



East to East Photography

Workshops with Klavdij Sluban

## **Montenegro and Albania**

From Sunday 29 September to Saturday 5 October 2024

Total immersion during a week in the heart of the Balkans in Montenegro and Albania with Klavdij Sluban, French photographer of Slovenian origin. Internationally renowned, he has been traveling in the Balkans for the last 20 years.

Montenegro and Albania are two fascinating countries to be visited. The economic growth is opening, grotesquely changing the urban landscapes. Clashes occur between the sea and the mountains as well as between traditional and modern life.

### Specificity of the workshop

The specificity of this workshop is that we all stay together in an ancient olive mill restored into a wonderful spacious house that has kept the soul of the initial place but with all modern comfort. Plus a beautiful garden and a small river with an old bridge parting the house from the olive grove.

Located in the medieval village of Stari Bar, South-East Montenegro, the spot is breathtaking, situated between mountains, and the Adriatic sea. The geographical position will allow daily outings on foot or by minibus (rides between 20mn and an hour). Trips will be made to Skadar lake, Boka Kotorska, a gem between the sea and the overwhelming mountains, Shkodra in Albania, a world in itself or Ada Bojana island.

Klavdij Sluban has published “Balkans-Transit” with the writer François Maspéro in 1997. Translated in several languages, the book helps to understand this region as fascinating as complex.



Albania, © Klavdij Sluban

During this week of workshop, each participant will be brought to develop one's personal photographic writing. A sensitive and personal series of photos will be built with Klavdij's experience and passion.

### Photographic immersion in Montenegro and Albania

Our knowledge of the Balkans will be an asset to visit places off the beaten tracks like orthodox churches on the coast, mosques on the road to Shkodra, medieval villages, modern and fast grown cities, meeting priests or youth in the cities.

The tradition of welcoming the stranger will allow photographing in various circumstances, in total freedom. Speaking the local languages, we will create a privileged relationship between the local people and the participants.

### East to East Photography Workshops

Tereza Kozinc and Klavdij Sluban founded East to East Photography Workshops to spread photography as a visual language in Eastern countries offering all the ingredients to express one's personal way of photographing. Both the warmth of its inhabitants and the tradition of welcoming the traveler in Central Europe and the Balkans enable a pleasant and true insight of places where many jewels are still to be discovered.



