

# Bosnia & Hercegovina

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sarajevo** Experience the charm of the old bazaar (p140)
- **Mostar** Watch people jump off the town's iconic bridge, Stari Most (p146)
- **Best journey** Do the train trip over the mountains from Mostar (p146) to Sarajevo (p140)
- **Off-the-beaten track** Test your scream threshold rafting on the Una River's rapids (p145)

## FAST FACTS

- **Area** 51,129 sq km (half that of Cuba)
- **ATMs** widespread
- **Budget** 80KM per day
- **Capital** Sarajevo
- **Country Code** ☎ 387
- **Head of State** President Ivo Jović
- **Famous for** Mostar's Stari Most
- **Languages** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- **Money** convertible mark (KM);  
A\$1 = 1.26KM; CA\$1 = 1.47KM; €1 = 2.10KM;  
¥100 = 1.42KM; NZ\$1 = 1.06KM; UK£1 =  
3.12KM; US\$1 = 1.64KM
- **Phrases** *Zdravo* (hello), *hvala* (thanks),  
*molim* (please), *dovidjenja* (goodbye)
- **Population** 3.85 million (2003 estimate)
- **Time** GMT + 1
- **Visas** Not required for most visitors



## TRAVEL HINTS

Accommodation agencies provide cheap sleeps, *burek* (a layered meat pie) kills hunger pangs and the extensive bus network provides budget travel.

## ROAMING BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA

Enter or leave via any neighbouring country. Explore Sarajevo for three or four days and allow two days each for Mostar and some rafting at Bihać.

Imagine a backpacker wish list.

Old stuff: Sarajevo's cobbled lanes are stuffed with ancient shops, mosques and churches in the old Baščaršija bazaar. Mostar's iconic, slender bridge spans the green Neretva River; young men plunge off it for money.

Places to party: enough bars – trendy or grungy – live music venues, groovy nightclubs and pubs that you'll wonder when you'll sleep.

Accommodation and transport: cheap hostels and private accommodation, plus an extensive bus network.

Scenery and thrills: pristine forested mountains crossed by gorges with emerald rivers ready to feed the thrill-junkie with skiing, rafting and hiking; even caving, canyoning and climbing if you're up for it.

A welcome: visitors find a country with such vitality that it's infectious, that shakes their hand warmly and suggests they stay longer than planned.



## HISTORY

The region's ancient Illyrian inhabitants were joined by peoples of the Mediterranean, Romans, and then Slavs in the late 6th century AD. By 1463 Bosnia and Herzegovina had been absorbed by the Turks into the Ottoman Empire.

After Turkey's 1878 defeat by Russia, the area became part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. In 1914 a Bosnian Serb assassinated the Austro-Hungarian heir in Sarajevo, precipitating WWI. Bosnia and Herzegovina then became part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, renamed Yugoslavia in 1929. This union endured through WWII and during the communist period under Tito.

In the first free elections in 1990, nationalists defeated the communists. Croats and Muslims united to declare independence in 1991. Against this, Bosnian-Serb nationalists started seizing territory and 'ethnic cleansing' Muslims from the north and east. By 1992 a three-way war among Serbs, Croats and Muslims foreshadowed the end of the nation. Croatia began attacking Croatian Serbs, while Bosnian Serbs laid siege to Sarajevo. In 1995 Bosnian Serbs slaughtered more than 7000 Muslims in the UN-protected 'safe' area of Srebrenica, a heinous act only reluctantly acknowledged by the Serbs in 2004.

Battered by subsequent NATO air strikes, the Serbs entered peace talks. The resulting 1995 Dayton Peace Accords maintained

prewar boundaries but created two 'entities', the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Muslims and Croats) administering 51% of the country, including Sarajevo; and Republika Srpska, or RS (Serbs), with 49%.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains divided, though tensions have ebbed and refugees are returning. The two most-wanted Bosnian-Serb war criminals – Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić – remain at large, allegedly due to tip offs.

The Dayton Accords started by decentralising government, but EU and American moves to change this have resulted in one army instead of three. In the RS progress seems possible as a socialist administration has booted out the nationalists.

## THE CULTURE

War has shifted people out of mixed communities into enclaves. Bosniaks (48% of the population) live mostly in the centre, Croats (14%) mainly in the south and west, and Serbs (37%) in RS's north and east. Roma are the prominent minority.

Generally Croats are Catholic; Bosniaks, Muslim; and Serbs, Orthodox. Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian are essentially the same language with some differences in vocabulary. The Federation uses the Latin alphabet; RS uses Cyrillic; see p1223 for more information.

The Bosnian variety of Islam is relatively liberal, although modesty in dress and behaviour is recommended. Any gay and lesbian scene is underground without any public presence.

## ENVIRONMENT

Just a toe of land connects Bosnia and Herzegovina to the sea, from where a dry and arid south rises up to a central mountainous core before descending northwards to green rolling hills and flatlands. The highest moun-

### READING UP

For a detailed history, read Noel Malcolm's *Bosnia: A Short History*. Ivo Andrić's fictional works, *Bridge over the Drina* and *Travnik Chronicles*, describe life under the Turks and Austro-Hungarians. Bosnian expat Aleksandar Hemon (called the new Nabokov) has written *The Question of Bruno*, which depicts surreal, childhood reminiscences.

