


# *The Best Kept Secret... Western Serbia*

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# Tara-Drina-Kremna-Raca Monastery



**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 Zvezda 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. Pancic'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 season guests experience variety of nature facilities such as walking through the forest along 10 km long walkways and around the beautiful Zaovine Lake, canyoning, mountain biking, sailing on the lake, fishing, rafting and

photo, boat excursions, bathing in outdoor swimming pools.... Sportsmen gladly use 1.6 km long trim track, a football pitch and outdoor courts. The woods, canyons and shores of Tara Mountain are abundant of prehistoric, Antique, Roman and Byzantine cultures traces. Especially attractive are visits to the Medieval Raca Monastery /13th century/ and to the old tombstone necropolis in Perucac and Rastiste or traveling by «Sargan Eight» /narrow-gauge rail-track/ and visit the Tarabics' house /family of prophets known as Serbian Nostradamus family/. Dinaric log cabins on shores of the river Drina represent a unique folk art. Drina River whose wonderful gorge naturally separates Serbia from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the lake close to Perucac are rich in all sorts of fish that provide brilliant fly-fishing destinations.

## **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 GornjaTresnjica, the Drina is flanked 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 surrounding villages obtain brilliant conditions for true relief and family vacations: fragrant meadows, mountain slopes full of sprinkling waters, fresh air and numerous rural households that provide tourist services..

**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 recon-

structed 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 iconastases 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-Mecavnik-Sirogojno-Cigota

## **Zlatibor Mountain**

Zlatibor is the name given to a mountain range and a region rather than a particular place, although the tourist center of Kraljeve 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 Uzice 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 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 region of high mountains, pine forest and alpine meadows which is the best winter tourist resort of Serbia thanks to its beautiful nature and variety of accommodation facilities and convenient and beneficial climate. Zlatibor abounds in speleological features /total of 98 caves and 44 pits/ with lots of beautiful waterfalls springs. Stopica

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 festivals. Best tourist sites are included in full-day and half-day excursions from Zlatibor and multi-day tour packages : Stopića pećina Cave, Potpec pećina Cave, Waterfall in Gostilje village, Open Air "Old Village" Museum in Sirogojno, Uvac and Dubrava Monasteries, log churches in the villages of Jablanica and Dobroselica, art galleries in Borova Glava, Trnava and Sljivovica 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" and Mecavnik Hill**

"Šargan Eight" Railway is spectacular small section of the narrow-gauge line that connects Western Serbia and Eastern Bosnia and West Morava and Drina Valleys as part of the line connecting Belgrade and Sarajevo. Passing distance of 13,5 kilometers through gorgeous mountain terrain of West Serbia along the remarkable loop in the shape of a digit eight from Šargan-Vitasi to

Mokra Gora stations the Šargan Eight railway climbs the height difference of 450 meters. That is how the loop became famous as the "Šargan Eight". The "Šargan Eight" train with its charming wooden carriages and breathtaking views goes over 10 bridges and through 22 tunnels to complete this ingenious loop which surely provides memorable journey. In the close proximity of the "Šargan Eight" train famous Film Director Emir Kusturica founded a unique "Wooden -Town", all of the coniferous wood from Tara, Zlatibor and Šargan 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

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## **"Staro selo Sirogojno"**

### **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 : 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, Kremna and Tara Mt.

- Zlakusa village – Ovcar-Kablar Gorge – lunch in Zlakusa
- Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch in rural household – Stopica Pecina Cave
- Mokra Gora – Mecavnik Wooden town – Sargan Eighth train ride
- Tara Mt – Rafting – lunch on Perucac Lake – Raca Monastery







# Zlakusa Ovcarsko-Kablaraska klisura

## **“Terzica avlija” / “Terzic’s Yard” / traditional settlement**

Zlakusa is a peaceful village between Užice and Požega 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 delights for its visitors : fresh air in the heart of pure nature, preserved culture, hand work 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 honeybee-keepers, premium organic fresh vegetables, unlimited natural potentials such as Potpec Cave exploration and numerous trekking paths up to mountain peaks... “Terzica avlija” / “Terzic’s Yard” / Ethno Settlement is situated just near Zlakusa village center on the hill below the forest to present Serbian traditional rural life from the 19th century. It contains two authentic Serbian

archaic 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” /archaic 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, archaic stamps and Serbian coins, bank notes 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 ....

