Region DRINA - SAVA

The region of green rivers, a bridge between the East and the West

South Eastern Europe
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DRINA-SAVA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

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DRINA - SAVA

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Table of Contents

3 GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE REGION
3 position
3 countries and municipalities
3 people and their diversity
4 geography
4 climate
4 nature
5 history
6 culture
7 architecture
9 tradition
10 gastronomy
12 agriculture
12 economy
13 tourism
15 interesting facts
17 PUTTING THE REGION ON THE MAP
18 THE REGION THROUGH THE YEAR
23 TASTES OF THE REGION
29 WHAT TO VISIT IN THE REGION
35 WHAT TO EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION
39 WHERE TO STAY AND EAT IN THE REGION

GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE REGION

Position

The region of Drina-Sava is a specific geographical area, formed from the neighboring municipalities belonging to the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, with a strong level of homogeneity in their natural, social, economic, demographical and other characteristics. Two rivers whose names the region bares are not only important for its positioning. They influence its nature and the people living in this area.

Hajduk regatta in Bogatić, Serbia

The region is geographically positioned in the north-east of Croatia (eastern Slavonia), the north-west of Serbia (south-west Vojvodina and north-west Central Serbia) and north-east Bosnia and Herzegovina (Semberija).

Countries and municipalities

The countries whose territories belong to the Drina - Sava region are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The region encompasses seventeen municipalities - seven from Croatia, five from Serbia, and five from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The following municipalities form this specific cross-border area:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bijeljina, Ugljevik, Lopare, Brčko, Donji Žabari
- Croatia: Ilok, Lovas, Tovarnik, Nijemci, Vrbanja, Drenovci, Gunja
- Serbia: Sremska Mitrovica, Šid, Bogatić, Loznica, Šabac

People and their diversity

For historical reasons, these border areas contain one of the most ethnically diverse populations in Europe. The ethnic diversity of the population is the largest in municipalities of Ilok, Gunja, and Šid, where 1/3 to 1/4 of the inhabitants are ethnic minorities. The Roma population is most represented in the Bosnian part of the region and the municipalities of Šabac and Loznica.

Boats in Zasavica, the Special Nature Reserve in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

Geography

The region is situated in the Panonian Plain, in the valley of the Drina and Sava rivers, and on the slopes of Fruška Gora, Cer and Majevica mountains. Mostly located at 80-120 meters above the sea level, the area is rich in forests, and in high-quality land used for agriculture.

Climate

Visitors will find the Drina - Sava region's continental climate with significant oscillations very pleasant. The average temperature of 11.3° Celsius (the lowest is in January -2.3 and the highest in July +21) and other characteristics are pretty favourable for plant vegetation in spring and for fruit and vegetable growth in summer and autumn. The summers here are sunny and hot, and winters are cold and snowy. Perfect for your vacation!

Nature

Splendid nature of the Drina - Sava region will attract the most demanding tourists. It is difficult to pick the favourite among the region's spacey and rich plains, powerful rivers and their picturesque valleys, or distant mountains overlooking the area.

Beautiful landscapes, parks and protected areas are located on the territory of this region so it is a perfect haven for nature lovers.

The region is perfect for water lovers, too. Rich with geothermal waters (Loznica, Šabac), geothermal energy and excellent mineral water (Bijeljina), it has several well known spa centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia (Banja Dvorovi - Bijeljina and Spa centers Koviljača, Badanja and Radalja in Loznica). Thermal waters with huge potential for tourism development exist also in the Croatian part of the region. Rafting and related activities are performed on the Drina River (Loznica). The region has excellent fishing grounds (Bijeljina) with the three artificial lakes (Donji Žabari) as well as many rivers and lakes.

History

The region's heritage is rich due to its turbulent history and various influences over the centuries. Archaeological research confirm the existence of human settlements in this area since the early Stone Age, while the presence of the Romans at the beginning of the new era has left the trace that lasts until the present day. The region holds one of the four capitals of the great Roman Empire - Sremska Mitrovica, then called Sirmium, which was a rich and extravagant residential and administrative center with many palaces, baths, temples, streets and squares, even the heating and water supply systems.

Historically the Drina - Sava area has been known as a crossroads of cultures. It has been a juncture between the Latin and Greek bodies of the Roman Empire, the destination of a massive influx of pagan Slavs, an area where Orthodox and Catholic Christianity met, as well as the meeting point between Islam and Christianity. In pre-classical and classical antiquity, this region was home to Greeks, Illyrians, Thracians, Dacians, and other ancient groups. Later the Roman Empire conquered most of the region and spread Roman culture and the Latin language, but significant parts still remained under classical Greek influence.

The Slavs arrived in the 6th century and began assimilating and displacing already-assimilated older inhabitants. During the Middle Ages, the region became the stage for a series of wars between the Byzantine Roman and the Bulgarian and Serbian Empires. By the end of the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire, which was the major force in the region, had already conquered these territories. 19th century brought about liberation, progress, economic development and European cultural influences.

The World War I brought new suffers to the region, but its end denoted a new entity - the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Kingdom of Yugoslavia). After the World War

II, the region was a part of Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia until its dissolution and the civil war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has lead to the present map of the area.

The Drina - Sava region's people, architecture, traditional costumes and cuisine witnesses the history of this area which you can fell, taste and explore while paying it a visit.

Culture

Culture treasuring centuries of life in the region has been preserved by local communities, but rich culture of the Drina-Sava region is mostly nourished and developed by the culture institutions and culture associations existing and working in the region. There is a large number of libraries, museums, galleries, theaters, etc. that keep cultural identity of the region and its inhabitants.

Details of the mosaics from the 3rd and 4th century and traditional costumes of the time, Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

Some of the most important institutions are

Museums:
the Museum Semberija, Bijeljina; the Museum of Srem, Sremska Mitrovica; Jadar Museum, Loznica; the Museum of the Town of Ilok, Ilok; the National Museum, Šabac

Galleries:
Gallery Milenko Atanacković, Bijeljina; Art Gallery Lazar Vozarević, Sremska Mitrovica; Gallery Mića Popović, Loznica; Public Art Gallery, Brčko

Culture Centres:
the Culture Centre Sirmiumart, Sremska Mitrovica;
the Culture Centre Vuk, Loznica

Libraries:
National Library Filip Višnjić, Bijeljina Library Vuk Karadžić, Loznica

Theatres:
Theatre Dobrica Milutinović, Sremska Mitrovica

Other important institutions:
the Historical Archives Srem, Sremska Mitrovica; the Institute of Monument Protection and the Institution for the Nursing of Culture Srem, Sremska Mitrovica; Kur-room spa-salon, Loznica.

Traditions and customs that have been inherited are also preserved to this day through the activities of cultural societies and associations in the field of culture. The region is rich in cultural events and activities throughout the entire year.

