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**Cost Action CA21141**  
**Grassroots of Digital Europe: from Historic to**  
**Contemporary Cultures of Creative Computing (GRADE)**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE**

**belGRADE (3rd GRADE Conference in Belgrade)**

Belgrade, Serbia  
Date: [March 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#)



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## belGRADE (3rd GRADE Conference in Belgrade)

**Venue:** Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts

**Dates:** March 13-14, 2025

The belGRADE (3rd GRADE Conference in Belgrade) is set to take place in Belgrade, Serbia, on March 13–14, 2025. Hosted by the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the event will focus on foregrounding the role of women and minorities in creative computing. It is also designed to advance the development of Open Educational Resources on the topic, and to provide a platform for all three GRADE Working Groups to reflect on the significance of this aspect of the history of creative computing to their work. In addition to a keynote lecture, a GRADE progress report session and three Working-Group sessions, the conference in Belgrade will also highlight and unpack some of the complexities of creative computing histories in the region of South-East Europe. A spotlight round table will feature pioneering women in creative computing from the former socialist Yugoslavia, offering invaluable insights into their groundbreaking work. Attendees will also have the opportunity to explore the region's computing legacy through a guided tour of the Museum of Science and Technology's exhibition on the history of computers. Furthermore, the conference will create opportunities to engage with vibrant local grassroots computing communities.



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## Conference Program

### March 13

9:30-10:45: Introduction and COST Report Session

11:00-13:00: Women Pioneers in Computing in SEE: Round Table

The regional specificities and historical trajectories of computing in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe are relatively under-researched. This round table is designed to address this gap by spotlighting the work, stories and memories of women, who have contributed to regional computing innovations and cultures since the 1980s. The outlined perspective will illuminate the emergence and recent transformations of computer cultures in the Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav context, presenting a palette of perspectives on computing as a creative process, scientific tool, vocation, and professional sphere. *Chaired by COST GRADE WG1 members Jasmina Šepetavc and Natalija Majsova, the round table will feature Meliha Handžić, Dunja Mladenić, Gordana Pavlović-Lažetić, and Biljana Stamatović.*

*Prof. Dr. Meliha Handžić* is Professor Emeritus of Management and Information Systems at International Burch University, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She received her PhD in Information Systems from the University of New South Wales, Sydney where she was Inaugural Leader of the Knowledge Management Research Group. Handžić's main teaching and research interests lie in the areas of knowledge management and decision support, with a particular focus on the processes and socio-technological enablers of knowledge creation, sharing, retention and discovery. She has published widely on these topics in books, journals and conference proceedings. Prior to joining academia, she was International Expert in Information Systems for the United Nations Development Programme in Asia and Africa. She also had a wide ranging industrial experience in Europe. She is COST GRADE WG1 member.

*Prof. Dr. Dunja Mladenić* is leading the Department for Artificial Intelligence at Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS), Slovenia and teaching at Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, University of Ljubljana and University of Zagreb. She is a senior researcher and a project leader in Machine Learning, Data and Text Mining, Internet of Things, Data Science, Semantic Technologies developing techniques and their application on real-world problems. She spent a couple of years (1996/97, 2000/01) as a visiting researcher at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. She served on the IJS's Scientific Council (2013-2017), for the last three years as a vice president. She co-authored a number of scientific papers, co-edited several books, served on program committees of a number of international conferences and organized several international scientific events. She is a member of OECD Network of Experts on AI, has experience in coordinating EU



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projects and participated in more than 30 EU projects. She is the Slovenian representative in the EC Enwise STRATA ETAN Expert Group and serves as a project evaluator and reviewer for various EC programs including ERC panels and the USA NSF. She serves on Executive board of Slovenian Artificial Intelligence Society SLAIS for a number of years, as a president of SLAIS (2010-2014). She is on Advisory board of ACM Slovenija.

