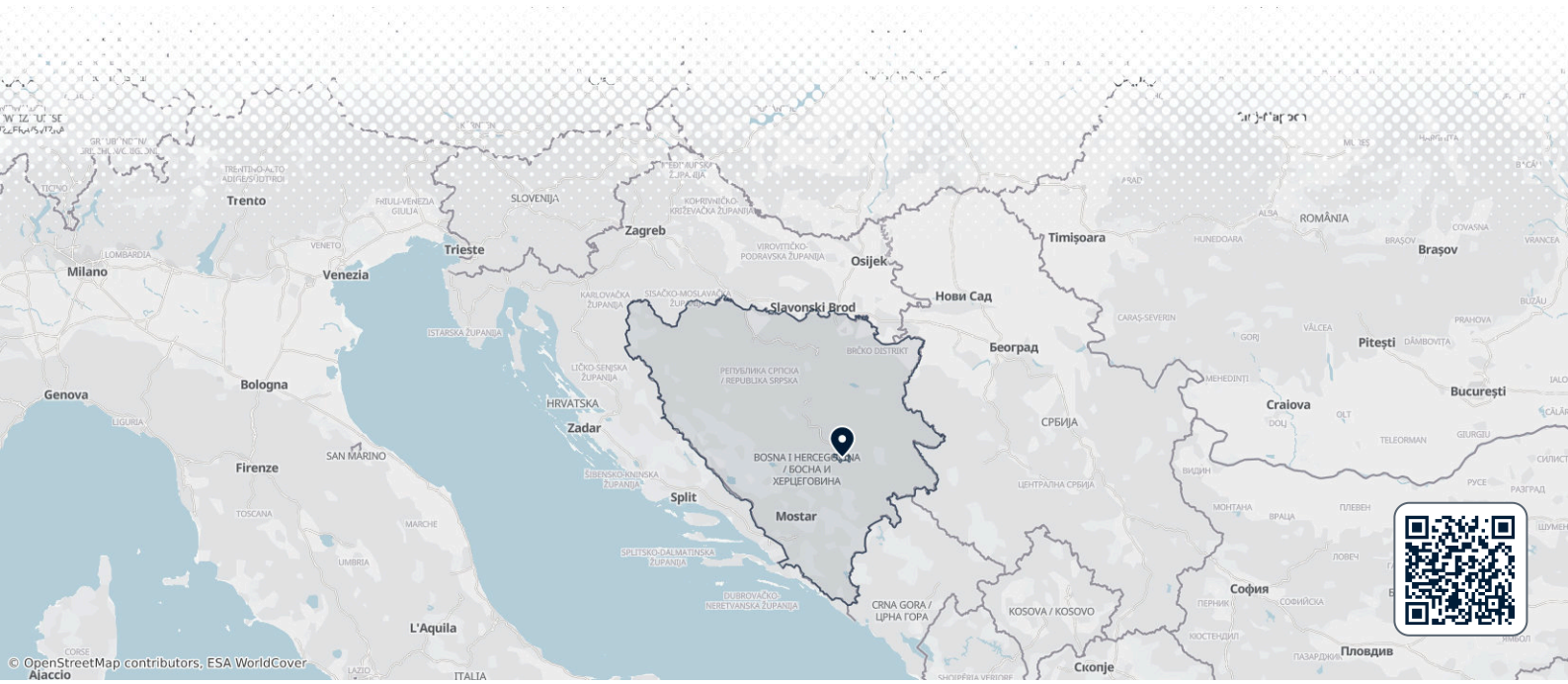
Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sarajevo sits in a narrow valley where the Miljacka river cuts between forested hills, and centuries of layered history are visible on almost every street. Ottoman mosques, an Austro-Hungarian cathedral, and a synagogue stand within a few minutes' walk of each other, a legacy of centuries under Ottoman and then Austro-Hungarian rule. The spot where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 set off the First World War is still marked on Latin Bridge.

The city hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics, and less than a decade later endured the longest siege of a capital city in modern history. Sarajevo today is rebuilt and welcoming, proud of its long past rather than defined only by its hardest years.

This is a city best suited to a few unhurried days on foot. The pedestrian old town, Baščaršija, holds most of the historic sights within easy walking distance, and the surrounding hills offer quick escapes for hiking or, in winter, skiing at former Olympic venues. Sarajevo works well both as a standalone city break and as a base for day trips into the rest of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and the easiest seasons for walking around the city. Summer in the valley gets hot, with afternoon storms common in July. Winter is cold and snowy, which is when Sarajevo's nearby ski slopes come alive.