Architecture

The diversity of architectural styles in the Drina-Sava region speaks about numerous historical changes and cultural influences over the centuries. It will not take a visitor much time to get familiar with a variety of styles and walk along the sites built in the era of Ancient Rome, visit the medieval Christian churches and monasteries, take a tour around the monuments from the Ottoman Empire, enjoy the view of Austrian Hungarian buildings, catch glimpses of Yugoslav architecture and witness modern day construction styles.

Sremska Mitrovica

Traditional house called 'vajat'

Craft centre in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

The following list presents some of the most important architectural achievements

Bijeljina:
Tavna Orthodox Monastery with the church dedicated to the Holy Trinity,
14th - 16th century. St. George Orthodox Church, finished in 1872
Atik mosque and building of Konak, today's Museum of Semberija,
finished in 1876 Orthodox Cathedral, 20th century

Brčko:
Hotel Posavina
Brčanska Beledija or the City Hall, built from 1891 to 1892 during the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
The house of Alijaga Kučukalić, 1907, typical Austro-Hungarian villa
Savska/Atik Mosque, the oldest one in Brčko, built in 1600,
Orthodox Church Uspenje Presvete Bogorodice built 1864,
White Mosque built in 1881
Catholic church of the Holy Jesus's Heart built in 1883

Ilok:
The Odescalchi Castle, built on the foundations of the castle of King Nikola Iločki from the 15th century , situated in the medieval town of Ilok, housing the famous old Ilok cellars and the Museum of the Town of Ilok.
Medieval walls, important strategic point from the very early ages.

Šabac:
The Church of St. Peter and Paul, built in 1931
The National Museum, located on the premises of the town's 1856 Junior High School, the House of Krsmanović, located on Karađorđe's Street, the city's main pedestrian walkway.
Šabac Fortress built by the Turks in the rectangular shape in the medieval city of Zaslon in 1470. A canal surrounds the fortress, which has one remaining tower and all four walls.

Loznica:
Kur-salon spa, a symbol of Banja Koviljaca, built in 1932 by king Alexander II
Katić Family House with gallery of Miča Popovič built in 1878

Sremska Mitrovica:
Imperial Palace (Palatium Imperiale) with ancient walls, mosaics, heating system, inner yard decorated with frescoes, 3rd-4th century AD

Tradition

Strong tradition of the region is visible at every step one makes in this lovely area. Preserving traditional skills has provided a specific foundation for gathering local communities and nourishing common identity.

Typical traditional handicrafts include: wood industry, embroidery, needlework (zlatovez, necanje, beli vez), field candles, weaving and basket knitting.

Traditional 'kolo' dance in Serbia and Croatia

Gastronomy

Thanks to the centuries of the availability of fertile lands and skills in food production and processing, joint with the dexterous hands of caring cooks, this region is famous for its gastronomy, delicious food specialties and tasty traditional drinks.

Any visitor to the region will be welcomed with a traditional šljivovica (plum brandy) or some other fruit brandy produced from a variety of sorts grown in the area. Full tastes of the region will be felt with delicious cured meat products (Sremski kulen and Slavonski kulen) or dishes made of mangulitza pig, black slavonian pig whose bacon is appreciated worldwide.

If you are in the mood for a unique specialty, you can taste donkey milk from Zasavica, while those who would opt for more typical products can embellish their meals with quality wines, Ilok wine being the best known one.

The lovers of sweets should definitely taste bestilj (plum marmalade) before picking some sweet plums and apples or delighting in a slice of a juicy watermelon. Finally, you should not leave the region if not enjoying a cup a tea made of regional medical herbs.

SVET

Agriculture

The very position of the Drina-Sava cross-border region at the brim of the Panonian Plane speaks enough of its agricultural potentials and merits it brings to the life of the area. The region's fertile land, location and terrain has enabled intensive development of agriculture. Fruit and vegetable production are the trademarks of the region, while it is at the same time one of the main livestock production regions in the Western Balkans. The level of development of food industry in the region vouches for the good tastes of the region.

The region combines rich natural resources, traditional knowledge in agriculture and advancement in food processing, so it is no wonder that these economic activities are the most prospective. The major sectors of food processing industry are sugar production, meat processing, vegetable oil and dairy. The food industry is well integrated with the production of raw materials.

The most important companies operating in the region are sugar factories (Sremska Mitrovica, Obrska), dairy plants (Sremmil, Sremska mlekara), vegetable oil production companies (Viktoria oil, Uljarica, Agrocoop), wine production (Iločki podrumi, Agro Ilok), agricultural companies (Vupik, Napredak, Sekice, Kulen Šokac), while several agricultural cooperatives (Lovas, Nova zadruga) are contributing to achieving common developmental goals.

Economy

The economy of the Drina Sava cross border region greatly relies on agriculture. The most important sectors of regional economy are agriculture and food processing industrythat are key drivers of local and regional development. Some other sectors, such as construction, timber, metal chemical and textile/clothing industries also have potentials.

The largest number of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region operate in agriculture, trade, manufacturing and transport. The SME sector is quite developed and it is a potential source of the region's development.

Tourism is an ever growing economic branch in the region, due to a number of developing tourism products, various sites, attractive and intact nature and human hospitality characterising this region.

Tourism

The region is very rich with tourism sites and products. Situated at the confluence of the Drina and Sava rivers, at the borders of three countries, at the crossroads of important roads - Drina-Sava region looks like a paved carpet made of the finest materials with images of the fertile fields and gardens, meadows and forests, rivers and hills, picturesque villages and the towns, remains of rich history and modern life.

On the beautiful river Drina

The Drina Sava cross-border area is rich with cultural heritage sites, museums, archaeological sires, churches, fortresses, castles, recent history monuments. It is also known for its wine cellars, ethno villages and gastronomy.

Here are some of the most important tourism sites in the region.

Bijeljina:
Dvorovi Spa
Tavna Monastery
Stanišići Ethno Village

Bogatić:
Sovljak Ethno Park
Ethno Park Avlija in Glušci;
Thermal area in Bogatić;

Brčko:
Islahijet,
House of Kočić,
Srpska varoš (part of the city),

Odescalchi Castle in Ilok, Croatia

Ilok:
The Medieval Old Town,
The Odescalchi Castle,
The Ilok Town Museum,

Lovas:
Parish Church St. Georgija,
Catholic Church St. Mihovil

Tovarnik:
Ilača - Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Vodica

Nijemci:
Church Lučica in Lipovac,
Church of St. Catherine of Nijemci

Sremska Mitrovica:
Sirmium roman fortress in Sremska Mitrovica,
Monastery of Sirmium Martyrs,
The Special Nature Reserve Zasavica,

Šid:
Monastery Privina Glava and Saint Nicholas in Šid,
Memorial complex Sremski front,
Sava Šumanović Gallery

Fountain in the Tronoša Monastery

Banja Koviljača lies hidden in the greenery of one of the most beautiful and the largest parks in Serbia

