

JOURNEY III · TRAVNIK, VLAŠIĆ & JAJCE

The River That Doubles Back

*A ten-day hosted journey through the vizier town, the Vlašić plateau, and the fortified
old town on the falls*

Ten days · Eight guests · two guests to a room

Hosted by the owners in English, French & Bosnian

SEASON · MID-JUNE & MID-AUGUST

VRELO COLLECTION · THE HOSTED JOURNEYS

THE INVITATION

Why we host this road ourselves

Central Bosnia is a country of water. The Lašva rises whole and cold at Plava Voda; the Vlašić plateau makes cheese and cream from its high pasture; the Pliva pours over a twenty-two-metre tufa fall at the very heart of Jajce and doubles back into the Vrbas below the fortress. We built this journey to walk that water in sequence — vizier town, mountain plateau, and the fortified old town where the river turns — at a pace that lets each one land.

We host it ourselves because the material is ours. We know the historian who reads Travnik's viziers back into the streets, the family on Vlašić whose smoked cheese still cures the old way, the room in Jajce that looks over the falls at first light. Ten days, eight guests, four rooms — small enough that Jajce holds the group for five nights inside the walls, and the days can bend around the table rather than the clock. We host in English, French and Bosnian, and we travel the road with you rather than ahead of it.

— *The owners, Vrelo Collection*

THE SHAPE OF THE JOURNEY

Route, bases, and pace

The road runs inland from Sarajevo along the Lašva valley to Travnik, climbs onto the Vlačić plateau for a single night above the tree line, and drops down the Vrbas gorge to Jajce, where five nights inside the old-town walls hold the heart of the journey. A final night at Hotel Europe in Sarajevo sets the airport pickup as a short morning transfer rather than a same-day drive.

It moves the way the best travel films do — from person to person rather than sight to sight: the historian who walks the vizier town, the family on the mountain whose cheese we taste in the room where it was made, the beekeeper outside Jajce whose honey closes the road. The places hold the days; the people carry them.

Landfall	Sarajevo (SJJ)	Arrival gathered in the hall, then the Lašva-valley road
Travnik	Two nights	Hotel Vezir Palace at Varoš, beneath the fortress
Vlačić	One night	Blanca Resort & Spa at Babanovac, above the tree line
Jajce	Five nights	Hotel Stari Grad inside the walls, above the falls
Sarajevo	One night	Hotel Europe, so the airport pickup is a short morning transfer
Departure	Sarajevo (SJJ)	A short transfer, timed to the group

ON PACE

Depth over movement. Four bases in ten days means you unpack four times, not nine. Mornings are generally the working hours of the journey — a historian, a plateau walk, a plant gather — and the afternoons loosen: a walk to the falls, a slow boat on the Pliva lakes, the fortress read as rest. One full day at Jajce is left deliberately open. There is no hurrying a river that already turns back on itself.

THE TEN DAYS

The heart of the journey

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

DAY 1

The Drive Up

SARAJEVO · TRAVNIK

- MORNING** Arrivals into Sarajevo (SJJ). We gather in the arrivals hall — no rush. A first coffee before the road, if the timing wants it.
- AFTERNOON** The Lašva-valley road inland: an easy ninety minutes, broken once at a viewpoint above Kiseljak for the first road table — cheese, smoked lamb, a glass of Blatina. We settle into Hotel Vezir Palace at Varoš — twenty-nine rooms directly beneath Travnik's fortress, the old core a few steps down the hill.
- EVENING** A first supper at the hotel — Bosnian pot cooking, local wines, an early night after the flight.

DAY 2

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 Hariž, the town's long-standing grill, where Travnik's particular style — smaller, in a soft somun — is eaten the way it should be.

DAY 3

The Mountain Above

TRAVNIK · VLAŠIĆ

- MORNING** Up onto Vlašić in the hosts' 4x4s — 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.
- AFTERNOON** A gentle plateau walk with the hosts — learning *Achillea millefolium* by scent in the meadow, and (in season) the first wild-raspberry canes at the edge of the pasture.
- EVENING** One night at Blanca Resort & Spa at Babanovac — the plateau's largest house, fifty-six rooms up on the mountain, a hosted mountain dinner, sleeping above the tree line so the air changes.

