



Bosnia & Hercegovina

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Why Go?

This craggily beautiful land retains some lingering scars from the heartbreaking civil war in the 1990s. 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 historical buildings counterpoint fashionable bars and wi-fi-equipped cafes. Elsewhere Socialist-era 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.

Best Places to Eat

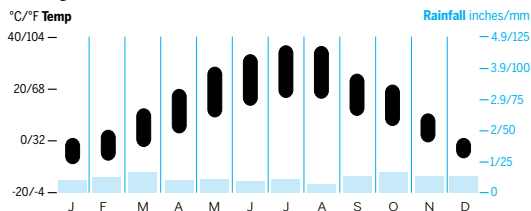
- » Mala Kuhinja (p85)
- » Bridge-view restaurants, Mostar (p98)
- » Riverside restaurants on the Una (p111)
- » Vinoteka Vukuje (p102)

Best Places to Stay

- » Muslibegović House (p96)
- » Hotel Platani (p102)
- » Želenkovac (p110)
- » Kostelski Buk (p111)

When to Go

Sarajevo



Apr–Jun Beat the heat in Hercegovina; blooming flowers in Bosnia; peak-flowing rivers.

Jul Accommodation fills up in Mostar and Sarajevo but for beginners the rafting is best now.

Mid-Jan–mid-Mar Skiing gets cheaper after the New Year holidays.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Convertible mark (KM, BAM)
- » **Language** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- » **Money** ATMs widely available in towns
- » **Visas** Not required for most visitors

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 51,129 sq km
- » **Capital** Sarajevo
- » **Country code** ☎387
- » **Emergency** Ambulance ☎124, fire ☎123, police ☎122

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	1.59KM
Canada	C\$1	1.51KM
Euro Zone	€1	1.96KM
Japan	¥100	1.62KM
New Zealand	NZ\$1	1.28KM
UK	UK£1	2.32KM
USA	US\$1	1.53KM

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 70KM
- » **Two-course meal** 18KM
- » **Museum entrance** 1–5KM
- » **Beer** 2–4KM
- » **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

Add 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

- » **Ćevapi (Ćevapčići)** Minced meat formed into cylindrical pellets and served in fresh bread with melting *kajmak* (thick semi-soured cream).
- » **Pjescavica** Patty-shaped Ćevapi.
- » **Burek** Bosnian *burek* are cylindrical lengths of filo-pastry filled with minced meat, often wound into spirals. *Buređici* is the same served with *kajmak* and garlic, *sirnica* is filled instead with cheese, *krompiruša* with potato and *zeljanica* with spinach. Collectively these pies are called *pita*.
- » **Sarma** Small *dolma*-parcels of rice and minced meat wrapped in a cabbage or other green leaf.
- » **Bosanski Lonac** Slow-cooked meat-and-veg hotpot.
- » **Uštipci** Bready fried dough-balls often eaten with sour cream, cheese or jam.
- » **Sogan Dolma** Slow roasted onions filled with minced meat.
- » **Klepe** Small ravioli-like triangles served in a butter-pepper drizzle with grated raw garlic.
- » **Hurmastica** Syrup-soaked sponge fingers.
- » **Tufahija** Whole stewed apple with walnut-filling and topped with whipped cream.
- » **Ražnjići** Shish kebab (ie meat barbequed on skewers).
- » **Pastrmka** Trout.
- » **Rakija** Fruit brandy or grappa.
- » **Ligne** Squid.