Loznica:
Loznica Town - Loznički grad,
Tronoša Monastery
Tršić

Lopare:
Majevica Eco Camp

Vrbanja:
Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Šabac:
Mišar Monument and Museum,
Ašik grave,
Old Town

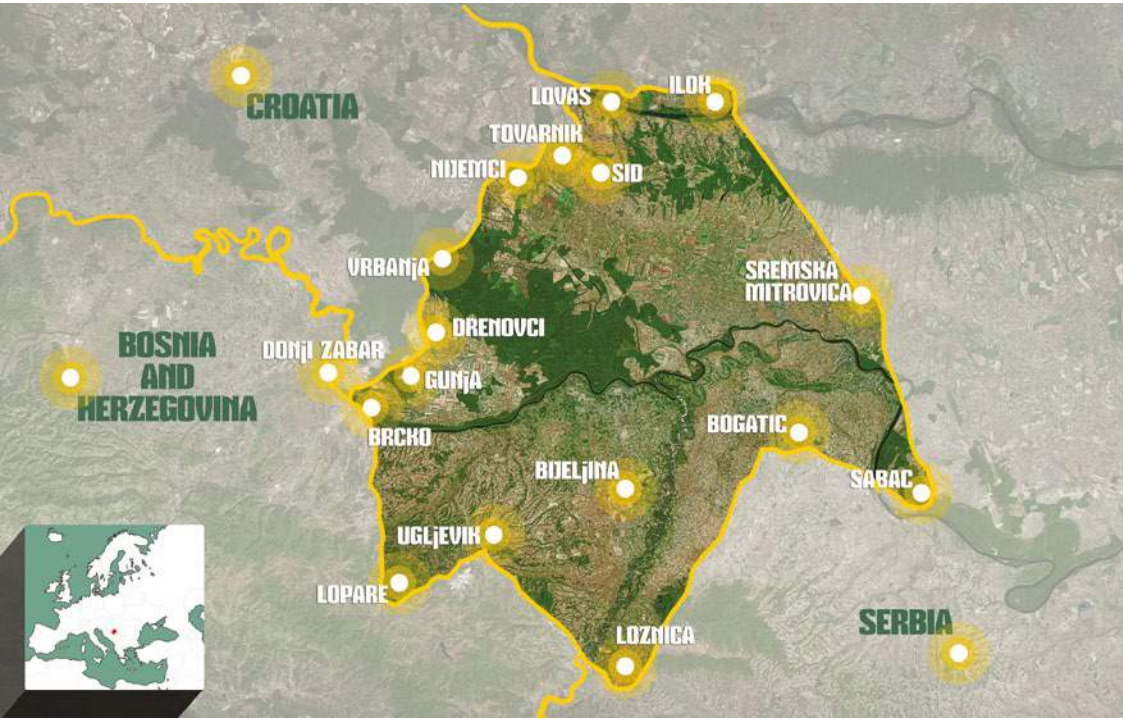
Interesting facts

All so-called Pannonian emperors were born in the Drina Sava region, in Sirmium – Traianus Decius, Aurelian, Probus, Maximianus Heraculius and Constantius II.
It was his merit that the first vine was planted outside Italy, on the slopes of the Fruška Gora Mountain, in the vicinity of Sirmium.

In the early 4th century Sirmium was the only city in Europe where gold coins were minted. Try to imagine those coins!

Great old wine barrels as a safe home to sleep, Camp Spačva, along the highway Zagreb-Lipovac, Croatia

PUTTING THE REGION ON THE MAP



The region's 17 municipalities are geographically positioned in the north-east of Croatia (eastern Slavonia), the north-west of Serbia (south-west Vojvodina and north-west Central Serbia) and north-east Bosnia and Herzegovina (Semberija). Observed at the national level, the municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina belong to the territories of the Republic of Srpska and Brčko District (out of land from both entities); Serbian municipalities belong to the counties of Srem (Sremska Mitrovica, Šid) and Mačva (Šabac, Loznica, Bogatić); Croatian municipalities are the part of Vukovar- Srijem County.

Most of the territory in this region is located at 80-120 meters above the sea level. Parts of the territories of some municipalities are located at higher altitudes (Brčko, Lopare, Ugljevik, and Loznica), reaching near the 700 meters in Šabac.

The region has an excellent geographical position and is easily accessible by all forms of transport (road, rail, water, air transport). National and regional roads (including the two highways: Belgrade - Zagreb and Belgrade - Novi Sad) give to this area good connection with all surrounding municipalities and relevant urban centers. Main railway lines include: Belgrade – Zagreb, Belgrade - Novi Sad, Zagreb - Budapest, Zagreb - Sarajevo, etc. The latter allows connecting these districts with the neighboring regions and Europe.

THE REGION THROUGH THE YEAR

Continental climate of the Drina - Sava region is pleasant for each inhabitant of the area and for each visitor getting familiar with its beauties. Apart from the mild climate typical for the largest part of the territory, mountain climate is also present in the high lands of the region. The summers are sunny and hot, and winters are cold and snowy. Whenever you visit the region, you will find it charming and picturesque.

What adds life and colours to this beautiful area are its events. There are the most diverse festivals, fairs and happenings going on throughout the year. Get familiar with the seasons in the Drina Sava region with these events!

Youth preserving traditional events

SPRING

1. EASTER ROCK MARATHON, Šabac

This festival with nearly a decade of tradition takes place on the weekend of Easter. Connecting local government, business and non-governmental sectors, with a modern approach, the festival attracts more and more visitors each year.
In addition to the famous names of the national rock scene, the review part of the festival hosts local demo bands.

Organizer: Cultural Centre of Šabac
Contact:
address: 12 Gospodar Jevremova, Šabac 15000, Serbia
phone: +381 15 534 6936
web site: http://www.kulturni-centar.rs/

2. Singing Cvelferija, Drenovci
The traditional and cultural events are held regularly since 1994 in the field of Cvelferija with the aim of preserving and promoting the diverse traditions and customs of Cvelferija and contributing to the enrichment of the tourism offer of Vukovar-Syrmia County.
Organizer: Municipality Drenovci
Contact:
address: Toljani 1, 32257 Drenovci, Croatia
phone: +385 32 861 306
web site: http://www.opcina-drenovci.hr/

3. Meeting the Spring, Brčko
This event offers a large number of all forms of culture, sport and music. Each year it starts in middle of April and last to the end of April.
Organizer: the Government of Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contact:
address: Bulevar mira 1, 76100 Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 49 240 600,
web site: http://bdcentral.net/

4. Bijeljina Dance Festival, Bijeljina
The festival is organized in March/April and it includes the Open Cup modern dance competition.
Organizer: the Dance Club 101
Contact:
address: Jovana Dučića 1, Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 65 514 734

SUMMER

1. Roses of Lipolist Festival, Šabac
Lipolist is a wealthy village in Mačva where ever more households deal with horticulture, especially with growing roses. The village is called the most aromatic village in Serbia and the world metropolis of horticulture. The festival takes place in June when roses bloom most beautifully and smell most powerfully. Visitors can attend numerous and very interesting event programmes.
Organizer: Cultural Centre of Šabac
Contact:
address: 12 Gospodar Jevremova, Šabac 15000, Serbia
phone: +381 15 534 6936
web site: http://www.kulturni-centar.rs/

2. Sava Flower, Brčko

This event is organized every year in Brčko during the summer. It contains a large number of concerts on the Sava River, the Sava Regatta and other activities related to promoting tourism of Brčko.

