

FREE
COPY

Bosnia and Herzegovina

For many travelers, Bosnia and Herzegovina today is a new and unexplored destination.

Revealed



Service information

The official title:

Bosna i Hercegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Capital city:

Sarajevo

Geographic location:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula.

Neighboring countries:

Serbia in the east, Montenegro in the southeast, and Croatia in the north, west and south.

Administrative division:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into two entities: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and District Brčko.

Area:

Bosnia and Herzegovina – total 51.209,2 km² (land – 51,197 km², water – 12,2 km²)

The lowest point:

Neum, 0 m

The highest point:

Maglić, 2386 m

Climate:

mostly continental, Mediterranean in the south (Herzegovina).

Population:

3.832.301 (stated on 30.06.2003.)

The evaluation of total population in all the bigger cities:

Sarajevo 401.687, Mostar 105.454, Bihać 60.741, Tuzla 131.856, Zenica 128.604, Travnik 51.446, Banja Luka 224.847 (stated in 30.06.2004.).

Official languages:

Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (Bosnian and Croatian are written in Latin alphabet, Serbian in Cyrillic alphabet).

Official currency:

Convertible mark (KM). Ratio: 1 KM = 100 pfenning. Parity: 1 KM = 0,51129 EUR; 1,95 KM = 1 EUR.

Entry procedures – required documents:

Passport, EU citizens do not require a visa to enter the country; there are no legal requirements for vaccinations.

Driving license:

International driving license is not required; all types are acceptable. Green card is required.

Carrying in/out of foreign currency for foreigners:

minimum amount required 150 BAM per day, check-in at the border required.

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Simply Unique

What sort of people are Bosnians?

"These people are smart. They adopted inaction from the Orient and cozy lifestyle from the West; they never rush anywhere, because life itself is in a hurry; they are not driven to find out what will come after tomorrow—it will be as it was written, and that can hardly depend on them."

Meša Selimović, famous Bosnian writer

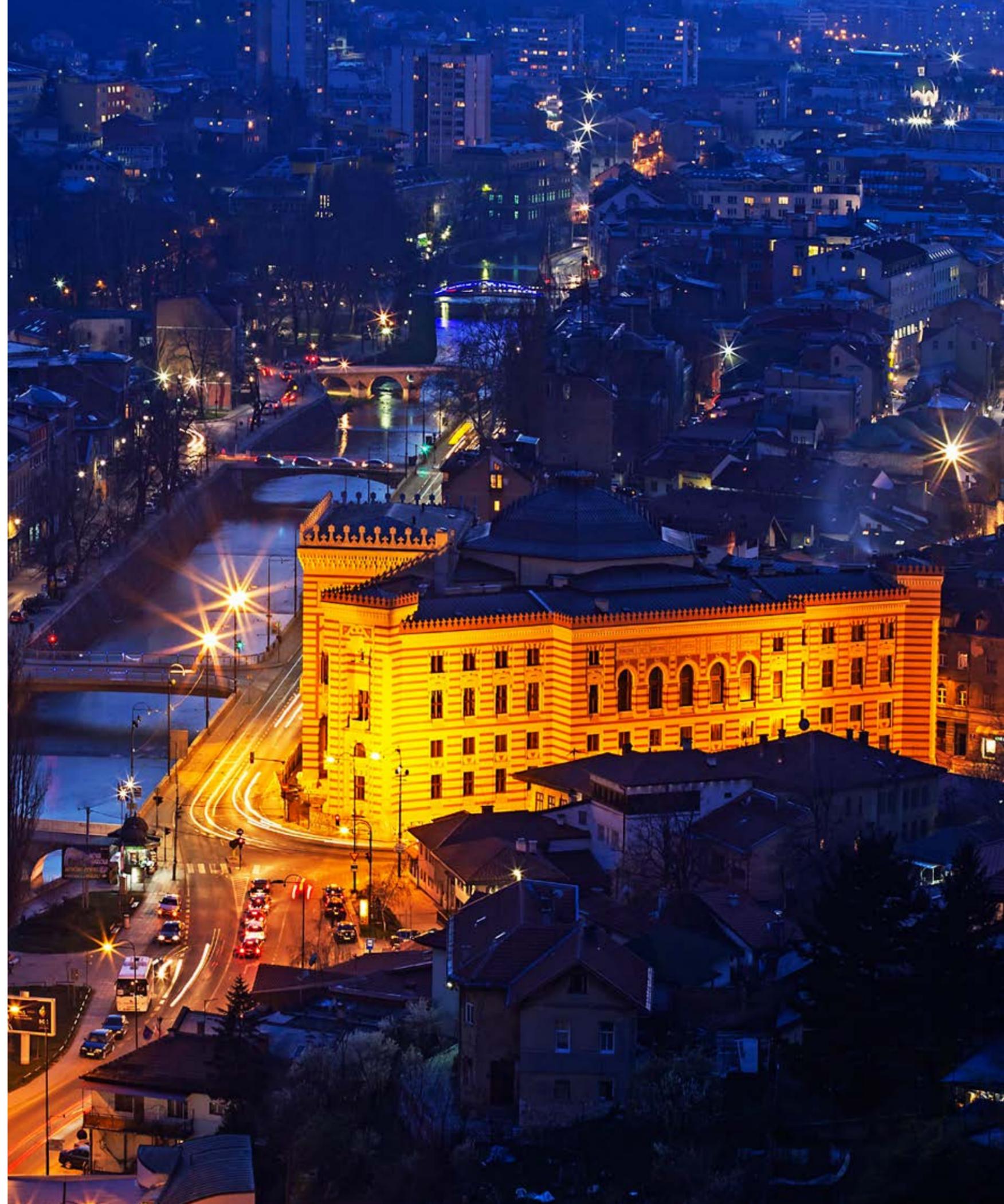
For many travelers, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a new and unexplored destination. But more than a hundred years ago, the first tourists traveled the country, which at the time was under the reign of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The trip was organized by Thomas Cook & Sons Company of London, which was later transformed into the Hapag Lloyd. They also published the first «Tourist Guide to the country» in 1898. The two-week tour started at the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in Dobrljin including stops in Banja Luka, Jajce, Bugojno, Jablanica, Mostar, Sarajevo, Travnik, Dobož and Tuzla. The Berlin Tourist Office began offering similar trips shortly after. The historical charm of these cities remains and makes them worth visiting.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is today connected to all European centers by air, and with thoroughfares in and out of Croatia. The scenic train from Sarajevo to Mostar through the wild and beautiful canyon of the Neretva River is a slow and breathtaking ride. The bus-railroad network is well developed and connected to the largest European transportation hubs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a melting pot of many different cultures, a bridge between East and West. The traveler's experience spans from remains of Neolithic and Roman times to the reign of the Bosnian Kings; from the Ottoman Period, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Yugoslavian era with Marshal Tito as its leader.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also a paradise for nature lovers with soaring mountains, untouched forests and wild rivers inviting you to come for rafting and canoeing or taking long walks. The Olympic ski tracks offer the opportunity to enjoy the snow with affordable prices.

