

**111th IEEE R8 Committee Meeting  
October 2018, Belgrade, Serbia  
TRAVEL ADVISORY**

*"I am particularly impressed  
by the bright and warm atmosphere of Belgrade"  
Samuel Beckett*

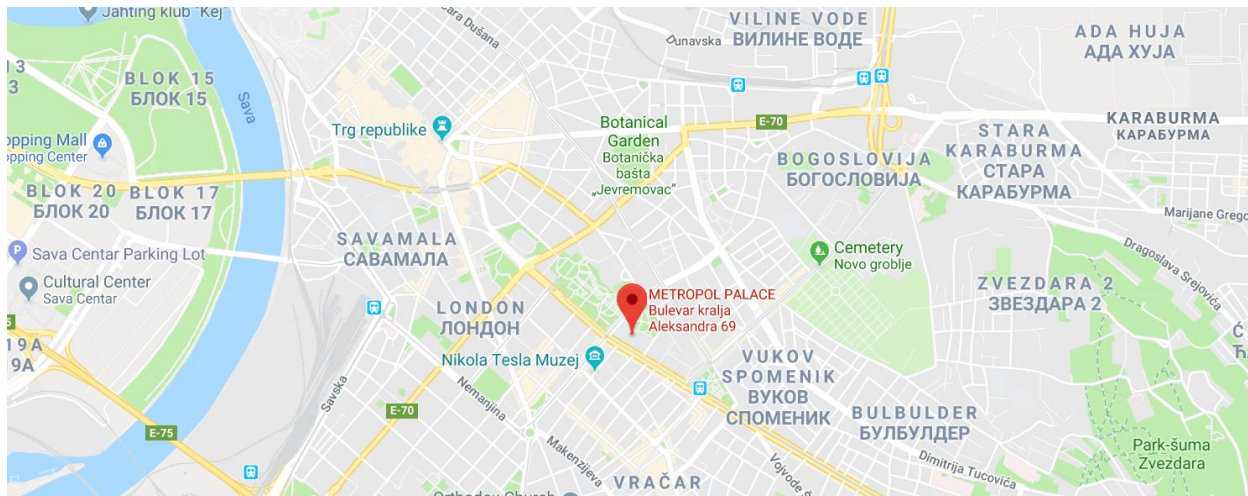


*Belgrade cityscape at sunset*

## 1. MEETING VENUE



METROPOL PALACE, a Luxury Collection Hotel  
Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra 69, Belgrade, Serbia  
Tel: +381 11 3333100 Fax: +381 11 3333300  
<http://www.metropolpalace.com/>



Positioned in the middle of Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, one of the longest and most important streets in Belgrade, Metropol Palace truly is in the heart of Belgrade, well connected with all the city's transportation hubs.

Around it, in all directions, one can find the main sites of the city, such as the Church of St. Mark, the Tasmajdan Park, National Assembly, and the City Council.

## 2. HOW TO REACH BELGRADE

### A) TRAVELLING TO BELGRADE BY PLANE:



**Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport (BEG)** is 18 km west of the city center, and is the home base of Air Serbia, which flies to nearly 50 destinations worldwide. Other major airlines that fly to Belgrade are Aeroflot, Qatar Airways, Turkish, Lufthansa, Austrian, Alitalia, Swiss International, etc. Discount and no-frills carriers like WizzAir, Germanwings, Norwegian Air, EasyJet, FlyDubai, etc. offer a number of flights with great connections to many destinations. Since 2016, Air Serbia has been operating direct flights from Belgrade to New York.

The airport consists of two terminals that are connected by a walkway. The terminals contain a few 24-hour food concessions, several bars and almost a dozen shops. **Free WiFi** is available at the airport for 60 minutes (connect to the "Airport Belgrade Free" network and then choose the Free Trial option). **Mobile charging stations** are available in the transit area and gated areas. **ATMs / Cash Machines** are available at following locations: T2. International Arrivals Area / Baggage Claim Area / Transit Area. **Currency Exchange** - Exclusive Change is open 24 hours in International Arrivals. Foreign currency exchange machines are available 24 hours a day at following locations: T1, landside, Ground Floor / T2, airside, near Gate A2 / International Arrivals, landside, near the Baggage Reclaim carousels.

