SERBIA  culture trails
Trail of the Roman Emperors

Transromanica
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

Fortresses on the Danube
Serbia culture trails

The Balkans, with roots firmly planted in European culture, is a region of interrupted memories. Though civilizations have perished, their traces have been preserved by geography, culture and language. With each new ruler, fragments of history were either protected, as embodied by beautifully conserved fortresses, destroyed, as evidenced by remnants of pagan temples, churches and monasteries, or left to crumble, as reflected by long vanished imperial palaces.

Today, you can recapture the memories of Serbia's European past through various points in time, discovering their hidden magic. Across serene mountain ranges and at the confluence of spectacular rivers and valleys, ancient civilizations sought out hidden, special places which empowered them to collectively create ideas, erect settlements and establish the foundations on which modern Serbia rests.

From the bustling city centers of Belgrade and Novi Sad, to the gently sloping valleys of the central Šumadija region, to the banks of the mighty Danube, Serbia offers some of the very best cultural travel experiences in Central and Eastern Europe. Discover cultural remnants of the Roman era, explore the hideaways of long-ago Emperors, and wander through exquisite Romanesque-Byzantine monasteries on one of the three culture trails promoted by the National Tourist Organization of Serbia.

The Trail of the Roman Emperor, Transromanica: The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage, and Castles on the Danube embody the ethos of more than three civilizations that developed in present day Serbia. These trails provide a unique purview into the spirit of modern Serbia and its inextricable connection to contemporary Europe.

Milena Dragićević Šešić
Did you know? Serbia’s Danube river valley was once the far eastern corner of the Roman Empire. In the 3rd century B.C., the Empire was hard at work expanding its territory to the north part of present day Serbia, along the turbulent shores of the Danube. Conquering the valley was no simple task for the Roman soldiers. They faced hostile barbarian tribes at every corner as they secured the territory, erecting formidable fortresses along the way. Increasing stability attracted merchants and craftsmen, and soon settlements across the previously marginalized Upper Moesia and Lower Pannonia provinces flourished into some of the Empire’s most thriving cultural and commercial centers. The ancient Roman province of Illyricum produced seventeen Emperors, some who would dramatically shape the history and culture of present day Serbia.

On the Trail of the Roman Emperors, you will discover ancient Roman towns, roads, ruins and artifacts, many singled out by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. You will be transported back to a time when the Danube marked the eastern reaches of the Roman Empire.
Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad: A Palace Fit for an Emperor
Felix Romuliana, the glorious palace of Roman Emperor Galerius Valerius Maximianus is located in Gamzigrad, in the mountains of Eastern Serbia. Emperor Galerius built the palace in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D., named after his mother Romula, to commemorate the place of his birth. The palace, which features beautiful frescoes and mosaic floors, is considered to be one of the best preserved examples of Roman palace architecture. (UNESCO)

Viminacium: Metropolis on the Danube
Viminacium was a major city and military establishment of Roman Moesia between the 4th and 1st centuries B.C. During the reign of Emperor Gordian III (239 B.C.), Viminacium received colony status, the highest status awarded by the Empire, which allowed the city to mint its own coins and grant its inhabitants Roman citizenship. Viminacium is the present day town of Kostolac, located on the banks of the Danube. The extraordinary discovery in recent years of 14,000 tombs in the city's cemeteries has unearthed impressive frescoes and revealed the vast wealth of Viminacium's inhabitants.

Diana and Pontes, Tabula Traiana, Emperor Trajan's Road: Ancient Life on the Danube
For 10,000 years, the Danube region has undergone extraordinary transitions in cultures and civilizations. During the Roman period, the Danube was an important wateway, and its banks, particularly at Đerdap Gorge, served as strategic locations for Roman forts erected to ward off barbarian invasions. Diana and Pontes were the largest in this system of fortresses. The ancient road surrounding the sites was perhaps the most representative example of Rome's construction prowess in the region. The Tabula Traiana plaque marks the section of the road along the Danube River leading to Đerdap. It is believed that this last, most complicated section of the road was completed in the year 100 A.D. and was significant in Emperor Trajan's preparations for warfare against the Dacians.
Sirmium: The Heart of Roman Pannonia
In 294 B.C., Sirmium, or present day Sremska Mitrovica was one of the four capitals of the Roman Empire. Founded in the 1st century B.C., the city at the heart of Pannonia featured an extensive system of roads, aqueducts, theaters and fortresses, making it one of the Empire’s key transit and commercial centers. Ten Roman emperors were born in the vicinity of Sirmium. With the decline of the Empire toward the end of the 4th century, Sirmium was conquered by the Goths and eventually ruled by Huns and Gepidaes, both barbarian tribes.

