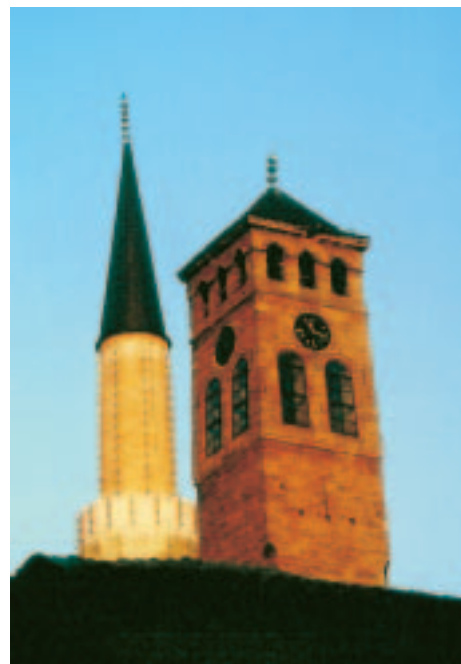


instant Sarajevo

Essential mini guides



NOTE

Sarajevo In Your Pocket was researched and written in 2002; since then prices have changed, places have closed and new places have opened up. Still, we believe this Instant guide to be the best city guide to Sarajevo around and didn't want to withhold it from you. This PDF contains the full text of the www.inyourpocket.com Sarajevo website. Any updates or other comments are more than welcome at sarajevo@inyourpocket.com.

Summer 2004

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Introducing Sarajevo

After only hearing about the suffering that Sarajevo went through for years, you might wonder why you should visit such a city.

True, years of war have done irreparable damage to Sarajevo - but more to the population's psyche and interethnic relationships than to the city's buildings.

Bascarsija, Sarajevo's old centre, has been completely restored and is an utterly charming and lively bazaar area. Nearby, Ferhadija is the main street of the elegant Central European-style area, lined with shops and buzzing café terraces. It's only in the government area and the suburbs to the east where destruction is still clearly visible.

Sarajevo In Your Pocket introduces you to the beauty of the city centre, the newly opened museums and the hiking routes of the beautiful mountains that surround Sarajevo. But we also focus on the must-see Tunnel Museum, a reminder of less happy times in the not too distant past.

During the siege of Sarajevo, a local dating agency advertised its services with the slogan "in this world of war and death the only thing that makes sense is to make love."

You'll love Sarajevo.

Arriving

Arriving in Sarajevo has never been easier in the past ten years. Your main worry now is where to find an ATM, not how to run across the airport runway without getting shot by Serbs.

By plane

Arriving at Sarajevo's aerodrom is sheer pleasure, except if you're on a budget. It must be the flashiest and safest public building in town. In the main hall, there's the airport information office (relatively clueless when it comes to questions about the city), a post office and kiosk at the far end where you can get 8KM phone cards, and an exchange office (open 11:00 - 18:00, accepts Eurocard/Mastercard).

To get to town, you can take a taxi for about 25KM, but make sure you get into an official taxi, not that of a hustler whose metre 'will be repaired tomorrow'. There is no bus from the airport, but if you are prepared to walk 800m to Brace Mulica (straight ahead and a bit to the right, in the suburb of Dobrinja), you can hop onto trolleybus N°103 to the centre. Bus N°37 runs from Grbavica (central Sarajevo) to Ilidza (end of trams N°3,4 and 6) via the airport.

By bus

Just 100m west of the train station, the *avtobuska stanica* (bus station) needs some work before it can be called perfect. There's a **garderoba** (luggage office, open 07:00 - 19:00, 1.50KM for the first three hours, 0.50KM/hr after that) and a **money exchange office** in the Centrotans office (open 08:00 - 16:00) facing the square outside. Get a **phone card** from the kiosk outside; there are phones in the ticket hall and along the wall of the post office building.

If you are **arriving from Belgrade**, you're in for a big surprise. You'll be dropped off at Lukavica, a village just east of Sarajevo's airport in Republika Srpska. **To get to Sarajevo**, take bus 37, running between central Sarajevo (the Grbavica stop on the corner of Zagrebacka and Dervisa Numica, trolleybus N°103 continues to the centre) and Ilidza bus station (the last stop of trams N°3,4,6 from central Sarajevo). Bus N°37 leaves from either stop at 07:30, 09:00, 10:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30 and 18:00 (not on Sun-

Street smarts

Many streets have been renamed recently - on a short trip you won't notice this, but if you're here for longer get a copy of the *Sarajevo plan grada* map by Sertarja which lists changed names in the index. The abbreviation bb in an address means bez broja, 'without number' (usually applied to obviously large or lone buildings). When naming streets, the following words are usually dropped:

Boulevard	<i>bulevar</i>
Street	<i>ulica</i>
Square	<i>trg</i>
Bridge	<i>most</i>

days), passing the **airport** and going through **Lukavica** about 20-30 minutes later. Either way, you'll have to change once to get to the centre. Alternatively, walk or take a taxi to the nearby Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja where you can hop on trolleybus N°103 that will drop you near the Latin Bridge; cross it to get to Bascarsija. A taxi to town costs 25KM).

By car

Parking throughout the centre costs a spicy 3KM/hr, to be payed to attendants or fed into machines. The best place to park is in the Skenderija parking garage; it's guarded, just 3KM/day, and only a 10 minute walk from Bascarsija.

By train

With less than 10 arrivals per day, it's no wonder that Sarajevo's *zeljeznicka stanica* (train station) is so quiet. There are toilets in the tunnel to the tracks, some cafés in the huge main hall, and that's about it. Change money and get phone cards next door at the post office (open 07:00 - 20:00, also accepts Eurocard/Mastercard).

The nearest **ATM** is inside the Holiday Inn hotel. To get to town, buy a 1.20KM ticket from the tram stop kiosk (or a 1.50KM ticket from the driver), get on tram N°1 and remember to stamp your ticket. The sixth stop (Latinska cuprija, Latin bridge) is 50m from the Tourist Information Office, the eighth stop is on Bascarsija square.

Instant Sarajevo

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Glossary

Money

Bosnia replaced Yugoslav dinars by German Marks between 1992 and 1998, and then introduced the *Konvertibilna Marka* (KM, convertible mark) worth exactly the same as, and pegged to the German Mark (and therefore to the euro). One KM is worth exactly €0.51129. Although KM is the official currency, transactions in euro (usually bills only) are allowed by the central bank 'if both parties to the transaction agree', which is useful on arrival. Beware that in this case the exchange rate does *not* have to be the official one. The KM and DM were used simultaneously until the German mark recently became history. In a way, the Bosnian currency has been given a boost of confidence, as it's now no

Visas

Getting into Bosnia has become easy for many travellers from the west, as visas have been abolished for most countries. However, Australians and New Zealanders still have to get visas in advance. Check the website of the Bosnian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mvp.gov.ba) for the latest on visas, embassies and consulates.

No Visas

Citizens of the following countries can enter Bosnia without a visa: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, Vatican.

Visas

All other nationals need to get a BiH entry visa from an Bosnian embassy or consulate abroad (find a complete list at www.mvp.gov.ba). Visas are not issued at the border, unless there are (very) exceptional circumstances. To apply, you officially need to submit a photograph, a letter of invitation (if you are visiting a private person or a company) or tourist voucher (from a tourist agency). People from certain countries will also have to prove they have enough money and that they do not have HIV. Phone the embassy to make sure what applies to you. The price of a single-entry or transit visa is 40KM, a multiple-entry visa is 70KM.

longer immediately seen as a replacement for DM, but as a 'real' separate currency. Since German and Finnish marks were swallowed by the euro, Bosnia is the last country in the world with marks, and in daily use, everyone drops the 'convertible' and speaks just of marks. Banks use the code BAM for the currency. Keep all transfer receipts in case you need to change back KMs to another currency when you leave.

Getting money is easy. At all banks and exchange offices you'll get 1,96KM for your euro.

Sarajevo has lots of **ATMs**, both for the Maestro and Visa system, where you can extract cash. Credit cards are accepted in selected hotels, restaurants and shops, but are mostly useless for smaller purchases. You can use your credit card to get cash at banks and post offices however.

There are coins of 10, 20 and 50 *pfenig* (a direct translation from the former German *pfennig*) and 1 and 2 marks. Banknotes exist in 0.50, 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200KM denominations.

Coins and bills are all in two alphabets - the Latin of the Bosnian Federation and the Cyrillic of Republika Srpska. To please people in both entities, most bills have two versions - one where the Latin alphabet is written first, another where Cyrillic is first. Interestingly, the bills from the two parts of Bosnia (except for the 5KM note) also have different people depicted on them, though the colour and design remains the same. All coins and bills are accepted throughout the country.

