



Embark on a unique and unforgettable adventure through the deepest canyon in Europe.

In addition to river trips on traditional rafts, we can also offer rafting in rubber dinghies on the River Tara and organise hikes in the mountains of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Durmitor National Park and Sutjeska National Park.

119 years of tradition of the Pendek family on traditional wooden rafts

Timber rafts



« PENDEK TOURS »

Kenana Dubravica 9

71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Cell phone: +387-61-33-88-46

Home: +387-33-837-312

E-mails: fikret.pendek@hotmail.com

flossfahrt2002@yahoo.de

<https://www.splavarenje.ba/>

<https://rafting-splavarenje-tara.com>

<https://www.fb.me/raftingtaradrina>

ABOUT US

Welcome to **our rafts!** My name is **Fikret Pendek** and I am the founder and chairman of the Drina and Tara River Rafters' Association "**Adem Pendek**", named in honour of my tragically deceased father. I'm a fourth-generation member of the Pendek family, who for over **119 years** have been navigating the falls and rapids of the Drina and Tara rivers **on traditional wooden rafts**, the oldest means of navigation in the world, offering a unique adventure to all lovers of unspoilt nature. My great-grandfather, Suleyman, started floating (transporting timber by river) and rafting as early as 1905, taking the wealthy Austrians who came to oversee the cutting and distribution of the logs, while indulging in the charms of these irresistible mountain streams and indulging in hunting and fishing. My grandfather Selim inherited this tradition in the thirties of the last century and my father, Adem, continued along the same path in 1946, becoming the first professional raft driver in the former Yugoslavia when the Foča Tourist Office was founded in 1958. He earned his retirement by sailing down the Drina and Tara rivers on these traditional wooden rafts. Growing up alongside him, I was able to drive my first raft down the Tara when I was just 14, and at 18 I started driving tourists on these tourist rafts on my own. This is how, until today, I have mounted and driven more than **600** rafts along these tourist routes that are so attractive and endearing, between the **bridge at Đurđevića Tara** (Montenegro) and **Goražde** (137 kilometres). My brothers, Rasim and Džemo, went to the same school as I did and, along with a few other family members and rafting friends, we continue to keep the family tradition alive. Whereas this work used to be very dangerous, but well paid and profitable, since the arrival of Austria-Hungary in Bosnia-Herzegovina, timber floating and rafting in traditional wooden rafts have been the privilege of just a few families in the lower reaches of the Drina, and have been handed down from father to son.

The **Pendeks** were a renowned family of radeliers, in and around the village of Bastasi, not far from the source of the Drina, as were the Šabanović, Čelik, Šahinović, Polovina, Lagarija, Dželil, Becirević, Djendušić and Vejo and, about thirty kilometres downstream, around Ustikolina, were the Sofradžije, Mujezinovići, Osmanspahići, Subašići, Sobe, Uzunovići, Merkezi and other families ; in Višegrad, the families of Hašim Pajo, Abid Cocalić and Nurko Čankušić and in the village of Godijevno, the families Babić and Kovač. You're probably wondering why I mentioned all these families. The answer is simple. There's a whole art involved in preparing the tree trunks to make the raft wood, which has to be first-rate; then you have to assemble them, assemble the raft and install everything you need to sail it comfortably; and finally, of course, you have to know how to pilot these boats made entirely of tree trunks perfectly, a whole skill and art that has been learned over the years and passed down to us by our ancestors. That's why this work is passed down from generation to generation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, there are fewer and fewer old rafters apart from those who belong to the **Association that I organise and chair, the only one in Europe still using traditional wooden rafts**. You will no doubt have noticed the dozens of agencies throughout the former Yugoslavia offering '*rafting*', but don't be fooled, because this so-called 'rafting' in fact only **offers inflatable boats**, and **it's not the same thing at all**. According to the data we have, there are around **350 rafting agencies** and clubs in Europe organising descents in inflatable boats on 54 European rivers, including the Una, Neretva, Krivaja, Drina and Tara. **However, in Europe, descents in real traditional wooden rafts are only and exclusively**

