For many travelers, Bosnia and Herzegovina today is a new and unexplored destination. But more than a hundred years ago, the first tourist excursion traveled through the country, which was then under the reign of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The trip was organized by Thomas Cook & Sons Company of London, later on transformed into the Hapag Lloyd. They also published the first “Tourist Guide to the country” in 1898. The two-week tour started at the border between Croatia and Herzegovina in Dobročin including stops in Banja Luka, Jajce, Bugojno, Jablanica, Mostar, Sarajevo, Travnik, Doboj and Tuzla. Shortly after, the Berlin Tourist Office began offering similar trips.

The historical charm of these cities remains and makes them worth visiting. By air Bosnia and Herzegovina today is connected to all European centers and with thoroughfares in and out of Croatia. Visitors now experience scenes of the past on a coach-ride from Ilidža to the Bosna River Spring or the scenic train from Sarajevo to Mostar through the wild and beautiful canyon of the River Neretva. The bus-railroad network is well developed and connected to the largest European transportation hubs. The fact that even after a hundred years you can still take a coach-ride in Sarajevo makes this destination even more attractive.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a melting pot of many different cultures, a bridge between East and West. The traveler’s experience is like none other, from Roman times to the reign of the Bosnian Kings; from the Ottoman Period, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Yugoslavian era with Marshal Tito as its leader.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also a paradise for nature lovers. We have soaring mountains and untouched forests, wild rivers inviting you to come for rafting and canoeing or for taking long walks. The Olympic ski tracks offer the opportunity of enjoying the snow with the affordable prices.

And perhaps our greatest asset is the wonderful hospitality of Bosnian people, along with the traditional Bosnian coffee and cakes, the irresistible Čevapi (grilled minced-meat fingers), wines of long tradition, our lively urban promenades and small cozy places.

WELCOME!

FOR ALL TIME!

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Bosnia and Herzegovina has been populated for more than 100,000 years. Cave drawings near Stolac and numerous remains, exhibited in the National Museum in Sarajevo, are a testament of these ancient civilizations. It is presumed that the name Bosnia comes from Illyrian tribes, considering the fact that in their language the word "bos" signified water. At the same time, Bosna is also the name of one of the most important rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Illyrian tribes who ruled over the entire Balkans lived to see their final fall in the battle against the Romans in the Vranduk Fortress, near Zenica around 6th century BC. The Romans ruled this region until the division into the Eastern and Western Roman empires.

The Roman Period is significant for its road construction throughout the country, the opening of massive mines and trade in its mineral wealth and agricultural products. Today traces of the Roman period can mostly be seen in the cities of Central Bosnia: Zenica, Vareš, Breza, Kiseljak, Travnik, but in Herzegovina as well.

For example in Mogorjelo one has the opportunity to enjoy the ruins of a Roman large estate (Vila Rustica) presented with an excellent Herzegovinian cuisine and lighted at night with torches and accompanied by traditional music and folklore.

In the early 7th century AD Slavs begin a mass settling of the region. In the following centuries there was constant turmoil among Croats, Serbs, and Hungarians and those from the Byzantium Empire. In the late 12th century, the first Bosnian Kingdom emerged and contributed to the development of the region, yet it remained to depend upon Hungary on a large scale. During this period and throughout the country there was a boundary between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church. Bosnia became the Bogomil asylum. Bogomils who fled Bulgaria were accepted and became a part of social life for many years to come.

They left stefci, for history - tombstones, carved stone blocks scattered all around the country. In this period a special Christian Order emerged, the Bosnian Church.
Bosnia and Herzegovina through time

From the 13th century up to the arrival of Ottomans, this Order represented a state religion. The fortress Bobovac, last asylum of Bosnian kings, testifies of the coming of the so-called “Silver Bosnia.”

With the arrival of Turks, Eastern culture and tradition permeated the country. Almost every mosque and, for example, the Old Bridge in Mostar, were developed. The influence of Turkish tradition can be seen in the cuisine, literature and music. A visit to traditional houses with public baths, where mostly women spent their time, will bring you back into this past.