### WARNING: LAND MINES

Hundreds of thousands of mines and unexploded ordnance are a danger. The golden rules are not to enter war-damaged and abandoned buildings, stay away from taped-off areas, keep away from places not used by local people and to use guides or go on organised tours when visiting the beautiful countryside.

Only experts have a full idea of where danger areas might be. If in doubt contact Sarajevo's **Mine Action Centre** (☎ 033-253 800; www.bhmac.org; Zmaj od Bosne 8, Sarajevo; 🕒 8am-4pm Mon-Fri).

tain, Mt Maglić (2386m), is on the Montegrin border.

The climate is a mix of Mediterranean and central European, getting hot in summer but quite chilly in winter. At height snowfall can last until April.

The main national parks are Sutjeska, with its remnants of 20,000-year-old primeval forests, and the Hutovo Blato wetlands, a prime bird sanctuary. Wildlife includes wild sheep, ibex, deer, lynxes, eagles, hawks and vultures. Bears and wolves roam the higher altitudes.

The wartime leftovers of mines and unexploded ordnance, infrastructure damage, industrial air pollution and rubbish disposal are large environmental problems. Another serious problem is the illegal logging of prime natural forest.

## TRANSPORT

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

#### Air

Bosnia and Herzegovina's main airport, **Sarajevo airport** (☎ 033-289 120; www.sarajevo-airport.ba), is served by European airlines from intercontinental hubs such as London, Frankfurt and Vienna. The nearest discount-airline destination is Dubrovnik, Croatia, a four-hour bus trip from Sarajevo.

#### Bus

**Centrotans-Eurolines** (www.centrotans.com) has bus services from Sarajevo to Vienna, Berlin, Paris and Munich, and private operators run to places in Montenegro and Serbia. **Globtour**

(www.globtour.com) runs out of Mostar to Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Split and Montenegro.

## Car & Motorcycle

There are no problems bringing in your own vehicle; a Green Card and International Driving Permit are all that's needed. Seat belts must be worn and the tolerated blood-alcohol limit is 0.05.

## Train

A daily service connects Ploče (on the Croatian coast) with Zagreb. Leaving Ploče at 6.40am, the train stops in Mostar (8.04am), Sarajevo (10.18am) and Banja Luka (3.34pm) before reaching Zagreb at 7.47pm. The return service leaves Zagreb at 8.57am and arrives in Banja Luka at 1.11pm before going on to Sarajevo (6.18pm), Mostar (8.40pm) and Ploče (11.06pm).

Another service connects Ploče and Budapest, leaving at 4.20pm and stopping in Mostar (5.56pm) and Sarajevo (8.32pm) before arriving in Budapest at 4.84am the next day. The return service leaves Budapest at 5.45pm and arrives in Sarajevo at 6.25am the next day before going on to Mostar (8.50am) and Ploče (10.22am).

Sarajevo to Budapest costs 1st/2nd class 90/131KM, Banja Luka to Zagreb costs 22KM. An overnight service goes from Banja Luka to Belgrade (24KM, 6½ hours, 9.55pm).

## GETTING AROUND

The bus network is comprehensive and reliable. Services between more distant towns can be infrequent.

Although you'll pass through beautiful countryside, narrow roads, hills and bends make for slow progress by car.

Taxis are readily available and cheap. Outside the big towns they may not have meters, so agree on a price before you set off.

There are far fewer trains than buses, but they're more comfortable and have better views of the countryside. See above for details.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Ambulance ☎ 124
- Fire ☎ 123
- Police ☎ 122
- Roadside emergency ☎ 1282/1288

# SARAJEVO

☎ 033 / pop 737,000

For a city that has suffered, Sarajevo is outwardly full of amazing vitality and charm. Rattly old trams circle a city centre containing the Baščaršija bazaar, an ancient trading place with artisans' workshops, coffee-drinking dens, restaurants, trendy bars and boisterous pubs.

Sarajevo is a living museum. And boy, is there a lot of it! Mosques, churches, cathedrals and fine municipal buildings built by Turks and Austro-Hungarians; a bridge where world history took a fateful turn; and the Tunnel Museum, the yellow Holiday Inn, and the artillery-scarred library as reminders of recent tragedy.

The place has a big-village atmosphere, making you feel immediately comfortable and part of what's going on. So expect your travel plans to become *mañana* as a couple of days slip into a week or more.

## ORIENTATION

Sarajevo is flanked by hills, with lower ground to the west making the main routes run east-west. The main road runs up to Ilidža from the airport, 13km to the southwest, and then east through Novo Sarajevo, past the turn-off for the bus and train stations and into the centre. Baščaršija occupies the east end of town.

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

**Buybook** (www.buybook.com.ba) Radićeva (☎ 716 450; Radićeva 4; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun); **Zelenih Beretki** (☎ 712 000; Zelenih Beretki 8; ☎ 9am-11pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) Art, Balkans and coffee-table books, English newspapers and magazines, CDs and in-house cafés.