possible on the Drina and Tara, and we are the only ones to organise and carry out this kind of adventure, with the best raft drivers on our continent. So don't waste your time researching, and **get in touch with us** without hesitation, because a trip down the river on these boats that man imagined a long time ago is a unique and unforgettable adventure of a lifetime. People have been descending the River Tara long before the first adventurers remembered to take tourists on these rafts of yesteryear. Towards the end of the 19th century, when timber was an increasingly popular commodity, there were no large trucks or modern roads and logs were transported by river. Foresters would float the logs down canyons, a particularly dangerous and exhausting means of transport. They would store them on rafts and then the timber trains would travel down the river to their destination. This was known as timber rafting. The Tara is a wild river that hides many dangers, and the lives and safety of the drivers (log drivers in those days) depended exclusively on their skill and know-how; when they became entangled in a river bed covered with numerous tree trunks, it was up to them to get out alive. After descending the Tara canyon, the logs would float down the Drina to Foča or Višegrad, and often even further. Timber was transported in this way until the end of the Second World War. Rafting down a wild river is an exceptional adventure. The boat, weighing almost two tonnes, is equipped with two rudders, one at the bow and one at the stern, each steered by an experienced raftsman, which, believe me, is not at all easy! An unexpected collision with a large stone could simply dismember the raft, with everyone falling into the tumultuous waters. It takes exceptional skill, strength and experience for the driver to avoid these pitfalls. When the raft passes over a rock at the bottom of the water, it leans over, the trunks squeal and the nails holding the straps that bind the trunks together pop out, requiring the driver to reposition them. During navigation, the raft is often slightly sunken in the water, and each time it passes through a rapid, its weight causes it to go straight through the rough waters, and it's not out of the question that you'll find yourself knee-deep in water. With a temperature of 13-14°C, the Tara raises your already high adrenalin level even higher. The rafting trip is the most interesting, but also the most dangerous, in spring, when the snow starts to melt and the Tara can rise several metres. The excitement is so great that you don't even notice the splendid scenery around you – a completely wild canyon of untouched beauty, arousing your admiration and respect, as countless torrents and large and small waterfalls pour into this turquoise river from all sides.

Traditional timber rafts were once used to float logs down a river to sales points kilometres away from the forest.

Enjoy a marvellous white-water trip on the Tara and Drina rivers on these old wooden rafts, which were built from spruce logs.

On this adventure, you can experience the charm of a bygone era, when entire families made their living with this original means of transport. You will discover the many natural beauties and hidden treasures of the Tara River Canyon that will leave many of you speechless. For those who love nature, waterways and fishing, such an expedition is unique and will stay in your memory forever.

A raft trip through the Tara canyon is a rare tourist attraction in Europe. The Tara is a river that originated from the Opasnica and Varuša rivers. When it merges with the Piva River near Šćepan Polje, the Drina River is formed. It has carved out the largest and deepest canyon in Europe, which is 144 km long and whose walls are over 1,300 m high.



To the Tara Gorge

With cliffs up to 1,400 m high, this gorge is the largest in Europe. It is of extraordinary beauty. Barely colonised and impassable, it has been completely preserved in its original state in places. The crystal-clear Tara is one of the last rivers in Europe with completely pure drinking water.

Our experienced rafters guide our wooden rafts safely through the white water with its numerous rapids. On the way you can relax, swim, sunbathe and even raft yourself...



MORE RIVER TRIPS ON THE DRINA

PROGRAMME D) - 1 DAY

ŠĆEPAN POLJE – FOČA (24 km)

Departure by bus at 7:00am from the agreed location in Sarajevo (or another location by arrangement). Drive to Šćepan Polje (where the rivers Pliva and Tara join to form the Drina), via Trnovo and Brod na Drini. Arrival in Šćepan Polje at around 9:30am. Refreshments and short briefing by the organiser in preparation for the trip. Departure of the raft at 10:30. During the trip, participants will be served specialities from the Drina basin. Arrival in Foča around 17:00. Break with coffee. Return journey at around 6pm, via Rogatica, with expected arrival in Sarajevo at around 20:00.



Price per person: € 85 all inclusive (minimum 10 participants)

The price includes the rafting trip, food and all drinks, insurance for the participants and organisation costs.

Note: If you prefer to provide your own food and drink, the organiser will provide a free charcoal barbecue and picnic crockery.

Price for such an arrangement: €40 per person with a minimum of 12 participants.

The maximum number of participants that can be accommodated per day is 100 people or 6 rafts.