During a short reign of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Western influence has changed the country in many ways: Increased literacy, cultural upbringing, brought a transformation from Oriental to West-European style and the mass construction of new buildings. These differences can be best observed in Ferhadija, pedestrian zone, which begins with an Oriental style and ends with the Western one.

The assassination in Sarajevo of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Franz Ferdinand, was the event that caused the beginning of World War I. Between the two world wars Bosnia was the part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, and only after World War II, it became one of the Yugoslav republics.

As a part of Yugoslavia, the Olympic Winter Games were held in Sarajevo in 1984. With the end of Yugoslavia and proclamation of the autonomy of Bosnia and Herzegovina began one of the most difficult periods for us that brought the pain and suffering to our country. Only with the Dayton Peace Accord has the country became stabilized and has enabled massive reconstruction and historic restoration. Today once again, we offer charm, hospitality and beauty, a Bosnian tradition for the ages.
Can you imagine a place where the new and the old, the traditional and the modern, the East and the West are all inter-twined? Others have said it for us: “The air is freer in Sarajevo...a charming, sophisticated city.”

“...the city [is] a fascinating destination - exotic, safe, shockingly inexpensive by European standards, stuffed with history.”

Sarajevo lets you sample the past. Artisans in the Oriental trade square Baščaršija still forge copper and brass and create filigree art. Enjoy the smell of our fabulous charcoal-grilled čevapčici. Taste delicious Oriental sweets in Slatko čoše and relax in some of the serene outdoor cafés, with a coffee prepared in the traditional Bosnian way.

Use the opportunity to study the history of the city during your visits to mosques, synagogues, and Christian and Orthodox churches, traditional buildings from the Ottoman Period, as well as the bridge where the heir to the Hapsburg throne, Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, the commencement of World War I.

In the evening pay a visit to restaurants on the surrounding Sarajevo hillsides. For example, you may spend a pleasant evening in the Park Prinčeva restaurant with a beautiful view of the city, combined with traditional Bosnian dishes and parlor songs.

Sarajevo is a cultural capital with its Sarajevo Winter in February, Baščaršija-Nights in July, International Folklore Festival, also in July, Sarajevo Film Festival in August, Sarajevo Oriental Music Festival in September, MESS Theatre Festival in October and its November Jazz Festival.

Of course you can always hear live music at Sarajevo’s clubs and restaurants, from the traditional Oriental music to Jazz or Techno played in discoteques.

The mountains surrounding Sarajevo provide skiing in winter (the hosts of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games) and picnics in summer. The waterfalls and the Bosna River Spring are favorite places of Sarajevans and its visitors.
The Bey’s Mosque, Baščaršija

The old part of the city - Baščaršija - is the heartbeat of Sarajevo; every visit to Baščaršija gives you the feeling that you stepped into one of the fairy tales from “1001 Nights.”

Sebilj, the fountain in Baščaršija

Sarajevo offers you serenity, warmth and hospitality. Amidst the rhythms of hectic urban life, people do not fail to miss a morning or afternoon coffee with their friends; it is a ritual they cannot begin or end a day without.

Bezistan

Bezistan represents one of the most popular shopping destinations.
Morića Han - The Morić Inn, carpet shop

Traditional style of the old trade and craft shops, sweet smell of Turkish delight, fresh-roasted coffee or charcoal grilled čevapičići, will follow you during your walk through the old part of the city.

SFF - Sarajevo Film Festival

The Sarajevo Film Festival is now known throughout the world bringing together hundreds of great filmmakers and actors, journalists, film scholars and loyal movie-goers.

The Bosna River Spring

Bosnia, with its natural beauty, emerges at the gate of Sarajevo. The most popular picnic areas are the Olympic mountains, the Skakavac Waterfall, the Trebević Mountain and Barice.
Banja Luka is the largest and the most beautiful city in the north of Bosnia. The river Vrbas gives this town its particular charm. Banja Luka was established during the Roman era when the first forts in the region were built in order to supply and protect an important trade route passing through this area. The Romans had already been using the famous surrounding thermal springs. Today, Banja Luka stands as the economic and cultural center of Northern Bosnia. This city is rich with cultural and historical buildings dating back to the 16th century. Numerous Orthodox monasteries were built more than 400 years ago, many of which are still in use today, including the Gomionica monastery, known for its frescos.