Naissus: Birthplace of Constantine the Great
Naissus, or the present day city of Niš, is the birthplace of Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman Emperor and founder of Constantinople. To accommodate his frequent stays in the Balkans between 317 and 334 A.D., Constantine erected a spectacular palace in Mediana, one of the luxurious suburbs of ancient Naissus. The residence was elaborately built complete with thermal baths, a granary, water supply system and aqueduct. It was lavishly decorated with colorful marble, frescoes and the well-preserved geometric mosaic floors covering

Singidunum: The Belgrade of Long Ago
Known today as Belgrade, Serbia’s capital city, Singidunum was settled by Celtic tribes prior to the arrival of the Romans in the 1st century B.C. Strategically located at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, the city became one of the primary settlements of the Roman province of Moesia, and was the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Jovian. Singidunum reached its height with the arrival of the Legion IV Flavia Felix in 86 AD. The legion erected a rectangular fort in the upper town, today’s Kalemegdan.

Justiniana Prima: New Illyricum Capital
Present day Caričin grad was once known as Justiniana Prima, one of the largest and most important Byzantine cities in the Balkans. It is the namesake of Emperor Justinian. Located in the Leskovac valley and founded in 535 A.D., the city was named the capital of the Illyricum province. The city is a testament to classical and Christian elements in spatial planning and architecture: streets with porticos, a basilica, protective walls and an aqueduct system.
**ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS**

**Justiniana Prima: the Emperor’s City:**
Departing from and returning to Niš by minibus, site visits and activities in for this one-day excursion include:

- Tour the Roman archeological site and sample Serbian delights in the city of Bela Palanka
- Visit the 4th century AD Divljana monastery complex, which includes the two churches and an 800 year old oak tree
- Tour Justiniana Prima
- Enjoy lunch and tour the remains of an ancient Roman Spa featuring 18 thermal mineral springs before returning to Niš

Operated by: Easy Travel

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**Gamzigrad and Felix Romuliana**
Departing from and returning to Niš by minibus, site visits and activities in for this one-day excursion include:

- Visit the museum, tour the Timacum minus Roman archeological site, and town center of Knjaževac
- Tour the ethno-archeological park and enjoy a rustic breakfast in the town of Rabna
- Visit the town museum in the town of Zaječar, which features artifacts from Felix Romuliana
- Tour Felix Romuliana
- Visit the miner’s settlement of Rtanj, the Russian church and gravesite of a Russian count in the village of Adrovac, and enjoy lunch in the city of Sokobanja before returning to Niš

Operated by: Easy Travel

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**Viminacium by Hydrofoil**
Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities of this one-day hydrofoil tour include:

- Sightseeing in Viminacium and Kostolac
- Tour the Smederevo and Ram Fortresses and lunch at Srebrno Jezero (Silver Lake)
- Visit Roman archeological site in Vinča before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency

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**Felix Romuliana and Zaječar**
Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities of this one-day bus tour include:

- Tour Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad
- Visit the town museum in the town of Zaječar, which features artifacts from Felix Romuliana
- Traditional buffet lunch at the Turkish Water Mill restaurant in Zaječar before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency
TWO-DAY EXCURSIONS

Felix Romuliana and Viminacium by Hydrofoil

Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this two-day hydrofoil tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad
- Visit the town museum in the town of Zaječar, which features artifacts from Felix Romuliana
- Traditional buffet lunch at the Turkish Water Mill restaurant in Zaječar followed by wine tasting in at Rajačke Pimnice wine cellar
- Dinner and overnight in Kladovo

Day 2:
- Tour Diana Fortress
- See the Tabula Traiana as you cruise through the Djerdap Gorge
- Traditional lunch in Donji Milanovac, complete with musical entertainment
- Tour Viminacium and Kostolac

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency

Viminacium, Naissus and Felix Romuliana

Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this two-day bus tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour and enjoy lunch in Viminacium
- Tour Naissus, birthplace of Constantine the Great and present day city of Niš
- Dinner and overnight in Niš

Day 2:
- Arrive in Zaječar and tour Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad
- Enjoy a Roman lunch at Felix Romuliana before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: DMC Vekol
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

Trail of the Roman Emperors: Felix Romuliana, Naissus and Viminacium

Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this seven-day bus tour include:

Day 1:
- Visit the archeological site at Vinča and Smederevo Fortress
- Enjoy a scenic drive, which includes the Gornjak Gorge and Monastery, Lake Bor and drive along the Resavica river before stopping for lunch
- Visit Zlot cave
- Dinner and overnight in beautiful countryside hotel

