



REPUBLIC OF
SRPSKA

Nothing much
but much more



NATURE

The Republika Srpska is a land of high mountains, valleys, crystal clear rivers and old forests. Tucked in the heart of the central Dinaric Mountains, this small country is a nature's heaven. This intact part of the world will stir all your senses and reconnect you with nature. Find your internal peace in the quiet of high mountains, drink one of the clearest waters in Europe and enjoy your every moment in absolutely amazing nature.

National parks

Being a small country and having three fascinating national parks is what the Republika Srpska takes great pride in. The uniqueness and beauty of the Sutjeska National Park attract tourists worldwide. Sutjeska was established as a national park in 1962 and is significant because it is the home of Perućica, one of the last preserved primeval forests in Europe. Sutjeska is surrounded by the Maglić Peak (2386 m), the Mount Volujak and Mount Zelengora, as well as astonishing glacial lakes. The Skakavac Waterfall is over 70 metres high. The Kozara National Park, also called 'the Green Beauty', was established in 1967. If you search for peace, this is the right place; explore unique types of flora, fauna, mountain springs, dense forests and eye-catching landscapes. The Drina National Park hosts extraordinary natural values; the gorge-type of the valley of Drina River and its tributaries is a habitat for many endemic and relic species of herbs and animals.



Mountains

Powerful and strong, specific and unique. The mountains of Republika Srpska are breathtaking. With their magnificent shapes and structure, they tell their own story created by Mother Nature. Mount Maglić, as a part of the Sutjeska National Park, is the highest summit and a real challenge for mountaineers. Owing to its numerous clear and cold springs, creeks, rivers and lakes, Mount Zelengora is considered one of the most beautiful mountains in the country. Perfect for winter sports, Mount Jahorina is one of the most precious jewels in the country. Its Olympic ski tracks are demanding and challenging even for the greatest professionals. However, this is just another reason why to indulge in the magic of Jahorina Mountain. Mount Ozren is located in the northern part of Srpska and is a perfect location for paragliding. Enjoy the fragrance of beech, pine and oak woods overlooking vast spaces and the sound of creeks, mountain waters and springs, some of which have medicinal properties.





Rivers

Tara, 'the Jewel of Europe' is a white-water, turquoise-blue mountain river, having its source in neighbouring Montenegro. Erosion from ancient times created a canyon 82 km in length and astonishing nature providing the opportunity to explore the Tara River endlessly. Tara flows into the Drina River, another masterpiece of nature, special for its deep canyon and clear, green watercourse. A boat trip or rafting down the unpredictable Drina flow is the best way to explore all this river has to offer. The Una River with its tributaries is a real pearl and symbol of clean potable water, waterfalls, river islands and rich fauna. The River Janj is located in the Šipovo municipality and it is famous for Janjske Otoke – a countless number of cascades, small islands, inlets and waterfalls. Besides, there are three sources in the Šipovo area that join together to form the Pliva River, one of the largest potable water sources in Europe.



Caves

Caves are the most beautiful jewels of nature and probably one of the least explored ones. Orlovačka Cave near the Town of Pale is a natural monument unique for its cave formations. This is one of the first explored caves in the country with over 2500 metres of its canals tested, of which 556 metres are suitable to be visited by tourists. This cave was also home to the cave bear, whose bones were found there. The Pavlova Cave is just 2 kilometres away from the Monastery of Saint Peter and Paul and is characteristic by unique pillars and cave formations. Inside the cave lies hidden a small magic lake. The story tells that this cave was visited by Paul the Apostle, who baptised the local people inside its rooms. Rastuša Cave near Teslić is well-known for its attractiveness and uniqueness.

Lakes

The Mount Zelengora is especially attractive and unique for its 'mountain eyes' – glacial lakes scattered around this wonderful mountain. A magic picture of the Lake Orlovačko, surrounded by high mountains and wild nature is a rare sight. Lake Bileća on Trebišnjica River near Bileća Town is the largest artificial reservoir in the Balkans. There is a deserted village on the bottom of the lake, which was evacuated during the construction of a power plant. Lake Alagovac is an artificial lake near Nevesinje and the largest lake in the Nevesinje Valley. Lake Zvorničko on the Drina River is suitable for kayaking, canoeing, traditional boat trips, fishing, swimming and relaxing.

