



HOW TO GET TO BELGRADE & HOW TO FIND IAESTE LOCAL COMMITTEE BELGRADE OFFICE?

By plane:

You will land at the Belgrade International Airport Nikola Tesla (BEG) (web address: <http://www.beg.aero/welcome.54.html>) which is located 18 km west of Belgrade. Once you land, we advise you to change at least 25\$ (20 EUR) at the exchange office in banks at the airport. Approximate exchange rate is 1\$ = 85 dinars; 1 EUR = 112 dinars.

Transfer to and from the airport:



Zeleni venac



Slavija square

You can take mini bus line A1 which goes directly from the airport to the Slavija square. Ticket price is 250 dinars (around 2,5 euros) and you can buy it in the bus from the bus-driver. You will travel approximately 30 minutes. First bus stop of the line 1 is the airport and the last is Slavija square which is where you should get down. Once you find the bus stop at the airport you should call or text the person who you were told will wait for you so that he/she can come on time at Slavija square.

The other option is by public transport, city bus, which also goes directly from the airport. The bus line is 72 and those buses are convenient for your luggage. One very important information: You need to buy a ticket for the bus at the newspaper stand or in the bus itself from the bus-driver. Price of the ticket is 60 dinars (~€0,5) on the newspaper-stand and 120 dinars (~€1) in the bus. Line #72 runs twice an hour. Once again when you find the bus stop at the airport you should call or text the person who you were told will wait for you at Zeleni venac, so he/she can come there on time. First bus stop is in front of the airport and you have to go to the last stop at Zeleni venac, where you will see McDonald's. If you decide to take the city bus, someone from IAESTE Belgrade will wait for you in front of the McDonald's at Zeleni venac and then you will be accompanied by him/her to the office and then to your accommodation. We will send you phone number of the person that will be waiting for you, few days before your arrival. It is important that you check your bus ticket inside of the bus in one of the ticketing machines because there is a person controlling that in the bus. When you enter the bus you will see ticketing machine close to each door.

Besides the bus, you can always take a taxi from the airport and say (or show on the piece of paper) the magic word to the taxi-driver: "Karnegijeva 4" and he will take you in no time. Problem with taxi-drivers is that you can be easily cheated, that's why we recommend you to take a bus. If you really want to take a taxi insist that the trip be metered.

Here is the list and phone numbers of some taxi companies:

Beogradski taxi:
+381 11 9801

Beotaxi:
+381 11 970

Plavi taxi
+381 11 3 555-999

You will recognize taxi vehicles by a plate on the rooftop that says „TAXI“ with a vehicle number which will be given to you if you make a call reservation. For call reservations you get some discount, but among all we recommend you the first one (Beogradski taxi) where you can get a ride from the airport to anywhere in Belgrade for 1200-1300 dinars (~€12). If you choose another taxi company, the price of the ride should be around 1500 dinars (~€15). But we must warn you, some incoming students were cheated anyway! If your choice is taxi, you should inform us about that before your arrival. In that case, you can call us from the airport and we can make this call reservation for you and send a cab to pick you up. You should come with a cab to IAESTE office, Karnegijeva 4, which is in the building of the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy (TMF), on the first floor. If you have any problem with a taxi-driver you can always call us to come down and solve the situation.

Please notify us about which way you have chosen to come from the airport before your arrival.

||||| By train or bus:

Belgrade main railway and bus station are next to each other and right beneath the Slavija Square. If you want notify us in advance so we can wait you at the bus/train station itself. In other case you could take a tram #2 or #7, directly in front of the railway station and get off at the 2nd stop (for tram #2), or 3rd stop (for tram #7) in front of the hotel "Metropol". Afterwards, you can walk to the IAESTE office located in the building of the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy (TMF), Karnegijeva 4, on the first floor.



