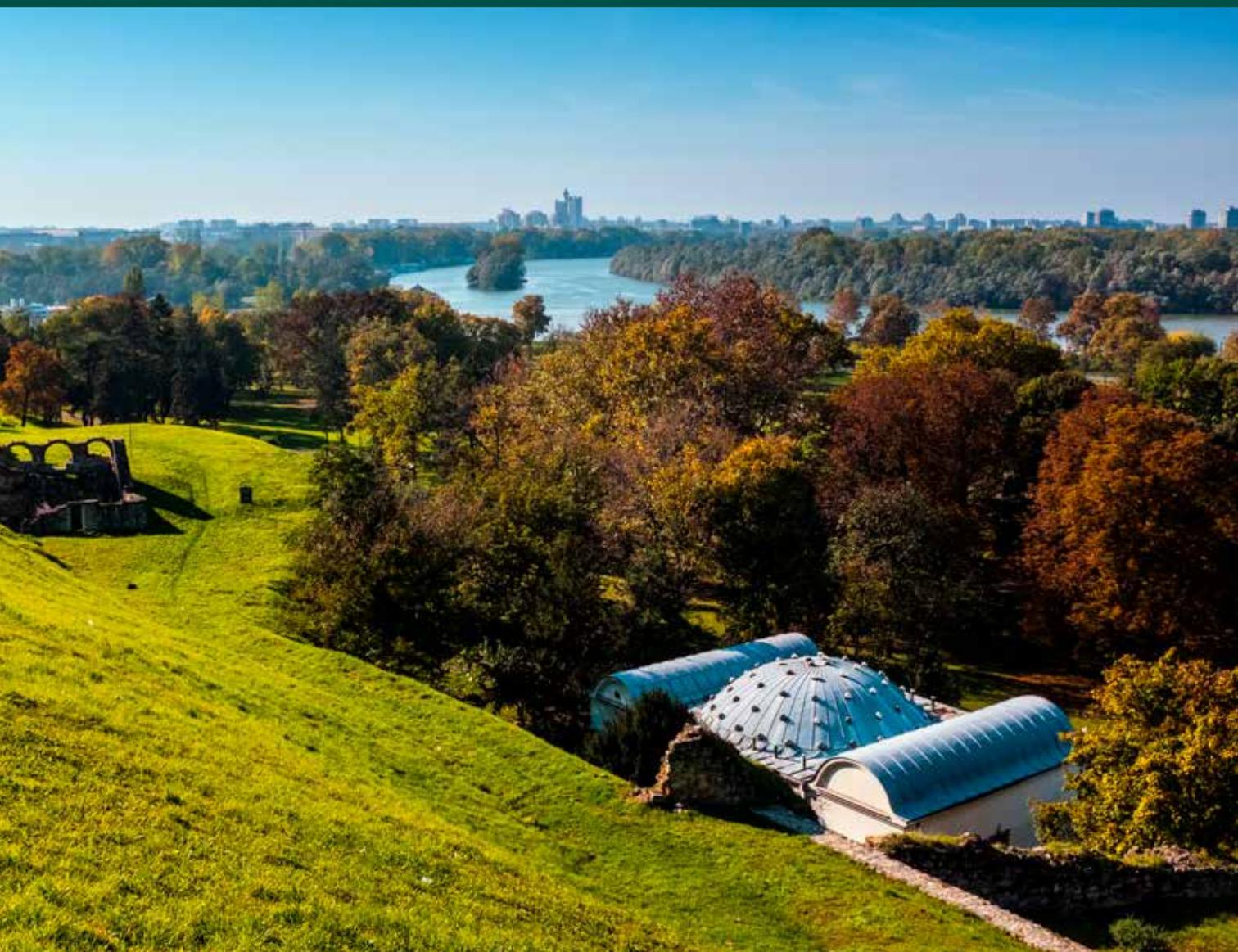




OTTOMAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SERBIA

THE CULTURAL TREASURES of SERBIA

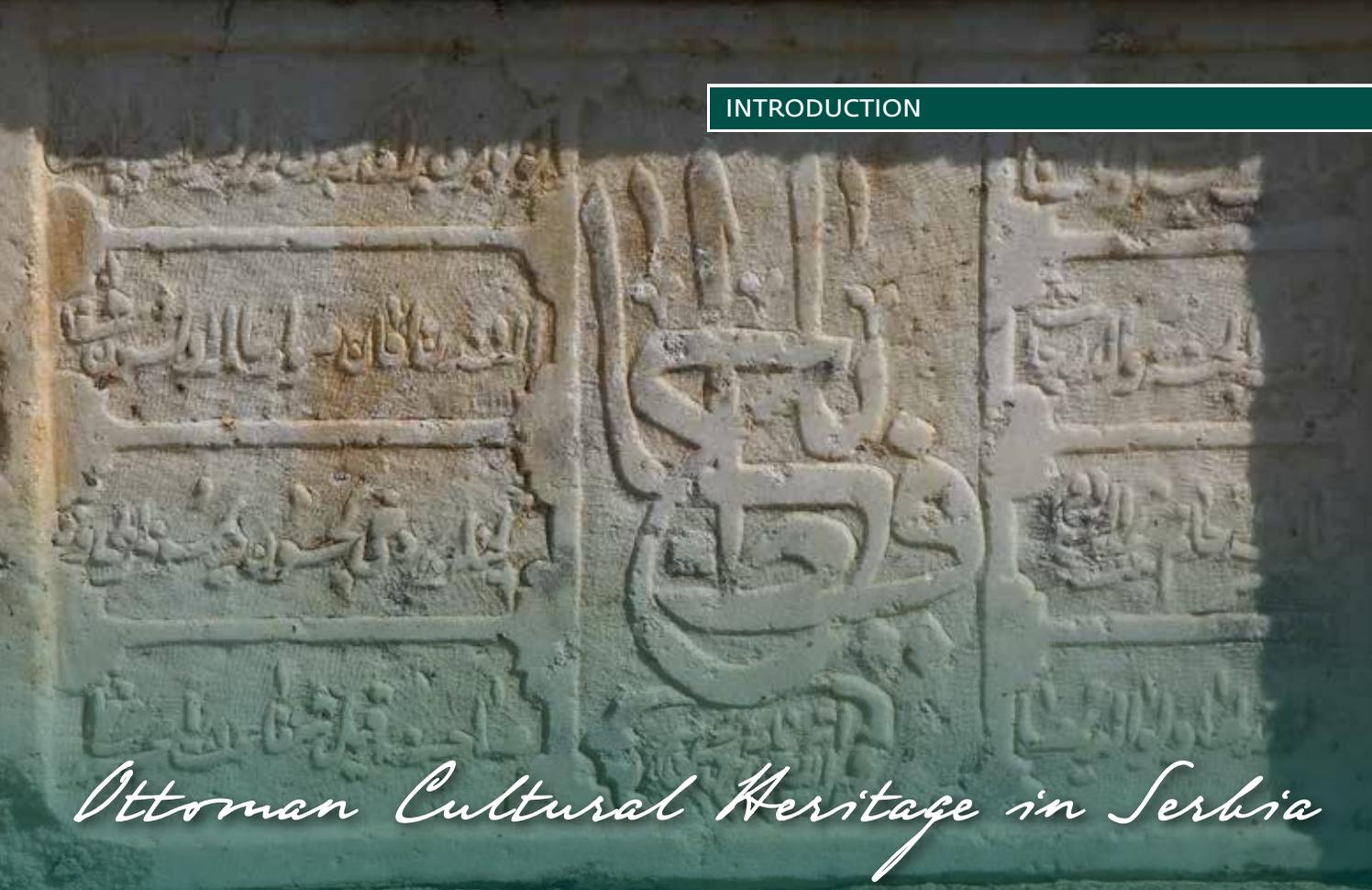




LEGEND

- International Border
- Settlement Signs
- City
- County Center
- Rivers and Lakes
- Highway
- Highway
- Regional Road
- Airport
- Ottoman Heritage

INTRODUCTION



Ottoman Cultural Heritage in Serbia

Ottoman cultural heritage in the territory of Serbia can be seen in preserved architectural monuments and the traces left in the language, i.e. words of Turkish origin, also known as Orientalisms, but also in the mutual influences which created a specific cultural diet.