Lake Perućac is one of the most important water reservoirs in the region. Rafting down the river is a special experience for tourists that enjoy seeing astonishing landscapes, wild animals, Serbian spruce and other endemic species. With its two oval-shaped lakes, Lake Balkana, a tourist recreational centre located in the heart of Mount Lisina is attractive for visitors throughout the year. The small lake is suitable for swimming in the summer, while the big lake is rich in various fish species.





ADVENTURE

Indulge in the flow of rivers and rapids, highest peaks and different tracks.

Hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, rafting, skiing, paragliding etc. in the places of most beautiful nature will raise your adrenalin and your body will feel completely free. Nature shaped this area for a perfect adventure trip, and it is up to you to take nature's best and give it to your mind and body.

Your new adventure begins right here and right now.

Hiking

Experience the most beautiful oasis and indulge in the smell of forest while hiking in the Kozara National Park, with around 300 kilometres of marked hiking and biking trails. Owing to a good road, ground structure and attractive terrain, Mount Kozara may be approached from different directions offering the most appealing scenery. For the experienced ones and those who want a more serious mountaineering challenge, we recommend the hiking trails of mountains Zelengora, Volujak and Maglič, which are a part of the Sutjeska National Park. Feel the true nature and beauty of Zelengora lakes, explore the trails of the highest peak of Mount Maglič and experience the magic of Perućica, one of the last remaining primeval forests in Europe. Choose hiking trails around Banja Luka and discover the paths of history. Mills and waterfalls in Krupa na Vrbasu will leave you breathless as well as other small villages, monasteries and medieval fortresses you will come across while hiking these routes. Olympic Mount Jahorina is not only famous for skiing but also hiking and walking trails of different lengths and roughness. Hiking lovers are recommended Šipovo and its surroundings. This is where you can test your skills and strength but also enjoy the so-called 'thousand-source paradise'. Colourful and diverse flora and fauna in combination with clear spring water are a unique experience for every hiker.



Mountain biking

Experience all colours of adventure along exciting biking trails across Srpska. In the northern part, Banja Luka and Mount Kozara are perfect locations offering bikers many breathtaking trails. Vrbas Adventure Resort near Banja Luka offers a real cycling challenge with its three different routes of 102 km in total length. Mountain biking lovers are recommended the trails on Mount Kozara as they abound in rich forests, slopes, viewpoints and creeks to make your biking tour even more attractive. Besides, a special experience is bike trails around the town of Trebinje going along the Austro-Hungarian roads and old towns of Strač, Golo Brdo and Petrina. A popular mountain biking destination is Pecka near Mrkonjić Grad. It is distinguished by well-marked trails of over 200 km, picturesque routes of low to medium roughness and a large number of nearby attractions.



Paragliding

Experience the adventure in the skies above Srpska and the beauty of this unexplored location from another perspective. A large number of locations across Srpska offer you a 'floating adventure' and enable you to feel a real dose of adrenaline.

The locality of Gljive in Trebinje area is very suitable for paragliding, while the relief of this area and a charming spirit of the town make this flight even more memorable for all adventure lovers.

The southwest part of Banja Luka is perfect for your first paragliding adventure. There are several starting locations of this adventure. We recommend the localities of Mount Manjača and Krmine village for a unique paragliding experience. Mount Ozren has extraordinary conditions for paragliding, especially in the spring and summer, when thermals reach the height of over 2500 m, which enables the flight to last for several hours and a dozen kilometres.

Skiing

Since ancient times, the natural advantages offered by mountains in this area have been used for recreation and rest.

The first pair of skies arrived with the Austro-Hungarian occupation of the area, brought by soldiers and officials who used to go skiing to the Alps. Parallel to recreational skiing, competitive skiing is also developing through establishing ski clubs, organizing sports events. The first hotels were built in Mount Jahorina, and then in other mountains. Mount Jahorina was a host of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games.

Jahorina possesses a state-of-the-art snowmaking system, 40 km of alpine skiing and 10 km of Nordic ski trails. Perfectly maintained trails are connected by state-of-the-art cable cars with a total capacity of 13,000 skiers per hour.





