

1. Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association “Dunav” in collaboration with Tourist Organization of Belgrade presentation:

Accessible Belgrade

Dear ladies and gentleman,

Welcome to our presentation of Belgrade. We will try to present you our tourist offer with some specially recommended tours as well as Belgrade as an accessible city.

2. Belgrade is a city easy to reach.

Belgrade is situated on the Balkan Peninsula, at the intersection of roads, connecting Eastern and Western Europe, on the outfall of the Sava to the Danube.

Belgrade has always been at the crossroads of important European roads, thus it is very easy to reach by any means of transportation: plane - the Belgrade Airport is 20 km from the city centre, car - the intersection of E-70 and E-75 roads, train - the railway network connecting the West and the East, the North and the South, boat - travelling down the international rivers Sava and Danube.

At the moment airport transportation is completely wheelchair accessible. Certain railway routes are wheelchair friendly (Belgrade – Vienna). Stations in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Subotica have mechanical platforms for entering and leaving train. Belgrade’s train station has timetable available in Braille format.

Along the highways there are a number of wheelchair accessible restaurants, motels as well as gas stations with properly marked accessible toilets.

3. Belgrade is a city break destination, where you will find:

- well know Serbian hospitality
- natural combination of oriental passion and European finesse

- turbulent and interesting history of one of the oldest European cities
- many cultural, music and tourist events

Buildings and institutions in Belgrade accessible to people with disabilities:

- Museums 6
- Theatres 8
- Cultural centers 6
- Cinemas 12
- Churches 19
- Sport Centers 13
- Hotels 5+9

Set up in Natural History Museum in Belgrade is completely adopted to people with visual impairments so visitors can enjoy hands-on displays.

During the Night of Museums event wheelchair vans are freely available to disabled people.

4. Great local gastronomy

Rich and various night life - restaurants with live music. Many of floating nightclubs on rafts, clubs and night bars are accessible to disabled people.

5. Next two slides present two city tours and they are also adapted for persons with disabilities.

6. First one is a tour from the famous square Slavija.

It is the space between Kralja Milana, Beogradska, Makenzijeve, Svetosavska, Bulevar oslobođenja, Deligradska and Nemanjina streets. The formation of the square started when an Englishman, Francis Mackenzie, a well-known businessman, bought a large piece of land above the present square and parceled it for sale.

If you continue your tour you will be able to see King Milan's street where you will find lot of tourist sites like a theatre, building of the City

Assembly of Belgrade and other interesting architecture. King Milan's street is one of the main streets in Belgrade.

The site of today's Terazije Square was once a marsh and open fields outside the city ramparts right up to the 1830s. Terazije got its name from the towers that distributed water from above, which were called water scales (*'terazi'*) by the Turks. There you will find many attractions like the Hotel Moskva, Terazije Fountain (*Terazijska česma*), the Anker Palace (*Palata "Anker"*).

7. Second tour is very interesting too.

Knez Mihailova Street

This pedestrian precinct and main city street, now protected by law, is one of the oldest and most valuable city environments, with a whole range of impressive buildings and town houses which sprung up at the end of the 1880's.

Republic Square

The main town square, Republic Square is a rendezvous for young people before they move off to other entertainments. In fact people who are not very familiar with Belgrade usually use this square as a place to get their bearings. When anyone in Belgrade says they will "see you in the Square" ("Vidimo se na Trgu!") this is the square they are referring to. In the Square you'll find the National Theatre, the National Museum, the Monument to Prince Mihailo Obrenović III and the Monument to Branislav Nušić.

Kosančićev venac

One of the few preserved old parts of the town is Kosančićev venac which is located in the southwest of Old Belgrade on a mound facing the Sava River. Back in the middle ages, a Serbian settlement began to develop here with its own church and graveyard. At the beginning of the 19th century this part became the heart of the town from and around which the wider area of Belgrade grew.

