



1 SERBIA - MORE THAN ITS HISTORY

Whilst many people might feel an unerring doubt about stepping into Serbian territory we have long held the belief that there is no fear - only reality - waiting to be experienced.

Serbia's chequered past may take an unfavourable path through the Yugoslavian days where battles for independence rang through the Balkans for years. Yet we have learned from the history books, that we can rebuild after war and counties are still beautiful despite their political landscape.

About your Serbian Guide

We have never given Serbia any airspace in our travel plans over the last 10 years and that was never deliberate. It was just never somewhere we had talked about. And in fact, we had not heard other people talk about it either.

But it was in 2026 that we sketched out a rough Balkan - Schengen reset that, with a Morocco winter, gave us over 10 months travelling. But would Serbia make it onto the itinerary or would Albania and our love for Bosnia take the reigns?

Sat close to the Serbian border, we both agreed that this year, neither us fancied the Albanian road-trip and we can't quite articulate why. But Serbia - in a flash was on. Practically it offered a nice circular route from Montenegro into Bosnia to extend our travel time. But it didn't take long for Serbia to magnetise us way beyond a Schengen Shuffle visit.

We stayed.

We loved it.

And we will return.

In this guide we hope to show you why.

Who are we?

Formally, we are Karen and Myles; digital nomads who are inspired to discover the world with the freedom and choice that this travelling lifestyle has gifted us. More lovingly we are known as ***The Motoroamers*** and in March 2016 we packed up and packed in our life in the UK for a gap year of travel whilst we sold property. The grand plan was to put down our roots in the south-west and find the 'good life', once we had sown our travel seeds.

With visions of a small-holding, donkeys, chickens and soil tarnished fingernails put aside, we hit the road in our motorhome Scoobie. We were ready for adventures and exploration that would soothe our curious spirits and satiate our inner-adventurer. However, a few weeks into our trip we discovered that this was the life we wanted permanently and that 'going back' was not an option. So from that moment on, 'home' became the place where Scoobie's tyres rested. We found love in every dawn, each new vista cleansed our eager eyes and fed our desire to live with freedom, fearlessness and choice.

In our first year with our trusty steed, a Pilote 740 (7.5m), we visited 10 countries and covered 12,000 miles; from Spain to Slovenia, to France, Belgium and Netherlands. A rich array of adventures that satiated our need to feel alive after too many decades of corporate stress and burn-out.

Spring 2017 heralded a new set of adventures as we began an epic journey into uncharted territory. The idea was to travel across to **Greece** and then follow a natural passage through the eastern borders of **Bulgaria** and **Romania**. What incredible cultures and natural wonders these countries had to offer. So young on the European stage and yet a whole new set of experiences for the eager traveller.

2018 was all about uncovering the scars of **Poland** and **Slovakia**. And 2019 our adventures took us into the Nordic highlights of Scandinavia's north-eastern trio of **Denmark**, **Sweden** and **Norway**.

Then early 2020 a magical mystery tour of **Morocco** awaited us as we stepped out of our comfort zone and onto the African continent with the leap of a gazelle. Little did we know how poignant this trip would be as Covid struck around us and Moroccan borders locked up within four days of us leaving the country. Since then the memory of our lockdowns are fading fast and life continues almost as if it didn't happen.

With travels in hyper drive, we are covering even more new territory. 2025 saw Estonia and Latvia with new regions of Norway and Poland beneath our belt. Even Canada in the autumn reached our agenda as our travel plans evolve into a wider sphere. 2026 brings a different type of travel - finally a slower pace - brought on by an injury that gave us no choice. But we

have loved the lessons that immobility can give you and how it changes your definition of travel. The joys of the Balkans ring loud and clear in our head as slowly I regain my strength and take steps beyond the comfort zone of Scoobie's four walls. And what a place to regain my confidence. Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia for a second time.

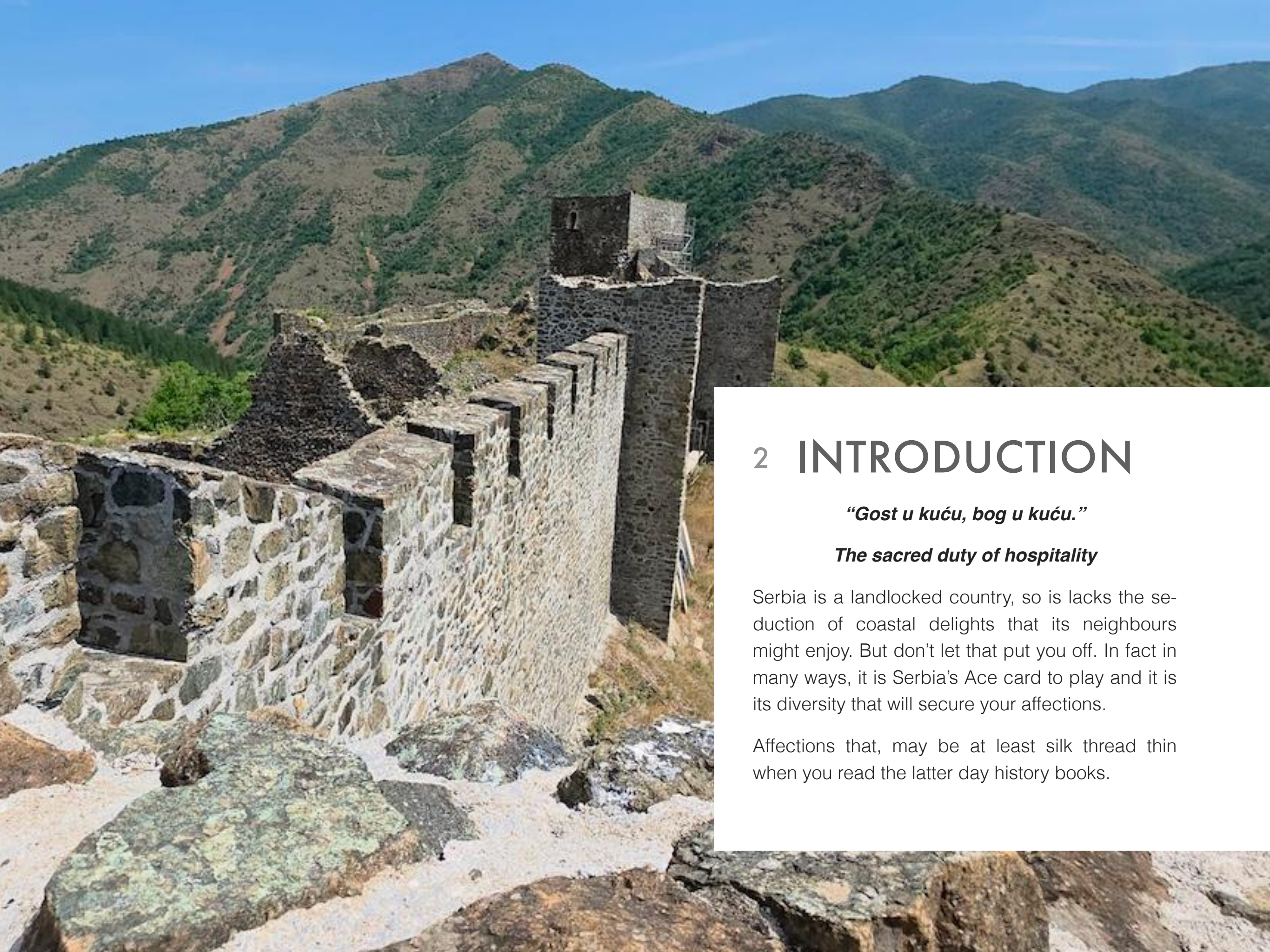
All of our travels - near or far - give our lives meaning, definition and purpose as we continue exploring with our philosophy of having the freedom to choose, and following the path that brings us greatest happiness. And if along the way we can inspire you to travel too, then all is complete.

So, we invite you to step into this latest guide and let's see if, with our itineraries, our practicalities and our tempting focus we can persuade you to step your foot into this latest Balkan beauty.

Karen, Myles and Scoobie

<https://www.motoroaming.com>





2 INTRODUCTION

“Gost u kuću, bog u kuću.”

The sacred duty of hospitality

Serbia is a landlocked country, so it lacks the seduction of coastal delights that its neighbours might enjoy. But don't let that put you off. In fact in many ways, it is Serbia's Ace card to play and it is its diversity that will secure your affections.

Affections that, may be at least silk thread thin when you read the latter day history books.

The Yugoslavia Wars of the 1990's aside, I'll not enter into an account of the battles, as they serve little for a guide that wants to remain a neutral observer. I think enough evidence exists in the world's media for more than one helping. However, it is that media presentation that has perhaps created a predisposition against Serbia for many of us. A visit here actually reveals how Serbia has been as much a victim of war as the perpetrator. That's not meant to glorify what's happened, but just balance the perspectives slightly.

The fabric of Serbia's history however, spans over 10,000 years where Mesolithic-Neolithic settlers along the Danube placed these lands on an archaeological 'supremo' list. But historians are perhaps more driven to explore the Roman influences that from around 100AD onwards would shape this land massively. Did you know that 17 Roman Emperors were born in Serbia?

Constantine The Great was perhaps the most influential ruler, being the first Emperor to convert to Christianity and who laid the foundation for the Byzantine era of the Empire. In his later years he was based in Constantinople (today's Istanbul) ruling the Eastern Empire which survived the fall of the west by another 1,000 years.

It was in the 6th and 7th century that the Slavs arrived in the region adopting Christianity traditions. During the 12-14th century, they emerged as a Kingdom with strong power, expanding into an Empire.

Serbia's medieval history is coloured by kings, knights and Ottoman conquerers - a Turkish influence which was to last for almost 400 years. It wasn't until the 19th century that a series of Serbian Uprisings achieved self-rule and later independence from the Ottomans. After the breakup of the Yugoslavian Union in the battles of 1990s,

Serbia returned to an independent republic in 2006 after Montenegro was the last of the Balkan countries to break away.

And one final factor that may be influences our perception is the affiliation that Serbia still holds with their Russian partners. As the rest of Europe gather together against the attack on Ukraine, Serbia's politicians maintain a complex relationship with Russia, a partnership defined by history, energy and traditional cultural ties.

And yet Serbia also has another complex link to Germany and Austria, despite centuries of conflict, deep economic cooperation, and massive human migration. Even with the world war backdrop, Germany and Austria are among the top economic partners, foreign investors, and export markets for Serbia with both countries acting as a diplomatic bridge supporting their integration (with other Balkan countries) into the EU.

It is also thought, by some of the locals we spoke to that there is more than a keen interest in the minerals that Serbia have to offer, but that of course is just one perspective and we choose not to follow this through, simply remaining curious. Needless to say, the minute you arrive in Serbia, it is clear by the volume of German and Austria cars, businesses and products, that these two are strongly aligned. Many of the renovations of historical sites in Serbia have been funded by their association with Austria. And much of Serbia's motorway network has been funded by China.

Serbia applied to join the EU in 2009 and has been an official candidate since 2012. But with reforms and policy disagreements, it is thought that their inclusion is a long way off.



3 Routes Through Serbia

We have broken up our Serbian experiences into **The west and central region**, the **Danube section**, **Belgrade and the north** and the **Tara National Park**.

Unlike Montenegro, which consists of 90% mountains, Serbia's selling point is its diversity. From mountains, deep gorges, spa towns, wine regions, rolling hills and river valleys - Serbia constantly impressed us with every turn of every corner.

Here is our route and Interactive Map, from which you can follow our route. If you click on this image it will take you to our Interactive Library where our 35 maps are all in alphabetical order.

Alternatively you can follow us on PolarSteps by clicking [here](#).

