

96 hours in Belgrade



Tourist
Organization
of Belgrade



The City Created by You Too.



Born and raised in Belgrade, I am deeply attached to my city; we have half a century of love story together, where I have been truly faithful. The most beautiful city in the world is my city. And why Belgrade is the most beautiful city in the world? It is not far from it. No urban night is like the night there with street after street, square after square you are wormed by

the flame, loud talk, raw emotion and talkative silence set up and shot into the air. Here is our poetry, for we have pulled down the stars to our will.

Great cities like Belgrade were always like people, showing their varying personalities to the traveler. Depending on the city and on the traveler, there might begin a mutual love or friendship. Only through travel can we know where we belong or not, where we are loved.

Develop an interest for Belgrade as you see it; the people, things, literature, music – history, tradition and culture here are so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself. Become one of us, maybe just for 96 hours. Find the difference you like.

“The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself. Every moment is a golden one for him who has the vision to recognize it as such”, Henry Miller once said.

Always, some great culture is dying to enrich the soil of new harvests, some civilization is crumbling to rubbish to be the hill of a more beautiful city, some race is spending itself that a lower and more barbarous world may inherit its stored treasure house. Belgrade has layers of history and scars of past times unveiled just for your eyes.

Among other things Belgrade streets are made to be walked. Our city is the language, handful of

possibilities, so while walking you will learn our language which is in fact, many languages even long forgotten ones, spoken when our world was much younger. So if architecture limits where you can walk, walker invents his path, therefore speaking in the language of its own.

There are cities that get by on their good looks, offer climate and scenery, views of mountains or oceans, rockbound or with palm trees; and there are cities like Belgrade that have to work for a living. Belgrade has its natural attractions: lake, island in the middle of the town, even a small mountain, an abundance of trees and four distinct seasons for those who like variety in their weather, everything but hurricanes and tsunami. Our struggle to survive on a crossroads of civilizations and important roads, living on a place everybody else would like to take and move you out, our capability to adopt but also to fight made us for what we are. Good spirited people even in times of distress, resourceful and capable to infect our optimism on others. Otherwise we wouldn't survive. Fortunate thing is that now we use our talents predominantly on hospitality.

Dear traveler, on these pages you will see Belgrade through our eyes. This is our concept and construction. Feel free to make your own. Just remember this: Belgrade has capability to provide something for everybody, only if it is created by everybody. Including you.

Miodrag Popović,
Director of teh Tourist Orgnization of Belgrade







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Belgrade Fortress

The Heart of the City.

The first landmark of Belgrade, the place where its most important face is reflected and where his heart is pounding the strongest, is certainly the confluence of the Sava and Danube, and the bulwarks of the Belgrade Fortress on the hill above. The history of this fortification is intertwined with events that have, in the past two millennia, often influenced the fate of European peoples and states. Built on an important strategic position, where key Eurasian roads come together, the Belgrade Fortress has in all times been an important stronghold and fulcrum. For centuries, great conquering campaigns were initiated for it, great knights and spiritual leaders were consecrated in it, famous poets and painters, architects and scholars worked there.



The fortification of the “water cross” rests on many layers of culture and civilization, life and destiny, where the “fourth paradise river and thirty sixth land one come together”. Duration and development were not a straight and uninterrupted line. Chronicles record over forty demolitions and rebuilding of the city. Systems of defense from various eras were created on the remains of older fortifications. The Belgrade Fortress summarizes in itself numerous manuscripts and styles of European military architecture.

Above it all, as an eternal spell, there is the breathtaking view from the walls of the Belgrade Fortress. “In the old times, people used to call this place the *Hill for Thinking*. Wherever you look, you can see the end of the world from here”, says a Belgrade poet.

Today, Belgrade can be better conquered with laughter and charm, humor and curiosity, cheerfulness and openness. We propose that you start such a campaign exactly by exploring the Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park, one of the most diverse areas of the city. To discover why Belgraders call this area the “Heart of the City” and why travelers from afar regard it as “one of the most beautiful view points in the world”. You can come here whenever it is convenient for you, but don’t miss the morning and sunset on the Belgrade Fortress.

You may not remember the names of all gates, towers and churches, names of the people that the monuments are dedicated to and museum exhibits, but you will certainly remember the standing sculpture with a sword in one and falcon in the other hand, facing West: *The Belgrade Victor* monument, one of the symbols of this city.

If you include in your visit to the Fortress some of the programs of visiting the underground passages, that puzzling maze the passages of which used to connect the fortress with the city streets, nearby forests and river banks, you will feel that this “city under the city” is still alive.







