

VRELO COLLECTION

The Hosted Journeys

JOURNEY II · SARAJEVO & CENTRAL BOSNIA

The Layered Kingdom



*A medieval kingdom read in stone, water and herb —
from the copper lanes of Sarajevo to the falls of Jajce.*

Ten days · Eight guests

Hosted by the owners in English, French & Bosnian

SEASON—MAY TO JUNE AND SEPTEMBER

Why we host this one ourselves

Central Bosnia is the country's quiet interior — the seat of a medieval kingdom that most travellers pass through on the way somewhere else. We built this journey because it rewards the opposite instinct. Here the layers are literal: Ottoman copper over Austro-Hungarian stone over the coronation churches of Bosnian kings, all of it threaded by rivers that still turn wooden mills.

We host it in person, the two of us, because the good things are not on a map. A tanner who still works hide the old way in Visoko; a hamam warmed under a functioning caravanserai in Sarajevo; a hillside above the city where wild garlic comes up thick in May. We move slowly — three bases in ten days — and we translate as we go, in English, French and Bosnian, so nothing is lost between the place and the person standing in it. Eight guests, two to a room, one unhurried arc through the layered kingdom.



Three bases, one road home

The journey runs as a single line drawn inland, then home again. From Sarajevo it climbs northwest through the Coronation Valley to the vizier town of Travnik, on to the waterfall town of Jajce, where the line rests longest before the easy road home. Depth over movement: three bases hold the ten days, and the days radiate outward from each. And the line is drawn through people as much as places — the historian at Mile, the smokehouse family in Visoko, the cheesemakers on Vlačić — the journey moving encounter by encounter, in the manner of the best travel films.

01–04	Sarajevo	3 nights	The layered city — Baščaršija, the hamam, wild garlic above the valley
—	Visoko	hosted day	The Coronation Valley, historian-guided, en route to Travnik
04–06	Travnik	2 nights	The vizier town — the colored mosque, the fortress, the cold springs
06–10	Jajce	4 nights	The waterfall town — Pliva mills, the lakes, elderflower, the closing table
10	Sarajevo	depart	Transfer to Sarajevo airport (SJJ)

Pace. Two long transfers in ten days, both broken — by the hosted day at Visoko on the way out, by a viewpoint table on the road home. Mornings are structured; most afternoons are open. Day six is deliberately unplanned. Nothing begins before you have had coffee.

The heart of the journey

Written as movements, not logistics. Times are held loosely.

DAY

1

Landfall in the Valley

SARAJEVO

- MORNING** Arrivals into Sarajevo (SJJ). A private transfer brings you the short way into the old town and to Hotel Europe, where rooms are held for the group. Nothing is asked of you until the light softens.
- AFTERNOON** A first, slow walk into Baščaršija with the two of us — no itinerary, only orientation: the coppersmiths' lane, the Sebilj fountain, the seam in the pavement where the Ottoman city meets the Habsburg one.
- EVENING** A welcome table at Dveri†, a small room hung with drying herbs off a Baščaršija lane, where the cooking is close and home-scaled. We set out the shape of the ten days over the first glass.
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DAY

2

Copper, Coffee, Craft

SARAJEVO

- MORNING** A morning in the craft ateliers of Baščaršija — the working copper workshops of Kazandžiluk, where a smith walks us through the beating and tinning of a set of coffee ware, and a Bosnian coffee ritual read properly, from roast to fildžan.
- AFTERNOON** The layered city, told as history: the Latin Bridge, the Gazi Husrev-beg complex and its bėzistan, the Old Orthodox Church, the synagogue and the Catholic cathedral within a few hundred paces of each other — the reason Sarajevo earned its old nickname.
- EVENING** Dinner at Inat Kuća†, the House of Spite — the storied house carried stone by stone across the Miljacka rather than surrender its plot. Traditional tables, a long story, a short walk home.
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DAY

3

The Hamam and the Hillside

SARAJEVO

- MORNING** Wild garlic above the city. We drive to the wooded slopes ringing the valley and forage *Allium ursinum* — ramson — where it comes up thickest in late spring, learning it by scent before sight. What we gather returns with us for the table.
- AFTERNOON** The ritual of the hamam. We move to the Isa Begov Hamam Hotel, where a genuine sixteenth-century bathhouse has been brought back into use beneath the hotel. Heat, cool stone, quiet — taken at your own pace, in sequence.
- EVENING** A ramson supper: the morning's wild garlic worked through the meal — folded into soft cheese, wilted into young potatoes. A short, herb-scented evening.
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DAY