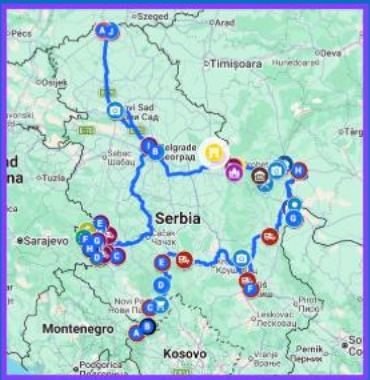
The Motoroamers' Interactive Map Series

ITINERARIES - STOPOVERS - IMAGES - BLOGS

SERBIA 57 DAY TOUR 2026

- Campsites
- Off-grid sites
- Points of interest
- Co-ords

Click the map →

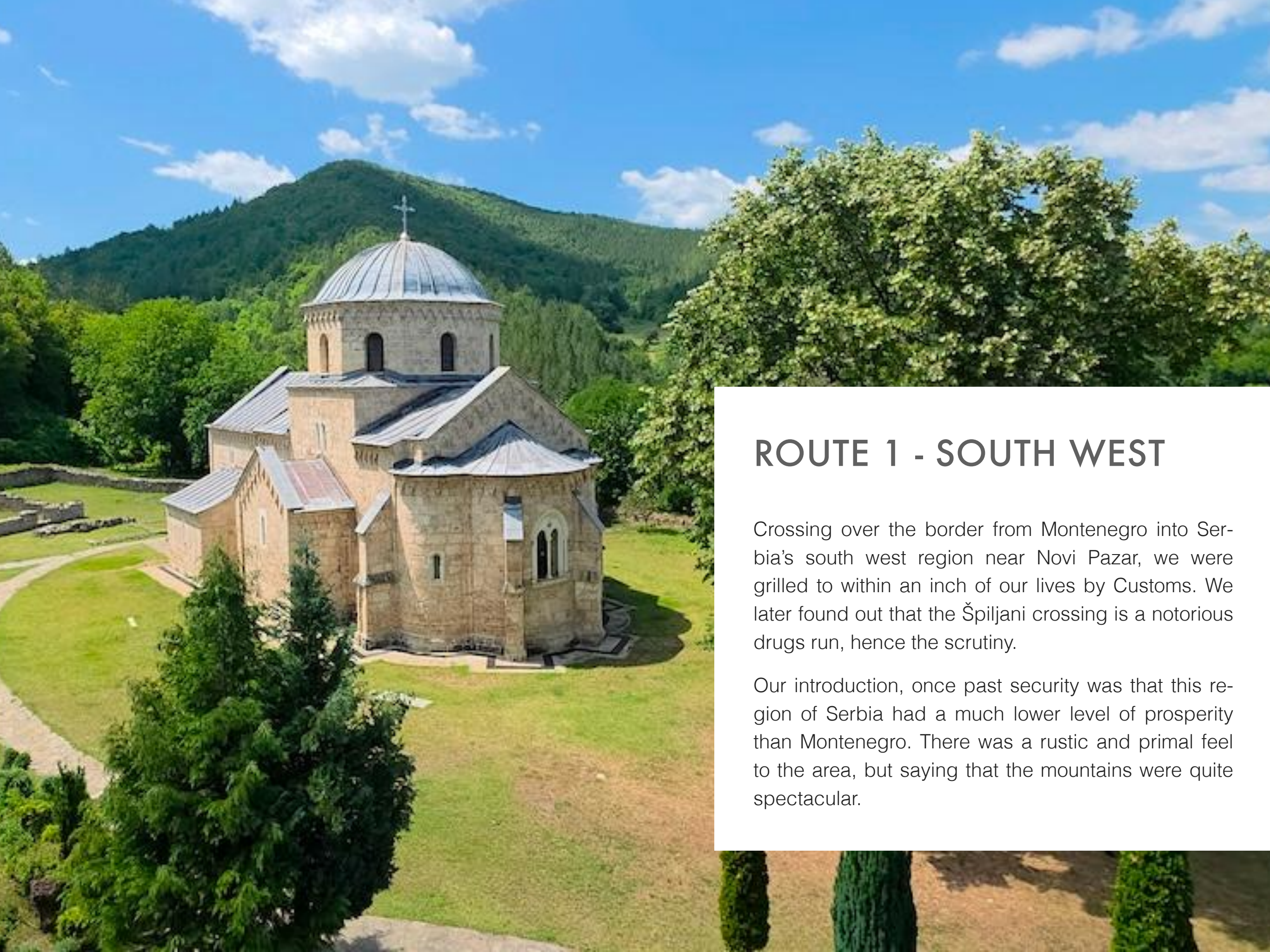


COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



INSPIRING YOU TRAVEL





ROUTE 1 - SOUTH WEST

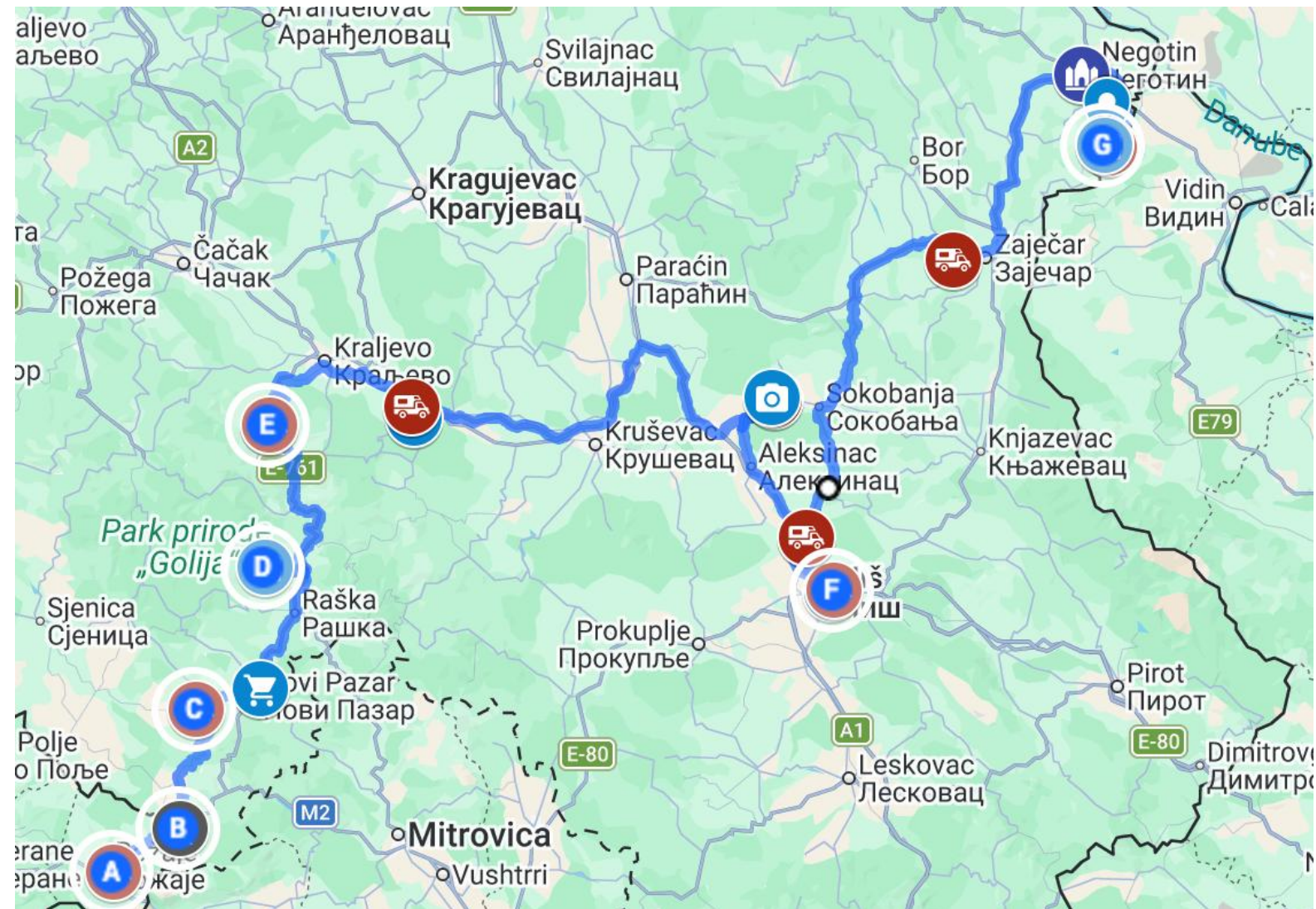
Crossing over the border from Montenegro into Serbia's south west region near Novi Pazar, we were grilled to within an inch of our lives by Customs. We later found out that the Špiljani crossing is a notorious drugs run, hence the scrutiny.

Our introduction, once past security was that this region of Serbia had a much lower level of prosperity than Montenegro. There was a rustic and primal feel to the area, but saying that the mountains were quite spectacular.

Route 1 - South West Central

Must-sees;

- * Sopoćani UNESCO Monastery
- * Gradac Monastery
- * Maglić Fortress and Ibar River
- * Vrnjačka Banja
- * The city of Niš
- * Bovansko Lake
- * Gamzigrad - Felix Romulijana UNESCO ruins
- * Rajacke Vineyard and Pimnice cellars





SOPOĆANI MONASTERY

Our first stop was actually at Tutin where we picked up some Dinar currency with our Caxton card and physical sim card. I had already sorted an Esim with Roamic, but we always like a physical back up.

Once that little domestic duty had been navigated, we headed for our overnigher. We never like to do too much for the first few days of landing in a new country, just so we can ground ourselves.

Spotting Sopoćani monastery on the map, we made a bee line for an overnight parking spot right opposite the historic site.

The journey through the mountains was jaw dropping and in that first day, Serbia would set the scene for the most incredible road-trip.

Sopoćani not only provided us with a slightly noisy but adequate overnigher, but it also offered us our first Serbian UNESCO site.

For a €5 per person fee, we entered into these auspicious grounds. Built between 1259 and 1270 by King Stefan Uroš I, Sopoćani is famous for its world-class Byzantine frescoes which are still in remarkable condition. The visit wasn't long, but to tread in the footsteps of such important and ancient history is always quite humbling.

Parked in the overflow car park, we were surprised to see every inch of ground covered by cars for the 6pm mass, so if you come, come early or after 7pm.





GRADAC MONASTERY - GRADAC

Gradac Monastery is a much bypassed site as it nestles between two UNESCO monastic giants. But it is well worth the diversion, if for nothing more than the stunning drive through the **Golija Mountains**.

Gradac is a 13th century Serbian Orthodox monastery, functioning as an active nunnery. It was built between 1277 and 1282, founded by Queen Helen of Anjou, wife of King Uroš I. It is thought to have been built on the foundations of an older 6th-century Byzantine ruin.

The frescos inside are not as well preserved as Sopoćani, but the peace of the grounds and the free entrance somehow makes up for it.

The church was abandoned in our 1600 following Ottoman invasions and left roofless for centuries. But in 1963, restorations began, reviving the community and monastic life.

You are able to park here for the night, which was our original plan, but the heat had us retreating to somewhere with water and a swim. Reviewers comment that when the shop is open, the nuns sell some great jams and honey.





MAGLIČ CASTLE AND THE IBAR RIVER

Retreating from the heat, we found a beautiful spot on the river Ibar, which meanders through beautiful mountain scenery that we were not expecting from Serbia.

Just 20 km from the pretty town of Kraljevo, we traced the river, which snakes through the gorge for 100km. But the pièce de résistance is the imposing walls of the 1200 castle that dominates the landscape sat 100m above the river.

Navigating a tricky access on a crazy busy road, we found a place to stay for a couple of nights and swim! Ahhh, heavenly. As early as I could, I took the free, hand-pulled ferry, run by volunteers, across

the river. There are two walking options. First you can go to the waterfall, taking the right path across the railway, which has a wonderful pool for swimming. Alternatively, or as well depending on your fitness and desire, you can climb the 150 steps up to the castle. It's a gruelling climb especially in the heat, but well worth it for the views from the top. If you can, take the first ferry at 10am before the sun heats up.

Once up there, you can climb the wooden ladders to the upper levels of this 13th century castle, that is being sensitively renovated by the same volunteers who are running the ferry and camp - they are a lovely bunch. The views are quite incredible.





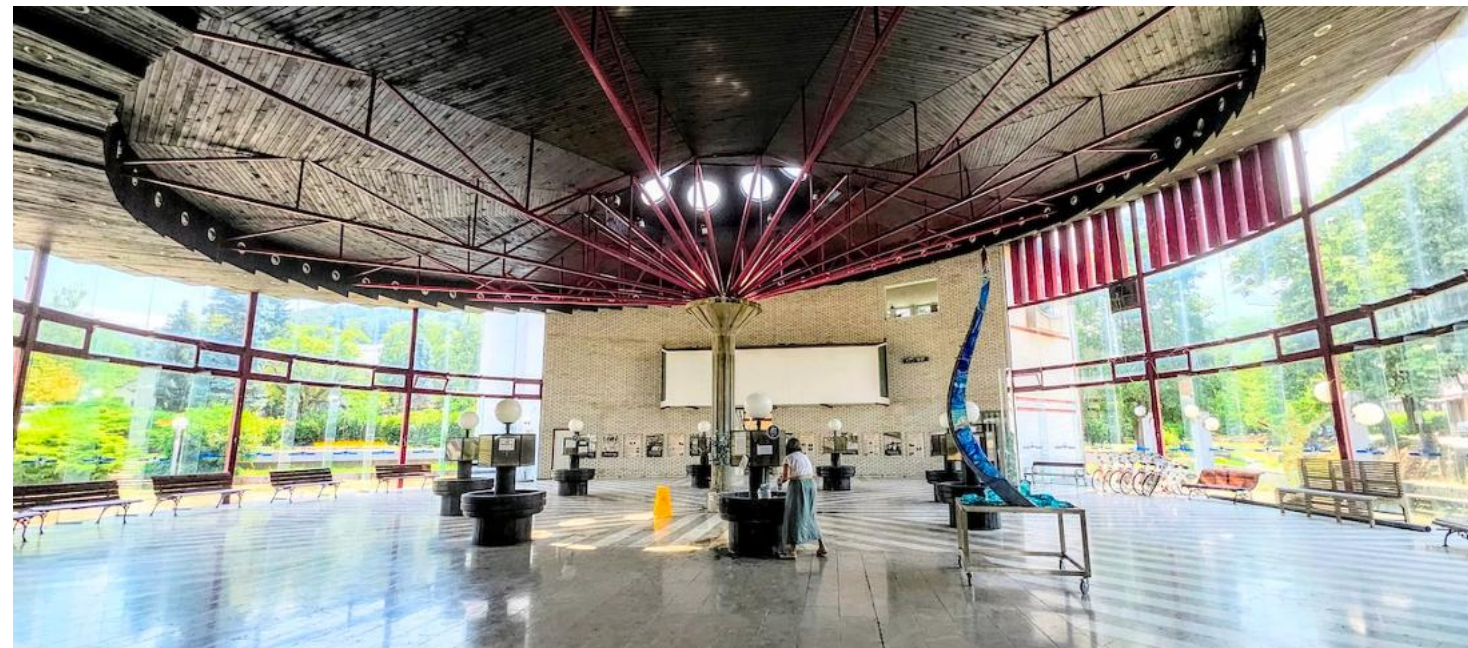
VRNJAČKA BANJA

Serbia is famous for many things; one of which is its 40 Spa Towns dotted around the country. It also has over 1000 natural thermal and mineral water springs because of its complex geological makeup. The meeting point of different tectonic plates and diverse rock formations creates deep underground faults that heat groundwater and enrich it with healing minerals. One of which is **Vrnjačka Banja** (Banja means Spa).

Vrnjačka Banja is in fact Serbia's most visited and popular Spa Town. It has a classical feel to it and it was here where we suddenly saw the beauty of the architecture in this Balkan country. But it isn't just the buildings that will catch your eye. It is the history that goes with its prestigious reputation. Located in the central part of the country about

200 kilometers south of Belgrade at the foothills of Mount Goč it began life in Roman times when they first discovered the healing waters and it was used as a health resort. But it wasn't until 1835 when the waters were scientifically evaluated. Saxon Baron Herder performed the first chemical analysis of the hot mineral spring at the request of Prince Miloš Obrenović and from that point forward people have flocked here for medicinal treatment.

There are actually seven different mineral springs here, three of which you can visit and fill up your own bottles for free. It is a beautiful and intriguing place. You can read more about it [here](#) and watch our video [here](#).





NIŠ - A CITY NOT TO BE MISSED

Niš, in the far south west of the country could be easily by-passed or ignored all together given its distance south. But - and it's a big BUT, please make the journey. There's a great motorway that takes you there in no time and costs around £7 for a class 2 vehicle for a journey of about 100miles.

Once there you have the opportunity of parking in secure paid parking by the fortress walls, or 10km away at Popoland Camping.

If you stay in the town, you have access to a load of fascinating sites that create so much backdrop for the city and for Serbia as a whole.

Niš is Serbia's third largest city and that might be enough reason to leave well alone, but a visit will reward you hundred-fold.

First of all you have the **18th century Ottoman fortress** with Roman artefacts that make it an interesting walk.

And then you have the city itself, which if you are like us, might leave you cold. But persevere. Head out towards Tinker's Alley, known locally as **Kazandžijsko Sokače** on Kopitareva Street. Its a charming historic cobblestone pedestrian zone in the center of Niš, dating back to the first half of the 18th century during the Ottoman period. It is here where artisans plied their trade and today, despite its cafe culture, you can feel its historical presence.