BEOGRADska
mačka i tačka

BEOGRADska
mačka i tačka

**Museums
and
Galleries**



Traces, Paintings.

In Belgrade you will quickly realize that people are right when they call it a city of culture. Rich cultural offer of Belgrade museums, theaters, cinemas and concert halls speaks volumes about this. Numerous historical buildings, important by themselves, have become the home of Belgrade museums. Exhibitions in them present to us traces of several millenniums of life in this area of encounter and intertwining of cultures, civilizations and worlds.

We suggest that, first, in the Museum of Nikola Tesla, you take a look at the largest collection of documents in the world about life and work of the brilliant inventor of alternating current. The collection is under protection of the UNESCO. You may learn about life and work of writer Ivo Andrić, Serbian Nobel Prize winner, in the memorial museum that carries his name. The Enlightenment and the development of education were presented at the Museum of Vuk and Dositej, as well as in the Pedagogical





Museum. Medieval Nebojša Tower, a dungeon during the Turkish occupation, is today turned into a modern museum space.

You should also walk through permanent interesting exhibitions of the Museum of Applied Arts, Historical Museum of Serbia and Ethnographic Museum. There are also rich theme collections of the Car Museum, Railway Museum and Aviation Museum. The Museum of Natural Science, in its Gallery, exhibits interesting collections of plants and animals from the times when Belgrade was “an island beach in the Pannonian Sea”.

In addition to other valuable exhibits, the National Museum keeps *Miroslav's Gospel* – the oldest and most valuable preserved document written in Cyrillic, from the ‘12th century. Officially recognized as the *most beautiful Cyrillic manuscript in the world*, this Gospel is included in the UNESCO’s list “Memory of the World”.

Testimony on creation, peaks and disappearance of the Neolithic Vinča culture, the proved “first Europe”, can be see in the vicinity of Belgrade, in the village of Vinča, on the right bank of the Danube, within the exhibition of the Museum of the City of Belgrade.





Belgrade also has about fifty art galleries, diverse in their concept, with challenging and inspiring exhibitions. Do not miss to take a peek in them, even if because of this you would have to extend your stay or decide to come again. For example, you can make this tour: “Singidunum”, “Kolarac”, Cultural Center of Belgrade, “Progress”, “Chaos”, “Soul Workshop”, “Hexalab”... Definitely visit the Museum of Paja Jovanović, the best known painter of Serbian academic realism, who left his luxurious studio to the Museum of the City of Belgrade. Permanent exhibition with 211 artworks, neo-renaissance

portal and salon in the style of Louis XV, were transferred from the artist’s studio in Vienna.

In the palace of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, in one of the most magnificent buildings of the elite Knez-Mihailova Street, there is a gallery that organizes exhibitions of exceptional artistic and historical significance. At the end of this street, in the foundations of the building of the Library of the City of Belgrade, remains of a Roman fortress gate were found. The space has been conserved and adapted into the “Roman Hall”, where exhibitions and literary evenings are organized.







Temples of Belgrade

Sacral Geography.

Belgrade is, of course, a Christian Orthodox city. But its history and fate, all those cultural-historical crossings, have given to it a truly multi-confessional and multicultural character. Belgrade has wisely preserved this until today, as its treasure and one of its most beautiful traits – a unique combination of differences, which complement and strengthen one another.

Belgrade has religious buildings of Christian Orthodox, Catholics, Muslims, Evangelicals, Judaists, Uniates, Buddhists...

No matter from which side you approach the centre of Belgrade, the monumental St. Sava Temple will appear before you, on the Hill of Vračar, one of the biggest Christian Orthodox temples in







the world. A special place in the city map has the Congregational Church, on the Sava slope and, across the street, the Patriarchy of Serbian Orthodox Church. The Congregational Church has one of the most representative classicistic iconostases, from the 19th century. Every Sunday, during the liturgy in this church, you may hear the excellent choir of the First Belgrade Singing Society.

In addition to almost a hundred Orthodox temples, Belgrade also has several Roman-Catholic churches, one synagogue and one mosque.

Of Roman-Catholic churches, the Church of St. Antun Padovanski stands out, in the city district called the Red Cross, slightly resembling the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In the Cathedral of Holy Virgin Mary in Neimar, the old organ stands out as a special value vrednost. Every Sunday morning you may attend a mass in English language in the Church of Christ the King.

Bajrakli Mosque in Dorćol has remained in Belgrade from the times of Turkish occupation. If you go down the Danube slope from Knez-Mihailova Street, you will easily find the slender waits of its minaret.