Belgrade tram

ONCE YOU GET TO BELGRADE

After landing and changing some money at the airport, you should call us. In order to use the phone from your country, you need to check if it has some sort of a code or blockage that doesn't allow you to use it abroad or with other SIM cards. The person waiting for you can help you if you want to buy a Serbian SIM card, so you should ask him/her about it. If your phone is not working here buy a phone card which is called "Halo card". Halo card costs from 200 to 300 dinars, depending on the talking time (credit) included. You can buy it at street-newspaper stands. They are painted red and easy to spot. In case you change your plans for whatever the reason might be, please - inform the person whose contact you got and who should be waiting for you.

Time Zone:

GMT/UTC +1 hour, (We change to 'summer time' every last Sunday in March by adding +1h and to 'winter time' every last Saturday in October subtracting -1h).

Weather:

During the summer months it could be really hot in Serbia. It can be up to 40 degrees in period July-August. You should bring light wardrobe, swimsuit and sport equipment. During May and September it should be hot with average temperature of 25 degrees. If you are staying during autumn too, than it starts raining and it's a little bit colder so you should bring proper clothes. But keep in mind that there is a dress code for your trainee position that you should follow (nothing above knees or open footwear).

Languages:

The official language is Serbian. One of the rather confusing things about Serbian language is its alphabet, since two of them are used equally. Latin and Serbian Cyrillic are completely equivalent and all Serbs are familiar with both. There is no general rule in choosing the alphabet.

Most people in Serbia speak or understand English.

Money, currency and cost of living:

The official currency is the dinar (RSD). Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 dinars. Paper bills: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 dinars. Currency may be exchanged in all banks and post offices, as well as in the many authorized exchange offices (locally called menjaènica), which are clearly labeled and they are numerous in central Belgrade, or at the airport. There are also ATMs, which accept foreign credit cards.

Visa, Visa Electron, Mastercard and Maestro are widely accepted. American Express and Diners Club cards are, on the other hand, rarely accepted. Likewise, traveler's cheques are not a well known form of payment in Serbia. The dinar is not widely convertible outside Serbia; it is advisable to re-convert your remaining dinars to euros or other major currencies before leaving the country.

Western Union (<http://www.westernunion.com/>) transfers can be made at most banks and major post offices.

Belgrade has an average cost of living for European standards.



Prices in the supermarket:

- Bread - 45 dinars
- Milk 1l - 80 dinars
- Sunflower oil 1l - 103-130 dinars
- Sugar 1kg - 100 dinars
- Potato 1kg - 50 dinars
- Apples 1kg - 55-100 dinars
- Rice 1kg - 120 dinars
- Chicken 1kg - 300 dinars
- Pork 1kg - 500 dinars
- Wine 1l, average quality - 350 dinars
- Water 0.5l - 50 dinars
- Coca-Cola 2l - 100 dinars
- Juice 1l - 80-150 dinars
- Beer - 80-100 dinars
- Cigarettes - 115-250 dinars

Restaurants and Fast Foods:

- Meal in the average restaurant - around 650 dinars
- Fast Food - 200 dinars
- Meal at McDonalds - 350 dinars
- Espresso coffee in bars - 150-200 dinars
- Water 0,33l in bars - 80-120 dinars
- Coca-Cola in bars - 130-200 dinars
- Domestic beer in bars - 150-200 dinars

Safety:

Street crime in Belgrade is very rare and there are no areas of city which are less safe than others. In contrast to many countries, it is common place in Serbian cities for women to return home unaccompanied using public transport late at night. Besides general safety, transport safety has dramatically improved through the passing of a new law in line with European standards, as well as through a series of other laws.

Overall, Belgrade is a very safe city, but like anywhere, you should always keep money, mobile phones, travel documents and other valuable personal items in secure places. Although, it is not common, pickpockets are known to operate in public transportation, and other crowded places so never wear a backpack or purse on your back and make sure that you have your wallet in one of your front pockets.

Health:

Tap water is perfectly safe to consume. Apart from tap water there are many bottled Serbian mineral waters. Other health advices you could read in the first part of this document.

||||| Dialling Codes and Useful Numbers:

International dialling code for Serbia from outside the country code is +381(or 00381). The Belgrade area code for domestic calls is 011 and for international calls +381-11/xxx-xxxx. Typical mobile phone number is +381-6x/xxx-xxxx. For the international calls from Serbia dial 00 and than code of the desired country and than code for the city (without 0) and then finally the phone number (e.g. 0041-20/xxx-xxxx for Amsterdam, Netherlands). If you dial inside the same area, there is no need to use the prefix (just dial xxx-xxxx). And for calls inside Serbia but outside your area e.g. 021/xxx-xxxx for Novi Sad, Serbia or 06x/xxx-xxxx for Serbian mobile.