### Internet Access

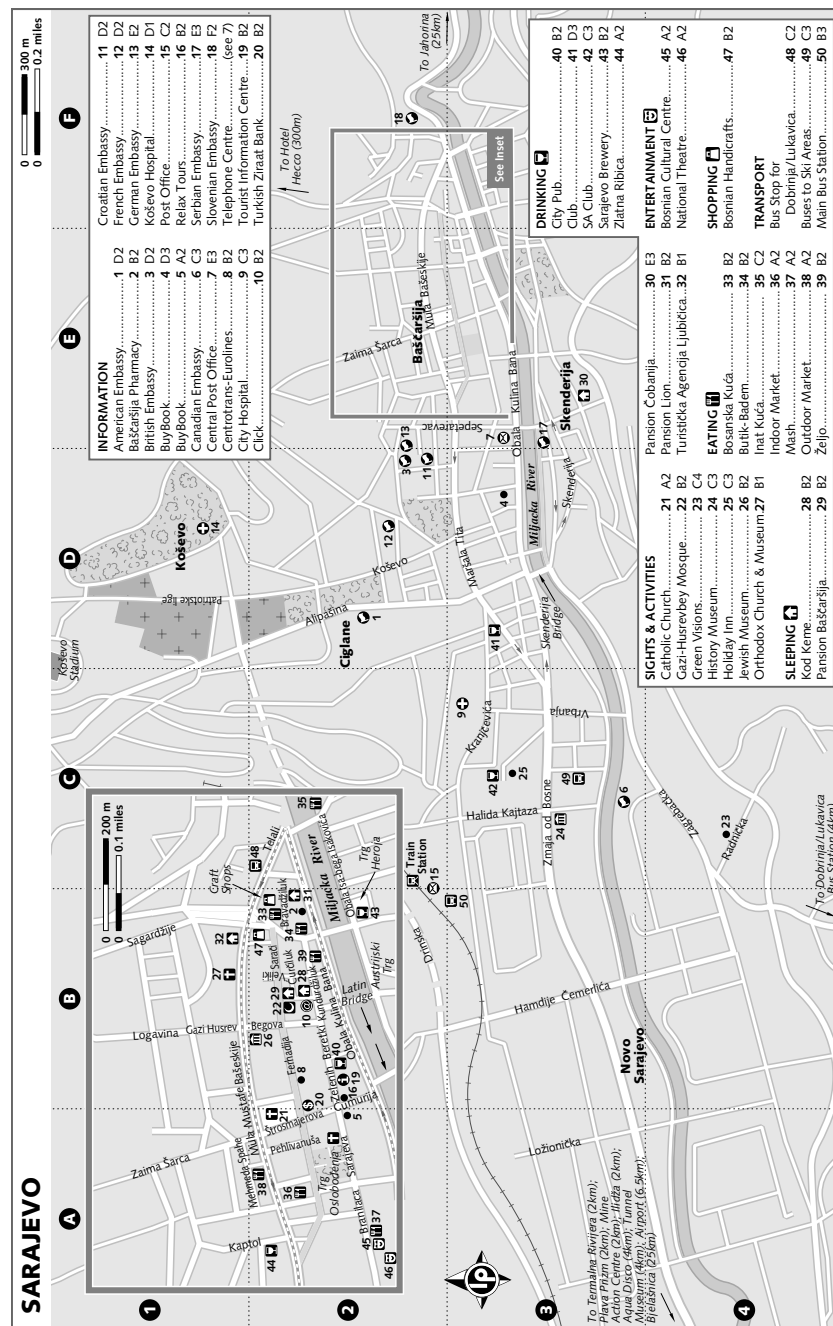
**Click** (☎ 236 914; Kundurdžiluk 1; per hr 3KM; ☎ 9am-11pm; ☒)

### Laundry

**Turistička Agencija Ljubičica** (☎ 232 109, 061-131 813; www.hostelljubica.net; Mule Mustafe Bašeskije 65; ☎ 24hr May-Oct, 5.30am-11pm Nov-Apr) Laundry service.

### Left Luggage

**Main bus station** (Put Života 8; first hr 2KM, then per hr 1KM) Useful while you go into town to look for accommodation.



## Medical Services

Ask your embassy for a list of private doctors. In an emergency:

**Bašćarsija Pharmacy** (☎ 272 301; Obala Kulina Bana 40; ☎ 24hr)

**City Hospital** (☎ 291 100; Kranjčevića 12)

**Koševo Hospital** (☎ 445 522; Bolnička 25)

## Money

ATMs are sprinkled all over the city centre. There's nowhere to change money at the bus or train station but there is a Visa ATM outside the bus station and the adjacent post office gives MasterCard and Visa cash advances. Come with a few euros in your pocket.

**Turkish Ziraat Bank** (☎ 720 209; Ferhadija 10;

☎ 8.30am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) ATM and cashes travellers cheques.

## Post & Telephone

**Central post office** (☎ 252 252; Obala Kulina Bana 8; ☎ 7am-8pm Mon-Sat) Queue at counter 17, which is for post; the others are only for paying bills. The telephone centre is here.

**Post office** (☎ 723 422; ☎ 7am-10pm Mon-Sat) Next to the bus station.

## Tourist Information

**Tourist Information Centre** (☎ 220 724, 220 721; www.sarajevo-tourism.com; Zelenih Beretki 22a; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat & Sun) A most helpful place with books, maps, brochures and ready answers.

## Travel Agencies

**Centrotrans-Eurolines** (☎ 205 481; www.centrotrans.com; Ferhadija 16; ☎ 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Part of Eurolines' trans-Europe bus network; also air and ferry ticketing.

**Relax Tours** (☎ /fax 263 330; www.relaxtours.com; Zelenih Beretki 22; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Books flights and ferry tickets.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The bustling old Turkish Quarter of Bašćarsija is a labyrinth of polished cobblestone laneways where, behind the tourist panache, Sarajevo keeps its soul. Lose yourself among the small shops, watch craftsmen turn plain metal into beauty, bargain for coffee-drinking sets and rest your legs at a coffee shop over a thimbleful of the strong black stuff.

