



Bosnia & Hercegovina

Includes »

Sarajevo	140
Mostar	145
Around Mostar	148
Počitelj.	148
Eastern Bosnia & Hercegovina	148
Trebinje	148
Western Bosnia & Hercegovina	148
Understand Bosnia & Hercegovina	148
Survival Guide	149

Best Places to Eat

- » Bridge-view Restaurants, Mostar (p147)
- » Riverside Restaurants on the Una (p149)

Best Places to Stay

- » Muslibegović House, Mostar (p145)
- » Kostelski Buk, Una Valley (p149)
- » Hotel Platani, Trebinje (p148)

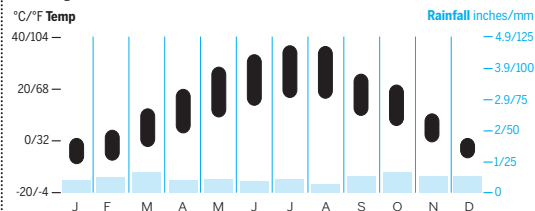
Why Go?

This cragily beautiful land retains some lingering scars from the 1990s' heartbreaking civil war. But today visitors will more likely remember Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH) for its deep, unassuming human warmth and for the intriguing East-meets-West atmosphere born of fascinatingly blended Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian histories.

Major drawcards are the reincarnated antique centres of Sarajevo and Mostar, where rebuilt historic buildings counterpoint fashionable bars and wi-fi-equipped cafes. Elsewhere socialist architectural monstrosities are surprisingly rare blots on predominantly rural landscapes. Many Bosnian towns are lovably small, wrapped around medieval castles and surrounded by mountain ridges or cascading river canyons. There's also world-class rafting, Olympic-quality skiing and a genuine sense of discovery. And it's all great value for money by the standards of 21st-century Europe.

When to Go

Sarajevo



Apr–May Cooler in Hercegovina, blooming flowers in Bosnia and rafting best for professionals.

Jun–Aug Towns are hot and sweaty and accommodation fills up; rafting for beginners is best in July.

Late-Dec–mid-Mar First-class skiing. Prices drop late March when snow cover is more of a gamble.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** convertible mark (KM)
- » **Languages** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- » **Money** ATMs widely available in towns
- » **Visas** Not needed for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 51,129 sq km
- » **Capital** Sarajevo
- » **Country code** ☎387
- » **Emergency** Ambulance ☎124, police ☎122

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	1.43KM
Canada	C\$1	1.42KM
euro zone	€1	1.96KM
Japan	¥100	1.60KM
New Zealand	NZ\$1	1.06KM
UK	UK£1	2.21KM
USA	US\$1	1.35KM

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 60KM
- » **Two-course evening meal** 17KM
- » **Museum entrance** 1.50KM to 5KM
- » **Beer (bottle)** 2-3KM

Resources

- » **BiH Tourism** (www.bhtourism.ba)
- » **Bosnian Institute** (www.bosnia.org.uk) Cultural.
- » **Green Visions** (www.sarajevo-travel.ba)

Connections

Regular buses link the Croatian coast to Mostar and Sarajevo, plus there's a little-publicised Trebinje–Dubrovnik service. Sarajevo, Višegrad and Trebinje all have bus connections to Serbia and Montenegro. Trains connect Sarajevo to Zagreb, Belgrade and Budapest.

ITINERARIES

Five Days

Arriving from coastal Croatia, roam Mostar's Old Town, day trip to surrounding attractions, including Ottoman-era Počitelj and the impressive Kravice Waterfalls, continue to Sarajevo and leave by train to Zagreb, Belgrade or Budapest.

Ten Days

Add Trebinje, ski (winter) or go mountain biking (summer) around Bjelašnica, visit the controversial Visočica Hill pyramid, Travnik and Jajce and consider adding in some high-adrenalin rafting from Banja Luka, Bihać or Foča.

Essential Food

- » **Burek** Filo-pastry snack with meat stuffing. Similar equivalents are filled with cheese (*sirnica*), potato (*krompiruša*) or spinach (*zeljanica*).
- » **Ćevapi** (Ćevapčići) Grilled minced meat formed into small cylinders.
- » **Pljeskavica** Like *ćevapi* but flat, patty shaped.
- » **Ražnjići** Shish kebab.
- » **Ionac** Cabbage and meat hotpot.
- » **Uštipci** Bready doughnuts served with sweet or savoury accompaniments.
- » **Tufahije** Baked apple stuffed with walnut paste.
- » **Hurmastica** Syrup-soaked sponge fingers.
- » **Šnicla** Various steak or schnitzels.
- » **Dolme** Cabbage leaves or vegetables stuffed with mince.