

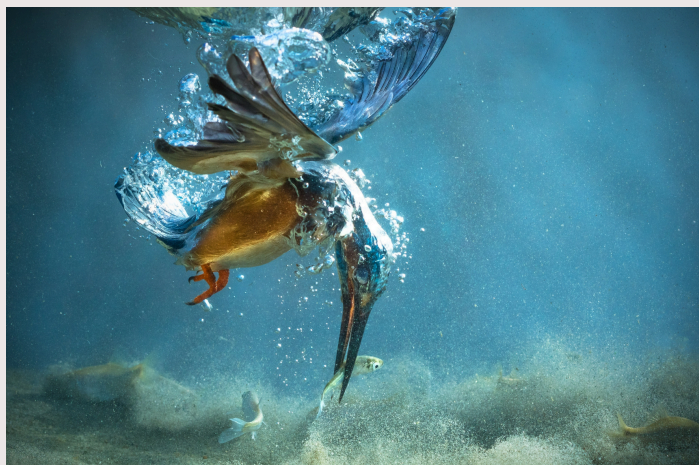


SEPTEMBER 5-12, 2026

Legacy Journey to Europe's Western Balkans

Beginning in Croatia and continuing across the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina, this debut Legacy Club Journey centers around the flowing rivers and quaint towns of the Western Balkans.

Spend your days hiking in lush forests and alongside turquoise waters, boating and paddling to see these hotspots of biodiversity from another perspective, and learning about the history and culture that makes this place unique. Hear from TNC experts and local partners on the ground about the region's environmental challenges and opportunities, and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the efforts being taken to safeguard the Balkans' most ecologically significant natural landscapes.



Photos: Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia © Zaw Phyto; Common Kingfisher Diving for a Meal, Croatia © Petar Sabol/TNC Photo Contest 2018

Legacy Journey Highlights

- Float along the sparkling Kupa River in a traditional Žitna lađa boat to enjoy a unique perspective of Croatia's forests, monasteries and local wildlife.
- Venture into Plitvice Lakes National Park to see unique tufa formations of hollow, porous rock that, over millennia, have created natural barriers to form the park's globally significant system of lakes.
- Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the Japod Valley as you explore its cascading waterfalls and medieval fortresses.



Itinerary Overview

DAY 1

Saturday, September 5

Welcome to the Balkans! On arrival at the Zagreb International Airport (ZAG), collect your bags and look for your Iconic trip leader who will be holding up a sign reading "The Nature Conservancy" outside of the international arrivals area. Once everyone has arrived, we will depart 45 minutes via private vehicle to Karlovac, just southwest of the capital city.

We'll check in to Hotel Korana, our home for the next two nights, and have time to freshen up before gathering for a welcome reception, trip orientation, and dinner.

Overnight at Hotel Korana, Karlovac, Croatia

DAY 2

Sunday, September 6

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before setting off on a scenic 30-minute drive to Brodani. There, you'll embark on a peaceful 90-minute boat ride along the Kupa River, learning why this vital waterway is a top conservation priority for The Nature Conservancy.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant before continuing our exploration with guided walk-and-talks led by TNC staff along the Mrežnica and Tounjčica rivers. These conversations will offer insight into TNC's Balkans Program and the crucial work being done to protect Croatia's river ecosystems.

Returning to Karlovac in the early evening, there will be time for optional sightseeing and downtime before dinner nearby.

Overnight at Hotel Korana, Karlovac, Croatia

DAY 3

Monday, September 7

Following breakfast and check-out, visit the Aquatika Freshwater Aquarium, the first of its kind in Croatia and in this part of Europe. This innovative aquarium offers a fascinating journey through the life of a karst river, from its pristine source to its mouth, showcasing the rich diversity of plant and animal species that inhabit these waters.

In the late afternoon, we'll drive 1 hour south to Rastoke, often referred to as "Little Plitvice" for its enchanting waterfalls and charming wooden watermills. Here, the Slunjčica and Korana rivers meet in a spectacular natural setting. The Nature Conservancy is actively engaged in preserving the Korana River as a vital cultural and ecological landscape.

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Welcome to the Balkans!

Water leads the way in the Western Balkans. During this debut Legacy Journey to Croatia and over the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina, we'll explore scenic countrysides and quaint towns that are largely a secret to the rest of the world.

Hear from TNC experts working on the ground to protect the region's most ecologically significant natural landscapes and some of Europe's last free-flowing rivers.

