



WELCOME TO THE 20TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE Montenegro - 11th through 14th October 2018

This year, we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the FOSE tours. On this occasion, we take pleasure and pride in presenting a special Anniversary Programme which puts a special focus on the very reason for our existence, and entire range of activities, the SCOUTS.

Our base will be in Podgorica, the nice and welcoming capital of Montenegro. For a capital, Podgorica is very compact – and we really doubt if any of the Friends could get lost when strolling down the main avenue, or venturing into the historical Old Town – or for that sake going down the relaxed walking street, and pub-crawling in the quite large district of bars and restaurants adjacent to that. But in spite of its size, Podgorica has quite an international atmosphere.

Different to earlier years, we shall make a “tour de scouts” to meet the local units applying for support for “small projects” individually on their home ground instead of the usual, more theoretical presentations. So BE PREPARED for a live scouting adventure - not forgetting, of course, the unbeatable company of other Friends of Scouting all the way through.

Who can participate in the event?

All Friends of Scouting in Europe and their adult family members are welcome, and so are their friends. Availability of accommodation as well as transportation may force organizers to limit the number of participants, therefore be sure to book as early as possible. First come first served.

Registrations for the event

Please fill in & submit the attached form as soon as possible, and no later than **1st August 2018**. Payment info will be sent out upon registration. Please note that we shall be travelling in the middle of the season for congresses and conferences in Podgorica, and that we can neither guarantee hotel accommodation nor the price of rooms for later registrations. Registrations will, for the same reason, be considered final and binding.

Please observe that organizers have no access to data on separate, national arrangements in connection to the FOSE meeting (such as e.g. the Swedish svensketuren) and that you must therefore register your participation in the FOSE meeting separately, even if you are taking part in such other, additional programme.

Duration of the FOSE event

The official programme will start on Thursday, 11th October early afternoon, and end on Sunday, 14th October after lunch. Please check out the details below. Please advise if your travel arrangements necessitate late arrivals or early departures. For those not being able to take part in the full programme, a shorter week end session (Saturday afternoon until Sunday after lunch) will, on request, be available at a reduced fee.

Be prepared ... notes on travelling to Montenegro

Montenegro is not yet a member of the EU. Visitors from EU countries are generally (at the time of writing of the present programme) exempt of visa requirements, but should bring a passport with a validity of at least 3 months upon the planned departure from Montenegro. Visitors from other countries are strongly encouraged to check for possible visa requirements with local consular services in your own country prior to departure.

Podgorica is slightly off the beaten track when it comes to rail and bus connections. By road, the routing will go through Serbia or Croatia. We suspect that the great majority of Friends should choose going by air. The international airport of Podgorica is served by a row of international airlines with direct flights from across Europe, including services by budget operators (Ryanair, WizzAir and others). The airport is just 7 kms away from the city.

Be prepared ... notes on insurance

Everybody should check their insurance cover for expenses (medical as well as repatriation) related to possible illness and accidents that may occur during your stay in Montenegro. A travel cancellation policy might also prove a good idea - our programme is bound up on firm contracts with hotels, caterers and logistics providers, and therefore we cannot offer any refunds in case of a cancellation.

Be prepared ... notes on clothing and environment

Bring casual clothing for early autumn temperatures (October may actually still be quite pleasant, but rain is not unheard of), and your scout uniform, or a scout neckerchief, as a sign of friendship when meeting scouts. We shall do some walking (not hiking...!), so comfortable shoes would generally be advisable.

Disclaimer: Please observe that bans on smoking are not as wide-spread in the Balkan countries as they are in some other parts of the world. We cannot guarantee that everybody will be accommodated in no-smoking rooms - and smoking may also occur in restaurants and other facilities visited by the group during our stay. Be advised that *yours truly* did not really experience serious trouble during preparations for the tour.



Costs

a) Programme

The price of carrots is on the rise, meat is becoming more and more expensive, not to speak of the cost of oil and other fuels. HOWEVER, again this year, we're able to keep the cost of the full programme (accommodation not included) at a nice

€ 299.

The programme will, as usually, be arranged on an **all inclusive basis**, so the programme fee will cover all common transportation throughout the prolonged week end, all excursions, guides, entrance fees, and (not forgetting) catering inclusive of drinks during meals from Thursday afternoon until farewell time Sunday early afternoon.

