

Activities in Belgrade

Sights to see

1. Belgrade Fortress (Kalemegdan Park)

The number one must-see location in the city. Some 115 battles have been fought over impressive Kalemegdan. Over the centuries, the citadel has been destroyed more than 40 times. The building of the fortification began



in Celtic times, which the Romans extended onto the flood plains during their settlement of 'Singidunum', Belgrade's Roman name. Much of what stands today is the product of 18th-century Austro-Hungarian and Turkish reconstructions. The fort's bloody history, discernible despite today's plethora of jolly cafes and funfairs, only makes Kalemegdan all the more fascinating.

Entering from Knez Mihailova, go through the 18th-century **Karadjordje Gate** to reach the **Upper Town** (Gornji grad) of the fortress. From the **Stambol Gate** (1750), you

will reach the **Military Museum** and the 27.5 metre high Clock Tower. Further along, you will see a small brick octagon; this is the 1784 **Ali Pasha's Turbeh** (tomb), one of Belgrade's few well-preserved Islamic monuments. The **Roman Well** is nearby, a



mysterious 60m deep hole (more a cistern than a well) of dubious origin and shrouded in horrifying legends;

apparently the well even managed to creep out a visiting Alfred Hitchcock! Looming beside it is the **Victor Monument**, a symbol of Belgrade erected in 1928 to commemorate Serbia's victories over the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires during the Balkan Wars and



WWI. This 14 metre high monument is the city's most recognisable landmark and famous Belgrade attraction. The plateau around the monument is always crowded with tourists and Belgrade natives, partly because of the breath-taking view over the confluence of the two rivers that flow through Belgrade, and the beauty of this landmark as part of the historic Belgrade Fortress.

From the plateau around the monument, a stunning view of the **confluence of Sava and Danube rivers** and **The Big War Island** in the middle rises. The uninhabited island, even though of its central location in the city, hosts more than 66 different bird species and is protected by the state as a landscape of outstanding features. The main attraction on the island is a pair of **white-tailed eagles**. These are the largest eagles inhabited on the European continent, with the wingspan up to 2.4 metres. The eagles settled on the island in 2010, where they built a large nest, 2.50 metres in diameter, at the height of 20 metres. Having them reproducing at only 2.5 kilometres from the downtown area of a city is an exceptional rarity. The birds reproduced for the first time in 2013. In April 2016, when their chicks were



to be hatched, the city's communal services installed a camera in the nest. The project was unique, similar to the one conducted in Estonia, however, Belgrade is the only European capital to have such rare natural occurrences at its footstep. Prior to the hatching in 2017, a live feed was posted online. The eagles can be best

observed from the neighbouring Ušće and Dorćol districts, but can also be spotted circling above Kalemegdan and the Republic Square, the very heart of Belgrade.

The **Lower Town** (Donji grad) slopes down towards the river. The huge **Gunpowder Magazine** (1718) was set up by the Austrians as a safe place to hide artillery; today, it houses a collection of stone monuments, including Roman sarcophagi, tombstones and altars. Further to east, the ivy-swathed **Ružica Church** looks innocuous from the outside; inside, you will find chandeliers made by WWI Serbian soldiers from spent bullet casings, swords, rifles and cannon parts. The well-preserved **Nebojša Tower** (1460) sits directly on the riverbank at the tip of the Lower Town's north-eastern rampart. This is a former dungeon – the tower now serves as a museum – with some excellent exhibits which covers the times of medieval Belgrade, the Ottoman era and the First Serbian Uprising. Greeks also find the tower of historic value, since the most famous captive of Nebojša Tower was Rigas Feraios, a Greek revolutionary, killed in Nebojša Tower in 1798.



2. Skadarlija Street

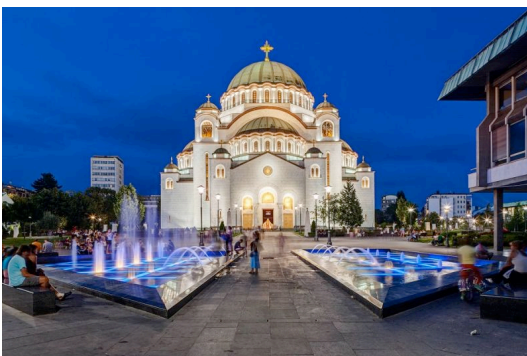


It was once known as a home of bohemians, usually artists, journalists, writers and musicians that were going to Skadarlija to enjoy the best drinks and tavern atmosphere, where they could

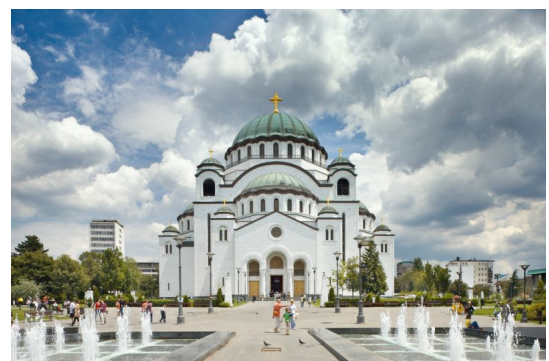
talk about the latest events and politics. Today Skadarlija is filled with people that want to experience the spirit of Belgrade and enjoy Skadarlija's legendary live old-town bands. Known for the beautiful promenade, famous traditional Belgrade taverns and restaurants, and as a place where the true history of Belgrade can be felt, Skadarlija is a Belgrade attraction like none other. Skadarlija is the second most visited tourist attraction in Belgrade.