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**Potpečka Pecina Cave** is situated 14 km from the town of Užice. It is 800m long. Potpečka Pecina Cave lies on the northern part of the 932 m high Mount of Dreznička Gradi-na near the village of Potpece, in a rugged cliff which is more than 80 meters high. The entrance of Potpečka Pecina Cave is one of the hugest 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. Potpečka 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 Ovčar 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 Ovčar 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), Ilinje Monastery (dedicated to St. Eliah), Jovanje Monastery (dedicated to the birth of St. John the Baptist), Nikolje (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 Ovčar and Kablar Mountains along West Morava River /Zapadna Morava/ winding through the mountains provide exceptional sport outdoor facilities such are 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 Ovčar-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**

1. Zlakusa – Ovcar Kablar Gorge – Nikolje Monastery – lunch in DOM Restaurants
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 Zlakusa village**

1. Ovcar-Kablar Gorge – Nikolje Monastery – lunch in Dom Restaurant
2. Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch in Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina Cave
3. Mokra Gora – Mecavnik visit and lunch – Sargan Eight train ride
4. Tara Mt and rafting – lunch on Perucac Lake – visit to Raca Monastery





# Pešter-Stitkovo

**Pešter Plateau** or Pešterska visoravan is a karsts plateau in the southwestern Serbia of Stari Vlah area, in the Rashka 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 km<sup>2</sup>,

Pešter field is the largest field in Serbia, and the highest one in the Balkans. 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 Karajukića 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. Stitkovo 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
5. Nova Varos – Zlatar Lake – Dubnica Monastery – lunch in rural household





# Nova Varos-Uvac

**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 Reservation, as 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 griffin 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, rosettes, 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 than two centuries Dubnica Monastery experienced its best revival. It was the time of the reign of Rascian Metropolitan Gavriilo Rajic-Raskovic who later became the Patriarch and was represent of famous family, the Dukes of Raškovic 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 Raskovic Family nobility. 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 be 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 Milijan Đoković and his group from Sirogojno after research and conservation works carried out by researches 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 – Sirogojno – lunch in Sirogojno
4. Mokra Gora – Mecavnik Wooden town – lunch – Sargan Eight train ride
5. Katici village/traditional settlement – lunch







# Prijeapolje-Kamena Gora-Sopotnica

## 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 „limes” (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 llyn, llym, 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. Nature Reserve of Mileševka River Canyon lies at the altitude between 600 and 1400 meters and covers the protected surface of 297 hectares consisting of several limestone gorges surrounded by forests and pastures.... Unique

features of the Mileševka River canyon are its wilderness, roughness, picturesqueness, inaccessibility and steep sides that are sometimes 300 meters high and almost vertically descend towards the river bed. The average yearly temperature is 6 C /January - 30 C and August 16 C/. Rain is highest distributed in June with average 1000 mm per meter while the area in average got 800 mm/meter yearly. 10 cm snow covers remains for 60 days. Pancic’s Spruce, the relict and beautifully-strong pine plant rises above the Rocky River bed of Mileševka River. Pančić spruce /relict and endemic species of the Balkans/, conifer, tender chestnut, nut, black hazel and pine are only some representatives of 317 floral species of not well explored and researched Mileševka River Canyon. 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 griffin-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 Mileševka 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 griffin 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 Mileševka River canyon with three possibilities to access the river. After Ravniste the path continues along Medjanska Reka River up to the village of Pockrvine from where it descends for 4 km along the abandoned tracks to the village of Aljinovici 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...

**Air health resort Kamena Gora (Stone Mount)** is considered to be the most beautiful village in Prijepolje Municipality, thanks to its astonishing meadows, beautiful pine woods and plenty of fresh mountain springs. It is raised above towns of Prijepolje, Pljevlja and Bijelo Polje in the southwest part of Serbia, at the altitude of more than 1300 m, from where the spectacular view to Durmitor, Jadovnik, Zlatar, Golija and Zlatibor Mountains spreads. It is famous for its symbol – the centuries-old pine “Svetibor”/the Holy pine tree/, collecting many secrets and traditional tales of longevity highlanders for centuries. Rich in thick pine-woods and wealthy fresh mountain waters, Kamena Gora

justifies the genuine life philosophy of its native highlanders simply offered to any visitor. It is a perfect place for nature lovers, proclaimed as the air health resort in the middle of last century. One can get to Kamena Gora by the 20 km paved road from Prijepolje.