Free climbing

Republika Srpska offers adventure in all its forms, and free climbing is something really interesting to those who have visited Srpska because of its exceptional nature, interesting rocks and beautiful scenery. There are plenty of climbing locations in Banja Luka with well-equipped directions of all weights. The seven-kilometre long Tijesno Canyon is probably the most interesting place for this type of adventure. The magnificent view of the valley of the Vrbas from the canyon cliffs makes this experience incredible and memorable. Also very popular among climbers is 'Kameni most' (the Stone Bridge), which is considered an unusual natural phenomenon. The site itself consists of four sectors with more than forty directions (up to 40 meters).

Apart from these locations, Kozara is another location perfectly designed for free climbing adventures. 'Zečji kamen' (the Rabbit Stone) offers a real adrenaline rush to free climbing lovers. With a waterfall and exceptional views, this location is a unique attraction.



For those who want to feel the wild streams of rivers and rapids, Srpska has a lot to offer. Rafting is especially popular on the rivers Tara and Vrbas, both allowing you to take an active holiday in a unique natural environment.

The 2009 World Rafting Championship was held on the rivers Vrbas and Tara, which says a lot about how exciting rafting on these rivers is for both amateurs and professionals. The Vrbas River is also perfect for kayaking and canoeing.



CULTURE

Republika Srpska has a rich cultural and historical heritage, and archaeological findings show that the area was inhabited even in the Palaeolithic period.

The turbulent history of this area interesting to invaders from different civilizations has left a mix of influences that, along with the traditions and religions of our nations have created the present-day cultural outlook of this region.

The strong influence of the Romans, Ottomans and Austro-Hungarians, intertwined with the tradition of our people, gives us a unique foundation for the journey through time...

Journey through time

Remains of Neolithic settlements, traces in caves, ruins, fortresses, stećak tombstones and other monuments will take you on a magical journey into the past. The Municipium Malvesiatum (4th century AD), its central imperial palace and the rustic villa discovered in the Skelane area near Srebrenica in 2008, testify to the life of ancient times. The Srpska towns of Banja Luka, Doboj, Trebinje, Zvornik... take pride in their strongholds, whose steady foundations can take you back to the time of knights and princesses, but also in the time before them. The sturdy stone Žepa Bridge in Rogatica, the Arslanagić (Perović) Bridge in Trebinje and the Sheep Ship in Nevesinje from the sixteenth century are the faithful guardians of life in these areas in the past.



UNESCO heritage

The true masterpiece of all times, the Višegrad Bridge on the Drina River is the endowment of the great Turkish vizier Mehmed Paša Sokolović, by whose order the bridge was built in his birthplace in 1571. The Bridge has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2007. The beautiful medieval stećak tombstones, which can be found throughout Srpska, are the cultural landmarks of the region. 'Zmijanje embroidery', with its specific technique called pokrstica (improvised geometrical shapes) and unique deep blue colour, is considered the oldest hand embroidery in the Balkans. The embroidery was included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2014. 'Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain' is the custom of picking this rare medicinal plant (*Teucrium montanum*), which is included in the UNESCO List of Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018.