Parks and boulevards are the symbol of this city. You should visit this city and enjoy the shade of old trees in “Mladen Stojanović” Park; or take a walk through the promenades, Gospodarska Street; visit the Art Gallery and the Museum of the Republika Srpska and the Castellum fortress on the Vrbas River. End a hot summer day with a delicious meal in a restaurant near the cold river Vrbas. Banja Luka is the city of festivals and during this period it offers you a special atmosphere: the Theatre Festival “Teatar Fest” (in May), the Month of Rock-Music (in June) or the Banja Luka Summer Games (in August).

The National Park Kozara called “the green beauty of Krajina” is only 40 km from the city of Banja Luka. It is surrounded with the most beautiful rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sava, Una, Sana and Vrbas. This is an ideal area for hunting, fishing, walking, hiking, biking and skiing in wintertime.
Mostar, the most beautiful city in Herzegovina, has been proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its Old Town and its Stari Grad, the famous bridge over the turquoise-green Neretva River. Here, in the heart of the city every day, people from all over the globe meet and admire the art and skill of Turkish architecture, enjoying the charm of ancient buildings along interwoven streets.

Get to know the city by visiting lively cafés and peaceful galleries. Find yourself a quiet spot in the yards of old mosques, go under the bridge to see famous jumpers, who maintain this tradition for decades by performing daring jumps from the 25 m. - high bridge.

Perhaps you will be lucky enough to come to Mostar during one of the many music festivals: the Summer Festival with traditional dances, music, games, traditional costumes, home cuisine and wine; or the Bridge Jumper Festival, where young jumpers from all over the world, eager for admiration, show their skills.

Ferhatinka

These famous love songs have some elements of traditional Oriental music.

They emerged during the period of the Ottoman era. One of the most famous songs was written by Aleksa Pantic, who praised a girl Enina from Mostar in verse.
Especially distinguished are Herzegovinian wines “Blatina” (red wine) and “Žilavka” (white wine), made from grapes of that region. Even the Austrian Czar’s House ordered their vines from here; therefore “Žilavka” had already been perpetuated in the Schönbrunn.

The geographic location and the Mediterranean climate makes Herzegovina the garden of our country with its orchards cultivated since Roman times. For example, the large estate Mogorjelo was built by them. The region is still famous for the production of citrus fruits, figs and olives, as well as honey and medicinal herbs.
Stećci, the tombstones, often referred to as “stone sleepers,” are one of the oldest witnesses of the B&H history. Throughout the country you can come across a single stećak or collections of monoliths, often decorated with animals and ornaments. For example, some of the interesting stećci are to be found in Radimlja.

Medugorje is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in Europe. During a year, thousands of pilgrims from all around the world come to pray to the Virgin Mary for help and consolation. In August, Medugorje provides the gathering place of young people.
Bjelašnica and Jahorina mountains were the hosts of the Winter Olympic Games in 1984. Both are situated near Sarajevo and are connected by very good roads and public transportation during the winter season. Enjoy winter sports in beautiful surroundings, and skiing areas which are approximately 1500 and 2000 m above sea level.

Jahorina has many modern hotels (with wellness-centers), four ski lifts and 20,000 km of ski tracks, suiting the needs of both beginners and experts. Bring your own ski and snowboard equipment or rent in there.

There is an extensive selection of renovated facilities and a new hotel and apartment complex on Bjelašnica, designed by French architects, to be open for the 2006/2007 season.

Those who want to avoid crowd on the ski tracks, will find peace and relaxation in a walk towards the peaceful mountain villages with the untouched nature and fascinating panorama. True fans of winter sports can find the small ski areas in Kupres, Blidinje and Vlašić also convenient.
Herzegovina
More than any country in Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted a blend of cultural influences. For centuries, different cultures, traditions, customs, and religions have passed through our country, each leaving something behind and, at the same time, transforming and adapting to the next. Traditional handicrafts from Sarajevo or famous stonemasons from Konjic, as well as music and folklore from different regions, and international writers such as Ivo Andrić, the Nobel Prize winner (The Bridge over the Drina) or Meša Selimović, known for his novel, Death and the Dervish, have all contributed to our rich multicultural heritage.

