

RURAL TOURISM

Taste of our villages



REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
Bjelasica, Komovi & Prokletije



365



Bed & Breakfast(accommodation in the villages)

Villages in the foothills of tame Bjelasica mountain, in the valleys of rivers Tara and Lim, are among the most beautiful in Montenegro. It is not just the beauty of the landscape, all those mountain pearls of this area- high peaks covered with snow, thick ancient forests, meadows and pastures, abundance of springs and small rivers- but also the compactness of the houses in the villages and preserved traditional architecture. They are also well known for their hard working, extremely hospitable, amicable and warm hosts, and exquisite food. Villages of Lubnice (in the municipality of Berane), Bistrica (Bijelo Polje) and Lipovo not far from the town of Kolasin are since a long time ago well known among mountaineers and nature lovers. Roads, hiking and biking trails towards attractive tourism destinations (peaks and lakes of Bjelasica and Sinjajevina, ancient monasteries and old bridges, fly fishing areas, caves...) lead through them. Guests and passers-by could always get supplies from the hosts there, and now there is a possibility to stay overnight or longer in the households. These are mild, fertile landscapes. Mountains of Montenegro you might already remember by fantastic smell and taste of wild strawberries, blueberries, raspberries.



All that you could find and pick yourselves in surrounding forests and in the meadows, you will be offered by the hosts in Lipovo, Bistrica and Lubnice, but transformed into juices and jams. You will also remember their orchards. And then their honey and well known layered cheese. Dishes made from corn ground on stone.

You will remember their pies and cakes, homemade brandy that you might find too strong only at first sip. Coffee here will also be new and different. As it is also the case with the first morning glance towards the sky and the world, through a hundred years old wooden or stone house window. And it is quite possible that what you will be remember most are the hosts. They will gladly accept your help in the stables or in the field, reveal to you the secret of making the cheese from layers as thin as paper and yogurt so thick one cold cut it with a knife. They will tell you, something you will probably also realize by yourselves, that they are extremely rich- for they have children. Three, four, five children. Harmony, joy and beauty of their closely knit families, bonded with love and mutual respect, a well as harmony with the nature and respect for it, will have a healing and refreshing impact on you. It will also make you rich and happy.



LIPOVO

The valley of the Plasnica river where Lipovo is settled is long enough, and the difference in altitude big enough for it to be divided into Donje i Gornje (Upper and Lower).

There is no difference in beauty, it is just that the upper is a little closer to the sky and therefore cooler, and the asphalt road turns to gravel one leading towards summer cattlemen settlements on Sinjajevina. In the lower part there is a famous water spring and the connection to the main road towards Kolasin and Mojkovac. The whole area of the village where one can see many old houses built in the authentic mountain style of the region is protected and decorated by the arch of powerful Moracke mountains on one and the edge of Sinajevina on the other side. The image in the spring is fantastic: snow covered peaks glow in the sun, and below everything is blooming, meadows and orchards...freshly plowed earth smells.



Rural Household – Big Grove

Are we really in Lipovo or at the first page of a fairy tale book? At the very top of the village, in a place called Klisura, on 1300 meters above sea level, old Dulovici house stands tall and proud as a guard. Spacious family household reached by a 800m long gravel road was once a summer cattlemen settlement, the family would spend time from May to November grazing their cattle here. It is truly magical. Mountain giants (Jablanov vrh, Crvena greda, Gradiste, Vratlo) breathe at your neck. The double spring of Plasnica river is calling you. Elm and ash tree in front of the house want to whisper a legend into your ear, but they are waiting for the night and the stars. The house was built in 19th century, in 1860. Wide stone walls and many old furniture items (from chests to curtain holders), beds mad of pine wood, handmade woolen mattresses and pillows will take you back to the past and show you the culture of living not yet forgotten.





Your lady of the house Gordana is a woman of enormous energy. Never – she says - could I live in the town. Dragan is calm, as people who know how to carve wood and make a shingle roof usually are. Dulovici are proud with their five children. They now live in a smaller house at the lower end of the village because of the vicinity of the school, but they have grown up here. They will show you everything: where to find blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, wild pears. You can pick herbs for tea together (Oregano-origanum vulgare, St John's wort- hypericum perforatum, Bearberry- arctostaphylos uva-ursi), harvest potatoes, collect hay, make cheese. Or simply enjoy in the grass, out of time. Fly with the eagles, through the first page of a fairy tale book.