An interesting number of **errors** can be seen on Bosnian money. On all coins, you'll see pfeniga misspelt as feniga, which is closer to the actual pronunciation. The banknotes (printed in France) also have mistakes: on the back of the Srpska 5KM note, the designer spelt the word *pet*, five, as PET in Cyrillic, which transliterates as 'ret'. Also the last letter of the Cyrillic spelling of writer Ivo Andric is wrong - the reason why the planned 1KM bill with Andric on it never came into circulation.

Roads

Roads in Yugoslavia are bumpy but main roads are generally in a good state. Going is slow due to the hilly to mountainous terrain. Many Sarajevo streets have been renamed over the past few years. Get a hold of a city map with an index that notes the old street name as well as the new one.

Toilets

A central, reasonably clean and free public toilet can be found next to the Gazi Husrev-beg mosque at Mudzeletki Veliki 14.

Refugees

One of the main problems in Bosnia is the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes, as stated in the Dayton peace agreement. Until August 2001, 226.891 refugees who were abroad have returned to

Bosnia, and hundreds of thousands have returned to their homes - but many thousands will not be able to return home soon, or ever.

Safety

Apart from the threat of mines if you go wandering off the trodden paths, you should be perfectly safe in Sarajevo. Don't be put off by the fact that it is a mainly Muslim city - they know more about hospitality than most western countries. Always keep a close eye on your belongings when in busy streets and on trams, and don't flash wallets or cameras.

Mines

Warning: When in Bosnia, be sure to stay on asphalt or clearly used paths unless you are accompanied by a competent guide who knows the area. Do not enter empty houses or other ruins as they may be mined too. But most of all, do not be paranoid about coming to Bosnia - most of the country is still mine-free and safe trips to the countryside can be organised with local specialists.

As a result of the war, Bosnia is littered with about 1 million mines and 'several million' other unexploded ordnance. The number of recorded minefields is 18,600, which 'probably represent 50-60% of the real number'. Most minefields are to be found in the separation zone, the 1,100km long, 4km wide former front line that stretches all the way from Dubrovnik north to Sarajevo, Zvornik and Brcko before turning south via Travnik to Livno. After the war, BHMACE (Mine Action Centre, Zmaj od Bosne 8, tel. 20 12 98, info@bhmac.org) was charged with clearing the mines and informing the population and others about mines. Until now 120,000 mines have been neutralised on an area of 24km². The number of people injured or killed by mines in Bosnia has been decreasing every year: 108 were killed and 518 injured in 1996, while in 2001 'only' 16 died and 33 were injured.

BHMACE regularly makes maps showing the mine situation, marking known minefields with red dots, cleared minefields with blue ones, and the location of mine incidents as a yellow flame. These maps are unfortunately unavailable on internet, though you can view some low-quality, old maps. Surf to www.bhmac.org/bhmac and click to Information Department to view a rather scary map of Sarajevo with the red ring of untreated minefields (only the situation of 1998, unfortunately). You'll see most incidents occur around the airport, but there are a fair number of yellow flames in the suburbs close to the centre. There is also another map online depicting Sarajevo's surroundings, where you can clearly see Sarajevo's front-line bottleneck at the airport (see What to see - the siege) and the formerly Bosnian army held Igman mountain surrounded by mines. The detailed mine situation map for Sarajevo can also be seen at the Tourism Information Office.

The offices of BHMACE in the Marsala Tita barracks can be visited for more information if you contact them in advance.

Another quality guide from In Your Pocket

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Restaurants

American

Big Country Branilaca Sarajevo 20/1, tel. 061 27 74 12, bethanylindsey@hotmail.com. A star-spangled corner of Bosnia with good quesadillas, salads and steak specialties. Set on the first floor of the building opposite Café Opera, it has good coffee to go with a book from the English-language library (to lend or exchange) next to the bar. On Sundays, stuff yourself with the only Tex-Mex breakfast in town, and hang around to watch the free Sunday movie. **Open 09:30 - 23:00.**

Ascinica

A&Dz Mali Curciluk 3. Delicious and cheap Bosnian food in a somewhat anonymous marble setting - if you're thinking of setting up a McBosnia chain, this is the model you're looking for. Our colleagues at Let's Go liked this place so much that they left a framed recommendation on the wall before they did what their name suggests. **Open 08:00 - 18:00. 4-7KM**

Mirza Nize Banje 1, tel. 20 02 90. Just north of Mula Mustafa Beseskije and behind the market hall, Mirza is one of the better ascinic restaurants in town. Clean and modern, it has the full range of delicious Bosnian snacks. **Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 08:00 - 16:00. 4-8KM**

Bosnian

Aeroplan Saraci 6, tel. 53 56 90. A Sarajevo classic, Aeroplan combines two cute courtyards with clock tower views and pleasant indoor seating with somewhat stiff staff. The food is very decent Bosnian nosh, but for culinary excellence you may want to head elsewhere. Great to go with newcomers though. **Open 11:00 - 24:00. 15-25KM**

Amerikanac M. Tita 36, tel. 44 17 16. Now who would want to go out to a bland restaurant with average food, a sullen atmosphere and bad service? Indeed: avoid. **Open 12:00 - 23:00. 15-25KM**

Inat Kuca Veliki Alifakovac 1, tel. 44 78 67. Charming restaurant set in the tiny house opposite the old town hall. The building used to be across the river, on the spot where the town hall now stands. The story goes that in 1894 the owner refused to sell his land to the Austrians for their town hall unless they reconstructed the house on the other side of the river - and here it is. The ground floor has an open kitchen, where you can see local specialties being freshly made, and can point out things to take away. Upstairs are two floors with small tables around balconies where you can peek down into the kitchen, and a few delightful little *kamerijas* (bay windows) with good views. The Bosnian food on offer won't disappoint; Inat Kuca serves everything from hefty snacks like *burek* to full meals. Great terrace along the river in summer. **Open 08:00 - 22:30. 6-18KM**

The ladies love it
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Morica Han Saraci 77, tel. 23 61 19. Tourist trap inside the old Morica Inn. Very nice setting, but with average food and listless staff. **Open 07:00 - 22:00.**

To Be Cizmedziluk 5, tel. 23 32 65. One of our favourites - a tiny two-storey restaurant serving delicious steaks, spaghetti and seafood and with good regional wines. Try the grilled squid (15KM) with a glass of dry Croatian white for a classic Dalmatian meal. The classic Sarajevo war posters you see on the wall (a cellist playing inside the ruins of the old town hall) are for sale for 10KM. **Open 11:00 - 23:00. 8-18KM**

Cevabdzinica

Hodzik Bravadziluk 34, tel. 53 28 66. A modern family-run marble-clad cevabdzinica with a private salon in the cellar and a fridge in the back displaying all the wonderful shapes you can make with minced meat. We know that Mr. Hodzik speaks at least one word of English (yes), and likes to repeat it a lot. **Open 08:00 - 22:00.**

Kastel Mali Curciluk 11, tel. 061 13 15 46. Tiny, old-fashioned cevabdzinica serving *Banjalucki cevapi*: small square versions of the otherwise round meatballs. Still tastes good though.

Chinese

China Garden Cumurija bb, tel. 061 74 00 30061 14 77 43. Disappointing restaurant that still manages to attract quite a few foreigners as it's the only Chinese one in the centre. The interior is shabby and slightly tacky, and the food we had can best be described as unimaginative. **Open 11:00 - 14:30. 10-15KM**

Fast food

Kod Mahira Kovaci 57, tel. 53 15 32. Just up steep Kovaci from Bascarsija, Kod Mahir is a local favourite for late pizza. **Open 09:00 - 24:00. 5-12KM**

Pizza Hot Trg Fra Grge Martica 1. Delicious pizza for just 1KM/slice. This place is popular - *In Your Pocket* did a count and half the people walking through this street at lunchtime head for Hot. **Open 09:00 - 24:00.**

Italian

Al Saraceno Skenderija 14, tel. 44 52 00. Quite rightly an expat favourite, this cheap and cheerful trattoria was recommended to us by several people. The slightly shabby interior is filled with old paintings and tables with red chequered tablecloths. Great pizzas (6-7KM) and excellent steaks are served at very reasonable prices, and there's a wide range of vinegars and sauces available to chuck over your food. Good place for foreign-reporter-spotting - we sighted the BBC. **Open 10:00 - 23:00. 8-12KM**

Bella Italia Cobanija 1, tel. 21 88 48. Brightly-lit, modern Italian restaurant specialising in pizza, pasta and ice cream. Though the interior is quite anonymous and hung with too many soft drink ads, the food is good, and the large terrace along the Milacka very pleasant. **Open 11:00 - 23:00. 8-16KM**

International

Club Jez Zelenih Beretki 14, tel. 65 03 12. Very good upscale restaurant set in a secret cellar next to the Jezz Club (see *Sarajevo By Night*) - enter the passageway opposite the Orthodox Cathedral, pass the Ramona café and enter the door on the left to see the first of four Harley Davidsons. The owner, a Bosnian war hero whose framed photos grace a pillar, collects antiques, paintings and motorcycles and has crammed the place with them. Despite the upscale appeal, the restaurant retains a cosy feeling so that you can loosen that tie while you tuck into your Bosnian or international dish. **Open 17:00 - 24:00. 20-25KM**