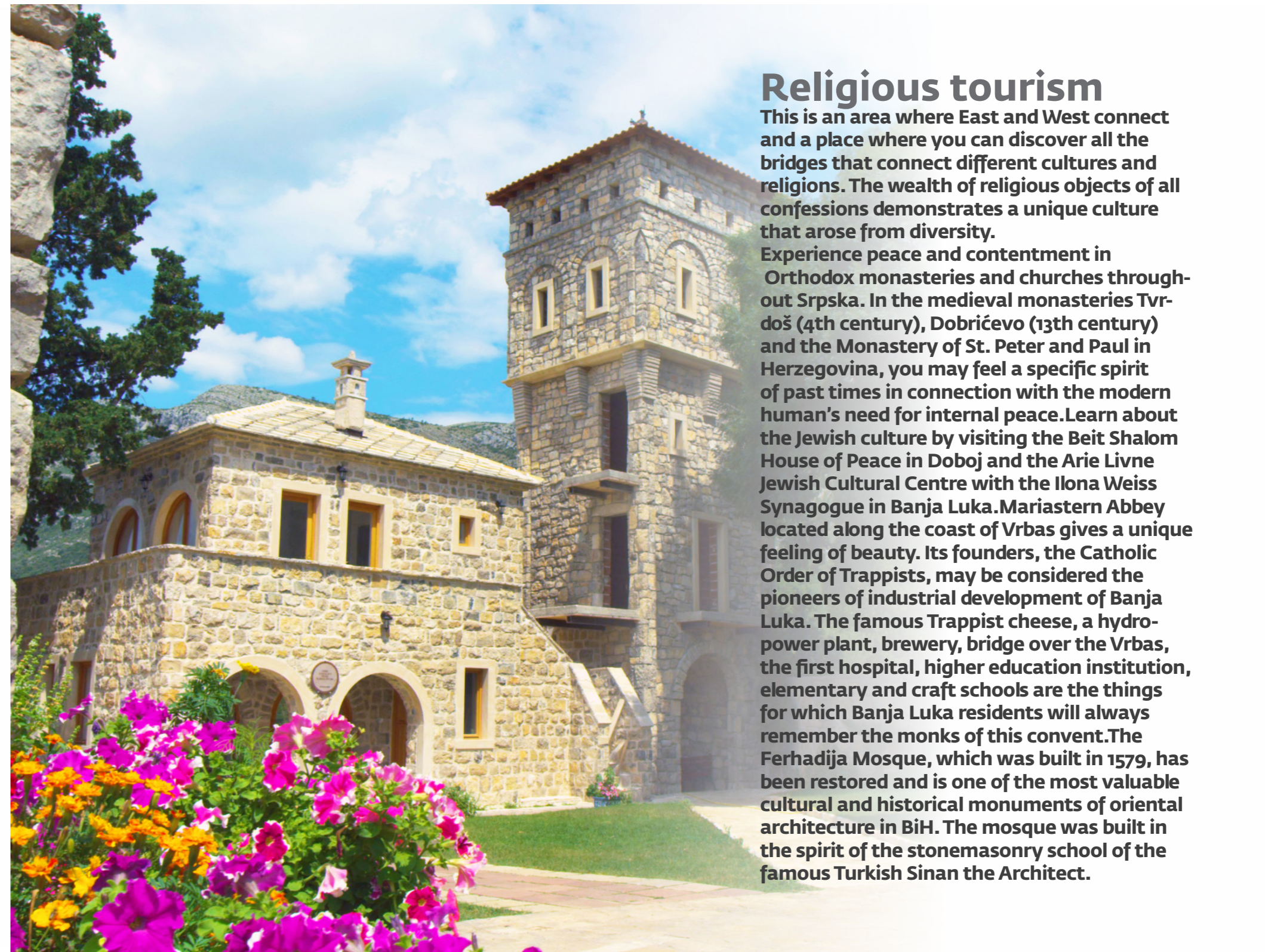
Ethno villages

If you are fascinated by past times and want to learn about our ancestors' way of life, visit one of the 'ethno villages' throughout Srpska.

Feel the spirit of old times in the ethno village Stanišići near Bijeljina and, at least for a while, experience the modesty and beauty of our grandparents' way of life. The Monastery of St. Nicholas is a guardian of the spiritual value of the ethno village.

Spend your free time involved in many activities offered: horse riding, driving in a fiacre through Semberija plains or on a small train through the ethno village, recreation in sports fields and then search for refreshment in a traditional restaurant.

The Kotromanićevo ethno village is located between Dobož and Derventa and is inspired by medieval Bosnian kings and their lifestyles. It is specific for its pristine nature and ancient architecture. If you are a fan of interesting knight games, this place is exactly to your liking as it offers real knight tournaments with traditional dinner and music. Experience the hospitality of the locals in the ethno village of Ljubačka Valley near Banja Luka. This extraordinary complex, which comprises about 40 authentic objects, is a kind of an open-air museum. This is where you will enjoy the most beautiful view of the Vrbas River Canyon.



Religious tourism

This is an area where East and West connect and a place where you can discover all the bridges that connect different cultures and religions. The wealth of religious objects of all confessions demonstrates a unique culture that arose from diversity.

Experience peace and contentment in Orthodox monasteries and churches throughout Srpska. In the medieval monasteries Tvrdoš (4th century), Dobričevo (13th century) and the Monastery of St. Peter and Paul in Herzegovina, you may feel a specific spirit of past times in connection with the modern human's need for internal peace. Learn about the Jewish culture by visiting the Beit Shalom House of Peace in Dobož and the Arie Livne Jewish Cultural Centre with the Ilona Weiss Synagogue in Banja Luka. Mariastern Abbey located along the coast of Vrbas gives a unique feeling of beauty. Its founders, the Catholic Order of Trappists, may be considered the pioneers of industrial development of Banja Luka. The famous Trappist cheese, a hydro-power plant, brewery, bridge over the Vrbas, the first hospital, higher education institution, elementary and craft schools are the things for which Banja Luka residents will always remember the monks of this convent. The Ferhadija Mosque, which was built in 1579, has been restored and is one of the most valuable cultural and historical monuments of oriental architecture in BiH. The mosque was built in the spirit of the stonemasonry school of the famous Turkish Sinan the Architect.