Perhaps the greatest asset is the wonderful hospitality of Bosnian people, along with the traditional Bosnian coffee and cakes, the irresistible čevapi (grilled minced-meat fingers), traditional wines and lively urban promenades and small cozy places.



Bosnia and Herzegovina through Time

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been populated for more than 100,000 years. Cave drawings near Stolac and numerous remains exhibited in the National Museum in Sarajevo are a testament to these ancient civilizations. It is presumed that the name Bosna comes from Illyrian tribes, considering the fact that in their language the word "bos" signified water. At the same time, Bosna is also the name of one of the most important rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With the beginning of AD, Bosnia and Herzegovina was a part of the Roman Empire settled mostly by Illyrian tribes. Upon the division into the Eastern and Western Roman empires (395), Bosnia came under the rule of the Western Roman Empire. With the fall of this empire in 476, Bosnia is ruled by the Eastern Roman Empire, then Eastern Goths, and finally Byzantine Empire until the arrival of Slavs.

The Roman Period is significant for its road construction throughout the country, the opening of massive mines, and trade in its mineral wealth and agricultural products. Today traces of the Roman period can be seen in the cities of Central Bosnia: Zenica, Vareš, Breza, Kiseljak, Travnik, but also in Herzegovina as well.

For example in Mogorjelo one has the opportunity to enjoy the ruins of a large Roman estate (Vila Rustica) presented with an excellent Herzegovinian cuisine and lighted at night with torches, accompanied by traditional music and folklore.

In the early 7th century AD Slavs began a mass settling of the region. The following centuries saw constant turmoil among Croats, Serbs, and Hungarians and from the Byzantine Empire. In the late 12th

century, the first Bosnian State emerged and contributed to the development of the region, gained international recognition, and, at the same time, became the Bogomil asylum. Bogomils who fled Bulgaria were accepted and became a part of social life for many years to come. They left stećci for history—tombstones, carved stone blocks scattered all around the country.

In this period a special Order emerged, the Bosnian Church. Bosnian Kingdom, with Tvrtko I as its ruler, emerges in 1377 and becomes one of the most powerful states of middle ages on the western Balkan Peninsula. Bosnian Kings defended the Bosnian State from the Ottoman invasions that lasted over a century and a half. The medieval cities of Jajce, Travnik, Visoko, Fojnica and Kraljeva Sutjeska all mark the era of the heretic Bosnian Church and the arrival of the Franciscans. Franciscans established the Bosnian vicarage, later the Franciscan Province of Bosna Srebrena ("Silver-Bosnia"), which remains to this day.

This region flourished in the time of Ottoman rule, its tiny fortresses bloomed into major trade cities between East and West. Arrival of Turks has left traces to most other cities as well. Almost every mosque and numerous bridges, for instance, the Old Bridge in Mostar, were developed. The influence of Turkish tradition can be seen in the cuisine, literature, music, architecture, even life itself, and the distinct flavor of the Orient forever marked this region. A visit to traditional houses with public baths, where mostly women spent their time, will bring you back into the past.

During a short reign of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Western influence has changed the country in many ways: increased literacy, cultural upbringing,

a transformation from Oriental to West-European styles and the mass construction of new buildings. These differences can be best observed in Ferhadija, pedestrian zone, which begins with an Oriental style and ends with the Western one.

The assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Franz Ferdinand, which took place in Sarajevo in 1914, was the event that caused the beginning of World War I. Between the two world wars Bosnia was the part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and only after World War II, it became one of the Yugoslav republics.

As a part of Yugoslavia, Sarajevo hosted the Winter Olympic Games in 1984. With the end of Yugoslavia and proclamation of the autonomy of Bosnia and Herzegovina began one of the most difficult periods that brought the pain and suffering to the country. Only with the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement has the country become stabilized and enabled massive reconstruction and historic restoration. Today once again, we offer charm, hospitality and beauty, a Bosnian tradition for the ages.



Art and Culture

More than any other country in Europe Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted a blend of cultural influences. For centuries, different cultures, traditions, customs and religions have passed through the country, each leaving something behind and, at the same time, transforming and adapting to the next. Traditional handwork of copper-engravers from Sarajevo or famous wood-carvers from Konjic, as well as music and folklore from different regions, and international writers such as Ivo Andrić, the Nobel Prize winner (The Bridge Over the Drina) or Meša Selimović, known for his novel, Death and the Dervish, have all contributed to our rich multi-cultural heritage.

Danis Tanović, who won an Oscar for his film, "No Man's Land" and a Silver Berlin Bear for his new film "Berač željeza" ("An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker") or Jasmila Žbanić, who won Golden Berlin Bear for the film "Grbavica," are just two of many celebrated people from the Bosnian contemporary cultural community.

Many galleries in Počitelj, near Mostar, give a visible image of various influences upon painters. Počitelj, a famous art colony, has been representing an inspiration and asylum for artists from all around Europe for decades. It is the place that will arouse even the best-hidden emotions and fascinate you with its tranquility and beauty for all time.

People of B&H belong to different religions, cultures and even though they have different customs and traditions, all of them are known to be superstitious. Fortune telling, reading a coffee cup, beans, palm or cards are still very popular, especially with old women in small rural places. However, superstitious beliefs such as that spilt coffee brings good luck to one who spills it, that all illnesses are caused by a draft, that there should be a few extra slippers for guests, or that it is always good to prepare some food for one person extra should they decide to visit you...are just a part of the whole panoply of customs and beliefs of local population.

Myths about the creation of our cities and villages as well as myths about our heroes have been carried over from one generation to the next.

Dive into the world of imagination and try to grasp the idea of what it is that makes our country such a charming destination and a wondrous place for all time.

Major Festivals:

- Sarajevo Winter, February
- Mostar Spring Festival, May – June
- Počitelj Art Colony, June
- Nights of Baščaršija, Sarajevo July
- Mostar Bridge Jumping Festival, July
- Bihać Rafting Festival – Una Regatta, July
- Banja Luka Demofest, July
- Banja Luka Summer Festival, June – August
- Banja Luka Literary Event "Kočičev zbor", August
- Sarajevo Film Festival, August
- Međugorje Youth Festival, August
- MESS Festival, Sarajevo, October
- Jazz Festival, Sarajevo, November



Religious Tourism

Along with the tides of invaders and migration came the spiritual backbone of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Christianity, Islam and Judaism have long endured harmonious living that is the trademark of this tiny land. Present day Bosnia and Herzegovina is a living testament to the richness of its cultural and religious heritage.

The pagan belief systems of the ancient Illyrians and early Slav settlers clearly intertwined with the early introduction of Christianity in the 10th century. A unique form of secular Christianity called the Bosnian Church flourished many centuries before the Orthodox and Catholic structures spread their influence throughout this rugged mountain land. With the arrival of conquering Ottomans the most significant transformation of Bosnian society occurred – the introduction of Islam to this part of the world. Despite the struggles in the past, most communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina once again live in harmony as they have done since medieval times.

