

Three festivals - sounds and soul of Balkans - Guca, Nisville, Belgrade beer fest

8 days / 7 nights (11 th - 18 th of August 2011) - by drive and boat, average mileage 1000 miles (1600 km)

Day 1: Arrival at Nikola Tesla airport in Belgrade. Drive to western Serbia. Sightseeing of Ovar-Kablar Gorge, beautiful natural site, and monasteries built within it - ten in total, dating from 15th to 17th century. Lunch in the restaurant overlooking Zapadna Morava river, the longest Serbian river (308 kms); arrival at Guca; wine and rakia tasting accompanied by the sounds of trumpets. Serbian national dinner, and free time for exploration the sounds of Balkans in Guca. Arrival to townlet Ivanjica, visit to the old Ivanjica hydro-powered electric plant that was turned into the Museum of movements of the Yugoslav Royal Army in the 2nd World War. Overnight at hotel Park in Ivanjica.

Day 2: Breakfast at the hotel. Short visit to ethno-village Stitkovo; drive to the Uvac special nature reserve, protected by law; boat cruise on the lake and on the river (Uvac Gorge), entering the Ice Cave and the White Headed Vulture habitat (one of the two remaining sorts of vultures). Drive to Mileseva Monastery, visit to one of the most important monasteries of Serbian Medieval State which is the gallery of frescoes painting of that time and the place of the first printing press. Founded at the beginning of the 12th century. The most beautiful and the most valuable fresco is the White Angel. Lunch at the Mileseva Monastery. Drive to Guca and second evening in Balkan bohemian atmosphere filled with numerous brass band music. Arrival to Ivanjica. Overnight at hotel Park in Ivanjica.

Day 3: Late breakfast at the hotel. Studenica Monastery - one of the largest and richest monastery complexes of the Serbian Orthodox Church; its fortified walls enclose two churches founded by Stefan Nemanja in 1190. Well-known for its frescoes collection from the 13th and the 14th century, on the UNESCO List of the World Cultural Heritage. Maglic Fortress - one of the best preserved Serbian medieval towns; short climb on foot and sightseeing of the remnants of the fortification.

Lunch in a national restaurant on the bank of the river Ibar; drive through the Lilac Valley. Zica Monastery- fortified monastery complex, site of coronation of seven Serbian kings, symbol of Serbian state foundation, autonomy of Serbian church and national identity; built at the outset of the 13th century by the first Serbian king - Stefan Prvovencani; wine degustation in the ethno-village, coming to city of Nis. Dinner at Kazandzijsko sokace (Coppersmiths' Alley), and visit to Nisville jazz festival. Niska banja (Nis Spa), dinner, overnight.

Day 4: Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing of geo-morphological wonder of nature - Djavolja Varos (Devil's Town); sightseeing of the Roman imperial complex Iustiniana Prima, built by the last great Roman and the first Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Special gourmand lunch in national cuisine restaurant: Heading back to Nis, sightseeing of Nis from the bus and on foot, Kazandzijsko sokace (Coppersmiths' Alley), part of the old urban downtown, built in the first half of the 18th century. Nis Fortress (on the bank of Nisava river, built over a Roman military camp and, subsequently, over the Roman town of Naisus. Cele Kula ("Skull

Tower"), unique and bizarre monument with implanted skulls of Serbian rebels who were killed during the battle of Cegar (neighboring hill), built by the Turks as a matter of revenge, in 1809. 952 skulls of Serbian heroes were displayed in Cele Kula as a warning to Serbian people. A chapel was built over Cele Kula in 1892, to protect it and to preserve the remaining 58 skulls. Mediana - once a noble suburb of ancient Naisus, with the residence of the Emperor Constantine, where he used to receive his guests and to fulfill his official duties. Dinner at Kazandzijsko sokace (Coppersmiths' Alley). Second visit to Nisville jazz festival. Niska banja (Nis Spa), overnight.

Day 5: Late breakfast at the hotel. Archeological site Felix Romuliana, one of the best preserved Roman royal palaces in the world and the place of the last apotheosis of a Roman emperor; on UNESCO List of the World Cultural Heritage. Rajacke Pimnice, wine complex with about 200 stone houses in a cluster, with the wine-cellar; for three centuries this complex has been solely used for wine production. Lunch and wine testing. Short walk to the stone bridges on the river Vratna, the largest natural stone bridges in Europe. Arrival to Kladovo city, sightseeing on Danube by boat: Tabula Traiana; remnants of the Traian Bridge on the Danube, built at the beginning of the 2nd century (with its 1127 meters length it was the longest Roman bridge); hydro-electric power station Djerdap; dinner, free time for spa treatments and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: Breakfast at the hotel. Diana Fortress, one of the largest and the best preserved Roman fortresses on the Danube; drive through the Djerdap Gorge (Iron Gate), the largest gorge in Europe. visit to Lepenski Vir archeological site, the oldest urban settlement in Europe (6.500 years b.c.), with the oldest monolith sculptures in the world: sightseeing of Golubac Fortress, one of the most beautiful medieval fortresses on the Danube,

situated at the place where the Danube is the widest (6.5 kilometers); Lunch at national restaurant on Danube river bank: visit to Viminacium archaeological site, the base of the Roman Upper Mesia region and the only large Roman settlement in the world that never served as a foundation for a subsequent one, the oldest Christ monogram in the world was found there; boat cruise on Danube river from Viminacium to Smederevo town: walking sightseeing of Smederevo Fortress, the largest lowland fortress of Europe, tasting of various kinds of rakia or wine near Smederevo town. Arrival to Belgrade: dinner at hotel: free time: overnight.

Day 7: Late breakfast at the hotel: Panoramic sightseeing of Belgrade by bus and Belgrade promenade. Lunch on the boat during cruise on the Danube and the Sava River. Free time during afternoon and night for visit to Belgrade beer fest.

Day 8: Late breakfast at the hotel: Day for special sightseeing and tours: Belgrade underground, Wine tour, Bohemian - rakia tour, Belgrade Sport adventure, Evening of museums. Free time during afternoon and night for visit to Belgrade beer fest. Transfer to the airport.

