

# Belgrade Attractions

## *-Belgrade Fortress-*

The Belgrade Fortress changed and developed throughout the centuries, it saw many armies, was the field of many battles, it witnessed the brutality of the conquerors and the courage of the tireless defenders of the city. It was the place where Belgrade started to develop.



The Fortress was built in stages, during the lengthy period between the 1st and 18th century, from a Roman castrum, through a Byzantine castle and the remains of the medieval capital of the Serb Despotate, all the way to an Austrian-Ottoman artillery fortification. The complex consists of the fortress itself, divided into the *Upper Town* (Despot's Gate, Sahat kula- Clock Tower, Roman Well, Statue of the Victor), *Lower Town* (Nebojša Tower, Amam- Turkish bath, Gate of Charles VI) and the *Kalemegdan Park*, home to busts of important persons from Serbian history, science and culture.



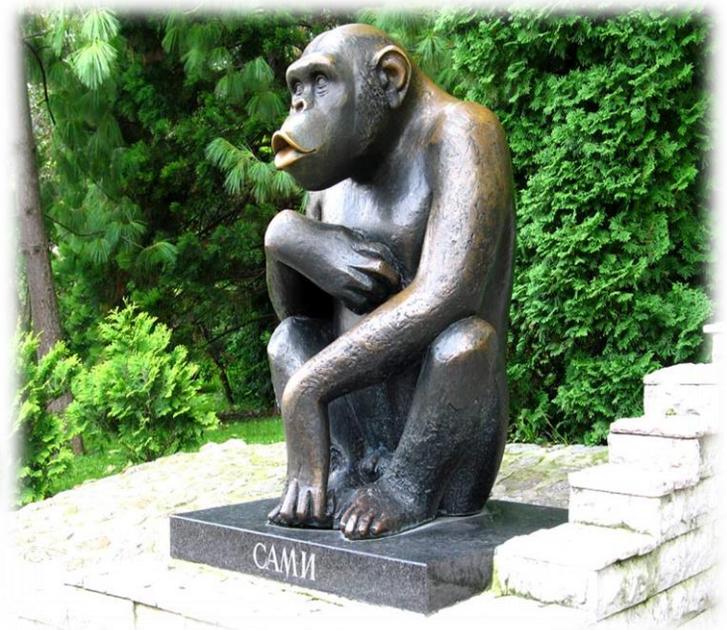
The Belgrade Fortress offers an exciting view of the confluence of Sava and Danube, of New Belgrade and Zemun. The Kalemegdan Park contains the Cvijeta Zuzorić Pavilion, the Grand Stairway, the Zoo, children's park and a number of

monuments and sculptures, several sports courts, a museum, a café and a restaurant.

## *-Zoo- Garden of Hope-*

Located in the heart of the city, the Belgrade Zoo, also known as the *Garden of Hope*, is located in one of the most attractive locations in the city- Kalemegdan Park.

Founded in 1936, it is one of the oldest animal collections in Europe. It was bombed twice during World War II, first in 1941 by the Nazis, then by the allies in 1944. Nearly all the animals were killed during the bombings, while some escaped their cages and roamed free around town. The contemporary zoo spans a surface area of 6 hectares, with over 2,000 animals from 200 species. On the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday it was presented with a monument to its once most interesting and beloved of residents and the first chimp to arrive at the zoo, the ape Sammy.



The cashiers are open between 8 and 16:30 h in winter, and 8 to 20 h in the summer.

## *-Knez Mihailova Street-*



Pedestrian zone and commercial center- Knez Mihailova Street is protected by law since it is one of the oldest and most important monumental urban environments.

Knez Mihailova is composed of multiple buildings and representative houses constructed at the end of the 1870s.

It is thought

that the center of the population of Singidunum was established here during Roman times and that it was full of streets with gardens, fountains and mosques during the Ottoman Empire. After the elaboration of the Regulation of Urban Planning in 1867, the street was constructed rapidly to acquire its current physiognomy. It is in this street where influential personalities and rich families of the commercial and political fields of Belgrade got their houses built.