Sarajevans are proud of their multicultural past and point to the close location of the following as evidence. In the same block is the neo-Gothic 1889 **Catholic church** (Ferhadija

bb); the atmospheric centuries-old **Orthodox church and museum** (Mula Mustafe Bašeskije 59; admission 1KM); the 1531 **Gazi-Husrevbey Mosque** (☎ 534 375; Veliki Mudžletli 21; ☎ 9am-noon, guide available 5.30-7pm); and the old synagogue, now the **Jewish Museum** (☎ 215 532; Velika Avlija bb; admission 2KM; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri & Sun), with revealing explanations of a Jewish society in Sarajevo that almost ended with the genocides of WWII.

The startling yellow building off the airport-city road is the **Holiday Inn**, wartime home to international journalists. The road in front was dubbed 'Sniper Alley', an avenue of death created by Serb snipers in the surrounding hills.

Across the street is the **National Museum** (☎ 668 026; www.zemaljskimuzej.ba; Zmaja od Bosne 3; admission 5KM; ☎ 10am-2pm Tue & Thu-Sun, 11am-7pm Wed Jul-Sep) with ethnology and natural-history collections. The music section is particularly interesting.

The adjacent **History Museum** (☎ 210 418; Zmaja od Bosne 5; admission 5KM; ☎ 9am-2pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat & Sun) has a room of archival material, mostly photographs, covering events from WWII up to Srebrenica.

The **Latin Bridge**, at the end of Zelenih Beretki, witnessed a pivotal moment in history when in 1914 Gavrilo Princip shot Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, precipitating WWI.

Watch the pavements for Sarajevo roses, the skeletal indentations of shell impacts from the war. Some are filled in with red cement.

Near the airport is the emotive **Tunnel Museum** (☎ 628 591; Tuneli 1; admission 5KM; ☎ 9am-7pm May-Sep, 9am-4pm Oct-Apr), which allows visitors to walk through a section of Sarajevo's dangerous wartime exit.

**Termalna Rivijera** (☎ 771 000; Butmirska Cesta bb, Ilidža; adult/child 11/8KM; ☎ 9am-10pm) has indoor and outdoor pools (May to September) for cooling off in hot summers.

Southeast and south of Sarajevo are the ski slopes of **Jahorina** and **Bjelašnica**, sites of the 1984 Winter Olympics with good skiing at bargain-basement prices. Accommodation

### GETTING INTO TOWN

Taxi (20KM) is the best way from the airport. Alternatively, take a taxi to Ilidža (6KM) and transfer to tram 3 for Bašćarsija. Tram 1 from the train and bus stations goes to Bašćarsija.

with full board costs 280KM to 700KM per week, excluding ski passes.

## TOURS

**Green Visions** (☎ 717 290; www.greenvisions.ba; Radnička bb; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) is an ecotourism agency that runs hiking (with snowshoes in winter), mountain-biking and rafting tours as well as visits to traditional Bosnian villages.

The Tourist Information Centre has a list of city tour guides.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Also check www.sarajevoarts.ba and with the Tourist Information Centre.

**Bašćarsija Noći** (Nights of Bašćarsija; www.bascarsijske.noci.ba) In July international performers present dance, music and street theatre.

**Sarajevo Film Festival** (☎ 209 411; www.sff.ba; Zelenih Beretki 12/1) See new commercial and art-house movies at a globally acclaimed festival in August.

**International Jazz Festival** (www.jazzfest.ba) In November, a week-long showcase of the best in world jazz.

## SLEEPING

Agencies and homeowners provide access to accommodation in hostels and private rooms. However, look before you 'buy' and make sure the owner/agency registers your stay.

**Turistička Agencija Ljubieica** (www.hostelljubieica.net; dm/r/apt from €8/12.50/16.50) Bašćarsija (☎ 232 109, 061-131 813; Mula Mustafe Bašeskije 65; ☎ 24hr May-Oct, 5.30am-11pm Nov-Apr); train station (☎ /fax 222 783; ☎ 5am-10pm) This helpful and hospitable 'would you like a coffee?' agency has nearby hostels (one with a female-only room) and can arrange private accommodation. By arrangement staff will collect from the airport or stations, and the train station branch has luggage storage and bicycle hire.

**Kod Keme** (☎ 531 140; www.hostel.co.ba; Ćiriluk Mala 15; r €20) Right in the heart of Bašćarsija, this small guesthouse run by a friendly Bosnian-Australian is just the haven for the party animal who wants to roam Sarajevo's nightlife.

**our pick** **Pansion Lion** (☎ 236 137; http://lion.bih.net; Bravadžiluk 30; s/d/t with shared bathroom €25/50/60; ☎) A fresco-adorned lobby, hand-decorated wardrobes, matching coloured bed linen, and mother-of-pearl and dolphin-patterned toilet seats. The Pansion Lion likes your life to be colourful. Centrally situated in Bašćarsija, the Lion is crawling distance from all the sights and bars. The friendly owners speak English, French and Italian, and are adept at laundry.

### SPLURGE

**Hotel Hecco** (☎ 273 730; info@hotel-hecco.net; Medresa 1; s/t 80/150KM, d 110-130KM, apt 150-160KM; ☎ ☎) An arty boutique hotel designed by a local architect who has a bit of a thing for Mondrian and cubism. Proximity to Bašćarsija, parking and good value makes it popular with those wanting fluffier pillows or internet in their rooms.

