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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, Bugejno, Jablanica, Mostar, Sarajevo, Travnik, Doboj 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 407, 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 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, Foča 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 Provence 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, was the event that caused the beginning of World War I. Between the two world wars Bosnian 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 1996 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 stoncutters 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 Jasmina 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 split 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 “Kočićev zbor”, August
Sarajevo Film Festival, July or 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 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 sacral 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.

Djevojčka 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.

Orthodox Heritage: 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; 14th century Papača 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 (Peručica). 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 or a professional guide.

The National 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, 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.
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), six 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.

Vlasic 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 Vlasic 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.
Bosnia and Herzegovina is home to dozens of peaks over two thousand meters 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 Viskočica 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 and Drina – 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, Krivača, Neretva, Vrbas, Drina and Tara are rich with river trout, grayling and river chars. 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, Bliđnjak and Boračko Lake are rich with trout, carp and grass carp, and the artificial lakes Jablanicko, Bliečko, Buško, Ramsko and Modračko Lake are attractive for the sport fishermen. Kalinovik area with several astonishing lakes (Kotlaničko, Strinisko, 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), Vläšić (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
Ilidža, Gradačac
Ilidža, Sarajevo
Kulaši, Prnjavor
Laktaši, Laktaši
Miječanića, 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 Ilidža in Sarajevo, are an excellent choice to combine relaxation and business (seminars, conferences, etc).
Bosnia and Herzegovina
A to Z Cities and Attractions
Bosnia and Herzegovina A to Z Cities and Attractions
Banja Luka

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Berkovići

Berkovići is located in the southern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a home to several archaeological and historical monuments such as the remains of the 14th century Church of St. Elijah (Sv. Ilija), Church of St. Trinity at Gorica (Sv. Trojice), old Kostun Fortress dating back to the early medieval period, tombstone necropolis and several caves (Ratkovača Cave in Potkom, Sunička Cave with Opačica Waterfall) and the Monument dedicated to the National Liberation War.
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 Bjeljina. 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 Spring with a 16th c. Dervish Tekke built right next to it is located about a ten minute drive from Mostar. The Tekke is now a museum open for visits all year round.

Blidinje

Blidinje 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).
Bobovac

Bobovac Fortress 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.

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 Ilīos – 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.

D

Doboj

Doboj is the largest railroad crossroads in the country. Inhabited since the early Iron Age, 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 FESTTOUR 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

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

Gacko

Gacko is located in Herzegovina near the Velebit Mountain. Several religious monuments (orthodox churches dedicated to St. Nicholas, St. Demetrius and St. Trinity), medieval tombstones, and numerous glacial lakes are all excellent reasons to visit this tiny Herzegovinian town.

Gradačac

Gradačac Fortress is one of the most precious cultural and historical gems of Gradačac. Captain Husin 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 kutaša.
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 in Jajce. 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.

Kraljeva Sutjeska

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, a 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.
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 in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Kravice Waterfall.

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 Striljanica 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 structures 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 Livanski sir (Livno cheese) the most delicious, fine cheese with a distinct and slightly salty flavor.

LJ

Ljubuški
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 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 vines 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).

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.
Počitelj

Počitelj je jedinstven spoj srednjovjekovne, orijentalne i mediteranske arhitekture, udaljen samo 30-ak minuta vožnje od Mostara. Počitelj, u kojem se u junu održava najduža likovna kolonija u jugoistočnoj Evropi, također predstavlja UNESCO-ovo kulturno nasljeđe.

Posavina

Rijeka Sava je jedna od najznačajnijih rijeka u Bosni i Hercegovini i ima razvijen riječni promet, što je dovelo do razvoja cjelokupne regije. Kraj je i nazvan po rijeci Savi i nudi bogate lovne i ribolovne resurse, uz kanjoning i druge rekreativne aktivnosti. Prilikom posjete posavskom kraju obilazak Franjevačkog samostana, crkve i muzeja u Tolisi je nezaobilazna atrakcija.

Prozor

Prozor i Ramsko jezero se nalaze u sjevernom dijelu Hercegovine. Potpuni spokoj ćete pronaći u Kući mira Rama-Šćit i Franjevačkom samostanu, a posjetom Etnografskom muzeju upoznat ćete bogatu historiju i običaje ljudi iz Rame. Bogata muzejska postavka je smještena u sklopu samostana.

Radimlja, Stolac

Stećci, kameni nadgrobn spomenici (kameni spavači) koji svjedoče o bosanskohercegovačkoj historiji, nalaze se na brojnim lokacijama širom zemlje kao pojedini primjeri ili kao nekropole stečaka. Stećci su često dekorirani motivima – antičkim simbolima zemlje, sunca, mjeseca, ratnika, plesa, porodice, ili molitvi bogovima. Jedna od najvećih zbirk srednjovjekovnih stečaka nalazi se u Radimlji, u blizini Stoca.
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».