DAY 4

Down to the Water

VLAŠIĆ · JAJCE

- MORNING** The drive down the Vrbas gorge to Jajce — the fortress rising over the confluence, and check-in at Hotel Stari Grad on Svetog Luke, inside the old-town walls, five nights.
- AFTERNOON** The Pliva waterfall at the heart of town: the Pliva drops twenty-two metres into the Vrbas directly 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.
- EVENING** Dinner at Restoran Stari Grad†, built over Ottoman ruins visible under glass — ten paces from your bed.

DAY 5

The Fortified Town

JAJCE

- MORNING** Up through the fortified old town to the catacombs and the Temple of Mithras, read with our historian — the Roman thread beneath the medieval.
- AFTERNOON** 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** Restoran Kod Asima†, the old-town grill, or a table back at Stari Grad — either a short walk from your bed.

DAY 6

Elderflower and Still Water

JAJCE

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 7

Nothing, Deliberately

JAJCE

ALL DAY

The still point of the ten days. Nothing scheduled. Sleep late, sit at the water, walk the fortress walls with a book, or don't. A slow boat on the lower Pliva lake can be arranged in the afternoon for those who want it. Supper in the old town when the light goes.

EVENING

We gather, if you wish, for tea in the hotel's traditional room, and the tasting of the cordial as it finishes — ready to bottle tomorrow.

DAY 8

The Closing Table

JAJCE

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 six 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: Vlašić kajmak and smoked lamb from Mudrike, Pliva trout, the elderflower cordial poured alongside. The last proper dinner of the journey.

DAY 9

Back to the Valley

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** Into Sarajevo and Hotel Europe, one night in the 1882 house so the airport pickup is a short morning transfer rather than a same-day drive. A short walk into Baščaršija for those who want it — the coppersmiths' lane at dusk, read as rest, not as history.
- EVENING** A quiet dinner nearby, at Inat Kuća† or at the hotel — nothing formal.

DAY 10

The Road Home

SARAJEVO

- MORNING** A slow breakfast in the hotel, then the packing of the cordial bottles and the honey.
- AFTERNOON** A short 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.

THE RITUALS

The plant thread, and the water

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

Achillea millefolium YARROW Learned by scent in the Vlašić meadow; a plateau plant with a long medicinal reach, folded briefly into the day so the ground can be read as more than pasture.	Rubus idaeus WILD RASPBERRY First canes at the meadow edge above Mudrike in early summer; in late-season departures, the fruit still on the canes — tasted where it grows.	Sambucus nigra ELDER Along the Pliva lake shores and hedgerows; the flower heads gathered with the hosts and cold-steeped across the Jajce days into a cordial, bottled at the closing table with the guest's name on the label.
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The tactile layer. The thread runs through the days as touch, not decoration. Yarrow read on the Vlašić plateau; the first wild-raspberry canes at the meadow edge; and at the heart of the Jajce days, the elderflower ritual on the hotel's traditional-room shelf: cream-white flower heads pressed into cold water and honey, the cordial slowly steeping across four nights, bottled at the closing table. This is the Living Algorithm sensibility made literal: the material is the medium.

The water. And beneath the plants, the rivers. The Lašva rises whole and cold at Plava Voda in Travnik; the Pliva drops twenty-two metres into the Vrbas at the very heart of Jajce — one of the few falls in the world at the centre of a settlement — and the two Pliva lakes above it hold the wooden mills that still turn on the water between them. Water rises here whole and cold, and the journey keeps returning to it — the karst spring that gives the Collection its name.

THE PRACTICAL PAGE

What to know before you request a place

ARRIVAL	Sarajevo (SJJ); the hosts gather the group in the arrivals hall, then the ninety-minute drive up the Lašva valley to Travnik
DEPARTURE	Sarajevo (SJJ); a short morning transfer from Hotel Europe, timed to the group
ON THE ROAD	Two ways to travel: rent a car and drive yourself, in easy convoy with the hosts — the roads on this route are good and the drives are short — or have us provide a car and driver for the ten days, arranged at booking. Either way, every drive breaks at a road table of local cheese, honey and juice at a viewpoint. On the Vlačić highland tracks the hosts' 4x4s carry the rough ground.
GROUP SIZE	Eight guests, two guests to a room (four rooms) — designed around couples and pairs; the Vlačić overnight holds few single rooms and shapes the group size
HOSTING	Hosted by the two owners, in English, French and Bosnian — with private time built into every day
FITNESS	Easy to moderate: cobbled lanes in Travnik and Jajce, a gentle Vlačić plateau walk, the fortress climb above Jajce; nothing forced
WEATHER	Late spring and early autumn: warm days in the valleys, cool nights on Vlačić (Babanovac sits above the tree line), warm afternoons at the water in Jajce