The only Jewish temple that is still active in Belgrade is Ashkenazi synagogue in Maršala Birjuzova Street. It gives Sephardic service, since there are few Ashkenazi Jews left in Belgrade. In addition to the service, weddings and other ceremonies, they also organize all activities of Belgrade Jewish religious association.







Archi- tecture

Buildings.

Architecturally, Belgrade is full of contrasts, multilayered and diverse, often charmingly contradictory. It is logical, since it is one of the oldest European cities, which has passed through numerous times and changes. Because of the exceptional strategic position and meta-historical importance, Belgrade was often under siege and attack. It was destroyed to the ground and rebuilt for more than forty times. All these layers are still here, you walk on them, while you are in this city, and you feel their power.

Belgrade is divided by rivers into the Old and New. In the Old Belgrade you may see numerous tendencies and architectural styles characteristic for Europe in the past centuries. New Belgrade is a huge step of Belgrade over the Sava River into the Srem plains, a modernist city, in terms of its architecture, urbanistic solutions, and the spirit.

In the stylistic arc of Belgrade architecture you will easily recognize the Balkan-Oriental elements, then classicistic, neo-renaissance, neo-baroque, secession, all the way to those reflecting the national style and those heralding modernism.

In order to learn more about centuries of Belgrade architecture, you should go to bookshops and libraries, or some of the specialized internet portal. Still, after all destructions of the city in the past centuries, you can also see many interesting things while walking down the streets of Belgrade. In Dorćol, Dušanova Street no. 10, you will see the “oldest preserved residential house” in Belgrade, remains of the baroque Danube Town from the 18th century. Skadarska Street, popularly Skadarlija, today the famous bohemian district, is a typical narrow street covered with cobble-stones, with evident Eastern (Balkan-Oriental) style.

During such a walk through Belgrade, you will certainly get interested in historical building of Balkan-Oriental architecture: Residence of Princess Ljubica, Residence of Prince Miloš’ Tavern “?”, Museum of Dositej and Vuk. Also noteworthy are the Old Court (today the City Parliament), New Court (today the seat of the president of Serbia), the House of National Parliament, building of the former “Belgrade Cooperative” in Karađorđeva Street



– all beautiful buildings design in the spirit of academism. The magnificent old Kapetan-Mišino Zdanje and National Theatre are designed in the style of romanticism. The building of the National Museum, which houses one of the most important cultural institutions, is an example of neo-renaissance architecture in Serbian capital. In Knez-Mihailova Street, the elite pedestrian zone of Belgrade, certainly the most representative is the building of Ser-