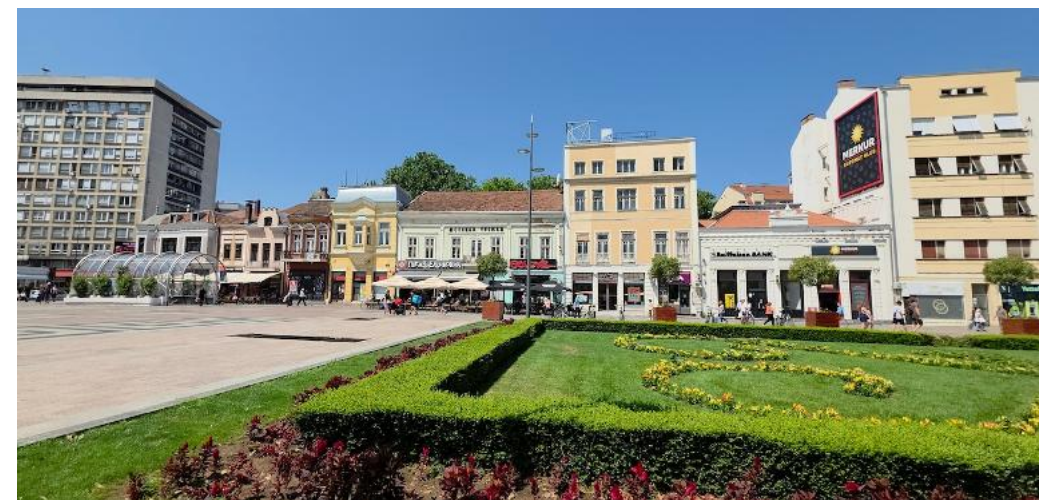


After a refreshing walk along the Nišava River, a short distance away you will come back down to earth to relive the trauma of the Second World War. It was at the **Red Cross Concentration Camp** that, for a small fee, you can visit what is classed as Europe's best preserved camp. It is also famed for being the only camp that had a successful prison break on 12 February 1942. 147 attempted to leave and 107 were successful. It's a sobering place to pay respects to the Serbian, Jewish and Roma prisoners kept and murdered here by the Nazis.

If you take a short drive to **Bunji Hill**, it is here that may of the 10,000 prisoners were shot, and a memorial to honour them can be found here. It's a very surreal place to catch your breath.

From here, another short journey across town will bring you to **Madijana** - Roman residential complex of the son of Niš - Roman Emperor Constantine. He was born in Niš and was the first emperor to convert to Christianity. He is also best known as Constantine the Great - who later moved to Türkiye and Constantinople, now Istanbul.

Niš has so much to offer for a couple of days. Please come - you can read more [here](#).





BOVANSKO LAKE

Bovansko Lake, I'll be honest came into view because of the increasing heatwave hitting the Balkans. Somewhere to swim became our priority and I saw the lake and this wild spot on Park4Night. And we did not regret our trip here. The journey to it was wonderful from Niš and the park up had us nestled up amongst the local caravans and tents of the locals. And this place is all about the locals, their generosity and hospitality.

For two days, we people watched, swam, visited the lovely little forest church and joined in the festivities thanks to Goran and Maja and felt right at home.

It is an incredibly special place and even the revelry didn't dominate our stay.

By 11pm everyone was tucked up in bed and the early morning mist revealed all manner of sleeping arrangements. This was special place for us, which of course could have been right time, right place, but if you love water sports and being amongst the local community then a few days here over a weekend, might serve you well.







GAMZIGRAD - UNESCO ROMAN RUINS/FELIX ROMULIJANA

Not far from spa town Gamzigrad is an iconic Roman ruin site. And it feels worthy of mention, in part because it is a UNESCO designated destination, and also because it is a completely unique design. Like nothing else we've seen in our travelling years.

For 500 dinar - which is about £4.00 per person, you get to wander around this 3rd century palace. It was built by Emperor Galerius in 298 AD after a major military victory and named it after his mother.

The massive fortified site was an imperial retirement village, an administrative center and sacred memorial for Galerius and his mother.

It's quite a sight, especially the columns that still stand and the mosaics that are laid out in front of you, under protective cover.

And the best bit, you are also allowed to stay here overnight for free and there is water and toilets if you have the need. It was quite a surreal moment doing my morning yoga in what were the footsteps of Roman legends.



RAJAČKA PIMNICE - NEGOTIN WINE REGION

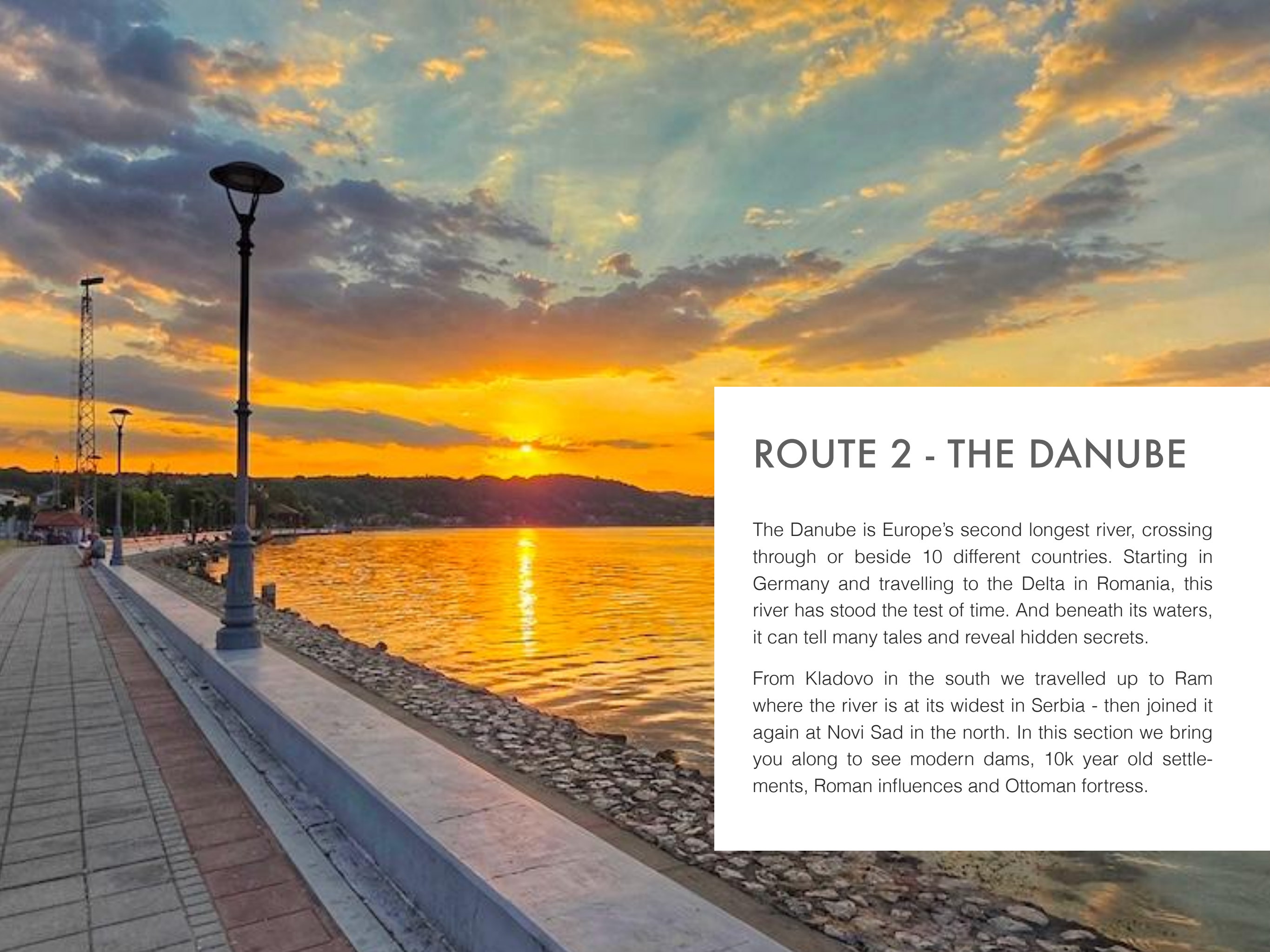
A good drive on from Gamzigrad, we had in our sights an important and lesser known wine region of Serbia. It's important for two reasons. The first is its historic wine cellars. And the second is the rare Tamjanika grape that is one of the rarest and oldest grapes in Europe. This award-winning wine symbolises a Serbian vineyard identity and has to be tasted to be believed. There's a red and white variety and in the Negotin region of the south east of Serbia, you will find this grape alive and well.

But more specifically taking the narrow road from Negotin to Rajac is well worth the breath holding that is required for the 15 minute drive.

Because it is here that you can stay at a vineyard, sample their delights and be within a 30 minute hike up to the historical village.

It is here that Serbia's uniqueness comes alive. Rajač holds a wine making secret that is unique to the country. The Pimnice are stone and wooden cellars built slightly underground to store young wines. At Rajač you can walk around this 19th century village and feel its vibe where 250 cellars are housed. The village is currently on the UNESCO potential list such is the importance of its wine making heritage. Add to that the old cemetery where you can find unique tombstones dating back to 1800s, and it is believed further back.

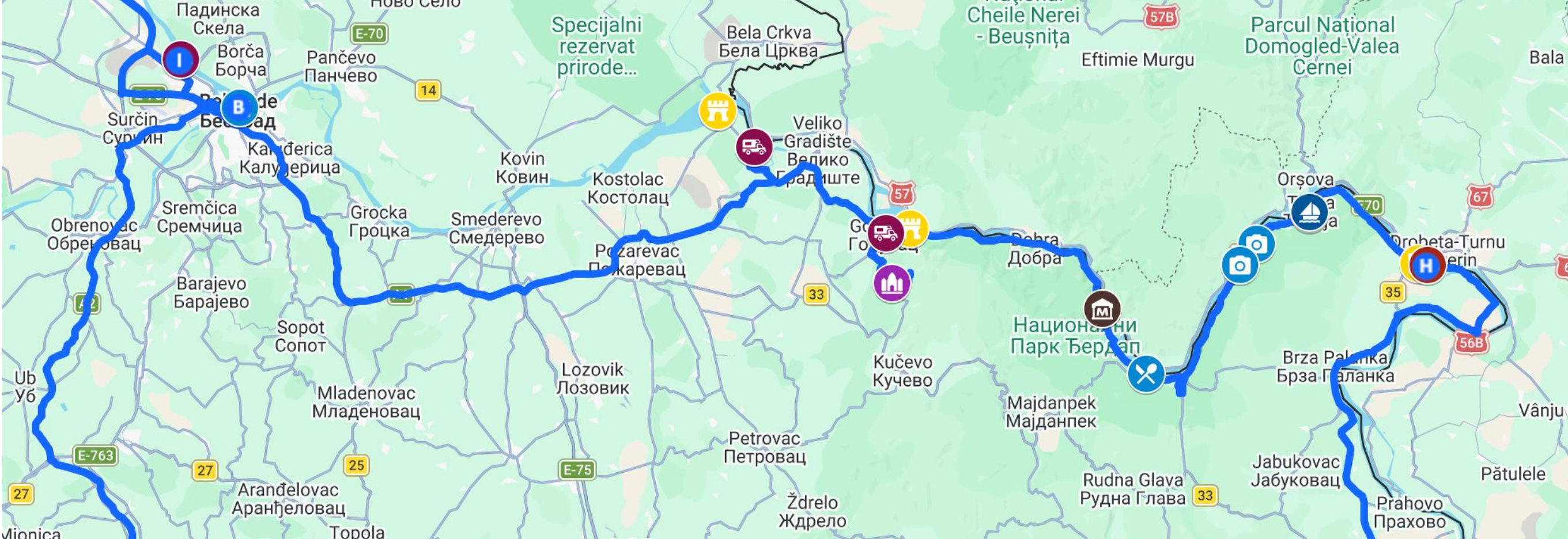




ROUTE 2 - THE DANUBE

The Danube is Europe's second longest river, crossing through or beside 10 different countries. Starting in Germany and travelling to the Delta in Romania, this river has stood the test of time. And beneath its waters, it can tell many tales and reveal hidden secrets.

From Kladovo in the south we travelled up to Ram where the river is at its widest in Serbia - then joined it again at Novi Sad in the north. In this section we bring you along to see modern dams, 10k year old settlements, Roman influences and Ottoman fortress.



ROUTE 2

Must sees:

- Klavodo and Fetislam Fortress
- Đerdap Gorge Panoramic Route
- Lepinski Vir
- Silver Lake and Ram Fortress
- Đerdap National Park - Iron Gate Gorge at Tekija
- Kapetain Mišin Breg Art Gallery and Restaurant
- Golubac and its Fortress
- Capital Belgrade



KLAVODO & FETISLAM FORTRESS

We joined the Danube just north of Negotin, tracing the lines that only a river as old as he can carve. We found a stark contrast in this region compared to our Novi Pazar introduction. Houses were rendered and painted, in the main, and the concrete fences were ornate expressing a degree of wealth. Or so it seemed to us.

Our first port of call was Klavodo where the first of Serbia's 12 fortresses sit with assertion, rebuilt to within an inch of its former glory.

Desperate for some cooling water to stave off the heatwave, we found a spot by a 'beach', that with its promenade takes you all the way to the fortress. The town itself is picturesque and its river frontage quite appealing, offering Roman settlements at Diana, the

foundations for the world's once longest Roman bridge at Trajan and access to the Đerdap National Park and gorge.

The Fetislam Fortress itself is a great example of the Ottoman era dating back to 16th century. The original smaller fort (Small Town) was built in 1524 and served as a military base for Ottoman campaigns into Hungary and Transylvania.

The larger fortress (Big Town) with its six bastions and a water moat was added later during the 18th century (between 1717 and 1739) to protect the older garrison. For just 400 dinar you can explore the walls, watch the well done video of its history and visit the museum and gardens.





ĐERDAP NATIONAL PARK AND IRON GATE GORGE

Basing ourselves at Tekija, right on the beach, we had ourselves not only a great watering hole right on the Danube for the weekend. We also positioned ourselves in prime position for a boat trip that takes you deep into the UNESCO Iron Gate Gorge. This is actually the Romanian name for this region. With a boat trip secured for just £28 for the two of us, we had a great hour on the water, experiencing this deep gorge from within its belly. And for good reason.

This stunning piece of nature with its towering 800m limestone cliffs hold more than geology lessons. It is the history that makes this such a special member of the [UNESCO](#) team.

Taking our hour-long trip from the comfort of our free beach parking, we encountered Roman plaques dating back to 100AD, celebrating

the completion of Emperor Trajan's bridge. To Europe's largest rock sculpture - a modern day depiction of King Decebalus who fought Roman emperors.

The river balloon towers that used to manage ship navigation and a Romanian Monastery completed our trip as we sped through the Danube's narrowest section. It was a great way to experience this part of Serbia, flirting with Romania as we danced across the invisible border line.





KAPETAN MIŠIN BREG ART GALLERY AND RESTAURANT

Thanks to a recommendation from a local following us on Facebook, we put this spot on our itinerary and we are very glad we did.

Run as a family-friendly rural household by the Stefanović family, they offer both an outdoor art gallery of incredible wooden sculptures. They also have a panoramic restaurant open mostly at weekends. Named after Captain Miša Anastasijević, a prominent 19th-century Serbian benefactor and merchant who was born nearby this is definitely worth the detour.