The **Sarajevo Film Festival**, held every August, is the city's biggest annual event and one of the largest film festivals in southeastern Europe. It fills Baščaršija's cafés with visitors from across the region, so book accommodation early if traveling then.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	5° / 12° Feels like 1°	-3° / -12°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	6° / 15° Feels like 2°	-2° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	1° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	5° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	9° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	13° / 8°	Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 35°	15° / 10°	Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	15° / 11°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 31°	11° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	18° / 25°	7° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 19°	3° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	-1° / -9°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

Most of Sarajevo's best-known sights cluster in and around Baščaršija, the old Ottoman-era bazaar quarter, all within a short walk of each other.

A Sebilj Fountain is the wooden fountain at the heart of Baščaršija's main square, said to bring good luck, and a return trip, to anyone who drinks from it.

B Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque, built in the 16th century, is the largest historic mosque in the country and still the main mosque for the city's Muslim community.

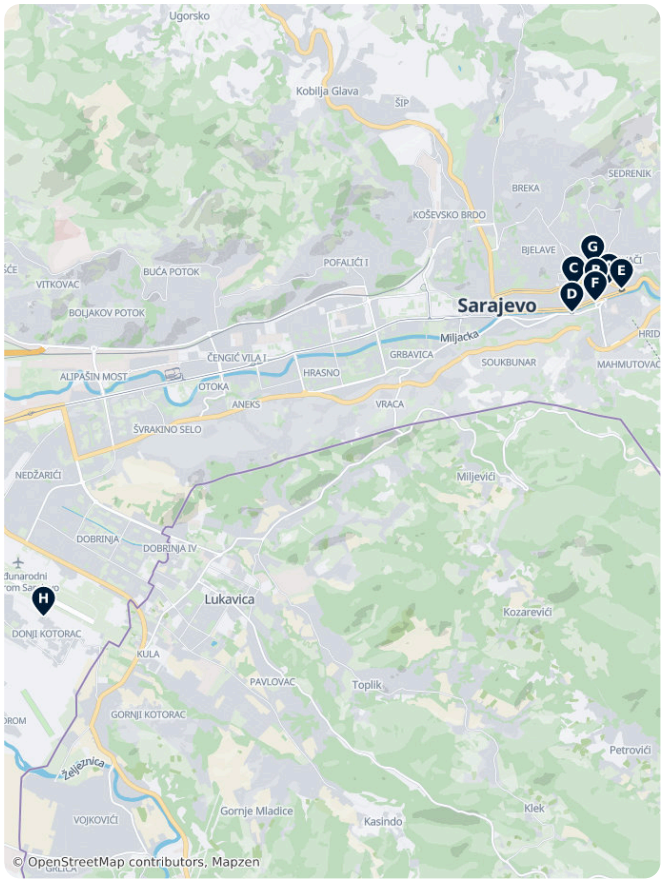
A short walk away, C Sacred Heart Cathedral is the largest Catholic cathedral in Bosnia and Herzegovina, standing only minutes from the mosque and from D Ashkenazi Synagogue, the city's last working synagogue and a reminder of how many faiths have shared this small stretch of streets.

E Vijećnica (City Hall), the ornate former city hall on the river bank, was built under Austro-Hungarian rule, gutted by shelling in 1992, and reopened in 2014 as a library and exhibition space.

On the river's edge, F Latin Bridge is where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 set off the chain of events leading to the First World War.

G War Childhood Museum tells the story of the 1990s siege through the belongings and testimonies of children who lived through it; it won the Council of Europe Museum Prize in 2018.

Tunnel of Salvation preserves a section of the hand-dug tunnel that was Sarajevo's only lifeline for supplies and people during the siege; it sits a short drive from the center, near the airport.