At the height of its power, in the mid-16th century, the Ottoman Empire stretched across three continents and controlled the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

The Ottoman conquest of the lands which were part of the powerful Serbian empire of Stefan Dušan, the Mighty, began after the Battle of Maritsa in 1371 and the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. Still, the independent Serbian state, the Serbian Despotate, survived until the mid-15th century. After the capital Smederevo fell in 1459, the Serbian state disappeared from the historical stage and all of its territory became part of the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire brought a new order, a new administrative apparatus and a new faith to Southeast Europe, but it did not dig up the roots of all the existing social relations and institutions, instead it partially accepted them, adapting them to its state model. The result of this synthesis was a new civilizational and cultural sphere, whose presence is still felt today in most societies in the Balkans, which is defined as "Oriental cultural heritage".

The civilizational, i.e. the social and cultural effects, were rarely one-sided. When two civilisations meet or clash, there is normally mutual permeation of two, where the weakening society may offer something to the society that is on the rise, depending on how open said society is to foreign influences.

In the historiographies of the Balkan countries, the period of Ottoman rule is no longer simply described as the "Turkish Servitude" or "Turkish Yoke"; the positive sides of the Ottoman Empire are also observed, which were particularly pronounced in its Classical Age, up to the year 1600.

This brochure presents only the most important monuments of the Ottoman cultural heritage, although there are considerably more of them in Serbia.

Fortresses

Tourist Organisation of Belgrade
www.tob.co.rs

Tourism Organisation of Niš
www.visitnis.com

Tourist Organisation of Golubac
www.togolubac.rs

Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Veliko Gradište
www.tovg.org

