

## BELGRADE 18. - 21. APRIL 2018

This time the trip went to Belgrade, which is the capital of Serbia. It is European Capital No. 36, which we have visited. We drove to [Dalen Parkering](#) and parked the car there. Furthermore we traveled with [Norwegian](#) from [Oslo Airport, Gardermoen](#) at 13.50. We arrived in Belgrade, [Nikola Tesla Airport](#), at 16.35.

### A bit about [Serbia](#):



Serbia's location in Europe



Flag



Coat of arms

Serbia's history is a story filled with conflicts. The country's strategic location between two continents has made it vulnerable to invasions of many people. Belgrade is believed to have been leveled with the earth by 30 different armies over time. Serbia has been subject to the Greeks, Romans and the Byzantine Empire. In modern history, the country has been an autonomous principality (1817-1878), an independent kingdom (1878-1918), part of the kingdoms of Serbs, Croats and Slovins (1918-1941) (renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929) under Nazi Germany (1941-1944), a Socialist Republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945-1992), a Republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992-2003) and a Republic of Serbia and Montenegro (2003-2006) before The country declared its independence as Republic of Serbia on 5 June 2006.

### Litt om [Beograd](#):



Beograds plassering i Serbia



Flagg



Byvåpen

Serbia's capital is one of Europe's oldest cities. Archaeological excavations have shown traces of settlement on the site as far back as the sixth millennium before Christ. On the outskirts of Belgrade today is the birthplace of the [Vinča culture](#), one of the great prehistoric cultures in Europe. The archaeological excavations in Starčevo and Vinča show that the area has been inhabited for more than 7,000 years. That is, Belgrade is one of the oldest settlements in Europe that have been inhabited consistently.

In the year 279 BC the city was first mentioned in writing as Singidun, founded by a Celtic tribe. The Romans conquered the city in 86 BC. Their name of Belgrade was [Singidunum](#). The name Belgrade was used for the first time in a papal bun dated 878.

In Belgrade we had booked a room at a hotel called [Garni Hotel Le Petit Piaf](#). It is located in an area of the old town called [Skadarlija](#). It is one of the areas in the city that is most visited by tourists.



The hotel viewed from the outside. The entrance is to the left. Out to the street is the restaurant called [Mali Vrabac](#). We had dinner here every day.



The reception.



Our room looked like this. We had booked a Junior Suite. It was quite large with the bedroom one floor up.



Good breakfast and good coffee. The breakfast could be ordered from the menu and when the food was ready it was served by the waiter.



It was also possible to sit outside and have breakfast, but we thought it was a bit too cold in the morning yet. It is probably fine during the summer.

Then some pictures we took on the trip.



Here we are at Gardermoen while we wait for the plane to be ready for boarding. Anne Berit has a white wine.



As usual, I have a 'travel beer' before departure.

The hotel, where we were staying, could arrange transfer from the airport to the hotel. We had booked it in advance, so when we had got our luggage, the driver was waiting for us. We knew who it was because he held up a big poster with my name on. We installed ourselves in the room and then we ate at the restaurant which is adjacent to the hotel.



View from the restaurant up Skadarlija.



View down the street.

The next day we had planned a sightseeing round. We can not walk as far as we want, as we did before, so we ordered a taxi to take us around. We got the same driver who drove us from the airport the day before. We had made a list of the places we wanted to see, and the driver drove according to the list.



[The Old Palace](#) was built in 1882-84. It was damaged in both world wars but has been restored. Today it is used by the city assembly.



Right next to the old castle lies [The New Castle](#). It was built in 1911-22. It was used by King Alexander. Today it is used by the president of Serbia.



Opposite the Old and New Palace, lies [The House of the National Assembly of Serbia](#). The building was completed in 1936.



At the main entrance are these statues.



The foot on the flagpoles outside the National Assembly has parts of Serbia's coat of arms.