If you go at the weekend you will be able to eat, otherwise weekdays you can simply wander the fabulous gardens and be

impressed by the fabulous displays of talent. You can't miss the view across the Danube, which at 178m up is pretty impressive.

The road leading to the restaurant is a bit ropery in places but very doable for our motorhome. And there is a small parking area that is to the right of this image where you can park up.

Definitely put this on your list.





ĐERDAP PANORAMIC ROUTE

After leaving Tekija we took the river route towards Golubac. And what a road it is. Firstly you climb high above the gorge where the views give you a completely different perspective to the boat trip. Everything looks so tiny. But what breathtaking views.

It's hard to keep your eyes on the road with vistas like this. One moment you're in the craggy mountains, then a tunnel takes you to the river's edge. Each corner giving you something else to gaze upon.

There are some photo opportunities to capture en route, and a few destination stops that we will share in the next two pages.





LEPENSKI VIR - STEP BACK IN TIME 10,000 YEARS AGO

Our journey along the Danube's panoramic road took us to a spot that transported us in a Time Machine that H.G. Wells would have been proud of. To a period that would challenge our comprehension of history.

[Lepenski Vir](#) is a mind blowing visit that cannot be missed as we continue to learn about the Danube's role through time. A museum that captures the very essence of our ancestors from nearly 10,000 years ago. In 1960, whilst surveying the area ready for the new Hydroelectric Power Station, ceramic fragments were found on a farmer's land. It wasn't until 1965 that excavations revealed the extent of the most important & oldest Mesolithic-Neolithic settlement in Europe.

Not only was an entire village found that bridged two periods of pre-historic man, evidence of early artistry were discovered in the iconic fish sculptures and graves containing skeletons. These all shifted how archaeologists saw culture and community evolution during these periods - a significant moment in time.

With the flooding of the area thanks to the Hydroelectric Dam, the findings had to be moved 100m to their current site or risk being lost forever. Sadly a fact that prevents the museum achieving UNESCO status.



Anyway, for €5 you have a fabulous museum to explore, a film of the 1965 excavations, the carvings and ceramics, and the reconstruction of the village they found.

With good parking for motorhomes just a short distance away, the walk through the forest is lovely, with 19th century Serbian houses to set the historical scene. It's a must-visit destination, after which we gently came back down to earth at another historical icon at Golubac. But more on that later.



The Danube is so much more than a river. Travel, so much more than a holiday.



GOLUBAC - ITS FORTRESS AND MONASTERY

Golubac - Town of Doves - is one of those destinations that is more than an overnight stay or a quick pass through. It's a spot to stay awhile and to call home.

With promenades to walk, fortresses to see, the Danube to marvel over and a monastery, you'll understand the need to stop.

Our arrival was welcomed with the impact of a fanfare as the most impressive fortress rose up out of the rocks like a phoenix. 4km outside of the town, this 14th century fortress saw around 120 battles, with its ownership changing hands many times between

Hungarians, Ottomans, Habsburgs and Bulgarians. Serbia regained control in 1867.

It has been renovated and its former glory reclaimed. And today offers a real visit of adventure. Friday-Sunday you can do the Blue, Black or Red routes which, with an increasing level of climbing difficulty, will give you different perspectives of the castle. Each route has a different price, so if you feel like being adventurous, get your hiking boots on and visit at the weekend.



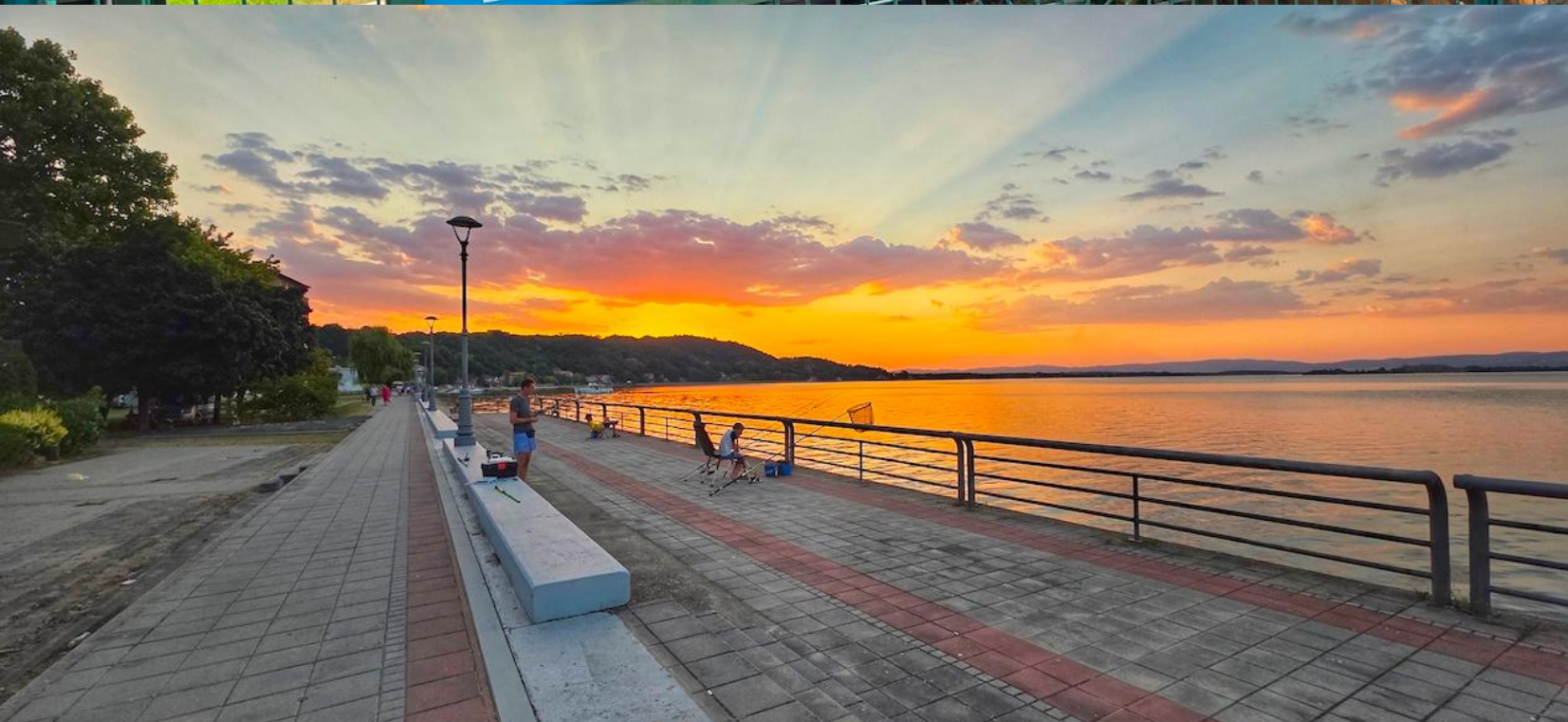
The parking at the fortress is not easy for motorhomes, despite there being a big car park, we ended up parking in the waste ground on the other side. So we would suggest going early.

We stayed overnight at a wild spot near the sports' centre in modern day Golubac, which gave us both access to the town, the river and the walks along the promenade.



And a 10km drive away we stumbled upon another monastery. Well I say stumbled - we knew we were visiting, but we hadn't realised its significance. It is Serbia's version of Montenegro's Ostrog Monastery, where people make huge pilgrimages. It has a massive car parking, and an even larger personality. It is free to visit and wander around the gardens.

You absolutely must put Golubac on the agenda for a few days.







SILVER LAKE AND RAM FORTRESS

30 minutes further up from Golubac on the Danube, following its meandering passage, we arrived at the popular Silver Lake. It's actually an arm of the Danube, but in 1971 it was dammed and this Ox bow lake now attracts many Serbian holiday makers.

We'd spied a small campsite right on the banks of the lake, with water being our number 1 heat management strategy.

This would be a perfect home for a few nights. Run by a wonderful family who are, as we've come to expect from Serbians, the warmest, friendliest and most homely of people. It's a great spot for water sports, cycling and exploring this region's cultural fabric.

One of which is Ram Fortress just a 6 mile cycle away on a dedicated track.



The whole stretch of the Serbian Danube is steeped in history. From 10k year old Mesolithic-Neolithic villages, the Romans, Ottomans and, even the controversial building of the Hydroelectric Dam in the 1970s places itself firmly in the history books. Yet whilst dynasties have come and gone, one thing has remained consistent - the river. Its meandering purpose unquestioned, but fiercely protected.



No more so than Ram fortress near our spot on Silver Lake. Ram is a small village at the furthest branch of the Balkan Carpathian mountains. A point at which this mighty river is both at its widest and slowest.

The historical focal point is the pentagonal shaped, Ottoman built fortress. Legend has it that Sultan Bayezid II ordered the fort to be built in 1483 to protect the northern Ottoman border from Hungarian troops. After resting on his prayer rug (Ihram), he woke up refreshed, and ordered a city to be built.



Despite its historical interest, today Ram is also valued for its wetland area, Swan's Lake, a deep basin created by Đerdap Dam, is now a protected nature reserve.

The largest & most important bird migratory reserve in Serbia, it's here that you can see Ospreys, Eagles, the largest colony of Sand Martins and Otters, amongst the long list of inhabitants & migratory visitors.



CAPITAL CITY BELGRADE - A CITY WITH HISTORY AND PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT

Serbia's capital, much like the whole country, is one that surprises. For our permitted 48hrs, we left Scoobie securely and headed to a boutique hotel in the diplomatic quarter of the city,

Belgrade is a city that should be talked about more often. It's the oldest continuously inhabited city in Europe, has been under siege 115 times and razed to the ground 44. So it has seen its fair share of battles. It's home to revered Communist leader Tito who lays to rest in the House of Flowers, and of course tennis supremo Novac calls this place home. Belgrade has a diverse culture on offer.

Our two days gifted us a peak at just a few historic and cultural sights, that combined, gave us a good introduction. But there is so

much to experience in this vibrant city - 2 days is just not enough. Whilst there's no archetypal Hop on Hop off bus, Belgrade has plenty of other ways to get around. The public transport is free and you can do Segway tours or electric Scooters to see the city sights.

From its underground tunnels, the 15th century fortress and the fast emerging Waterfront district with its 5* hotel St Regis, there's an exciting vibe in the city. It is trying to balance history with progression and so offers contrasting personalities, tales to tell and a cafe culture. All making Belgrade an exciting and underestimated city to explore.



A city changes its personality as the sun fades. The scene shifts, the lights take you into a wonderland. And Belgrade delivered.

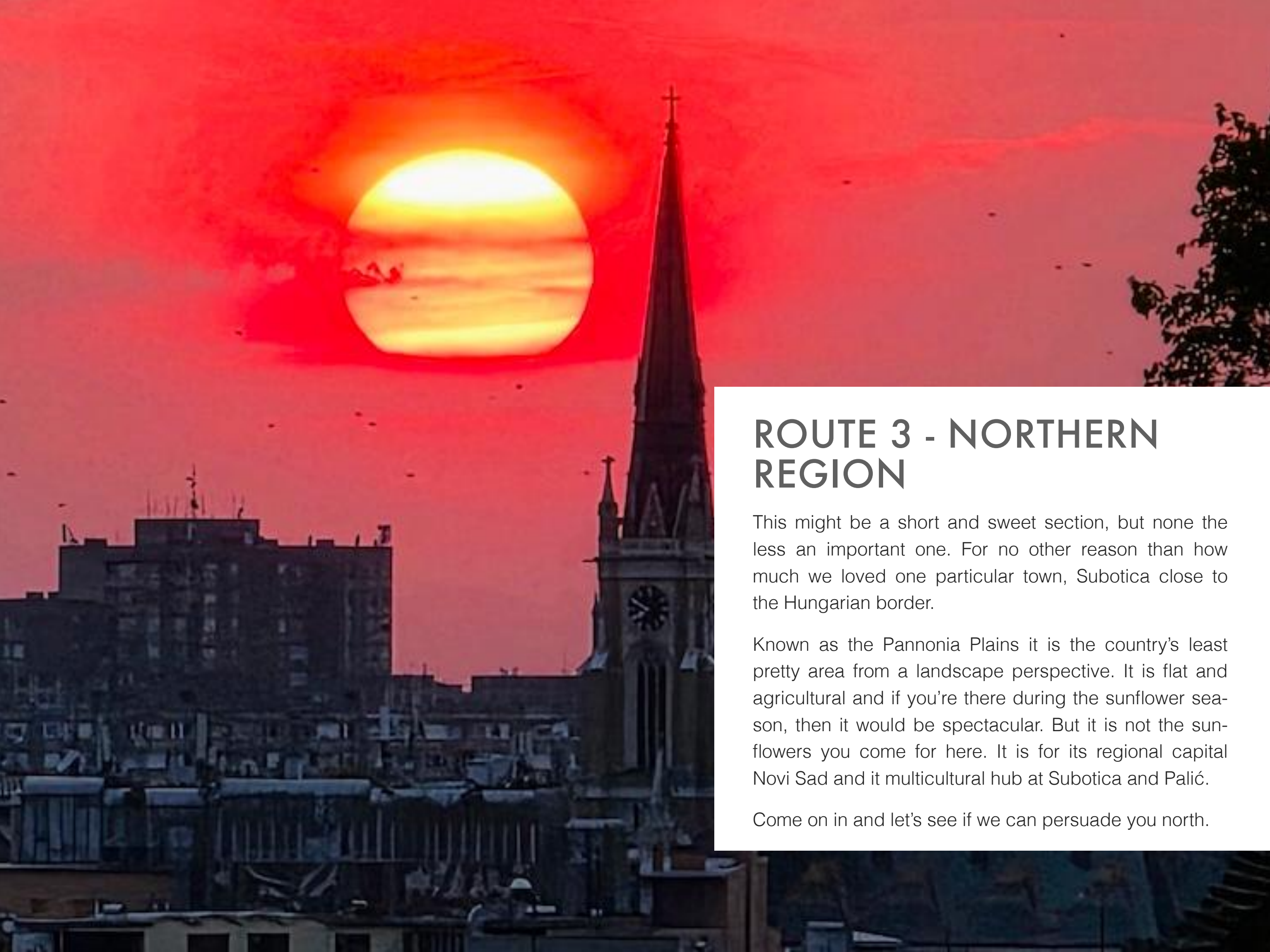
Belgrade, is not only one of Europe's oldest cities, it wins the accolade of being the continent's primary capital uniquely positioned right on the confluence of two rivers. The Sava and Danube frame this city beautifully, and after a day exploring within its beating heart, we knew seeing its skyline would be a great perspective.

So we took a Sunset Cruise with [Cruise Belgrade Boat Tour](#) and for just €25 per person we enjoyed the delights of the changing guard - as night took over from day. Watching the sun set was beautiful as we bobbed on the mighty rivers' confluence waiting for the city's lights to transform our view.