Možete li zamisliti mjesto gdje se prošlost i sadašnjost, tradicija i moderno, Istok i Zapad prepeliču? Sarajevo vam dopušta da uplovite u prošlost! Zanatlije s Baščaršije, stare jezgre grada, još uvijek kuju bakar i lim i prave filigranski nakit. Uživajte u čarobnom mirisu ćevapčića, kušajte orijentalne slastice na trgu Slatko ćoše ili se opustite uz tradicionalno pripremljenu bosansku kafu u nekom od okolnih kafića. Posjetom džamije, sinagogi, crkvi i katedrali, objektima izgrađenim za vrijeme osmanske vladavine, ili mostu na kojem je izvršen atentat na prestolonasljednika habsburškog prijestolja, Franca Ferdinanda, otkrijte prošlost ovoga grada.

Uvečer posjetite neki od restorana i uživajte u panorami štiti natalnih okupanog grada, uz zvučne starogradske muzike i ukusnu hranu. Sarajevo također tokom cijele godine nudi brojne festivalne Sarajevska zima, Baščaršijske noći, Sarajevo film festival ili Jazz Fest. U klubovima možete uživo čuti sevdaliniku ili rock zvuč izoliranih sarajevskih bendova.

Ukoliko više volite zimske sportove, Sarajevo nudi olimpijske planine na samo 30-ak minuta vožnje od centra grada. Ovi prelijepi planinski dragulji su izvrsni za planinarenje i izađete u ljetnom periodu. Pored posjetite planinama, ljeti možete posjetiti i vodopad Skakavac ili Vrelo Bosne (s obližnjim Rimskim mostom). Posjetitelji također mogu doživjeti prošlost vozeći se fijakerom od Ilidže ili od arheološkog parka s rimskom banjom, pored austrougarskih hotela, kroz Veliku aleju platana i kestena, zasađenih 1888. godine, do Vrela Bosne. Činjenica da se i nakon stotinu godina u Sarajevu još uvijek možete provuči i fijakerom čini ovu destinaciju još privlačnijom. Avanturisti će, pak, biti više zadivljeni planinarenjem do Umoljana i Lukomira te obližnjeg kanjona Rakitnice. Selo Lukomir je najizoliranije naselje u Evropi, na nadmorskoj visini od 1.500 metara. To je živi muzej u kojem i današnji možete vidjeti seljane odjevene u tradicionalne nošnje, uživati u tradicionalnim plesovima i pjesmi te organskoj hrani koju pripreme žene iz Lukomira.
Istočno Sarajevo

Istočno Sarajevo, s najvećom olimpijskom planinom Jahorinom i drugim prirodnim draguljima, poput Romanije, Treskavice, te brojnih pećina, predstavlja raj za planinarе, alpiniste, skijaše, paraglajdere i sve ljubitelje prirode. Olimpijska planina Jahorina, jedna od najljepših planina u regiji, sa oko 20 kilometara skijaških staza, privlači brojne posjetitelje jer je pogodna za početnike i bordere (snowboarding). Na Jahorini je izgrađen veliki broj hotela i smještajnih kapaciteta pogodnih za organizaciju seminara i konferencija. Treskavica predstavlja lovušni resurs s najvećim brojem izvora (365). Na Romaniji, koja je idealna za relaksaciju i planinarenje, nalazi se jedan od najznačajnijih speleoloških objekata u Istočnom Sarajevu – Orlovača. Pećina je ukrašena jedinstvenim stalagmitima, stalaktitima i draperijama, koji se smjenjuju s fragmentima koraljnog i aragonitnog nakita, i jedinstvenim pećinskim stupovima, koji podsjećaju na antičke i renesansne dvorce. Prije više od 16.000 godina pećinu je nastanjivao pećinski medvjed (Ursus speleus), a danas predstavlja stanište ugrožene i endemske vrste slijepih miševa (Microctimus). Vrjedne posjete su i Ledenjača i Novakova pećina.
Srebrenica


Srebrenik

Srebrenik se nalazi u dolini rijeke Tinje, u blizini Tuzle. Ova srednjovjekovna utvrda prvi put je spomenuta 1333. godine. Nekada je ova utvrda pripadala kraljevskoj porodici Kotromanić, a danas se u ovoj dobro očuvanoj tvrđavi održava umjetnička kolonija „Otvoreni grad umjetnosti“.