Day 2:
- Tour Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad
- Lunch in Knjaževac
- Visit the archeological museum and ancient settlement of Timacuminus
- Traditional dinner featuring Serbian grilled meats and overnight home stay in the mountain town of Svrljig

Day 3:
- Visit Prekonoska Cave
- Tour Naissus, including the palace at Mediana of Constantine the Great, in the present day city of Niš
- Enjoy lunch near the magnificent Sićevo Gorge before visiting the Temska Monastery
- In the town of Pirot, tour the Ponisavlje archeological museum, a premier example of a 19th century Balkan-style city dwelling featuring an exquisite collection of traditional folk costumes
- Dinner and overnight at the Sukovo Monastery in the heart of Mount Stara Planina

Day 4:
- Stroll through the beautiful nature near the Jerma Canyon and Poganovo Monastery
- Following a brief stop in the Zvonačka Banja, featuring magnificent mineral spas and landscapes, visit the museum, library and church in the charming town of Dimitrovgrad.
- Rustic lunch at farmhouse before driving to Lake Vlasina
- Dinner and overnight home stay in Lake Vlasina

Day 5:
- Take an invigorating walk along Lake Vlasina
- Visit the rural village of Izvor before enjoying brunch in the Besna Kobila and Čemernik mountains
- Lunch near the beautiful Grdelica Gorge
- Visit the ancient imperial town of Lebane
- Dinner and overnight accommodation in the mineral spa city of Ribarska Banja

Day 6:
- Drive through the beautiful Lake Bovan and Mount Rtanj, known for its plentiful waterfalls, springs, and healing medicinal herbs
- Enjoy a traditional lunch and visit to a medicinal herb market
- Tour the Ravanica and Manasija monasteries, magnificent examples of Byzantine architecture
- Dinner and overnight in the city of Velika Plana

Day 7:
- Tour the Pokajnica log church in the village of Radovanjski Lug and enjoy a theater performance about the Serbian uprising against the Turks
- Enjoy lunch in a country cottage
- Tour Viminacium before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: PanaComp
Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this five-day bus tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour Singidunum, present day Belgrade, and Kalemegdan Fortress
- Dinner and musical entertainment in Skadarlija, Belgrade’s bohemian quarter

Day 2:
- Tour Naissus, including the palace at Mediana of Constantine the Great, in the present day city of Niš
- Dinner and overnight in Niš

Day 3:
- Arrive in Zaječar, tour and have lunch at Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrad
- Dinner and overnight in Negotin

Day 4:
- Tour Kladovo and the archeological museum of Djerdap.
- Walk the shores of the Danube, near Tabula Traiana
- Dinner and overnight accommodation in the city of Donji Milanovac

Day 5:
- Tour Viminacium and Kostolac
- Dinner and overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: DMC Vekol
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

**Felix Romuliana and Viminacium**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this six-day bus tour include:

**Day 1:**
- Arrival to Belgrade, transfer to hotel, dinner and overnight in Belgrade

**Day 2:**
- Tour and enjoy lunch at Viminacium and Požarevac, followed by a visit to Golubac Fortress
- Tour Lepenski Vir, the Iron Gates and Kladovo, one of the most beautiful cities on the Danube
- Visit the Diana Fortress
- Dinner and overnight accommodation in Kladovo

**Day 3:**
- Romantic boat ride on the Danube, with views of the Fortress of Fetislam and Tabula Traiana.
- Tour Fortress of Fetislam and visit the archeology museum of the Iron Gates region
- Wine tasting and lunch in Rajačke Pimnice wine cellar
- Arrive in Zaječar, visit Felix Romuliana in Gamzigrade
- Dinner and overnight in Niš

**Day 4:**
- Tour Naissus, including the palace at Mediana of Constantine
- Visit to the Ćele kula, or Skull Tower, a monument to 19th century Serb rebels, and other major sights in Niš followed by lunch
- Tour the Ravanica and Manasija monasteries, magnificent examples of Byzantine architecture
- Dinner and overnight in Belgrade

**Day 5:**
- Sightseeing in Belgrade, including a tour of Kalemegdan Fortress and surrounding monuments
- Optional visit Belgrade’s Military Museum
- Lunch in downtown Belgrade, followed by a tour of the Ethnographic Museum, which features a permanent display of traditional folk art in Serbia, including costumes, textiles, farming equipment and home furnishings
- Dinner and overnight in Belgrade