4

The Coronation Valley

SARAJEVO · VISOKO · TRAVNIK

- MORNING** We leave Sarajevo and drive the short way to Visoko, the seat of the medieval Bosnian state. With a historian we read the valley as it was: the coronation church of Mile, where Bosnian kings were crowned and buried, walked as a set of foundations and facts, not legend.
- AFTERNOON** Up to Stari grad Visoki, the royal fortress on the hill above the town, for the long view down the valley; then the working tannery below, where hide is still dressed by hand and the old trade explains the town. Before lunch, a visit to a family sudžuk smokehouse† — Visoko's dark dried-beef sausage, hung and smoked the old way, tasted where it cures alongside suho meso, the smoke-dried beef. Lunch is a plain, good table at Restaurant No.1† by the river.
- EVENING** The road to Travnik passes two farms we know by name: at Breza, Baš-Bašča†, the Hrustanović family's organic orchard — a hundred dunums of fruit picked from the row and tasted with their own pekmez and juices — and near Kakanj, Malak Farma†, an organic dairy household with its own farm table and an api-chamber humming with bees. One of them, in season, gives the drive its pause. On to Travnik and Hotel Vezir Palace for two nights. The vizier town settles around you as the light goes; dinner is quiet, in-house, after the road.

DAY

5

The Vizier Town

TRAVNIK

- MORNING** Travnik as the Ottoman capital of Bosnia: the colored mosque (Šarena džamija) with its painted façade and the covered market beneath it, then the many-towered fortress over the town, read through the age of the viziers with our historian.
- AFTERNOON** The two cold springs of Plava Voda, where the Lašva rises clear under plane trees, and the house of the Nobel writer Ivo Andrić, whose *Bosnian Chronicle* is set in exactly these streets.
- EVENING** Ćevapi at the source: Ćevabdžinica Hari†, the town's long-standing grill, where Travnik's particular style — smaller, in a soft somun — is eaten the way it should be.

DAY

6

An Unhurried Day

TRAVNIK / JAJCE

A day we leave open on purpose. Sleep late. Some walk the fortress walls again with a book; some drive up to the Vlašić highland to the Mehić household† at Mudrike — cheesemakers on this mountain for a hundred and fifty years — where Vlašić cheese is made from raw milk, aged in wooden vats and smoked, tasted at the source with a bowl of kiselo mlijeko, the cold sour milk of the high pasture; some do nothing at all, which in Travnik is a respectable ambition. We move to Jajce at leisure in the afternoon and settle into Hotel Stari Grad inside the old walls. The evening is yours — a table can be arranged, or not.

DAY

7

Where the River Falls

J A J C E

- MORNING** The Pliva waterfall at the heart of town, where the Pliva drops into the Vrbas below the fortress — one of the few falls in the world at the centre of a settlement — walked from above and below with time to sit.
- AFTERNOON** Up through the fortified old town to the catacombs and the Temple of Mithras, then out to the Pliva watermills — a cluster of tiny wooden mills strung across the water between the two Pliva lakes, still standing, some still turning.
- EVENING** Dinner at Restoran Stari Grad†, built over Ottoman ruins visible under glass, or the old-town grill Restoran Kod Asima† — either a short walk from your bed.

DAY

8

Elderflower and Still Water

J A J C E

- MORNING** Elderflower in season. Along the lake shores and hedgerows *Sambucus nigra* comes into creamy flower in early summer; we gather heads with the hosts and set a cold-steep cordial going — the plant thread of this stretch of the journey, taken at the water's edge.
- AFTERNOON** The Pliva lakes unhurried — a slow boat or a shoreline walk, the ethno village of old mills, and the quiet that a mill-lake keeps. Those who want it can visit the Stone Room at the Pliva Spring, where the river surfaces cold and clear from the rock.
- EVENING** An evening inside the old walls, the cordial cold-steeping, dinner a short walk from your bed.

DAY

9

The Closing Table

J A J C E

- MORNING** A slow last morning at the water — coffee above the falls, the mills once more for those who want them, or nothing at all. The cordial set steeping on day eight is bottled to travel.
- AFTERNOON** A family apiary outside Jajce† — the journey's last honey, tasted with the beekeeper's account of the year — then the afternoon yours inside the old walls, the fortress climb or the lake shore as the light goes long.
- EVENING** The closing table, hosted, inside the old town — everything the road has taught reappearing: Vlačić cheese, sudžuk from Visoko, Pliva trout, the elderflower poured alongside. The last proper dinner of the journey.