Kamena Gora is the unique paradise for sports and recreation thanks to its existing mountain bike and trekking paths, exciting rafting on the River Lim, para-gliding grounds, nearby Sopotnica waterfalls, challenging Milesevka River Canyon exploration, fishing, and hunting.

Sopotnica is small pastoral village on descent wild slopes of Jadovnik Mountain near Prijepolje, known for gorgeous Sopotnica springs and waterfalls at the altitude of 1000 meters just above the tiny settlement. Surrounded by thick forests and carpets of stunning fields full of flowers and medical herbs it was declared by the end of year 2005 for the Nature monument. One of the most memorable features of Sopotnica are old mills on Sopotnica river still in use after 200 years - milling corn and other mountainous crops in traditional way, that is almost forgotten. Delicious food – grilled mountain lamb, homemade organic products, wild fruits brandy are waiting for visitors of this tranquil place. It is approachable 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/.





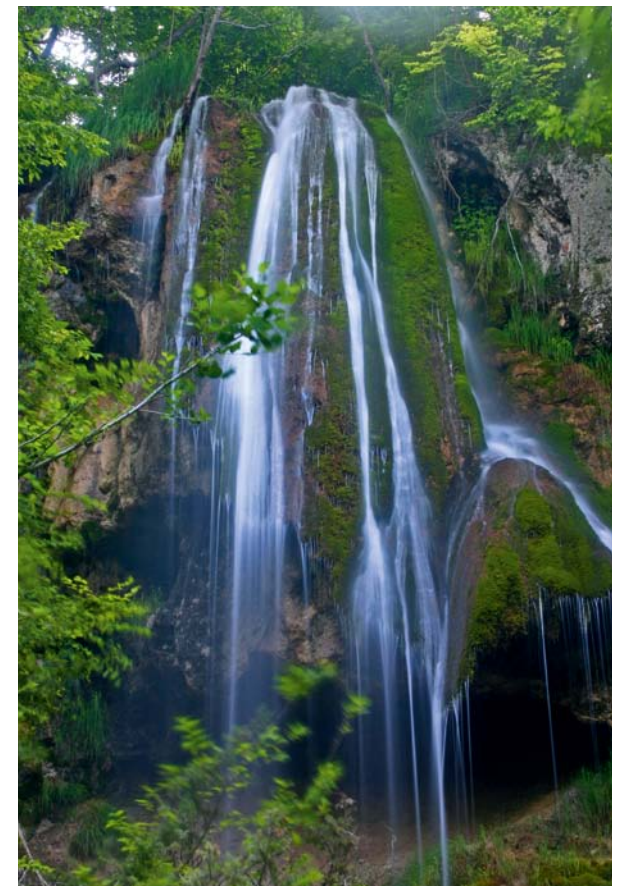
### Mileševa Monastery

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 Milesevk 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 Mileševa Monastery whose liturgical books spread throughout the Serb lands and beyond. Next centuries Mileševa 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 Mileševa Monastery burnt and in ruins. Mileševa Monastery had undergone two great restorations, the first in the 16th century, at the time of patriarch Makarije Sokolovic. During the 19th century Mileševa Monastery was abandoned and was renewed by the people of Prijepolje only in 1863 when it got its present-day appearance. The frescoes of Mileševa 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 Mileševa Monastery stands the castle of Mileševac also known by the name Hisardžik. 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.

### 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







# Golija-Ivanjica Katici-Kusici

## **Golija Mountain**

Golija Mountain is the highest mountain in the Southwest Serbia in the so-called Stari Vlah area. Golija Mountain is S-shaped and 32 km long, located between rivers of Ibar and Moravica and mountain of Radocelo and Pester Plateau. The highest peak of Golija Mountain is Jankov Kamen - 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 and wild mountain that gets the highest rate of precipitation in Serbia. By its stunning landscape rich in vast coniferous forests and heights Golija Mountain can only be compared to Kopaonik Mountain but it is twice larger than Kopaonik Mt. Thanks to its outstanding unspoiled beauties and extreme wild settings in 2001 UNESCO declared Golija Mountain the I category Park of Nature and the Biosphere Reserve amongst the World's Nature Reservations called "Golija-Studenica" covering 75.183 ha. Golija Mountain is situated about 300 km south of Belgrade, 40 km south-west of Ivanjica and 32 km north of Novi Pazar. Golija Mountain got its name after its large surface and size /golema - large mountain/. Tičar Lake or Dajičko Lake and Kosanin Lake are magnificent examples of preserved lakes within the natural resort of Golija in the heart of wilderness. Dense forests of Golija Mountain rich