Lebanese

Cedar Hadziristiceva bb, tel. 20 97 89, cedar-lr@bih.net.ba. The self-proclaimed first Lebanese restaurant in the Balkans is one of the top choices in Sarajevo. Set on Zelenih Beretki, the interior thankfully is only vaguely Mediterranean. Starters, the main attraction of Lebanese cuisine, are priced between 5-8KM, while vegetarians can indulge for about 10-14KM. The *kafa misvije* (grilled meat, 15KM) that we had was deliciously spiced, and came with fresh vegetables and pita bread. Finish off your meal with a puff of *narquila*, apple-flavoured tobacco. Not the place for locals to go with a secret *amour* - the whole expat community seems to dine here in shifts. **Open 12:00 - 24:00. 15-23KM**

Seafood

Dubrovnik Logavina 5, tel. 44 78 30. An air of exclusiveness surrounds Dubrovnik - you have to ring to get in, and as your coat gets locked out of sight in a cupboard you get to see photos of (other) famous guests. The service is as good as it is distant, and the interior also is of an upscale blandness that could place the restaurant anywhere. Still, the embassies are happy to send their visiting bigwigs here to enjoy the excellent fish and meat specialties that come at relatively high prices. **Open 10:00 - 24:00. 25-40KM**

Konoba Ferhadija 11, tel. 66 81 60. It's back to the 1980s in this cellar restaurant on Sarajevo's main pedestrian street. Surrounded by suitably salmon pink walls select your type of fish - but note that prices are listed per kilogram, so indicate how much you want or ask the weight so you get an idea of the total price. **Open 11:00 - 24:00. 10-30KM**

Ragusa Ferhadija 10b, tel. 44 25 4166 58 41. What seems to be a tourist trap seen from the street, is a most pleasant little tavern using the old (Italian) name for Dubrovnik and specialising in grilled food and *morska hrana*, seafood. Grab a table amidst green fuzzy walls and colourful decorations to order the good fish dishes or cheap pizzas and pastas (6-8KM). **Open 09:00 - 24:00. 6-20KM**

Maps

Don't rest before you have a copy of the excellent *Sarajevo plan grada* map by Sertarja (recognisable by the yellow background and green edge), available for 10KM from their bookshop on Marsala Tita 19, and from tram stop kiosks. Unlike others, this map covers the area all the way west to Ilidza and the Vrelo Bosna springs, has a good city centre enlargement, shows all bus and tram lines, has a street index, and a map of the surrounding mountains.

Cafes

Access Zmaj od Bosne bb, tel. 20 00 7065 08 7120 00 70, sarajevo@wus-austria.org, www.access.ba. The café with the highest concentration of students is set in a building the middle of the university campus, and next to the heavily guarded SFOR barracks. The Access centre also houses an internet café. The terrace overlooks the entrance to CIMIC-CPIC, SFOR's press information centre, which is often featured on the background of BBC and CNN reports. See *Useful Addresses* for details on how to get there.

Atrium Ferhadija 14A, tel. 65 17 58. Set behind Black Swan, this is a spacious, arcaded café overlooking a courtyard, where you can relax and flip through one of its dogeared foreign magazines. **Open 10:00 - 23:00.**

Black Swan Ferhadija 14A. Loud music that has the poor fish dancing in their tanks can be consumed sitting in low chairs. There's no escape for deaf people either - just have a look at the modern art gracing the yellow walls. **Open 08:00 - 23:00.**

Buybook Radiceva 4, tel. 20 65 45, hegbj@yahoo.com. Small café where you can browsebook, drink coffee, picknose and flirt people before you buybook. **Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.**

G&S Industry Ferhadija, tel. 035 28 05 03. Popular bakery and café on the corner with Trg Oslobodenja. The stand-up bakery section has huge pizzas, warm cherry and apple-filled strudel and good German-style bread. **Open 07:00 - 22:30.**

Gradska Kafana Trg Fra Grge Martica 4, tel. 20 79 61. Serving food but mostly cakes and coffee, this café is a major meeting point when the terrace spills over the shady parts of the square in front of the Catholic Cathedral. Cevapcici-lovers will be happy to note that it occupies the location that McDonalds failed to get. **Open 07:00 - 23:00.**

Hamam Mula Mustafe Baseskije 21, tel. 23 77 78. Pretty and modern café stuck to the outside wall of the hamam building. The bright space is ideal for a quiet coffee with cake or ice cream before you hop on the tram. **Open 08:00 - 24:00.**

Illy Ferhadija 7. This small café on the first floor of the market hall is the first to open every day. If you nudge the annoying curtain away, you have a great view of the cheese and eggs section in the hall *without* the smells. **Open 05:30 - 23:00.**

Imperijal Marsala Tita 56, tel. 21 06 99. Classic café serving coffee, cakes and meals the way they did in good old Austro-Hungarian times. Imperijal also more or less is the starting point for the evening stroll along Ferhadija. **Open 09:00 - 22:00.**

Kiborg Strosmajerova. The third café with terrace along Strosmajerova is a shabby but happy affair. With two floors filled with young 'uns and loud house music. Downstairs there is a surprisingly large pizzeria with a central staircase that could have featured in Fawty Towers. **Open 08:00 - 23:00.**

Linea M Obala Maka Dijkstra 7, tel. 66 62 11. Unspectacular café named after the Italian linear cartoon. The reason we list it, is the shady terrace overlooking the Milacka and the grand Austro-Habsburg buildings on the other side of the river. **Open 08:00 - 22:30, Sun 08:00 - 20:00.**

Jazz

Clou Mula, Mustafa Beseskije 5, tel. 061 20 39 84. Half the fun of this tiny jazz cellar is finding it - walk through the eerie-looking hallway, cross a courtyard and descend into the two small rooms that hold an amazing amount of people, smoke and jazz vibes. Every Friday and Saturday at 23:00 they somehow also manage to fit a band in. Open 20:00 - 05:00.

Jezz Club, Zelenih Beretki 14, tel. 65 03 12. Small but famed jazz club hidden in the passageway opposite the Orthodox Cathedral (pass the Ramona café, enter the door on the left and pass the Harleys - see the Club Jez restaurant review for more). Two small cellar rooms host regular concerts and jam sessions, mostly by local and ex-Yugoslav musicians, sometimes foreign ones. Open 19:00 - 04:00.

Metropolis Titova 21, tel. 20 33 1520 32 65. A popular café with trams rumbling by and a rather comfy interior (exciting city names, clocks with the time in New York etc.). The second level is where average pizza, pasta and snacks (including the sandwich with chicken breasts) are served. You could conceivably head here for the full continental breakfast (only 4KM) though. Open 08:30 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. 7-15KM

Obala Art Centre H. Kresevljakovica 13, tel. 66 81 86. A modern film-themed café linked to the Obala cinema, just south of the river. The place has bare furnishings but also an attractive studenty clientele chatting over coffee, a Stella or perusing one of the art and movie magazines available here. Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Prospero Marsala Tita 56/II, tel. 21 49 08. A high-brow artists' café next to the Kamerni Teatar 55, on the second floor. Clad with photos of theatre productions, this is where a mix of people from the art world have their coffee or where visitors wait for a performance. Open 08:00 - 22:00.

So.ba Obala Maka Dizdara 3. Funky little café/bar inside the Art Academy building along the Milacka. Through the smoke you should be able to see students hanging out around raw plywood tables. Occasionally hosts parties. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 22:00.

Stari Grad Obala Kulina Bana bb, tel. 23 71 00. A stylish café with a pleasantly shady terrace overlooking the Milacka river and the Cerava mosque, yet far enough from the traffic on the busy road. Open 07:00 - 24:00.

Internet cafes

Access Zmaje od Bosne bb, tel. 20 00 7065 08 7120 00 70, www.access.ba. 10 terminals at 2KM/hr. Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00.

Canara Ferhadija 12, canara@bosnia.ba. 3KM/hr. Open 24hrs.

Click Kundurdziluk 1, tel. 23 69 14. 17 computers at 3KM/hr. Open 09:00 - 23:00.

EasyNet Kundurdziluk bb, tel. 23 85 9123 85 91, www.easynet.ba. Modern flat-screen computers with 128 KBPS connections at 3KM/hr, or 2KM/hr between 23:00 and 08:00. Printing 0.20KM per page. Open 24hrs.

Gemini Senoina 16. 18 computers 2KM/hr. Open 24hrs.

Refref Net Saraci 77. The cosiest internet café in town. Surf for 3KM/hr, or become a member (5KM/year) and surf for just 2KM/hr. Open 24hrs.