In 1870, the Administrative Office of the City designated the current name Prince Mihailo's Street.

## *-Republic Square-*

The existing square was formed after the demolition of Stambol Gate and the construction of the National Theatre building in 1869.

Stambol Gate, built by the Austrians at the turn of the 18th century, was located between the



monument to Prince Mihailo and the National Theatre. The road to Istanbul led through it, lending the gate its name. In popular accounts the Stambol Gate became infamous for the Turkish custom of slaughtering Serbian rebels in front of it, using one of the most horrifying methods of execution-impalement.

The National Theatre stood as the sole building for over 30 years. When the monument to Prince Mihailo was erected in 1882, the gradual urban shaping of the square began. A long-lying ground-level building was constructed at the location of today's National Museum, housing, among others, the famous Dardaneli inn, the gathering place for the artists of the time. The building was demolished for the construction of the Funds Authority building in 1903 (today's National Museum building).

The small park next to the National Theatre housed the famous inn and cinema Kolarac until World War II (the building was the property of the merchant and benefactor Ilija Milosavljević Kolarac). The Riunione Palace, housing the Jadran cinema, was built in 1930.

The tram tracks

were removed after World War II and the square holding the graves and memorials of the Red Army soldiers killed during the liberation of Belgrade in 1944 was moved (their mortal remains were moved to the Graveyard of the Liberators of Belgrade).



## *-Nikola Pasic Square-*

It was a barren meadow crossed by the Istanbul Road during the first half of the 19th century. A section of the road gradually became a street first called the Sokače kod Zlatnog topa (Alley at the Golden Cannon, after a nearby inn), then Markova Street. One of the largest Turkish mosques- Batal Mosque- stood near the place now occupied by the National Assembly. It was demolished in 1869.

The square mostly housed ground-level and single-story houses after World War I. One of those housed the Court of the Belgrade County, turned into the ill-reputed Gestapo prison during the German occupation. The buildings of the National Assembly, Agrarian Bank, Vreme magazine (today's Borba), Beograd cinema and a number of other buildings were constructed between the two world wars.

The urban and architectural shaping of the square began immediately after World War II, when the old buildings were demolished, the tram turn was moved, the fountain was built, the fences in front of the former royal garden and National Assembly were removed and a large number of buildings were constructed, including the Dom Sindikata. The square was called Marx & Engels Square for a long time.

## *-Skadarlija-*

This ambiantal nook of Belgrade, still standing to this day, is preserved in the area of



Skadarska Street around the bohemian Tri šešira inn. These were small houses, but a few of which remain. The house where the Tri šešira inn stands today is typical, built in the second half of the 19th century, the abode of former bohemians. The aqueduct of the Bulbulder waterway with 14 arches once stood in the middle of the mahala, in front of the subsequently built house of Đura Jakšić, as the sole reminder of times gone by. During the 19th century this used to be the Skadar Gate with the Skadar Drinking-Fountain.

A stream once ran down the center of the street, quite treacherous in heavy rain. The 19th century Belgrade press noted a curious event: In Skadarska Street, as heading towards Mala pivara, the water level got so high during last night's rain, that considerable damage was wrought for some. One woman nearly paid with her life. Marija, wife to Nikola Jovanović the glassblower, went out into the street just as the flood hit hard. At that exact moment, the water caught her in its turbulent wake and carried her all the way to the stream below Mala pivara, from whence the neighbors extricated her with great difficulties.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Gipsy settlements slowly vanished and the former sheds were replaced by more sturdy houses



accommodating artisans, caterers and petty clerks. Houses were built spontaneously, under a strong Eastern influence, and yards were linked with gates through which one could always run over to the neighbor's. There was a habit of planting oleanders in wooden barrels along the street. They formed a sort of fence creating comfortable shade for the residents of Skadarlija in front of their houses, at the same time endowing the street with a unique atmosphere.