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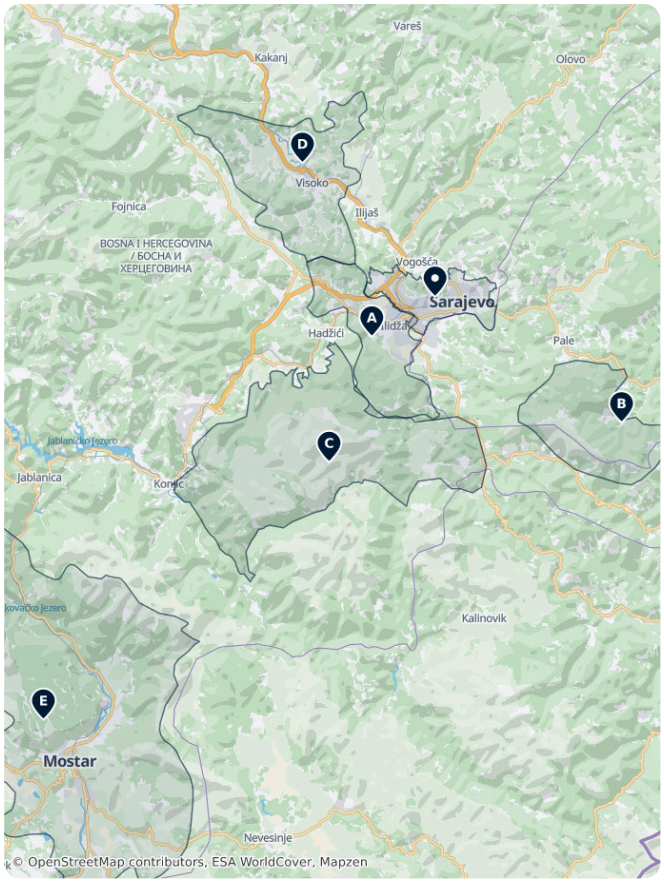
What to experience

- Ride the Sarajevo Cable Car up Trebević mountain for a view over the whole valley — it was rebuilt in 2018 after the original 1984 Olympic line was destroyed in the war.
- Sit down for a slow, traditional Bosnian coffee in a Baščaršija kafana: unfiltered coffee brewed in a copper džezva, served with a sugar cube and a piece of Turkish delight.
- In winter, ski or snowboard at Jahorina or Bjelašnica, the mountains that hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics downhill and slalom events.

Day trips

Sarajevo makes a good base for day trips, from quick escapes in the surrounding hills to flagship destinations across the country.

- **A Ilidža and Vrelo Bosne** — about 20-30 minutes by tram or bus. A leafy former Austro-Hungarian spa town at the spring of the Bosna river, popular for horse-drawn carriage rides and walking paths along the water.
- **B Jahorina and C Bjelašnica** — about 40-60 minutes by car (C Bjelašnica is the closer of the two). Former 1984 Winter Olympics venues, now Sarajevo's main ski resorts in winter and good for hiking in summer.
- **D Visoko** — about 25-35 minutes by car, longer by bus. Home to the debated "Bosnian pyramids" hillside site and tunnels, plus one of the country's oldest medieval towns.
- **Konjic** — about 1 hour by car or train. A riverside town with an Ottoman stone bridge and Tito's Cold War-era underground nuclear bunker, open for tours.
- **E Mostar** — about 2-2.5 hours by car, bus, or train. Built around the rebuilt 16th-century Stari Most bridge over the Neretva river and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; a long day trip but worth it.



Getting there

- **By air**: Sarajevo International Airport (SJJ) is the city's own airport, about 10 km southwest of the center in Butmir, with direct flights to major hubs across Europe and Turkey. A taxi to the center takes about 20 minutes; public bus and airport shuttle services also run into town.
- **By train**: Sarajevo's main train station has limited domestic connections, and the historic international line to Zagreb has been suspended for years, so buses are the more reliable choice for most rail-style trips.
- **By bus**: The main bus station serves long-distance coaches to Mostar, Zagreb, Belgrade, and other regional cities; a separate East Sarajevo bus station handles some routes toward Serbia and Republika Srpska.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Trams, trolleybuses, and buses cover the city, run by GRAS. Buy a ticket from a kiosk or from the driver before boarding, then validate it on board — contactless card payment is not yet standard on most vehicles, so keep cash or a prepaid card handy. GRAS Sarajevo
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Local taxi apps operate alongside metered street taxis; agree on the fare or confirm the meter is running before you set off.
- **On foot**: Baščaršija and the historic center are compact and easy to explore on foot; the city's narrow valley means trams are the practical way to cover its full length.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Baščaršija and the historic center are compact and easy to explore on foot; the city's narrow valley means trams are the practical way to cover its full length.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Sarajevo has little dedicated cycling infrastructure and hilly terrain outside the valley floor; it is not a cycling-oriented city.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city itself — Baščaršija and the center are best explored on foot or by tram, and parking is tight. A car becomes useful if you plan day trips beyond Ilidža, such as Jahorina, Visoko, or Mostar.
- **Parking**: Metered street parking operates in color-coded zones in the center, paid by SMS or at a nearby machine; several paid garages and lots serve the downtown area.
- **Restrictions**: None of note beyond normal city traffic; there is no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Sarajevo's signature dish is *ćevapi* — small grilled minced-meat sausages served in fresh flatbread with onion and kajmak cream — and Baščaršija is full of grill houses competing over whose recipe is best. Burek, a coiled filo pastry filled with minced meat, is the other everyday staple, usually eaten with a cup of yogurt.

