



Serbia Србија

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Best Places to Eat

- » Bubi Grill (p846)
- » Little Bay (p839)
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Best Places To Stay

- » Hotel Moskva (p837)
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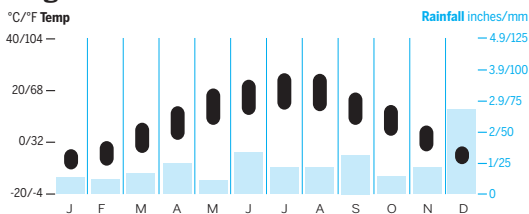
Why Go?

Warm, welcoming and a hell of a lot of fun – everything you never heard about Serbia is true. Exuding a feisty mix of élan and *inat* (the Serbian trait of rebellious defiance), this country doesn't do 'mild': its capital Belgrade is one of the world's wildest party destinations, the northern town of Novi Sad hosts the rocking EXIT festival, and even its hospitality is emphatic – expect to be greeted with *rakija* and a hearty three-kiss hello.

While political correctness here is about as commonplace as a nonsmoking bar, Serbia is nevertheless a cultural crucible: the art nouveau town of Subotica revels in its proximity to Hungary, bohemian Niš echoes to the clip-clop of Roma horse-carts, and minaret-studded Novi Pazar nudges some of the most sacred sites in Serbian Orthodoxy. And in the mountainous Kopaonik and Zlatibor regions, ancient traditions coexist with après-ski bling. Forget what you think you know: come and say *zdravo* (hello)...or better yet, *živeli* (cheers)!

When To Go

Belgrade



April Watch winter melt away with a scenic ride on the nostalgic Šargan 8 railway.

July–August Rock out at Novi Sad's EXIT, go wild at Guča and get jazzy at Nišville.

December–March Head for the hills of Kopaonik and Zlatibor for alpine adventure.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Dinar (DIN)
- » **Language** Serbian
- » **Money** ATMs in all main and mid-sized towns
- » **Visas** None for EU citizens, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 77,474 sq km
- » **Capital** Belgrade
- » **Telephone country code** ☎381
- » **Emergency** ☎92 (police), ☎93 (fire), ☎94 (ambulance)

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	75.00DIN
Canada	C\$1	74.43DIN
euro	€1	102.07DIN
Japan	¥100	85.86DIN
New Zealand	NZ\$1	56.28DIN
UK	UK£1	116.00DIN
USA	US\$1	71.06DIN

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget room** 2000DIN
- » **Two-course meal** 1000DIN
- » **Museum entry** 100DIN
- » **Beer** 100DIN
- » **City transport ticket** 80DIN

Resources

- » **National Tourism Organisation of Serbia** (www.serbia.travel)
- » **Serbia Travel Club** (www.serbiatravelers.org)

Connections

Serbia is landlocked by accessible neighbours. From the northern town of Subotica, you can travel over the Hungarian border and onwards to Budapest. The town of Vršac is only 10km from the Romanian border, and the Bulgarian border is 45 minutes from the small town of Pirot. When things are calm on the Kosovo border, €7 and three hours get you from Novi Pazar to Kosovo's capital Pristina. The Zlatibor region stretches to Bosnia & Hercegovina, allowing travellers with wheels the opportunity to take a day trip to the bridge on the River Drina. The whole of Eastern Europe feels accessible from Belgrade: Bucharest, Budapest, Ljubljana, Moscow, Sofia and Zagreb are a train ride away, and regular buses serve destinations including Banja Luka, Ljubljana, Sarajevo and Split.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Revel in three days of cultural and culinary exploration in Belgrade, allowing for at least one night of (and recovery time from) hitting the capital's legendary nightspots. Carry on to Novi Sad for day trips to the vineyards and monasteries of Fruška Gora and Sremski Karlovci.

Two Weeks

Follow the above then head north to treat your eyes to the art nouveau architecture of Subotica, before slicing south for Zlatibor's bracing mountain air en route to Ottoman-influenced Novi Pazar and the lively city of Niš.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Kajmak** Along the lines of a salty clotted cream, this dairy delight is lashed on to everything from plain bread to burgers.
- » **Čevapčići** The ubiquitous skinless sausage and *pljeskavica* (head-sized spicy hamburger) make it very easy to be a carnivore in Serbia.
- » **Burek** This flaky meat, cheese or vegetable pie is eaten with yoghurt as a breakfast belly-filler or an anytime snack.
- » **Žito** This is a dessert of crushed wheat and walnuts, or try *palačinke* (crepes) loaded with jam or hazelnut spread.
- » **Rakija** Distilled spirit most commonly made from plums. Treat with caution: this ain't your grandpa's brandy.