Nightlife

Bars

Berlin Gimmazijska 9. Hidden at the back of an alley, Berlin is a funky addition to Sarajevo's nightlife scene. The room is decorated with pictures of the Wall and wasteland, and the owners are eager to meet foreigners and their record collections. In Berlin, every day is party day: Mon: party, Tue: extra party, Wed: light party, Thu: super party, Fri: ultra party, Sat: party party, Sun super light party. On Saturdays, the resident DJ spins records (hip hop) to get the crowd moving. Find it down the alley next to the large school building on Gimmazijska - look for the yellow sign. Open 09:00 - 01:00.

Celtic House Kranjceviceva 43. If you roll out of a bus or train longing for Guinness, all you have to do is cross the square in front of the train station to find an Irish pub. Though not really a meeting point for expats, it has the standard Irish wooden interior so much of us long for in far and strange countries, and Guinness (6KM), Budweiser, Stella and Heineken beer. Open 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 16:00 - 24:00.

Cinema Club Marsala Tita 28. Down the stairs beneath the sign reading *Beijing* in the alley between Marsala Tita and Branilaca Sarajeva, and you'll find not a Chinese restaurant but this rather gloomy bar that has nothing to do with films except for the movie posters lining the walls. Open 09:00 - 03:00.

Cotton Club Branilaca Sarajeva 47. If you like blue lighting mixed with lots of loud hip hop music and a studenty crowd, this is the place to be. The cordial crowd at the bar should be happy to chat, otherwise you can retreat upstairs with your beer. Open 24hrs.

Dublin Ferhadija 28. Every city needs its Dublin, and here is Sarajevo's. Not a true Irish bar (which may be a good thing), it does have a wide selection of beers and a lively crowd, as well as a cellar that is just waiting to become a fire hazard. Find Dublin signposted off the main street in a courtyard. Open 08:00 - 02:00.

Hayat Club Kundurdziluk 6. Grab your mobile phone, leather coat and trophy girlfriend before entering this faux upscale bar. Talk rubbish to other idiots, or get friendly with the owner so your picture may grace the walls one day too! Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Kangaroo Strossmajerova 1. A small, modern bar with a popular big terrace in summer. No links with Australia, but the good-looking clientele will have you hopping around. Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Marquee Obala Kulina Bana 6, tel. 061 13 21 17. Rock and roll, is back in town baby, and it lives forth in the two-room 'rock club' Marquee, where the Beatles, Elvis and Jimi Hendrix glance down from the walls at the drum kit and instruments that always stand ready for anyone willing (and preferably able) to play. The bar that you can hang at to chat with the DJ is a nice feature. The filthy toilets are not. Open 10:00 - 05:00.

Muppet Ferhadija 12, tel. 20 67 46. Sarajevo apparently has a weakness for Muppets: apart from this bar there was also once a hardware store called *Gonzo* on Bistrik and there's a whole load of Muppets running the country. As is to be expected, Muppet caters to party-minded schoolgoing kids, and is no place for puritan bald-headed eagles. Regular events include live music (Mon, Wed), Heineken parties (beer 2.5KM, Wed) and vodka parties (drinks only 1KM, Sun). Open 24hrs.

Old Town Tabaci 2. Walk down Helaci at the bottom end of Bascarsija square and turn left to find this down-to-earth, local bar. Local music often inspires the guests to spontaneous parties, though Wednesday is official party night (with vodka/orange juice for 1KM). The cordial owner is proud of the 'beautiful girls and good coffee' in his bar. Open 09:00 - 01:00.

Sky Gazi Husrevbegova 55. Three levels of marble floors and tables filled with chatting youngsters surrounded by smoke and ear-splitting house music. The two tables featuring a no-smoking sign must be a joke, right? Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Fun & funky

Barhana Dulagina Cikma 8. Wander into the smallest alley of Bascarsija (just off Saraci) to find the funkier bar of the old town, where the alternative crowd meets. Nothing fancy, the bar has graffitied blue walls and a bunch of tables. Drum 'n bass and triphop gets the kids smiling here. Visit on Friday to see a DJ in action. Open 11:00 - 03:00.

Central Strossmajerova, tel. 20 04 42. Cool cats meet hip kittens at this most loungey and popular of Sarajevo bars. Expect stylish design and comfy furniture for chilling out upon (hey, isn't that Ikea's LACK table and DUNO lamp?). The menu lists cocktails at 7KM, and 15 kinds of beer. The slightly nutty staff make the experience all the more interesting, and the terrace out front is a major meeting point in summer.

The Bar Marsala Tita 7, tel. 23 34 95. Naming this place *the* Bar is downright arrogant of course, but they have a point, because it may well be the best bar in Sarajevo. Just west of Alipasina mosque in the BiH Sume building, this is a complex of cellar rooms furnished with comfy couches and bathed in red and orange light. You'll feel OK here, especially after having chilled out on the groovy music that is played. Open 00:00 - 24:00.

Clubs

Bock Musala bb. Also known as FIS, this is a very lively club near the Tesla cinema with Maja-like decorations and cosy seating. A wide range of music is played, appealing to expats and beautiful locals alike. The bar reportedly accepts payment in several currencies including the Jamaican dollar, but don't expect the rates to be good. Open 19:00 - 03:00.

Internet Club Marsala Tito 7 (entrance on Kranjceviceva). Right next to *The Bar*, but on the other side of the building, you can connect with other people in all kinds of ways here except by internet, as there are no computers. Just loud and varied music and Sarajevo's party-minded crowd. Open 20:00 - 03:00.

Urban Club Max Tekija Cikma 1, tel. 21 04 44. Generally avoided by the expats (and therefore worth visiting for a new experience), this is Sarajevo's only hard punk gothic underground club. This crowded, small basement is where black-clad kids jump around to punk and heavy metal music. Come early to enjoy the mayhem - for some reason it empties out at 23:00. Beer only 2KM. The cellar is unmarked: to find it, walk from Strossmajerova down Cumurija, and go into the tiny alley near the Chinese restaurant, then head down the stairs on your left.

The full story
www.inyourpocket.com

Sights

Museums

History Museum Zmaja od Bosne 5, tel. 47 04 18. The permanent exhibition of this box-like building next to the National Museum is closed, but the room at the back occasionally holds small exhibitions on topics from Bosnian history. Parked outside are some of the weapons the partisans used to terrorise the Nazis in WWII, as well as an impressive armoured train.

National Museum Zmaja od Bosne 3, tel. 66 80 2766 80 25. Under endless restoration, this good museum is only open two days per week, and only for a few hours. If you are in town at the right time, the museum is certainly worth a visit.

On display is the **Sarajevo Haggadah**, a beautifully illustrated 14th century book originating from Barcelona that is one of the most important Jewish relics in Europe. The pictures in the book break the traditional rules by depicting humans and also showing the world as round - a heretical idea at the time.

One wing of the main building holds the newly arranged collection of **archaeological finds**: Greek and Roman tombstones, mosaics and pottery, as well as medieval artefacts like rusty swords, jewelry and coins. Unfortunately, texts are in Bosnian only. The courtyard holds the University's modest **botanical garden**, where Japanese apple trees have survived the war, as well as some impressive Stecci, carved medieval Bosnian tombstones that are the symbol of the country, and of which thousands still remain across the country. The three other buildings around the garden hold the library, the **natural history** department with the usual stuffy collection of stuffed animals (although the eagles are impressive) and finally the **ethnography museum**. The latter houses the beautiful interior of an 18th century Bosnian house, comparable to the Svrzo house (see Ottoman Sarajevo) and with English-language texts. Furniture and dressed dolls are used to show how Bosnian families followed trends from Istanbul first, but later became more influenced by fashion from Vienna. One scene shows the embarrassing way that girls met boys - the lad would sit outside the latticework and pluck his sitar while the girl, with full consent of her parents, would sit inside to be wooed. Open 10:00 - 14:00.

Galleries

Art Academy Gallery Obala Maka Dizdara 3. Occasional exhibitions in the impressive former evangelical church along the Milacka. Open 10:00 - 17:00.

KNAP Branilaca Sarajeva 20, tel. 071 23 09 52. Excellent little gallery with art by Bosnian artists like Emir Dragur (paintings, from 1,000KM). Our favourites were the wooden books and the brightly painted firewood (39KM per log). Open 11:00 - 19:00.

National Gallery Zelenih Beretki 2. Occasional exhibitions in the hall next to the Dom Armije. Open 12:00 - 19:00.

Novi Hram Mula Mustafa Baseskije 38, tel. 23 32 80. Gallery inside the new synagogue with changing exhibitions. Open 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.

Orthodox Church Museum Mula Mustafe Beseskije 59, tel. 53 47 83. Reopened in 2002, this is one of the oldest museums in town, dating back 100 years. The museum shows a small but interesting collection of silver and gold objects, robes and most importantly a large collection of icons, many from Crete, dating from the 1600s. Locally-made icons are usually recognisable by the absence of background pictures, filling the space next to depicted saints with patterns instead of views. Most graphic is the icon named 'Liturgy of the righteous and the sufferings in hell', where dog-faced demons with sagging breasts torment the sinners on their way to hell. Although there are no English-language texts, the staff may be able to guide you around in English. Open 10:00 - 15:00.