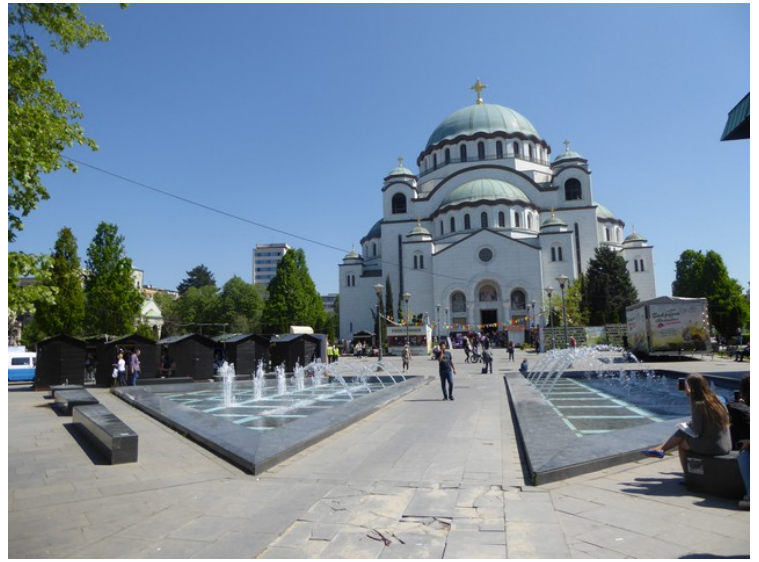
This is a [memorial](#) of World War I. It is supposed to represent the observation post of the Serbian army. It was located on the top of the [Kajmakčalan](#) mountain. The memorial is located in the [Pioneers Park](#), where both the New and Old Castle are located.



In the same area is the [General Post Office](#) in Belgrade.



Then we have moved on to the museum dedicated to [Nikola Tesla](#). Tesla was a pioneer in the work of modern electrical engineering. He was born in this house and it was opened as a museum in 2006.



The next stop was outside the [Church of Saint Sava](#). It is considered to be the world's largest orthodox church and is dedicated to [Saint Sava](#), the first archbishop of the Serbian Orthodox church. It was planned to be built in 1895, but has been stopped by the Balkan wars, 1st and 2nd World Wars and then Communist rule. The work could again continue in 1985 and basically only a few works inside remain.



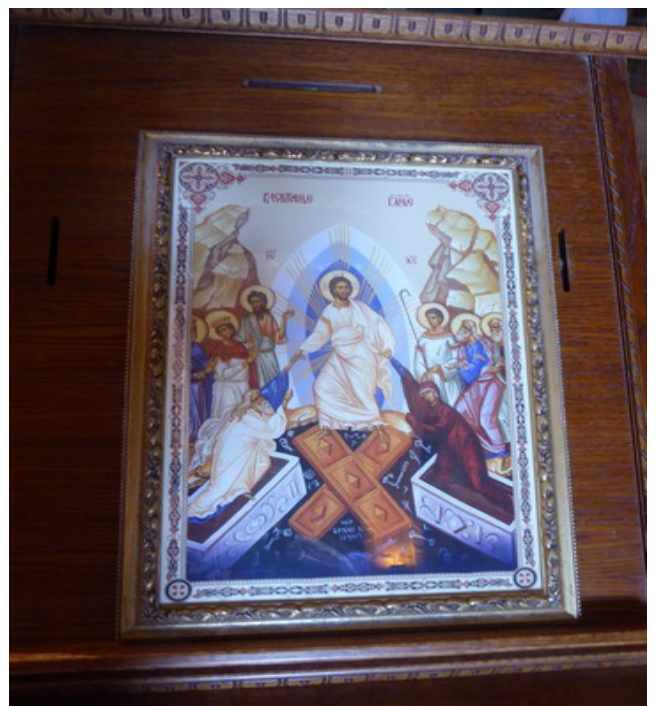
The dome inside.