A city of many ancient tales whose modern day message is 'We are growing, we are strengthening, we have something to offer'. From Romans, Ottomans to Tito's Yugoslavia, Belgrade is a must see.







ROUTE 3 - NORTHERN REGION

This might be a short and sweet section, but none the less an important one. For no other reason than how much we loved one particular town, Subotica close to the Hungarian border.

Known as the Pannonia Plains it is the country's least pretty area from a landscape perspective. It is flat and agricultural and if you're there during the sunflower season, then it would be spectacular. But it is not the sunflowers you come for here. It is for its regional capital Novi Sad and its multicultural hub at Subotica and Palić.

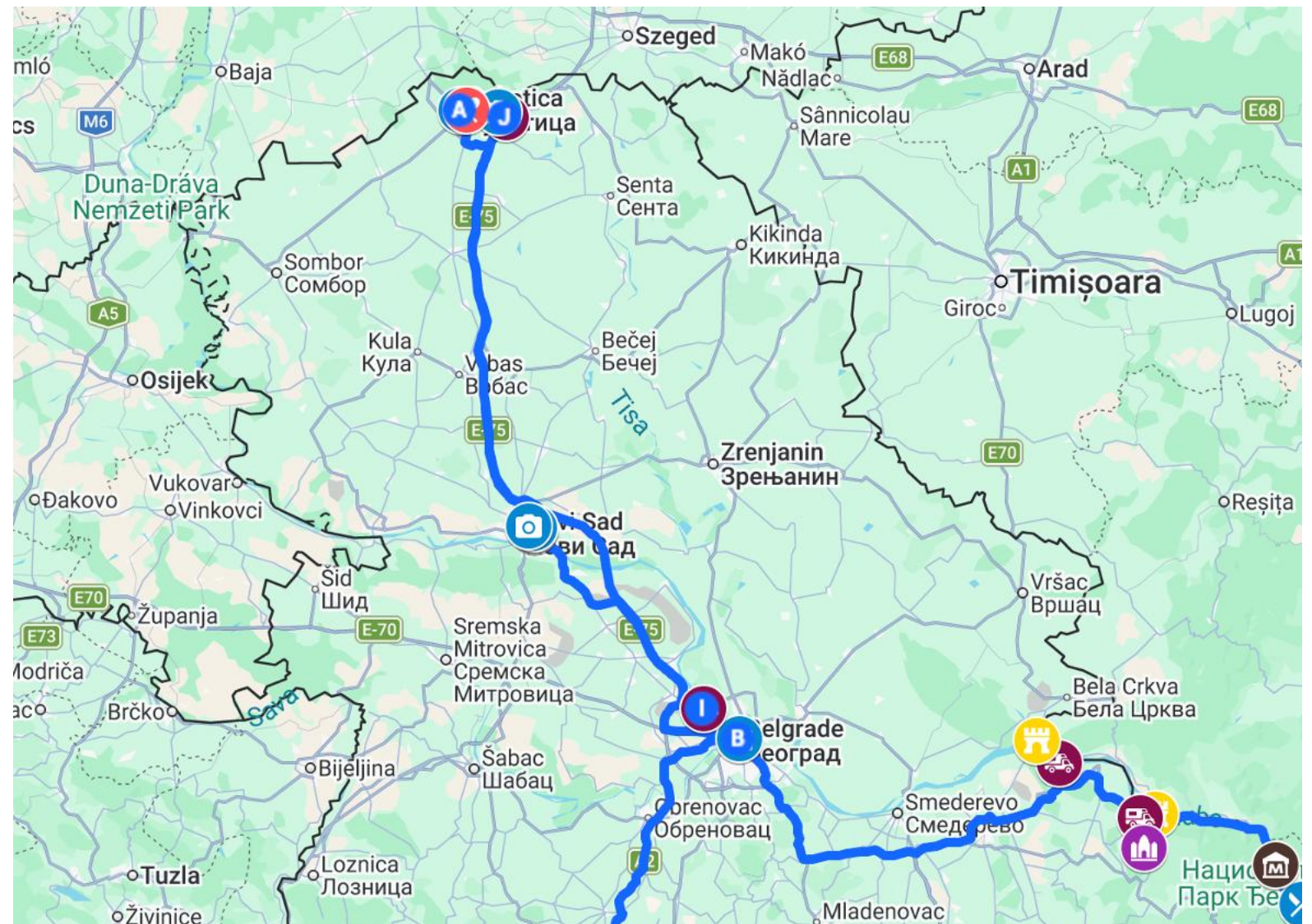
Come on in and let's see if we can persuade you north.

Route 3

Serbia's Northern Pannonian Plains

Must see spots;

- * Novi Sad and Petrovaradin
- * Palić
- * Subotica





NOVI SAD & PETROVARADIN

Novi Sad - New Plantation - is Serbia's second largest city. Had it not been for my research, heading north of the country would not have been on our agenda. But Novi Sad is intriguing because it holds two curiosities; 18th century **Petrovaradin Fortress** on one side of the snaking Danube and the Stari Grad on the other.

Petrovaradin - *the town on the rock as firm as faith* - is an experience all by itself. Driving into the lower town you don't expect cobbled streets and architecturally beautiful buildings with their iconic red roofs. A town and fortress dating back to the late 1600's, *Gibraltar of the Danube* as it is nicknamed is one of the largest and best preserved bastions in Europe and was built by the Austrians to stop the Ottoman invasion of Europe.

The fortress consists of multilayered walls of defence both on land and beneath, with 9 miles of underground tunnels. With its iconic 'reversed clock' the whole area is now an art and cultural centre - far removed from its historic military identity.

Crossing the Danube, the second part of Novi Sad's offering is the city itself. Dubbed the Athens of Serbia, Novi Sad emerged as a trading post, built beneath the fortress' shadow. However what we see today is the result of a city under siege that was almost razed to the ground in 1848. Today's impressive buildings have a character that somehow belies its tempestuous past. With arches that lead to hidden squares, palaces, synagogues and theatres - this city could easily feel at home sat beside its European neighbours.









SPA TOWN - PALIĆ

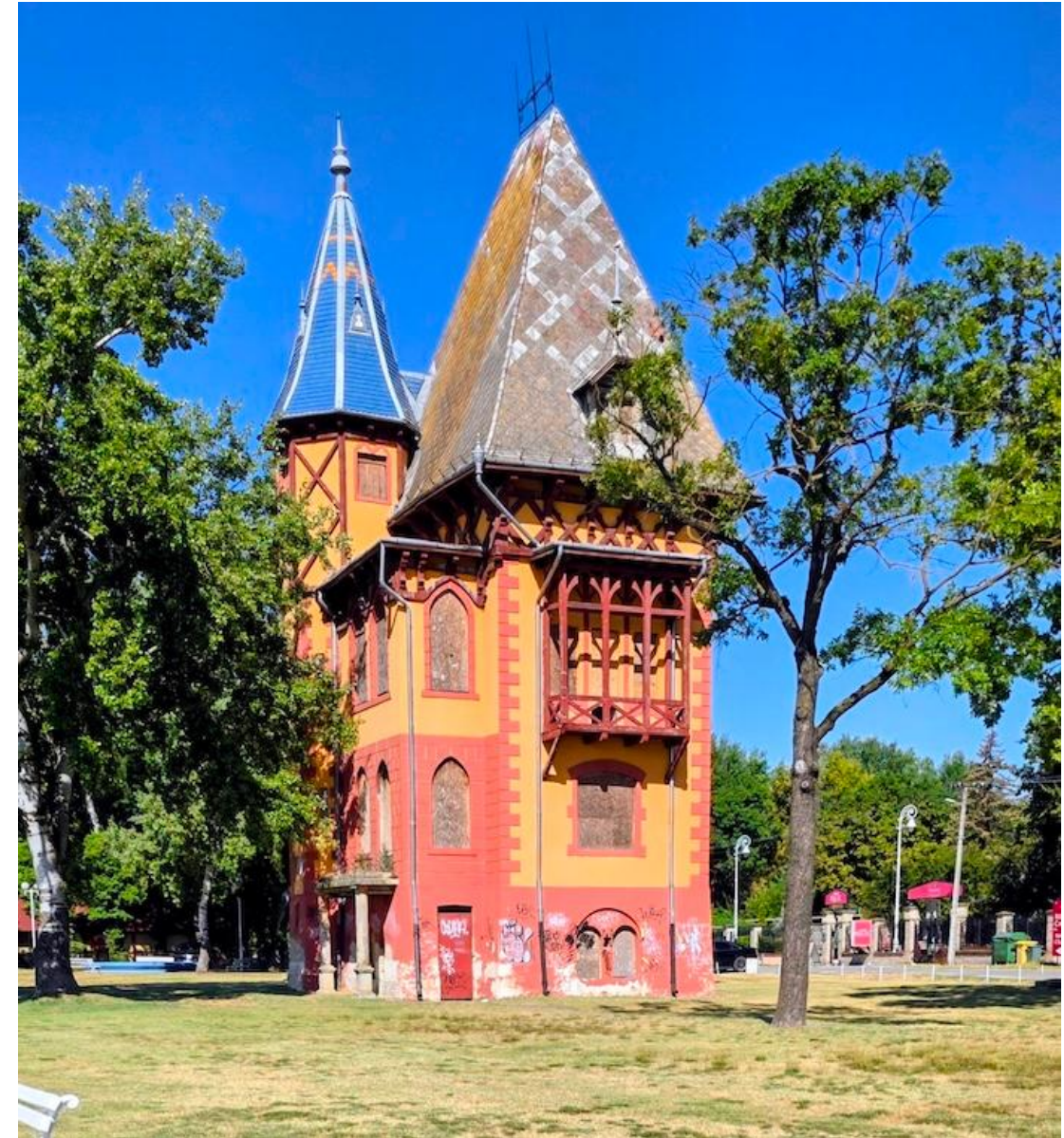
According to legend Palić is a lake formed by a shepherd's tears, when he lost his flock in its salty waters.

Another story says it is a remnant of the Pannonian Sea, that existed in this region in ancient times. Either way, this place has a fairytale feel to it with its Art Nouveau Secession architecture

It is a lake that has been one of the most visited locations in Serbia for many years, primarily because of its landscaping and architectural beauty. Palić Lake is 5 miles away from Subotica, one of the most beautiful cities in Serbia, and with the campsite we stayed at just a mile away, we were in a perfect position to visit both 'hot spots'.

The lake, almost 3 miles in diameter and with a maximum depth of 3.5 meters, has three beaches, warm water and a pleasant atmosphere. The shore of the lake is 10 miles long and can be cycled with sturdy mountain bikes.

Palić history dates back to the first recorded evidence in 1462 but it wasn't until the 18th century that locals realised the lake's mud had curative properties and flocked to the town for healing. In the late 19th century Palić's Golden Age hit, with the resort being a popular European destination for the elite. It was in the 1900s that the Secession architecture really put Palić on the map and when you see the pictures, you'll understand why.







SUBOTICA AND ITS FAMOUS SECESSION ARCHITECTURE

On the map Subotica is a long way north and unless you're heading for Hungary seems a big old stretch. It's a 90 minute journey from Belgrade on an uninspiring stretch of tolled motorway that costs under £9. But we've got the luxury of time, so why not, and I really wanted to see it.

So with home at Camping Palić, just 15 minutes away we grabbed ourselves a free shuttle. A city on the threshold of historical cultures where diversity sits together with ease. A unique identity that sets it apart from any of city in Serbia.

- A coffee on the lovely Matije Korvina street filled with atmosphere. Try Boss, it's fabulous for coffee or lunch.

- A wander to the main square to see the iconic, landmark City Hall, around which you can join a guided tour for £1.50.
- A visit into Europe's 2nd largest Synagogue for £1.
- A visit to the Raichle's Palace Art Gallery - the building itself is a masterpiece from the early 20th century.
- Have a lunch at [Bates](#), where the locals eat. No tourists here.

Subotica is one of those cities where your eyes need to be permanently poised upwards, as this is where its beauty lies. Incredible Hungarian influenced Art Nouveau architecture that drops you into the most fairytale city we've been to for a very long time. A visit here is like being in a fairytale - and you can read more about it [here](#).







WESTERN REGION

As if we hadn't been treated enough to such a diverse and surprising country, Serbia held one thing back. It's western region. This little corner is full of traditional mountain villages, profound culture and the most incredible scenery you can imagine. Rivers, lakes, bears, lynx and Golden Eagles - if we were very, very lucky.

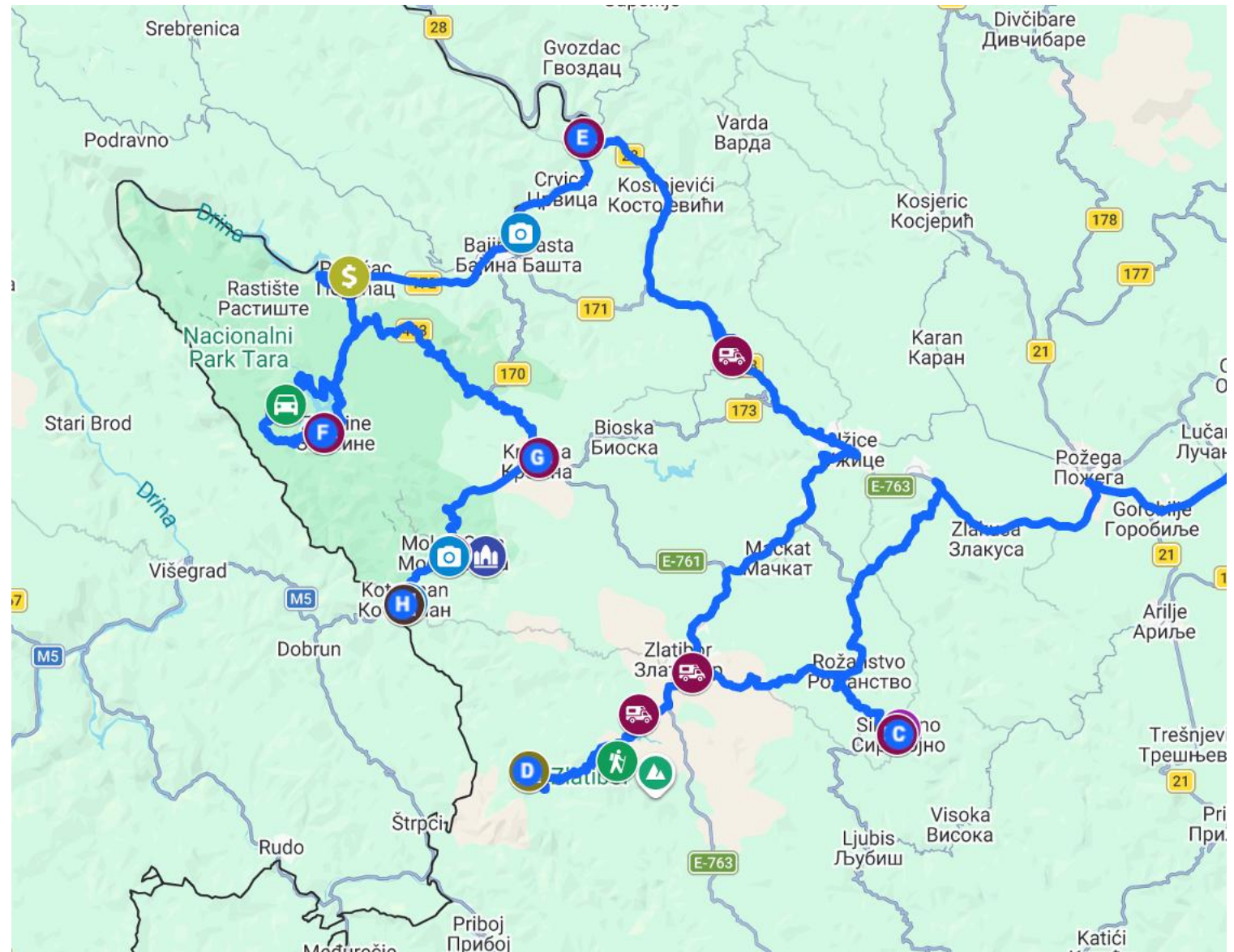
It's hard to imagine that an area could be so beautiful after all we had seen, but beautiful it was. Yet it would hold our one and only disappointment of our entire 53 days.