It has become a tradition to use any financial surplus from the gathering, should it occur, to sponsor a Scout project, with priority given to a project in the host country.

b) Accommodation

The group will stay at the **Hotel Nikić** in the very heart of Podgorica. Our hotel is a modern 4-Star facility with all the amenities that you would expect from an international business hotel. Friends choosing to go by car to Montenegro may enjoy free and safe private parking in the basement of the hotel.

All rooms are equipped with en suite toilet/shower, cable TV as well as free and efficient WiFi access. Any use of mini bars will be at your own expense, however...

Accommodation for all 3 nights will cost € 126 per person in single rooms, and € 111 per person sharing a double room. Quoted prices include all taxes.

If you want to extend your stay, additional nights at your hotel may be booked in the enclosed form. Such extra nights will be charged at the group rate. Only such reservations made together with your tour booking will be charged at our very favourable rate. Later (or individual) bookings should expect to pay the normal rate charged by the hotel.



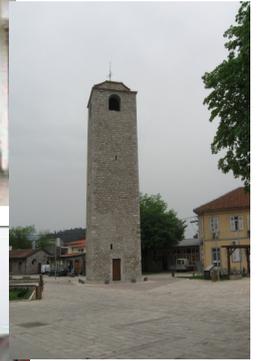
Programme

Thursday 11th October “Welcome”

We meet in the hotel lobby and enjoy a 10 minutes walk to the new Capital Montenegrin Scout Office. The office is presently being refurbished, partly financed by the European Scout Foundation as a combined loan and donation. We shall be met and greeted by representatives of the Association's leading committee, and enjoy a cup of coffee while hearing about Montenegrin Scouting, and about the plans for the office.

Later, we shall stroll through town, and (depending on weather) we shall have a look at a couple of highlights there, such as the Old Town and the Turkish Clock Tower.

Diner will be served at the Pod Volat restaurant - less than 5 minutes off the hotel reception.



Friday 12th October Day trip to Bar

A coach will take us the 50 kms to the coastal city of Bar, where a handful of activities await us.

- **Meeting Bar Scouts.** We shall meet the local multi-religious Scout Group at one of the town's remarkable sights: An olive tree dating back to the time of the birth of Christ! There, we shall do a couple of activities with the scouts, and hear about their “small project”.

- **Lunch opposite the beach.** We shall have our lunch at the BB Restaurant ... fresh fish from the sea, of course ... unless you definitely hate this kind of food...

- **Old Town.** We shall enjoy a little sightseeing at the Old Town - *Staro Bar* - often referred to as the Pompeii of Montenegro. The town dates back to the early medieval era, but was in the late 19th Century partly destroyed in a battle with Ottoman occupants.

- **A peep at the modern Orthodox Church.** Over the years, we have enjoyed quite some ancient religious art. Actually, Orthodox churches are still built - and the large golden domes of this one form a distinct part of the Bar skyline.

- **And even some wine...** We shall end the day visiting the Šipčanik wine cellar which is found in a 325 metres long tunnel, originally cut into a mountain side to serve as a secret underground fighter jet hangar during the Tito era. We'll sip some samples, and this is also where dinner will be served in one of the side tunnels ... in itself big enough to host a jet ... so claustrophobia would not be an issue in these surroundings ...

Saturday 13th October Scouts

- **Stara Varoš** ... is not only the Montenegrin name of Podgorica's Old Town, it is also the name of the (by far) largest scout group in the area, counting more than 150 scouts. We shall meet some of these at the school where they have their regular meetings in connection with their ordinary lessons, and we shall learn a little about their daily programme. We shall also hear about their idea for a "small project".

- **Excursion to Nikšič**. Our coach will take us the 50 kms to the town of Nikšič where we will find ourselves at the site of the last Yugoslav National Jamboree in 2002. The campsite is situated next to a hydroelectric dam, and the large lake formed behind it. There, we shall meet a group of scouts from Grahovo (which town is located in the municipality of Nikšič, but an hour's drive further out), and have a barbecue together. Of course, also here, there is a small project to be presented...

- **Back to Podgorica** We expect to be back at our hotel just after 4 PM.

- **Annual meeting** Back at the hotel, we shall have the FOSE annual meeting, also welcoming new Friends.

- **Farewell dinner** Our traditional *Saturday Night Farewell Dinner* will, following our meeting, be held at the Podgorica Gastronomical Academy's restaurant -10 minutes walk from the hotel.



Sunday 14th October Niagara Falls...

