



COMMUNISM AND RENNAISANCE

With a rising interest in the work of socialist architects, Belgrade is just the right place for those who want to explore and learn about the Post-World War II architecture. Though the monumental buildings of the post war era are mixed with contemporary architecture, the prime examples of socialist realism, modernist and post-modernist architecture with massive brutalistic concrete blocks still represent a large part of the Belgrade panorama.



Sports Center Milan Gale Muskatirovic

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Museum of modern art

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Business Center Usce (Central Committee)

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Palace of Serbia (Palace of Federation)

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Municipality building New Belgrade

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Genex Tower

New Belgrade blocks

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Sava Center

...

House of Flowers

...

Military Medical Academy

...

Ministry of Defence

...

House of Union



Tour type: Bus & walking tour

Duration: 5 to 6 hours

Theme: History, architecture

Languages: Serbian, English,
French (and others upon
request)

We start the tour with a visit to lower Dorcol neighborhood where we will see the modernist master piece that is Sports Center "Milan Gale Muskatirovic", built nearly half a century ago for the needs of first ever World Championship in water sports. The building was first named "25th of May", after the date of Yugoslav president Tito's birthday, which was also celebrated in Yugoslavia as the Day of Youth.

The tour continues with a ride through Branko's bridge and we reach New Belgrade. Right after crossing the river we come across the Museum of modern art, a complex built in early 1960s, it is surrounded by a park which holds sculptures of the most prominent Yugoslav sculptors of 20th century. Upon grand opening of the building, it was labeled as a "monument of the era". It was recently renovated and after nearly 10 years reopened for public visits.

Just across the park there is a former building of Central Committee of the league of communists of Yugoslavia – today a business center "Usce". This high rising building was hit in the 1999 NATO bombing of Belgrade and Yugoslavia, after which was reconstructed adding two floors at the top.

A mile down the boulevard, we reach the Palace of Serbia, former Federation Palace, which was the seat of Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The building was opened in 1961. For the purpose of first international conference of countries of the Non-aligned movement. The palace holds master pieces of Yugoslav painters and applied art, which to this day represents an integral part of interior décor of the palace.

Riding through the blocks of New Belgrade, we pass by the building of Municipality of New Belgrade and reach the Genex Tower – one of the symbols of the city and a prime example of Belgrade brutalistic architecture. The building consists of two large concrete towers, joined together by a bridge at the 26th floor. It is also referred to as the Western Gate of Belgrade.

Riding back towards to old town, just before crossing the river once again, we will pass by Sava Center – one of the largest conference centers in southeast Europe. With its design and the speed at which it was built, Sava Center drew the international attention in 1979. and was nominated for Pritzker Architecture Prize.

After crossing the river, we will reach the House of Flowers – a building which is part of Museum of Yugoslav history, and also a burial place of the Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito. We visit the museum where we will see various Tito and Yugoslav memorabilia, such as Tito's work room, the famous batons from the Relays of Youth and more.

The ride continues to the Medical Military Academy, opened in 1982. This colossal building with a horizontal ribbon shape is an example of innovative socialist modernist architecture.

We make our way towards the city center and on the way, we will see the complex of Generalstab, a former seat of military. It consists of two grandiose cascade type structures, while the façade is a combination of red stone and white marble. Heavily damaged in the NATO bombing it remains unrenovated to this day.

The tour ends in the city center, a former Marx and Engels square where we will see the Union Building. Built in the 1950s, it became one of the most popular entertainment spots in the town by 1070s, and later the city's first cineplex.