Organizer: Government of Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contact:
address: Bulevar mira 1, 76100 Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 49 240 600
web site: http://bdcentral.net/

3. The Drina River Regatta, Bijeljina

A regatta of little boats attracts more and more participants from the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the surrounding countries every year.

Organizer: Bijeljina Municipality, Civil Defense of municipality Bijeljina and Tourism organization Bijeljina
Contact:
address: Trg kralja Petra I Karađorđevića 1, 76300 Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 55 233 108
web site: http://www.sobijeljina.org/

4. Hajduk Evening, Bogatić

This traditional event is organized since 1966 and it presents the tradition of Bogatić through concerts, regatta, traditional wedding, culture and sports events.

Organizer: Bogatić Tourism Organization
Contact:
address: Mike Vitomirovića 1, 15350, Bogatić, Serbia
phone: +381 15 778 75 05
web site: http://www.bogatic-tourism.com/

5. Festival oratory Sirmium LUX Verb - Sirmium LIGHT WORDS, Sremska Mitrovica
The traditional event of international character cherishes words and tradition of Sremska Mitrovica.
Organizer: the City of Sremska Mitrovica
Contact:
address: Sveti Dimitriji 13, 22000 Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia
phone: +381 22 610 566
web site: http://www.sremskamitrovica.org.rs/

6. Vuk's Fair (Vukov sabor), Loznica
Vukov sabor is a traditional 7-day event that keeps the tradition and memory of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, the reformer of the language, in Tršić.
Organizer: Cultural Centre Vuk Karadžić
Contact:
address: Save Kovačevića 1, 15300 Loznica, Serbia
phone: +381 15 882 718
web site: http://www.ckvkaradzic.org.rs/

Election of 'harambaše' - the strongest man in the village, Hajduk Evening, Bogatić, Serbia

AUTUMN

1. Economic Fair Cvelferija, Drenovci

The Fair was first held in 2008 as local economic event, and since then has been regularly held once a year. In 2012 it got an international character with the participation of businessmen and delegations of the Government of Brcko District.

Organizer: Municipality Drenovci
address: Toljani 1, 32257 Drenovci, Croatia
phone: +385 32 861 306
web site: http://www.opcina-drenovci.hr/

2. OKTOBER SALON, Šabac

This is the oldest event of its kind in Serbia and the only one in the town has lasted for more than half a century. Tradition of the Salon dates back to 1954, and during the last few decades, hundreds of exhibitors have participated in this exhibition.

Organizer: Cultural Centre of Šabac
Contact:
address: 12 Gospodar Jevremova, Šabac 15000, Serbia
phone: +381 15 534 6936
web site: http://www.kulturni-centar.rs

Pokladno jahanje, Winter in Ilok, Croatia

WINTER

1. With Knowledge, Songs and Dances through Semberia, Bijeljina

One of the biggest cultural events in the City of Bijeljina is organised from January to March. It nourishes folklore, folk arts, develops a competitive spirit among the youth, cultural and artistic amateurism and creativity and establishes the continuity of cultural life in the villages.

Organizer: Bijeljina Municipality, Civil Defense of Bijeljina Municipality and Tourism Organization Bijeljina
Contact:
address: Trg kralja Petra I Karađorđevića 1, 76300 Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 55 233 108
web site: http://www.sobijeljina.org

2. Meetings of Professional Theaters, Brčko

The meetings are a regional traditional event whose concept - the competition of theaters and plays from the region offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy performances.

Organizer: the Government of Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contact: address: Bulevar mira 1, 76100 Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 49 240 600
web site: http://bdcentral.net

TASTES OF THE REGION

Ages of traditional food production and skills in its preparation make every corner of this region tasteful in a special manner. The inhabitants of this region are proud of their cuisine and its regional variations, and are happy to let the visitors feel the tastes of this area.

The cuisine in the Drina-Sava region uses many spices, but usually in moderate quantities. Most dishes are light, as they are cooked in lots of water; the sauces are fully natural, consisting of little more than the natural juices of the vegetables in the dish. Typical ingredients include tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic, bell peppers, cucumbers, carrots, cabbage, mushrooms, spinach, dried and fresh beans, plums, milk, paprika and cream called pavlaka and kajmak, pickled vegetables, dairy products and smoked meats. Typical meat dishes include primarily beef, pork and lamb.

Here is the list of authentic traditional dishes and products of the region with their brief descriptions:

Sarma - minced meat (and rice) rolled in sour cabbage leafs. One of the most loved dishes for the most experienced gourmets.

Ćevapi - grilled minced meat, a type of kebab. Usually served 5-10 pieces on a plate or in a flatbread (lepinje or somun), often with chopped onions, sour cream, kajmak, ajvar, cottage cheese, minced red pepper and salt. Bosnian and Serbian types differ, but they are equally tasty.

Sogan-dolma (meaning stuffed onions in Turkish (soğan dolması)) - a traditional Bosnian dish, considered the specialty of Mostar. Ingredients include onions, minced beef, rice, oil, tomato purée, paprika, vinegar or sour cream, dense natural yogurt, black pepper, salt and spices.

Burek – a meat-filled flaky pastry, traditionally rolled in a spiral and cut into sections for serving. The same dish filled with cottage cheese is called sirnica, one with spinach and cheese zeljanica, and one with potatoes krompiruša.
All these varieties are generically referred to as pita.

• **Sudžuk -** ground meat (usually beef) with various spices including cumin, sumac, garlic, salt and red pepper, fed into a sausage casing and allowed to dry for several weeks. It can be more or less spicy; it is fairly salty and has a high fat content.

• **Gulaš (Goulash) -** a soup or stew of meat, noodles and vegetables, seasoned with paprika and other spices

• **Sataraš -** light stew made of paprika, tomatoes, onions and condiments.

• **Karađorđeva šnicla (Karađorđe's Steak) -** breaded rolled seep fried steak stuffed with kajmak (and occasionally sliced ham and cheese).

• **Krvavice (čurke) -** blood sausages, sausages made by cooking blood or dried blood with a filler until it is thick enough to congeal when cooled.

• **Riblji paprikaš (Fish Stew) -** also called fiš-paprikaš. Fish soup is a usually a warm food made by combining fish or seafood with vegetables and stock, juice, water, or another liquid. Hot soups are additionally characterized by boiling solid ingredients in liquids in a pot until the flavors are extracted, forming a broth.

