

Welcome to Belgrade - “Gates of the Balkans”

Belgrade is located in South-eastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula, at the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe. The city lies upon the Danube River, the aquatic route connecting the countries of Western and Middle Europe to the countries of the South-eastern and Eastern Europe. Due to its position it was rightfully named “Gates of the Balkans” and the “Doors of Middle Europe”.

Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, is the third largest city in South-eastern Europe after Istanbul and Athens. Just over 1,700,000 people live in it. Belgrade is the city of youth. More than 40% of its citizens are between 15 and 44 years of age. All citizens of Belgrade love to talk of the spirit of the city. Open and ever ready for fun, many Belgraders will claim to be true hedonists – and many of them really are - knowing all there is to know about good food, wine and music.



Kalemegdan is the most know sightseeing in Belgrade. It is a hill, a fortress in the old town which name comes from Turkish kale – fortress and megdan – battlefield. The Belgrade Fortress changed and developed throughout the centuries, it saw many armies, was the field of

many battles, it witnessed the brutality of the conquerors and the courage of the tireless defenders of the city. It was the place where Belgrade started to develop.

The Fortress was built in stages, during the lengthy period between the 1st and 18th century, from a Roman castrum, through a Byzantine castle and the remains of the medieval capital of the Serb Despotate, all the way to an Austrian-Ottoman artillery fortification. The complex consists of the fortress itself, divided into the Upper Town (Despot’s Gate, Sahat kula - Clock Tower, Roman Well, Statue of the Victor), Lower Town (Nebojša Tower, Amam – Turkish bath, Gate of Charles VI) and the Kalemegdan Park, home to busts of important persons from Serbian history, science and culture. The Belgrade Fortress offers an exciting view of the confluence of Sava and Danube, of New Belgrade and Zemun. You can walk through Kalemegdan park, visit zoo or enjoy in meal or coffe at famous restoran “Kalemegdanska terasa”.



One of the most famous streets in Belgrade is **Skadarska**. If you are looking for the authentic spirit of Belgrade must visit this **bohemian quarter**. This ambiental look of Belgrade, still standing to this day, is preserved in the area of Skadarska Street around the bohemian Tri šešira inn. These were small houses, but a few of which remain. The house where the Tri šešira inn stands today is typical, built in the second half of the 19th century, the abode of former bohemians. The aqueduct of the Bulbulder waterway with 14 arches once stood in the middle of the mahala, in front of the subsequently built house of Đura Jakšić, as the sole reminder of times gone by. During the 19th century this used to be the Skadar Gate with the Skadar Drinking-Fountain.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Gipsy settlements slowly vanished and the former sheds were replaced by more sturdy houses accommodating artisans, caterers and petty clerks. The adaptation of Skadarlija began in 1966. In an attempt to retain this part of old Belgrade, a reconstruction and revitalization of Skadarska Street was performed. The goal was to bring back the features this specific ambient once had, to revive tradition and add contemporary new sights. Traffic was eliminated from Skadarlija, a fountain was erected, the old cobbles, lanterns and candelabra were brought back, the **Tri šešira**, **Dva jelena** and Skadarlija inns were added to, while the interiors of the **Ima dana**, **Zlatan bokal** and **Dva bela goluba** were remodeled.



Savamala is new cultural and clubbing destination. It is a resurrecting elite neighborhood in the heart of Belgrade and the center of the capital's cultural life, home to several new art galleries and cultural centers. It is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, showcasing spectacular architectural jewels, such as the Geozavod building, the Bristol hotel, Brankov bridge, as well as many palaces of the Serbian nobility from the 19th century. Savamala is famous about street art. At 6 Pop Lukina Street, there is a wall facing Brankova Street, hidden by a small gas station, a huge portrait of the metropolis devouring the greenery. Within the project "Super Wall", which was part of Belef 2009, Belgrade became richer by another mural done by a world artist.

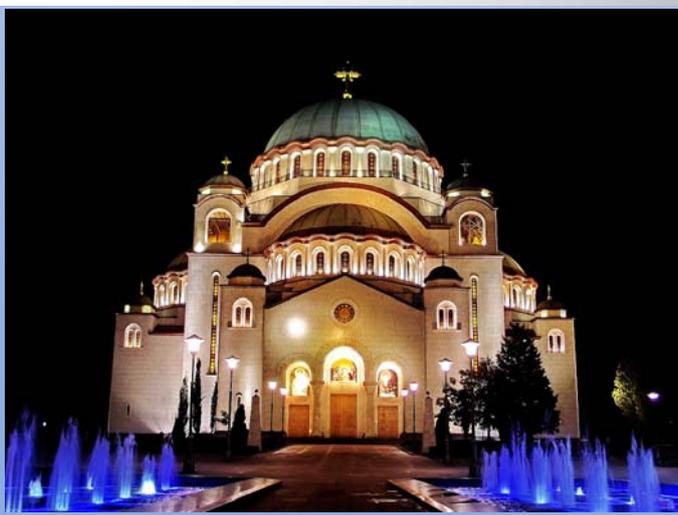


The mural on Pop Lukina Street shows a negative impact of humanity on the environment – it displays a huge human image, which instead of teeth has buildings and is about to devour a tree, the only painted detail on this black-and-white image. Savamala is also the ultimate party destination for the young crowds, featuring many of the top trending clubs in Belgrade, such as Brankow, Mladost, Ludost, Lasta and the brand new Peron club.



