

NIŠ unforgettable
travel
spot

When one is looking at the tourist map of Serbia, thinking of the country's potentials and offer, the city of Nis is the location one should not miss.

At the crossroads between the east and the west, rich in historical heritage, surrounded by untouched natural beauties, and, above all, known for the hospitality of its population, whose wit was well described in the books by Stevan Sremac, the city of Nis will enchant you and make you happier.

Nis Tourist Organization, guided by its instinct of a good host, will do its best to acquaint you with the importance of Mediana and the Skull Tower for our civilization, with the history of the city on whose outskirts you can find Cegar Mountain, and in whose very center there is a gorgeous 18th century fortress, today, too, a most remarkable symbol of Nis.

Nis is famous around the globe by the fact that on 26 February 280 it was the location of the birth of Constantine, the Roman Emperor who passed the Edict of Milan in 313, granting Christianity an equal status with all other religions in the Empire. Nis celebrates its day on 3 June. On that day, the Serbian Orthodox Church venerates St. Emperor Constantine and his mother, Empress Helen.

Today a modern city, with more than 300,000 inhabitants, a center of economy, culture, education, and sports, Nis offers its visitors a myriad of entertaining events. Serving the needs of modern visitors, also via technology, wishing that you remember the unforgettable moments in Nis, we at Nis Tourist Organization present you our city: www.nistourism.org.rs . Do make the first step, visit us and plunge into the unforgettable travel magic.



Vladimir Jovanović
Touristic Organisation Niš
manager

Welcome!

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European Crossroads

The City of Nis is the most important regional center of administration, culture, history, economy, and university in south east Serbia.

Located in Nis valley, at the confluence of the Nisava and the Juzna Morava rivers, the city has the population of over 300,000. Known through history as the “Gateway between the East and the West”, it is today a major crossroads. Since 1960, it has been located on the European Corridor X. The E-75 highway, coming from Hungary, branches at Nis in two directions: to the south, towards Macedonia and Greece, and to the west, along the Nisava valley, toward Bulgaria, Turkey, and further to the Middle East.

The second by size in Serbia, Constantine the Great Airport is an important facility connecting Nis with the world. After being pulled down in 1999, it was renewed in 2003. Since then, it has operated international flights to Montenegro, Switzerland, and Turkey. The current tendency is to reintroduce traffic to other European locations, too.



European Crossroads

1



2



Birthplace of a Glorious Roman Emperor

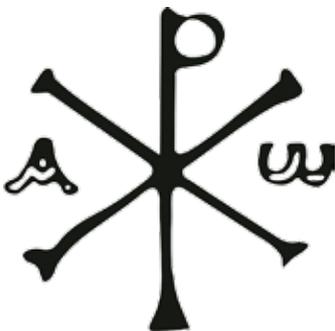
Constantine the Great, a major historical figure, known not only as the emperor and wise military commander, but also a great visionary and supporter of Christianity, was born in Nis, where he left significant items for historical heritage.

His portrait – the head of Emperor Constantine in bronze (4th century) was found in the bed of the river Nisava and is exhibited in Belgrade National Museum (a copy may be seen in the Archeological Hall of Nis National Museum), a historical and national treasure.

Apart from this portrait, Constantine bestowed upon Nis his luxurious summer residence of Mediana (4th century).

Constantine's visions and dreams in which he saw the Christ Monogram and the words "With this sign you shall win" (In hoc signo vinces) led him to numerous battles in which he defeated even enemies outnumbering him. His subsequent acknowledgment of Christianity as the official Roman religion, in the famous Milan Edict of 313, was a logical continuation of such events.

The history of the world and Christianity remember him as a person who pulled out Christianity out of catacombs and gladiator arenas, brought it to the light of day, and paved the way for the rise of one of the biggest world religions.



In hoc signo vinces

City of Turbulent History

3

Nis is one of the oldest European cities and it contains a rich historical heritage, spanning the period from the dawn of civilization to the present day. The prehistoric sites – Bubanj and Velika Humska Cuka testify to the emergence of first settlements in the vicinity of Nis as far back as in the Neolithic and the Bronze Age.

Under the name of Naissus, Nis was first mentioned in the book “Geography” by Claudio Ptolomei, in mid 2nd century. The reference made there quoted Nis as the biggest town in Dardania.

The ancient Naissus began to flourish with the arrival of the Romans. In the period in which it gave birth to the famous Roman emperor and military commander Flavius Valerius Constantine (Constantine the Great), in AD 274, Nis was a strong and invincible “castrum”.

During Attila’s campaign in 441, Nis was almost burnt down. The well known Byzantine diplomat Priscus described the condition when he passed through Naissus in 448: “When we arrived in Nis, we found a devastated town, as it had been torn to pieces by the enemy (the Huns)...”

The city was renewed and began to flourish again only in the 6th century, under the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Dating from this period, at the outskirts of Nis, in the location Kulina within the village of Balajnac, among the remains of the Byzantine forum, a portrait of the Byzantine empress was found along with the only known specimen of early Byzantine sculpture in this part of the Balkans (early 6th century).