**Pansion Ćobanija** (☎ 441 749; fax 203 937; Ćobanija 29; s/d 80/120KM) With a big open lounge and sink-into leather chairs, it feels like you're staying with friends. All rooms are different; consider Room 202 with its neo-Art Deco mirrored furniture. Suitable for solo female travellers.

Also recommended is the central **Pansion Bašćarsija** (☎ 232 185; Veliki Ćurčluk 41; s/d 60/100KM) for its cosy atmosphere.

## EATING

The handy **outdoor market** (Mula Mustafe Bašeskije; ☎ 7am-4pm) overflows with fruit and vegetables; the **indoor market** (☎ 7am-5pm Mon-Sat, 7am-2pm Sun) across the street sells dairy and meat products.

Bakeries are the places for *burek* (try the peppery potato one) and pizza slices. For the ubiquitous *ćevapčići* (kebabs in spongy bread), follow your nose or try Žjelo's.

**Butik-Badem** (☎ 533 135; Abadžiluk 12; ☎ 8am-11pm) A health-food shop providing alternative snacks, such as yummy chocolate-coated pistachios, fruit bars and nuts.

**Žjelo** (☎ 441 200; Kundurđiluk 19 & 20) Two packed branches almost opposite each other in the same street say something about the popularity of this *ćevapčići* place.

**Bosanska Kuća** (☎ 237 320; Bravadžiluk 3; dishes 6-9KM; ☎ 24hr) 'Come eat', says the waiter in national costume, inviting you into a restaurant cooking traditional Bosnian food. Selections include kebabs, grilled fish or stuffed peppers and aubergines for vegetarians.

**Mash** (☎ 063-489 033; Branilaca Sarajeva bb; mains 6-12KM; ☎ 7.30am-1am Mon-Thu, 7.30am-3am Fri, 9am-3am Sat, 10am-midnight Sun) This is a cool and artsy joint with sofas for either a late-night or early-morning collapse. There are also bar stools for coffee and snacks. Sandwiches, snacks and several vegetarian dishes feature on the menu.

**SPLURGE**

**Plava Prizm** (☎ 471 514; Džemala Bijedića 185; dishes 8-25KM; 🍷) Got two hours for lunch? That's how long it takes the world to turn around you on this 15th-floor revolving restaurant atop the gleaming glass Avaz Business centre. Take the Ilidža tram.

**Inat Kuća** (Spite House; ☎ 447 867; Velika Alifakovac 1; mains 7-18KM) The restaurant was once over the river, but when the authorities wanted to demolish this traditional Bosnian house to build the town hall, the owner insisted it be reconstructed here – hence the name. Offerings range from snacks, a sticky baklava, a bowl of chips and beer to a full-blown grill.

**DRINKING & CLUBBING**

**City Pub** (☎ 299 916; Despićeva bb; mains 6-9KM; 🍷 8am-late) It's easy to let this place become your daytime address. A café-bar where you can kick back by day, it turns into a big music and drinking venue at night.

**Club** (☎ 550 550; Maršala Tita 7; pizzas 12-25KM; 🍷 10am-late) This hip and sassy basement joint grooves to DJ music or local bands on weekends. A bit difficult to find; it's the first door on the left after the entrance.

**Zlatna Ribica** (☎ 215 369; Kaptol 5; 🍷 9am-late) A collision of aesthetics as baroque, *fin de siècle* Paris and Vienna, and Art Deco crash together in this warmly lit bar. Good as a winding-up or winding-down place.

**Sarajevo Brewery** (☎ 239 740; Franjevačka 15; mains 8-18KM; 🍷 10am-1am) Part of Sarajevo's famous brewery has been converted into a cavernous bar, all dark wood and brass railings, serving good session beer. Meals are available.

**Aqua Disco** (☎ 625 500; Mali Kiseljak 8; admission 10KM; 🍷 9pm-3am Fri & Sat) Big stage disco with DJs and live music in a hotel's swimming pool complex; maybe swim and dance.

**SA Club** (☎ 211 911; Kranjceva bb; admission 3-6KM; 🍷 10pm-6am) Behind the Holiday Inn, a spacey venue for rock, disco, house, Latino and live music.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Bosnian Cultural Centre** (☎ 668 186; Branilaca Sarajeva 24) shows domestic films (€5) and hosts concerts and cultural events. The **National Theatre** (☎ 663 647; Obala Kulina Bana 9) stages concerts, ballets and plays.

**SHOPPING**

Bašaršija is a shopping magnet, with enamelled and sculpted copper and brassware, jewellery, clothes and carpets among other things.

**Bosnian Handicrafts** (☎ 551 535; www.bhcrafts.org; Culhan 1; 🍷 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) is a nonprofit cooperative working with refugees who produce colourful woven items.

**GETTING THERE & AWAY****Bus**

Sarajevo has two bus stations. In winter a bus also goes to the ski areas from a stop near the National Museum. The tourist office has the current timetable.

**MAIN BUS STATION**

Services from this **station** (☎ 213 100; Put Života 8) serve Bihać (39.50KM, 6½ hours, 7.30am, 1.30pm and 10pm), Jajce (23KM, 3½ hours, five daily) and Mostar (13.50KM, 2½ hours, 15 daily).

