in Zlakusa
• Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch in rural household – Stopica Pećina Cave
• Mokra Gora – Mecavnik Wooden town – Sargan Eight train ride
• Tara Mt – Rafting – lunch on Perucac Lake – Raca Monastery
Zlukusa
Ovcarsko-Kablarska
klisura

“Terzica avlija” /“Terzic’s Yard” / traditional settlement
Zlukusa is a peaceful village between Uzice and Pesega which of the once Turkish caravan station and the center of poor pottery makers became popular for its traditional settlement of “Terzica avlija” /“Terzic’s Yard”/ that provides variety of rare natural peaks – “Terzica avlija” /“Terzic’s Yard”/ Ethno Settlement is situated just near Zlukusa village center on the hill below the forest to present Serbian traditional rural life from the 19th century. It contains two authentic Serbian arcaic houses /one is more than 100 years old, built by unbaked bricks, with four-line roof covered by preserved plates/ including variety of elements that provided ordinary life of villagers and cordiality of Serbian people to welcome any visitor during home-feasts /“slava”/, out-door restaurant serving unique traditional food, old “krcma” /arcaic dining room in winter months/, fountains and place for memorable folklore performances. The older house is used for guests’ lodging including three traditionally decorated apartments, but the other house /that used to be a primary school/ is turned into museum : ethno Collection for observation of old Serbian customs and the thematic expositions of traditional elements : authentic folklore costumes, antique books and magazines, old postcards from Zlatibor region, war-diaries from the First and the Second World War, arcaic stamps and Serbian coins, banknotes from the Royal Serbia, letters of manufacturers from last centuries, military uniforms of the brave Serbian Army photos exhibitions, hand-work and knitting accessories collections... This peaceful village provides variety of rare delights for its visitors : fresh air in the heart of pure nature, preserved culture, handwork and old crafts, especially developed and performed by more than 30 devoted local ceramics manufacturers, dewy woods full of mushrooms, fragrant meadows rich in wild-strawberries and medicinal herbs surrounded by fruitful raspberry orchards and full honey-beekeepers, premium organic fresh vegetables, unlimited natural potentials such as Potpec Cave exploration... One can surely relax in friendly chat with enthusiastic local hosts serving delicious Uzice plum-brandy, homemade cheese, kaymak and smoked ham, jelly-sweets, corn bread....or enjoying the Guca trumpet Festival brass-music played on traditional instruments. Ensemble composed by all-ages villagers and followed by special thrill of music performed by famous young master Veljko Ostojic. A special thrill and unique pleasure for any visitor is folklore program organized by famous master Veljko Ostojic. A special thrill and unique pleasure for any visitor is folklore program performed by members of “Moj zavoj” /My Home-land/, ensemble composed by all-ages villagers and followed by music played on traditional instruments.

Potpećka Pecina Cave is situated 14 km from the town of Uzice. It is 800m long. Potpećka Pecina Cave lies on the northern part of the 932 m high Mount of Oresnica Gradišna near the village of Potpeče, in a rugged cliff which is more than 80 meters high. The entrance of Potpeća Pecina Cave is one of the biggest in Serbia shaped like a huge horseshoe, 50m high, 25m wide in the arch and 16m wide at the base. It is one of the best tourist attractions in the western part of Serbia. The 555 meters long tourist route amazes every visitor. Potpeča Pecina Cave is a resurgence which is formed on three levels.

Ovcar Kablar Gorge
Along the picturesque road connecting Cačak and Požega, within the outstanding natural beauties of immense West Morava course intersecting craggy Ovcar and Kablar mountains there is line of Serbian Medieval Monasteries dating from the 17th century and churches hidden away high above the river in dense woodland known simply as the Monasteries of Ovcar and Kablar or “Small Serbian Holy Mount Athos”. At present time there are : Vavedenje Monastery (Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Church), Vaznesenje Monastery (dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord), Preobraženje (dedicated to the Transfiguration of Christ), Sretenje Monastery (The Purification of the Virgin Mary), Holy Trinity Monastery on the right bank of the river and Blagovestenje Monastery (dedicated to the Holy Annunciation), Iljine Monastery (dedicated to St. Eliah), Jovanje Monastery (dedicated to the birth of St. John the Baptist), Nikolie (St. Nicholas) on the left. The Church “Kadenica” dedicated to tragedy of local population during Turkish conquest and the St. Sava Church with spring that cure eye problems are extremely interesting. Rugged peaks of Ovcar and Kablar mountains along West Morava River /Zapadna Morava/ winding through the mountains provide exceptional sport outdoor facilities such as walking, mountaineering, trekking and fishing and water sports along vast lakes of pure and green waters that end in narrow, quiet and picturesque meanders. Unique rope walking-bridges over West Morava take you to the opposite side of the river. Fabulous Ovcar-Kablar Gorge is the Natural Park of I Category under the state protection thanks to over 150 bird species and 30 fish species and over 600 plants. It features unspoiled natural beauties, fabulous meanders of West Morava, artificial lakes and river creeks that are lined with fishing lodges along much on the way, stunning mountains and rich greenery especially suitable for incredible adventures, unique vacations and sports. Besides all there are numerous Medieval Monasteries scattered along the river valley, some of them very difficult to access due to their remote locations hidden in the rocks. Thus those Monasteries and hermitages provide premium opportunities for isolated prayers and spiritual retreat residences for Orthodox monks who live in seclusion.