in forest products and over 100 species of medicinal herbs and abundance of fresh waters /more than 100 springs/ are protected by law and associated with numerous legends. Golija Mountain is the premium location for passionate mountain climbers, adventurers and nature-lovers. You can easily find various wild games in forests of Golija Mountain.... "Wolf Chase" is organized traditionally on Golija Mountain and is the well-known manifestation that gathers numerous hunters from Serbia and over the world. Slopes of Golija Mountain are very suitable for skiing since in winters there is abundance of snow. During harsh winters on Golija Mountain snow lasts for five months and its average layer is 105 cm high. Walks through thick forests of Golija Mountain rich in waters and along fragrant meadows enhance health condition of every visitor to this magic mountain full of surprises... Our best experience is full-day invigorating walk through thick, almost inaccessible forests of Golija while picking up wild juicy strawberries and blackberries...and memorable encountering wild horses...

## **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 allows fantastic views across the Mučanj Mountain with Savina voda springs, believed to have healing properties.

Here they welcome you with "Breathe in Mučanj", a privilege of your vacations available for demanding guests. 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.

## **Kušici village**

Kušici 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 Kusici village provides excellent conditions for healing of bronchitis and asthma. Besides that this region and Kusici village itself is one of the most beautiful parts of Serbia well known for delicious high quality potato growing, surrounded by virgin nature full of flowery meadows 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 Kušici village every summer.

## **The Church of St Achilles**

The church in Arilje 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 Arilje cult place by refugees from Thessaly. The temple of St Achilles is closely connected with the Nemanjic 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 Nemanjic 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 Dragutin's younger son, Urosic 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 Nemanjic accompanied by Dragutin's wife, Hungarian 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 pronounced 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 Serbian city of Ras was in the vicinity where the present city of Novi Pazar was settled. The Serbian Orthodox Monasteries of Sopocani and Djurdjevi Stupovi were in Rashka. In the 15th century, the Ottoman Turkish Empire invaded and occupied the region. The Sandzak region was on a key trade route from Istanbul /Constantinople and Asia Minor to Bosnia, the key Ottoman Turkish base in Europe. Novi Pazar literally 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 Empire and

was vital for the Ottoman economy. Pešter 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 Kings' Valley named after numerous sacral structures built by the Serbian medieval Kings. It was founded around 1190 as the principal endowment of Stefan Nemanya, the minded founder and most powerful ruler of Serbian Medieval State, to become and remain the most important of all Serbian 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 Troglav Mountains. Studenica Monastery Complex consists of four medieval churches and the dwelling with the high tower enclosed by a protecting walls in a form of an almost perfect circle. Those are : The Church of the Virgin Mary, St. Nicola's Church, St. Joachim's and Anne's Church /the King's Church/ and well preserved foundations of the St. John's Church. The oldest and the most significant is the Church of the Virgin Mary constructed between 1183 and 1196 in the brilliant combination of Byzantine Cathedral and Romanesque exterior details entirely representing the so-called "Raska school" of architecture. The facades and sculptural decorations were made of white polished

marble from the neighboring Radocelo Mountain /like no other Serbian shrine/ and crafted by the superb craftsmen-masters from Kotor. The exterior is in the Romanesque spirit, while its paintings bear the Byzantine characteristics. The oldest monumental frescoes done by anonymous artist from Constantinople date back from 1208 representing the corner-stone of the fresco-painting of the entire Byzantine Empire. The most significant amongst all frescoes is the most celebrated and monumental Crucifixion painted on the western wall with the exquisite portrait of the Christ with the calm facial expression that represents outstanding pain and overwhelming dignity. On the south wall there is the "founders' composition" which shows the Virgin taking Nemanja-Simon with the church model to Jesus Christ. The Church of St. Nicholas was erected in early 13th century. It is one nave church which is also fresco-painted, but this time by Serbian painters. The King's Church / Church of Saint Joachim and Anne/ with its bright red cupola over the graceful architectural structure of the basis of inscribed cross was built in 1313. By its significance it is the most important amongst shrines of Studenica and was named after his founder, King Milutin. The brilliant frescoes painted by Michael and Eutyches immediately after the 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 an outstanding example of a Monastery of the Serbian Orthodox Church and belongs to the highest point of the Serbian history.