## Main goals

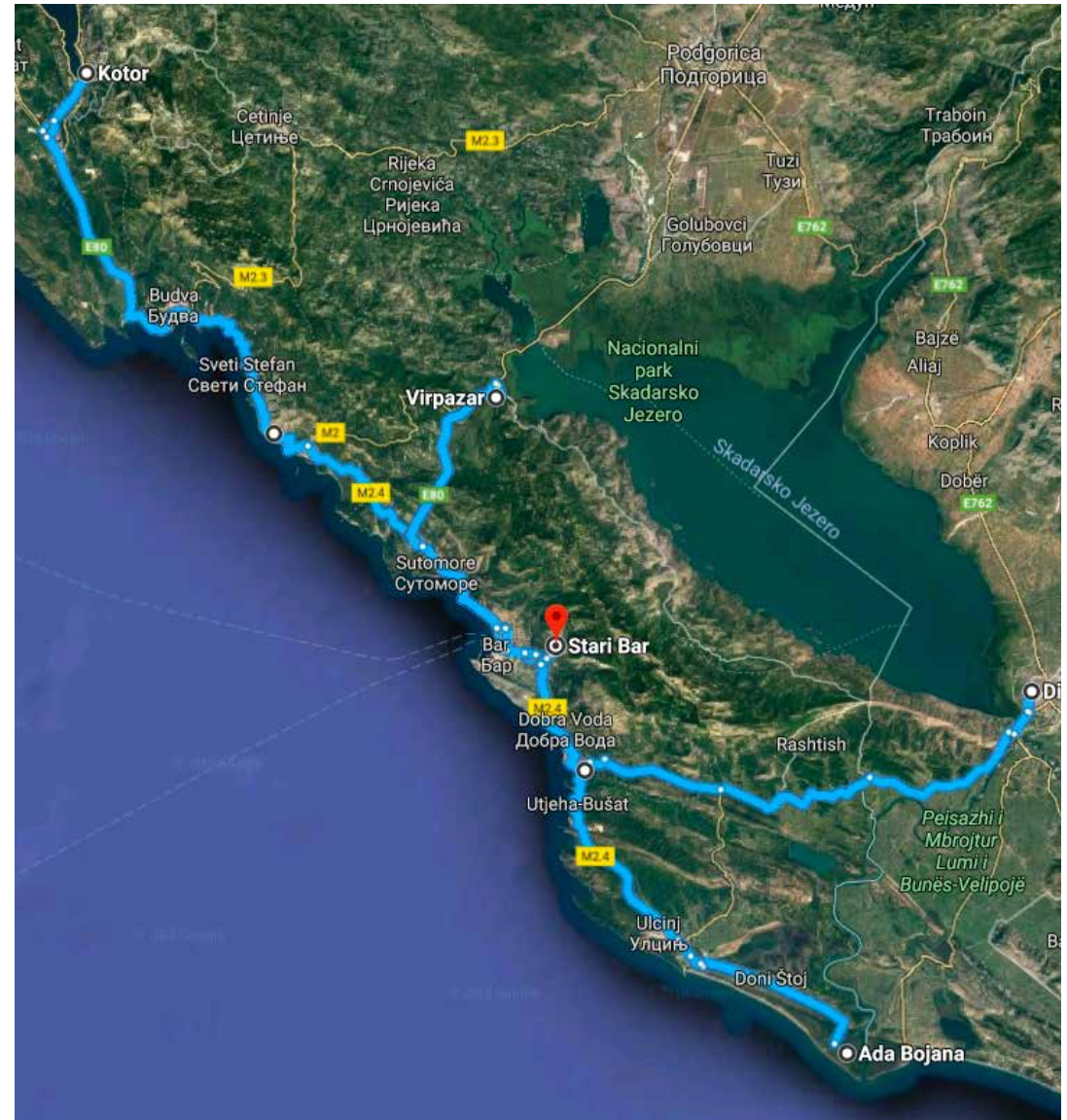
« SHOW ME YOUR PHOTOS AND I WILL TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE ». A constructive criticism will give each participant the way to channel one's personal point of according to the various situations. Klavdij Sluban's experience in sharing generously his knowledge gives each participant the possibility to find one's personal writing (or style). There will be every day photo sessions and editing in the editing room by the end of the day.

## Who can join this workshop ?

Anyone who has a passion for the still image: professional photographers, artists, students of photography and art, amateurs of photography and art, etc... We believe that every individual has the capacity to build one's own visual language when PASSION for the image and the right GUIDANCE co-exist.

## What to bring

- A valid passport (no visa needed).
- between 15 and 20 printed photos of small size (up to A4 format) representative of your work.
- Your digital camera, one lens only & its accessories (extra batteries, memory cards, cable for image transfer to a computer, USB key, external hard disk, etc...)
- Very much appreciated: your personal computer for more efficient work. This will help the fluidity of the editing and of all work done on computer.
- A notebook or recording device to facilitate note-taking during the workshop since many references on photographers, books, main exhibitions, places...will be given any time.



Trips from Stari Bar will be made to Boka Kotorska, Shkadar lake, Ada Bojana island and Shkodra city in Albania.





### **The residence**

The restored old mill into a house with a huge loft spreads over 200m<sup>2</sup> per level. The ground-floor is the meeting space with huge loft and sofas. Here is the big table for editing or the projector to show photos large scale. The bar and the kitchen are also on this level as well as the dorms.

The upper level is made of 4 cosy rooms, with toilettes and bathroom and windows giving on the river and the mountain.

According to the weather, meals can be taken in or outside. The patio is perfect for evening meals under the stars, and the vine-clad pergola offers shade throughout the day.

