



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the right.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid driving license, a 1968 version of an International Driving Permit (IDP), passport, vehicle documents, and proof of insurance that is valid in Serbia. Licenses and IDPs are valid for up to six months. Laws require that passports be carried at all times.
- ❑ Visitors from the US must register with local police within 24 hours of arrival. Hotels will generally register guests automatically; those staying in private homes must register themselves. Stays longer than 90 days require a temporary residence permit.
- ❑ The Serbian Dinar (RSD) is the official currency.
- ❑ Entering Serbia via Kosovo carries multiple restrictions. Check with your national embassy to ensure that your travel route complies with requirements prior to travel.
- ❑ Four-wheel drive and luxury vehicles are frequent targets of theft.
- ❑ Pedestrians make up an estimated 23% of all traffic fatalities.
- ❑ Riders of motorized two- and three-wheeled vehicles account for about 9% of road crash deaths.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is zero for young and novice drivers and professional transportation drivers; and below 0.03 g/dl for the general population. Despite legal alcohol limits and anti-drug laws, alcohol and drugs are a factor in an estimated 17% of all road crashes.
- ❑ There are 6.23 road deaths per 100,000 people in Serbia, compared to 2.2 in Sweden and 2.3 in the UK.



Source: CIA Factbook

## ROAD CULTURE

- **Drivers often** disregard traffic laws.
- **Speeding** and reckless driving are common, particularly among young male drivers.
- **Motorists may** drive the wrong way on roads and head directly into oncoming traffic.
- **Compliance with** seat belt and helmet laws is low among male drivers younger than 30 years, especially for short trips.
- **Motorists are** often aggressive. There are frequent incidences of road rage. Avoid confrontations with other drivers.
- **Dangerous overtaking** is common, particularly on the two-lane motorway between Novi Sad and Belgrade. Drivers may force other motorists onto road shoulders.
- **Pedestrians** often cross busy streets at places other than traffic lights or crossings.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

- **Of the 44,248 km (27,494 miles) of roads**, 28,000 km (17,398 miles) are paved and 16,248 km (10,096 miles) are unpaved. Paved roads include 16,162 km (10,042 miles) of state roads; 741 km (460 miles) of these are motorways.
- **Major roads** are called “state roads.” There are two classifications of state roads: Roads with the “A” prefix are “autoput” (motorways), and have three lanes in each direction, including a hard shoulder; roads carrying the “IB” prefix have green signs with white lettering, one lane in each direction, and may be expressways. IB roads do not have emergency lanes; signs are blue with white lettering.
- **State roads** identified as class 11A have three-digit numbers that begin with “1” or “2.” State roads identified as class 11B have three-digit numbers that begin with a “3” or “4.”
- **Municipal roads** are local routes that may be paved, or have dirt or gravel surfaces.
- **Multiple** European motorways pass through the country. These highways are marked with green signs carrying route number and the prefix “E” (such as E65).
- **Road conditions** vary throughout the country. Roads may be poorly maintained, particularly in rural and southern areas.
- **Road signs** are lacking in many areas. Signs may be in Cyrillic script.
- **Some motorways** are toll roads. Tolls can be paid at gates with cash or most major credit cards.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is better developed in urban areas than in rural towns and mountain villages.
- **Bicycle travel** is popular. Infrastructure is well-developed in major cities including Belgrade, with clearly marked cycling paths and lanes.
- **Many** city bike paths next to car lanes are marked with barriers to prevent drivers from crossing over.
- **Cycling garages** for bikes are available in many city areas.
- **Wildlife** and large, loose farm animals may be present on roads, especially in rural areas.



