

About Sarajevo

Sarajevo is the capital and largest city of Bosnia and Herzegovina and serves as its administrative, economic, university and cultural center. The largest area of town lies at the foot of Mt. Trebević and the Miljacka River flows through the city.

“Destination Sarajevo” encompasses the city of Sarajevo and the wider Sarajevo Canton (which is located in the Federation of BiH, one of BiH’s entities), as well as the municipalities which are part of the neighboring parts of town and East Sarajevo (which is located in the Republic of Srpska, another BiH entity).

Many archaeological finds testify to the fact that the area taken in by Sarajevo was inhabited even during the Neolithic period. There is also evidence that the Illyrians were here and the medieval town of Hodidjed was located in what is now part of “Destination Sarajevo”. Nonetheless, the name Sarajevo comes from the Turkish words, saray = palace and ovasi = field, and this certainly points to the fact that it was founded by the Ottomans, when the Turkish governor, Isa Bey Ishaković, founded Sarajevo in the 15th century as the seat of Ottoman power for this region.

Those who take a stroll through Sarajevo will notice four distinct types of architecture, which reflect the city’s different historical periods.

The foundations of Sarajevo were laid during the first 150 years of Turkish rule and it was during this time that many architectural jewels were constructed, such as Gazi Husrev Bey’s Mosque, the Emperor’s Mosque, the Old Orthodox Church and Baščaršija, which was once a grand marketplace. At the beginning of the 17th century, Sarajevo grew into a vibrant community of craftsmen which served as a major trading center and later became one of the most important cities in the European part of the Ottoman Empire.

Another period that saw architecture flourish coincided with Austro-Hungarian occupation at the end of the 19th century and lasted until the First World War started in 1914. The modernization of Sarajevo included the installation of a public transport system, the first telephone line, etc. There were also many cultural and educational institutions that were founded, such as the National Museum and the National Theater. Other additions to the fast-growing city included Vijećnica (City Hall), the Aškenazi Synagogue and the Cathedral of Jesus’ Heart. Sarajevo’s development came to a halt on June 28, 1914, when Gavrilo Princip assassinated Franz Ferdinand, the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne, and his wife Sophie. This set off a series of unfortunate events which eventually led to the outbreak of World War I.

At the end of the First World War, Sarajevo became part of the newly-formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and it remained part of this state, which was later re-named the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, until the beginning of the Second World War, when it became part of the new Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Sarajevo experienced massive damage during the Second World War so it didn’t simply undergo major reconstruction during the post-war years, but also enjoyed tremendous growth. By 1984, when it hosted the 14th Winter Olympic Games, Sarajevo had become a modern city with a population of more than 500,000.

Sadly, the Olympic flame burned only too briefly. Only eight years after hosting the Olympics, Sarajevo found itself caught in another flame, when the fire of war broke out in BiH in 1992, leaving destruction in its wake until 1995.

The fourth architectural period is represented by the modern, post-war era. In recent years, the city area has experienced rapid development. For its inhabitants, this makes it a better place to live, and for its growing numbers of visitors, it’s a better place to visit!

Climate

Sarajevo has a mild continental climate. The average temperatures reach 19.1°C (66°F) in summer and -1.3°C (30°F) in winter. The average yearly temperature is 9.5°C (49°F).

Language

The official languages are Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian. English and German are the most popular foreign languages.

Time zone

Central European Time (GMT +1).

Population

503,109 (2013 census).

Ethnic groups/Religions

Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats, Jews, Roma and other ethnic groups live in Sarajevo. The most widely practiced religions are Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism and Judaism.

Electricity

The electric current is 220V with a frequency of 50Hz.

Water supply

It is safe to drink tap water in Sarajevo.

Measurement system

Metric system.

Currency

The currency used in BiH is the Convertible Mark. The international abbreviation for the currency is BAM, while KM is used locally (1.95KM = 1 Euro). You can exchange money at any bank, post office or exchange office. In some shopping centers, exchange offices work until 10:00 p.m.

Banks and post offices

Banks normally work from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The main post office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Credit cards

It is possible to pay with credit cards in most shopping centers and in nearly all better restaurants. This is not the case, however, in most cafés, clubs and shops that sell handicrafts and souvenirs in the old part of town. Credit cards are also not accepted when paying for the following: parking services, tickets for public transport or special events.

Business hours

Most public places are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Small shops usually work up until 8:00 p.m. and shopping centers work until 10:00 p.m.

Telephone and internet access

There are three GSM operators in BiH: BH Telecom, M:Tel and Eronet. Pre-paid cards and additional minutes (credit) for cell phones and wireless internet are available for purchase at kiosks, small shops and at these operators' stores. Wireless connection is free at many hotels, restaurants, cafés and shopping centers. All three operators offer 3G cell phone internet throughout Sarajevo, but roaming rates can be very high.

Getting to Sarajevo

The Sarajevo International Airport is located only 12 kilometers from the center of Sarajevo. It serves as a connection to many European cities and to the rest of the world through major international airline hubs, such as Istanbul, Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Zurich.... The airports in Tuzla and Mostar, both of which are about a two-hour drive from Sarajevo, handle flights made by low-cost airlines.

Sarajevo is connected to many European cities by direct bus lines. The Centrotrans Eurolines bus company (www.centrotrans.com) connects Sarajevo with Austria, Belgium, Montenegro, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia and Serbia. Other companies, like Biss Tours (www.bisstours.ba) and Globtour (www.globtour.com), also offer direct bus lines from many European cities to Sarajevo.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of developing a highway system in order to make road travel more efficient, but one would be well advised to drive carefully on regional roads. Speed limits are set at the following: 50-60kph within city limits, 80kph on open roads and 120 kph on highways. A length of 51.6 kilometers of completed highway runs between Butila and Bilješevo. The toll rate for passenger cars is 5.40 KM and can be paid in cash (KM/BAM or EUR) or by credit card.

