Belgrade is one of the oldest cities in Europe and the only capital built at the confluence of two big rivers – the Danube and the Sava. Belgrade is a modern European city with a population of about 1.7 million people. The place where Belgrade is today has been inhabited from ancient times. One of the city’s quarters, Vinače, is the home of prehistoric culture of the same name. Nowadays, in this part of the city you can find an archaeological site perfect for all those interested in very distant history. The city has a long history, dating back to the 4th century BC, when the area was settled by Celtic tribes. Later on, it became the Roman city of Singidunum, and relics of that era can still be seen in the city, particularly at Kalemegdan Fortress. During the Middle Ages the town changed hands between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Serbian Despotate (of which it was the capital) until 1521, when it was captured by the Ottoman Empire. Until Serbia retained its independence in 1878, the city again changed hands multiple times, but between the Ottoman Empire and the Habsburg Empire. This often violent history and outside influence has colored much of Belgrade’s evolution, which is evident in its culture and architecture. Often caught between the hammer and anvil of clashing empires, the city has taken on a unique character, reminiscent of both Austrian and Turkish influences, with a unique set of Communist elements thrown in by the Marshal Tito Government. Yet, the city has its own spirit, and in it can be found some not only unique features, but also a healthy joie de vivre in its café culture, nightlife and often a Mediterranean flavor in its lifestyle.

BELGRADE - HOW TO GET THERE?
There are several ways to get to Belgrade. The cheapest and the fastest ways are via Air Serbia or Wizzair.

BY AIR
Belgrade’s Nikola Tesla International Airport (BEG) located just 15 minutes from the city centre, with an ideal location at the crossroads of major air routes with 37 airlines connects the capital of Serbia with more than 70 destinations throughout Europe, Middle East and North Africa. For those coming from the USA there is a direct flight from New York. Low cost carriers operating in Serbia are: easyJet, flydubai, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Pegasus Airlines, Vueling Airlines and Wizz Air. Other major airlines that fly to Belgrade are Aeroflot, Qatar Airways, Turkish, Lufthansa, Austrian, Alitalia and Swiss International.

To travel between the airport and the city:
- **Bus 72** runs twice an hour from the bus station near the departures level at Terminal 1 to Zeleni Venac market in the city centre. The tickets (except for the one ride ticket) can be bought from the shop that sells food and newspapers inside the departures hall. The trip takes about 40 - 60 minutes (depending on the traffic) and the buses run from 04:00 to 00:00. As of February 2016, the ticket prices are 89 RSD (time-limited ticket, 90 minutes) and 150 (one ride ticket, this is the price if the ticket is bought in the bus).
- **Minibus A1** operates between the airport and Slavija Square, stopping at Fontana (Novi Beograd) and Belgrade - Glavna railway station. The buses are comfortable and air-conditioned. The fare is 300 RSD, which is paid on-board; be sure to tell the driver what your destination is before departure. The trip takes 30-40 minutes.
- If you prefer to take a taxi, read General precautions below. The taxi fare from the airport is fixed - most taxi companies have a price list in multiple languages. The price range is from 1400 RSD to Novi Beograd, 1800 RSD to central Belgrade and from 2200 RSD to the suburbs. Luggage fees are usually non-existent, but some companies charge them for luggage which weighs over 30 kg. You can order a taxi by phone or simply go upstairs to the left until you get to the departure section and catch one of the taxis dropping off passengers.

BY ROAD
Belgrade lies along the E-70 and E-75 connecting Western and Northern Europe on one side and Southern and Eastern Europe on the other. Serbia has 40,000 km of roadways, including 600 km of expressways.
International bus coach routes service neighbouring countries as well as most European countries.

**BY RAIL**
Belgrade has regular and direct rail connections with capital cities in Central and Eastern Europe. International passenger trains include a regular day and night train, the ‘Avala’, that goes from Belgrade to Budapest, and Vienna. There are also trains on every-day basis running from Belgrade to Zurich (Switzerland), Munich (Germany), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Banja Luka (Bosnia), Sofia (Bulgaria), Bucharest (Romania), and Thessaloniki (Greece).
Belgrade main train station is located in the city centre, next to the main bus station.

**GEOGRAPHICAL & DEMOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**PASSPORT AND VISAS**
Visa free entry to the Republic of Serbia for holders of foreign passports having a valid Schengen, UK and other Member States' visa, or visa of the United States of America, and for holders of foreign passports having residence permit in the countries of the Schengen area, EU or the United States of America. For the latest travel document requirements and details, please visit the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia: [http://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/consular-affairs/entry-serbia/visa-regime](http://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/consular-affairs/entry-serbia/visa-regime).