Around town

Sarajevo suburb walks The suburbs on the hills immediately around the centre make for great destinations for walks. You'll see many neighbourhood mosques, traditional old family houses, twisting cobblestoned roads, village life, and war damage. The *map coordinates* mentioned below refer to those on the *Sejtarja* map (see *Shopping*). As always, *do not leave the roads*, as these routes pass through the former front line - there are still plenty of mines. **Breka & Smreka** (2.5hrs). From the centre, head north through the streets of Bjelave to Breka (M-4) and take the pretty Grdonj road to Smreka (N-3). From here go down Pasino Brdo (O-4, with excellent views) to the centre, or via Put za Barice, passing through a ruined Serb village. **The Fortress** (1hr, N/O-5). From Bascarsija square, head up Kovaci and then Ploca, passing the old Visegrad Gate. Continue up Vratnik mejdan and Carina until you reach the large ruined fortress looming over the Milacka gorge. You can walk around it, but be careful, there's a 50m drop to the river and no fence. On the way back, head down the steep alleys to reach the small fortress on Jekovac, and down Nevjestina to the river where you can have a drink on the Bazen café terrace, or continue on Visegradska kaprija and Moscarica to the Goat's Bridge. **Goat's Bridge** (*Kozja Cuprija*, 2hrs). From Bascarsija, head north along the river, passing the Bazen terrace, and staying on the small road passing next to the swimming pool. After 40 minutes you'll come across the beautiful 16th century Goat's Bridge, spanning the Milacka over one large arch. **Brajkovac** (1hr). Head south from the centre along Zagrici or Za Bereglukom to reach Brajkovac (M-7), high up on the mountain, again passing through the old front lines.

Information & tours

Sightseeing Tours Tel. 23 51 09066 19 18 8023 51 09, zijo2@ekno.com. Proud to be the 'first licensed guide of BiH', Zijad Jusufovic can take you on tours of Sarajevo and surroundings. Join a two-hour walking tour of town (30KM), a more comprehensive tour of town by car (from 200KM) or a trip to any destination in the country. The four-hour *Mission Impossible* tour (300KM, includes car) focuses on the 1992-96 siege. Not all comments we heard about his tailor-made tours have been positive, so make clear plans if you want something out of the ordinary.

Tourist Information Centre Zelenih Beretki 22a, tel. 22 07 2422 07 2153 22 81, www.sarajevo-tourism.com. The friendly and helpful staff will take time and help you plan your stay in Sarajevo. They hand out brochures and (very basic) free maps, can advise on bus and train schedules and sell maps and books. They can't book hotel rooms, but will advise on options. **City tours** can be arranged (80KM for 2.5hrs) if you book in advance. Find the tourist office near the Bezistan bazaar and the ruin of the Europa hotel, on the street running between the Milacka river and Ferhadija. Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00.

Jewish Sarajevo

Ascenah Synagogue Hamdije Kresevljakovica. A large, neo-moorish style synagogue from 1902. Heavily damaged during the war, it now is back in use by the Jewish community which now numbers about 700 (instead of the approximately 1500 Jews that lived in Sarajevo before the recent war).

Jewish cemetery Put Mladih Muslimana. The oldest burial ground in Sarajevo is the Sephardic cemetery from 1630. Unfortunately, it was in the front line during the war, and the gravestones, walls and ceremonial hall (from 1930) were damaged. Now that the area is demined, it awaits the renovation that the UN plans to fund.

New Temple memorial Branilaca Sarajeva 24 (Bosnian Cultural Centre courtyard). The hideous Bosnian Cultural Centre marks the spot where until WWII the magnificent (other) New Temple synagogue used to stand. A large stone menorah in the dark courtyard is all that points to the former use of the terrain.

Old & New Temple Mula Mustafe Beseskije 38. The grey stone building on the small square is the former Old Temple, a synagogue built in 1581. Consumed by fires twice, it was used as the Jewish museum since WWII, but has been closed since the recent war. The restored white building next to it, built in 1821 to accommodate the large number of worshippers, is the New Temple, now in use as a gallery. Open 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.

Skakavac waterfall Take minibus 69 from Sutjeska (the main bus stop on Alipasina) to the end point in Nahorevo village, north of town, from here you can hike to the impressive Skakavac waterfall. There are good views of Sarajevo, and on the way back you can easily climb to the top of the 1533m mountain.

Vrelo Bosna springs & Rimski most 3km west of Ilidza. A startlingly beautiful park at the foot of Igman mountain is where the river Bosna literally spurts to life from the rocks. Cascading down a series of ponds and lakes, it meanders its way north to meet the Miljacka from Sarajevo, much later joining the Sava on the border with Croatia, and emptying into the Danube at Belgrade. The Vrelo Bosna park consists of the small green islands between the many streams, linked by wooden bridges. To get there, take tram N°3, 4 or 6 to Ilidza, walk through the shopping area, cross the pedestrian bridge and cross the park with the Terme hotel. You'll arrive at the head of Velika Aleja near the Casa Grande hotel, where you can take a *fijaker* (horse cart) or walk the 3km to the springs. There are parking places at near Casa Grande, or near to the springs in Vrelo Bosna village when approached from the Mostar road to the north. If you have surplus energy, walk back to Ilidza following the road east through Vrelo Bosna village, cross the busy Mostar road, turn right after the large church of Plandiste village onto the old road which rejoins the Mostar road further on. After 500m, turn right onto a gravel road and you'll cross the peaceful Bosna river on the pretty 16th century **Rimski most** (Roman bridge), made of carved stone and supported by seven arches. It is named so for the Roman stones the Ottomans used for its construction: Ilidza was the location of an important Roman settlement, possibly with a temple, and old stones were used as convenient building material throughout the ages. You can either catch a bus on to Ilidza bus/tram station by going back to the Mostar road and waiting, or walk the remaining 2km by following the old road straight ahead, crossing the Zeljeznica river on the second bridge. Remember the landmines; stay on the roads.

Austro-Hungarian Sarajevo

Latinska cuprija The crumbling stone bridge that links Bascarsija to Latinluk, the area where the Christians used to live, dates from 1565, though was rebuilt after flood damage in 1798. It was near this bridge, on the corner of Zelenih Beretki, that **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** and his pregnant wife Sophie were assassinated on **June 28, 1914**, sparking off World War I. At the time, Serb nationalists wanted to unite the Serbs living in Austrian-dominated Bosnia with the Serb state north of the Drina. Ironically, Ferdinand was a target because he was *in favour* of giving more rights to Bosnian Serbs - the reasoning was that the goal of a Greater Serbia would be reached sooner with more disgruntlement in Bosnia. Both Ferdinand's visit and the assassination attempts were marvellously bungled. The timing of the visit was unfortunate, on Ferdinand's wedding anniversary but also on the main Serb national day. The couple had been warned of political unrest, but did not want to lose face. Police presence was minimal despite the warning. Ferdinand sat in an open car, and asked the driver to go slow. There were seven conspirators. Two were on Cumurja bridge - the first one noticed a policeman nearby and lost nerve, the second had a grenade that he lobbed at the car. Badly aimed, the grenade bounced off the hood and exploded underneath the next car, injuring several people. The assassin swallowed cyanide and jumped into the river, only to vomit and discover the river was only 20cm deep. After arriving at the town hall (passing three other conspirators who did not act), Ferdinand decided to visit the injured in hospital before visiting a museum as planned. Ferdinand left the town hall to go to the hospital (passing the sixth assassin, who did nothing), but the driver was apparently misinformed of the destination and turned down Franz Josef street (present-day Zelenih Beretki). Wanting to back up, the car stopped two metres in front of a surprised **Gavrilo Princip**, a 19-year-old Bosnian Serb, who fired a gun twice, hitting Sophie and Ferdinand. Both were taken to the Konak, and died a little later. Princip tried to kill himself with the gun and cyanide, but was assaulted by onlookers and arrested. Austria had no choice but to react strongly to this attack, blaming Serbia even though a link with the Serbian government was never proved. The complicated set of political alliances and geo-political interests tumbled Europe into war. All conspirators except one were arrested, and Princip died of tuberculosis in isolation in Theresienstadt prison. He is buried in Sarajevo's Christian Orthodox cemetery. A statue for the murdered couple was erected near the bridge, but this was taken away in 1918. Then, after World War I, Princip became a national hero, the bridge was named after him, two metal footprints were set in the pavement where he stood shooting, and a museum was opened on that corner. After the war began in 1992, Bosnians started to dismantle anything that reminded of Yugoslavia, erasing the footprints and closing the museum (the collection was saved by a curator and lies in the basement of the Jewish museum). Now it's simply the Latin bridge again, and there are plans to re-erect the statue of Ferdinand and Sophie, as well as to replace Princip's footsteps.