In the 12th century, during the reign of the Serbian Grand Prince Stefan Nemanja, Nis became an integral part of the Serbian state. The crusaders, who had set off from France and Germany, reached this area. Among them was also the German Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa, who was greeted by Stefan Nemanja, within the estate of today’s Church of St. Panteleimon, in 1189. In addition to abundant presents and food for the army, Nemanja also offered Barbarossa military

assistance, and suggested vassal for all Byzantine lands that he would or would not conquer.



3

City of Turbulent History



In 1386 Nis was conquered by the Turks. With short interruptions (the Austrian conquer in the 17th century), they held on to Nis by 1878. During the five centuries of the Ottoman rule, Nis was the seat of the military and administrative authorities in this part of the Balkans. When the Serbian population decided it could not put up with the subjugation any longer, in 1804, led by Karadjordje Petrovic, an uprising broke out. One of the famous battles in the First Serbian Uprising took place on Cegar, a hill near Nis, on 31 May 1809. On that day, duke Stevan Sindjelic, failing to defeat the numerous Turkish army, fired a shot into a powder magazine and died a dignified death, along with his fellow soldiers. This story of magnificent heroism is remembered today by The Skull Tower and the Cegar Monument.



Although it was ruled by District Prefects Milos and Mihajlo, Niš was still under Turkish government. The Ottomans will be chased away for good no sooner than 1878, after long and tiring battles. District Perfect Milan triumphantly entered the fortress of Niš which symbolically marked the beginning of a new era in the city's history. Very soon Niš started developing rapidly, both culturally and politically, so in a short time from a small oriental settlement it was transformed into a modern European city-second metropolis of former Serbia.

Wishing to defend the country from Austro-Hungary, on 25 July 1914, the Serbian Government ordered that Belgrade be evacuated and the government relocated to Nis. The city then became the Serbian "wartime capital". Only a few days later, Nis was the place in which a telegram was received, where Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 7 December 1914. The National Assembly held its session in the Officers' Home Building in Nis, where it adopted the so-called "Nis Declaration", justifying the goals of the war for liberation and announcing the unification of the south Slavs – Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes – into a single state. Therefore, Nis is rightfully called the "birthplace of Yugoslavia". From October 1915 to October 1918, Nis was occupied by the Germans, Austrians, and Bulgarians. It was liberated by the Serbian-French army commanded by Duke Petar Bojovic.



City of Turbulent History

3



During World War Two (1941-1945) Nis was an important strategic point on the road to Thessaloniki and the Black Sea. It was heavily bombed and suffered significant repression by the German occupational forces. Testifying to this, one may find today Nis Concentration Camp and Bubanj Memorial Site. Nis was liberated on 14 October 1944, when the German mountain division "Prinz Eugen" was destroyed, after heavy fighting.

17 November 1996 – 27 January 1997

After the runoff in the local election and the major electoral fraud, massive protests commenced in Nis. Spurred by the revolt of dissatisfied laborers, students and other citizens of Nis joined the rallies. The protest took 96 days at Nis central square, until the electoral will of the people was finally acknowledged. Following in the footsteps of people from Nis, protests against the Milosevic regime also started in Belgrade and other Serbian cities. On St. Sava Day, 27 January 1997, a democratic city council was constituted.

24 March – 12 June 1999

In the NATO bombardment, 25 persons were killed in Nis, including 22 civilians, 2 soldiers, and 1 police officer. During the 78 days of constant bombings, NATO targeted Nis 40 times, of which 28 times at night and 12 times by day. The city was hit by 161 airplane bombs, 71 Tomahawk cruise missiles, 36 containers of cluster bombs and eight packages of graphite bombs, used to disable the electricity network. One hundred and twenty buildings were pulled down, while over 3,400 residential, commercial, infrastructural, and military facilities were damaged.

4



Cultural and Historical Legacy

Mediana

Following the historical course of events, the first portion of the cultural legacy of Nis that we describe is Mediana.

Emperor Constantine's 4th century summer residence, Mediana, today an archeological site, is located on what was once the Roman "Via militaris", a military road, and what is today the road Nis-Sofia.

The estate occupies 40 hectares, and exhibits the remains of a granary, a baptistery room, a water tower, a number of sacral facilities and the remains of ancient villas, thermae, and peristyle with rich mosaics made of fine marble, stone, and brick.

The museum, located on the estate, contains sculptures and portraits of Roman gods and goddesses, utensils for daily use (bowls, lamps) and remnants of lead pipes used to provide healing hot water from the nearby Niska Banja (Nis Spa).



The Fortress

Nis Fortress is located in the core of the city, on the bank of the Nisava river. It is one of the most preserved and beautiful medieval fortresses in central Balkans. By the Romans, over the Byzantines, Slavs, Bulgarians, and Serbs, it was pulled down and restored a number of times. Its assumed its final shape in 1723, when the Turks built it, facing the end of their reign in this area.

Apart from the well preserved massive stone walls and gates, the Fortress also boasts numerous pieces from Nis history: the Lapidarium (1st-4th centuries), remnants of an early Byzantine street, a Turkish bath (Hamam), a weapons and ammunition deposit, Bali-Beg Mosque, powder magazines, the monument to Prince Mihailo Obrenovic and the liberators of Nis, the prison, and the Historical Archives building.