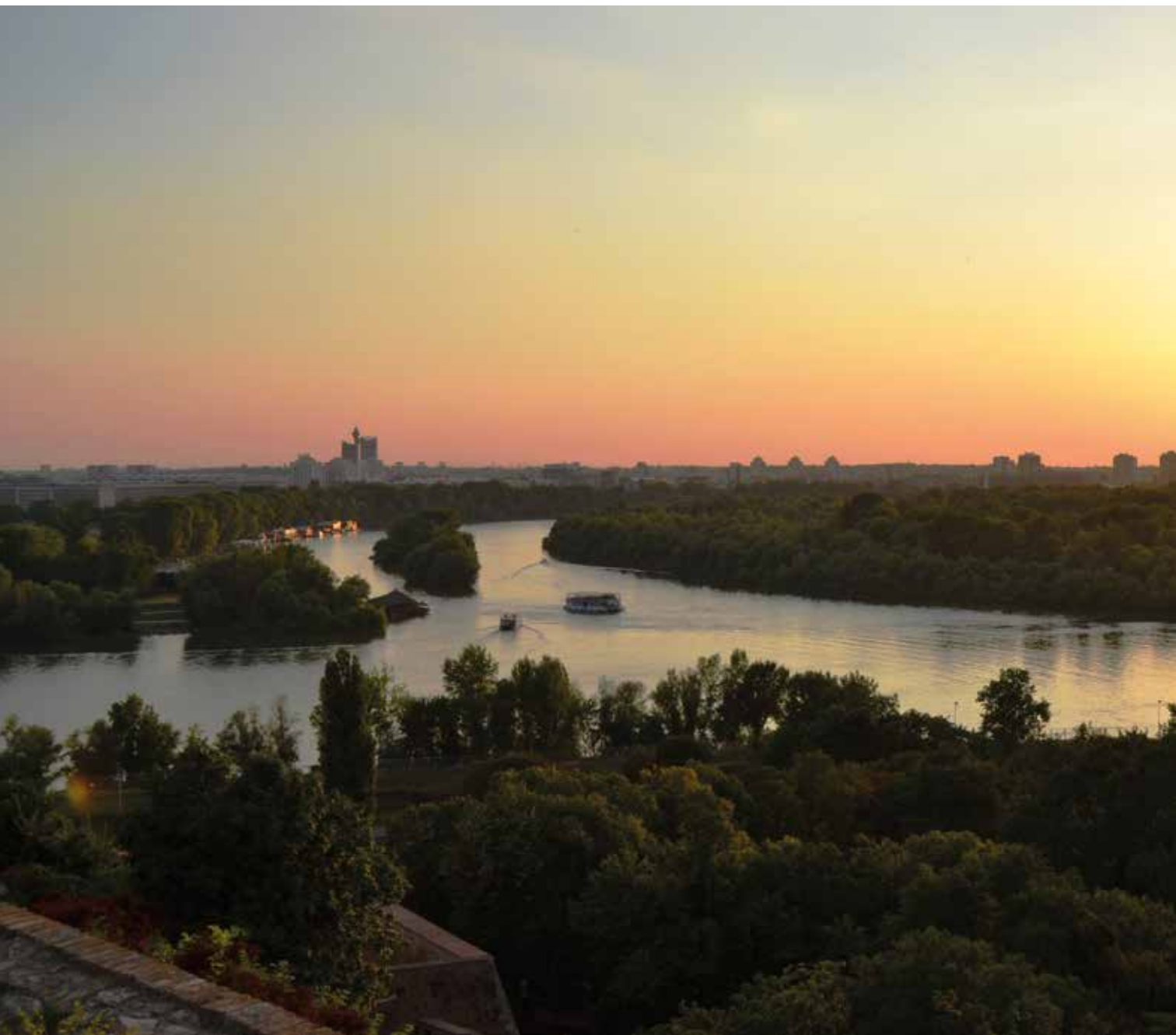
bian Academy of Sciences and Arts, made in the academic style, with elements of neo-baroque and secession. Terazije Square is dominated by elegant secession building of Moscow Hotel. Uniqueness of Serbian-Byzantine style can be seen on the building of Patriarchy in Varoš kapija, an old city neighborhood on the Sava slope.

Between two world wars, the architecture of Belgrade was enriched by many foreign designers. Russian architects, immigrants after the October Revolution in 1917, introduce to many public buildings elements of Russian academism and secession. Czech architects erected the building of “Prague Bank” in the corner of Terazije and Sremska Street, and building of “Yugoslav Bank” on the Republic Square. Viennese architects designed the building of “Excelsior” Hotel in Kneza Miloša Street no. 5. “Riunione” building, which dominates on the Republic Square, is the work of Italian architects. The building of French Embassy, across the street from Kalemegdan, was designed in Paris.

After World War Two, architecture in Belgrade was deeply marked by socialist realism. On the left bank of the Sava, the New Belgrade was built “from scratch”, and today it is one of the most successful European examples of the so-called open construction. Architectural representative of that time is, in addition to “Serbia” Palace in New Belgrade, the port authority building of the Union House, on what is today the Square of Nikola Pašić.







Oases.

One of the great advantages of Belgrade is that you can spend a day in nature not far from the city centre. It is easy to reach river banks and exceptional green oases, where everything is full of life all year long.

Beautiful river islands – Ada Ciganlija, Ada Huja, the Great War Island – are favorite places of the Belgraders and their guests. Ada Ciganlija, also called the Sea of Belgrade, is the most visited excursion ground, beach and resort in the capital of Serbia. It has numerous sports facilities and cultural and entertainment programs, an attractive hospitality offer.

The Great War Island is situated on the very confluence of the Sava and Danube, only some six hundred meters from the city center as the crow flies. Formerly an important military-strategic point, today it is a true environmental oasis of Belgrade. In addition to pile dwellings and gardens of nature lovers, there are colonies of rare bird species on this island. The channel of Veliki Galijaš, on the island itself, is a natural hatchery of Danube fishes. On

the upstream point of the island, also in the protected zone, there is Lido Beach of Zemun, which can be reached by taxi-boat, and in the summer season also by the pontoon bridge.

Natural and historical jewel of Belgrade is also Topčider Park. Cultural-historical heritage and natural beauties make this environmental unit unique. It still preserves the charm of the residential complex of Obrenović dynasty, which you may see in a part of the exhibition of the Museum of the City of

Belgrade in Knez Miloš' Residence. Topčider has its romantic and gastro-hedonistic dimension, and you will surely see it for yourself.