During summertime (from May and on) the Splavis (rafts) in the Sava and Danube rivers are the obvious choice. There are many bars throughout the city so depending on where you are staying, ask your hotel for advice on what is closest. Some local favorites include Guli, Scena Cafe Club, and Gaucosi. The leading Clubs include the hottest place in town in the summer, Freestyler, and the exclusive Mr Stefan Braun, which is located on the pumping ninth floor of an apartment block!

If you want to take a walk and see the architecture of old Belgrade, Knez Mihailova street can be your starting point. **Knez Mihailova Street** is the favorite city promenade of most Belgradians and lies between Terazije Square and Kalemegdan. It is the main meeting point, easy reachable from every part of the city. As the epicenter of culture and history, Knez Mihailova was named **one of the most beautiful pedestrian streets** in Eastern Europe. During Roman rule, Knez Mihailova was the central point of Singidunum (Latin name for Belgrade) and later under the Turks, it was a street within the fortress walls. By the end of the 19th century its winding streets with gardens, fountains and mosques disappeared, but a new street "coloured" with European spirit had appeared. In 1870 this street was officially named after Serbian Prince Mihailo Obrenović. Up until the 1950s, most of Knez Mihailova Street belonged to a couple of very rich Belgrade families. Dating from the second half of the 19th century, these buildings are easily recognizable by their sumptuous facades, decorated with colorful flowers during summer. In the mid-20th century, Knez Mihailova was the place for the young to meet and flirt, but today it is also the cultural and commercial centre of the city. Until a couple of years ago, Knez Mihailova was the main **shopping zone** of the city. Although now Belgradians predominantly spend their money in shopping malls, there is something special about shopping in Knez Mihailova.



One of the largest Orthodox churches is located in Belgrade. The Saint Sava Temple (Hram Svetog Save) is **the largest Serbian Orthodox church**, the largest Orthodox place of worship in the Balkans and one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world. It is located on the eastern part of the Svetosavski Trg square on the **Vračarski Plato** in Belgrade. It was raised on the spot where it is thought that in 1595 Sinan-Pasha burned the **relics of Saint Sava**, founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The church was built in the Serbian-Byzantine style, with four 44 m-high steeples. At its highest point the dome is 70 m in height, while the main gilded cross is an additional 12 m high, giving the Cathedral a total height of 82 m and a height above sea level of 134 m (64 m

above the level of the Sava river). For this reason the church occupies a prominent place on Belgrade's horizon and can be seen from all approaches to the city.



Do you know where Belgradians spend hot summer days? **Ada Ciganlija** proudly bears the name of “Belgrade Sea”. Green, clean, equipped and relaxed, it becomes the favourite spot of Belgraders with the first signs of the spring sun. From the early mornings until late into the night, Ada Ciganlija is always lively. Ada Ciganlija was, in fact, turned into a peninsula by human hands, surrounded by an embankment and bounded by the Sava River on one and the Sava Lake on the other side. It has a surface area of approximately 800 hectares and is awarded with the Blue Flag, international recognition for the quality of the beach second year in a row. Ada is a true ecological oasis of Belgrade, decorated with clean waters and a thick deciduous forest.

It is a natural habitat for a large number of bird, rodent and insect species.

It is easy to find an ideal place for bathing along the 7 kilometres of gravel beach. If you tire of the water, you can ride a bicycle, play football, basketball, volleyball, handball, tennis, baseball, golf, rugby, field hockey, lift your adrenaline levels bungee jumping, relax fishing on specially built platforms or sharpen your spirit and body free climbing an artificial rock. For total relaxation choose one of over 70 restaurants and cafes along the lake shoreline and the rafts, and have a bit of respite.

Maybe you like mysteries? We suggest that went out to explore the **underground Belgrade**. Underground Belgrade has always attracted tremendous attention since it hides more than one hundred caves, canals, tunnels, passages and incredible stories. There are at least 120 caves beneath Belgrade. Some – like the network that runs underneath the Kalemegdan Citadel or along Karadjordjeva Street – are well-known. But others, like those that riddle the ground underneath the city’s Tasmjadan Park, are half-forgotten and have only recently begun to be explored again. Visitors are highly unlikely to be able to explore subterranean Belgrade on their own, and even if they did, it wouldn’t be very fun or informative. History of underground Belgrade is in connection to various empires and states that have ruled over ages in this area. The tour **Underground Belgrade** will take visitors to the Roman hall where lie foundation of the main gate of the Roman fortress and Roman aqueduct and they will hear stories about Tito's (former president of Yugoslavia) political games and spy secrets from the time of Communist Information Bureau. As tour continues, you will travel into earlier centuries when Turks and Austrians ruled in this area. At the end, you will enter one of the underground canals from the time when Serbia finally became independent state and have a wine tasting to round up this adventurous journey through Belgrade past. As the souvenir you can buy a interesting book "**Belgrade underneath Belgrade**" and take a part of mysteries with you.