In mid 19th century, the construction of the future industrial complex was launched among Skadarlija's small houses, first known as Mala pivara (Small Brewery), later as Bajlonijeva pivara. Most likely in the course of the second half of the 19th century, the following inns were opened: Bums keler, Vuk Karadžić, Zlatni bokal, Miloš Obilić and Bandist, and the loudest of all - Tri šešira and Dva jelena.

The proximity of the National Theatre and the former operatic and vaudevillian hall of today's Balkan Cinema made this area popular and attractive. Following the demolition of the Dardaneli Inn in 1901- which lay in the location of today's National Museum.

The adaptation of Skadarlija began in 1966, based on projects by the architect Uglješa Bogunović. In an attempt to retain this part of old Belgrade, a reconstruction and revitalization of Skadarska Street was performed. The goal was to bring back the features this specific ambient once had, to revive tradition and add contemporary new sights. Traffic was eliminated from Skadarlija,

a fountain was erected, the old cobbles, lanterns and candelabra were brought back, the Tri šešira, Dva jelena and Skadarlija inns were added to, while the interiors of the Ima dana, Zlatan bokal and Dva bela goluba were remodeled. The fortune-teller Ljubica reminded of the olden times, entertaining tourists with her

predictions, along with the old drummer Šole and painters transferring motifs from Skadarlija onto canvas.

During the seventies Skadarlija became a sister to the Parisian Montmartre quarter. A procession of French painters and musicians paraded down our famous street when the charter on cooperation was signed. The following year, our artists returned the visit.



### *-Students' Square-*

During Turkish times it was the location of a Turkish Cemetery, remaining in place until the second half of the 19th century.

The Serbian authorities opened a Pazarište (Grand Market) in part of the area of today's University Park. The most beautiful decoration in the square at the time was Captain Miša's Mansion, erected in 1863. It currently houses the Rectorate of the University of Belgrade.

When the Grand Market was removed in 1927, the entire area was turned into a park where a monument to Josif Pančić was erected in 1897, while the monument to Dositej Obradović was moved there in 1930. The park once held the fountain built in honour of King Aleksandar Obrenović. The Students' Square





## *-Kosancicev venac-*

Kosancicev venac is located in the heart of the city. Paved with Turkish cobblestones, it has kept the atmosphere of the 19th century, with lovely cafés, galleries and wineries.

Right here, on the 6th April 1941, the National Library was bombed and destroyed. Residence of Princess Ljubica, a private residence built by Prince Milos Obrenovic and dedicated to his spouse, is also located in Kosancicev venac.

Every Saturday you can find here a lively atmosphere within a tourist tour. A Coffee with Princess Ljubica when curator of the Museum of the City of Belgrade dressed as a Princess welcomes visitors. This is a unique opportunity to find out more about life in Belgrade during the reign of the Obrenovic dynasty.

*Church of St. Arhangel Mihailo* is located nearby the Residence, also built by order of Prince Milos Obrenovic.

Two widely known Serbian reformers Dositej Obradovic and Vuk Karadzic are buried here. Just across the street, the oldest Belgrade kafana *Znak pitanja (?)* attracts visitors from all over. Kafana is built in typical Balkan style and offers authentic ambience, traditional Serbian dishes and live music.

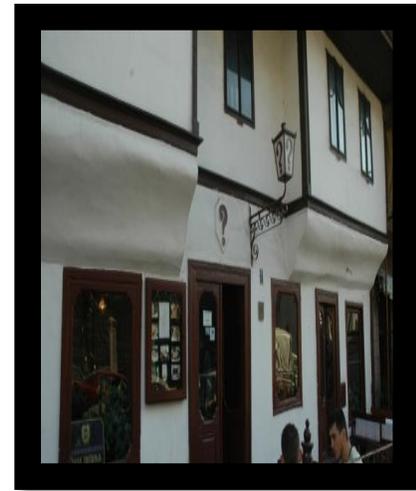


## *-Restaurant Question Mark-*

The oldest of Belgrade inns, The Question mark, is located in Kralja Petra Street 6 and is one of the symbols of Belgrade.