**Day 6:**
- Tour Sirmium, the present day city of Sremska Mitrovica
- Lunch in Novi Sad, followed by a visit to Petrovaradin Fortress and the Vojvodina museum
- Visit Vojvodina’s Fruska Gora, the only elevated landscape of the Pannonian valley, with a stop at the 16th century Krušedol Monastery
- Dinner and overnight in Belgrade

**Day 7:**
- Transfer to the airport

Operated by: Glob Metropolitan Tours
Did you know? Romanesque influences spread to present day Serbia from Italy via the Adriatic region. The fusion of Romanesque and Byzantine elements in Serbian medieval art is best captured in the spectacular monasteries across Serbia’s mountainous central and southern regions. Representative of the so-called Raška School, these structures illustrate the common cultural and historical threads between European East and West.

On the Transromanica Route, you will experience an intimate look at some of the best-preserved churches and monasteries from the Raška School, the hidden gems remaining from the Roman period in Serbia. The Transromanica route in Serbia is part of the broader European cultural and tourist route, which features Roman era monuments across Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain and Slovenia.
Studenica: Constructed between 1183 and 1197 A.D., the Studenica monastery complex is one of the best examples of the rich blend between Romanesque and Byzantine styles. The intricate Romanesque elements of the Holy Virgin church inside Studenica exhibits the finest in Serbian medieval art. The Romanesque exterior of the structure is beautifully juxtaposed with Byzantine characteristics of the paintings found inside. Romanesque elements are visible in the elaborate façade, the characteristic arcade-shaped friezes on consoles carved in stone, monumental portals, and windows richly decorated by detailed sculptures. The triforia of the altar apses feature exquisitely carved plant motifs and mythical creatures, including a winged dragon and lizard. (UNESCO)

Gradac: Located on a high mountainous plateau in central Serbia, this late Romanesque period 13th century monastery complex’s defining feature is the magnificent single-nave and single-dome church of the Holy Mother of God. The monastery was built in honor of the French-born Queen Helen d’Anjou, wife of King Uroš I, who was instrumental in ensuring Romanesque elements found their way to Serbia. The architecture of the structure is reflective of late Romanesque art, and is manifested primarily in the touches of the portal capitol, marble-framed windows and blind arcades of the corona roof. Together with Studenica, Gradac is one of the most richly adorned structures of 13th century Serbia.

Žiča: Located in central Serbia and built between 1206 and 1220 A.D., this monastery became the first seat of the Serbian Archbishop in 1219 A.D. A robust Romanesque turret was constructed as an addition to the structure’s monumental narthex. The Romanesque influence was embodies in the decoration of the portal and windows as well as in the characteristic friezes of blind arcades in this structure. Remnants of the sculptures at Žiča, most likely created by artisans originating from the Adriatic city of Kotor, clearly reflect the Romanesque style. Seven Serbian kings were crowned in Žiča’s adjoining church.
Sopočani: Built in the first half of the 13th century, this monastery and church of the Holy Trinity served as the royal family's mausoleum and is located near the ancient town of Ras, a one-time capital of Serbia. The exterior of the church resembles a tri-nave basilica and is quite similar to Romanesque churches of the West. The portals, windows and a turret which was added on later, are characteristically Romanesque in shape. The monastery's exquisite interior frescoes are considered to be some of the best in 13th century European art. (UNESCO)

Đurđevi Stupovi: Situated on an exposed hilltop in southwestern Serbia, this monastery's location is atypical of Serbian medieval structures, which are mostly nestled inside heavily wooded valleys or plateaus. Built between 1167 and 1170 A.D, the complex's two church towers, positioned on either side of the narthex, embody the true spirit of the Romanesque style. (UNESCO)
ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS

Žiča and Studenica

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by private car or bus, site visits and activities in for this one-day excursion include:

- Tour of Žiča monastery
- Tour and lunch at Sopoćani monastery

Operated by: DMC Vekol
TWO-DAY EXCURSIONS

**Serbian Medieval Spirit**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by luxury coach, sites and activities for this two-day bus tour include:

Day 1:
- Beautiful drive through the rolling hills of central Serbia’s Šumadija region with a stop for brunch at the 16th century Vujan monastery
- Drive through the Valley of the Kings, with a stop at the 12th century Stara Pavlica monastery, close to the Ibar river
- Tour Gradac monastery
- Visit Radočelo Mountain and enjoy a home-made lunch in Rudno village
- Overnight in Studenica monastery

Day 2:
- Tour Žiča and Studenica monasteries
- Overnight in city of Novi Pazar, Hotel Tadz