Međugorje is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world. It is the Shrine of Our Lady located in Herzegovina. Over a year, millions of pilgrims from all around the world come to pray to the Virgin Mary for help and consolation ever since Virgin Mary first appeared before six teenagers in 1981.

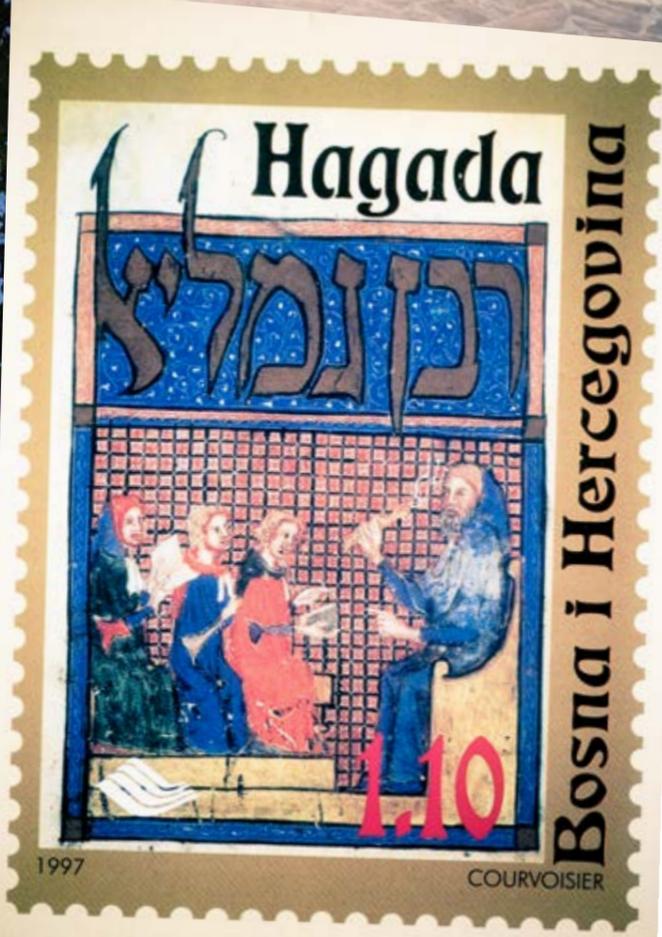
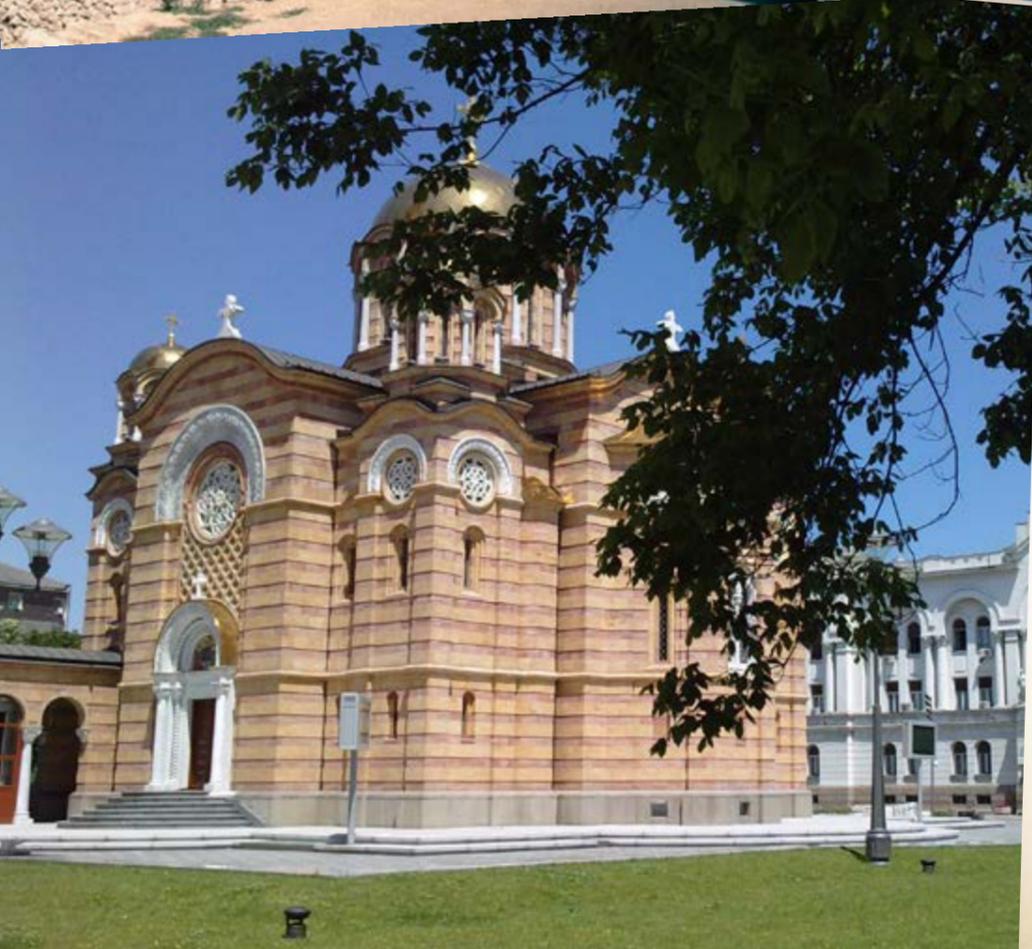
Gospa olovska is one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage sites built in the 14th century. It is located in the small town of Olovo, 60 km northeast of Sarajevo. In addition to sacred rituals, church is popular due to artistic works and precious museum artifacts.

Podmilačje is a small Catholic Pilgrimage with the St. Ivo Krstitelj Church (John the Baptist's Church; built on the former 15th century franciscan church). It is a European sacral architecture with neogothic elements. The site attracts thousands of pilgrims over a year.

The largest Islamic pilgrimage in Europe is located at Ajvatovica, Prusac. The site was named after an old man called Ajvaz, who according to a legend, spent 40 days praying to God to send rain in the period of great drought. As on the fortieth morning rain came, people began visiting this site where God's miracle took place.

Djevojčica pećina Cave is one of the most mystical spiritual spots in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The site is located near Kladanj, at the foot of the Konjuh Mt. and holds old cave drawings dating back 10.000 B.C. Most pilgrims visit the site during the last week of August. The legend says that the water running down the cave walls has a healing power.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very rich sacral Orthodox heritage with dozens of monasteries dating back to the period from 14th to 16th century: Tavna Orthodox Monastery in Bijeljina; Lovnica Monastery with St. George's Church in Šekovići (crkva sv. Đorđa); 14th century Paprača Monastery near Zvornik; 15th century Žitomislić Monastery located south of Mostar; Tvrdoš Orthodox Monastery built in the 15th century in Trebinje; Rmanj Monastery from the 16th century located in Martin Brod; 14th century Dobrun Monastery, 12 km from Višegrad; Moštanica Monastery, assumed to have been built in the 11th century, located near Kozarska Dubica and numerous other orthodox churches and monasteries.