Centrotrans-Eurolines runs services to Dubrovnik (44KM, seven hours, 7.15am), Split (36KM, eight hours, 10am, 2.30pm and 9pm), Zagreb (54KM, eight hours, 6.30am, 12.30pm and 10pm) and Herceg Novi (34KM, seven hours, 11am, 7pm and 10.30pm). For details of routes in Western Europe, see www.centrotrans.com.

**DOBRINJA/LUKAVICA BUS STATION**

This **station** (☎ 057-317 377; Nikole Tesle bb) about 5km south of town has buses to Belgrade, Serbia (28KM, eight hours, seven daily), to Podgorica, Montenegro (25KM, eight hours, four daily) and Novi Sad, Serbia (28KM, nine hours, 6.40am, 1.30pm and 11.15pm).

To get to the station, take either trolleybus 103 from Austrijski Trg or bus 31e from behind the town hall to the last stop and walk 150m ahead.

**Train**

Services from the **train station** (☎ 655 330; Žtrava Genocida u Srebrenica) run to Mostar (10KM), Zagreb (46KM) and Budapest (90KM). See p140 for train times.

**GETTING AROUND**

Sarajevo has an efficient tram service. Tram 1 connects the stations and Bašaršija, tram 3 links Ilidža and Bašaršija, and tram 4 links Ilidža and the stations.

**THEFT WARNING**

There are regular reports of theft on the overnight Sarajevo–Budapest train. Keep your doors locked, check on anyone who wants to enter your compartment, and of course lock up your valuables.

Buy tickets from a kiosk (1.80KM) or driver (1.60KM) and validate them in the machines on board. Bus and trolleybus tickets work the same way.

Sarajevo taxi meters begin at 2KM and charge about 1KM per kilometre. Call **Radio-Taxi** (☎ 1515).

**AROUND BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA****BIHAĆ**

☎ 037 / pop 80,000

Northwest of Sarajevo near the Croatian border, Bihać is earning a reputation as a destination for adrenaline junkies. The tumbling rapids of the Una River make it a kayaking and rafting playground. The **Una Regatta** in the last week of July is three glorious days of messing about in boats.

The **tourist office** (☎ 222 777; Dr Irfana Ljubijankica 13; 🍷 8am-4pm Mon-Fri) has information on river activities and accommodation.

**Activities**

The rafting season usually runs from March to October. Prices depend upon group numbers, distance and the difficulty factor of the trip.

**Una Kiro Rafting** (☎/fax 223 760, 061-192 338; www.una-kiro-rafting.com; Golubice bb) Based at Golubice, 6km from Bihać, these rafters offer kayak lessons (per day €50) and rafting (per person €20 to €40). B&B accommodation is available at €26 per person and camping from €5 per person.

**Una Rafting** (Sport Bjeli; ☎ 388 555, 061-138 853; raftbell@bih.net.ba; Klokot, Pećkovići bb) Based about 12km from Bihać, this outfit offers rafting (from €22), kayaking (two/five days €47/100), mountain biking and climbing. B&B accommodation costs €15.

**Club Extreme Sport Limit** (☎ 061-144 248; lipa3@bih.net.ba; Džanica Mahala bb) For more specialised activities Limit offers guided mountain climb-

ing, hiking and biking from April to October, plus year-round canyoning and caving.

**Sleeping & Eating**

**Hut Aduna** (☎ 314 304; Put V Korpusa bb; per person 6KM) A riverside camping ground near the Ada Hotel about 5km south of town; comes with powered sites, toilet and shower blocks, and shared kitchen.

**Villa Una** (☎/fax 311 393, 061 -919 303; Bihačkih Branilaca 20; s/d 50/60KM) Centrally placed in town and good value for a sparkling-clean private home with well-equipped rooms.

**Hotel Park** (☎ 226 394; www.aduna.ba; Put V Korpusa bb; s/d/apt €28/48/65; 🍷) The town's big hotel, with reasonable prices for recently renovated rooms. The singles are a bit like shoeboxes, but the doubles have more space and apartments (sleeping three people) are even better.

**Samoposluga** (☎ 312 601; Bihačkih Branilaca bb; 🍷 7.30am-10pm Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm Sun) A sizable supermarket next to Villa Una.

**Express** (☎ 332 380; Bosanska 5; mains 3-6.50KM; 🍷 7am-10pm) Express by name, express by nature at this choose, point and buy cafeteria near the post office. There's a large video screen for sports broadcasts.

**Biffe Mlin** (☎ 061 144 200; Put V Korpusa bb; dishes 5-12KM) A riverside restaurant near the Hut Aduna, with a causeway to a small island. Good for several sundowner beers followed by a meal.

**Getting There & Away**

Useful services from the **bus station** (☎ 311 939; Put V Korpusa bb) go to Sarajevo (39.50KM, seven hours, 00.45am, 7.30am, 2.30pm and 10pm) and Zagreb (21KM, 2½ hours, 4.45am, 10.20am, 2pm and 4.45pm).

**DIY TRAVEL**

The little town of **Jajce** is 3½ hours from Sarajevo by bus. Attractions are town-centre waterfalls, an ancient citadel and city walls, medieval church ruins, catacombs, a Roman-era sculpture and the place where Tito and his fellow comrades decided to form the postwar communist Yugoslav republic. Places to stay are the cheaper Hotel Tourist or the more atmospheric Hotel Stari Grad. Ask the Tourist Information Centre in Sarajevo for more details.

