

National Park Skadar Lake tour **May 17, 2018**

The biggest lake on the Balkan Peninsula and last sanctuary of pelicans combined with Monastery Rezevici

Departure from hotel at **2pm** with guide assistance. From hotel we drive to Virpazar, a town on Skadar Lake. During the drive, enjoy in the sightseeing of Budva's Riviera and visit beautiful monastery Rezevici.

The Reževići Monastery is located on a picturesque and green plateau above the sea shore close to Petrovac.

According to tradition, there used to be pagan temples and ancient cemeteries of Greek and Roman families.

Serbian King Stefan Prvovjencani built the Church of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin, which was sanctified in 1223. Tsar Dušan built a church of the archdeacon Stefan in Reževići, which was consecrated in 1351, and on that occasion, he gave to Paštrovici tribe his famous Code, by which Paštrovići served in the council at Drobni Pijesak..

Until the mid-19th century, there was a stone pavement with a recess next to the road, where the inhabitants of the surrounding villages regularly placed a wine jug, as a sign of hospitality to the passengers. It is said that Rajmund from Toulouse with his crucians drank wine from this jug.

The Reževići monastery was often destroyed through a long history. From the Turkish army in 1705 and 1785, the French robbed it in 1812, and this unique architectural complex was not missed by a major earthquake in April 1979. After visit of the monastery, we continue towards a national park and Virpazar.

Arriving in Virpazar, a charming village situated on the coast of Skadar Lake, we can see characteristic flora and fauna. Skadar lake is the biggest lake on the Balkan Peninsula and it is a last sanctuary for pelicans. We will take a cruise on the lake for 1.5 hrs admiring the sights.

The lake is a crypt or depression, which means that in some parts of the bottom of the lake are below sea level. This region has stunning coasts, bays, capes and islands, all of which are the reason this is a most unique lake in Europe. On these islands numerous monasteries, churches and holy monuments are situated. The many fortifications on these islands, mostly build by the Turks, and later on by the Montenegrin, remind us of the wars fought between the two nations.

Return to the hotel around **7pm**.

Cost: € 65 (\$US75)

