

# SeCure your data!

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SURVIVAL GUIDE



19-26. JULY  
NIŠ, SERBIA

# BASIC INFORMATIONS

**Name of the state:** Republic of Serbia

**Capital city:** Belgrade, population around 1,731,425

**Autonomous regions:** Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija

**Geographic location:** Southeastern Europe, Balkan Peninsula, Western Balkans

**Area:** 88,361 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Moderate Continental

**Longest river:** Danube, section in Serbia 588 km

**Highest mountain peak:** Đeravica (in the Prokletije range), 2656 m

**International dialing code:** +381

**Official currency:** Serbian dinar (RSD)

**National Internet domain:** .rs

**National vehicle code:** SRB

**Population (excluding Kosovo and Metohija):** around 7,565,761

**Official language:** Serbian

**Official script:** Cyrillic, Latin

**Religion:** 85% Eastern Orthodox Christian, 5.5% Roman Catholic Christian, 3.2% Muslim

**National holiday:** 15<sup>th</sup> February—Serbian National Statehood Day

**Time zone:** central European, CET (GMT + 1 hour)

**Electricity:** 220 ~ 230V, 50 Hz

**Water from public mains:** Safe to drink

# About Serbia

Serbia has been connecting West with East for centuries – it is a land in which **civilizations, cultures, faiths, climates and landscapes** meet and mingle.

**Serbia**, officially the **Republic of Serbia**

(Република Србија, Republika Srbija), is a sovereign state situated at crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe, covering the southern part of Pannonian Plain and the central Balkans.

Following the Slavic migrations to the Balkans from the 6<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Serbs established several states in the early Middle Ages.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Serbian Revolution established the nation-state as the region's first constitutional monarchy, which subsequently expanded its territory.

After World War I, Serbia co-founded Yugoslavia with other South Slavic states, which existed in various political formations until 1990s.

From the agricultural regions of the Pannonian Plain in the north, across the fertile river valleys and orchard - covered hills of Šumadija, the landscape of Serbia continues southward, gradually giving way to the mountainous regions with well-preserved forests. The beautiful mountains, national parks, rivers and lakes are the perfect location for an active outdoor holiday – from hunting and fishing to extreme sports. All year round, numerous cultural, entertainment, traditional and sporting events are held in Serbia, demonstrating the creative power and spiritual vitality of this country. The biggest tourist destinations are three of its biggest cities (Belgrade (the capital), Novi Sad and Niš), the mountains of Kopaonik and Zlatibor and the spa resorts of Vrnjacka Banja and Sokobanja..



*Flag of Serbia*



*Coat of arms*

# Currency

The monetary unit is the Serbian Dinar (RSD). Euro is not accepted, so you have to exchange it in an official exchange office. You will also be able to exchange american dollars or swiss francs. On day of writing this survival guide, these were the exchange rates:

1 EUR = 117,5 RSD

1 USD = 107,06 RSD

**Banknotes:** 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 Dinars

**Coins:** 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 Dinars

So, what does dinar look like?



## Prices:

Beer (in a bar) = 120 - 300 RSD

Rakija (a shot) = 50 - 150 RSD

Plijeskavica = 110 - 200 RSD

Pack of condoms = 240 RSD

A Juice (in a bar) = 150 RSD

A Juice (in a store) = 80 RSD

A Sandwich = 120 RSD

Snickers, Mars = 50 RSD

Milka = 110 RSD

Water = 0.5L = 35 RSD,  
1.5L = 80 RSD

Hot chocolate (in a bar) = 150 RSD

Coffee (depending on a coffee place)  
= 90-160 RSD

Cigarettes = (may vary depending on a brand) the cheapest are around 210 RSD

SIM card for mobile phone = 300 RSD (you can buy them at pretty much any kiosk)

### **Credit card:**

International credit cards such as Visa, Master Card, Diners are accepted in most of the shops, airline companies, hotels and restaurants.

Tip: The credit cards are not accepted in train nor bus stations.

### **Banks & Post offices:**

On weekdays, banks are opened from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m and post offices from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. On Saturday, banks and post offices are open from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. On Sunday, main post office is open from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and banks are closed.

### **Shops:**

Alimentary shops are open daily from 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. including Saturdays, while on Sundays they are open from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Everywhere, there are stores open 24 hours a day. Markets are open every day from 6.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

### **Medical care:**

There are organized duties in hospitals and clinics round the clock. Pharmacies are open from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on working days and on Saturdays from 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Make sure you bring medical insurance as you won't be able to get any medications (apart from pain killers) without it.