Important Phone Numbers:

Police: +381 11 92

Fire brigade: +381 11 93

Emergency medical assistance: +381 1194

Information Center: +381 11 985

Belgrade Bus Station: +381 11 263 6299

Central Train Station: +381 11 360 2899

24/7 working pharmacies:

Sveti Sava, address: Nemanjina 2, phone: +381 11 6643-170

Prvi maj, address: Kralja Milana 9, phone: +381 11 3241-349

Bogdan Vujošević, address: Goce Delceva 30, phone: +381 11 2601-887

Mobile operators:

MTS - Mobilna telefonija Srbije - 064, 065, 066

Telenor - 062, 063, 069

VIP - 060, 061

Basically, the whole city and the country is covered with mobile networks of all three Serbian operators. It is easy to buy and charge cheap pre-paid numbers at the kiosks around the city.

||||| Public Transportation:

Belgrade city public transport is provided through a network of bus, trolleybus and tram routes. Free maps of entire public transport can be found in tourist offices and on the website: <http://www.belgrademaps.com/en/>

When you come to Serbia in first few days laeste will provide you with public transportation pass that you could use in any kind of public transportation. Transport authorities routinely check tickets for validation so you should always wear your pass with you.

Public transport in Belgrade is always crowded during rush hour. Frequency of bus, trolleybus and tram depends on the route and time of the day. Waiting time ranges from 3 to 15 minutes. On every stop there is a board with information on city transport lines. Belgrade does not have an underground railway system. Daily transport starts at 4:00am and ends at midnight. Night transportation is sparse and goes aproximetly every one hour. It is best to ask where and when to use it since some of the night lines are modified versions of the daily ones.

Taxis are cheap (by European standards) and plentiful, and you can either stop one in the street, or call a taxi company. Here is the website where you could find telephone numbers of all taxi companies in the city <http://www.belgradeeye.com/taxi-belgrade.html>



||||| Here are websites where you could find more information about Belgrad and Serbia:

<http://www.serbiatravelers.org/en/basics>

<http://www.belgrade.org/>

<http://web.mit.edu/most/www/ser/Belgrade/architecture.html>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/belgrade/clusters/>

<http://www.belgradeeye.com/>

<http://www.beograd.rs/cms/view.php?id=220>

<http://www.planplus.rs/?lang=en-us>

<http://www.tob.rs/en/index.php>

<http://www.rollmaps.com/upload/images/360/kalemegdan.html>

<http://www.rollmaps.com/upload/images/360/sajam360.html>

<http://www.rollmaps.com/upload/images/360/novibgd.html>

http://www.serbia.travel/download/brosure/Serbia_for_the_young.pdf

<http://www.expatsrbia.com/>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/serbian-language>

<http://www.belgrademaps.com/en/>

ONCE YOU GET
TO BELGRADE

||||| **TYPICALLY SERBIAN**

Foreign visitors very soon discover Serbian hospitality, kindness, openness and warmth of the country's residents.

Shaking hands, done using the right hand, is customary when being introduced or meeting somebody. Kissing three times on the cheeks is old custom in Serbia. When meeting somebody for the first time kissing is not a necessity. Of course, nobody will object if you only kiss once or twice while giving a long and sincere hug.

In Serbia, toasts are usually made with traditional rakija (brandy). Toasts are made by clinking glasses, making direct eye contact and exclaiming "Živeli!".

Paying the bill in restaurants is a big part of the Serbian mentality. The host will almost never allow a guest to pay for lunch, dinner or drinks because it is customary for the host to take care of all expenses while a guest is staying with him or her.