*Prof. Dr. Gordana Pavlović-Lažetić* was a Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade, Serbia. She has forty years of teaching experience at the University of Belgrade in different programming languages (ForTran, COBOL, Pascal, C, PHP, Python), and database courses (SQL, DB2, MySQL, database design and programming). She has also taught courses and did research in bioinformatics and natural language processing. She spent two years as a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Relational Technology Inc, as a consultant for extending the Relational Database System Ingres to manage text. From 1999 to 2020, she also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences.

*Prof. Dr. Biljana Stamatović* is a Professor at the Faculty of Information Technologies and Engineering, UNION Nikola Tesla University, Belgrade and Faculty of Philosophy, UCG, Montenegro. She has taught courses in mathematics and programming for more than 30 years and was a mentor for about 50 graduate, specialist, and master's theses. She is the author of a large number of scientific works, the author of two books, a leader and member of a large number of projects, national coordinator in EWM (European Women in Mathematics (<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/>)) and an ambassador in CWM (Committee for Women in Mathematics, IMU, <https://www.mathunion.org/cwm>).

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-15:30 Women and Minorities in Creative Computing History: Open Educational Resources Workshop

*The Workshop will feature an introduction to OER development by GRADE Cost Action Chair Maria B. Garda and Lightning talks by Sandra Becker and Shana Marinitsch.*

*Maria B. Garda*, COST GRADE action chair, will present an example of successful Open Educational Resources related to Creative Computing. The goal of the “Greening Games Building Higher Education Resources for Sustainable Video Game Production, Design & Critical Game Studies” (2021-2024)” project was to develop, test and distribute flagship didactic materials addressing the interdisciplinary nature of green digital gaming. These were tested in selected higher education programs in Germany, the Netherlands, Czechia and Finland.

*Sandra Becker's* talk, “Digital Transformation, Minorities, and Wikimedia”, will focus on opportunities using digital transformation for creating spaces for minorities in grassroots organizations as the global Wikimedia Movement. Although programming was a female



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profession in the early years, we are now facing power structures that exclude women in the digital space.

See Wikimedia's actual project on making women visible in the digital space:

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiProject/GLAM\\_Matrimoine](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiProject/GLAM_Matrimoine)

and the feminist network that she founded in 2020:

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProjekt\\_FemNetz](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProjekt_FemNetz)

Sandra Becker combines independent art strategies and digital transformation. She studied art and technology, worked as guest professor for artistic transformation in Berlin and for technical images in Porto Alegre, Brazil. She worked as app-developer for fairplayapp.de and as tech coach for Bosch. Now she is the GLAM Lead at Wikimedia CH (GLAM=Galleries, libraries, archives, museums).

*Shana Marinitsch* will speak about "How the Demoscene tries to Reckon and Learn from Itself". The Demoscene is one of the oldest digital cultures apart of tinkerers in university labs, in Europe and worldwide. Naturally, the scene has also been a mirror of its times - from juvenile, sometimes outright misogynistic behaviour in the 1980s and 1990s, to an (at times awkward) balancing act between its meritocratic values and more diverse contributors demanding - and deserving! - their space in the 2000s, to the awakening of a new mindfulness in the wake of #metoo and the global liberation and social justice movements. And yet, we have a long way to go. Last year, Echtzeit presented an exhibition centering cis-female, trans\* and non-binary demosceners, in which they tell their life-stories as well as highlight obstacles they encountered as gender minorities in high-tech communities. Marinitsch will present a brief readout of the exhibition, important points raised by the artists, as well as new initiatives by some of the largest demoscene events to become more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

After pretty much growing up in German hackerspaces and LAN-parties in the 90s, Shana Marinitsch has been a demoscene organiser (Echtzeit, Breakpoint, Revision, MountainBytes, Meteoriks Awards) for more than 15 years. She works at Wikimedia Switzerland's Innovation Programme.

15:45-16:45 WG2 Session

Privacy is a contested and multifaceted concept, approached differently across various disciplines in the broader fields of communication science, sociology, law, computer science, and many others. As evidenced by the vast amount of diverse literature, numerous policy documents, and legislation, privacy has emerged as one of the most pressing and polarizing issues in contemporary societies shaped by big-data analysis and algorithmic control. Recent advances in the capabilities of AI systems have further raised the issue of whether privacy measures can keep pace with accelerating technological developments. Dealing with the issue of privacy will be the focus of our White Paper.