Lighting of candles.



In front of this, the crossings are made.



A close up.



[The House of Flowers](#) seen from the road. It was built in 1975 as a winter garden for Josip Broz Tito. He was buried here in 1980.



We wanted to see [The White Palace](#) / Beli Dvor, but we did not get inside the gate. It's only open during the weekend. Around the house there is a huge park. It was originally a royal residence for the [Karadorđević dynasty](#).



Here we are at [Ada Ciganlija](#) or Sava Lake.



This is the northern end of Lake Sava. The lake was made by making three dams between the island that lay in the middle of the river [Sava](#) and the mainland.



View to the southern end of Lake Sava. To the right we see the island and to the left the mainland. The lake is 4km long.



One of the restaurants by the sea. There are made artificial beaches and the area is very popular with 100,000 visitors every day in the summer.



This is the bridge pylon of the newest bridge over Sava, [Ada Bridge](#). The height is 200m.



We drove past this enormous building. It was the government building in former Yugoslavia. Now it is used by the government in Serbia and is called [Palace of Serbia](#).



There was no room for the whole building on one picture.



Here we are at the banks of the Danube in the district called [Zemun](#).



It is a popular area. Here is a restaurant boat.



On a hill in the district are the Millennium Tower or [the Gardoš Tower](#). It was built in 1896 to commemorate 1000 years of Hungarian settlement on [The Pannonian Basin](#).



This is the view from the tower across the Danube.



View further down the Danube.



A picture of us.



A picture of Anne Berit and our driver.



When we returned to the hotel, we had a late lunch. We had an 'appetizer' (starter) for 2 people. It was so big that we did not eat more food that day.





A statue just outside our hotel by [Djura Jakšić](#) (1832-1878), a Serbian artist and author.



The next day we walked through the city. There are many restaurants in the street where we lived. This is [Dva Jelena](#). It is one of the oldest in the city and has been visited by many famous people.



Dva Jelena.



Statue of [Branislav Nušić](#) (real name Alkibijad Nuša) (1864 - 1938), Serbian writer, journalist and diplomat. It is located right across the Republic Square.



On [The Republic Square](#) is a statue of [Mihailo Obrenović](#) (1823 - 1868) who was the prince of [Serbia](#) twice. First from 1839 to 1842 when he was deposed, then from 1860 to 1868 when he was killed.



At the Republic Square is the [National Museum of Serbia](#). It is the oldest and largest museum in former Yugoslavia.



The National Museum and the statue of Mihajlo.



[The Republic Square](#) \_ Trg republike



Trg republike is adjacent to the one kilometer long pedestrian street called [Kneza Mihailova](#).



It's a big street and lots of people even though it's early in the day.



Here is a fountain.



This is almost at the end of the street. We see the trees in the Kalemegdan park at the back.



We have had bad backs, so when we had reached so far, we thought we had deserved a glass of wine and a beer. There are restaurants in most side streets of the pedestrian street. This restaurant is called [Snežana](#).



At the end of Kneza Mihailova we reach directly into [Kalemegdan Park](#). In the beginning there are a lot of sales stalls.



Then we come to the fortress. It has been of major strategic significance for more than 2000 years, where it lies on the junction where the river Sava and Danube meet. [Map of the fortress](#).



This is the Karadjordje gate, named after Karadjorđe ([Đorđe Petrović](#)). He was a Serbian resistance leader who fought for the detachment of Serbia from the Ottoman Empire



Within the gate there is a dinosaur park with many different dinosaur species. There were also sounds corresponding to the sounds of the dinosaurs.



More dinosaurs.



The next gate we walked through is called the Stambol Gate. The gate is named after Istanbul.



This is the clock gate that is the innermost gate here. It has got its name because it is located just below the clock tower.



Here is an exhibition of old cannons.



More cannons.