Post office Obala Kulina Bana 8, tel. 65 06 18. Built in 1909 by Josip Vancas (who constructed several large buildings in town) and modelled after the secessionist Viennese postbank. On May 2, 1992, disaster struck when the building was first dynamited, and then shelled until just a carcass remained. This brought an end to the postal services, but also to nearly all telephone connections, as the main switchboard was here. Sarajevans had to rely on foreigners to bring letters in and out of the besieged city. Now the post office has been restored to its full splendour again - walk in to admire the huge, bright central hall featuring the only postcard-dispensing machine in the Balkans. Open 09:00 - 16:00.

The Sarajevo siege

Sarajevo roses & massacres All over town you will find the tell-tale scars of grenade explosions on the ground and on walls - a hole surrounded by a fan of chipped asphalt or concrete, blasted away by shrapnel of the grenade casing. Sometimes the holes have been filled with red cement, somewhat resembling roses. These **Sarajevo Roses** mark the sites where the grenades killed civilians, and tradition has it that you do not step on them. The worst single incident occurred on August 28, 1995, when a grenade fell near a queue of people waiting for bread behind the market hall on Ferhadija. 43 civilians were killed, many more wounded. A white plaque at the rear of the building commemorates the victims killed by *Srpski zlocinci*, 'Serbian criminals'.

Tunnel Museum Ilidja, Tunel 1 (Donji Kotorac 34), tel. 62 85 9146 68 85, tunel@bih.net, http://tunel.bih.net.

A half-wrecked house south of Sarajevo's airport runway houses a small but fascinating museum. During the war, the airport (held by UNPROFOR) was the only link between the besieged city and the Igman mountains which were also held by the Bosnian army. People could get in and out of the city by running across the runway, fully exposed to sniper fire. UNPROFOR built barriers to stop people from crossing. After a number of months, the Bosnian army made plans for digging a tunnel under the runway, and the Kolar family provided their house and garden.

Despite heavy shelling, ground water problems and other difficulties, the 800m long tunnel was finished seven months later. Rails were installed and special carts made to facilitate transportation of goods and dignitaries (the Bosnian president was carted though on his way to a parliament meeting once), electricity and telephone cables, oil and water pipes were laid. Throughout the siege, the tunnel was the only link between the city and the outside world, and was essential for getting people, food, weapons and other supplies into the city.

The Kolar family have turned their house into a **museum**, and you can walk through a 20m stretch of the tunnel (the rest has collapsed). Their one-room exhibition shows the tunnel carts, while a video shows a documentary of the building and use of the tunnel. **To get there**, take tram N°3, 4 or 6 to the end stop at Ilidza, then change to bus N°32 to Butmir. Get off at Ulica Tuneli (Tunnel Street, ask the driver - it's one stop before the SFOR airport base) and walk down Tuneli, turning left at the end. Bus N°32 departs from Ilidza every 15-30 minutes, every hour on the hour on Sundays. Alternatively, a taxi from Ilidza should cost 5-10KM. The tourist office has a brochure about the tunnel with a map. Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Town hall Obala Kulina Bana bb. The beautiful pseudo-moorish town hall was built by the Austro-Hungarian rulers in 1894, and was turned into the National Library in 1945. During the war, it was intentionally targeted with some 50 shells, as a plaque commemorates: *'On this place Serbian criminals in the night of 25-26 August 1992 set on fire the National and University's Library of BiH. Over 2 millions of books, periodicals and documents vanished in the flame. Do not forget - remember and warn!'* The building became a symbol for the besieged city as the wrecked interior became a venue for concerts and exhibitions and a popular taping spot for foreign cameramen during the war. With Austrian help, the glass dome roof was reconstructed after the war, but the rest of the building stands empty for the time being.

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Catholic Sarajevo

Catholic cathedral Josipa Stadlera 2, tel. 53 69 1753 69 17. A pretty yet unspectacular church on Sarajevo's main pedestrian street. Well restored after being heavily damaged in the war, it was built in 1889 by the Josip Vancas, the same architect who designed the post office. And also here, Vancas copied another building, in this case the Notre Dame cathedral in Dijon (France). It still is an essential addition to the town's religious cityscape - within a few hundred metres you'll find Sarajevo's main Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish buildings. Interestingly, the painting on the wall next to the cathedral door is the only one we've ever seen in a Catholic church with a depiction of a mosque (though the painter went to some length to make the one minaret he dared to paint rather blurred). English-language mass: Sun 12:00.

Sv. Ante Franjevačka. Again proving Sarajevo's religious tolerance, this church and monastery complex is just metres away from the Ottoman representative's residence (and, not unusual for Catholics, also opposite a brewery). Josip Vancas built the bright red ensemble (after his own design this time) in 1914, and the church has a modern interior with two statues of Saint Anthony. Mass: 07:00, 08:00, 18:00, Sun 08:00, 09:30, 11:00, 12:00, 18:00.

Orthodox Sarajevo

Evangelical church Obala Maka Dizdara 3. The damaged yellow building along the Milacka river, whose dome reminds of Budapest's parliament house, now holds the Academy of Fine Arts. The central (church) part was built in 1889, the wings followed a decade later. Awaiting renovations, you can only visit the gallery room and the So.ba café.

Old Orthodox church Mula Mustafe Beseskije 59, tel. 53 47 83. An anomaly between the mosques, the ancient Serbian Orthodox church of St. Michael the Archangel dates from medieval times, the foundations and the unusual arcade structures are even early christian (5th/6th century). Although the building is plain, grey and squat seen from outside, the icy cold interior is beautiful, with a large balcony (for the women) and a carved wooden iconostase, the screen holding icons that shields off the altar. Often destroyed by fire, the current structure that dates from 1740 was ironically badly damaged by Serb shells during the siege.

Orthodox cathedral Zelenih Beretki. The cavernous and icy-cold interior of the *Church of the Most Holy Mother of God* from 1868 is worth peeking into for the large iconostase holding icons made in Russia, installed here by Russian masons sent by Tsar Alexander II. As a proof of religious tolerance, Sultan Abdul Aziz (as well as the prince of Serbia) donated 500 gold ducats towards the construction of the building. After Serb forces had shot up their own church during the war, the Greek government is now involved in helping restore the damage. Mass: Mon 08:00, Sat, Sun 09:30, 17:00.

Ottoman Sarajevo

Bascarsija The centre of Bascarsija, Sarajevo's old town, consists of the pretty Bascarsija square focusing on the *sebilj* (fountain) and the stick-armed pensioners selling seeds for the pigeons. Around it, some forty small *carsija* (streets), each named after the specific craft that was practised in them. Saraci, the main street linking to Ferhadija is where the leather workers resided, and tiny Kazandziluk still houses mainly shops with hand-made copper products. Bascarsija houses Sarajevo's main Ottoman-era sights, most of which can be seen on a leisurely stroll of an hour.

Bezistan Saraci. If you have been to Istanbul's bazaar complex, you'll recognise the spacious Ottoman architecture of this beautifully restored covered market that was built by Gazi Husrev-beg in 1555. See *Shopping* for what's for sale.

Careva mosque Veritable centre of Old Sarajevo, the place this mosque from 1566 occupies once held the original mosque from 1457 that was placed next to the *saraj* (court), as well as a *caravansarai* (resting place for travellers), *han* (inn), shops, a *hamam* (bath) and *tekija* (Moslem monastery). The mosque has a beautifully arcaded square in front of the entrance, which serves to accommodate large numbers of mosque-goers.

Clock tower Having to pray five times a day meant that good Muslims needed to know the time. Throughout the Ottoman empire, towers with public clocks were constructed for this purpose, and Sarajevo's beautiful tower originally dates from the mid-17th century, with a clock brought here by traders from London. The tower can not be visited, but it is admired best from the courtyard of the Aeroplan restaurant.

Gazi Husrev-beg hamam Mula Mustafe Beseskije 21, tel. 27 98 0027 97 77, bosinst@bih.net.ba. The grandest of seven public baths in Sarajevo, the Gazi Husrev-beg hamam (Turkish bath) dates from 1539 (the ruins of another hamam, the Firuz-beg, can be seen between the Bezistan bazaar and the ruined Europa hotel). Separate male and female sections kept morals as well as bodies clean, and to illustrate Sarajevo's traditional religious tolerance, a separate part for Jewish ritual bathing was added in the 19th century. Closed after WWII, the hamam was used as a night club during WWII and as a covered market during the Bosnian war, where shoppers were relatively safe from grenades. Still badly damaged during the war, it has recently been restored and is now part of the Bosnian Institute. Free tours can be given on Saturdays if you contact the institute three days in advance.

Gazi Husrev-beg's mosque This magnificent mosque in the heart of Bascarsija is the most important Islamic building in Bosnia. Gazi Husrev-beg had it constructed by a Persian architect in an early Istanbul style, in 1531. The 45m-high minaret towers over the 26m-high dome and the surrounding area. The grounds include an *abdesthana* (washing room), a wooden *sadrivan* (fountain), a *mekteb* (primary school) and *muvekitana* (prayer callers' home). To the left are two elaborate 16th century *turbe* (tombs).