For the fullest experience, seek out a proper Bosnian coffeehouse rather than a regular café: it is a slower ritual, brewed in a copper pot and meant to be lingered over, not rushed. The streets and courtyards around Baščaršija's Kazandžiluk are the easiest place to find good, casual eating without hunting down a specific address.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Sarma · sarma
Cabbage leaves rolled around minced meat and rice, slow-cooked.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Burek · burek
Baked filo pastry filled with minced meat, coiled into a spiral.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Baklava · baklava
Layered filo pastry with chopped nuts, soaked in sweet syrup.

Tufahija · tufahija
Poached whole apple filled with walnuts and topped with whipped cream.

DRINKS

Bosnian coffee · bosanska kafa
Unfiltered coffee simmered in a copper pot (dzezva) and served with a sugar cube and Turkish delight.

Rakija · rakija
Strong fruit brandy, often plum or grape, drunk as a welcome shot.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Ćevapi · ćevapi
Grilled minced-meat sausages served in flatbread with onion and kaymak cream.

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Safety & health

Sarajevo is a safe city for tourists by European standards, with low rates of violent crime. The most common issues are petty theft and overcharging by unlicensed taxis, so stick to metered cabs or a ride-

hailing app and keep an eye on belongings in crowded parts of Baščaršija.

Tap water in Sarajevo is generally safe to drink, though bottled water is widely available if you prefer it. Hillsides and rural areas outside the city can still carry landmine risk left over from the 1990s war; stick to marked paths and paved roads and avoid wandering into overgrown or abandoned areas.

History

Sarajevo was founded by the Ottomans in the 15th century around a river crossing, and quickly grew into a major trading hub between the Balkans and the Ottoman heartland — the mosques, bazaars, and covered markets of Baščaršija date from this era.

Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia in 1908, and Sarajevo became the site of one of history's most consequential events: on 28 June 1914, *Gavrilo Princip* shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife near Latin Bridge, triggering the chain of alliances that led to the First World War.

The city hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics, a high point still visible in the abandoned bobsled track on Trebević. Only eight years later, Sarajevo endured the longest siege of a capital city in modern warfare, lasting from April 1992 to February 1996. Tunnel of Salvation was dug by hand under the airport runway to keep the city supplied, and Vijećnica (City Hall), burned during the shelling, was rebuilt and reopened only in 2014, a symbol of the city's recovery.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Bosnia and Herzegovina at a glance:

CURRENCY
BAM KM

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



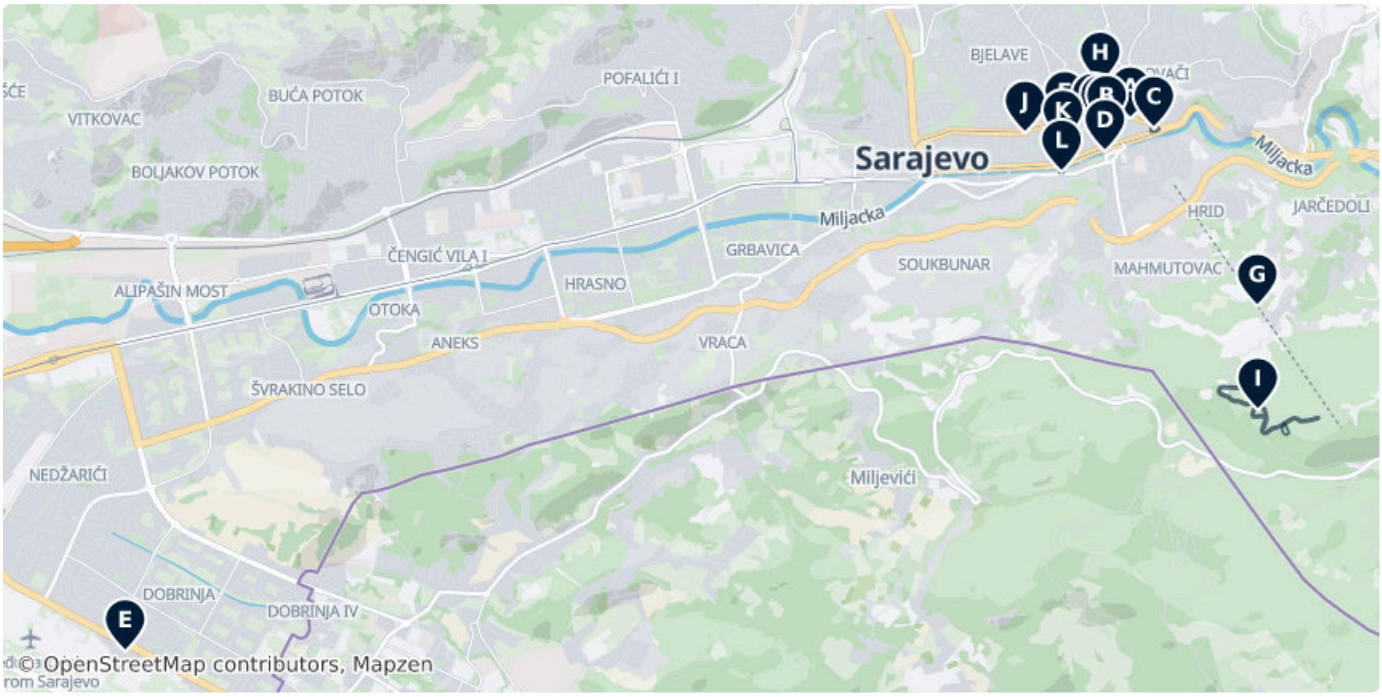
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