Royal Palaces at Dedinje, official residence of the Serbian royal dynasty Karadjordjević are situated in a wooded, elite part of Belgrade. Royal Palaces have been opened for public only in the past several years and represent an attractive destination for excursions. Royal complex in Dedinje consists of **Royal Palace** and **White Palace**. Royal Palace was built in 1929 and today in this large estate lives prince Aleksandar Karadjordjević II with his wife, Princess Katarina. Royal and White Palaces have valuable collections of paintings (Rembrandt, Poussin), sculptures, and decorative objects of a great value. Royal Court houses the collection of King Aleksandar I and in the White Palace, designed in the neoclassical style, you can see objects mostly chosen by Prince regent Pavle Karadjordjević. One can recognize hall of

the White Court as a place in which Slobodan Milošević held political speeches during 90s.

Complex also has family church dedicated to St. Andrew the First-called, patron saint of the Karadjordjević Family. Church is interesting because of replicas of the most beautiful frescoes from Serbian monasteries Dečani and Sopoćani.



There are numerous ways to experience Belgrade, and literary there is something for everyone. We suggest you to visit one of the most important museums in Belgrade and Europe, the **Nikola Tesla Museum**. The museum is dedicated to one of the most brilliant scientists in the World, the great inventor Nikola Tesla. He is one of the world's most famous scientists in the fields of physics, electrical and radio engineering. If one could separate and identify the largest Tesla's discoveries that affected our lives the most, then it would be three-phase electricity induction engine and poly-phase system in general. Before the invention of poly-phase, electrical energy was produced near consumers, just a few hundred meters away. After the construction of

Niagara Falls power plant, for the first time in the history of mankind energy was produced in one place and distributed to consumers as needed. The museum is housed in a beautiful building in Vračar, in the center of Belgrade. It contains a large number of the most important documents, objects and inventions, which marked his work. This is definitely a place worth of your visit.

One of the most important and exquisite characteristics of Belgrade is the food and beverage culture. Belgradians enjoy sitting in restaurants and cafes, however this activity rarely lasts for just a drink or two because conversation usually includes enjoyment of food, as well. Therefore one thing is sure, you will never be left hungry in Belgrade. Restaurants usually serve unnecessarily large portions of food, still the most common answer to the question what do you like the most in Belgrade is - food!

Many Belgrade restaurants are well known after the so-called Serbian cuisine (national cuisine), which consists mainly of meat dishes. Serbian national cuisine also includes number of traditional meals that are not based on meat. Still, we are certain that you won't be able to resist taste of ćevapi prepared here. Serbian cuisine is characterized by highly diverse, solid and spicy food, which can be roughly described as a mixture of Greek, Bulgarian, Turkish and Hungarian cuisine. The use of meat, dough, vegetables and dairy products is predominant in it. Serbian specialties you have to taste are: burek, gibanica, grilled meat, roast, Karadorđeva steak, cabbage rolls, goulash, đuveč (a type of a stew), moussaka, mučkalica (a mixture of different types of meat and vegetables in a form of a stew), čvarci (similar to pork rinds), kaymak, pršuta (dry-cured ham, similar to Prosciutto), and sour milk. Drinking coffee is a centuries-old tradition in Serbia, so you mustn't miss home-made coffee accompanied by baklava, vanilice or Turkish delight, while the kind hosts will first offer you slatko and water in their homes. A plum, considered a national fruit in Serbia, out of which a well-known rakia – Slivovitz is brewed, has, in a way, become one of the symbols of Serbia. You mustn't leave Serbia without having at least one glass of it.

For many of the Serbian national cuisine specialties there isn't a right word in the foreign language dictionaries, nor is there a taste they can be compared to. Therefore it is best that you come and taste them yourself. But, before that, you can find stories about Serbian dishes you want to taste on this page, as well as, the recipes for them, because, who knows, you might wish to prepare them yourselves somewhere, miles away from Serbia!

Typically Serbian!

It does not take long for foreign visitors to Serbia to discover the hospitality, kindness, openness and warmth of the country's residents. Shaking hands, done using the right hand, is customary when being introduced or meeting somebody of either gender. Kissing is not a necessity when meeting somebody for the first time, but every time you meet from then on, if you have developed affection for the person in question, kissing three times on the cheeks is the order of the day in Serbia. Of course, nobody will object if you only kiss once or twice while giving a long and sincere hug.



In Serbia, toasts are usually made with traditional rakija (brandy), often home-distilled. Toasts are made by clinking glasses, making direct eye contact and loudly proclaiming "**Živeli!**"

Paying the bill in restaurants is a big part of the Serbian mentality. The host will almost never allow a guest to pay for lunch, dinner or drinks because it is customary for the host to take care of all expenses while a guest is staying with him or her. In contrast to the rest of Europe, there is no single day of the week in Serbia when you cannot have a night out and that holds true for all generations, for all lifestyles and musical tastes and for all available budgets.

WELCOME TO BELGRADE!