



The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Serbia and Bulgaria

Between Belgrade and Sofia – In the footsteps of the Roman Emperors, a discovery of culture and unspoiled nature

Introduction:

During this journey through the Balkans you will follow the footsteps of the Romans and discover the history and exceptional natural beauty of Serbia and Bulgaria from Roman settlements to modern cities with a rich cultural life, accompanied by traditional gastronomy and quality wines.

Your journey will start in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and one of the most vibrant cities of the Balkans. From here you will follow the Danube, the border of the former Roman empire, and discover Roman excavations, medieval fortresses, areas of exceptional natural beauty and numerous wine yards. The tour will end in Bulgaria's capital Sofia which history dates back to times even before the Romans came.

Itinerary : *Belgrade > Smederevo > Viminacium > Golubac > Lepenski Vir > Djerdap > Kladovo > Rajacke Pimnice > Felix Romuliana > Zajecar > Belogradchik > Vratsa > Sofia*

Duration: 8 days

Best way of transport: private car or camper

More information about The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route:

<http://romanemperorsroute.org/>

Day	Destinations
1	Arrival at Belgrade airport
2	<p>Belgrade The vibrant capital city of Serbia has something to offer for everyone. Just stroll around the city or explore Belgrade's main highlights during a sightseeing tour. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgrade Fortress (Roman history) • St. Sava church • Museum of Yugoslavia • Skadarlija • Sava Mala • Royal Compound in Dedinje • Nikola Tesla Museum • Zemun • Mount Avala • Boat ride on the Danube <p>Have dinner in one of the many restaurants in Belgrade and think back over your eventful journey. Overnight in Belgrade. <i>Accommodation tip: Hotel Envoy</i> <i>Restaurant tip: Klub Knjizevnika</i></p>
3	<p>Belgrade – Smederevo (55 km) Smederevo – Stari Kostolac (54 km)</p>

	<p>Stari Kostolac – Srebrno Jezero (20 km)</p> <p>Drive to Smederevo – the heart of the Morava wine region. Taste for example at the Winery Jeremić typical wines from the region and enjoy lunch at nearby restaurants arranged by the winery. If time allows drive to the city and climb the medieval Smederevo fortress. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winery Jeremić • Smederevo Fortress <p>Continue to Stari Kostolac. Visit Viminacium Archeological Site, which was one of the most important Roman cities and military camps in the period from the 1st to the 4th century. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphitheater • Mausoleum and Tombs • The Baths • Porta praetoria <p>End your day in Srebrno Jezero (Silver Lake), a nice small touristic resort on the Danube river, where the Danube is at its widest point, with a beautiful view on the Danube river and several nice outdoor terraces and restaurants along the river. Dinner and overnight in Srebrno Jezero.</p>
4	<p>Srebrno Jezero – Golubac (30 km) Golubac – Lepenski Vir (57 km) Lepenski Vir – Tekija (34 km) Tekija – Kladovo (30 km)</p> <p>Drive along the Danube to the town of Kladovo in the East of Serbia. This road will lead you through the famous Djerdap Gorge, the “Iron Gate”, and you will pass several cultural and natural highlights. Visit the medieval fortress of Golubac, the prehistoric excavation of Lepenski Vir and take a boat ride through the famous Djerdap Gorge and see the Tabula Traiana from the river. If time allows it, you can drive up to Kapetan Misin Breg (near Donji Milanovac), where you have a magnificent view over the Danube River and where an interesting sculpture garden was created. Highlights on the road include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval Golubac Fortress • Prehistoric settlement of Lepenski Vir • Kapetan Misin Breg • Visitor Center of Djerdap National Park in Donji Milanovac • Boat ride on the Danube river (from Tekija) through the Iron Gate • Traian’s bridge and the head of King Decebal • Historical Museum in Kladovo • Traian ‘s bridge (in Kladovo) <p>You will end your day in the pleasant town of Kladovo where you can take a stroll along the Danube or enjoy one of the outdoor terraces. Dinner and overnight in Kladovo.</p> <p><i>Hotel tip: Hotel Aquastar Danube</i></p>