Excursions from Zlatibor, Cigota and Sirogojno
2. Sirogojno – Lunch at Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina Cave
3. Mokra Gora – Mecavnik Wooden town – Sargan Eight train ride
4. Tara Mt Rafting – lunch at Perucac Lake – Raca Monastery
5. Nova Varos – Mileseva Monastery – lunch in rural households close to the Monastery
6. Uvac Lake – Katici rural settlement – Lunch

Excursions from Zlukusa village
1. Ovcar-Kablar Gorge – Nikolie Monastery – lunch in Don Restaurant
2. Zlukusa – Sirogojno – lunch at Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina Cave
3. Mokra Gora – Mecavnik visit and lunch – Sargan Eight train ride
4. Tara Mt and rafting – lunch at Perucac Lake – visit to Raca Monastery
Pešter Plateau or Pešterska visoravan is a karsts plateau in the southwestern Serbia of Stari Vlah area, in the Raška region. It lies at the altitude of 900-1200 meters and makes the largest plateau in the Balkans and amongst the largest in Europe. The name of the Pester region comes from the word pešter which is an archaic term for cave. The Pešter plateau is actually a large field of endless undulating pastures (Peštersko polje) surrounded by mountains of Jadovnik (1734 m), Zlatar (1627 m), Ozren (1680 m), Giljeva (1617 m), Zilidar (1616 m), Javor (1520 m) and Golija (1833 m). With the area of around 50 km², Pešter field is the largest field in Serbia, and the highest one in the Balkans and amongst the largest in Europe. Rivers Uvac, Vapa, Jablanica and Grabovica flow through Pešter plateau. In the geologic past, Pešter field was a large lake, of which only a small Sjenica Lake near the village of Tuzinje remained. The soil of Pešter is mostly karsts interspersed with vast pastures. Economy of the area relies primarily on cattle breeding, chiefly sheep. Pešter is famous for its delicious food, especially the “Sjenica cheese” (Sjenički sir), as well as lamb smoked beef or sheep. Pešter is famous for its micro climate, which is particularly harsh in the winter months.

The lowest temperature in Serbia since measurements are taken, -39 °C is measured at Karajukica Bunari village in January 2006 beating the previous record of -38.4°C measured in Sjenica in 1954.

Štitkovo old Vlach village

The village of Štitkovo on Mount Zlatar in south-western Serbia near Nova Varos stands on the site of monastery built in 1655. Stitkovo is unique open-air museum. Štitkovo is typical old Vlach settlement and has retained the old vernacular wooden architecture of highlander’s houses. This particular architecture - positioning of the houses built of 15 meters long wooden beams look like city nucleus of the late 19th and early 20th century is a unique cultural phenomenon which is still unexplored. Stables and other economic structures are located on the other side of the river while houses are entirely incredible in comparison with the modern way of life: down are store rooms, and on the upper floor are kitchen and bedrooms. Stitkovo Village used to be the Medieval settlement of famous Rašković Dukes, Serbian aristocracy before Kosovo Battle, who were making shields for the army /that is how the village got its name/.

Excursions from Sjenica

1. Štitkovo traditional settlement – Kusici village – lunch in rural household
2. Lim River Rafting – Mileseva Monastery – lunch in rural household
3. Mileseva Monastery – Sopotnica waterfalls – lunch in rural household
4. Mileseva Monastery – Kamena Gora village – lunch in rural household
**Uvac River** flows between the northern cliffs of gorgeous Zlatar Mountain and the southern slopes of Zlatibor Mountain range. The cliffs around the Uvac Lake are natural sanctuary of Balkan protected bird - white-headed vulture (Griffin Vulture). About 250 specimens of these rare birds protected by the law live in this wild area making the symbol of Uvac Canyon. The source of Uvac River is on Ozren Mountain at the altitude of 560 meters, 16 km south-east from Sjenica. Uvac River is 119 km long and has mountainous characteristics with extremely active erosion. Thanks to its mountainous features and huge hydro potential Uvac River form four artificial lakes: Zlatar, Sjenica, Potpec and Radoinja Lakes. The Uvac Nature Reserve, is the ecological region full of clear waters, rich in fresh-water fish, rafting facilities and photo-safari programs attract discerning visitors. Due to magnificent natural characteristics of the entire region of Uvac River and Zlatar Mountain, this part is considered as one of the most beautiful in Serbia. Uvac is a river that carries many secrets - from its source at the foot of the mysterious "Roof of Serbia", as Pester Highlands are called - to the point where it flows into Lim River. The high slopes of Pester host not only the now very rare species of vultures - Griffin Vulture - a predator bird saved from extinction by rearing it in this region. The plant and animal life as well as the composition of the soil are the reasons why experts in different fields often tour this high region. Speleologists visit it in an effort to penetrate as deep as possible the steep river banks. Many other bird species live on the breathtaking shores of the Uvac Lake. A part of the Uvac crag is the official Natural Reservation attracting nature-explorers from all over the world. There are numerous possibilities for eco-vacations: boat ride, endless walks along surrounding mountains, nature-exploration, bird-watching...