Teslić

Teslić je poznat po kvalitetnoj termomineralnoj vodi Banje Vrućice. Banja Vrućica je veliki zdravstveno-kongresni kompleks koji sadržava četiri hotela idealna za liječenje, odmor i organizaciju seminara i kongresa. U neposrednoj blizini blizini kompleksa se nalazi bogat šumski kraj idealan za šetnju i planinarenje, te pravoslavni manastir Liplje iz 14. stoljeća, umjetnička galerija i muzej s bogatom etnografskom zbirkom.

Tešanj


Travnik

Travnik je smješten u srcu Bosne. Vezirski grad Travnik (sjedište vezira za vrijeme osmanske vladavine u periodu od oko 150 godina) ima nekoliko atrakcija vrijednih posjete: srednjovjekovna travnička tvrđava, rodna kuća IVE Andrića, Zavetijski muzej, Šarena džamija iz 1815. godine, s prekrasnim floralnim motivima na fasadi i u unutrašnjosti džamije, te brojne druge spomenike i znamenitosti. Travnik je također jedini grad u Bosni i Hercegovini u kojem se nalaze dvije sahat-kule. Vlašić, nadomak Travnika, idealan je za skijanje, snowboarding, planinarenje, biciklizam i brojne druge sportske i avanturističke aktivnosti. Na Vlašiću možda vidite i autohtonog bosanskog ovčara tornjaka, ali u svakom slučaju nemojte propustiti kušati vlašićki sir (obično napravljen od kozijeg mlijeka).
Trebinje

U prekrasnom mediteranskom gradiću Trebinju, smještenom u dolini rijeke Trebišnjici, možete vidjeti pravoslavni manastir Tvrdoš iz 15. stoljeća, Arslanagića most izgrađen u osmanskom periodu, ili srednjovjekovnu tvrđavu Klobuk.

Tuzla

Drugo ime za Tuzlu, grad na sjeveroistoku Bosne, jeste „grad soli”. Tuzla je najpoznatija po svojim jedinstvenim slanim panonskim jezirima, upotpunjenim sojeničkim naseljem i Muzejom soli. Tuzla je dala brojne poznate umjetnike i književnike, a u čast poznatog slikara Ismeta Mujezinovića (Galerija Ismet Mujezinović) i poznatog bosanskohercegovačkog književnika Meše Selimovića („Derviš i smrt”) na gradskoj šetnici u centru grada postavljene su njihove statue.

Visoko

Nekada središte srednjovjekovne bosanske države, Visoko je danas jedno od najtajanstvenijih mjesta na svijetu zbog velikog arheološkog otkrića Semira Osmanagića, za koje se vjeruje da predstavlja prve piramide u Evropi. Timovi još uvijek rade na iskopavanju Bosanskih piramida, a posjetitelji mogu doći vidjeti ili čak volonterski sudjelovati u otkrivanju piramida. Pored piramida, u blizini Visokog se nalazi još jedno arheološko nalazište – Cajengrad, utvrda koja je nekada služila za odbranu srednjovjekovne utvrde Bobovac. U Milama, pet kilometara od centra Visokog, gdje je izgrađen prvi samostan, krunisan je prvi bosanski kralj Tvrtko I Kotromanić (gdje je i sahranjen). Ovdje je Kulin ban 1189. godine potpisao trgovački sporazum između Bosne i Hercegovine i Dubrovnika. Ovo je najstariji dokument pisan na bosančici, poznat kao Povelja Kulina bana.

Višegrad


Zavidovići

Zavidovići se nalaze u dolini rijeke Krivaje, koja je odlična za ribolov, kajakaštvo i rafting. U Zavidovićima i okolini nalaze se mistične kamene kugle iz perioda 20.000 godina p.n.e., koje se još jedino mogu vidjeti na Kostanki i u Meksiku. Park prirode Tajan, u blizini Zavidovića, ima nekoliko spektakularnih kanjona, veliki broj pećina, staze za brdski biciklizam, planinarenje i penjanje.
**Zenica**

Tvrdava Vranduk, u blizini Zenice, jedna je od najbolje očuvanih tvrđava u Bosni i Hercegovini i imala je značajnu ulogu u odbijanju bosanske države u srednjem vijeku (kada je bila sjedište kralja Stjepana Tomaša). Današnja Vranduk predstavlja muzejsku kolekciju srednjovjekovnih nošnji, oružja i oružja, i otvoren je za posjete. U sklopu Vranduka nalazi se i mali kafić i Džamija sultana Fatih, a nedaleko od Vranduka možete posjetiti i stare mlinice. Zenica je najveći industrijski grad u središnjem dijelu zemlje i u njoj se održava najveći privredni sajam u zemlji „ZEPS“ (oktobar). Najatraktivniji dio grada je stara čaršija (stari dio grada), ali također možete posjetiti lokalni muzej i umjetničku galeriju.

**Zvornik**
