



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Bosnia and Herzegovina - Sarajevo

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Sarajevo
- ✓ **Language:** Bosnian (*Croatian, Serbian*)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 275,500
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 141.5
- ✓ **Currency:** Mark (BAM / KM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +387
- ✓ **Visa:** Generally not required. [Info here.](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 122 (*police*), 123 (*fire*), 124 (*ambulance*).
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Covid-19.



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

1908: Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH) annexed by Austria-Hungary. '14: Bosnian Serb student assassinates Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo → Start WWI, until '18: End of war, BH becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. '41: WWII, BH annexed by pro-Hitler Croatian puppet state: 1000s Serbs, Jews and Gypsies to concentration camps. '45: BH liberated by partisans under Tito. '45-'91: Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. '91: Collapse communism → separatists win first multi-party elections and form coalition government. '92: Croat and Muslim (Bosniak) nationalists form alliance and outvote Serbs at independence referendum. Bosnian War: Serbs quickly control over half the republic → killings and deportations. '95: Safe haven of Srebrenica is overrun by Bosnian Serb forces under General Mladic: genocide of over 8,000 Muslims. NATO / Dayton Peace Accord: 2 entities of roughly equal size, one for Bosnian Muslims and Croats (Federation of BH), the other for Serbs (Republika Srpska) + international peacekeeping corps. 3 presidents: BH / Serb / external. '04: NATO hands over peacekeeping duties to a EU-led force: Eufor. '15: Stabilisation and Association Agreement, raising possibility of Bosnia joining EU → '16: applies for membership.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 550m (highest point). Climate: Temperate oceanic climate (Cfb).

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Emperor's Mosque, Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque, Baščaršija, City Hall, National Library, Latin Bridge, Sniper Alley, Yellow Fortress, Avaz Twist Tower, Memorial for Children Killed During Siege, Eternal Flame, Ashkenazi Synagogue, Meeting of Culture, Tasli Han, Morica Han, Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelj Fountain, Vijecnica & [more](#).

☺ **Activities:** [Free Walking Tour](#) (*tip-based*)... different themes available. I recommend the War Tour. Climb Mount Trebevic and hike the Bobsleigh Track.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Paid Museums & Sights:** [National Museum](#), [Sacred Heart Cathedral](#), [Museum of Sarajevo 1878-1918](#), [Museum of Crimes Against Humanity](#), [Tunnel Museum](#), [Gallery 11/07/95](#), [National Gallery](#), [War Childhood Museum](#), [Srvczo House](#), [Jewish Museum](#), [History Museum](#), [Sevdah Art House](#), [Despic House](#), [Museum of Literature and Performing Arts](#) & [more](#).

👍 **Activities:** [Sarajevo Brewery](#), [Trebevic Zicara](#) (*cable car – you can also hike up easily*).

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Konzum, Bingo, Amko, Mercator, Naš.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Pijaca Markale, Ciglane, City Market.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Cevapi (*grilled minced meat in pita bread*), Sahan (*mixed grill*), Bosanski Lonac (*meat and veg stew*), Raznjici (*Bosnian souvlaki*), Tarhana / Begova Corba / Grah (*soups*), Duvec (*stew*), Sopska Salata (*salad with cheese*), Burek (*fried stuffed bread*), Klepe (*minced meat dumplings*), Buranija (*bean-veal stew*), Prebranac (*bean stew*), Palacinke (*pancakes*), Dolma / Sarma / Japrak (*cabbage rolls*), Pljeskavica (*hamburger*), Cutfe (*meat balls*), Suho Meso (*dried meat*), Rakija (*alcoholic drink*), Ajvar (*veggie sauce*), Baklava (*sweet dessert*).
- ⌘ **Go veg:** Going veg is rather complicated in Bosnia, but easier in the capital city. Check local veg restaurants [here](#). **Local veg dishes:** Prebranac, Ajvar. **Tip:** ask for “*posna grana*” food, which is orthodox meat- and dairy-free fasting food – it might contain seafood, so specify: “*Bez ribe, jaja, mlečnih proizvoda i mesa.*”

## Mama Said

- ☠ Bosnia and Herzegovina is a safe country and the crime rate is low. However, take your general precautions like in any other capital city.
- ☠ Stay on the trails when hiking and steer clear of abandoned buildings, neglected land, open countryside etc. Landmines are still present after the Bosnian War.
- ☠ If you consider yourself an animal lover, boycott institutions such as Sarajevo Zoo where animals are held in captivity, out of their natural habitat.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable. Even from fountains.
- ☠ English is not widely spoken, not even by the younger generation. *Some* older people speak basic German. It's recommended to download the Google Translate app. Serbian / Bosnian / Croatian / Bulgarian / Montenegrin are very similar languages, so locals understand one another.

## The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Booking.com generally offers the cheapest deals, especially with Genius-discount. Always reconfirm the exact address, as often this is listed incorrectly or vaguely. Having a local sim card is essential for check-in communication. Wild camping in Bosnia is semi-legal, but don't go too far off trail with regards to land mines.
- ❖ You can check for listings on [Couchsurfing](#) / [house-sitting](#) and check [WorkAway](#).

## Festivals

- ☼ Bašaršija Nights: Cultural, Jul.
  - ☼ Mess Theatre Festival: Performing arts, Oct.
  - ☼ Jazz Fest: Music, Nov.
- Find more festivals [here](#).

## Free-Riding?

- **Walking:** The centre of Sarajevo is walking friendly. Mind the extremely steep hills though (*very slippery after rainfall*).
- **Cycling:** There is a public bicycle system called [NextBike](#), operated by app, smartcard, or the bike terminal itself. You get 30 minutes free daily. After that, it's an extremely low hourly fee.
- **Public transport** exists widely, but is not so well-organized. Trams run through the main streets, but often three of the same number come in a row, while other numbers never show up. My recommendation is to take the first tram and see how far it goes, and then change when you notice it deviates from your destination. Tickets are slightly cheaper when pre-bought in kiosks and need to be stamped upon entry. There are daily and 10-day tickets (*in kiosk*). A ticket is per ride, not per timeframe. Tickets for (*trolley*)/buses and trams are different and paid separately. Minibuses are privately owned and require a cash payment to the driver. Find a public transport map [here](#).
- **Hitchhiking** is the best way to get around if you don't have your own vehicle. It isn't super common so it might include some waiting time. Also, keep in mind that English isn't generally spoken. Check Sarajevo Hitchwiki [here](#). For a paid ride check [Blablacar](#).
- **Airport:** Sarajevo International Airport (SJJ)

## Next?

- ➔ International: Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro.
- ➔ In Bosnia and Herzegovina: Mostar, Jajce, Trebinje.