INCLUDED

— All stays across the route — Hotel Vezir Palace in Travnik (two nights), Blanca Resort & Spa at Babanovac (one night on the plateau), Hotel Stari Grad inside the Jajce walls (five nights), Hotel Europe in Sarajevo (one night)

NOT INCLUDED

— International flights to and from Sarajevo (SJJ)

- Every meal on the journey — breakfasts, lunches, dinners, the named tables and the road tables; 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
- The hosts' 4x4s on the Vlačić highland tracks — the rough plateau roads no rental car should attempt
- Both hosts across the journey — at the introductions and the key tables, with private time built in
- All guided experiences — the historian at Travnik and again at Jajce, the fortress walks, the cheese and cordial rituals
- Working-farm visits — the Mehić cheesemakers on Vlačić, the family apiary outside Jajce, tastings included
- The plant thread — yarrow on the plateau, wild raspberry at the meadow edge, the elderflower cordial cold-steeped across the Jajce days and bottled at the closing table
- Rental car and fuel, for those who choose to drive themselves
- Travel insurance (required)
- Personal purchases — the cordial, honey, oils to ship, souvenirs
- Anything of a purely personal nature

DEPARTURES & PLACES

Two departures in 2027

June 17 – 26, 2027

Elderflower at peak on the Pliva lakes; the cordial goes on the shelf 8 places

August 15 – 24, 2027

Wild raspberries ripe at the meadow edge; first cool mornings on Vlačić 8 places

FROM

€6,600 per guest

sharing a room — two guests to a room · travelling alone, a room of your own adds €800 by arrangement (the Vlačić overnight holds few single rooms) · all stays, every meal & all experiences included on the ground

A full departure, privately — all eight places for one party, on dates of your choosing — from €7,900 per guest.

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 a place. 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

SOURCES & NOTES

For researched venues, marked † in the document

The core of this journey — Hotel Vezir Palace at Travnik, Blanca Resort & Spa on Vlašić, Hotel Stari Grad inside the Jajce walls, Hotel Europe in Sarajevo, the Mehić cheesemakers on the plateau and the historian threads — is drawn from the Vrelo Collection's own inventory. Venues marked † are proposed additions to be confirmed by the hosts; their sources are listed below.

1. Hotel Vezir Palace, Travnik — 4-star house at Varoš, twenty-nine rooms directly beneath the fortress.

<https://hotel-vezir-palace.bosnia-herzegovina.info/en/>

2. Travnik Fortress (Stari grad Travnik) — the many-towered citadel above the town.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Town_of_Travnik

3. The Coloured Mosque (Šarena džamija), Travnik — painted-façade mosque with the covered market beneath.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulejmanija_Mosque

4. Plava Voda, Travnik — the two cold springs where the Lašva rises under plane trees.

<https://www.tzsbk.com/en/discover-central-bosnia/plava-voda-source>

5. Ivo Andrić Museum, Travnik — the house of the Nobel writer, setting of *Bosnian Chronicle*.

<https://www.muzej-andric.ba/>

6. Blanca Resort & Spa, Babanovac (Vlašić) — the plateau's largest hotel, fifty-six rooms on the mountain.

<https://blanca-resort.com/en/>

7. Hotel Stari Grad, Jajce — inside the old-town walls at Svetog Luke, above the confluence.

<https://www.hotel-stari-grad.ba/>

8. Pliva Waterfall, Jajce — a twenty-two-metre tufa fall at the meeting of the Pliva and the Vrbas.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliva_Waterfall

9. Catacombs and the Temple of Mithras, Jajce — Roman thread beneath the medieval fortified town.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jajce>

10. The Pliva watermills — cluster of wooden mills between the two Pliva lakes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliva_Lakes

11. Hotel Europe, Sarajevo — 1882 house by Karel Pařík, restored and reopened.

<https://www.hoteleurope.ba/en/about-us/>