5	<p>Kladovo – Rajacke Pimnice (80 km) Rajacke Pimnice – Felix Romuliana (55 km) Felix Romuliana – Zajecar (10 km)</p> <p>During this day you will discover some of the historical and gastronomical highlights of the Eastern Part of Serbia. Rajacke Pimnice is the oldest wine town of Serbia that dates back to the 18th century. Here you will find many traditional and old fashioned wine cellars next to each other. The nearby Vratna Monastery dates back to the 14th century and lies at the foot of the so called “Vratna Gates”, a natural wonder and a nice starting point for a short hike,</p> <p>Continue your tour to Felix Romuliana, a archeological site which is enlisted on the World Heritage List of UNESCO. This complex consists of the remainings of Roman palaces and temples with where built by emperor Galerius.</p> <p>From Felix Romuliana you will drive to the town of Zajecar, where you will find a department of the National Museum of History of Serbia. The museum host a collection of Roman artifacts that were found in and around Felix Romiliana. Overnight and dinner in Zajecar</p> <p>Points of the interest on the way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine Cellars of Rajacke Pimnice • 14th Century Vratna Monastery and the Vratna Gates • Archeological site ‘Felix Romuliana’ • National Museum of History in Zajecar <p><i>Restaurant tip: Restaurant Sveti Trifun in Rajacke Pimnice</i> <i>Accommodation tip: Hotel Serbia in Zajecar, or one of the rural households in Rajacke Pimnice.</i></p>
6	<p>Zajecar – Belogradchik (55 km, optional: via Vidin – 105 km) Belogradchik – Vratsa (109 km)</p> <p>Continue your journey into northeastern Bulgaria. On your way you will find several sites of historical interest including the Babi Vida Fortress in Vidin, whose roots go back to Roman times and the Kaleto Frotress in Belogradchik which is located on the northern slope of the Balkan Mountains in a stunning landscape of spectacular rock formations. The tour of the day will end in Vratsa, which is a town located on the edge of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park and idea base to explore the nature in the surroundings as well as the nearby Ledenika Cave. Highlights on the road include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baba Vida Fortress in Vidin • Kaleto Fortress in Belogradchik • The rock formations of Belogradchik • The City of Vratsa • Ledenika Vace • Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park <p><i>Gastronomy tip: Madona Tavern Belogradchik</i></p>



7	<p>Vratsa – Sofia (112 km)</p> <p>The tour will end in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The history of this city goes back to times long before the Romans came and the city has been conquered by many different tribes. The city has a vibrant atmosphere and is the most popular tourist destination to be visited in Bulgaria, besides the coast and the mountain resorts. The most important tourist attractions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alexander Nevsky Cathedral• Vitosha Boulevard, the pedestrian street with many cafés, restaurants and boutiques• Boyana Church with fresco from the 10th century• National Historical Museum of Bulgaria• Banya Bashi mosque, from the 16th century• The Church of St. George• The National Palace of Culture, with its numerous events• The Ivan Vazov National Theater
8	Departures from Sofia

Further information

General Travel Tips

- This itinerary is cross border. Make sure to book border crossing at the car rental company.
- You start in Belgrade and finish your journey in Sofia. Make sure to book a different car reception and delivery location.

How to arrive to Belgrade and how to travel

- Non-stop flights to Belgrade from many different airports including Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne, Hamburg, Brussels, Amsterdam, Eindhoven, London
- Car-hire is possible at the airport. All main rental car agencies are represented.

Tourist information Belgrade

<http://www.tob.rs/>

Tourist Information Serbia

<http://www.serbia.travel>

Tourist information Srebrno Jezero

<http://www.srebrnojezero.com>

National Park Djerdap:

<http://www.npdjerdap.rs>



Tourist information East Serbia

<http://www.visiteasterbia.rs>

Tourist Information Kladovo:

<http://www.tookladovo.rs>

Tourist Information Zajecar

<http://www.tozajecar.rs>

Tourist Information Bulgaria

<http://www.visitbulgaria.net>

Tourist Information Sofia

<http://visitsofia.bg>

Arrival to Belgrade Airport

- Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport is situated at 18 km distance from Belgrade downtown\
- The airport is located directly next to the highway and can easily be reached by car or taxi in about 20-30 mins from the city center
- Bus line A1 (airport express bus) connects Belgrade Airport with the train station and Slavija Square. The bus runs every 20 mins and the travelling time is approx.. 30 mins.
- City bus line 72 connects Belgrade Airport with Zeleni Venac and runs every 30 minutes. Travelling time is approx. 45 mins

Departure from Sofia Airport

- Sofia Airport is located 10 km's east from the city centre and well connected by road
- Sofia Metro Line 1 connects Sofia Airport to the city centre. The journey time from Sofia Airport to the city centre is approximately 18 min.