**Žiča, Studenica and Sopoćani**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade, sites and activities for this two-day bus tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour Žiča and Studenica monasteries
- Overnight in city of Novi Pazar, Hotel Tadz

Day 2:
- Tour Sopoćani and Đurđevi Stupovi monasteries
- Tour St. Peter’s Church, believed to be built in either the 8th or 9th centuries, atop the grave of a 5th century Illyrian prince
- Lunch at Hotel Vrbak in Novi Pazar before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: PanaComp

Operated by: Eurojet Travel Company
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

Žiča, Studenica, Sopoćani and Đurđevi Stupovi

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by luxury coach, sites and activities for this three-day tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour Žiča monastery
- Dinner and overnight in the city of Kraljevo

Day 2:
- Tour Studenica and Gradac monasteries
- Dinner and overnight in Novi Pazar

Day 3:
Tour Sopoćani and Đurđevi Stupovi monasteries
Dinner in Kraljevo before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: Eurojet Travel Company

The Pilgrimage of St. Sava

Departing from Novi Sad and returning to Belgrade by luxury coach, sites and activities for this four-day tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour St. Sava Cathedral in Belgrade
- Tour Žiča monastery

Day 2:
- Tour Studenica monastery and two-hour walk to St. Sava hermitage
- Enjoy a home-made lunch in Rudno village after a scenic drive mountain drive
- Tour Đurđevi Stupovi and Gradac monasteries
- Visit Old Ras town, residence of the royal family in the early Middle Ages
- Fireside dinner, musical entertainment and overnight accommodation in Mountain Golija village/Odvraćenica.

Day 3:
- Tour Mileševa monastery, built in 1236 by the grandson of King Stefan Nemanja and where the holy relics of St. Sava rested until destroyed by the Turks in 1594, the monastery features the White Angel fresco
- Lunch at Zlatar Lake, followed by boat ride through Uvac canyon
- Visit Kamena Gora peak (1300 m in elevation), with a view of Zlatar, Zlatibor and Savin Kuk mountains
- Traditional dinner, folklore entertainment and overnight home stay in Zlatibor

Day 4:
- Drive through the towns of Užice, Čačak and Rudnik, via the Ovčar-Kablar gorge
- Rustic lunch at Roof of the Šumadija restaurant
- Tour the Royal Family Complex, St. George Cathedral and Karadjordje museum in Oplenac before returning to Belgrade

Operated by: PanaComp
Following Romanesque Routes in Serbia

Departing from Belgrade and returning to Belgrade by luxury coach, sites and activities for this four-day tour include:

Day 1:
- Tour the Royal Family Complex, St. George Cathedral and Karadjordje museum in Oplenac
- Lunch at the Norwegian House in Gornji Milanovac
- Tour Žiča and Studenica monasteries
- Dinner and overnight at Studenica monastery

Day 2:
- Tour Gradac monastery
- Lunch in Novi Pazar
- Tour Đurđevi Stupovi and Sopoćani monasteries
- Visit St. Peter’s Church, believed to be built in either the 8th or 9th centuries, atop the grave of a 5th century Illyrian prince
- Dinner and overnight in Novi Pazar

Day 3:
- Tour Mileševa monastery, built in 1236 by the grandson of King Stefan Nemanja and where the holy relics of St. Sava rested until destroyed by the Turks in 1594, the monastery features the White Angel fresco
- Tour the 13th century St. Nicola’s monastery complex, whose church features some of the best-preserved frescoes of the 16th century
- Visit the beautiful mountain village of Mokra Gora, via Višegrad
- Visit Mecavnic, film director Emir Kusturica’s beautiful ethno-village and enjoy a documentary film
- Dinner and accommodation in Mokra Gora

Day 4:
- Tour Zlakuse village, shop for local ceramics and have a traditional lunch at Terzića Avlija ethno-park
- Visit two monasteries near the beautiful Ovčar-Kablar gorge
- Overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: DMC Vekol
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

Blue Skies over Serbia: A Spiritual Journey

Departing from either Belgrade or Novi Sad and returning to Belgrade by luxury coach, sites and activities for this seven-day excursion include:

Day 1:
- Tour Velika Plana, visit Pokajnica Log Church, and enjoy a traditional lunch near Radovanjski Lug, where the great Karadjodje was murdered
- Tour the Royal Family Complex, St. George Cathedral and Karadjordje museum in Oplenac
- Dinner and overnight at Vrnjačka Banja, the best known spa in Serbia, near the city of Kragujevac