**Dubnica Monastery** is located in the village of Bozetici on the slopes of Javor Mountain, only few kilometers from Sjenica Lake. Dubnica Monastery is also situated in Uvac River Valley close to the griffon vultures’ sanctuary that settles here and takes care of the area. Dubnica Monastery is the church of nice architecture and the secret past and the spiritual center and the gathering point of Stari Vlah locals. The local historians traditionally sing old song trying to explain the existence of the lonely and secret Monastery with beautifully stone-carved portals, rossettes, windows and altar niches that existed for long time and must have had some royal origin. The latest historical traces testify on the construction of Dubnica Monastery at the very beginning of the 15th century during the epoch of local nobility. This is the period when many Serbian and Bosnian noblemen rebuilt fortified town. Nowadays one can observe only remains of the prior church and the dormitory. On the only one fresco that almost disappears at the top of naos portal there are three or four letters that commemorating the building and fresco-painting of Dubnica Monastery in 1422. After more that two centuries Dubnica Monastery experienced its best revival. It was the time of the reign of Rascian Metropolitan Gavrilo Rajc-Rašković who later became the Patriarch and was a representative of famous family, the Dukes of Rašković family. Nowadays is one of the nicest legend about the connection of Dubnica Monastery with the oldest Nemanjics' endowments is still alive and very respected amongst the local population. It is believed that the monastery was rebuilt by Raskovics as they are linear descendants of well-known Nemanjic Dynasty. Patriarch Arsenije Carnojevic spent the last winter of 1690 in secure ambiance of Dubnica Monastery before the Great Migration to the north carried out by Serbian people and monks over Sava and Danube Rivers. During the Great Migration many people moved from the regions of Stari Vlah and Polimlje lead by Turks as the revenge set Dubnica Monastery aflame because of that. Dubnica Monastery was the ever-lasting spiritual flame between Javor Mountain and Uvac Canyon and the legacy of Nemanjic Family during the dark centuries of Turkish conquest. Local people used to gather secretly in Dubnica Monastery before the Great Migration to the north and then moved away and God was begged to bring back beloved family during the dark centuries of Turkish conquest. Local population. It is believed that the monastery was rebuilt by Raskovics as they are linear descendants of well-known Nemanjic Dynasty. Patriarch Arsenije Carnojevic spent the last winter of 1690 in secure ambiance of Dubnica Monastery before the Great Migration to the north carried out by Serbian people and monks over Sava and Danube Rivers. During the Great Migration many people moved from the regions of Stari Vlah and Polimlje lead by Turks as the revenge set Dubnica Monastery aflame because of that. Dubnica Monastery was the ever-lasting spiritual flame between Javor Mountain and Uvac Canyon and the legacy of Nemanjic Family during the dark centuries of Turkish conquest. Locals used to gather secretly in Dubnica Monastery to baptize and married and baptized. Candles were lighted for living and passed away and God was begged to bring back beloved from the wars and get out conquerors, to give new birth and to forgive sins.

The new stone church of Saint Trinity has been built by famous stone-carver Miloja Đoković and his group from Sirogojno after research and conservation works carried out by branches of the Institute for Cultural Monuments protection from Kraljevo. Within the churchyard the wooden belfry and the fountain and the entrance gate were built and the church was covered with copper roof. The wooden dormitory was built for monks.

**Excursions from Nova Varos**

1. Prijepolje – Lim River Rafting – lunch on the shore – Mileseva Monastery
2. Sopotnica waterfalls – lunch in rural household
3. Zlatibor – Sirogoja – lunch in Sirogoja
5. Katići village/traditional settlement – lunch
Lim River
Picturesque Lim river starts at the foot of gigantic Prokletije Mountain as shunt of wonderful Pivsko Lake of 999 altitudes. Lim River flows through towns of Andrijevica, Berane, Bjelo Polje, Prijepolje, Priboj, Rudo and Medvedja where in valley at the altitude of 299 meters it finishes as affluent of Drina river. Root-name of Lim is Latin word ‘limus’ (borders), because of its’ role through history as a border of Eastern and Western Roman Empire and also Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empire. Deeper history base-word is from Celtic language Ilyn, Ilym, that means drink, water, lake... Dragoljub R. Simovic: „Lim has preserved its’ magical value for start of 21 century, when it allowed us - a group of fearless enthusiasts, to dive in its’ emerald sacred water, that essentially changed our lives. We become the first Lim River rafters and ambassadors of Lim."

