



Serbia Србија

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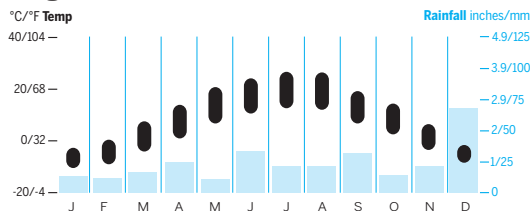
Why Go?

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* (a 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* (strong distilled spirit most commonly made from plums) and a hearty three-kiss hello.

While political correctness here is about as commonplace as a nonsmoking bar, Serbia is nevertheless a cultural crucible: art-nouveau Subotica revels in its proximity to Hungary, minaret-studded Novi Pazar nudges some of the most sacred sites in Serbian Orthodoxy, and in mountainous Zlatibor ancient traditions coexist with après-ski bling. Forget what you think you know about Serbia: 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 Festival and go trumpet-wild at Guča.

Dec–Mar Head south to Zlatibor for some alpine adventure.

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 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, 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, with at least one night hitting the capital's legendary nightspots. Carry on to Novi Sad for day trips to 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 to Zlatibor en route to Ottoman-influenced Novi Pazar.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Kajmak** Like a saltier clotted cream, this dairy delight is lashed on to everything from plain bread to burgers.
- » **Grill Čevapčići** (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** Tuck into this dessert of crushed wheat and walnuts, or try *palačinke* (crepes) loaded with jam or hazelnut spread.
- » **Rakija** A distilled spirit most commonly made from plums. Treat with caution: this ain't your grandpa's brandy.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Dinar (DIN)
- » **Language** Serbian
- » **Money** ATMs in all main and mid-sized towns
- » **Visas** Not required for most visitors; see p1082

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 77,474 sq km
- » **Capital** Belgrade
- » **Country code** ☎038
- » **Emergency** Police ☎92; Ambulance ☎94

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	74.68DIN
Canada	C\$1	74.68DIN
euro	€1	102.38DIN
zone		
Japan	¥100	85.66DIN
New Zealand	NZ\$1	55.31DIN
UK	UK£1	116.23DIN
USA	US\$1	71.99DIN

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 2000DIN
- » **Two-course evening meal** 1000DIN
- » **Museum entrance** 100DIN
- » **Bottle of beer** 100DIN
- » **City transport ticket** 80DIN

Resources

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