A day on Avala, one of two mountains in the area of Belgrade, is a unique experience. Only fifteen kilometers from the city centre, it has beautiful forests, the Avala Tower, Monument to the Unknown Hero, a hotel... About ten kilometers of marked mountain treks enables walks and recreation.

Forested hills of Košutnjak, “the lungs of Belgrade”, former excursion and hunting grounds



People
and
Nature





of the principality, where people would go in horse-drawn carriages, and by tram in the late 19th century, are today practically in the middle of the city. They are enriched with trim treks, sports and recreational courts. Ski slope is a special attraction, and not only during the winter. There is also the Haiduk's Fountain, as well as several restaurants with delicious food, hot rakia, mulled wine and beautiful view of the city.

In the very centre of Belgrade there is Botanical Garden "Jevremovac", an exceptional monument of nature and culture. It is the habitat to 1,500 herbaceous plants and about 350 species

of trees, shrubs and exotic plants. Its greenhouse, built in 1892 in Victorian style, was the biggest and most beautiful in this part of Europe. Its authenticity has been preserved until today.

Zoo "The Garden of Good Hope" is located in the Belgrade Fortress, on one of the most attractive city locations. Founded in 1936, it is "one of the oldest animal kingdoms in Europe". Belgrade was also famed as the first city in Europe whose zoo had white lions. Today, it is a good home for about 2,000 animals, as well as center of reproduction for some of the most endangered species.







Unusual Tours.

There are several possibilities to get to know Belgrade in unusual ways. In an organized way. We will mention some, and you may learn about others on website and in info centers of the Tourist Organization of Belgrade (www.tob.co.rs).

Tour *Underground Belgrade* is an exciting descent into “Belgrade underneath Belgrade”. Networks of tunnels and passages, “real little streets and squares, hubs and passages”, mysterious Borges’ maze, a trace of some distant and different times. If you choose this tour, you will see the Roman Palace, pipes of the Roman water supply, Roman well, a bunker on the Belgrade Fortress, great gunpowder warehouse, underground passages...

You may feel the atmosphere of the palaces of rulers from the early 20th century, an order of life





different from the one today, when you visit the complex of royal palaces in Belgrade, in Dedinje. In White and Royal Palace, you will see beauty and luxury, refined taste, skill of the builders and artists, you will hear many interesting things from the history of these buildings and Karađorđević dynasty.

Every Saturday, you may participate in program entitled *A Coffee with Princess Ljubica* of the Museum of the City of Belgrade. It is an opportunity to learn secrets of the Residence of Princess Ljubica, an old building in Serbian-Balkan style across the street from the Patriarchy, and details about the life in Belgrade during the reign of Obrenović dynasty. The curator, dressed in a costume from the period of Princess Ljubica, greets the visitors as the hostess of her palace. With coffee and the best local Turkish delight, she leads them through the era from two centuries ago and personal lives of the members of the ruling family of that time.

Rakia, a traditional local drink, will be offered in any bar, café or restaurant in Belgrade. Plum rakia, apple, quince, pear, apricot rakia... With St. John's Worth, gentian, medicinal herbs... You may taste the entire range of rakis from this region in specialized "Rakia Bar" on several locations in Belgrade. If you would like to learn more about this Serbian drink, and get deeper into its delicate secrets, a special *Rakia Tour* through Belgrade has been prepared for you.

You should also make use of the rare comfort of seeing Belgrade from its rivers, on the

boat to the confluence of the Sava and Danube, enjoy the view of the Great War Island, Belgrade Fortress, Nebojša Tower, Gardoš and all other landmarks that string along dozens of kilometers of river banks of this metropolis. Right there on the Confluence – where the green Sava and blue Danube meet, where tempers of waters from over seventy of their tributaries get together – boat travelers would close their eyes for a second and make a wish. If it is a noble one, they say, it would always come true.

Belgrade Kayak Adventures is another attractive Belgrade tour on the rivers. You would ride at unforgettable sunrise under seven city bridges, enjoy exploring the Great War Island, meet flocks of rare birds, see the light from the East showering the city that "is being born from its own contours".

Every day in a year when there is no rain or snow and when wind speed does not exceed 5 m/s, it is possible to fly in a balloon over Belgrade for duration of 60 to 90 minutes and see the city from the air.

At the tour called *Literary Guide through Belgrade*, you will follow the traces left by some of the greatest Serbian writers around Belgrade, with their lives and work. (Ivo Andrić, a Noble Prize winner, for example.) By visiting places where they used to spend their days in Belgrade, you will hear another interesting story about the timeless spirit of Belgrade and the era in which each of them lived.





