

## "A TWISTED MIX OF TRUTHS AND LEGENDS"

*Around Serbia in 8 days*

### NOTES:

**Difficulty level:** challenging



**Languages:** Serbian English

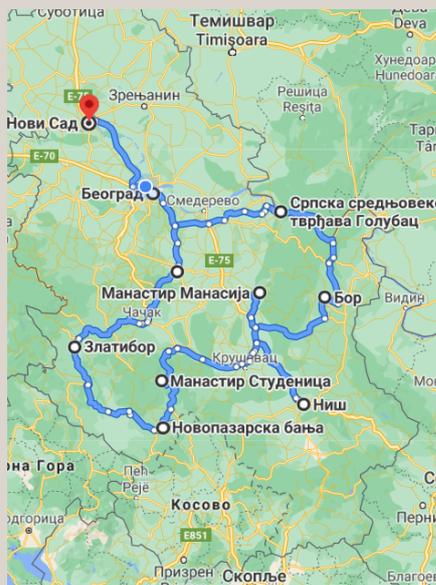


Other languages available on request

THE PROGRAM IS INFORMATIVE,  
THE PRICE DEPENDS ON THE  
DATE AND NUMBER OF  
PASSENGERS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Eclectic style of capital Belgrade, where all of Serbia's history and culture has come together in an extraordinary blend
- Fortresses along the Danube – Petrovaradin, Kalemegdan, Ram & Golubac
- Medieval monasteries including UNESCO sites – Studenica and Sopocani monasteries
- Stunning natural landscapes of Uvac river canyon, Lisina waterfalls and Djerdap Gorge
- 19th century royal legacy of Serbia with two royal dynasties
- Wine region of Sumadija



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## DAY 1 BELGRADE

The first day of the tour introduces us to Serbia's capital – Belgrade, and through it everything that awaits us during the next few days. With such an important strategic location, at the crossroads between East and West, where rivers Danube and Sava meet, Belgrade has always been the place of great battles between some of the biggest Empires in Europe's history. First settlements date back to Roman times, while it rose to prominence in the medieval times after becoming Serbia's capital for the first time in 14th century. For the next 400 years it was the border town of Turkish Ottoman Empire and Austro-Hungarian Empire, destroyed and reconstructed countless times before finally becoming the capital of Serbia again in 19th century. Its turbulent history is reflected on its every corner – oriental style buildings mixed with secession, socialist brutalist blocks and contemporary architecture giving it a unique eclectic look. During the tour we will see the most important landmarks of Serbia's capital – Kalemegdan Fortress, The Republic Square, Church of St. Sava, House of Flowers where famous Yugoslav president Tito is buried, the Belgrade Cathedral, Palace of Serbia, Gardos Tower and more.

Overnight in Belgrade.



## DAY 2 BELGRADE – RAM & GOLUBAC FORTRESS – LEPENSKI VIR – BOR LAKE

After breakfast we depart from Belgrade towards eastern Serbia where we will explore the monuments of medieval Serbia and in the end take a trip to Neolithic age and discover the archaeological site of Lepenski Vir. Our first stop is Ram Fortress – a fort on the right bank of Danube, though the first record of the fortress dates back to 12th century when the Byzantines fought the Hungarians in these areas, it was officially built in late 15th century by the Turks during the times of war against Austro-Hungarian Empire. A fully restored fortress is located on a steep hill above the river, with great views of the surrounding landscape. Next up is the stunning fortress of Golubac – a medieval fortress located on Danube river at the entrance to the Djerdap Gorge. Though it is unclear who initially built it, it is first mentioned as a fort of Hungarian army in the early 14th century, and has ever since had a significant strategic role for both Turkish and Hungarian Empires. Further down the river we reach the archaeological site of Lepenski Vir – an excavation of a settlement dating back to 9500 – 6000 BC, one of the world's oldest civilizations. The site holds various artefacts, tools and other objects from the time, as well as displaying their first homes. We end the day with a drive to Bor Lake where we will spend the night.



## DAY 3 BOR LAKE – MANASIJA – LISINA WATERFALLS – RAVANICA – NIS

A day of history and relaxation in nature awaits us with a visit to two monasteries and a lunch break by the waterfalls in between. Our first stop is the Manasija monastery, an early 15th century monastery of a very unique and special setting with the massive fortress that surrounds it. After visiting the monastery, we will take a lunch break close-by at the Lisina waterfalls. After recharging our batteries in nature, we continue further south and stop at the Ravanica Monastery. – a late 14th century monastery, legacy and burial place of Prince Lazar. The church is considered to be the birthplace of new artistic movement in the architectural style of Serbian Orthodox monasteries – the Morava school, named by the river Morava. Finally we head to the city of Nis. Dating back to antique times, Nis (lat. Naisus), was an important town in Roman Empire and the birthplace of the famous emperor Constantine the Great, who established Christianity as official religion of Roman Empire. During the city tour we will see the Nis Fortress and the Skull Tower as some of the most important historical landmarks of the city. Overnight in Nis.



