

**Interreg
Danube Region**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



#RomansWineDanube

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union.



A green itinerary that is part of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Pannonian Colours

Ptuj, Slovenia – Osijek, Croatia – Pécs,
Hungary – Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

Partners of the project:



Partner Tour Operators:





Pannonian Colours 1/2026 Format: 410 x 180

Ptuj – Osijek – Pécs – Sremska Mitrovica

Between the Alps and the Balkans, where the Drava and the Danube carve their way across Central Europe, unfolds a route shaped by emperors, ancient roads, vineyards, and centuries of living heritage. This itinerary invites travelers to step into the world of Roman legions, medieval merchants, and modern winemakers – a curated cultural journey through Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, and Serbia.

Legend for icons:



Sustainable Activities



Roman Heritage



Wine Theme



Sustainable Transport



Regional Produce

Roman and local Heritage Highlights!



Source: A. Grujić

In the following boxes you will find the itinerary highlights. The focus lies on roman heritage and wine.

The attended region is known for its many roman heritage and wine events. Here are some examples of these events.

Roman and local Heritage event Highlights!



(mid-August) **Roman Games in Ptuj:**

More than eight hundred people recreate history in the city of Ptuj, a core trading hub at that time. They present everyday life and customs of ancient Rome.



(late-February – early-March) **Kurentovanje Carnival** in Ptuj:

The carnival is an excellent opportunity to engage in the traditional culture of the region. A number of concerts, carnival parades and masquerades line the classic city streets.



(August) **Sopianae Revivscit** – Roman Festival in Pécs

As part of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, the festival brings the Danubian provinces to life with immersive programs, reenactments, and themed tastings.



(August) Festival **"Lux Aurelius"** in Sremska Mitrovica

"Lux Aurelius" brings the spirit of ancient Rome to Pécs with a weekend full of light, music, and lively activities. The festival offers reenactments, parades, a military camp and roman vibes of the city of Sremska Mitrovica.

Wine Focus



Source: Marko Banić

Highlights of the itinerary regarding the long and living history of wine in the region!



(August) **Days of Poetry and Wine** in Ptuj:

Guests enjoy poetry readings alongside tastings of Slovenia's finest wines. The festival blends tradition and a refined festival-like atmosphere.



(September) **Wine Days** in Pécs:

International choirs and soloists gather in competition and harmony to celebrate the local wine culture in an impressive musical festivity program.

(July) **Zsolnay Light Festival** in Pécs:

Hungary's only light festival that brings light and space into dynamic interplay. Digital and analog light installations shine a modern light on the ancient city of Pécs.



(May - July) **Wine Month** in Osijek-Baranja County:

Visit the best wine events during the "Wine Month" which lasts more than two months - enjoy local wines from the Croatian Danube Region.



(October) **Vinalia at the HeadOnEast Festival** in Osijek:

The most popular regional street-style festival in Osijek's old town, with a fine selection of Croatian Danube Region wines and local gastronomy. All combined with the sounds of pop, urban and retro music concerts.

Your itinerary

Provided you arrive by plane to Ljubljana, Zagreb or Graz. Arriving by train or bus is an eco-friendlier option and advised.

Day 1: Arrival Option 1: Ljubljana → Ptuj



Arrival in the city and onward travel:

From Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, **regular train connections** lead via Ljubljana to Ptuj (approx. 2.5 hours), operated by Slovenian Railways (SŽ) and Hungarian Railways (MÁV). For many travelers, the train is the most flexible and eco-friendly choice, with evening connections available as well. As an alternative, FlixBus runs a direct bus via Maribor to Ptuj. Ride-sharing via BlaBlaCar can also be considered and usually takes around two hours.

Day 1: Arrival Option 2: Zagreb → Ptuj



Arrival in the city and onward travel:

View of Maribor



Source: Visit Maribor / Štajerska

Another option is to start at the airport of Zagreb. There is a **bus connection** that takes you in 2,5 hours to by a **stopover in Maribor**. From there you take the train to Ptuj. Sharing a car might also be considered. If

you arrive in the morning you can stay in Zagreb until the afternoon. Just take public transport (50 minutes) or a taxi (20 minutes) to the city center.



Activities & experiences in Zagreb:

If you take the **bus from Zagreb to Ptuj** you want to exit the bus in Maribor to engage in wine heritage and visit the oldest grapevine in the world. Take a stroll through the old town, it is worth it.