TAP WATER
Use caution

Sarajevo Essentials

Sarajevo's landscape reflects centuries of shifting empires, where 16th-century Ottoman bazaars and mosques neighbor Austro-Hungarian neo-Renaissance architecture. This selection covers the city's historical layers, from the Latin Bridge where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated to the Tunnel of Salvation used during the 1992–1995 siege. Religious diversity is highlighted by the proximity of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque, and the Ashkenazi Synagogue, while the abandoned Olympic bobsleigh track on Mount Trebević offers a glimpse into the 1984 Winter Games.





A Sebilj Fountain

Iconic Ottoman-style wooden drinking fountain and national monument serving as a central landmark and social hub. This historic kiosk-style structure provides fresh potable water and is associated with a large local pigeon population.

Baščaršija, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.85973, 18.43123)

visitsarajevo.ba, +38733252000



B Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque

Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque is a mosque in the city of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mudželiti veliki, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.85917, 18.42910)



C Vijećnica

Sarajevo City Hall, known as Vijećnica, is located in the city of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brodac 1 (43.85912, 18.43331)



D Latin Bridge

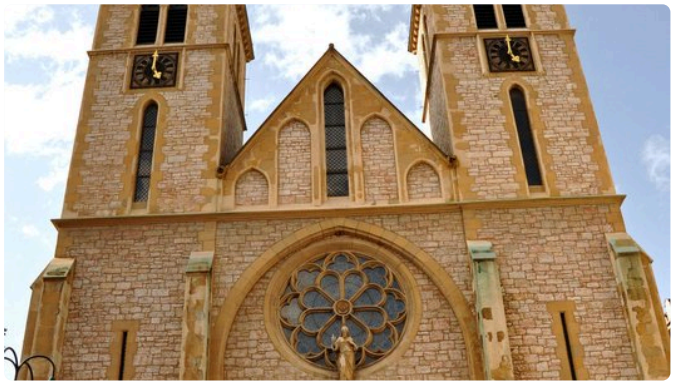
Latin Bridge is an Ottoman bridge over the river Miljacka in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Obala Ishak-bega Isakovića, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina (43.85763, 18.42894)

E Entrance to the Tunnel of Salvation from the direction of Dobrinja

The city-side entry point to the 800-meter underground passage dug during the 1992–1995 siege. It served as a vital lifeline for food, medicine, and arms when Sarajevo was completely encircled by opposing forces.

(43.82549, 18.34159)



F Sacred Heart Cathedral

The Sacred Heart Cathedral is a Catholic church in Sarajevo; commonly referred as the Sarajevo Cathedral, it is the largest cathedral in...

Trg fra Grge Martića, 71000 Sarajevo (43.85943, 18.42536)

katedrala-sarajevo.com, +387 33 215 635



G Sarajevo cable car

Sarajevo Cable Car is a cable car in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, connecting the old part of the city with the mountain Trebević.

Pogledine, Bosnia & Herzegovina (43.84769, 18.44254)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

I Sarajevo Olympic Bobsleigh Track

Concrete track constructed for the 1984 Winter Olympics on Mount Trebević. Used as an artillery position during the 1990s conflict, it is now a graffiti-covered ruin accessible via hiking trails or the Sarajevo cable car.

Old Bobsleigh track, 71144 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (43.84101, 18.44258)

H War Childhood Museum

Independent history museum dedicated to documenting the experiences of children affected by war. It features a permanent collection of personal objects, diaries, and oral testimonies donated by survivors.