Its ideal geographic situation allows outings within an hour drive by minibus to most varied places.

Our host: <http://thegrovemontenegro.com/>

### **Price and specificity of the workshop**

The residence can host up to 26 people. For the workshop there will be 16 of us. Besides the 12 participants, Tereza and Klavdij, an assistant and the chef preparing the meals. Which means there will be space.

The number of participants is limited to 12 on the base first-come, first-served. Breakfast and dinners are taken at the residence, prepared by the chef with local products. Special dishes for vegeterians and vegans.

3 prices are proposed. Each of these prices includes half board (accomodation, breakfast and dinner) as well as all the trips done within the workshop by minibus or boat. And of course all the facilities at the residence, from wifi to the pool. These 3 prices also include the price of the workshop.

There is a limited amount of each option proposed.





- 1450€ : dorm 'de luxe' with cosy double dorm beds in a spacious room for 6 people. Several toilets and showers on the same level.
- 1650€ : dorm 'de luxe' with cosy double dorm beds in a spacious room for 2 people. Several toilets and showers on the same level.
- 1950€ : spacious private room on the upper floor with double bed, bathroom and toilets. Decorated with taste (that is to say minimalistic yet cosy) with view on the landscape.

These prices do not include transportation from airport to the residence. Though shuttles can be organized if scheduled ahead, 10€. A train goes from Podgorica airport to Bar, 5€. Great scenery. Taxi costs around 35€.

Arrival to the residence is on Sunday September 25, departure on Saturday October 1st, after breakfast in group.





Kosovo, © Klavdij Sluban

If you wish further information:

email: [easttoeastphotography@gmail.com](mailto:easttoeastphotography@gmail.com)

Spoken languages: French, English, Slovenian, Montenegrin, Serbian...and many others.

*Tereza Kozinc* ( <https://lunyna.carbonmade.com/> )

is a Slovenian photographer living between Ljubljana and Paris, born in 1985. She studied at the Institute and Academy of Multimedia in Ljubljana and graduated in Multimedia. Tereza's « documentary and intuitive » work has been shown in museums, festivals and galleries as the Rencontres d'Arles (Voies Off), the Benaki Museum in Athens, the Terragona SCAN Photo Festival in Spain, the Schmiede International Multimedia Festival in Austria, Cankarjev Dom in Ljubljana, AKC Metelkova City Ljubljana, the Fine Art UGM Gallery in Maribor, Slovenia.

*Klavdij Sluban*

is an internationally renowned photographer. « Artist of the year » in South Korea, 2017, winner of the European Publishers Award for Photography 2009, of the Leica Award (2004) and of the Niépce Prize (2000) (the main French award in photography), Sluban is a French photographer of Slovenian origin born in Paris in 1963.

He has been exhibiting and conducting photography workshops in France and around the world for the last 20 years. His growing reputation has prompted world-class photo festivals like Rencontres d'Arles to invite him back every year for the last fifteen years to teach at its famous international photography workshops. Always willing to share his experience and knowledge on contemporary art and photography, Sluban has given workshops all over the world, including countries like Slovenia, the USA (Harvard University), Estonia, Spain (Circulo de Bellas Artes), Italy, Japan (Kyotographie – Kyoto International Photo Festival), Singapore (Museum of Modern Art), Central America, Indonesia, China (Shanghai Art Museum), to name a few.

Sluban has developed a rigorous and coherent body of work, nourished by literature, never inspired by immediate and sensational current affairs. The Balkans, the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Caribbean, Central America, Russia, China and the Antarctic (first artistic mission in the Kerguelen Islands) can be read as many successive steps of an in-depth study of a patient proximity to the encountered real.