#### **From the airport to the hotel Metropol Palace:**

##### ***Taxi***

Compared to many other European capitals, taxi in Belgrade is not an expensive option for transportation within the city.

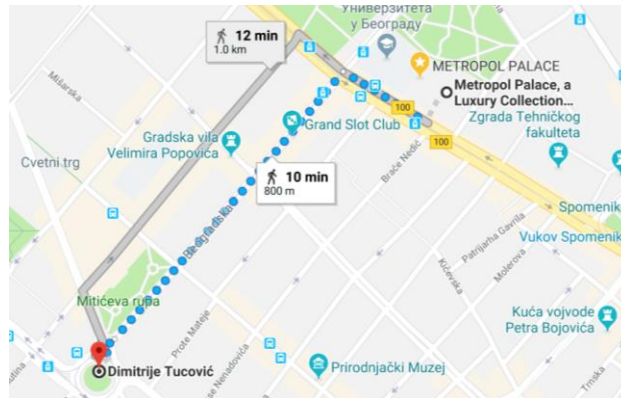
In order to enhance taxi service from Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, the Assembly of City of Belgrade has adopted the **decision on obligatory price of taxi service** from Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport to Belgrade city area, divided into 6 zones with different prices, [http://www.beg.aero/upload/documents/20140318-Taxi\\_zones.pdf](http://www.beg.aero/upload/documents/20140318-Taxi_zones.pdf).

So, the recommended way to get a taxi is **to go to the "Taxi Info" desk** in the baggage claim area, where a representative will **locate your destination on the zoned map and hand you a receipt, displaying both your destination and the price for your trip**. The price to the city center (meeting venue) should be **1800 RSD (about 15 EUR)**. **Present this receipt to a taxi driver before the**

**journey begins.** Alternatively, but less recommended (due to a likely higher price), taxi can be ordered by phone.

### **Bus**

**Minibus A1**, operates between the airport and Slavija Square, stopping at Fontana (Novi Beograd) and Belgrade - Glavna (old) railway station. The fare is 300 RSD (about 2.5 euro), which is paid on-board. The trip takes 30-40 minutes. In order to reach the hotel Metropol Palace, you should get off at the **Slavija Square** and go about 10 minutes by foot.



### **Car Rentals**

Car rental services are available in Terminal 1 and 2, International Arrivals area, <http://www.beg.aero/en/strana/8961/rent-a-car>

For more information on how to reach the city center from the airport, please consult “To & from the Airport” on the website of Nikola Tesla Airport <http://www.beg.aero/en>

## **B) TRAVELLING TO BELGRADE BY CAR:**

**From Hungary:** You should use the E75 highway (M5 in Hungary, A1 in Serbia). It is a 2 hour ride from the border.

**From Slovenia and Croatia:** Use the E70 highway when coming from [Ljubljana](#) or [Zagreb](#) (A3 in Croatia and Serbia). You will enter Serbia at the Batrovci - Bajakovo border crossing. From there it takes 1 hour to Belgrade.

**From Romania:** Use the E70 highway, coming from [Timișoara](#) (M10 in Serbia, DN59 in [Romania](#)). You will cross the border at Vatin – Moravița. It takes around 2 hours to Belgrade.

**From Macedonia:** Use the E75 highway (A1 in Macedonia and Serbia). You will cross the border at Tabanovce – Preševo. It takes about 4 hours and 30 minutes to get to Belgrade.

**From Bulgaria:** Use the E80 and the E75 highways (A4 and A1 in Serbia). After crossing the border at Kalotina - Gradina, use the E80 to Niš, and join into the E75 there, continuing to Belgrade. It takes 4 hours to complete the trip from the border.