Yes ... it's true. We'll be going to the Niagara Falls. Not those found on a far away continent, of course, but waterfalls found half-way between central Podgorica and the airport. Admittedly, these falls (which are actually named Niagara Falls...) are smaller than their North American counterpart, but still quite impressive. Here we shall do a little scouting with the Muslim scout group of "Ibar" from Rožan, a town found in the easternmost parts of Montenegro, some 200 kms away. We shall also hear about their *small project*, and have some lunch together at the restaurant beside the Falls. Those Friends leaving Montenegro in the afternoon will have some 10 minutes ride to the airport by taxi - or by coach, if we can gather a suitable size of group. The rest of us will be taken back to Podgorica. There will be a possibility to deposit bags, if you choose to have just another stroll in town before leaving.

What you don't see during this gathering...

As always, we cannot possibly see everything during just a prolonged week end. Those having the possibility to do so should absolutely take the chance. Montenegro is a beautiful and friendly place for individual travelling. Guide books and tourist agencies will happily lead your way.

Here are a couple of suggestions, inspired by our investigations -



Religious art...
...is abundant in Montenegro. Not only are there old monasteries almost anywhere, but also churches filled with interesting artwork will give a thrill to lovers of beauty. For instance, the quite new cathedral in Podgorica is richly decorated with modern art. Go and see if you'll recognize any of the persons who are depicted burning up in Hell on the fresco...



The Adriatic Sea...
Why not take the chance to have the season's last dip in the sea? The coastal areas of Montenegro will still be warm in October. And several resorts along the coastline will welcome you with all that a tourist may want of seaside promenades, bars and nice little hotels.



Cetinje...
The former capital of the country boasts an array of nice buildings from the beginning of the 20th Century - government buildings, old embassy buildings, and more. Cetinje is also the site for a monastery where they keep as relics a mummified hand of John the Baptist, and even a fragment of the Holy Cross. Visitors may actually have a close-up look at both.



Landscapes...
Montenegro largely consists of rather impassable mountain areas making logistics quite complicated (Motorways or Autobahnen don't exist in Montenegro at all). However, the mountains present to the visitor endless beauty and fabulous views.



Njegos Mausoleum...
Visit the Lovcen National park, and see the last resting place of Petar II Petrovic-Njegos which is, in itself, an interesting building with nice statues and caryatides. The main attraction, however, is its location on the very top of a mountain. There is also a panorama balcony from which you have a unique view of the area.



Kotor...
Explore or re-visit the breathtaking charm of the basis for the 2009 FOSE Tour to Montenegro.

This programme is valid as per the date of issue, May 2018. We reserve the right to amendments made necessary by circumstances beyond our control.

Registration form

To register for the 20th annual gathering of the FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE, please fill in the below form, and send it as attachment to a mail to FOSEtours@live.dk. Snail mail to Johansen&Stephansen, Boegevej 5, DK-4070 Kirke Hyllinge is less efficient, less reliable, more expensive, but of course fully acceptable! You may fill in the form by hand (or even by typewriter if such a device is still available) and send us a scan - or you may write in the WORD document which is also enclosed with the invitation.

Please fill in & return the form as soon as possible, but no later than **1st August 2018**. **Payment info will be sent out upon registration. Prompt action will be appreciated as suppliers are waiting for a deposit!**

YES, cannot wait to go to Montenegro on this year's **FOSE-tour**.

Name _____

Street/City/Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I/we shall **need hotel accommodation**

from (date)_____ until (date)_____ (a total of _____ nights)

____ I shall bring family/friends along, and there will be ____ people, including myself

____ I hereby book ____ (number) of **double rooms** in the name of _____

____ (number) of **single rooms** in the name of _____

____ I am travelling on my own, but I would not mind sharing a double room with somebody else

I have the following special dietary requirement (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, vegetarian +fish/poultry, kosher, halal, allergies etc. ... or something that you just don't eat!):

Any further information or comments: _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE with respect to the 20th annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe (FOSE):

I/we _____ desire to participate voluntarily in the 20th annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe ("Event"). I assume voluntarily all of the risks associated with the participation in the Event. I confirm that I have sufficient insurance coverage to cover the consequences, should a risk associated with the Event materialize.

My attendance and participation is absolutely and entirely at my own risk without any exception, and I agree that neither the European Scout Foundation, Geneva, nor any of the members of the board of this Foundation, has any responsibility for my participation in the Event. I forever waive, release and discharge the Foundation and its board members from any and all claims, liabilities or expenses, whether such claim, liability or expense is in contract, statute, tort or otherwise, relating in any way to my participation in the Event. This waiver and release may not be modified orally. This waiver and release shall be governed by, and constituted in accordance with, the substantive laws of Switzerland.

Date: _____ Signature: _____