DAY

10

The Road Home

JAJCE · SARAJEVO

- MORNING A slow breakfast below the fortress, then the road home — down the Vrbas to Donji Vakuf and along the Lašva valley, an easy three hours, broken once for coffee where the valley reads best.
- AFTERNOON Transfer to Sarajevo airport (SJJ) for onward flights, timed to the group. Those staying on are handed to the Collection — a room, a table, a further few days — with our notes.
- EVENING Farewells in whichever of our three languages fits you best. The cordial travels well; take a bottle.
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Four houses, held for the group

SARAJEVO · NIGHTS 1–2

Hotel Europe

SARAJEVO OLD TOWN

The grande dame of Sarajevo, standing where the Ottoman market meets the Habsburg avenues — the city's oldest hotel, rebuilt but unbroken, with the bēzistan at its feet. Our base for the first two nights, a two-minute walk from the coppersmiths' lane.

BEST FOR Guests who want the city at the door and a proper morning coffee.

NOT FOR Those seeking a small, hidden guesthouse.

IN BRIEF

BASE

First two nights

SETTING

On the Ottoman–Habsburg seam

SIGNATURE

The bēzistan below

ROOMS HELD

Four, for the group

SARAJEVO · NIGHT 3

Isa Begov Hamam Hotel

SARAJEVO, BENDBAŠA

A small hotel wrapped around a working sixteenth-century bathhouse — the Isa-beg hamam, brought back into use beneath the rooms. Warm stone, steam, and the oldest water ritual in the city, taken before dinner on the day we forage.

BEST FOR Guests drawn to the hamam and to sleeping above living history.

NOT FOR Anyone who prefers a purely modern spa.

IN BRIEF

SETTING

Over a 16th-c. hamam

RITUAL

Traditional hamam

SIGNATURE

Heat under stone

REGISTER

Small, quiet

TRAVNIK · NIGHTS 4–5

Hotel Vezir Palace

TRAVNIK CENTRE

A comfortable house in the middle of the vizier town, within reach of the colored mosque and the cold springs of Plava Voda. Our two Travnik nights sit here — unfussy, well-placed, quiet after the road.

BEST FOR Guests who want to walk to the mosque, the springs and the fortress.

NOT FOR Those wanting a rural retreat outside town.

IN BRIEF

BASE

Two Travnik nights

SETTING

Town centre

NEAR

Plava Voda springs

REGISTER

Easy, central

JAJCE · NIGHTS 6–9

Hotel Stari Grad

JAJCE, INSIDE THE WALLS

A small hotel set inside Jajce's fortified old town, a few steps from the waterfall and the walk up to the fortress — its dining room built directly over Ottoman ruins kept visible under glass. Our base for the waterfall days. On quieter departures, the Stone Room at the Pliva Spring can be held for a night by the water.

BEST FOR Guests who want to hear the falls from their room.

NOT FOR Those needing lift access or a large modern hotel.

IN BRIEF

BASE

Waterfall nights

SETTING

Within the old walls

SIGNATURE

Ruins under glass

WATER OPTION

Stone Room, Pliva Spring

Every dining moment worth naming

Dveri† SARAJEVO · BAŠČARŠIJA	A small herb-hung room off the old-town lanes; home-scaled Bosnian cooking. Our welcome table.	By arrangement
Inat Kuća† SARAJEVO · RIVERSIDE	The House of Spite, carried stone by stone across the river; traditional tables with a long story.	By arrangement
Ramson supper SARAJEVO · HOSTED	The morning's foraged wild garlic worked through a private table with the hosts.	Included
The Road Table EN ROUTE · HOSTED	Every transfer day breaks at a viewpoint — a cloth laid with Vlašić cheese from the high pasture, elderflower cordial, orchard juices and a local bottle.	Included
Ćevabdžinica Hari† TRAVNIK · ŽITARNICA	Travnik's long-standing grill; the town's smaller čevapi in a soft somun, eaten at the source.	Light table
Restoran Stari Grad† JAJCE · OLD TOWN	Dining built over Ottoman ruins kept under glass, steps from the waterfall.	By arrangement
Restoran Kod Asima† JAJCE · OLD TOWN	The old-town grill locals send you to; plain, generous, close to your bed.	Light table
The closing table JAJCE · HOSTED	The last dinner, hosted inside the old town — the road's own larder reappearing, the elderflower poured alongside.	Included

† Proposed addition — to be confirmed by the hosts.