### **Area codes:**

Phone code for Serbia is +381, for Belgrade (0)11, for Nis (0)18.

For international calls from Serbia, dial "00" + "code of the desired country" + "code for the city".

### **Important phone numbers:**

Police: 192

Fire service: 193

Medical emergency: 194

# Location of Niš



City of Niš is situated in the Nišava valley. It is located at the 43°19' latitude north and 21°54' longitude east. The central city area is at 194m altitude above sea level. The highest point in the city area is Sokolov kamen (Falcon's rock) on Suva Planina Mountain(1523m) while the lowest point is at Trupale, near the mouth of the Nišava River (173m) where it joins the Južna Morava River. The city area covers 596.71 square km of five municipalities.

It is a crossroad of the most important Balkan and European traffic routes. Three important directions of international road and railway traffic – several roads that connect the Balkans with Central and Western Europe, including Corridor X, intersect the territory of the City and the axis that connects the Adriatic, Aegean and Black Sea intersect the territory of City as well.

These roads have been widely known from the ancient times, because they represented the beaten tracks along which people, goods and armies moved. Known as Via Militaris in Roman and Byzantine periods or Constantinople road in the Middle Ages and the period of the Turkish rule, these roads still represent major European traffic arteries.

Thus, the City stands at the point of intersection of the roads connecting Asia Minor and Europe, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, for its location is a favorable one. Some approximate distances: Niš - Belgrade 242km, Niš - Sofia 151km, Niš – Skopje 212km, Niš - Thessaloniki - 400km.

Niš is a must see historical city for any traveler passing through on his way to Greece or the Middle East. With a population of 272.818 people, and being a University City, the streets are buzzing with life throughout day and night. During the summer nights, river bank is crowded with young people singing and having fun all night long.

## Niš is:

- The **third** largest city in Serbia, right after Belgrade and Novi Sad
- a city situated by the river **Nišava**
- a cultural, economic, commercial and university **seat of southeast Serbia**
- a city located **192 m** above sea level and spanning the surface area of **600 km<sup>2</sup>**
- a university center with **13** faculties
- one of the **oldest European cities**, as testified by numerous prehistoric finds on the territory of the city ( such as Bujanj and Velika humska čuka)
- a city long known as “**gateway between east and west**” since it is situated at a crossroad connecting Europe with the Middle East
- connected to the world with multiple flight paths departing from “**Constantine the Great**” international airport
- surrounded by magnificent mountain ranges of **Mt. Suva Planina, Svrljiške Planine and Mt. Seličevica**
- the birthplace of the famous Roman emperor Constantine the Great who issued the Edict of Milan in 313, embracing Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire



COAT OF ARMS

# Finally, the main question: How to get to Niš?

## Traveling By Plane

### To Niš

Niš has an international airport Constantine the Great. Company **WizzAir** has flights connecting Niš with **Basel** (France), **Memmingen**, **Dortmund** (Germany) and **Vienna** (Austria). Company **RyanAir** has flights connecting Niš with **Bratislava** (Slovakia), **Milan** (Italy), **Stockholm** (Sweden), **Berlin** and **Dusseldorf** (Germany). Company **Swiss** has flights connecting Niš with **Zurich** (Switzerland). Timetable of flights operating twice a week can be found . The Airport is near Nis, and there is a regular bus line (34) connecting airport with the city. Catch bus 34B, and in a few minutes it will take you near Faculty of Electronic Engineering where office of BEST Nis is situated. One way ticket costs 60 Serbian dinars.

### To other cities near Nis

Additionally, the national airline *AirSerbia*, together with numerous foreign airlines, operates regular routes to the international airport in **Belgrade**. You should also be able to find good connections to Niš via **Sofia** (Bulgaria) and **Skopje** (F.Y.R.O. Macedonia). There are daily buses and trains from all three cities to Nis. Notice that - in Belgrade is outside of the city. The airport provides transport to the train station. It costs around 15 euros and lasts 30 - 60 minutes, depending mostly on traffic.

## By Train

Niš is well connected to the Serbian and European railroad network. Apart from regular tickets, Serbian Railways also offer the following at discount prices: Inter Rail, Euro Domino, Railplus, Balkan Flexipass, Easy Travel Card, City Star and Unified Balkan Tariff. Niš Train Station is located at the city exit leading south to Leskovac and is a 20-minute walk away from the city core. If you do not fancy walking that long with your baggage, there are frequent bus lines heading downtown (1, 5, 6, 10). Taxi is not expensive, but we do recommend that you use reliable taxi companies, reachable by phone, and not taxi services offered at the train station exit gates.