Milesevka River Canyon
Canyons of Lim and Milesevka Rivers /Milesevka River is tributary of Lim River/ are situated in the South-west Serbia and are habitats of numerous rare and ancient animal and vegetal species that used to live here for million of years - milling corn and other mountainous crops in traditional way, that is almost forgotten. Delicious food – grilled mountain lamb, homemade organic products, wild fruits and brandy are waiting for visitors of this tranquil place. It is aproxachable by narrow roads from Prijepolje /by road passing villages Ivanja and Divci it is 6 km far from Prijepolje, and 14km by road across the bridge over Lim River/. One can get to Kamena Gora by the 20 km paved road from Prijepolje.

Milesevka River Canyon
Milesevka River is 7 km long and forms unique habitat of fearless enthusiasts, to dive in its’ emerald sacred water, that essentially changed our lives. We become the first Lim River rafters and ambassadors of Lim. Wild boar, wolf and roe deer as well as many rare animals live within this wild area of steep cliffs. Until the last decade one could find here the endemic relic griffon vulture which is one amongst the largest birds of prey. This unique and rare bird weights 13 kg and has 3 meters wingspan represents the European condor. The Reserve of Milesevka River is 7 km long and forms unique habitat for birds of prey. Up to now there are 19 day species and 9 night-species of birds discovered in this area together with the nearby Uvac Nature Reserve. Here there are nests of griffon vultures, tiny hawks, Ural hawks, tiny eagle, karst and gray falcons that can rarely be seen in Serbia.

The narrow mountain track passes through the Reserve of Milesevka River Canyon. It starts beneath the last tunnel of the deserted road and passes 5 km along the picturesque Milesevka River canyon with three possibilities to access the river. After Ravniste the path continues along Medjanska Reka River up to the village of Pocrkane from where it descends for 4 km along the abandoned tracks to the village of Aljinovci on the road Nova Varos - Sjenica. The path is not well marked so not recommended to children nor to those who are afraid of heights. Visiting season is opened from May until October. This Nature Reserve still remains intact in spite of the huge human impact on the surrounding nature. Milesevka River Canyon is true challenge for brave...
**Excursions from Kamena Gora, Sopotnica**

1. Prijepolje Lim River Rafting – lunch on the river shore – Mileseva Monastery
2. Priboj Banja Spa – Banja Monastery – lunch in “Gaj” rural household
3. Katici traditional settlement – lunch
4. Uvac Lake – Dubnica Monastery – lunch in rural household /House on the Griffin Cliff/ 
5. Kamena Gora – Sopotnica – lunch in rural household

**Mileševa Monastery**

Mileševa Monastery, the main endowment of King Vladislav /1234 – 1243/ grandson of Stefan Nemanja and the fourth in the lineage of Nemanjic Dynasty is located in the valley of Milesevka River, 6 km to the east of town of Prijepolje. In 1236 Mileseva Monastery became the second most important monastery in the Serbian Medieval Kingdom when it received the relics of St. Sava who died in Trnovo in Bulgaria, in the period of the King Vladislav’s reign. The Mileševa Monastery church of Holy Ascension was erected around 1225 while the outer narthex was added in 1236 to accommodate the body of St. Sava. The original architectural style is the one of the monumental Raška School /harmony of the Byzantine architecture and the Romanesque details/. The church of Mileseva Monastery is one nave structure with two lower chantries, a wide central apse and two small apses. Its single nave widens from the west eastward, so that the eastern bay is omitted completely, which results in the three altar apses leaning directly on the domed east wall. The western cupola and the bell tower in front to the entrance of Mileševa Monastery were added in the 19th century.

In the 16th century a celebrated printing shop operated in Mileševo Monastery whose liturgical books spread throughout the Serb lands and beyond. Next centuries Mileseva Monastery saw a grave turn of fortune: in 1594 the Turks took the Holy relics of St. Sava to Belgrade and burned them in reprisal for Serbian uprising. In 1688 another retaliation left the Mileseva Monastery burnt and in ruins. Mileseva Monastery had undergone two great restorations, the first in the 16th century, at the time of patriarch Makarje Sokolovic. During the 19th century Mileseva Monastery was abandoned and was renewed by the people of Prijepolje only in 1863 when it got its present-day appearance. The frescoes of Mileseva Monastery represent one of the peaks of the European 13th century painting. The oldest of the preserved dwellings lying to the north is a nice example of contemporary Balkans architecture. Closing the entrance to the Canyon of Mileševka River on a high cliff some 2 km to the east of Mileseva Monastery stands the castle of Miljevac also known by the name Hisaržič. It was the seat of the region of Crna Stena /Black Crag/ but more important it simultaneously guarded both the Monastery and one of the most important Medieval roads leading from Prijepolje towards Skopje.
Golija Mountain
Golija Mountain is the highest mountain in the Southwest Serbia in the so-called Stari Vlah area. Golija Mountain is 5-shaped and 32 km long, located between rivers of Ibar and Moravica and mountain of Radočelo and Pester Plateau. The highest peak of Golija Mountain is Jankov Kami - Janko's Rock which is 1834 meters high from where majestic panorama spreads all over the region - up to Prokletije, Komovi, Kopaonik and Zlatar Mountains... Golija is serious mountain full of surprises... Our best experience is full-day invigorating walk through thick, almost inaccessible forest full of medicinal herbs. The nearby rivers are rich in medicinal herbs. The nearby rivers are rich in trout. Traditional Music Festival - Double Flute Competition and playing on old instruments is held in Kušići village every summer.

