



## **IAESTE App: Country Information**

### **General information:**

- Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Capital: Sarajevo
- Population: 3,8 million of people
- National language(s): Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian
- Currency: Bosnia and Herzegovina convertible mark (BAM)
- Time zone: UTC+1 (CET), Summer (DST) UTC+2 (CEST)
- Voltage: power plugs and sockets are type F, the standard voltage is 230 V
- Phone country code: +387
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar
- Climate: Bosnia and Herzegovina mostly has a moderate continental climate, with hot summers and cold and snowy winters. The southern tip, Herzegovina, has a Mediterranean climate.

### **Travel tips:**

- Fun facts about the country:
  1. Sarajevo, which at the time was part of Yugoslavia and now the current capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics. The games were considered Sarajevo's crowning achievement and a symbol of the great things that lay in store for Yugoslavia and its citizens. A great deal of work was done to Sarajevo's infrastructure to prepare it for the games.
  2. Bosnia and Herzegovina consist of two Entities, 3 languages and 3 presidents. – Entities are the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very complicated history. A Bosnian can either be a Bosniak, Croat or Serb based on his or her religious affiliations as a Muslim, Catholic or Orthodox Christian respectively. Each group has their own language, which is Slavic based and shares similarities with each other. After conflicts in the 1990s, Bosnia split along ethnic lines. Each group now has their own president.
  3. Established in 1995 during the Bosnian War, Sarajevo Film Festival has become the largest and most famous film festival in the Balkans and South-East Europe.

Sarajevo Film Festival draws more than 100,000 visitors per year. When the festival's founders launched it in the fall of 1995, right at the height of the siege, they didn't expect a large turnout. That first year, though, over 15,000 film enthusiasts showed up, witnessing film's ability to provide an escape. Celebrities such as Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Daniel Craig have become regulars at the festival, which takes place each year in August.

4. It has the last remaining jungle in Europe at Perućica.

Some of the trees in Perućica are 300 years old, and the undisturbed forest vintage dates back 20,000 years. If you're an outdoorsman, there's a lot to love about this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina: the country's highest peak, Maglić, provides a stunning backdrop to Perućica, and hikers can enjoy a rigorous afternoon identifying flora as they amble towards the 246-foot high Skakavac waterfall, nestled deep within the Perućica Valley.

5. Banja Luka is a city with over 1000 cafes and restaurants. The first coffee bar was opened in 1617.

Banja Luka is a city of youth, sport, beautiful women and green ales, located on the beautiful Vrbas River. It is the largest city in a smaller entity Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

6. Mostar is Bosnia and Herzegovina's most divided city.

Bosnian Croats live on the western side of the Neretva River, and Bosniaks reside on the eastern side. Both sides have their own national theater, post office, and other separate public services.

- Cities/towns that you recommend visiting:

1. Sarajevo

The capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a unique mix of traditional charms and modern influences. Within a few minutes' walk you can find the Catholic cathedral, the Orthodox cathedral, the mosque, and the synagogue. The city and its population suffered grave humanitarian crisis during the 'Siege of Sarajevo' for three difficult years during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. Today, the bullet holes are covered and debris have disappeared and instead cafes, restaurants, lodges, guest houses and art galleries have sprung up amidst the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian heritage buildings. The city is often credited as being the flash point of starting the devastating World War I. Very few cities in the world can offer such a variety of interesting things in such a small area as Sarajevo does. Historical attractions, natural beauty and unique experience of a place where „East meets West“ are all reasons which attract and continue to bring so many visitors to Sarajevo. Winter offers plenty of opportunities for winter sports and recreation in the snow. Spring and autumn, with their mild climate offer opportunities for pleasant exploration of natural beauty of the outskirts and a vibrant programme of cultural events in the city. Summer is a time when the city, its squares and streets become an on-the-go holiday; it is the time when the city lives twenty-four seven. Sarajevo has its own specific gravity, so a single visit very often becomes the start of a more permanent attachment to this city and its people. So the best thing to do is to visit because we'd like to hear if you fell in love with Sarajevo too! \*Landmarks: Baščaršija (Old Town), Gazi Husrevbeg's Mosque, Spring of Bosnia river...

## 2. Banja Luka

Banja Luka is the administrative capital of the Republika Srpska, the second largest city in Bosnia. Roman trade route from Salona to Servitium passed through it. To protect this route (and to enjoy the healing water springs they had discovered in the area) the Romans built a fortress here, the walls of which encompassed an entire miniature town. When the Roman Empire collapsed, the Slavs took over. Once the Ottomans finally controlled the town, they gave it a distinct oriental flavor. The Ottoman governor for Bosnia had his headquarters here for a while, building bridges and mills, and in its Ottoman glory days the town had some 40 mosques. In the course of the Ottoman centuries, Banja Luka was destroyed repeatedly by Ottoman-Austrian warfare (as well as earthquakes and plagues) until eventually the Austrian-Hungarian Empire absorbed Banja Luka peacefully in the 19th century. They rapidly modernized the town, building factories and connecting it to Vienna and other capital cities. The town expanded tremendously in the 20th century. \*Landmarks: Kastel fortress, Ferhadija Mosque, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Banj Hill...

