



Serbia

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Why Go?

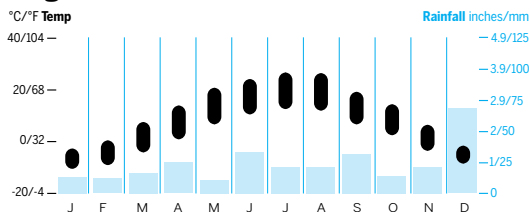
Warm, welcoming and a hell of a lot of fun – everything you never heard about Serbia (Србија) is true. Exuding a feisty mix of élan and *inat* (Serbian trait of rebellious defiance), this country doesn't do 'mild': Belgrade is one of the world's wildest party destinations, Novi Sad hosts the rocking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

While political correctness is as commonplace as a non-smoking 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. For something truly wild, head to the stunningly scenic Tara, Djerdap and Fruška Gora National Parks.

Forget what you think you know: come and say *zdravo* (hello)...or better yet, *živeli* (cheers)!

When to Go

Belgrade



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

Jul & Aug Rock out at Novi Sad's EXIT, go wild at Guča and get jazzy at Nišville.

Dec–Mar Head to Tara National Park and Zlatibor for alpine adventure.



Serbia Highlights

- 1 Kalemegdan Citadel** (p362) Soaking up Belgrade's bloody, bawdy history at this formidable fortress.
- 2 EXIT Festival** (p372) Joining thousands of party people for beats and bacchanalia in Novi Sad.
- 3 Tara National Park** (p369) Hiking, biking or paddling

around this scenic slice of Serbia. Watch out for bears!

- 4 Mokra Gora** (p373) Escaping reality in the village of Drvengrad and on a whimsical Šargan 8 train ride.
- 5 Guča Festival** (p360) Stealing your eardrums (and liver) at this frenetic music festival.

- 6 Fruška Gora National Park** (p371) Rambling the ranges of this gentle region studded with ancient monasteries and ancestral vineyards.
- 7 Niš** (p373) Getting a Balkan-flavoured taste of old Rome at the birthplace of Constantine the Great.