Day 2:
- Stroll along the gardens and visit the mineral springs of Vrnjačka Banja and enjoy the fresh air at Goč Mountain
- Traditional lunch and visit to a local farm for a tasting of traditional dairy products
- Dinner at overnight at Studenica monastery

Day 3:
- Tour Studenica, Đurđevi Stupovi and Sopoćani monasteries
- Dinner and overnight near Zlatar Mountain, one of the most scenic in Serbia

Day 4:
- Tour Mileševa monastery, built in 1236 by the grandson of King Stefan Nemanja and where the holy relics of St. Sava rested until destroyed by the Turks in 1594, the monastery features the White Angel fresco
- Boat ride through Uvac canyon, followed by traditional lunch at Lake Zlatar
- Dinner and overnight near Javor and Golija mountains,

Day 5:
- Enjoy the hotel’s wellness center and gym, followed by lunch
- Tour Potpečka cave and shop for local ceramics at Terzića Avlija ethno-park
- Organic dinner and overnight accommodation at Tara National Park

Day 6:
- Visit the beautiful mountain village of Mokra Gora and enjoy an old-style train ride through stunning mountain passes and tunnels
- Visit Mecavnic, film director Emir Kusturica’s beautiful ethno-village
- Enjoy a documentary film followed by an organic lunch in Mecavnic
- Dinner and accommodation at the beautiful Ovčar-Kablar gorge near the town of Užice

Day 7:
- Tour one of the monasteries near the Ovčar-Kablar gorge
- Organic farewell lunch, complete with musical entertainment near Rudnik mountain
- Overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: PanaComp
Did you know? The Danube river valley’s critical geographic position made for a strategic point for armies of the Roman and Ottoman empires to erect a series of fortresses along its shores. For the various tribes, tradesmen and merchants who followed the armies, the fort region provided an ideal location for the development of trade routes. For the ensuing empires and nations that developed across the region, defending this territory became a matter of survival.

On Fortresses on the Danube, you will discover some of the most magnificent remaining fortresses in Serbia, with a unique look into the formidable strength required to create them.
Fortress of Ram: Located near the present day city of Požarevac, the fortress of Ram was first mentioned 1128 A.D., during a battle between the Byzantines and Hungarians. The Byzantines persevered, but the fortress was eventually overtaken by the Turks, who remodeled and reinforced the structure to withstand firearm combat. The fortress, an irregularly shaped pentagram, or five-point star, is exceptionally well preserved.

Fortress of Fetislam: The Turks erected this fortress on the Danube in 1524, near the present day city of Kladovo. They called it Fetislam, meaning “the victory of Islam” and divided it into two units, Little Town and Large Town. Based on clues revealed by the well-preserved fortress, Little Town featured an artillery base protected by circular towers in each of its corners. The gates leading to the fortress were at one time adorned with marble plaques honoring Sultan Mahmud II.

Bač Fortress: Built on the river Mostonga during the reign of Charles Robert of Anjou, between 1338 and 1342 A.D., Fortress Bač is the best preserved fortress of the medieval Hungarian period. Located in the present day province of Vojvodina in northern Serbia, the structure’s remains include the donjon, the main interior tower, along with eight additional towers.

Kalemegdan Fortress in Belgrade: Superbly perched on a ridge overlooking the Sava and Danube rivers, the Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress dates back to the 3rd Century B.C., when it was settled by Celtic tribes and later developed by the Romans. The fortress underwent subsequent reconstructions in the 6th century A.D., under the Byzantine emperor Justinian, in the 14th century under Serbian despot Stefan Lazarević and finally in the 17th century when it was refurbished by Italian engineer Andrea Canaro. Today the fortress is part of Kalemegdan Park, an urban oasis that has become the city’s symbol.
**Petrovaradin Fortress:** Constructed between 1692 and 1780 A.D. by the Austro-Hungarian Prince of Croy, this fortress became an extremely significant strategic site for warfare against the Turks. The old fortification was torn down to its foundation to build new bastion artillery systems based on the Vauban system. Building these systems continued for some 100 years, adhering to the blueprints by Marsigli, Kajzfeld and Vamberg, well-known military engineers of their time. The fortress boasts an impressive system of underground tunnels and corridors. Located on the Danube and overlooking the city of Novi Sad in Vojvodina, the fortress is home to EXIT, one of the premier summer music festivals in Southeastern Europe.

**Smederevo Fortress:** This triangular fortress in the onetime Serbian capital of Smederevo was built by Despot Đurad Branković in the first half of the 15th century and was later fortified by the Turks. Despite having withstood several sieges by Turks and Serbs, the fortress was heavily damaged in WWII and is currently undergoing extensive restoration. Nevertheless, it remains one of the largest medieval structures still standing in Serbia today.