Cultural and Historical Legacy

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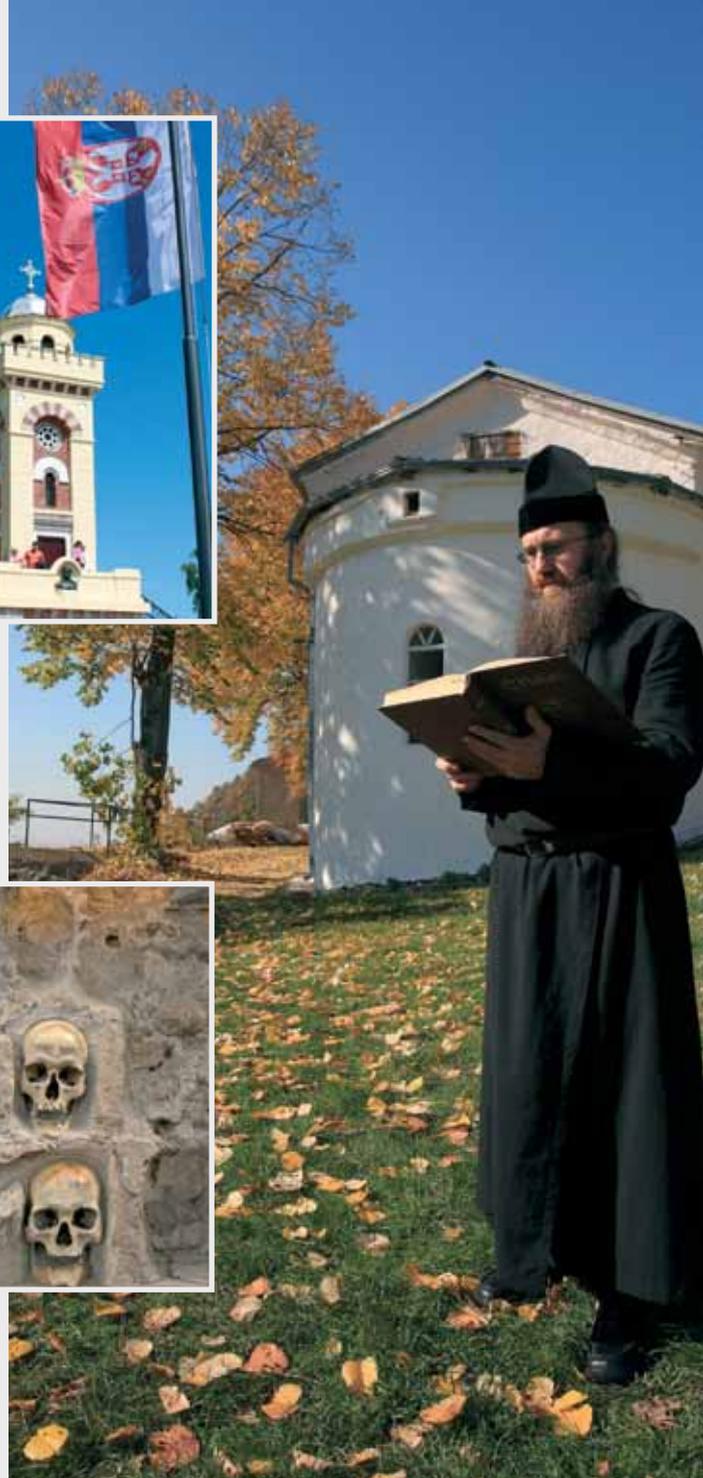
The Cegar Monument

In the vicinity of Nis, on Cegar hill, the location of the famous First Serbian Uprising battle, there is a monument put up in memory of the courageous soldiers and their commander Stevan Sindjelic, who died there. The tower-shaped monument – symbolizing a military fortification – was erected on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Nis, and it was first presented to the public on 1 June 1927. On the day of the great battle – 31 May 1809 – the Turks attacked the headmost Serbian position – Cegar. The battle took the entire day, with the Turks attacking in waves. They were rejected five times, though with major losses. Marching over the corpses of their fellow soldiers, the Turks managed to enter the trenches on the hill in the sixth attempt. Once inside, they attacked the Serbs with rifles, knives, and bare hands. Realizing he could not reject the attacks any further, Duke Sindjelic rushed towards the powder magazine packed with ammunition, drew his gun and fired shots at the magazine. The Duke, the remaining Serbian soldiers, and numerous Turks were killed in the explosion



The Skull Tower

This monument, unique in the world, was built after the Battle of Cegar. In the words of a “Serbian hajji from Nis”, the Turks prepared the construction of the tower made of skulls. When Hursid Pasha of Nis realized that, even though the post at Cegar hill had been taken, the battle and the explosion resulted in 3,000 dead Serbs and at least twice that many dead Turks, he ordered that the heads of the Serb victims be collected, skinned, and that the skulls should be built in the tower. The heads were stuffed with cotton and sent to Constantinople. This horrific monument was built along the road to Constantinople, as a warning to anyone rising against the Ottoman Empire.