8. And now something more about the attractions you can visit during your stay in Belgrade

The Belgrade Fortress was built as a defensive structure on a ridge overlooking the confluence of the Sava and the Danube during the period from the 1st to the 18th century. Today, the fortress is a unique museum of the history of Belgrade. The complex is made up of the Belgrade Fortress itself, divided into the Upper and Lower Towns (Gornji/Donji grad) and the Kalemegdan Park.

There is an especially designed tour of the fortress and the “Pobednik” monument for wheel chair users with a guide for disabled visitors, who will present the tour from their own way.

9. The Cathedral of Saint Sava (Hram Svetog Save)

Preparations for the erection of one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world began in 1894. The Cathedral is being built on the site where according to tradition the remains of Saint Sava were brought from the Mileševo Monastery and burnt at the order of Sinan Pascha in 1594.

Area around and the church itself are accessible to wheel chair users.

10. Zemun

Once a separate town, Zemun has been a municipality within the city of Belgrade since 1945. As far back as the Neolithic Age, men built settlements here, taking advantage of its favorable position on the banks of the Danube and Sava.

Zemun Fortress

The Fortress is the oldest building in Zemun and is mentioned as early as the 9th and 11th centuries. The remains that can be seen today date from the 15th century. In the centre of the fortifications is the Millennium Tower, which was erected by the Hungarian authorities in 1896 and restored in 1962. It is also known as the Tower of Sibirjanin Janko (Kula Sibirjanina Janka).

The most beautiful part of Zemun, Danube promenade, which extends all the way to the confluence of Sava and Danube is accessible by wheel chair.

11. Ada Ciganlija

- most frequently visited resort
- several kilometres away from the city centre
- 60 different sports grounds
- 50 cafes and restaurants

12. New sport center for people with disabilities

The Center covers an area of 700 square meters and includes a basketball court, tennis, volleyball and football, which are adapted for use by persons with disabilities.

A wheelchair friendly access is available for all the people with disability who want to take a dip in the lake. There are also accessible showers, change rooms and toilets.

13. Rich nightlife has made Belgrade a capital of entertainment. Famous for its numerous rafts and clubs which guarantee excellent fun, Belgrade offers its visitors unforgettable moments.

Unfortunately, a lot of old buildings are not fully barrier-free for disabled people but very friendly hosts will find a way to solve any possible problems and make crossing them manageable.

14. In the last eight years, city authorities have removed thousands of drawbacks and there are 13 vehicles for transporting with 3,000 regular and 1,000 irregular during the months.

If somebody wants to visit Belgrade by car, there are 824 parking slots all around the center of Belgrade. Also, there are special parking places in the garages.

There are tactile pavements on most of central streets and crossings to assist blind and visually impaired pedestrians.

15. From 2001 onwards, City assembly of Belgrade didn't allow reconstruction or building public institutions or streets if there are no ramps scheduled by project.

Today, there are lots of streets reconstructed and built up to ease the movement in the city

16. BELGRADE: ANOTHER GAZE

The goal of the project *Belgrade: Another Gaze* is to prepare groups of persons with special needs and members of minority groups for creative work in the field of cultural tourism - as official guides specialized for selected areas of Belgrade.

Every weekend alternative guides, ten of them at the moment, are available to all visitors, to present them Kalemegdan fortress, the confluence of Sava and Danube, New Belgrade's blocks 70 and 45, Belgrade's fair... Most of these alternative guides are also disabled people, so you can ask them and find out how they commute each day in Belgrade, their experiences, impressions and what are their favorite places to go out.

Doing such things opens big questions about the quality of life, civil awareness and tolerance, states Mr. Dejan Veselinov, PR of Tourist Organization of Belgrade. These tours have become regular sightseeing tours Tourist Organization of Belgrade and so far it is receiving significant interest.

By introducing new legislation all new buildings and old ones that will undergo renovation will have to fulfill an accessibility construction guidelines and standards in compliance with EU.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
WELCOME TO BELGRADE**