**Golubac Fortress:** This nine tower 14th century fortress perched high on the cliffs overlooking the Đerdap Gorge is arguably one of the most spectacular of the Danube. Initially controlled by a series of Serbian despots, the fortress was overtaken by the Turks in the 15th century. The Turks would eventually lose it to the Austrians in the last part of the 17th century before reclaiming it in 1867.
**ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS**

**Fruška Gora, Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by bus, this one-day excursion includes stops in several towns and scenic routes in Serbia’s Vojvodina province. Site visits and activities include:

- Vojvodina’s Fruška Gora, the only elevated landscape of the Pannonian valley, with a stop at the 16th century Krušedol Monastery.
- Visit to the beautiful baroque town of Sremski Karlovci
- Seafood lunch of the shores of the Danube
- Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad
- Brief visit to main Novi Sad sites

Operated by: Serbian Travel System

**Bač and Novi Sad**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by bus, this one-day excursion includes stops in several towns in Serbia’s Vojvodina province. Site visits and activities include:

- Breakfast at a traditional county-style inn in Maradik
- Bač Fortress, the first pharmacy in Vojvodina, a Franciscan monastery, the 15th century Bodjani monastery and the remains of an ancient Turkish bath in Bač
- Traditional lunch in the town of Vajska
- Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad

Operated by: Fly Orient

**Belgrade and Smederevo**

Starting in and returning to Belgrade by bus, sites and activities during this one-day tour of Belgrade and Smederevo include:

- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and surroundings, including monuments, churches, and parks.
- A guided stroll down Belgrade’s beautiful Knez Mihailova pedestrian walkway and the bohemian quarter of Skadarlija.
- Views of the Belgrade Parliament building, National Theater and St. Sava cathedral
- Wine tasting and fish dish at Janko’s wine cellar and restaurant in Smederevo
- Guided tour of Smederevo, including the church of St. George, and Karadjodje’s mulberry tree
- Smederevo Fortress

Operated by: L&M Tours
ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS

**Belgrade and Novi Sad**

Starting in and returning to Belgrade by bus, sites and activities during this one-day tour of Belgrade, Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad include:

- A guided stroll of Belgrade’s main sites, including Republic Square, Knez Mihailova and Terazije streets, St. Sava Cathedral and the Parliament building.
- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress, including a performance of a duel between ancient knights
- Visit to the beautiful baroque town of Sremski Karlovci
- Lunch and wine tasting on the shores of Danube
- Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad
- Brief visit to main Novi Sad sites

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency

**Novi Sad and Belgrade**

Starting in and returning to Novi Sad by bus, sites and activities during this one-day tour of Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci and Belgrade include:

- A guided stroll of Novi Sad’s main sites, including Freedom Square, Zmaj Jovin and Dunavska streets, City Hall, and the Serbian National Theater
- Tour and traditional lunch at Petrovaradin Fortress.
- Visit to the beautiful baroque town of Sremski arlovcı
- Lunch and wine tasting on the shores of Danube
- Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad
- Brief visit to main Novi Sad sites

Operated by: L&M Tours
**TWO-DAY EXCURSIONS**

**Bač, Novi Sad and Belgrade**

Departing from and returning to either Belgrade or Novi Sad, sites and activities during this two-day bus tour of Bač, Sremski Karlovci, Novi Sad and Belgrade include:

Day 1:
- Bač Fortress, Franciscan monastery, 15th century Bodjani monastery, and the remains of an ancient Turkish bath in Bač
- Traditional lunch featuring local specialties in Selenča.
- Tour of hippodrome, horse farm, hunting and fishing grounds at Karadjodjevo resort
- Fish dish dinner and entertainment by a local band at the Danube čarda restaurant in Bačka Palanka.
- Overnight at Fountain Hotel in Bačka Palanka

Day 2:
- Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad
- Traditional lunch at Petrovaradin Fortress
- Visit to the beautiful baroque town of Sremski Karlovci
- Wine tasting and stop at the Museum of Honey in Sremski Karlovci
- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and surroundings, including monuments, churches, and parks.
- Views of the Belgrade Parliament building, National Theater and St. Sava cathedral

Operated by: L&M Tours

**The Danube by Hydrofoil**

Departing and returning to Belgrade by hydrofoil, this two-day cruise of the Danube includes the following sites and activities:

Day 1:
- View from the cruise of Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and towns along the shore en route to Smederevo
- View from the cruise of Tabula Traiana and Smederevo, Golubac, and Ram Fortresses
- Sightseeing in Kostolac and Viminacium
- Sightseeing in Kladovo and visits to Fortress of Fetislam and Djerdap archeological museum
- Festive dinner, Captain’s Ball, and overnight stay in Kladovo

Day 2:
- Visit to the pillar of Trajan’s bridge and Srebrno Jezero (Silver Lake)
- Tour Smederevo Fortress.