Accommodation: Three rooms, 16 persons

Rural Household – Misko's Cheese Farm

The house owned by Milijanka and Misko Puletic is more than a hundred years old (when it was being repaired, in 1965, one had to sell 50 sheep just to buy the roof!). A morning view on Torna and other Moracke mountains- powerful, proud, seemingly unreachable (yet so close) you will experience as a life reward. Wooden floors, woolen blankets woven by hand- those are only some of the details that will make your stay in Puletic home, cozy and warm. Breakfast is yet another story. Homemade bread out of a wooden stove, layered cheese, salty cream, Montenegin donuts, polenta, dishes prepared in a metal bell covered with ambers on an open fire, or a trout out of their own fish pond- all specialties.





Taste Misko's brandy with gentiana root, or a juice Milianka makes, or tea. You can make a barbeque yourselves, or help the hosts collect hay or milk the animals. Puletici have cows, sheep goats, pigs, hens, beehives, orchard, vegetable garden- there is always something to do.
Accommodation: Three rooms, for 10 guests

BISTRICA

People living in Bistrica say that this is the most beautiful, the most attractive part of the municipality of Bijelo Polje, with the highest development potential. They remind that once this used to be a very developed area, and that the village had electrical power even before the town of Bijelo Polje. It will appear to you as a conglomerate of villages and groups of houses. In a spacious, sparse settlement there are nice small mosques and traditional houses, but more modern prevail. The lowest are on 500m above sea level altitude, the highest set ones above one thousand. The attractions of the area are the river Bistrica with a few fish ponds and an area exclusively used for fly fishing, Djalovica gorge, old Turkish stone bridge, St Nicholas' monastery in Podvrh, old wool mill once water powered, hunting area, horse breeding farm...



Rural Household – Green Valley

The home of Hajrija and Mifto Pilica in Bistrica is ideal for a family holiday. It is all there: comfortable rooms, a table in the yard where one can have breakfast with the birds singing, a spring, meadow, animals, mesmerizing air.

All to help the guest, both parents and children, to completely relax and relinquish themselves to their hostess' beautiful personality, her soothing spirit and her marvelous cuisine. Not only Hajria's airy cheese pies, polenta, sweet gurabije (cookie)- specialities and treats are marvelous, but even the "commonest" dry bread, and homemade coffee served with sugar cubes.





Mifto and Hajrija Pilica have two sons and a married daughter. They have all learned German since the family lived in Germany over a period of time, and the sons also speak English. One of them is also a tourist guide, and can take you not only along the hiking and biking trails to discover the attractions of Bistrica, but also to the more distant destinations.

Accommodation: Four rooms, eight persons

Rural Household – Small Village Dolac

The house of the Cindrak family is situated at an altitude of 900m above sea level, at the foot of hill called Kurilo. Azra and Sakib Cindrak have a beef cattle breeding and milk producing farm for a number of years. It is a big farm, this year they have 35 heads of cattle, and all three of their children participate in all of the work on the farm. As much as she is able, Sakib's mother also contributes.

The flowers planted around the house, tidy rooms and all the dishes one has to taste - all that witnesses how diligent (yet so gentle) Azra's hands are. Of course, abundance of milk and eggs on the farm are a basis for many things, especially for the sweets (baklava - sweet pastry made of layers filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup, gurabije - traditional cookies, urmasice - pastry drenched in sweet syrup). Aside from masenica (bread pudding) and various pies, especially interesting are buckwheat flour polenta and extremely wholesome and strong heljdija - a pie with buckwheat flour.



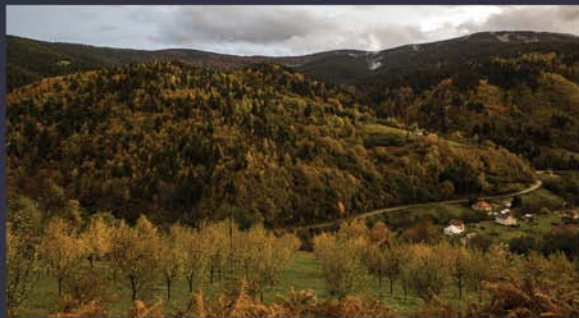


No need to worry, with the hikes(there is a marked hiking and biking trail nearby) and excursions your hosts can organize, picking blueberries and cornel tree fruit, fishing in the Bistrica or doing the everyday farm work, you will not think of calories.