**LANGUAGE IN SERBIA**
Serbia has only one nationwide official language, which is Serbian. People in Belgrade use English language for communication.

**LOCAL TIME**
Belgrade and Serbia are located in the Central European time zone region – GMT +1 and/or GMT +2 as of the last week in the third month until the Saturday prior to the last week of the tenth month.

**CURRENCY**
The currency in Serbia is the Serbian dinar (RSD). One dinar is comprised of 100 para. Dinar is issued in denominations of 10 / 20 / 50 / 100 / 200 / 500 / 1000 / 2000 / 5000. Foreign currency can be exchanged for local money at the airport, in banks, post offices and exchange offices, according to the valid exchange rates. The current exchange rate may be checked on the website of the National Bank of Serbia: [https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/default/internet/english/scripts/kl_srednji.html](https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/default/internet/english/scripts/kl_srednji.html).

**EXCHANGE**
Money can be exchanged in banks, post offices and exchange offices. The exchange bureaus are generally open for longer than banks are but charge higher commission rates. Banks are usually open from 9:00am to 5:00pm from Monday to Friday. Some banks are also open on Saturdays. All major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and Amex) are accepted in Serbia by restaurants, hotels and shops. Cash may be taken from ATMs installed in all major malls, bank branch offices and in public places 365 days in a year, 24 hours a day.

**TIPPING**
Tipping is not mandatory in Serbia. However it is customary to add 5-10% in restaurants if you are satisfied with the service.
POST OFFICE
Post post offices are open Monday through Friday 8:00am to 7:00pm and Saturday 8:00am to 3:00pm. Comprehensive details on Serbian postal services are available on the following link: http://www.posta.rs/default-eng.asp.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
The international dialing code for Serbia is 381, and the code for Belgrade is 11
National calls: 0 + city code + telephone number
International calls: 00 + country code + city code + telephone number
Pay phones are available in the city. Phone cards are widely available in shops.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Police – 192
Fire-fighters – 193
Ambulance – 194
Registry of international calls – 19011
Orthodox religious holidays and customs – 19822

MEDICAL CARE
Citizens of the countries with which Serbia has concluded an international agreement on health insurance receive urgent medical care in Serbia on the basis of health insurance certificate issued in their home countries. Foreign citizens exercise their right to urgent medical care based on certain forms (if such have been prescribed), European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or on the basis of a document proving their insurance coverage in their home country. Citizens of the following countries exercise their right to urgent medical care on the basis of a prescribed form: Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, France, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Romania and Turkey. Citizens of the following countries exercise their right to urgent medical care based on the European Health Insurance Card: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Citizens of Poland and Great Britain exercise their right to urgent medical care based on the certificate of insurance issued in their home country. In case citizens of the above countries do not have a necessary certificate with them, there is a possibility of providing them with urgent medical care and the certificate is to be requested from their home country insurance organization subsequently. Foreign citizens who are chronic or acute patients (undergoing dialysis or insulin treatments) need special certificates in view of receiving adequate medical services free of charge in Serbia. Citizens of the countries with which Serbia has not concluded an international agreement on health insurance pay for urgent medical services received during their temporary stay in Serbia. Upon return to their home country, they may be reimbursed the said amounts by their insurance companies.

ELECTRICITY
The standard voltage in Serbia is 220V AC, 50Hz. Electrical outlets are standard European.

WATER
Tap water in Belgrade is safe to drink.

SHOPS
The largest and most popular shopping malls in the city are Ušće, Delta City and Mercator, all in New Belgrade. There are also several “old style” shopping centers, the most popular being Piramida, Ćumić and Banjica. The downtown – Knez Mihailova and the surrounding streets can be interesting. There’s a growing number of unique shops and brands in Belgrade, from clothes and furniture to sweets and wine. Most of them are located in the wider downtown area.
Most shops are open Mondays – Saturdays 8am to 8pm, although supermarkets stay open until 10; some larger supermarkets stay open 24×7. Shopping malls are open every day 10am to 10pm.
SALES TAX
The sales tax - or value added tax (VAT) - is currently applied at 20% to most goods and services.

DRIVING
International Driving Licenses are recognized throughout Serbia. Car rental companies ask for a valid driving license.