**Tip:** With ISIC card, you get 30% discount on the train ticket.



**Tip:** The train and bus station in Belgrade are next to each other so you can choose further way of transport.

**Important:** Notice that some timetables may vary due to the changes in international train schedule. Please check desired connections before you start a voyage.

**Information: Železnice Srbije**

Address: Dimitrija Tucovića bb, Niš

Address: Nemanjina 6, Belgrade

Tel. +381 18 29 13 20

Tel. +381 18 3616 722

Tel. +381 11 360 28 99

Website: <http://zeleznicesrbije.com/>

## By Bus

There are several ways to get here by bus. You can check at your bus station if there is a direct bus to Nis. Otherwise, you can come via Belgrade, check the .There are many daily departures from Belgrade to Nis. Ticket price vary from carrier to carrier but shouldn't be more than 12 euros for one-way and 20 euros for return ticket. There are daily buses from Bulgaria (Sofia), Macedonia (Skopje), Croatia (Zagreb) and other neighboring countries.

## By Car

Niš is very well connected by road since it is situated at a European crossroads. The European highway E-75 coming from Hungary branches in two directions near Niš: towards the south, Macedonia and Greece (E-80) and towards the east, along Nišava valley, towards Bulgaria, Turkey and further on to the Middle East. Extending from Niš there are also roads to the northwest (toward Zaječar, Kladovo and Timisoara in Romania) and the southwest (toward the Adriatic Sea). In Serbia, international drivers need to have their national driving license, vehicle registration certificate, and a valid international insurance policy.

## Trip from belgrade airport to Belgrade bus station

When you land at the "**Nikola Tesla**" Airport in **Belgrade**, the easiest and cheapest way to reach the city center is by bus.

**Route: Airport – Zeleni Venac GSP line 72.**

You can wait for this bus at the airport Terminal 1, the airport Terminal 2 and at the main entrance. The ride to the city center takes about **45-60**. In total, there are 27 stations and you should exit at the last one, called „**Zeleni Venac**". The first bus to the city leaves at **4:50 am**, and the last one at **00:00 pm**, the departures are one every **35** minutes. The timetable stays the same throughout the week. When you reach **Zeleni Venac**, you can easily go to the main bus station or the main railway station. Go down the "Kraljice Natalije" street that goes by the „**Zeleni Venac**" market. At the first crossroad, turn right and follow the "Kamenicka" street. When you reach the park, just follow the path and walk by it. After the park, you should get to a bigger "Karadjordjeva" street, and you will see a big pedestrian crossing on your left side. When you cross the street, keep going straight and you'll be at the **main bus station** entrance. If you wish to get to the **main railway station**, instead of going straight after crossing the street you should turn to your left and follow the "Karadjordjeva" street. Keep following it and after a right turn you will be able to see the **main railway station** entrance on your right. Buying tickets for bus rides inside Belgrade have certain procedure. You can buy one inside a bus for 150 RSD (just over 1 euro) or you can buy them at news-stand. At news-stand you have to ask for a so called "Bus-plus" card which costs 250 RSD. Then you tell the cashier how many rides you want on your ticket, you can put up to six rides. Each ride costs 89 RSD. When you enter a bus you will notice electronic machines, just put your ticket next to it and it will deduct one ride from the funds on your card. It is possible to use one card for more than one person. You only need one ride from the airport to the bus or the train station. However, if you have time and wish to explore Belgrade you have to validate your ride by putting your ticket near the machine every time you enter a bus. If an official appears and asks you to show him your ticket, just show him give him the card. The other way to reach the city from the airport is by **taxi** and the price is around **15€**.

# Getting around Nis

Niš has well established bus lines. Most buses have clear signs stating their directions and almost all will at one point stop at the central city square, near the Fortress, or five minutes from it, at the King Alexander Square, near the Faculty of Law and Army Headquarters building. Bear in mind that you will be obliged to pay the fare, as there are ticket sellers in the buses. A single ticket inside the city zone costs 60 Serbian dinars and you can only buy it inside the bus.