In contrast to the rest of Europe, there is no single day of the week in Serbia when you cannot have a night out and that holds true for all generations, for all lifestyles and musical tastes and for all available budgets. After a night out, somewhere around three or four o'clock in the morning, people continue onward in search of grilled meat (pljeskavica, cevapi) or burek.

Snacking and eating on the go in Belgrade are easy and cheap. There are a lot of bakeries - called pekara - where you will find a wide assortment of breads, sweet and savoury pastries, sandwiches and pizza on offer. A snack or light meal of pastry are usually combine with drinkable yoghurt (similar to kefir). There is also pljeskavica, famous Serbian version of a hamburger which can be purchased from fast food restaurants. One of the most famous dish in Serbia is cevapcici, traditional Serbian food. It consists of different types of minced meat mixed together, and then put on the grill. It is usually eaten with diced onion.

Coffee culture in Belgrade is particularly developed. In the central areas of the city you will find a lot of terraces and cafés, serving all types of coffee and sweets. Be sure to try Serbian Turkish style coffee.

||||| **What they said about Belgrade:**

"Add another city to the list of places you have conquered. Here you are, you have offered your right hand in friendship, let Belgrade take the floor now. You have conquered it, and now Beograd will conquer you! No need to bow; Belgrade loves best those guests who walk upright, who smile and tell jokes. Are you tired of the long journey? Belgrade will offer you a restful stay. Are you hungry? Beograd will feed you well. Want to go sightseeing right away? Beograd will take you out for a walk! Do you have any questions? There is no question Beograd can't answer! It will always seem as if you have just arrived, this very morning, in this crossroad between the East and West, between the North and South, as if you have just entered this observatory of world history!

And hug your woman, please. For goodness sake, man, squeeze here a little tighter, as you once did. There you go! Now, kiss her! That's right, now you're becoming a true Belgrader. Men of Beograd kiss their women; men of Beograd kiss their female guests; our male guests kiss women of Beograd... everyone kisses each other here! A kiss is the ticket to Beograd. If it were so everywhere – everything would be beautiful and smart. "

The sky above Belgrade is wide and high, unstable but always beautiful; even during winter serenities with their icy splendour; even during summer storms when the whole of it turns into a single gloomy cloud which, driven by the mad wind, carries the rain mixed with the dust of panonian plain; even in spring when it seems that it also blooms, along with the ground; even in autumn when it grows heavy with the autumn stars in swarms. But the greatest splendour of that sky above Belgrade, that are the sunsets.

Ivo Andrić, nobel prize winner

“There's light, there's people. There is music in the air”

The New York Times

|||| Things you must do before you leave:

- Spend an afternoon at the Kalemegdan Park and enjoy the sunset at one of the fortress lookouts
- Eat burek and yogurt for breakfast
- Spend an evening on the terrace in one of the restaurants in Zemun next to Danube
- Ride a bicycle, inline skates, run, walk, swim, water ski, bungee jump or just sit and enjoy at Ada Ciganlija lake
- Listen to the old Belgrade music in one of the restaurants in Skadarska street - Skadarlija
- Ride the tram number 2 a full circle
- Spend an hour sipping coffee at one of Belgrade's cafés
- Bargain at one of the green markets in the morning (Zeleni Venac, Kalenjae, Bajloni)
- Wander the Kosancicev Venac neighborhood preferably on a summer Sunday for a taste of authentic Belgrade
- Have a rakija at one of the old style buffets - kafana
- Have a meal at on of the old state owned cafés like Beogradsko Prolece or Kafana "?"
- Go on local derby between Partizan Belgrade and Red Star Belgrade (won both European and International Cup in 1991), also known as the Eternal Derby.
- Eat pljeskavica on your night out
- Be friend with a Belgrader

|||| Most common Serbian words:

Zdravo/Cao	Hello
Dobro jutro	Good morning
Dobar dan	Good afternoon
Dobro vece	Good evening
Laku noc	Good night
Kako si?	How are you?
Kako se zoves?	What's your name?
Ja se zovem	My name is
Hvala	Thank you
Da/Ne	Yes/No
Menjacnica	Exchange office
Hocu da ti ljubim usne	I wanna kiss your lips :p

TYPICALLY
SERBIAN