



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Sutjeska National Park

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Sarajevo
- ✓ **Language:** Bosnian (*Croatian, Serbian*)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 559 (*Tjentjiste*)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 160.52
- ✓ **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: 2386m (highest point). Climate: Temperate oceanic climate (Cfb).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Free sights:** Partisan Memorial & Museum.
- ☺ **Hikes:** The highest peak of the country, Maglic (*2386m*), can be reached via 3 trails – 1 difficult alpine trail, 2 moderate yet steep (*more details in blog story*). Generally the Trnovacko Jezero Lake in Montenegro is included in the hike. If you start from the valley the KM 10 entrance price of the National Park can be avoided, but it's a steep incline. Alternatively, the Prijedor parking lot is a 1-hour drive up a dirt road from Tjentjiste: hitchhiking possible. The Perućica virgin forest is visited with a paid guide only (*expensive*). It is part of the cross-country mega trail [Via Dinarica](#). [Other popular hikes:](#) Zelengora & Volujak Peak. Check [Wikiloc](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Mountain bikes:** Some guesthouses rent mountain bikes. Alternatively, it's best to bring one, as the pre-organized cycling day tours are rather pricy.
- 👉 **Other outdoor sports:** Rock climbing. Ski facilities are planned to be provided, but this is currently not the case.

Festivals

- ⚙️ OK Fest: Music, July.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** None. There is only 1 mini-shop as part of Market Kosuta which is not always open. Bring groceries.

⌘ **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 here, not to say almost impossible. I was on a rather depressing diet of salad, bread, and polenta during my entire stay. Some restaurants serve risotto (*which is vegetarian, not vegan*). 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, especially here in the countryside. However, take your general precautions like everywhere else.

⌘ 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.

⌘ Tap water is drinkable.

⌘ 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.

Sleep Cheap

❖ The best place to stay in Sutjeska National Park is Tjentjiste, although you still need a car / hitchhike to get to the main trails from there. In case you'd like to start the Maglic trail from the valley (*main road: Suha*), Sastavci or Izgori have easier access. Suha has a free campsite listed on Maps.me. Booking.com generally offers the cheapest deals, especially with Genius-discount. 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](#). However, this location is rather remote.

Free-Riding?

■ **Walking:** This is a hiking destination. However, outside of the main trails it's not very pedestrian-friendly. The main road has hardly any space for pedestrians on the side, making it rather dangerous, especially at night. Keep that in mind when booking accommodation, in case you don't have a vehicle. The Prijedor parking lot from where the Maglic hike starts is still a solid 12km up over a boring dirt road, so it's recommended to drive this, hitchhike it or organize a jeep ride in town.

■ **Public transport** exists, but is unreliable. There are some buses towards Trebinje and up to Mostar / Sarajevo, but there is no specific timetable. They generally come when they come and can be hailed down along the roadside (*given there's a shoulder to pull over*). You can pay the driver in cash, preferably exact.

■ There are no **uber's or taxi's** here. Most locals offer **roundtrip rides** up and down the Prijedor parking lot for about €30 / KM 60 per vehicle. Ask around. It's the easiest to arrive with a **rental car** from your previous destination.

■ **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. However, to and from the trails people tend to easily pick up fellow hikers.

■ **Airport:** Sarajevo International Airport (*SJJ*).

Next?

→ International destinations close by: Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro.

→ In Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sarajevo, Trebinje, Mostar, Visegrad.