Danis Tanović, who won an Oscar for his film, “No Man’s Land,” or Jasmila Žbanić, who won Golden Berlin Bear for the film “Grača,” are just two of the currently celebrated people from the Bosnian cultural community.
Many galleries in Počitelj, near Mostar, give a visible image of various influences upon painters. Počitelj, a famous art colony, has been representing an inspiration and asylum for artists from all around Europe for decades. Počitelj is the place that will arouse even the best-hidden emotions and fascinate you with its tranquility and beauty for all time.

People of Bosnia and Herzegovina belong to different religions, cultures and even though they have different customs and tradition, all of them are said to be superstitious. Fortune telling, reading a coffee cup, beans, palm or cards are still very popular, especially with old women in small rural places. However, superstitious beliefs such as that split coffee brings luck to one who spills it, that all illnesses are caused by a draft, that there should be a few extra slippers for guests, or that it is always good to prepare some food for one person extra should they decide to visit you...are just a part of the whole panoply of customs and beliefs of local rural population.

Myths about the creation of our cities and villages and myths about our heroes have carried over from one generation to the next. Flow into the world of imagination and try to grasp the idea of what it is that makes our country such a charming destination and a wondrous place for all time.
Bosnia and Herzegovina does not only represent culture and tradition. The greatest wealth are beautiful landscapes and wild primeval nature. Thick forests, wild rivers, rare and unique endemic plants and animals, sharp mountains and beautiful hills or mysterious caves can be found in our country. Whether you want to take a walk, take a hike, or just conquer a mountain peak, one day out in the nature will make a strong impression on you. A day in the mountains, where air is fresh and clean, and flowers and pine trees smell wonderfully, or just one view of numerous hills and mountains will provide you with pleasure, serenity and unforgettable experience.

For more than 60 years, this unique landscape has been protected by different National and Nature Parks. One of the most beautiful ones is the National Park in Krajina, in the north of Bosnia, with its numerous rivers.

The National Park Sutjeska, near Foča on the border with Montenegro, hides one of the last Europe primeval forests (Peručica). A beautiful, heart-shaped Trnovačko Lake and other small lakes lure you to take long walks.
Štrbački buk, the Waterfall on the Una river

Little mountain lodges and small campsites offer you a several-day stay in the National Park. Ambitious mountaineers come to conquer Maglić, which is the highest peak in B&H (2.400 m.) and enjoy the beauty of the landscapes from above.

The Nature Park Tajan, near Zavidovići in the central part of Bosnia, is also protected. Numerous canyons and caves are absolutely astonishing. On the other hand, Blidinje which is near Posušje offers you typical mountain flora and fauna.

Hutovo blato, the Mediterranean swamp near the Adriatic Sea, is bird reserve and intermediate station of migratory birds. Around 240 bird species can be found over a year. Thus, Hutovo Blato is one of the most protected areas in the Balkans.

Hutovo Blato, the Nature Park near Mostar

Lukomir, eco-village on the Bjelašnica mountain
If you want to feel the power of nature you should go rafting on the rivers of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Neretva, Vrbas, Una and Tara - memory of these rivers will never fade.

Some parts of breathtaking wild canyons and rapids are very demanding. Only a team can conquer these challenging parts of the river, and at the end they can sit around the campfire and talk about that wonderful adventure. People from all around Europe come to participate in regatta.

If you prefer more relaxing activities, you should go canoeing, hiking or rafting.

In summer time, crystal-clear lakes are real refreshment for swimmers.

B&H is very proud of its water resources: mineral and thermal springs, rivers and waterfalls, lakes, as well as a small piece of the Adriatic Sea.

This is a country where you can fish or if you are not willing to throw a fish-hook you can try some of the exceptionally prepared trout on Buna.
The official title: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Capital city: Sarajevo

Geographic location: Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula.