After a brief general update on WG2 activities, we will focus on Grassroots initiatives in user privacy, the theme of the upcoming white paper. Ivo Furman and Jernej Kaluža have been working on the white paper and will introduce the key concepts and current status of the paper. This will



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be followed by a hands-on activity to collect information about privacy initiatives from countries represented in the network or familiar to the action members.

17:00-18:00 WG3 Session

Update on current activities, new collaborations, open issues.

18:15-19:15 Demoscene – No Borders, No Boundaries: Demoshow with Shana Marinitsch

The Demoscene is the first digital grassroots movement recognised as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage - ever since the 1980s, people create and share amazing artworks on a high-tech level that sometimes even astound the manufacturers of the hard- and software they tinker with. So let's watch some of these artworks together - with an emphasis on cross-country collaboration and development, as befits GRADE itself!

19:30 Dinner (self-paid): Snežana restaurant, Knez Mihajlova 50,

<https://www.snezana.rs/kontakt/>

## March 14

9:30-10:30 WG1 Session

Update on current activities Kieran Nolan will report on the progress of the Histories and Cultures of Creative Computing in Europe (1970-2000): Silicon Dawn edited volume) and OER development clinic (task division, survey of materials).

10:45-13:00 Museum of Science and Technology Stakeholder Spotlight

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-15:30 East-West Exhibition Session

Throughout the years, digital media has traveled across borders in many different forms: on media carriers such as cartridges, floppy disks, CDs, hard drives, and later via communication media such as the internet. Sometimes, games were even copied through radio broadcasts. The hybrid exhibition about East-West media transfers focuses on the variety of media forms and contents that have been involved in trans-border exchanges and the cultural phenomena that enabled such exchanges. Enthusiasts and collectors congregating around the consumption of games, music, or film have created unique subcultures and communities, each reflecting the Zeitgeist of a specific historical era and location. The proposed narrative focuses on East-West media transfers and the local specificities of grassroots computing, underrepresented in mainstream media history. At the Belgrade event, we will present the concept of the exhibition and insights from the first stages of developing it. In addition to the issue of narrative, we will talk about the way the work is organised and the local resources that can be used. We will also offer a hands-on activity to advance our work on the concept and envision possible artefacts.



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## 16:00-18:00 Digital Pioneers of Grassroots and Free Libre/Open-Source Software Movements in Serbia Round Table

This round table brings together participants to explore, through their recollections and insights, how technical expertise, volunteer-driven community building, and global networks shaped a distinctive local computing scene. The discussion will also highlight how personal motivations, creative passions, and collective activism converged in the early days of the internet, revealing the ways in which regional and global contexts have influenced each other. Drawing on diverse experiences, from early LinuxFEST conferences and open-source community efforts to reflections on the internet (r)evolution and grassroots internet activism, this conversation will offer a portrait of computing cultures in Serbia and the broader (post-)Yugoslav context. *Chaired by COST GRADE Working Group 1 member Milica Knežević, the round table will feature Boško Radivojević, Danilo Šegan, Ivan Čukić, and Vesna Manojlović.*

**Boško Radivojević** has been involved with Linux and Open Source since 1994. His first official job was as a System Administrator at RC ETF, managing Linux and SCO Unix servers, including a mission-critical Oracle-based ERP system. At the same time, he worked as a Tru64 UNIX instructor, delivering advanced training across Europe and the Middle East for enterprises like banks and insurance companies. In 2000, he co-founded the Open Source Network of Yugoslavia, the first non-profit in the country focused on promoting Open Source software and ideas, as well as supporting local Open Source projects. He also organised four LinuxFEST events in Belgrade (1999–2002), bringing together regional and international speakers and exhibitors. LinuxFEST was one of the first major conferences in Serbia dedicated to Linux and Open Source. Over the years, he has built and scaled multiple cloud and infrastructure companies. For the last six years, he has been living and working in London, focusing on cloud platforms, managed services, and early startups.