4

Cultural and Historical Legacy

Nis Concentration Camp

The concentration camp located at the district of Crveni Krst (Red Cross) is one of the few fully preserved fascist camps in Europe. Even today, it provides authentic testimony to the perils of the Serbian, Romani, and Jewish population, communists, numerous supporters of the liberation movement and partisans, who were incarcerated here during the German occupation of Serbia (1941-1945).

Setting aside this camp from others is the fact that on 12 February 1942 there was a massive escape of prisoners here. Out of 147 inmates who attempted to flee, 105 managed to escape, while 82 died along the way. After this successful escape, and another in December 1942, the camp became a real venue of death.



Bubanj Memorial Site

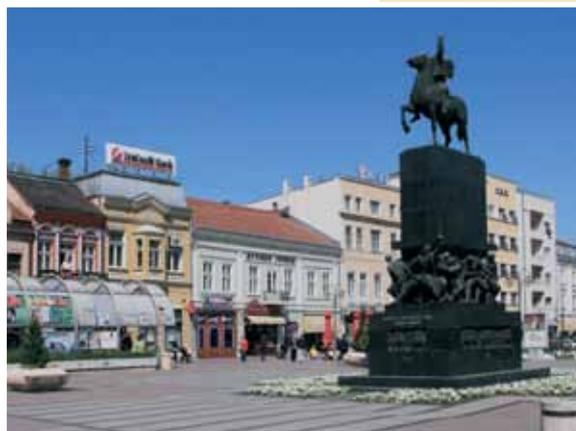
Bubanj Memorial is a park located on a forested hill southwest of the central city zone. During World War Two this was one of the biggest execution sites in Yugoslavia. An estimated 10-15,000 people were shot here. The number cannot be accurately determined, as the bodies were first dug with the help of bulldozers. In an attempt to cover up their crimes, in August 1944, just before the end of the war, the Germans dug out and burnt numerous bones (the burning took 20 days).

The monument, 3 monumental fists of various sizes, symbolizing a child, a woman, and a man shot at the location, was presented to the public on Nis liberation day, 14 October 1963. It was the work of the Croatian sculptor Ivan Sabolic.



Monument to Liberators of Nis at King Milan Square

The monument dedicated to the liberators is located at the central location of the city, King Milan Square. It presents the period of wars for liberation against the Turks, Bulgarians, and Germans. This monumental sculpture is one of the most significant creations of more modern Yugoslav art, made by the well known sculptor from Zagreb, Croatia, Antun Augustincic.



Cultural and Historical Legacy

4



King Aleksandar Monument at King Aleksandar Square

The original monument presenting King Aleksandar on a horse, made by Belgrade sculptor Rade Stankovic in 1939, was removed and destroyed in the first years after the rise of communists to power, in 1946. In order to rectify the injustice to this important historical figure, in 2004, the citizens of Nis put up a new monument of Aleksandar. Made by Belgrade sculptor Zoran Ivanovic, it is 11.5 meters high and weighs over 3 tons. King Aleksandar is remembered for being the first to proclaim the unity of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1918. He was assassinated in Marseilles in 1934.



The Archeological Hall of Nis National Museum

The archeological hall of Nis National Museum presents numerous exhibits telling a vivid story of Nis history and culture. From artifacts found at the prehistoric finds in Bubanj and Humska Cuka, more than 1000 years old, over exhibits from the Roman times, such as Roman money (1st-4th century), military charters, statues, tombstones, remnants of the fence of the Roman villa in Mediana, all the way to Medieval jewelry, stone icons, and crosses. The hall also contains unique works of art, such as a copy of the Emperor Constantine portrait, the sculpture of Jupiter on the throne, and the portrait of the Byzantine Empress Theodora / Euphemia.



5 NISKA BANJA - Health Oasis



Modern tourism requires new offer and events, so that in recent years the so-called wellness and spa programs have been offered in Niska Banja.

The goal of this type of tourist offer is to help visitors establish the harmony of body and soul with nature and get rid of stress. Numerous relaxation programs are offered, including anti-age, anti-stress, happy weekend, Jacuzzi with thermal water, various types of massage, vibro sauna. All these treatments are given in a brand new space made to satisfy top-notch world wellness standards. They will become an oasis of peace in which you will soothe your senses and give in to relaxation.

Ten kilometers away from Nis, on the road to Sofia, in the southern part of Nis valley, under the forest-covered Koritnik, the final slope of Mt. Suva Planina, 808 meters above sea level, one finds Niska Banja (Nis Spa). Surrounded by Svrljig Mountains and Svrljig Gorge, and open air in the east and the west, the Spa bathes in the sun throughout the day.

Medically, the Spa is well known for the treatment of locomotory problems, respiratory illnesses, neurological, metabolic, cardiological and gynecological disorders.

The therapeutic effects for numerous visitors are possible due to three sources of healing thermal water (Glevno vrelo, Suva banja and Skolska cesma), where water temperature ranges from 17 to 39 degrees Celsius. In addition to the water, the presence of the gas radon is important. Its composition is unique in the world and it is used for inhalation.