• **Kulen (Kulin) -** spicy pork sausage made of minced meatand traditionally produced in Croatia (Slavonia) and Serbia (Vojvodina). The meat is low-fat, rather brittle and dense. Red paprika gives it aroma and color, and garlic adds spice. The pieces of kulen are smoked for several months, and later air-dried.

• **Baklava -** a rich, sweet pastry made of layers of filo pastry filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup or honey

• **Hurmašice -** a date-shaped Bosnian pastry drenched in a sweet syrup. The secret of this dessert is the dough, made from few ingredients, but perfect and tasty.

• **Rakija -** a popular alcoholic beverage in Southeast Europe produced by distillation of fermented fruit. Common flavours are šlivovica, produced from plums, kajsija, produced from apricots, grozdova/lozova rakija, produced from grapes. Delicious rakijas are also made of quince, peaches, apples, pears, cherries, figs and blackberries.

Traditional
RECIPES

Kulen

- Ingredients:

1) best quality meat from chops (shoulder, ham and meat of pork neck), 10 kg
2) hard bacon (optional, up to 20% of the meat quantity)
3) hot pepper, 15 g
4) sweet pepper, 15 g
5) garlic, 10g (pureed; put in warm water)
6) salt
7) pepper
8) intestines

Preparation:

Cut half of the overall meat quantity into cubes (size of 5-10 mm), and grind the second part (8-10 mm). Chop the bacon into cubes (5-10 mm), mix everything together and add spices. Stir the mixture on each side for 20 times and, if possible, leave for 2 days. Prepare the intestines (1.5 to 5 kg) for stuffing them with the mixture. Wash them thoroughly in water with a bit of red onion (the outside of the inside and outside to inside). When filling, kulen mixture should always be compacted. Smoke the kulen for 15-30 days when the temperature is above 0 ° C. If the temperature is below 0 ° C, do not smoke, just leave it to the draft.

Sarma

- Ingredients:

1) oil
2) large onion
3) 4 garlic cloves
4) 3–4 slices of bacon
5) 500 g beef mince
6) 500 g pork mince
7) sweet paprika powder
8) salt and pepper
9) 1 cup of white rice, rinsed
10) 6 bay leaves
11) large leaves of sour pickled cabbage, plus 1–2 large leaves extra, to line saucepan
12) 1 kg smoked pork ribs

Preparation:

Heat small amount of oil in a deep pot. Add the onion, garlic and chopped bacon and fry until onion is translucent. Then add the beef and pork mince, paprika and salt and pepper. Mix together thoroughly and cook for about 30 minutes or until the moisture evaporates. Rinse the rice in cold water and add to meat mixture along with the bay leaves.

Take the sour cabbage leaves and wash them thoroughly to remove any excess salt.

Trim any hard bits of stem and cut in half. Smaller leaves can be left whole.
Place a spoonful of the meat mixture onto each individual cabbage leaf and roll it up, tucking the ends in so that the filling is secure. Lay a couple of large outer leaves on the base of a deep greased pot, then begin packing the cabbage rolls on across the top.

In between each layer of cabbage rolls place pieces of the chopped pork ribs.
When pot is completely filled with the cabbage rolls, pour in water to fill up the pot. Then finally place on top some individual layers of sour cabbage leaves to cover all the cabbage rolls. Place tight fitting lid on top and cook on stove top for about one hour. They can be left to rest while extra seasoning is prepared as the final touch. This recipe can be made with fresh cabbage leaves. Blanche the leaves in salted water to soften them before using.

Ćevapi

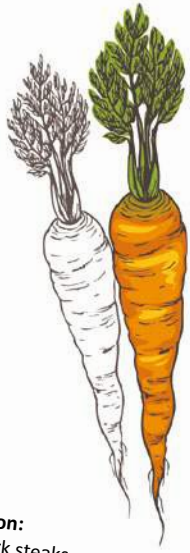
- **Ingredients:**

1. 500g ground beef chuck
2. 250g ground lamb
3. 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
4. 1/2 cup finely chopped onions
5. 1 teaspoon salt
6. Finely chopped onions, for garnish

Preparation:

Mix together beef, lamb, garlic, 1/2 cup chopped onions and salt until thoroughly combined. Roll meat mixture into a long, 3/4-inch cylinder. Cut links at 4-inch intervals. Place on plastic wrap-lined plate, cover with more plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour to firm. Note: Sausages can be frozen at this point. When ready to use, thaw or cook from the frozen state.

Broil ćevapi on a charcoal grill or a preheated oven broiler rack coated with cooking spray 4 to 6 inches from flame, 4 minutes per side or until no longer pink in the middle. They can also be pan fried in a large skillet coated with cooking spray over high heat for a total of about 8 minutes, turning frequently to brown all sides.



Karađorđe's Steak (Karađorđeva šnicla)

- **Ingredients:**

1. 500 g boneless pork steaks,
2. 150 g kajmak (Serbian creamy dairy product) – you can use some cream cheese instead,
3. 2 eggs,
4. flour,
5. bread crumbs,
6. salt.

Preparation:

Pound pork steaks untill they are thin and soft and on each steak put a little kajmak (or cream cheese). Wrap the meat into the rolls and secure each piece with a toothpick.

Coat the steaks in the flour, then dip them into beaten eggs and finally roll in bread crumbs. Fry in hot oil untill golden yellow.

WHAT TO VISIT IN THE REGION

The region's natural beauty and its attractiveness are some of the key prerequisites for the development of tourism, but there are several other components needed for the development of tourism products.

Huge spaces of intact nature, beautiful scenery of the area, gastronomic specialties prepared in traditional way and hospitable people living in the Drina-Sava region have provided for the development of rural tourism. The area can be proud of hundreds of rural households dealing in rural tourism, but it is also famous for ethno villages especially constructed for tourism purposes.

Mountains, hills, rivers, lakes and other natural resources of immense beauty attract the visitors around special interest tourism offers. River and lake rafting, canoeing and kayaking, mountain climbing and hiking, horseback riding, cycling, paraglyding, bird watching, etc. are some of the activities you can experience while visiting this region.

There are several other forms of tourism, such as culture tourism, gastro tourism, wine tourism, event tourism, health tourism, etc. that are deveoped in this region. All of them are best experienced within the thematic routes of the Drina-Sava region.

Every spot of the Drina-Sava region is lovely in its own way, and the visitors will enjoy it even without a guide. Still, here is a list of some of the places that should not be missed.

Bijeljina, Tavna Monastery
The Monastery is located 5 kilometers from village Glavičice. The Monastery was built during the reign of King Dragutin of Serbia, in the period between 1281 and 1316 and it is considered the oldest church among churches and monasteries in this area. People, not only from this area, often visit the Monastery and consider it a holy place, while the water from its source is considered to posses healing powers.

Bogatić, Soviljak Etno Park
This ethno park represents a piece of history of old town Bogatić - Mačva. It is an ethno complex with an authentic garden and a courtyard. It was formed in 1971 and it is one of the first five ethno parks in the former Yugoslavia. Visitors have the opportunity to see the entire interior of the building, handicraft products and to fell the daily life in the countryside.