Katici Kusići

Katici village
The ideal height of 1000 meters above sea-level of Katici village and distance of 22 km from Ivanjica, provide wonderful combination for genuine retreat in Serbia. This place offers fantastic views across the Mučanj Mountain with Savina voda springs, believed to have healing properties. Thanks to its invigorating features and intact nature it is declared in 2000. The Air-spa and thus ranked among the most beautiful part of Serbia.

Kusići village
Kusići village which is 25 km far from Ivanjica and 12 km from gorgeous Javor Mountain and village of the same name is an ideal place for rejuvenating vacations, situated at the height over 1000 m above the sea level. With its enriching coniferous woods, invigorate concentration of ions and wind directions Kusići village provides excellent conditions for healing of bronchitis and asthma. Besides that this region and Kusići village itself is one of the most beautiful parts of Serbia well known for delicious high quality potato rich in medicinal herbs. The nearby rivers are rich in stream trout. Traditional Music Festival - Double Flute Competition and playing on old instruments is held in Kusići village every summer.

The Church of St Achilles
The church in Arĳe is dedicated to the Bishop Achilles of Larissa (Greece) who was a passionate fighter against the Arian heresy and he boldly denounced the heretic Arius. He died in 330 in Larissa. After Macedonians conquered Thessaly his holy relics were moved to the church on the tiny Island in Prespa Lake which was later named after him. His relics were transferred to Arĳe cult place by refugees from Thessaly. The temple of St Achilles is closely connected with the Nemanjić dynasty, the first Serbian archbishop St Sava and the unfortunate King Dragutin. In the close proximity of St Achilles Church there is the Raspberry Monument that declares the outstandingly convenient soil for growing raspberry of which the inhabitants of the entire region live very well.

In terms of its architecture St Achilles Church belongs to the Raska School which marked the 13th century with the coherent mixture of Romanesque outside dressing and Byzantine space concept. Facade painting of the St Achilles Church in the Byzantine cell type style, the technique which included alternating rows of stone and brick, on the walls dressed in Romanesque style makes the Church of St Achilles a unique 13th century structure in the whole Byzantine world considering the fact that here is no preserved example of any Orthodox place of worship dating from that period with the facade entirely decorated in this way. Besides its architectural value and historical significance the church also stands out as the gallery of valuable frescoes among which the most interesting are the portraits of the rulers...
belonging to the Nemanjić dynasty, their relatives and all
the archbishops since the foundation of the independent
Serbian Church. The most attractive are the portraits on the
south part of the internal narthex, the standing figures of
king Dragutin the founder holding the model of the church
in his hands and the fresco above the holy grave of Dragu-
tin’s younger son, Uroš, who died young as monk Simon
and was buried in the Church. Being the clear document
of the king’s sponsorship and an illustration of the mutual
respect (brothers lived peacefully in the time of fresco-
painting the church), one of the most beautiful idealized
portraits is the portrait of the ruling brothers Milutin and
Dragutin Nemanjić accompanied by Dragutin’s wife, Hun-
garian Princess Katelina. The fresco of St Archangel Gabriel
called the Blue Angel, which represents the elegant holy
character in brilliant simple vestment, is the incarnation
of the idea of the Lord’s representative of surreal beauty
and magnificent kindness. The church of St Achilles is pro-
nounced cultural monument of great significance.

Novi Pazar
During the medieval period, the Sandzak region was
known as Rashka, the center of the Serbian state. The Ser-
bian city of Ras was in the vicinity where the present city of
Novi Pazar was settled. The Serbian Orthodox Monasteries
of Sopocani and Ođunjovci Sopovci were in Rashka. In the
15th century, the Ottoman Turkish Empire invaded and oc-
cupied the region. The Sandzak region was on a key trade
route from Istanbul, Constantinople and Asia Minor to Bos-
nia, the key Ottoman Turkish base in Europe. Novi Pazar lit-
erally means new bazaar, or new market place, a key center
in the Ottoman trade network in the Balkans. Sandzak was
a vital economic supply line for the Ottoman economy and
was vital for the Ottoman economy. Peliter is home to a
number of endangered species and Ramsar included the
wetland area of 3.455 hectares into its list of wetlands of
international importance.