**Pridvorica Monastery** is located in the village of Pridvorica, 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 servant 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 architectural School. Pridvorica Monastery was first mentioned in the Chrisobyll /founding charter/ of Stefan Nemanjic granted 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 during its history. From 2007 it was again stated the Monastery with the Prior monk and two novices. The Church is dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration and is one of the rare that have its own coat-of-arm.

#### Excursions from Ivanjica

1. St. Achilles Church – Zlakusa village – lunch
2. Pridvorica Monastery – Studenica Monastery - "monastic" lunch
3. Katici traditional settlement – Mocioci – Uvac Lake – lunch in rural household
4. Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch at Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina Cave
5. Sjenica – Pester – lunch in Borici hotel



# Priboj-Pribojska Banja



**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 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 articular 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 fragrance of pine trees and blooming linden. This is important because it is known that the proximity of the forest soothing (sedative) to the man. Pribojska Spa offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Panorama Lim valley.

**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 many passengers and caravans. The hospital treating St. Sava's ill feet was founded here at the time of famous Nemanjic Dynasty in 12th century. The story of regeneration of King Uroš, the son of the King Stefan the First (Uros "harsh"), who had a skin disease was included in peoples' traditional poems. Old Turkish Baths with mineral springs were used by the Turks who conquered these areas.

**Activities:** full-day excursions to Zlatibor, Zlatar, Mileševa Monastery, Potpečko /Potpec Lake/and Radojinsko /Radojina 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

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 Vojnović 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-circled bays 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 shrine. 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-decoration. Last time The Monastery of St. Nicola'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. Nova Varos – Uvac Lake – lunch in rural household – Dubnica Monastery
3. Sjenica – Pester – outdoor lunch
4. Zlatibor – Sirogojno – lunch in Sirogojno – Stopica Pecina Cave
5. Priboj Banj Spa – Banja Monastery – lunch in "Gaj" rural household





Kosjerić

**Kosjerić** municipality is located in the upper basin of the Skrapež river and it expands towards the slopes of Povlen, Maljen, Crnokosa and Jelova Gora mountains. The tourist center of Divčibare is also in its vicinity. It includes 27 inhabited settlements with the total area amounting to 358 km<sup>2</sup> 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 brandy 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 Divčibare, 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 chalets traditionally furnished in log-cabin, with kitchen and bathroom. Delicious homemade food is served. English language spoken.

**“Milogosce” Household** is located in Mionica village, 9 km from Kosjerić, on the slopes of the beautiful Divčibare Mountain, at the altitude of 670 meters above the sea level. Thanks to large areas of pine and birch woods, sparkled by flower glades with remedial herbs, this household has traditionally been involved in beekeeping for almost 100 years. Your stay out in nature will allow you to take walks, recreate, participate in sports, go hunting, fishing, picking up wild fruits and remedial herbs, as well as to take part in many other recreational and entertainment mountain activities. Stay at Milogosce household will allow you to enjoy in many tasteful national homemade specialties. Homemade cheese, kaymak, fresh milk and dairy products, smoked ham, different meat dishes, meat rolls and various salads and desserts are all prepared in this household. The food is prepared from the ingredients carefully raised in the area. The recipes have been passed from generation to

generation, thus preserving the authenticity and unforgettable taste. In this household you will be able to choose your own dish, as well as the time when you want your meal served.

Milogosce household has three first class triple bedrooms, with bathrooms, balconies, wireless Internet, and two second class double bedrooms with shared bathroom. The interior of all rooms furnished with natural materials such as wood and brick. The rooms are decorated with handmade carpets, rugs, footpaths, 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 Divčibare, 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 – Sarganska Eight train ride - lunch
3. Zlakusa – Potpecka Pecina Cave – lunch in Terzica avlija





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##### Publishers:

Tourist Organisation of Western Serbia  
52 Dimitrija Tucovica St. 31000 Uzice

Tel/fax: +381 31500155

Email: [office@westserbia.org](mailto:office@westserbia.org)

[www.westserbia.org](http://www.westserbia.org)

&

The Regional Development Agency "Zlatibor"

98 Dimitrija Tucovica St. 31000 Uzice

Tel: +381 31523065

Email: [office@rrazlatibor.co.rs](mailto:office@rrazlatibor.co.rs)

[www.rrazlatibor.co.rs](http://www.rrazlatibor.co.rs)

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