



# Introduction to Sarajevo & Mostar

Bosnia & Herzegovina sits at the crossroads of East and West, where centuries of empires left behind mosques, churches, and synagogues just blocks apart. At its heart lies Sarajevo, often called the Jerusalem of Europe — a city where Ottoman minarets, Austro-Hungarian facades, and Yugoslav-era buildings coexist. Life moves with a quiet resilience here, shaped by both history and hope.

Just south, Mostar stuns with its stone streets and Ottoman soul. Its crown jewel, Stari Most (Old Bridge), arches gracefully over the emerald Neretva River — a symbol of strength, connection, and revival.

The best time to experience these cities is in late spring (May–June) or early autumn (September–October), when the weather is mild, crowds are smaller, and the landscapes come alive with color.



**Sarajevo War Tunnel Museum**



**Latin Bridge**



**Baščaršija**



# Mostar

## **Stari Most (Old Bridge)**

Built in the 16th century and destroyed in the 1990s, the bridge was painstakingly rebuilt — stone by stone. Watch local divers leap from its edge into the icy river below, a tradition that's equal parts courage and spectacle.

## **Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque**

Climb the narrow minaret for postcard-perfect views of the Old Bridge and Mostar's red-roofed skyline.

## **Old Bazaar (Kujundžiluk)**

Lined with craft shops, cafés, and galleries, this atmospheric market is perfect for picking up handwoven rugs, copper engravings, and delicate filigree jewelry.

## **Hidden Gems**

### **Jablanica Detour**

If you're driving from Sarajevo to Mostar, plan a stop in Jablanica. The Neretva River slices through the landscape here, framed by rugged hills and WWII history. Restoran Kovačević serves grilled trout and spit-roasted lamb with a view over the river that will stop you in your tracks. Sit on the terrace, breathe in the alpine air, and watch the water rush below — it's a moment that stays with you.





## Food & Dining

Bosnian cuisine is hearty, flavorful, and deeply comforting. Influenced by Ottoman, Slavic, and Mediterranean traditions, meals are often slow, social affairs — best enjoyed over strong coffee or a sweet sip of salep.

### Ćevapi

Juicy grilled minced meat sausages, a beloved Balkan street food. Served with soft somun bread, chopped onions, and creamy kajmak.

### Burek

A savory phyllo pastry baked to golden perfection. Commonly filled with spiced meat, cheese, or spinach for a hearty snack.

### Klepe

Traditional Bosnian dumplings filled with meat and boiled until tender. Typically topped with a rich garlic yogurt sauce.

### Bosnian Coffee

Strong, unfiltered coffee served in a copper džezva. Enjoyed slowly with sugar cubes and a side of Turkish delight.

### Baklava & Salep

A rich, nutty pastry soaked in syrup, paired with warm, milky salep. A comforting dessert duo for chilly days.



# Top Places to Eat

## In Sarajevo:

### Inat Kuća

A historic restaurant symbolizing Bosnian defiance, famously relocated stone by stone. Enjoy authentic local dishes in a setting filled with character and legacy.



### Ćevabdžinica Željo

A Sarajevo favorite known for its mouthwatering ćevapi. Quick, no-frills service with unforgettable flavors locals swear by.





## Day Trips & Nearby Highlights

### **Konjic**

A picturesque riverside town famed for its intricate woodcarving and historic Ottoman bridge. Don't miss the Cold War-era ARK bunker, once Tito's secret hideout deep beneath the mountains.

### **Počitelj**

This enchanting stone village clings to a hillside, offering panoramic views of the Neretva River. Wander through cobbled streets, ancient mosques, and a timeless fortress.

### **Jablanica**

Steeped in WWII history, it's home to the famous Battle of Neretva memorial. Stop at Restoran Kovačević for roasted lamb with river views beside the iconic broken bridge.

### **Kravice Waterfalls**

Lush, emerald-green and refreshingly cool, this cascading wonder is perfect for a summer dip. Locals love to picnic, swim, and unwind in this natural paradise.





## Cultural Etiquette & Tips

**Dress Modestly:** Especially when visiting mosques or monasteries — covering shoulders and knees is a sign of respect.

**Cash is King:** While larger establishments accept cards, many small shops and restaurants prefer cash in Convertible Mark (KM).

**Bargaining:** Accepted in local markets but always done with a smile and friendly attitude.

**Top Tip:** Learn a few Bosnian phrases — locals appreciate the effort, and it can open doors to warm interactions.

**Stay Hydrated:** Tap water is safe to drink, so bring a refillable bottle to stay refreshed throughout the day.

**Footwear Matters:** With plenty of cobbled streets and uneven terrain, comfortable walking shoes are a must.

**Respect the Pace:** Life in Bosnia and Herzegovina is relaxed — take your time, enjoy the moment, and don't rush meals or conversations.