

Language

Serbian is a South Slavic language spoken mainly in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, and North Macedonia by about 9-10 million people. It is official in Serbia, and is the principal language of the Serbs. Serbian is currently written with both the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets, which are both officially recognized, although Cyrillic was made the official script of Serbia's government in 2006.

Serbian Cyrillic alphabet (ћирилица)

This chart shows the Cyrillic alphabet for Serbian in printed and cursive styles, with the names of the letters, their Latin equivalents, and their IPA transcriptions.

Cyrillic	Latin	IPA value
А а	A a	a
Б б	B b	b
В в	V v	ʋ
Г г	G g	g
Д д	D d	d

Ђ ђ	Đ đ	ɟ
Е е	E e	e
Ж ж	Ž ž	ʒ
З з	Z z	z
И и	I i	i
Ј ј	J j	j
К к	K k	k
Л л	L l	l
Љ љ	Lj lj	ɭ
М м	M m	m
С Cyrillic	Latin	IPA value
Н н	N n	n

Њ њ	Nj nj	ɲ
О о	O o	>o
П п	P p	p
Р р	R r	r
С с	S s	s
Т т	T t	t
Ћ ћ	Ć ć	t͡ɕ
У у	U u	u
Ф ф	F f	f
Х х	H h	x
Ц ц	C c	t͡s
Ч ч	Č č	t͡ʃ

Đ đ	Dž dž	đž
Ш ш	Š š	š

Some phrases for basic conversation

Hello.	Здраво. Zdravo. (ZDRAH-voh)
How are you?	Како сте? Kako ste? (KAH-koh steh?)
Well, thanks.	Добро, хвала. Dobro, hvala. (DOH-broh, HVAH-lah)
What is your name?	Како се зовете? Kako se zovete? (KAH-koh seh zoh-V)
My name is _____ .	Зовем се_____. Zovem se_____. (ZOH-vehm seh _____)
Pleased to meet you.	Драго ми је. Drago mi je. (DRAH-goh mee yeh)
Please.	Молим. Molim. (MOH-leem)
Thank you.	Хвала. Hvala. (HVAH-lah)
You're welcome.	Молим. Molim. (MOH-leem)
Yes.	Да. Da. (DAH)
No.	Не. Ne. (NEH)
Excuse me. (getting attention)	Извините. Izvinite. (eez-VEE-nee-teh)
Excuse me. (begging pardon)	Извините. Izvinite. (eez-VEE-nee-teh)
I'm sorry. (if it isn't speaker's fault, eg if you hear bad news)	Жао ми је. Žao mi je. (ZHAW mee yeh)
I'm sorry. (if it's speaker's fault, eg if you bump into someone)	Извините. Izvinite. (eez-VEE-nee-teh)



Weather

The various landscape, differences in elevation, proximity to the Adriatic Sea, the large river basins etc. account for some climate differences. Climate in the north and the central part of Serbia is continental, with cold winters and hot, humid summers with well-distributed rainfall. The southern areas of the country are subject to Mediterranean climate influences, with relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall and hot, dry summers and autumns. The mean January temperatures are around 0 °C (32 °F) and mean July temperatures are around 22 °C (72 °F).



Food & Drinks

The Serbian gastronomy is a mix of oriental, central European and Balkan cuisines, offering an overwhelming variety of meals. Besides in restaurants and *kafanas* (something like a tavern), Serbs tend to eat lots of fast food, especially grilled for lunch, and pastry for any other meal. Serbia has a lot to offer to hedonists and eating out to catch local flavors is an unforgettable experience and a highlight for many visitors. When spending time in

Belgrade or elsewhere in Serbia, make sure you try the local dishes. Local favorites are *ćevapčići* (small rolls of mixed minced meat), which are eaten with plain onions and warm bread. *Pljeskavica*, another extremely popular and tasty dish, is the actual ancestor of the hamburger. It is made of minced meat sprinkled with spices and grilled. You will come across all kinds of grilled meat, sarma (minced beef and pork with rice enveloped in pickled cabbage or vine leaves), stuffed peppers, Serbian beans, *podvarak* (roast meat in sauerkraut), *musaka* (minced pork or beef mixed with eggs and potatoes and then baked), *gibanica* (pastry sheets with eggs, cheese and then baked), *proja* (corn bread), etc. Famous local spirits are *šljivovica* (plum brandy) and *lozovača* (grape brandy).



Travel

By plane:

Belgrade- <https://www.beg.aero/eng>

Niš - <http://nis-airport.com/>

By train:

Several international trains connect Belgrade with Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Bulgaria. Trains to Romania, Bulgaria and North Macedonia tend to be often quite late and often are old and not very comfortable.

For timetables and all other info check the website of **Serbian Railways:**

<http://serbianrailways.com/>

A cheap way of travelling to or from Serbia might be the [Balkan Flexipass](#).

By bus:

Bus lines connect Serbia with all neighbouring counties.

With Bulgaria, there are buses every day from Sofia (Bulgaria) to Belgrade and Niš. The buses in Sofia depart from the Central Bus Station (next to the Central Railway Station) and arrive in Central Bus Station in Belgrade (BAS). Tickets cost approximately 25 euros one way, and 50 euros (return).