Brčko, City Hall
After the old part of town along the banks of the Sava and Brka saw a rapid development in early 19th century, primarily due to the export of raw and dry plums, Brčko became a powerful trading center in 1870. In the second half of the 19th century the hotel Posavina and the City Hall were built. Nowadays, these buildings are the symbols of the city, along with other buildings from that period, like houses of famous merchants, the brothers Krsmanović and Kučukalić, which are on the list of cultural heritage sites of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the City Hall visitors can visit the City Hall every day and see the most different art exhibitions in the Town Gallery.

Donji Žabar, Lake Donji Žabar
At the area of 40 hectares, 29 hectares are under water. The Lake is very rich with different species of freshwater fish like carp, grass carp, silver carp, perch, pike and catfish. Fishing on the Lake Žabar is conducted by the principle Catch and Release and all caught fish must be returned to water immediately after measuring and photographing. Many fishing competitions are held on the Lake.

Drenovci, Sanctuary of Mother of Good Hope in Šumanovci
This monastery is the oldest in the territory of the Vukovar-Srijem county, dating back to the 14th century. The construction of the monastery for the Franciscans in the territory was ordered by the Alsani counts. In 1376, the pope Gregory XI gave special absolution to worshippers on pilgrimage to Šumanovci. During the time of the Turks, the sanctuary suffered damage, but after their rule, it became the place of pilgrimage again. In 1822, a new church was built in Šumanovci, in which the statue of the Assumption was exhibited. Pilgrims of the Lady of Šumanovci found 'a sign of hope and consolation in it'. They worship it in large numbers throughout the year on various occasions, and particularly on the Feast of the Assumption and the Nativity of the Virgin Mary.

Ilok, Ilok wine cellars
Wine growing and production have had an uninterrupted tradition of almost 1,800 years in the region of Ilok. In the 3rd century, after the Roman Emperor Probus abolished prohibitions that had been in force on wine growing and production in the Pannonian regions and introduced new quality varieties, the wine-growing hills of Ilok received an impetus for development. The Odescalchi dukes reaffirmed the position of Ilok as an important wine-growing region. In the 17th century, they built unique cellars underneath the Odescalchi castle, planted even more quality varieties and started bottling wine. These old cellars are used to the present day and represent one of the most interesting attractions of Ilok.

In 1899, the Royal School of Viticulture was founded in Ilok, which later developed into the Agricultural School and today's High School for wine growers, wine makers and fruit growers. In addition, there is an increasing number of small and quality private wineries which focus on wine growing and wine tourism. Every visitor can choose to visit one of the typical cellars of Srijem in the hills or under the houses or experience modern wineries. Wherever you choose to go, you will be able to learn about the process of wine production and enjoy a cordial family atmosphere.

Ilok, The Medieval Old Town

The medieval town of Ilok is a cultural and historical landmarked complex preserved by the national government. This small space makes it possible to travel back to the past and stroll through the centuries. Imagine a massive, lofty and elongated fortress, a prince and royal court, a church belfry rising high, a church and monastery with a tower, scattered Islamic buildings of the turbe and hamam, a lush park and public gardens, deeply buried old wine cellars, a belvedere with an unforgettable view of the broad Danube and the plains of Bačka – all of this can be seen and experienced in the medieval town of Ilok, on a small hill surrounded by the Danube and by vineyards.

Loznica, Tronoša Monastery

Tronoša is a Serbian Orthodox Monastery named after the three tiny rivers that merge in one in the vicinity of the monastery field. It is believed that the Monastery of Tronosa was founded by Queen Katarina, the widow of Serbian King Dragutin, shortly after his death in 1317. The church of Tronoša Monastery, which ranks amongst the oldest of the Nemanjić Dynasty endowments, is dedicated to the Presentation of the Holy Virgin in the Church.

Loznica, Tršić
This is the birthplace of a great educator and man who left his mark on Serbian language, literature and culture, Vuk Stefanović Karadžić. There is an ethnographic park with a memorial house and several buildings traditionally constructed in the village. Whole ethno park is situated in the picturesque valley, and this outdoor museum consists of houses, wooden cabins, dairies, gazebos, barns, mills, a church etc. The buildings that once formed an old Serbian household. In these facilities today are: Dositej's museum, Museum exhibition of Vuk's Fairs, Memorial home for the village teacher, a gallery, a guest house, log cabin church of St. Archangel Michael, wooden cabins in which old crafts are presented.

Nijemci, Spačva forest and river
This unique locality is actually a centuries-old oak forest with the largest pool oak in Europe. The River Spačva is special for flowing without any contact with pollutants and running exclusively along Slavonic fields and woods. This river carries only natural scents and unspoiled beauty. This area is ideal for hunting and fishing.

Šabac, Pocerina, Đukanović Yard Ethno Park
In village of Nakučani there is a completely preserved traditional village household from the 19th century, where you can find 9 authentic almost forgotten structures called The Yard of Đukanovićs (Okućnica Đukanovića). This old house with a garden belonged to the Đukanović family (which is mentioned in the population census in 1863) and then became the property of the family Grujić. It is registered as immovable cultural property, which is under protection since 2006.

Šabac, Gospodar Jevremova Street
This spatial, cultural and historical entity consists of the buildings that mirror the trends in architecture and construction of the West European in the second half of the 19th century or the first half of the 20th century. The buildings found here belong to the secession, eclecticism, academicism and modern style. There are several buildings with historical and architectural values that stand out: District offices of the County Podrinjski (1906), The District Court (1907), the House of Šabac's Trade Youth (before WW I), the first house of Dr Andra Jovanović (late 19th century), the House of Saddler Stanić (early 20th century), the building of the first National Pharmacy (1928), the House of Dr Lazar Petrović (built in between two World Wars).

Šabac, the Science Park
This park is actually an expanded school laboratory in the open equipped with 3D tutorial installations. In this lab students learn lessons from physics, geography, chemistry, biology, mathematics, history, philosophy of science in a way that is supportive and active. All installations are directly oriented to subjects in primary and secondary schools, dealing with natural phenomena or laws that often can't be demonstrated in the classroom. Although the Science Park is primarily intedned for students and teachers, it is a very interesting site to be visited by any tourist coming to the region.

Sremska Mitrovica, Sirmium
Today's Sremska Mitrovica called Sirmium in the time of Ancient Rome can be considered a town-monument due to its rich history, especially its status in the Roman Empire. The sites of antique Sirmium attract both local and foreign visitors. Some of its most important sites are the Imperial Palace, the part of the city centre on Grain Square, the Basilica of Saint Demetrius, and the Museum of Srem which is, due to the abundance, value and rarity of the artifacts, especially those from the period of the Roman Empire, one of the most significant institutions of this kind in Serbia. The Art Gallery Lazar Vozarević is another place that every tourist coming to Sremska Mitrovica should visit.