Ethno and Eco-Tourism

The greatest wealth of Bosnia and Herzegovina are beautiful landscapes and wild primeval nature. Thick forests, wild rivers, rare and unique endemic plants and animals, sharp mountains and beautiful hills or mysterious caves – all can be found in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Take a walk, a hike or just conquer a mountain peak. A day out in the nature or in the mountains, where air is fresh and clean, and flowers and pine trees smell wonderfully, or just one view of numerous hills and mountains will give you pleasure, serenity and unforgettable experience.

One of the most beautiful national parks is located in Krajina, in the north of Bosnia, with its numerous rivers and wild pristine nature. The National Park Kozara called “the green beauty of Krajina” is only 56 km from the city of Banja Luka. It was proclaimed a protected national park in 1967. It is a 3,500-hectares area surrounded with the most beautiful rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sava, Una, Sana and Vrbas. This is an ideal area for hunting, fishing, walking, hiking, biking and skiing in wintertime. Nearby is a small ski resort with two ski lifts and ski equipment available for renting.

The National Park Sutjeska, near Foča, bordering Montenegro, hides one of the last Europe primeval forests (Perućica). A beautiful, heart-shaped Trnovačko Lake and other small lakes lure you to take long walks. Sutjeska is also a home to Bosnia’s highest mountain peak at 2,386 meters – Maglić. There are campgrounds, mountain lodges, guided hiking tours, climbing, tour skiing and many other activities offering amazing nature experience. The Park with its Monument commemorating the Battle of the Sutjeska has recently been added to UNESCO list. Little mountain lodges and small campsites offer a several-day stay in the National Park. Ambitious mountaineers come to conquer Maglić and enjoy the beauty of the landscapes from above. The world’s second largest canyon, Tara Canyon, is also located near Foča.

The Bardača wetlands, a 670-hectare reserve, are a series of 11 lakes situated between the rivers Vrbas and Sava, northeast of Banja Luka. It is a home to 178 types of birds, ideal for bird watching, fishing and hunting, as well as research of its rich endemic flora and fauna.

The National Park Una, an untouched paradise and a home to river which host one of the most popular rafting events in the country – Una Regatta. The event takes place in three phases and lasts up to five days. The river requires adventurous spirit and strength and/or a professional guide.

The Nature Park “Tajan”, near Zavidovići in the central part of Bosnia, is also protected. Numerous canyons and caves are absolutely astonishing. On the other hand, Blidinje which is near Posušje offers you typical mountain flora and fauna.

The Nature Park “Hutovo blato”, the Mediterranean swamp near the Adriatic Sea, is a bird reserve and intermediate station of migratory birds. Around 240 bird species can be found in the park. The place is ideal for fishing, bird watching, guided boat rides and photo safaris.

Visiting the area where the wild horses live is a must see tourist spot when visiting the Livno region.

Continue the trip through Herzegovina and visit the Vjetrenica Cave – the largest cave in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a large number of endemic species (Olm) and archaeological discoveries dating back to 10.000 B.C. Interesting caves are also located in Sarajevo (Orlovača and Bijambare Cave) and in the vicinity of Stolac (Badanj Cave).

If you are close to Fojnica, you should pay a visit to the Prokoško Lake, a spectacular natural site with endemic specie Triturus.



Winter Tourism

Bjelašnica, Igman and Jahorina mountains were the hosts of the Winter Olympic Games in 1984. Mountain resorts are situated near Sarajevo and are connected by very good roads and public transportation during the winter season. Enjoy winter sports in beautiful surroundings, and skiing areas which are approximately 1500 and 2000 m above sea level. Jahorina has many modern hotels (with wellness-centers), nine ski lifts and 20 km of ski tracks, suiting the needs of both beginners and experts. Bjelašnica and Igman, on the other hand, are much steeper and attract more skilful skiers. Bring your own ski and snowboard equipment or rent in there.

Those who want to avoid crowd on the ski tracks, will find peace and relaxation in a walk towards the peaceful mountain villages with the untouched nature and fascinating panorama.

Sarajevo is not the only hotspot for skiing in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Vlašić Mountain near Travnik is great for snowboarding and the slopes at Kupres and Blidinje Nature Park offer an amazing off the beaten track ski experience. Blidinje and Kupres are ideal for family trips and offer more than skiing adventure. If you decide to visit skiing resorts Babanovac at Vlašić you will probably come across the authentic Bosnian sheepdog called “Tornjak”. You should also taste Vlašić cheese (Vlašički sir) which has become widely known by its quality.

* Daily ski passes are approximately 15 euro (for Olympic ski resorts) and 10 euro for smaller skiing resorts. More information about ski resorts in Bosnia and Herzegovina is available in the Winter brochure on bhtourism.ba/publications.



Hiking, Climbing, Paragliding, Rafting, Fishing, Hunting...

Bosnia and Herzegovina is home to dozens of peaks over two thousand meters (mountains Maglić, Prenj, Čvrsnica, Volujak, Zelengora...) which are at same time wild and the most serene places particularly in the central Dinaric Alps. The terrain is perfect for challenging rock climbing and several sports clubs including Scorpio can provide useful information guided tours. There are several mountain biking areas with trails and signs; paragliding is very popular in Kupres, Bjelašnica and off Visočica Peak over Rakitnica Canyon.

If you want to feel the power of nature you should go rafting on the rivers of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Neretva, Vrbas, Una, Tara, Drina, Sana, Krivaja or Trebižat – memory of these rivers will never fade away. Some parts of breathtaking wild canyons and rapids are very demanding. Only a team can conquer these challenging parts of the river, and at the end they can sit around the campfire and talk about the wonderful adventure. People from all around Europe come to participate in regatta.

In summer time, crystal-clear lakes are real refreshment for swimmers. B&H is very proud of its water resources: mineral and thermal springs, rivers and waterfalls, lakes, as well as a small but gorgeous piece of the Adriatic Sea - Neum.

Rivers like Una, Sana, Pliva, Krivaja, Neretva, Vrbas, Drina and Tara are rich with river trout, grayling and river charrs. Hutovo blato is known by the catch of eel and carp and the Bosna River, rising under Mt. Igman, near Sarajevo is great for the fly-fishing (chub, barbel and nose-carp). Lakes such as Pliva, Blidinje and Boračko Lake are rich with trout, carp and grass carp, and the artificial lakes Jablaničko, Bilečko, Buško, Ramsko and Modračko Lake are attractive for the sport fishermen. Kalinovik area with several astonishing lakes (Kotlaničko, Štirinsko, Orlovačko and numerous others) is also interesting.

Major hunting spots are located on Prenj and Zelengora mountains (chamois), Kupres (grouses), Bugojno and Grmeč (bears, rabbits, foxes), Vlačić (wolves), Hutovo blato and the areas near the Sava, Una and Bosna rivers (cormorants, geese, ducks, etc). The Tourism Association of Posavina Canton has developed a project Posavina – Fishing and Hunting Paradise introducing a network of hunting and fishing spots with accompanying accommodation facilities.



