



10-11 SEPTEMBER 2026

Mostar & Herzegovina

One beautiful day - or stay the night and turn it into your own Herzegovina adventure.

A personal, independent travel guide for IIMA guests - and for anyone who wants to experience a little more of this remarkable region.

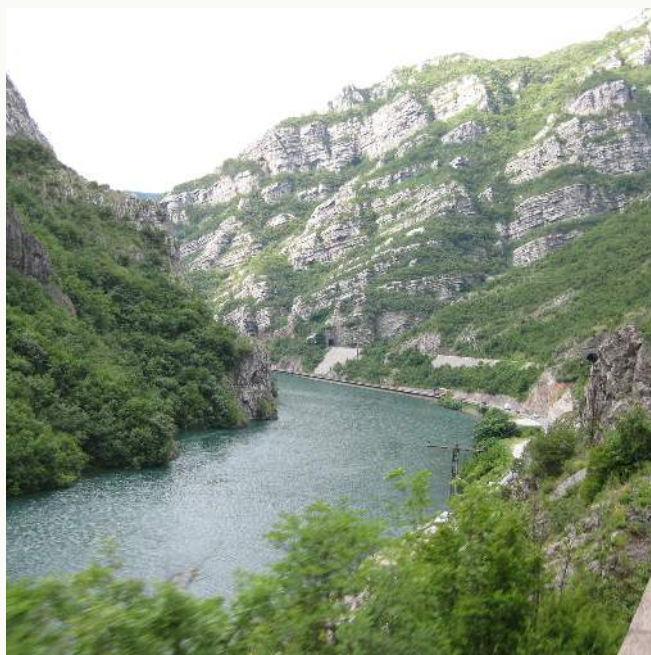
Mostar & Blagaj in one day

After the official IIMA conference, there is still one thing we strongly recommend: **do not leave Bosnia and Herzegovina without experiencing Mostar and Herzegovina.**

Independent adventure. This is not an officially organized IIMA excursion. Join, change the route, stay longer or head somewhere completely different. Transport, tickets, meals, accommodation and activities are arranged and paid for individually.

THE PLAN

06:15	Leave Hotel Hills for Sarajevo Railway Station
07:15	Train Sarajevo → Mostar
~09:13	Arrival in Mostar
09:15-12:45	Old City, coffee, food, shopping and sightseeing - at your own pace
12:30	Optional lunch together - restaurant TBC
13:30	Taxi/shared transport to Blagaj
14:00-16:00	Buna Spring, Tekija, walk, coffee and relax
~17:09	Train Mostar → Sarajevo
19:07	Arrival in Sarajevo



The Neretva valley from the Sarajevo-Mostar railway.

The train ride is part of the experience

Do not regard the train simply as transport. Once it crosses the mountains, the landscape opens into the spectacular Neretva valley: tunnels, deep canyons, mountains and the emerald-green river appearing again and again below you.

Insider tip: sit on the **left-hand side** travelling from Sarajevo towards Mostar for some of the best river views.



MOSTAR · DON'T RUSH IT

Walk. Look. Eat. Sit down.

Mostar feels different from Sarajevo: more Mediterranean, warmer, brighter and slower. In September it can still be properly warm, so bring water, sunglasses and something for the sun. Walk from the station towards the Old City and simply let the city unfold.

MUST SEE

Stari Most - the Old Bridge

Cross it, look at it from below, photograph it from both sides - and then cross it again. I have been there countless times and still never get tired of it.

OLD CITY

Kujundžiluk - Old Bazaar

Cobbled streets beside the bridge, little workshops, cafes, copperware, crafts and souvenirs. Wander rather than rush.

CULTURE

Mosque & church

Visit the Koski Mehmed-Pasha Mosque and the Franciscan Church and Monastery - two different windows into Mostar's cultural history.

DO THIS PROPERLY

Bosnian coffee

Sit down. Do not order it and rush away five minutes later. Add cake or something sweet and allow Mostar to slow you down.