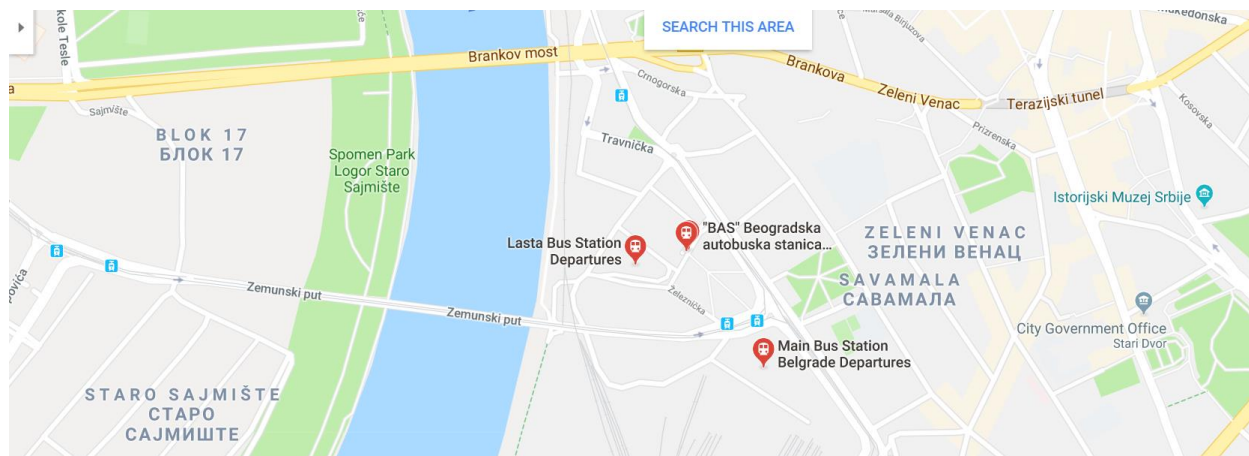


## C) TRAVELLING TO BELGRADE BY TRAIN/BUS

**TRAIN:** As of 1 July 2018 the Main Railway Station in the center of the city is **closed** and all trains depart from and arrive to the new main railway station officially called **Beograd Centar** but more commonly known by the name **Prokop** amongst locals.



**BUS:** Belgrade Bus Station, also known as BAS (short for Beogradska Autobuska Stanica), is in Karadorđeva street. While coach services to national and international destinations are frequent and departure times are usually reliable, beware that the arrival times may not be. The timetables aren't clearly posted and are in Serbian only, so ask for information inside the terminal. Please keep in mind that coach travel in Serbia can be a hit-and-miss experience.



More information on travelling to Belgrade by train/bus can be found on <https://wikitravel.org/en/Belgrade>

### 3. USEFUL INFO

#### The city of Belgrade

The official name of Belgrade is: Beograd (Београд), from Beo that in Serbian means white and Grad means city.

Belgrade is the capital of Serbia and one of the most populated cities in South-Eastern Europe. It is located in a prominent position, where the river Sava merges into the Danube.

Belgrade covers an area of 322.268 km<sup>2</sup> and hosts a population of about 1.750.000 habitants that is equivalent to 21% of the total population of Serbia. Moreover, Belgrade is a young city: more than 40% of its citizens are between 15 and 44 years of age.

#### Map

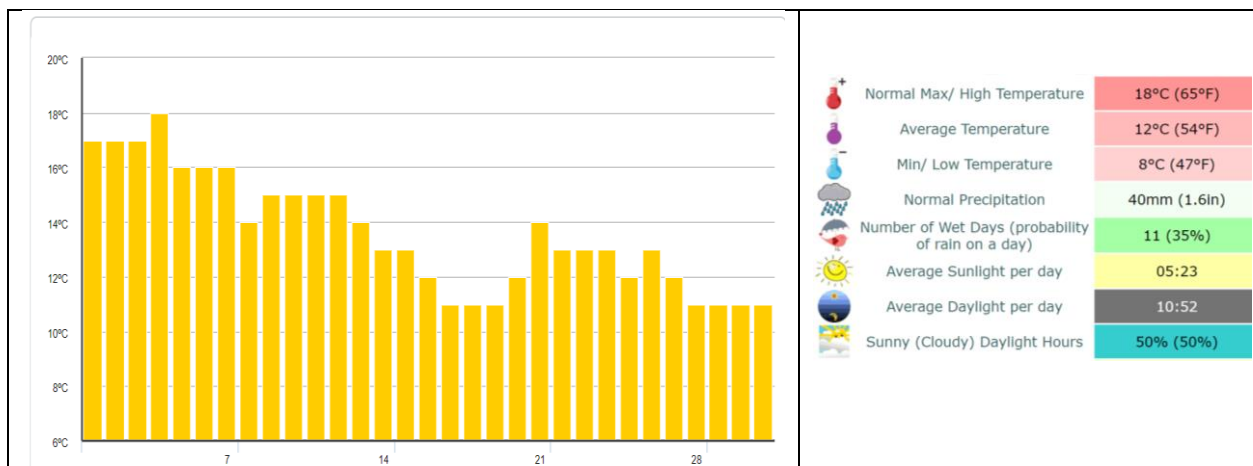
<http://www.city2map.com/en/rs/belgrade/>