Spa

In the Roman times, many areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina became spa sites with the growth of settlements around mineral and thermal springs. These sites became popular tourist destinations and have been welcoming visitors for centuries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has abundance of mineral and thermal springs used in more than 15 spas for cardiovascular, neurological, musculature, rheumatic, skin, gynecological, gastritis, respiratory and some other diseases, and some that have recently been renovated are simply ideal for relaxation, great massage and aromatic therapies.

Aquaterm, Olovo
Dvorovi, Bijeljina
Gata, Bihać
Guber, Srebrenica
Iliđža, Gradačac
Iliđža, Sarajevo
Kulaši, Prnjavor
Laktaši, Laktaši
Mlječanica, Bosanska Dubica
Reumal, Fojnica
Sanska ilidža, Sanski Most
Slana banja, Tuzla
Slatina, Banja Luka
Vilina vlas, Višegrad
Vrućica, Teslić

Some, primarily Vrućica in Teslić, Reumal in Fojnica and Iliđža in Sarajevo, are an excellent choice to combine relaxation and business (seminars, conferences, etc).



Tradition

ADVENTURE *Beauty*

Creativity **Art**

Love DIVERSITY

wellness

Amazing *Green*

JOY Inspiration



Bosnia and Herzegovina A to Z Cities and Attractions

B

Banja Luka

Banja Luka is the largest and the most beautiful city in the north of Bosnia. The Vrbas River gives this town its particular charm. Banja Luka was established during the Roman era when the first forts in the region were built in order to supply and protect an important trade route passing through this area. The Romans had already been using the famous surrounding thermal springs. Nowadays, Banja Luka stands as the economic and cultural center of Northern Bosnia. This city is rich with cultural and historical buildings dating back to the 16th century. Numerous Orthodox monasteries were built more than 400 years ago, many of which are still in use today, including the Gomionica monastery, known for its frescos.

Parks and boulevards are the symbol of Banja Luka. You should visit this city and enjoy the shade of old trees in "Mladen Stojanović" Park, or take a walk through the promenades, Gospodarska Street, visit the Art Gallery and the Museum of the Republika Srpska and the Kastel fortress on the Vrbas River. End a hot summer day with a delicious meal in a restaurant near the cold river Vrbas. Banja Luka is the city of festivals and during this period it offers a special atmosphere: music Demofest (in July) or the Banja Luka Summer Festival (June - August).

Bihać

Bihać, the western gate of Bosnia, is a home to the Una River and the host to a popular and international rafting event Una Regatta. This 5-day event and the Una River is a must-do for adventurous souls. There are at least four different raft runs on the Una River, from two hours of easy rafting to six hours of up to class VI rapids. The most attractive, interesting and exciting part of the river is the 15-km Strbački Buk-Lahovo run. Along 207 km, the Una River basin is a home to over a hundred medicinal herbs and various other fauna species.

Bijeljina

The Museum of Semberija hosting archaeological artefacts and the Tavna Orthodox Monastery are located in Bijeljina. 3 km from Bijeljina you will come across an interesting ethno village (Etno selo "Stanišići") just as ideal for business conferences as it is for family vacation. The village consists of houses resembling the authentic traditional architecture.



Blagaj and Buna River Spring

Buna River Spring with a 16th c. Dervish Tekke built right next to it is located about a ten minute ride from Mostar. The Tekke is now a museum open for visits all year round.

Blidinje

Blidinje and Posušje has enviable beauty with rocky plates and thick pine forests. In addition to the largest glacial lake in the country – Blidinje Lake, the park offers great skiing, hiking and flora and fauna exploring (endemic specie of white-bark pine – Pinus Leuco Dermis found at Masna Luka).

Bosnian Kingdom

Kraljeva Sutjeska was the residence of King Stjepan Tomaš, King Tvrtko Kotromanić and Queen Katarina, also known as the last Bosnian queen. Katarina is still mourned here and in Central Bosnia, where Catholic women wear black scarves in memory of the Queen. The early 14th century Venetian style Monastery, which stands to be a guardian of B&H history, comprises of a church, museum and a library with a great collection of valuable paintings, an incunabula collection (31 books dating pre-15th century) and an ethnographic collection as well. Bobovac Fortress in Vareš, built in the 14th century as a royal fortress, is located a 30-minute ride from Kraljeva Sutjeska. At the site three Bosnian kings are buried: Stjepan Ostoja, Tvrtko II Kotromanić and Stjepan Tomaš. Vareš is known for a black-smith tradition, present in Očevije Village for over six centuries. Kreševo is known for its medieval Bosnian architecture, and Kreševo Franciscan Monastery holds a museum, library and a gallery.



Brčko

Brčko is the economic and cultural centre of the Bosnian Posavina region, mostly based on the Sava River resources. Posavina Hotel and the City Hall, built in the 19th c., are symbols of Brčko. In addition to regatta and other sports and recreational activities on the Sava River, Brčko is also popular for its hunting and fishing offer.

C Cazin

Cazin is located 26 km from Bihać. Although a tiny town nowadays, Cazin was an important strategic site during the medieval period. Today, the traces of this period can be seen in the remains of Ostrožac, Pećigrad, Radetina Tower, Stijena and Tržac which dominate the town. The most impressive one is the Ostrožac Fortress built in neo-gothic style.

Č Čapljina

The geographic location and the Mediterranean climate makes Herzegovina the garden of the country with its orchards that have been cultivated since Roman times. For instance, the large estate Mogorjelo, in Čapljina, was built by the Romans. Moving further towards the border with Croatia, you will come across another ancient settlement – Gabela. The site draws attention due to claims of a Mexican scientist, Robert Salinas Price who believes that the Old Town of Gabela is actually Ilios – the capital city of the State of Troy. The region of Čapljina is still famous for the production of citrus fruits, figs and olives, as well as honey and medicinal herbs. Hutovo Blato Natural Park and Bird Reservoir is located nearby. It is a famous bird watching site and ideal place to relax in nature.

D Doboj

Doboj is the largest railroad crossroads in the country. Inhabited since the early Iron Age, the city now hosts many visitors to witness its old and versatile past or visit the Doboj Fortress, recently renovated and open to visits. The Fortress is the venue to the Doboj Summer Festival and the FESTTOUR – International Tourism Festival which takes place in June.

The Fortress is an exhibition of the medieval period with a display of tools and weapons, an ethno café and an amphitheatre. With a playground designed for children it is perfect for a family day out. A nearby Ozren Mt. is great for hiking or bicycle riding (Ozren Bicycle Trails), visits to the Orlovo Lake or the 13th century St. Nicolas Monastery (Sv. Nikola).