FOOD

Ćevapčići at Rota

Yes, even before lunch. Share a portion if you have to - just leave some room for the 12:30 group lunch.

12:30

Lunch together - optional

Restaurant: to be confirmed. Meet again here if you want; otherwise keep exploring at your own pace.

“Want another coffee? Even better. Want to shop? Go for it.”

Blagaj & the Buna Spring



Blagaj Tekija at the source of the Buna River.

At the foot of an enormous limestone cliff, the **Buna River suddenly emerges from a karst spring**, with the historic Blagaj Tekija sitting almost impossibly between rock and water.

The combination of dramatic nature, water, Ottoman architecture and centuries of history makes this one of the most distinctive places in Herzegovina.

Again: don't over-organize it.

Walk along the river. Visit the Tekija if you want. Sit next to the Buna. Have a coffee or a cold drink. Talk. Take photographs. Enjoy the setting.

Around 16:00: head back towards Mostar so you have enough margin for the railway station.

Train note. The official ŽFBH 2025/26 timetable confirms the 07:15 departure from Sarajevo and the afternoon service reaching Sarajevo at 19:07. The intermediate Mostar times shown here are approximate - check ŽFBH again shortly before travelling.

OR... DON'T TAKE THE TRAIN BACK

Stay.

Mostar after the day visitors disappear is something else. The heat drops, the lights come on around the Old Bridge, terraces fill up and the Old Town becomes wonderfully atmospheric.

You can take a later bus back to Sarajevo, arrange a driver, **or spend the night in Mostar.**



Mostar after dark

If you stay, your one-day excursion becomes a two-day Herzegovina adventure.

Wake up in Herzegovina

Start slowly. Have breakfast, find a good coffee and walk back towards the Old Bridge. There is no need to turn the second day into a race. **Choose what you feel like doing.**



Počitelj

Historic stone village, hillside views and old streets.



Kravica

Waterfalls, greenery and a wonderful warm-weather escape.

OPTION 1

Just enjoy Mostar

Walk through the Old Town again, sit beside the Neretva, take photos, eat, drink coffee and shop. There is also a large modern shopping centre close to the centre if you want a change of pace.

Sometimes doing less is the best itinerary.

OPTION 2 · CLASSIC DAY TRIP

Počitelj + Kravica Waterfalls

Head south to Počitelj; a beautiful historic stone village built into the hillside above the Neretva. Then continue to Kravica, where the Trebižat River drops into a wide natural amphitheatre of waterfalls.

If you missed **Blagaj** on Day 1, choose it today instead - just do not squeeze everything in simply because it is there.

“I have been to the Old Bridge more times than I can count and I still never get enough of that view.”

Mountains, water, adrenaline - or lamb

Herzegovina changes quickly once you leave the city. If you prefer nature and activity to sightseeing, these are the routes to look at.

OPTION 3 · NATURE

Drežnica

Dramatic mountains, clear water, rocks and canyon landscapes. Find a beautiful swimming place, bring something to eat and spend a few hours there.

For the adventurous, guided canyoning is possible in the wider Drežnica area. Book a professional guide in advance. **Julijana Mencin is an amazing local guide.**

OPTION 4 · HEIGHTS

Via Ferrata above Mostar

See Mostar from a completely different angle. Guided via ferrata routes combine rock, fixed cables and spectacular views. Use proper equipment and a local guide.

A good antidote to three days of conference rooms: **"I need a mountain now."**

OPTION 5 · NORTHBOUND

Jablanica & Konjic

If you are returning towards Sarajevo by car, make the road itself part of the day. Stop in Jablanica for its famous lamb and the WWII history around the Neretva bridge.

OPTION 5 · FULL-DAY ACTIVITY

Raft the Neretva in Konjic

Konjic is another beautiful Neretva town. A proper rafting trip normally takes most of the day, so make it the main event rather than combining it with five other stops.

Clear water. Canyon. Mountains. Food. **Hard to beat.**



The Neretva corridor connects many of the places in this guide - and the journey is often as memorable as the destination.