DINING
The fusion of cultures is best expressed in the Serbian traditional cuisine, music and folklore. Make sure you visit one of famous taverns along XIX century old street for the never before experienced performance of live tambourine orchestra, traditional snaps and barbeque. And, the best of all, you don't have to pay attention to whether it is day or night, cause the magic never stops. There are a wide variety of restaurants, cafes and bars in Belgrade ranging through the elegant and sophisticated to the casual and inexpensive. Take-away and fast food is also available from many outlets.

ENTERTAINMENT AND ATTRACTIONS

TEMPLE OF SAINT SAVA is the largest Orthodox church in the Balkans. It was built on the site which is thought to be the place where Sinan Pasha in 1595 burned the remains of Saint Sava, founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church. KALEMEGDAN is the most beautiful and biggest park in Belgrade in which the Belgrade Fortress is overlooking the confluence of the rivers Sava and Danube. THE OLD ROYAL PALACE is a representative building in Belgrade, at the corner of Kralja Milana and Dragoslava Jovanovica street. Palace, which was built by King Milan in the period 1881-1884, was the residence of King Petar I Karadjordjevic (period 1903-1921) and King Alexander I (1921-1922), and today it is the seat of the Belgrade City Assembly. RESIDENCE OF PRINCESS LJUBICA, Konak Knjeginje Ljubice, was built by order of Prince Milos Obrenovic in 1831st year, as the private residence of his wife Princess Ljubica. Located in the heart of Belgrade, in Kosancicev venac, its architecture and layout belongs to the Balkan style with some Western Baroque elements. The permanent exhibition" Interiors of Belgrade town houses of the 19th Century" is set there. You can see it all, from oriental (Turkish), to medium impact (Biedermeier) and Western Europe (neo-baroque, neorokoko, Napoleon III). THE ROYAL PALACE in Dedinje was built between 1924 and 1929, on orders by King Alexander I, as the official royal residence. Today it is the home of the heir to the throne, Aleksandar II and his family. It is a large impressive villa of white stone in the Serbian-Byzantine style. The Palace is surrounded by pergolas, terraced gardens, fishponds, a pavilion and a bandstand. The building of the WHITE PALACE, which is part of the Royal Palace complex, was built to the wishes of King Aleksandar I as a residence for his sons. It was built from 1934 to 1937 to a design by the architect Aleksandar Đorđević. The old, bohemian quarter of Belgrade, SKADARLIJA, arose during the late 19th and early 20th century when its inns were the gathering place of the best known names in Belgrade. It is frequently compared to the Montmartre of Paris, both in appearance as well as the exuberant and dynamic artistic atmosphere .Skadarska street is located in the very center of Belgrade. It is close to the National Theatre, where at the end of the 19th and early 20 century many actors, artists, poets, writers and painters lived. Skadarlija is famous for its restaurants with delicious national dishes, good music and tamburitza orchestra. Nightlife, fun, laughs and good music, 24/7. In recent years, Belgrade's nightlife is often spoken off in the European clubbing circles. Every evening you can choose a different style of entertainment, whether it is gypsy music, folk, rock, jazz, heavy metal, reggae or the best DJ sets. Belgrade has more than 100 boat restaurants and floating discotheques docked along 220 km of river banks open throughout the year, the Belgrade lake Ada Ciganlija offers numerous cafes and the street Strahirnjica Bana is mapped as an area in which you will surely find a place for himself.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serbian</td>
<td>Saint Sava</td>
<td>Krusedolska 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Saborna Crkva</td>
<td>07:30 On Saturdays, 09:00 on Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sime Markovića 3</td>
<td>07:30 and 17:00 Every day, 07:30 On Saturdays, 09:00 on Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Orthodox</td>
<td>Crkva Svete Trojice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Takovska 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>Christ the King Church</td>
<td>English Mass in 11.30-12.30 on Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Krunška 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Makedonska 23</td>
<td>Sunday Mass in English 09.00h, contemporary youth mass 18.00h in Croatian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>St Mary’s Church</td>
<td>Sundays 10.30–11.30 in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Višegradska, 1st Floor, Caritas Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Trinity Pentecostal Church</td>
<td>Sunday worship: 10.00-11.30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Simina 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Jewish Elders</td>
<td>Regular services on Fridays</td>
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<td>Synagogue, Marsala Biržuza 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Bajrkli Mosque</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gospodar Jevremova 11</td>
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