## Road Conditions, continued

- **Demonstrations** occur frequently in response to political and economic issues, and during politically sensitive holidays and international events. The number of mass gatherings in Belgrade and other urban areas has increased since elections in December of 2023.
- **Avoid all** demonstrations and large gatherings, which may become violent with little warning; or cause disruptions to road travel and public transportation.
- **Group** violence may erupt at large sporting events, and is often connected with organized criminal organizations.
- **There is** a risk of unexploded landmines and ordnance, particularly in the mountainous areas to the north and east of Kosovo, and in the southern Serbian districts of Bujanovac and Preševo. These areas are often covered by heavy vegetation. Do not leave paved roads or marked paths.
- **Avoid driving** in areas bordering Kosovo due to ongoing political tensions.
- **At the time** of this report’s preparation, roads near the border with North Macedonia are subject to long delays because of a migrant situation. There is the potential for protests.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
  - » **Ibarska Magistrala/State Road 22** is a highway connecting Belgrade and Montenegro via Čačak and Užice. The road is regarded as particularly dangerous, and is locally called the “Black Highway.” The paved road is 297 km (185 miles) long, and forms one section of European routes E65, E80 and E763. There is one lane in each direction for most of its length. Many sections, especially in rural areas, have damaged or deteriorated surfaces. Lighting is poor or non-existent. Travel after dark is not recommended. There are many serious and fatal crashes.
  - » **Road 223** runs through the Jerma River Canyon (also called Vlaška Gorge) in the southeast region of the country close to the border with Bulgaria. The route connects Sukovo to Babušnica and is popular with visiting drivers. The 48.4-km (30.07-mile) road has a paved surface, but is very narrow. Many sections are not wide enough for two vehicles at the same time. Cliffs bordering the road reach a height of 200 meters (656 feet). Large boulders overhang multiple sections. Rock falls, heavy snow and severe flooding occur. Sudden road closures are common.
  - » **Vrh Gobelja** mountain peak is located in the Raška District of southwestern Serbia. The steep, gravel-surface road leading to it is a popular route with motorcyclists and quad bike drivers (small, open four-wheeled recreational vehicles). If driving a full-sized vehicle, four-wheel drive is required. The elevation is 1,926 meters (6,318 feet). Altitude sickness is a risk, and severe winter weather is common. This road is often closed because of heavy snow accumulation.

## REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Serbia is** subject to heavy rains, flooding, landslides, forest fires, earthquakes, winter fog and severe snowstorms.
- **Heavy rains** and thunderstorms are common during spring and summer months.
- **Flooding** and landslides can follow significant rainstorms. Do not drive or step into standing water, which may contain strong currents or obscure deep potholes or other hazards.
- **Forest and bush** fires may occur during dry periods in hot weather. Smoke from fires can limit visibility.
- **Serbia is** within a seismically active zone. Tremors are common.
- **Mountain roads** located at high elevations carry the risk of altitude sickness. Dizziness, lack of coordination, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea can impair driver judgment and increase road risks.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (31 mph)
Rural roads	100 kph (62 mph)
Highways	120 kph (74 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

								
Pedestrian pathway	Uneven road surfaces	Far lane reserved for buses	All vehicles prohibited in both directions	End of pedestrian zone	Dead end road	Dangerous curves ahead	Pass on either side	Road repairs ahead



## Regional and Seasonal Conditions, continued

- **Heavy winter fog** may cause reduced visibility, especially in the Vojvodina region between Belgrade and the Hungarian border.
- **Snowstorms** throughout winter months may interrupt transportation and telecommunication systems.
- **Roads** in southern regions may not be adequately cleared of ice and snow during winter months.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

## TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation options** include cars, taxis, buses, private luxury coach buses, trams, trolleybuses, trains and boats.
- **Public transportation** networks are limited to Belgrade and several other large cities.
- **Buses are** often crowded and may be in poor condition.
- **Multiple companies** offer domestic and international luxury coach bus services. Larger companies generally have well-maintained bus fleets.
- **At some** border crossings, guards may require that passengers contribute cash to unofficial “collections” in order for the bus to continue on its route.
- **There is** a tram and trolleybus system in Belgrade.
- **Use only** registered taxis with a registration number clearly displayed next to the taxi vehicle number; vehicles vary in color according to company.
- **Do not** hail taxis on the street. Book taxis over the phone. Most operators in cities speak English.
- **Agree** on fare if taxi driver fails to activate meter.
- **Local rideshares** are available, and may be operated by city taxi companies, including Pink Taxi. App-based companies include Car: Go and Yandex Go. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **Rail service** is often slow. Many trains and tracks are outdated and poorly maintained. Routes may be canceled at short notice due to repairs.
- **Train delays** are common during winter months.
- **If traveling** by overnight train, lock compartment door from the inside and do not move about the train alone.
- **Tourist boats** operated by multiple companies offer routes along the Danube River. Safety records are not available. Do not board vessels that are overcrowded or in poor condition, and bring your own life preserver.

## TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 18 years old to drive, and a minimum of 21 years of age to rent a vehicle. Some rental agencies may have other requirements.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for drivers and passengers.
- **Children under** age 12 or below 135 cm (53 inches) in height may not sit in front seats, unless they are in a rear-facing child seat and the passenger airbag has been deactivated.
- **Child safety restraints** are required for children younger than three years old. Child safety seats must carry the following mark: ECE R44/04.
- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle and moped drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened.
- **Children** younger than 12 years old are prohibited from being passengers on motorcycles.
- **At intersections,** give way to vehicles approaching from the right unless signs indicate otherwise.
- **Trams** have priority over all other vehicles.
- **Drivers must** yield to vehicles approaching from the right at traffic circles unless signs indicate otherwise.
- **Cyclists** riding on bike paths or lanes have priority over motorized traffic.
- **Horns** may not be used at night or in built-up areas unless it is necessary to warn others of immediate danger.
- **All passenger** vehicles must carry a warning triangle, first aid kit, tow rope, functional spare tire and reflective vest. Wear vest when exiting the vehicle during emergency situations.
- **A copy of** an EAS (European Accident Statement) document must be carried in all vehicles in case of a crash.
- **All cars** must be fitted with winter tires from Nov. 1 to April 1. Snow chains must be carried in vehicle trunk at all times, and used wherever signs indicate.
- **In cities,** yellow lanes are reserved for buses and taxis. Signs indicate whether passenger vehicles are always prohibited, or if they are allowed during certain hours.
- **If a vehicle’s** headlights cannot be adjusted from low- to high-beam, motorists must carry headlamp converters (stick-on patches placed over headlights to deflect the beam for the safety of oncoming traffic).
- **Street parking** in cities generally requires mobile phone access to a Serbian SMS messaging system.
- **On-the-spot** fines may be given for a variety of traffic offenses. Vehicles with foreign plates are sometimes targeted by police for alleged violations.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.



### Belgrade (Capital)

- » Largest city. Transportation options include cars, taxis, buses, private luxury coach buses, express minibuses, trams, trolleybuses, trains and boats.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is heavy, particularly during twice-daily commuter periods. Road networks can be confusing.
- » An extensive public transportation system is operated by GSP Beograd (Gradsko saobraćajno preduzeće), and includes buses, trams and trolleybuses. There is an online map and route planner.
- » The Public Transport Belgrade and Moovit apps are available for travel planning. The BusPlus app has been discontinued.
- » Tickets are only available in paper form, or through the “Belgrade Plus” city transport SMS message/texting system. Do not delete texts, which provides proof of purchase. A new city travel app is scheduled for release.
- » Paper tickets can be purchased Monday through Saturday at GSP Beograd locations, and at some newsstands and “Corner” shops. Ticket counters are closed on Sunday.
- » Buses are the main form of public transport. After midnight, all rides on public transportation are free.
- » Belgrade Bus Station (BAS) and Zeleni Venac are the main bus stations. Schedules may not be posted in English.
- » Night buses carry the prefix “N” followed by route number.
- » Express minibus services are available along some city routes, and include the “Sparrow” line circling the city.
- » There is a tram network with 12 lines connecting all major districts. Line 2 is a circle line around the main city.
- » The electric trolleybus system has seven lines that run along two main corridors.
- » Trams and trolleybuses do not run at night.
- » Use only official taxis with an oval blue license plate displaying a serial number, and the Belgrade Coat of Arms visible on the roof. Licensed drivers have an identification badge.
- » Taxi vehicles vary in color according to company.
- » Do not hail taxis on the street. Book taxis through a reputable hotel or by phone. Dispatchers generally speak English.
- » Some taxi drivers may fail to activate meter. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- » Taxi scams are common. Drivers may deliberately deliver passengers to the wrong address, then charge high fees to take them to their destination; or take passengers on long “scenic” routes while the meter runs up.
- » Local rideshares are available, and may be operated by city taxi companies, including Pink Taxi. App-based companies include Car: Go and Yandex Go. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well developed. Many parts of the central city have pedestrian-only zones, including the riverfront area. Drivers may not always observe pedestrian right-of-way at crosswalks.
- » Cycling is popular. Infrastructure is well developed in some areas, and underdeveloped in others.
- » Sections of the city are hilly; some busy roads are narrow and require cyclists to share streets with motorized traffic.
- » Bicycle rentals are available in recreational areas of the city, including the riverfront.
- » The city is located on Eurovelo 6, a major European cycling route.
- » Belgrade Centre Railway Station is the main train station, and is located 2 km (1.2 miles) from city center.
- » Tokens or a QR code are required to access the station platform. Tickets booked online require tokens to be purchased separately.
- » The city’s Beovoz suburban railway system is operated by Serbian Railways and has two lines. Trains link city center with suburbs and nearby towns, including Pančevo and Inđija.
- » A high-speed train route to Novi Sad is available. Other routes are often slow, and are subject to cancellation.
- » Many train routes experience regular disruption due to ongoing work on tracks, or heavy snow and ice in winter.
- » If traveling by overnight train, lock compartment door from the inside and do not move about the train alone.
- » Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport is 18 km (11.1 miles) from city center.
- » Transport to and from the airport includes taxis, buses and rental cars.
- » Book taxis at the reservation desk in the baggage claim area. Passengers are given a voucher with taxi number;

## Belgrade, continued

- fares to the city are fixed. Avoid drivers soliciting for passengers in the arrivals area.
- » A GSP city bus connects to the center of town, with departures approximately every 20 minutes from the airport bus stop. Follow signs.
- » There is an express bus (Minibus A1) connecting the airport to Slavija Square bus stop in the city; the stop is located outside of the Slavija hotel.
- » Multiple rental car agencies are represented at the airport. Do not hand over your passport as a form of security, even if requested by company agents.