In Zagreb you will find an **Archaeological Museum** with a focus on Roman collections. Tip: You might find it not so busy in the morning.

After that, take a short digestive stroll through the **Dolac Market**: Fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers and handicrafts. It is ideal for finding small souvenirs from the region.

Day 1: Arrival Option 3: Graz - Ptuj



Arrival in the city and onward travel:

From Graz Airport, you can continue by bus (approx. 1.5 hours) or by train with changes in **Leibnitz and Maribor**. A stopover in Maribor is highly recommended: stroll through its old town, visit the house of the world's oldest grapevine and get a first taste of regional wine culture before continuing on to Ptuj.

Active travelers may choose to continue by **bike towards Ptuj**, cycling along rivers, through orchards and low wine hills. Between Maribor and Ptuj, the landscape is particularly scenic, with opportunities to stop in **wine taverns and farms** along the way.

Day 2: Ptuj

- Ptuj is Slovenia's **oldest recorded town**.
- **Key Roman sites** in the region, known as Poetovio in imperial times
- One of the **country's oldest wine cellars** beneath the castle hill.
- **Surrounding wine hills** invite for cycling tours.
- Tastings of **Sauvignon Blanc, Šipon and regional cuvées**.
- Festivals such as **Kurentovanje** and the **Roman Games** bring history and folklore to life.
- All relevant information is here: <https://visitptuj.eu/de/>

View of the Ptuj Castle



Source: ZRS Bistra Ptuj



Activities & experiences in the city:

Ptuj is well known for its **roman heritage and wine culture**. Why not combining both of these aspects in a wine & city stroll. You will find guided tours combining a city tour with a wine tasting.

Cycle through **vineyards and orchards with magnificent views** in the Slovenske Gorice or Slovene hills. Highlights: Archaeological panoramic spot (Roman ruins), Ptuj Castle and the Wine Museum (Stara Preša).

Continue by bike: 'Between Homesteads and Manors' Route: It is easy by bike – past **Ptuj Castle, Dornava Manor, Dominko's historic farm and Muretinci Castle**. Insights: Architecture & culture route with wine tradition in the surrounding area.

Alternative: **Panorama round trip 'Jeruzalem - Ptuj'** (more challenging) Route: 46 km with ascent to the Gomila viewpoint and back via the reservoir, ending in Ptuj.

Ptuj Wine Cellar, one of the oldest in Slovenia, lies beneath the castle and provides a perfect combination: castle visit plus cellar tour and wine tasting. Vaulted cellars and oak barrels tell a long story of winemaking heritage. Typical varieties include Sauvignon Blanc, Šipon and local cuvées.

The Roman highlights are scattered across today's town. They are connected together in the Poetovio Archaeological Park, which presents the heritage of ancient Ptuj, the largest Roman settlement in Slovenian territory. The park features museum exhibits, and it also offers guided tours, tourist products and experiences, educational and interactive content, as well as events and exhibitions. It shows Poetovio's importance as a legionary camp, traffic hub and trading centre.

The old town itself is like an **open-air museum** spanning different epochs.

If you arrive in the morning and wish to explore Ljubljana, follow the **Roman Trail "Emona"** through the city center: it leads past remains of city walls, sections of Roman roads and

Roman games in Ptuj



Source: ZRS Bistra Ptuj

archaeological finds that provide a first taste of the Roman heritage you will encounter along this route.



Local Transportation:

In Ptuj, several free mobility options are available for getting around the city. Local bus services are operated free of charge by Arriva. A free electric shuttle service, Zapeljivec, can be used by simply flagging it down in the city or by calling +386 (0)51 20 40 20. Free bicycles are also available through the Pecikl bike-sharing system; registration can be completed at the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at Mestni trg 4.



Culinary:

Vinoteka Kobal is located in the oldest building in Ptuj. Here you can taste the King of Sauvignons in a local wine tasting.

In **Restaurant Ribič** you will find seafood delicacies. They manage local produce to come along with great wines. Meanwhile, you sit comfortably watching the Drava River.

View on the Drava River



Source: ZRS Bistra Ptuj

The **Restaurant Pomaranča** offers great dishes if you are looking for freshly grilled produce. They also offer coffee and ice cream.