Studenica Monastery
The magnificent medieval Studenica Monastery is the
mother church of all Serbian shrines. Studenica Monastery
is situated in the beautiful valley of Studenica River close
to the most prominent Ibar River Valley so called King’s Val-
ley named after numerous sacral structures built by the
serbian medieval kings. It was founded around 1190 as
the principal endowment of Stefan Nemanja, the mind-
ed founder and most powerful ruler of Serbian Medieval
State, to become and remain the most important of all Ser-
bian Orthodox Monasteries of the rich cultural heritage of
Serbia. This well-preserved 13th century monastic complex of
churches sits at the end of a 12-kilometer road, which
begins in the small town of Usce, in the beautiful setting
on the wooded slopes of Radocelo, Cemerno and Troglov
Mountains. Studenica Monastery Complex consists of four
medieval churches and the dwelling with the high tow-
er enclosed by a protecting walls in a form of an almost
pola over the graceful architectural structure of the basis
construction of the church depicting King Milutin, his wife
Simonida, St. Sava and St. Simeon are considered the finest
portraits of the middle ages and the master-pieces of the
Byzantine art from the beginning of the 14th century. From
1986 Studenica Monastery is inscribed in UNESCO World
Heritage List. Studenica Monastery is a typical example of Raska Medieval archi-
tectural School. Pridvorica Monastery was first mentioned
in the Chrysobull /founding charter/ of Stefan Nemanjic
grant to Studenica Monastery as the sacral place with
nuns. Frescoes of Pridvorica church are damaged. At the
beginning it was the nunnery and the patron church dur-
ing its history. From 2007 it was again stated the Monastery
with the Prior monk and two novices. The Church is dedi-
cated to the Holy Transfiguration and is one of the rare that
have its own coat-of-arm.

Pridvorica Monastery
is located in the village of Prid-
vorica, 20 km on the south-west from Ivanjica towards
Studenica. It is surrounded with intact nature of Studenica
River. Pridvorica Monastery was built in the 12th century
in the same period when nearby Studenica Monastery was
founded. Pridvorica Monastery is endowment of the serv-
ant who served on the Court of Nemanjich Dynasty and it
got its name after the servant. By the construction of the
structure it is the typical example of Raska Medieval archi-
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Excursions from Ivanjica
1. St. Achilleus Church – Zlačaka village – lunch
2. Pridvorica Monastery – Studenica Monastery “monastic”
lunch
   in rural household
4. Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch at Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina
   Cave
5. Sjenica – Pester – lunch in Borici hotel

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cated to the Holy Transfiguration and is one of the rare that
have its own coat-of-arm.
Pribojska Banja Spa is located on the plateau above town of Priboj in South-western Serbia at the altitude of 550 meters. It is known also as an air spa thanks to its healing characteristics. Located at the top of the deep wooded and cultivated river valley and surrounded by mountains of Stari Vlah (highland), in the north of Priboj, Pribojska Banja Spa is rising Crni Vrh (Black Top) overgrown by pine forests. Lisja rocks under linden and spruce are located on the southern side. Along the left side of Pobijenik Mountain is green Lim River flowing by town of Priboj. The spa has several thermal mineral springs. The strongest of them provides 70 liters of water per second, with a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius. Medical indications: chronic rheumatic inflammation of the articulated and muscular systems, neuralgia, inflammation of peripheral nerves, poly neuritis, gynecological diseases, consequences of bone and muscle injuries, convalescent states, skin diseases - it accelerates the healing of wounds, scabbing, and healing of skin changes caused by consequences of diabetes and weak peripheral circulation. Pribojska Banja Spa is due to climate factors, the combination of hydrotherapy, and an ideal place with a preventive effect in healthy people and athletes. The air in the Spa is very clean and filled with fresh aromatic fraction upon the return of merchants with their goods from Dubrovnik on their way to the inner areas of Serbia and Bosnia and Constantinople. The Banja Monastery experienced difficult times during the Turkish occupation and was destroyed several times. Substantial reconstruction works were carried out in 1570 when Banja Monastery was renovated by the First Patriarch of the renovated Patriarchate, Makary Sokolovic. Many graves of significant Serbian landowners during the reign of Emperor Dusan and King Uros I testify of the important role of Banja Monastery until the brake of Serbian Medieval State. For some period Banja Monastery was the Mausoleum of mighty Vojnovic Family landowners. Nowadays appearance of Banja Monastery was completed in 1329 either by King Stefan of Decani or King Uros I on the ruins of the former Church of St. Elijah. Dedication of the Monastery to St. Nicolas performs strong faith of the Saint. The monastic complex consists of the Church of St. Nicolas, the smaller Church of the Ascension built by the southern wall of St. Nicolas Church and foundations of St. Elijah's Church. Foundation of St. Nicolas Church is in the shape of inscribed cross with semi-circle apse and two semi-circle basins on the eastern side and narthex with the vast open western end. Two domes resting above the middle part of naos and narthex finalize the construction complex of the shine. Some remains of fresco decoration as chess fields and floral ornaments are to be still found on the exterior walls of the Church of St. Nicolas from which one can conclude that the church was originally decorated even on the outside facade. In the altar and naos there are two layers of frescoes preserved dating from the 14th and the 16th centuries. In the narthex there are frescoes from the 16th century that appear in its full splendor. The older fresco paintings are considered from the period after the classical Renaissance paintings of Paleolog's Byzantine style. The later frescoes are works of unknown painters from Peć Painting Workshop imitating by style and iconography the older fresco-decorations. Last time The Monastery of St. Nicolas's was rebuilt in 1905. Since 1974 comprehensive archaeological excavations are carried out when the very monastery complex has been significantly enlarged. Remarkably rich treasury was discovered comprising 40 objects of precious metal ornamented by precious and semi-precious stones and various liturgical and ecclesiastic vessels, gold-plated, silver-plated chalices and peculiar crystal objects and group of wonderfully decorated crosses.