#### Language

Serbian is the official language, part of the group of south Slavic languages; Cyrillic script and Latin script are both used.

#### Climate

Belgrade has a moderate continental climate with four seasons and uniformly spread precipitations. The average temperature in Belgrade in October is quite mild at 12.4 °C (54.32 °F). Overnight temperatures are generally a little cooler with an average low of 8.3 °C (46.9 °F). The average daily temperature variation/ range is 9.8 °C (17.6 °F). The average number of rainy days in October is 11. A distinctive element of Belgrade climate is a strong and cold southeast-east wind called Košava: it arises in the Carpathians and brings clear and dry weather to Belgrade. It mostly blows during autumn and winter, in 1-3-7 day intervals.



October averages for Belgrade

## Transport

### **Public transport**

Belgrade public transport is provided through a network of bus, trolleybus and tram routes.

**Bus Plus tickets** can be used on all types of transport vehicles and can be bought:

- at public transport vehicles from the driver for a price of 150 RSD for one ride
- at kiosks and markets labeled with a Bus Plus sticker you can buy a plastic card for 250 RSD and top up credit according to your needs: the price of a 90 minute ride in one or more buses for transportation zones 1 and 2 is 89 RSD.
- at kiosks and markets labeled with a Bus Plus sticker you can buy a paper card for 20 RSD and top up credit according your needs:
  - 1 day for transportation zones 1 and 2 - 250 RSD
  - 3 days for transportation zones 1 and 2 – 700 RSD
  - 5 days for transportation zones 1 and 2 - 1000 RSD.

You must validate your Bus Plus ticket once you get on the bus.

There are also express minibus services which are more comfortable and quicker as they do not stop at every bus stop. Tickets are sold on board for a price of 150 RSD. The routes are: E1 Ustanička - Blok 45; E2 Petlovo brdo – Dorćol; E3 Medaković 3 - Blok 61; E4 Ustanička - Bežanijska kosa; E5 Zrmanjska - Zvezdara (pijaca); E6 Mirijevo IV - Blok 61; E7 Banjica II - Dunav stanica; E8 Braća Jerković - Dunav stanica

### **Parking**

Parking in the center of Belgrade is time-limited by parking zones. The zones are marked by special road signs bearing the appropriate color and pavement markings. Parking in the first zone is limited to 1 hour, in the second 2 hours and the third 3 hours. Fee is payable in all three zones on weekdays from 7.00 until 21.00, and Saturdays from 7.00 to 14.00 and is paid by the hour. After the expiration of the time limited parking, the car must not be parked within the same area in the following 30 minutes. Car parks and garages offer the possibility of time-unlimited parking. They are open 00-24 and charged per commenced hour.

### **Taxi:**

The passenger is required to pay for taxi services according to the current price list (from the airport) or the amount indicated by the taxi meter at the end of the journey. Negotiating a price for taxi services is not recommended, especially at the airport.

#### **Some taxi companies**

ALO TAKSI +381 11 3564555, 19988

BEOTAKSI 19999, 19700, Viber i WhatsApp: +38166 460101, SMS 9700, Skype: radiobeotaxi

BEOGRADSKI TAKSI 19801

BG TAKSI 19800

DELUKS TAKSI +381 11 3033123, +381 65 3033123

EVRO GOLD 19806, +381 65 5559806, +381 65 3291818, +381 65 9806000, +381 60 4040677,

ŽUTI TAKSI 19802, +381 66 6305555, +381 65 9802000

PINK 19803, +381 65 4889977

## Currency

The monetary unit in Serbia is **dinar**, abbreviated **RSD**.