## MOSTAR

☎ 036 / pop 110,000

As France has its Eiffel Tower, so Bosnia and Herzegovina has the slim, elegant Stari Most (Old Bridge) in Mostar as its icon. So dramatically destroyed in the war, it's been quickly rebuilt to stand as a symbol of reunification. Flanking the bridge is the old Ottoman quarter, a haven for the city's artists and craftsmen along with 16th-century mosques, old Turkish houses and numerous cafés. On the western side restaurant terraces hug the steep rocky river banks, jostling for perfect views of the bridge and river.

### Information

**Barbados** (☎ 558 525; Braće Fejića 26; per hr 2KM; ☎ 9am-11pm) Internet access.

**Tourist Information Centre** (☎ 580 275; www.hercegovina.ba; Onešćukova bb; ☎ 9am-9pm) A useful one-stop shop with erratic hours outside May to September. Sells maps, guidebooks and postcards, and books accommodation, buses, planes and trains.

**UniCredit-Zagrebačka Bank** (☎ 312 112; Kardinala Stepinca 18; ☎ 8am-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat) Cashes travellers cheques; all-cards ATM.

### Sights

The rebuilt **Stari Most**, linking the refurbished cobbled old town of **Kujundžiluk**, which extends on both sides of the river, is still the heart of the Old Town. Originally built in 1556 to replace a nearby wooden bridge, Stari Most translates as Petrified Moon, a reference to its slender and refined beauty. In summer young men earn a living from tourists by plunging off the bridge 21m into the icy river.

Here among the cobblestone streets are small shops with curved tile roofs selling Turkish-style souvenirs and artworks, and cafés serving plates of steaming *čevapčići*.

Mostar's famous mosque, the 1557 **Karadžozbeg Mosque** (Braće Fejića), is restored and now open, while its companion, the 1618 **Koski Mehmed Paša Mosque** (admission mosque/mosque & minaret €1/2.50; ☎ 9am-6pm), rewards climbers of its minaret with an amazing view of the Stari Most. Within the mosque is some beautiful linear design work outlining the interior architectural shapes and mihrab.

Nearby, the 350-year-old **Turkish House** (☎ 550 677; Bišoevića 13; ☎ 9am-3pm Nov-Feb, 8am-8pm Mar-Oct) is furnished for a well-to-do Bosnian family of some stature. Upstairs the rooms are

divided into men's and women's quarters. The white cloth draped over a door is the signal that a wife, one of two or more, was ready to receive her husband.

The **Museum of Herzegovina** (☎ 551 602; Bajatova 4; admission 1.5KM; ☎ 9am-2pm Mon-Fri, 10am-noon Sat) is a small museum showing a 10-minute film on pre-1990 Mostar, the bridge-jumping competition and the actual destruction of the bridge.

### Sleeping

Both **Fortuna Travel Agency** (☎ 552 197; www.fortuna.ba; Trg Ivana Krndelja 1; per person 20-50KM; ☎ 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) and the Tourist Information Centre book private accommodation.

**Omer Lakiše** (☎ 551 627; Mladena Balore 21a; dm with shared bathroom 25KM) Run by a retired professor with a smattering of English, this private house has eight beds in two rooms. Homelessness compensates for shared bathrooms and bed-cluttered rooms.

**Zdrava Hrana** (☎ /fax 550 969; Trg 1 Maja 20; r per person 25-30KM, apt 35-55KM) A short leg-stretch uphill on the east side of the bridge will take you to this quiet place. Suitable for small groups it has singles and doubles, plus some apartments with basic kitchens. Breakfast costs 5KM.

Also recommended is **Oscars** (☎ 061-823 649; Onešćukova 33; per person €10), a cosy *pansion* (pension) just off the western side of Stari Most.

### Eating & Drinking

For self-caterers, the **supermarket** (☎ 551 984; Maršala Tita bb; ☎ 7am-10pm) has plenty of supplies.

**Grill Centar** (☎ 061-198 111; Braće Fejića 13; grills 3.50-4.50KM) A little noshing place full of happy customers. The local recommendation is *čevapčići* with *kajmak* (salted cream turned to cheese) accompanied by a round lump of *lepinon* (bread).

**Pizzeria abc** (☎ 194 656; Braće Fejića 45; dishes 5-9KM; ☎ 8am-11pm Mon-Sat, noon-11pm Sun) Known for having 25 varieties of pizza with a host of ingredients, including broccoli, sardines, gorgonzola, veal and shrimp – not all on the same pizza, unless you ask.

**MM Restaurant** (☎ 558 900; Mostarskog Bataljona 11; meals 6-12KM; ☎ 8am-10pm Mon-Sat) Buffet presentation makes this a visitor-friendly feeding station. The food's lip-smackingly good with some veg options, and there's ham and eggs for breakfast for 3KM.

**Liquid Lounge** (☎ 063-444 414; SPC Rondo 66; ☎ 8am-late) An ultracool hangout bar with an ocean theme. When you can't focus on the fish swimming along the front of the bar (it's an aquarium), you've had too many of the 150 cocktails on offer. DJs spin the discs at weekends.

**Irish Pub** (☎ 315 338; Kralja Zvonimira 15b; ☎ 8am-11pm Sun-Thu, 8am-1am Fri & Sat) A replica Irish pub serving Guinness and Kilkeny Bitter. A large outdoor video screens sports programmes.

There's a cluster of café-bars on Kralja Tomislava.