Spas

Spas are considered a gift of nature and have been recognized since ancient times. The possibility of combining nature and health in the area of present-day Republika Srpska was also noticed by the ancient Romans and Byzantines. The thermal mineral water of the Laktaši Spa has been known for its healing properties and positive effects on human health since ancient times, which can be proved by material evidence. Enjoy this healing water either in an outdoor or indoor pool with a variety of amenities.

The Slatina Spa Complex is located 12 kilometres southeast of Banja Luka and is an integral part of the Institute for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 'Dr. Miroslav Zotović'. Fresh air and beautiful woods combined with springs of medicinal thermal mineral water with a maximum temperature of 42 degrees are the perfect opportunities to relax your body and mind.

Kulaši Spa is located 14 kilometres from Prnjavor, at the foot of the Ljubić Mountain. This spa is built near a thermal spring of extraordinarily healing and unique, highly alkaline, oligosulfide thermal water. Kulaši Spa is one of only six thermal springs of mineral water of this type in the world. This medicinal water is beneficial in many treatments ranging from the kidney to skin diseases.

Vrućica Spa is located near Teslić and is one of the most modern health, congress, wellness and tourist centres in the region. With four hotels and a total of 1000 beds, a wellness centre, congress halls, tennis, basketball and football fields, landscaped parks, hiking and biking trails, this health and tourist centre offers numerous options for rest, health, recreation and leisure. The thermal and mineral water of Vrućica is known for its benefits in the treatment of cardiovascular, rheumatologic and neurological conditions.



Picnic areas

Krupa Waterfalls i.e. Krupa na Vrbasu is located 25 km south of Banja Luka, where the river Vrbas leaves its canyon and enters the Krupsko field. It is a small place perfect for an escape from the city noise and is decorated with waterfalls, mills and water springs. This site is also special for the 13th-century monastery and the medieval town of Greben, which is also a historically important site. Janjske Otoke is another truly special place in the Šipovo area, located four kilometres downstream from the source of the Janj River, at 550 meters above sea level. Multiple cascades and waterfalls formed by the Janj River leave all visitors with an unforgettable impression.

Zelenkovac is an excursion site located about 70 kilometres southwest of Banja Luka. There were several watermills on the creek and one of them was expanded, converted into ateliers and given the status of an ecological zone.

Sun City and Andrićgrad

The beautiful Sun City near Trebinje is a complex of 79,000 m² that provides a 'place under the sun for all likings and generations'. The complex features a water park with adrenaline and fun water play areas, a dinosaur park with 'Sunny Playroom' that animates children throughout the year, the luxury hotel 'SL Panorama', wellness & spa centre 'Galija' and sports and recreation centre 'SL Olimp'. Inside the gates of the Sun City, the apartment complex 'White City' was opened in 2019 to include 160 apartments, a national restaurant and the congress centre 'Coliseum' with 600 seats upon completion of the entire project.

Inspired by the bridge in Višegrad, writer Ivo Andrić wrote the novel "The Bridge on the Drina River", for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1961. As a homage to our Nobel Prize winner, Andrićgrad – the tourist, the cultural, administrative and educational complex was built. It was founded by filmmaker Emir Kusturica.





GASTRONOMIC IDENTITY

Thousands of years ago, as nature grew abundantly and various peoples inhabited the area, diverse flavours and savours pervaded each other. New ingredients and food preparation methods enriched the menus.

The residents of Republika Srpska are real hedonists when it comes to food and will always share it unselfishly. The gastronomic map of Srpska is much more than just food, it is a unique approach filled with endless respect and love.



Traditional cuisine

Pita (pie) is one of the first associations to the gastronomic identity of Srpska. Influenced by the rich history of our people and authentic events, the people of Republika Srpska are especially proud of a variety of pies with unusual names, but of excellent taste. We will mention just a few of them, such as gužvara, named for its specific texture, kljukuša, which is a delicious combination of homemade potatoes, zucchini and onion with dough, and kvrguša – baked dough with chicken.