**Danilo Šegan** grew up in a household surrounded by computers, which led him to programming and later GNU/Linux after first getting online in 1995, not looking back since 1998 — computers were his creative outlet since elementary school! While studying Computer Science at Mathematical Faculty, University of Belgrade, he became active in internationalisation (i18n) and localisation (l10n) of GNU/Linux and GNOME to Serbian, including leading an effort to localise OpenOffice as well. His software engineering perspective helped get him to a global GNOME Translation Project spokesperson role, and this ultimately landed him a job inside Canonical's Launchpad.net team, where he helped build i18n platform for Ubuntu, and worked on a number of different free software and proprietary projects. After more than 11 years at Canonical with a short excursion to Linaro (Linux-on-ARM) to lead the infrastructure team, he has worked on projects like Hotjar (user behaviour analysis) or EnergySage (energy-efficiency marketplace focused on solar power) as a Software Engineering leader at Schneider-Electric Serbia. He was one of the recipients of the 2006 City of Belgrade Award for Youth Creativity for the project of localisation of GNOME desktop environment.



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*Ivan Čukić* is of the members of the New Wave of Yugoslavian Free Software advocates. Locally, via the Free Software Network and later at the University of Belgrade, and world-wide via the KDE community. Outside of the Free Software and Open Source movements, software engineer, author, and former university professor.

*Vesna Manojlović* is Community Builder at RIPE NCC. Vesna joined the RIPE NCC as a Trainer in 1999. In 2003, she took responsibility for developing and delivering advanced courses, such as RPSL, Routing Registry, DNSSEC and IPv6. In 2008, she lead efforts to establish IPv6 RIPv6 as a measure of IPv6 deployment among LIRs. In 2011, she joined the Science Division as Manager of the Measurements Community Building team; in 2015 she moved to Communications Department as Senior Community Builder, with a focus on organising hackathons. Vesna gives presentations at many technical conferences and workshops, and enjoys visiting hackerspaces. Vesna received a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Computer Science and Informatics from the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade.

### [Zoom link](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/99513665509?pwd=Zl7P4Qu13ZHM7kB0HlItKufG0HqIQ1.1>

Meeting ID: 995 1366 5509

Passcode: 495653





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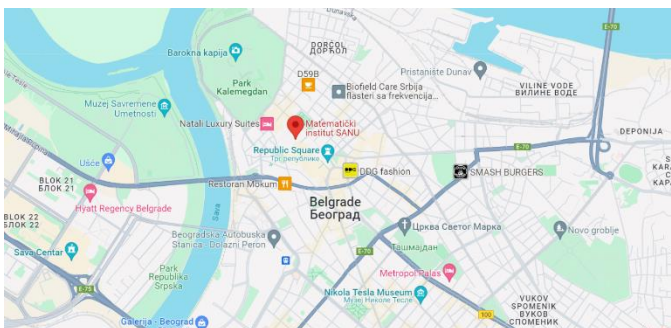
### Before arriving in Serbia, important to note:

- Serbia is not part of the European Union, EEA, or Schengen area. As a result, certain rules and procedures you may be familiar with do not apply here. **Remember to bring your passport!**
- The national currency is the Serbian dinar (RSD), which is used for all payments. While euros and credit cards can be used for exchange, we recommend not exchanging large amounts of money, as dinars cannot be used outside Serbia. In Belgrade, payments can be made by credit card or in dinars only.
- The current exchange rate is approximately  $1\text{€} = 118\text{RSD}$ , though this can vary slightly.
- Serbia uses the European power plug (Type C and F), and tap water is generally safe to drink, but feel free to ask locally to be sure.

### Venue

The belGRADE (3rd GRADE Conference in Belgrade) will take place from **March 13th to March 14th, 2025**, at the **Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MI SASA)** in Belgrade, Serbia. Below is some useful information to help you plan your trip.

**MI SASA** is located at **Kneza Mihaila 36** Street, on the **1st floor, room 102**. The venue is easily accessible by public transportation and is surrounded by many restaurants, cafés, and cultural landmarks. (Free Wi-Fi connection will be available at the spot).