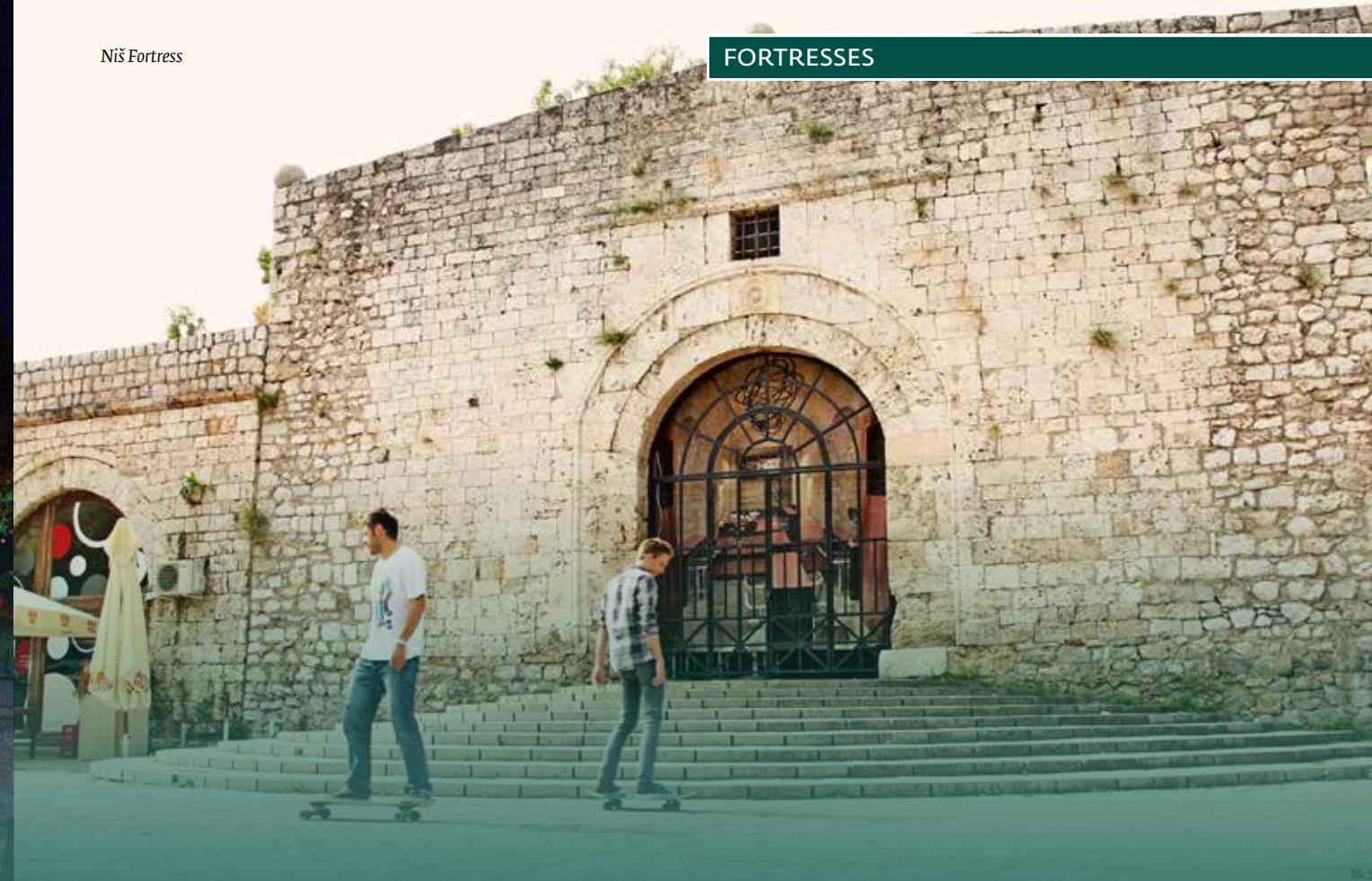
Tourist Organisation Kladovo
www.tookladovo.rs

Tourist Organisation of the City of Šabac
www.sabaturizam.org

Fortress (kale or hisar) is a fortification built from stone, with or without towers. The Ottomans on Serbian soil mostly used existing fortresses, which they walled and altered to meet their own needs. Since maintaining fortresses was very expensive and challenging, in our region, they only used fortresses which were located in border regions and on strategically important road routes, leaving the others deserted. The construction of palanke, light fortified built mainly from wood, which were easy to build and leave when needed, without worrying that the enemy would use them for offensive purposes, was typical for the Ottoman period. The best example of the Ottomans adapting an existing fortress to their own needs is Niš Fortress.

- Belgrade Fortress
- Niš Fortress
- Golubac Fortress
- Ram Fortress
- Fetislam Fortress
- Šabac Fortress

Ram Fortress



Many fortresses in Serbia built during the rule of the Ottoman Empire were erected on the foundations of ancient Byzantine and medieval towns. These include Niš Fortress, the imposing walls of which are among the best preserved in the entire Balkans. The fortress got its present-day appearance in the 1790s, when north Serbia, above the confluence of two Morava rivers, near Stalać, entered the Habsburg Monarchy, and Niš became the centre of the Ottoman possessions in Europe.

The walls of the medieval town of Ram are located on a steep cliff on the right bank of the Danube. Sultan Bayezid II renovated the fortress in 1483. The cannon holes in the fortress made it one of the first artillery fortresses in this area. The Old Town Fortress in Šabac, due to the way it was built, falls within the category of permanent fortifications, those built for the permanent protection of a certain area, square, mine, crossroads or some other strategically important place.