For those who enjoy cornmeal, we recommend projara with sour milk or presnac, which has many modern versions, but the basis is traditional: cornmeal, eggs, water and butter.

Cicvara is also a traditional, tasty and highly caloric meal. The main ingredients are milk, fresh cheese, kajmak and cornmeal.

Bread

The most important component of the gastronomic identity of Srpska is bread. Homemade bread or pogača is a priority when it comes to any type of celebration, and the ease of preparation makes this bread even more authentic.

Uštipci with strong flavoured cheese or kajmak is an indispensable course in all parts of the country. Krajina maslenica bread is a typical meal of plains and consists of only a few layers of dough covered with butter or fat.

If you prefer cornmeal, then kukuruza or proja (cornbread) is the best choice. Enjoy its golden colour and crispy crust. Herzegovina bread that is baked on stone or under sač and made with only a few ingredients is yet another proof that 'less is more'.





Local food

The people from Srpska have a wise saying that goes 'a large breakfast for an important day'. Our cuisine is specific by its heavy meals eaten for breakfast. Therefore, popara, a combination of pieces of bread, boiling water and kajmak is the true representative of a traditional Serbian breakfast, also known as 'shepherd's breakfast'. Feel the spirit of past times by tasting lukmira, a dish consisting of spring onions, cheese and sour cream, or enjoy omač, a special type of wide noodles cooked with sour cream or milk. Priganice is made from wheat flour and fried in oil in a pan, served warm with cheese, fresh kajmak, jam or pekmez (plum jam).

Cheese

The mix of cultures in this area has brought unique ways of preparing various types of cheese. As an indispensable meal in every home, cheese is a part of Srpska's gastronomic identity. The Republika Srpska is the place of origin of a world-famous brand – Trappist cheese made to a unique and secret recipe in the Mariastern Abbey near Banja Luka. Try traditional Herzegovina cheese from dried animal skin sack (mijeh), which is curiosity as it cannot be produced industrially. If you want to feel the spirit of the Mediterranean region, cheese in olive oil from Trebinje or Ljubinje should be your choice. The Herzegovina sun and patience of the local people make this cheese extraordinary.



Specialities being prepared during the age of Illyrians, the Romans and the Ottomans have combined to form the diverse gastronomic offer of Srpska to the satisfaction of the most sophisticated palate.

Meat and fish specialities complemented with rakija (fruit brandy) or local wine represent a real culinary 'treasure'. Experience the local hospitality by enjoying sač, a specific way of preparing meat, fish and/or vegetables under a grey cast iron bell covered with amber and hot ash. Very much worth trying is pečeniča, pork or lamb roasted on a spit.

Čevapi is a must-try part of every gastronomic moment for visitors of Srpska. Enjoy a specific mixture of minced meat and spices complemented with kajmak and onions.

Visit Mt. Morajica and taste delicious game prepared to an old recipe or spend a day of a shepherd eating Shepherd's steak, a pork chop covered in a secret mixture of herbs and spices.

Experience the Herzegovina lifestyle and enjoy irresistible prosciutto or dried lamb in combination with collard greens and other vegetables, the meal known as kaštradina.



DESSERTS

The best closure of your gastronomic adventure is to taste unique and delicious desserts of the Serbian cuisine prepared with juicy fruit along with the strong Ottoman influence, such as tufahije, baklava or apple pie with cinnamon.