Logavina 32, 71000 Sarajevo (43.86196, 18.42853)

Mo–Su 11:00–19:00

warchildhood.org/museum



J Eternal flame

The Eternal flame is a memorial to the military and civilian victims of the Second World War in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

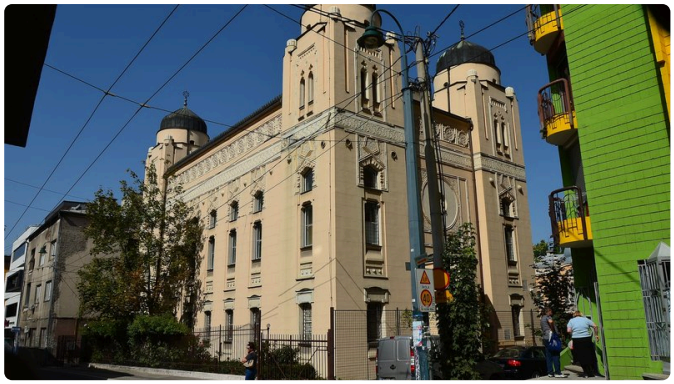
Ferhadija, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina (43.85881, 18.42182)



K Orthodox Cathedral in Sarajevo

Completed in 1868, this late-Baroque cathedral features five domes and a gilded iconostasis. It stands as one of the largest Serbian Orthodox churches in the Balkans and a key landmark of the city's religious diversity.

Zelenih beretki, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.85822, 18.42520)



L Ashkenazi Synagogue

Sarajevo Synagogue is Sarajevo's primary and largest synagogue and is located on the south bank of the river Miljacka.

Hamdije Kreševljakovića, 71000 Sarajevo
(43.85631, 18.42508)

Mo–Fr 10:00–14:00



M Sarajevo Meeting of Cultures

A marker on Ferhadija Street indicating the transition between Ottoman-style architecture and Austro-Hungarian design. It signifies the city's historical role as a crossroads between Eastern and Western cultures.

Ferhadija, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.85931, 18.42781)