Golubac Fortress



Fetislam Fortress

Mosques

A mosque is a Muslim place of worship around which developed the centre of an entire settlement, or a neighbourhood of it (mahala). The first mosques were built on the Arabian Peninsula in the 7th century, so this sacred building had a fully-developed form by the time of the Ottoman period. In the east, the Ottoman mosques were primarily influenced by Persian architecture, and by Byzantine architecture in the European parts of the empire. The obligatory elements of a mosque, in addition to the *minaret* (a tower from which the faithful are called to prayer), were also the *mihrab* (a niche facing in the direction of Mecca) and the *minbar* (a pulpit). The most important preserved mosques in Serbia are:

- *Bajrakli Mosque in Belgrade, 17th century*
- *Islam-aga's Mosque in Niš, 18th-19th centuries*
- *Altun-alem Mosque, in Novi Pazar, 16th century*
- *Sinan Pasha Mosque in Prizren, 17th century**
- *Sultan-Valide Mosque in Sjenica, 19th century*

Mosques in Serbia are a combination of Turkish Seljuk and Byzantine architecture. After Constantinople was conquered in 1453, the Church of Holy Wisdom, which was turned into a mosque - the Hagia Sophia, became the model for all mosque builders, especially in the European part of the Empire. But majestic mosques were not built in the area of Serbia because it was a region in the interior of the Empire, with a relatively small Muslim population, and there was no need to erect monumental spiritual buildings. Tall, slender minarets are typical for Ottoman mosques, and this is what almost all the mosques in the territory of Serbia have.

Bajrakli Mosque, the only preserved mosque in Belgrade, was erected between 1660 and 1688. It is a building with a square floor-plan, with a dome resting on an octagonal tambour. The mosque gets its name from the word *barjak* - a flag, which was to signal the other mosques at the time of prayer.



Altun-alem Mosque, Novi Pazar



Sultan-Valide Mosque, Sjenica

Tourist Organisation of Belgrade
www.tob.co.rs

Tourism Organisation of Niš
www.visitnis.com

Tourist Organisation of Novi Pazar
www.tonp.rs

Tourist Organisation of Sjenica
www.turizamsjenica.com

*Kosovo and Metohija is currently under the administration of UNMIK pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.



Islam-aga's Mosque, Niš



Bajrakli Mosque, Belgrade

Hammams

Hammams were Turkish baths whose origins are associated with the Roman baths. As in other Islamic countries which preceded or were contemporaries of the Ottoman Empire, in addition to hygiene, hammams also had a pronounced social significance as one of the important meeting places, especially for women, who were largely tied to the home.

Hammams in Serbia have many similarities, but they cannot be said to be a rule. These are architectural elements and procedures which are generally typical for Ottoman hammams, but which certainly draw attention:

- dual-type hammam, in which one half is for women and the other for men (Novi Pazar, Prizren, Sokobanja)
- built in the style of alternating brick and stone (the hammam in Prizren)
- based on the foundations of old Roman thermae (like in the hammam in Sokobanja where the female section contains a preserved authentic floor from Roman times)
- domes that cover each room of the hammam (Novi Pazar)



Hammam in Sokobanja

The best preserved hammams in Serbia are:

- Hammam in Bač, 16th century
- Hammam in Niš Fortress, 15th century
- Old Hammam in Novi Pazar, 15th century
- Old Hammam in Prizren, 17th century*
- Hammam in Sokobanja, 15th century

Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Bač
www.turizambač.com

Tourist Organisation of Vranje
www.tovranje.org.rs

Tourist Organisation of Novi Pazar
www.tonp.rs

Sokobanja Organisation for Tourism, Culture and Sport
www.sokobanja.rs

Tourism Organisation of Niš
www.visitnis.com

Hammam of Gazi Mehmed Pasha, Prizren

White Bridge, Vranje

Bridges, Fountains...