Serbian currency comes in the following denominations:

- Banknotes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 and 5000 dinars
- Coins: 50 para, 1 dinar, 2 dinars, 5 dinars, 10 dinars, and 20 dinars



Money may be exchanged in all banks and post offices, as well as in authorized exchange offices. The exchange rate may be checked on the website of the **National Bank of Serbia**, (currently it is, approximately, 1 EUR = 118 RSD)

[https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/default/internet/english/scripts/kl\\_srednji.html](https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/default/internet/english/scripts/kl_srednji.html)

## Banks and credit cards

Cash may be taken from ATMs installed in all major malls, bank branch offices and in public places all year round.

Major credit cards (although some restriction may apply to American Express) are widely accepted in shops and restaurants, as well as by most taxi drivers. However, it is recommended to have some cash with you just in case.

## Electrical appliances

In Serbia the electricity supply is 220 V / 50 Hz. The power sockets are of type F. This socket also works with plug C and plug E.



## Tipping

There is no standard rule to tipping in Serbia, however a modest tip is usually expected if you are satisfied with the service.



## 4. A LITTLE BIT OF BELGRADE HISTORY



The first human settlements of Belgrade area date back to 7000 years ago. One of the most important prehistoric cultures of Europe, the VINČA culture, evolved within the Belgrade area in the 6th millennium BC. Around 4000 B.C., Vinča cultures stretched over an area by size and population larger than the territory of any other Neolithic group in Europe. Moreover, researches claim that the prehistoric Vinča symbols are one of the earliest forms of alphabet.

In the 3rd century B.C., Celtic tribes reached Belgrade and built the fortified settlement of Singidunum (Singi - means round and Dunum means fortress).

In the first century A.D., the Romans conquered Belgrade, ruling the city and preserving the name of the settlement for over four centuries. In the 2nd century A.D., during Emperor Hadrian's rule, the city gained municipal rights and improved once more its military importance. After the division of the Roman Empire into the Western and Eastern Roman Empire in 395, Singidunum was transformed into a border town of the Byzantine Empire, becoming a crucial point both for communication and strategic purposes.

The downfall of the Roman Empire was followed by the invasion of barbarian people and suffered frequent attacks and devastations. Renewal came with the Byzantine emperor Justinian that rebuilt Singidunum, restoring the fortress and city to its former military importance. At the end of the 6th century, the fortress was attacked and destroyed by Avars and Slavs and the name Singidunum was lost forever. In year 878, the city was mentioned again, this time as "Beograd".

The Serbian rule over Belgrade began in the 13th century. During the 14th century it was one of the most important economic, cultural, and religious centres of Europe, with about 40,000-50,000 inhabitants.

The Turks considered Belgrade to be one of the worst obstacles in their campaign towards Central Europe. In year 1440, the city experienced the first siege by the Turkish army, for almost a century Belgrade has resisted several Turkish attacks. In 1521, under the command of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, the Turks managed to conquer Belgrade; the town was demolished and burnt down. Under the Turkish rule, Belgrade became a huge trade and commercial center, and experienced peace and prosperity for two centuries. The rise of national consciousness led to the First Serbian Insurrection in 1804. After years of fighting and diplomatic activities, the town was liberated in 1867.

During World War I, Belgrade was partly destroyed and the country lost 28% of its whole population. After the war, Belgrade became the capital of the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes: larger buildings were built, new parks and facilities, as well as the first bridge between Sava and Danube. World War II brought new destruction to Belgrade. The post-war period was marked by rapid industrialization and development of New Belgrade on the other side of Sava river and building a cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Since May 2006, Belgrade has been the capital of the Republic of Serbia.

## 5. BELGRADE ATTRACTIONS

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/serbia/articles/10-must-visit-attractions-in-belgrade-serbia/>  
<http://www.tob.rs/what-to-see/attractions>

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### Kalemegdan Fortress



Essentially a huge park, the fortress looks out over the confluence of the [Sava and Danube Rivers](#) for what is undoubtedly the city's most romantic spot. It also houses the Military Museum and a number of galleries, not to mention some of the city's most recognizable monuments.