Meeting [Location](#) – Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Kneza Mihaila 36, 11000 Belgrade - see [link](#).

- *the nearest public transport station “Studentski trg” – lines 28, 29, 31, 41, E9, EKO2*



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## MISANU

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The Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MISANU), founded in 1946, was the first institute established by the Academy. Today, the Institute comprises three scientific research departments—Mathematics, Mechanics, and Computer Science and Applied Mathematics—along with four research centers and around 20 seminars. Since 1990, MISANU has been actively engaged in numerous national and international projects.

MISANU is a unique hub for research in mathematics, computer science, and mechanics in Serbia, with over 70 full-time researchers. It maintains significant research collaborations with all major university centers in Serbia, as well as with numerous public organizations and industry partners.

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## Accommodation

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We recommend the following hotels, which are within walking distance of the conference venue:

- **Palace Hotel** – [Website](#) (from 55 EUR/night for a single room)
- **Garni Hotel Marshal** – [Website](#) (from 74 EUR/night for a single room)
- **Prince Hall Palace Hotel** – [Website](#) (from 72 EUR/night for a single room)

Belgrade offers a range of accommodation options to suit various budgets. If you are looking for more affordable alternatives, consider browsing through hostels, guesthouses, or apartments available in the city center on **Booking.com** or **Airbnb**. If you encounter any difficulties in booking your accommodation, feel free to reach out to us for assistance.



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## How to reach Belgrade

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### By plane

Belgrade's **Nikola Tesla Airport**: [Official Website](#).

Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport is located 18 km west of downtown Belgrade near the suburb of Surčin, surrounded by fertile lowlands.

After landing, the best option is to take a Minibus A1 (Airport – Square “Slavija” - [bus](#)), or a taxi (A counter for issuing certificates of fixed price (vouchers) for taxi transport is located in the international arrivals area)

Minibus A1 (Airport - Slavija Square) offers a fast and comfortable connection between the airport and key locations in Belgrade. It departs every 20 minutes, with a travel time of around 30 minutes. The final stop, Slavija Square, is approximately 2 km from the conference venue. The fare is 400 RSD (around 3.5 EUR).

Bus 72 (Airport - Zeleni Venac Square) also connects the airport with the city center, but with more stops along the way, resulting in a longer journey. The final stop, Zeleni Venac, is about 800 meters from the conference venue.

If you prefer taking a taxi, please make sure to **take a voucher** and **ask for a receipt** from the taxi driver and confirm that the driver agrees to the price listed on the voucher **before starting the ride**. This can help you avoid issues with overcharging, as there have been reports of **illegal taxi services**. You can read more about others' experiences on [Tripadvisor](#).

Renting a car is not recommended in Belgrade, especially in the city center where the Conference will take place, due to the significant parking difficulties in that area.

For more details on public transportation from the airport to the city, including how to purchase tickets and pricing, please visit:

- [Public Transportation Info](#)
- [How the public transport in Belgrade works \(a guide for tourists\)](#)
- [Taxi Service](#)
- [Belgrade Airport Taxi Voucher Guide](#)

### By bus

There are direct bus lines to Belgrade from a number of European cities, both by FlixBus and by Serbian carriers. Bus timetable: <http://www.bas.rs/en/>



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## How to reach the Venue

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Belgrade has an official public transport system, which includes buses, trams, and trolleybuses. For convenience, you can temporarily install the public transportation app available on the Google Play Store [here](#), or use the Moovit app [here](#) to navigate the city's transport system easily.

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## Where to Lunch

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During the lunch break, explore these affordable options near the Mathematical Institute SANU:

- Fast food options – Hleb & Kifle Bakery ([map](#)), Gyros Box ([map](#)), Chicken Box ([map](#))
- Reasonably Priced Restaurants - Roll Bar ([map](#)), Snežana ([map](#)), Plato ([map](#))

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## Other Information

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### Currency and Payments:

The official currency in Serbia is the **Serbian dinar (RSD)**. If you need to exchange currency at the airport, check the list of exchange offices available at the airport:

- [Banks and Exchange Offices](#)

For the latest exchange rates, consult the [National Bank of Serbia's website](#).