More comfortable and traditional cuisine is at **Restaurant Rozika** in Ptuj available. It is a homely atmosphere and an authentic way to experience local cuisine and produce.

If you would like to engage in a more lavish culinary course you might want to end the day in **Restaurant Grabar** where local produce and traditional cuisine create unique dishes that provoke visitors' taste buds.

Just below the castle you will find **Restaurant Amadeus** where culinary masterpieces are based on Slovenian recipes, traditional regional cuisine and local delicacies.



Accommodation in **Ptuj**:

Arriving in Ptuj you can check into **Bed & Breakfast Panorama Krapša**. Located beautifully in the center of Ptuj archaeological Park it is certified by Slovenia green and the EU ecolabel. A perfect option for conscious travelers.

The **Grand Hotel Primus - Terme Ptuj** might provide you with a more luxurious option. For slow travelers, it is certified with Green Key and located a little further out of town.

Day 3: Ptuj - Osijek

- Osijek combines **baroque elegance, river landscapes and Roman traces**.
- The **Tvrđa fortress district** stands out with its historic squares, museums and cafés.
- Nearby **Kopački Rit** is one of Europe's great wetland areas, ideal for sustainable nature excursions and birdwatching.
- The **surrounding Baranja region** offers rural guesthouses, family-run cellars and characterful wines.
- All relevant information is here:
<https://visitslavoniabaranja.com/en/>



Onward travel to Osijek:

The onward journey from Ptuj to Osijek is the **longest travel segment of the itinerary, taking around 8-9 hours by bus or train**, depending on connection. The route leads through scenic landscapes of northeastern Slovenia and northern Croatia, often following the course of the Drava River.

The biosphere Park at the Drava River



Source: Marko Banić

If you travel by a rented car or share one, you can visit **Varaždin** which is a middle-sized old town south of Ptuj. The feudal castle with medieval flair creates a worthwhile stop for architecture and history lovers. To make most of your travel, take the route

along the **Drava River**. It is the last biosphere Park along the river with beautiful views. The area of the Drava River is also called **Amazon of Europe** where you can enjoy activities, such as hiking, cycling, or water sports.



Activities & experiences:

Osijek, located on the Drava River in eastern Croatia, welcomes visitors with its **baroque fortress district Tvrđa**, one of the best-preserved such urban ensembles in Central Europe. Cobbled streets, elegant squares and historical facades make it ideal for a relaxed stroll.

The **Archaeological Museum of Osijek** presents objects from the Stone Age to the 16th century. Roman relics – such as stone fragments, pottery, coins and tools – shed light on the Roman settlement of Mursa and life along the empire's frontier.

The **Co-Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul**, a striking neo-Gothic brick church, shapes the skyline of the city center and underlines Osijek's architectural diversity.

A short distance from the city lies **Kopački Rit Nature Park**, a wetland area at the confluence of the Drava and the Danube. It is one of Europe's most important bird habitats and part of the Mura-Drava-Danube UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Visitors can reach it by bike (approx. 45 minutes) or car, explore educational trails and observation points, and experience a unique floodplain ecosystem.

The Kopački Rit Nature Park



Source: Marko Banić

Castle Tikves is a historic 19th-century castle complex set inside Kopački Rit Nature Park in Croatian Baranja that now serves as a presentation and education centre about the park's nature and heritage.

You can walk the grounds among the old castle, annex and chapel, explore interactive exhibits on the region's ecology and history.

Wine cellars of Zmajevac in the Croatian part of Baranja – this small village is famous for its many historical wine cellars and family-owned wineries, known for wines like Graševina, and Frankovka. Visitors can tour the cellars, taste a variety of local wines, and pair them with regional food specialties. These wineries are a popular stop for wine tourism in northeastern Croatia.

Vina Belje Winery is the largest and third oldest wine cellar in Croatia, dating back to 1526. Enjoy the views of the Baranja region nestled between the Drava and Danube rivers.



Local Transportation:

Public transport in Osijek is based on a network of trams and buses. Trams run through the main parts of the city and connect the historic centre with residential areas, making them a convenient option for short distances. The bus network complements the tram system by serving neighbourhoods and routes not covered by tram lines, providing reliable access across the city for residents and visitors alike.