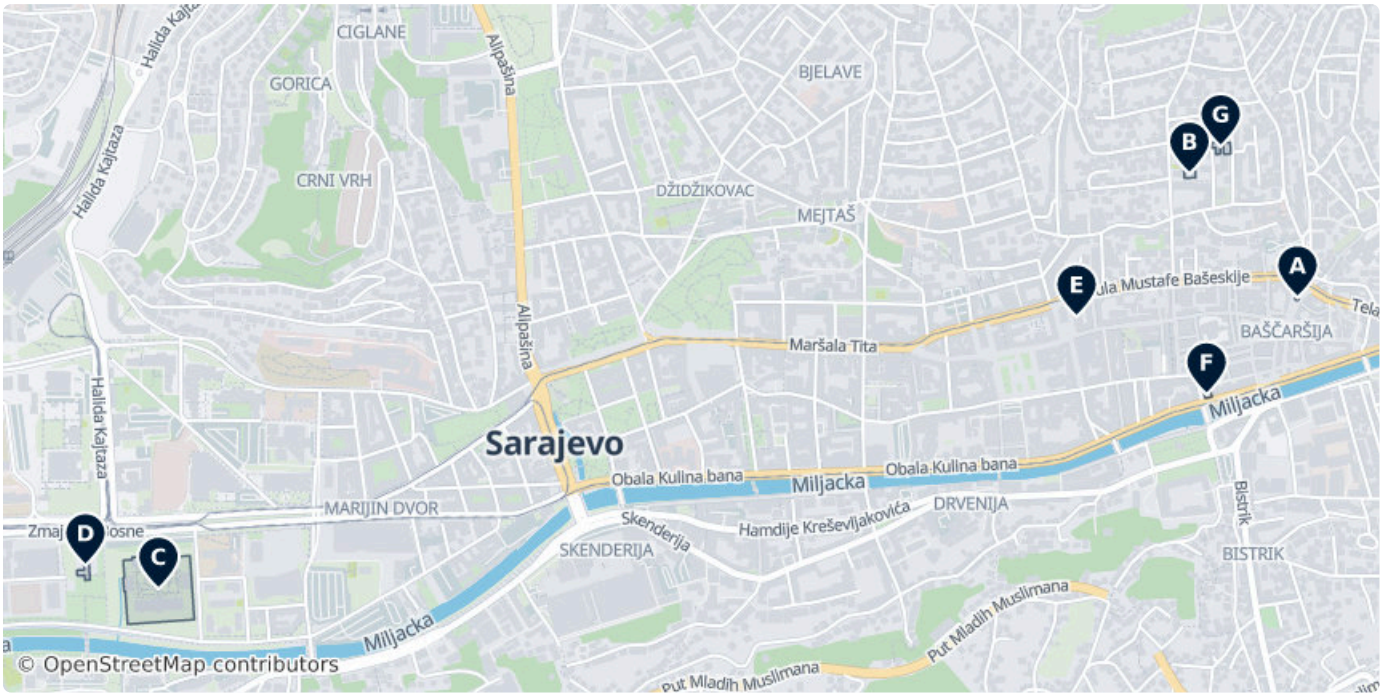
N Sarajevo Clock Tower

17th-century masonry tower that is believed to be the only public clock in the world keeping lunar time. The mechanism is adjusted daily to strike 12:00 at sunset, marking the time for evening prayer.

(43.85921, 18.42856)

Sarajevo Essentials

This collection highlights Sarajevo's pivotal role in world history, from the Ottoman-era Sebilj fountain and Svrzo's House to the site of the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. It features the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which houses the 14th-century Sarajevo Haggadah, and the Historical Museum's exhibits on the 1990s siege. Poignant memorial spaces like the War Childhood Museum and Gallery 11/07/95 document the personal and humanitarian impact of the Bosnian War and Srebrenica genocide.





A Sebilj Fountain

Iconic Ottoman-style wooden drinking fountain and national monument serving as a central landmark and social hub. This historic kiosk-style structure provides fresh potable water and is associated with a large local pigeon population.

Baščaršija, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina (43.85973, 18.43123)

visitsarajevo.ba, +38733252000

B War Childhood Museum

Independent history museum dedicated to documenting the experiences of children affected by war. It features a permanent collection of personal objects, diaries, and oral testimonies donated by survivors.

Logavina 32, 71000 Sarajevo (43.86196, 18.42853)

Mo–Su 11:00–19:00

warchildhood.org/museum



C National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in central Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Zmaja od Bosne 3, 71000 Sarajevo (43.85447, 18.40271)

Tu–Fr	10:00–19:00
Sa–Su	10:00–14:00

zemaljskimuzej.ba, +387 33 668027



D Historical Museum of Bosnia & Herzegovina

The Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a museum in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Zmaja od Bosne 5, 71000 Sarajevo (43.85490, 18.40088)

Mo–Su	09:00–19:00

muzej.ba, +387 33 226098



E Gallery 11/07/95

Memorial gallery dedicated to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide. It features large-scale black-and-white photography by Tarik Samarah, video documentaries, and audio testimonies documenting the events of July 1995.

Trg Fra Grge Martića 2, 71000 Sarajevo (43.85938, 18.42570)

Mo–Su	10:00–20:00

galerija110795.ba, +387 33 953170



F Museum of Sarajevo 1878-1918

Located at the site of the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, this museum documents Sarajevo's history during the Austro-Hungarian administration, featuring period artifacts, photographs, and exhibits on the events leading to World War I.

Zelenih beretki 1, 71000 Sarajevo, BA (43.85798, 18.42896)