From waterfalls to underground streams and vast wetlands, you'll learn about environmental challenges and opportunities, as well as the ways that TNC can play a role in safeguarding these global hot spots for unique plants and animals.



Conservation Highlight: United for Rivers

Freshwater ecosystems are some of the most threatened on Earth, and the rivers of the Western Balkans are no exception. The vitality of these waterways has declined in recent years from pollution and development pressures. In an effort to preserve the region's natural treasures, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and six local partners started United for Rivers, a campaign to protect 13 rivers across five Western Balkans countries. United for Rivers' goal is to safeguard 400 kilometers of the world's last free-flowing rivers by 2030, establishing new protected areas that ensure the ecological, social and cultural values of freshwater ecosystems endure for generations to come.

"At the heart of our initiative is the conviction that engaging and empowering local communities in Southeast Europe is critical for effective and durable river protection," says Dragana Mileusnić, Conservation Director for TNC Europe. By investing time and effort in scientific research and understanding the needs and opinions of local communities, United for Rivers aims to ensure early and transparent stakeholder engagement, while respecting the unique characteristics of each river.

Itinerary Overview (cont.)

DAY 3 (cont.)

Monday, September 7

Following lunch at a local restaurant, spend the afternoon getting to know the town of Rastoke before checking into your hotel. Dinner will be at a local favorite this evening.

Overnight at Hotel Mirjana & Rastoke, Slunj, Croatia

DAY 4

Tuesday, September 8

Rise early for breakfast this morning, and drive 30 minutes south to Plitvice Lakes, the oldest and largest national park in Croatia, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Prepare to walk and learn among the park's truly remarkable sights, as this wonderland features 16 terraced blue-green lakes, countless waterfalls, verdant forests, and scenic meandering boardwalks. Hear from local experts about the management of this protected area, its biodiversity, and the fascinating process of tufa formation, which created the travertine barriers that resulted in the creation of these lakes, a process that continues today. We'll partake in a picnic lunch while on the trail.

After an adventure-filled day, say farewell to Croatia as you enter Bosnia and Herzegovina, driving 45 minutes to Bihać. Check into your hotel and enjoy a few hours of downtime to relax or wander the town before gathering for dinner.

Overnight at Hotel Emporium, Bihać, Croatia

DAY 5

Wednesday, September 9

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll drive 30 minutes south to Una National Park. Throughout the morning, we'll make several stops for short walks and scenic waterfall viewing, accompanied by local partners who will share insights into regional efforts to protect freshwater ecosystems.

In the afternoon, we'll visit Japodski Otoci, also known as the Japod Islands. Nestled along the edge of the national park, this picturesque area offers the chance to ride in a traditional wooden Una boat along the crystal-clear river, followed by a guided hike through the lush surroundings. For those seeking a more active experience, kayak rentals will be available.

As time permits, we'll explore the area's rich cultural and historical heritage with optional visits to local landmarks such as Ostrožac Castle, an impressive hilltop fortress, and Memorial Park Garavice, a site of solemn remembrance.

This evening, have time to refresh before having dinner as a group.

Overnight at Hotel Emporium, Bihać, Croatia



Conservation Highlight: Smart Siting

The development of renewable energy is a top priority across Europe, but not every location is suitable for wind turbines or solar panels. Smart siting is the process of placing renewable energy projects where they deliver the most benefits while minimizing conflicts with nature and people. When done well, it accelerates energy development and helps avoid delays, public opposition, and biodiversity loss.

Together with partners from the Hrvoje Požar Energy Institute, TNC applied this smart siting approach on a national scale in Croatia, bringing together sensitivity maps as a measure of biodiversity conflict with land use and other spatially relevant information. The next phase includes integrating the maps with land use and grid capacity analyses, as well as providing guidance for project screening and permitting processes. Just as importantly, it involves raising awareness among the broader public and stakeholders, helping ensure that these tools are effectively applied across sectors. In doing so, Croatia is paving the way for a just, science-based energy transition that safeguards its natural heritage.

Photo: Kayakers Enjoying the River Mrežnica, Croatia © Ciril Jazbec

Itinerary Overview (cont.)

DAY 6

Thursday, September 10

Enjoy a final breakfast in Bihać before setting off on a scenic three-hour drive to Livno, with comfort stops along the way. On arrival, gather for lunch at a local restaurant with TNC partners who will introduce us to the region and the remarkable Livanjsko polje, setting the stage for our afternoon exploration.