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**Tastes
of
Belgrade**

**Sketches for
a Gastronomic
Map.**

Many threads of various historical and cultural influences during millenniums in this decisive crossroads of civilizations are inextricably linked in the hubs of the gastronomic map of Belgrade. No matter in what part of Belgrade you go for a walk, you will come to a tavern or restaurant. Exceptional dishes and beverages also await you in the famous local restaurants (“Writers’ Club”, “Madera”, “Kalemegdan Terrace”, “Frans”, “Kod Dordža”, “Romantičari”, “Bastion”, “Šaran”...), as well as in old-fashioned taverns with authentic Belgrade atmosphere, where delicacies are prepared according to old Serbian recipes (“Srpska kafana”, “Old Herzegovina”, “Orašac”, “Kolarac”, “Kalenić”, “Proleće”, “Majdan”, “Zlatar”...).

If you get down to the banks of the Sava and Danube, hosts of restaurants on anchored boats and rafts will greet you with selected fish dishes. Especially attractive are taverns in the outskirts of the city, designed in ethno style, with memorable spicy cuisine and large selection of local rakias and Serbian wines.

Even fast food in Belgrade can be a memorable experience: burgers from Leskovac in soft baked flatbread, boiled bagels from the bakery in Bulevar kralja Aleksandra Street, barbeque delicacies at Loki’s place in Dorćol, or Mara’s place in Vračar, enchanting rolls in bakeries Kod Ace, Kod Tome, Trpković, Petrović... Many of them are open all night long, so you may stop by on the way, whenever you get hungry.



Still, the bohemian district of Skadarlija, with its twenty or so restaurants, has a special place in the gastronomic map of Belgrade. In this street paved with old cobble-stone, looking like a Belgrade alley from the 19th century, taverns are located in ground floor old-fashioned houses. Each of them offers a unique bohemian experience, with its wines and cuisine, each has “old town” live music. People often stay in Skadarlija until dawn, they remember it and keep coming back.





Entertainment

Nightlife.

If you are looking for good nightlife, Belgrade is the right place for you, full of various challenges. Strahinjića Bana Street in Dorćol is famous for the record number of café-restaurants. Only in this street, in the very heart of Belgrade, there are about twenty cafes, clubs, bars, restaurants, always full of people and music, laughter and spirit of Belgrade.

The Sava Lake and Ada Ciganlija are also some of the more exciting zones of night entertainment in Belgrade. Raft-restaurants on the Sava or Danube quay are not behind them. Former industrial district Savamala has shone



on the map of Belgrade nightlife. In numerous places to go out in this part of the city – clubs, restaurants, bars – entertainment lasts until early morning hours, with excellent music of different genres and the famous Belgrade atmosphere of genuine carelessness. One of the favorite places on the river bank is the “Concrete Hall”, in the quay, which houses several exclusive restaurants and clubs, with a view of the confluence of the Sava and Danube.

The river banks are exactly what makes the Belgrade clubbing scene stand out against other European metropolises, and for which it is



remembered. Well known is the good atmosphere on the rafts berthed along the banks of the Danube, Sava and Sava Lake. They are open all year long, but are especially enchanting in the summer, of course.

The number of excellent clubs in Belgrade is continuously growing, and the music scene, with a number of experienced DJ's, is increasingly stronger. And increasing number of music and DJ stars is coming to Belgrade, attracted by the story about a city that is alive all night long. Entrance into the club is mostly free of charge, taxi is inexpensive, drinks also. Friendly, warm-hearted and witty Belgraders give a

special charm to this atmosphere, and they will gladly have good time together with you.

If you are in the mood to test your luck, there are many casinos, betting and gaming facilities in Belgrade.

Another advice: do not miss, after good night entertainment, to wait for morning in Belgrade. The sunset, the smell of fresh baked rolls or refreshing "wedge-soup", queue for the first morning hot muffins and *burek*, meeting of early birds with those going home from nightlife, "encounter of different worlds filled with understanding and affection", all that is something that we believe, you will also never forget.







Great Concerts and Events.

Music

There are always great concerts and events in Belgrade. World, European, local. Concerts of classical and pop music stars. Belgraders, as well as those who come to Belgrade for such occasions, are well known as discerning audience, with refined taste and well informed. In front of open-air stages and stages in closed theaters, there is always the maximum number of visitors.