muzejsarajeva.ba, +387 33 533288



Svrzo's House

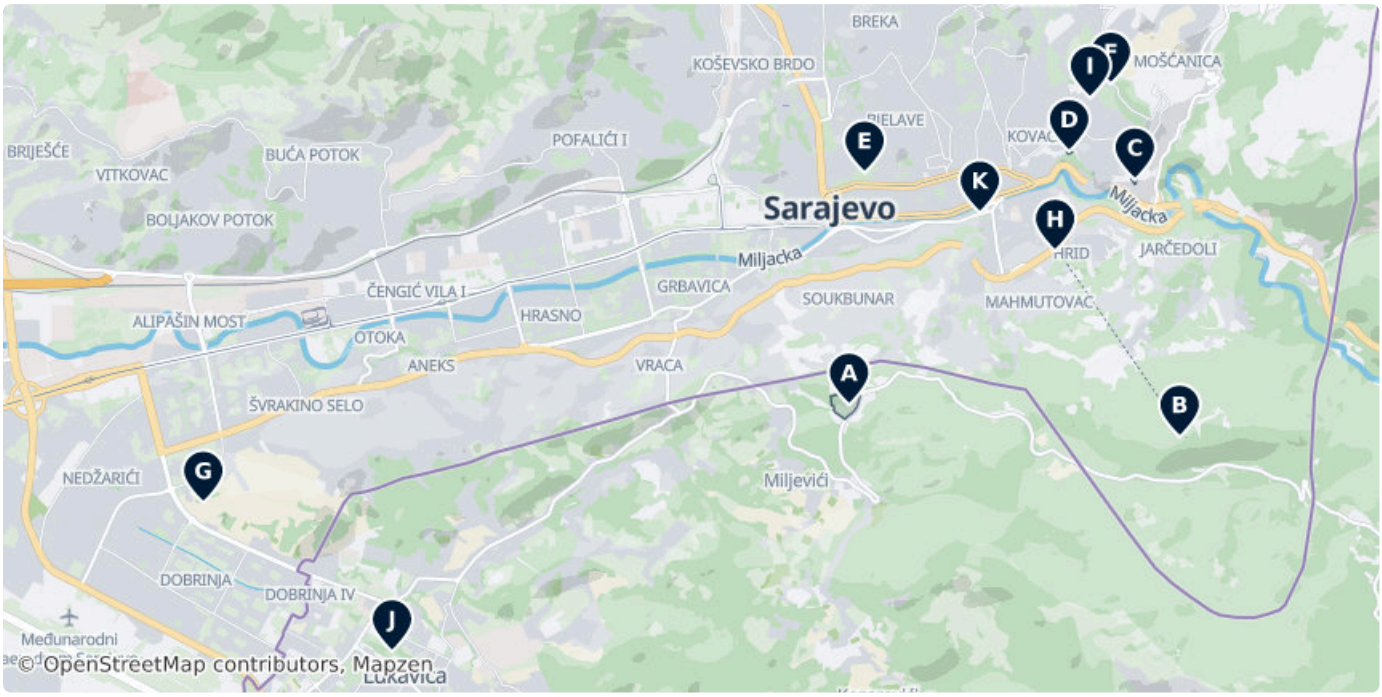
An 18th-century Ottoman residential complex that serves as a museum of traditional Bosnian lifestyle. The house features separate male and female quarters, authentic period furniture, and enclosed courtyards characteristic of the era's architecture.

Glođina 8 (43.86245, 18.42931)

Mo–Fr	10:00–16:00
Sa	10:00–15:00
Su	Closed

Scenic Views & Parks

Sarajevo's geography, nestled in a narrow valley, is best appreciated from its surrounding heights. This selection includes the historic Vratnik fortifications, such as the White and Yellow Fortresses, which once formed the city's defensive walls. Higher up on Mount Trebević, Sunnyland and Vidikovac offer expansive views reached via the cable car. In the city center, sites like Veliki Park and At Mejdan provide green space housing archaeological ruins and memorials to the city's complex history.





A Sunnyland

Amusement park on Mount Trebević featuring an alpine coaster and views over the Sarajevo valley.

Miljevići bb, 71123 Istočno Sarajevo (43.84237, 18.41470)

sunnyland.ba, +387 57 991 339

B Vidikovac

Panoramic viewpoint located near the upper station of the Sarajevo Cable Car on Mount Trebević.

(43.83995, 18.44927)



C Bijela Tabija

The White Fortress is an old fort overlooking the historic core of Sarajevo. It is a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(43.85933, 18.44458)

D Žuta Tabija

The Yellow Fortress or Yellow Bastion is a cannon fortress at the entrance of the "Walled City of Vratnik".

Pod bedemom, 71200 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
(43.86147, 18.43772)

E Veliki park

The city's largest central park, home to the Memorial to the Children of Besieged Sarajevo and Ottoman-era gravestones.

(Unnamed Road), Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.85986, 18.41633)



F Zmajevac

Popular observation point on the northern hills offering wide-angle views of the city's red-roofed old town and modern districts.

Zmajevac, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.86656, 18.44208)

G Mojmilo, rezervoar

High-altitude water reservoir area providing views across the residential blocks of Novi Grad and the surrounding hills.

(43.83498, 18.34717)

H Park Princeva

Elevated vantage point in the Bistrik district, known for its sweeping views of the Miljacka River and Baščaršija.

(43.85396, 18.43623)

I Crvena tabija

The Red Bastion is one of the defensive stone structures within the historic Vratnik fortification system.

(43.86551, 18.43989)

J Park Sunca

Urban park and recreational green space located in the Lukavica neighborhood of East Sarajevo.

(Unnamed Road), Лукавица 71123, Bosnia & Herzegovina
(43.82378, 18.36691)

K At mejdan

Riverside park on the site of a former Ottoman hippodrome, containing the archaeological remains of the 16th-century Bakr-Baba's mosque.

(43.85685, 18.42837)

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