**Excursions from Priboj**

1. Kamena Gora – Mileseva Monastery – lunch in rural household close to the Monastery
2. Novi Varos – Uvac Lake – lunch in rural household – Dubrava Monastery
3. Sjenica – Pester – outdoor lunch
5. Priboj Banja Spa – Banja Monastery – lunch in “Gaj” rural household

**Places to see:** Pribojska Banja Spa was known by ancient Romans and the heroic population of Medieval Serbia. Settled on the main road which led from Bosnia to Constantinople, the Priboj Banja Spa was the hangout of merchants with their goods from Dubrovnik on their way to the inner areas of Serbia and Bosnia and Constantinople. The Banja Monastery experienced difficult times during the Turkish occupation and was destroyed several times. Substantial reconstruction works were carried out in 1570 when Banja Monastery was renovated by the First Patriarch of the renovated Patriarchate, Makary Sokolovic. Many graves of significant Serbian landowners during the reign of Emperor Dusan and King Uros I testify of the important role of Banja Monastery until the brake of Serbian Medieval State. For some period Banja Monastery was the Mausoleum of mighty Vojnovic Family landowners. Nowadays appearance of Banja Monastery was completed in 1329 either by King Stefan of Decani or King Uros I on the ruins of the former Church of St. Elijah. Dedication of the Monastery to St. Nicolas performs strong faith of the Saint. The monastic complex consists of the Church of St. Nicolas, the smaller Church of the Ascension built by the southern wall of St. Nicolas Church and foundations of St. Elijah's Church. Foundation of St. Nicolas Church is in the shape of inscribed cross with semi-circle apse and two semi-circle basins on the eastern side and narthex with the vast open western end. Two domes resting above the middle part of naos and narthex finalize the construction complex of the shine. Some remains of fresco decoration as chess fields and floral ornaments are to be still found on the exterior walls of the Church of St. Nicolas from which one can conclude that the church was originally decorated even on the outside facade. In the altar and naos there are two layers of frescoes preserved dating from the 14th and the 16th centuries. In the narthex there are frescoes from the 16th century that appear in its full splendor. The older fresco paintings are considered from the period after the classical Renaissance paintings of Paleolog's Byzantine style. The later frescoes are works of unknown painters from Peć Painting Workshop imitating by style and iconography the older fresco-decorations. Last time The Monastery of St. Nicolas's was rebuilt in 1905. Since 1974 comprehensive archaeological excavations are carried out when the very monastery complex has been significantly enlarged. Remarkably rich treasury was discovered comprising 40 objects of precious metal ornamented by precious and semi-precious stones and various liturgical and ecclesiastic vessels, gold-plated, silver-plated chalices and peculiar crystal objects and group of wonderfully decorated crosses.

**Activities:** full-day excursions to Zlatibor, Zlatar, Mileseva Monastery, Potpeco /Potpec Lake/ and Radiojino /Radjojina lake/, Lim River with premium rafting conditions and majestic Uvac Natural Reserve offer many opportunities for passionate fishermen who spend here marvelous time.

**Banja Monastery** or as it was called earlier St. Nicolas of Dabar is situated in the very vicinity of Priboj on a highland plateau of the Banja Brdo at the right bank of Lim River. Banja Monastery got its name after curative springs /banja - spa/ on the monastery property that were used for healing from the ancient times. Spa is located just beside the monastery fence. It existed since the 12th century and was dedicated to St. Nicola. Banja Monastery is endowment of Nemanjic Family and considered as one of the oldest and most important amongst Serbian Medieval Monasteries. Banja Monastery was first mentioned in the 12th century in the Typichon of Studenica Monastery when its Prior took part in election of Prior of Studenica Monastery. From the end of the 14th century until the fourth decade of the 15th century Banja Monastery was a travelers' station upon the return of merchants with their goods from