Together with local experts, we'll venture into the vast landscape of the Livanjsko polje, the largest wetland in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the largest karst field in the world. This extraordinary ecosystem is teeming with biodiversity, from rare bird species to distinctive vegetation and wildlife. As we explore, partners will share insights into the area's designation as a Ramsar wetland of international importance, and explain why the protection of this ecosystem is so vital to regional conservation and sustainable resource management.

In the late afternoon, we'll check into our hotel and have time to unwind before coming together for a group dinner.

Overnight at Eco-selo Grabovica, Prisoje, Bosnia and Herzegovina

DAY 7

Friday, September 11

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then check out and drive about 1 hour to Buško blato, the biggest artificial lake in Europe, or HE Orlovac in Ruda. There, you'll meet with local partners and learn about The Nature Conservancy's Balkans Energy Program, including efforts to balance energy development with freshwater and ecosystem conservation.

From there, we'll continue with a 1.5-hour drive back into Croatia, arriving in the historic coastal city of Split. Upon arrival, you'll have the afternoon and early evening free to explore Split at your own pace. Stroll through the lively old town, visiting Diocletian's Palace, or simply relax by the sea. Hotel check-in will take place in the late afternoon.

This evening, gather for our final dinner as we share reflections and celebrate a meaningful week spent discovering the natural and cultural richness of the Balkans.

Overnight: Hotel Marul, Split, Croatia

DAY 8

Saturday, September 12

Bid farewell to the Balkans! After breakfast, prepare for departures to the Split Airport (SPU). Please plan to book your flight to depart no later than 2:00 PM; transportation to the airport will be offered through 12:00pm.



Trip Cost

Double Occupancy: \$7,060/person

Single Occupancy: \$7,475/person

This trip must have 14 travelers.

This cost includes:

- Accommodations
- All ground transportation
- All meals beginning with lunch on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 8
- All activities
- All gratuities
- All park entrance fees and permitting
- All guides
- Iconic Leaders
- 2 TNC hosts

This cost excludes:

- Travel to trip start
- Travel from trip end
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals and spa services
- Alcohol, beyond the welcome reception



Photos (from top to bottom): Diocletian's Palace Bell Tower, Split, Croatia © Sheila Dolan; Split Harbor, Croatia © Jari-Pekka Tikkanen/TNC Photo Contest 2019; Common Kingfisher with Its Catch © Petar Sabol/TNC Photo Contest 2018; Roe Deer Peeking Through a Grain Field, Croatia © Zlatko Borenović/TNC Photo Contest 2019



Payment & Cancellation Terms

All payment requests will be sent through Square. This may include the deposit, final payment, and any supplemental amounts for pre/post nights or extra transfers. If you need to cancel, please contact Iconic Adventures via concierge@iconicadventures.com.

Deposit:

- A \$1,500 per person deposit is due at the time of registration.
 - Cancellation 0-7 days after payment (when booked 7+ days before full payment is due): Deposit is fully refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 8-21 days after payment (when booked 8-21 days before full payment is due): Deposit is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 22+ days after payment: Deposit is non-refundable.

Full Trip Payment:

- Full trip payment is due 150 days prior to trip start.
 - Cancellation 150-136 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 135-0 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is non-refundable.

Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and Iconic Adventures, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

TNC Legacy Journeys Team

legacyjourneys@tnc.org

317-829-1873

Iconic Adventures Team

concierge@iconicadventures.com

877-706-4266

TNC Travel Values

● Access

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, on-the-ground experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

● Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and communities you are impacting.

● Knowledge

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

● Inspiration

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

● Globally Minded

Elevate your understanding of our work by observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

Photo: Davis Mountain Preserve, TX © Jerod Foster



TNC Traveler Expectations

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review TNC's Code of Conduct prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, by registering for a TNC trip, you agree to uphold the Code.

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are:

- respect for each other,
- respect for the world around us, and
- acting with integrity.

The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.

TNC Traveler Expectations (cont.)

● **Respect all people, places and perspectives.**

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

● **Harassment in all its forms, including discrimination and microaggressions, is not tolerated.**

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

● **Act in accordance with the applicable law of the location(s) of the trip.**

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

● **Employ an attitude of flexibility.**

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.

Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at legacyjourneys@tnc.org.