Drvar

Drvar is famous for a victory of Tito and his brave partisans over an elite unit of German paratroopers. The partisans were hiding out in a cave called Tito Cave which has become a famous tourist attraction. The area is surrounded by untouched wildlife and moving northwest you will come across beautiful waterfalls in the town of Martin Brod and an impressive 15th century Rmanj Orthodox Monastery.

F Foča

Foča is home to both Sutjeska National Park (and Mt. Maglic at 2,386 m) and the crystal clear Tara River. It is a unique nature attraction in southeast Europe. 9 km from Foča, on the Foča – Miljevinina – Sarajevo road, there is a stunning natural monument – Sand pyramids. They emerged with the soil erosion and are over 200 years old.

Fojnica

Kozovgrad, the Fortress of Fojnica, was the last asylum of Queen Katarina on her escape from Bobovac to Dubrovnik, and then to Rome. The legend says that the Queen ordered to have the horses' shoes nailed on in reverse so to mislead the enemies. Traces of horseshoes leading towards Zenica are still visible in Kozovgrad. The Monastery in Fojnica dates back to the 14th century and its museum and library have over forty thousand titles and a significant incunabula collection. Ahdnama, the oath decree, which provided independence and religious freedom to Bosnian Franciscans as declared by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in the 16th century, is still kept at the museum.

G Goražde

Goražde is the largest east Bosnian town in the Drina Valley. The Drina is a favourite spot for swimming and rafting, as well as hunting, fishing and much more in "Bijele vode" Tourist Centre located at Pale-Prača.



Gradačac

Gradačac Fortress is one of the most precious cultural and historical gems of Gradačac. Captain Husein Gradaščević fought for Bosnian autonomy during the Ottoman rule and his headquarters remained as one of the most important legacies of the time. The Fortress is open to visitors. Indulge your senses at the top floor restaurant serving a mouthwatering traditional dish called "Gradačačka kutija".

J

Jajce

The Medieval Fortress of Jajce rises above the 22-m high Pliva Waterfall. The Fortress encompassing ramparts, towers (Church of St. Maria and Tower of St. Luke) and 15th century catacombs is one of the most impressive and universal cultural heritage sites in the country. During the reign of King Tvrtko II, Jajce developed into a royal town, and later the residence of Bosnian kings. The last Bosnian King Stjepan Tomašević, whose bones are kept at the Franciscan Monastery in Jajce, was crowned here. You will also be astonished by well-preserved remains of the late 3rd century temple of the Roman god Mithras.

K

Konjic

Tradition of woodcarving was best preserved in Konjic. You can visit the Museum of Woodcarving Crafts – Mulićev rekord or buy a souvenir made by one of the two craftsman families – Nikšić or Mulić Family. Konjic is also interesting for Repovačka Mosque, old bridge built during the Ottoman period, 16th c. Franciscan Monastery with a library and a gallery, or rafting on the Neretva River. One of the great attractions is Tito's Shelter (Titov bunker), venue of the Contemporary Art D-o ARK Underground. Titov bunker is available for group visits upon appointment only.

Kupres

Kupres attracts visitors for winter or summer vacations and it is ideal for skiing, hiking, paragliding, hunting and horse riding. If you visit Kupres during the first Sunday of July you will witness old traditions of farming at Strljanica competition (competition of grass haymaking) as well as traditional dances or horse races. Kupres has two nearby ski centers with snow cover lasting up to five months.



Livno

Livno is a Herzegovinian city that blends Dalmatian, Ottoman and socialist architecture around the spectacular Duman springs on the Bistrica River. Franciscan Monastery of St. Peter and Paul with a Museum and Gorica Gallery is a great place to explore the past and see works of Gabrijel Jurkić, one of the most eminent local artists.

People from Livno are gifted artisans of cheese which makes Livanjski sir (Livno cheese) the most delicious, fine cheese with a distinct and slightly salty flavor. A nearby Buško Lake is ideal for sailing, kayak, kanu and other sports activities on water.

LJ

Ljubuški

Near Ljubuški, which is in addition to Čitluk known for superb wines, you can visit the oldest museum in the country (1884) located within the Humac Franciscan Monastery (1869). The Humac Museum hosts one of the finest collections of ancient relics. Moving southeast of Ljubuški you will come across one of the largest and most impressive waterfalls (120 m wide, 25 m tall) in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Kravice Waterfall on Trebižat River.

M

Međugorje

Međugorje is the world's third largest Catholic pilgrimage. Virgin Mary's Shrine is an asylum for those seeking peace, faith and hope. Most believers gather on 25th June to celebrate the anniversary of the Apparition of Mary.



Mostar

Mostar, the most beautiful city in Herzegovina, has been proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its old town and its Stari most (Old Bridge), the famous bridge over the turquoise-green Neretva River. Here, in the heart of the city, people from all over the globe meet and admire the art and skill of Turkish architecture, enjoying the charm of ancient buildings along tiny streets. Get to know the city by visiting lively cafés and peaceful galleries. Find yourself a quiet spot in the yards of old mosques, go under the bridge to see famous divers, who have preserved this tradition for decades by performing daring jumps from the 25 m- high bridge.

Perhaps you will be lucky enough to come to Mostar during one of the many festivals: the Summer Festival with traditional dances, music, games, traditional costumes, home-made cuisine and wine; or the Bridge Jumper Festival, where young jumpers from all over the world, eager for admiration, show their skills.