Vicinity of Nis from Peace to Adrenaline

6



Modern life urges people to return to nature, spend their free time in the vicinity of their hometown, get to know the potentials of their own environment, enjoy, relax, and sometimes take up interesting sports. With its environment, gorgeous mountain ranges, Mt. Suva Planina, Mt. Svrlijske Planine, and Mt. Selicevica, the City of Nis offers a lot. Whether you admire natural wonders, or actively participate in an athletic event, the locations we recommend and unusual sports are an unforgettable choice.

Sicevo Gorge

Sicevo Gorge represents a fascinating part of the canyon of the Nisava river, located on the road to Sofia, at the end of the final slopes of Mt. Svrlijske Planine and Mt. Suva Planina. Situated 14km away from Nis, it is 17km long and divided into two parts: the higher and lower gorge. The higher part is narrow and similar to a canyon, while the lower one is wider and has more steady slopes.

Apart from wonderful, breathtaking nature, the gorge also boasts two hydroelectric plants constructed in the early 20th century. One of them provides electricity for Nis even today. Additionally, in the nearby village of Ostrovica there is the Church of St. Petka and, in Sicevo proper, on the main road to Sofia, St. Mother of God Monastery (built in 1644 and renewed in 1875, as it was pulled down by the Turks).

Sport lovers may enjoy mountaineering, walking in nature, fishing, paragliding and rafting (in 2009 the World Rafting Cup was organized in this part of the Nisava).



Jelasnica Gorge

Jelasnica Gorge is a natural rarity located 15km from the city and 3km from Niska Banja. Although small in size, 2km long, it has been proclaimed special nature reserve due to its peculiar flora and natural beauty. Here you may see creations in stone, such as dolomite columns, resembling teeth, kneeling figures and windows. Moreover, the gorge hosts over 65 endemic and subendemic plants, some of which are very rare – such as *Ramonda Serbica* and *Ramonda Nathaliae*. Located between the villages of Jelasnica and Cukljenik, the gorge offers a few nice locations for camping and picnics.

6

Vicinity of Nis from Peace to Adrenaline



Bojanine Vode

Bojanine Vode (Bojana's Waters) excursion site is located 25 km from Nis. Situated 700-1300m above the sea level, on the northern part of Mt. Suva Planina, this venue is an ecological oasis offering fresh mountain air and sunlight.

Mountaineers can choose from among a few well-marked tracks, which will take them to wonderful nearby peaks, such as Sokolov kamen (1553 m), Devojacki grob (1317m), Mosor (984m), and the highest peak of Mt. Suva - Trem, 1810 meters above sea level. In wintertime, the ski track Sokolov kamen is available for skiing.



The Hill of Kamenica

Throughout the year, the Hill of Kamenica is the favorite single-day excursion site for people from Nis. It is situated on the slopes of Mt. Svrlijske Planine, above the village of Kamenica, 750-800 meters above sea level and is 14 km away from the town. The terrain is mildly formed and covered with low forest plants. There is a hunter's restaurant at the location, where you may get some refreshment and enjoy excellent game meat.



Cerje Cave

Cerje Cave is located 14 km away from Nis. The cave is hydrologically active. Geologists estimate that the Cave of Cerje originated over 2 million years ago. The cave abounds in cave formations throughout its length. It boasts a wonderful underground world made of corridors and large halls, on average 15 to 40 meters high, showing hundreds of morphological and hydrological forms of different shape, size, and color, cave jewelry - stalactites, helictites, wavy draperies, cave corals, and crystal flowers, which can be found only here in Serbia.



Banja Topilo

Banja Topilo (Topilo Spa) is situated 25 km away from Nis in the lively Toponicka river valley. The warm mineral water (34 C) comes out of some 18 springs, totaling about 10 m/sec in power. The water is used in therapeutic purposes and helps treat rheumatic diseases and nervous system diseases. Likewise, patients drink it in chronic stomach disorders, inflammation of gallbladder, kidneys, and the urinary tract.

Vicinity of Nis from Peace to Adrenaline

6

EXTREME SPORTS

Paragliding

The Nisava basin is surrounded by mountain chains and is therefore ideal for paragliding. Favorable winds and good climatic conditions provide additional support for this sport. Therefore, for years now, world and European championships have been organized in Nis. The most important pitches include Visegrad – only 20 km away from the city core, the pitch over the village of Sicevo and Koritnik – above Niska Banja. For those who have not tried their hand at this sport yet, the paragliding club organizes a flying school.



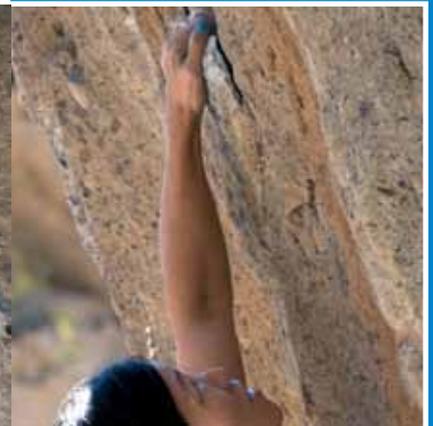
Shooting Rally

This unique athletic event in Europe is organized by the club "Safari" from Nis. It is a combination in which one should show one's skills in a quick all-terrain vehicle ride and one's shooting ability with small arms. It is organized every year, on the first weekend in October. Shooting rally is one of the most extreme programs in Serbia, as it contains elements of extreme jeep ride over uncategorized terrain and practical use of weapons in unusual circumstances. This is an exciting athletic event, already traditional in Nis, and it has gathered more than a thousand participants so far.