For more information, see the timetable (arrivals/departures) of the Belgrade bus station (in English): <http://www.bas.rs/en/>

Taxi:

Always call for an official Taxi if it's possible, especially in the Airports area. The easiest way to do it, is to go to the Tourist Information Desk and ask for a TAXI voucher (price depends on the distance). It's not advisable to stop one outside the airport. Regular taxis besides the plate with the name of the TAXI company have additional blue plate with just a number. This blue plate is saying that the taxi is registered and is obliged to use meter and to give you a bill should you ask for it.



Border crossing

Visitors are allowed to bring into Serbia items of personal luggage and prescription medication (in a quantity required to continue treatment for the duration of stay), as well as up to 1 perfume, 1 eau de toilette, 1 liter of spirits, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco without declaring it to customs authorities. There are

special requirements for entering with pets or when importing plants. There is no limit on the amount of currency you are allowed to bring into Serbia, but if you are traveling with 10.000 EUR or more (or equivalent in other currencies) you are required to declare that you are transiting with the given amount in order to avoid complications when leaving Serbia. If you purchase a painting or antiquity (antique books included) during your stay, you will be required to obtain a special permit for export.

Visa requirements: Citizens of EU member countries, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, New Zealand, San Marino, Seychelles, Singapore, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, USA and British Overseas Territories do not require a visa for stays up to 90 days in duration.

- Nationals of North Macedonia do not require a visa for stays up to 60 days in duration.
- Citizens of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation do not require a visa for stays up to 30 days in duration.
- Visitors of all other nationalities need to obtain a visa prior to their arrival.

Since June 2010, citizens of EU member countries, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland can also use their national IDs to gain entry and stay in Serbia for up to 90 days.



Money / banks / credit cards

The official currency of Serbia is the [Serbian dinar](#) (ISO code: RSD; locally abbreviated as din.) which is made up of 100 para. Paper notes in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 dinars, and coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 dinars are in circulation. The banknotes, at least in Belgrade, tend to be more

common than the coins, so be prepared to carry around a large number of banknotes in varying conditions. Dinar is the only legal tender in Serbia. Exchange offices are ubiquitous in major cities, and they routinely accept euros, U.S. dollars and pounds sterling. If exchanging U.S. dollars, you might be required to present a valid form of ID and the procedure may take longer as note serial numbers are recorded. There are no such formalities when exchanging other currencies. Banks also perform currency exchange, but almost always at less favourable exchange rates than small exchange offices. Either way, there is no commission charged. There are also exchange machines which can be found at the airports and in major shopping malls. The exchange rate can fluctuate in excess of 1% from one day to the other. Both credit and debit cards are now widely accepted, though the situation is somewhat different in rural areas. The most commonly accepted cards are Visa, Visa Electron, Master and Maestro. Diners and American Express are less prevalent. Cards are rarely used in bakeries, fast food outlets and tobacco stores, and never in farmers' markets so it's good to have some cash handy if shopping at these. ATMs are numerous in major cities. Traveller's cheques can be difficult to cash in, as not all banks will accept them, and finding one that may prove to be a time-consuming effort. Unless you have no alternative, try not to rely on these for your visit to Serbia.

[Euro \(€\) rates](#)

[US Dollar \(\\$\) rates](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you plan to use your credit/debit card in Serbia, please inform your bank on your intention before departure! Otherwise it is very possible that your bank will block your account/ card for security reasons when you try to use it abroad! Unblocking your card, when abroad, may cost you lots of phone calls and troubles!



Communications

Internet: The Internet in Serbia is well developed

Phone calls:

Country code +381

In Serbia there are three mobile operators:

1. Mobilna Telefonija Srbije (MTS) - Serbian mobile operator
2. Telenor Norway mobile operator
3. VIP Mobile Austrian mobile operator

examples :

MTS uses 064 and 065 prefixes - 064 123456 or 065 123456

Telenor uses 062 and 063 prefixes - 062 123456 or 063 123456

VIP uses 060 and 061 prefixes - 060 123456 or 061 123456

Calling cards of all listed operators you can buy in every tobacco shop, general shops with sticker of mobile operators.

Post Offices

For more details please visit: <http://www.posta.rs/default-eng.asp>



Electricity



The voltage in Serbia is 220-230 Volts with a frequency of 50Hz. The electric socket used is the European CEE7/7 "Schuko" wall outlet pictured to the left as well as its non-grounded equivalent, the European CEE7/16 "Europlug".

If your equipment uses different sockets, make sure that you bring correct adapters, as these are hard to find in stores in Serbia



Business hours

Throughout the year, apart from Festivals, businesses are open at the following hours:

Offices: Mondays to Fridays: 09:00 - 19.00

Saturdays: 08:00 - 15:00

Banks: as for offices.(There are banks open by rotations on Sundays.)

Stores: Mondays to Fridays: 08:00 - 19:00

Saturdays: 08:00 - 15:00

Shops may be found that are open, mainly for food, also on Sundays and as well some shops remain open around the clock during the rest of the week.

In Belgrade and the main cities in Serbia, some branches of the post office are open also on Sundays.



Emergency

In Serbia, you can call the police by dialing 192, the firemen by dialing 193 and medical emergency services by dialing 194.