Where to stay & eat around Osijek:

Traditional Wine Cellars



Source: Marko Banić

For travelers who want to be even closer to the wineries and rural landscapes, the **Baranja** region north of Osijek is a great base. Small guesthouses and rural accommodations bring you close to vineyards and traditional farmsteads. Wine villages offer tastings of white and red varieties –

often **Graševina, Blaufränkisch and Cabernet** – in family-run cellars serving regional dishes.

A particularly comfortable rural option is **Hotel Lug**, located in the village of Lug. It offers stylish rooms, a terrace, its own restaurant and spa facilities, while being surrounded by nature.

In the **wine village of Suza**, the campsite **"Suza Baranje"** with its own wine cellar underscores the connection between camping and regional wine culture. Overnight guests can taste wines produced on site and enjoy the rural atmosphere just over half an hour's drive from Osijek.

Day 4: Osijek - Villány - Pécs

- Pécs is a city where **Roman Sopianae**, early **Christian UNESCO heritage**, Ottoman architecture and modern creative culture overlap. Squares, cafés and **Király Street** give it a Mediterranean feel.
- Nearby wine regions such as **Villány** offer outstanding red and white wines.
- The **Mecsek Mountains**, eco-villages and nature reserves provide fresh air and hiking options.
- All relevant information is here: <https://pecs.hu/en/tourist/>



Onward travel to Pécs:

From Osijek, **trains connect via Beli Manastir and Villány to Pécs** in around 1,5 hours. Both Beli Manastir and Villány are worthwhile for short stops, especially for travelers interested in wine and local gastronomy.

It is also possible to make a **bike tour from Pécs to Villány**. (80km, 5 hours) It requires very good physical condition but takes you through scenic landscapes, so it is worth it.

The **Gal Cellar & Wine Museum** in a historic press house introduces the history of local

winemaking and its Roman roots. Ideal for exploring between wine tastings, which are abundant in the city.

Just outside the town, **Szársomlyó Mountain** rises above the wine region. A steep hike or bike ride through mediterranean flora will award you with magnificent panoramic views and a sculpture park as a cultural highlight.

Scenic Bike Route



Source: Marko Banić

Villány Bock Winery



Source: Marko Banić

Nearby, **Bock Winery** attracts visitors with award-winning wines and a long-established winemaking tradition – a worthwhile stop for anyone serious about wine. The Bock Winery is considered one of the jewels of the Villány wine region and offers a high-quality wine and dining experience.

Another interesting winery to visit is **Hars Family Cellar**. This winery is just 20 minutes by bike from Pécs. The winery offers organic wines and lies on the foothill of Eastern Mecsek, inviting for a walk through the vineyard.



Activities & experiences in the city:

UNESCO Christian Necropolis



Source: A. Grujić

The **Cella Septichora Visitor Centre**, part of the UNESCO-listed Early Christian Necropolis, houses late-Roman burial chambers with remarkable frescoes and stonework. The site offers a direct encounter with the Roman and early Christian heritage of the region.

From there, it is only a short walk to **Széchenyi Square**, the city's central square, characterized by the former mosque of Pasha Qasim and elegant historical buildings. The nearby Pécs Cathedral is another architectural highlight.

Pécs Cathedral



Source: Marko Banić

Király Street, the main pedestrian axis, is lined with cafés, restaurants, shops and small wine bars – perfect for combining gastronomic stops with cultural sightseeing.

The **wider Pécs region offers attractive nature excursions.**

The village of **Orfű** northwest of Pécs is a well-known recreation area with lakes and leisure infrastructure. Visitors can paddle, sail, hike or cycle, and the village is featured as an eco-village in Hungarian sustainability case collections.

Closer to the mountains, the **Nyugat-Mecsek Landscape Protection Area** protects forests, karst formations and caves. A network of trails invites for day hikes or short walks in a quiet, natural environment.

The village **Hosszúhetény,**

Orfű Papermill



Source: Marko Banić

recognized among **UN Tourism's "Best Tourism Villages"**, lies at the foot of the Mecsek Mountains. Surrounded by vineyards and gentle hills, it combines rural heritage, local wine culture and a strong sustainability focus.

Further engaging in Hungarian culture, art and history is possible in the **Jannus Pannonius Museum**. It is a museum complex that covers every cultural aspect. The Genius Loci exhibition displays Roman heritage of the region.