Free Climbing

Nis Mountaineering Club has made a free climbing track in a natural rock of Jelasnica Gorge, with fully attested equipment. Climbing is possible in all directions, under the supervision of club members. Those wishing to try out the sport before going to this natural site may do so on an artificial rock made in accordance with UIAA standards, located downtown, in front of the club premises. On this rock a number of national competitions and Balkan free climbing cups have been organized.



7

Festivals

A city rich in history and tradition, Nis offers its contemporaries, local and international guests, a range of entertaining events. If you happen to be in the city on the Nisava around one of these dates, make sure you do not miss:



Days of St. Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen (1-5 June) – every year, the city of Nis organizes numerous athletic, scientific and cultural events to celebrate its most famous citizen, Emperor Constantine the Great and his mother, Empress Helen.

The International Choral Festival (July, biennially) – the tradition of choral competitions started in Nis 44 years ago and it continues to gather more and more national and international choirs every two years. Since 2008 this event has been accompanied by the Orthodox Music Festival, under the patronage of the Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus Alexy II and the Serbian Patriarch Pavle.



Nisville – International Jazz Festival (second half of August) – in recent years, the audience of this part of the Balkans has had an opportunity to listen to some great names of jazz music, but also those fusing jazz with other streams, such as Donald Byrd, Larry Coryell, Lenny White, Victor Bailey, Incognito, Teodosi Spasov, Milco Leviev, The Brand New Heavies, Billy Cobham, Candy Dulfer ... and numerous others whose time is just coming.



The Film Festival – a Festival of Serbian Actors (late August) – since 1966, every summer Nis has symbolically given the keys to the city to actors and become “a city of actors”. The most attended festival of its kind in Serbia, organized in the open air of Nis Fortress Amphitheatre, the festival has always attracted a lot of attention. Even today older attendants remember the visit of the world famous acting couple, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

Festivals

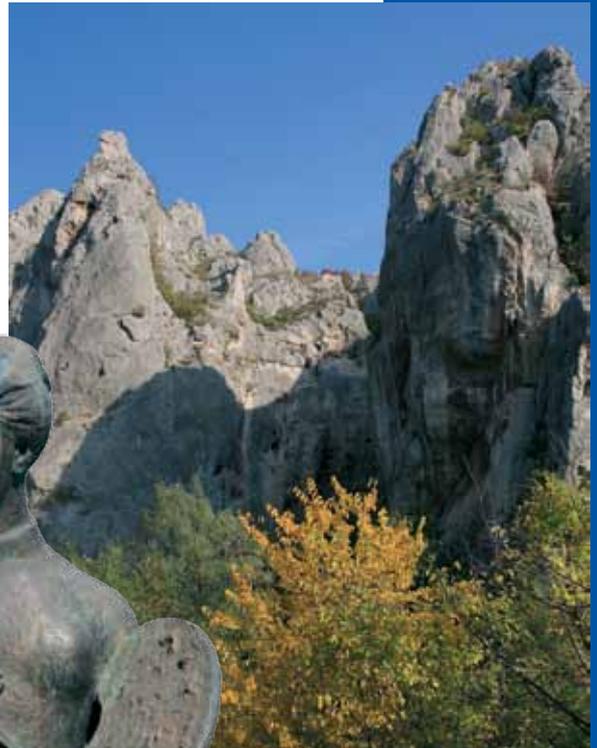
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Burek Days (late August, early September) – in the open air near the Nisava river, every year locals and tourists enjoy the abundant offer of the specialty – a typical Balkan-style cheese pie, known as burek. From the classical burek containing cheese, over more modern variations stuffed with ham or bacon, you will not resist the aroma of burek from Nis bakeries for these few days.



Nisomnija (early September) – a music festival offering a lot of fun within the walls of Nis fortress. You will enjoy listening to various musical schools, from electronic tones played by DJs, to the rock and pop sound of national and international stars.

The International Art Colony in Sicevo (early September) – this is the oldest art colony in the Balkans, once Yugoslav, today Serbian. Far back in 1905 the renowned painter Nadezda Petrovic recognized the beauty of Sicevo Gorge and founded this colony in Sicevo village.



The International Literary Colony in Sicevo (September) – Sicevo Literary Colony is another traditional event. Participants include renowned national and international writers and literary critics.

NIMUS (late October, early November) – a classical music festival traditionally held in Nis for 35 years. National and instrumental soloists and opera singers participate international philharmonic and chamber orchestras,.



8

Hotels, Restaurants, Bars



The promotion of tourist offer in the city and its vicinity, development of business and conference tourism, and improved transit through Serbia have resulted in the opening of a number of hotels in Nis. Today, the city offers several hotels – from luxurious to budget ones – and numerous hostels and boarding houses for overnight stay.