Then you have a problem.

There is still too much to see. Go east, south, or all the way to the Adriatic. At that point this is no longer an IIMA excursion. It is a holiday.

EAST

Stolac

A beautiful old town and the remarkable medieval stećci landscape around Radimlja.

CITY + COAST

Split or Dubrovnik

Both are spectacular if you want city energy by the Adriatic. Excellent infrastructure makes onward travel very doable.

SOUTH-EAST

Trebinje

One of my favourite towns in southern Herzegovina, with a relaxed atmosphere and wine country all around.

ISLANDS

Brač, Hvar or Korčula

I love the islands. Brač is easy and beautiful, Hvar brings a more luxurious feel, and Korčula combines history, sea and food.

ADRIATIC COAST

Makarska Riviera

A lively coastal option with sea, mountains and plenty of summer energy. Book ahead - weekends can be busy.

WINE & SCENERY

Pelješac Peninsula

Beautiful scenery, great food and amazing wine. A very good choice if you want to slow the journey down even further.

Pick a place. Slow down. Have another coffee. Jump into the river. Eat too much. Stay another night.

Enjoy Herzegovina.

That's the itinerary.

Your trip, your choices

Everything in this guide takes place **after the official IIMA 2026 conference programme**. These are recommendations, not organized IIMA activities.

Transport

- The train to Mostar is part of the experience.
- A bus back to Sarajevo gives you more flexibility if you stay later.
- Renting a car is an excellent option for Day 2 and beyond.
- Taxis are relatively affordable, especially when shared.
- For maximum convenience, arrange a local driver and car for the day.

Book ahead

Reserve accommodation and popular activities - especially rafting, canyoning and via ferrata - in advance. Weekends can be busy.

Freedom is the point. There is no group you have to follow and no fixed programme you have to stick to. Decide where you want to go, how long you want to stay and with whom.

Important practical note

Train and bus timetables can change. The current ŽFBH 2025/26 schedule lists Sarajevo → Čapljina at **07:15** and the afternoon Čapljina → Sarajevo service arriving in Sarajevo at **19:07**. Always check the official railway timetable shortly before travelling.

Photo credits

Mostar panorama

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Neretva train view

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Blagaj Tekija

Bosancica by MK / Wikimedia Commons
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Mostar at night

BáthoryPéter / Wikimedia Commons
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Počitelj

Photo by Adam Jones, adamjones.freesevers.com
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Kravica Waterfalls

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FINAL ADVICE

Don't try to see everything.

Choose the experience you actually want - and leave a little room for the unexpected.

Plan & Book

Useful links for transport, activities and visitor information.

Click any link below. Always check current schedules, availability and prices directly with the provider.

TRANSPORT & PRACTICAL

Official railway timetable - ŽFBH



Train times Sarajevo - Mostar and return

Sarajevo - Mostar train guide - Seat61



Useful route tips and train information

Mostar to Blagaj transport guide



Bus, taxi, tour and car options

MOSTAR & BLAGAJ

Old Bazaar / Kujundžiluk - Visit Mostar



Official visitor information

Koski Mehmed-Pasha Mosque - Visit Mostar



Visitor information

Franciscan Church & Monastery - Visit Mostar



Visitor information

Blagaj & Buna Spring - Visit Mostar



Plan your Blagaj visit

DAY 2 - BOOK AN EXPERIENCE

Kravica Waterfalls - official website



Visitor information and current details

Drežnica canyoning - Julijana Mencin



Guided canyoning - book directly with guide

Via Ferrata Mostar - Julijana Mencin



Guided via ferrata - book directly with guide

Neretva rafting in Konjic - Visit Konjic



Rafting tour information / booking

Battle of the Neretva Museum - Jablanica



Opening information and visit details

BACKGROUND & HERITAGE

UNESCO - Old Bridge Area of Mostar



World Heritage background

UNESCO - Historic urban site of Počitelj



Heritage background