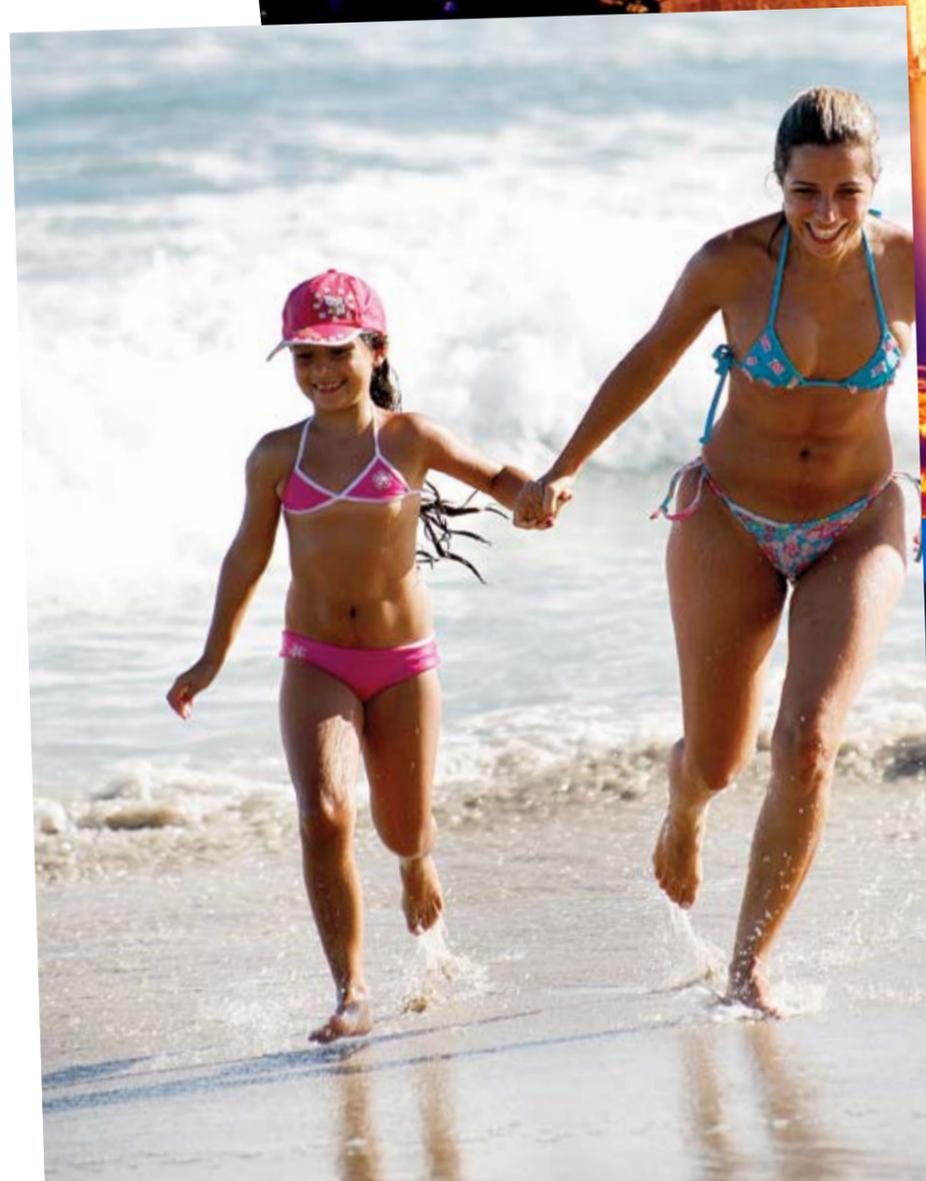
Especially distinguished are Herzegovinian wines "Blatina" (red wine) and "Žilavka" (white wine), made from grapes of that region. Even the Austrian Czar's House ordered their wines from here; therefore "Žilavka" had already been perpetuated in the Schönbrunn. These wines can be tasted in one of the many wine cellars in Herzegovina so if you are a wine lover do not miss out on visiting the "Wine Roads" spreading throughout this Mediterranean paradise (www.vinskacesta.ba).



N

Neum

Neum, at the sunny Adriatic coast, is located between Dubrovnik and Herzegovina. 24 kilometers of diversified coast and numerous medieval tombstones is ideal for affordable summer holiday. While in Neum do not miss out on visiting the spectacular Vjetrenica Cave.



Nevesinje

Nevesinje was very popular during the Austro Hungarian period because the Monarchy sent their soldiers here to rehabilitate and improve their blood flow (climatotherapy). In addition to this, Nevesinje offers hunting, fishing, lakes on Velez and Morine mountains, as well as the Alagovac artificial lake. Eastern Herzegovina has other numerous attractions such as Gacko, a tiny town near the Velebit Mt., as well Trebinje and Bileća.



P

Počitelj

This amazing and unique little town, only half-an-hour-drive from Mostar, is a UNESCO heritage site. Its remarkable oriental architecture has been a great inspiration to many artists for decades. No wonder, Počitelj hosts the longest operating art colony in Southeast Europe.

Posavina

Sava River is one of the most significant rivers in the country as it has developed river traffic thus boosting the entire region spreading along the river. The region is called Posavina (after the Sava River) and offers great canoeing, fishing and hunting spots. In addition to recreational activities, other attractive sites are the Franciscan Monastery, Church and Museum in Tolisa, Orašje, with wealthy numismatic collection and other museum artifacts. Odžak in Posavina is a home to a beautiful 1903 edition City Hall called "Beledija".

Prijedor, Kozara

The National Park Kozara called "the green beauty of Krajina", a 3,500-hectares area surrounded with the most beautiful rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sava, Una, Sana and Vrbas, is located near Prijedor. This is an ideal area for hunting, fishing, walking, hiking, biking and skiing in wintertime.

Prozor-Rama

Prozor and Rama Lake (Ramsko jezero) are located in the northern part of Herzegovina. If you seek the peace and tranquility this small paradise with the House of Peace Rama Ščit at the Franciscan Monastery is a right place for you. You should also pay a visit to the Ethnographic Museum preserving culture and tradition of Rama.



S Sarajevo

A legend says: «If you drink some water from the fountain in the heart of Baščaršija, you can be sure you will return to Sarajevo».

Acclaimed for its spirit of cultural diversity the capital Sarajevo is the only European capital to boast having a mosque, Orthodox church, Catholic church and a synagogue. Sarajevo's ancient heritage brings together Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions. One symbol of harmony is its 650-year-old Haggadah, rich with pictures and passages on Passover, brought from Spain by expelled Jews in the 15th century. Today, it is being kept in the Blue Room in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Can you imagine a place where the new and the old, the traditional and the modern, the East and the West are all intertwined?

Sarajevo lets you sample the past. Artisans in the Oriental trade square Baščaršija still forge copper and brass and create filigree art. Enjoy the smell of the fabulous charcoal-grilled ćevapčići or taste delicious Oriental sweets in Slatko Čoše Square and relax in some of the serene outdoor cafés, with a coffee prepared in the traditional Bosnian way.

Immerse yourself into history of the city as you visit mosques, synagogues, and Christian and Orthodox churches, traditional buildings from the Ottoman Period, as well as the bridge where the heir to the Hapsburg throne, Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, the commencement of World War I.

In the evening pay a visit to restaurants on the surrounding Sarajevo hillsides where you can enjoy a beautiful view of the city combined with traditional Bosnian dishes and parlor songs.

Bear in mind that Sarajevo is a cultural capital buzzing with festivals such as Sarajevo Winter, Baščaršija-Nights, Sarajevo Film Festival or Jazz Festival. Of course you can always hear live music at Sarajevo's clubs and restaurants, from the traditional Oriental music to Rock, Jazz, Techno or R'n'B played in clubs and discotheques.

Yet, if you are keen on great skiing or snowboarding you should visit the Olympic mountains surrounding Sarajevo. These beautiful natural gems also provide amazing hiking and picnic spots in summer, as do the Skakavac Waterfall or the Bosna River Spring (Vrelo Bosne) with a nearby Roman Bridge. Visitors can now experience scenes of the past on a coach-ride from Ilidža or archaeological park with the Roman spa, near the hotels dating back to the Austro Hungarian era, through the famous Alley of Trees to the Bosna River Spring. In fact, you can still take a coach-ride in Sarajevo like you would have a hundred years ago making this destination even more attractive.

However, if you are more adventurous, go to local ethno villages Lukomir and Umoljani and a nearby breathtaking Rakitnica Canyon. Lukomir Village is the most isolated settlement in Europe (1500 m) and represents a live museum where you will an opportunity to glimpse the old ways of life!