Eat



Pray



Love

## DAY 4 NIS – KRUSEVAC – ZICA – STUDENICA – NOVOPAZARSKA BANJA

After breakfast departure from Nis towards central Serbia and a day dedicated to the architectural masterpieces of medieval Serbia, with a visit to some of the most important monasteries. Along the way we will stop in Krusevac, a former capital of Serbia where we will see the Lazarica Church, built by Prince Lazar prior to the famous Kosovo battle where he led the Serbian army against the invading Turkish Empire. We will also visit the National Museum in Krusevac, holding important historical, ethnographic, cultural and other collections. Next stop is the Zica monastery, built in 13th century by Serbia's first king – Stefan Prvovencani (eng. Stefan the Firstcrowned). This is the monastery where every following king had to be crowned before becoming the official ruler of the country. After a lunch break, we will visit the Studenica Monastery – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this is a 12th century monastery, built by Stefan Nemanja, the founder of Serbia's greatest royal dynasty Nemanjic. Arrival in the spa of Novi Pazar in the early evening. Overnight.



## DAY 5 NOVI PAZAR BANJA – DJURDJEVI STUPOVI – SOPOCANI – ZLATIBOR

Departure from the hotel as we continue to explore the legacy of medieval Serbia. Next stop is the Djurdjevi Stupovi monastery, a mid 12th century monastery, also built by the founder of Nemanjic dynasty, it is particularly unique for its two bell towers which are rarely found in Serbian medieval architecture. Next we will see the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, which dates back to the times of Byzantine Empire, as it was likely built in 8th century or earlier. And finally, we reach the Monastery Sopocani, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, dating back to 13th century it is considered one of the most important and artistically and architecturally most iconic monuments of Serbia. Lunch break and in the afternoon we continue our tour and after 2,5-hours drive we reach the Zlatibor Mountain. Overnight.



## DAY 6 ZLATIBOR – OVCHAR-KABLAR GORGE – OPLENAC – WINE TASTING – BELGRADE

After breakfast, we depart from Zlatibor mountain and head back towards the capital Belgrade. On our way, we will drive through the Ovchar-Kablar Gorge, often referred to as the Serbian Mount Athos as there are over 30 monasteries located in the surrounding hills above the river of Zapadna Morava (eng. West Morava river). After a 2,5-hour drive we reach the small town of Topola, where we will visit the royal complex of Oplenac. Oplenac was built in early 20th century by King Peter I of Yugoslavia, as a legacy of Karadjordjevic royal family. Twenty six members of the family including the founder of the dynasty Karadjordje, are buried here. The complex includes the Church of St. George's, King Peter's house, a royal vineyard and wine cellar. After finishing the Oplenac tour, we head to a winery close-by, located in a beautiful setting on a hilltop where we will have a lunch and enjoy some wine tasting. Arrival in Belgrade in the early evening hours. Overnight.



## DAY 7 BELGRADE – FRUSKA GORA – SREMSKI KARLOVCI – NOVI SAD - BELGRADE

Breakfast. A full day tour to the norther province of Vojvodina, where we will visit some of the most important historical landmarks of Serbia. Our first stop is the Fruska Gora mountain where we will visit the Krusedol Monastery, built in 15th century and holding one of the largest collections of frescos and icons of Serbian Orthodoxy. After the monastery visit, we head to the small picturesque town of Sremski Karlovci. Located on the right bank of river Danube, Sremski Karlovci played an important historical role in the preserverence of Serbian identity and culture, as it was the seat of Serbian Patriarchate in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is also the place where the first High School of Serbia was built. Lunch break with culinary specialties of Vojvodina. The tour continues and we reach the Petrovaradin Fortress overlooking the city of Novi Sad. After climbing the fortress, we cross the river to Novi Sad and walk through the old city center, taking a closer look at landmarks such as the Cathedral, the Freedom Square, the Republic Square, City Hall and more. Return to Belgrade in the late afternoon. Overnight.



## DAY 8 BELGRADE

Enjoy your last day of the tour in Belgrade with a visit to the museum of Nikola Tesla or the Museum of Modern Art, followed by a relaxing lunch by the river, underneath the Belgrade Fortress.



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