Sremska Mitrovica, National Park Fruška Gora
With its forests, beautiful meadows and surrounding vineyards, this is the ideal place for a relaxing vacation. Fruška Gora also hosts numerous orthodox monasteries of invaluable historical and cultural importance, which have been extremely important for the preservation of national identity and religion of the Serbs for centuries.

Sremska Mitrovica, the Special Nature Reserve Zasavica
Zasavica is a heaven for many and various plants (water lilies, mushrooms) and animals (beavers, otters, swans, fish), known for its clear waters. One exclusivity is that you can find here old races of genetic resources in Serbia, namely: Mangulica-Srem black lasa, Prairie ox and Balkan donkey. The reserve also has a donkey dairy farm, unique in this region.

Vrbanja, Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Situated in the center of the village, this church was built in 1809. The church has a single nave building with a semicircular sanctuary, sacristy southwest wall of the sanctuary and bell tower above the main facade. Its footprint, processing structural elements as well as treatment of the facade and interior of the church is one of the more representative the late Baroque - classicist religious monuments created at the beginning of the 19th century.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION

As stated in the previous chapter, the Drina-Sava region can pride itself for beauties of various kinds, and it will be enjoyed with no help or guidance. Still, it will be best experienced if you explore it along some of its routes, or within the thematic tours. Here are some of the existing routes and tours that will introduce you to the region in interesting and creative ways.

Explore Brčko, Brčko

The tour starts from the old railway station where in 1946 the first youth work actions from the youth of Yugoslavia was organized to build a railway line Brčko - Banovići. After imagining life in the period of Tito's rule, the tour will first take you to the city park and several churches built in the 19th centur, and then to the old part of the town called Serbian Old Town (Srpska Varoš) where you will see houses from the Ottoman period. After visiting the Brčanska Beledija or the City Hall, built during the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the tour goes to the oldest mosque in Brčko - Savska/Atik mosque built in 1600. The tour ends on the bank of the river Sava where you can spend the rest of your day enjoying in the scenery.

Contact: Association of tour guides of Brcko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina
phone: +387 61 889 245
email: turizambrcko@yahoo.com

Danube Cycling Route, Ilok

European cycling routes along the Danube extremely interesting in Ilok because of the height differences and diverse landscapes. This well-marked road is part of the European cycling routes along the Danube River (Eurovelo 6) which through Croatia goes from Udvara (Hungary) to Ilok (138 km). Ilok part of the trail (17 km) passes through Mohovo Šarengrad and Ilok.

Contact: Ilok Tourist Office
address: Trg Nikole Iločkog 2
phone: +385 32 590 020; 592 966
e-mail: tzilok@post.t-com.hr; tourismilok@gmail.com

Sirmium Imperial Palace, Sremska Mitrovica

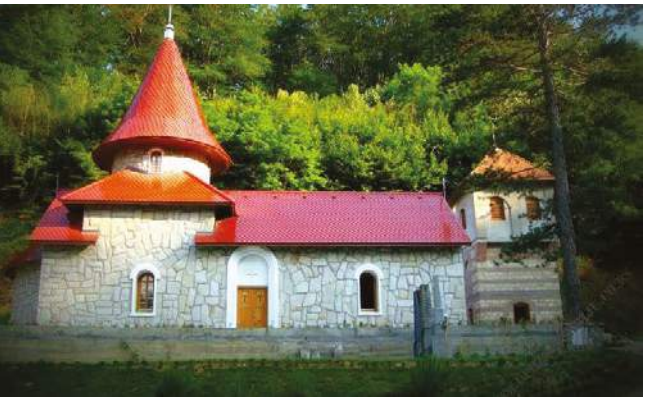
The tour starts at the Sirmium Imperial Palace, a basilica discovered by chance during the construction of an apartment building in 1957. A scale model of Sirmium in the 4th century AD shows a road network, aqueducts, military fortifications and a circus (hippodrome). This only known unexcavated hippodrome was the second biggest in Europe (150 x 450 meters). It is 2–4 meters under the present-day city centre. A guided city tour includes the excavations of Roman handicraft stores and workshops and a visit to the Archaeological Museum near St Demetrius Church. Its collection includes altars of legionnaires, a tombstone with a gryphon on it, a big mosaic from a villa rustica, a statue of Hercules, golden coins of Constantine and Helena made from the Dacian gold and replicas of gold bars. The marble head of the goddess Venus of Sremska Mitrovica (1st century BC) is one of the highlights of the collection.

Contact: The Tourist Organization of Sremska Mitrovica
address: Svetog Dimitrija 10, 22000 Sremska Mitrovica
phone: +381 22 618 275
e-mail: turistorgsm@yahoo.com or prsm.tanja@gmail.com

Cer, Šabac - Loznica

Sightseeing in this area will take you for a walk through various historical epochs: the Roman Empire, the middle Ages and the World War I. A large number of cultural and historical monuments, significant places, spatial areas, monasteries and churches testify to the rich history of this space. Because of its history and the famous Battle of Cer, Cer Mountain is also represented as a memorial mountain.

Contact: Tourist Organization Šabac
address: Karađorđeva 5, Šabac
phone: +381 15 347 383; +381 15 347 384
e-mail: tossabac@gmail.com



The Ilok Wine Road, Ilok

The wine road of Ilok is particularly interesting, and is definitely different from what typical wine roads have to offer because almost all the wineries are concentrated in the town. The wineries, cellars and family wine farms differ in production tradition, assortment and cellar type.

Visitors are recommended to start their walk at the Old Ilok Cellars of the Odescalchi Castle, where the hosts will take them through some parts of the facility and organize wine tasting and prepare cold or warm dishes. After that, at least one new and one old winery in the Upper or Lower Town should be visited and at least three varieties of wine should be tasted. The informative leaflet Welcome to the Danube's Kingdom of Wine will help to organize the tour.

To experience the winegrowing hills and the landscape and walk through vineyards, one should go to the belvedere and vineyards of Principovac, which boasts a magnificent view of the surrounding vineyards, Ilok, the Danube and the easternmost parts of Croatia. In ordet to get a special experience of the wine route or a part of it, any visitor should take a tour on the tourist train of Ilok Cellars (Iločki podrumi).

Contact: Ilok Tourist Office
address: Trg Nikole Iločkog 2
phone: +385 32 590 020; +385 32 592 966
e-mail: tzilok@post.t-com.hr; tourismilok@gmail.com

Hiking - Sultan's Trail, path of peace, Ilok

Süleyman Kanuni, sultan of the Ottoman Empire, made the trip from Istanbul to Vienna for the first time in 1529, and then again in 1532. Both times he did not succeed in penetrating the city of Vienna.