Public transportation

Should you decide on public transport, there are tram, trolleybus, bus and minibus lines which you can take to reach all major locations in Sarajevo.

Trams run from Baščaršija to Ilidža (Line No. 3) and the ride takes about 30 minutes.

By taking a trolleybus, you'll be able to see the part of Sarajevo that runs along the left bank of the Miljacka River. Line No. 103 runs from Trg Austria to Dobrinja and takes about 30 minutes.

City buses link the parts of town that are not well-connected by tram or trolleybus lines and minibuses connect the center to outlying sections of Sarajevo up on the surrounding hills.

The most important bus route runs from Vijećnica (City Hall) to the part of town called Dobrinja (Line No. 31A).

A bus line runs between the International Sarajevo airport and Baščaršija and coincides with flight timetables.

AERODROM - BAŠČARŠIJA
(centar grada)

AIRPORT - BAŠČARŠIJA
(city center)

JEDNOSMJERNA KARTA 5,00 KM | ONE WAY TICKET 5,00 KM

Prvi prtljag do 23 kg BESPLATAN | First luggage to 23 kg FREE OF CHARGE

Drugi prtljag i prtljag preko 23 kg 5,00 KM | Second luggage and luggage over 23 kg 5,00 KM

Red vožnje / Timetable

AERODROM / AIRPORT ► BAŠČARŠIJA / CITY CENTER

06:20 11:40 13:00 14:40 16:10 18:00 19:20 22:30

BAŠČARŠIJA / CITY CENTER ► AERODROM / AIRPORT

06:55 12:20 13:40 15:20 17:10 18:40 20:00 23:00

Polazak saobraća u slijedeće dane u sedmici / Departure runs on the following days of the week

1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | 1,3,4,5,7

Buses to Bjelašnica, Igman and Jahorina run only during the winter season. The lines that run between East Sarajevo and Pale leave the bus station in East Sarajevo several times a day.

Tickets are required for any form of public transportation and they can be purchased at kiosks or from the driver. You must have your tickets "punched" upon entering the vehicle. There are also multi-ride tickets available for the trams, which are ideal if you plan on using public transport for getting around town.

Furthermore, Sarajevo has some of the cheapest taxi rates in Europe and several private taxi companies operate in the city 24 hours a day.

Taxi stands are clearly marked and all vehicles use a taxi meter and the driver will issue a receipt upon request. All legitimate taxis are required to have a "TAXI" sign on top and license plates with "TA" on them. Taxi fares can only be paid in cash and each piece of baggage is usually additionally charged.



The banner features a QR code and a 'TAXI' app icon on the left with the text 'Download FREE app'. In the center is a shield-shaped logo with 'SARAJEVO TAXI' at the top, a building icon, and '1515' at the bottom. To the right, the number '1515' is displayed in large white font, followed by 'SARAJEVO TAXI' in a smaller font. Below this, the website 'www.sarajevotaxi.com.ba' is listed, along with a phone icon and the number '061 15 15 15'. At the bottom, a row of phone numbers is provided: '033 660 666, 033 660 970, 061 230 666, 061 230 970, 061 150 252'.

Important numbers

BiH Country Code	+387
Sarajevo Area Code	(0)33
East Sarajevo Area Code	(0)57
Airport	289 100
Bus Station	213 100
East Sarajevo Bus Station	057 317 377
Railway Station - Information	655 330
Medical Emergency	124
Police	122
Fire Emergency	123
Road Assistance Service	1282 / 1288
Mountain Rescue Service	062 654 456 061 299 443
Koševo Hospital	297 000

General Hospital	285 100
24-hour Pharmacy Baščaršija	272 300
24-hour Pharmacy Novo Sarajevo	713 830
24-hour Pharmacy Dobrinja	766 380
24-hour Pharmacy Ilidza	762 180
24-hour Pharmacy Hitna	716 331
24-hour Pharmacy Marijin dvor	552 130
Veterinarian Clinic	235 333

Places to stay

Sarajevo offers a wide range of accommodation, from luxury hotels to hostels and private accommodation (self-catering facilities).

There are several luxury, five-star hotels in Sarajevo which all provide first-class service, conference and wellness facilities, free parking, concierge services.... If you're not looking for luxury accommodation, there are many family-run hotels, with three or four stars, which offer very good service. Depending on the hotel's ranking, prices can range from 70-270 BAM (35-135 EUR) per night for a double room. Tourists must be registered and the rates should include the tourist tax.

We suggest that you book your accommodation through www.booking.com, as it provides reliable and international service and offers the largest selection of accommodation at affordable prices.

However, given the location of the conference and reputation of hotels, we recommend that you look at following:

Hotel Holiday	Dobrodošli u Hotel Holiday Hotel Holiday (hoteleuropegroup.ba)
Hotel Courtyard Sarajevo	Hotel In City Center Of Sarajevo, Bosnia And Herzegovina Courtyard Sarajevo (marriott.com)
Colors Inn Sarajevo	Colorsinn Hotel - Početna (hotelcolorsinnsarajevo.com)
Hotel Central	Hotel Central Sarajevo – Pure comfort and relaxation
Hotel Europe	Dobrodošli u Hotel Europe Hotel Europe (hoteleuropegroup.ba)