## 3. Mostar

Mostar is the chief city and, historically, the capital of Herzegovina. It is situated in mountainous country along the Neretva River and lies on the Sarajevo-Ploče rail line. First mentioned in 1452, Mostar became a Turkish garrison town in the 16th century. In 1566 the Turks replaced the town's wooden suspension bridge over the Neretva with a stone arch one, hence the name Mostar (from Serbo-Croatian most, "bridge"). This stone bridge had a single arch 90 feet (27 metres) wide and was a masterpiece of Ottoman engineering. In November 1993, during the Bosnian civil war, the bridge was destroyed by artillery fire from Bosnian Croat forces. A major rebuilding project was undertaken to restore the bridge and nearby buildings that had also been damaged; the bridge reopened in 2004. The bridge and the surrounding area were added to UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2005.

- Other places you recommend visiting:

**Jajce**(Jajce is a historical gem, with a highly evocative walled Old Town clinging to a steep rocky knoll with rivers on two sides. The Pliva River tumbles into the Vrbas River by way of an impressive urban waterfallright at the very foot of the town walls. Immediately to the west, the Pliva is dammed to form two pretty lakes which are popular with swimmers, strollers, bikers and boaters.), **Trebinje** ( By far the prettiest city in Republika Srpska, Trebinje has a compact centre with a tiny walled Old Town flanked by a leafy market square. The Trebišnjica River is slow and shallow as it passes through, its banks lined with swimming spots and replicas of waterwheels which were once used for irrigation. Mountains provide a sun-baked backdrop, while hills topped with Orthodox churches punctuate the suburbs.), **Kravica Waterfall**(There's a slightly unreal Disney-esque quality to this outstanding natural attraction, where the Trebižat River plummets in a broad 25m-high arc into an emerald pool. In spring, this gorgeous mini-Niagara pounds itself into a dramatic, steamy fury. In summer it's a more gentle cascade, but the basin offers an idyllic respite from the sweltering heat for hundreds of locals and tourists), **epic Yugoslav monument - Tjentište** memorial in Sutjeska National Park etc.

Airports with budget airlines

**Sarajevo Airport** – located 8 km from the Sarajevo center.

**Tuzla Airport** – located 14 km in southeast from Tuzla center.

**Banja Luka Airport** – located about 25 km northeast from the town center.

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country: [www.autoprevoz.ba](http://www.autoprevoz.ba),  
[www.centrotrans.com](http://www.centrotrans.com) [www.globtour.com](http://www.globtour.com)

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying:

**ćevapi** - is a grilled dish of minced meat. They are usually served of 5–10 pieces on a plate or in a [flatbread](#) ( *lepinje* or *somun*), often with chopped [onions](#), [sour cream](#), [kajmak](#), [ajvar](#), [feta cheese](#), minced red pepper and salt. Ćevapi are made from two types of minced [beef](#) meat, hand mixed and formed with a funnel, while formed ćevapi are grilled.

**burek** - consists of layers of phyllo dough stuffed with beef filling. Burek is baked rolled into a snail-like shape and this type is typically found in bakeries, while traditional restaurants often make it in the form of a pie, which is sliced into quarters before serving.

**rakija** - is an alcoholic drink made from the distillation of fermented fruit. It is a clear-as-water kind of drink, with a percentage of alcohol that can range from approximately 40% to 65%.

Tipping in the restaurants:

**Tipping in Bosnia and Herzegovina** is common practice but often the bill for service is rounded up as a way to collect **tip**. If a bill is not rounded up, it is common to leave a 10-15% **tip** for good service. Bartenders and wait staff in **Bosnia** do not include a **tip** on the bill and 10-15% is graciously accepted.

Discounts for transportation

If you show your student ID you might get discount, it depends on the route you are taking.

What is the common greeting in your country

Shaking hands and hug each other.