There are a number of small taxi companies. Expect the fare of between 150 and 250 dinars, depending on distance (start - 90 dinars + 45 dinars per km). Make sure the taxi driver turns on the taximeter, just in case. Taxis are available practically on every street, and are also reachable by phone - the local 'taxi' phone numbers cover the range from 9701 to 9721. Most drivers will speak, at least basic, English. If not, just write the name of the place/site/hotel/street you are going to and it will be fine. Niš is relatively small and all taxi drivers know all the streets by heart and do not need to consult maps. Taxi rides out of the town (including to Belgrade airport) may be agreed on with the taxi driver (sometimes in a private arrangement at a much reduced price), but some caution is advised here.

If you decide to take a taxi, we recommend the following ones:

- Eko taxi +381 18 309 700
- BROS TAXI +381 18 41 555 41
- Prvi Taxi +381 18 4 500 005
- Naissus Taxi +381 18 229 999

# “Don't forget” list

1. A good mood and positive energy!
  2. Passport \* (except for holders of EU passports and citizens of Switzerland, Norway and Iceland who can enter Serbia with their ID)
  3. Visa\* if you need one (please check)
  4. Health/Travel insurance (have in mind that your regular health insurance won't cover your trip)
  5. Money (pocket money and fee)
  6. Clothes for cold weather
  7. Medication (if you need any)
  8. National food, drinks, flag and other stuff for international evening
  9. Your student ID here
  10. Sneakers for sport action
  11. Destroyable t-shirt (it`s a surprise)
- \* Contact and information from Serbian embassies

# Food

Niš is a food paradise. It is said that in Niš you can buy the best *Burek*, a sort of greasy, phyllo dough pastry filled with cheese or ground meat that is popular throughout the Balkan peninsula. It resembles a cheese pie, but contains more fat and has stronger flavor. In addition, by general consent, it is much more delicious. Some vendors sell other varieties such as apple, spinach or pizza burek (frequently just a combination between the meat and cheese Burek).

The *Šopska* salad is another phenomenal, yet simple dish to be found in Niš. It consists of chopped up tomato, cucumber, onion, oil, a little salt and a generous topping of adomestic feta-like cheese. The local feta is usually less sharp than feta typically found in the west by a considerable margin. Most websites with recipes simply call it a brined sheep cheese and the French are known to make a similar feta.

Another local trademark is the 'Urnebes' salad, literally translated as 'chaos' or 'pandemonium' - basically cream cheese in oil mixed with ground peppers, garlic and sometimes sesame.

*Pljeskavica*, sometimes referred to as the "Balkans Burger," is ubiquitous. Typically it contains a concoction of spiced ground beef, pork and lamb. It may be served in a bun, pita bread or by itself on a plate depending on where you get one. It usually is accompanied by onions, a paprika based sauce and in the case of the fast-food-esque vendors you'll have a variety of sauces and toppings to accompany it.

*Chevapchichi* (usually spelt with accented "c" instead of "ch", i.e. ćevapčići) is similarly made from spiced ground beef, pork and lamb. The mixture is formed into a 2-to-3 inch long sausage and served with onions and a paprika based sauce. Sometimes it will be served in a pita bread for easy, "on-the-go" consumption. Other favorites include pizza, of which the Serbs do a splendid job, and various pasta dishes.

For those who do not wish to experiment too much, there are numerous traditional bakeries and pastry shops, and the inevitable McDonald's on the central city square. Vegetarians had been almost totally neglected in Serbia until recently, but now most restaurants will have some options for them, too. Vegans might encounter more problems, although most are usually solved with the help of kind local restaurant owners. Note the traditional fasting periods, especially in April before Orthodox Easter holidays, when many restaurants offer fish and non-animal food, including some specialties.

# Drink

Tap water is drinkable in Niš. Locals like to boast that, in addition to Vienna, Niš has the best water in central and southeast Europe. Although this claim can probably be contested, most residents drink the water from the central supply system. Visitors that are more cautious are advised to buy bottled water in any shop: varieties of brands are available, and Serbian mineral waters are very good, especially Knjaz Miloš, Vlasinska Rosa, Mivela and Heba. You can also try Jamnica and Jana, that are imported from Croatia. There is a throng of cafes in downtown Niš, most of which serve various coffee drinks, beers and liquors. Some specialty bars serve a more limited scope of beverages.

Local wines are usually not of the best quality. The more expensive, the better. International brands are offered in most bars. Rakija, a powerful brandy made from various fruits (usually plum or apricot), is a local favorite.

