



Bosnia & Herzegovina

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Best Places to Stay

- » Muslibegović House (p92)
- » Kostelski Buk (p107)
- » Hotel Platani (p98)
- » Hotel Centar (p100)
- » Hotel Blanca (p102)

Best Places to Eat

- » Mala Kuhinja (p82)
- » Bridge-view restaurants, Mostar (p94)
- » Riverside restaurants on the Una (p139)

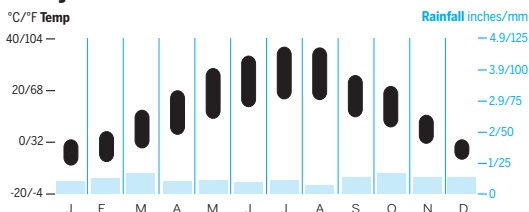
Why Go?

This cragily beautiful land retains some lingering scars from the heartbreaking civil war in the 1990s. But today visitors will more likely remember Bosnia and Herzegovina (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 historical 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. Few places in Europe offer better rafting or such accessible, inexpensive skiing.

When to Go

Sarajevo



Spring Beat the heat in Herzegovina, blooming flowers in Bosnia, peak-flowing rivers.

Summer Accommodation fills up but for beginners the rafting is best in July.

Mid-December to mid-March Olympic-standard skiing. Prices drop in late March.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** convertible mark (KM, BAM)
- » **Languages** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- » **Visas** Not required for most visitors; see p145

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 51,129 sq km
- » **Capital** Sarajevo
- » **Telephone country code** 387
- » **Emergency** ambulance 124, fire 123, police 122, roadside assistance 1282, 1288

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	1.41KM
Canada	C\$1	1.40KM
euro	€1	1.95KM
Japan	¥100	1.60KM
New Zealand	NZ\$1	1.06KM
UK	UK£1	2.20KM
USA	US\$1	1.35KM

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 60KM
- » **Two-course meal** 17KM
- » **Museum entrance** 1.50KM to 5KM
- » **Beer** 2KM to 3KM
- » **City transport ticket** 1.80KM

Resources

- » **BiH Tourism** (www.bhtourism.ba)
- » **Bosnian Institute** (www.bosnia.org.uk)
- » **Office of the High Representative** (www.ohr.int)

Connections

Regular buses link the Croatian coast to Mostar and Sarajevo plus there's a little-publicised Trebinje–Dubrovnik service. Trains link Sarajevo to Zagreb, Belgrade and Budapest-Keleti, the only direct overland link to Hungary. There are numerous bus connections to Serbia and Montenegro from Sarajevo, Višegrad and Trebinje.

ITINERARIES

Six days

Arriving from Dubrovnik (coastal Croatia), roam Mostar's Old Town and join a day tour visiting Počitelj, Blagaj and the Kravice waterfalls. After two days in Sarajevo head for Jajce then bus down to Split (Croatia). Or visit Višegrad en route to Mokra Gora and Belgrade (Serbia).

Two weeks

As above, but add quaint Trebinje and (if driving) historic Stolac between Dubrovnik and Mostar. Ski or go cycling around Bjelašnica, visit the controversial Visoko pyramid and old-town Travnik en route to Jajce, and consider adding in some high-adrenaline rafting from Banja Luka, Bihać or Foča.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Ćevapčići** Grilled minced meat formed into cylindrical little *ćevapi* or patty-shaped *pljeskavica*.
- » **Ćevabdžinica** *Ćevapi* specialist-eateries but almost all restaurants serve them along with *šnicla* (steak/schnitzel), *kotleti* (normally veal), *ražnjići* (shish kebab), *pastrmka* (trout) and *lignje* (squid).
- » **Dolme** Cabbage leaves or vegetables stuffed with minced meat.
- » **Ionac** Cabbage and meat hotpot.
- » **Hurmastica** Syrup-soaked sponge fingers.