Bridges, fountains and other structures of public importance were most commonly part of an endowment complex of a prominent person of the Ottoman state. Their architectural styles differ depending on the mode of work of the *mimar* (architect), but also on the part of the Empire in which they were erected. In our region, a large number of diverse structures have been preserved, the best examples being:

- Sheikh Mustafa's Turbe, 18th century, Belgrade
- Fountain of Mehmed Pasha Sokolović, 16th century, Belgrade
- Damad Ali Pasha Turbe, 18th century, Belgrade
 - Old Bridge, 19th century, Vranje
 - Djerenska Fountain, Vranje
 - Skull Tower, 19th century, Niš
- Two old Turkish fountains in Ledinci, 19th century, Novi Sad
 - Gazilar graveyard with turbe, 17th century, Novi Pazar
 - Begov Bridge, 17th century, Staničenje in Pirot

* Turbe = mausoleum

Tourist Organisation of Belgrade
www.tob.co.rs

Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Boljevac
tooboljevac@open.telekom.rs

Tourist Organisation of Vranje
www.tovranje.org.rs

Tourism Organisation of Niš
www.visitnis.com

Tourist Organisation of Novi Pazar
www.tonp.rs

Tourist Organisation of the City of Novi Sad
www.novisad.travel

Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Pirot
www.topirot.com

Djerenska Fountain, Vranje





OTTOMAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SERBIA

Publisher:
National Tourism Organisation of Serbia
Čika Ljubina 8, 11 000 Belgrade
Tel. : +381 11 6557 100
Fax: +381 11 2626 767
E-mail: office@serbia.travel
www.serbia.travel



For the publisher: Marija Labović, Director
Editor: Smiljana Novčić
Text: Prof. Ema Miljković
Design: Marijana Markoska
Photographs: Dragan Bosnić, Branko Jovanović, Slava Mičić,
Srdjan Veljović, Dragan Vildović
Cartography: Merkur SV
Map consultant: Dr Olgica Miljković
Translation: Alkemist, d.o.o., Belgrade
Printing: Službeni glasnik, Belgrade
First edition in English, 2015
Volume: 3.000
ISBN 978-86-6005-449-6

CIP - Каталогизacija у публикацији -
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

338.48(497.11)(036)
930.85(497.11)

MILJKOVIĆ, Ema, 1972-
Ottoman Cultural Heritage in Serbia : the cultural treasures of Serbia
/ [text Ema Miljković ; translation Alkemist ; photographs Dragan
Bosnić ...
et al.]. - 1st ed. in English. - Belgrade : National Tourism Organisation
of Serbia, 2015 (Beograd : Službeni glasnik). - [12] str. : fotogr. ; 20 x
24 cm

Kor. nasl. - Podatak o autorima preuzet iz kolofona. - Tiraž 3.000.

ISBN 978-86-6005-449-6

a) Културна добра - Србија б) Србија - Водичи COBISS.SR-ID
220237324

ASSOCIATION OF TOUR OPERATORS
IN SERBIA

YUTA - National association of travel agencies of Serbia
www.yuta.rs/sr/receptiva/clanice-odbora-receptiva.asp

Everyday Life

Oriental culture in Serbia, but in the Balkans as a whole, is present in everyday life. This is reflected, primarily, in the use of a large number of words of Turkish origin and in the eating habits, which are best described as "Balkan cuisine".

Words such as *jastuk* (pillow), *kašika* (spoon), *džezva* (pot for making Turkish coffee), *višnja* (cherry) and *čaj* (tea) have taken such root in the Serbian language that they do not even register as loanwords.

Certain dishes and spices adopted from those Eastern cultures were intermixed with some local dishes and spices, growing into specific Serbian specialities. The visitor to our Balkan region will be able to try barbecue meat - skara (grill), mangala (spit roast), as well as sarma (stuffed cabbage rolls), a wide range of fresh salads, baklava and Turkish delight, to name but a few. He will eat turšija (pickled vegetables), dry fruit, curdled milk and yoghurt. And he will no doubt enjoy all of it!





THE CULTURAL TREASURES of SERBIA

OTTOMAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SERBIA