Local Transportation:

Public transport in Pécs consists mainly of local bus services connecting the city center with residential areas and key sites. Up-to-date information on routes, timetables and tickets is available on the official city website. In addition, Pécs operates a municipal bike-sharing system, **Pécsike**, which offers a convenient option for short trips within the city.



Where to Stay & Eat in and around Pécs:

Traditional Cuisine



Source: Marko Banić

In Pécs, **Hotel Palatinus** offers a boutique experience close to the city center. Family-run and just a few minutes' walk from UNESCO sites such as Cella Septichora, it is a convenient and atmospheric base for exploring.

The family-run guesthouse **Bagolyvár Panzió** is idyllically situated among the old vineyards of Pécs. The rooms are furnished in a rustic Hungarian style and exude charm. The in-house restaurant serves regional Hungarian and international dishes.


The guesthouse  **Natúra Pension and Apartment House** in Orfú is located in a locally protected building complex. The guesthouse is environmentally conscious and child- and pet-friendly. Guests have the opportunity to compensate for the environmental impact of their trip by adopting a sapling.


Semiramis Garden Family-run, relaxed, ideal for light meals, homemade lemonade & local atmosphere under chestnut trees on Palace Square.


Traditional Cuisine



Source: Marko Banić

 **Nana Bistro & Bar** is a modern bistro in the heart of Pécs offering seasonal cuisine with creative flair. Nana Bistro & Bar is known for its relaxed atmosphere, well-composed plates and carefully selected wines, making it a fitting stop for contemporary urban dining.

 **Reggeli** is a popular breakfast and brunch spot focused on fresh, high-quality ingredients and a welcoming café atmosphere. Reggeli is ideal for starting the day with locally inspired breakfast dishes and good coffee.

 **Nappali** is a multifunctional cultural café and bar that transforms throughout the day from relaxed coffee spot to vibrant evening venue. Nappali is well known for its creative spirit, hosting small concerts, talks and community events.

Day 5: Pécs - Sombor - Sremska Mitrovica



Along the way:

From Pécs, **travelers typically take a shuttle or taxi to Sombor** and continue from there by train to Sremska Mitrovica. On this leg, you pass through three countries and should expect some waiting time at border crossings – an ideal opportunity to relax and enjoy the changing landscapes.

The **Duna-Dráva Protected Area** offers a peaceful nature experience shaped by wetlands, meadows and riparian forests. It is a refuge for many bird species and a pleasant setting for short walks along easy trails and quiet observation points.

The Duna-Dráva Protected Area



Source: Marko Banić

Close to Sombor, the **Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve** forms part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and preserves one of the last extensive floodplain systems along the

Danube. Oak forests, river meanders, marshes and rich birdlife characterize the area. Visitors can use marked cycling and hiking routes, climb observation towers and join guided eco-tours.

In Sombor itself, the **Milan Konjović Gallery**, with more than 1,000 works, is one of the region's most important art spaces.

The **Sombor City Museum** preserves artifacts from the Roman period, when a military camp and trade route along the Danube were located nearby; ceramics, coins and everyday objects give a glimpse into this time.



Lunch tip in Sombor:

Traditional Cuisine



Source: Marko Banić

Riblja čarda Andrić in Sombor is a traditional riverside fish restaurant known for classic Vojvodina fish dishes, especially fish stew and freshwater fish specialties. It offers simple, authentic cuisine in a relaxed

setting and is a well-known local stop for regional food.

The wider Sombor region is dotted with **wineries producing mainly Graševina and Cabernet Sauvignon. Vinarija Zvonko Bogdan**, around 15 minutes outside Sombor toward Palić, is an architecturally striking wine estate combining modern cellar technology with traditional viticulture.

Day 6: Sremska Mitrovica

- Sremska Mitrovica lies on the site of **ancient Sirmium**, once one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire and a seat of emperors.
- The **archaeological park** with imperial palace, baths and museum offers deep insights into this past.
- The city today is a relaxed river town with access to **nature reserves such as Zasavica and Fruška Gora**.
- All relevant information is here: <https://visit-serbia.info/sremska-mitrovica-grad-nad-gradovima/>



Activities & experiences in the city:

The **special nature reserve Zasavica** is connected to the center of Sremska Mitrovica on foot or by bike via the Sveti Irlnej pedestrian bridge. Its wetlands and meadows provide a tranquil contrast to urban life and are excellent for birdwatching and gentle walks.