### Visa Requirements:

Before your trip, please verify if you need a visa to enter Serbia by visiting the official government website:

- [Visa Requirements](#)

### Tourist Information:

For more details on what to do and see in Belgrade and Serbia, consult the following official tourist information websites:

- [Tourist Organization of Belgrade](#)
- [Tourist Organization of Serbia](#)
- [Visit Serbia](#)

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For all additional questions, feel free to contact the local organizers:  
Ivana Atanasovska, [iatanasovska@mi.sanu.ac.rs](mailto:iatanasovska@mi.sanu.ac.rs) (+381-692221317)  
Marija Segan, [msegan@mi.sanu.ac.rs](mailto:msegan@mi.sanu.ac.rs) (+381-642127262)  
Milica Knezevic, [mknezevic@mi.sanu.ac.rs](mailto:mknezevic@mi.sanu.ac.rs) (+381-638420616)



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## Tourist Information

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### Belgrade

Belgrade, the capital and largest city of Serbia, is situated at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, at the intersection of the Pannonian Plain and the Balkan Peninsula. According to the 2022 census, the Belgrade metropolitan area has a population of 1,681,405. It is one of the major cities in Southeast Europe and the third most populous city along the Danube River. Belgrade is also one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in both Europe and the world, with a rich history that spans millennia.



One of Europe's most significant prehistoric cultures, the Vinča culture, developed in the Belgrade area during the 6th millennium BC. In antiquity, the region was inhabited by Thraco-Dacians, and after 279 BC, Celts settled the city, naming it **Singidūn**. The Romans, under Emperor Augustus, later conquered the city, granting it Roman city rights in the mid-2nd century. The area was settled by Slavs in the 520s and subsequently changed hands multiple times between the Byzantine Empire, the Frankish Empire, the Bulgarian Empire, and the Kingdom of Hungary. In 1284, Belgrade became the seat of Serbian King Stefan Dragutin.

In 1521, the Ottomans conquered Belgrade, making it the seat of the Sanjak of Smederevo. The city often changed rulers, alternating between Ottoman and Habsburg control, with much of the city being destroyed during the Ottoman-Habsburg wars.

Following the Serbian Revolution, Belgrade was reinstated as the capital of Serbia in 1841. Its northern part remained under Habsburg control until 1918, when it became part of the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes after World War I. Belgrade served as the capital of Yugoslavia from its formation in 1918 until its dissolution in 2006. Positioned at a highly strategic crossroads, the city has been fought over in 115 wars, razed 44 times, bombed five times, and besieged numerous times.

As Serbia's primate city, Belgrade holds special administrative status. It is the seat of the central government, administrative bodies, and government ministries, and hosts nearly all of Serbia's largest companies, media outlets, and scientific institutions. Belgrade is classified as a Beta-Global City and is home to the **University Clinical Centre of Serbia**, one of the world's largest hospital complexes, the **Church of Saint Sava**, one of the largest Orthodox churches, and the **Štark Arena**, one of Europe's largest indoor arenas.

Thanks to its favorable geographical location, rich historical heritage shaped by various civilizations, and renowned local hospitality paired with excellent cuisine, Belgrade is now one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe.



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As a city that honors the legacy of famous Serbs, including the great inventor Nikola Tesla and Nobel Prize laureate Ivo Andrić, Belgrade is a must-visit destination.

*Ivo Andrić, Serbian Nobel prize laureate, wrote about Belgrade:*

*"The sky above Belgrade is wide and high, unstable but always beautiful; even during winter serenities with their icy splendor; even during summer storms when the whole of it turns into a single gloomy cloud which, driven by the mad wind, carries the rain mixed with the dust of Pannonian plain; even in spring when it seems that it also blooms, along with the ground; even in autumn when it grows heavy with the autumn stars in swarms. Always beautiful and rich, as a compensation to this strange town for everything that isn't there, and a consolation because of everything that shouldn't be there. But the greatest splendor of that sky above Belgrade is the sunsets. In autumn and in summer, they are broad and bright like desert mirages, and in winter, they are smothered by murky clouds and dark red hazes. And in every time of year frequently come the days when the flame of that sun setting in the plain, between the rivers beneath Belgrade, gets reflected way up in the high celestial dome, and it breaks there and pours down over the scattered town. Then, for a moment, the reddish tint of the sun paints even the remotest corners of Belgrade and reflects into the windows, even of those houses it otherwise poorly illuminates."*