Route 4

Serbia's Western National Parks

Must see spots;

- * Ovčar/Kablar Gorge, Monastery and Skywalk
- * Sirogojno Ethno Village
- * Zlatibor Mountains
- * Drina river
- * Tara National Park
- * Mokra Gora





OVČAR BANJA, KABLAR GORGE, A MONASTERY AND A SKYWALK

From a region that was less than inspiring, (in terms of its landscape, unless the sunflowers are in full glory) we were looking forward to having some shape to the countryside again.

And as ever, Serbia didn't fail us. Leaving Belgrade, within a few miles the rise of the mountains in the distance gave us just what we hoped for. Another cheap toll that both allowed us to crunch some miles, and keep us cool in 39°, the mountains offered a little bit of respite.

Our first delight was the West Morava River that is the centrepiece of the 12 mile long *Ovčar/Kablar Gorge*. Meandering between these two mountains, the vista was just what we hoped for. Staying at our latest spa town Ovčar, events took a turn we weren't expecting.

In an area known as *Serbia's Mount Athos* because of its cluster of 30 historic monasteries, it was a lovely hidden gem.

We spied a sparkling jewel way up high in the mountains from where we were staying in Ovčar, which upon research, revealed Serbia's brand new attraction; the newly opened **Kablar Skywalk**.

You can check out our video **here**, which is dedicated to getting Scoobie and Smiley up the mountain and what the Skywalk was like for someone with acrophobia.



Before we left for the Skywalk, I nipped out early doors to see one of 10 monasteries that shelter in the shadow of the Ovčar and Kablar mountains.

This was the **Blagovestenje Monastery**, which is historic for Serbian Orthodox faith. Little is known about many of the monasteries as there are few written records, but the school of thought is that they are all from 14th century as the monks fled the Ottoman rule.



However, the Blagovestenje Monastery broke the mould and it is evidenced that it was built in the early 17th century. Whilst the building itself is mighty fine, it is, as with most monastic churches in the country, its frescoes that stand out.





The Kablar Skywalk has only just opened in July 2026 and having spied it glistening down in the valley, Smiley knew I would want to visit. So we checked the roads and that it was open and I elected to drive given his acrophobia.

The roads were excellent - they have been given a facelift with the Skywalk opening and there were absolutely no issues for us driving our motorhome up there.

At the large parking area, which we fitted into perfectly as a 7.5m van, we then had a pretty tough 600m vertical climb to the platforms. But it really was worth the hike and the views quite spectacular of the Ovčar/Kablar gorge and its snaking Western Morava river.

It costs around £3.50 for entry per person and I was really happy we did it. For more more info check this out.





SIROGOJNO ETHNO VILLAGE

Sometimes we find a spot to stay that is not just a place to sleep and move on. It's where we feel at home with the locals. People who say hello, tractors who wave, residents who come out of their houses to greet us and young adults who are desperate to try out their English. This was ***Sirogojno*** high up on the Zlatibor Plateau in western Serbia.

After some stunning scenery that lead us into this western corner of the country, we felt as though we had the whole village to ourselves. Our reason for visiting was to immerse ourselves in 19th century mountain culture thanks to [Ethno Open Air](#)

Museum. A collection of 50 buildings that have been preserved from around the region and brought together here. A walk through life in the 1800s. The dairy, the houses, the granaries, the church all giving a peak into how life was over 100 years ago.

The village is also famous for its knitwear that has put this tiny village (and its museum) on the world's fashion stage, reaching shops in Paris, Milan and Japan. Made from wool from the Zlatibor region, they have found fame.





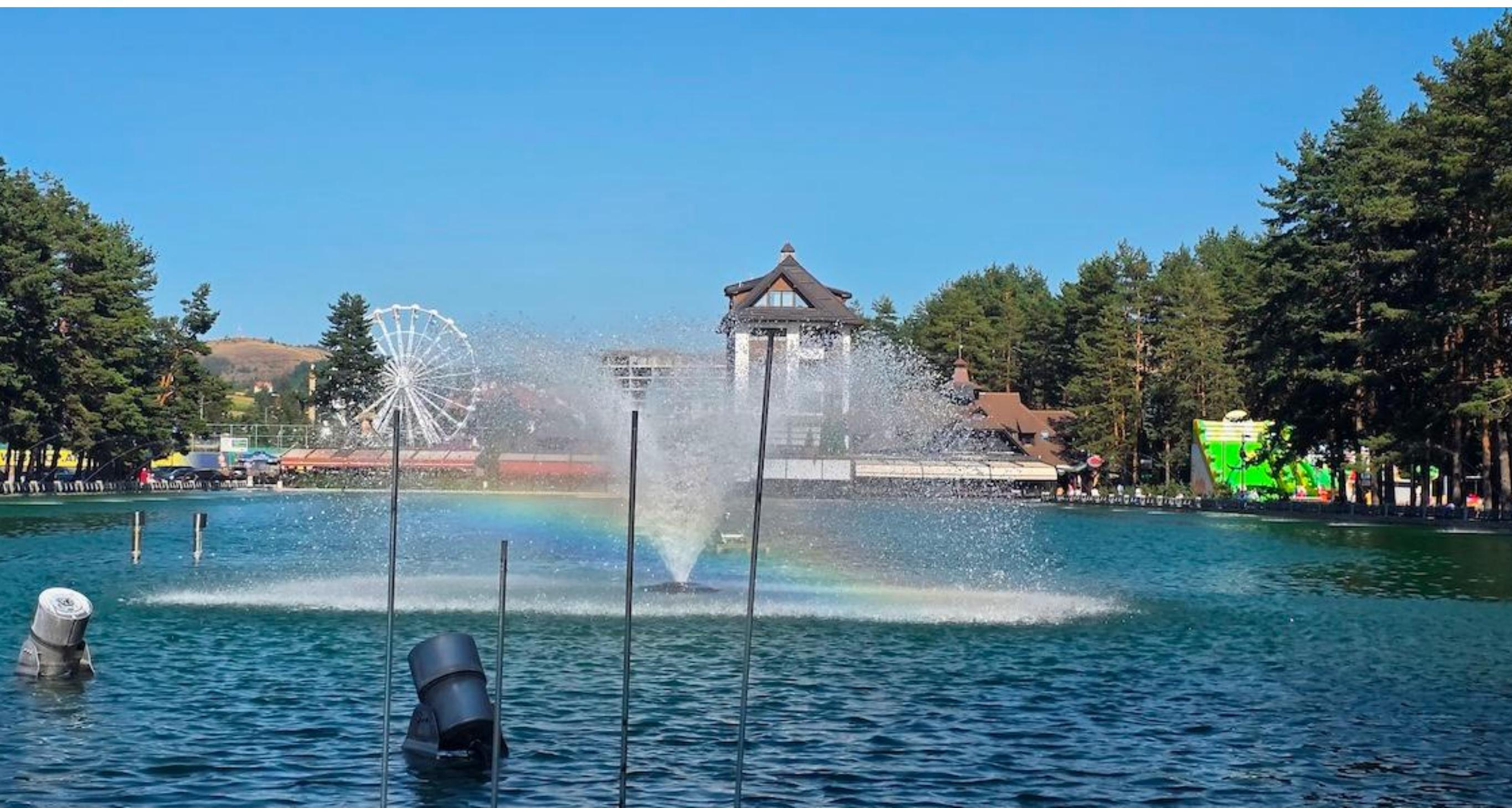
ZLATIBOR THE TOWN - OUR ONLY SERBIAN DISAPPOINTMENT

Our drive from Sirogojno was stunning and held great promise. At 900m up, this wasn't a dramatic mountain landscape. It was, as we have come to love in Serbia - gentle, curvaceous and inviting.

The undulating Zlatibor landscape was pleasing to the eye with its autumnal hue. Legend has it that Zlatibor got its name from these golden meadows. But in truth Zlati means gold - bor means pines. And the forest bark here is as golden as the fields. But that vista lost its appeal as we came over the ridge.

Our first sight was the tower block apartments. Then the Ferris Wheel. I had read it was one of Serbia's biggest tourist destinations geared up mainly for the ski season.

We parked up in Camping Zlatibor that sits overlooking the town, which is nice enough for a city campsite, giving us access to the town. But a 10 minute walk in soon revealed the extent of its touristic identity. An artificial lake, slot machine arcades and fast food stalls. It has, I'll be honest, been done quite nicely. The holiday villages are modern and pretty enough and fabulous for families. But the town was not our cuppa. But the mountains, boy did they make up for it.





After our disappointment in Zlatibor town, we decided to leave and head into the mountains. The meadows painted gold, the landscape softly shaped - this was more us.

And after a drive up past Lake Ribničko we found the Tornik Ski Station, where the world's longest Gondola ends its 25 minute journey. But the walking wasn't great for my ankle so we headed back.

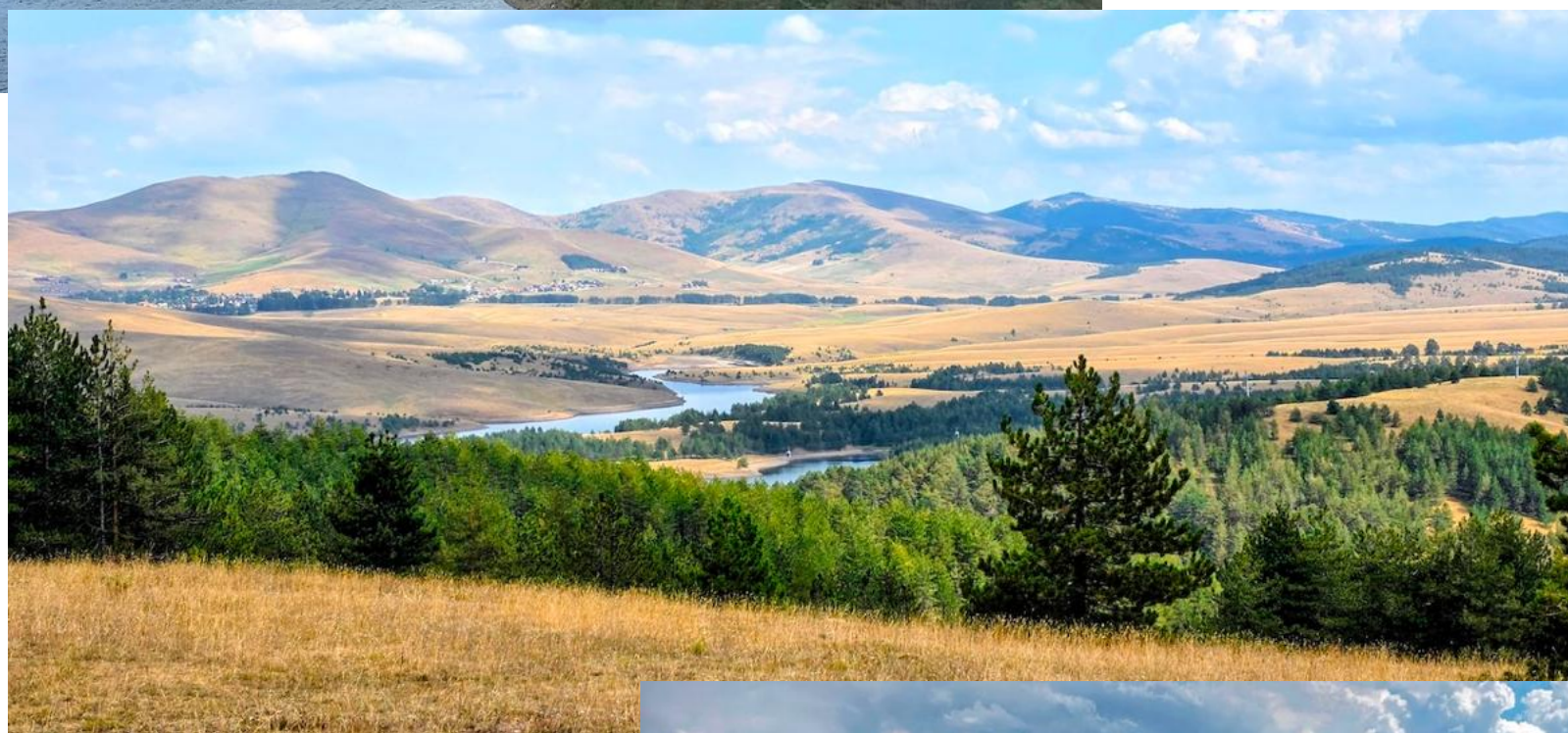


At the crossroads, we turned left to see the Log Cabin church down an unknown road which had piqued my curiosity.

After the collection of 19th century buildings at the Ethno Museum at Sirogojno, it was lovely to see these old homes in the flesh, dotted all over the hills. This felt so authentic compared to Zlatibor's artificial town.



The road was spectacular as it weaved its way around these gentle mountains. Not quite gentle enough for Smiley, whose palms sweated from time to time. With roads that seemed to narrow, I had to walk the final stretch to the church, which was vertical and made my lungs cry. But to see this beautiful wooden church complex built in 1838, it made up for it.





KADINJAČA MEMORIAL COMPLEX - UŽICE

After leaving the comfortable retreat we found in the Zlatibor mountains, we had our sights set on a memorial site just 8 miles from the industrial town of Užice. It was a place we could stay for the night too, so that was an added bonus.

