

Serbia

Information for applicants

Serbia

Serbia is located at the heart of the Balkan region, now politically known as the Western Balkans. This land-locked country in southern Europe has a population of just under 7.1 million and covers an area of 77,484 km². Besides its beautiful capital of Belgrade, it also boasts other lovely larger cities, picturesque little villages, impressive mountains and beautiful beaches.

Climate and sights

Serbia is located in a warm, temperate climate zone, influenced by a moderate continental climate. Precipitation decreases from the north-east to the south-west, a shift in maximum precipitation from early summer to autumn/winter that is particularly striking. This is a key part of Serbia's climate, which is shaped by its location relative to the warmer seas (Adriatic, Aegean and the Black Sea) and the mountains. The precipitation regime with Mediterranean winter rainfall dissipates as you move away from the coast but is still evident in the western Serbian mountains in the Kosovo region. The typical precipitation curves of Eastern Central Europe, with maximum precipitation in early summer, coinciding with the high-sun season, only affect the continental voivodeship.

Most holidaymakers in Serbia visit the major cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, or one of the many spa resorts. Belgrade's most interesting sights include the Kalemegdan Fortress, the mausoleum of Turkish Grand Vizier Damat Ali Pasha, the Orthodox Cathedral and the Bajrakli Mosque.

Serbia's landscape highlights include the Danube regions and the Kopaonik and Zlatibor mountains with their lakes and gorges. The Iron Gates is the largest gorge, and also home to Serbia's largest lake, Lake Djerdap. Visitors to Serbia can also see many fortresses and monasteries. The Tara National Park, known for its beautiful forests, is located in the country's mountainous west.

Medical care

Overall, medical services in Serbia are not of German standards. Even hospitals often do not have adequate equipment or cannot provide appropriate medical care for all conditions. Hygiene is inadequate. A few public and private clinics and practices in the capital, Belgrade, and some other major cities (Novi Sad, Nis) are an exception to this. Serbian medical facilities charge foreign nationals far higher fees for treatment than Serbian citizens. Free treatment with the International Health Insurance certificate ('JU-6') is only available in state hospitals.

Accommodation and quality of life

The cost of rent depends on the respective city/village, the size of the apartment, and whether it is furnished. Rents in Serbia start at about EUR 250. Landlords generally require advance payment of rent for six months or even a whole year. It may also be possible to rent apartments or houses through a real estate agent.

Shops and services

Shopping is no problem in Serbia, especially in the major cities. Numerous food and drugstore chains have expanded to Serbia in recent years. More and more huge shopping centres are being built in the major cities. In larger cities, shops are open all day from 8:00 to 19:00, Monday to Friday, and 8:00 to 16:00 on Saturday. Many grocery stores open as early as 6:00 and do not close until 21:00. In small towns, shops generally close for a few hours around noon. In big cities, the large shopping centres are generally open all day. However, you can also buy a wide range of goods at the large bazaars in every city, where you can generally haggle over the price with the seller.

The water supply in the major cities and most small towns is normal. However, as the water pipes are old and the water quality is poor, we strongly advise against drinking tap water.

Accompanying partners and children

Basically, partners of field staff members can work in Serbia, though application procedures for work permits are complicated. To be eligible for employment, the partner must forego their simple registration as an accompanying partner and apply for a regular residence permit (visa) – which includes submitting a signed (employment) contract and other documents. At the same time, a work permit application must be submitted. The Serbian National Employment Service then checks whether a potential employee with comparable qualifications would be available on the Serbian labour market.

If they do find a comparable specialist on the national labour market, the work permit is not issued. According to its own internal guidelines, the German Embassy supports the employment of accompanying partners.

Serbia has a well-developed network of state kindergartens. There are now also many private pre-schools especially in the capital Belgrade. The capital is also home to the Belgrade German School (DSB) which includes a kindergarten, a pre-school, primary school and secondary school. The school is recognised as a German foreign school by the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the German Federal States and the Serbian Ministry of Education. It offers German lower secondary, secondary and university admission qualifications (*Hauptschulabschluss*, *Realschulabschluss* and *Abitur*).

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/serbien-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/303.html>

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