Konak The large red house in the enclosed garden behind the Careva mosque was the official residence of the Ottoman rulers of Bosnia, and also the place where the heavily wounded Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were brought (and died) after the terrorist attacks.

Kursumlija medresa This secondary Muslim school (from 1537) was officially named the Seldzuka medresa, after Gazi Husrev-beg's mother, but was known as the Kursumlija (lead) because of the leaden roof. Enter the courtyard opposite the mosque though one of two entrances. You can get a peek at the interior when the building is used for expositions.

Morica Han Saraci 77. Like all other *hans* (inns), the best-preserved han of Sarajevo, dating from 1551, has suffered numerous fires. The Morica han was rebuilt time after time, and is now the only one remaining in Bascarsija (where in 1880 there were some 50 in and around Sarajevo). The Morica's beautiful cobbled courtyard is surrounded by old stables and storehouses (being restored at time of writing) and lodging rooms upstairs, resting on large wooden pillars. Now home to a restaurant and (upstairs) the Muslim youth organisation, you're free to stroll around.

Hotels

Cream of the crop

Europa Garni Vladislava Skarica 3, tel. 23 28 5523 28 60, europa-garni@smarnet.ba, www.europa-garni.ba. Constructed in 1998 next to the ruins of the shelled old Europa hotel, the Europa Garni now is the largest hotel in the central Bascarsija area. Although it does not really fit in the surroundings with its blue mirror windows, it has comfortable and bright rooms with big windows that can also be rented during the day (at half price) 'to spend some time with your girlfriend', according to the receptionist. The views of Bascarsija from the rooms at the front are magical at night. 28 rooms (3 singles 180 - 240KM, 24 doubles 280KM, 1 suite 400KM)

Holiday Inn Zmaj od Bosne 4, tel. 28 80 0066 38 62, holiday@bih.net.ba, www.holiday-inn.com/sarajevo. No visit to Sarajevo is complete without a surprised glance at this 10-storey bright yellow cube, built for the 1984 Winter Olympics. Throughout the siege the Holiday Inn was the only functioning hotel in town, frequented by the foreign press who paid most for the rooms *without* a view. Their presence did mean the building was shelled less than surrounding buildings, yet still it was frequently targeted. Now only showing minor shrapnel scratches, the Holiday Inn is back on the track, again the main venue for conferences and meetings in town. The massive elevator pillars in the huge hall lead up to the

Ottoman curiosities cont...

Svrzo house Glodzina 6, tel. 53 52 64061 18 43 10. This beautifully restored 18th century house shows how a Bosnian *beg* (nobleman) lived with his family, often until well into the Austro-Hungarian period. The house is completely closed off from the street, and has two strictly separated sections inside: the *selamluk*, the public and 'male' part of the house facing the street where guests were received and business was done, and behind it the *haremluk*, the family and 'female' part, each with its own courtyard. In compliance with the strict religious norms, the two worlds were very strictly separated: an ingenious revolving door in the wall separating the two courtyards allowed the women to pass food and drinks on to the men and their visitors without being seen. Each room is lined with a *minder* (couch) and is decorated with *kilims* (carpets) from across the Arab world, *mahrma* (embroidered scarves), clocks from Austria and mirrors from Venice, all showing off the wealth of the family. Food and drinks would be served on small *demirlija* (copper tables), and dinner eaten from a large wooden table that would have been carried in from the kitchen by the servants. One side of each room has an intricately carved *musandar* (wardrobe) containing a *furana* (stove) and *hamamcik* (small cupboard for bathing, some fitted with actual showers). Sometimes a *kamerlija* (bay window room) shielded with lattice-work would be the place where the women would work or chat while having a secret glimpse of the street. Note the high doorsteps between some of the rooms - these prevented small children from crawling from the *halvati* (women's room) and bothering the male members of the family. As there are no written explanations in the house, it's worth the trouble to ring ahead and ask for Mustafa to book an **English-language tour** of the house (no extra cost). **To get to the Svrzo house**, walk up the steps of the Na Varosi alley from Mula Mustafe Beseskije, turn left at the top, then right and left again at the mosque. Open 10:00 - 15:00, Sun 10:00 - 13:00.

comfortable, plush rooms that somehow still retain a whiff of 1980s. On the downside, only the apartments have air-conditioning, the fitness area is a small windowless room and the prices are high enough to make some embassies choose other hotels for their visitors. 382 rooms (2 singles 190KM, 2 doubles 275KM, 2 suites 400 - 1,300KM)

Upscale

Bosnia Kulovica 9, tel. 47 12 5144 45 72, bosniahotel@bosniahotels.com, www.bosniahotels.com. Overpriced and overvalued, the old-fashioned Bosnia is in need of renovations and new furniture if it wants to keep up with competitors like Dardanija and Belvedere. Orange and brown rule in the shabby, worn singles, while the doubles are only slightly better. We're not sure what to make of the hotel brochure's statement that 'being in the Bosnia is like becoming a part of Sarajevo itself'. 80 rooms (15 singles 173 - 218KM, 56 doubles 218 - 256KM, 9 apartments 256 - 303KM)

Dardanija Stjepana Radica 19, tel. 21 36 1321 36 16, dardanija@hotmail.com, dardanija.cjb.net. Ideally situated on a quiet street within walking distance of both the bazaar, the main embassies and business district, the four-year-old Dardanija has large and modern doubles with bathrooms so shiny they look like they were renovated yesterday. Although it has no restaurant, there's ample choice in the streets around. Internet addicts can make use of the ground floor business centre. On weekends rooms are 30-70KM cheaper. 15 rooms (5 singles 150 - 190KM, 10 doubles 150 - 235KM)

Grand Muhameda ef. Pandze 7, tel. 20 54 4420 58 66, hotelgrand_bh@hotelgrand.com, www.hotelgrand.com. A standard three-star concrete-box-hotel sits just north of the train station (and indeed is easiest reached on foot by scrambling over the tracks and past a burnt-out car). The double rooms are pricy for their blandness, while the suites are double the size and sport bathtubs. Be aware that the smaller rooms at the back don't have the valley view the ones at the front have. 'Day rooms' are half price. 116 rooms (44 singles 149KM, 64 doubles 228KM, 8 suites 304KM)

Saraj Nevjestina 5, tel. 44 77 0344 77 0447 26 91, hotelsaraj@hotelsaraj.com, www.hotelsaraj.com. Perched on a hillside overlooking the Miljacka gorge, Saraj has a huge new expansion including new rooms, a swimming pool, sauna and fitness centre, a roof garden, conference halls and garage. The other already excellent modern rooms have Italian wooden furniture and a screen separating the beds from the window and seating area. Some doubles come with balconies with great views of the centre, just 500m east, at no extra cost. 85 rooms (2 singles 120 - 200KM, 2 doubles 200 - 250KM, 2 apartments 250KM)

Mid-range

America Himzarina 23, tel. 67 93 4521 44 4521 44 45, dimo.m@bih.net.ba. A charming family-run pension on the hill north of the centre. Popular with long-term guests, the doubles are furnished with classic furniture and the large living room has a very pleasant terrace. Future plans included installing air-conditioning in all rooms and opening a small Bosnian restaurant. Easily reachable from Bascarsija (Dom Armije stop) by bus N°14. 10 rooms (3 singles 100KM, 5 doubles 160KM, 2 apartments 180KM)

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Shopping

Antiques

Antik Kovaci 2, tel. 061 27 99 60. How many objects fit in two small rooms? This shop is crammed with hundreds of interesting knickknacks, including old Russian cameras, farming tools, helmets, postcards and much more. Haggling is encouraged. **Open 10:30 - 19:30.**

Hobi Curciluk Veliki 21, tel. 23 68 12. Books, 1960s Yugoslav comics and antiques including medals and pins. **Open 10:00 - 18:30, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.**

Bakeries

Kaiser Ferhadija 6. Bakery with good German bread and a counter where you can compose your own sandwich. **Open 08:00 - 23:00.**

Peکارa Muđzetki Veliki 21. Excellent and popular little hole-in-the-wall bakery in a courtyard at the foot of the Clock Tower. **Open 06:00 - 21:00.**

Books & press

Buybook Radiceva 4, tel. 20 65 45, hegbi@yahoo.com. Excellently named bookstore with a large selection of foreign-language books, maps and some CDs. There's plenty of fiction as well as books on Yugoslavia's recent history. In the back: a little café and gallery where you can browse before you buy. **Open 10:00 - 18:00.**

Mabela Ferhadija 17, tel. 21 17 2321.17 23. An *antikvarnica* with some second-hand and new English-language books, as well as a handful of really old books. **Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.**