## City attractions you should visit

It is highly recommended to make the most of your free time by visiting some of the most popular and historically significant landmarks and attractions in Belgrade:

### Belgrade Fortress

The Belgrade Fortress, constructed over a period from the 1st to the 18th century, served as a strategic defense point atop the hill overlooking the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. Today, it stands as an open-air museum and one of the city's most iconic landmarks. At the heart of the area is the **Pobednik Monument** (The Victor), a symbol of Belgrade. The fortress is divided into the Upper and Lower Towns, with **Kalemegdan Park** surrounding it.

During your visit, be sure to explore key attractions like the **Roman Well**, the **Great Gunpowder Warehouse**, the **Military Bunker**, and the **Clock Tower**. Take in the fascinating exhibitions at the **Military Museum**, **Nebojša Tower**, and the **Museum of Natural History**.

The **Great Kalemegdan Staircase** leads to a stunning viewpoint where you can admire the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, along with vistas of Novi Beograd and Zemun. As you walk along the landscaped paths, you'll also come across sculptures from the early 20th century, erected in honor of notable writers, composers, and public figures.



## Knez Mihailova street and Republic Square

**Knez Mihailova Street** is one of the oldest and most significant thoroughfares in Belgrade, serving as a testament to the city's continuous existence. The area is rich with traces of ancient civilization, as one of the main Roman roads, **Via Cardo**, ran along its current alignment. While there is no definitive evidence of habitation during the Middle Ages, the first half of the 19th century saw the repair of the old Roman aqueduct and the establishment of a new water supply system, which were crucial for the development of the settlement.

In the regulation plan of 1867, designed by Serbia's first urban planner, engineer Emilijan Joksimović, a professor at the Lyceum and Belgrade College, Knez Mihailova was identified as the shortest connection between the Fortress and the town. Today, the street has retained its authentic dimensions, profile, and direction. The buildings along the street were constructed almost simultaneously and exhibit uniform architectural styles. The materials, construction methods, functions, and overall aesthetic reflect the period when Belgrade's architecture transitioned from Balkan influences to European styles.

Although some houses on the street have been modified or replaced in the 20th century, Knez Mihailova has maintained its character as a prominent commercial street. By the end of the 20th century, it had evolved into a cultural center of the capital.

**Republic Square**, the main gathering place in Belgrade, serves as the starting point for city tours. This square acts as a cultural and social hub where the past meets the present, attracting youth and hosting concerts and events. It is flanked by historical buildings, including the **National Theatre**, modeled after La Scala in Milan, the **Riunione Palace** housing the Boško Buha Theatre, and the grand edifice of the **National Museum**, the largest and oldest museum in Serbia.



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At the center of the square stands the monument to **Prince Mihailo Obrenović**, crafted by the renowned Venetian sculptor Enrico Pazzi. Erected in 1882, the monument honors the Prince who significantly improved Serbia's economic and cultural landscape before his assassination in 1868.



## The Old Palace at Pionirski Park

The former Royal Garden of the Karadjordjevic family was transformed into a city park after World War II in 1945 and was renamed **Pionirski Park** in 1952, in honor of the fountain dedicated to pioneers. Spanning 3.6 hectares, this park is a unique natural oasis featuring historical and cultural monuments in the heart of the city.

Within Pionirski Park, you'll find the **Old Palace**, which houses the Assembly of the City of Belgrade, and the **New Palace**, the official residence of the President of the Republic of Serbia. The park also features a monument to **Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić**, located in an area known as **Andrić's Wreath** (*Andrićev Venac*). Additionally, the monument to **Nadežda Petrović** is situated within this beautifully landscaped zone.