All tables on the journey are included on the ground. Price markers are shown where a table is à-la-carte or arranged per guest; venues marked Included are private, host-led meals.

Guided visits, and who leads them

Bašćaršija craft ateliers SARAJEVO	The working copper workshops of Kazandžiluk — the beating and tinning of coffee ware — and a Bosnian coffee ritual read from roast to fildžan.	<i>With a coppersmith</i>
The layered city, walked SARAJEVO	Ottoman market to Habsburg avenue in a few hundred paces; mosque, church, synagogue and cathedral within sight of one another.	<i>With the hosts</i>
The Coronation Valley VISOKO	The coronation church of Mile, the royal fortress of Stari grad Visoki, and the working tannery — medieval Bosnia read in stone and hide. No pyramid framing.	<i>With a historian</i>
Vizier town & colored mosque TRAVNIK	The Šarena džamija, the covered market and the many-towered fortress, told through the age of the viziers; Andrić's streets and the Plava Voda springs.	<i>With a historian</i>
A sudžuk smokehouse† VISOKO	The dark dried-beef sausage for which Visoko is known, and suho meso beside it — the smoking room, the curing racks, and a tasting where it hangs.	<i>With the making family</i>
The Mehić household, Mudrike† THE VLAŠIĆ HIGHLAND	A hundred and fifty years of cheese on one mountain: raw milk set with rennet, aged in wooden vats, smoked wheels tasted at the source with kiselo mlijeko poured cold.	<i>With the cheesemaking family</i>
The orchard & the farm† BREZA · KAKANJ	Baš-Bašča, the Hrustanović orchard at Breza — fruit picked from the row, pekmez and juices tasted — or Malak Farma near Kakanj, an organic dairy household with its own farm table and api-chamber.	<i>With the farming families</i>
A family apiary† OUTSIDE JAJCE	The journey's last honey — hives among the orchards and mill-lakes, tasted with the beekeeper's account of the year.	<i>With the beekeeper</i>
Waterfall, catacombs & mills JAJCE	The Pliva falls at the town's heart, the catacombs and Temple of Mithras, and the wooden Pliva watermills strung between the lakes.	<i>With a local guide</i>

The plant thread, and the water

The Living Algorithm layer — tactile, seasonal, led by the hosts.

PLANT ANCHORS

<i>Allium ursinum</i> RAMSON · WILD GARLIC Foraged above Sarajevo in late spring; folded into the ramson supper the same evening.	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ELDER · ELDERFLOWER Gathered along the Pliva lakes in early summer; cold-steeped into a cordial that travels home.	<i>Tilia cordata</i> LINDEN · LIPA The June scent of Sarajevo's avenues; its flowers dried for the tea every Bosnian house keeps.
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THE TACTILE LAYER

Foraging. Ramson above Sarajevo in May, elderflower by the Pliva in June — each learned by scent before sight and carried back to a table the same day. This is the thread that makes the journey ours to host: we are not guides to the plants but authors of the material.

Distillation & steeping. An elderflower cordial set cold-steeping in Jajce, poured across the last two evenings and bottled to take home — the journey's keepsake is something you made, not something you bought.

The hamam. The oldest water ritual in Sarajevo, taken beneath the Isa Begov Hamam Hotel in a working sixteenth-century bathhouse — heat, cool stone and quiet, at your own pace.

Living water. The journey follows springs and rivers as much as roads: the cold springs of Plava Voda in Travnik, the Pliva surfacing clear from the rock, and the falls at the heart of Jajce. Where the water rises is where we stop.

What to know before you request a place

ARRIVE / DEPART	Both into and out of Sarajevo International (SJJ). One airport, no back-tracking — the route loops home.
ON THE ROAD	Two ways to travel: rent a car and drive yourself, in easy convoy with the hosts, or have us provide a car and driver for the ten days, arranged at booking. Two longer drives (to Travnik via Visoko; home from Jajce), each broken by a hosted stop.
GROUP SIZE	Eight guests, two to a room. Designed around couples and pairs; some departures take a whole small house.
HOSTING	The two owners, in English, French and Bosnian — with private time built into every day.
FITNESS LEVEL	Gentle to moderate. Old-town cobbles, fortress climbs and short forest walks for foraging. No technical hiking; most afternoons are optional.
WEATHER	May–June: green, mild, wildflowers — the foraging window. September: warm days, cool evenings, first colour. Layers and sound shoes either way.
HOSTED IN	English · Français · Bosanski