3. Saint Sava Temple



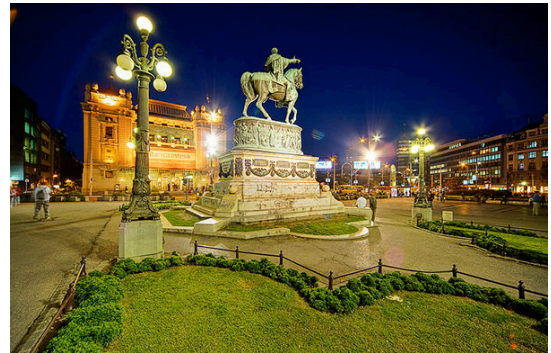
It's one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world and ranks among largest church buildings in the world. The church is dedicated to Saint Sava, an



important figure in medieval Serbia and founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church. It is built on the location where the remains of Saint Sava were burned in 1595 by Ottoman Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha. The church is Serbian version of "Sagrada Familia". The construction was stopped several times during the wars and communism and work on the internal decoration of the church is still in progress. After the completion of the church, it will have the biggest mosaic in the world. The dome is 70 m high, while the main gold plated cross is another 12 m high, which gives a total of 82 m to the height Church of Saint Sava.

4. Republic Square

Located in the centre of Belgrade, at the crossroads of past and present, here the most recognizable public buildings can be found, such as the National Museum and National Theatre. Republic Square is famous for its monument of Prince Mihailo on horseback, built in recognition of his achievements during the 19th century. Today, Republic Square is a famous Belgrade attraction for its beauty, cafés, lounges and restaurants, and a favourite for its constant hustle and bustle.



5. Ada Ciganlija



The ever-popular Ada Ciganlija and Belgrade Lake offer tons of daily and evening forms of entertainment. Perfect for cycling or rollerblading, Ada Ciganlija has wonderful bike trails and nature paths; all surrounding the lake, which is a local hotspot on warm, summer days. Many sports events are hosted at Ada Ciganlija throughout the year. You can also try water-skiing, which happens to be quite a challenge, or maybe you want to test your courage by going bungee jumping... With lots of daily activities, and over 100 cafés, bars and restaurants on the lake's shore, where some of the top parties are hosted, Ada

Ciganlija has become one of the most popular *Belgrade attractions* among tourists and people of Belgrade.

6. Knez Mihailova Street

This is the main pedestrian zone in Belgrade connecting Republic Square and Kalemegdan. Many cafes, restaurants, shops, art galleries are located here and at any time of day or night, it is filled with people and street artists and it is for this street that resembles many European metropolises. A walk on Knez Mihailova will give you true pleasure.



8. Old Zemun



On the other side of the river there is a town of Zemun, once upon a time known as Taurunum or Mallevilla, and today one of the biggest municipalities of Belgrade. At the top of the Zemun's Gardoš hill, elevated above the roofs of picturesque parks, vividly coloured old houses, narrow streets paved with cobblestones and the bell towers of St. Nicholas church, silently stands famous Millennium Tower, one of the last symbols of the mighty Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Nowadays, elegant tower built of red brick is a home to an art gallery and a lookout reminiscent of ancient times and many forgotten stories that were created on the banks of peaceful river under its knees.



Once upon a time there were four Millennium towers all over the Empire. They were tall symbols of Hungarian tradition and power, border stones erected on the four corners of the world, in the most remote cities in the kingdom. The only one that has been preserved is Zemun Tower, located at the place that used to be southern boundary. It was built in 1896, on the ruins of a medieval fortress Taurunum, named after the ancient city founded by Celts. Architects mixed various artistic styles to emphasize

tradition and the length of the Hungarian kingdom. The tower is 36 meters high and on top of it once stood eagle with spread wings. He's threatening gaze was directed towards Belgrade.

Soon after it was built, people called it Kula Sibirjanin Janka, Tower of Sibirjanin Janko, in memory of the Hungarian aristocrat Janos Hunyadi, knight, prince regent and a fighter against the Turks, who is mentioned in many Serbian folk songs. Hunyadi won his greatest victory in 1456, when he defeated the Turks who were coming across the Danube from Kalemegdan fortress. Hunyadi and his army got through the Turkish blockade in a bloody battle, defending the Belgrade fortress and also Zemun on the other side of river. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of his victory. He fell ill from fever and died three weeks after the end of the battle in one of the towers of the fortress Taurunum. The memory of a great warrior and a place where he died remained strong among Serbs. When they raised slender tower on Gardoš, they named it after Janos Hunyadi. Today, the tower is one of the most beautiful places in the territory of Belgrade.