The tradition of good meals, better hosts, and the best fun is what most tourists will remember Nis by. Numerous restaurants, café bars and discotheques offer entertainment which extends long into the night. IN the morning, after the exciting night do not miss the genuine Nis breakfast – burek, with or without yoghurt. It will please your senses and give you enough energy to start the day As for menus, the national cuisine and excellent Nis barbecue prevail, but international specialties are also offered.



Listening to the sounds of traditional town music from Nis meyhanes or modern sounds from discotheques, you will find yourself wishing to always return to the city on the Nisava.



1 Day

Tour

A tour of the city hosted by the local guide (by bus)

Departure from the location agreed on with the guide. A visit to the monument on Cegar hill – the location of the famous 1809 battle. Afterwards, a ride to the Skull Tower, one of the most disturbing monuments in Serbian history and a unique building in the world in which human skulls were built into the stone. The guide will provide information on the consequences of the Battle of Cegar. After leaving the Skull Tower, the tour will move on to Mediana, a 4th century archeological site. It was the summer residence of Emperor Constantine, one of the most important statesmen in ancient Rome and protector of Christianity who was born in Nis in AD 274. The guide will provide information on the site. After Mediana the bus takes the passengers to Niska Banja. This spa is a pleasant town with healing thermal water springs. It was well-known in the times of ancient Romans who spent their time there enjoying themselves in numerous multicolored marble pools. In the time of Emperor Constantine and his heirs there was a bath in the imperial settlement of Mediana to which the beneficial water from the spa arrived by means of a complex system of ducts. A stroll through Niska Banja with information provided by the guide. Free time until the return to the city.



Return to the city over St. Sava Square where the Church of St. Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen is located. A ride along old Vozdova Street with the oldest schools in Nis – Vozd Karadjordje elementary school and The First Nis Secondary Grammar School – “Stevan Sremac”. The ride continues to Stevan Sindjelic Square with the National Theatre Building and the Court Building, followed by the ride along Nikole Pasica Street with the City Hall, central city mall “Kalca”, the Stambolijaska House, today “Sindjelic” restaurant, and the National Museum building. A tour around King Aleksandar Square with the new King Aleksandar monument and a visit to Nos Fortress, the symbol of the city, lying on the right bank of the Nisava (the guide will provide information all along during the bus ride). Leaving the bus. A tour of inside the fortress and discussion. After the walk, free time for taking photos. Walk over the fortress bridge to King Milan Square with the monument to liberators of the city built in 1937 in memory of World War One liberation. The monument was made by the well-known sculptor Antun Augustincic and is one of the symbols of the city. On the square, one should see the line of old authentic buildings dating from the old Nis and the monument to Nis residents hanged by the Turks in 1821. The tour continues on foot through Obrenoviceva

Street to Stevan Sremac Square and Kopitareva Street. The tour ends here and there is free time for individual walks and a coffee refreshment in one of the local cafes (this tour is intended for one day and takes an active 5 hours with no pauses. It may be combined depending on the time the group has for sightseeing and traffic conditions).

Combinations: Cegar, The Skull Tower, Mediana-Niska Banja (by bus -3 hours)

Cegar, The Skull Tower, Mediana, The Fortress (by bus -3 hours)

A Walking Tour: The Fortress, The Fortress Bridge, Dom mladih Restaurant, Monument to the Liberators of the City, Obrenoviceva Street, Stevan Sremac Square, Tinkers Alley, The Museum (1-2 hours)

Religious Monuments: The Cathedral Church (big and small), The Church of St. Nicholas, Prizren Seminary Church Estate, The Church of St. Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen, The Church of St. Panteleimon (by bus -4 hours)

Monuments to Nis Liberators: Cegar, The Skull Tower, Park Hotel, Monument to Liberators at King Milan Square, The Concentration Camp, Bubanj Memorial Site (minimum 3 hours)

2 Days

Tour



Day One:

A tour of the city starting from a location previously agreed on with the guide (by bus). A ride to King Aleksandar Square, followed by Obilicev Vecnac street over Dusanova Street to Cair Sport Center, Clinical Center, and the Faculty of Medicine to St. Sava Square, the location of the Church of St. Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen. Return to the city core through old Vozdova Street with the oldest schools in Nis – Vozd Karadjordje elementary school and The First Nis Secondary Grammar School – “Stevan Sremac”. The ride continues to Stevan Sindjelic Square with the National Theatre Building and the Court Building. The ride goes on along Nikole Pasica Street with the City Hall, central city mall “Kalca”, the Stambolijska House, today “Sindjelic” restaurant, and the National Museum building.

A visit to Nis Fortress, the symbol of the city, lying on the right bank of the Nisava. A tour of inside the fortress. After the walk through the Fortress, free time for taking photos. Walk over the fortress bridge to King Milan Square with the monument to liberators of the city built in 1937 in memory of World War One liberation. The monument was made by the well-known sculptor Antun Augustincic and is one of the symbols of the city. On the square, one should see the line of old authentic buildings dating from the old Nis and the monument to Nis residents hanged by the Turks in 1821.