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All stays — Hotel Europe, Isa Begov Hamam Hotel, Hotel Vezir Palace, Hotel Stari Grad
- Every meal on the journey — breakfasts, lunches, dinners, the named tables among them; some hosted, some yours alone
- The hosts on the road with you on every transfer day
- self-drive convoy or a provided driver, chosen at booking
- Both hosts across the journey — at the introductions and the key tables, with private time built in
- All guided experiences — local experts where a visit calls for one
- All rituals — hamam, foraging, distillation and cordial-making
- Working-farm visits — the smokehouse, the orchard, the Vlašić cheesemakers and the apiary, tastings included
- Road tables on every transfer day — local cheese, cordials, juices and wine at a viewpoint

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to and from Sarajevo (SJJ)
- Rental car and fuel, for those who choose to drive themselves
- Travel insurance (required)
- Personal purchases — crafts, bottles, extra à-la-carte
- Anything of a purely personal nature

Two departures in 2027

May 28 – June 6, 2027 *Late spring — the foraging window, elderflower* 8 places · all available OPEN

September 3 – 12, 2027 *Early autumn — first colour, the harvest tables* 8 places · all available OPEN

THE PRICE

From €6,400 per guest

Sharing a room — two guests to a room. Travelling alone: a room of your own adds €950. All stays, every meal, experiences and rituals included on the ground · self-drive or provided driver on the road.

A full departure, privately — all eight places for one party, on dates of your choosing — from €7,700 per guest.

REQUESTING A PLACE

- 01 **Request**
Send a request for the departure and party you have in mind — no instant checkout, no calendar to fight.
- 02 **A personal reply**
We reply personally, in your language, within 48 hours — to talk through the fit before anything is held.
- 03 **A deposit holds it**
A 25% deposit holds your places. Because there are only eight, we hold them the moment we agree.
- 04 **Balance at 60 days**
The balance falls due 60 days before departure. Everything on the ground is then taken care of.

concierge@vrelocollection.com — Request a place on The Layered Kingdom

For researched venues only

Named stays and their prices are drawn from the Vrelo Collection inventory. Dining venues and a handful of visits marked with a dagger (†) in this document are proposed additions researched for this route and to be confirmed by the hosts before publication. Their sources follow.

1. Dveri (Dveri), Sarajevo old town — <https://soulhaus.ba/blog/best-restaurants-sarajevo-old-town>
2. Inat Kuća (House of Spite), Sarajevo — <https://restaurantsforkings.com/city/sarajevo/inat-kuca>
3. Sarajevo čevapi houses (Željo, Petica, Hodžić) — Baščaršija — <https://www.bosnia-spirit.com/guides/cevapi-sarajevo-guide/>
4. Ćevabdžinica Hari, Travnik — <https://lil.ba/cevabdžinica-hari-travnik/>
5. Restaurant No.1, Visoko — <https://www.restaurantno1.com/>
6. Restoran Stari Grad & Restoran Kod Asima, Jajce — <https://thepetitwanderer.com/2026/06/05/the-ultimate-guide-to-jajce-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>
7. Vlačić/Travnik cheese — Slow Food Ark of Taste (katun production) — <https://www.fondazione Slow Food.com/en/ark-of-taste-slow-food/vlasi-cheese/>
8. Travnik cheese producers, Mount Vlačić (Eko-Vlačić breeders' organisation) — https://wilderness-resort.de/index.php?article_id=192&clang=1
9. Očuz meat works, Visoko (sudžuk & suho meso) — <https://ocuz.ba/proizvodi/>
10. Mehić Eko cheese household, Mudrike, Vlačić — 150 years of cheesemaking — <https://visitbih.ba/selo-mudrike-na-vlasicu-mehici-se-bave-proizvodnjom-sira-vec-150-godina/>
11. Baš-Bašča organic fruit plantation, Breza (agrotourism, pick-your-own) — <https://snagalokalnog.ba/en/unique-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina-bas-basca-organic-fruit-plantation-100-dunums-of-land/>
12. Malak Farma, Kakanj — organic farm, rural tourism & restaurant — <https://www.malakfarma.ba/>

† Proposed addition — to be confirmed by the hosts.



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