In the west of the fortress area we can see from a distance the 14m high statue [Pobednik](#) (The Victor). It should have been erected in 1912 as a symbol of the liberation of Serbia and Kosovo from the Turks, but it was not erected until 1928.



Behind the plateau where Pobednik stands, we see where the river Sava and a right arm of the Danube meet each other. On the right side is [the Great War Island](#) or Veliko Ratno Ostrvo.



Here we see the tip of the Great War Island where Sava and the Danube river meet each other.



Ruins in the fortress area.



More ruins with a fountain.



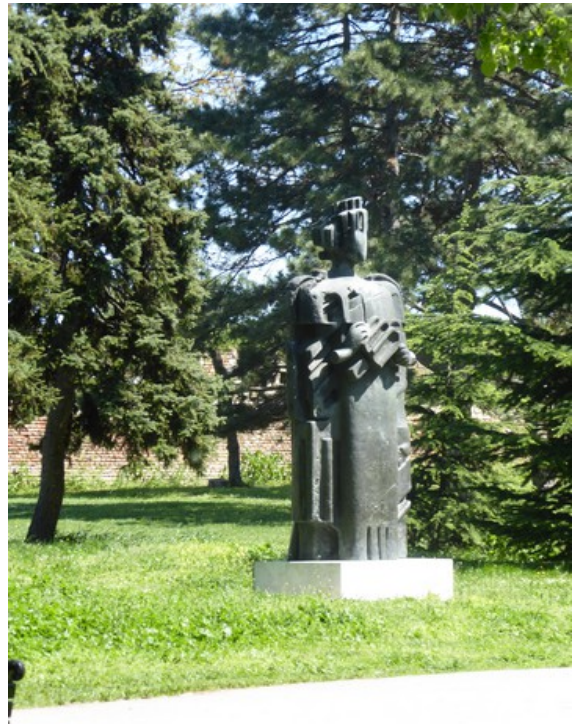
This is [Mehmed Paša Sokolovićs Fountain](#), a drinking water fountain. It was erected in 1576-77. It was buried at one point or another and was not discovered again until 1938.



Much of the area inside the fortress is parky.



The clock tower seen from a distance.



This is a statue to remember the despot [Stefan Lazarević](#)



Then we are on our way out of the fortress. This is the [the Despot Gate and Castellan Tower](#). This was the main entrance in the Middle Ages along with the Zindan Gate.



Ruins between the walls.



Area between the walls.



[The Zindan Gate](#). There are rooms inside the towers, and the cellar rooms were used by the Turks as a prison. Zindan means prison in Turkish.



One of the towers of the Zindan gate and the tower of the [Ruzica Church](#).



On the way out we went past [Kalemegdanska Terasa](#), a restaurant with a good view of the lower parts of the fortress and over the Danube.



On our way back to the hotel we became tired and we got a taxi to drive us the last stretch. When we got there we thought we had deserved a beer and a glass of wine.



After eating breakfast the last day, we went for a little walk down the street, which we stayed in, but first I took a picture of a wall painting outside on the hotel wall.



Just down the street stands this statue. I think this is by [Djura Jakšić](#) as well.



Far down the street is this [fountain](#). In the past, fresh drinking water could be obtained from this. That day people was sitting there feeding the pigeons.



We would rather have a [Jelen beer](#) at [Restaurant Velika Skadarlija](#) next door.



Artificial cut bush.



When we had been there for a while, there was an orchestra that started to play. They were quite skilled.





In the evening we ate at “our” restaurant.



This is the neighborhood restaurant Dva Jelena.



Here I am waiting for serving.



We left the hotel at 18:00. We had booked transportation with the same driver who had driven us before. The plane (Norwegian) departed from Belgrade at 21.00 and was not arriving in Oslo, Gardermoen before 23.45. That's why we had booked at [Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen](#), where we stayed overnight. After eating breakfast at the hotel on Sunday, we traveled to [Dalen Parkering](#) to pick up the car and drive home.