Many ambient units of Belgrade proved to be very suitable for big open-air concerts and mass events: the Lower Town of the Belgrade Fortress, Ušće Park, Hippodrome, Republic Square, Square in front of the House of the National Parliament... In the days before concerts of great world stars – such as concerts of Elton John, Eric Clapton, Sting, “Rolling Stones”, “Guns N’ Roses”, “Police”, “Depeche Mode”, and many others – Belgrade streets and restaurants are crowded with visitors from Balkan and other countries.

Mission of “Sava Center” in Belgrade has a special place. Over 20,000 cultural events and appearances of artists, over ten million visitors. And numerous music stars have performed under the vaults of “Belgrade Arena” – one of the biggest indoor halls in Europe, with impressive capacity of 25,000 seats – since its opening in 2004. Every such event turns into a musical-theatrical mega spectacle.

Belgrade “Beer Fest”, “the biggest party in the Balkans”, takes place in Ušće Park every summer. A huge number of visitors, many foreign-

ers, good beer of different kinds, music that wouldn’t let your legs to rest (the best rock-and-roll, superb blues, world music, metal, punk and electro-music) – are the characteristics of this music-entertainment event.

Guitar Art Fest in Belgrade brings together every year great masters of this instrument, from Paco de Lucia, the greatest Spanish flamenco guitar player, to British multi-instrument musician and rock singer Sting. *Bemus*, a festival of art music, presents well known music ensembles and great names of world music: philharmonic orchestras from the most important music centers around the world, virtuosos such as Herbert von Karajan and Zubin Mehta, opera stars such as Jose Carreras, Montserrat Caballe and Plácido Domingo. Belgrade Jazz festival regularly brings together world known jazz musicians (Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Nina Simon...).





Sports Spectacles.

In the city of world and European champions in basketball, valley ball, water polo, handball, tennis, martial arts, athletics (...), there is a major sports competition almost every week.

In “Belgrade Arena”, “Pionir” Hall, in one of numerous sports centers, on stadiums “Marakana” and “Partizan”. Belgrade is also well known as an exceptional host to international sports competitions, both for athletes, fans, official delegations, journalists. A real sports metropolis.

**Spirit
of the
Game**

Famous is the “Eternal Derby” in Belgrade between “Zvezda” and “Partizan”, in many sports, especially football. Belgrade also has a series of Serbian football super-league players, such as “Čukarički” from Banovo brdo, “Rad” from Banjica, OFK “Belgrade” from Karaburma, “Voždovac”...

Belgrade fans are known across Europe as the most passionate and most creative in their choreographies, songs and celebrations. Every

European and world medal won by Serbian athletes is greeted at spectacular gatherings in front of the Belgrade City Parliament.

Many world sports stars are born in Belgrade or live there. Thus, in the streets of Serbian capital you may meet Novak Đoković or go to “Novak” Café run by his family, you may talk to Vlade Divac or Željko Obradović, Milorad Čavić or Svetlana Kitić, Jasna Šekarić or Filip Filipović...

If there should be a major sports competition during your stay in Belgrade, derby or celebration of an exceptional sports result, do not miss that. These are spectacles that go far beyond the framework of sports and are remembered forever.





People

Belgraders.



Above all this, what most profoundly and truly makes Belgrade what it is, are Belgraders themselves. They are the spirit, charm and strength of Belgrade. Its ultimate irresistibility and uniqueness.

You will feel this as soon as you arrive in this “white sailboat over the waters”. Centuries have carved here a unique “Belgrade worldview” and “Belgrade people”, with a peculiar sense of humor and sense of beauty, courageous and direct, relaxed and intelligent, open for everybody and determined in defending their own even when they are forced to do it. Belgraders know how to rejoice and enjoy everything, especially “little things that life is made of”. In pleasant conversations and long walks, drinking of morning coffee, non-working days, good food, wine and music, gatherings. Streets, promenades, cafes, restaurants and shops in Belgrade are always full of people, day and night.

Belgraders are especially looking forward to visitors who come to their city. They are friendly and ready to help. If you have any problem in Belgrade, you may always rely on the Belgraders. They are mostly fluent in foreign languages; even if you encounter someone who doesn't speak English, you will certainly be able to communicate in alternative ways.

Charm and hospitality of the Belgraders are mentioned by all foreign travel writers in the past times. Contemporary visitors to this city have the same comments. Get to know them, and then add your judgment.



Belgrade Crossword Puzzle.

Discover Belgrade. In this unusual city, you may like some completely different things. Something that nobody recognized and recommended before you. A verse, a painting, wind rose of the winds. It is a city of diversity and not stereotypes, play and imagination and not clichés and programmability, possibilities and not restrictions.