His images have been shown in such leading institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Photography of Tokyo, The Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, the Rencontres d'Arles, The Museum of Photography in Helsinki, the Fine Arts Museum in Canton, Musée Beaubourg, The Museum of Texas Tech University, the Museum of Photography, South Korea, among others. In 2013, the Musée Niépce showed a retrospective of Klavdij Sluban's work, *After Darkness, 1995-2012*. His many books include *East to East* (published simultaneously by Actes Sud, Dewi Lewis, Petliti, Braus, Apeiron & Lunwerg with a text by Erri de Luca), *Entre Parenthèses*, (Photo Poche, Actes Sud), *Transverses*, (Maison Européenne de la Photographie) and *Balkans -Transit*, with a text by François Maspero (Seuil).

Since 1995, Sluban has been photographing teenagers in jails. In each prison he organizes workshops with the young offenders to share his passion. First originated in France, in the prison of Fleury-Mérogis with support from Henri Cartier-Bresson, Marc Riboud and William Klein, this commitment was pursued in the disciplinary camps of Eastern Europe –Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldavia, Latvia – and in the disciplinary centres of Moscow and St Petersburg, as well as in Ireland. Since 2007 Sluban has been working in Central America with imprisoned youngsters.

## DETAILED PROGRAMME

from Sunday 29 September to Saturday 5  
October 2024

### Sunday

Participants are welcomed at the residence during the day.  
A welcome dinner is organised with Tereza and Klavdij in order to get acquainted in a warm atmosphere. Various plans, maps, brochures...will be distributed to get information about the area.

### Monday

The morning is dedicated to the reading of portfolios. Each participant must bring between 15 and 20 PRINTED photos, small size, up to A4. A constructive criticism will be done. This will give the direction to be followed during the week and help developing a personal writing already induced by the photos that have been shown. Lunch in the old town of Stari Bar.  
In the afternoon, exploration of the surroundings of the residence.  
Every one gets back to the residence at their own rhythm.  
8 pm: dinner

### Tuesday

Trip along the Adriatic coast towards Boka Kotorska, a bay surrounded by impressive mountains. Wandering in the medieval paved streets. Perfect for landscape and street photography.  
Lunch in a small fish restaurant in Kotor.  
On the way back, visited of a monastery still inhabited.  
Editing in the late afternoon.  
8pm: dinner





### Wednesday

Trip to Skadar lake to Virpazar village, 300 inhabitants. Typical traditional village. Boat excursion among narrow canals, spots covered with water lilies and bird paradise in the biggest lake in the Balkans.

Lunch by the lake.

Editing when back in the afternoon.

8pm: dinner

### Thursday

Following small roads, trip to Shkodra in Albania. It is very easy now to enter Albania. A valid passport, no visa needed, is necessary. Around the old town of Shkodra a new city has grown. Perfect for photographing the different layers of country full of energy where past and present are mingled in a picturesque chaos. Will be visited: the castle, the outdoor market, mosques like the Lead Mosque, all painted in green...

Lunch in Albania.

Editing when back in the afternoon.

8pm: dinner

### Friday

Each participant shapes this day according to personal wishes, desires... either by staying at the residence, or walking around, exploring the nearby mountains, or visiting the modern city of Bar, with its interesting industrial port.

Possibility to go to the island Ada Bojana, with 4km sand beach.





A selection of photos will be made with each participant to build a coherent series. This will be done in group.

An individual meeting with each participant will be done as a conclusion of this adventure.

The selections will be projected on a big screen in the evening.

Dinner and fiesta.

### Saturday

Goodbye breakfast.

A detail that might be important. The cuisine is rich and varied, not to say delicious.

Such as sea food and river fish, the «priganica» with cheese and honey, dry ham, smoked goat cheese, the «burek», as well as home-made shlivovitsa or fruit juices...

All made on the spot by a chef who will be staying with us.

Everyday fresh food.

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This programme has been elaborated considering all the aspects that will make this workshop as pleasant as can be (atmosphere, logistics, technical aspects, material aspects,...). Yet, some changes can occur due to unexpected

circumstances. Participants will be informed immediately.

Which means highly recommended to buy refundable transport reservations.



Albania, © Klavdij Sluban



North Greece, © Klavdij Sluban