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

Castles on the Danube: The Eastern Route

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by bus, this three-day excursion of Belgrade, Smederevo and other cities dotting the banks of the Danube includes the following visits and activities:

Day 1:
- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and surroundings, including monuments, churches, and parks.
- Sightseeing in downtown Belgrade, including the Knez Mihailova pedestrian walkway, Terazije square, St. Sava Cathedral, and the bohemian quarter of Skadarlija.
- Dinner in Skadarlija bohemian quarter and overnight in Belgrade

Day 2:
- Smederevo and Smederevo Fortress
- Ram and Golubac Fortresses
- Lunch at Srebrno Jezero (Silver Lake)
- Dinner and overnight stay in Donji Milanovac

Day 3:
- Djerdap gorge, sightseeing in Kladovo and visits to Fortress of Fetislam and Djerdap archeological museum
- Wine tasting and lunch in Rajačke Pimnice, a unique complex of partially buried wine cellars
- Visit to Zajecar, Boljevac and other towns en route to Belgrade
- Dinner in Belgrade at a floating restaurant on the Danube and overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: Fly Orient
Departing from and returning to Belgrade by bus, this two-day excursion of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Bač includes the following visits and activities:

Day 1:
- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and surroundings, including monuments, churches, and parks.
- Sightseeing in downtown Belgrade, including the Knez Mihailova pedestrian walkway, Terazije square, St. Sava Cathedral, and the bohemian quarter of Skadarlija.
- Dinner in Skadarlia bohemian quarter and overnight in Belgrade

Day 2:
- Petrovaradin Fortress and brief visit to main Novi Sad sites
- Lunch in Novi Sad
- Bač Fortress
- Dinner in Belgrade at a floating restaurant on the Danube and overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: Fly Orient
MULTI-DAY EXCURSIONS

**Fortresses on the Danube in Depth**

Departing from and returning to Belgrade by bus, this in depth 10-day excursion of Belgrade, Vojvodina and the Danube includes the following sites and activities:

Day 1:
- Arrival, dinner and overnight in Novi Sad

Day 2:
- Tour and traditional Slovak lunch in the quaint town of Bački Petrovac
- Bač Fortress
- Tour and take a carriage ride through Sombor, a beautiful town in Vojvodina famous for its greenery, cultural life and beautiful 18th and 19th century town center
- Traditional dinner at a salaš farmhouse. Overnight in Novi Sad

Day 3:
- Petrovaradin Fortress and brief visit to main Novi Sad sites
- Lunch at Petrovaradin Fortress followed by free time
- Traditional dinner at a salaš farmhouse near Novi Sad. Overnight in Novi Sad

Day 4:
- Visit to the beautiful baroque town of Sremski Karlovci
- Visit Vojvodina’s Fruška Gora, the only elevated landscape of the Pannonian valley, with a stop at the 16th century Krušedol Monastery and wine tasting
- Visit a 350 year old house and have a traditional lunch in the village of Maradik
- Dinner and overnight in Smederevo

Day 5:
- Smederevo Fortress and lunch in Smederevo
- Visit Lepenski Vir, a Mesolithic archeological site on the Danube
- Visit Kladovo and Fortress of Fetislam
- Dinner and overnight in Kladovo

Day 6:
- Visit the village of Vratna and the 14th century Vratna monastery
- Lunch in Vratna
- Visit and wine tasting at Rajačke Pimnice, a unique complex of partially buried wine cellars
- Dinner and overnight in Kladovo

Day 7:
- Visit Kučevo and Ceremošnja, one of Serbia’s most wondrous caves
- Traditional lunch near Ceremošnja
- Dinner at floating restaurant on the Danube and overnight in Belgrade

Day 8:
- Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Fortress and surroundings, including monuments, churches, and parks.
- A guided stroll down Belgrade’s beautiful Knez Mihailova and Terazije streets, Parliament building, St. Sava cathedral and Republic Square
- Lunch in Belgrade
- Visit Zemun, one of Belgrade’s oldest neighborhoods
- Traditional dinner and overnight in Belgrade

Day 9:
- Free time and overnight in Belgrade

Operated by: Magelan Travel Agency
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