Press Tisak Mula Mustafe Baseskije 5, tel. 22 01 12. A tiny but good one-room bookstore with Sarajevo's best selection of international press and a surprising range of English-language books, many about the Balkans. Time 5KM, Economist 9.50KM, Le Monde 3.50KM, Frankfurter Allgemeine 3KM, Financial Times 5KM. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 14:00.**

Sejtarija Marsala Tita 19, tel. 20 52 23. Just a small selection of English-language books, but with a good selection of maps, including their self-published (and the best) *Sarajevo plan grada* map. **Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00.**

Fashion

Benetton Marsala Tita 33, tel. 20 79 6820 79 68. Italian fashion from the people that brought you pictures of copulating horses. **Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00.**

City Fashion Saliha Muvekita 1, tel. 20 88 54. Elegant leather clothing, bags, shoes and accessoires. **Open 10:00 - 20:00.**

Gap Saliha Muvekita 1, tel. 44 02 71. Widely advertised across town, this is the place for hip clothes. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00.**

Nicola's Zelenih Beretki 3, tel. 21 52 02. Upscale Serbian-made clothes for women and men. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00.**

Sarajevotekstil Ferhadija 20. Good selection of men's and women's underwear. Jockey and Huber dealer. **Open 08:30 - 20:00, Sat 08:30 - 16:00.**

Skinny Ferhadija 1, tel. 20 71 54. Austrian male & female underwear. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:30 - 15:30.**

Music

Magaza Veliki Curciluk 20, tel. 23 60 0023 60 00. Sarajevo's best music store, with a small but very good range of local and foreign CDs (usually 30KM), music instruments and some clothing. Ask to speak to Senad for tips on the newest local music. In an admirable effort to push Bosnia into the real world, Magaza refuses to sell pirated (copied) CDs at dump prices even though legally they could do so.

Office supplies

Svjetlostcomerc Muhameda Kantardzica 3 (Trg Osiobodenja). Good range of paper, pens and adhesive tape. **Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00.**

Shoes

Bata Ferhadija 16, tel. 21 97 42. Czech shoes. **Open 09:00 - 20:00.**

Dr. Martens Ferhadija 11, tel. 21 17 33. The only Dr. Martens shop in the country, with shoes, bags, clothes and accessories as well as Vans and Sketchers products. Find it one level down, at the back of the passageway. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00.**

Edo Ferhadija 16, tel. 53 52 3244 22 77. Quality shoes, hand-made to fit in 2-3 days from 200KM. Mostly for women, but men's shoes can also be made. Find Edo in the back of the courtyard. **Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00.**

Tiffany Production Branilaca Sarajeva 51. Shoes by Geox and Kickers. Especially good for kids. **Open 09:00 - 20:00.**

Shopping malls

Bezistan. A beautiful covered market (see *What to see*) from 1555. Go here for antiques, photocopying, gold, music, nightgowns, travel and more. **Open 09:00 - 21:00.**

Mercator Lozionicka 16, tel. 65 69 66. Large mall with boutiques and shops including Benetton. **Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 09:00 - 20:00.**

Skenderija Terazija bb, tel. 20 12 03. During the war, the Skenderija complex's underground shopping area was a haven of relative normality for Sarajevans, where people could meet, drink coffee and shop sheltered from grenades. The French UNPROFOR battalion was housed here too. Built for the 1984 Winter Olympics, it was formerly a sports, shopping and youth centre. Now again a shopping centre, you can find shops selling clothes, shoes, antiques, books, art, CDs, music instruments and souvenirs. Out front and in the garage Skenderija has the cheapest guarded parking in the centre (3KM/day). **Open 08:00 - 19:00.**

WISA Bacici bb, tel. 47 51 50. A large mall holding dozens of shops and boutiques. Ideal for that rainy day. **Open 08:00 - 22:00.**

Souvenirs

Bosnian Handicrafts Shop Cizmedziluk 1, tel. 23 23 06, npahcp@max.ba, www.bosnianhandicrafts.com. Sarajevo's only shop selling colourful and traditional clothes, rugs and accessoires. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00.**

Specialty streets

Jewelry street Gazi Husrev-Begova. The best way to keep your Bosnian woman happy is to shower her with gold - and Sarajevo's centre provides ample opportunity to get gold and silver jewelry. The best street must be Gazi Husrev-Begova, parallel to the Bezistan mall. Formerly named *Kujundziluk* after the gold filigree artists, it's now named after the city's greatest ruler.

Souvenir street Kazandziluk. The tinkering of coppersmiths fills this tiny street leading east from Bascasija square. Every shop here is crammed with copper objects, decorated granade and bullet shells, leather things and trinkets.

Melanie Mula Mustafe Baseskije 38. Little souvenir and gift shop in the back of the Novi Hram gallery. Hand-made Sarajevo postcards, decorated small windows, cushions and more. **Open 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.**

Sahand Terazija bb. Carpets from Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Inside the left wing of the Skenderija building. **Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00.**

Specialty shops

Desert Marsala Tita 19, tel. 21 87 63. Tasty Italian chocolates. **Open 09:00 - 21:00.**

Extreme Dzulagina Cikma 1, tel. 44 04 48. Mountain wear, skaters' clothing, snowboards and urban fashion in a tiny alley off Saraci. **Open 09:30 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00.**

Supermarkets

Heljic Velika Curciluk 1. Supermarket opposite the post office in Bascarsija. **Open 09:00 - 20:00.**

MaxMarket Mula Mustafe Baseskije 3. Small, central supermarket with a window to order through at night. **Open 00:00 - 24:00.**

SK Market Halida Kajtaza. Good supermarket in the right wing of the train station. **Open 08:00 - 21:30, Sun 08:00 - 18:00.**

Markets

Market hall Ferhadija 7. Beautifully restored, theatre-like central market hall from 1895, where you can buy cheese, eggs and meat products. Feel free to taste the different types of delicious cheese before committing yourself. During the war, shoppers and salespeople were relatively safe from grenades and snipers here, yet still all markets witnessed a massacre. It was here that 43 people died on 28 August 1995 when a grenade hit nearby. This particularly gruesome massacre finally caused NATO to act more decisively, and led to the signing of the Dayton agreement, and to peace. **Open 05:30 - 21:00.**

Sports

Outdoor sports

Green Visions Terezija bb, tel. 20 71 69066 21 32 7820 71 69, sarajevo@greenvisions.ba, www.greenvisions.ba. Promoting eco-tourism and environmental protection, internationally managed Green Visions can take you walking, hiking, biking, climbing, ice-climbing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, ski-trekking, rafting, canyoneering, canoeing and paragliding in this natural paradise called Bosnia. Essential guides for people who want to see more than just cities, they co-operate with the Mine Action Centre and know where it's safe to ramble around. See the website for details on tours - you can join a one/two day hike in stunning landscapes for just 65/150KM (including transport, food, guiding, accommodation).

Rafting Tours Kundurdziluk bb, tel. 23 30 2323 30 23, raft.t@bih.net.ba, www.rafting-tours.freeservers.com. For a 'real challenge for those with restless spirit', as the brochure announces, go on a rafting tour down the wild canyon of the Neretva river. A 89KM day-trip includes transport, instructions, lunch and about five hours of rafting.

Skiing

In February 1984, Sarajevo hosted the 14th Winter Olympics. The world was in turmoil as usual - Soviet President Yuri Andropov had just died, Beirut was in flames and yuppie culture was at its most vile. Juxtaposed was the relaxed atmosphere in Sarajevo; journalists signalled "a brighter future for this grim industrial city in the mountains of Yugoslavia". Just seven years later, people used the sturdy Olympic buildings for shelter against grenades. Though damaged in the war, the skiing facilities of the small resorts around Sarajevo remain good.

Bjelasnica & Igman The slopes under Bjelasnica peak (2066m) are only slightly less appealing than those of Jahorina. **Ski passes** cost 18KM for a day, 70KM for a complete week and 90KM for seven random days. There's good **accommodation** at the brand new Marshall hotel (doubles from 65KM, tel. 27 91 00).

Jahorina 25km southeast of Sarajevo, office@oc-jahorina.com, www.oc-jahorina.com. Site of the Winter Olympics of 1984, Jahorina has the best and prettiest slopes of the area. Set under the peak of Palosevina (1848m), 30km from Sarajevo, there are several ski lifts and 20km of slopes of different difficulty levels to choose from. One-day **ski passes** cost 15KM, while you'll pay 85KM for a week and 300KM for the whole season. If you want to stay the night, there's **accommodation** in the Bistrica and Kosuta hotels and the Pojice and Sport pensions. See the website for detailed information on the resort, accommodation and current weather and snow conditions.

Vlasic 100km west of Sarajevo, north of Travnik. The Vlasic area, reaching up to 1943m) is smaller, and a bit far for daytrips but fine for longer stays. **Ski passes** cost around 15KM/day, accommodation is possible at the Babanovac hotel (from 32KM/night, tel. 061 79 98 61).

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