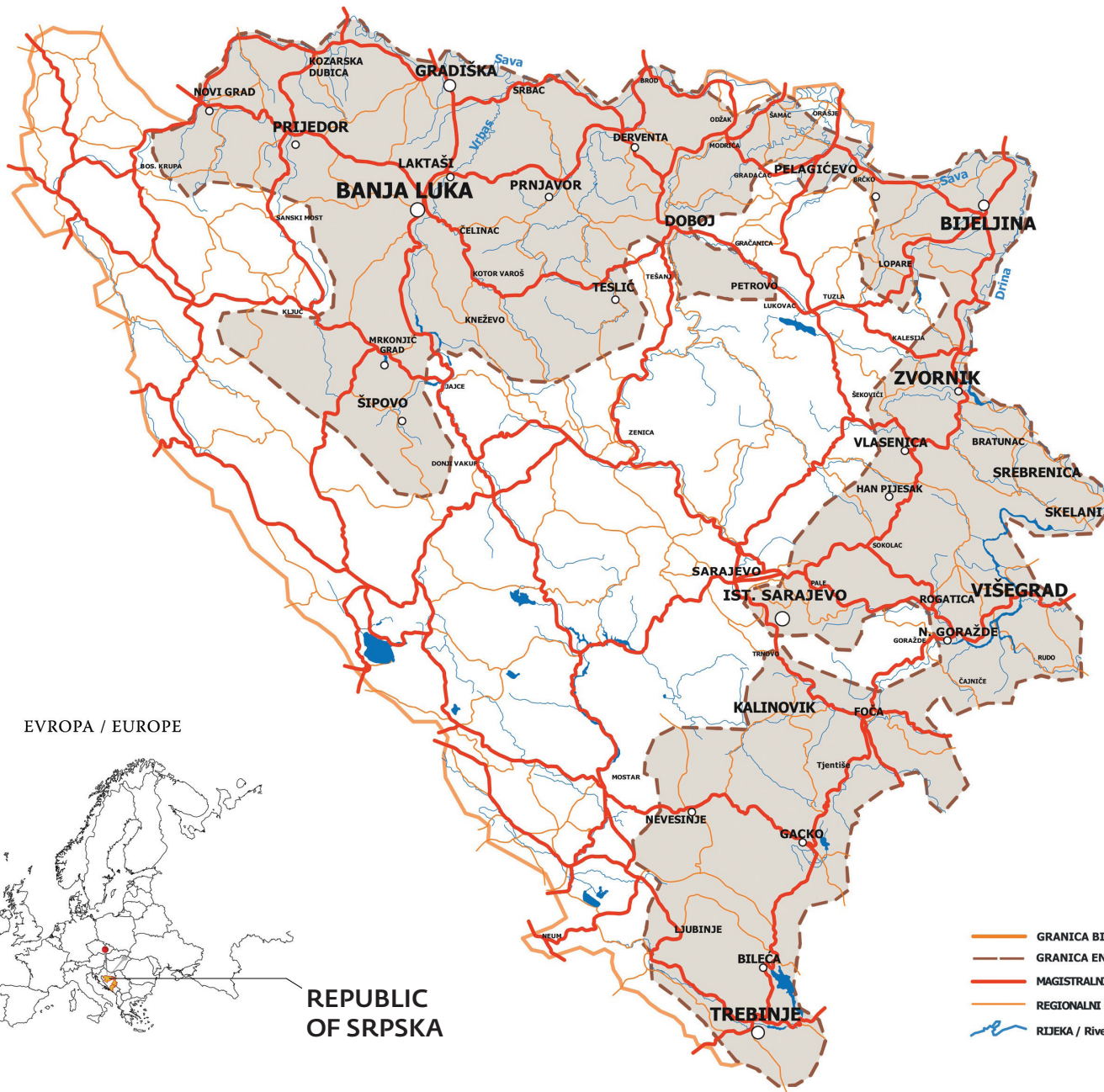
Drinks

Complete your gastronomic journey by having one or several national drinks of Srpska and feel new dimensions of the authentic and unique cuisine.

Our traditional drinks are more than that. Unavoidable rakija, the spirit produced by distillation of fermented fruit in a distiller, is not just a drink – it is a phenomenon that celebrates life and complements happy moments and events in the lives of the local people. Most often, rakija is the way to welcome our guests. It can be produced from many different fruits; however, the most popular varieties are produced from plums, pears, grapes or apples.

Thanks to the climate, the southern part of Republika Srpska allows the growth of noble grapes and production of supreme quality wines. Herzegovina Vranac is the variety very common in the Trebinje area. This ruby-coloured wine can be found in the offer of all wine cellars. Žilavka makes the best choice for those who prefer white wines. However, not only southern parts are famous for wine. Today, northern parts of Srpska, owing to a mild climate and cultivated hills, are also a part of the Balkan wine map and unique brand identity of Srpska by a selection of the local versions of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc or Cabernet Sauvignon.





EVROPA / EUROPE

REPUBLIC
OF SRPSKA

-  GRANICA BIH / BIH border
-  GRANICA ENTITETA / Entity border
-  MAGISTRALNI PUTEVI / Main roads
-  REGIONALNI PUTEVI / Regional roads
-  RIJEKA / River



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