### **Emergencies - numbers:**

Police: 122

Ambulance: 124

Fire brigade: 123

Any other interesting or useful information:



### A Complete guide to Domaća kafa (Domestic coffee)

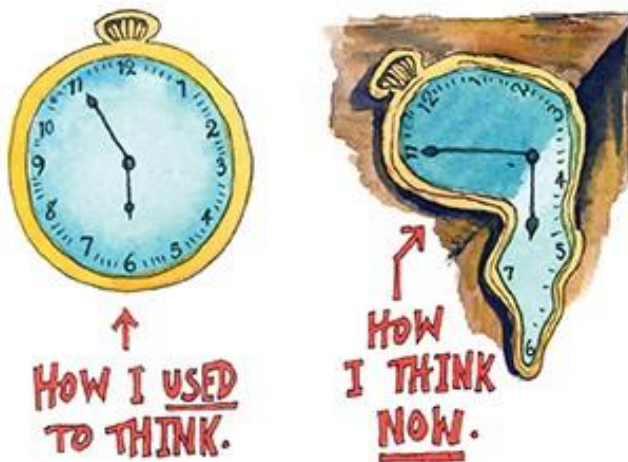
It's made in special device called **DZEZVA**. Heat water add appropriate grando, bring to boli ( but **DON'T** let it overflow)

Pour coffee into small cups (without straining out the grounds) serve with sugar cubes or jar of sugar, - or better yet the both!

**DRINK UP! ENJOY!**

Note: Beware of final sip. Its grounds, coffee drudge. Avoid the grainy-bitter mouthful at all costs.

*Be prepared to drink a lot of coffee, and enjoy relaxed life in Bosnia and Herzegovina!*



**TO FUNCTION IN THE BALKANS**, you need to get into a Dali state of mind about time: Balkan time is more fluid and imprecise. Be flexible.





Mostar Bridge



Blagaj – Buna- Mostar



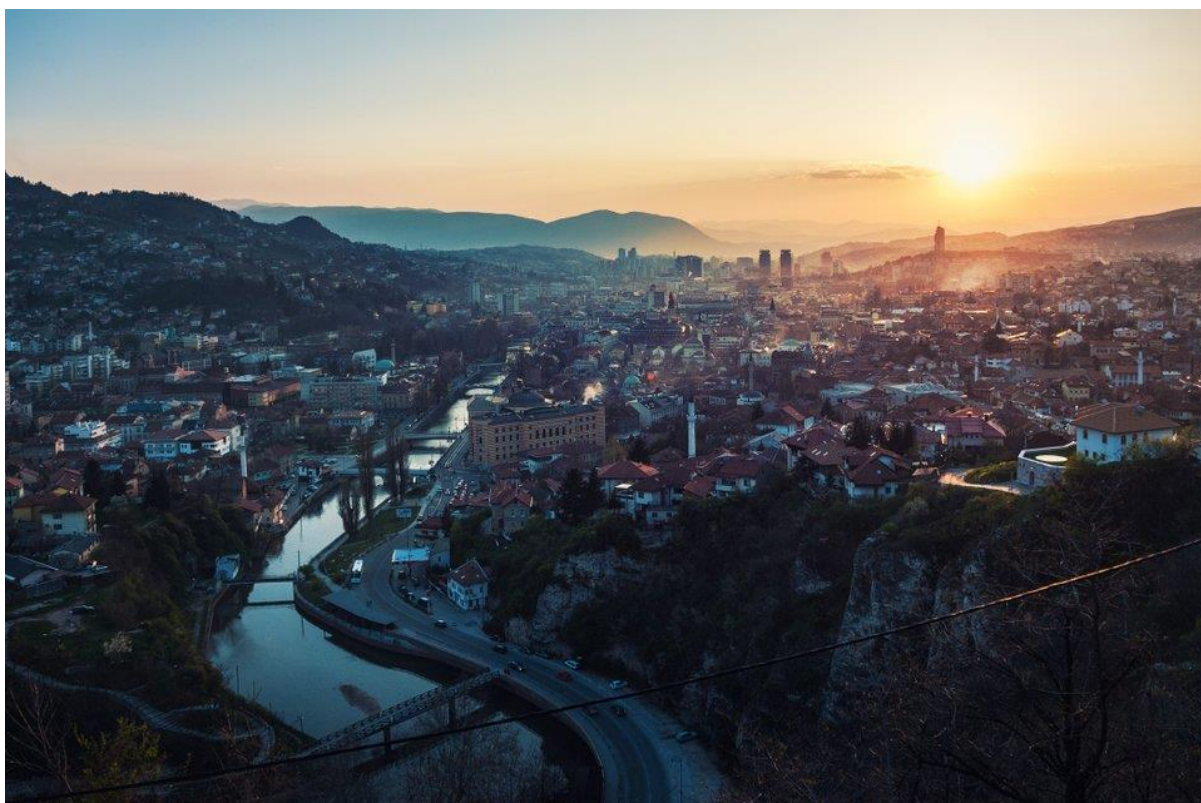


Durmitor mountain



Bijeljina - Etno village Stanišić





Sarajevo



Bihać - Strbacki buk





Višegrad - Andrićgrad



Jajce





Banja Luka main street



Banja Luka - Kastel