- Rakija is an excellent brandy that has many flavors, like plum (*sljiovovica*), quince (*dunja*), apricot (*kajsija*). You should know that some prestigious brands of rakija can be extremely expensive like *Țuta Osa* (Yellow Sting), which means Yellow Wasp or *Viljamovka* (VEE-lyam-ovka) made of pear of the sort William. The most expensive and the most quality ones have a pear fruit in the bottle.

Attention: some kinds may be very strong for a newbie.

- **Loza** (from grapes, a type of rakija)

- **Voda** = Water

- **Slivovica** (the national brandy of Serbia, and the most common type

of Rakija, very popular, variably strong alcoholic beverage)

- **Beer** – Zaječarsko and Jelen (Deer) are the two most popular varieties of Serb beer, although Nikšićko from neighboring Montenegro also seems very popular. But, you can also try APATINSKO or LAV, and definitely NIŠKO, which is made in Niš and was absent for nearly two decades but the production restarted several years ago. Also, craft beer made by microbreweries are getting more popular and you can find them at some beer bars or supermarkets. You can always find Heineken, Carlsberg, Amstel and other popular European varieties of beer in almost any store or bar.

# Something Typically Serbian!

It does not take long for foreign visitors to Serbia to discover the **hospitality, kindness, openness and warmth** of the country's residents. **Shaking hands**, done using the right hand, is customary when being introduced to or when meeting somebody of either gender. The first time you meet somebody you do not usually kiss them, but each time you see that person from then on it is normal to kiss that person on the cheek if you have developed for the person in question, kissing that person three times on the cheek is also fine. Giving a long and sincere hug is also acceptable. In Serbia, **toasts** are usually made with traditional *rakija* (brandy), often home distilled. Clinking glasses, making direct eye contact and loudly proclaiming “**Živeli**”, is a must when giving a toasts! A speech is usually only made on formal occasions, normally by the host, but a guest may give one, too. Serbs enjoy rich, flavor food, and normally have three meals a day, with lunch being the most abundant. In contrast to the rest of Europe, in Serbia you can have a night out and have fun every day of the week no matter how old you are, what kind of music you enjoy or how much money you have. After a wild night out, somewhere around three or four o'clock in the morning, people continue onward in search of grilled meat or *burek*.

## Serbian language

- Tips for pronunciation of some letters:
- č (ч) is pronounced as „ch” in bitch
- ć (ћ) is pronounced like „ĉ”, but softer
- dž (џ) is pronounced as „j” in Jam
- đ (ђ) is pronounced as „j” in Juice
- lj (љ) is pronounced in a way you'll never learn... :-P (just say L+J as fast as you can)
- nj (њ) is pronounced as „gn” in lasagne
- š (ш) is pronounced as „sh” in show
- ž (ж) is pronounced as „g” in Moulin Rouge

## Personal data:

(English)	(Srpski)
Name	Ime
Surname	Prezime
Passport	Pasoš
ID	Lična karta
Useful phrases	
Hello/Hi	Zdravo/Pozdrav
Good morning	Dobro jutro
Good evening	Dobro veče
Bye!	Ćao!
Goodbye	Doviđenja
See you	Vidimo se
How are you?	Kako si?
I don't understand you	Ne razumem te
Yes	Da
No	Ne
Maybe	Možda
Thank you	Hvala
Sorry	Izvini



Help!

My name is...

I'm \_\_\_ years old

Exchange office/Bank

Post office

Bakery

Restaurant

Fast food

Ticket (bus or train)

How?

Where? How much? Why? Because...

Excuse me, where is the main bus station?

Excuse me, where is the main train station?

Customs

I needed a toilet but now it's too late

Wasn't that a toilet?

I like you

Can you give me a massage (please) ?

Dude, this song is great!

Can you put the volume up?

I'm a strawberry, eat me!

Upomoć!

Zovem se...

Ja imam \_godina

Menjačnica / Banka

Pošta

Pekara

Restoran

Brza hrana

Karta

Kako?

Gde? Koliko? Zašto? Zato ...

Izvinite, gde je glavna autobuska stanica?

Izvinite, gde je glavna železnička stanica?

Carina

Trebao mi je toilet ali sada je prekasno

Zar ovo nije bio toalet? Dopadaš

mi se (Svidjaš mi se) Aj me

izmasiraj (keve ti)

Brate, ova je pesma do jaja!

Ožeži brate, ožeži!

Ja sam jagoda, pojedi me!

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