Erected in 1823 as the property of Prince Miloš Obrenović, it was built by masters from Grezia in the Balkans style. It had changed owners and names since 1878. First it was called *At the Shepherd's* in 1878, then in 1892 *At the Cathedral Church*

but church



authorities protested

so the owner put the question mark sign at the door as a temporary solution and it remained there to this day. It housed the first billiards game in Belgrade in 1834 and was the first reading room for the Serbian Papers from the same year.

## *-Slavija Square-*

The square was a marshy pond prior to 1880, where the citizens of Belgrade hunted wild ducks. The Scotsman Francis McKenzie purchased a large area above the modern-day square and parcelled it up to be resold, and thus



its development began.

McKenzie built the Peace Hall on Slavija in 1885, as the central building of the settlement, turning into the centre of the workers' movement in 1910. The Slavija cinema stood there after World War II, until it was torn down in 1991. The Slavija Hotel was built between 1882 and 1888. The name Slavija originates with the chief architect and it stuck to this day, remaining as the name of the entire Square. The other smaller buildings at the corner of Kralja Milana Street and the square, housing the famous Tri seljaka (Three Peasants) and Rudničanin inns, were torn down before and during World War II.

The new hotel Slavija was erected in 1962. The square bore the name of the prominent leader of the socialist movement in Serbia Dimitrije Tucović for a while, with his monument set up at the centre of the square. Slavija is one of the main landmarks of Belgrade, an important nexus of traffic, but also an incomplete urbanistic environment with considerable work remaining to be done. Slavija is also one of the most demanding roundabouts you will encounter.

### *-Ada Ciganlija-*

Ada Ciganlija proudly bears the name of Belgrade Sea. Green, clean, equipped and relaxed, it becomes the favourite spot of Belgraders with the first signs of the spring sun. From the early mornings until late into the night, Ada Ciganlija is always lively.

Ada Ciganlija was, in fact, turned into a peninsula by human hands, surrounded by an embankment and bounded by the Sava River on one and the Sava Lake on the other side.

Ada is a true ecological oasis of Belgrade, decorated with clean waters and a thick deciduous forest. It is a natural habitat for a large number of bird, rodent and insect species. The Sava Lake is home to a large number of fish.

Apart from swimming, you can row a boat, a kayak or a canoe on the lake, play water polo, windsurf, water-ski using a specially constructed cable-pulley, descend down toboggans, ride pedal-boats.

Beside swimming, you can ride a bicycle, play football, basketball, volleyball, handball, tennis, baseball, golf, rugby, field hockey, lift your adrenaline levels bungee jumping, relax fishing on specially built platforms or sharpen your spirit and body free climbing an artificial rock. For total relaxation choose one of over 70 restaurants and cafes along the lake shoreline and the rafts, and have a bit of respite.

### *-Savamala-*

One of the oldest parts of Belgrade, the first to be built outside the walls of Belgrade Fortress and the first that most visitors encounter as it is located next to the train and bus station, Savamala was also once the center of the city. After the pedestrian zone was moved to Knez Mihailova Street, Savamala lingered as an industrial district. Decades later it was transformed into one of the most popular parts of Belgrade, and is now known as an urban design neighborhood. Savamala's name comes from the river Sava and the Turkish word mahala, which means settlement or a small town.

### ♥ *Geozavod building*

Constructed between in 1905 and in 1907 in the spirit of eclecticism with prominent elements of baroque and Art Nouveau, the building of the Geological Institute is one of the anthological examples of contemporary Serbian architecture, and today it is a protected monument.



### ♥ *Hotel Bristol*

Built in 1912 in the spirit of classicism, the building was originally the home of the insurance and Credit Cooperative Society of Belgrade. During the World Congress of Bankers and Financial Experts, Belgrade was visited by a member of the famous Rockefeller family, thanks to whom the hotel was renovated.



### ♥ *Branko's bridge*



The Bridge of King Alexander was put into operation in December 1934. Belgraders call it The Sava Bridge or The Bridge of Brankova Street. Many believe that it is named after Branko Ćopić, who ended his life by jumping from the bridge, but it and the street are actually named after the poet Branko Radicević.