## Novi Sad

- » Second-largest city and location of a major university.
- » The city is connected to Belgrade via the E75 motorway. The road is a tollway. Fees may be paid in cash or by major credit card.
- » Driving is not recommended. The central city is small and walkable.
- » Parking zones are designated by color: red, blue and white. Parking is paid via an SMS system for smartphones.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, buses, private luxury coach buses, express minibuses, trains and boats.
- » There are two main bus stops: at the Mihajla Pupina underpass, and in Uspenska.
- » The bus network is extensive, with local and regional service and long-distance routes to other major European cities.
- » Buses are often crowded. Some may be in poor condition.
- » Bus schedules are available at the JGSP Novi Sad website.
- » Bus tickets may be purchased on board from drivers, or from JGSP locations in the city.
- » Domestic and international luxury coach bus services are offered by multiple companies. Larger companies generally have well-maintained bus fleets.
- » Registered taxis are operated by multiple companies, and vary in color. A registration number should be clearly visible next to the taxi vehicle number.
- » Taxi fares begin with a base fee; prices for service depend upon city zones.
- » Some taxi drivers may not activate meter. Request that meter be turned on, or agree on fare prior to travel.
- » Not all taxi drivers speak or read English. Carry a copy of destination written in Serbian.
- » Avoid hailing taxis on the street. Booking taxis by phone is recommended. Most operators speak English.
- » Local rideshares are available, and may be operated by city taxi companies. App-based companies include Car: Go and Yandex Go. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed. There is a large pedestrian-only zone in the central city.
- » Cycling is popular with residents and students. The city is flat with some bike paths.
- » Rent-a-Bike Novi Sad is a citywide bicycle rental service.
- » The EuroVelo 6 cycling route runs through the city along the banks of the Danube River.
- » Novi Sad Station is the main train station. Tickets are available online and via the SrbijaVoz app.
- » Train delays are common during winter months.
- » Rail routes are available to other destinations within Serbia. There is a high-speed "Soko" train connecting the city to Belgrade. Service is occasionally affected by construction work.
- » If traveling by overnight train, lock compartment door from the inside and do not move about the train alone. Individual train carriages are usually staffed by an attendant.
- » Boat cruises along the Danube River are operated by multiple companies. Safety records are unavailable. If traveling by boat, use a reputable operator and verify that adequate life-saving equipment is provided onboard. For additional safety, bring your own life preserver.

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Laws prohibiting** discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges are enforced.
- **The most** common types of accessibility include access to facilities, information and communications. Ease of access is common in public transportation, but may be limited in lodging and general infrastructure.
- **Accommodations** and accessible features are more common in Belgrade and Novi Sad. In the rest of Serbia, accessibility may be limited or unavailable.
- **Rental** or sale of aids, equipment and devices for mobility and sensory challenged individuals is generally available through companies including Centar Eliksir and Ortopedija mc.
- **Parking spaces** for mobility challenged drivers are indicated by signs with a wheelchair symbol.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **Responders** to emergency numbers in remote areas may not speak English.
- **Emergency numbers:**
  - » Police: 192
  - » Ambulance: 194
  - » Fire: 193
  - » General emergency: 112
  - » Roadside assistance: 1987
- **Ambulance services** are not widely available. Training of emergency responders may be below western standards, and ambulances may not be equipped with up-to-date equipment.
- **Beyond cities**, first responders may be unable to access patients or provide urgent medical care.
- **Doctors** and health care professionals are often well-trained, but the quality of medical care varies throughout the country. In rural areas, care may be below western standards.
- **Hygiene** and quality of medical equipment in hospitals and clinics is generally below western standards.
- **Payment** is usually required by hospitals and doctors prior to the delivery of care. Cash may be required.
- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries may be illegal in Serbia. Check legality of medicines prior to travel, and carry medications in original packaging accompanied by a written doctor's prescription.
- **If involved in a crash:**
  - » Call police and any necessary emergency services.
  - » Notify rental car agency and request vehicle roadside assistance by calling 1987 if needed.
  - » Take photographs of scene if possible, and collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses.
  - » Obtain copy of police report.



### ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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