### Getting There & Away

Mostar's **bus station** (☎ 552 025; Trg 1 Krndelja 1) and **train station** (☎ 552 198) are located next to each other. Bus services include Belgrade, Serbia (35KM, 11 hours, 7.30pm and 9pm), Herceg Novi, Montenegro (43KM, 5½ hours, 7am), Vienna, Austria (€50, 15 hours, 8.30am) and Croatia – Dubrovnik (25KM, 3½ hours, 7am), Split (20KM, 3½ hours, 7am) and Zagreb (43KM, 9½ hours, 9am). There are frequent buses running to Sarajevo (13.50KM, 2½ hours) between 6am and 7.55pm.

Two trains to Sarajevo (9KM, 2¾ hours) stop in Mostar; see p140. The route is highly scenic, with several switchbacks to gain height over the mountains.

## BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA DIRECTORY

### ACCOMMODATION

Private accommodation is easy to arrange in Sarajevo and Mostar; most likely you'll be approached at the bus or train station. Staying in a home is not only cheaper than hotels but also usually very pleasant, with immediate contact with local people who'll speak some English.

### ACTIVITIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina has huge potential for outdoor activities once de-mining is completed. Water activities are obviously safe, as are activities in national parks and those led by local guides. There's skiing at Jahorina and Bjelašnica (p142), and rafting, kayaking, mountain climbing and canyoning from Bihać (p145).

## BUSINESS HOURS

Business hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

**Banks** ☎ open 8-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat

**Cafés** ☎ usually 9am-midnight

**Restaurants** ☎ usually 9am-midnight

**Shops** ☎ usually 9am-8pm and many serving tourists are open on Sunday

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES Embassies & Consulates in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The nearest embassies for Australia, Ireland and New Zealand are in Vienna, Ljubljana and Rome respectively. Countries with representation in Sarajevo:

**Canada** (☎ 033-222 033; fax 033-222 004; Grbavička 4/2)

**Croatia** (☎ 033-444 331; fax 033-472 434; Mehmeda Spahie 16)

**France** (☎ 033-282 050; fax 033-212 186; Mehmed-bega K. Lj 18)

**Germany** (☎ 033-275 000; fax 033-652 978; Mejtaš Buka 11-13)

**Serbia** (☎ 033-260 080; fax 033-221 469; Obala Maka Dizdara 3A)

**Slovenia** (☎ 033-271 251; fax 271 270; Bentbaša 7)

**UK** (☎ 033-282 200; fax 282 203; Tina Ujevića 8)

**USA** (☎ 033-445 700; fax 659 722; Alipašina 43)

### Bosnian Embassies & Consulates

Bosnia and Herzegovina has embassies or consulates in the following countries. See www.mvp.gov.ba for more listings.

**Australia** (☎ 02-6232 4646; www.bosnia.webone.com.au; 6 Beale Cres, Deakin, ACT 2600)

**Canada** (☎ 613-236 0028; fax 613-236 8557; 130 Albert St, Ste 805, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4)

**France** (☎ 01 42 67 34 22; fax 01 40 53 85 22; 174 Rue de Courcelles, 75017 Paris)

**Germany** (☎ 030-8147 1233/4/5; www.botschaftbh.de; Ibsenstrasse 14, D-10439)

**Netherlands** (☎ 70-358 85 05; fax 70-358 43 67; Bezuidenhoutseweg 223, 2594 AL Den Haag)

**UK** (☎ 020-7373 0867; fax 020-7373 0871; 5-7 Lexham Gardens, London W1R 3BF)

**USA** (☎ 202-337-1500; www.bhembassy.org; 2109 E St NW, Washington, DC 20037)

### FOOD & DRINK

Alternatives to the ubiquitous *burek* for vegetarians include *sirnica* (cheese pie), *zeljanica* (spinach pie) or salads. *Čevapčići*, another favourite, is made of lamb and beef kebabs tucked into a half-loaf of spongy *somun* bread. For dessert, try *baklava* or *tufahije* (apple cake).

Good wines include Žilavka (white) and Blatina (red), best sampled in Hercegovina's wineries. Sarajevo-brand beer is a good session beer.

## HOLIDAYS

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Independence Day** 1 March

**May Day** 1 May

**National Statehood Day** 25 November

**Bajram** twice-yearly Muslim holiday

**Easter** and **Christmas** Orthodox and Catholic dates may not coincide

## INTERNET RESOURCES

For tourist information try [www.bhtourism.ba](http://www.bhtourism.ba) and [www.hiddenbosnia.com](http://www.hiddenbosnia.com); [www.mvp.gov.ba](http://www.mvp.gov.ba) has details of embassies and visa requirements. For Sarajevo information go to [www.sarajevo.ba](http://www.sarajevo.ba).

## MONEY

The convertible mark (KM) is tied at 1KM to €0.51129, so effectively 2KM is worth about

€1. Many places will accept euros (notes) and some even list prices in euros. Travellers cheques can be exchanged at banks in larger cities.

Tipping is customary in restaurants and taxis offering good service – round up the bill, or leave 1KM to 2KM extra.

## POST & TELEPHONE

Post offices and telephone offices are usually collocated.

Dial ☎ 00 for international access, ☎ 1201 for the international operator and ☎ 1182 for local directory information. As there are three different, incompatible telephone systems in the country, it's best to make your call at a telephone centre.

## VISAS

Visas are not required for citizens of most EU countries, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. For other countries and application requirements check the government website [www.mvp.gov.ba](http://www.mvp.gov.ba).