Contrary to its past, the Sultan's Trail nowadays forms a path of peace, a meeting place for people of all faiths and cultures. The trail starts in the centre of Vienna and passes through Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria and ends at the tomb of the Sultan in Istanbul. The Sultan's Trail goes through the northern, continental part Croatia (the Danube area) and passes the following cities, towns and villages: Udvar, Draz, Zmajevac, Bilje, Osijek, Bobota, Vukovar, Sotin, Opatovac, Mohovo, Ilok. The route follows asphalt roads, dirt roads and riding tracks and accommodation facilities are constantly available.

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address: Trg Nikole Iločkog 2
phone: +385 32 590 020; +385 32 592 966
e-mail: tzilok@post.t-com.hr; tourismilok@gmail.com

WHERE TO STAY AND EAT IN THE REGION

The Drina-Sava area offers numerous accommodation facilities suitable for various preferences. The region offers a variety of hotels, multitude of rural households and ethno villages, bed and breakfast facilities, apartments, mountain lodges and camps. Here is a list of several places well known for their quality accommodation and service.

Konoba Stanišić, Stanišić Ethno Village, Bijeljina

Spačva Camp, Nijemci

The camp is located near the Spačva hotel along the highway Zagreb-Lipovac, the centuries-old oak forest along the river Spačva. The camp is made up of 25 huge wine barrels (11.000 liters) with small roofs that protect these sleeping shelters from rain. 15 wood houses triangular in shape accompany the barrels in the camp. Each object is connected to electricity, and it is also provided for car campers. Apart of the camp is designed for about 50 tents and has 5 showers, 6 toilet cabins, a dishwasher and a sink for washing. The camp also has a small kitchen with hot water.

During the year the camp is open from May to September. The total area of the camp is about 15 000 m2. Located in the woods and along the river, the camp is particularly interesting for anglers and hunters, who need several days during their stay.

contact: http://www.hotelspacva.com/

Vila Albedo, Šabac
Villa is specific primarily for its authentic architecture and interior-based family heritage, through an interesting blend of traditional and modern, urban and rural. In the tucked timeless ambiance, guest finds exactly what he needs. A dream embedded in a decades-long work, is shared joyfully with the guests, who, in the quest for peace and harmony, leave their footprints in the environment of original ideas without false glamour. Vila Albedo offers two double and two single bedrooms, with 4 bathrooms.
contact: http://www.villaalbedo.com/

Glušci Ethno Park, Bogatić
Within the ethno park garden in Glušci there is a two-star facility. The village is a home to the nearby Avlija ethno park. The park offersa variety of museum exhibitions and other household items from the past times. It has a typical Mačva room and a Wyatt, and offers a range of activities such as horseback riding and carriage rides.
contact: http://www.etnoparkavlija.com/

Fruk rural household, Vrbanja
This household offers accommodation in a traditional Slavonian house with all necessary accommodation. In addition to the courtyard there are the facilities that symbolize the Slavonia region.
contact: fruk@vk.t-com.hr

Konak Mišić - Tršić, Loznica
In the spirit and the ambience of folk architecture, Konak Mišić is located 50m from Vuk Karadžić Memorial House. Konak is comfortably furnished for guests who wish to spend their holidays in an idyllic natural beauty. In the courtyard there are walled pans, barbecue, terraces for the common room, etc. A stream flows through the yard which is surrounded by the deciduous forest.
contact: konakmisic@gmail.com

The Drina-Sava region is well known for its rich cuisine and delicious food. The list below suggests several places that fit most diverse tastes and demands.

Konoba Stanišić, Stanišić Ethno Village, Bijeljina
The restaurant Konoba Stanišić located at the shore of the lake has over 350 seats (room, hall and terrace) The restaurant is fully furnished in ethno style with a fireplace and a hearth and provides a magnificent view of the museum part of the Stanisići Ethno Village. At the entrance to the restaurant you will be welcomed with bread, salt, walnuts and brandy. The dishes are prepared by top chefs and served by the friendly staff who will offer you a variety of local and internationalmeals and a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
contact: http://www.etno-selo.com/

Ribarska kuća (Fisherman's House) Restaurant Lipovac
Food is based solely on seafood dishes, such as baked or fried carp and catfish or fish stew, which is offered only on Fridays. The menu offers the dishes such as Vienna and Zagreb steaks, chops, grilled squids, chicken, mixed grill. The restaurant has a terrace overlooking the lake and is located near the river and its delta Spačva Opus.
contact: +385 032 270 023

Stari Most (Old Bridge), Šabac
This restaurant has a 40-year experience in catering and wealthy tradition of organizing all kinds of celebrations. It is located on the bank of the River Sava. It takes you a 5-minute drive to reach it from the town centre, but it is still far from the city noise and crowd.
It is a real small oasis of peace where you can relax and enjoy forgetting everyday life. After a meal, you can go for a walk along the flowing river and refresh your thoughts. The restaurant has about 200 parking places, a big hall with 200 seats and summer garden with the same number of seats.
contact: http://www.starimost.rs/

Prolab Lovački dom (Hunters' Lodge), Sremska Mitrovica
This is a unique place if you want to enjoy the local food and drink with an authentic ambience and local Vojvodina ethno music. The house's specialties are venison dishes.
contact: http://www.lovackirestoran.rs/

Notes

DRINA - SAVA REGION

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For the Publisher
Boban Ilić, SWG Secretary General

Editors
Vera Jovanović, SWG Communications and Publicity Expert
Mirela Čaušević, SWG Drina-Sava Technical Assistant
Aleksandar Damnjanović, SWG Drina-Sava Regional Coordinator

Design
Darko Kuzmanov

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Government of Brčko District;
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Aleksandra Velimanović; Aleksandar Stojanović; Branislav Lukić; Dejan Stalović; Ivan Plavšić; Mirela Čaušević, Nikola Nikšić, Radenko Mihajlović

Collaborators
Government of Brčko District - Department of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry;
Bijeljina Town -¬ Department for Economy and Agriculture;
Loznica Town; Šabac Town; Vrbanja Municipality
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The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG RRD) is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisting of members from governmental institutions in South Eastern Europe (SEE) responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective member countries and territories. The SWG is a platform for networking and regional cooperation in SEE in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The SWG is carrying out the project Preparation for Implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans - 2nd phase which works on building the capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming ABD programmes. The project's objective is the contribution to sustainable economic growth of the target regions: Drina– Sava (cross-border region between B&H, HR, SRB), Drina- Tara (cross-border region between B&H, SRB, MNE), Prespa (cross-border region between ALB and MK) and Sharra (cross-border region between ALB, MK and KOS*) by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the fields of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities. The project will create framework conditions within the SWG as organization and the SWG member countries for implementation of the area based development approach and in that way contribute to the sustainable growth of the rural cross-border areas of the SEE region.

This document has been prepared and published with the aim to present the region and its attractions, thus contributing to attracting visitors to the Drina-Sava cross-border area.

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*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

ABD PROGRAMME Area Based Development Programme in the Western Balkan countries

DRINA-SAVA CROSS-BORDER REGION

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