**Excursions from Priboj**

1. Kamena Gora – Mileseva Monastery – lunch in rural household close to the Monastery
2. Novi Varos – Uvac Lake – lunch in rural household – Dubrava Monastery
3. Sjenica – Pester – outdoor lunch
5. Priboj Banja Spa – Banja Monastery – lunch in “Gaj” rural household
Kosjerić municipality is located in the upper basin of the Skrapež river and it expands towards the slopes of Povlen, Maljen, Cmoklosa and Jelova Gora mountains. The tourist center of Divcibare is also in its vicinity. It includes 27 inhabited settlements with the total area amounting to 358 km² and 14,000 inhabitants. The production of building materials (cement), electric power industry, production of metal products and food processing industry are the most present branches of industry. Cattle breeding and fruit-growing are developed in the villages of Kosjerić municipality where the raspberry growing holds a very significant place. This area is famous for its fruit beauty production. Rural tourism has been successfully developing in the villages of this municipality offering its guests “organic” food products, creative relaxing and enjoying the country landscapes.

Villages of GORNJI and DONJI TAOR /Upper and Lower Taor/ are situated at the foothill of beautiful Povlen Mountain. Untouched invigorating nature and remedy climate, friendly local people, spring of Skrapež river, 12 beautiful watermills, old crafts... all of this are typical features of these villages awaiting you... Following the course of Skrapež river you get to the famous Taorska vrela /Springs of Taor/ with 12 beautiful watermills. You can grind the flour at those watermills or launder wool by hands with assistance of diligent local women or take part in old craft to learn tradition and culture of the village. Terrains full of flower fields, cold springs, thick pine and birch forests, are places for active recreation, climbing, hunting... River Mionica is rich in fish and a perfect place for passionate fishermen.

Mionica is a typical mountainous type of village located close to Tourist Center Divcibare, 9 km from Kosjerić, at the altitude of 620 meters. Terrains full of flower fields, cold springs, thick pine and birch forests, are places for active recreation, climbing, hunting... River Mionica is rich in fish and a perfect place for passionate fishermen. In such a splendor mountainous village a house is situated, surrounded with spacious meadow reaching the horizon. The 5 most comfortable luxuriously equipped “vajat” mountain chalets with flowery terraces, each with 3 wooden beds and private facilities are brilliant hermitages for those looking for relaxed vacations. House accommodation capacity: 3 double, 3 triple rooms, 2 bathrooms, large living-room, kitchen and heating and 1 double room mountain chalet. Guest common space consists of a large 70 person sanitary elements which satisfy the high consumer standards. Bathrooms are equipped with handmade carpets, rugs, footpath, and covers, giving them a special appearance. Bathrooms are equipped with sanitary elements which satisfy the high consumer standards. Guest common space consists of a large 70 person capacity room, with a kitchen and a bathroom. The rich table offering meals with long lasting tradition, beautiful landscapes and complete comfort of this household will make your holiday a complete one. On the way from Kosjerić to Valjevo, on the right hand side of the highway, on the slopes of the hill Subjel, a narrow village road through thick forest and mountain brooks will take you to Mionica village. This village is 9km far from Kosjerić, at 620 meters above the sea level. There are 232 inhabitants, living in 79 households. The main agricultural engagement is in the field of cattle breeding and fruit growing, yet this village is best known for plum growing and rakia production. The village of Mionica is a typical mountain village, dispersed over the hills, decorated by green pasturage and aromatic meadows, as well as by large areas of deciduous and evergreen woods. Due to the rich vegetation you can enjoy inhaling the clean mountain air. Below the hill of Subjel, the Mionica river springs up. It is a typical mountain river; fast, full of smaller rapids with its flow curving through the hilly area. Most frequent fish in the waters of the Mionica river are chub, and gudgeon, so that those who like fishing will enjoy their favorite activities. Within the Srbija Sume estate, not far from the village, there is a hunting resort Maljen-Bukovi, full of doe, wild boar, and rabbit. Local hunter associations with experience over the past decades will be available for any further information related to hunting. The entire area of Mionica village is characterized by a wealth of remedial herbs growing in an unpolluted surroundings; mint, St John’s wort, yarrow, chamomile, etc. It is worth mentioning that there are many forest fruits in this area, of which wild strawberries, blueberries, red berries, blackberries, are the most frequent ones. The region is also rich with mushrooms, and the locations where they can be picked, and the types picked in a certain period are well known to this household. Sojourn in this untouched nature will be ideal for walks, recreation, sport activities, and swimming in the Mionica river. For hiking and walks there are well marked mountain paths which will take you to Divcibare, and Subjel, where from you will enjoy an unforgettable regional panoramic view. While the area is ideal for biking fans, during winter season, skiing and sledging are inevitable.

Excursions from Kosjerić

1. Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch in Sirogojno
2. Mokra gora – Mecavnik – Sanganska Eight train ride - lunch
3. Zlatusa – Popeca Pecina Cave – lunch in Terzica avlija