Neighbouring countries: Federal Republic Serbia and Montenegro in the east, Republic Croatia in the north, west and south.

Administrative division: Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into two entities: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, District BiH.

Area: Bosnia and Herzegovina - total 51,209,2 km² (land - 51,697 km², water - 12,2 km²)
The lowest point: the city of Neum, 0 m

The highest point: Maglic, 2386 m

Climate: mostly Continental, Mediterranean in the south (Herzegovina).

Population: 3,832,301 (stated on 30.06.2003.)

The evaluation of total population in all the bigger cities: Sarajevo 401,687, Mostar 105,454, Bihać 60,741, Tuzla 131,856, Zenica 128,604, Travnik 51,446, Banja Luka 224,847 (stated in 30.06.2004.).

Population structure: Bosniaks, Croats, Serbs and other minorities.

Official languages: Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (Bosnian and Croatian are written in Latin alphabet, Serbian in Cyrillic alphabet).

Official currencies: Convertible marka (KM). Ratio: 1 KM = 100 pengün. Parity: 1 KM = 0.51129 EUR; 1.95 KM = 1 EUR.

Public holidays: 01.01., 02.01., 01.04., 01.05., 02.05., and 25.11.

Entry procedures - required documents: Passport, EU citizens do not require a visa to enter the country; there are no legal requirements for vaccinations.

Driving license: International driving license is not required; all types are acceptable. Green card is required.

Carrying in/out of foreign currency for foreigners: the amount is not limited, check-in at the border required.

INFO TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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Zelenih beretki 22a
Tel: 00387 33 220 726, 220 721
Fax: 00387 33553520
Kurta Schorka 36 - airport
Tel: 00387 33 289 372
www.sarajevo-tourism.com
www.bhtourism.ba
tourinfo@bih.net.ba

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE MOSTAR
Rade Bišance 5
Tel: 036/380 275
hercegovina@hercegovina.ba
www.hercegovina.ba
1. SARAJEVO AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL EVENTS
SARAJEVO ART (PROGRAM OF CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE CITY)
Dalmatinca 2/1
Tel: 033 31 207 921
Fax: 033 31 207 972
www.sarajevonaart.ba
kocaga@bih.net.ba

SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL - SFF
(in the month of August)
Zeilenh bereket 12
Tel: 033 31 207 911
www.sff.org
info-sff@sff.org

SARAJEVO WINTER
(held in the month of February)
Marala Tita 5a
Tel: 033 31 207 945
Fax: 033 31 207 968
www.sarajevawinter.ba
ibrosa@bih.net.ba

BAČARŠIJA NIGHTS
Dalmatinca 2/1
Tel: 033 31 207 927
Fax: 033 31 207 922
www.sarajevonaart.ba
kocaga@bih.net.ba

MESS - INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL
(held in the month of October)
Marala Tita 5/4
Tel: 033 31 207 950
Fax: 033 31 207 977
www.mess.ba
mess@mess.ba

JAZZ FESTIVAL
(held in the month of November)
Jazz fast Sarajevo
P.O. Box 600
Tel: 033 61 881 513
www.jazzfestival.ba
info@jazzfestival.ba

OLYMPIC CENTRES

OLYMPIC CENTRE JAHORINA
Hotel Bistrica sjediste
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office@ac-jahorina.ba

TOURIST ORGANIZATION OF THE EAST SARAJEVO
Dobrovolna kvedenica bb
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www.turizam-isa.com
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ZOI 84 OLYMPIC CENTRES SARAJEVO
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zoid84@bih.net.ba

2. OTHER WINTER CENTRES IN B&H

VLAŠIĆ
TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF CANTON SREDBINA, BOSNA
Bosanska 75
Tel: 033 50 511 988
Fax: 033 50 511 988
www.tourismassoc.ba
www.vласић.рф

3. ECO TOURISM

NATIONAL PARKS

SUĐIJEŠKA
Tel: 033 57 520 502
Fax: 033 57 520 502
www.npсудијешка.srbija.net
npсудијешка@bih.net.ba

KOZARA
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www.npkozara.com
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NATURAL PARKS/HOTEL BLATO
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