9. Savamala

For those who prefer the atmosphere of European metropolises to Balkan parties, Savamala is the right choice. This once industrial area had become the centre of urban culture in Belgrade. The atmosphere in this part of the city represents Belgrade



as a living city full of urban culture, modern art and socializing. Several modern international restaurants, a promenade and a nice view of the confluence of the Sava and the Danube, with special spontaneity of the Belgraders, have made “Beton hala” one of the favourite places in Belgrade to relax and have fun.

10. Belgrade's Design District

The idea behind Belgrade Design District (Čumićevo sokače) is to mix and blend design, fashion, arts and crafts – a well-known concept in cosmopolitan cities worldwide, but also to promote innovative Serbian fashion designers and to present this social phenomenon to customers in one place in downtown Belgrade, which comes across as a phenomena similar from high street and its passing trade but the one bears much resemblance to it as opposed to hypermarkets.

BDD tends to offer unique fashion and design items. Some of them were pieces from collection at Belgrade Fashion Week.

The fashion rooms are small and cosy, and the shop assistants more often than not tend to be the fashion designers themselves. If you see something that you seem to like but don't have the money to buy it right away, no worries, as it's possible to order the same or a similar item at some later point.



Remember to visit All nut store at the very front into the 'district', but also Bartselona gallery at the first floor, Spice me up store, a tiny little gallery selling ceramics, Pokret concept store, Get Up, Redesign, Mimi concept store and Budislava shoes and clothes.

Location: Čumić, – enter via the Nušićeva Street passage

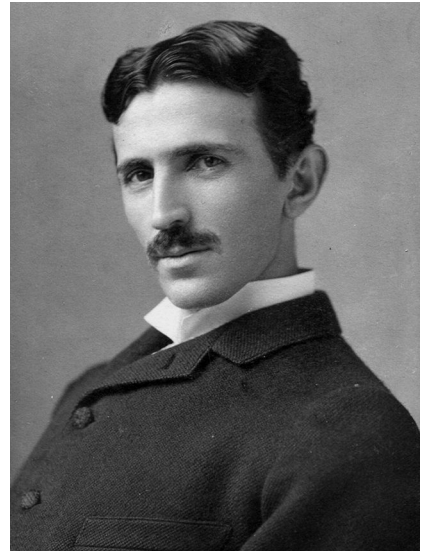
Open Mon-Fri 12-20 pm Sat 12-17 pm

11. Nikola Tesla Museum

One place you really shouldn't miss while you're in Belgrade, is the Nikola Tesla Museum. The Tesla Museum is an interactive experience about Tesla's past as well as our technological future.

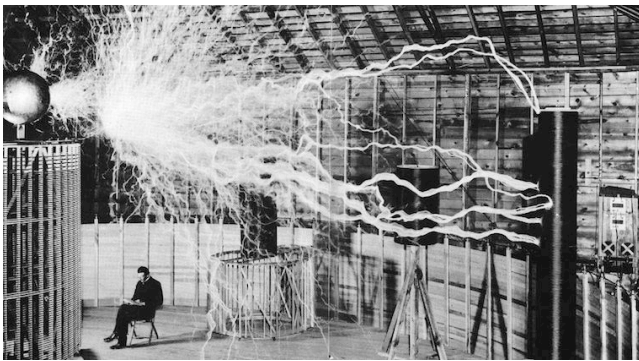


There aren't enough science museums in the world and while old rocks or abstract paintings are mildly compelling to look at for a moment, watching a group of visitors hold up florescent lights being lit by wireless electricity is something hard



to forget. Summing up the engineer Tesla is something one line of text can't do but if you're using a laptop right now that's plugged into the wall, using Wi-Fi, sitting under florescent lights, and have ever used a remote control, you can thank Nikola Tesla.

Tesla was born in 1856 to Serbian parents in Smiljan (now in modern-day Croatia), later moving to the United States to work with Thomas Edison. Yugoslav government established the Nikola Tesla Museum 9 years after his death. All of his belongings in the U.S. were sent by his nephew to the small building, now the museum, along with Tesla's ashes.



The tours, where you can actually play with wireless electricity, are offered in different languages at varying times throughout the museum's hours, 10am-6pm, open all days except Monday. You need to call ahead to join an English tour (ideally the day before or latest morning of) since the tour times change daily and aren't listed on the Tesla Museum website.

Nikola Tesla Museum Tour Phone Number: +381 (0) 11 24 33 886

Krunska 51, Belgrade

<http://www.nikolateslamuseum.org/web/index.php?l=en>