Amongst Sarajevo's many tourist destinations you can find unique museum exhibitions: "Sarajevo under the siege 1992-1995" exhibition at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Tunnel of Hope, a memorial complex dedicated to survival and hope during the 1992-1995 war; Sarajevo Assassination Exhibition dedicated to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie which triggered WWI; and a museum dedicated to old tradition song called "Sevdalinka".



Marvelous landscape ideal for mountain biking inspired the local community to create bicycle trails across the Olympic mountains. Those trails surrounding Sarajevo offer great adventure while riding on the Bjelašnica, Igman, Trebević or Jahorina Mt. National Geographic Traveler ranked Bosnia and Herzegovina among TOP 10 Adventure Destinations in 2012 due to its mountain biking resources.

East Sarajevo is a real natural treasure luring mountaineers, hikers, skiers, snowboarders, paraglide and all other nature and adventure fans to come and visit the largest Olympic Mt. in the country – Jahorina, as well as other natural attractions such as Romanija, Treskavica, numerous caves, etc. Jahorina has over 20 km of ski trails and it is one of the most beautiful mountains in the region. It is suitable for both beginners and snowboarders and has quite a number of accommodation facilities some equipped for seminars and conferences. Treskavica is a hunting ground with over 360 springs.

Romanija is ideal for hiking and relaxation and it is a home to one of the best known caves in East Sarajevo – Orlovača. The cave's stalactites, stalagmites and draperies form unique shapes resembling antique and renaissance castles. The cave was inhabited by Ursus speleus, the cave bear, 16,000 years ago. Today is a natural habitat of endangered and rare specie of Microc hipoptrea, endemic bat specie. Other caves worth visiting are Ledenjača and Novakova Cave.



Srebrenica

Srebrenica today resembles a monument to victims of the 1992 – 1995 war. It is a memorial visited by people from all over the world especially on July 11, dedicated to 8.372 people killed.

Srebrenik

Srebrenik nests in the valley of Tinja River, near Tuzla. This is a medieval town first mentioned in 1333. It was a residence of royal family Kotromanić. It is now a well preserved fortress hosting the Artistic Colony called "Srebrenik – the City of Art".

Stolac, Radimlja

Stećci, the ancient tombstones, often referred to as "stone sleepers," are one of the oldest witnesses of the B&H history. Throughout the country you can come across a single stećak or collections of monoliths, often decorated with engraved ancient symbols all connected to earth, family, sun, moon, tribal warriors, dance and praise to the gods. For example, some of the most interesting tombstones are found in Radimlja, near Stolac. Not far from Stolac is the oldest remaining human settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Daorson Fortress, Ošanići. The Daorsi tribe is said to have lived in these parts over 4,000 years ago.

T Teslić

Teslić is best known for high-quality thermal mineral water. Banja Vrućica Spa is a modern hotel complex ideal for both relaxation and business meetings. Visitors can also enjoy the local Liplje Orthodox Monastery and the Orthodox Art Gallery with rich ethnographic collection.

Tešanj

Tešanj was put under the spotlight with the Gold Medal to the local mineral water won at the Berkley Springs Mineral Water Contest in the United States and as a setting for an Oscar Nominated film "Gori Vatra" (Pjer Žalica's 2003 film "Fuse"). Tešanj also has a spectacular medieval fortress, a 17th c. clock tower, one of the four still operating clock towers in the country, and a town museum displaying cultural, historical and natural heritage of the city.



Travnik

In addition to being part of the heart of Bosnia where early medieval past comes to life, Travnik is the former residence of the Ottoman viziers and it offers great sightseeing attractions such as the town museum, Travnik Fortress and the Museum of Ivo Andrić, a birthplace of our Nobel Laureate. Šarena (Colorful) Mosque is an 1815-mosque with unique floral facet decorations and tiny bazaar shops located on the ground floor. Travnik is the only city in Bosnia and Herzegovina with two clock towers. Just outside Travnik you can visit the Vlašić Mt. ideal for skiing and snowboarding, as well as hiking, biking and team-building. Perhaps you will have a chance to see an authentic Bosnian sheepdog called "Tornjak" there. Also do not miss a chance to buy some Vlašički sir (cheese usually made from goat milk).

Trebinje

Trebinje with its old town and the Trebišnjica River flowing through the heart of the town is one of the Herzegovina's hotspots: Tvrdoš Monastery - an orthodox monastery built in the 15th century, the Arslanagić Bridge built during the Ottoman rule and the Klobuk Fortress are some of the most spectacular sites of this beautiful Mediterranean town, also known for great wines.

Tuzla

Tuzla, the city of salt and a home to the unique salt lakes (Pannonian Lake), the Museum of Salt and the Neolithic dwellings all nestled in the centre of the city is not to be missed while visiting this part of the country. Tuzla was a birthplace of Ismet Mujezinović, a famous artist (Ismet Mujezinović's Gallery) and a famous writer Meša Selimović (Dervish and the Death) whose statues can be seen while strolling down the city's promenade.

V

Visoko

With the discovery of Visočica Mt. in Visoko by Semir Osmanagić, a specialist from the U.S. Houston University, the site has become the most miraculous finding of what is believed to be the first and only Europe's pyramids. Ever since, Visoko and the surrounding archeological area lure tourists from all over the world who are given the opportunity to volunteer in the discovery. Čajengrad is a recently discovered medieval archaeological site with findings indicating it served to defend the medieval Bobovac Fortress. It is located near Mile, Visoko, where Bosnian kings resided and the King Tvrtko Kotromanić was crowned. In 1189 Kulin Ban signed the trade agreement between Bosnia and the Republic of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) in Mile. This is the oldest preserved Bosnian document written in bosančica (Cyrillic) known as the Charter of Kulin Ban.



Višegrad

Nobel Prize winner for Literature Ivo Andrić's famous book the 'Bridge Over the Drina' takes place in the town of Višegrad. The town is a home to a spectacular Mehmed-Pasha Sokolović's Bridge, which was built during the Ottoman period. This 16th century monument was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on June 28th, 2007.

Z

Zavidovići

Zavidovići is located in the valley of the Krivaja River great for fishing, kayaking and rafting. In and around Zavidovići you will find mysterious stone spheres dating back 20.000 BC rarely found elsewhere (in addition to Zavidovići, they are to be found only in Costa Rica and Mexico). When in Zavidovići, you can visit Nature Park Tajan with amazing canyons and caves, as well as excellent trails for biking, hiking and climbing.

Zenica

Once a King Stjepan Tomaš's Residence, the medieval fortress "Vranduk" is now a renovated heritage with a tiny ethnographic museum collection, a small café, Fatih Sultan Mehmet's Mosque and a nearby old mill. The fortress is located outside the urban area of Zenica in the hills above the Bosna River. Zenica is an industrial city of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosting the largest trade fair ZEPS (October). Zenica is also a home to the Town Museum located in the former Jewish Synagogue.

Tradition

ADVENTURE *Beauty*

Creativity **Art**

Love DIVERSITY

wellness

Amazing *Green*

JOY Inspiration