At the far end of the park, facing the National Assembly and Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, stands the historic **Observation Post of the Serbian Army High Command** from the battle of **Kajmakčalan**. The park is enriched by features such as the **Pioneer Fountain**, the "**Girl with the Jug**" fountain (*Devojka sa krcagom*), 73 benches, and a dedicated children's area with play equipment.

Pionirski Park is regarded as one of the most beautiful parks in Belgrade, thanks to its well-maintained greenery. The park is home to rare plant species, including oak trees over two hundred





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years old, coniferous trees from both domestic and foreign origins, and decorative plantings, all contributing to its status as a true green paradise in the city center.

**Aleksandar Karadjordjevic** became the first leader of Serbia in 1842, although he did not have an official court at that time. Instead, a villa with a large courtyard was purchased on **Terazije** for this purpose. During his reign until 1934, the area surrounding the villa was enclosed by high walls. Following the liberation of Belgrade on October 20, 1944, the walls were dismantled, and the park emerged as a central gathering place for both locals and visitors to the city.



## Skadarlija - Bohemian center of Belgrade

While there may be no physical gateway leading into **Skadarlija**, stepping into this street from the hustle and bustle of busy Belgrade feels like entering a portal to a bygone era, immersing you in its historical atmosphere. Both Belgrade locals and visitors flock to this cobblestoned street to enjoy the essence of the past.

Skadarlija transformed into a bohemian enclave at the turn of the 20th century, attracting actors, writers, and painters who called it home. The taverns of Skadarlija became vibrant gathering spots for some of the most notable figures in Belgrade's cultural scene. This charming quarter is often likened to Montmartre in Paris, sharing a similar aesthetic and lively, artistic ambiance.

Today, the restaurants in Skadarlija not only offer traditional specialties but also fill the air with the sounds of urban folk music. The warm greetings from the *lady of Skadarlija* further enhance the experience, allowing you to fully embrace the bohemian spirit of Belgrade from days gone by.





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## The Nikola Tesla Museum (<https://tesla-museum.org/en/home/>)

The museum is located in the family residence of industrialist and politician Đorđe Genčić, which was built in 1927. Completely dedicated to the genius inventor, scientist, and engineer Nikola Tesla, the museum celebrates his remarkable contributions to humanity. Tesla's groundbreaking discoveries and inventions in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, radio technology, and wireless control have significantly transformed science and technology. His ingenious solutions and universal applications have reshaped the world around us.



The Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade opened its doors to the public on October 20, 1955, making it the first technical museum in Yugoslavia. The inaugural exhibition featured models meticulously crafted based on Tesla's original drawings, allowing visitors to explore his groundbreaking work. Among the highlights was a demonstration of the effects of a rotating magnetic field, as well as the renowned Egg of Columbus, which had captivated audiences at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

Additional displays included Tesla's first induction motor, a model hydroelectric power plant illustrating his polyphase transmission system, various generators and transformers, and a remote-controlled model boat. Today, the most popular exhibit is the Tesla coil with antenna, which served as the foundation for the fluorescent light.

Today, the Nikola Tesla Museum stands out as a unique scientific and cultural institution, not only in Serbia but globally. It is the only museum dedicated to preserving the original and personal legacy of Nikola Tesla.

## The Museum of Yugoslavia (<https://muzej-jugoslavije.org/en/>)

The collection of the Museum of Yugoslav History, i.e., the Museum itself, was created by joining the collections of the "Josip Broz Tito" Memorial Center and the Museum of the Revolution of Yugoslav Peoples. Over 200,000 exhibits chronicle the history of Yugoslavia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a special emphasis on the life and work of Josip Broz Tito. The Museum of Yugoslav History houses the 25<sup>th</sup> May Museum, the Old Museum, and the House of Flowers. The Museum also encompasses a park with sculptures by artists Augustinčić, Kršinić, Bodnarov, Vladeta Petrić, etc.



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**We strongly recommend following these links ([beograd.rs](http://beograd.rs) and [tob.rs](http://tob.rs)) to find out more about the city and the attractions.**