This memorial honours the heroic last stand of the proletarian battalion who died while delaying German troops to protect the evacuation of the Republic of Užice. It was opened by Tito in September 1979 and appears on the Atlas Obscura list of must sees.

On November 29th, the partisan battalion threw themselves in the path of the advancing Germans, heading them off at Kadinjača Mountain.

The Germans had a far superior force, and almost every member of the Worker's Battalion died in that conflict. Their sacrifice, however, bought valuable time with which to evacuate civilians out of Užice before the Germans retook the city.





DRINA RIVER

The Drina River is an emerald beauty with its 215 miles of meandering from the confluence of the Tara and Piva Rivers before it eventually meets up with the Danube at Belgrade.

It was one of our favourite stretches of river, or perhaps better described as holding one of our favourite overnights.

The most amazing thing to me was, as we sat at this fabulous spot, which you can find [here](#), we were paddling distance to Bosnia. Those banks? They are another country all together and

it felt so strange sat on the Serbian shores to imagine a different way of living, values and cultures.

Just 15 minutes along the main road from our little park up haven, there is an iconic spot that cannot be missed when you're in Serbia. The House in the Drina. Made famous by the National Geographic Magazine in 2012, but was actually built in 1968 by locals to give them somewhere to rest whilst swimming. It's been rebuilt many times, but has stood the test of time and is an iconic Serbia photograph.





TARA NATIONAL PARK - LAKE ZAOVINE

Next up... it was time to visit one of Serbia's five National Parks - **Tara**. Home to lynx, bears and wolves. To reach it we needed to buy a pass, but because we didn't know how long we would be staying, we left it open and we could pay when we left. We took a deep breath, now it was time to climb. We had checked out the road on Google maps, but you don't always know quite how it will be until you get there.

We quickly realised that whilst it was a good driving road, for Myles, a wave of acrophobia washed over him. Thankfully a

viewpoint across the gorge below allowed us to swap over, much to his relief. We drove around hairpin bends and we climbed endlessly, it seemed. But soon enough our destination appeared - **Lake Zaovine** - Jewel of the Tara. And it's easy to see why. A popular spot for locals to hang out with its radiant blue waters.

They started its construction in 1975 and like so many dams, the ghostly presence of the hamlet Vežanje still lay beneath its surface. At nearly 6 miles² this lake directly links to the Drina and is able to pump water in both directions. It's a stunning sight.



The road around Lake Zaovine was beautiful but our dear old dads were, without doubt looking down on us as I drove us around this helter skelter of a road. It was gravelling in places, narrow in others, with some potholes but generally doable for a 7.5m van. We held our breath as some sections, had we met any oncoming traffic.

The lake road R403 takes only an hour to drive and 24km long (14 miles) and is well worth doing. And as we left the NP we paid our fee, just £7 for 24hrs.

We only scratched Tara's surface, but we loved it





MOKRA GORA - ŠARGAN EIGHT RAILWAY LINE

And before we knew it, our final few days had crept up on us like a hunting tiger. And our exit from Serbia was as unplanned as our arrival. But not before we had enjoyed the final Natural Park that sits on the border with Bosnia on the western fringes.

Mokra Gora, which means Wet Mountain is nestled on the northern edge of the Zlatibor mountain range and in its own right is a Natural Park. The town was put on the map when they resurrected the 20th century narrow gauge steam train railway.

The first train departed in 1925 and after a 20 year gap from 1974, it now runs again. This unique 2 hour journey winds 300m up in a figure of 8, which makes our passage pretty unique with some incredible views. Except for the tunnels, which throw the carriages into darkness, which through the longest 1666m was less than fun, but the rest was an exciting journey for just £12 each.



Mokra Gora has two other sight seeing spots. One is an Ethno Timber Village - **Drvengrad** built by a film director who then donated it to the village after filming.



But it is not a motorhome friendly access road nor a parking area. So we retreated, disappointed to the **Bela Voda**, which is far less touristy and enjoyed the peace of this railway heritage valley.

Away from people we walked through serenity to find this beautiful hidden church sheltered by the pine forests where its waters are said to heal your eyes. And after the sights that Serbia has graciously offered us, we needed it.





4 SERBIA ROAD-TRIP PRACTICALITIES

We have not had Serbia on our radar until the very last minute, and we entered with only the bare essentials. I knew we were covered under our Comfort Insurance Policy and I knew they sold LPG profusely. Anything much more than that I had very little time to research.

But we needn't have worried, as there were some similarities to Montenegro to give us comfort and the rest we allowed to unfold. But to save you that worry, here is all you need to know about a road-trip to Serbia.



Arriving in Serbia

There are around 60 different border crossings into Serbia, given it shares land borders with Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Croatia, plus administrative crossing points with Kosovo. Many Europeans enter in at the north from Hungary near Subotica, which makes a great first-night stopover.

1. Entry by land

We entered Serbia at Špiljani near to Rožaje in Montenegro. It was not a simple entry for us, as we later found out that it is well-known drugs run from Albania. So we were, scrutinised. Two Customs guys searching our cupboards, checking our alcohol supplies and our medicine cabinets. They took away my CBD tincture for examination, as only certain medicines are allowed

in. But we didn't ever find out what was prohibited. After 15 minutes, our passports and CBD were returned to us and we were on our way. Reading other's reports, their crossings were far simpler, so either we were unlucky or it is the crossing we chose. Given we were crossing from another non-Schengen country, no biometrics were required.

2. Entry by air

Perhaps, of course you are reading this without a motorhome and you are deciding to fly. If so then your main hub will be Belgrade. From the UK, you can take a direct flight from London Luton with WizzAir or London Heathrow with Air Serbia with a flight time of around 3hrs. If you then want to hire a motorhome rather than make the journey from the UK, this [firm](#) is located in Belgrade.

All things driving

Unlike our driving experience in Montenegro, Serbia is an absolute breeze to navigate. The road quality is significantly better, the motorway system second to none and the width of most roads more than doable for our larger vehicles. In Montenegro we were constantly reviewing roads before committing to a journey. But in Serbia every time we checked, there were simply no issues.

Now there were a few isolated shockers. Like Route 28 from Užice to the Bosnian border. That was bad. But otherwise on the whole it was so much more pleasant an experience. Especially for Smiley's acrophobia. Only once did I have to take over due to the mountain steepness.

Let's start off with Serbia's **driving rules**, where they follow the EU regulations.

- You must drive on the right which means that **headlamp beam deflectors** are required.
- The biggest and most important rule is that **you must have your dipped headlights on at all times**, even during the day. You will be stopped and fined for not doing so.
- **Speed limits** are in kilometres and vary between 40kmph in some villages up to 130kmph on the toll roads. The locals are better drivers than the Montenegrins and take less risks, but they are still fast and impatient. So just let them pass, they will most often thank you.

- **Seat belts** are mandatory for all occupants of the vehicle.
- If you bring a scooter, you must wear a helmet, even if the locals do not.
- **Don't drink and drive**, The drink-drive limit for all drivers is 0.03%. Random tests are carried out by police officers if a driver is suspected of being over the limit
- The use of a **mobile phone** while driving is prohibited unless you have a hands free device.
- There is a really good motorway network, supported by Chinese investors and they are mostly **toll roads** but they are really cheap.
- **Winter tyres** (M+S are acceptable) with at least 4mm depth are required from 1st November to 1st March for all wheels where snow and ice are present. You must also carry snow chains.
- Have a **UK sticker** on the back of your van as we would normally have for other trips to the EU.
- Drivers are to carry a **valid driving licence, V5 registration and insurance documents** at all times whilst driving.
- A **reflective jacket** is to be kept in the car and worn and if you are in an accident or if you have broken down.
- In the case of emergency, the primary number is 112. For police call **192**. For emergency road assistance call **987 or or +381 11 987 if calling from a foreign mobile network**.



Diesel and LPG

Diesel in Serbia was surprisingly expensive. Cheaper than the UK and other European countries, but not by much.

When we arrived it was at 222.00 RSD and when we left it had risen to 233.00 RSD. (£1.60-1.69)

And LPG or Autogas as it is called here is readily available at around 105.9 (£.77) which is significantly cheaper than the rest of Europe. We had absolutely no issues at all filling up.

Garages accept card payments without issue.

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All Things Camping

Given no one talks about Serbia as a motorhome destination, we had little idea about the campsite situation and whether they allowed off grid overnighters. Apart from, of course Park4Night markers, we had little else to go on. Happily neither were problems at all. In fact the seven campsites we stayed at were some of the best we've stayed at across Europe.

Campsites are springing up all over the place, realising the potential for hosting motorhomes. Many we stayed at had only recently opened and were keen to offer great services and facilities.

Some sites have swimming pools, all have great showers and they cost between €19-30 including the Tourist Tax. You will have to present your passports but otherwise it was all very easy.

Payment varied between card and cash, so just make sure you have plenty of folding with you. But it should be clear on the Park4Night App.

Campsites average averaged €25 inc EHU. They were all excellent quality and had great hospitality.

Wild Camping - off grid homes

For those of you who want to experience a more off-grid style of 'home', there are plenty of options across the country. And when you see how many small caravans are parked up along the Danube or hidden amongst the trees, you'll understand Serbia's liberal approach to going off grid. We only saw one restriction and that was beside a campsite - so totally understandable.

Otherwise places to stay are plentiful and our need for campsites was generally driven by services or needing hook up so we could keep cool amidst a raging heatwave.

We stayed at monasteries. Near castles. By beaches on the river and at UNESCO Roman ruins. We even found a vineyard host who couldn't have been kinder in the facilities she offered for free. And of course we repaid her in a few wine purchases.

Now to be transparent - we met a solo English guy with his lovely dog Ozzie who was attacked whilst at a wild spot by a lake in the north of the country by the Hungarian border. Now of course it was distressing for them both being broken into, but he was clear to say that it could have have been anywhere in Europe and in fact even in a campsite he stayed in, in France, there was a thieving

rampage. And we're not even sure what nationality the perpetrators were. We had absolutely no safety concerns at all during our 7 weeks, but as always we stay vigilant and park mindfully, especially when there's a big summer rave going on. Andy by his own admission said that he should have parked more appropriately.

Wild camping is allowed even in season.

As ever, rules for wild camping must be applied. If we can be respectful of their tolerance, then these places will remain homes for us for the future. So park sensitively and discretely, spend your money in local bars and bakeries, take away your rubbish and leave no trace of your presence.



We have listed all our overnight stopovers at the end of this book and also you can find them by clicking this [Interactive Map](#) link.

We used [Park4Night](#) for all of our stopovers.



All Things Shopping

Shopping in any new country brings with it a mixture of jubilation and anticipation as we explore how best to nourish ourselves. We love to see what unique cultural foods are on offer. Yet with all the different eating styles that we choose, for nutritional or ethical reasons, food shopping abroad can bring a range of emotions. So let's see if we can share a bit about our experiences.

Supermarkets

Unlike Montenegro, Serbia has plenty of Lidl around the country. On top of that is Idea and a plethora of smaller supermarkets that you will find even in the smallest of hamlets.

And unlike Bosnia and Montenegro, **supermarkets are open on Sundays.**

There are a few things that we struggled to get even with a Lidl. Once again low cal tonic was non existent. Coke Zero you could find and the odd occasion Zero Sprit, but that's it.

Good quality, fresh fruit was ok in Lidl. Plums aplenty, apricots, but berries were a bit more tricky, so I tended to buy frozen packets for smoothies which worked out well given the heatwave.

Pork is easily found here despite having a Muslim sector of their population. Their fresh bread from the Pekara were always excellent and along every roadside the local farmers would always be out with their gigantic watermelon and freshly grown produce. Fresh milk was also easy to find unlike Serbia's neighbouring countries.

Our food bills were, on average on a par with Spain, so a little cheaper than Montenegro.

Food and Drinking Culture

Serbians are generally carnivores. They love their protein and sweet treats and cakes so expect to see a plethora of aisles in the supermarkets. Their portion sizes are also huge, so be mindful.

Their fresh meat is good, especially the beef mince, which we found to be super lean and very, very tasty - and we're not really beef eaters. Check out **Ćevapčići**, (pronounced chevapachichi) which is classed as street-food and is a small sausage made of minced meat served with a tomato or red pepper based sauce called **ajvar**. Meats in restaurants though tend to be overly salted.

There are no restrictions on buying alcohol, and is easy to buy at any supermarket with reasonable price tags. You can easily buy gin and whiskey if they are your tipples. If you enjoy Ouzo style shots then their Rakija and Sljivovica - a plum brandy is excellent. We loved the **Rubikov** version which you can buy in any small supermarket as it is a staple in Serbia.

Did you know that Serbia is the second largest producer of plums in the world?

Similar to Montenegro, Serbia has a huge **Cafe Culture**. Every village has a cafe and there were always people drinking something there.

And a final thought related to food is WASTE. Refuse bins tend to be at the end of streets and are often overflowing and there is no recycling at all here at all. Serbia's rubbish problem is not as bad as Montenegro or Bosnia, but by English standards it is still not great. So be prepared for that side of the Balkans.

Eating Out

We only ate out a few times during our seven weeks and the menus, especially in tourist destinations, spanned a wide variety of options. Before heading off into a city or town, I would always google 'where do the local's eat?' And we always found excellent restaurants with local prices.

My favourite dish was the **Karadordeva šnicla** which is a Pork Kiev, rolled and deep fried in breadcrumbs. The story of its creation comes from the early 1960s, when a Belgrade chef hosted a Russian diplomat and he wanted Chicken Kiev. Without the right ingredients, he created a pork version instead and it is out of this world.

DIY Emergency shopping

If you run into trouble for van bits, then OKO is a great store available in larger towns and cities.



Laundry

We did all our laundry whilst on campsites which varied in cost between free, €2 per wash or up to the equivalent of €5.



Currency and payments

Serbia is RSD - Republic of Serbia Dinar - or Dinar for short. There were some places where we could pay with Euros close to the Montenegrin and Hungarian borders, but Dinars were the currency most acceptable.

When it came to payments, **Supermarkets, petrol stations and restaurants** happily took **credit cards** or **prepaid travel cards like Caxton or Revolut**. And 50% of the campsites also happily took cards.

Everything else, entrance fees, markets and **Kaffa** (cafes) would only take cash. There are plenty of ATMs around, so we recommend you have Euros with you as well as a pre-paid card such as Caxton. For conversion of currency we always use [Xe.com](https://www.xe.com). We paid a €4 transaction fee on most ATMs. However we did find one that was free to withdraw cash. **Look out for Halkbank.**



Which season is best to visit?

I guess this is a matter of personal choice. If you like mega hot then Serbia in summer is a perfect destination. In 2026 we endured an intense heatwave with temperatures reaching 40°C. It drove a lot of our decisions about where to stay. But the one thing we loved about Serbia is the lack of crowds. Because it is not on people's radar, campsites were rarely busy, towns and cities just full of locals and not once did we see a tourist coach with flag bearing leaders. Possibly one in Belgrade.