Accommodation:Five rooms, dozen persons

LUBNICE

The people in Lubnice are special, smart in their own unique way and very witty. And they have to be like that when their village is also special: started a long time ago, on a special, tucked in place where three mountain rivers, Jelovica, Gunjara and Suvodo meet to create the fourth - Bistrice. On a plane at an altitude of around 800m above sea level, surrounded with peaks towards which now many roads and trails lead, the soil is soft and fertile, and the inhabitants besides agriculture also do the wood processing. Making barrels and other wooden containers is an old craft in Lubnice. Traditional architecture is preserved here, there are some 20 old wooden houses that are a true decoration of the village. The people here recommend that the visitors, besides Jelovica- a popular outing for the people from Berane and the area, visit Sisko lake on Bjelasica. They will tell them a legend about Zupan cave, interesting stories on settlers, ancestors and descendants. Lubnice village has so many authentic and valuable things that it can become a brand- rivers, lakes, forests, herbs and forest fruits, mushrooms...and great hosts. Special also for their hospitality. Ah, yes...part of the story about Lubnice is also the road that leads from Berane to the village, following the river. It is romantic in winter, roofed with branches of trees with snow, and in summer, when it is as made for excursions. This road also has its own guardian rock, and the rock bears a lovely name Zdravac (by a plant growing in the area).



Rural Household – Three Springs

All one hears are the sounds of the river and birds. Here, in the part of Lubnice called Aluge, at an elevation of around 1000m above sea level, in the hut of Slavko Obradovic surrounded by hundreds of fruit trees and three springs one could spend a life. It is all new and comfortable, well built, with everything necessary and nothing redundant. Wood, red stone, fireplace, large balcony and around- plum, apple and pear trees, chokeberry and currant shrubs...and only the river sounds below, and the singing of the birds. Bozana and Slavko have worked in various fields, both in the village and in town, but it seems that some relentless creative force was the strongest motivator. This is why they now have multiple orchards (with around 1000 trees), a flock of sheep, the hut, and the house in the center of the village. And a full table. From homemade liqueur, juices, cabbage rolls and pickle, to strawberry jam and apple pie...





Obradovic family has four adult children, and grandchildren. During summer, as is the case with the other children of the people from the village that are scattered all around the world, they come back to the schoolyard of the old school in Lubnice, on the trails along the three rivers, to renew the unforgettable days spent there long time ago.

Accommodation: House – three rooms, seven persons

Hut – for four persons

Rural Household – Kljajic House

They are young, diligent, always smiling and they have four children. Their enthusiasm is contagious and one simply feels a natural need to join them instantly in picking the raspberries, making beehives, processing fruit... Their family home is more than a hundred years old, protected with the hill Stubica above and it is a small ethnographic museum. It is all there, from the cradle, wooden dishes and molds for making peasant shoes from leather, to the symbols of 20th century. Apart from the beautiful view on the river Jelovica and the mountains, the house offers the full experience of the ancient way of life in a mountain village. And it is exactly for that project: “Agrotourism- providing accommodation for eco tourists in an authentic village house” that Kljajic family has won first prize on the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Western Balkans Green Ideas Forum.





Beekeeping is a family tradition for generations, and the children already take part, as is also the case with all the other work in the household. Milan and Maja make supreme organic honey, honey with dried fruits, mead and brandies with honey. Equally serious is their fruit and vegetable production so they have no problem in selling all the remaining quantities of products the household does not process- mostly raspberries, carrots, potatoes. Tireless Maja will unselfishly reveal to you her recipes for juices and salads and a wholesome, healthy life. You will be permanently charmed with Maja's joyful energy. It is as if endless, authentic beauty and strength of Lubnice, a magical, special place of special people shines from this queen-bee woman.

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Year-round tourism in mountain destinations of B&H and Montenegro

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