Therefore, you may set aside all travel books and marketing messages. You may fill your 96 hours in Belgrade in a completely different way, by listening to yourself. In wandering shoes, disheveled and free. (Belgrade will like you the most that way.)

Feel the contagious liveliness in Belgrade open-air markets, filled with people and merri-ness, smells and tastes, juicy fruits and juicy sentences, gifts of earth and sky. You may find interesting to walk down Balkanska Street and look for a handmade hat in one of the workshops and shops, from artisans of old trades. If you are a true fan, in Belgrade Film Archive (Kinoteka) you may learn a lot from the first century of film, because it stores one of two or three richest film collections in the world.

And to visit the Eastern and Western gate of Belgrade, go up on their roofs and see the city from unusual perspectives? Or to find, in the

grooves around the Sava and Danube, places where Belgrade fishermen rest (they make the best fish chowders and stews, and they will greet you as old friends)? A little downstream or upstream from Belgrade, below Fruška Gora or in Grocka, you will enter spacious orchards and vineyards. You should taste this tasty fruit not treated with pesticides, or products made of it, a sip of rakia or wine, if nothing else. Go to the blue mountain in the outskirts of the city, the mountain with Celtic name Avala (Avalon), and listen to the “murmur of mythical times that preserve the most ancient truths about us”.

Ninety six hours is not much but, in Belgrade, it may be filled with content. Even if you are not in the mood for any of the things we have suggested. Just like in novels of lucid Belgrader Milorad Pavić, famous author translated into many languages, you may select your own Belgrade puzzle, crossword puzzle, a deck of cards-images or your own delta. Your Belgrade beginning and end. No matter whether you are moving through this landscape painted with tea along the inner or outer side of the wind.

And don't worry, your new 96 hours in Belgrade may pass much faster than you initially thought.







Grains

Thoughts on Belgrade.

“The sky over Belgrade is spacious and high, changeable and always beautiful. Also during winter clarity, with their freezing luxury. And during summer storms, when it turns into a gloomy cloud that, chased by mad wind, brings rain mixed with the dust of Pannonian Plains. And in the spring, when it seems that the sky itself is blooming, along with the earth. And in the fall, when it grows heavy from autumn stars in swarms. Always beautiful and rich, as an indemnity to this strange town for everything it does not have and consolation for everything it should not be.”

(Writer Ivo Andrić, Nobel Prize winner)

“Belgrade possesses nobleness that one gets from undeserved offenses. It is filled with

feelings of a great European beat. It has not offended anybody in its bitter hour, it didn't flatter anybody in its bitter hour. (...) Novel has been the life of Belgrade for a long time, since many other cities were provincial towns. Belgrade is an ember that has been burning for a long time."

(Miloš Crnjanski, writer)

"The spirit of Belgrade hides in a unique chaos of its green markets, and primarily in lovely walk of Belgrade women. Belgrade women in the streets – for me it is a fantastic modern ballet, with no other sound but clacking of heels on their shoes! Pale, suddenly grown city girls, grown up on the asphalt, raised by looks of passers-by filled with desire, independent, insolent and polite at the same time, with natural elegance of witty milliners and cleverly hidden poverty – they are the most beautiful and most luxurious image offered by Belgrade to the eyes of the newcomer, until they disappear somewhere, as if by someone's secret sign, and streets remain inconsolably desolated and naked."

(Momo Kapor, writer and painter)

"Those who were fortunate to wake up this morning in Belgrade, may believe that they

have accomplished enough in their lives. If you insist on anything else, it would be immodest."

(Duško Radović, poet and aphorist)

"He who wants to conquer a fortress must first conquer their own soul. The path through own soul leads us to Belgrade, one of the oldest and most frequently destroyed cities in the world. (...) Its biggest and maybe most beautiful part is the one that has disappeared without a trace, and we will never see it again, record it or touch it. But, history is also entitled to that art of it that has disappeared, which could never be reconstructed, the part of history that lives in us and not in the world around us."

(Milorad Pavić, Belgrade writer and poet)

"In Kalemegdan, one is in the heart of the city and at a distance from it, so much that they can think about it. Horizons are wide from Kalemegdan, but view is not a frozen image. The city here is also in motion, but not in spasm. Present, but still separate from its daily image. Present not only physically but also spiritually, connected with events this or that, but with history. Both the town and the city of Belgrade are there, deep inside us. It is a place where one searches for and finds the heart of the city and its people."

(Vladimir Velmar Janković, writer)

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