The tour continues on foot, along Obrenoviceva Street, Stevan Sremac Square, Tinkers Alley, the National Museum, The Cathedral Church (big and small).

Free time for individual walks and coffee refreshment in one of the local cafes (by bus, 3-4 hours).



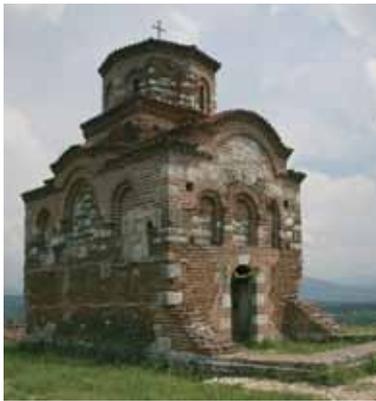
Day two:

Breakfast. Departure from the location agreed on with the guide. A visit to the monument on Cegar hill – the location of the famous 1809 battle. Afterwards, a ride to the Skull Tower, one of the most disturbing monuments in Serbian history and a unique building in the world in which human skulls were built into the stone. The guide will provide information on the consequences of the Battle of Cegar.

After leaving the Skull Tower, the tour will move on to Mediana, a 4th century archeological site. It was the summer residence of Emperor Constantine, one of the most important statesmen in ancient Rome and protector of Christianity who was born in Nis in AD 274. A tour of the site with information provided by the museum custodian.

After Mediana the bus takes the passengers to Niska Banja. This spa is a pleasant town with healing thermal water springs. It was well-known in the times of ancient Romans who spent their time there enjoying themselves in numerous multicolored marble pools. In the time of Emperor Constantine and his heirs there was a bath in the imperial settlement of Mediana to which the beneficial water from the spa arrived by means of a complex system of ducts. A stroll through Niska Banja with information provided by the guide.

Free time until the return to the city. (by bus, 4 hours).



3 Days

Tour

Day one:

Departure from a previously agreed on location and start of a guided tour. King Aleksandar Square and the King Aleksandar Monument. Ride through Obilicev Venac street via Dusanova Street to Cair Sport Center, Clinical Center Nis and the Faculty of Medicine to St. Sava Square where the Church of St. Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen is located. Return to the city core through old Vozdova Street with the First Nis Secondary Grammar School – “Stevan Sremac”. The ride continues to Stevan Sindjelic Square with the National Theatre Building and the Court Building. The ride goes on along Nikole Pasica Street with the City Hall, central city mall “Kalca”, the Stambolijska House, today “Sindjelic” restaurant, and the National Museum building.



A visit to Nis Fortress, the symbol of the city, lying on the right bank of the Nisava. Leaving the bus. A tour of inside the fortress. After the walk through the Fortress, free time for taking photos. Walk over the fortress bridge to King Milan Square with the Monument to Liberators of the City built in 1937 in memory of World War One liberation. The monument was made by the well-known sculptor Antun Augustincic and is one of the symbols of the city. On the square, one should see the line of old authentic buildings dating from the old Nis and the monument to Nis residents hanged by the Turks in 1821.

The tour continues on foot, along Obrenoviceva Street, Stevan Sremac Square, Tinkers Alley, the National Museum. Free time for individual walks and coffee refreshment in one of the local cafes (by bus, 3-4 hours).

Day two:

Breakfast. Departure from the location agreed on with the guide. A visit to Nis Concentration Camp, one of the five fully preserved Nazi camps in Europe. After the visit to the camp, a ride to Cegar hill – the location of the famous 1809 battle. Afterwards, a ride to the Skull Tower, one of the most disturbing monuments in Serbian history and a unique building in the world in which human skulls were built into the stone. The museum custodian will provide information on the consequences of the Battle of Cegar.

After leaving the Skull Tower, the tour will move on to Mediana, a 4th century archeological site. It was the summer residence of Emperor Constantine, one of the most important statesmen in ancient Rome and protector of Christianity who was born in Nis in AD 274. A tour of the site with information provided by the museum custodian. After the visit, the bus returns to the city for the passengers to visit the Grand Cathedral Church, built during the reign of the Turks 1857-1872 and the small Church of St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel built in 1819, the seat of Nis diocese (by bus, 3-4 hours).

Day three:

Breakfast. Leaving the hotel. The visit to wonderful Nis surroundings. A ride toward Sicevo village and Sicevo Gorge through the 17 km long canyon, a special nature reserve and one of the most beautiful natural environments around Nis. A visit to St. Petka Monastery and the 1908 Hydroelectric Power Plant, active even today. Return and visit to Jelasnica Gorge and Bojanine Vode, the well known excursion and skiing site. After a short rest, departure to Niska Banja. This spa is a pleasant town with healing thermal water springs. It was well-known in the times of ancient Romans who spent their time there enjoying themselves in numerous multicolored marble pools. In the time of Emperor Constantine and his heirs there was a bath in the imperial settlement of Mediana to which the beneficial water from the spa arrived by means of a complex system of ducts. A stroll through Niska Banja with information provided by the guide or relaxation in the modern Wellness Center. Return to Nis upon agreement. (by bus, 4 hours).





CITY OF NIŠ
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