## Church of Saint Sava



One of the largest Orthodox churches on the planet, the Church of Saint Sava is one of the most identifiable attractions in the entire region. It dominates the city's skyline, and at 79 m height, it is easy to see why. The church was built on the spot where the Ottomans burned [Saint Sava](#)'s remains in 1595, but nearly 400 years passed before the church itself was completed. The interior is still under construction, but its unfinished state adds another layer of intrigue to this monumental house of worship.

## Knez Mihailova



While it isn't the geographical center of the city, Knez Mihailova is without doubt the social midpoint of the Serbian capital. This long thoroughfare is where all strands of Belgrade society come to be seen, whether that is businessmen making deals in cafes or young people running aimlessly up and down it. This is the best spot for a little bit of people watching, and entire afternoons can be spent on Knez Mihailova, watching the day idly go by.

## Skadarlija

It is known as Belgrade's Bohemian Quarter, but the use of the word 'quarter' is somewhat liberal. [Skadarlija](#) is more a street than an entire area, but that street is full of restaurants, bars and cafes, all dotted along the cobblestones that are a delight to look at in the morning and a struggle to walk on when inebriated. Once the domain of poets, academics and drunks, Skadarlija now has both eyes focused firmly on the tourism sector. With that in mind, some of the [best restaurants](#) in the city can be found on this short stretch of street.





## Nikola Tesla Museum



[Nikola Tesla](#) probably takes home the award of being the most popular modern Serb, and the inventor's incredible life is honored in an excellent city center museum. Located within a diplomatic neighborhood in Vračar, the museum displays a number of the great inventions along with many of his personal items. If you ever wanted to create light simply by holding a light bulb, this is the place to go.

## Republic Square and the National Theatre



Republic Square is Belgrade's main meeting point, where social evenings begin. Some of Belgrade's most important buildings are found here, including the National Museum and the National Theatre.

## Zemun



The people of [Zemun](#) might take umbrage with being described as a 'must visit attraction in Belgrade', as this small 'town within a city' is known for its fierce independence. Zemun was swallowed up by Belgrade in the 1930s, but its former position as an Austrian Empire border town means you can find a different atmosphere when compared to the big city centre. Zemun Kej is one of the most engrossing walkways in the city, and the view from Gardoš Hill and the Millennium Tower is one of the finest going. If you're a fan of seafood, make Zemun your number one stop when in Belgrade



## 6. BELGRADE NIGHTLIFE

In Belgrade, every night is Friday night. Everyone is ready to party at all the time, dance the night away, and go straight to work the next day. It's really hard to resist the temptation when you know that on any given evening there are countless clubs out there full of young, gorgeous people having so much fun. The Belgrade clubbing industry is very-well organized - every night of the week, there are countless different clubs with different styles and with different kinds of music where you can go. It may be hard to believe, but all the clubs which have the capacity of 300 to 500 people are basically full every night of the week.



The mainstream clubbing scene consists of venues playing house music, progressive, tech house, and turbo-folk (a sub-genre of folk music with dance and pop elements specific to Serbia), but you can also find places specializing in R'n'B, pop, rock, trance, alternative, jazz, or just about any other type of music in existence.

You can find two types of clubs in Belgrade: winter clubs and summer clubs. Winter clubs are indoor clubs which are usually open during the winter season – from late September to early May. When the summer season comes, they all close their doors as the big openings of summer clubs start. These floating river clubs or barges (called “splavs” or “splavovi”) are anchored at the riverbank and they're the main locations for partying during hot summer nights.

Belgrade clubs do not charge entrance fees. But it doesn't mean you can come and go as you wish. All local clubs have a checkpoint at their entrance where face control is carried out by staff – you're screened whether you're adequately dressed for the type of the club you want to get into and whether you have a table reservation or not. It is highly recommended to make a reservation in advance.

Belgrade nightlife has to offer something for everyone's taste. If you plan to go to Belgrade, check the terms of your party earlier and do not miss it.