Serbia has a continental weather pattern, so you will see distinct seasons. This is what you're most likely to experience through the year.

Seasonal Overview

- **Spring** (March–May): Unpredictable and chilly in March (night frost), warming up nicely by May (avg ~20°C).
- **Summer** (June–August): Warm to hot. July is peak heat (>30°C–35°C in lowlands). June tends to see higher rainfall.
- **Autumn** (September–November): Pleasant shoulder weather in September, turning rainy and cool in late autumn.
- **Winter** (December–February): Cold, with January as the coldest month and snow cover common in hills/mountains from November to March, perfect if you like skiing.

Public Holidays

In case it influences the time in which you visit here are a list of Serbian holidays.

22 April - Holocaust and Fascist victims' Remembrance Day

1-2 May - Labour Day

9 May - Victory Day for WW2

21 October - WW2 Serbian Victims Memorial Day

Summer holidays for schools - 3rd week in June to beginning of September.

It is also worth mentioning that with a 4.5% of the population being Muslims, some regions will honour Ramadan practices each year.



What to pack

I guess the packing list for Serbia is completely different depending upon the season and potentially in which part of the country you are spending most of your time. Certainly summer clothes for late spring, summer and early autumn. Then layers for early spring and autumn with winter coats, hats and gloves for winter.

- If you love walking there is loads of hiking to be done, so pack a decent pair of **walking boots**.

- If like me you love a **SUP or kayak**, then Serbia's lakes and rivers are worthy of loading up the garage.
- **Swimming shoes** for ease in the wet stuff.
- Pack **waterproof and windproof** attire for hiking in the mountains as weather at any time of the year may be unpredictable. Especially the thunderstorms. They can be quite vicious.
- Rucksack or three.
- Bicycles definitely or moped if you have one.
- And of the need for **mosquito repellent**. We were surprised how few mozzies there were around. But they did exist from time to time.

Animals, Pets and Vets in Serbia

When it comes to our furry companions, entry to Serbia is no different to other European countries. For full information please refer to this official [website](#) to ensure you have the adequate cover and injections for your companions. But here is a summary;

- Your pet must be permanently marked - with a microchip;
- Your pet must be vaccinated against rabies with at least one antigenic unit per dose (recommendation of the World Health Organization); or by a recombinant vaccine that expresses the immunizing glycoprotein of the rabies virus in a live viral vector and that 21 days have passed since the day of vaccination, in the case of the first vaccination against rabies;

- All preventive measures necessary for the protection of public health and the health of pets must be met in order to control diseases or infections that are not rabies, which could spread due to the movement of those same pets, in accordance with the regulations governing veterinary medicine;
- Your pet must be accompanied by a correctly completed passport issued by an authorized veterinarian of the country you are coming from.

There is a small stray dog problem in Serbia but no where did we find any dogs aggressive or in packs. In fact they were so docile and friendly - quite honestly we could have taken a handful home with us.

Should you need a vet whilst on your trip, click this [link](#) which provides you with a search facility of the country's **Vets**.



Communicating

Data and Telephone Connectivity

Given Serbia is not in the Europe Zone and won't be for the foreseeable future, you will find that UK phone suppliers will not cover the Balkans in their plans.

We picked up eSims with **Roamic** and whilst we ran out of data more frequently than we did in Montenegro with no difference in our usage, it was still a convenient way to go. We didn't find any really good deals with anyone here unlike Montenegro - and we did look hard.

I have a referral code that if you click on it, you can get a €2 discount on your price and I get a €2 loyalty bonus off my next bill. Click below for the deal.

[Click HERE for Roamic Referral Discount](#)



Getting by in Serbian

The Balkan states all have some similarities in their language, so once you have some basic phrases nailed in say Montenegrin, then you will be able to adapt to Croatian. Similarly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

Whilst many Serbian's speak some English, with just a few phrases, you will win over their hearts. I had a couple of people comment on how well I spoke their language.

Turn over the page for a back list of words and phrases you can use.

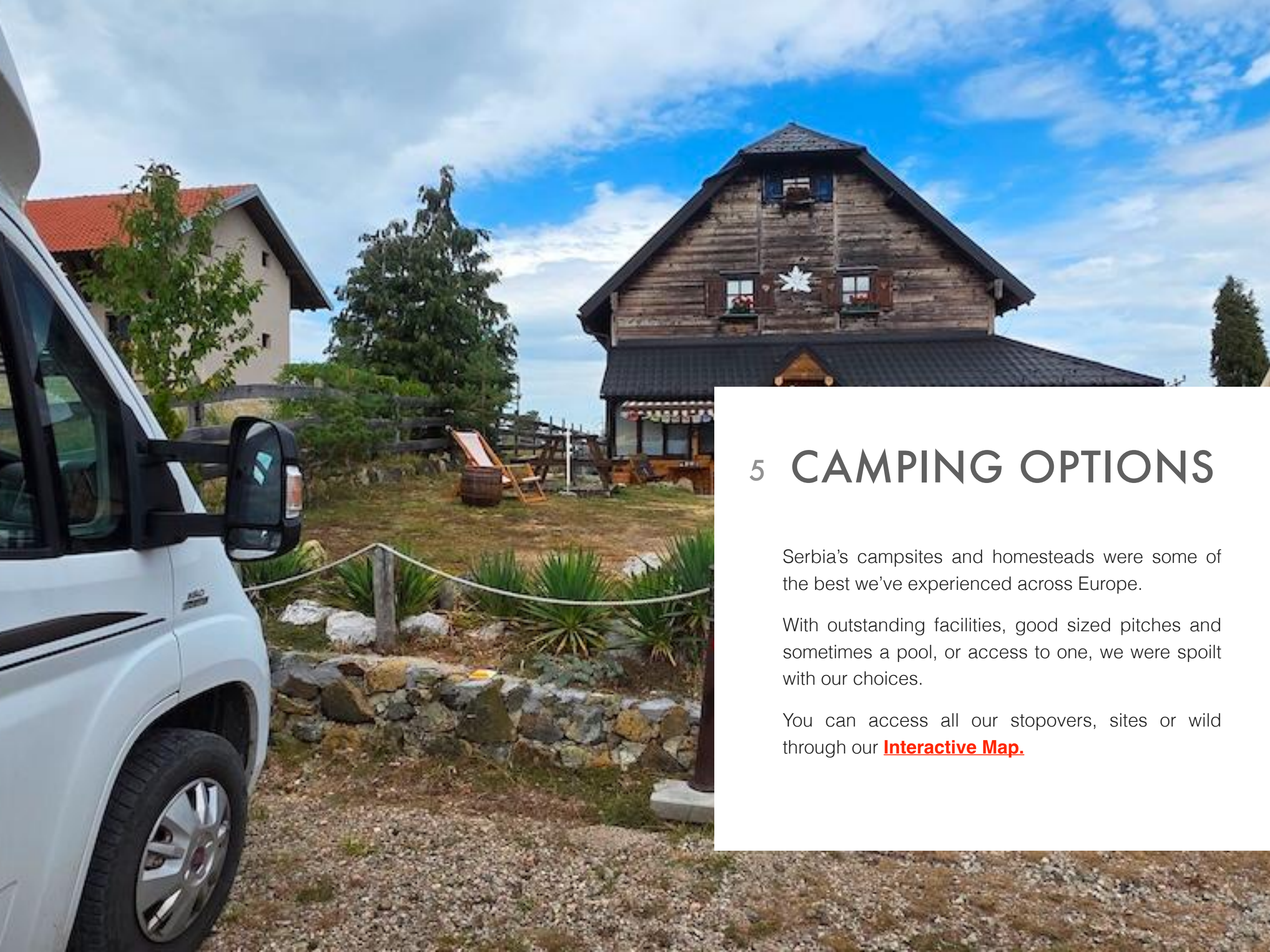
Phrase	Montenegrin	Phonetic
Hello (once you know someone)	Zdravo	Stravo
Hello (formal greeting)	Dobar dan	Dobradan
Please, Thank you Thank you very much	Molim, hvala Hvala puno	Molim, hv ala puno
Goodbye	Dovidenja or cao	Dovigenya or chow

Here are some nuances to help you with your pronunciations.

- **č and ć** these are classified as a 'hard c' and a 'soft c'. So **č** is a 'ch' and **ć** is more like a 'ty' as in tune.
- **š and ž** these are pronounced as a 'sh' like in shoe and 'ze' as in the s of measure.
- **j** is like a 'ye' as in dovidenja. When it is combined like this **nj** you pronounce it like the n in minion.
- **đ** you see this in dovidenja - and is pronounced as a soft g in the sound duke.

Phrase	Montenegrin	Phonetic
How are you?	Kako se	Kako tsay
Can I....	Mogu li....	Mogoo lee
....pay	platiti	plat iti
....have	dobiti	dob iti
....stay	ostati	os tati
Do you speak English?	Govoriš li engleski	Govorish lee engleski

Spending	Price in €	Comments
Food	1000	We found food to be on a par with Spanish prices
Diesel	373	Prices varied from €1.60 - €1.63 during our visit
LPG	31	Prices were around €0.73 during our visit
Campsites	377	53 nights with 26 'off grid'
Tolls	30	The motorways were helpful for covering long distances
Eating out	348	Generally nice food
Laundry	12	All done via Campsite facilities
WIFI	58	A mixture of Roamic and Yettel
Entertainment/ Entry Fees	100	This includes boat trips and fortress and museum entrance fees.
Total spend	2.329	This equates to around £44 per day all inclusive.



5 CAMPING OPTIONS

Serbia's campsites and homesteads were some of the best we've experienced across Europe.

With outstanding facilities, good sized pitches and sometimes a pool, or access to one, we were spoilt with our choices.

You can access all our stopovers, sites or wild through our [Interactive Map](#).



1. [Sopoćani Monastery](#) - off grid
2. [Maglič Castle Parking](#) - off grid
3. [Vrnjačka Vrelo Camping](#)
4. [Nis Fortress](#) - off grid
5. [Popoland Camping - Nis](#)
6. [Lake Bovansko](#)
7. [Romulijane Roman ruins - Gamzigrad](#)
8. [Vinarijar Raj - Rajac](#)
9. [Kladovo Parking - Danube](#)
10. [Golubac Danube parking](#) - off grid
11. [Camping Kalinovac](#) - Silver Lake
12. [Novi Sad Fortress](#) - off grid
13. [Camping Oasis](#) - Palić
14. [Camping Dunav](#) - Belgrade
15. [Ovčar Banja](#) - off grid
16. [Sirogojno Parking](#)
17. [Camping Zlatibor](#)
18. [Planinski Dom Homestay](#)
19. [Kadinjača Memorial](#) - off grid
20. [Drina river](#) - off grid
21. [Lake Zaovine](#) - Tara National Par - Kremna



6 TOP TIPS SUMMARY

Serbia has been an inspiration. It has never been on the radar and we've never heard anyone else talk about it either. So it has been a total revelation to us. It has been a joy to promote it. I hope that Practical Motorhome Magazine will profile my article very soon.

So here are my top tips for putting this little gem on your motorhome road-trip itinerary.



TOP TIPS SUMMARY FOR SERBIA

1. **Get local currency out at an ATM** when you arrive. Look for a Halkbank for commission free withdrawals.
2. **Wild camping** or going off grid is acceptable in Serbia without issue.
3. **Be ready to talk to the locals about joining the EU and the War.** They will share their perspectives freely and they might just shine a slightly different light on things.
4. **There are plenty of really good campsites to stay at.**
5. **Serbia's smaller road tunnels are often unlit** which can be a bit disconcerting.
6. Expect **lower temperatures** in the mountains until beginning of May and in October.
7. **Serbian roads are excellent on the whole.** In seven weeks, we really only experienced a couple of dodgy roads. They were certainly better than Montenegro.
8. **Animal welfare** is better than Montenegro, but go with dog food as there are still strays around.
9. **Serbia is not yet in Europe.** And it is unlikely in the foreseeable future given the issues over Kosovo. So this is Schengen Free travel.

10. Serbia is not as **cheap** as you might imagine. Although diesel was certainly cheaper than Europe given the Middle East crisis, food was only a little cheaper and campsites on the whole also in the mid-range pricing.
11. You will find **Lidl** for shopping if that floats your boat.
12. **Serbians in tourist areas speak good English.** The locals less so, so be prepared with your Google Translate.
13. **We never felt unsafe in Serbia.** The people are the most hospitable and kind individuals we have ever come across, second only to Morocco.
14. Don't worry about **LPG** - it is plentiful.
15. At the moment, travel anytime in Serbia **will not encounter crowds** - even in Belgrade.
16. **Internet coverage was excellent** everywhere. I don't think there was one place where we couldn't get access.
19. If you like a tippie, their **Rakjia** is excellent. Each place has their own version and each region their own style. Buying in a bottle is expensive in the supermarkets, but the welcome drinks are always good to experiment. But you won't want more than two.
21. **Drivers are better than Montenegro** but still take risks so be mindful.

22. **YOU MUST drive with your headlights on AT ALL TIMES.**

23. Most of Serbia's **National Parks charge** an entrance fee, albeit a small amount.

24. **Accommodation** is very cheap if you want to store your van and stay in a city. We did it twice; Vrnjacka Banja and Belgrade.

25. Search out at least one of the **40 spa towns** in Serbia, called Banja.

26. If you are wine lovers, do try the **Serbian wines**, they are delicious and not overly expensive.

Follow these guidelines and you'll not go wrong with a Serbian road-trip and you will definitely not be disappointed by what it can offer you. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.



7 CLOSING THOUGHTS

After a post sharing my surprise of how different Serbia was to Montenegro someone commented 'how could it be different, they were the same country until 2006.

But they couldn't have been more wrong. There were so many differences; the roads, the diversity, the culture and their hospitality to name just a few.

After seven weeks in this delectable country, I am staggered that more people aren't talking about it. I can't believe that it has taken us 10 years to reach here. But once here, you will want to come again.

The past perhaps has a role to play in people's perceptions and through our Facebook posts, the general consensus has been one of surprise.

It was not what people expected.

It wasn't what we expected.

And I love it when we can bust through those perception walls. I genuinely hope that this guide has given you a new way of looking at Serbia - this gentle, progressive, surprising, beautiful country. With the generosity, warmth and welcome, it is hard to resist the temptation not to race back.

When a place makes you question your opinions, fills you with knowledge and insight and begs you to come back, then you know travel has done its job.

There have been a few countries we've visited that have had such a profound impact on us. Poland, Iceland and Morocco are three. And now we can add Serbia to that list with pride and delight.

It has been an inspiration and taught us far more than just the culture. A country that we have never talked about, but now happily promote over and over again.

Travellers have not had Serbia on their list - perhaps until now.

If you have any questions, why not drop us an email at themo-toroamers@gmail.com or check out the website for all our blogs and vlogs <https://www.motoroaming.com>.

Karen, Myles and Scoobie