From the bus station in Sremska Mitrovica, the Sirmium Bus line runs about three times a day to

Vrdnik in the **Fruška Gora National Park**, a village on the edge of the park. The journey will take approximately 1 hour. From there, you can take local buses to hiking spots and excursion destinations on Fruška Gora.

In the **museum of Sremska Mitrovica**, you will find an extensive collection on regional history, including Roman artefacts.

Imperial Palace



Source: A. Grujić

Imperial Palace



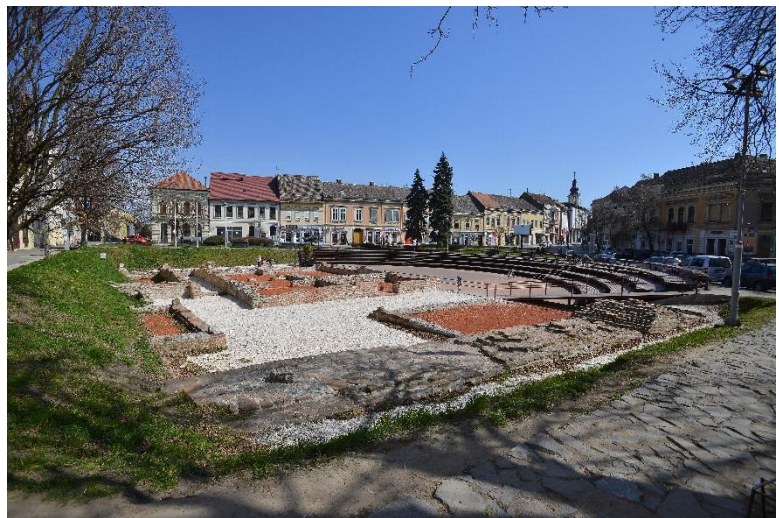
Source: A. Grujić

The **Sirmium Archaeological Park & Museum** contains the remains of the Imperial Palace, Roman baths, forum as well as an associated museum. Especially in the evening, when daytime visitors have left, the site offers a particularly atmospheric experience.

Centre rounds off the cultural program with concerts, theatre and exhibitions featuring local artists.

Cycling along the Sava or westwards into the surrounding countryside allows for small wine-tasting stops in villages, connecting nature, wine and slow travel.

Ancient Grain Market Square



Source: P. Marjanović



Local Transportation:

Public transport in Sremska Mitrovica is provided mainly through a local bus network. Buses connect the city centre with surrounding neighbourhoods and nearby areas, offering a practical option for getting around the city.



Where to Stay & Eat in Sremska Mitrovica:

Hotel Srem is a classic city hotel with a quiet garden, lounge and terrace, as well as an on-site restaurant. Ideal starting point for exploring Sirmium and its Roman sites.

The Villa & Restaurant Santa is a beautiful and modern hotel. It offers a restaurant, free bikes, a bar and a shared lounge. The facilities of this hotel include a garden and a terrace.

Hotel Park in Ruma is a four-star hotel located in the heart of the Srem region, near Sremska Mitrovica and at the foothills of Fruška Gora National Park.

The Restaurant Diana offers elegant European cuisine in an upscale setting, ideal for a stylish evening.

Right on the banks of the Sava you will find **Restaurant Sojenica** in a small stilt house. Rustic charm meets upscale ambience. Fresh fish dishes, traditional specialities such as paprikash of good quality. Vegetarian dishes are also available.

For a relaxed lunch with river views, **Restaurant Ribolovac** specializes in fish dishes and offers vegetarian choices.

Central café on the promenade, popular with locals for its good coffee and relaxed atmosphere. It is a convenient stop for a short break during sightseeing, suitable for morning coffee or an informal meeting.

Traditional Cuisine



Source: Marko Banić

Day 7: Sremska Mitrovica - Belgrade Airport



Way home via Belgrade Airport:

Belgrade is the final stop of your journey. The distance from Sremska Mitrovica to Belgrade Airport is around 70 km; by train, the trip takes roughly one hour, with onward connections to the airport.

Lunch:

If time allows, you can stop in **Skadarlija, the historic bohemian quarter of Belgrade.** Cobbled streets, traditional kafanas (Serbian taverns), live music and a vibrant food culture create an atmosphere often compared to Montmartre in Paris – a memorable final impression before your departure.